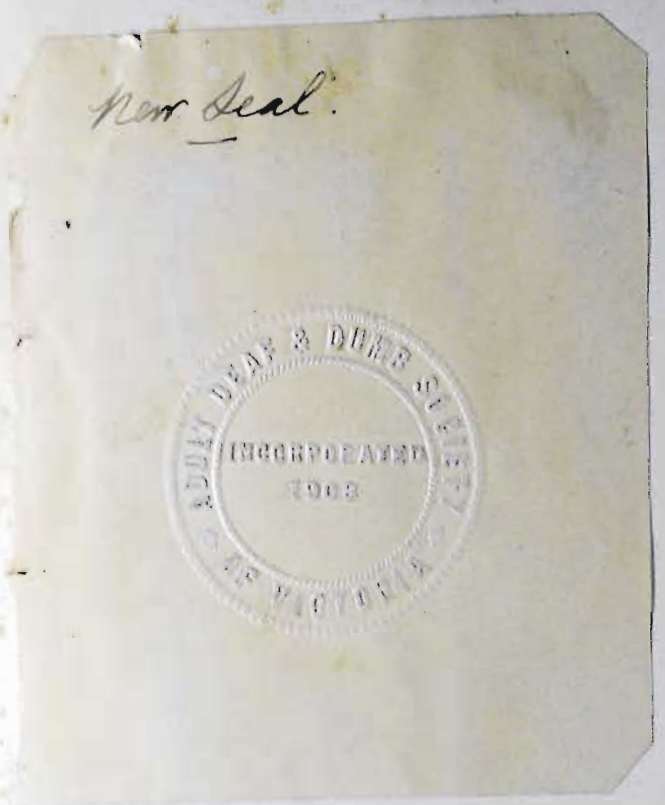
DECEMBER 1908.

The Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission was incorporated and henceforth managed as the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria. Incorporation notice was published in the Government "Gazette" of 24th December 1908.

New Seal.





JANUARY 1909.

Thursday 21st January 1909.
A meeting and Entertainment was held in the Blackburn Recreation Hall. The hall was comfortably filled. Councillor Walker presided. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham delivered an address explanatory of the objects of the Farm and Home established in the district. Misses J. E. Muir and L. Downes gave recitations. Pictures of deaf mute life shown on Screen. Collection £2-10/-

BLACKBURN RECREATION HALL

Thursday, January 21st, 1909

Unique Entertainment

by Members of the

Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria



Mr. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM

The expert on matters appertaining to the Deaf and Dumb, WILL SPEAK

Collection to defray expenses and for the Recreation Club of the Deaf Mutes Farm and Home, Box Hill and Blackburn

Admit M.....and Friend.

The "Herold" 15/2/09.

Deaf Mutes as Immigrants.

The Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association has been in communication with the Governments of the Australian States and New Zealand regarding the restrictions against the admission of deaf mutes into the Commonwealth and the Dominion. It appears that in the Marine Acts deaf mutes are classed with lunatics, idiots, and undesirables. This, in the view of the Association, places the deaf in an unjust and humiliating position. A communication has just been received from the New Zealand Government stating that the commercial agents of the Dominion in Australia are being instructed to give a certificate to any approved applicant to the effect that the person named therein, although deaf, has a profession or trade by which he is able to earn his or her living. This certificate will be accepted by the Customs officers in New Zealand as a bar to the restriction of immigrants who may happen to be deaf. The High Commissioner of New Zealand in London is also being instructed to issue similar certificates. In Victoria all people who are liable to be a charge upon the State are dealt with by legislation. The master of the vessel bringing them to the State is required to give a guarantee of £100 that such persons will not become a charge upon the State, but if the immigrant agent is satisfied that there is no occasion for such a bond, he does not enforce it. Individual cases are sometimes brought under the notice of the Under-Secretary (Mr. W. A. Calaway), and he instructs according to the circumstances. At present the Chief Secretary's Department does not see the necessity of adopting a regular rule such as that adopted by the New Zealand Government.

Wednesday & Thursday 30th and 31st December 1908.
Vol 5. No. 5. "Our Monthly Letter" printed.
E. R. W. Smith (Miles)
L. Downes, J. Borbz, G. Oakley, J. Campbell & J. E. Muir
assisted at printing.

All Communications to be addressed to Mr J.E.Muir, Deaf and Dumb Building, Flinders St. E., Melbourne.

Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria

Our Monthly Letter.

Vol. 5. JANUARY 1909 No. 5.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year.
To all our readers.

1909! Yet another year entered upon. Did you profit by the year that has gone - intellectually and spiritually? Then rejoice and be thankful. Has it been a barren year to you and left you in a cloud of regrets? Then turn your back upon it quickly, there is no time now to waste on useless regrets. Face the glorious new year before you with a strong resolve to start again - and succeed.

"It is never too late to begin rebuilding.
Though all into ruins your life seems hurled;
For see, how the light of the New Year is gilding.
The wan, worn face of the bruised old world."

Xmas Rally. Success may be measured in many ways and we have used the rule on a good number of them. The last - the 14th rally held on the 17th ult at our building was a great success from the fraternal point of view. About 150 persons were present, of whom 100 were deaf & included many of the pupils of the Victorian School, and it was a gladsome sight to see so many of the parents in attendance also. Mr Mortimer presided and it being his birth day Mr R. H. Luff rose to the occasion and in the name of the deaf wished him many happy returns and the "ralliers" showed their approval by hearty hand clapping. The Chairman's speech was short and pithy. The Hon Sec (Mr J. E. Muir) read the roll call and in reponse to his invitation ten deaf friends present expressed their desire to join the Society as regular members. Mr Abraham rendered a humorous piece entitled "The Courtship of Adolphus Fitz poodle" Mr Luff spoke & dwelt upon the wisdom of joining the bank. He that had saved and had money to draw at festive times was often the envy of many. Yet all might be as fortunate as he if they would but be as wise and careful. Prizes to the winners of the winter competitions were distributed as follows, Mrs J. Pierce (Bagatelle) - handbag. Mr W. Campbell (Bagatelle) - wallet. Mr L. Downes (Shooting) - China teapot. Mr W Burge (Euchre) umbrella. Christmas gifts (privately subscribed for) including groceries, tobacco & other welcome things.

were quickly distributed among our less wealthy comrades. Parlor games and conversation made a big hole in the evening's programme and supper concluded it. Thanks are due and here given to Mesdames J. Rooks, J. E. Muir, De Large Wright and Miss A. Graham for supervising the supper arrangements, to Schweppe & Co for aerated waters. Messrs J. E. and W. P. Muir, M. G. B. Mortimer and L. Downes had charge of the rally.

Deaf Ladies C.C. So eager are our deaf young women to become expert cricketers that in place of the fortnightly, a weekly practice has been introduced. There is always a good muster of players on the ground and their form is already so advanced that, judging by the display made by women's teams in the near vicinity of our pitch, our girls would more than hold their own with the best of them. Some of our girls are exceptionally good both at batting & bowling and one at least gives promise of being an Australian lady Jessop.

If they only continue on present lines when they come out next season they will carry all before them.

Incorporation. Our Mission has been incorporated under the Company's act and will henceforth be known as the "Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria".

The Farm. Work is progressing as rapidly as the heat will permit. The fencing and concrete work at the Lake are completed. About six acres have been grubbed and two ploughed. Messrs Ward & Carlton have been appointed Architects for the buildings and Mr Carlton & Mr. Abraham are already busy on the plans. Messrs Kendell, McLellan & Swain are still with the manager grafting away as hard as the grafter himself.

The Late Horace Reynolds. Mr & Mrs C. H. Reynolds have had the misfortune to loose their son Horace by drowning on the 1st of December last. Mr Reynolds is acting as watchman at the farm and it is whilst he was away posting a letter that his five year old boy accidently fell in the Lake. Many boys were bathing in the Lake and at about 5.30 a storm suddenly arose, the wind being very strong. It is thought that young Horace whilst watching the bathers had his hat blown off & in his attempt to regain it overbalanced and fell into the Lake. The mortal remains of little Horace were interred at Box Hill & our Chaplain officiated at the grave side. A wreath was sent by the Melbourne deaf and wreaths & many flowers from Blackburn residents. Mr. H. Sumner Martin (How See) the farm employees & several of the Melbourne deaf joined the funeral cortege. The people of Blackburn were most sympathic and exceedingly kind. Mrs Rooks collected locally and handed £10 to Mr Abraham for Mr & Mrs Reynolds.

Mr C. H. Reynolds desires to thank the Sub-committee, & the whole of the deaf for their kind expressions of sympathy during his recent bereavement, and Mr Abraham for taking over the whole of the interment arrangements.

Lake Park. A very handsome little booklet has just been published drawing attention to our farm estate as a suitable place for Sunday school picnics etc. The views tell their own tale, and it is confidentially expected that crowds will take advantage of its attractiveness during the summer months. This is merely an experiment to ascertain how far our managers paper scheme will work out in fact.

Personal Pars. Mrs Carmichael, writing to our Supt from Edinburgh says-

I can assure you we were very much touched with the very hospitable and kindly way we were treated whilst in the midst of the good Melbourne deaf, and the very thoughtful way in which several of them sent us off. We felt we were leaving friends behind & neither of us have got over it yet.

Mrs L. Downes is staying at Selby for the benefit of her health.

Mr Sturcke has left Melbourne for a three weeks stay in Adelaide.

Mrs C. Reynolds is at Stawell on a month's visit to her sister.

Mrs Williamson & daughter, & Mr and Mrs Frawin & sons are spending their holidays at Queenscliff.

Mr Harris, of Adelaide, is spending his Xmas holidays in Melbourne.

Mr M. G. B. Mortimer by this time is with his married sister at West Alberton and Messrs M. L. Miller & W. A. Paterson doing the round trip to Warrnambool, Portland and Beachcroft by steamer.

Miss A. Graham is at Koolmuirt, Mrs C. Hawkins of Adelaide, in Melbourne and having a real good time, she expects to remain with us until the 12th.

Mr J. Ingles arrived in Melbourne from New Zealand on the 19th Dec. and quickly obtained employment at Varley Bros. Printers.

Mr James Ashby, also of New Zealand, is desirous of obtaining permanent work in Melbourne. He will be over here shortly in search of it. We advise him to communicate with our Supt. who will gladly assist him.

Mr C. Newbigin, who died 23rd Oct last, has left upwards of £90.000. Among the employees who benefit from his will is Mr J. Caughey, his gardener, he receives £25, our Adult Deaf Society will receive £10.

Our Supt and several of the deaf have received handsome greeting cards from Mr & Mrs Burke, of New Zealand, reminding them of the no ever to be forgotten good old times.

Mr T. Tonkin, of Bendigo, who has been under instruction at our building for some time, left for his home at Christmas. He made fair progress & having had his mind awakened to the advantages of knowledge, is most anxious to come back & resume his studies.

Mr Dunstan, of Geelong, has been in Melbourne a flying visit on private business.

A daughter was born to Mr & Mrs E. R. W. Smith on Christmas Eve, Our hearty congratulations.

Miss M. Potter spent a pleasant time in Hamilton & Ballarat during November.

Miss W. Burke has returned to Melbourne after spending all the winter & Spring months with her mother in Ballarat.

We are glad to report that Mrs A. C. Muir who has been ill for sometime is improving in health.

Mr R Hamilton, of Ensay, will be pleased to welcome any deaf friends during the holidays. The distance from Melbourne to Ensay is 220 miles (170 miles by rail and 50 miles from Bairnsdale by coach) Particulars can be obtained from Mr J. C. Muir.

Miss M. Williamson (daughter of Mr & Mrs A. Williamson) is to be congratulated upon winning a gold medal for gymnastics & a prize for writing and neatness at the University High School.

Mr & Mrs C. Burke (N.Z.) & all the deaf (Country) desire to reciprocate

the wishes expressed in the December Letter & wish the Melbourne deaf a Bright Xmas and a prosperous New Year.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/6 from Mrs Beanland of Rutherglen for "Our Monthly Letter".

Mr E.R. Peacock's (one of the committee of the Mission) daughter died on the 8th Dec. A Letter of sympathy from the deaf was sent. He & his family tender their sincere thanks to the deaf for kind expression of sympathy.

On the 8th Dec. Mr & Mrs Gus Damman, of Warburton, had a surprised party at their house (about 50 in number) games were indulged in & the dancers made use of the dining & sitting rooms and verandahs. Refreshments brought by the friends were also served. At the close of the party, Auld Lang Syne was sung. The company presented Mr & Mrs Damman with a beautiful silver hot water kettle. Miss J. Wright who happened to be staying at Warburton was among the guests. About 30 boys came tin pattling to Mr Gus Damman's place in honour of his marriage. Mr Damman playfully turned a hose on them but they did not mind it but dodged him around the house. Finally they called upon him to let them see his bride and were entertained to a supper

Messrs A & T. Collins, of Longwarry & J. Butterworth of Ballarat are spending their Xmas holidays in Melbourne.

Mr S. Mauger M.P. has been elected president of the Y.M.C.A. in place of Mr J.M. Griffiths who resigned through ill health. Both gentlemen are prominent friends of our Society.

Meetings. On the 1st Dec the members of the Deaf Women's Friendly Society spent a pleasant evening. Games & conversation were indulged in with high spirits. The president (Mrs E.J.D. Abraham) entertained the members to a sumptuous supper. Mrs J. Gibson of Adelaide was present.

On the 1st Dec. The Deaf Mens' Mutual Improvement Society Committee met and transacted its usual ordinary business. The chief item of business was the arrangements of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Society which was to be observed on the 14th Dec., but owing to other engagements it was decided to hold it on the 12th January. Each member is requested to bring a pound of eatables &c for supper. Speeches &c reviewing the doings of the Society will be given by some of the oldest members. The members of the Deaf Women's Society are invited to attend.

On the 8th Dec. A paper on Socialism by Mr W.P. Muir was read at the meeting of D.M.M.I. Society to a good assemblage of members. Several members spoke on this subject and criticisms followed. Thanks were tendered to Mr W.P. Muir for his interesting paper.

At a meeting of the General Committee held on the 10th ult, Mr E.R. Peacock in the chair it was resolved that the stock of bulbs, roses, and other plants of Mr Plimridge be purchased for £85, that a telephone be attached to the caretaker's apartments, that Messrs Ward & Carlton be appointed Architects for the farm buildings & that a jack be purchased for grubbing. It was also resolved that the grateful appreciation of the Committee for the many services rendered by Mr F. Sumner Martin be

recorded on the minutes and that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mr Reynolds, sorrow was also expressed at Mr Peacocke's loss.

Xmas Notes. Mr Abraham delivered a very appropriate subject on the "Song of the Angels" to a fair attendance on the 25th Dec.r

Our warmest thanks are tendered to Mr.+ Mrs H. Gretton (caretakers of the building) for their generosity in giving the members of the Society their Xmas gift (a small handsome table for the hall) They desire to thank the members for their usual Christmas box.

Bequest. A bequest of £10 has been donated to the Mission from the Felton bequest Fund and also a special bequest of £25 for the Farm and Home Fund.

Bible Class. The Bible class, by resolution of the members will be closed during the warm months. Notice of re-opening will be given.

School. The school for the Deaf Melbourne broke up on the 19th Dec.r & will re-open on the 12th February.

The Gesture, hitherto owned by Mr. Abraham, has been taken over by the newly formed Deaf Mute Publishing Company. It will appear early in January as a bi-monthly and will be brimful of good things. The annual subscription is 2/- Send your subscription and see if you can win some of the handsome prizes offered. Address. Mr J.E. Muir (Hon. Treas. pro tem) Deaf and Dumb Buildings ~~Flinders~~ St. E. Melbourne.

The Hon Secretary of the Sub Committee will be pleased to receive any cuttings out of newspapers, tickets, programmes or anything concerning the history of the Mission as the Sub-Committe have decided to get up a book of old records.

A.D.D.A. The Hon Secretary of the Victorian Branch, A.D.D.A. acknowledges with thanks receipt of membership subscriptions of 1/- each from Messrs W.A. Paterson, N.L. Miller, G. Mortimer, and 2/- from Mr G. Oakley (2 years)

Cricket. Nov 21st and 28th A.D.C.C. 180 v Court Friendly Society C.C. 82 and 69.

First Innings			Second Innings		
R.K. Beattie.	2 wickets for	17	R.K Beattie	2 wickets for	10
W. Peters.	2 " "	21	L. Downes	2 " "	20
W. Burge.	1 wicket "	7	J.M. McLean	2 " "	13
L. Downes.	4 wickets "	35	W. Peters	1 wicket "	10.

Won by an innings and 29 runs.

December 5th and 12th

A.D.C.C.

First Innings			Second Innings	
R.K. Beattie	caught + bowled	0	bowled	6
J.M. McLean	bowled	0	"	0
J. Anderson	"	1	"	2
L. Downes	"	39	"	4
W.P. Muir	runout	0	"	0
R.H. Luff	bowled	0	"	0

W. Peters	bowled	4	bowled	1
W. Burge	"	0	"	11
G. Hodges	"	1	"	11
W. H. Gillam	not out	5	not out	0
J. Hunter	bowled	0	bowled	0
Sundries		4		4
	Total	54		39

Massey Harris (9) 1st 89 and 2nd 80.

R. K. Beattie	1 wicket for 23	L. Downes	2 wickets for 29
W. F. Peters	2 wickets " 17	R. K. Beattie	6 " " 21
J. M. McLean	5 " " 21	W. Burge	1 wicket " 0
L. Downes	1 wicket " 17		

Lost by 76 runs.

December 19th Carlton P. L. C. C. 1st Innings 112

R. K. Beattie	3 wickets for	42
L. Downes	3 " "	43
G. Hodges	1 wicket "	8
J. M. McLean	2 wickets "	0

A. D. C. C.

First Innings.

Harding	caught	20
G. Hodges	bowled	7
R. K. Beattie	caught & bowled	3
R. H. Luff	bowled	4
L. Downes	not out	12
	Wide ball	1
4 wickets for		47

This match will be continued on the 9th January.

Messrs T. and A. Collins made a long stand for Lobgwarry against Warragul lately. The former made 125 and latter 68. Their team won. Warragul has not been beaten for four years.

The "Burnsdale Advertiser" speaks well of Mr James Kenworthy as a bowler speaking of him recently it said. "He who bowls one of the ugliest of balls seen so far in the competition is in great form with the ball" He took 6 wickets for 17 runs against the much fancied club for the trophy. His club won. Our hearty congratulations. ———

Rev J. J. Valley writes

"Among the many letters of congratulation that I have received not one has pleased me more than yours. Since I first met Mr Rose now more than 40 years ago! I have always felt a deep interest in the deaf. Please convey my sincerest thanks to the deaf Committee

Wednesday & Thursday 30th and 31st December 1908.
Vol 5. no. 5. "Our Monthly Letter" printed.
E. R. W. Smith (Miles)
L. Downes, J. Boorby, G. Oakley, J. Campbell & J. L. Muir
assisted at printing.

SYLLABUS for JANUARY.

1st } New Year's Holiday
2nd }
3rd 11.a.m. Our Lord's Supper.
9th A.D.C.C. v. Carlton P.l.C.C. off.
12th 8.p.m. Silver Jubilee Celebrations of D.M.M.I. Society.
16th A.D.C.C. v. Montague on.
19th 8.p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting
23rd A.D.C.C. v Montague on.
26th 8.p.m. D.M.M.I. Society Meeting.
30th A.D.C.C. v St Leonards C.C. on.

Thursday and Saturday January 28th and 30th 1909
Vol 5. No 6. "Our Monthly Letter" printed.
M. L. Miller (miter.)
L. Downes, G. Oakley, L. Moss and J. Campbell assisted in printing.

All Communications to be addressed to Mr J.E. Muir, Deaf and Dumb Building, Flinders St E., Melbourne.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB MISSION OF VICTORIA

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

Vol. 5. FEBRUARY 1909. No. 6.

Our Church.

The attendances at the evening services have been exceptionally large of late, doubtlessly due to the closing of the classes and other week night gatherings, and the presence in our midst of the deaf children on their holidays. Our chaplain looks forward to a few weeks of rest in January, that being the quietest month of the year at our "Hive of Industry". But this year, like a few others & especially the great bazaar year, there is much organising work to be done in connection with the flower farm, so our leader has contented himself with "two Sundays off." He is fortunate in having a number of able volunteers who are ever ready to conduct the services in his absence. Messrs M. L. Miller and F. H. Kluff officiated on the 17th and Messrs F. J. Rose and J. E. Muir on the 24th. Our Chaplain desires to thank these gentlemen.

Mens' Society Jubilee. The members of the Deaf Mens' Society who should have celebrated their silver jubilee on the 14th of Dec. last, having no desire to clash with the congregational rally held a few days later, decided to postpone their event until the 12th of Jan. It was held in the hall Deaf and Dumb Building and the attendance was all that could be desired, over 60 members and friends being present. Mr. J. E. Muir (the President) was in the Chair and opened with a most interesting address on the early days of the Society. Messrs M. L. Miller, A. C. Muir, W. P. Muir, F. E. Frewin & F. Kluff, old pioneers of the society followed with further historical particulars. Messrs J. McLean and F. A. Nelson of the new generation and the Superintendent (Mr. Abraham) also spoke. A letter from Mr Samuel Johnson. M. A. the founder of the Society was read and apologies from Mr. R. R. Paterson and J. Boorby who were unable to attend. Several of the speakers referred to old members now holding good positions in Adelaide and extended a most hearty welcome to Messrs Stewart and Hutchinson and Mrs C. Hawkins of Adelaide and Mr. C. Nicholls of Tasmania, who were present. Mr. Stewart thanked the Melbourne deaf on behalf of the "strangers" and gave a most

encouraging address which obtained a most enthusiastic reception. Miss Hawkins gave a little recitation and the meeting was brought to a close with conversation and supper. The supper was provided by means of a "Round Night" by the members.

Mr. S. Johnson, M.A. and Mr. Abraham. Mr. Samuel Johnson, M.A. the principal of the South Australian Deaf & Dumb Institution has a very high opinion of our Superintendent. Writing to the Hon. Sec. of the Deaf Mens' W.I. Society (Mr. Nilson) on the occasion of their Silver Jubilee celebration, he said "I am extremely thankful that both your Mission and Society are presided over by such a man as Mr. Abraham, who is, in my opinion, the greatest living benefactor of the deaf"

Entertainment at Blackburn. The people of Blackburn are naturally anxious to know what the Committee purpose doing with the Lake Park and what kind of an institution will be erected there. On the 21st ult the residents were invited to an entertainment in the Blackburn Hall and the Manager of the Farm and Home gave a detailed account of the whole scheme.
Mr. Councillor Walker presided. Local ladies gave a stationary performance, a combined local choir sang and several deaf Mutes from Melbourne helped by contributing items. The hall was full although it was a wet night. The collection to defray expenses and for the farm recreation club amounted to some £3.

The "Gesture". A powerful company of deaf mutes has been formed to run this magazine as a bi-monthly. Mr. J. E. Muir is manager, Mr. M. L. Miller, Secretary, Mr. W. B. Paterson, Treasurer and Messrs. E. Abraham, A. Williamson, S. Noss and H. G. B. Mortimer, directors. The first number of the new series is before us and it is brim-full of interesting matter. It is chatty & up to date. The subscription is 2/- per year post free. Address:- Manager, "Gesture" 181 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Mr. Samuel Watson of Sydney in a letter to the manager, speaks well of the magazine.

General Committee. The General Committee met on the 18th ult and the business transacted was chiefly farm affairs. The manager reported completion of fencing, clearing of 6½ acres, 1¾ acres ploughed, harrowed and cross ploughed and obtained permission for ploughing and harrowing of other 5 acres, clearing of acre for Kitchen garden, painting of entrance gates, erection of bulb house, etc. The Hon. Sec. of the Society Mr. H. S. Martin reported that the Law makes it necessary to have the new name placed in some prominent position and it was unanimously resolved that as the word "Church" already appears on the door way, the new title be placed on a tablet at present containing the words "Deaf and Dumb Church".

Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee met in the board room on the 19th ult. all members present except Messrs. Abraham and Reynolds. Mr. W. P. Muir presided. Minutes confirmed, report of last rally adopted, accounts passed for payment:- Winter competition prizes 17/3. R. K. Luff for additions to Notice-Board 10/6. Rally expenses £2. The Hon. Sec. reported that Mr. A. Williamson

had made a handsome gift of a full set (29 volumes) of Lord Lytton's novels and 48 volumes of Cassell's National Library to the Library. Miss M. Potter had also made a gift of books (6). It was resolved that the grateful thanks of all be tendered to these donors. The Hon. Sec. further reported that Messrs R.R. Paterson and P. Holt had promised to assist the Sub-Committee in its efforts to get together old records of the mission.

D.M.M.I. Soc.y At the Ordinary meeting of this Society held on the 26th Ult. the item of the evening was a debate on the subject "Should a law be made to compel bakers to deliver bread to customers with a fork". Mr. M. G.B. Mortimer opened proceedings for the affirmative side and brought forward some very powerful arguments in support of his contention. Mr. R.H. Luff took up the negative side. A lively cross fire between the two speakers was kept up for some little time after which other members unburdened their minds respecting the matter of debate. The voting resulted in a majority for the negative side, so we have to go on eating our "Staff of life" as it is delivered on the old plan notwithstanding the "alarming" state of affairs prevailing as disclosed by the speaker for the affirmative side. There was a good attendance of Members and a pleasant evening was spent.

Bay Trip. The annual Ladies trip down the bay took place on Tuesday 26th Ult. The day was a glorious one and the sea looked beautiful. The "Hygeia" was boarded by a party of 13 Ladies and 2 children and the trip was to Sorrento. Mr. A. Williamson joined the party at Queenscliff and went on to Sorrento with them. A most enjoyable time was spent by all, a more delightful day could not have been desired.

A.D.D.A. The Hon. Sec. of the Victorian Branch acknowledges with thanks the receipt of subscriptions of 1/- each from Messrs J. Butterworth (2 years) F.J. Rose, C. Reynolds, J.C. Muir, A. Williamson and Mrs A. Williamson. Will other members and intending members kindly forward their subscriptions as early as possible.

Kind words from London. Our Chaplain (Mr. Abraham) has received the following greeting from the Rev. F.W.G. Gilby Chaplain of the Royal Association in aid of the deaf and dumb, London. "All manner of good wishes and heartiest congratulations on the brilliant success in raising money for the farm."

Photographs, &c. The portraits of Officers, ex-missionaries and others who were and are prominent members & workers of our Society and which were framed at the picture frame making class are now hung on the walls of the board and other rooms of our building.

Personal Pars. Mr. J. Gibson of Adelaide spent his Xmas holidays in Melbourne and took his wife and children home on the 8th Ult. Mrs Gibson was charmed with the surroundings of our farm at Blackburn. Mr. Stewart of Adelaide stayed a few days in Melbourne on his way home from Sydney. Mr. Hutchinson of Adelaide is having a good spell here

She returns homeward on the 4th inst. Mrs. C. Hawkins spent a most pleasant month in Melbourne. She said she felt so happy to see old faces again and wishes to thank her friends for their kindness to her during her stay. Mr. C. Nicholls (Collector for Tasmanian Deaf School) came over to Melbourne and stayed 2 weeks with his people. Mr. Geo. Johnson of Ballarat stayed a week with his father who is engaged on the new additions to the Melbourne Town Hall. Miss Maloney went on a visit to the Robbys at Trafalgar. Mr. W. Wares went to Geelong for his holidays. Messrs. N. L. Miller and W. A. Paterson spoke highly of the sea trip to Warrnambool, Portland & Beachport. They spent some hours on shore at each place and slept on board the "Levra". They saw the wreck "Falls of Halladale" at a distance. Both returned looking well. Mr. & Mrs. F. E. Freeman and their son have returned from Queenscliff after spending a most enjoyable time. Mrs. A. Williamson and her daughter are still enjoying themselves at Queenscliff and will return home shortly. Mr. Hartley of Euroa who has been ill for some-time came to Melbourne for a change. She feels much better now. Mr. J. Caughey is in the Alfred Hospital with lumbago but he is mending fairly well. Mr. R. Watson has been bad with a poisoned hand for some time but is now progressing towards recovery. Mr. J. Butterworth of Ballarat after a long absence, visited Melbourne lately. He had some difficulty in recognising some of his old school mates and had some yarns with them about old times. Mr. G. Mortimer spent his holidays with his married sister at West Alberton. He drove 70 miles in 1½ days to see his people at Boisdale. He found there was good grass at Alberton while at Boisdale there was none to be seen. He enjoyed his holiday very much and Miss G. Mortimer sends kind regards to all friends.
Mr. J. Kenworthy (Bairnsdale) says the crops of maize are looking well up his way. His brother visited our farm at Blackburn and thinks the soil ought to be good for fruit &c. growing. Mr. O'Keeffe (Crossley) hopes to visit Melbourne during Easter. A daughter was born to Mr. & Mrs. J. Dempsey on the 11th ult. our hearty congratulations. Thanks are due to Mr. F. E. Freeman for repairing the Bagatelle Table which is now in good order. Miss E. White who has been assistant to Mr. Abraham for 3 years is leaving shortly to get mar-ried in Sydney. We wish her happiness and prosperity in her new life.

Cricket. Mr. W. P. Muir has resigned as Hon. Sec. of the A.D.C.C. owing to private business matters. Resignation accepted with regret. He had worked well and had put much new life into the club. Mr. J. McLean takes his place.
Dec. 19 & Jan. 9. A.D.C.C. v C.P.L.C.C. – P.L.C.C. 1st 112. P. Beattie 3 for 42. L. Downes 3 for 43. G. Hodges 1 for 8. J. McLean 2 for 0. P.L.C.C. 2nd 8 for 147. W. Burge 3 for 26. L. Downes 1 for 19. W. Peters 2 for 14. J. Ashley 1 for 2. A.D.C.C. 1st 88. Harding 20. Hodges 7. Beattie 3. Downes 28. Luff 4. McLean 1. Burge 10. W. Muir 2. W. Peters 0. J. Ashley 7 to 8. W. Gillam 0. Lundies 5. P.L.C.C. won on first innings.
Jan. 16 & 23. Montague C.C. failed to turn up so the A.D.C.C. claimed a walkover & it was confirmed at the last meeting of the Association.
Mr. J. Kenworthy has been bowling well lately. His best score is 54 balls, 5 mdns, 5 runs, 7 wkts.

SYLLABUS FOR FEBRUARY.

4th. A.D.O.A. Committee Meetings.

6th. A.D.C.C. v St. Leonards. on.

9th. D.M.M.I. Soc. Committee meet.

13th. A.D.C.C. v Court Friendship. off.

16th. Sub-Committee meet.

20th. A.D.C.C. v Court Friendship. off.

23rd. Annual Meeting D.M.M.I. Soc.

27th. A.D.C.C. v Massey Harris. on.

Divine Services Sundays 11am. & 7pm.

Recreation & Bank Saturdays 7-30 pm.

FEBRUARY 1909.

Friday and Saturday 26th. and 27th. February 1909.
Vol. 5. No. 7. "Our Monthly Letter" printed.
J.E. Muir (writer.)
L. Downes, J. Boorby, G. Oakley, J. Campbell and L. Moss assisted in printing.

All Communications to be addressed to Mr J.E. Muir, Deaf and Dumb Building, Flinders St. E., Melbourne.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB MISSION OF VICTORIA

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

VOL. 5. MARCH 1909 No. 7.

Our Chaplain. Mr Abraham occupied the pulpit of the Rev. W. Strong at the Australian Church on the evening of Sunday. Feb 14th. He had a good congregation. On the 3rd inst. he is to lecture to the prisoners at Pentridge.

An unusual occurence took place on the evening of the 14th. Feb. the service which was being conducted by Mr W. F. Muir. The light went out suddenly due to some leakage in the current so the service had to be brought to an abrupt conclusion.

Bible Class. The bible class will open on Thursday March 4th. Mr. Abraham has prepared & will deliver a series of interesting addresses on "Common Duties" at the close of each Prayer meeting & bible class.

Harvest festival. Our thanksgiving services will be held morning & evening on Sunday. March 14th. Deaf members of the Congregation are asked to send or bring their contributions of fruit, flowers or vegetables to our building on the 13th inst. Although country cousins may not be able to attend the services, they can send along donations of fruit etc. and we shall give a hearty welcome to any they send.

Our Country Cousins' Rally. The Sub Committee have fixed on Easter Monday April 12th as the date for the 15th Rally. The object of holding the gathering on a public holiday is to give our country deaf friends a chance of attending. Messrs F.E. Frewin (Chairman), M.L. Miller, R.H. Luff & J.E. Muir. four of our expert entertainment caterers have charge of the arrangements & they mean to beat all previous efforts. It is hoped that a large number of our country cousins will be in attendance.

An Invitation. The management of the continental living picture Garden. Prince's Bridge has invited the whole of the members of the adult Deaf & Dumb Society to their refined entertainment. The date fixed on is Thursday March 11th Mr Abraham has the tickets, ask him for one.

The Gesture. This very readable paper has caught on. No deaf-mute can be really happy without it. It shows our good points & if we would only take these good points revealed as a standard and live up to them, we would be a happy family indeed. An advance copy of the March-April issue is to hand. It is an excellent number & contains some excellent articles by Victorian. N.S.W. & Queensland deaf writers.

Adult Society Board. The general Committee are giving much of their time just now to the establishing of the Farm & Home. On the 29th of Jan.y the Committee inspected our beautiful estate at Blackburn and decided upon the site for the building, it is to be erected on the rise overlooking the lake but facing the entrance gates. On the 12th Feb.y the Committee discussed the plans submitted by the architect and sanctioned various improvements in connections with the work at present under way. The plans were finally adopted at a meeting held on the 24th. The Committee decided that the new institution be of brick and that as the fund in hand is insufficient to carry the whole scheme through, the women's wing will not be proceeded with until funds are available.

Meetings. The Sub Committee which met on the 16th ult, decided to hold the 15th Rally on Easter Monday, the Harvest Service on the 14th inst. and to re open the Bible class on the 4th inst. They also decided to ask the general committee to have the Library book case extended.

The Victorian branch of the A.D. & D.A. met on the 4th ult. & discussed various matters of local interest. Owing to the frequency of his visits to the country Mr. A.C. Muir finds himself unable to do justice to his position as hon Sec, the matter of appointing some one in his place was discussed but nothing definite settled upon. meanwhile Mr. H.L. Miller has taken over the duties temporarily.

A.D.D.A. The general Board of Aus.n Deaf & Dumb Association also met on the 4th ult. The Association has been in communication with the Governments of the Australian States & New Zealand regarding the restrictions against the admission of deaf mutes into the Commonwealth & the Dominion and the Secretary reported that he had just received a communication from the New Zealand Government stating that the commercial agents of the Dominion & Australia are being instructed to give a certificate to any approved applicant to the effect that the person named therein, although deaf has a profession or trade by which he is able to earn his or her living. This certificate will be accepted by the Custom officers in New Zealand as a bar to the restriction of immigrants who may happen to be deaf. The Agt Commissioner of New Zealand in London is also being

instructed to issue similar certificates. A letter from the ex-premier of Victoria informed the hon Sec that instructions had been given to the parliamentary draughtsman to draw up an act in accordance with the desires of the Association.
It was decided to send a petition to the conference of premiers to be held in Tasmania, drawing attention to the peculiar handicap placed upon deaf mutes by the marine act.

Deaf Mens' Guild. The annual meeting of Deaf Mens' Mutual Improvement Society was held in their room at the Deaf Building on Tuesday Feb. 23rd. Mr. J.E. Muir presided, a very satisfactory report was read by the Hon Sec (Mr. T. Nelson) & the balance sheet of the Hon Treasurer (Mr. M.G. Mortimer) showed the Society to be in a flourishing condition. In a short address the retiring President (Mr. J.E. Muir) spoke in the highest of terms of the work of the Hon. Sec. who had just completed his third year of office. He also mentioned that as the Mission had adopted the title of "Society." some confusion might occur he therefore suggested a change in their name. After a little discussion Mr. Abraham proposed & Mr. R.H. Luff seconded that the new name be the "Deaf Mens' Guild." this was carried unanimously. The following officers were then elected. President. Mr. T. Nelson. Vice President. Mr. M.G.B. Mortimer. Hon Sec. Mr. J. McLean. Hon Treas. Mr. J. Campbell. Committee Messrs. Kindell. Irewin. M. Miller & J.E. Muir. and a most harmonious meeting was brought to a close with supper.

Bon Voyage. Mrs. Abraham & her son Ernest will leave Melbourne by the S.S. Asturias on the 6th of April. She has been acting as honorary matron, Cook & "Jack of all trades" at the temporary Home at Box Hill during the past six months & is run down in health. It is hoped that we shall soon have her back with us & in the best of health.

A farewell. Miss E. White who was assistant to Mr. Abraham for 3 years & who shared with him the heavy strain of the great Bazar work, is to be married in April & will live in Sydney. A farewell social is to be tendered to her & to Mrs Abraham (who is leasing Australia for England) in our building on the 25th of March. all deaf friends are invited & it is hoped all will be present.

Personal Pars. Mr. J. Sloan of Inglewood took a house in Middle Park where he stayed with his family for some days & had a splendid time.
Miss A. Graham is still having a good time in Koolomert. She returns to Melbourne on the 13th inst.
Mrs A. Williamson & her daughter returned after 6 weeks enjoyable stay in Queenscliff. They are looking very well.
Mr. J. Caughey left the Alfred Hospital last month & is almost well again.
Mr. Inglis did not work long in Melbourne. He went back to New Zealand last month.

Mr. Veale of Lake Bolac spent his usual fortnight holiday in Melbourne. He says he has plenty of work at his farm.

Mr. W. J. Hood has won a gold medal at a rifle match in Bee Forest. He had a handicap of 30 & scored 30 & 38 at a range of 200 & 300 yards (5 shots at each range). He also took part in Married mens race at a picnic & was second.

The congregations of two churches in Warburton had their picnic on the grounds of Mr. G. Damman's. Mrs. Damman had the honour of distributing prizes to the winners who took part in the sports.

Martin Bourke, a sixteen year old son of Mr. P. Bourke in Karoat was on the 3rd inst. found dead in a well on his father premises. a magisterial inquiry was held when the evidence showed that the youth had been missing for some hours & his father on returning from town found him in the well. The magistrate returned a verdict of death by drowning. Deceased was deaf & dumb & of weak intellect.

The Victorian School for the Deaf & Dumb was re-opened on the 15th ult.

Cricket. Mr. J. Kenworthy is still performing splendidly with the ball at Burnsdale. He has a peculiar delivery, gets a lot of work on the ball & is likely to have a big influence on the competition. It is interesting to note that he leads in the bowling department. His average shows. 5 innings 323 balls 138 runs 26 wickets 5.30 per wkt.

It is believed that a strong deaf team could be got together in Victoria to play against other states. the following players would make an excellent team. Messrs L. Downes, R. K. Beattie, B. Hall, J. Kenworthy, J. Collins, A. Collins, G. Burgess, C. Robertson, F. Lyn V. Harding, J. Anderson, J. McLean & K. Peters.

Adult Deaf C.C. have been unfortunate in getting a team for sometime owing to some players being unable to get away from business. but it is hoped they will have a full team again this time.

A.D.C.C. 55 (one man short) & 3 wkts for 53. v St. Leonards 125 & 134 (Jan 30th & Feb 5th)

1st Innings.			2nd Innings.	
W. Burge	caught	1		
V. Harding	run out	2	---------- run out	9
L. Downes	bowled	18	---------- bowled	13
R. Beattie		11	---------- caught	10
J. McLean	c & b	0		
R. Lyn	bowled	3		
W. Evans	caught	2		
G. Hodges		6		
H. Gardiner	bowled	1		
J. Brown	not out	1	---------- not out	17
	Sundries			4
	Total	85	Total	53

L. Downes 5 wkts for 72 R. Beattie 3 for 73. J. McLean 2 for 40. W. Burge 1 for 2

Lost by 60 runs on first innings

A.D.C.C. 71 (4 men short) & 16 v Court Friendship CC. 115 (Feb 13th & 20th)

Highest scorers - J. McLean 18. Crook (Sub) 17 not out. L. Downes 10 V. Nelson (Sub) 10. R. Beattie 6. Bowling L. Downes 5 for 51. R. Beattie 3 for 43. V. Harding 1 for 6

Lost by an innings & 28 runs.

Syllabus for March

6th A.D.C.C. v Massey Harris C.C. on.
9th 7.45 p.m. D.W.F.S. Meeting.
- 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
13th A.D.C.C. v _____
14th Harrest Festival.
16th 8 p.m. Lecture by Mr E. Abraham.
20th A.D.C.C. v _____
23rd 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting
25th 7-45 p.m. Farewell Social to Mrs E. Abraham. Miss E. White.
27th A.D.C.C. v _____
30th 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting

April 4th Communion Service.

Sunday Services 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Bible Class. every Thursday 8 p.m. Recreation, Library & Bank every Saturday 7.30 p.m.

MARCH 1909.

Adult Deaf & Dumb Society.
32 Flinders St. E.

A
FAREWELL SOIREE
will be given to
MRS. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM
and
MISS. ELSIE. WHITE
on
THURSDAY. MARCH. 25th '09 AT. 8. P.M.
in the Hall of the above Society.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO ATTEND

Voting paper used at Annual Meeting of Congregation

Sub-Committee 1909-10
Vote for Nine (9)
Strike out name of the
Candidate whom you do
not wish to vote for.

1 L. Downes.
2 F.E. Frewin.
3 R.H. Luff.
4 M.L. Miller.
5 M.G.B. Mortimer.
6 J.E. Muir.
7 W.P. Muir.
8 S. Moss.
9 J. McLean.
10 T.A. Nelson.

APRIL 1909.

Thursday and Friday 1st and 2nd April 1909.
Vol 5. No. 8. "Our Monthly Letter" printed.
E. R. W. Smith. (Writer.)
L. Downes, J. Boorby, G. Oakley and J. Campbell assisted in printing.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO MR J.E. MUIR, DEAF AND DUMB BUILDING, FLINDERS ST. E., MELBOURNE.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB MISSION OF VICTORIA

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

VOL. 5. APRIL 1909 No. 8.

Our Staff of busy teaching bees is once more buzzing about our hive of industry, and the whole machinery is again in working order. The lectures and classes have re-commenced and give promise of attracting larger attendances than last year.

Harvest Festival. Our Thanksgiving service was held on the 14th ult, the attendance was but moderate in the morning but good in the evening. Our Chaplain officiated at both services, preaching from Psalms 15. 4. and Matthew 21. 34-35, and said some very blunt things. His evening sermon the subject of which was "The Fruits of Heaven" made a strong impression upon the congregation. As usual the Church was prettily decorated though the gifts were meagre compared with former years. All the vegetables and most of the flowers came from our Training Home at Box Hill. Thanks are tendered to those who contributed gifts.

Welcome to Miss Empson. A representative gathering of our deaf women was held in the Social rooms on the 25th of February, to welcome Miss Empson, who has taken up the work but recently relinquished by Miss White. Mrs Abraham presided and Mr Abraham and Mrs J. E. Muir spoke words of welcome. In responding Miss Empson - who has already acquired a fair command of our language - said she hoped they would always be friends, she on her part would try to be as useful as possible.

Lecture. "Valves" was the title of a lecture given by our Supt on the 16th of March to an audience of both sexes. Mr L. Downes presided. The title looks a "dry" one on paper and when it is stated that the subject was one of figures, it will be thought that few turned up; there however was a very good muster for it is well known to us that Mr Abraham possess a magic power that can make even figures dance with interest; no matter how dry the subject may appear he has a way of filling it with interest and holding the attention of his audience from the beginning to the end. Messrs J. E. Muir, Frewin and Miller spoke at the close of the lecture

in the same strain as our comment.

Educational. The mens' class opened on the 9th and was continued on the 19th The attendance is already a great improvement upon that of last year and it is hoped that ere long all the young men will be attending. The whole deaf community owe a debt of gratitude that words alone cannot express, to our devoted comrades Messrs M.L. Miller and J.E. Muir, who in addition to their very many responsibilities, also give time and talents to this special branch of our work

The Bible Class has re-opened and our Chaplain's interpretations of scripture are always interesting and helpful. This Class has had a powerful influence for good and it is hoped still more of our members will reserve Thursday evenings for this class.

Farm and Home. Work is progressing satisfactorily at Blackburn Our men are at present engaged in puting in bulbs, many thousands of which have been purchased. The manager is planning to have many acres of flowers in full bloom by next November by which time it is hoped the Home will be erected and opened. Judging by the front elevation of the architects plans the home will be a very handsome and 'homely' building. The specificiations and tenders being called for.

Training Home The one topic of conversation here is the departure for England of the hon Matron (Mrs Abraham) Miss R. Smith will act as Matron during her absence. We have had fine crops of tomatoes, marrows, cucumbers, beans, peas etc for home consumption. We are all in the best of health.

Farewell. There must have been at least 100 deaf and hearing friends present at the Complimentary Soiree to Mrs E. Abraham and Miss E White, held in our building on the 25th ult. Mr Abraham presided and the meeting was a happy and enthusiastic one. Mr Abraham spoke in the highest of terms of the services Miss E. White had rendered the cause during the three years she was with us especially in connection with the Great Bazaar. Mr M.L. Miller also had much to say in praise of her and in the name of the deaf presented her with a beautiful dining room hot water kettle on which the following words are engraved "Presented to Miss Elsie White by her freinds with best wishes on the eve of her marriage Melbourne. 25/3/09" Miss White in well chosen words thanked the deaf and and said though she was leaving Melbourne She would always be interested in their doings and would keep in touch with them.

Mrs Williamson in the name of the deaf and amidst much handclapping then presented Mrs Abraham with a very handsome fully filled dressing case - every article in the case being beautifully engraved with her initials by Mr M.L. Miller. Mrs Abraham made an attempt to thank them but breaking down called

upon her husband to do it for her. He said his wife was not a talker but a worker in her name thanked them gratefully and hoped his wife would soon be back in Australia and in the best of health. Miss Cowan said as Master Ernest was to accompany his mother to England the deaf desired that he should remember them also and in their name she presented him with a book and draught board and men. He briefly thanked the kind giviers. A very cheerful gathering was brought to a close with supper in the Social rooms.

Deaf Womens Society. There was a very good attendance on the 9th ult at the re-opening. Games and conversation were the features of the evening. Everyone was in good spirits, apparently glad to be in one another society once more under the auspices of the "Womens Friendly". Like all our opening Socials it ended with a supper The Educational Class for young women will re-open shortly. All deaf ladies are cordially invited to join.

Committee Meetings. The General Committee met on the afternoon of March 11th and adopted plans of Farm & Home and instructed architect to draw up specificiations and to advertise for tenders. The sub committee had a special meeting on the 2nd of March in connection with the old records of the Mission. Messrs M.L. Miller R.H. Luff and J.C. Muir were appointed a sub-committee to examine the old records submitted by Messrs F.J. Rose and A.C. Muir. The sub-committee held its usual monthly meeting on the 23rd ult. when a rough draft of the annual report was read and approved also the balance sheet. It was decided to hold the Annual Congregational meeting on the 20th April.

Ladies C.C. This being the first season it has been one of practice only - an experiment to see if a sufficent number of our young girls would be sufficiently interested to warrant the forming of a team. We are satisfied that next season there will be no difficulty in getting together a very creditable team and we are looking forward to many a happy outing.

Entertainment. By kind invitation of the mandgement about 60 of our members were invited and attended the living pictures entertainment at the Continental Gardens on the 11th of March It was unfortunately a very cold night, so that although we enjoyed the pictures, many of us did not enjoy the "colds" we caught there and carried about with us for many a day.

Mr Abraham lectured to the prisoners at Pentridge on the 3rd of March, was at Ballarat in connection with our work on the 18th & 19th, and interpreted at a case in the Fitzroy Court on the 24th.

A.D.D.A. The General Board of the A.D.D.A. forwarded a memorial with reference to the restrictions placed upon the deaf mute passengers by sea to the Conference of State Premiers at Hobart last month But the Secretary of the Conference sent a reply to say that the Conference did not intend to discuss any other matter except finance.

The Hon Secretary of the Victorian Branch A.D.D.A. acknowledges with th
the receipt of membership subscriptions of 1/- each from Mr T.A. Nelson.
Misses McCombe (Rochester) and Mr Ord (Heathcote) and 3/- (3 years) fr
Mr James Sloan (Inglewood.
Subscriptions are due now (April) so will those members and intend
members who have not yet forwarded their subscriptions kindly do so
soon as possible to the Hon Secretary Mr R. Miller.
Easter Rally = 12th April = Tea at 6.30 p.m. Entertainment, games & conversa
A very great muster of the deaf city, suburbs and country expected. C
hearty welcome to all deaf.
Congregational Annual Meeting April 20th 8 p.m. It is the duty of
every member to be present at this meeting make a note of the
date & make no other engagement 8 o'clock prompt please
The Gesture. The March-April Gesture is out. It contains many
interesting articles and illustrations. If you are not already a Subscriber
send your 2/- at once to the Gesture Co 181 Flinders Land. Melbourne
Personal Pars. Miss E. Connell spent a most pleasant holiday in
Daylesford with her friends Miss R. Ashby stayed at Warrnambool (h
birth place) for 2 weeks & now intends to spend a few weeks in Melbourn
Mr T. Nelson went to Beaconsfield for his holiday lately. - Mrs J Caughey & M
H. Cole took advantage of the Railway Excursion to Ags to Ballarat on the 20
About 15000 people went there from Melbourne & country towns. Miss Cole sta
with her people at Newton for a week. Miss J. E. Muir & Miss A Graham are
spending most enjoyable time at the Lakes in Gippsland. The former is
sketching & painting while the latter is busy with camera. Miss Potter is stay
with her relations in Bairnsdale, all of them admired all the places w
they have been to during their stay up to date. Mr R. Harley, who for 6 y
has been a teacher at the Victorian D & D. School has been appointed Head M
of the Tasmanian D & D. School at Hobart. We offer him our cordial congrat
He will be much missed as a sports master to the boys. It is expected that com
country visitors will spend their Easter holidays in Melbourne. Messrs J McC
J. Charles. W Burge, A Christensen, J. Campbell & Burge's friend intend to camp a
Tooradin for the Easter holidays. - Mr C. Turnbull writing to his friend
says Although he has been away from Melbourne for 26 years he wish
to be kindly remembered to all old friends.
Cricket. As the days shorten and winter approaches football clubs
awake once more & the cricketer is gradually being pushed aside for
the footballer
The Adult Deaf Cricket Club will hold their Social in the D & D.
Building on the 26th Inst (Eight Hours Day) to wind up the season
Tea will be served at 6.30 p.m. Admission 6d. It is hoped that a big
muster of friends will come and support the club.
Feb 27th & March 6th A.D.C.C. 40 (Beattie 13, Don 10) v. Massey Harris 4 wkts for 149 o
our ground. The match was not finished owing to the wet weather on the 6th March
Massey Harris won on 1st Innings - March 13th & 20th A.D.C.C. v C.L.P.C.C at Royal Park
The latter did not put their appearance on the ground so the A.D.C.C. claimed
walk over. March 27th & April 3rd A.D.C.C. 55 (Beattie 27) v Montague 7 for 90 at Po
Melbourn

THE GESTURE.

An High Class Illustrated Bi-Monthly Magazine for the Deaf.

181. Flinders Lane

Melbourne. March. 1st 09

Dear Friend,

Last month we sent you a letter asking you to help us in obtaining subscribers for our magazine. We have not yet received any reply from you, and as we are very anxious to know how many deaf friends are helping, or intend to help we are writing to remind you of our aim, and our offer to you, and we hope that you will write to us at once & let us know if we may number you among the workers for the Gesture.

We want to get the Gesture into the hands of as many hearing people as possible our aim being to remove the silly ideas that so many of our hearing friends have about the deaf & dumb, to encourage you to help us & to pay for the time you give to the work, we are offering a number of very handsome prizes

If you obtain 120 Subscriptions at 2/- each we will Send You a £5 note. If you get 50 Subs you will receive a Gold watch or £2. 2. 0. There are numerous other valuable prizes for 40, 30, 20, 10 & even 5 Subscriptions. Read the list of prizes already Sent to you.

If you have not already made a Start, please do So at once & do not forget to write to us we are waiting to hear from you.

Subscription lists & receipt books can be had by applying to us.

We are, Very Sincerely yours. M. L. Miller. Sec
J. E. Muir. Manager.
Ernest. J. D. Abraham. Editor

Syllabus for April

3rd Cricket A.D.C.C. v Montague off.
4th 11.a.m. Communion Service.
6th 7.45.p.m. Educational Class for women.
" 8.p.m. Educational Class for men.
9th Good Friday
10th Easter Saturday.
12th 6.30 p.m. 15th Congregational Rally on.
17th Cricket A.D.C.C. v St Leonards on.
20th Annual Meeting of the Congregation
23rd 8.p.m. Educational Class for men
24th Cricket A.D.C.C. v St Leonards on
26th 6.30 p.m Cricket Club Social

Sunday Services 11.am & 7 p.m.
Bible Class. Thursdays 8.p.m.
Library. Bank and Recreation Saturdays
7.30.p.m.

Friday and Saturday april 30th and May 1st 1909.
Vol. 5. No 9. "Our Monthly Letter" printed
M. L. Miller (Miles.)
L. Downes, G. Mortimer, G. Oakley and J. Campbell
assisted in printing.

All Communications to be addressed to Mr J.E.Muir, Deaf and Dumb Building, Flinders St. E., Melbourne.

Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria

Our Monthly Letter.

Vol. 5. May 1909. No 9.

Departure of Mrs Abraham. Mrs Abraham accompanied by her son Master Ernest left Melbourne on the 6th of April by the R.M.S. Asturias bound for England. Many deaf friends were present at the departure of the ship and gave them a hearty send off. Flowers of all kinds were showered upon them, also many little presents of comforts for the voyage. At Adelaide they were visited by Mrs Salas, and Mrs & Master Abraham have written from Western Australia asking us to convey their fondest greetings to all the deaf and their grateful thanks for all the kindness shown them. Mrs Abraham is on a visit to her relatives and whilst in England will visit leading institutions from which she may be able to learn something that will be helpful on our Blackburn Farm and Home.

Services. On Easter Sunday our Chaplain gave two very appropriate addresses on the life of Jesus, in the evening there was a large attendance. There was no service on Good Friday. The ordinary Services continue to be well attended, still there is plenty room for improvement. Our Chaplain expressed his pleasure at seeing so many of the young people regular in their attendance.

Indisposition of Mr. Abraham. We regret to say that our Chaplain has had some trouble with his heart, he has been ordered to rest for a couple of weeks by his medical attendant, and not to see any one or do anything. Messrs M. L. Miller and J. E. Muir took his place and conducted the Services on the 25th ult. and arrangements will be made to conduct other services and the Bible classes until Mr Abraham is able to resume them. We wish, with Lords blessing, a speedy and complete recovery for our chaplain.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation. A very good number of our members showed their interest in the serious and business side of our work by attending the Annual meeting on the 20th ult. Mr Abraham presided. The Hon. Sec (Mr J.E. Muir) read the Annual Report which was most voluminous and the Hon Treas: (Mr W.P. Muir) the Balance Sheet. The expenditure during the year had been unusually heavy and the balance in hand only £5

The report was a most splendid record of the work accomplished during the preceding twelve months and is undebateable evidence of what can be accomplished by a band of earnest and enthusiastic ~~as~~ mates. The Committee which consists of nine deaf gentlemen with an hearing and speaking Chairman made every possible provision for the Adult deaf population of the city and in several ways for those of the country also. For details our readers are advised to procure the annual report of the Society. In this number we can only find room for a mere outline of the proceedings. Report & Balance-Sheet adopted with enthusiasm. The new Committee consists of:- Messrs J. E. Muir, M. L. Miller, W. P. Muir, F. E. Spewin, R. H. Luff, L. Downes, G. Mortimer, J. McLean and J. A. Nelson. Representatives on General Board (re-elected) Messrs M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir and F. E. Spewin. Hon. Sec. & Sub-Committee,- Mr. J. E. Muir, Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. P. Muir (both re-elected). Because of the lateness of the hour the Chairman gave but a brief address in the course of which he suggested that some recognition for his most valuable services should be shown Mr. J. E. Muir. The idea was received with enthusiasm and immediately adopted. We hope to further refer to the report submitted and the Chairman's suggestions in our next issue.

General Committee. The General Board of our Society met on the 23rd ult. and accepted the tender of R. L. Phillips for the erection of the central buildings, men's wing and out buildings of the farm homestead at Blacktown at a cost of £2980. The Board also fixed on May 27th for the Annual Meeting of the Society. It is to be held in the evening and is to conclude with an entertainment. The State Governor is to be asked to preside.

Easter Rally. Our building was completely captured by the deaf young people on Easter Monday, the large hall being alive with bright & happy juvenile faces. The school children on their holidays had a real good time & their presence added to the pleasure of the adults and made the event one of the most joyous we have had for some time. There was also present a fair muster of country visitors in whose honour the rally had been arranged, and towards the close of the evening some excitement was caused by the arrival of Mr. T. Moran (an old member) from Queensland and our boys who had been camping out loaded with their swag and rabbits, etc, looking like a band of grubby young swaggies. How we laughed at them, and as the merry laughter rang all over the building, what wonder that a hearing friend present should say "What a happy people these are" Tea was provided in the lower hall & during the evening about 120 members & friends put in an appearance, a few being missing. There were games of all kinds for the Committee of management had packed their brains to bring forth variety, Perhaps the magnetic battery and guessing competitions were in greatest demand. The hall was prettily decorated. The Committee who had the arrangements in hand (Messrs J. E. Muir, M. L. Miller, F. E. Spewin & R. H. Luff) are to be, and are here congratulated upon the success of the gathering. The services of the ladies who had charge of the tea - Mrs. Williamson

and Misses J. Wright, Meehan, K. Corran and Dow are also appreciated and they are here thanked. Mr. F. E. Spewin presided and knowing that it was to be "a merry party" showed his good sense by making a very brief speech. Several new members were enrolled. The following are the winners of the guessing competitions:- Nuts in bowl - actual number 317. Winners, Mrs. Nolan, 318, Master Hall, 316. Clock stopped at 2.55 a.m. Winner, Mr. Caughey 3. a.m. Candle burnt out at 10.30 p.m. Winners, Mrs. Nolan, Master Hall, Mr. A. Wilson guessed correct time.

Classes. The Educ. Classes held on the 6th inst gave proof of increasing interest there being a good attendance at both the Mens and the Womens meetings. It is hoped that all the junior members of both sexes will take advantage of these classes. — The picture frame making Class will start again shortly. more frames are needed. All ou deaf men are invited to join the class, but once joined they are expected to attend regularly. — On the 17th April the Painting Class made a fresh start after a recess of four months. Mrs. Muirs' pupils gave every indication of their pleasure at getting back to their very interesting lessons.

Deaf Mens Guild. The newly elected President, Mr. T. D. Nelson read a paper on the 30th of March last. The subject "various Reforms" and being a debateable one aroused much interest. It was almost closing time B/fore the president concluded his paper, this was unfortunate for there were many speakers boiling over to give expression to their views. Some did succeed in getting in a few remarks. The President entertained the members to supper and expressed his gratification at the respect they had shown him by electing him to the highest honour in their power and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded him for his generous entertainment.

D.W.F. Soc. The members of the Deaf Womens Friendly Society are promised a treat in the form of a paper by Mrs. J. E. Muir on her trip to Lapland at the meeting on the 4th inst.

Wedding. The marriage of Miss Elsie White with Mr. C. Harold Prior was celebrated at the Collins St. Baptist Church on the 7th April, the officiating Minister being the Rev. W. E. Goldsworth. The church was very prettily decorated with white poppies, roses and asparagus fern. The bride & bridegroom stood under a large arch from which was hanging a white bell. The bride wore a very pretty frock of white oriental satin, richly trimmed with lace. She carried a shower bouquet and a single stone diamond brooch, the gifts of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were Miss Bertha White (sister of the bride) Miss Edie Prior (sister of the bridegroom) and two little girls, Miss Doris Bradshaw and Miss Enid Williams. Mr. Keith Lorimer acted as best man and Mr. Leslie White (brother of the bride) as groomsman. After the ceremony Mr. & Mrs. Prior received the guests in the Hall adjoining the Church. During the breakfast the Rev. Mr. Goldsworth proposed the health of the bride & bridegroom. Mr. Williams, the bridesmaids and Mr. Gregson,

the parents of the bride & bridegroom. Shortly afterwards Mr. & Mrs. Prior left amidst showers of confetti, to go by the express to Sydney, where they intend to make their home. Many handsome presents were received, amongst them a lovely hot water kettle bearing the inscription, "To Miss Elsie White from her deaf friends".

Cricket. On the 4th April the A.D.C.C. did not continue their match agst Montague so, the latter club claimed a walkover. On the 17th & 24th Ult. A.D.C.C v. St. Leonards. The latter made 77 and 87. A.D.C.C 71. St. Leonards won on first innings. Batting - R. Beattie 20. E. Parsons 11. L. Downes 8. W.P. Muir 6. Bowling - 1st R. Beattie 4 for 6. J. McLean 2 for 3, L. Downes 2 for 22. J. Dow 1 for 34. 2nd R. Beattie 5 for 21. Nelson 2 for 15. J. McLean 1 for 26. The club finished their season on the 24th Ult. 13 matches were played during the season. 3 (2 walkovers) were won and the rest lost. R. Beattie heads the batting 12.17 and bowling averages 7.25. much credit is due to him for his excellent all round play during the season.

On the 26th Ult (St Kilda Day) The A.D.C.C. held their social evening in the D.D. Building to wind up the season, about 42 sat down to a sumptuous tea. After tea games, guessing competitions, conversation, &c, were the features of the evening. Several new games such as docking apples - disappearance of apples & zoological game were introduced. Miss W. Burke won the candle competition. about 70 were present and every thing went off satisfactorily. Supper was also served. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent.

Personal Pars. Mr. Geo. Damman of Warburton is to be complimented for winning 6 prizes at the Yarra Junction Show for best kinds of fruit, honey and maize. Mr. J. Kenworthy expects that his maize crop will yield over 80 bushels to the acre this month. The grass and stock are looking splendid. Mr. C. Turnbull lost his brother Eddy lately, he was well known to some of our deaf friends. We extend our sympathy. Mr. C. Turnbull is a great favourite with the people at Boorcaham, N.S.W. He plays cricket still and has been making several good scores. His club won a trophy. The following country deaf visited Melbourne during Easter. Misses K. Cullis (Lancefield) Enid Jackson, Eva Jackson (Gippsland) Eva Mitchell (Benalla) and S. Ashby (Wattlegar) Mr. & Mrs. G. Damman (Warburton) and Mr. Alex Collins. They say the Easter rally was a splendid affair and they enjoyed it very much, they wished that they could attend every rally. Some of the visitors stayed from 1 to 3 weeks. Mr. Thos came back from Brisbane lately, he has finished the contract for the Commonwealth Govt. for the past six months he has been engaged in turning pegs or pins for telegraph cups and is very expert and can turn out a large number per day. He has secured a good billet in Tasmania and thinks he will be located in Launceston for a long while. Mr. L. Downes & family spent the Easter at Clyde. He spent most of his time shooting and bagged a good number of rabbits, &c. Messrs W. Taylor and A. Morgan came back from West Australia lately. They travelled with the Spicer troupe. Business was not as good as they

wished for on account of there being too many other Groupes and entertainments going round and living was a bit high.

Ladies Holiday Trip. Mrs J. E. Muir and Misses A. Graham & M. Potter have just returned to Melbourne from their four weeks holiday. They travelled togethe to Bairnsdale where they stayed for a week and Miss Potter remained with her relatives there for a month. They visited various places of interest. One of the most delightful excursions they had was made through Lake King & Jones Bay and up the beautiful river Tambo to Nossiface, a distance of thirty miles. The next place Mrs Muir & Miss Graham stayed at was Kalimna near the Lakes Entrance, Miss Potter coming with them in the steamer for the day. A very pleasant trip was also made to Buchan. Leaving Kalimna early one morning our tourists drove in a coach to the south landing of Lake Tyers where a motor Launch was in readiness to convey them to Nowa Nowa. The trip on Lake Tyers for 18 miles amidst winding arms & inlets covered with black swans & wild fowl was most charming. The journey continued from Nowa Nowa and a bush road was traversed for about 20 miles. Buchan was reached at 5.30 p.m the same day. The famous caves were visited & greatly admired. It would take up too much space in our little paper to describe their grandeur. Mrs Muir and Miss Graham stayed 2 days at Buchan & one day at Lake Tyers House. They had a visit to the Aboriginal Mission station which was very interesting. They returned to Kalimna for a few more days stay & then went to Paynesville. A friend took them in a motor boat to Nicholson River via Lake King, 24 miles away and the day was spent on the water in shooting wild fowl. Paynesville was left by boat for Sale and a five hours steaming through Lake Wellington and along the pretty river Thomson was enjoyed. Miss Potter was again met in the train at Sale and the party journeyed home together after having spent a most enjoyable time. The extent of the Lakes & the beauty of the surrounding scenery were a revelation to them. Great Kindness & hospitality were showered upon the travellers every where they went. Mr Kenworthy called to see them when they were in Bairnsdale. A few days after her return to Melbourne Mrs J. Muir left for Warburton to pay her long promised visit to her brother and stayed there for a week.

Miss Potter says she spent a most delightful holiday in Gippsland, partly with Mrs Muir and Miss Graham and partly with her relatives and other friends. She had not seen her relatives for several years and they gave her a great welcome that made her feel quite at home. She and they had much to say to each other. Miss Potter spent most of the time in making little excursions with her relatives & friends to various places of interest. She says the scenery of mountains, rivers and landscape in the different places was most charming. She visited a place where hop picking was going on and was much interested in the work, she helped a little at it herself. The pickers were interested and a bit amused at the sign language she used. A lovely bunch of hops was presented to her and she felt much

honoured. She saw a most charming sight at Bairnsdale - a splendid Carnival in aid of the hospital there were some very cleverly got up characters in the procession. Miss Potter was sorry when her holiday came to an end.

Deaf Camping Party. Messrs Charles, Campbell, Christensen, Burge and McLean went to Tooradin for the Easter holidays. They left Princes' Bridge on Good Friday morning at 6.25 o'clock and arrived at Tooradin at 8.30 P.M. They were met by Mr. Watson, a friend of Mr. G. Mortimer's and with his help found a good place to pitch their tent in. Mr. Watson gave them straw and milk. They could not eat the straw but it came in very handy to use for laying on during the nighttime. On the first night Mr. Burge had a "thrilling" experience with two horses which were strolling about in the paddock, the animals came up to the tent attracted by the straw and commenced to eat the bedding. One of them came to the door of the tent, shoved its head in and bit Mr. Burges' boot which was covered with straw, the other horse attacked the straw on the side of the tent and Mr. Burge felt something moving against his arm, he woke up, and rubbing his eyes proceeded to investigate, he soon found out what was the cause of the trouble that was robbing him of his "forty winks" He was relieved to find that it was not a great snake. The moon was shining brightly and it revealed to him the shadow of the horses cast against the side of the tent. guessing the cause of the trouble Mr. Burge gave the horses to understand that their prowling around the tent and waking the party up was not wanted and they soon obediently bolted off at a good speed. It was a good job the intruders were not a pair of bulls or Mr. Burges' experience would have been of the "thrillerer" sort. During the party's stay they bagged 19 pairs of rabbits and caught nearly 4 dozen bream. They returned home very tired after an enjoyable and pleasant time. They desire to thank Mr. Watson for his kind hospitality to them.

"Gesture" Prizes. The following prizes have been forwarded viz:- Miss M. Mortimer (Boisdale) Hand bag. Miss P. Elliott (Mildura) Purse. Miss E. Turner (Cobram) Ladys' watch. Mr. R.J. Hamilton (Euroa) Watch. Miss Bodke (Queensland) Hand bag. Several Queenslanders and a good number of others obtained Each for their commission.

Notes. In responding to a vote of appreciation of his fifty years services in the Church at the Congregational Union meeting held at Ballarat on the 22nd ult. The Rev. J.J. Halley, one of our committee-men said that he had a bible which belonged to an ancestor who was one of the ministers appointed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The Robur Tea people have had an illustrated advertisement in the "Herald" lately informing all deaf mutes that Robur Tea is bad.

SYLLABUS FOR MAY.

4th " 7.45 P.M. D.W.F. Society Meeting.
" 8 P.M. Picture Framing Class.
8th " 3 P.M. Painting Class.
11th " 8 P.M. Educational Class for Men.
15th " 3 P.M. Painting Class.
18th " 8. P.M. Sub-Committee Meeting.
21st " 8 P.M. Educational Class for Men.
23rd " Services - 5th Anniv. of Building.
25th " 8 P.M. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
27th " 7.30 P.M. Annual Meeting of A.O & D. Soc'y
29th " 3 P.M. Painting Class.

Sunday Services 11 A.M & 7 P.M.
Bible Class every Thursday 8 P.M.
Library, Bank & Recreation - Saturdays 7.30 P.M.

MAY 1909.

The building of the Farm and Home Institute was commenced on the 3rd May 1909.
Mr. R. L. Phillips was the successful tenderer.
The tender price was £2980.
With extras the cost will be £3.500.

"The Age" 3/3/09.

WARD and CARLETON,
Architects, 241 Collins-street,
Tel. 2246.
Invite TENDERS for
INSTITUTION and RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS,
In Brick,
At Lake Park, Blackburn,
For the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria
(Incorporated).
Deposit £30.

"The Herald" 14/9/09.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Extensive plans are now being carried into effect for the establishment of a farm and home at Blackburn, which will be used by the Deaf and Dumb Institute of Victoria. New buildings are being eerected at a cost of L3,500 by Mr R. L. Phillips, builder, under the supervisoin of Messrs Ward and Carlton, architects.

The same architects will also shortly commence the erection of a new laundry and home in connection with the Elizabeth Fry retreat at South Yarra. The old buildings in Avoca street are to be demolished, and a modern structure with new equipment will be erected on the same site.

The 25th Annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society was held on the 27th May.
Hon. F. S. Grimwade (Chairman.)
Further particulars see "Monthly Letter" of June.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB BUILDING,
FLINDERS ST. E., MELBOURNE.

ADMIT BEARER and FRIEND to the

Annual Meeting

and Entertainment

Of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, to be held in the above building on

THURSDAY, MAY 27

at 7.45 p.m.



"The Argus" 28/5/09.

DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

In the twenty-fifth annual report of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, attention was drawn to the fact that the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission had now become incorporated with the society, with the sanction of the subscribers of the mission, owing to the increasing magnitude of the work. The report went on to state that a farm and home at Blackburn, standing on 75 acres of land, had been purchased, where the aged, infirm, and feeble-minded could be looked after, and that it was proposed to make the farm self-supporting, as far as possible, by planting crops and by growing flowers.

The balance-sheet showed that during the year 1908-1909 the receipts had amounted to £1,975, and the expenditure to £1,605, leaving a credit of £370 at the London Bank.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, the chairman (Mr. F. S. Grimwade) said that there were about 350 adult deaf mutes in Victoria. For these afflicted people, who were cut off to a great extent from the ordinary means of earning a livelihood, and from social intercourse with those to whom nature had been more kind, the central building in Flinders-street had from the first fulfilled a most useful purpose. Relief was given to the sick, work was found for those without employment, the library provided excellent reading matter, and last, but not least, they had an opportunity there of taking part in divine worship. In connection with the subscriptions, it was gratifying to note that if these were not large, they were numerous. He trusted that the buildings at Blackburn would be completed by October next. For this, more money was needed, and he would not be backward in doing his part. (Applause.)

The report and balance-sheet were adopted, and after this there was an election of office-bearers for the coming year, which resulted in the following appointments:—President, Mr. F. S. Grimwade; vice-president, Mr. E. R. Peacock; hon. treasurer, Mr. Harold Kent; hon. secretary, Mr. H. Sumner Martin. The members of committee are Messrs. H. W. H. Adeney, W. A. Dickens, F. E. Frewin, John M. Griffiths, S. Mauger, M.H.R., G. G. Mercy, M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir, F. J. Ross, F. Tudor, M.H.R., and Sir Henry Weedon, M.L.A. The honorary physician to the farm and home is Dr. W. J. Craig; and the honorary horticulturist, Mr. John Cronin.

After the conclusion of the business, those present were given a biograph entertainment. The pictures for the most part told their own story, but where they failed to do so, the services of Mr. Abrahams, the superintendent, who had acted throughout as interpreter, were again called into requisition.

A shorter report appeared in "The Age" also.

Friday and Saturday 28th and 29th May 1909.
Vol 5. No 10. "Our Monthly Letter" printed.
J.E. Muir (writer.)
L. Downes, J. Boorbz. G. Oakley and J. Campbell
assisted in printing.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO MR J.E. MUIR, DEAF AND DUMB BUILDING, FLINDERS ST E., MELBOURNE.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB MISSION OF VICTORIA

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

VOL. 5. JUNE, 1909. No 10.

Services. We are happy to state that our chaplain is almost well & able to resume his duties again. He delivered two most impressive sermons on the 16th Ult. During his absence Messrs M.L. Miller, R.H. Luff, W.P. Muir, & J. Rood & J.E. Muir officiated. Our chaplain, the Sub Committee & the Congregation desire to thank these gentlemen for their services.

Classes. There is an all round improvement in the attendances at classes & a deeper interest is being shown. On the 11th Ult Messrs M.L. Miller & W.P. Muir were the teachers of the classes under the auspices of the Mens' Guild & also Mr. J.E. Muir on the 21st & on the 25th Mr. E. Abraham gave his class of women a lesson on the Empire. Mr. Freedman's picture frame making class having accomplished the end for which it was established is to be discontinued. Mr. J.E. Muir's painting class on alternate Saturday afternoons is still popular.

General Board. The general board met on the 20th Ult Mr. E.R. Peacock presided. Mr. H. Summet Martin, Hon. Sec, read the Annual report & Mr. Harold Kent, the balance sheet, both were approved. It was decided that the wooden panels in the doors of the board room, Library & Superintendent's rooms be replaced by glass. The House stewards granted the request of the Sub-Committee and sanctioned extension of bookcase.

Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee met on the 18th Ult & transacted the usual business. The chief items were the holding of the 16th Rally on the 24th June, Winter games competition to commence on the 5th June. Glass in place of wooden panels for the doors of the Board, Library & Mr. Abraham's doors & the inspection of Library on the 8th June. Mr. R.H. Luff was instructed to extend the Library case at a cost not to exceed £5. Mr. H.G. Mortimer was re-appointed Hon Librarian for the 6th time. Mr. G. Hodges re-appointed Assistant Librarian and Mr. A. Hull took Mr. J. A. Nelson's place as 2nd Assist Librarian. 100 members certificates ordered to be printed.

16th Rally. This event is to take place on the 24th of June. Mr L. Downes is to preside & the evenings programme is in the hands of Mesrs J. E. Muir. W. P. Muir & M. G. Mortimer.

Winter Competitions The Winter games competitions is to commence on the 6th June. Already keen interest is being shown & the committee of management are exerting themselves to make the best of arrangements. They confidentially look forward to a big muster at the opening round.

A.O.D.A. The acting hon secretary of the Victorian Branch of A.O.D.A. acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following membership subscriptions. W Cann 1/- Jas. Anderson (Ginnar) 1/- Mr E. Burke (N.Z) 2/- 2 years, Mrs E. Burke (N.Z) 2/- 2 years. S.E. Grewin 1/- J.D. Brook (Lockley) 1/- Mrs J. E. Muir 1/- Those who have not yet forwarded their subscriptions & others who intend becoming members of an association that is doing much to promote a better understanding of the true condition & capabilities of the deaf among the hearing community & those in authority are reminded that now is the time to send their subscriptions. Kindly send subscriptions 1/- to the hon. secretary Mr M. L. Miller, Deaf & Dumb Building, Flinders St. E. Melbourne.

Lectures. On the 4th of May. Mrs J. E. Muir gave a very interesting paper before the members of the Womens' Society on her trip through Gippsland. She had an attentive & appreciative audience. A large number of photographs taken by Miss A. Graham during the tour were also on view.

The following description of the Buchan Fairy Cave in Gippsland was given by Mrs J.E. Muir in the course of a lecture delivered by her to the members of the Deaf Womens' Society. The mouth of the Fairy Cave is so small that it does not give the visitor a good idea of the interior, but on entering, he beholds the finest examples of Nature's handiwork ever found in Victoria. It needs a poet to describe their grandeur. So far as is known the cave extends about a mile in length & is 100 feet deep, but easily descended, steps being cut where necessary & awkward corners protected by railings. The cave itself is a tremendous mass of fairy landscapes studded with beautiful glittering stalactites & stalagmites which flash back blinding responses to the magnesium light. The passages widen out into spacious chambers, crystal pillars, supporting the lofty ceilings. Jewelled thrones, fleecy clouds, marble basins, crystal gardens, dancing fairies, petrified showers of fine stalactites & crystal grapes possess a weird fascination for the visitor. In a vault is a miniature monument of Queen Victoria made not by human hands, but Nature. There are innumerable curious formations such as shawls, blankets, patty pans, gloves, spaniel ears, a drawbridge, a crocodile etc which hold the imagination captive. In two or three places one receives quite a shock to run against several full sized blankets left hanging to dry from

the roofs & to find them of solid stone, not withstanding the thickness, colour & texture & when viewed with a light held behind them, look warm enough to sleep under. One wonders how many centuries have passed in the making of all these wonderful limestone formations & how they have remained unknown to the world till recently. These cades are well worth the visit

On the 25th Ult. The President of the Deaf Mens' Guild (Mr. J. Nelson) gave a number of interesting items before a fair attendance of members.

Personal Pars. Some time ago the infant child of Mr. & Mrs. D. Hood of Beech Forest was burnt to death. The child was sitting near the fire & during the mothers absence, fell into the fire. The doctor was sent for, & on arrival found that the child had been terribly burnt about the head, face, body & arms, the legs only escaping. Everything possible was done for the sufferer without avail. Mr. Hood was at Geelong at the time attending a cattle sale. We tender our heartfelt sympathy to them.

Miss W. Burke has gone to Ballarat to stay with her mother for the winter.

Miss P. Ashby of Trafalgar returned home lately after spending a long & most enjoyable holiday in Warrnambool & Melbourne. She spent some pleasant evenings with her deaf friends in the building.

Mr. R. S. Hamilton of Ensay had a splendid 3 weeks holiday. The first 2 weeks he spent at Bright journeying there by coach. he stayed with his friend Mr. S. Ferguson of Bowmans Forest. The last week he spent in Melbourne where he managed to pass his time very pleasantly, paying a visit to the farm at Blackburn.

Mrs. L. Downes lost her sister on the 9th May. She has our sympathy. She is at present staying at the Broadmeadows Sanatorium for about 3 months. We hope that the change will do her good.

We had a visitor in Mrs. E. Salas of Adelaide for a few days. She has been in the country for some weeks.

Mr. J. Brook of Locksley is expected to stay in Melbourne for a month.

The pastoralists are hopeful that the coming lambing will be better than expectations as rain appeared to be general in this State lately.

Mr. J. G. Turner, the chief Fruit Inspector of this State, states that the whole of the extensive area passed through the border districts between Albury & Echuca is looking magnificent. Good winter grass is assured, & cropping is proceeding under the most favourable conditions

Football is in full swing. Although our deaf fellows have no club, they take keen interest in the doings of the different clubs. Most of them barrack for Essendon. The premiership will be very open during the season. Since the Saturday half holiday act came in force, big matches have been attended with crowds of people - more than before. What a crowd it will be at the final match.

Annual Meeting. There was a crowded attendance at the annual meeting of our Society. Quite a large proportion of those present were ladies who took part in the Bazaar of 1907. The Hon. F. S. Grimwade presided & Mr. G. G. Mercy opened the meeting with prayer. The balance sheet submitted by the hon treas. Mr. Harold Kent, showed the Society to be in a flourishing condition. The general accounts show receipts to be £1,975, and expenditure £1,605, leaving a credit of £370. The Farm & Home account showed that after paying for the land, fencing, grubbing, etc, - the sum of £3,000 still remained, which is sufficient to pay for that portion of the building now in course of erection, & there is a sum of £1,621 to the credit of the Benevolent fund. The Annual report, which was read by the hon. Sec. Mr. H. Sumner Martin, B.A. LL.B. gave special prominence to the loss sustained by the Society in the death of Mr. Edward Newbigin, to the incorporation of our organisation under the name of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria, the purchase of the Lake Park Estate, & the erection of the homestead thereon. In the commenting upon the report, Mr. Martin said it was impossible to go into details in such a report, the extent of the work being so great, but that some idea of the work carried on at headquarters could be obtained from a perusal of the Sub-Committee's report. Speaking of the Farm & Home he said that before the womens' wing could be gone on with a further sum of £1,000, would have to be obtained. Mr. Grimwade who was given a most hearty reception, in moving the adoption of the report balance sheet said he quite realized the need of such a society, & went on to enumerate the various way in which the Society was able & did help the deaf. He expressed himself as entirely satisfied with the management, & the work done. He thought the report carried its own verdict, the Society was managed with wisdom & kindness & that was why it was a great success. As to the need of £1,000 to erect the Womens' wing, he thought this should be done within the year, the money obtained within the year also, & he would do his share toward bringing this about. If they all put their shoulders to the wheel, this could be done, & they must see that it is done. Mr. Grimwade's address was punctuated with many bursts of applause, chiefly from the back of the hall, where our members had to stand for want of seating accomodation. In seconding the motion, Mr. M. L. Miller said that ten years ago they never dreamed of the success & vast expansion that their society would meet with, nor that they would in so short a period be in possession of an Institute & a farm. It was all very largely due to the enthusiasm, sympathy & skill of their leader. The balance sheet gave the impression of a very happy state of affairs & the balances all looked good, but in a very short time when the builder's bill had been met, this would all be absorbed & they would have to pass round the hat once more. Mr. G. G. Mercy who took a prominent part in the Farm fund raising of '07, in his speech dwelt mainly upon this branch of our work. He said £1000 or more had to be raised. The question was how. The Superintendent could & was willing to do it, but that would take

him away for months from the more important work at the farm. He appealed for an earnest & united effort on the part of the friends of the work. (Applause). Mr. J.E. Muir said. he was delighted with everything. They were exceedingly fortunate in having so many staunch friends, he was especially pleased that Mr. Grimwade had consented to become the 1st president of the new Society, & Mr. Mercy to join the Committee. They were having a long run of good luck. His Excellency Sir Thomas Gibson Carmichael sent an apology for not being able to be present at the meeting owing to a previous engagement as also did Mr. E.R. Peacock, our new Vice president who was called away to South Australia on business. The following are the officebearers for the next 12 months:- President, Mr. J.S. Grimwade; Vice President, Mr. E.R. Peacock; hon treas., Mr. Harold Kent; hon. sec., Mr. H. Sumner Martin; members of Committee, Revs. H.W.H. Adeney & J.J. Halley, Messrs. W.A. Dickens, J.E. Erwin, J.M. Griffiths, S. Mauger, M.L.A., G.G. Mercy, M.L. Muller, J.E. Muir, D.J. Rose, J. Tudor, M.L.A., & Sir Henry Weedon, M.L.A. The hon. Physician to the farm & home is Dr. W.J. Craig; and the hon. horticulturist, Mr. John Cronin. After the conclusion of the business those present were given a biograph entertainment.

Our members are delighted with their new president - Mr. Grimwade - & the sympathetic & enthusiastic tone of his first address. They noted that he had mastered the objects of their Society, before coming among them, & also had a grip of their condition & capabilities. The personal interest & confidence that was visible all through his address was especially pleasing, & has made the deaf confident that the completion of the farm scheme will be an accomplished fact by the end of the year.

Sub Committee Notes. Mr. A.C. Muir has been a member of the Sub Committee for many years until last March when he resigned as he could not devote sufficient time to attend the meetings. Mr. C. Reynolds since his transfer to the farm at Blackburn has been compelled to resign his position on the Sub-Committee. Both places were filled by two aspirants in Messrs. J. McLean & T.A. Nelson.

Mr. J. Higgins was appointed Auditor to the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society.

SYLLABUS FOR JUNE

1st 8 p.m. Lecture on Horticulture by Mr. Crann.
5th 8 p.m. Start of Winter Games Competition.
7th 7.30 p.m. Open Recreation.
8th 8 p.m. Special Meeting of Sub-Committee.
12th 3 p.m. Painting Class.
15th 7.45 p.m. I.W.E.S. Meeting.
8 p.m. Educational Class for Men.
22nd 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
24th 7.45 p.m. 16th Cong. Rally.
26th 3 p.m. Painting Class.
29th 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.

July 4th Lord's Supper.

Sunday Services 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Bible Class.
every Thursday except 24th 8 p.m. Recreation.
Bank & Library every Saturday 7.30 p.m.

JUNE 1909.

JUST TO REMIND YOU

THURSDAY JUNE 24th at 7.45.p.m
MEMBERS'
Quarterly
RALLY.
Games.
Humorous Sketch by
Our Junior Members.
Supper.
We shall miss you if you do not come.

THURSDAY JULY 1st. 8.pm.
Communicants
Class.
Our Chaplain has something
special to say. All members of
Congregation invited. Come.

Sunday. July. 4th. 11. am.
Communion Service.

Adult Deaf & Dumb Building
Flinders St. E. Melbourne.

JULY 1909.

Thursday and Friday 1st and 2nd July 1909.
Vol 5. No. 11. "Our Monthly Letter" printed.
E. R. W. Smith (writer.) G. Oakley, J. Campbell and
L. Downes, J. Boortz, W. Christensen assisted in printing.

An At Home given by Mr. and Mrs. F. Frewin last Wednesday on the occasion of their silver wedding was rather a remarkable gathering, in view of the fact that

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO MR J.E.MUIR, DEAF AND DUMB BUILDING, FLINDERS ST E., MELBOURNE.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB MISSION OF VICTORIA

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

VOL. 5. JULY. 1909. No. 11.

Marine Act. The Victorian State Cabinet recently gave sympathic consideration to the representations of the deaf of this State, and a few days back the president of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association was sent for by the Secretary to the Premier, who sought further information. We understand that there is every probability of the objectionable clause being deleted.

Education of Deaf Children. The new Educational bill shortly to be introduced before Parliament contains clauses making provision for the education of all deaf children of the State.

Committee Visit Farm. The Farm Sub-Committee met on 10th ult. When a report was submitted by the manager showing that nearly five acres have already been planted with bulbs, upwards of 400,000 in number. The Committee visited the farm on the 14th, inspected the building in course of erection, and expressing themselves as highly pleased at work accomplished.

The "Gesture" Board. The "Gesture" board met in our building on the 12th of June. Mr. Alex. Williamson presided. The Managing staff submitted their report, which was satisfactory from every point of view. The services rendered by Mr. J. Shawell, and the deaf of Queensland were warmly appreciated.

Vic. Branch A.D.& D.A. The board of the above met on the 17th June to receive report of the president on the matter of the Marine Act. He was able to report that the State Government was in accord with the petition of the deaf. Other important business in connection with the education of deaf children was dealt with.

Lecture on Horticulture. Under the auspices of the Mens Guild, a most interesting lecture was given at our building on the 1st of June by Mr. J. Cronin, principal of the Government School of Horticulture to a large audience of both sexes. Mr Nelson presided, and Mr Abraham acted as interpreter. During the evening, Mr Cronin gave a number of demonstrations illustrating planting of trees and slips, pruning, etc.—
At the close of the Lecture numerous questions were asked and

answered. Mr Cronin was heartily invited, and agreed to come again. Mr Luff moved and Mr Mortimer seconded a vote of thanks which was carried with acclamation.
Womens' Wing Appeal. Mr Abraham will very shortly set out to raise the £1,000 needed to erect the women's wing of the Farm and Home. Our President the Hon F. S. Grimwade has already promised to head the list with £100, and the Felton Bequest Committee has sent £25.
Among the new honorary officers of our Society, are the names of Dr Lorraig, of Box Hill, Hon Physician, and Mr J. Cronin, Hon Horticulturalist.
Deaf Womens' Society. On the 18th the Committee of Deaf Womens' Friendly Society met and transacted its usual business. The chief items decided were penny savings bank for picnics parties etc Monthly bible class Mrs A. Wilson to be the teacher, and the annual meeting to be held on the 6th Inst.
Deaf Sub-Committee. A meeting of the above was held on the 22nd The chief business was the decision to ask the general board for materials to make two blackboards, and to procure more crockery. The Secretary's report on the inspection of library and permission granted to Mr J. E. Muir to hold a "Calanganda" in the building in August.
The City Parks and Gardens Committee have complied with the request of our Supt. and made a gift of trees and shrubs, to the Blackburn Farm.
A number of Albert Park ladies gave Mr Abraham a surprise visit at his office the other Monday evening and presented him with a handsomely silver mounted umbrella in "Memo of March 1st whatever that may mean.
Rallies. The 16th Rally was held in our Building on the evening of the 24th June. There was a good muster - 65 members and 22 hearing friends - in spite of the rain. Mr Leslie Downes presided, Mr J. E. Muir read the roll call and "family register". Seven new certificates were issued. Addresses were given by the chairman and chaplain, then followed games the following carrying off the prizes in the competitions. Candle guessing - Mrs D. Nolan. Clock - Mrs Caughey A Sketch was arranged by the Superintendent entitled "A Comedy of Errors" was then played by junior members, the characters were well sustained by Master T. Peters (Mr Jack Johnson) Master A Hull (Mr Tom Thompson) Master J. Marks (Detective) Master G. Hodges (Doctor) Miss R. Dow (Miss Polly Hopkins) Miss D. Hickey (Servant) Miss E. Smith (nurse) Mesdames J. E. Muir and J. Boorty and the Misses N. Potter and A. Foster took charge of the supper arrangements and Messrs J. E. and W. P. Muir, M. G. Mortimer and L. Downes management of the rally. Votes of thanks to these

ladies and gentlemen were heartily accorded.
A.D.D.A The acting Hon Secretary of the Victorian Branch acknowledges with thanks the receipt of membership subscriptions from the following :- R J Hamilton, (Conway) 1/- C Abraham 1/- J. McLean 2/- 2 years. R. H. Luff 1/- and Miss J. Prior (Malvern) 1/-
Winter games competition started with success on the 5th June and are still creating keen interest among competitors. The leading competitors in each department up to date are:- Bagatelle. Mr A. Morgan 194. Ladies Miss M. Clarke 136 Throwing Mr J McLean. 94 Miss M. Clarke 63 Quoits Mr L Downes 48 Miss M Clarke 16. Throwing darts Mr L. Downes 47 Miss L. Rosenfeld 19.
The Late Miss Julia McCombe. Miss Julia McCombe, who for a number of years has been in service with the Rev Canon and Mrs Watson in Melbourne and at the Vicarage, Rochester, died on Friday the 11th inst. at the Melbourne Hospital. The deceased had only been in poor health for a short while but when examined under chloroform by Drs Chas Ryan and Maudsley, she was found to be suffering from a cancerous growth of a very rapid character and she passed away within a fortnight of her admission to the hospital. The funeral took place on Monday the 14th inst, Mr C J D. Abraham, chaplain of the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, conducted the burial service and her remains were followed to the place of interment by a number of deaf mutes, who had been her school companions.
The affection of the deceased for dumb animals, and the way in which that affection was reciprocated by them, was often of a very touching character. Though deprived of the power of speech and of hearing, Miss McCombe had a bright, cheerful disposition, and possessing a simple but definite faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as her Friend and Guide and Saviour, she never complained of her natural disadvantages, but, rather, was always delighted as far as it lay in her power, to render assistance to those afflicted like herself, or who suffered in any way. She has patiently finished her course in this imperfect world, and gone to be a citizen of that perfect world. "Rochester Express"
Personal Pars. Mr Cox's wife and family arrived from England on the 23rd of June, in the Ormuz, looking the picture of health.
Mr Abraham received a letter and photographs from his wife. She is having a good time in England so also is their son Ernest. She sends her love to all the deaf.
Mrs Prior (nee Elsie White) came to Melbourne from Sydney on a visit to her people. She looks well and happy.
Mr R. H Luff and Miss M. Hough are to be married in the Deaf and Dumb Building on the 7th July.
Mr R. Miller writing a long letter to a friend, stated that he has at

last got into employment at Mount Lyell. Tasmania. Th
Mount Lyell mine is one of the best on the west coast of Tasma
and as he worked there before he is quite happy and contente
He wishes to be most kindly remembered to all his friends.
Mr Gregory (ex-teacher of Hobart School for Deaf and Dumb
is at present staying at the same place as Mr R. Miller.
Mr R. J. Hamilton, of Ensay, arrived home safely from
his holiday trip lately.
Mr H. Beaumont, of Sydney paid a flying visit to Melbou
on the 1st June on his way home from Adelaide.
Mrs L. Downes is progressing favourably at the Broadmead
Sanatorium. She is gaining a few pounds in weight and
desires to thank her friends for their kind wishes.
Mr J. Dempsey underwent a successful operation for
varicosse veins lately. he is getting on finely now.
A daughter was born to Mr and Mrs H. Gladman
of Brodford on the 9th May and also to Mr and Mrs
Pierce on the 2nd June.
It is reported that Mr James Ashley, late of New Zealand
and Miss Annie Archer of Geelong were married at Geelong
on the 21st June. We wish them happiness and prosperity.
Mr D. Ashby, of Trafalgar, came to Melbourne on business
on the 24th ult. and stayed for 2 days. He attended the
Rally and enjoyed it greatly.
Mr S. Burgess has been consistent with the bat at Stawell
during the cricket season. His batting average is 54 per
innings. He has had an injury to his eyes through his
spectacles breaking during a fall.
Silver Wedding. On the 3rd of June Mr and Mrs
F. C. Frewin celebrated the "Silver" Anniversary of their
wedded life by entertaining a number of relatives and
deaf and hearing friends in our building. Letters of
congratulation were received from the Sub-committee
of our Society, Mr and Mrs Burke, of New Zealand, Mrs
Mercy and Mr Salas of Adelaide. Gifts to commemorate
the event included a beautiful electro-plated hot water
kettle, suitably inscribed, from their deaf guests, and
a pair of handsome and appropriate photo frames
from Mr Abraham. During the evening Miss Dunn, Miss
Williamson, Rev John and Master Thes and Miss Frewin
contributed musical and vocal items. Mr W. A. Paterson
gave a recital and the same gentleman with Mr J. E. Muir
Charades in dumb show. The supper was a dainty one
and enjoyed. The health of Mr and Mrs Frewin was
proposed by Mr F. J. Rose and Mr R. H. Luff also
spoke to the proposal.

JULY 1909.

Thursday and Friday 1st and 2nd July 1909.
Vol 5. No 11. Our "Monthly Letter" printed.
E. R. W. Smith (writer.) G. Oakley, J. Campbell and
L. Downes, J. Boortz,
W. Christensen assisted in Printing.

An At Home given by Mr. and Mrs. F. Frewin last Wednesday on the occasion of their silver wedding was rather a remarkable gathering, in view of the fact that both Mr. and Mrs. Frewin are deaf and dumb, as were also a goodly proportion of the guests. The function took place in the Deaf and Dumb-buildings, Flinders-street. During the evening a programme of music and recitations was rendered, several deaf gentlemen contributing interesting items. The health of the host and hostess, proposed by the Rev. J. H. Frewin, was cordially honored, and they were presented by Mr. Luff, on behalf of the deaf, with a silver hot water kettle, suitably inscribed, as a memento of the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Frewin also received numerous other silver presents from their friends and relatives during the evening, besides congratulatory telegrams and letters from the other States.

The "Age" 5/7/09.

SYLLABUS FOR JULY.

4th 11.a.m. Lords Supper
6th 7.45 p.m. Annual Meeting of Deaf Womens' Friendly Society.
~~8.p.m. Picture Frame Making Class~~
10th 3.p.m. Painting Class.
13th 8.p.m. Mens' Educational Class
20th 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Friendly Society Meeting
8.p.m Sub-Committee Meeting
24th 3.p.m. Painting Class
27th 8.p.m. Deaf Mens Guild Meeting

Sunday Services 11.a.m & 7.p.m.
Bible Class every Thursday 8.p.m.
Recreation, Library and Bank every Saturday 7.30.p.m.

A powerful Deputation waited upon the Minister of Education on 21st July 1909. re education for deaf mute Children in connection with the new Education Bill.

Reports also appeared in The "Age" and The "Argus" of 22/7/09

HOW LONG, OH MY COUNTRY, HOW LONG?

STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

Sir,

I notice that a meeting is to be held in the Melbourne Town Hall on Thursday next to consider the best methods of raising funds to pay off the debt incurred by recent additions to the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution.

As there is in the bill to amend the Education Act, at present before Parliament, a clause making provision for the compulsory instruction of the deaf, it seems to me that now is the opportune time for the board of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, instead of appealing for funds from the charitable, to approach the Education Department with the view of the Government taking over the Institution. Officers of State Schools are not saddled with worries as to ways and means, nor the appealing for funds to enlarge and carry on their schools. Neither should the officers of the school for the deaf.

It is time that the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution came into line with the schools for the deaf of the rest of the world. All other civilised countries have long since recognised that the deaf should not be classed with the defective; that he is as good an asset to his country as the normal person, and therefore must share equally with him all benefits at the disposal of the State.

Other countries have also dropped the words "Asylum" and "Institution" in connection with educational establishments for the deaf, and substituted the correct designation--School. In Europe and America, likewise New Zealand, his instruction has been made a part of the general scheme of State Education, it being admitted that to make primary education by Act of Parliament the birthright of the normal child, and leave the deaf to charity, is not only unjust, but an insult to a section of the community that is in no way behind the rest of the people in taking up its share of responsibilities of citizenship. In fact, Australia is to-day the only civilised country that adds to the burden of its deaf by compelling its parents and the deaf person himself to pay for that which it refuses to give him.

The Australian deaf has for years past been crying--"How long, oh my country, how long will you continue to withhold from me that for which, with the rest of my countrymen, I proudly pay, in my just proportion of rates and taxes, but which you, whilst lavishing upon my hearing brethren in an open-handed manner, dole out to me as a charity?"

A child, Sir, has a right to claim of its parents affection, support, protection and training. Is it not so? If a child be an invalid, a cripple, or deaf, the right is not abated; the parent cannot say to such a one, what I give to your brothers and sisters is their right, but what I give to you is a charity. If the parent has no right to discriminate between his children, neither has the State, that stands in the place of the parent in primary educational matters.

By appealing to the charitably disposed instead of to the Government for the money required, the board will, in face of the facts herein stated, be helping to postpone the day when his country will, which sooner or later it must, give him his true rights of citizenship.

By joining the board of the Australian Deaf and Dumb Association in its effort to bring the education of the deaf of this country into line with the advanced condition in Europe and America, the board of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution would gain the gratitude and love of the whole deaf-mute community.

I am, Sir, Yours etc.,
M. L. MILLER, Hon. Sec.,
Australian Deaf & Dumb Association, 181 Flinders Lane.

Copy of letter sent for publication to the "Argus," "Age," and "Herald," Monday, July 19th, 1909.

The "Herald" 21/7/09.

LAND OF SILENCE

ITS YOUTHFUL INHABITANTS

TO BE EDUCATED WITHOUT CHARITY

"There is no one to-day," said Mr Tate, Director of Education, "who is so foolish as to believe that the deaf mute should be classed with the mentally deficient."

"The laws of Victoria believe it," retorted Mr Abrahams, principal of the Deaf Mute Institute; "the laws of Victoria class the deaf mute with idiots and other mentally deficient persons."

This interchange passed at a deputation to Mr Tate, asking that the State should take entire charge of the education of deaf mutes by providing a primary school for those between the age of 7 and 16, a continuation school to follow, a boarding school for children whose parents live in the country, and a training class for deaf mutes between 15 and 25 whose education has been neglected.

The deputation was a powerful one. It was introduced by Mr Edgar, M.L.C., and was also attended by Mr Mauger, M.H.R., Mr Evans, M.L.C., Messrs Keast, Hannah, Beazley and Solly, M's.L.A., the Rev. Dr. Bevan, Mr Stephen Barker, and many others.

Mr Abrahams said that at present either the education of the deaf mute was neglected, or he was made an object of charity. This was unjust, for the deaf mute was (except for not hearing) just an ordinary normal citizen, who paid his rates and taxes as well as anyone else, and was just as likely to be a valuable asset to the State, if he received the same treatment as anyone else. He thought the deaf mute in Australia should be properly educated by the State, as a birthright, just as was the case in England, the Continent, America and New Zealand. The uneducated deaf mute was a burden to his parents, to himself, and to the State. The educated deaf mute was a most valuable citizen.

Mr Mauger, M.H.R., felt that in a democratic community everyone had a right to education, and the afflicted had a greater claim than the rest.

Dr. Bevan hoped that the remedy would be so complete as to atone for past neglect. The question of expense ought not to be considered.

Mr Tate, in replying, said that the Minister and the officers of the department recognised the duty of the State in this matter. But he wished to know how many had to be provided for.

Mr Abrahams said that there were about 140 deaf mutes between 7 and 16 years, about 30 uneducated between 16 and 25, and enough educated between 16 and 25 to form a good continuation class in Melbourne.

Mr Tate said that the provisions of the New Zealand law, which had been commended, had been embodied in the new Education Bill. (Applause). With the classical example of Helen Keller, who was a genius, though deaf, dumb and blind also, before them, no one could fail to realise the intellectual possibilities of the deaf mute.

The "Herald" 24/7/09.

The free and compulsory education of the blind and deaf and dumb children between seven and 16 years of age is provided for in the Government's Education Bill. Parents of such children, if able, may, it is set forth, be required to contribute towards their maintenance in the special school if the school is residential.

Under the Education Bill introduced by the Government into the Legislative Assembly, the Governor-in-Council is empowered to constitute higher education districts, and to establish and maintain schools for higher or technical education. At present technical schools are established and maintained under regualtions of the Education Department. (Page 5).

Provision is made in the State Ministry's Education Bill for the creation of a Council of Education; for establishment of district high schools; for reform in the management of technical schools; for tuition in the higher schools in the industries of the district; for the utilisation of existing secondary schools and teachers; for a more stringent compulsory attendance system at State schools; for the education of the blind and the deaf and dumb; for dealing with habitual truants; and for medical inspection. (Page 5.)

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

The compulsory free education of the blind, and of the deaf and dumb between seven and 16 years of age, is provided for, but contributions may be required from parents in certain cases.

The "Herald" 24/7/09.

ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTION FOR DEAF CHILDREN AND PROVISION FOR UNEDUCATED DEAF ADULTS.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AUSTRALASIAN DEAF AND DUMB ASSOCIATION.

(a) That the education of the deaf and dumb be a part of the scheme of general State education.

(b) That the education of deaf children be compulsory between the ages of 7 and 16. The act to define a deaf child as one who is too deaf to receive instruction in the ordinary elementary school.

(c) That the educational establishment for deaf mute children be named the State School for the Deaf, or Deaf and Dumb, and be residential.

(d) That there be a special department, or at least special classes, for the deaf of imperfect intellect.

(e) That in consideration of the fact that, presuming the above recommendations are adopted, the Government will not provide local schools as in the case of normal children, but a central educational establishment to which parents must send their children; this being done to enable the children to reap the utmost benefit from their school term, and for reasons of economy. The Government, in addition to providing elementary education for a period of 9 years, also undertakes to maintain the children.

(f) That trades, etc., be not taught, but that the whole of the 9 years of the school life be devoted to elementary instruction.

(g) That the superintendent or principal be a fully qualified teacher of the deaf, who has had at least seven years' experience as a teacher of this special class in at least two different schools for the deaf, and who is qualified to train his own teachers.

(h) That all teachers engaged as instructors of the deaf placed in charge of classes be possessed of the same qualifications as the State demand from teachers of the normal, in additton to their special qualifications as teachers of the deaf.

(i) That the system of instruction be neither exclusively oral nor manual, but just that by means of which it is possible to impart the greatest amount of knowledge in the shortest time, using any and every means to impart the desired lesson.

INSTRUCTION FOR UNEDUCATED ADULTS.

(j) That education for a period of five years be provided for deaf adults between the age of 16 and 25, who, through the neglect of the State to make the education of the deaf compulsory, have grown up without education.

NOTE—To allow uneducated adult deaf mutes to mix with deaf children of tender years would not only lower the moral tone of the little ones, but would be dangerous in the extreme; and as the need is but temporary—a period of five years—to make special provision would be to go to unnecessary expense; besides, these adults should be acquiring a knowledge of something more than elementary instructions. They will have their livelihood to earn. We therefore recommend that this section be sent to a suitable training home, and that a teacher, under the control of the school for the deaf, attend daily to give elementary instruction. The adult deaf to form two classes attending elementary instruction and industrial training on alternative days.

CONTINUATION CLASSES.

(k) That continuation classes for adults between the ages of 16 and 25 be provided in cities or towns where an attendance of at least 12 can be maintained.

All Communications to be addressed to Mr J.E.Muir, Deaf and Dumb Building, Flinders St E., Melbourne.

Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria

Our Monthly Letter.

Vol. 5. August 1909. No. 12.

"Our Monthly Letter"

This Number brings to a close our fifth Volume. How the years do roll on! Is it really possible that we were, once upon a time able to exist without "Our Monthly Letter" Some deaf friends tell us they could not do so now. Many we know would miss the young child should some cruel fate deprive her of existence. Fortunately she is growing in strength and her circle of friends is ever on the increase.

Services. It is encouraging to our Chaplain to see the junior members of the congregation attending church so regularly. There was a large increase in the number of communicants on the 1st Sunday in July. Thirty one members partaking of the Lords' Supper.

Rally. The next Quarterly "Rally" will be held on the 2nd September - Show Day - It is hoped that many deaf country visitors will whilst seeing the Show take advantage of the pleasure of the Rally. A most hearty welcome awaits them.

General Board. The General Board has met once, the Farm Committee twice and the House Stewards once during the past month. Space will not allow of our giving details in this number.

Sub-Committee. The Sub. Committee met on 20th of July and amongst other things discussed the future of the "Monthly Letter" Some members were in favour of radical progressive changes, others preferred to go slow. Some statement may be made as to the decision arrived at in our next issue. It was also decided to close down the picture frame making Class on the 31st of August.

Our Flower Farm. It is not expected that the Home at Blackburn will be ready to receive its "family" until the 1st or 2nd week in November. Flowers however are already in bloom and Mr Abraham made his first attack upon the Melbourne Flower Market on the 26th ult. with remarkable success. If he can only hold on where he has been so successful in wedging his way there are brilliant times before us.

AUGUST 1909.

Thursday and Friday 29th and 30th July 1909.
Vol 5. No 12. "Our Monthly Letter" printed.
M.L. Miller (Ruler.)
L. Downes, J. Boorer, G. Oakley. J. Campbell and
W. Christensen assisted in Printing.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO Mr J.E.MUIR, DEAF AND DUMB BUILDING, FLINDERS St E., MELBOURNE.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB MISSION OF VICTORIA

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

VOL. 5. AUGUST 1909. No 12.

"Our Monthly Letter"

This Number brings to a close our fifth Volume. How the years do roll on! Is it really possible that we were, once upon a time able to exist without "Our Monthly Letter" Some deaf friends tell us they could not do so now. Many we know would miss the young child should some cruel fate deprive her of existence. Fortunately she is growing in strength and her circle of friends is ever on the increase.

Services. It is encouraging to our Chaplain to see the junior members of the congregation attending church so regularly. There was a large increase in the number of communicants on the 1st Sunday in July. Thirty one members partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Rally. The next Quarterly Rally will be held on the 2nd September = Show Day - It is hoped that many deaf country visitors will whilst seeing the Show take advantage of the pleasure of the Rally. A most heartly welcome awaits them.

General Board. The General Board has met once, the Farm Committee twice and the House Stewards once during the past month. Space will not allow of our giving details in this number.

Sub-Committee. The Sub. Committee met on 20th of July and amongst other things discussed the future of the "Monthly Letter" Some members were in favour of radical progressive changes, others preferred to go slow. Some statement may be made as to the decision arrived at in our next issue. It was also decided to close down the picture frame making Class on the 3rd of August.

Our Flower Farm. It is not expected that the Home at Blacktown will be ready to receive its "family" until the 1st or 2nd week in November. Flowers however are already in bloom and Mr Abraham made his first attack upon the Melbourne Flower Market on the 26th ult. with remarkable success. If he can only hold on where he has been so successful in wedging his way there are brilliant times before us.

Ascent of Man. This was the subject of a lecture delivered by our Supt. before the members of the Mens' Guild on the 6th of July. It was rather too deep for most of us, nevertheless we all went away with plenty to think about.

Villa Gardens. Under the auspices of the Deaf Mens' Guild on the 29th Ult. Mr. Hawkins, Vice President of the Horticultural Society delivered a lecture to a good audience of both sexes in our building on the subject of "Villa Gardens" The lecturer in his introductory remarks laid strong emphasis upon the healthful influence of gardening both to body and mind and made many interesting and humorous quotations from the writings of lovers of flowers. Designs for cottage, villa and mansion gardens were illustrated upon a blackboard and others of an elaborate nature drawn upon sheets of paper were exhibited. At the close of the lecture Mr. Hawkins answered many questions and a hearty vote of thanks was tendered him. Mr. T. A. Nelson presided and prior to the lecture offered in the name of the deaf members a hearty welcome to Mrs. Cann and her family who recently arrived from England.

Lecture on Poultry. On the 26th of July in connection with the Deaf Mens' Guild Syllabus, Mr. Hawkins the Government Poultry Expert gave us a fine illustrated lecture on Poultry. We learned much and only regret that we have no space to permit of our sharing our newly acquired knowledge with our country Cousins.

Education of Deaf Children. A very powerful deputation introduced by the Hon. Edgar, M.L.C. waited upon the Director of Education on the 21st of July. The President of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association spoke with telling effect. Almost every one of his points was greeted with a "hear, hear" by the large assembly of representative gentlemen who backed him up. He asked that there be no distinction nor difference between the provision made for the education of the hearing and of the deaf. The Archbishop of Melbourne (Dr. Clarke) who was called away on important business, wrote supporting the President's contentions, and Rev. Dr. Bevan, Hon Samuel Mauger, M.P., Hon. W. Evans M.L.C., Mr. Keast M.L.A., Mr. Hannah, M.L.A., Mr. G. Mercy, Mr. J. Barker, Mr. M.L. Miller and many other gentlemen delivered telling speeches. In reply, the Director said the new Education Bill contained clauses providing for free and compulsory education for the deaf, being modelled on the New Zealand Law. [The New Zealand School for the deaf is owned, controlled and maintained by the State.] Farther developments may be expected shortly in connection with the education of the deaf.

Wedding. A pretty wedding took place at the Deaf and Dumb Church on July 7th when Mr. R. H. Luff and Miss Maud Hough

were the contracting parties. The Bride who was given away by her father, wore a dress of cream merv. silk with veil and orange blossoms. Miss Prudence and Miss Violet Hough were the Bridesmaids, they were dressed in cream silk muslin and carried shower bouquets of red carnations and asparagus fern. Mr. Luff was attended by Mr. Hudson McDonald as Bestman and Mr. Ernest Hough acted as Groomsman. The Rev. John Spewin was the officiating Minister.

Wedding Gift. As is the custom with our members, Mr. & Mrs. Luff came in for their share of good wishes on the occasion of their marriage. On the 24th. ult. the deaf of Melbourne presented the "newly wed" with a handsome marble clock and biscuit-barrel.

Welcome Home. Mrs. Abraham is expected to arrive in Melbourne on Wednesday August 18th. A welcome home party will be held in her honour on the Thursday 19th. It is expected that all deaf members will be present.

The "Gesture". The August-September number just published is an exceptionally good one. It contains excellent portraits of our new President, The Hon. F. T. Grimwade, our Honorary Secretary, Mr. H. Lummer-Martin, B.A., LL.B., Mrs. and Master Abraham (taken in England) and Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Spewin. It also contains a fine outline of the Home now in course of erection at Blackburn and very much interesting information. It is, too, a very war like number. If you are not already a subscriber send your 2/- at once to Mr. M. L. Miller, 181, Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

A.D.D.A. The Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Branch, Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association acknowledges with thanks the receipt of subscriptions 1/- from Mr. George Battersby (St. Arnaud) Mr. E. R. W. Smith and Mrs. E. R. W. Smith.

Winter Games. The games competition continue to create great excitement. There has been large attendances of competitors since the opening last June. The leading competitors in each department up to date are as follows:- Bagatelle, Miss M. Bourke, 296 pts, Mr. W. Burge, 340, Shooting, Miss M. Clarke, 118, Mr. G. Oakley, 197, Quoits Miss M. Clarke, 30 Mr. L. Downes, 92, Throwing Darts, Miss M. Bourke, 67, Mr. L. Downes, 156. Other competitors are close on the heels of the leaders.

Personal Pars. Mr. J. Allinson of Walhalla has been fortunate in winning a beautiful rolled gold watch in the "Gesture" Publishing Company's competition — Mr. W. Besemeres of Ballarat has also been remarkably successful, having gained the highest prize won in Victoria namely £5. — Mr. J. Kenworthy was also fairly successful. — Mr. & Mrs. J. Ashley of New Zealand writing to Mr. J. McLean say they are well and prosperous and wish to be kindly remembered to all their friends. — There are four silver weddings among the deaf.

in Victoria during this year. The fortunate ones are Mr & Mrs Robt. Mills, Mr & Mrs F. E. Sprowin, Mr & Mrs D. Piper and Mr & Mrs Alex. Wilson. — Mr R. Mills of Nathalia writing to a friend says he claims that he and his wife (nee Miss Broderick) were the first deaf couple to celebrate their Silver Wedding. They were married on the 30th of April 1884 - (2 months before Mr & Mrs Sprowin). They have nine children 7 girls and 2 boys, two of whom are married and all doing well. Mr & Mrs Mills were talking of paying a visit to Melbourne this year, but now find it impossible, perhaps they will have the pleasure early next year. Mr Mills has not been in Melbourne for 15 years and is looking forward to visiting our building. His wife and he wish to be kindly remembered to all their friends, and will be pleased to see them by & bye. — If God be willing Mr & Mrs F. J. Rose will celebrate their golden wedding next June. — Mr J. Kenworthy of Bairnsdale says there will be some splendid crops of Maize next season after the heavy rains and expects that some of the flats will yield 100 to 120 bushels to the acre. There has been some flooding which washed away fences and covered the maize crops. — Mrs A. Williamson and her daughter have been spending a holiday with Miss Ashby at Trafalgar. Miss Williamson has returned to town for school but her mother will stay a while longer. — Mrs Carmichael of Edinburgh writing to her friend (Mrs E. [illegible]) wishes to be most kindly remembered to all her deaf friends. — Mr J. Ashley and Miss Archer were married on June 28th not June 21st as stated last month. — Mr James Brook returned to his country home at Lockoley on the 19th inst. after a long and enjoyable visit at the farm. — Mr Geo. Damman of Warburton spent a day gathering tree ferns for the Farm. — Mrs L. Downes is still progressing favourably at the Broadmeadows Sanatorium. — Mr J. Dempsey is almost well again after his long illness. He started work on the 19th inst. and is quite fresh for the fray. — Colds have been prevalent among the deaf lately owing to the continued wet weather, fortunately most of them have recovered now.

S.A. Deaf News. This "newsy" magazine continues to improve. The last number carried a great load of illustrations.

N.S.W. Journal. The N.S.W. organ is no longer "Messenger" but a "Journal." It however is the same size - 4 pages - Its contents is well selected though there is a dearth of news of the deaf.

Q. Circular. Queensland's Paper is well written and informative but very late, the April number has only just come to hand.

Vict. D & D. Institution. The 47th annual meeting was held in the Town Hall on the 22nd July. The report showed there were 93 pupils - 45 boys & 48 girls. The total receipts for the year amounted to £3,806 and the expenditure was £4,040. The report & Bal. Sheet were adopted and Officers re-elected.

Syllabus for August.

3rd 7.45 P.M. Deaf Women's Guild meet.
" 8 P.M. Windup of Frame Mkg Class.
7th 3 P.M. Painting Class.
10th 8 P.M. "Sallamagundi" Party.
17th 7.45 P.M. Deaf Women's Guild meet.
" 8 P.M. Men's Educational Class.
19th 7.30 P.M. Welcome to Mr. Abraham.
21st 3 P.M. Painting Class.
24th 8 P.M. Sub-Committee Meeting.
27th 8 P.M. Men's Educational Class.
31st 7.45 P.M. Deaf Women's Guild meet.
" 8 P.M. Deaf Men's Guild meet.

Divine Services - Sundays 11 A.M. - 7 P.M.
Bible Class every Thursday 8 P.M.
Recreation & Bank, &c. Saturdays 7 P.M.

Sept. 2nd 17th Rally.

The Herald" 2/8/09.

A FLOWER FARM.

DEAF AND DUMB WORKERS.

There are about 500 deaf and dumb persons in this State. The majority of them are able to earn their own livelihood and to bear equally with other people the responsibilities of citizenship.

But there is a proportion who through physical or more or less mental weakness, are unable to obtain employment in the ordinary channels. To provide for these the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria some twelve months ago purchased a property at Blackburn for the purpose of establishing a flower farm, where the afflicted ones can be trained by an expert, having a thorough knowledge of their conditions, to an attractive and healthy occupation which will enable them to at least partially maintain themselves.

Upon this land a substantial home, which when completed will cost about L4000, is now in course of erection. It is expected that the building, which is intended also to provide a home for aged and infirm deaf mutes, will be ready for occupation in about three months.

In the meantime, a temporary home and garden were established at Box Hill, and the expert who has had charge of the inmates has proved to the satisfaction of the committee of the society that it is possible to train even those of the deaf mutes who are of weak intellect to partially maintain themselves.

The committee and Mr Abraham, the superintendent, anticipate splendid results from the establishment of the permanent farm at Blackburn.

The beautiful colors of the flowers have a cheerful, brightening and elevating influence on those who are deprived of hearing and speech.

Sample of ticket used at The Salamagundi on 10th Augt. For particulars see "Monthly Letter" for September.



Adult Deaf & Dumb Building
Flinders St E. Melbourne.

The Deaf Sub-Committee have pleasure in inviting you to join them at a Social to

Welcome Home

MRS. Ernest Abraham & her Son.

To be held in the hall of above building
On Thursday. Aug. 19th. 09 at 7:45 pm.

J. E. Muir - Hon Sec.

Printed on Lithographic Stone by Arnall & Jackson, Collins St. Melb.,
J.E. Muir (Writer.)

OUR MONTHLY LETTER

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all deaf mutes in Victoria and no charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to Mr. J.E. Muir, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St E. Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed. "OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1/- and to the deaf and hearing in other States for 1/6 per annum post free. Donations toward cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. SEPTEMBER 1909. No. 1.

This number of Our Monthly Letter opens the sixth year of our acquaintanceship, and an excellent mutual friend it has proved to be. It has done more to unite the deaf and to bring us into friendly communication than anything since we on leaving school scattered over the state. Many of us learned for the first time through its instrumentality of the whereabouts and doings of old chums whom we had entirely lost sight of since we left school. May Our Monthly live long and be the means of drawing us ever nearer in the bonds of brotherly and sisterly affection.

General Board.

The Society Committee met on the 9th of August to discuss the advisability of issuing an appeal for funds to erect the womens wing at the Farm Home. After a lengthy discussion it was decided not to proceed until the Superintendent was able to show that the present income had been increased by £450- i.e. sufficient to maintain the completed Home. The Committee decided to make a grant of £5 per quarter to the deaf Sub-Committee for various incidental expenses, the latter committee to be responsible for the expenses of the production of the "Monthly Letter" and of the quarterly rallies.

Gesrute.

The board of this bi-monthly publication met on the 13th August. Mr. A. Williamson presided. Very satisfactory reports were submitted by the Manager, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor.

Farm & Home.

Progress still continues. Besides some 400,000 bulbs a large plantation of rose trees is almost finished. Some beautiful fern trees the present of Mr. Geo. Dunman have been planted round the "Fairyland part of the Lake. A waggon, plough, harrow etc have been purchased.

Deaf Womens' Guild.

The 8th. General Annual Meeting of the Deaf Womens Friendly Society was held in the Womens' room on the 6th July. Mrs. J.E. Muir (Vice President) presiding. There was a large attendance of members. The annual report and balance sheet were read and adopted. The following office bearers were elected: President, Mrs. E. Abraham, (re-elected). Vice President, Mrs. J. E. Muir, (re-elected). Hon. Secretary,

Mrs A. Williamson, (reelected). Hon Treasurer Miss A. Foster, (re-elected). Committee, Mesdames A. Wilson & J. Boorty, & Misses Potter, Connell & Empson. The name of this society was changed to that of the Deaf Womens' Guild. Mrs J Boorty & Miss Potter were appointed Hon. Secretary & Hon. Treasurer respectively in charge of Penny savings bank. Great enthusiasm was shown during the proceedings of the meeting which was brought to a close with supper given by Mrs J. E. Muir.

Two good meetings were held during the past month, an educational class on "Etiquette" & Titles conducted by Mrs J. E. Muir on the 3rd & the other, a bible class conducted by Mrs A. Wilson on the 17th.

Frame Making Class.

The last gathering of this class was held on the 3rd of August and was in the form of a farewell speech night to the honorary teacher Mr Freedman. Mr J. E. Muir, in reviewing the work accomplished during the year paid Mr Freedman many a compliment which all present joined in applauding. There are about a dozen large & handsome frames upon the walls of our building, the result of the careful instruction patiently given by Mr Freedman. Messrs E. Abraham, M. Martiner, & R. H. Luff also spoke in terms of appreciation of the valuable services of the honorary instructor, and on the motion of R. H. Luff, seconded by R. K. Beattie it was resolved that this class tender to Mr Freedman its most hearty thanks for his splendid services. Mr Freedman in responding said he had derived considerable pleasure in coming in contact with the deaf & would at all times be ready to renew their acquaintance as a helper whenever invited. A 'pound' supper brought a pleasant evening to a close, the ladies attending the educational class in adjoining room being invited to share the supper.

Salamagundi.

This is the name given to a series of progressive games and was the programme introduced by Mr & Mrs J. E. Muir on the 10th of August. There were 40 competitors all of whom were most enthusiastic & bent on being winners. Around the large hall 10 tables were arranged each holding a game in which four competitors, two male & two female took part. A certain time was allowed for each game, the signal for the change of games being given by the sudden extinguishing & re-appearance of the electric light, when the ladies would go one way, and the gentlemen another each entering upon a new game. The games were = Beads & Wheat, Photos of celebrities, Divided Words, Marbles & Knitting needles, Potatoes & Saltspoons, Puzzles, Articles on tray, Geography, Posters, & Corks in basin of Water. Some real handsome prizes were awarded, Miss K. Cowan, who secured the highest number of marks (10) was awarded 1st prize a silver casket, Miss K. Christensen, (2nd) received a hand bag, Mrs W. Taylor, silver hair pin case (the gift of Mr Freedman), Miss E. Williams, a hairpin case (Booby prize). Four ladies tied for the 2nd & 3rd prizes, getting 9 marks each. Mrs Boorty & Miss A. Morgan loosing in a final trial. The gentlemen were behind the ladies in number of marks, Mr M. L. Miller getting first prize, a clock, with 8, and Mr G. Hodges second, a wallet with 7, Mr J. Boorty third, a pen knife with 7. Mr A. Marks took the booby, Puzzle.

match & cigarette boxes. Four gents tied for 2nd & 3rd, Messrs R. H. Luff & L. Downes loosing in the final test. All the games were keenly contested & enjoyed. Mr. M. L. Miller moved & Mr. Mortimer seconded that the thanks of the competitors be accorded to Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Muir & their assistants for the excellent manner in which the games had been arranged & carried out, much credit being due to Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Muir. It was a real educational evening & should be repeated.

Social to Mrs Abraham.

Wednesday August 18th, the day Mrs Abraham & her son landed from the Otway was an ideal australian day, after lunch she visited Blackburn & was astonished & delighted at the progress made during her few months of absence. The following day - Thursday upon which it had been arranged to give Mrs Abraham a welcome home social brought a terrific storm, & as the thunder rolled, the lightning flashed and the rain poured down like a deluge, the sub-committee as they stood about the entrance doors of the building almost despaired of getting an attendance, and yet soon after 8 o'clock some 55 deaf & 10 hearing friends had battled through the storm. Mrs J. E. Muir was evidently at her best for she made, perhaps the best speech that has ever been given by a deaf person in our building, she had many a sly dig at poor men folk, not excluding her husband, the worthy chairman, who poor fellow had to grin & bear it, altho' he might have pronounced her "out of order". She spoke kindly & affectionately of Mrs Abraham and in the name of the deaf welcomed her back to Australia. On behalf of the deaf Mrs Abraham was then presented with a beautiful bouquet by little Miss Booth. Mrs Abraham in a few words thanked them for their great kindness. She was glad to be back amongst them. It had been a pleasure to pay a visit to her mother in the old land, but there was no place like home. Mr Abraham, then, in the name of his wife presented Miss R. Smith with a silver comb & brush as a memento of her services as matron during Mrs Abraham's absence. Mr Abraham spoke in most appreciative terms of her management. The rest of the evening was given over to games & conversation concluding with supper. Messrs J. E. Muir, M. L. Miller, F. E. Drewin & R. H. Luff were responsible for the arrangements. The ladies who took charge of the supper are thanked. A very pretty designed "Welcome Home" in white wool on a blue banner, decorated the back of the platform.

A.D.D.A.

The Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Branch (Mr M. L. Miller) acknowledges with thanks the receipt of subscriptions of 1/- from Miss G. Mortimer, (Boisdale) and 2/- 2 years from Mr Robert Stewart, (Bolinda) per Mr A. Williamson.

Winter Game Competitions.

The Sub-Committee have decided to extend the winter game competitions to the end of September as there is still great enthusiasm. The leading competitors in the different games are: Miss M. Clarke, Shooting, 209, Quoits, 66. Miss M. Bourke, Darts, 158. Bagatelle, 468. Mr G. Oakley, Shooting, 327. Mr L. Downes, Quoits 167. & Darts, 284. Mr J. McLean, Bagatelle, 573. The final round is sure to be more exciting than the previous games owing to the closeness of the competitors to each other.

Personal Pars.

Mrs H. Gladman of Broadmeadows paid a visit to Melbourne lately to be present at her brother-in-law's wedding. She looked the picture of health. Country life agrees with her very well.

Mr R. H. Watson was one of the principal witnesses at an inquiry which was held in connection with a lift accident which caused the death of a boy. Mr Abraham interpreted. The boy tried to get into the lift whilst it was in motion and was crushed against the beam. He was taken to the hospital but died soon afterwards.

It is with regret that we announce that Mr J. Grimwade (our new president) was taken ill a few weeks ago, and has been ordered by his medical adviser to take a complete rest for some time to come. We most sincerely hope that he will make a speedy recovery.

Mr C. Hosking has narrowly escaped another serious bicycle accident. He collided with a cyclist whilst trying to pass him, and unfortunately hurt his leg which was wounded sometime ago. He says he will not ride his bicycle again.

Mrs W. Taylor lost her brother on the 16th August & Mr E. Cork also lost his father lately. They both have our sympathy.

We are very pleased to say Mrs L. Downes left the Sanatorium at Broadmeadows on the 17th August. She looks very well, having gained 14 pounds. At the Welcome Social given to Mrs Abraham she received a hearty welcome.

Miss Mary Meehan who has been in the Melbne Hospital with rheumatism is much better, she is at present staying with Mrs Boorty, until she gets strong again.

Mr J. Moran has returned from Tasmania. He is now working at his old place, having been nearly all around Australia.

Mr R. Hamilton of Ensay says the rainfall during June was 8.56, and in July 3.38. Owing to the roads being flooded no mails were received for a few days, also heavy snow fell for 2 days. He is in charge of the rain gauge in Ensay, & predicts that after having had 2 or 3 dry seasons, the next season ought to be very good.

Mrs A Williamson returned home lately after enjoying four weeks pleasant holiday with the Ashbys at Trafalgar. She looks the picture of health

Sport.

Cricket. The Adult Deaf C. C. met in our building on the 16th August, & transacted its usual business. The draft of the annual report & balance sheet were read & approved. It was decided that Messrs K. Beattie & J. McLean be awarded prizes for batting & bowling. 7th Sept. was date fixed for the Annual meeting & it is hoped that there will be a great muster. The Committee look to the young fellows who have just left school to advance the interests of the Club. Enthusiastic new blood can do much. Football. Our leading sportsman sends us the following notes. As the season draws to a close the interest increases among our enthusiasts. It has been a very wet season for the game & not at all suitable for the fancied teams. The most likely team for the first four places are South Melbourne, Carlton, Collingwood & Essendon. The premiership is a far more difficult problem to guess at for there is a great difference of opinion as to which will be the premier teams for 1909. The Deaf School boys have played 13 matches up to date 9 being won & 4 lost.

SYLLABUS FOR SEPTEMBER.

2nd 7.30 p.m. 17th Cong. Rally.
4th 3 p.m. Painting Class.
7th 8 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Adult Deaf C.C.
14th 7.45 p.m. D.W. Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. Educational Class for Men.
18th 3 p.m. Painting Class.
21st 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
24th 8 p.m. Educational Class for Men.
28th 7.45 p.m. D.W. Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. D.M. Guild Meeting.
30th 8 p.m. Communicant's Class.

October 3rd 11 a.m. Lord's Supper.

Sunday Services. 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Bible Class. every Thursday except Sept. 2nd 8 p.m
Recreation, Bank. & Library every Sat.dy 7.30 p.m

SEPTEMBER 1909.

E. R. W. Smith (Writer.)

OUR MONTHLY LETTER

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all deaf mutes in Victoria and no charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to Mr J.E.Muir, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St E. Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed. "OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1/- and to the deaf and hearing in other States for 1/6 per annum post free. Donations toward cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6 OCTOBER 1909. Nº 2

Deaf Ladies Visit Blackburn

We had a most delightful afternoon outing to the Farm & Home at Blackburn on the 11th. The place is charming & beautiful, part Nursery gardens, part park like and part natural bush and in the centre of all an extensive & picturesque lake. It was an ideal day and our party of 30 a merry one. We were pleasantly surprised to see the progress that has been made. Great care is being taken not to remove any of the natural beauty, but to add thereto by the gardeners' art. And up through the gum trees there has arisen a red pile – a most attractive structure, that, peeping through the trees gives just that proportion of colour necessary to complete the picture, and so slowly but surely the transformation scene of fairy land is being enacted. Mrs Abraham who takes great pride in the farm, conducted us over the estate and through the rooms of the home now in course of erection where an interesting discussion took place between some of the ladies and our guide, the former being of opinion that the quarters with the best view of the Gardens etc, had been allotted to the men instead of the women. There was not much question from the beginning as to which would win for our chaplain, who usually gets his own way by hook or crook was able to give reasons for this, that, &

the other, and give them in his usual original and outspoken way. Still he had a very lively time with the ladies. "Fairyland" where the fern trees have been planted was also visited. On our return stroll the deaf visitors were allowed to pick flowers to take home. After a very pleasant ramble we were glad to sit down to a sumptuous tea to which we did good justice, & which was supervised by Mrs Reynolds. Just before dusk we started for home breaking our journey at Box Hill & calling on Mrs Abraham for half an hour & winding up by spending the evening at our Centre in Flinders St.

Co-operation.

Our white haired warrior Mr J.E. Muir, held forth upon the topic of Co-operation at the Men's Guild meeting on the 31st of August. He believed in Co-operation. If properly managed there was every reason why such societies should be successful. He suggested that the deaf should form themselves into a co-operative society, each working at his own particular trade & sharering the profits, by this method the whole of the profit would go to the actual workers - for the cost of management would be a mere fraction of the total receipts. The difficulties in the way of such a scheme succeeding, so far as the deaf were concerned was want of capital & insufficient number. They however could & ought to join insurance societies, benefit clubs. etc where were a form of co-operation.

The Influence of Women.

Mr Abraham delivered an interesting address before the Women's Guild on the 31st Aug. taking for his subject "The Influence of Women". He spoke of the great power that women have both for good & evil. The Mother had more to do with the conduct & habits of the children than the father. Home was the factory where our future men are made. It was the same in Society, and he wanted the women to realise their power & to so model their conduct that they would be instrumental in being a great influence for good. The women of the Guild held the honour of the Deaf Community in their hands. A

band of good women was the greatest blessing any community could hope for. If women were careless & let men treat them cheaply, they not only lost the respect of the men, but their influence was detremental to the moral & spiritual progress of the whole Society with which they were connected. It was a pleasure to him to see how deep and earnest an interest the senior members of the Guild took in the Juniors, & how harmonous the juniors were in advancing the interests of each other.

Womens Bible Class.

The members of Mrs Wilson's bible class are studying the "Sermon on the mount" and she & our chaplain are delighted at their earnestness, and the manner in which they are bearing personal testimony to the lessons they receive. Mrs Wilson's methods of teaching are admirable. The Chaplain's open bible class is held every Thursday evening as usual

"My Trip Home."

On the 14th of Sept. Mrs Abraham spoke to the members of the Womens Guild on her trip to England. She described in brief the places she visited and the sights she saw. Her meeting with members of her husband's former congregations & their anxious enquiries about him & the deaf of Australia, many expressing the desire to come out to him. She loved England very much because it was the land of her birth, but Australia was her home & that was the reason she did not stay long in the old land. She wanted to get back to her home & the people who had in so many ways showered affection upon her

The Outing Fund and Bank.

The Annual Meeting of the Outing Fund & Bank was held in our Centre on the 26th of August, when the report & balance sheet were read & confirmed. The total deposits for the year amounted to £93. the withdrawals £58.5. leaving a balance of £34.15 in the bank. There were 28 depositors on the roll & three new depositors joined the bank at the meeting, and as fruit of the rallying speeches made on this occasion several more have added their names to the

list. Our youth of both sexes, should learn to save, if only a small sum, the small beginning is the acorn that becomes the great oak tree of a banking account. It was decided that depositors having £10 or more to their credit, be encouraged to transfer their deposit to a hearing bank. It is probable that there may be a trip to one or other of the Australian States in the near future & there is nothing like being able to "draw out" the necessary funds to enable you to join the party, so a wink is as good as a nod to a blind horse & a deaf man that can't hear this is deaf indeed.

Newspaper Life.

Our Superintendent spent many years behind the scenes of journalistic life and so was able to give a most interesting paper on "How A Newspaper Is Produced at the young men's Educational class on the 14th Ult. Want of space alone prevents our giving even a summary of all the astonishing things he told us.

Deaf Committee.

The sub committee met on the 19th of Sept. accounts totalling £1.14.9 passed for payment, Resolved Annual Picnic to be held at Blackburn on Cup Day, Donation of books from Agricultural Department & Mrs Braid be accepted, letter of condolence be sent to Mrs Bleasby regarding death of Sir Thos Bent, Syllabus for October approved.

Late Sir Thos Bent.

We have lost a friend. It was the £2000 he put down in his estimates that made possible our Farm + Home. Some day we hope to tell the story of that grant. It will make humorous reading. Today we can only give expression to our deep sorrow. We have lost a friend.

Rally.

The 17th Rally was held on the 2nd Sept. It was held during Show week to give the Country members an opportunity of joining in the festivities, only three took advantage though there was a very large assembly of Melbourne members & hearing relatives. Mr J. M. McLean presided, the hon sec read the rolls, five new

members joined, Mr W. Burge gave a conjuroring show & various games were indulged in. Supper, supervised by Mesdames J. E. Muir, J. Boorty, Misses D. Hickey, & E. Fletcher, closed the proceedings. Messers F. E. Frewin, J. McLean, F. A. Nelson & J. E. Muir were in charge

General Board.

The General Board met on the 20th of Sept. The Supts report was received. Relief granted approved. Matter of Farm irrigation left in the hands of Mr G. G. Mercy. Action of Farm Sub-Committee in sanctioning various purchases confirmed. Supts suggestion that a Carnival be held at Blackburn in connection with the opening Ceremony of the Home, approved, date & general arrangements left to the Supt. The State Governor to be asked to officiate at the opening.

Farm Notes.

At a meeting of the Farm Committee held on 23rd of Aug it was decided to have five more acres grubbed & cleared, to allocate £10 for purchase of plants, vegetable seeds etc. and to spend £50 on improvements pertaining to pic-nic provisions. The Farm Committee visited the Farm and inspected the building etc on the 6th of Sept. It is expected that the home will be completed by the 6th of Nov.

Gesture.

The Oct-Nov "Gesture" contains some very interesting articles with excellent portraits of Mr G. G. Mercy, Mr Dickens, Mr & Mrs Wilson, of twenty five years ago and to day, the late Sir Thomas Bent and our old friends Mr & Mrs Tennery.

Cup Day Pic-nic.

Our Annual Picnic is to be held at Lake Park, Blackburn on Cup Day, Nov 2nd Those desirous of joining are requested to communicate with the Hon Sec. Mr J. E. Muir

Opening Ceremony of Home.

This is expected to take place either on the last Saturday in November or the first in December. A great Carnival is to

be held in connection therewith.

* * *

It is with pleasure that we learn of the appointment of Mr J. Cronin to the high position of Director of the Botanical Gardens in succession to Mr Guilfoyle. He has our hearty congratulations.

Cricket.

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Adult Deaf Cricket Club was held at our Centre on the 7th Sept. when the President (Mr J. E. Muir) presided over a large attendance of members and friends. The balance sheet showed that the receipts amounted to £13.12.8, the expenditure to £10.8.5. The report stated that when the club entered the Metropolitan Junior Association (3rd Grade) it was expected that their performance for the season would be at least encouraging but with practically all the season's team available, success has dodged its footsteps, the results being very disappointing. The club played 13 matches - won one, lost 10 whilst 2 were walk overs. It is to be hoped that with a judicious infusion of new blood, and with most of the past season's players still available, the club will have a more prosperous season this year. The report and balance sheet were adopted. Prizes were awarded to Mr R. K. Beattie for batting (President's prize - a clock). He scored 207 in all matches and finished an average of 12.17. For bowling to Mr J. McLean (Mr M. L. Miller vice-president's prize: cruet stand) figures 12.82 per wicket. Mr Beattie won the batting and bowling averages, but according to rule no player can win 2 prizes, so Mr J. McLean second on list was awarded bowling prize. Mr Beattie showed good form with both bat and ball last season. His bowling average was 7.25 per wicket

The following were elected as office-bearers President Mr J.C. Muir, Vice-Presidents Messrs M.L. Miller, W.P. Muir, W.A. Paterson, and W. Kindell, Hon Secretary, Mr J.M. McLean, Hon Treasurer Mr R.K. Beattie, Committee Messrs R.H. Luff, L. Downes, E.R.W. Smith and James Anderson. Some prizes were promised in the room, altogether it was a most enthusiastic meeting. All were encouraged at the large attendance and interest shown by members in the proceedings, it gave promise of a prosperous year for 1909-10

The Cricket Club Committee met on the 14th Sept, when it was resolved that the club do not enter the Competitions this year, nor until a stronger team can be obtained that instead the club play friendly matches. Subscriptions reduced from 5/- to 3/- for players & 2/6 for hon members. It was decided to ask the following gentlemen to grant their patronage for the ensuing year Messrs E.J.D. Abraham, Hon Ft Grimwade, J. Kardie, J. Sharp, F. Dodge, R. Hamilton, S. Ferguson, E.R. Peacock, D. McKinnon, M.L.C., and J. Oakley. Materials etc were considered. The club is anxious to get a full list of matches arranged for the season. There is a talk of having a trip to Sydney during Xmas week but the club is waiting for a reply from Adelaide as to whether the club of that city are paying a visit to Melbourne or not.

Mr M.L. Miller has kindly given the club his bat which he won some 22 years ago for highest individual score. The bat is still in good condition.

Winter Games.

The Winter Games Competition closed on 25th Sept. after a most successful season starting from June. The winners are :— Shooting, Miss M. Clarke, 279 points, Mr G. Oakley, 423 points, Quoits, Miss M. Clarke, 94 points. Mr L. Downes, 216 points, Darts, Miss M. Bourke,

209 points, Mr L. Downes, 395 points, Bagatelle, Miss M. Clarke, 596 points Mr J. Mc Lean 735 points. Euchre Tournament, Mr A. Morgan. All sections of the Competition created keen interest up to the last moment. Several of the losing competitors were beaten by very narrow margins. It is to be hoped they will be more successful.

Personal Pars.

On the 25th of Aug Mr Abraham delivered an address before the Committee of the Association for the Advancement of the Blind on Organising.

Whilst in Colombo Mrs Abraham met & conversed with an uneducated deaf mute native, the poor fellow had a card asking for alms.

Mrs A. Williamson joined the excursion to Bendigo on the 18th Sept. She had a pleasant weeks stay with her friends.

Mr A Collins thinking the finial football match was to be played on the 18th of Sept, came up to Melbourne on his bicycle that day. He had the pleasure however of seeing the semi-finial.

We thank Mrs G. Woods for 5/- and Mr Nelson 1/- toward the Monthly Letter Fund.

Mr P. Smith of Sydney, is most likely going to settle with his parents in Melbourne for good. He is looking for work as a mechanical dentist.

Miss Meehan is slowly progressing in health.

During the Agricultural Show week there were only 3 country deaf visitors viz Mr John Anderson of Bulla. Miss M. Collins of Trafalgar & Mr Veale of Lake Bolac. It is thought that possibly the recent floods may account for the small number of visitors.

Mr R. Crockford underwent an operation at the Melb. Hospital recently he has now practically recov

Mr & Mrs A. Wilson will celebrate their silver wedding on the 11th of October. We give them our most cordial congratulations. — Mr & Mrs D. Piper celebrated their silver wedding on the 27th of Sept. They have our sincere wishes. — Mr C. Turnbull, of N.S.W., when writing to his friend said he was very busy shearing & hoped to come to Melbourne shortly to see his old friends. — Mrs D. Ashby, of Trafalgar, who paid a flying visit to our Centre on the 26th Sept, went to Portland with her children, where she intents staying with her people for 3 weeks. — Messrs W. Pollock & G. Paton, of Warrnambo spent 2 weeks pleasant holiday in Melbourne. They admired the D & D. Building, greatly and joined in the games on the 25th Sept.

Syllabus for October.

2nd 3.p.m. Painting Class
" Cricket. A.D.C.C v.....
3rd 11.am. Lords Supper
5th 8.p.m Lecture by Mr Abraham.
9th 3.p.m Cricket. A.D.C.C.v.....
12th 7.45p.m. Deaf Womens Guild Meeting.
8.p.m. Educational Class for Men.
16th 3.p.m. Painting Class.
" " Cricket A.D.C.C v.....
19th 8.p.m. Sub Committee Meeting
22nd " Educational Class for men.
23rd 3.p.m. Cricket A.D.C.C v.....
24th Hospital Sunday
26th 7.45p.m. Deaf Womens Guild Meeting
" 8.p.m. Deaf Mens Guild Meeting
30th 3.p.m. Cricket A.D.C.C v.....
" Painting Class.
November 2nd Cup Day Picnic

OCTOBER 1909.

Home for Aged and Infirm and Training Farm for Feeble-Minded DEAF MUTES

TO OUR FRIENDS WHO RAISED THE FUNDS

WHICH ENABLED THE COMMITTEE TO PURCHASE THE BLACKBURN LAKE ESTATE AND ERECT THE ABOVE-NAMED HOME.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Arrangements are being made for the holding of an out-door FESTIVAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING CEREMONY of the New Home at Lake Park, Blackburn.

The many enquiries made by the friends who took part in the great Bazaar in 1907 encourages us to believe that we still retain your sympathy and interest, and that you will be glad of the opportunity to take part in the completion of the work that you assisted in establishing.

We have pleasure, therefore, in asking your attendance at A SOCIAL EVENING to be held in the ADULT DEAF AND DUMB BUILDING, Flinders Street, Melbourne, on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6th, at 7.45 p.m., when details of the forthcoming Festival and Opening Ceremony will be given. G. G. Mercy, Esq. (chairman of late bazaar), will preside.

Yours faithfully,

September 24th, 1909. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, Convener.

OVER

"The Reporter" Box-Hill. 29/9/09.

Councillors' Annual Inspection of Nunawading.

The annual inspection of the Nunawading shire was made by the councillors and officers on Wednesday. The day was a beautiful one, calm and bright, and the district was seen at its best. The party was accommodated in four vehicles, and consisted of President Morton, Crs. Scott, Garrett, Ellingworth, Davis, Hatfield, Hurter, Horkings, Walker, Chitty, Hall, Blood, Fankhauser, and Bennett, Secretary Kefford, Engineer Gay, Inspector Pope, Valuer Aspinall, and Pressman Hodges. A start was made from Surrey Hills railway station shortly after 8 o'clock, the cavalcade proceeding to Mont Albert north, where private streets, almost due for construction, were inspected. Along White Horse and Elgar roads the party proceeded to Belmore road, and from thence to the site of the new abattoirs at Woodhouse grove. Keen interest was displayed in the start of the abattoirs buildings in reinforced cement. It is expected that the work will be far enough advanced in a week or so to admit of the official laying of the foundation stone. From the abattoirs site the party proceeded across country along Doncaster, Springfield, and Middleboro roads to White Horse road, where a big culvert was inspected near L. L. Smith's old place. From White Horse road the route was along Blackburn road, Gordon avenue, and Central road. On Central road the party paused to inspect the commodious buildings now in course of erection for the deaf and dumb institution near Blackburn lake. Great surprise was expressed at the magnitude of the undertaking, and the optimistic promoter was commended for his enterprise. Gordon crescent is an important highway that needs construction, while Central road, a new private thoroughfare that extends from Morton park to Springvale road, also deserves taking in hand as soon as possible. The trip along this road had to be done on foot, as the gullies in places were too deep for loaded vehicles. A visit was next paid to the old quarry off Mitcham road. To reach the place where a shaft had recently been put down to test the stone, necessitated a long walk and arduous climbing. By this time the trippers were all fairly tired and undoubtedly hungry, and when Host McDonnell's Reserve hostelry came into view no one was sorry. An excellent repast had been prepared by Miss McDonnell, and it was highly enjoyed by the tired and hungry wayfarers. After dinner a few toasts were honored, including "The King," proposed by President Morton; "Local Industries," proposed by the president, and responded to by Crs. Hatfield and E. E. Walker, J.P.; "The Officers," proposed by Cr. S. D. Scott, J.P., and responded to by Secretary Kefford, Engineer Gay, and Inspector Pope; "The Press," proposed by Cr. Garrett, and responded to by the "Reporter" representative; "The President," proposed by Cr. Blood; and "The Host and Hostess," proposed by the chairman, and duly acknowledged by Mr. P. J. McDonnell. In the afternoon a visit was paid to the Deep creek bridge, where the boundaries of the Doncaster, Lillydale, and Nunawading councils meet. The road is a precipitous one, and the descent to the Deep creek had to be made on foot. To lessen the grade would cost a good deal of money. From the Mullum Mullum or Deep creek the party proceeded along Heatherdale road, the eastern boundary of the shire, to Canterbury road, where complaints about Miss Miller's crossing were investigated. The rest of the afternoon was spent in the South riding, in the East Burwood district, where a lengthy inspection on foot was made of the unformed portions of Fulton and Eley's roads. The route home was along Station street south, and after a brief stay had been made to inspect Alexandra street, which, if constructed, would make the best possible thoroughfare to the Surrey park, the party reached the shire hall after half-past six. On the whole the principal roads throughout the shire were found to be in an excellent condition, especially after such a wet winter as had been experienced. The rapid progress that is being made by the shire, and the extensive settlement that is taking place in the outside ridings, are most gratifying features, but progress and settlement mean more work for the council, and an increased revenue must be secured to enable the increased requirements of the district to be fairly met. At the shire hall, at the invitation of the president, the party sat down to an excellent tea, and as soon as that was over, the council meeting started, and the proceedings lasted till close on midnight. Councillors must be fair terrors for work, and as if 17 hours spent in one day in the service of the ratepayers was not enough, Cr. Davis has given notice of his intention of moving at next meeting that in future meetings be held weekly instead of fortnightly, and that all business be transacted in open council.

M. L. Miller (Writer.)

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. NOVEMBER 1909. No 3.

Divine Services. It is very pleasing to the Church Officers to see so many of our Young people in regular attendance at Divine Service. We notice too that our Chaplain has of late, so simplified his sermons and addresses as to be more appropriate to the young than the old. This should not however, cause the senior members to be less frequent in their attendance at Church. We must remember that we were young once and should enjoy the old story re-told in all its simplicity. It was our intention to have dwelt at some length on his recent sermons on Love, joy, and peace and the sweet simplicity of our Saviour but we find our pages are already crowded with news. so, must hold over our confidential chat for a month at least.
The Communion Service on the 3rd. of Oct. was well attended, these quarterly fellowship meetings are laden with spiritual benefits for all. The 4th. of Oct. was the 8th. anniversary of our Chaplains arrival in Victoria and on the 10th. he preached two appropriate sermons. Our members were, as usual, most liberal in their offerings to the Hospital Sunday Fund on the 24th. ult. The total collection (morning & Evening) being £4 "11 "3.

8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
27th. CARNIVAL at Lake Park, Blackburn.
opening of FARM & HOME INSTITUTE.
30th. 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.

Silver Wedding of Mr. & Mrs. Wilson.

Between sixty and seventy guests assembled at our Centre on the 11th ult. to do honour to two of our oldest members, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. Amongst the guests present were our Superintendent and Mrs. Abraham, Mr. Kroll, ex. Missionary and Mr. Booth of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution. Mrs. Wilson, who was attired in a pretty Empire gown of brown chiffon taffetta silk, with Mr. Wilson received and welcomed the guests in the orthodox way, and all were soon at their ease. The programme was varied, providing items for both deaf and hearing. Miss Rose contributed the opening item - a pianoforte solo, Miss Taylor a recitation "Ask Mama" Mrs. Parker, Mr. W. Booth & Mrs. Couch solos. Mr. W. H. Paterson gave much amusement by his humorous recital and the games and conversation were contributions that helped to make the evening a pleasant one. Mr. M. Miller mounted the platform during an interval and having placed upon the table some handsome & useful household articles said:- He had been deputed by his fellow deaf guests to perform a pleasing duty. That was to say a few words about the host and hostess and make a presentation to them (applause) He was of opinion that it was hard work making a speech and thought his fellow deaf had conspired together and inflicted this hard labour upon him as a punishment for being unmarried. (laughter) He desired to offer his and his fellow deaf friends' hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson on their having attained to the 25th year of their married life. It was a good long span of happy union. He assured Mr. & Mrs. Wilson that all present that night were very pleased to assist them to celebrate the auspicious event. Some of us had the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. Wilsons' esteemed acquaintance longer than

these 25 years. It was not long after the establishment of our present Deaf and Dumb Society that Mr. Wilson thought he was too lonely and took it into his head to get married. He however did not desert us but has remained a loving and loved member ever since. (applause) He was always a gentleman whom it was a pleasure to meet. He (Mr. Miller) had nothing but that which is good to say of him. He was all that a gentleman and a Christian should be. We never had occasion to pick a quarrel with him and he had no occasion to pick one with us. (Laughter) He always had a good word to say to every one, he was a pattern for us all. (applause) He (Mr. Miller) felt sure the 25 years of married life through which Mr. & Mrs. Wilson passed had been years of happiness and prosperity. Mr. Wilson was an ideal husband, the qualities he exhibited amongst us he carried to his home, Mrs. Wilson was an ideal housewife and helpmeet to him, their home life was an ideal one, their home an ideal home graced by ideal sons who were an honour and a credit to their parents. (applause) He wished on behalf of himself and his fellow deaf that the future years of Mr. & Mrs. Wilson will be years full of health, happiness & prosperity - better ones than the previous years - and that as the years rolled on Mr. & Mrs. Wilson would be able to change their adornments of silver for adornments of gold. (applause) He had pleasure in asking Mr. & Mrs. Wilson to accept the handsome presents as tokens of our love & esteem and as memorials of the happy occasion. (applause).
The presents consisted of a handsome E.P. Teapot, Milk Jug, Sugar Bowl and Salt Cellar, the teapot being suitably inscribed. At the supper held in the lower hall and which was a sumptuous one, several complimentary Speeches

were given by Misses Rose, Abraham, and hearing friends for which, unfortunately, we have no room, we can only say that all spoke in the highest terms of the host and hostess and drank their health with enthusiasm.

Deaf Mens' Guild.

The above Guild met on the 28th Sept. when Mr. R. H. Luff delivered a very interesting but short paper on a bit of "Scottish History" He recounted the adventures of Sir William Wallace in taking up the Scots' cause against the English. Impromptu speech making occupied the rest of the evening, the subject being "The Horse" Several of the speech makers created roars of laughter.

Deaf Womens' Guild.

On the evening of the 28th Sept. Mrs. J. E. Muir had a class of young women and gave them a good lesson on "What is a good book" and "How to read it" She also spoke of some of the beauties of nature. The members appreciated her thoughtful lessons greatly.

Gymnastic Display.

On the 5th Ult. some twenty adult deaf mutes witnessed an excellent gymnastic display by the pupils of the Deaf & Dumb Institution at the St. Matthews Sunday School Hall, High St, Prahran. The hall was well filled with friends & others, some of the feats elicited loud applause. Credit is due to Professor Bell for excellent work in training the pupils to perfection. Another display will take place in the St. Hilda Town Hall on the 23rd November. The displays are for the benefit of the funds of the Institution.

Cricket.

The Adult Deaf Cricket Club opened their season on the 2nd October and made a fair start. A tie was made with the

Union Memorial C.C. the score being 42 on each side.
Mr. R. K. Beattie was elected captain and Mr. Jas. Anderson, Vice Captain for the season. Mr. L. Downes has not lost his skill with the bat and ball, in the first two matches he made 12 and 23 n/o and took 5 wkts for 14 and 5 for 12. It is hoped that the club will keep going well and succeed in winning more matches than the previous season.
The Cricket Club Committee met on the 16th ult. and transacted its usual ordinary business. The chief items were the cancelling of the trip to Sydney at Xmas owing to the time for making arrangements being too short. — Country trip to Narre Warren on the Kings' Birthday (15th Nov.) if a match can be arranged. — If the Country trip cannot be undertaken, a match to be arranged with Albert Park Club Eleven for the same date instead of the 27th - the date of the great Carnival at Blackburn Park. — The President announced his intention to entertain the members at Luncheon.
A good number of prizes have been promised for this season, viz:- The President, for batting. Mr. M. Miller, V.P. for bowling. Mr. W. R. Paterson, V.P. for best attendance. Mr. W. P. Muir, V.P. for fielding and best assistance to the Hon Sec. on the ground. Mr. S. Ferguson, Patron, for highest individual score. the winner to play in two thirds of the total matches. Mr. G. Mortimer for best behaviour in the field. The Hon T. L. Grimwade £1-1/- Mr. J. Griffiths 10/6 and Mr. S. Ferguson 10/6 sent their donations to swell the fund of the Club. Mr. R. J. Hamilton has promised to send along a donation soon.
We regret to note that our Sydney fellow brethren are not able to keep their club going for the present on account of shortage of players. We however hope they will be able to make a start before very long.

Scores. A.D.C.C. v Union Memorial C.C. on the 2nd October.
L. Downes. c.b.w. 12. V. Harding. b. 4. J. Anderson. b. 4 J. McLean. c. 2.
R. Beattie. c.b.w. 14. G. Hodges. b 4. R. Luff. c. 0. A. Morgan. C. 0.
W. Christensen. b. 0. J. Hunter. b. 0. W. P. Muir. n/o 0. Sundries 2.
Total 42. Union Memorial C.C. 42.

Bowling. L. Downes 5 wkts for 14. J. McLean. 1 for 5.
R. Beattie 1 for 7.

Scores. A.D.C.C. v. Government Printing Works C.C. Oct. 16th.
L. Downes. retired n/o 23. O. Neilson. b. 9. V. Harding. b. 3.
R. Beattie. c. 0. R. Luff. b. 0. J. McLean. n/o 9. W. P. Muir. b. 2.
J. Anderson. n/o 0. Sundries 7. Total 5 wickets for 53.
Government Printing works. C.C. 35.

Bowling. L. Downes 5 wkts for 12. R. Beattie 1 for 7.
J. McLean 1 for 7. O. Neilson 2 for 5.
A.D.C.C. won by 4 wickets and 18 runs.

Scores. A.D.C.C. v. St. Kilda Club Eleven. October 23rd.
This match was played on a turf wicket on the Scotch College Cricket Ground. The deaf players shaped very well on the turf wicket and only lost the match by 13 runs.
L. Downes. b. 24. V. Harding. b. 8. J. McLean n/o 20. J. Anderson b. 2.
W. Bunge. b. 1. R. Beattie Std. 0. W. P. Muir b. 2. G. Hodges. C. 0.
R. Luff. C. 0. J. Driscoll. c. 7. A. Christensen. b. 0. Sundries 14.
Total 92. St. Kilda Club Eleven 105.

Bowling. R. Beattie 5 wkts for 26. L. Downes 5 for 47.

Our Old Friends.

A large muster of the good friends who aided our Supt. in raising the £3.000 in the Melbourne Town Hall Bazaar, two years ago, assembled in our hall on the 6th ult. Mr. G. G. Mercy presided & shared with Mr. Abraham the pleasant duty of reporting progress. After the meeting & whilst the guests were enjoying light refreshments Mr. & Mrs. Abraham & Miss Empson were busy taking the names of those willing to help at the forthcoming Carnival. Many Suburbs

are again to be represented by bands of enthusiastic Lady helpers.

The young son of our kind friend Mr. G. G. Mercy, we understand is to make his debut as an organising Secretary in connection with our Carnival. He will assist Mr. Abraham and have charge of the opening Ceremony programmes, no light task for an initial effort. We wish him success and a hearty welcome to our generous army of helpers.

Mr. Abraham gave an address at Box Hill on the 22nd Oct. and succeeded in enlisting a sufficient number of Lady sympathisers to form a stall to represent this district. Mr. J. Bamford gave a donation of £5.

Funeral of Sir Thos. Bent.

Mr. M. G. B. Mortimer represented the members of our Society at the funeral of the late Sir Thos. Bent.

The Great Carnival.

In connection with the opening Ceremony of the Farm and Home on the 27th of Nov; a Carnival is to be held at Lake Park, Blackburn and like all the undertakings of our Dept. it is to be on a gigantic scale with such a variety of attractions. Arrangements for the following have already been made:- Aquatic Display, including 100 yards handicap in which all Victorias' leading swimmers will compete, Grand water polo match, Various modes of entering the water, illustrated by Professor Alex. Lamb, the champion professional diver, Greasy pole competition, Duck hunt. High diving. Exhibition swim by Frank Beaurepaire, the World's Champion and life saving demonstrations by Lady & gentlemen squads. Scotch dances. Selections by Scotch pipers & brass bands. A Bush drama - a realistic representation of native attack on Pioneers encampment. Maypole & other dances, and various other items too numerous to mention. The admission is one shilling. Family Tickets 2/- (admitting two adults and three children.)

Personal Pars.

Mrs. A. Williamson went with the Railway Pic-nic party to Bendigo on the 19th Sept. and spent a pleasant week staying with her friends at Golden Square from Saturday till Thursday. She then visited Eaglehawk and stayed there from Friday till Saturday putting in a jolly time with Mrs. Walker (nee Miss Clarke) who was a teacher at the St. Kilda Road School. Mrs. Walker was looking very well, stout and happy. She wishes to be remembered to all her old pupils and friends. She has a large and pretty place, opposite Lake Nagara, the Tennis Court, Bowling & Croquet grounds - a very pretty & picturesque place. Mrs. Williamson enjoyed watching hundreds of Miners going to work & returning home in shifts every 4 hours, on bicycles, carrying their billycans & baskets, she says it was a pretty sight, but felt glad that none of her brothers, not even her husband was a miner. She thinks their work entails considerable danger.

Mrs. J. Boothy and her daughter are staying with Mrs. J. Collins at Longwarry. - Mrs. J. E. Muir paid a visit to her brother at Warburton Lately. - Mrs. E. Crockford has gone to Morwell with her child for a months stay with her people. - Miss M. Meehan has almost recovered her health & is now in service with Mrs. Leber. - Mr. A. Morgan has obtained a situation at Cheese making at the St. Huberts Farm Product Co. Yering near Lilydale.

Mr. G. White (Father of Mrs. Harold Prior, nee Miss E. White) died on the 9th Ult. We offer our sympathy. - Miss M. Cole has gone to stay for a month with her married sister at Geelong. - Mr. J. R. Miller of West Coast, Tas. sends kind regards to friends. - The Rev. J. J. Halley (one of our most devoted Committee men) is retiring from the Secretaryship of the Congregational Union of Victoria after 37 years service, and, 50 years in the Ministry. - Mr. R. J. Hamilton of Essay speaks highly of the seasons prospects, everything is looking well. He had a good percentage of lambs (85 to 95). He dressed up as a "Coon" for the Fancy Dress Ball in aid of Omeo Hospital.

Syllabus for November.

2nd Cup Day Pic-Nic at Blackburn.
6th Cricket A.D.C.C.C. v .....
9th 7-45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. Educational Class for Men.
13th 3 p.m. Painting Class.
" Cricket A.D.C.C.C. v .....
15th Kings' Birthday - open in evening.
19th 8 p.m. Educational Class for Men.
20th Cricket A.D.C.C.C. v .....
23rd 7-45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
27th CARNIVAL at Lake Park, Blackburn.
opening of FARM & HOME INSTITUTE.
30th 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.

Great Musical, Aquatic, Floral

Carnival

At Lake Park, Blackburn

In aid of the Farm and Home for Aged and
Infirm Deaf Mutes

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, '09

Admission

1/-

Family Tickets

admitting 2 adults
and 3 children

2/-

TICKETS EVERYWHERE

Peacock Bros. Printing Company, Collins Street, Melbourne.

NOVEMBER 1909.

DEAF MUTES' FLOWER FARM, LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN

(11 Miles from Melbourne, and a few minutes' walk from the Station. Return fare, 1/2 first, 11d. second).



SATURDAY, NOV. 27, 1909

GRAND MUSICAL, AQUATIC, FLORAL & HUMOROUS

CARNIVAL

FOUR ENTERTAINMENTS IN ONE

IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING CEREMONY, AND IN AID OF THE

Farm and Home for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes.

THE EVENT OF THE YEAR.

Lake Park, Blackburn, is an attraction in itself, being one of the most beautiful spots around Melbourne. Ideal for Picnics—consisting of a large stretch of park land, a lake 10 acres in —extent, and many acres of bush.—

ADMISSION, ONE SHILLING

Family Tickets, admitting 2 Adults and 3 Children, 2/-

TICKETS EVERYWHERE
AND AT THE GATES

E. F. G. Hodges, Printer, "Reporter" Office, Box Hill.

Telephone 1624 Central.

W. S. Keast,

FARM SALESMAN,

STOCK and STATION AGENT,

AUCTIONEER & MACHINERY AGENT,

610 Collins St., Melbourne
(near Spencer Street).

Auction and Clearing Sales conducted in any part of the State.

Selling and Letting Farms a speciality.

Loans Negotiated. Insurances Effected.

PROGRAMME.

Entertainment No. I.
(No Extra Charge for Admission).

AQUATIC CARNIVAL

Conducted by the

Victorian Amateur Swimming Association,
To be held in the Lake.

Lake Handicap, 100 yards.
In which all Victoria's Leading Swimmers will compete.

Grand Water Polo Match. Blues v. Whites.

Exhibition of Various Modes of Entering the Water.

Greasy Pole Competition. **Duck Hunt.**

Special Diving Competition.

Exhibition Swim by Frank Beaurepaire, World's Champion.

LIFE SAVING SQUADS, &c.

OFFICIALS—REFEREE: Edmund J. Lind, Esq. JUDGES: Messrs. Walter H. Browne, M. Hoffman and R. M. Collins. STARTER: Francis G. Richardson, Esq. POLO REFEREE: C. H. Campbell, Esq.

Note Date and Keep Open for This Event.

AT

Craig, Williamson Prop. Ltd.

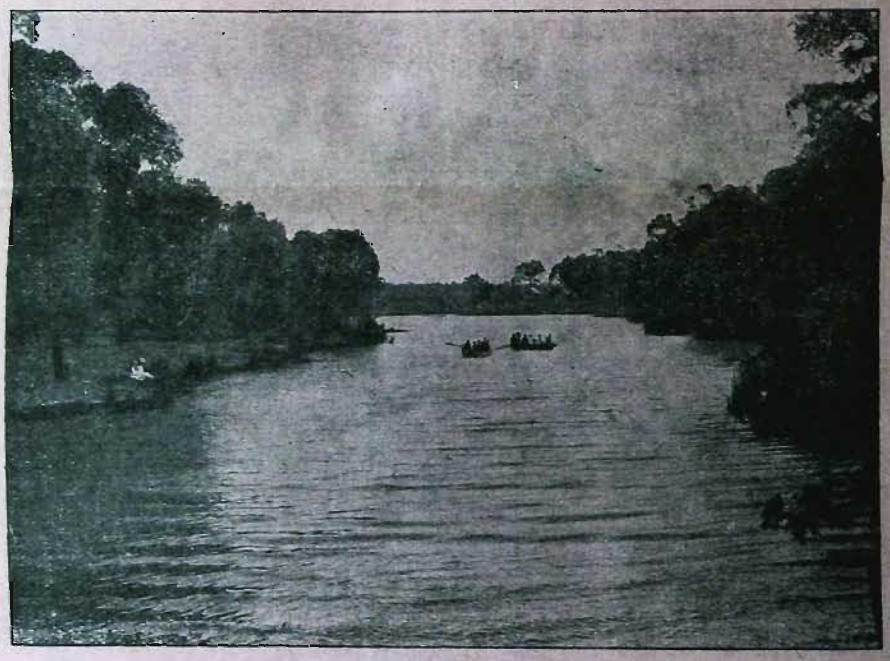
We are showing a lot of NEW SEASON'S NOVELTIES at Bargain Rates, consisting of COATS, WRAPS, &c.

CRAIG, WILLIAMSON PROPRIETARY LIMITED.

Theatre Coats in Shantung Silk from 45/-.
Lace Coats, in all new shades, from 59/6.
Sicillian Dust Coats, from 15/6.
Matrons' Mantles, from 25/-.
White Embroidered Muslin Blouses, from 5/11.
Jap. Silk Blouses, from 10/6.
Silk and Marabout Wraps, from 25/6.
American Silk Mackintoshes, beautifully light, £5 5/-.
Coque Boas, from £1 1/-.
Ostrich Boas, from £1 9/6.
Linen Costumes, all colors, from 25/6.
Cambric Costumes, from 3/11.
French Millinery, in all the latest styles, arriving by every mail.

8-22 Elizabeth St., Melb.

Code's Melbourne Brass Band & South Melbourne Military Band
Will Play during the Carnival.



The Lake at the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Blackburn. Boats on Hire at Moderate Rates.

PAYNE'S

Bon Marche

Have You Seen It?

I MEAN THE NEW "BON MARCHE."

IT IS ONE OF THE SIGHTS OF MELBOURNE, AND WHEN IN TOWN YOU SHOULD NOT MISS SEEING IT.

PAYNE'S is always noted for good value, but at present it is simply giving away.

Never in the history of Melbourne was there such Genuine Value in New Goods. Specially Imported for the opening, and the variety enormous.

Come and see for yourself.

Costumes, Blouses, Millinery, Dress Materials, Silks, and Trimmings, all at ridiculous prices.

A visit and your kind recommendation will be much appreciated
By yours faithfully,

JOHN PAYNE.

138 TO 144 BOURKE ST., MELB.

Entertainment No. 2 (No Extra Charge for Admission).

GREAT BUSH DRAMA



BUSH DRAMA. Synopsis. Scene I.—Blacks Hunting Emu—Corroboree—Throwing Spears—Boomerangs. **Scene II.**—Arrival of First Settlers—Blacks take Cover—Settlers Pitch Camp—Prepare Supper—Blacks Attack and Surprise them—While Settlers Defend Camp. King of the Blacks Steals the Daughter Sylvia and rides away with her on Settler's Pony—Dad Mounts Dray Horse and goes for Assistance—Returns with Stockmen, who pick up the Trail and run the King down—The Girl is brought back to the Camp. Great Rejoicings—Blacks again Attack and are driven off—Betrothal of the Rescuing Stockman and Sylvia.



"THE GOOD SAMARITAN."

Insectibane

DESTROYS INSECTS

Although quite harmless to men and animals.

Fine Programme by the Members of Mr. James Williamson's

JUVENILE HIGHLAND DANCING

CLASS.

Champion Juvenile Scottish Dancers of Australia. Winners of 5000 Prizes. Assisted by the

Richmond Caledonian Society's Pipe Band



Entertainment No. 4 (No Extra Charge for Admission).

FIRST HAWTHORN TROOP IMPERIAL BOY SCOUTS

Under direction of Scout-Master L. C. BIRD. Scout Ambulance and Signalling Display.

Scout Play, Entitled "THE EXPLORERS."

MAY POLE DANCES, SWEDISH DRILL, &c., by the Pupils of Miss MINNIE HILL.

Grand Display by the Ladies of the Kensington Methodist Athletic Association.

BOLLINGTON'S BEVERAGES LEAD

With a Unique Record for

Purity and Excellence.

Don't Fail to try them at the first possible opportunity. Various kinds to suit all tastes, viz.—

Hop Beer, Kola Beer, Ginger Beer, Horehound, Lime Juice and Soda, and High Grade Aerated Waters.

Ask for BOLLINGTON'S. The Best.



A GLIMPSE OF THE LAKE THROUGH THE WOODS.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Lake Park, Blackburn, is open to the public as a

PICNIC RESORT

EVERY

Wednesday and Saturday

by Ticket, which can be obtained (Free) from the Manager,

Mr. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,
Deaf Mute Centre,
Flinders Street, Melbourne.

Chops & Steaks, Ham & Eggs.
Afternoon Tea, Strawberries and Cream, &c., at town prices.
Picnic Parties Catered for.
Cut Flowers on Sale.
Boats on Hire.
Hot Water, Milk, Summer Drinks of all kinds, Lollies, Ices, &c.

NUMEROUS SIDE SHOWS.

SWINGS AND GAMES.

FIRST-CLASS REFRESHMENTS

AT MODERALE PRICES AT STALLS.

Marquees, Bush Houses, &c., presided over by Ladies representing many of the Suburbs of Melbourne, including Camberwell, Hawthorn, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Elsternwick, Toorak, Box Hill, &c.

Beautiful Walks, Magnificent Scenery, Splendid Show of Flowers.

Cool Drinks, Fruit Salads, Strawberries and Cream, &c.

Programme Commences at 2.30 sharp.

TRAINS—

TRAINS LEAVE MELBOURNE as follows:—11.35 (Flinders St.), 12.15 and 1.22 (Princes Bridge), 1.35 (Flinders St.), 1.55 and 2.15, SPECIAL (Flinders St.) Others if Necessary.

RETURN FROM BLACKBURN—6.9, 6.35, 6.44, 7.3, 7.52, 8.52, and others if necessary.

BRING THE FAMILY—AMUSEMENT FOR ALL.

These Family Tickets, admitting 2 Adults and 3 Children, 2/-

Must be Purchased before the day of the Event.

To enable the public to inspect the new Home and Flower Farm and ramble over the estate, the gates will be opened at 11 a.m.

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, Convener,
Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders Street, Melbourne.



KRUSE'S FLUID
MAGNESIA
FOR
INDIGESTION
BILIOUSNESS
AND
ACIDITY.

Entertainment No. 3 (No Extra Charge for Admission).

Fine Programme by the Members of Mr. James Williamson's

JUVENILE HIGHLAND DANCING

CLASS.

Champion Juvenile Scottish Dancers of Australia. Winners of 5000 Prizes. Assisted by the

Richmond Caledonian Society's Pipe Band



Entertainment No. 4 (No Extra Charge for Admission).

FIRST HAWTHORN TROOP IMPERIAL BOY SCOUTS

Under direction of Scout-Master L. C. BIRD. Scout Ambulance and Signalling Display.

Scout Play, Entitled "THE EXPLORERS."

MAY POLE DANCES, SWEDISH DRILL, &c., by the Pupils of Miss MINNIE HILL.

Grand Display by the Ladies of the Kensington Methodist Athletic Association.

PHONE CENTRAL 632
The National Candy Co.
Manufacturing Confectioners
TANNER STREET, RICHMOND
(NEAR RAILWAY STATION).



A GLIMPSE OF THE LAKE THROUGH THE WOODS.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Lake Park, Blackburn, is open to the public as a

PICNIC RESORT

EVERY

Wednesday and Saturday

And on other days by Ticket, which can be obtained from the Manager,

Mr. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,
Deaf Mute Centre,
Flinders Street, Melbourne.

Chops & Steaks, Ham & Eggs.
Afternoon Tea, Strawberries and Cream, &c., at town prices.
Picnic Parties Catered for.
Cut Flowers on Sale.
Boats on Hire.
Hot Water, Milk, Summer Drinks of all kinds, Lollies, Ices, &c.

NUMEROUS SIDE SHOWS.

SWINGS AND GAMES.

FIRST-CLASS REFRESHMENTS

AT MODERALE PRICES AT STALLS.

Marquees, Bush Houses, &c., presided over by Ladies representing many of the Suburbs of Melbourne, including Camberwell, Hawthorn, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Elsternwick, Toorak, Box Hill, &c.

Beautiful Walks, Magnificent Scenery, Splendid Show of Flowers.
Cool Drinks, Fruit Salads, Strawberries and Cream, &c.
Programme Commences at 2.30 sharp.

TRAINS—

TRAINS LEAVE MELBOURNE as follows:—11.35 (Flinders St.), 12.15 and 1.22 (Princes Bridge), 1.35 (Flinders St.), 1.55 and 2.15, SPECIAL (Flinders St.) Others if Necessary.

RETURN FROM BLACKBURN—6.9, 6.35, 6.44, 7.3, 7.52, 8.52, and others if necessary.

BRING THE FAMILY—AMUSEMENT FOR ALL.

Family Ticket, admitting 2 Adults and 3 Children, 2/-

Must be Purchased before the day of the Event.

To enable the public to inspect the new Home and Flower Farm and ramble over the estate, the gates will be opened at 11 a.m.

Mr. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, Manager,
Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders Street, Melbourne.





SATURDAY, NOV. 27, 1909

GRAND MUSICAL, AQUATIC, FLORAL & HUMOROUS

CARNIVAL

FOUR ENTERTAINMENTS IN ONE

In connection with the Opening Ceremony, and in aid of the

Farm and Home for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes.

THE EVENT OF THE YEAR.

Lake Park, Blackburn, is an attraction in itself, being one of the most beautiful spots around Melbourne. Ideal for Picnics—consisting of a large stretch of park land, a lake 10 acres in —extent, and many acres of bush.—

ADMISSION, ONE SHILLING

Family Tickets, admitting 2 Adults and 3 Children, 2/-

TICKETS EVERYWHERE.

E. F. G. Hodges, Printer, "Reporter" Office, Box Hill.

A

Delicious

Drink.

IXIE

G. H. Bennett

Sole

Manufacturer.

PROGRAMME.

Entertainment No. I.

(No Extra Charge for Admission).

AQUATIC CARNIVAL

Conducted by the

Victorian Amateur Swimming Association,

To be held in the Lake.

Lake Handicap, 100 yards.

In which all Victoria's Leading Swimmers will compete.

Grand Water Polo Match. Blues v. Whites.

Exhibition of Various Modes of Entering the Water.

Greasy Pole Competition. **Duck Hunt.**

Special Diving Competition.

Exhibition Swim by Frank Beaurepaire, World's Champion.

Life Saving Squads, &c.

OFFICIALS—Referee: Edmund J. Lind, Esq. Judges: Messrs. Walter H. Browne, M. Hoffman and R. M. Collins. Starter: Francis G. Richardson, Esq. Polo Referee: C. H. Campbell, Esq.

Note Date and Keep Open for This Event.

T. R. B.

MORTON & COGHILL

Auctioneers, Estate and Stock Agents,

72 SWANSTON ST., MELBOURNE.

Telephones 702 and 712.

BOX HILL AND CANTERBURY.

Telephone 59 Canterbury.

Weekly Sales at Box Hill.

Auction Sales of Freehold Property, Live Stock, Furniture, &c., conducted at vendor's premises or elsewhere.

Private Sales daily at the offices.

Owners are invited to send particulars of Properties, Stock, &c., for sale.

Code's Melbourne Brass Band & South Melbourne Military Band
Will Play during the Carnival.



The Lake at the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Blackburn. Boats on Hire at Moderate Rates.

THREE GOOD THINGS

Griffiths' Teas
Blended Ceylon, India China.
Pure, Fresh. Flavoury
and Economical.

Griffiths' Coffees
Roasted Daily.
Therefore Always Fresh.
Packed in air-tight Canisters
from 1lb. upwards.

Griffiths' Cocoas
Made in Australia.
Equal to Finest Imported, but
Cheaper and Fresher.
Absolute Purity Guaranteed.

Griffiths Bros. PROP. LTD.

Testing Samples Free.
Please Call or Write or them To-day.

30 Flinders St. & 66 Elizabeth St.

Entertainment No. 2 (No Extra Charge for Admission).

GREAT BUSH DRAMA



BUSH DRAMA. Synopsis. Scene I.—Blacks Hunting Emu—Corroboree—Throwing Spears—Boomerangs. **Scene II.**—Arrival of First Settlers—Blacks take Cover—Settlers Pitch Camp—Prepare Supper—Blacks Attack and Surprise them—While Settlers Defend Camp. King of the Blacks Steals the Daughter Sylvia and rides away with her on Settler's Pony—Dad Mounts Dray Horse and goes for Assistance—Returns with Stockmen, who pick up the Trail and run the King down—The Girl is brought back to the Camp. Great Rejoicings—Blacks again Attack and are driven off—Betrothal of the Rescuing Stockman and Sylvia.

DEAF MUTES' FLOWER FARM, LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN

(11 Miles from Melbourne, and a few minutes' walk from the Station. Return fare, 1/2 first, 11d. second).



SATURDAY, NOV. 27, 1909

GRAND MUSICAL, AQUATIC, FLORAL & HUMOROUS

CARNIVAL

FOUR ENTERTAINMENTS IN ONE

In connection with the Opening Ceremony, and in aid of the

Farm and Home for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes.

THE EVENT OF THE YEAR.

Lake Park, Blackburn, is an attraction in itself, being one of the most beautiful spots around Melbourne. Ideal for Picnics—consisting of a large stretch of park land, a lake 10 acres in —extent, and many acres of bush.—

ADMISSION, ONE SHILLING

Family Tickets, admitting 2 Adults and 3 Children, 2/-

TICKETS EVERYWHERE.

E. F. G. Hodges, Printer, "Reporter" Office, Box Hill.

A

Delicious

Drink.

IXIE

G. H. Bennett

Sole

Manufacturer.

PROGRAMME.

Entertainment No. 1.

(No Extra Charge for Admission).

AQUATIC CARNIVAL

Conducted by the

Victorian Amateur Swimming Association,

To be held in the Lake.

Lake Handicap, 100 yards.
In which all Victoria's Leading Swimmers will compete.

Grand Water Polo Match. Blues v. Whites.

Exhibition of Various Modes of Entering the Water.

Greasy Pole Competition. **Duck Hunt.**

Special Diving Competition.

Exhibition Swim by Frank Beaurepaire, World's Champion.

LIFE SAVING SQUADS, &c.

OFFICIALS—REFEREE: Edmund J. Lind, Esq. JUDGES: Messrs. Walter H. Browne, M. Hoffman and R. M. Collins. STARTER: Francis G. Richardson, Esq. POLO REFEREE: C. H. Campbell, Esq.

Note Date and Keep Open for This Event.

T. R. B.

MORTON & COGHILL

Auctioneers, Estate and Stock Agents,

72 SWANSTON ST., MELBOURNE.

Telephones 702 and 712.

BOX HILL AND CANTERBURY.

Telephone 59 Canterbury.

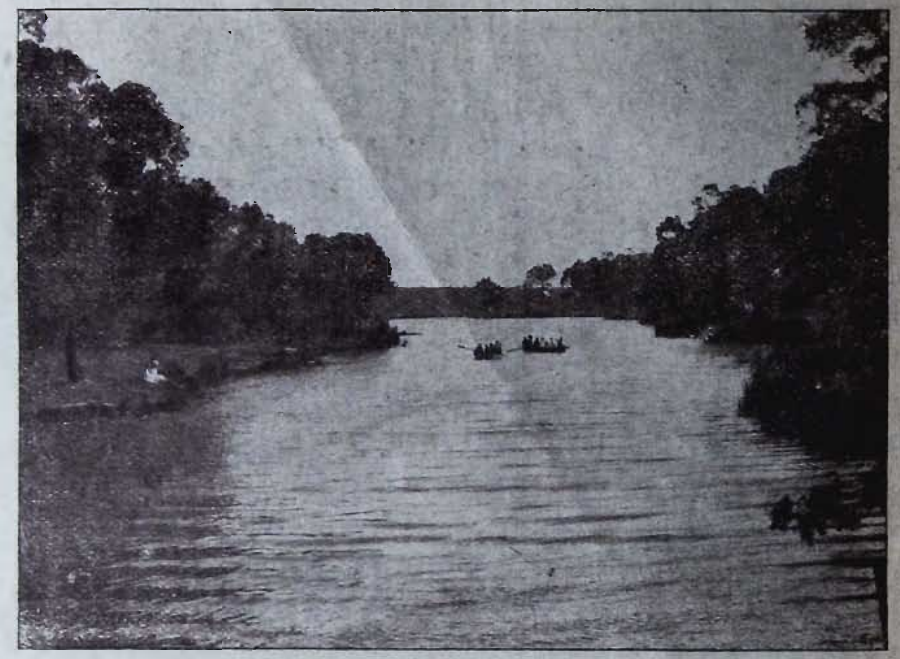
Weekly Sales at Box Hill.

Auction Sales of Freehold Property, Live Stock, Furniture, &c., conducted at vendor's premises or elsewhere.

Private Sales daily at the offices.

Owners are invited to send particulars of Properties, Stock, &c., for sale.

Code's Melbourne Brass Band & South Melbourne Military Band
Will Play during the Carnival.



The Lake at the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Blackburn. Boats on Hire at Moderate Rates.

THREE GOOD THINGS

Griffiths' Teas
Blended Ceylon, India China.
Pure, Fresh, Flavoury
and Economical.

Griffiths' Coffees
Roasted Daily.
Therefore Always Fresh.
Packed in air-tight Canisters
from 1lb. upwards.

Griffiths' Cocoas
Made in Australia.
Equal to Finest Imported, but
Cheaper and Fresher.
Absolute Purity Guaranteed.

Griffiths Bros. PROP. LTD.

Testing Samples Free.
Please Call or Write or them To-day.

30 Flinders St. & 66 Elizabeth St.

Entertainment No. 2 (No Extra Charge for Admission).

GREAT BUSH DRAMA



BUSH DRAMA. Synopsis. Scene I.—Blacks Hunting Emu—Corroboree—Throwing Spears—Boomerangs. **Scene II.**—Arrival of First Settlers—Blacks take Cover—Settlers Pitch Camp—Prepare Supper—Blacks Attack and Surprise them—While Settlers Defend Camp. King of the Blacks Steals the Daughter Sylvia and rides away with her on Settler's Pony—Dad Mounts Dray Horse and goes for Assistance—Returns with Stockmen, who pick up the Trail and run the King down—The Girl is brought back to the Camp. Great Rejoicings—Blacks again Attack and are driven off—Betrothal of the Rescuing Stockman and Sylvia.

KRUSE'S FLUID MAGNESIA

FOR INDIGESTION BILIOUSNESS AND ACIDITY.

Entertainment No. 3 (No Extra Charge for Admission).

Fine Programme by the Members of Mr. James Williamson's

JUVENILE HIGHLAND DANCING CLASS.

Champion Juvenile Scottish Dancers of Australia. Winners of 5000 Prizes. Assisted by the

Richmond Caledonian Society's Pipe Band



Entertainment No. 4 (No Extra Charge for Admission).

FIRST HAWTHORN TROOP IMPERIAL BOY SCOUTS

Under direction of Scout-Master L. C. BIRD. Scout Ambulance and Signalling Display.

Scout Play, Entitled "THE EXPLORERS."

MAY POLE DANCES, SWEDISH DRILL, &c., by the Pupils of Miss MINNIE HILL.

Grand Display by the Ladies of the Kensington Methodist Athletic Association.

PHONE CENTRAL 632

The National Candy Co. Manufacturing Confectioners

TANNER STREET, RICHMOND

(NEAR RAILWAY STATION).



A GLIMPSE OF THE LAKE THROUGH THE WOODS.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Lake Park, Blackburn, is open to the public as a

PICNIC RESORT

EVERY

Wednesday and Saturday

by Ticket, which can be obtained (Free) from the Manager,

Mr. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,
Deaf Mute Centre,
Flinders Street, Melbourne.

Chops & Steaks, Ham & Eggs.
Afternoon Tea, Strawberries and Cream, &c., at town prices.
Picnic Parties Catered for.
Cut Flowers on Sale.
Boats on Hire.
Hot Water, Milk, Summer Drinks of all kinds, Lollies, Ices, &c.

NUMEROUS SIDE SHOWS.

SWINGS AND GAMES.

FIRST-CLASS REFRESHMENTS

AT MODERALE PRICES AT STALLS.

Marquees, Bush Houses, &c., presided over by Ladies representing many of the Suburbs of Melbourne, including Camberwell, Hawthorn, Port Melbourne, Collingwood, Elsternwick, Toorak, Box Hill, &c.

Beautiful Walks, Magnificent Scenery, Splendid Show of Flowers.
Cool Drinks, Fruit Salads, Strawberries and Cream, &c.
Programme Commences at 2.30 sharp.

TRAINS—

TRAINS LEAVE MELBOURNE as follows:—11.35 (Flinders St.), 12.15 and 1.22 (Princes Bridge), 1.35 (Flinders St.), 1.55 and 2.15, SPECIAL (Flinders St.) Others if Necessary.

RETURN FROM BLACKBURN—6.9, 6.35, 6.44, 7.3, 7.52, 8.52, and others if necessary.

BRING THE FAMILY—AMUSEMENT FOR ALL.

These Family Tickets, admitting 2 Adults and 3 Children, 2/-

Must be Purchased before the day of the Event.

To enable the public to inspect the new Home and Flower Farm and ramble over the estate, the gates will be opened at 11 a.m.

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, Convener,
Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders Street, Melbourne.



Farm and Home for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes,

Lake Park, Blackburn.

TWO years ago most of the Suburbs of Melbourne were represented by stalls at a Bazaar held in the Town Hall, when £3000 was raised toward the fund for the erection of the above Home. Committees are now being formed in many of these suburbs, with a view of rendering help in connection with the Great CARNIVAL to be held at Lake Park, Blackburn, on November 27th next, the date fixed upon for the Opening Ceremony of the Farm Home.

It has been suggested that Box Hill be invited to join, with the object of giving the friends of the work in this district an opportunity of taking part; it has, therefore, been decided to hold a Meeting in

St. Peter's Church Hall, White Horse Rd., Box Hill,

on

Friday, October 22th, 1909,

At 8 p.m., when

Mr. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,

The Expert on matters appertaining to the Deaf and Dumb and the founder of the Home, will speak on

"The Condition & Needs of the Deaf & Dumb."

A number of DEAF MUTES will also attend and give UNIQUE PERFORMANCES.

Please accept this as an Invitation to yourself and friends, whose presence will be greatly appreciated.

Collection to defray expenses.

593

LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN

(11 Miles from Melbourne, 8 Minutes from Station).

SATURDAY, 27th NOVEMBER, 1909,

11 A.M. TILL DUSK.

Great MUSICAL, AQUATIC and FLORAL....

CARNIVAL

Numerous SIDE SHOWS and other Attractions.

In aid of the FARM and HOME for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-Minded Deaf Mutes.

NOTE.—Lake Park, Blackburn, is the most beautiful spot around Melbourne; an ideal place for a Picnic, consisting as it does of a large stretch of park land, many acres of bush, with a lake in centre many acres in extent.

TICKET, admitting One person, 1/-

Admission TICKET. Retain This.

619

LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN

(11 Miles from Melbourne, 8 Minutes from Station).

SATURDAY, 27th NOVEMBER, 1909,

11 A.M. TILL DUSK.

Great MUSICAL, AQUATIC and FLORAL....

CARNIVAL

Numerous SIDE SHOWS and other Attractions.

In aid of the FARM and HOME for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-Minded Deaf Mutes.

NOTE.—Lake Park, Blackburn, is the most beautiful spot around Melbourne; an ideal place for a Picnic, consisting as it does of a large stretch of park land, many acres of bush, with a lake in centre many acres in extent.

FAMILY TICKET, Admitting 2 Adults and 3 Children, **2/-**

These tickets must be purchased before the Carnival, and cannot be obtained on the day of the event.

Family Admission TICKET. Retain This.

Farm and Home for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-Minded Deaf Mutes.



LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN.

AIM.—To provide a Home for the Aged and Infirm, and Training and Employment for that section of the Deaf and Dumb who, by reason of mental or physical defects, are unable to follow ordinary occupations.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE
ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF THE COMPANY OF

M.....

AT THE

OPENING BY THE HON. W. H. WATT, M.L.A., TREASURER OF VICTORIA, OF THE HOME AND TRAINING FARM FOR AGED, INFIRM AND FEEBLE-MINDED DEAF MUTES, AT LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN, ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH, 1909, AT 4.15 P.M.

A SPECIAL TRAIN WILL LEAVE FLINDERS STREET STATION FOR BLACKBURN AT 2.15 P.M.

LAKE PARK IS BUT A FEW MINUTES' WALK FROM THE BLACKBURN RAILWAY STATION.

H. SUMNER MARTIN, B.A., LL.B.
HON. SECRETARY

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,
SUPT., ADULT DEAF AND DUMB BUILDING, FLINDERS STREET, MELBOURNE.

Home for Aged and Infirm and Training Farm for Feeble-Minded DEAF MUTES

TO OUR FRIENDS WHO RAISED THE FUNDS

WHICH ENABLED THE COMMITTEE TO PURCHASE THE BLACKBURN LAKE ESTATE AND ERECT THE ABOVE-NAMED HOME.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Arrangements are being made for the holding of an out-door FESTIVAL IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPENING CEREMONY of the New Home at Lake Park, Blackburn.

The many enquiries made by the friends who took part in the great Bazaar in 1907 encourages us to believe that we still retain your sympathy and interest, and that you will be glad of the opportunity to take part in the completion of the work that you assisted in establishing.

We have pleasure, therefore, in asking your attendance at A SOCIAL EVENING to be held in the ADULT DEAF AND DUMB BUILDING, Flinders Street, Melbourne, on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6th, at 7.45 p.m., when details of the forthcoming Festival and Opening Ceremony will be given. G. G. Mercy, Esq. (chairman of late bazaar), will preside.

Yours faithfully,

September 24th, 1909. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, Convener.

[OVER

BLACKBURN

CARNIVAL

(At the Deaf Mutes Flower Farm)

SATURDAY, NOV. 27

BOOK HERE

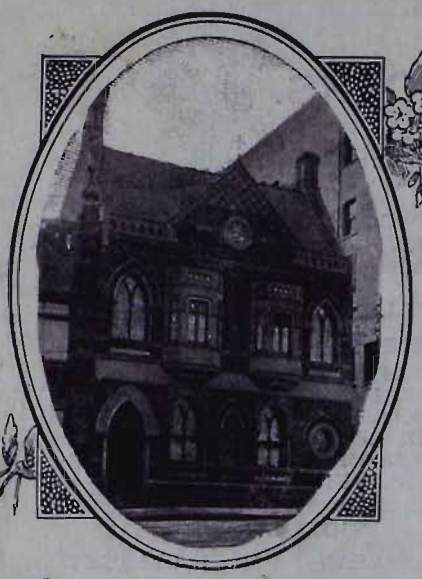
TRAINS

Trains will leave Melbourne as Follows:

Stopping at Richmond, East Richmond, Burnley, Hawthorn, Glenferrie, Auburn, Camberwell, East Camberwell, Canterbury, Surrey Hills, Mont Albert, and Box Hill.

From FLINDERS ST.	From PRINCES BRIDGE
11.35 a.m.	✣ 12.15 p.m.
1.35 p.m.	✣ 1.22 „
2.5 „	1.29 „
2.15 „	1.40 „
	✣ 1.55 „
	2.0 „

✣ Not stopping between Princes Bridge and Blackburn.



Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St.
Open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria
(Incorporated)

Home and Farm for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-Minded Deaf Mutes

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

OF THE GREAT

CARNIVAL

Held at the DEAF MUTES' FLOWER FARM, LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN, on

Saturday, November 27th, 1909

in connection with the OPENING of the CENTRAL BUILDINGS and MEN'S WING, by the

HON. W. A. WATT, M.L.A., Treasurer of Victoria

and in aid of the Women's Wing Fund, and to supplement the present income, which is insufficient to maintain the whole of the urgent cases now existing.

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, Organising Sec.
E. GRANVILLE MERCY, Hon. Assistant Sec.



Home and Flower Farm, Blackburn.

CARNIVAL OFFICERS.

STEWARDS:

The members and friends of the Blackburn Progress Association.

CARNIVAL TREASURER: ... ... MR. M. L. MILLER

LADIES' OPENING CEREMONY COMMITTEE:

Miss Munro	Miss Crowther	Miss Kidd	Miss Catanach
,, Young	,, E. Crowther	,, Mills	,, H. Catanach
,, King	,, Mercy		,, Williams

E. GRANVILLE MERCY, Hon. SECRETARY

DEAF MUTE COMMITTEE:

MR. J. E. MUIR — MR. W. A. PATERSON
,, M. L. MILLER — ,, F. E. FREWIN
,, R. H. LUFF — ,, J. McLEAN

JOINT SECRETARIES: Messrs. J. E. MUIR and R. H. LUFF
TREASURER: Mr. W. A. PATERSON
GENERAL MESSENGER: Mr. W. P. MUIR

CENTRAL DEPOT:

MR. J. E. MUIR — MR. R. H. LUFF
MR. J. BOORTZ

MESSENGERS:

MR. A. HULL — MR. G. HODGES
,, V. HARDING — ,, W. P. MUIR
MR. W. CHRISTENSEN
Mr. G. OAKLEY

BOATS:

MESSRS. A. McLALLAN and CHRISTENSEN.

SIDE SHOWS:

MR. J. McLEAN — MR. J. DEMPSEY
,, S. MOSS — ,, D. NOLAN
MR. E. R. W. SMITH
,, R. K. BEATTIE
,, J. CAMPBELL

TICKET COLLECTORS:

MR. L. DOWNES — MR. W. HINDELL
MR. M. G. MORTIMER
,, A. WILSON

REFRESHMENT STALLS, ETC.

THE CAMBERWELL MARQUEE.

(NEAR THE LAKE)

OFFICERS:

President—(The Acting Mayoress) Mrs. F. READ
Hon. Treasurer: (Mayor) Mr. F. F. Read. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. J. V. McEacharn

COMMITTEE AND ASSISTANTS

Mrs. Holmes	Mrs. Bowley	Mrs. T. B. Roberts	Mrs. Coghill	Miss Garrett
,, Catanach	,, Carleton	,, Boyne	,, Mills	,, Dunn
,, Jobson	,, Mercy	,, Bedgood	,, Fletcher	,, Smellie
,, Kugelmann	,, Fowles	,, McBeath	,, Ward	,, Catanach
,, Renwick	,, Osborne	,, Kirton	,, Dillon	,, Bell
			,, Frewin	,, Warring
				,, Semple

COLLINGWOOD

(BUSH HOUSE, FACING LAKE ON LEFT)

OFFICERS:

President: Mrs. Coon (Mayoress).
Secretary and Treasurer: Miss M. Frey.

COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Andrews	Mrs. Luxford	Mrs. Casey	Mrs. Trevena	Miss Stacey
,, Murray	,, Laird	,, Stevens	,, Cantor	,, Berry
,, Jacobs	,, Collins	,, Kerr		,, E. Berry
				,, A. Frey

SWASTIKA BUSH CAFE.

(ON LEFT, AT TOP OF ENTERTAINMENT PARK.)

OFFICERS:

President: Mrs. W. S. Keast. Vice-President: Mrs. Kennedy.
Treasurers: Misses Murray and M. Rennick. Secretary: Miss E. R. Empson.

COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Smith	Miss G. Tredinnick	Miss E. Abraham	Miss M. Armstrong
,, Moore	,, B. White	,, E. Keast	,, G. Garrett
,, Cooke	,, C. Hobbs	,, E. Hobbs	,, M. Winter
,, McGinnis	,, E. Keast	,, D. Moore	,, Waugh
	,, I. Winter	,, S. Keast	,, F. Blair
	,, R. Massina	,, W. Larard	,, E. Knight

TOORAK.

(CENTRE, TOP OF ENTERTAINMENT PARK).

OFFICERS :

President : Miss M. Cross.
Treasurer : Miss M. Brown. Secretary : Miss V. Noseda.

COMMITTEE :

Miss W. Searle	Miss C. Turner	Mrs. Brown	Miss J. Searle
,, M. Turner	,, M. Honeycombe	,, L. Lindsay	,, R. Pockett
,, A. Honeycombe	,, M. White	,, Annie Lindsay	,, Alice Lindsay

BOX HILL.

(ON RIGHT, TOP OF ENTERTAINMENT PARK.)

OFFICERS :

President : Mrs Hastings Vice-Presidents : Mrs. Boyland and Miss Taylor
Treasurer : Mrs. Symons Secretary ; Miss Rawlings
Assistant Secretary : Miss Finlay

COMMITTEE :

Mrs. Abraham	Mrs. Beck	Mrs. Head	Miss Davis
Miss Sweetland	Miss Triado	Miss Renehan	,, Arenas
,, Mashiter	,, N. Hastings	,, M. Hastings	,, E. Davis
,, V. Davis	,, Stewart	Mrs. Morris	,, Morris

DEAF MUTE MINERS' REST HOTEL AND CAMP.

(ON LEFT SIDE ENTERTAINMENT PARK).

Messrs. W. A. Paterson, F. E. Frewin and the Misses Graham

The men's retreat where food and drink can be had with peace and comfort.

" Bitter Beer "—Cheese and Biscuits—Cigars.

You can have your drink in a billy or a pail—a few glasses kept for city toffs.

PORT MELBOURNE.

(LEFT SIDE ENTERTAINMENT PARK).

OFFICERS :

President : (Mayoress) Mrs. Crichton Treasurer : Mrs. Porritt
Secretary : Miss Symons

COMMITTEE :

Mrs. Eddy Mrs. Barry, Sen. The Misses Townsend Mrs. Feely Mrs. Owen
Mrs. Barry, Jun.

ELSTERNWICK.

(ON LEFT SIDE, BOTTOM OF ENTERTAINMENT PARK).

OFFICERS :

President : Mrs. Goold Vice-President : Miss N. Davies
Treasurer : Miss F. Priest Secretary : Mrs. G. Blair

COMMITTEE :

Miss R. Davies	Miss N. Arthur	Miss S. Hayter	Miss K. Cox
,, E. Mallett	,, E. Priest	,, P. Wigley	,, D. Phillips
,, P. Gow	,, P. Laden	,, E. Priest	,, B. Spriggins
,, M. Bowes	,, S. Worcester	,, C. Henderson	,, M. Dodd

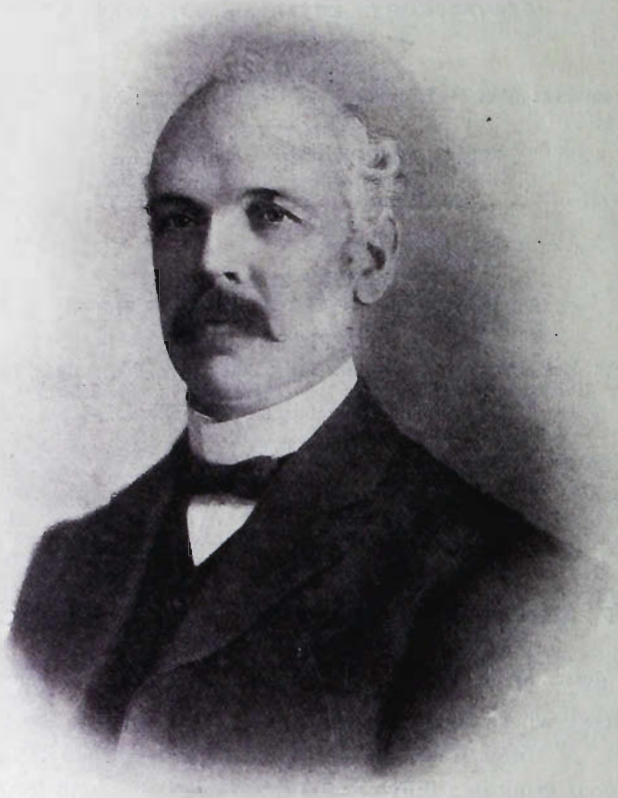
DEAF MUTE LADIES' STALL—FLOWERS AND LOLLIES.

(UNDER THE BIG TREE, RIGHT SIDE, NEAR ENTRANCE OF ENTERTAINMENT PARK).

Secretary : Mrs. J. E. Muir Treasurer : Mrs. Williamson

COMMITTEE :

Mrs. Boort	Mrs. Nolan	Mrs. Luff	Miss Bourke
Miss Clark	Miss Graham	Miss Potter	,, Dow
,, Hickey	,, Williamson	,, Porter	,, B. Damman
,, Jessie Muir	,, Connell	,, Morgan	,, Christensen



MR. E. R. PEACOCK, CHAIRMAN.

PROGRAMME

—SELECTIONS DURING THE DAY BY—

CODE'S MELBOURNE BRASS BAND and THE SOUTH MELBOURNE MILITARY BAND.

11 a.m.—Gates open to enable public to ramble over Park and inspect the New Buildings.

—— IN THE ENTERTAINMENT PARK. ——

2.45—**Scout, Ambulance, and Signalling Display** by 1st Hawthorn Troop Imperial Boy Scouts, under the direction of Scout-Master L. C. Bird.

3.5 **May Pole Dances, Sweedish Drill, etc.** by the pupils of MISS MINNIE HILL.

—— IN THE LAKE. ——

3.20—**Aquatic Gala** conducted by the VICTORIAN AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION.

Lake Handicap, 100 yards, in which all Victoria's Leading Swimmers will compete.

Grand Water Polo Match. Blues v. Whites.

Exhibition of Various Modes of Entering the Water.

Greasy Pole Competition.

Duck Hunt.

Special Diving Competition.

Exhibition Swim by Frank Beaurepaire, World's Champion.



HON. W. A. WATT, M.L.A
Treasurer of Victoria.

OFFICIALS—REFEREE: Edmund J. Lind, Esq. JUDGES: Messrs. Walter H. Browne, M. Hoffmam and R. M. Collins. STARTER: Francis G. Richardson, Esq. POLO REFEREE: C. H. Campbell, Esq.

4.0—**LIFE SAVING DEMONSTRATION,** under the auspices of the Royal Life Saving Society. Conducted by Mr. Mark Aarons, Hon. Chief Instructor who will briefly explain the life saving methods.

Land Drill.—The object of land drill is to secure uniformity of work, correctness and precision. Introducing five methods of approaching, taking hold, and carrying to shore a person in danger of drowning.

Land Drill.—Showing three methods of releasing oneself from the clutch of the drowning.

Water Practice.—Releasing from the clutch, and the correct method of carrying a drowning person to land.

Boat Accident.—Rescuers at work. An apparently dead person brought to shore.

Resuscitation.—By the members, introduction of Prof. Schoefer's method of restoring the apparently drowned.

—— AT THE NEW BUILDINGS. ——

4.15—Opening Ceremony. Prayer, Rev. J. J. HALLEY. Introductory Remarks by the Chairman, Mr. E. R. Peacock. Opening Ceremony by HON. W. A. WATT, M.L.A., Treasurer of Victoria. Vote of Thanks, Mover Mr. H. SUMNER MARTIN, B.A., LL.B., Hon. Sec. Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria. Seconder, Mr. G. G. MERCY, Member of Committee of Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria. Collection.

—— IN THE ENTERTAINMENT PARK.——

4.45—Mr. James Williamson's Juvenile Highland Dancing Class, assisted by the Richmond Caledonian Society's Pipe Band under the conductorship of **Pipe Major H. Fraser.**

5.15—Scout Play "The Explorers" by the 1st Hawthorn Troop Imperial Boy Scouts.

5.30—GREAT BUSH DRAMA.

SYNOPSIS.—Scene I. Blacks Hunting Emu—Corroboree—Throwing Spears—Boomerangs

Scene II. Arrival of first settlers—Blacks take cover—Settlers pitch camp—Prepare supper—Blacks attack and surprise them—While settlers defend camp King of the blacks steals the daughter, Silvia, and rides away with her on settlers pony—Dad mounts dray horse and goes for assistance—Returns with stockmen who pick up the trail and run the king down—The girl is brought back to the camp—Great rejoicings—Blacks again attack and are driven off -Betrothal of rescuing Stockman and Silvia.

CHARACTERS:

Mum	Mr. F. MELLOR
Dad	Mr. J, MULDOWNEY
Sylvia	... Master A. HOCKING
The Nipper...	... Master G. BRAY
Bush Missionary	... Mr. A BROWN
King of the Blacks	... Mr. W. GRANT
Leading Stockman	... Mr. W. DIXON

Aboriginals, Stockmen, etc

6.0—Demonstration by the Ladies Team of the Kensington Athletic Association.

6.20—Swinging Clubs on Fire by Miss M. Hill.

RETURN TRAINS—From Blackburn—6.9, 6.35, 6.44, 7.3, 7.52, 8.52, and others if necessary.

LAKE PARK AS A PIC-NIC RESORT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

The Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Lake Park, Blackburn, is open to the public as a **PICNIC RESORT** every **Wednesday and Saturday** by Ticket, which can be obtained (Free) from the Manager,

MR. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,
DEAF MUTE CENTRE,
FLINDERS ST., MELBOURNE.

Chops and Steaks, Ham and Eggs. Afternoon Tea, Strawberries and Cream, etc., at town prices. Picnic Parties Catered for. Cut Flowers on Sale. Boats on Hire. Hot Water, Milk, Summer Drinks of all kinds, Lollies, Ices, etc.

Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria,

(Incorporated).

OFFICE-BEARERS.

Patron:

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR THOS. GIBSON-CARMICHAEL, BART., GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA.

President:

THE HONORABLE F. S. GRIMWADE.

Vice-President: MR. E. R. PEACOCK.

Hon. Treasurer:

MR. HAROLD KENT, "Sylvia," St. Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. SUMNER MARTIN, B.A., LL.B., Equitable Building, Collins Street, Melbourne.

Assistant Treasurer: *MR. M. L. MILLER, Davis Avenue, South Yarra.

Committee:

REV. H. W. H. ADENEY
MR. W. A. DICKENS
*MR F. E. FREWIN
MR. JOHN M. GRIFFITHS
REV. J. J. HALLEY
HON. S. MAUGER, M.H.R.
MR. G. G. MERCY
*MR. M. L. MILLER
*MR. J. E. MUIR
*MR. F. J. ROSE
HON. F. TUDOR. M.H.R.
SIR HENRY WEEDON, M.L.A.

Hon. Physician to Farm and Home: DR. W. J. CRAIG.

Hon Consulting Horticulturist: MR JOHN CRONIN.

Superintendent and Manager:

MR. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St., Melbourne.

*These gentlemen are deaf

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB BUILDING,

Flinders St. E., Melbourne.

The rendezvous of the Deaf Mute population of **all** sects and nationalities in Victoria.

Caters for all their needs, providing Library, Reading Room, and Club Accommodation for both Sexes.

Public Worship, Lectures, and Classes in their own language.

Youths on leaving school are helped into situations. Employment obtained for adults.

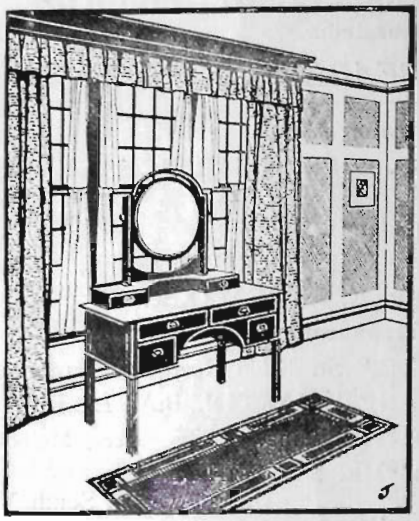
Relief given to those out of work, sick, or in temporary difficulties.

Pensions granted to aged and infirm deaf mutes.

HOME AND FARM FOR AGED, INFIRM AND FEEBLE MINDED DEAF MUTES, BLACKBURN.

AIM.—To provide training and employment for that section of the deaf and dumb who, by reason of mental or physical defects, are unable to follow ordinary occupations.

This Society is **not connected** with the residential school for deaf mute children, known as the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution.



"Furnish Your Home with White Labour Furniture!"

When you buy Furniture search to see what class of labour built it—whether by the sweated "Yellow" labour in the insanitary Chinese dens—or the handiwork of your own countrymen—the clean, wholesome production of Skilled White Labour. "THE HOME is the CRADLE of the NATION"—would you then have your home furnished by Chinese-made shoddy or the thoroughly reliable articles made by your own countrymen? COME and see us—if you can't call—WRITE—and we will send you our catalogues—post free. Always bear in mind that every piece of Furniture must be stamped with particulars as to its manufacture—the LAW DEMANDS it—to protect you from buying inferior Furniture and from imposition. JOHNSTON'S Furniture protects you from disappointment in your Furnishing requirements—it costs no more than the "shoddy"—You can buy it on far more liberal terms of repayment than you buy "shoddy." Ask us for fullest particulars!—

Chas. Johnston & Co.

"Builders of Hand-Made Furniture By Skilled White Labour!"

Gertrude Street = = Fitzroy.

Peacock Bros. Printing Company, Collins Street, Melbourne.

The Reporter, Box Hill. Vic. 3/12/1909.



THE HOME FOR AGED AND INFIRM AND FLOWER FARM FOR DEAF MUTES, LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN, VICTORIA.

Lake Park, Blackburn.

Appropriately named and picturesquely situated, Lake park, at Blackburn, the future home of the deaf mutes of Victoria, appears to possess all the advantages necessary to make it an ideal spot for the purpose for which it is intended. On Saturday last it was opened with considerable ceremony. It appears to be a fortunate circumstance that such a favorable position was within the possibilities of attainment. But Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, the superintendent, is nothing if he is not an optimist. It would have been of no advantage to the previous owner of the piece of property under consideration to say, "Well, sir, it is not for sale!" Mr. Abraham would have replied, "Well, I intend to buy it anyhow!" And accordingly buy it he did. And its acreage is of a fairly extensive character. The actual "terra firma" portion of the estate occupies about 64 acres, and the sheet of water known as "the lake" is 11 acres in extent. And to what purpose is this strip of territory to be placed? In order to explain to some extent the answer to such a query, it is necessary to consider a proposition which might be called "Looking Backwards." Some 25 years ago a few deaf men formed themselves into a society to provide religious, moral, and educational instruction in their own language. From this small beginning sprang the organisation known as the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria. Early in 1901 the committee of the society owned a piece of land in Flinders street, and had £1000 towards the cost of the erection of an institute, and had also an income of £500 per annum. At this time Mr. Abraham, who was regarded as one of the leading educators of the deaf in England, came to Australia for the benefit of his health. He was invited to accept the superintendentship of the institution for a period of three years. He did so, and from that time the society made rapid strides. In less than three years a building was erected in Flinders street, near Spring street, which is called the "Deaf Mute Centre." It is fully equipped with all the needs of the deaf and dumb. It contains a church, a lecture hall, class rooms, &c., and the proceedings are conducted in the deaf and dumb language. There is a library and also a reading room, which are both stocked with books and magazines. There are club rooms for both sexes, and also a bank. A newspaper for the deaf, which circulates amongst the afflicted in the country is also published in the building. Youths, on leaving school, are helped into situations, and employment is obtained for adults. But it soon became apparent to the superintendent that there was still a section unprovided for, and they were the most terribly afflicted of all, viz., the adult deaf mutes who were mentally or physically beyond the control of their relatives. Mr. Abraham felt that even this little company of severely afflicted ones could be trained to at least earn their daily bread, if a pleasing and healthy occupation, with soothing surroundings, could be found for them. To the deaf mute all enjoyment must come through the eye. The superintendent therefore considered that there was but one *solution to the* difficulty, viz., a flower farm situated in a picturesque spot. He therefore determined to have it. The late Sir Thomas Bent promised that his government would give £2000 on the condition that a further sum of £2000 was raised. The superintendent set to work and raised £2600. He had thus in hand £4600 to go on with. His committee, after a year of searching for a suitable spot, selected Blackburn lake estate, and nine months ago building operations were commenced. On Saturday last the central administration offices, the superintendent's residency, and the men's wing were opened by the treasurer to the Murray government, the Hon. W. A. Watt, M.L.A. The cost of the ground and lake was £1490, and of the building £3150. The central building contains accommodation for the superintendent and matron and family. There is an office, general dining room, servants' room, bedroom, kitchen, scullery, &c. In the men's wing there is a large dormitory for the more difficult cases, six single and double bedrooms, and a commodious sitting room for the inmates.

Blackburn was "en fete" on the occasion of the opening, bunting being prominent everywhere. For upwards of two hours there was a continuous stream of people on foot and in conveyances, filling the road from the station to the park. The attendance totalled close on 8000. The railway department experienced considerable difficulty in dealing with the extra traffic. Whether the coal strike was to blame or not, it is a fact that some of the trains actually took and hour and forty minutes to travel the eleven miles from Melbourne to Blackburn. This unfortunately delayed the programme considerably. The visitors, however, took the delay in a most good humored manner. They were out for the day, *and apparently made* the best of it. Perhaps the most attractive feature of the programme was the aquatic portion. This was conducted by the Victorian amateur swimming association. A temporary spring board was erected from which the diving contests were to take place. It, unfortunately, proved to be rather too temporary, for on being tested by one of the divers, a gentleman of about 15 stone in weight, both the springboard and the diver were suddenly immersed in the lake. Fortunately, no injury was done to the gentleman in question, and after the structure had been repaired the programme was conducted without further hitch. There were handicap swimming races, a polo match, exhibitions of various modes of entering the water, a greasy pole competition, a duck hunt, diving contests, and a special exhibition swim by Mr. Frank Beaurepaire, the world's champion, who recently returned from his trip to the old country. Code's Melbourne brass band and the South Melbourne military band enlivened the proceedings during the afternoon. The Imperial Boy Scouts, under the direction of Scoutmaster L. C. Bird, gave a demonstration of the work peculiar to their organisation. There were exhibitions of *Maypole dancing and Swedish* drill by the pupils of Miss Minnie Hill. A life saving demonstration under the auspices of the Royal life saving society was conducted by Mr. Mark Aarons. At 4.15 p.m. the official portion of the day's proceedings was held, when the Hon. W. A. Watt, M.L.A., who travelled by motor car, declared the buildings and park open. In the absence of the Hon. F. S. Grimwade, the president of the society, Mr. E. R. Peacock, vice-president, presided. There were also present the Hons. F. Tudor and S. Mauger, Cr. F. F. Read (mayor of Camberwell), Cr. T. R. B. Morton (president of Nunawading shire) and his councillors, Major McInerney, Sumner Martin, B.A., LL.B., hon. secretary, Mr. Harold Kent, hon. treasurer, and Messrs. G. G. Mercy, Rev. J. J. Halley, and W. Dickens (members of committee of the society), Mr. E. J. Abraham, the manager, and many others. The proceedings were opened by the Rev. J. J. Halley with prayer, after which Mr. Peacock spoke on the history and work of the society, and said that the building was erected and opened free from debt. It was proposed, however, to erect a women's wing at a cost of £1000 when funds were available. Mr. Grimwade had sent a cheque for £100, and Mr. Griffiths had promised £25 and £5 per annum in aid of the fund. Mr. Watt, the treasurer of Victoria, was lavish in his praise. He said the society was doing a great work, and was the best managed of all the societies of the kind. His presence was an evidence of the interest the government was taking in the work. He was surprised at what had been accomplished, and wished the movement every success. The government, he was sure, would give ear to the demands of an institution of such a character. Mr. Watt then formally declared the building open. A vote of thanks to Mr. Watt was proposed by Mr. F. J. Rose, seconded by the Hon. Frank Tudor, and supported by Mr. G. G. Mercy, and carried amidst applause. Mr. R. R. Peterson interpreted the speeches to the deaf and dumb, and Mr. Abraham translated Mr. Rose's remarks into oral speech. Mr. E. Granville Mercy acted as hon. secretary of the opening ceremony, and the members of the Blackburn progress society were the stewards of the carnival. The following ladies presided over the various stalls which were dotted through the park:—

Camberwell Marquee.—The acting mayoress of Camberwell, Mesdames J. V. McEacharn, Holmes, Catanach, Jobson, Kugelmann, Renwick, Bowley, Carleton, Mercy, Fowles, Osborne, T. B. Roberts, Boyne, Bedgood, McBeath, Kirton, Coghill, Mills, Fletcher, Ward, Dillon, Frewin, and Misses Garrett, Dunn, Smellie, Catanach, Bell, Waring, and Semple.

Collingwood. — Mesdames Coon (mayoress), Andrews, Murray, Jacobs, Luxford, Laird, Collins, Casey, Stevens, Kerr, Trevena, Cantor, and Misses M. Frey, Stacey, E. Berry, and A. Frey.

Swastika Bush Cafe.—Mesdames W. S. Keast, Smith, Moore, Cooke, McGinnis, Misses Murray, M. Rennick, E. R. Empson, G. Tredinnick, B. White, C. Hobbs, E. Keast, I. Winter, R. Massina, E. Abraham, E. Keast, E. Hobbs, D. Moore, S. Keast, W. Larard, M. Armstrong, G. Garrett, M. Winter, Waugh, F. Blair, and E. Knight.

Toorak.—Misses M. Cross, M. Brown, V. Noseda, W. Searle, M. Turner, A. Honeycombe, C. Turner, M. Honeycombe, M. White, Brown, L. Lindsay, Annie Lindsay, J. Searle, R. Pockett, and Alice Lindsay.

Box Hill.—Mesdames Hastings, Boyland, Symons, Abraham, Beck, Morris, Head, Misses Davis, Rawlings, Finlay, Sweetlend, Mashiter, V. Davis, Triado, N. Hastings, Stewart, Renehan, M. Hastings, Arenas, E. Davis, and Morris.

Deaf Mute Miners' Rest Hotel and Camp.—Messrs. W. A. Paterson, F. E. Frewin, and the Misses Graham.

Port Melbourne.—Mesdames Crichton (mayoress), Porritt, Eddy, Barry, sen., Feely, Owen, Barry, jun., Misses Townsend and Symons.

Elsternwick.—Mesdames Goold, G. Blair, Misses F. Priest, N. Davies, R. Davies, E. Mallett, P. Gow, M. Bowes, N. Arthur, E. Priest, P. Laden, S. Worcester, S. Harter, P. Wigley, E. Priest, C. Henderson, K. Cox, D. Phillips, B. Spriggins, and M. Dodd.

Deaf Mute Ladies Stall (flowers and lollies).—Mesdames J. E. Muir, Williamson, Boort, Nolan, Luff, Misses Clark, Hickey, Jessie Muir, Graham, Williamson, Connell, Potter, Porter, Morgan, Bourke, Dow, B. Damman, and Christensen.

Towards the cost of an irrigation plant, which will run into an expenditure of £300, Mr. A. T. Danks has made the handsome donation of a complete pumping outfit. The organising secretary of the carnival expects to clear about £200 from it for the funds of the farm and home.

One of the most interesting events of the day was the bush drama, depicting the blacks in their primeval conditions, &c., and the veteran pioneer taking up his first selection, but unfortunately it was not permitted to be produced to such an advantage as might have been desired. As the blacks attacked, the spectators crowded the scene of operations, and no chance whatever was given the plucky pioneers to defend. At the commencement the heroic "Mum" was nearly laid low through being struck under the eye with one of the spears from the blacks, but notwithstanding all the disadvantages under which the piece was played, the performers acquitted themselves well, and plenty of amusement was supplied. The characters were:—Mum, Mr. Fred. Mellor; Dad, Mr. J. Muldowney; Sylvia, Master A. Hocking; Nipper, Master G. Bray, bush missionary, Mr. A. Brown; King of the blacks, Mr. W. Grant; leading stockman, Mr. W. Dixon; Emu, Mr. Norman Pay.

SWIMMING NOTES.

By "Nageur."

BLACKBURN GALA.

If in some bygone period a relentless bush fire pursued its devastating course with such disastrous results that the residents in the locality where the palatial structure for the accommodation of aged deaf mutes now stands were perforce compelled to christen the district Black-burn, there were no signs on Saturday last to recall the charred incident, for everything looked green and refreshing. The lake, sparkling in the sunshine, while a soft south breeze barely ruffled its surface, was most inviting for a dip, and many on the bank envied those whose duty it was to amuse them by a display of their aquatic abilities.

We will be kind, and ascribe the slowness with which the programme was despatched to the holiday atmosphere that prevailed, but, nevertheless, the officials responsible would have done well to remember that in the large assemblage of spectators there were perhaps many who had never witnessed swimming contests before, and perhaps will never again, as the few events struck out over such a long period were of a sufficiently monotonous character to justify the spectators in staying away from future events.

In the Lake Handicap Scott asserted the superiority of his start by winning in an "easing up" style from the Melbourne favourite, Mason, with Slatr, who notched a second at Footscray on the previous Saturday, third.

Exhibitions by "Bogey," like Canadian costumes, are becoming quite the fashion wherever the human being takes to the water nowadays. His display on Saturday was very pretty. His remarkable propulsion powers must have been apparent to even the greatest neophyte in swimming matters. There is just something—exactly what it is one cannot say—that makes him glide, without apparent effort, like a porpoise, with always the eddy and swirl of the waters at his rear, resembling the working of a powerful propeller. He is indeed a machine.

A Greasy Pole provided more mirth for the spectators than the competitors. There was grease—plenty of it, and pole—little of it. What there was was as thickly covered with corns as a stonemason's hands. The American flag, which floated jauntily on the extremity, seeming satisfied at the inability of the contestants to pluck it from its stronghold, was never reached. The winner, with the aid of a liberal supply of dirt, managed to traverse about half a dozen feet; and it was a feat.

The diving was novel—extremely novel. The contortions of some of the exponents were extraordinary. But, withal, the exhibition was far more entertaining than the competitions everybody grew so tired of last season. Crane combined his contortionist aerial movements with a certain suppleness of limb and cleanliness of entry which justified the judges in awarding him pride of place.

The Water Polo Match between teams chosen by "Curly" Humfress and "Wagga" Harris was a very fair exhibition. The adoption of the floating goal can hardly recommend itself. There may be a certain charm in never knowing where your goal is, but it is certainly confusing to the man whose business it is to put the leather through the uprights.

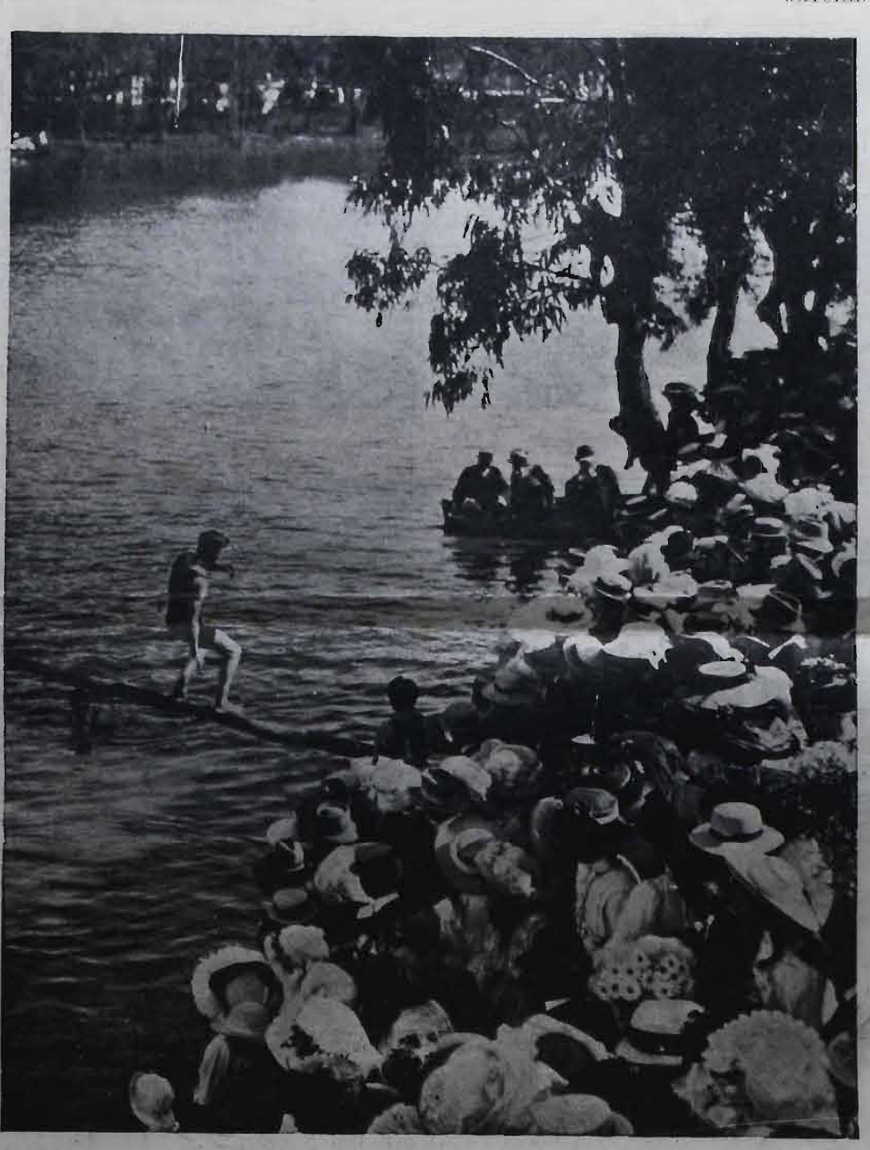
CARNIVAL AT BLACKBURN,

In Connection with the Opening of the New Deaf Mutes' Home, Saturday, 27th November.



Photo by Sears, 252 Collins-st.

WATCHING THE WATER SPORTS.



THE GREASY POLE COMPETITION.



THE OPENING CEREMONY.



"THE MINERS' INN."



COMPETITORS IN THE SAILOR'S HORNPIPE.

The tremendous gale of Sunday, the 21st, resulted in a great deal of mischief in some of the suburbs. A family named Kyley, living near Sandringham, had a very cheerful experience. Bits of their cottage started blowing away early in the morning. First the front verandah crumpled up, and was hoisted into the next street. After that a small lean-to at the back was carried into a neighbour's yard, then a bit of the front roof went. Later a window caved in, and finally the roof was stripped off the kitchen, and sailed away to parts unknown. By this time the Kyley family was rather suspicious of its homestead, having an idea that the chimneys might attempt to follow the other materials, or that the cellar might be blown away, so they retired to the back-yard, and camped in a clump under a pepper-tree.

* * * *

The Kyleys were not through with their bad luck, however, for the villainous gale still pursued them, and fragments of their neighbours' houses began to land in their midst. Little Willie Kyley was bowled over by a dog-kennel, and Mrs. Kyley was prostrated by somebody's back-door, which smote her when she wasn't looking, and made life disagreeable to her for some time after. Panels of fencing were hurled into the hapless domestic circle, and then a strange roof arrived and pinioned the father of all the Kyleys to the ground. A grand combined yell of dismay, horror, fear and confusion from the Kyleys brought assistance, and the roof was lifted off Mr. Kyley. As the poor man was propped against a tree, and subjected to medical treatment, little Willie Kyley spoke up. "Never mind, dad," he said to the injured parent, "we've got our roof back!"

M.H.R.s. The object of the carnival, in which considerably over 1,000 ladies and gentlemen assisted, was principally to raise funds with which to add a women's wing to the new building just erected. The farm is of about 70 acres, and is for male adults. The aim of the committee is to provide training and employment for those of the deaf and dumb who, by reason of mental and physical defects, are unable to follow ordinary occupations.

Mr. E. R. Peacock, chairman of the committee of management, in asking Mr. Watt to open the new building, announced that it had cost £4,000. The whole of this money, he said, had been raised, and the building was free from debt.

Mr. Watt, in declaring the new building open, said that his presence there indicated but the good work the committee had in hand had the sympathy of the Government. An institution such as this appealed to the sympathies of everyone, and deserved practical support.

Afterwards, in the grounds, there were diversions which helped to make the day's outing enjoyable. Chief interest centred in the swimming carnival, conducted by members of the Victorian Amateur Swimming Association, on Lake Blackburn, which is a splendid sheet of water. The principal event—the 100 yards Lake Handicap—was won by J. Scott (12sec.) from F. W. Mason (scratch), and W. Slater (16sec.). The time was [illegible] sec.

The "Reporter." 3/12/1909.

Swimming.

The swimming season practically opened at Blackburn last Saturday, when, under the V.A.S.A.'s supervision, a 100 yards handicap, entitled the "Lake Handicap," and a diving event were held. The former was won by Scott, a member of the Surrey Park swimming club, off 12 seconds, with W. Mason, Melbourne swimming club, second; a good race and the result was in doubt until the last moment. The second event was won by Stan. Crane, with Weber second, both Melbourne club swimmers. The diving event was an experiment, and had not a fair trial owing to the board being unsuitable, but at all carnivals this season diving will be far and away more interesting to spectators than in former seasons. Australasian championships will take place during January and February, and Victoria will endeavor to hold her title as champion state. Victoria has a very good chance of again winning the honor of champion state with such swimmers as Beaurepaire, Mason, Gunn, and Bradley to represent her. Frank Beaurepaire, the world's cham-

BOWLS—FINAL FOR THE CLAUSCEN TROPHY—North Fitzroy v. Collingwood.

Photos by Sears, 252 Collins-st.

Played on the Victoria Green, Carlton, and Won by North Fitzroy.



COLLINGWOOD TEAM. (V.B.A. President in centre.)



NORTH FITZROY TEAM. (Presidents V.B.A. and North Fitzroy in centre.)

THE AUSTRAL MEETING.

The social popularity of the Austral Meeting is now reviving year after year, and ladies are looking forward with great interest to the Melbourne Pioneer Club's meeting, which commences at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday. The Austral will be the focus of fashion on that afternoon. The cycling, which will be under the new rules, will be of a more interesting character than that at previous meetings. All that foresight could suggest has been done to make each event a real race, from the firing of the pistol to the finish, and some keen contests are looked forward to, especially in the heats and the final for the big race of the meeting, the Austral, in which the best riders from all the States will take part. The ballooning will be something very different to spectacles of the kind already witnessed in Melbourne. Miss Mollie Mostyn, the noted American lady balloonist, and Captain Penfold will introduce entirely new features of mid-air daring, including a sensational race by parachutes from a huge balloon to earth. The model aeroplane flight competition for the club's prize of £100 has thoroughly interested many ingenious people throughout the Commonwealth, and a great number of these machines have been entered. This event, the first of its kind in Australia, will, it is expected, prove one of the most fascinating witnessed by the public of Melbourne. The models are not toys, but complete in all details, even to their own motor power.

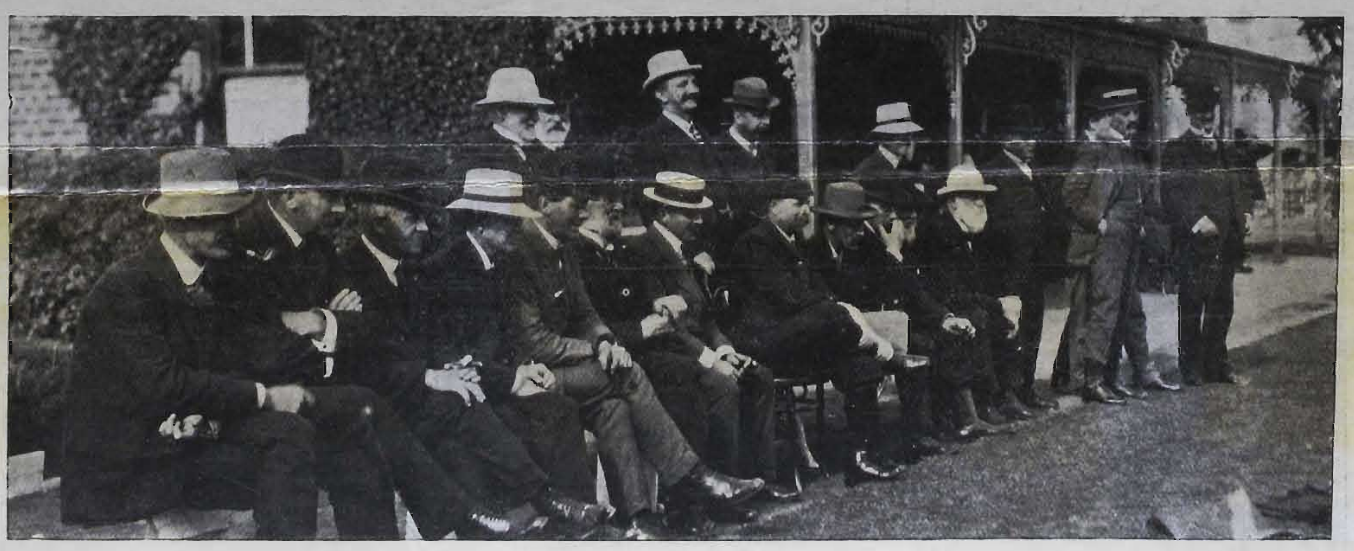


WATCHING THE PLAY FROM THE SHADY SIDE.



MR. GEO. BENTLEY.

Now appearing at the Opera House, Melbourne.
Photo by Talma & Co., Melbourne and Sydney.



A SCORE OF ENTHUSIASTS.

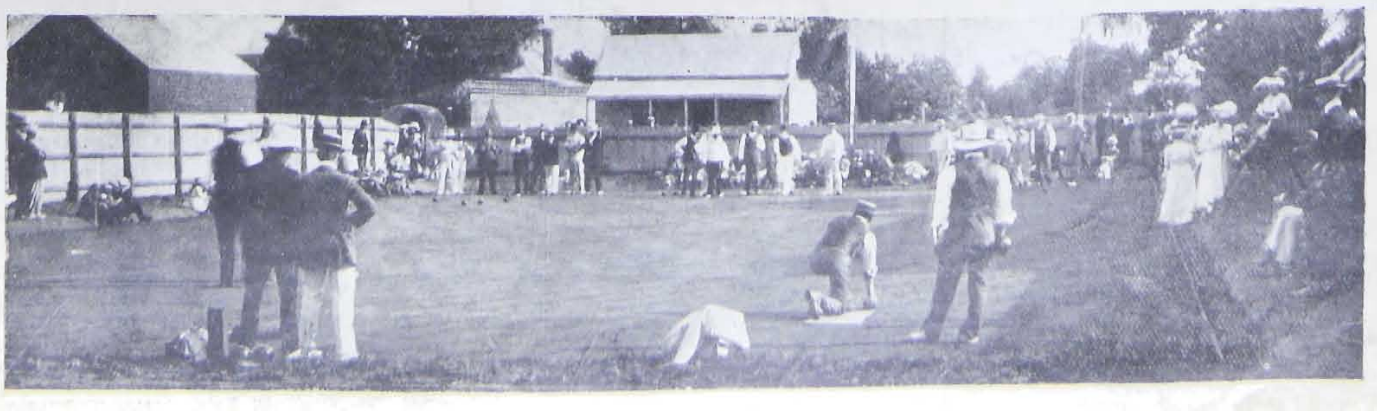
That the keen interest shown in the work of the Hospitals League of Mercy at Elsternwick is in no way lessening was shown by the large attendance of the voluntary collectors and officers of the branch at the quarterly meeting held at the Congregational Schoolroom on Monday last, 21th November. The reports presented were very gratifying, showing a considerable advance on the corresponding quarter of last year. The amount raised in this way for the hospitals during 1909 by this branch alone will greatly exceed £100, and it is to be remembered that the sums collected in this way are absolutely free from any deduction. The hon. general secretary, Mrs. John Ellison, was also present, and gave a short resume of the work being done by other branches. The afternoon was made very enjoyable to the members and visitors by songs contributed by Mesdames Darvall and Coulsen and Miss Birrell. Mrs. Sayce acted as accompanist, and the president, Mrs. J. H. Hewison, provided afternoon tea.



MESSRS. VAUDE AND VERNE.
Opera House, Melbourne.
Photo by Talma & Co., Melbourne and Sydney.



OPENING OF THE NUMURKAH BOWLING GREEN. DECLARING THE GREEN OPEN.—LADIES IN THE MAJORITY.



Photos by E. H. Kruth. THE OPENING GAME.

The "Age" 20/11/1909.

DEAF MUTES' FLOWER FARM, LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN
(Eleven miles from Melbourne—a few minutes' walk from station).
SATURDAY NEXT, 27th NOVEMBER, at 2.30 p.m.
Grand Musical, Aquatic, Floral and Humorous CARNIVAL.
Four Great Entertainments in One.
In connection with the Opening, and in Aid of the Farm and Home for Aged, Infirm and Feeble Minded Deaf Mutes.
To be Opened by the HON. W. A. WATT, M.L.A., Treasurer of Victoria.
The Programme will include:—
A WATER GALA on the Lake, conducted by the V.A.S.A. High Dives—Exhibition Swim by Frank Beaurepaire—Water Polo—Duck Hunt, &c., &c.—Life Saving Demonstration by R.L.S.S.
GREAT BUSH DRAMA, a most realistic performance in the open—Emu Hunt by Blacks—Corroboree—Boomerang Throwing—Attack on Settlers' Camp by Aborigines, &c., &c.—Juvenile Highland Dancers—Caledonian Pipe Band—Imperial Boy Scouts—May Pole Dances, &c. Selections by CODE'S MELBOURNE BAND and SOUTH MELBOURNE BAND. Side Shows, Swings, Beautiful Walks, Magnificent Scenery, Boats on Hire.
Refreshments at moderate prices at stalls presided over by ladies representing many of the leading suburbs. ADMISSION—ONE SHILLING.

The Herald" 26/11/1909.

GREAT CARNIVAL
(On Land and Water)
At
BLACKBURN,
SAT., NOV. 27th,
ADMISSION, 1s.
In Aid of the Farm and Home for Aged, Infirm, and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes.

TRAINS
Leave Melbourne as follows, stopping at all stations, to Blackburn:—

From PRINCE'S BRIDGE.	From FLINDERS STREET.
12.15 p.m.	11.35 a.m.
1.22 p.m.	1.35 p.m.
1.29 p.m.	2.5 p.m.
1.40 p.m.	2.15 p.m.
1.55 p.m.	
2.0 p.m.	

The Herald" 20/11/1909.

DEAF MUTES' FLOWER FARM, Lake Park, Blackburn
(11 miles from Melbourne; a few minutes' walk from station).
SATURDAY NEXT, NOV. 27th, at 2.30 p.m.
Grand Musical, Aquatic, Floral and Humorous CARNIVAL.
Four Great Entertainments in One.
In connection with the opening and in aid of the Farm and Home for Aged and Infirm and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes.
To be Opened by the Hon. W. A. WATT, M.L.A., Treasurer of Victoria.
The Programme will include—
A WATER GALA on the Lake, conducted by the V.A.S.A.—High Dives—Exhibition Swim by Frank Beaurepaire—Water Polo—Duck Hunt, etc., etc.—Life-saving Demonstration by R.L.S.S.
GREAT BUSH DRAMA.—A most realistic performance in the open—Emu Hunt by Blacks—Corroboree — Boomerang-throwing — Attack on Settler's Camp by Aborigines, etc.
JUVENILE HIGHLAND DANCERS, CALEDONIAN PIPE BAND, IMPERIAL BOY SCOUTS; MAYPOLE DANCES, etc.
Selections by CODE'S MELBOURNE BAND and SOUTH MELBOURNE BAND.
Side Shows, Swings, Beautiful Walks, Magnificent Scenery; Boats on Hire.
Refreshments at moderate prices at stalls presided over by ladies representing many of the leading suburbs.
ADMISSION.—ONE SHILLING.

The Argus" 29/11/1909.

NEW DEAF MUTES' HOME.

The carnival in aid of the Deaf Mute Institute, which was held at the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Lake-park, Blackburn, on Saturday afternoon, was attended by about 5,000 people, including the State Treasurer (Mr. Watt), and Messrs. Tudor and Mauger, M.H.R.'s. The object of the carnival, in which considerably over 1,000 ladies and gentlemen assisted, was principally to raise funds with which to add a women's wing to the new building just erected. The farm is of about 70 acres, and is for mute adults. The aim of the committee is to provide training and employment for those of the deaf and dumb who, by reason of mental and physical defects, are unable to follow ordinary occupations.

Mr. E. R. Peacock, chairman of the committee of management, in asking Mr. Watt to open the new building, announced that it had cost £4,600. The whole of this money, he said, had been raised, and the building was free from debt.

Mr. Watt, in declaring the new building open, said that his presence there indicated that the good work the committee had in hand had the sympathy of the Government. An institution such as this appealed to the sympathies of everyone, and deserved practical support.

Afterwards, in the grounds, there were diversions which helped to make the day's outing enjoyable. Chief interest centred in the swimming carnival, conducted by members of the Victorian Amateur Swimming Association, on Lake Blackburn, which is a splendid sheet of water. The principal event—the 100 yards Lake Handicap—was won by J. Scott (12sec.) from F. W. Mason (scratch), and W. Slater (14sec.). The time was 1min. 27sec.

The Herald" 27/11/1909.

DEAF MUTES

TRAINING FARM FOR ADULTS.

OPENING CEREMONY.

The home and training farm for aged infirm, and feeble-minded deaf mutes at Lake Park, Blackburn, was opened this afternoon by Mr W. A. Watt, Treasurer of the State. The Minister was accompanied by Mr Keast, M.L.A.

Provision is made at the Deaf and Dumb Institution, St. Kilda road, for the education of deaf mutes up to the age of 16 years. Experience has shown that in the case of a number of the unfortunate people afflicted with deafness some further provision is necessary, hence the establishment of the home now formally opened. The Government has given a substantial subsidy towards the work, and the committee (with Mr H. Sumner Martin as hon. secretary, and Mr E. J. D. Abraham, superintendent, are making a strong effort to raise about £1000.

A carnival in aid of the Home was held to-day at Lake Park, Blackburn, in connection with the opening of the new portion of the institution, and a fine sports and general entertainment programme was provided.

Mr Watt, in opening the institution, said that it was doing work which must command general sympathy. If those who were now, or were to be, inmates, were not taken care of by such an institution, the State, he supposed, would have to shoulder the responsibility. He hoped that the carnival would be a success, and he trusted that the home and farm would be found to answer the admirable purposes to which they were to be devoted.

The Herald" 20/11/1909.

Deaf Mutes' Carnival

In connection with the opening of the Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf Mutes at the Deaf and Dumb Flower Farm, Blackburn, next Saturday, a carnival is to be held in aid of the women's wing and to augment the annual income. The hon. the Treasurer (Mr W. A. Watt) will perform the opening ceremony. The programme is a lengthy one, including a water gala, a bush drama, Highland, maypole and other dances. Many of the leading suburbs will be represented by refreshment stalls, and Code's Melbourne Band, the South Melbourne Band and the Caledonian Pipe Band will play selections during the day.

The "Age" 20/11/1909.

FLOWER FARM FOR DEAF MUTES.

The central buildings and the men's wing of the home for aged and infirm deaf mutes at the flower farm for deaf mutes, Blackburn, are approaching completion, and are to be opened by Mr. Watt, Treasurer of Victoria, to-day. A garden party will be held in connection with the opening ceremony as a means of helping to raise the necessary money to erect the women's wing, and to supplement the present income, which is insufficient to maintain the whole of the urgent cases now existing. The programme, which is a lengthy one, includes a water carnival, under the auspices of the V.A.S.A., and exhibition of life saving by members of the R.L.S.S., realistic bush drama, performances by the Imperial boy scouts, highland dances, &c. Code's Brass Band, South Melbourne band, and the Caledonian Pipe Band are to play during the afternoon. Many of the leading suburbs will be represented by refreshment stalls.

The "Reporter" 3/12/1909.

Swimming.

The swimming season practically opened at Blackburn last Saturday, when, under the V.A.S.A.'s supervision, a 100 yards handicap, entitled the "Lake Handicap," and a diving event were held. The former was won by Scott, a member of the Surrey Park swimming club, off 12 seconds, with W. Mason, Melbourne swimming club, second; a good race and the result was in doubt until the last moment. The second event was won by Stan. Crane, with Weber second, both Melbourne club swimmers. The diving event was an experiment, and had not a fair trial owing to the board being unsuitable, but at all carnivals this season diving will be far and away more interesting to spectators than in former seasons. Australasian championships will take place during January and February, and Victoria will endeavor to hold her title as champion state. Victoria has a very good chance of again winning the honor of champion state with such swimmers as Beaurepaire, Mason, Gunn, and Bradley to represent her. Frank Beaurepaire, the world's champion, swam 240 yards in 3 min. 30 secs. at Blackburn on Saturday.

The Age" 29/11/1909.

DEAF MUTES' FLOWER FARM.

OPENED AT LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN.

The opening of the home and farm for aged, infirm and feeble minded deaf mutes, established by the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria at Lake Park, Blackburn, took place on Saturday. The society has secured 80 acres of land for the farm, and the site of the building is a piece of rising ground which slopes down easily to the lake. The soil is heavy, but the ten acres already under cultivation bear rich promise for the growing of the flowers and vegetables which are to be sold towards the maintenance of the institution. The buildings, of which Messrs. Ward and Carleton, of Collins-street, were the architects and Mr. R. L. Phillips the contractor, are of the modern domestic type, and have been erected at a cost of some £3500, which, however, will have been increased by about £1000 when the scheme of the society is completed by the addition of quarters for women. Brick has been employed throughout their construction, with tiles on the roofs, and the superintendent's residence is fronted with an ornate porch and balcony of red pine. The residence is of two stories, contains large offices, drawingroom and five bedrooms, and is connected with the men's quarters by a corridor. To the rear lie the paved scullery and kitchen, which adjoins the inmates' diningroom of 30 feet by 20 feet. In the men's quarters, which will accommodate 20 inmates, the main dormitory and the sittingroom are each 20 feet long by 16 feet, and a wing, approached under cover, contains four single bedrooms, and also three bathrooms, supplied from the roof tank. The stables, bulb house and store lie detached, and the scheme is to set up an engine and plant for raising water from the lake for irrigation purposes. The women's quarters will be built after the same design as the men's.

The opening was marked on Saturday by the holding of a carnival arranged by the society, which was assisted by the Blackburn Progress Association, and sub-committees from Camberwell, Collingwood, Toorak, Box Hill, Port Melbourne, Esternwick and elsewhere. A stall was supplied by each of these with goods and refreshments. Under weather conditions of the finest, the carnival was attended by large numbers, and a programme of varied interest, ranging in events from Maypole dances to bush drama and boy scouts' displays, proceeded successfully—to the benefit of the scheme for building the women's quarters.

The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Watt, the State Treasurer, who was presented by the architects with a silver key for that purpose.

Mr. E. R. Peacock, vice-president of the society, in the absence of Mr. E. S. Grimwade, the president, welcomed Mr. Watt and sketched the history of the society. The society, he said, looked hopefully for the public's appreciation of its work, and trusted that the Government might favorably consider the proposition of subsidising such an institution. He mentioned that Mr. Grimwade had written offering 100 guineas to the funds of the society and that Mr. J. M. Griffiths had promised a sum of £25 for the year and £5 as his annual subscription for the future.

Mr. Watt, in declaring the buildings open, said that though the Premier was unable to attend his own presence marked the interest which the Government felt in the work of such a society. He was glad to understand the financial success of the society, and trusted that its scheme might progress with good fortune. The Government would fairly consider any demand upon it for the support of an institution of such a character.

Mr. F. J. Rose, a member of the committee, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Watt in the deaf and dumb alphabet to the following effect:—"I propose that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. Watt for his kindness in coming to open this grand and glorious building. It is 49 years since I started school for deaf and dumb mutes on St. Kilda-road. You will imagine how I feel on this happy occasion."

The vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. G. G. Mercy, and supported by Mr. F. Tudor, M.P., who said he trusted that effect would be given by the State Government to the words of Mr. Watt.

The visitors were conducted over the premises by the members of the committee, who included Mr. S. Mauger, M.P., and the Rev. J. J. Halley.

DECEMBER 1909.

XMAS. NUMBER.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. DECEMBER 1909. No. 4.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS.

A Joyous Christmas to you dear reader.

This is to be a great Christmas to us. Never before in deaf mute history did any company of deaf mutes have greater reason for rejoicing or for the giving of thanks. We wish we could bring all the deaf to realise as we do, the magnificence the completeness of the provisions now existing for our class. Our Heavenly Father has indeed been good to us. "Peace, health and prosperity" has become a steriotypied Christmas greeting and because hackneyed practically meaningless. To us however this eventful year, it is full of grand and happy meaning. Peace, contentment, health and prosperity smile at us on all sides. So that it is with full hearts and grateful minds we sign.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him, above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Xmas Rally. You are reminded that the Christmas Rally is to be held on the 21st Inst. & that it is open to all the deaf. The Committee who have charge of it promise us some new and interesting games. They are making preparations for and anticipate a record attendance.

Our Alma Mater. On Friday Nov. 12th the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution attained its forty ninth birthday & over 500 deaf pupils have passed through its portals. Its venerable founder & first superintendent (Mr. F. J. Rose) is still with us. At the opening of the Homestead at Blackburn when proposing the vote of thanks to the Victorian Treasurer he said he left to the imagination of the people his feelings on such an occasion as that.

Services. Although new & heavy responsibilities are falling thick & fast upon the shoulders of our Chaplain, it is seldom that he is absent from divine service. Most of his sermons are prepared whilst travelling & those who witness his coming & returning will invariably find him perched up in the corner of a railway carriage with note book hard at work, or reading & marking paragraphs which, next sunday we reap the benefit of. On the 5th Inst. his morning sermon was especially appropriate, he alluded in comforting words to the passing away of the mother of our esteemed friend & leader Mr. M. L. Miller & in the evening lifted our thoughts to the joys of the life to come. Messrs. M. L. Miller & R. H. Luff officiated on the 31st of October.

Mrs. A. Wilson's bible class continues to attract, on the 26th Oct & 23rd Nov. her lessons were of exceptional interest. Our Chaplain's bible class closed on the 2nd Inst for the Summer vacation.

Cup Day Pic-nic. Because Blackburn Lake is the most picturesque spot within 20 miles of Melbourne & also the site of our Flower Farm, we again made it the happy

hunting ground for our annual picnic. The weather was delightful & there was a great muster of dear members - ninety five, to be exact, our hearing friends likewise mustered strong. Having brought their own eatables, they scattered at feed time choosing the shady spots & sending off the men folk to bring along the hot water, milk, sugar etc. provided by the Sub-Committee. The afternoon was spent in gathering wild flowers, maiden hair ferns, games & boating. A few surrounded Mr. Plumridge our florist & purchased lovely bunches of cut flowers. The new home came in for a good deal of attention, astonishment was expressed on all sides at the size of it & its many conveniences. Mrs. Abraham was kept busy providing "tuck" for the farm inmates & those of us who preferred to buy on the spot rather than carry food with us. Many hundreds of other pic-nickers were to be seen rambling over the park & making the best of their time. Amongst the deaf country visitors present were Mr. & Mrs. Gus. Damman (Warburton), Misses Essing (Clayton). & W. W. Park. (Ballarat).

An evening with the Pictures. The Management of the Continental Gardens invited our members to their Living Picture entertainment on the 15th Nov. & about 50 took advantage of the opportunity to witness one of the best outdoor picture shows in Melbourne. There were an unusual number of the humorous kind & we were not slow in showing our appreciation. We thank the Management for a most enjoyable evening.

The Lost Art of Letter Writing. The above was the title of a paper read by Mrs. J. E. Muir at a meeting of the Womens' Guild on the 9th Nov. There was a large & attentive audience. The speaker said that most people nowadays looked upon letter-writing as something of a nuisance & to be avoided as much as possible, they generally scribbled a few lines or took advantage of ever ready postcard. Nevertheless the old folks still

appreciated a long chatty letter, especially those in the home lands. Mrs Muir thought that the writing of such letters to the old folk at home was a duty that none should neglect, apart from its value in helping to maintain family ties. Letter writing was of great value to the writers themselves from an educational stand-point. She strongly urged her audience to cultivate the habit of letter-writing.

Smoking. The smoker in the community of the deaf is very much in the majority, so that when Mr W. P. Muir undertook to read a paper against the fascinating but admittedly harmful habit, we expected him to appear in a suit of steel armour. But he didn't, instead, he put the strength of his position into his arguments. He said that besides being anything but a clean habit it was harmful in the extreme especially to the younger generation. Cigarette smoking should be prohibited. not only was it a slow poison but it injures the sight. in the case of excessive smokers it often meant the loss of reason & moral degradation. He had been a smoker himself, but by his doctor's orders gave it up, & had felt better & stronger ever since. An instructive & amusing discussion followed in which some joined. Unfortunately the limits of our space prohibit its insertion here.

Wonders of Engineering. Mr R. H. Luff occupied the platform of the Mens' Guild on the 30th ult. His paper was on "The wonders of engineering" & was illustrated at several of the most interesting points. The tunnel through the alps from Switzerland to Italy (12½ miles) being among them. He explained that engineering is part of civilisation, nothing nowadays can be done without the engineer. whether it is to bore into the land, to send into the air, cross the sea, build dreadnoughts or erect lighthouses on rocks far out into the sea. The audience though small was an attentive & interested one.

Late Mrs Miller. It is with deep regret that we record the death on the 2nd inst. of the beloved mother of our esteemed friend Mr. W. L. Miller. She was 87 years of age. She was interred at the Melbourne Cemetery on the 4th. The Rev. G. Tait officiated both at the residence of Mr. Miller & at the graveside. Mr. Abraham interpreted. several of our members attended, they also sent a beautiful wreath as a token of their affection & sympathy.

Committee Meetings. A meeting of the general board of the Society met on the 1st Nov. when Mr. Mercy reported substance of interviews with various gentlemen in positions to advise us to procedure in connection with the irrigation scheme. He also submitted details of engines, pumping plants, piping etc, & finally his own conclusions & suggestions. Mr. Mercy's recommendations are sure to be acted upon. Mr. Mercy has spent many days in obtaining the possible apparatus at a least possible cost & the Committee & the deaf appreciate his goodness & thank him. A meeting was held on the 12th to approve of the appeals to be issued with opening ceremony invitation cards, & on the 22nd the Committee inspected the New Home at Blackburn.

Vic. Branch. A.D.D.A. The Annual meeting of the above was held on the 4th inst. There was a fair attendance. The president (Mr E. J. D. Abraham) in the chair. The report, a lengthy one read by Mr. J. C. Muir, in the absence of the acting secretary (Mr. W. L. Miller) was a record of progressive & successful undertakings. The balance sheet read by the hon. treasurer Mr. W. A. Paterson showed £1.17.0 to the credit of the branch. On the motion of Mr. J. McLean, seconded by Mr. E. R. W. Smith both were adopted. After the president had delivered a brief address & others had spoken, the whole of the officers were re-elected with the following exceptions, Mr. L. C. Fraser replaced Mr. A. C. Muir, & Mr R. A. Luff was appointed hon. sec. The report will be printed as a supplement to the "Monthly Letter" for January. The hon Sec. acknowledges with thanks the receipt

of subscriptions of 1/- from Mr W.P. Muir, 3/- 3 years from Mr R.J. Miller of Broken Hill & 1/ from Mr P Smith.

An old friend writes. Our old friend & member Mr John Jackson late of Victoria, now of Queensland, writes us a long and interesting letter. Mr Jackson tells us that although he is satisfied with his new home, his heart still beats for dear old Victoria & sometimes the longing to return is pretty strong. He is always delighted when the Monthly Letter arrives with its budget of news of the deaf it makes his heart beat with joy at our prosperity. Where he resides there are many snakes, he caught five alive & sent them to the Adelaide Zoological Gardens & the director Mr Minch has expressed himself pleased with them. So soon as the weather gets cooler, Mr Jackson intends collecting & sending a crate of native ferns for our Blackburn Home. We appreciate his thoughtfulness & will gladly accept his gift.

Personal Pars. Miss A. Graham with her sister & niece has just returned from Mt Martha, looking very well after her recent attack of influenza. She thoroughly enjoyed a motor ride with her friends to Dromana & back, a distance of about 30 miles. Miss K. Cowan was successfully operated on at St Vincent's Hospital quite recently, & cannot speak too highly of the kindness shown to her by the nurses. At present she is enjoying a change at Donald.

Mr A. Morgan has left the St Arnaud Farm Product Co at Yering owing to the work being too heavy & has gone to Colac to another position.

Mrs J. Dempsey & children have gone to Bonbulk to stay with her mother till January.

Mr J. R. Miller is back from Tasmania & after visiting his people in Ballarat went on to Broken Hill where he was fortunate in securing a position in one of the biggest mines the day he arrived. He is well thought of as a first class steel sharpener & blacksmith.

Mr James Anderson of Melb. has given up bootmaking business in Essendon & has gone to Oaklands Junction working on

a farm. He says if it suits him he will always stick to it.

Messrs A. & E. Collins are leaving their old place at Longwarry for Neerim shortly where they will start new Saw Mills. They reckon that the business will be better because the timber is much better & plentiful. Mr A. Collins looks after the Mills & his brother after the books. We wish them prosperity & success

Mrs J. Boort while holiday muting in Longwarry lately visited the Saw Mills & admired the way the Collins managed the business

Miss W. Burke came to Melbourne lately after spending some months with her mother in Ballarat.

Miss P. Ashby of Trafalgar was the only country visitor who came to Melbourne for the Carnival at Blackburn & stayed for ten days.

Mr & Mrs H. Gladman of Rainy Creek are spending their fortnights holiday in Melbourne for a change.

Mr R. Brown has left the Blind Asylum lately where he has been employed as a scullery man for 21 years & is now helping his son at a dairy.

We thank Mrs J. Buss of Tasmania for 2/-, Miss Peake 1/- Mr W. O'Keefe of Korait 1/6 & Mr W. Woodley 1/- toward the Monthly Letter Fund.

Dr Cook, the discoverer of the North Pole tells of having met a deaf mute boy of eight- "the only deaf mute estimo in all N. land".

Master Higgins (nephew of Judge Higgins) collected £1 for the A.D. society lately. It is understood that he has collected for some years. His father is our hon Auditor.

Carnival Committee. On the 5th Nov. a large number of the deaf attended a special meeting called by Mr Abraham, in connection with Carnival & unanimously volunteered to do their share of work, at a further meeting held on the 9th an executive committee was appointed consisting of Messrs M.L Miller, R.H. Luff, J.E. Irvine, W.A. Paterson, J. McLean & J.E. Mills.

Opening of the Home for Aged & Infirm & Flower Farm for Deaf Mutes, Lake Park, Blackburn.

Blackburn was "enfete" on the occasion of the opening of our Home & Flower Farm Sat. Nov. 27th. Flags were flying everywhere, at the railway station, places of business, private houses & along the road leading to the park. For upwards of 2 hours there was a continuous stream of people on foot & in conveyances, filling path & roadway from the station to the entrance gates. The attendance totalled close upon 8,000 and on the day was an ideal one for an outdoor picnic, there was a look of anticipated pleasure on every face. The railway department experienced considerable difficulty in dealing with the extra traffic, some of the trains taking an hour & 40 minutes to do the eleven mile run from Melbne. This unforeseen hitch delayed the programme an hour, but the people were in the best of good humour, there being so much to interest & bewitch besides the lengthy programme of entertainments. The huge crowd was unanimous in its praise both as regards the place & the building. Altogether it was a pretty sight & a memorable one. The first object that met the view on entering the gates was the Deaf Ladies Flower & Lolly Stall. This was erected under the shade of a giant gum tree and around it stood a cluster of pretty girls in summer gowns with their baskets of flowers upon their arms. Mrs. J. E. Muir was in charge & she managed her various detachments to the very best advantage for the financial success of her stall. On the left a tent & bush house gaily decorated with flags & poppies represented Elsternwick & was the effort of Mrs. Blair & friends, a little further on was the Miners Camp Hotel (Messrs W. A. Paterson & J. E. Erwin). This interesting encampment attracted a good deal of notice for it was complete in every detail. The public were informed that here "bitter beer, cheese & biscuits" could be obtained &

that you could "have your drink in a billy or a pail– a few glasses kept for City toffs". Port Melbourne's stall came next presided over by the Mayoress (Mrs Crichton) and Miss Symons, the energetic hon. sec. In the left corner a very remarkable structure stood, it was called the "Swastika Bush Cafe" you could obtain almost anything here that pleases or satisfies the palate, not to mention ices and strawberries & cream. The ladies in attendance were pretty & innumerable. Mrs Keast, wife of the member of parliament for the district, presided. hon sec, Miss E. Empson. Toorak also had a pretty stall (Miss M. Cross, president. Miss V. Noseda, hon sec). In the right corner the ladies of Box Hill had a Bush Tea House & did good business (President Mrs Hastings. Sec.t Miss Rawlings). Near the lake the acting mayoress of Camberwell (Mrs. J. Read) assisted by a large number of ladies from Camberwell, Canterbury & Surrey Hills, provided substantial teas in a large marquee. (hon sec, Mrs. J. V. McEachran). Collingwood also had a Bush Tea House by the Lake presided over by the Mayoress (Mrs Coon). hon sec. Miss M. Frey. In the centre of the park were many amusements, including a merry go round, shooting gallery, Aunt Sally, Swings etc, under the management of the deaf men. The entertainments included ambulance & signalling display by the Imperial Boy scouts, May Pole dances & Swedish drill by pupils of Miss M. Hill, Aquatic gala on the Lake conducted by the Victorian Amateur Swimming Association, Life saving demonstration, dances by the Juvenile highland dancers, demonstration by the ladies team of the Kensington Athletic Association & the great bush drama. Codes Melbe Brass Band, the South Melb. Military Band, the Caledonian Pipe Band, & the Box Hill String Band played selections during the day.

The opening Ceremony took place at the new building at 4.30 pm. The arrival of two motor cars containing the Hon. W.A. Watt, M.L.A., Victorian Treasurer & Hon S. Mauger M.L.R., was the signal for a rush toward the building. Mr. E.R. Peacock. Vice president of the Deaf & Dumb Society presided, & with him on the steps of the Central building were the Hons. Watt, Mauger, & J. Tudor. Messrs. H. Sumner Martin, B.A. LL.B., (Hon Sec) Harold Kent (hon treas) W. Dickens, G.G. Mercy & Rev J.J. Halley, J.E. Muir, M.L. Miller, F.J. Rose (Members of the Committee) Messrs. R.R. Paterson, Cr. J.R.B. Moreton, president of the Shire, the local councillors & a large company of ladies & other gentlemen. After a selection by Coles Band. the Rev J.J. Halley offered prayer. Mr E.R. Peacock read the interesting story of the work & the progress made during the past few years. He said the property was paid for & there was no debt upon the building about to be opened (applause) It was proposed however to erect a womans wing at a cost of £1,000 when funds were available, and to provide for the whole of the cases calling for admission to the home, an addition of £450 to the present annual income would be necessary. The Hon. J. S. Grimwade their president, had sent a cheque for £100, & Mr. J. Griffiths £25, with a promise of an annual subscription of £5. Mr. A.J. Danks promised a complete pumping outfit for the irrigation plant.

Mr. Watt in declaring the Building open, said the Society was doing a great work, & was the best-managed of all the societies of the kind that had come under his notice. His presence was an evidence of the interest the government was taking in the Committees undertaking. He was surprised at what had been accomplished & wished the movement every success. The Government he felt sure would listen to the demands of an institution of such a character.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Watt was proposed by Mr. F.J. Rose

seconded by Mr. G. G. Mercy & supported by the Hon. J. Tudor. Mr. R. R. Paterson interpreted the speeches to the deaf. Mr. E. Granville Mercy acted as hon. sec. to the opening ceremony &, with the assistance of a company of young ladies, provided afternoon tea for the guests of the Committee. The Members of the Blackburn Progress Association acted as stewards for the carnival. We would like to name the whole of the ladies & gentlemen who assisted, but as there were close upon 800 helpers. this is of course altogether out of the question. Will all the kind friends who contributed, in one way or another, toward the success of the carnival accept our most grateful thanks. It is expected that exclusive of donations, the farm will benefit by upwards of £200 from the fete. The whole of the arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham our supt. It is expected that the Manager & some of those who are to be the workers & inmates will be comfortably settled in the new home before Christmas. The Structure is of the modern type, quaint & pleasing to the eye, the central building contains a well fitted office, good accommodation for the manager, matron & family, general dining room, kitchen, scullery & servants' bedrooms, in the main part of the mens wing there is a large sitting room, facing the lake, a dormitory providing for 8 beds, & two other bedrooms; adjoining the above & opening upon a verandah are six other bed rooms providing accommodation for 8 more, besides lavatory, bath rooms, laundry, washhouse & workshed., there is a stable, buggy shed, cow shed, workshops, store rooms, bulb house & propogating frames. About 15 acres have been cleared & ten are already planted with flowers and vegetables. The farm owns its own horse & waggon & new boats now ply upon the Lake.

The above is but a mere outline of facts. We have neither time nor space to do credit to the subject: We are overwhelmed with the greatness of the scheme, the beauty of our possession, the progress made & the success achieved, the whole thing is more like a dream indeed. We fear sometimes that it is one & that we shall someday awake.

Cricket. Messrs A. & J. Collins of Longwarry came with their club to play against Kew on the 15th Ult. The scores were Longwarry 102 (A. Collins 18) v Kew 242 (J. Collins 4 wkts for 55) They were entertained to a sumptuous luncheon & afternoon tea & also invited to the theatre. They were satisfied that the trip was one of the most pleasant on record & high was the praise of hospitality given by the Kewites. On the 20th Nov. J. Collins made 166 n/o out of 302 for Longwarry against Warragul.

The Adult Deaf C.C feels the loss of Mr. James Anderson their wicket-keeper owing to his departure from Essendon to Oaklands Junction Mr. R.A. Luff has been elected vice captain in Mr. Anderson's place.

On the 30th Oct. A.D.C.C. 77. (L. Downes 23, R. Beattie 20. & V. Harding 10) v Balaclava Methodists 14 & 31. Downes 7 wkts for 7 runs. Beattie 4 for 6, Harding 4 for 10 & J. McLean 4 for 8. Won by 1 innings & 32 runs

On the 6th Nov A.D.C.C 24. (J. McLean 12) & 1 for 37 Downes 14 n/o & Beattie 12 n/o v Brunswick Lodge 7 for 74 (Beattie 3 for 31 L. Downes 1 for 33 & Neilson 1 for 4) Match won by 3 wkts & 45 runs

On the 13th Nov. A.D.C.C 9 wkts for 103. Beattie 32 n/o, J McLean 23, Downes 13. & J.E. Muir 13) v Campbellfield 55. (Downes 5 wkts & Beattie 4 wkts) Won by 48 runs. The team spent a most enjoyable time & thoroughly enjoyed the drive there & back. The return match will be held there on the 5th February when tea will be provided for.

On the 20th Nov. A.D.C.C 9 wkts for 124 (Downes 33, J McLean 12 & 5 substitutes 52) v Sunshine 7 for 137 (Downes 2 for 34 Beattie 2 for 42) Afternoon tea provided by Ladies at Sunshine. Lost by 3 wkts & 13 runs.

On the 4th inst. A.D.C.C. 21 v North Melb.ne Club eleven 42. (Downes 5 for 21 Beattie 2 for 16)

Narre Warren will be visited by the Club on the 31st Jan.y (A.N.A. Holiday) when the members will have a most enjoyable time there.

SYLLABUS FOR DECEMBER

4th A.D.C.C. v N.M.XI C.C. on.
7th 8 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. Mr. Abraham's Paper to Men.
11th 3 p.m. Painting Class.
" A.D.C.C. v Camb.ge Cong. C.C. on.
14th 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
18th A.D.C.C. v Prahran XI C.C. on.
21st 7.30 p.m. XMAS RALLY.
25th
26th
27th
28th } XMAS HOLIDAYS.
1910 Jan. 2nd 11 a.m. OUR LORD'S SUPPER.

Dec. 4th 8 p.m. Annual Meeting of Vic. Branch, A.D.D.A.

4th Annual Meeting
of the
Victorian Branch, Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of this branch of the Association was held in the hall of the Deaf and Dumb Building, Flinders Street on the evening of the 4th December. There was a fair attendance of members Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham, the President presided.

We extract the following points from the Annual report:- Gratification was expressed that the past 12 months' work had been productive of some good, especially in the matter of education for deaf and dumb children, which had been advanced several steps further forward. It had been contended by the Association that the education of the deaf should be placed on the same footing as that of the normal and as a new education bill was to be formulated and brought before Parliament it was an opportune time to take some decisive action and drive the wedge further into the opening made previously and ensure suitable clauses for the education of the deaf being inserted in the bill. With this object a very strong deputation consisting of Messrs Keast, Hannah, Solly, Beazley, M. L. A's, Hons. Edgar and Evans, M. L. C's, Mr. Samuel Mauger, M. H. R. Mr. Stephen Barker of the Trades Hall, the Revs. Dr Bevan and Strong, Mr. G. G. Mercy, Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham, (President) and Mr. M. L. Miller (Hon Sec.) and Messrs J. E. Muir, M. G. B. Mortimer, S. Moss and A. Wilson (members) of the Victorian Branch of the Association was got together and waited upon the Minister of Education on the 21st July last. The Hon. Edgar, M. L. C. introduced the deputation and it was received by Mr. F. Tate the Director of Education in the absence through illness of Mr. Billson the Minister. Mr. Abraham in opening the case stated that the present system of education for the deaf was both unjust and unsatisfactory, that the Association requested that the Government should establish a central residential School for the education of deaf mute children, That the stigma of Charity should be entirely removed, That in centres where an attendance of twelve or more could be obtained classes should be held, That provision should also be made for adult deaf people whose education had been neglected, that the Association considered the deaf mute in Australia should be properly educated by the State as a birth right just as was the case in England, the Continent, America and New Zealand, and that the uneducated deaf mute was a burden to his parents, to himself and to the State but that the educated deaf mute was a most valuable citizen. The other speakers in addressing Mr. Tate heartily supported the remarks made by Mr. Abraham. Mr. Tate in his reply said:- The Ministers and the officers of the department

recognised the States' duty in the matter and that deaf mute children were a proper subject for State education, That a provision was made in the proposed new Bill for compulsory education to prevent such children growing up untutored between the ages of 7 and 16 years, and that the provisions of the New Zealand Law had been embodied in the new education bill. He promised to place the views of the deputation before the Minister. The new bill is now before Parliament awaiting its' third reading. There is every reason to be satisfied with the progress made so far and it is confidently felt that in the not very far distant future some better and satisfactory provision for the education of not only deaf mute children but the blind also, will be an accomplished fact and placed on the State laws.

Marine Act and Deaf Mutes. At the request of a Government Officer our president had an interview with him regarding the Marine Act. The clause in the Act objected to by deaf mutes was brought under his notice and he courteously promised to give the matter consideration and bring it before the Cabinet. He stated that when any new clause is to be introduced in the Marine Act, the clause objected to would be removed.

Queensland Branch. Satisfaction was expressed that our sister branch in Queensland is still working hard towards obtaining a similar condition of reform in the education of the Queensland deaf mute children and the branch is wished every success in its' efforts.

Farm & Home at Blackburn. Satisfaction was also expressed at the progress made in the laying out of the Farm and Home for Aged and Infirm deaf mutes at Blackburn. It is hoped that in time to come the farm will be made in a great measure self supporting.

Membership. The membership roll shows a total of 36 members. Regret was expressed that the deaf members of the community are not sufficiently wide awake as to appreciate the efforts that are being made by the Association for the general improvement of conditions and advancement where the deaf are concerned and to see that the Association and its objects are such as call for the hearty support, not only by moral support but by membership, of all sensible minded deaf mutes. It is confidently felt that in time to come, the work done will be more widely known and come in for a measure of appreciation.

Regret was expressed at the loss by death during the year of an esteemed member in the person of Miss Julia McCombe, and also of the death of a good friend of the deaf in the person of the late Sir Thomas Dent who placed £2.000 upon the estimates for the Farm and Home.

Committee. The Board met and earnestly discussed all matters brought before it for consideration, but much remains to be done yet and the board would like to particularly point out that in order to carry on its' work to the best advantage the Association needs a good

treasury. It is therefore hoped that the whole of the deaf of Victoria will come to the support of the Association, that by such support and enthusiastic support it will be enabled to carry on and bring to a successful issue the work it has pledged itself to do and that the deaf will consider it their duty to see that in its efforts it is not crippled for want of funds.

Congresses. It is considered that much good can be accomplished by the holding of congresses where the deaf of Australasia can meet together in common cause to discuss all matters pertaining to their welfare. It is hoped a congress will be arranged for at no distant date.

Conclusion. For whatever measure of success the past twelve months have brought forth we offer hearty thanks to Our Benefactor and Guide Almighty God and pray that in all future efforts put forth in the cause of the deaf by the Association, it will have His Blessing, Guidance and Prospering.

Balance-Sheet.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance from Last Year		4	2
" Membership Subscriptions.	2	5	0
" Grants from various Societies towards printing Circulars on Education of Deaf mute Children.	3	5	0
	£5	14	2

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
By Printing and Stationery.	2	12	2
" Sundry expenses.		2	6
" Half Membership Subscriptions remitted to the General Board.	1	2	6
" Balance on Hand	1	17	0
	£5	14	2

Audited and found correct.
Frank E. Spreun,
Hon. Auditor.
9/11/09.

W. A. Paterson,
Hon. Treasurer.

Both the report and Balance-sheet were unanimously adopted.

Address. The Chairman (Mr Abraham) spoke on united effort. In looking back he could not help but feel thankful at the large measure of success the Association had met with, still, he felt there was much very important and serious work to be done. There was a song he said, at the present time very popular, a line or two of which ran "There's a little green patch at the top of the hill, Climb boys climb" and that was exactly what he advised them to do. "climb, climb, climb." The top in all things pertaining for good for the deaf could and would be reached if they did not get discouraged but kept on climbing. He acknowledged that there were many serious obstacles in the way, but he for one would go on and up as before, if he could not get round them or over them, well, he would cut through them. He was proud of being their leader, proud of his officers and of the rank and file, with their loyal support nothing was impossible.

Officers for 1909-10.

The following Officers were elected for the next twelve months.

President,	Mr E. J. D. Abraham.
Vice-President,	" H. L. Miller.
Hon Treasurer,	" W. A. Paterson.
Hon Secretary,	" R. H. Luff.
Committeemen,	" J. E. Muir.
	" W. D. Muir.
	" A. Williamson.
	" J. A. Nelson.
	" M. C. B. Mortimer.
	" F. E. Spencer.

Thanks.

Votes of Thanks to the retiring Officers, the Hon. Auditor, the Scrutineers and the Chairman brought a very pleasant and profitable meeting to a close.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. JANUARY 1910 Nº 5.

Dear Readers

Our New Year's Wish is that you may be blessed with good health, sufficient for your needs – bodily, mentally & spiritually – & a little over, & contentment therewith

There are so very many duties to take up our time now-a-days that we are to be excused if we now & again forget some of the minor ones, nevertheless it is well that we should be reminded of these, & so we take this opportunity to remind you that for five long years we have written to you regularly every month, & although most of you have written to us occasionally to tell us how welcome "Our Letter" always is & how much you enjoy the reading of it, still, comparatively few of you have kept up a regular correspondence with us. A few lines from you monthly would be heartily welcomed here. Just sit down & make a start straight away, even if it is only a post card. But if you have time; & people who really want to do a thing can always find time, tell us all about your daily life, your plans, your aims, your desires & then tell us month by month how far you have succeeded. If you have any difficulties or troubles; if you need advice write to us & we will do all in our power to aid you Tell us of your successes that we & the rest of the deaf may rejoice with you. Ours is a big family – We think

we number something like 300 strong - & an harmonious one. We rejoice together & we sorrow together. We feel that disgrace to one brings disgrace to all, that honour to one brings honour to all. Some of us feel this more than others, but we are all possessed of this union of sympathy & love one for the other in an unusually high degree & it is growing rapidly. God grant that it will so grow that the deaf, like the early Christians, will be jealous for their good name & will desire nothing above being known as a community who love one another.

Tell us what, in your opinion, would make "Our Letter" more welcomed by the deaf. Many heads are better than one & you may be possessed of some good ideas. If you have a suggestion send it along.

A little attention from our hearing friends would also be appreciated by us. We invite suggestions of all kinds, anything that may tend to the improvement of "Our Letter" & the general advancement of the deaf will get a genuine welcome at Our Centre. Yours affectionately. The Editor.

"Life is more than meat" Our Chaplain preached from these words on the evening of the last Sunday in the Old Year. He told us to prepare for the Coming Year's journey of life & whilst doing so, not to forget that life is not merely eating, working & participating in external pleasures. Regular employment, a comfortable home, an abundance of the good things of this temporal side of life were things perhaps, to be desired yet, after all, they were the least important of life, because they are temporal not external. The seeking of the Kingdom of God within is the all important aim that should be ever before us. There & there alone is the life that is eternal.

Perfection can only come by the sacrifice of the external for the internal; the seen for the unseen; the immediate attractions of "life" in favour of those to come. To get near to God individual sacrifice; the "giving up" of what appears to be the sum total of

happiness here, for that which the earth life & simple teaching of Jesus proved to be the only real happiness & the life which is external.

The Christmas Rally. This, the eighteenth rally was indeed an event that went far to prove "the peace & goodwill" of the deaf toward each other. It was a Christmas rally in every sense of the word only it was held on the 21st instead of the 25th. Xmas is a time when the scattered members of the family gather together & the spirit of love reigns supreme; a time when the giving & the receiving of gifts is the chief ceremony. In both these senses ours was an ideal Christmas assembly. It was good to see the enthusiasm of both the young & old when the "labourers" in our section of God's Vineyard received the tokens of appreciation they had so well earned. There was a goodly muster, over 100 of the deaf, including nearly all the children of Melbourne & suburbs who are on their holidays from school. Mr T. Nelson presided & our temporal father (Mr Abrahams) opened with prayer. After the roll call by the Hon Sec, ten new members were enrolled. Prizes were then distributed to the winners of the Winter Games' Competition. It had got rumoured round the room that Mr L. Downes, our "paper manipulator," was to be presented with a handsome doll & so we all got ready for a good burst of merriment at his expense, but when he approached the platform leading a little girl by the hand & told us that he would rather "the little children" receive the pleasure that might derived from his prize, he received a thunderous burst of applause instead. Prize winner:— Miss M. Clarke for Shooting, quoits, & bagetelle – a jam dish of fine design, Miss K. Bourke, for dart throwing – hand bag, Mr L. Downes for quoits & darts – moveable doll, Mr J McLean for bagetelle play – penknife, Mr G. Oakley for shooting, – purse. Mr A. Morgan for euchre – wallet.

Miss K. Christensen then ascended the platform & in a perfectly worded little speech gave expression to the gratitude of herself & her fellow members of the deaf ladies painting class toward

Mrs J. Muir their devoted & painstaking teacher. She showed that Mrs Muir had added a new interest to their lives & had introduced them into a sphere that without her would have been quite impossible. She then in the name of the pupils presented Mrs Muir with a handsome jewel Casket. Mr Muir thanked them in her usual modest & pleasant way. In the Corner of the hall, a number of paintings of various kinds the work of the class was on exhibit & attracted a good deal of attention & appreciation during the evening.

A magnificent rose bowl & a pair of silver vases at this stage made their appearance upon the platform table & all eyes were at once turned to Mr J. Muir & the dear old hall almost immediately rang with applause. Upon the bowl, a work of art in itself, done by the skilful hand of Mr M. Miller, the following inscription appears "Presented to Mr John E. Muir by the Congregation of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society in recognition of many years valuable services as hon sec to the Sub Committee, Melbourne Dec 21st 1909. The presentation was made by Mr Abraham who said that he could not wish for a better Lieutenant than Mr Muir. He was hard-working, painstaking & even willing to add to the heavy duties that already fell to him. His love, his life was theirs. His single ambition & that of his wife, was to make the deaf as happy as possible. The deaf could not love them too much. During the eight years that he (Mr Abraham) had been working amongst them he had had the loyal & untiring support of Mr Muir, never during the whole of that time had there been anything but the deepest & sincerest of friendships between them. They had confidence in each other, with the result that with his aid & that of one other he had been able to overcome obstacles that had he approached them alone would have been quite impossible. If the younger deaf would but take J. Muir as their example the next generation of the deaf Community of this State would

get as near to perfection as was possible. In responding Mr Muir said that the honour had been thrust upon him against his expressed wish, but that only made him appreciate their affection & esteem the more his feelings of gratitude toward them were so overwhelming, that if he dared he would attempt at showing them in the only way possible to him just then, by kissing the whole of them [& we verily believe had he made the attempt we would everyone of us, have hugged him] Mrs Muir added words of thanks to those of her husband She said she knew more about her husband than Mr Abraham & could say with truth that he deserved every thing said of him by their Chaplain.

At this point Mrs Williamson came forward carrying a silver hairbrush & comb the gift of the Deaf Women's Guild to Miss A. Foster a memento of Her eight years service as hon Treasurer. Miss Foster was not present owing to the prolonged illness of her mother, through which she felt compelled to resign the position of treasurer. The Guild desired that the Congregation should know of their appreciation of the work of Miss Foster.

Mr O. Neilson who acted as umpire to the Deaf Cricket Club in the Competition matches during the 1908-9 season also had his valuable services recognised. In the name of the Club a case of carvers was presented to him by Mr J. Muir.

The ordinary members came in for a share of "the gifts" also. Tickets were distributed, nine of which were "lucky numbers," the fortunate holders being. Miss Morgan (Box of Scent) Mr W. Christensen (Soap) Miss E. Smith. (Autograph Album) Mr W. Woodley (birthday book) Mr Mitchell (hand mirror) Mr T. Peters (Jap top doll) Mr F. E. Frewin (box of lollies) Miss Clarke (Studs) Mrs Boorts (a tray) The distribution by the giver (Mr J. Muir) was carried through amid much merriment.

The Guessing competition introduced by Mr W. P. Muir (nails in a

bottle was won by Master T. Turnley whose number was 460. the actual number being 463 During the evening Mr C. Graham gave lightning sketches and the farce "Superiority" well rendered by Mrs J. Muir, Miss Dow, Messrs T. Peters, McLean, Mortimer, W. Paterson & J Muir brought the programme to a close. Supper was then partaken of in the lower hall. This very welcome finis was under the supervision of Mrs Boorte & the Misses Potter, Meehan & Connell, Messrs Nelson, J Muir & Mortimer had charge of the arrangements

Farm & Home There was much excitement at the temporary home (Box Hill) on Tuesday Dec 6th. At day break the whole of the inmates were astir, there was great bustle & noise, the men & women packing ready for the loading of the vans which were to take them & their possessions to the new home at Blackburn. By noon the unpacking had begun & by nightfall our brethren who are to be the settlers at Lake Park were contentedly resting under the shelter of the great pile of handsome buildings publicly opened on the 27th of Nov last. For some weeks past the able men have been engaged in trenching for the irrigation pipes. This is very hard work especially in the present trying weather, but it is done cheerfully for we recognise that we are making a beautiful & profitable home not only for ourselves but for others of our classes. The Irrigation Scheme is under the honorary supervision of Mr G. Mercy & that means it will be done thoroughly. He has already saved our society a considerable sum of money by his method of purchase management, & through his personal influence the very best of expert advice was obtained.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following donations for the Women's Wing. Hon T.S. Grimwade £100, Mr J.M. Griffiths £25, (also promise of £5 per annum toward maintenance) Mr E.R. Peacock £5. Dr. Scott £1.1.0 Mrs Harvie £1.1.0 Mrs Luke £1.1.0 Mr Kefford 10/6.

A silver key was presented to the Hon W. A. Watt at the opening ceremony by the Architect Mr Carleton.

Question Box Night. There was a fair attendance on the 14th. ult. when the "Questions", seventeen in number were answered by Mr. Luff, who was heartily thanked for his services. This is an annual event of the mens Guild.

The Womens' Guild. At a meeting of the Committee of the Guild held on the 3rd of Dec, the resignation of Miss A. Foster, the hon Treasurer was accepted with regret. The Committee recognised that her first duty was to her sick mother. Mrs J. Everitt was appointed in her place. It was decided to make a presentation to Miss A. Foster, also to hold a pic-nic, date & place to be fixed later

On the 7th ult the members of the Guild brought their session to a close. After games the Committee provided a supper for the members. At the close of Mr. Abrahams lecture in the mens room the men trooped in & helped to remove the good things from the table.

The Nile This was the subject of a lecture, delivered to the members of the mens Guild on the 7th of Dec by Mr Abraham. It was interesting & much appreciated

Painting Class Mrs Muirs class closed on the 11th Dec. Great credit is due to her for the high standard her pupils have achieved during the year past. Her painstaking devotion has put many of our young members in possession of one of one of the pleasantest of hobbies.

Cricket. On the 18th Dec Mr T. Collins increased his score from 166 n/o to 192 for Longwarry against Warragul. This is the highest score he has ever made, though he got 125 against the same team last year. He is going very well for the West Gippsland Association average, his scores so far being 55. 24. 11. 49 & 192, a total of 331 runs. Mr A Collins has been consistent with the bat &
Mr Kenworthy of Bairnsdale has not been so successful with the ball lately but seems to be getting on better with the bat.

On the 11th Dec. A.D.C.C. v Camberwell Coug CC. A.D.C.C. 61 (L Downes 7 for J. Hunter 14) Camberwell 1st Inn 25 (Beattie 4 for 11 J McLean 3 for 14. 2nd Inn 10 (Luff 4 for 3 Harding 4 for) Won by an innings & 26 runs

On the 18th Dec. A.D.C.C. v South Mell a.b.a. A.D.C.C. 72 (Harding 35 & Dunge 13). S.M.a.b.a. 67 (L Downes 4 for 34 Beattie 1 for 28 McLean 1 for 1. Won by 5 runs

The Gesture This interesting & unique publication continues in public favour. At a meeting of the board held on the 13th Nov. it was decided to keep it going but because of the heavy demands upon the time of its Chief

promoters, it was resolved that henceforth it is to appear as a quarterly. The price will be 1/6 per annum. Subscribers who have paid up 2/- will however receive full value. The January number, we are told will outshine all previous issues & we are asked to hold our breath until it comes.

Personal Pars. Our members will be glad to learn that the Hon J.S. Grimwade (our President) after many week of illness has recovered sufficiently to be able to leave home for a change. He has gone to Macedon where he has taken a house for the summer months.

The late Mrs J. Hedley of Bendigo left the bequest of £100 to the D of P. Society lately.

Mr O'Keefe (Crosley) has as much work as he can manage with his onions & cows, he made time however to take part in the district bicycle race & got 3rd place. He intends coming to Melbourne shortly.

Mrs Bass of Tasmania with 2 of her children has spent 5 months pleasant holiday at Mr Pepper's Farm. During her stay she acted as housekeeper for him. Last summer Bush fires raged around the farm & all the fencing was burnt. Mr Pepper has had to put up new fences. He has a nice big house, well built & very comfortable in every way. The place where he lives is very beautiful Timber is heavy on the east side of King Island, the trees are straight & high, the soil is very rich & loamy. A lot of Victorians made a rush for selections which have all been taken up. It is paid to be an excellent place for stock & quite a flourishing place. When gales occur on the Coast gigantic trees are frequently blown down with great force

Mr & Mrs Gretton (Caretakers of our buildings) thank the Sub-Committee, Guilds, Cricket-Club etc for Xmas gift of £2.10.0. The Congregation thank them for gift of a well bound prayer book for the Church.

Miss M. Clarke is very much thanked for making paper hat for some of the stall holders at the Carnival.

Mr Mortimer is spending his Xmas holidays with his people. he will remain about 2 weeks at Traralgon.

Mr & Mrs Jas Ashley (nee Miss Archer of Geelong left Geelong for New Zealand on the 15th ult & intend settling at Invercargill where Mr Ashley's people live. They called to see their friends here & said Good Bye a few days before before their departure.

The "Herald" 20/1/1910.

REV. J. J. HALLEY.

GREAT PASTOR PASSES

DR. BEVAN'S APPRECIATION.

"It came as a very great shock to me," said Dr. L. Bevan to-day, in discussing with a "Herald" representative the death of the Rev. J. J. Halley, which occurred with such tragic suddenness yesterday—as reported in our last edition.

"My own opinion of the cause of Mr Halley's death," Dr. Bevan went on to say, "is that he hastened a little to catch the tram car, and the excessive heat brought on heat apoplexy, or something of that kind. I know that he had suffered a good deal from the heat lately.

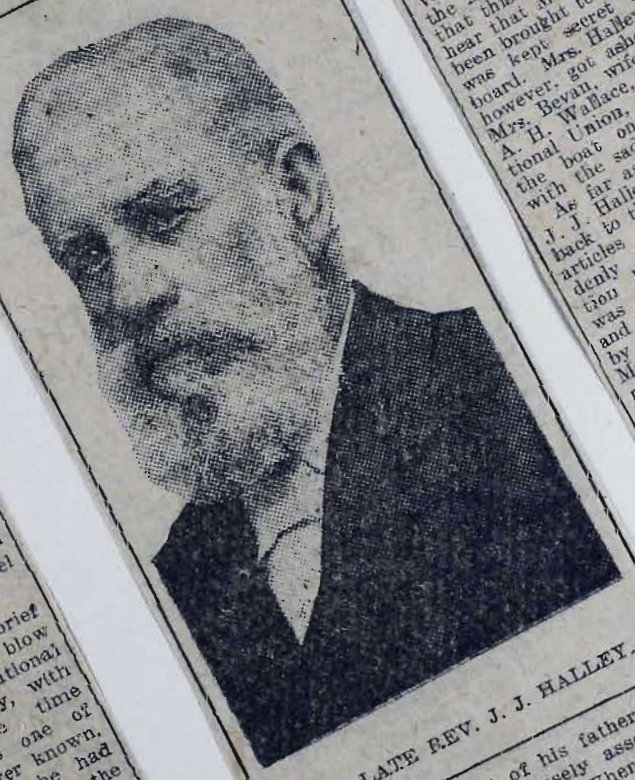
"The late Mr Halley came from a very old Puritan stock, and he came out to Australia partly because of his delicate health as a young man and partly through the possession of an adventurous spirit. His first ministry was as a missionary along the Murray River, and his last address before the Congregational Union was a most picturesque description of his experiences in that work. It was one of the best 'descriptive sketches' I ever heard of Australian country life. What a pity there was no press reporter there to save it from oblivion."

The "Age" 20/1/1910.

CLERGYMAN'S SUDDEN DEATH.

THE REV. J. J. HALLEY.

As was announced in "The Age" yesterday a delegation of Victorian and South Australian Congregational ministers, laymen and lady representatives was to have left Melbourne the same afternoon for Tasmania to attend the Australasian Congregational Union meetings in Hobart; and the Rev. J. J. Halley, who was president of the Victorian Congregational Union last year, was to be amongst them. With Mrs. Halley and his daughter, Dr. Gertrude Halley, the reverend gentleman had boarded the steamer Loongana about 3 o'clock, taking their luggage, and as later there seemed to be some time to spare he said he would step ashore again and make a purchase. Promising to be back in good time, he left. Close upon 4 o'clock, when the vessel was to leave, his continued absence caused wonder, and at length some gentlemen went to look for him, but without success. Mrs. Halley then feared he had met with an accident, and grew very anxious. Mr. W. Kerr, without informing her, rang up the Melbourne Hospital on the off-chance that this might be so, and was shocked to hear that Mr. Halley's dead body had just been brought to the institution. The news was kept secret from the delegates on board. Mrs. Halley and her daughter were, however, got ashore on some excuse with Mrs. Bevan, wife of Dr. Bevan. The Rev. A. H. Wallace, secretary to the Congregational Union, and Mrs. Wallace also left with the sad intelligence.



THE LATE REV. J. J. HALLEY.

As far as can be ascertained, the Rev. J. J. Halley had boarded a tramcar to get back to the wharf after having bought the articles he wanted, and was taken suddenly ill on the vehicle. His condition became so alarming that the car stopped at the corner of Flinders William streets, where he was carried by the gripman and some passengers into Mr. Rasmussen's chemist's shop. Two minutes after arrival there he expired. His body was then sent to the hospital in an ambulance, and Dr. Spiers having declared life extinct, it was put in the mortuary. Later Dr. Summons, who had attended Mr. Halley some time ago, certified that he had died of a thickening of the arteries, which had stopped the blood circulation. The matter was, however, reported to the Coroner.

"I was a student of his father, and for many years was closely associated with the late Mr Halley. When I came out to Australia we became very intimate personal friends. Mr Halley was a man of vigorous physical constitution, he was full of vivacity and energy. With a great deal of natural power, but his long association with official work and occupation in it had rather shut him out from the kind of work which would have given him opportunities for the employment of his vigorous mental powers. He was made chairman of the Congregational Union last year, and his addresses made a deep impression, and not a little surprise by their vigor and compass.

"Mr Halley was a man of wide education and varied interests, and this gave him great influence in his ministry. He was a very gifted man, indeed, and took the greatest interest in everything relating to Australia. He was most sympathetic towards mission undertakings. He was a kind friend, and had great sagacity. He was exceedingly well versed in all questions of Ecclesiastical polity, and was a most pronounced Congregationalist, but, had, at the same time, a spirit so Catholic as never to call up controversial and antagonistic sentiments. He was, therefore, very much esteemed, not only by Congregationalists, but also by those of other denominations with whom, on the Council of Churches and other forms of church enterprise, he was nearly associated."

"The death of Mr Halley," concluded Dr. Bevan, "is a very serious loss, not only to Congregationalism, but to all the social and Christian life of the community, though his ill-health during the last few years had somewhat lessened the part he took in general work.

The "Age" 22/1/1910.

The remains of the late Rev. J. J. Halley, one of the oldest and best known clergymen of the Congregational Church, were interred in the Boroondara Cemetery, Kew, yesterday in the presence of a large and very representative gathering of churchmen, both clergy and laity, of all the Protestant denominations. The Congregational Church was represented by Revs. Dr. Bevan, A. Wallace, J. Barton and W. Cresswell; the Church of England by Rev. Jas. Henry; the Presbyterian Church by Rev. Dr. Watkins; and the Lutheran Church by Pastor Herlitz. Representatives were also present from the Victorian Alliance, British and Foreign Bible Society, Y.W.C.A., Evangelical Society, and the Melbourne City Mission. The principal officials of the Order of Rechabites, of which body the deceased was Past District Grand Ruler, also attended in force. The funeral left "Greenleys," Mont Albert-road, Mont Albert, deceased's late residence, at 10 a.m., and proceeded to the Camberwell Congregational Church, where a short service was read by Revs. A. Wallace and Samuel Bryant. Rev. Dr. Bevan delivered an address, eulogising the work which the deceased had performed for nearly 50 years as an ordained minister. Revs. Alfred Jones and T. Laver conducted the service at the grave, where the Rechabite service was also read by Rev. R. M'Kay, P.D.C.R. The pall bearers were Mr. Knox, M.P.; Rev. T. Laver, and Messrs. Oliver Vial, Robt. Dickens, F. G. Wood, W. G. Elson, B. J. Parkinson and Jas. Bell. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. W. G. Apps.

The "Herald" 21/1/1910.

LATE REV. J. J HALLEY

THE FUNERAL TO-DAY.

The funeral of the late Rev. J. J. Halley, general secretary of the Congregational Union of Victoria, and one of the oldest Congregational clergymen in Australia, took place to-day. The cortege left "Greenheys," Mont Albert road, Mont Albert, at 10 a.m., and proceeded to the Congregational Church, Camberwell, where a funeral service was held. The lesson was read by Rev. A. Wallace, and Rev. Samuel Bryant offered up a short prayer.

The Rev. Dr. Bevan, in a brief address, said that a crushing blow had fallen upon the Congregational Church. The Rev. Mr Halley, with whom he had been closely associated, was one of the purest men he had ever known, been a power of strength to the Straightforward and capable, he had Congregational Church. Life in his experience was never quite crowned; their late brother had not been permitted to celebrate the jubilee of 50 years as an ordained minister, which he would have completed next month. It was a great thing to have been associated with such a man. The heartfelt sympathy of the church were with the deceased's relatives in their sad and sudden loss.

After the service the funeral proceeded to the Boroondara Cemetery. The pallbearers were:—Mr Wm. Knox, M.H.R., Rev. T. Laver, Messrs Oliver, Vial, Robert Dickens, F. G. Wood, W. G. Ellson, B. J. Parkinson, and Jas. Bell. The service at the grave was conducted by Rev. Alfred Jones and Rev. T. Laver. A Rechabite service, conducted by R. M'Kay, P.D.C.R., was also held. Amongst those who were present were —The Revs. J. Barton, Tompkins, Copeland, Stephenson, C. Y. S. Price (Congregational Church), Rev. A. W. Cresswell (Church of England), Rev. Jas. Henry (Presbyterian), Mr R. A. Crouch, M.H.R., Mr G. W. Freeman (treasurer Congregational Union), Rev. Dr. Watkins (Methodist), Messrs J. W. Hunt, J. G. Barrett and J. J. Pawsey (representing Victorian Alliance), Mr Wood-Green (British and Foreign Bible Society), Miss Booth (Y.W.C.A.), Rev. Stegghall (Evangelical Society), Mr Carter (Melbourne City Mission), Pastor Herlitz (Lutheran Church), Mr H. Rotherham, Mr M'Rae. Among the Rechabites present were:—District Secretary, J. Vale, P.D.C.R., Messrs H. J. Gunner and Stewart, P.C.D.R.

The late Rev. J.J. Halley was for many years an esteemed member of Committee of The Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. FEBRUARY 1910. No. 6.

The Quiet Month.

January is always a quiet month at Our Centre. It however is not altogether uninteresting. A very welcome feature being the number of bright young faces at the Sunday Services and the Saturday night meetings. The boys and girls on holiday from School and those who have just concluded their term and come out into the world to earn their own livelihood, add quite a charm and youthfulness to the whole surroundings.

The late Rev. J. J. Halley.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of the Rev. J. J. Halley, one of our oldest friends. He was taken ill on a tram car on the 19th Ult. whilst on his way to the steamer "Loongana" to attend the conference of the Congregational Union at Hobart, and died on the way to the Melbourne Hospital. Mr. Halley was at the Farm Committee meeting the previous Friday, and on the day of his death our Supt. who was on his way to San Remo parted with Mr. Mercy another member of our Committee who was to accompany Mr. Halley, just a short time before the sad event. Mr. Halley will be missed by many of the Philanthropic Organisations of Melbourne and mourned by a very large circle

of friends and admirers. Mr. Halley was within a month of celebrating his 50th year as an ordained Minister and but a few months back he celebrated his 75th birthday. During the past few years Mr. Halley suffered from deafness and more than once spoke of resigning his seat on the Committee because of it, but our leaders pointed out that it was really a strong reason why he should remain with us, which he did, taking an active part to the end. It seems that it is only when we lose our friends that we come to realise what they were to us. We earnestly pray our Heavenly Father to bless Mrs. Halley with strength to bear her sorrow. The funeral took place on Friday morning when Mr. Halley's remains were buried in the Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery. The Rev. H. W. H. Adeney and Mr. F. J. Rose represented our Society. Mr. J. E. Muir, Hon Sec. of the Sub-Committee sent a letter to Mrs. Halley, conveying to her the deep regret and sincere sympathy of the adult deaf at the sad bereavement that has come upon her and her family.

Farm & Home.

Quite a number of deaf and hearing friends visited the Farm last month. Those who saw the land in its bush state a year ago are astonished at the progress made and one and all predict a wonderful future. The Carnations and gladiolas growing there are looking lovely.

Beautiful Queensland Ferns.

A large case of beautiful ferns has arrived at the Farm & Home, Blackburn from Mr. J. Jackson. It is a most welcome gift and we tender our good friend our grateful thanks for his thoughtful kindness. We shall have more to say on this subject next month. Our Superintendent who had a very trying time for many months past in connection with the establishing of the Farm & Home is at present away on the sea coast with his daughter Eloie. We heard from him lately and he said he was feeling very tired. He had sprained his ankle a few days previously and was beginning to feel the effects of it. He and Eloie witnessed

some sharks being caught and landed at Frankston, and one of the gentlemen gave Elsie some of the sharks' teeth for a brooch. Mr. Abraham expected to be at Cowes on Saturday 22nd Jan. He says "It is very nice to some people to be away but I'd rather be in my own little "wooden" hut at Blackburn". This is characteristic of him, he is ever thinking of building up a happy and prosperous castle for the deaf of Victoria and he won't be happy until all his wishes are realised.

Garden Party.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. D. Abraham will give a Garden Party at Blackburn to the deaf on Saturday March 12th to celebrate the opening of the Farm and Home and the 8th anniversary of their coming to Australia. Eight years ago a Central Institute for the Adult deaf and a Home for the Aged & Infirm were castles in the air, to-day they are very substantial castles on the earth.

Committee Meetings.

Sub-Committee. A meeting of the Sub-Committee was held on the 18th ult. As all the guilds and classes are in recess there was no important business to transact. The "Relly" and other small accounts were passed for payment. A suggestion made by Mr. Luff to the effect that the Mens' and Womens' Guilds and other societies should be allowed the honor of providing the programme for a relly each was deferred for consideration to the next meeting.

General Committee. The Chief business of the General Committee on the 17th ult. was the reading of the quarterly balance-sheet and the confirmation of the work done and the expenditure incurred by the Farm Committee.

Farm Committee. This Committee met on the 14th ult. and much important business was done, the convener (Mr. Abraham) submitted the balance sheet of the Carnival which showed a clear profit of £172 odd, with further small sums to come in. It was recommended that £100 of this go to the Womens' Wing Fund and the balance to the General Fund. The balance-

sheet was adopted coupled with thanks to Mrs. Abraham for his successful effort. A vote of thanks was also tendered to Mrs. Abraham for her gift of a Mangle to the Farm and Home. Mr. G. G. Mercy reported that the irrigation scheme was almost completed; trenches have been dug and pipes laid, tank and shed for Engine erected and Engine and pump on the estate, the only work remaining to be done being the connecting up.

The "Gesture."

The Board of this Magazine met on the 17th ult. The Treasurer's balance-sheet showed the "Gesture" to be in a very healthy financial condition. The Board's recommendations were that the sum of £20 be held in reserve, a £20 paid for services rendered in connection with the issuing of the paper and £20 divided between the Shareholders. The January "Gesture" contains amongst other interesting articles four good portraits of Miss Hickey signing the first line of the hymn "Glory to thee my God this night." An illustrated account of the opening of the Home at Blackburn and the Queensland Cricket Club. The "Gesture" is to be issued quarterly in future, Price (with an annual supplement) 1/6 per year.

Corrections.

Mr. A. C. Muir referring to a paragraph that appeared in our November "Letter" says that at Bendigo the Miners' shift is one of eight hours, not four and that the district is far too hilly for them to ride to work on bicycles.

The £100 left by Mrs. Headley and reported in the January "Letter" as for our Society was really for the School on St. Kilda Road.

Our "Letter" Fund.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of 2/- from Rev. H. W. H. Adeney, 1/6 from Mr. A. Mason of Sydney, 1/- from Mrs. Grs. Bamman and 2/- from Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Muir for "Our Monthly Letter" Fund. We hope some of our Country Cousins will persuade some of their hearing friends to become subscribers to the "Letter" too.

Personal Pars.

The Officers of the A.D.D.A. have received a kindly and encouraging new years greeting from Miss M.O. Wilson of 2Cr. They appreciate her thoughtfulness and thank her most heartily. Mr. G. Mortimer returned lately after spending his Xmas holiday at his parents new place at South Traralgon (Gippsland) He found the new place much different to old Boisdale and he likes it much better. The grass is so plentiful and good. Miss Mortimer is still with her people and sends kind greetings to her old friends. Mr. Mortimer broke his journey at Trafalgar and visited his old deaf friends, he took great interest in Messrs. J and D. Ashby's nice little farms with their crops of onions, potatoes & maize, &c. The Trafalgar deaf send kind regards to all. Mr. Mortimer enjoyed his holiday immensely & wont be happy till he gets more. Miss Agnes Foster one of our esteemed members lost her dear mother on the 9th Ult. She was in her 80th year. The burial took place privately at the Melbourne General Cemetery. Miss Foster has been a regular attendant at our services for years but latterly she was absent for sometime performing her duty in looking after her sick mother. We tender her our deep sympathy. Mr. C. Nicholls of Tasmania was in Melbourne lately and was going on to Adelaide where he will have the pleasure of meeting his old friends again. Mr. G. Pagualin of W.A. spent a very enjoyable time in Melbourne during Xmas and afterwards went to Adelaide to see his people before returning to the West.

Victor Sani an ex-pupil of the Melbourne school and for some years a pupil of the West Australian School for the deaf arrived in Melbourne by the "Riverina" Friday 24th Dec. on his way to his parents at Children. As requested by the thoughtful Supt. Mr. H.H. Mitchell a representative of our Society met him at Melbourne. At Adelaide the lad had been robbed of £5. A friend however advanced his train fare to children. Some of the above visitors took an opportunity of paying a visit to the Farm & Home at Blackburn, they spoke

well of the place and expressed the opinion that the place will be beautiful when the work is completed. Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Damman of Warburton came down for the wedding ceremony of Mr. O. Damman and Miss Ruby Wood at Hawthorn. They stayed 5 days and had a pleasant time. They say the country is now looking well & green after the rains. Miss L. Keeble of Gippsland is now having a pleasant stay with her friends in Melbourne. Mr. G. Burgess of Stawell came to Melbourne during Xmas. He says he has been very successful at cricket lately, his latest score was 103. His batting average last year was over 40. Messrs Alex and Thos Collins of Neerim spent Xmas in Melbourne. They had some trouble in shifting their 14 ton Engine over the hills from Longwarry to Neerim (18 miles) It took 32 bullocks and 8 horses two days to drag the Engine. The Collins are quite satisfied with the new site, especially for its convenience to the station. They employ 15 men and keep 6 horses to work with. Mr. J.R. Miller is back at his own employment as Blacksmith at the South Broken Hill mines. He is getting on first rate and wishes to be remembered to all the Melbourne deaf friends. Mr. W.H. Duncan says in a letter he is getting on fine, he is at present working for Mr. Pearce Senr. at Beech Forest. He and Andrew Pearce wish to be kindly remembered to all friends. Mr. P.J. Hamilton of Euroa says the weather has been dry and all the grass is scorched by the sun. He helped Mr. Williamson to collect over his shed and £2.7.0 was obtained. Mr. Hamilton wishes all friends a Happy and prosperous New year. Mr. W.B. Pepper of King Island (Tas.) has met with a serious accident last October, he was mounting his horse when it suddenly bolted, he was thrown and was dragged some distance along a road before he could free himself, he was much injured and could not move until a youth in his employ came to his assistance. The Doctor found that Mr. Pepper's left hip joint had been dislocated, some weeks in bed was undergone. We wish Mr. Pepper a speedy recovery to himself again. Miss A. Graham is staying with her relatives at Koolomurt.

She has been out driving and fishing nearly every day and is enjoying her stay there very much. Mr. J. A. Nelson stayed with his Uncle at Mornington during Xmas. One day he enjoyed a long walk to Dromana and back (24 miles). Mrs Frank E. Spencer had a pleasant holiday of 3 weeks at Point-Lonsdale near Queenscliff. She has now returned home. Miss M. Cole has also returned after a pleasant months stay at Newton. Mr. W. E. Wasen had been at Geelong, staying for a month with his sister, he enjoyed his holiday very much. Mr. E. Cook is now an inmate at the Farm & Home Blackburn where he is being well looked after and made comfortable. he is feeling happy in his new home. Mr. J. Peters had a jolly time camping with his mates at Narbethong during Xmas. He spent most of the time shooting and fishing. Mr. J. Dempsey has presented an "Aunt Sally" outfit made by himself, to the members of our Society for recreation purposes. We tender him our hearty thanks. Miss Iris Boorby, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J Boorby of Hawthorn had a narrow escape from a serious accident lately, She was crossing the street when a milk cart suddenly came round the corner and knocked her down. one of the wheels of the cart passed over her leg, fortunately no bones were broken but she was badly bruised, She is now mending splendidly, we hope she will be quite her former bright and merry self again. Mr. J. H. Elvin of Footscray who has left the Deaf and Dumb School last Xmas, had the misfortune to lose his father lately, he has two deaf sisters. We tender him our deep sympathy. Mrs A. Williamson, Hon. Sec. of the Deaf Women's Guild received a letter from Miss Agnes Foster, thanking the members of the Guild for their present and saying that she would value the feelings that prompted the presentation very much. Miss E. Connell returned to Melbourne lately after spending a very pleasant fortnights holiday

at Kilcunda where she met her old acquaintances. Mr. R. J. Hamilton writing again lately says they had some very hot weather for about three weeks, it was as high as 108 in the shade. Then some welcome rain came, Mr. Hamilton was very glad and says the rain will make the grass grow again. Mr. Hamilton thinks Mr. Kennerthy of Bairnsdale will turn out a crack cricketer some day. We hope so, it is time some deaf man got a place in an Australian Eleven. Mr. Hamilton sends kind greetings to friends. Mr. W. A. Paterson had an enjoyable 3 days Christmas bicycle ride from Nyora to San Remo via Inverloch. (123 miles) The roads were rough and dusty but he enjoyed the pedalling nevertheless, he saw a number of the coalfields about the district, he got back to Melbourne from San Remo by boat and rail thoroughly satisfied with his trip.

A.D.D.A.

The Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Branch, Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association (Mr. R. H. Luff) acknowledges with thanks the receipt of 1/ subscriptions from the following:- Misses M. Potter, A. Graham, P. Ashby and M. Clarke and Messrs C. Graham, J. Moran, D. Driscoll, J. McLean, T. A. Nelson, A. Wilson, E. Mortimer, A. McLellan, W. A. Paterson, L. Downes and Mr. and Mrs A. Williamson. Members are kindly requested to forward their subscriptions to the Hon. Sec. Deaf & Dumb Buildings as early as possible and they will be acknowledged in the Monthly Letter.

Cricket.

Jan 15th A.D.C.C. v Surrey Avenue at Yarra Park. Surrey av. 170. A.D.C.C. 3 for 124. L. Downes batted well for 82 n/o. R. Beattie 27. V. Harding 4 wkts for 6. R. Beattie 3 for 25. L. Downes 2 for 23. A.D.C.C won on first innings by 7 wickets and 54 runs.

Jan 22nd A.D.C.C v Hawthorn Presbyterians at Hawthorn. H.P. 80. A.D.C.C. 55. L. Downes again batted well for 21. R. Beattie 4 wkts for 32. L. Downes 3 for 24. H.P. won by 25 runs.

Mr. J. Kennerthy of Bairnsdale bowled well against a Melbourne Club-team that visited the country during Xmas. he took 5 wickets for 59 runs.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. MARCH 1910. Nº 7.

Services. Messrs. J. E. Muir, R. H. Luff, R. R. Paterson & W. P. Muir officiated at the Sunday services during our Chaplain's absence on the 23rd & 30th of January. There were good attendances. The members were very pleased to have their old friend Mr. R. Paterson in their midst once again.

Gesture. The shareholders of the "Gesture" met on the 10th ult. when the report & balance sheet submitted by the board were adopted & the officers of the board re-elected with the addition of Mrs. J. E. Muir as Sub-Editor.

Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee met on the 15th Feb. Mr. R. H. Luff's suggestion that the Mens' & Womens' Guilds & the A.D.D.A. each have the supervision of a quarterly rally was discussed & adopted. Messrs. M. L. Miller, R. H. Luff & J. E. Muir were appointed to draw up a scheme of management which is to be sent to the Societies for their approval. Resolved that the 19th Rally be held the second week of April & photograph of Rev. J. J. Halley be procured & hung in building. A suggestion that a clock should be provided for the upper hall was postponed for consideration at the next meeting.

Illness of Mr. E. Salas. At the close of the Morning Service on the 20th ult. Our Chaplain referred to the illness of Mr. E. Salas, Missionary to the deaf of South Australia, & the suspension of the "Monthly News". He said he felt that Mr. Salas had the sympathy of the

whole congregation & that it was only necessary for him just to remind them that Mr. Salas should be remembered in their daily prayers. He thought the "Monthly View" an interesting record of the doings of the deaf and would certainly be missed & hoped that the period of its rest would be but brief; & that Mr. Salas also would soon be well enough to return to his important work.

Deaf Ladies' Pic-nic. The members of the Deaf Womens' Guild & the Penny Savings Bank had a successful outing on the 5th. Ult. It rained early in the morning & the prospect of a fine day looked poor, but the sky cleared up rapidly & the sun shone brightly. Some thirty journeyed to Sandringham by train & thence to Beaumaris by tram. A most pleasant time was spent in rambles, conversations & games "down by the sea." Refreshments were served under the trees. On the return journey they took a tram which skirted through the open country to Cheltenham where they caught the train for Melbourne.

Mens' Guild. On the 25th January the members of the Deaf Mens' Guild had a pound night. Impromptu speeches were introduced & nearly every member was able to answer accurately a question on some topic put to him. Some of the answers being good enough for lectures. Mr. R. Cuff introduced a novel feature called smelling competition which caused much merriment. 9 different things on the table were covered with cloth & each person had to smell without touching. Mr. L. Downes guessed the greatest number of points (8 out of 9). The meeting was brought to a conclusion with supper, each member having brought a pound of eatables.

On the 8th Feb. about 17 members of Deaf Mens' Guild turned up with expectations of an enjoyable evening for Mr. A. McLellan was down on the programme for a paper on his adventure with "Warrigal" (Buck jumper) in Gippsland. He gave us an outline of Station life, what an old squatter's place looks like, what the boys talk about & how they 'kid' each other & after giving us an accurate word picture of the surroundings he then went on with his adventure, which was 'horse' all the time; he bucked, grunted, squealed, kicked & every attempt of the lecturer to mount

was greeted with the sarcastic comments of his mates. After many a trip round the yard & a mile or so in the open, Archie at last got his horse well hobbled in black mud & there he mounted, but the moment the horse felt the rider on his back he plunged desperately through mud & slush and for some time the rider was anywhere but where he ought to have been, but as Archie says "there was always some of me on the horse" Warrigal had to be taken through a dam before he was finally conquered & would allow Archie to ride him safely back to the yard victoriously. Mr. C. Graham followed, on some of his country experiences, & Mr. L.E. Irwin gave a short story about a bush wedding taking place in a Kitchen. Messrs. M. G. Mortimer & R. H. Luff. also had something to say on buck jumping horses. Both had had falls but fortunately did not get hurt. A vote of thanks to the lecturer brought the evening to a pleasant close.

Rev. Dr. Bevan. Rev. Dr. Bevan, one of our good friends has gone to Adelaide to enter upon the important duties of Principal of the Parkyn College after having spent 23 years service with the Collins St Congregational Church. A letter of congratulations from the deaf of Melbourne was sent to him. While regretting his departure from amongst the deaf. the deaf will always remember with pleasure their association with him & also the interest he evinced in their welfare while they assembled in the Congregational Hall when they received the benefit of his excellent lectures.

Final Word on Miners' Bicycles. Mr. Williams secretary of the Amalgamated Miners' Association, Bendigo writes to inform us that Mr. A. C. Muir's corrections are incorrect. He says "Miners living at a distance from their work do travel on bicycles" also that "it is not a hilly country, but a splendid track for Cycles". Mr. Williamson says that the original writer did not say or imply that the mines worked four hour shifts, but that "she saw the miners going to & from work every four hours.

Cricket. On the 27th Jan.y the Adult Deaf C.C. met for ordinary business. A suggestion that the club made a trip during the Easter Holidays to some place of interest - Portarlington for instance

was favourably discussed. As there are so many members who can "entertain" the advisability of giving a public performance in aid of the club after the match, was discussed. Country cricketers are invited to take part in the match but are advised to wait for final instructions from the Hon. Secretary.

On the 31st Jan" being A.N.A. holiday, about 17 members & supporters of the A.D.C.C. paid a visit to Narre Warren (about 25 miles from Melb.) & played against the Local club who winning the toss elected to bat on a splendid wicket and made 213 runs. S. Hillbrach. 96, E. Woodley 35 & L. Neil 34 batted well. About 7 or 8 bowlers had a turn with the ball. L. Downes came out best taking 5 wickets for 64 runs. The visitors made a bold attempt to beat their score but only succeeded in making 184 runs and lost the game by 29 runs. V. Harding 48, C. Robertson 45, J. McLean 31, & S. Peters 22 showed splendid batting form. Mr. Dunkinson (Mr. Mortimer's uncle) who used to play first class cricket with Richmond C.C in the early seventies prepared the wicket with great care & skill from which big scores by both sides were made. The weather was most delightful all day and every one was quite satisfied with the outing.

After a meat tea an entertainment given by the deaf took place in the Mechanics Hall. Owing to the short notice and the counter attraction of a concert at Berwick there was only a small attendance but those who attended claimed that they had a good nights enjoyment & said if we would give another enkertainment next time, we would have a full house. Messrs L. Downes & R.H. Luff Paper Manipulations) W.A. Paterson ("Whimsical ways of Woman"). C. Graham (Lightning Sketches) & J.E. Muir & W.A. Paterson (Charades) were the performers. A collection was made to defray expenses leaving a small balance for the Club. Miss Dunkinson who is an invalid always takes a great interest in cricket circles & welcomes any team visiting Narre Warren to her house. Four of the players called to see her before the match & put their names in her autograph album at her wish. Unfortunately the other players did not have time to call, but Mr. Mortimer brought

the book & got them all to insert their names.
Jan 29th A.D.C.C v St Phillip Bible Class C.C. at Yarra Park.
St Phillip 1st Innings 24 & 2nd 50. A.D.C.C 33 & 1 wkt for 50.
L. Downes 32 not out & R.K. Beattie 12. J. McLean 4 for 16. V. Harding 5 for 7. R. Beattie 4 for 16. L. Downes 3 for 16 & R. Luff 3 for 9. Won.
Feb 5th A.D.C.C. v Campbellfield at Campbellfield. Campbellfield 73. A.D.C.C. 9 wkts for 66. J.E. Muir 26 & Burge 11. R. Beattie 7 wkts & L. Downes 3 wkts. Drawn.
A.D.C.C. & Richmond A.N.A. on the 12th Feb. A.N.A 6 wkts for 101 declared. A.D.C.C. 24 & 9 wkts for 25. Lost.
R. Beattie 2 for 28. J. McLean 2 for 30. & L. Downes 1 for 19.
On the 19th Feb. A.D.C.C v Limerick at Yarra Park. A.D.C.C. 91. Limerick 47. V. Harding 23. & R. Beattie 13. J. McLean 4 for 13. R. Beattie 4 for 25 & L. Downes 2 for 7 Won.

The Garden Party. Our deaf members are reminded that Mr & Mrs Abraham's annual Garden party is to be held at the Flower Farm, Lake Park. Blackburn on Saturday March 12th. The guests train will leave Flinders St Melbourne at 2.5 p.m. and a full muster of members is expected. We have had a glimpse at the programme & can assure our friends that every possible provision is being made to ensure a most enjoyable day; infact everything points to an exceptionally successful function.

There however is just one fly in the sweet meat, and it is a very tantalising fly to our little brothers & sisters on the St Kilda Road. Our principal, with his usual thoughtful kindness invited the board, teaching staff & pupils of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution, offering also to pay the return fares of all the children to Blackburn. The board graciously accepted the invitation & as many as can will be present, the board is also in favour of the little ones joining in the festivities but, as is customary, left the matter of acceptance or otherwise to the Superintendent, Mr. J. Adcock, who has since written to say that "it is not probable that I shall be able to arrange for them to attend". The disappointment will be felt most keenly by the children many of whom were looking forward to the event, especially those residing in the neighbourhood of Melbourne who have come in contact with our great benefactor

& who like many thousands of the deaf in Europe, America & Australia have learned to love him for his self sacrificing efforts on behalf of our little world.

Personal Pars. Mr & Miss Elsie Abraham spent a few days at Frankston also at Phillip Island in January. They had an enjoyable time at the Isle of Wight Hotel, Cowes but business compelled Mr Abraham to return before his holiday was half through.

Mr. John. M. Griffiths for many years a member of the Committee of our Society, formerly Vice President has resigned owing to uncertain health. It was accepted with regret. Mr. Griffiths has always been a most generous friend, it is therefore with pleasure that we learn that although he is retiring from active service on our behalf, his interest will in no way abate.

Miss A. Foster intends shortly to visit Sydney for a change.

Miss A. Graham is still in Koolomurt & expects to be back to her home on the 6th Inst

Mrs A. Williamson spent a weeks pleasant holiday at Queenscliff lately & brought her daughter home who had been staying there for 6 weeks.

Mrs L. Downes & her child stayed with her friends in Macedon for a few weeks. The change has done her good. She had plenty of exercise walking up the mountains which she enjoyed immensely.

Mr H. Taggart of Maryborough came to Melbourne for his usual holiday. He passed his time pleasantly & returned home lately.

Mr G. Burgess of Stawell came with the Stawell Cricketers to play against the South Melbourne C.C. on the A.N.A. Day. The day before this match he made a good score of 99 runs (not out).

Miss M. Potter has spent 3 weeks holiday in Geelong where she was born.

Mr Gus. Damman won a gold medal for the tug of war at the fete in Warburton lately. He was greatly cheered for the win. His wife took charge of the mens' Stall at the fete.

Mr James Sloan of Inglewood who is at present in Melbne is having a pleasant time for a few weeks. He spent some of his time at Queenscliff & intends to visit several seaside

places. The change will do him good as he caught a chill while harvesting.

Mr. S. Ferguson of Bowmans Forest writing to his friend says he is thinking of going to the Agricultural Show in Sydney next Easter & then visit his brother in N.S.W. The Sydney Show is considered the best & biggest in Australia. Should he not be able to go there. he may run down to Melbourne. He has sent some photographs for competition to Mr. Kett in Little Collins St Melb. He is anxiously waiting for results. He has just recovered from a bad cold.

Mr. James Moran was offered a position at Government works in Brisbane in connection with a contract for making telegraph materials &c but he could not accept the offer as he has plenty of work at present in Melbourne. A hearing friend accepted in his place.

Mr. James Anderson of Bulla paid a short visit to his old fellow-mates lately. He likes his present work on the farm.

Advertisement. Mr. H. Gladman desires us to make known that he is seeking a deaf partner to go prospecting with him The partner must have £3 or £4 for food etc.. Would be prospectors are asked to write to Mr. H. Gladman. Reedy Creek via Broadford.

Our Letter Fund. We beg to acknowledge the receipt of 1/- from Mrs C. Luke, 1/- from Mr. R. Morrow, & 1/- from Mr. H. Taggart for our "monthly Letter" Fund. More subscriptions will be gladly received.

A.D.D.A. The Hon Secretary of the Victorian Branch A.D.D.A. (Mr. R.H. Luff) acknowledges with thanks the receipt of 1/- subscriptions from the following:- Messrs M. L. Miller, C.H. Reynolds, J. Anderson (Yinnar). S. Ferguson (Bowmans Forest) & J. E. Muir & Mrs J. E. Muir.

No more Deaf. Mr. R. J. King of Lilydale claims to have claimed to have discovered that sound can be conveyed to the brain independent of the ear, & intends to give a practical demonstration shortly, by conversing with a deaf person by voice. If he fails in his undertaking he will give a substantial donation to one of

the hospitals. If by sound he means the varying forms of vibration as humming & knocking etc. we hdve no doubt that he will succeed. We all have. But if he means that he can convey an orally spoken sentence to the brain by means of the voice & without the aid of the sense of hearing - well, a fortune awaits him.

Mrs J.J. Halley's Letter. Mrs J.J. Halley writes:- I thank you & those associated with you on the Sub-Committee most sincerely for your kindly sympathy for me in this season of grief & trial. It is very hard to have to part with one who has been by my side for so many years. But perhaps it may not be long before the call comes for me to join him in the Father's Home above. For many years my dear husband has had a great interest in the D. & B. of Victoria & felt anxious for & yet hopeful of the success of your Society & whenever it was possible for him to do so, he always attended the Committee meetings. I trust in the providence of God some one else equally interested may be proud to take his place & that continued progress & success may attend the Society in all its branches of work.

Praying that God may be with you in all your efforts to help on the good work & again thanking you for so kindly thinking of me.

Deaf Mens' Guild. On the 22nd ult. about 20 members of the Deaf Mens' Guild attended their 26th Annual General Meeting. The president (Mr. T. A. Nelson) in the chair. The report, a very interesting one read by Mr. J. McLean (Hon Sec.) was a record of progressive & successful undertakings. The balance sheet read by Mr. J. Campbell (Hon treas.) showed £5.10.6 to the credit of the Guild. The advisability of having the educational class again for the ensuing year was discussed & it was referred to the new committee for final consideration. The election of office-bearers resulted as follows. President Mr. M. G. Mortimer, Vice President Mr. R.H. Luff, Hon Sec. Mr. J. McLean, Hon Treas. Mr. J. Campbell, Committee Messrs J. C. Muir, M. L. Miller, T. E. Irwin & T. A. Nelson. The supper brought the pleasant meeting to a close.

SYLLABUS FOR MARCH

1st 8 p.m. Paper on Our Position in Life by Mr. Abraham.
5th 8 p.m. A.D.C.C. v S.Y. Presby C.C. on.
8th 7.45 p.m. Deaf Women's Guild Meeting.
12th Garden Party at Blackburn Farm.
" 3 p.m. A.D.C.C. v Sunshine C.C. off.
15th 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
19th 3 p.m. A.D.C.C. v Albert Park C.C. on.
25th GOOD FRIDAY.
26th
27th } EASTER HOLIDAYS.
28th
29th 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
31st 8 p.m. Communicant's Class.
April 3rd 11 A.M. Lord's Supper.
Sunday Services 11 A.M. & 7 P.M.
Bible & Reading Class every Thursday 8 p.m.
Recreation, Bank & Library Sat^y 7.30 p.m.
22nd 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.



Photo by Sears, 252 Collins-st.

GROUP OF VISITORS AT GARDEN PARTY GIVEN TO THE DEAF AND DUMB PEOPLE At Lake Park, Blackburn, by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. D. Abraham.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. D. Abraham

request the pleasure of the company of

to their Annual

GARDEN PARTY

to be held at the

Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Lake Park, Blackburn, on the afternoon of

Saturday, 12th. March 1910

R.S.V.P. TO
MISS E. EMPSON,
DEAF MUTE CENTRE,
FLINDERS ST., MELB.

TRAIN LEAVES FLINDERS ST. STATION, MELB. FOR BLACKBURN AT 2.5 P.M.

PROGRAMME.

3 p.m.—Inspection of Gardens and Home.

3.30—Boating, Games, Special Amusements.

5 p.m.—Assemble outside Home for group photo.

5.30—Tea.

6.30—Games.

Dusk—Bioscope Entertainment.

RETURN TRAINS:

6.25, 7.52, 8.59, 9.6, 9.37. p.m.



OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. APRIL 1910. Nº 8.

Work resumed. The swarm of busy bees that take possession of our Hive of Industry for nine months of the year have again resumed their labours. We owe much to the good friends who devote so much of their leisure to ways and means of making our path smooth and enjoyable. It is due from us to encourage them by showing our appreciation of their services by a smile of welcome and a hearty handshake whenever they appear

Services. All through the summer months the attendance at the services have been good and of late exceptionally so. During the Easter Holidays several country cousins were to be seen amongst the congregation, also visitors from Adelaide and Sydney.

The Harvest Thanksgiving services were held on the 20th ult. the Church being nicely decorated, but as no special announcement was made the attendance were not much above the average. Our Chaplain delivered two special sermons appropriate to the occasion.

Bible Classes. New interest has been awakened in the Thursday night meetings by the introduction, at the close of the prayers and Bible reading, of a series of special addresses by Mr Abraham, the first four being "Our Country," Our Family," "Our Work" and "Our Customs." All were enlivened by interesting anecdotes.

"Our Position in Life. This was the title of a lecture delivered to a very large gathering of both sexes by our Superintendent on the 15th of March. All his lectures and addresses are chock full of wholesome

mental food. Whilst of absorbing interest they are never lacking in instruction and one always goes away the richer in thought.

Vegetarianism. Mr. Robert Durham of Ballarat lectured on "Health and Food" to the male members on the 8th ult. He favoured a fruit and vegetable diet and advised his audience to discard meat altogether because it is the cause of diseases through which many people die.

Womens' Guild. The re-opening of our Guild attracted an attendance of nineteen members although we had to tramp through the rain. It was a very pleasant social one of the most enjoyable features was a games competition; the prize winners were Miss A. Morgan, Miss M. Bourke, Miss M. Clarke and Miss R. Dow. Of course we had supper, no social is complete nowadays without that. The Committee of the Guild desire us to make known their wish to see every member take part in the proceedings. It is their earnest desire that each member should come prepared to say or do something to add interest to the meetings.

On the 22nd ult. Miss E. Connell read a paper - her first - on "Girls who are in demand". She held the attention of her audience, a good one throughout. Short speeches on the same subject were given by several other members.

Mens' Guild. The Committee of the Mens' Guild met on the 19th March. They accepted the offer of the Society Sub-committee and will take charge of the Rally to be held on the 14th April. The hon. sec. was instructed to endeavour to enroll a good number of pupils with the object of re-opening the educational class.

44th Year. March 6th 1866. - was an eventual and blessed occasion when the public witnessed the laying of the Memorial Stone of the Permanent Building of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution. St Kilda Rd. Melbourne. The Ceremony was performed by His Excellency Sir C. H. Darling. K.C.B., the then Governor of Victoria.

Forty four years have fleeted since that memorable day, and there are about some two dozen old pupils still amongst us who remember being present at the interesting function.

The founder and designer of the structure is still with us, and if he is spared eight months hence, it will be to see the celebration of the Jubilee of Education for the deaf and dumb in Victoria.

Garden Party. Upwards of 200 deaf people with their relatives and friends journeyed out to Blackburn on Saturday March 12th to attend the Garden Party at Lake Park at the invitation of Mr and Mrs Ernest J.D. Abraham. It was "Abraham's" weather; that is to say - glorious. We rambled over the picturesque estate, inspected the flower farm, and the Home buildings, even penetrating into the private apartments of the Manager. Every room being thrown open for inspection Miss Elsie's pretty and uniquely furnished room being the most favoured by the younger girls, the men's sitting room and large dormitory by the men and the kitchen by the married women. Boating was, perhaps, the most popular although some of us went in for out door games. After a photograph of the guests had been taken, tea was enjoyed in three of the larger rooms, the tables being laden with all that is appetising and tempting. The decorations were also a feature that helped to make pleasant the repast. The outing was brought to a close by a bioscope entertainment. The Revd Mr Stephenson. M.A., and Mr G.G. Mercy were present, representing the Board of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution and the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society respectively

The Queensland Ferns. Last month we mentioned that we had more to say on this subject. Well, first of all we desire to offer thanks to Mr Jackson not only for the gift, but for the good example he has set the rest of our deaf community. Second, have you nothing that you can send to the Farm? Our country cousins can. we feel sure spare something that would be useful at the Farm. One or two cows, a horse, a few head of poultry, fruit trees, plants, seeds, any or all of these would be most acceptable gifts.

The Colorado Congress. Mr Abraham (President of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association) has received a very pressing invitation from President G.W. Veditz to attend and take part in the World's Congress of the Deaf to be held at Colorado U.S.A in August next. Mr Abraham was the only representative of the Adult Deaf from England at the Chicago World's Congress in 1893. Our Supt would very much like to renew the acquaintanceship of the many leaders of thought in the deaf world that he met on that occasion, but it is quite impossible for him to leave Victoria at present. With the Farm and Home passing through a very critical stage and the probability of the bill

for free and compulsory education of the deaf coming before Parliament at an early date we cannot spare him. Besides he is straining every nerve to complete his schemes so that he can visit Europe and possibly America in 1911.

The Flower Farm. The irrigation work is finished and in full swing, thanks the energetic efforts of our kind friend Mr. G. G. Mercy. At the trial the five horse power oil engine pumped up 5000 gallons of water in 3½ hours, and when the four ¾ inch hose were set to work the pressure was found to be as good as that obtained from the Yarra Yarra. The Engine is able to send up the water as rapidly as the full number of hose can dispose of it. Upwards of 4 000 feet of piping has been laid down and there are over 40 taps. The water came just in time to save a great quantity of plants from being scorched up. Had this work been let out to Contract it would have cost at least £450. Fortunately for us Mr. Mercy volunteered to supervise the whole scheme with the result that it cost only £300 a saving of £150. With practical friends like Mr. Mercy to back us up we ought to succeed.

Mr. Edgar Peacock. Mr. Edgar Peacock, son of our vice-president, and one of our most generous and popular young friends is on his way to America, afterwards he is to visit Europe! We wish him all kinds of good fortune. Edgar is a hustler. Whatever he undertakes he puts his heart into, which is the sole reason why he succeeds, and we feel sure his father won't mind us saying it, for it is the truth that much of the success of Peacock Brothers is due to the untiring zeal of Mr. Edgar. We expect big things from him

Coming Events. The 19th Rally is to be held on the 14th April and will be under the management of the Men's Guild Committee. The 22nd Annual Meeting of the Congregation is fixed for the 21st of April. It is expected that all members will keep the above dates clear from all other engagements and be present at both gatherings The Annual Meeting of our Society is arranged for the 21st May This year part of the programme will be musical and part contributed by the deaf in addition to the reading of reports &c. Further particulars next month.

General Board. The general board of our Society met on the 14th of March, reports on the irrigation of farm and on the general work submitted by Mr. G. G. Mercy and Mr. E. J. D. Abraham

respectively. Date for Annual Meeting fixed upon. Much other business transacted chiefly connected with Farm and Home.

Sub-Committee. This Committee met on the 22nd ult. Agenda a lengthy one, Parcel of magazines from Miss Cecila Palmer and a large map of British Empire from Mr Arthur Wilson of Moonee Ponds accepted with thanks. Rough draft of Annual Report read. No room this month for details of other business

Deaf Bazaar Committee. This Committee met on the 5th ult. and decided to hand over the boats purchased by them to the Society Committee, also, after deducting sufficient money to pay for addresses to present to the deaf friends who collected three greatest amounts for the Farm fund, to expend balance in hand in the purchasing of suitable games for the Home residents and then to disband.

Women's Wing Fund. We acknowledge with thanks receipt of following donations to the Women's Wing Fund Miss M. Beggs, £10, Mr. M. L. Miller. £2.2.0, Mr and Mrs J. E. Muir £2.2.0, Mr. Samuel Ferguson (Bowmans Forest) £1, One who sympathises 5/-, Mrs Brooks. 4/-, Mr J. Brooks 1/-

Appreciation. The Hon Secretary and the Bazaar Committee are encouraged by the receipt of the following from the Hon Secretary (Mr H. Sumner Martin, B.A., L.L.B.) of the Adult. Deaf and Dumb Society — "I am instructed to convey to your Committee our hearty thanks for the gift of boats and their appreciation of the enterprise which prompted the purchase of them in the first instance."

Personal Pars. Mr and Mrs E. Burke, of Christchurch New Zealand, write in terms of affection for "Our Monthly" and desire to be remembered to all old friends.

Mrs Wilson, of Sydney, (nee Miss Burrows) is staying with friends in Melbourne she may remain for two months

Mr J. Brown, Curator of Public Gardens, has accepted a place on the Committee of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society. We offer our hearty welcome. Mr J. Brown has helped us on more than one occasion, so he is no

new friend. He will be able to render valuable assistance in connection with the flower farm scheme.

Mr Davies, of Queensland, spent a day in Melbourne on his return journey from England to Brisbane on the 1st March. He attended Mr Abraham's lecture. He said he enjoyed his trip very much.

Mr G. Akester of Melbourne, has gone to Tweed River, N.S.W. to settle with his sister on a dairy farm. After being a painter for so many years. The change is sure to suit them.

Mrs Wright has undergone two operations at St. Vincents Hospital. When convalescent She is to go to Daylesford for a change.

Miss Dinkinson (Narre Warren) is gratefully thanked by the Deaf cricketers for her kindness in presenting them with floral button holes that were at dinner after the cricket match on the 31st January.

Miss A. Foster has gone to Sydney for a change and is expected to stay away for a month.

Miss. E. Graham has returned home after spending three months' pleasant holiday in the Western District

Mr C. Turnbull, of N.S.W. has sent us his photograph. He is not much altered but looks older. He was reponsible for the winning of a match for his club by making top score viz. 44 runs recently, which goes to show that his name "the Smiter" when a member of the Deaf Cricket Club in Melbourne is still appropriate.

Mr Gus Damman, of Warburton, had a narrow escape from being gored by a bull with whom he had a desperate struggle on his farm. His clothes were torn to pieces, but he escaped with a few bruises.

At Auckland New Zealand, a curious tragedy occurred at the native settlement near Wairgaro on the 15th March. A deaf and dumb Maori was walking about after midnight when he was challenged by another both in Maori and in English. Receiving no reply the challenger fired,

fatally wounding the deaf man, whose dead body was found at day-break.

Mr. W. McDonald, an ex-teacher of the S.A. and Victorian Schools for the Deaf has, we understand, been appointed assistant Missionary to the South Australian Deaf and Dumb Mission.

Miss M. Potter has returned home after seven weeks absence in Geelong and Ballarat. She said she had little time to write letters her time being taken up with her country friends.

During the Easter holidays Melbourne was visited by Mr. W. Besemeres (Ballarat) after about 12 years absence Mr. J. Allinson. (Walhalla) and Mr. A. Collins (Nerim.)

Messrs C. Graham, J. Campbell, and W. Christensen spent the Easter holidays camping at Tooradin.

Mr. and Mrs R. H. Luff were in Bendigo for the Easter.

Mr. R. Hamilton, of Ensay, joined a party of friends riding on horses to Mount Kosciusko in N.S.W. It took them about three days to go from Ensay. They described it is one of the most pleasant trips they have had

Mr. W. Cann has obtained the necessary plant for cycle building and repairing, and desires it to be known that he is prepared to make to customers specifications. His prices are reasonable and workmans'ip good.

We thank Mr. John Teague, of Albany, W.A. for his interesting letter. It is pleasing to us to learn that our deaf members who are called to take up their residence in some other state or country still have warm corners in their hearts for their old society and associates. A very entertaining letter from Mr. Jas. Brooks is also to hand. He thinks the "Monthly" has improved greatly of late and says "the townies have a good deal more to talk about than the country yokes". He is not surprised that Mr. Jim Anderson has given up bootmaking and taken to farming for he has had to do the same thing. He sends greeting to all old friends.

Boys Brigade. The Montague (Port Melbourne) Boys Naval Brigade visited Lake Park, on the 26th ult. and had a most enjoyable time. In the Evening they indulged in a little war on their own. One part took possession of the cottage, and the other formed the attacking party.

The firing caused quite a flutter of excitement in the neighbourhood.

Gesture. The April issue of the Gesture is a very interesting number It contains portraits of Messrs J. C. Mu..., E. Burke, and T. Ward illustrating an article on "Deaf Footballers", a group of the guests at Mr. and Mrs Abraham's Garden Party, the New Zealand School for the Deaf, much Victorian news and particles bearing on matters appertaining to the d...

Our Letter Fund. We acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- from Mr. G. G. Mercy and 1/6 from Mr. G. Akester (N.S.W.) and 8/- from our Adelaide friends per Mr. A. Hann.

Cricket. The Adult Deaf C. C. after having received letters from Portarlington, Mordialloc and Frankston, cricket clubs saying that they had engagements during the Easter holidays decided that the proposed tour had to be cancelled. Although the weather this time should be pleasant for such trips, the members feel rather disappointed. The President intends entertaining the members of the club at a dinner sometime this month.

March 5th A.D.C.C. v South Yarra Presbyterians. S.Y. 50 and 99. McLean 6 wkts. for 21 runs, V. Harding 4 for 18, R.K. Beattie 4 for 19. L. Downes, 3 for 21. W. Burge 2 for 2. R.H. Luff 1 for 27. A.D.C.C. 93 and 100. R.K. Beattie 25, V. Harding 13, and 23, W. Burge 11, R.H. Luff 12 and 11 not out, W.H. Gillam 12 not out. L. Downes 34 J. McLean 13. Won by 44 runs.

March 12th A.D.C.C. v Sunshine. Sunshine 86. L. Downes 6 for 43. R.K. Beattie, 1 for 19, J.M. McLean 1 for 15, W. Burge 1 for 0, A.D.C.C. 81. R.K. Beattie 16. V. Harding 15. W.A. Patterson 13. L. Downes 11 Lost by 5 runs.

March 19th A.D.C.C. v Albert Park club eleven. Albert Park 91. L. Downes, 4 for 27, W. Burge, 3 for 21, R.H. Luff 1 for 2. A.D.C.C. 85. W.A. Patterson 17, W. Burge 17, L. Downes, 14. Lost by 6 runs

No match on account of Easter Holidays.

April 2nd A.D.C.C. v Camberwell Congregational Ramblers C.C. Camberwell C.R.C.C. First Innings 45. R.K. Beattie, 8 wkts for 26 runs. J.McLean 1 for 12. A.D.C.C. First Innings 77. L. Downes 39. J. McLean 10, R.H Luff 7 not out. Won by 32 runs.

SYLLABUS FOR APRIL

2nd 3 p.m. A.D.C.C. v E. Camberwell, off.
3rd 11 a.m. Our Lord's Supper.
5th 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. Paper by Mr E. Abraham to Men.
9th 3 p.m. A.D.C.C. v E.B.C. on.
12th 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
14th 7.30 p.m. 19th RALLY.
19th 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. Vic. Branch A.D.D.A. Comm. Meet.
21st 8 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation.
25th Eight Hours Day.
26th No Meetings.

Sunday Services 11 A.M. & 7 p.m.
Bible & Reading Class. Every Thurs, 8 p.m.
Recreation, Bank, & Library Every Sat, 7.30 p.m.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. MAY 1910. No. 9.

The Congregations' Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held in our Church Hall on the 21st Ult. There was an attendance of 42 members. Our Chaplain presided. The Annual report, a lengthy and interesting one, extracts from which will appear in our Society's Annual Report, was read by the Hon. Sec. Mr. J. E. Muir and the balance Sheet, read by Mr. W. P. Muir, Hon. Treas, showed:- Income £29-7-1. Expenditure £25-11-10, Balance £3-15-3 which was considered very satisfactory. Both were adopted. The whole of the Sub-Committee were re-elected with the exception of Mr. L. Downes (resigned) whose place was filled by Mr. S. Moss. The names of the Committee are:- Messrs. J. E. Muir, W. P. Muir, M. L. Miller, F. E. Frewin, R. H. Luff, W. G. B. Mortimer, J. McLean, T. R. Nelson and S. Moss, Mr. Downes explained that he resigned only for a time and for private business reasons. He hopes to be a member of the Committee again at some future time. The Representatives to General Committee, Messrs M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir and F. E. Frewin were also returned unopposed. Mr. J. E. Muir in proposing the adoption of the report gave a telling address, extracts from which will be found in another part of this "Letter". The Chairman explained the usefulness of Annual Meetings. "It was a time" he said, "for the reviewing of the past years work and for the planning of ways and means for making the coming year an improvement upon the last" He thanked God for their prosperity and for the firm friendship that existed between himself & the congregation

and spoke in very complimentary terms of the assistance rendered by Messrs M. L. Miller and J. E. Muir and Mrs. J. E. Muir. He also had very encouraging words for Messrs Mc Lellan, W. Lindell and C. Reynolds who loyally support him at the farm. Votes of thanks to the retiring Officers, the Auditor and the Chairman were heartily carried.
Messrs F. E. Fresen and R. H. Luff who were unable to be present at the meeting owing to an accident to his foot and private business respectively, apologized for their absence. Among other interesting items mentioned at the meeting it was stated that since 1905 the year "Our Monthly Letter" first appeared, some 24.000 copies had been printed and circulated among the deaf. Nineteen "Rallies" had been held and the average attendance per rally had been 75.

Our Society. Mrs J. E. Muir spoke thus of the influence of our Society at the Congregational Meeting. "We have so much to be thankful for. The Society teaches many things, besides the classes and services. It creates and cultivates character. It binds us together in a common cause, brings out our qualities of self control and self denial. Those who have been so long associated with the work of the Society cannot fail to feel its influence. I have watched and admired the progress of the work the members of the Sub-Committee have done. They have worked and planned various things successfully for us. To them we owe a debt of gratitude. We ought to show our appreciation of their services and help them whenever we can" Mrs Muir was pleased to know that the Sub-Committee spoke very highly of Mr. Abrahams' work. It showed that he continued to love to work for the deaf and that he was ever energetic in his efforts to make life easier and brighter for them. She expressed a hope that we all would learn to assist, sympathise with and encourage him in the grand work to which he has given his life. She also spoke of her husbands' devotion to us and of his untiring work for our welfare.

19th Congregational Rally. The 19th Congregational Rally was held on the 14th April under the new management. Formerly all rallies were under the direct supervision and auspices of the Sub-Committee of the Congregation. Now the Committee has decided to permit the various guilds, etc, connected with the Society to supervise the arrangements of the rallies in rotation. This one (the 19th) was under the supervision of the Deaf Mens' Guild. It was

well attended (81 deaf and 35 hearing friends being present.) Mr. G. Mortimer (The President) occupied the chair. The roll call was read as usual. Two new amusing and entertaining competitions viz:- "hat trimming by members of the sterner sex and a "blindfold driving race" were the features of the evening. It was most laughable to see the men looking quite serious as they trimmed the ladies hats as best they could and then smiling as they put them on their heads, tying them with veils to keep them in order - hat pins being useless to men - Misses Smith, Dayers and another lady whose name we were unable to obtain, were the judges and declared Mr. J. Moran to be the best Milliner and Mr. W. Bunge the next best. Our sturdy little "Lord" Nelson was a good third. In the blindfold race each lady competitor had to drive a blindfolded gentleman through an arrangement of dummy posts in a zig-zag way. The successful winners were Miss R. Dow and Mr. T. Peters, Messrs. R. H. Luff and J. McLean, Mesdames Luff and Cove and Misses E. Smith and M. Clarke looked after the scepper arrangements. It is interesting to note that of all the members who have attended rallies, there remain only eleven members who have not missed a single one. They are Messrs. M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir, W. P. Muir, R. H. Luff, A. Wilson, T. A. Nelson, J. Hunter and T. Mitchell, Mrs. Moore and Misses M. Cole and M. O'Brien. It will be interesting to watch who will be the first to drop out, who next and so on and also who will be the only one left in.

Annual Meeting of Society. The Annual Meeting of our Society is to be held in the Deaf Mute Building, Flinders Street at 7.45 p.m. on the evening of Thursday May 12th. The Vice-President Mr. E. R. Peacock is to preside and the Archbishop of Melbourne (Dr. Clarke.) Hon. T. Mauger and Mr. Mc. Pherson are announced to speak. For the benefit of the hearing section of the audience there will be a number of vocal and instrumental items. Deaf members are requested to invite as many of their hearing friends as possible, tickets for distribution amongst them can be had of the Hon. Sec.

General Committee. This Committee met on the 14th ult. The business consisted of preparations for the Annual Meeting. The consideration of the finances of the Society. The Superintendent's progress report and a few other Farm & Home and ordinary items. Mr. Broom Supt of Parks and gardens was present by invitation.

Supt's Report. The following extracts from Our Supt's report submitted to the General Committee on the 14th of April last, is pleasant reading. "The attendance at the Services, Lectures and other meetings continues as heretofore. Satisfactory, The conduct of the members has been and is exceptionally good. I have the loyal support of the Sub-Committee and other enthusiastic workers in every undertaking. and it is only just to admit that without the regular and zealous assistance of Messrs W. L. Miller, J. E. Muir and Mrs J. E. Muir it would be quite impossible for your Superintendent to cope with the work. The work has also been made easier by the tactful help of Miss Empson. All able and willing have employment."

A Welcome Nugget. To carry on work at the Central building and at the Farm and Home successfully, it is necessary to add £450 a year to our maintenance income. A special effort is to be made this year to obtain the sum and as the responsibility of this effort will rest mainly with our Superintendent, our readers can imagine with what open arms he received the representative of the "Age" the other day who brought him a cheque for £40 from "The David Syme Charitable Trust" for the Home maintenance fund. As our financial year commences with April this was indeed a welcome start.

The Farm & Home. The Manager reports steady progress here. During the past few weeks there has been an abundance of dahlias and Chrysanthemums. The receipts from sale of flowers at present average about £2-10-0 per week. Wm A. McLellan has control of the pumping Engine and has caught the spirit of his Leader, these two have no knock off hours. Wm Reynolds is another hustler, he also is always prepared to do anything at any time. During pic-nics Messrs Mc Lellan and Reynolds are indispensable.

Cows & Horses. So far no one has responded to the gentle hint we made last month. We are in need of a sound horse for the waggon and a couple of Cows and have no money with which to purchase them. Here is a fine opportunity for some one to render our farm a great service.

Marriage. In the Church for Deaf Mutes, Flinders Street, Wm John W. H. Harris of Adelaide was married to Miss Mabel Connell of Melbourne on the evening of Wednesday April 6th the Rev Wm Stephenson, M.A. officiated and Wm E. J. D. Abraham

interpreted. A Bible and Prayer book were presented to Mrs Harris by a few deaf friends at the close of the ceremony.

Communion Service. A communion Service was held on the morning of the 5th April when an Chaplain administered the Lords' Supper to a good attendance of communicants.

Lectures, &c. On the 19th April Miss K. Corran delivered a very instructive paper on "Home" to a good attendance of members of the Deaf Womens' Guild. at its conclusion several of the members discussed the subject. It is pleasing to note that the average attendance at all the meetings of this Guild during the year has been good.

On the 12th April Mr. S. Mortimer, The President of the Deaf Mens' Guild read a very interesting paper on "How plants travel" to a fair attendance of members. Mr Mortimer explained how it was that plants, etc, were found in places where they were not seen before, How the seeds when ripe and easily brushed off get carried by the wind or among the feathers of birds, etc. to long distances and when dropped in other ground the seed springs up and a plant grows in a new place, How some seeds may be embedded in a small cake of dirt attached to a boot or an implement and how, when the dirt gets scraped off in another place the seed finds its way into new ground & sprouts up. In this way seeds of various plants have been carried long distances, some on board ship, some by rail, some by travelling animals, etc. Several of the members discussed this interesting subject at the conclusion of the paper.

At the request of the members of the Mens' and Womens' Guilds Mr. Abraham gave an address on the "Political Situation" at our building on the 6th of April. He was favored with a large and attentive audience. Mr. W. L. Miller presided. The Speaker opened by explaining the position taken up by the two contesting political parties and advised his audience not to be influenced by any single newspaper. Through the glasses of the one everything was red and through those of the other all was blue, whereas if they read both sides and then did a little thinking they would find that as a matter of fact there was a combination of colours. Good

points and bad points on both sides - At the close of the address several questions were put to the speaker by Mrs. J. E. Muir, Miss Connell, Messrs. Trewin, Nelson and others. Messrs. R. H. Luff, J. E. Muir and W. P. Muir also spoke. In reply to the question. "Your opinion on Socialism?" Mr. Abraham said "Nowadays we are all socialists, it is a matter of degree only, some go too far, some will not go far enough. I am quite prepared to go a good distance in this direction, but having climbed a fairly nice distance up the hill of progress, if those below me want to pull me down to their level, I shall fight them tooth and nail, but at the same time I am quite willing to spend my life in helping to pull them up to mine and I shall thank all above me for any help they are willing to render in helping me up to theirs."

A.D.D.A. (Vict.n Branch.) A meeting of the board of the Vict.n Branch of the A.D.D.A. was held at the Deaf Centre on the 19th. of April. Mr. Abraham presided. Several small accounts were passed for payment and it was resolved to send a letter of greeting to the Worlds Congress of the deaf to be held in America in August next.

The Hon Secretary of this branch Mr. R. H. Luff acknowledges with thanks the receipt of Subscriptions 1/- each from Mr. and Mrs. E. R. W. Smith, Mr. Jas. Campbell and Mr. D. Hood 3/- (3 years)

A £500 Ticket. We are often told that we should "learn to say NO" and there is much to say in favour of that advice, still, there are times when it is not always wise to stick to "NO" Our colleague Mr. Matt. L. Miller is one of those sympathetic fellows who almost invariably say "yes" when appealed to, to buy tickets for this, that or the other charitable effort. Some of the sellers of tickets never omit to pay him a visit with the result that if at any time you took it into your head to ask him to turn out his pockets you would be certain to find half a dozen or more that has cost him a 1/- or so a piece. And so it came about that amongst others he recently became the owner of three for the Druids' Gala Art Union in aid of the Womens Hospital, and, to the joy of every deaf mute in this state, one of them has turned out to be the great winning number, bringing to him an oil painting valued at £500, or that sum in cash to Mr. Millers' banking account. The only comment

we can make is that his numerous generous actions have earned it for him. We congratulate him most heartily.

Personal Pars. We regret to learn that Mr. F. E. Frewin met with an unpleasant accident lately, while at work a heavy block of wood fell on his foot, he has had to lay up for a few days. We trust he will have a speedy recovery from the painful mishap and that he will be none the worse for it. Mr. J. Caughey has been bad with lumbago for some weeks but we are happy to state that he is now mending all right. Mr. George Hodges lost his father who died on the 1st April, Aged 68 Years. He has our sympathy. Mr. Percy Smith who came over here with his parents from Sydney sometime ago is going to move on to Adelaide with his parents soon. He has been unable to get a position in Melbourne. and hopes he will be able to find a suitable one in the sister state. While regretting that we are about to lose his company we trust his hopes will be realised. Mr. J. Davis spent two days in Melbourne on his way from Brisbane to Adelaide. He was for sometime a collector for the Queensland Deaf and Dumb Mission. He has returned to his trade of book binder and to his home in Adelaide. Before leaving Brisbane he was presented with a purse of sovereigns by his deaf friends. Miss Bromley of Sydney was in Melbourne for a couple of days on her way to Adelaide where she intends to spend a holiday of sometimes duration. She as well as Mr. Davis were present at one of our meetings and spent a pleasant time among our folk. Mrs. Wilson of Sydney has been called back sooner than she expected. She had spent a very pleasant months' stay with friends in Melbourne and would have liked to stay longer.

Cricket and Wind-up Dinner. The Adult Deaf Cricket Club finished their season on the 9th April with a good win. Their opponents were the Exhibition Boot Co. C.C. E. B. 6 made 97. J. Mc. Lean 2 wickets for 5. R. Beattie 3 for 19. L. Downes 1 for 27, R. H. Luff 1 for 19. A. D. C. C. 4 wickets for 119. R. Beattie 62 n/o, J. Mc. Lean 29. won by 6 wickets and 22 runs. During the season the A. D. C. C. won 11 matches, lost 9 and 2 were drawn. Mr. L. Downes has proved to be the best in both batting and bowling. his batting average is 21·14.

Bowling, 6·30. The players next best in order of averages are Batting, R. Beattie 12·99. J. McLean 4·74. Bowling, J McLean 6·40. R. Beattie 6·68. Several short trips to other places were made by the club during the season and they proved very enjoyable trips.

As a wind up of the season the popular President of the club (Mr. John E Muir.) entertained the members and a few friends to dinner at Hardie's Cafe on Saturday evening the 23rd. April. Some 23 turned up with empty feelings and sharpened appetites while 4 were unable to be present. Tears were shed over the absence of "Dr." Abraham who was enquired for by host Hardie. An enjoyable repast was provided and full justice having been done to it, complimentary and other speeches of a reminiscent nature were made by various speakers. The President in his speech brought vividly to our memories the early days of the club and some of its doings in the field. He was proud to be president of so venerable a club which is now 28 years old and is still kicking strongly. He hoped the club would grow stronger & stronger as the years went by and perform doughty deeds. (applause.) Mr. M.L. Miller proposed the toast "The President," coupling with it his good wife. He drew attention to the fact that the club was older than our Society and said it was the cricket club that first drew us together, we met during the day time but we were not satisfied to let our meeting stop at that. We wanted to meet together more & more, so we met under a lamp post in the evenings, this led gradually to a better state of things, We now have our Society Rooms. (applause.) Mr. R.H. Luff also spoke in a reminiscent vein. He said there was something more in the age of the club because we had met much earlier & played cricket at school [Whether he was joking or not the diners knocked him over by pointing out the difference between school cricket and an adult club.] Mr. Luff wished the club long life and better success as time went on. He stated that nowadays a very strong & capable team of deaf mutes could be got together from various parts of Victoria that would give a good account of itself if pitted against a first class club. (applause.) Veteran F.J. Rose also spoke some encouraging words to the members present. Mr. W.A. Paterson in a few suitable words proposed the toast "The club" wishing it every success, long life & prosperity. (applause.) After a few words from the Hon Sec, the Captain, and Messrs Downes, W.M. and Hindell. Mr. S. Mortimer proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the President for his generous hospitality and it was carried with cheers. The pleasant & enjoyable function then came to a close.

SYLLABUS FOR MAY

3rd :: 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" " 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
10th :: 8 p.m. "Wonders of Human body" by Mr Abraham.
12th :: 7.30 p.m. Annual Meeting of the A.D.D. Society.
17th :: 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" " 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
22nd :: 6th Anniversary of the Building.
24th :: 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
31st :: 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.

Sunday Services. 11 A.M. & 7 P.M.
Bible & Reading Class every Thurs^y 8 p.m.
Recreation, Bank & Library, every Sat^y 7.30 p.m.

Adult Deaf and Dumb Building,

Flinders Street E., Melbourne.

Admit Bearer and Friend to the

...Annual Meeting and Concert...

of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

(Incorporated)

Home & Farm for Aged, Infirm & Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes

in the above Building, on Thursday, 12th May, 1910, at 7.45 p.m.

Speakers: The Archbishop of Melbourne.

Hon. S. Manger. ∴ Mr. W. M. McPherson.

The Vice-President, Mr. E. R. Peacock, will preside.

H. SUMMER MARTIN,
Hon. Secretary

The Age 13/5/1910.

SIGNS AND THEIR MEANINGS.

ARCHBISHOP AND THE ALPHABET.

The principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, which was held in the society's building, Flinders-street, last evening, was Archbishop Clarke. Mr. E. R. Peacock, the vice-president, was in the chair, and was supported by Mr. S. Manger, amongst others. As each report or speech was delivered an officer of the society, with deft play of fingers and expressive gestures, interpreted to the deaf and dumb members of the audience exactly what was going on.

The Archbishop, on rising to speak, confessed that his knowledge of the means by which the deaf and dumb communicated one with another was not exactly detailed. He had observed enough, however, to realise that a certain sign in the air meant a variety of pleasant greetings, "Good morning," "How are you?" "I hope you are well," and so on. Then he knew the alphabet, and that five fingers represented the vowels, so that if one went at an ordinary rate he could follow, but the galloping speed at which the experienced travelled was altogether too much for him. He was interested in the lip language, and in watching the lips of those in conversation with him he had noted that when certain words were spoken they took a particular shape. He had noticed, as an illustration of the language of signs, that when Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, the superintendent and manager, had been interpreting speeches to them that evening, he had merely tapped his trousers pocket when he meant "money." (Laughter.) He knew of nobody in the wide world who did not understand the significance of a man's taking out his purse. (Laughter.) He congratulated the society upon its work, and felt that it deserved warm public support. (Applause.)

Mr. H. Summer Martin, the secretary, presented the annual report, which stated that the principal event of the year had been the official opening of the Blackburn Home Farm for aged, infirm and feeble minded deaf mutes. That institution had now fourteen inmates, and while full provision for women could not yet be made, as many as seemed consistent with propriety had been admitted. A sum of £250 was now in hand for the women's branch, and an additional £750 was required to complete and furnish the building.

Mr. H. Kent, the treasurer, presented the statement of accounts, showing an expenditure of £2896 19/ and a credit balance of £152 14/.

The chairman said the sale of flowers grown on the fourteen acres cleared at the Blackburn farm brought in a profit of £2 or £3 per week. He appealed for further support, to enable to society to complete its works.

The report and balance sheet were adopted, and the following officers were elected:—President, Mr. F. S. Grimwade; vice-president, Mr. E. R. Peacock; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. Kent; hon. secretary, Mr. H. Summer Martin; committee, Sir Henry Weedon, Rev. H. W. H. Adeney, Messrs. G. Brown, W. A. Dikens, F. E. Frewin, S. G. Martin, S. Mauger, G. G. Mercy, M. A. Miller, J. E. Muir, F. J. Rose and F. Tudor.

The Argus 13/5/1910.

LANGUAGE OF SIGNS.

DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY.

There were two points of interest about the annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, which was held last night. One was the record of prosperity disclosed by the annual report, and the second the fact that the whole of the proceedings, including even a song, were translated into the language of the deaf mutes.

Archbishop Clarke said that, while he was familiar with many of their signs, the galloping pace at which these signs were communicated from that platform was too much for him. He knew, for instance, that an upturned thumb was a cheery salutation. (Delighted cheers from the deaf mutes.) Many of the signs were universal. Whenever the superintendent (Mr. Abraham) desired to communicate the word money he tapped his trousers pocket. There could be no one surely who could mistake that sign. (Laughter.) Of all the institutions in Melbourne he did not think that there was one of which it could be more truthfully said that it was fulfilling its purposes and doing excellently well than the Deaf and Dumb Society. (Applause.)

The Chairman (Mr. E. R. Peacock) said that the society required an increased income, and wanted £750 to complete the women's wing. They hoped that it would be possible to raise the latter amount.

Mr. S. Manger also addressed the meeting.

The report stated that the Blackburn farm and home, of which the superintendent (Mr. Ernest Abraham) was in charge, was progressing satisfactorily. Fourteen acres of the land had been cleared, and nine acres had been planted with flowers and vegetables. The number of inmates at the home was 14. The sum of £250 had been raised for the construction of the women's wing, and an additional £750 would be required. The work at the headquarters of the society in Flinders-street had proceeded satisfactorily. The committee was glad that subscriptions were well maintained, and that the public evidently recognised the value of the society's work, but it again appealed for increased support.

The following officers were appointed:—President, Mr. F. S. Grimwade; vice-president, Mr. E. R. Peacock; hon. treasurer, Mr. Harold Kent; hon. secretary, Mr. H. Sumner Martin.

The Age 13/5/1910.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society last evening the following resolution was passed:—

That the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria desires to place on record its expressions of sorrow at this time of national bereavement occasioned by the death of King Edward VII., whose sympathy and sovereign regard were always so freely shown towards those of his subjects who were in any way afflicted, and, while mourning with the Queen Mother and nation, the society also expresses its devotion and loyalty to his Majesty King George V. and Queen Mary.

The Argus 13/5/1910.

THE VOICE OF THE AFFLICTED.

At the annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, held last night, the following resolution was moved and seconded by dumb members of the society, who communicated it by signs:—

"The Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria desires to place on record its expression of sorrow at this time of national bereavement, occasioned by the death of His late Majesty King Edward VII., whose sympathy and Sovereign regard were always so freely shown towards those of his subjects who were in any way afflicted; and, while mourning with the Queen-Mother and nation, it also expresses its devotion and loyalty to His Majesty King George V. and Queen Mary."

The motion was agreed to.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s. 6d. per annum, post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. JUNE 1910. Nº 10.

The Late King Edward VII.

At the annual meeting of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria held on the 12th of May at the Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. Melbourne, the following resolution was moved by Mr. M.L. Miller & seconded by Mr. J.E. Muir, deaf members of the Society, who communicated it by signs; interpreted by Mr. Ernest. J.D. Abraham.

"The Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria desires to place on record its expression of sorrow at this time of national bereavement, occasioned by the death of His late Majesty King Edward VII., whose sympathy & Sovereign regard were always so freely shown towards those of his subjects who were in any way afflicted; and, while mourning with the Queen-Mother & nation, it also expresses its devotion & loyalty to His Majesty King George V, and Queen Mary."

The motion was agreed to.

Memorial Services were held in the Church for Deaf Mutes on the 7th & 14th Ult. The Chaplain - Mr. Ernest. J. D. Abraham officiated. The pulpit & lectern were draped in black & purple. The favourite hymns of the late King & Queen Alexandra, "Nearer my God to thee" and "Abide with me" were rendered.

The 22nd of May was the 6th Anniversary of the opening of "Our Building" and our chaplain preached special sermons morning & evening from Romans 15c. 33v. & Psalm 9c. 1v. in commemoration of the occasion. He spoke of the deaf pioneers who by their self sacrifice, & devotion to the wellbeing of their fellow-deaf had made the present high state of progress possible. He urged us to pay back the huge debt we owe, in the only way possible, is by doing all in our power to make the condition of the coming deaf generation still

better than that enjoyed by ourselves.

Annual Meeting. The Annual meeting of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society was held at the Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. on the 12th Ult. Mr. E. R. Peacock presided & was supported by Archbishop Clarke, Hon. S. Mauger, Mr. H. Sumner Martin, B.A, L.L.B. (hon Sec), Mr. Harold Kent (hon treas), Mr R. R. Paterson & Mr E. J. D. Abraham. The Archbishop opened the proceedings with prayer. Miss Dallimore sang "Nearer my God to Thee" which was rendered in signs by Mr. Abraham. The hon. Sec.y read the annual report & the hon. treas.r the balance sheet. Songs were rendered by Mesdames G. Hutton, K. Lowe & E. Dallimore, a solo by Miss Hutton & musical selection by Mr. A. Jamison & friends. Mr. Walter Jennings also contributed two songs & Mr. W. Bothwell four recitations. The whole of the officers with the exception of Mr. Griffiths (resigned through ill health) were re-elected with two new members, Messrs Sidney Martin & George Brown. Votes of thanks brought the interesting meeting to a close at about 10 o'clock. There was a good audience, though not so large as in former years. No great effort was made because of the death of the late King.

Finance. The balance sheet shows our Society to be in a very healthy financial position, though to complete the new home at Blackburn by the erection of a womens' wing a sum of £750 will have to be raised & a further sum of £350 annually to maintain it. The general account shows the receipts for the year to be £2,133 & the expenditure £1,849. Benevolent Fund £1,414. Womens' wing Fund £252.

The Gesture Language. The Archbishop of Melbourne left our buildings on the 12th of May last with a very high opinion of the language of signs. His grace first spoke of the benefits to be derived from the deaf being able to read the lips of their friends, but having witnessed the ease & masterly way in which our "gesture" elocutionist rendered the beautiful hymns "Nearer My God to Thee" he said the gestures were so very natural that he was able to follow the hymn himself, & so fascinated was he by the rapidity & grace which our "Orator" translated speech after speech that not for a moment did he allow his eyes to leave the flashing hands.

Archbishop Clarke & our Society. The Archbishop said he was not surprised that the Committee spoke with pride of their Society. He remembered the erection of the church & Institute & the last 6 years had shown how necessary & how successful all the work had been. The manner in which the Society provided for all the needs of the deaf was a great thought nobly carried out. The progress of the Society was an instance of the way

in which good undoubtedly grows. He did not know of any society that he could more confidentially recommend as fulfilling its purpose & doing it excellently well. Speaking of Mr. Abraham Archbishop Clarke said that the success of an institution was largely due to the suitability of the superintendent for the special work. Mr. Abraham was one of the most valuable good men holding such a position He possessed zeal & it was absolutely impossible to mistake the wholeheartedness in his work & then he had a pleasantness of manner that won the society many friends. He was glad to see the name of Mrs. Abraham linked with that of her husband in the estimation of the Committee.

Success. Mr. E. R. Peacock, chairman of committees, who is always practical gave a review of the work accomplished & an outline of work yet to be done & in concluding said that everybody liked to be connected with a successful organisation. The Adult Deaf & Dumb Society was not only successful but always successful.

Reads Our Monthly. The Hon. S. Mauger walked on to the platform with a copy of "Our Monthly" in his hand, he said that he reads it & admires its sentiments. He encouraged the deaf to continue in their loyalty to their church & to each other.

Lectures. "The Wonders of the Human Body" was the title of a lecture brim full of interesting facts, delivered by Mr. Abraham to a good audience on the 10th ult. It was appreciated by all, the chairman, Mr. M. L. Miller said he thought it was the best of any given by their superintendent the chatty manner of his delivery made it more entertaining & easier to follow. Messrs. M. G. Mortimer, R. Luff & J. E. Muir also spoke introducing additional information on the subject. Questions were also put & answered.

Mr. T. Nelson read a paper with the title "Miscellaneous Stories" on the 17th ult. The title did neither paper or himself justice for it was a budget of most interesting information interspersed with bits of humour made still more funny by the Nelsonian delivery. The president (Mr. M. G. Mortimer at the close of the meeting invited the members of the Deaf Mens' & Deaf Womens' Guilds to join him at supper to which we did justice.

The same evening a good muster of women attended their Guild meeting to see a paper by Miss E. Empson (assistant to Mr. Abraham) on her trip to Sydney. It was her debût before a deaf audience & she got through creditably well. Mrs. Abraham the president occupied the chair. Before the meeting commenced, An armful of roses had been placed upon the table by the Superintendent and when the ladies trooped down to

supper they gave one the impression of a procession in the spring of the year for each wore a flower in the hair or in the belt & their bright & happy faces added to the enjoyment of the repast provided by the mens' president who by the way was most heartily thanked.

Meetings. The general Committee met on the 9th of May. Mr. E. R. Peacock in the chair. The report submitted by Mr. Martin & the balance sheet by Mr Kent were approved. The Manager submitted a report & a number of suggestions, the following were approved:- erection of divisional fence, Poultry house & runs, purchase of manure.

At a meeting of the Sub-Committee on the 3rd of May, Mr. M. G. B. Mortimer was unanimously re-elected Librarian & Messrs. A. Hull (re-elected) & S. Moss assistants. Mr. J. E. Muir was re-elected to position of hon Secretary by a majority of one vote over Mr. T. Irwin. Mr. W. P. Muir was unanimously re-elected hon treasurer.

Resolved, that the next Rally be on the 30th June and under the management of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A., that hearing friends be admitted to future rallies on payment of 6-, that the winter games competitions commence on Sat. June 4th., that cyclists be requested to leave their bicycles in the yard.

Holidays. It was decided that the building should be open on all public holidays for the convenience of the deaf. To enable the caretaker & his wife to have "full" holidays on these occasions, the chairman and several of the committee volunteered to take it in turns to take charge of the building.

A.D.D.A. The Hon Secretary (Mr. R. H. Luff) has forwarded a letter to the President of the World Congress of the Deaf at Colorado Springs. U.S.A. on behalf of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A. offering congratulations and wishing the congress every success.

He also begs to acknowledge receipt of subscriptions from the following. Messrs. F. J. Rose 1/-, E. J. D. Abraham 1/- R. H. Luff 1/-, G. Schubach 1/- J. Brook Lockoley 1/- G. Oakley 2/- & Mr & Mrs E. Burke (N.Z) 2/-

Will those who have not sent in their subscriptions. please do so at once. It is to be hoped members will take an exceptionally strong interest in our next Rally. as it is to be under the supervision of the A.D.D.A. when we purpose to embrace the opportunity of offering congratulations to Mr & Mrs F. J. Rose on the attainment of their 50th anniversary of their Wedding day.

Rally on 30th June. This is to be an event of events, so please

make a note of it. No deaf person with even the most microscopic proportion of gratitude for favours received will absent himself or herself on this occasion. It is the 20th rally and the "star turn" of the evening will be the celebration of the golden wedding of our pioneer educator Mr. F. J. Rose & Mrs. Rose. They were really married on the 27th of June, but we thought they would prefer to spend that day quietly with their more intimate friends & so fixed on the 30th for the more public function. Tea will be served at 6.30 p.m. (deaf only) meeting 7.30 pm. to which hearing friends are invited. The attendance of our deaf country cousins will be greatly appreciated. It is hoped that as many as can conveniently do so will put in an appearance for, as our American cousins say, it is "Up to them" on an occasion like this, if it can be accomplished, no other way, to come even if they have to make a sacrifice of time & money, and so far as the City & suburban deaf are concerned there should not be a single absentee. Every deaf mute who is grateful for his or her education will be found in our building on the 30th June. And we are absolutely positive that all connected with our Society are not only grateful but desire to show their gratitude in some special way. There is to be an exceptional programme & our superintendent will give a special oration.

The Farm. The Manager says that the horse & the cows so urgently needed and so earnestly asked for have not yet arrived, and that the list of wanteds is on the increase. A gift of a few head of poultry and young ducklings would be appreciated and he is of opinion that if he only mentions his needs often enough sooner or later the seed will fall on good ground and bring forth fruit. He wishes us to state that the donors need not pay carriage but just address their gifts to the Deaf Mutes Flower Farm. Blackburn, Victoria. Which will <u>you</u> send,- the horse, the cows or the poultry? If you do not happen to possess any of these treasures. Send along cash to purchase same.

Winter Games. The interest taken in the game competitions of last winter has encouraged the committee to give them another lease of life. The competitions will open on the 4th of June, and it is expected that the interest will be keener than ever. Several new games are to be introduced. Messrs. R. H. Luff, J. McLean & J. E. Muir will have the management of the series of games.

Jottings. The "Argus" says there were two points of interest about our annual meeting, one was the record of prosperity and the second that the whole of the proceedings including even a song, were translated into the language of the deaf.

"Punch" illustrated the Archbishop's captivation by the sign language. But why do newspaper writers & artists persist in referring to our church, Institute and Club as an Asylum! Suppose we paid a visit to the "Punch" office would we be correct and justified in referring to it thus "yesterday we visited the Punch Asylum for artists & journalists?" In the circumstances we think we would be both justified & correct.

The Queensland Circular is once more to be found with the little paper family upon our table. It is "months and months" since we last saw its violet surface. We welcome our irregular friend and hope in future its coming will be more frequent.

We are officially informed that the "South Australian Monthly News" is really dead and not slumbering as we supposed, also that there is nothing that will induce S. A to resurrect it, nor to bring any other local publication into existence. We understand that the heavy work connected with the production of the "M.N." was largely responsible for the breakdown in the health of Mr. C. Salas.

The N.S.W. Journal is to hand. It contains some interesting paragraphs but little about the doings of our deaf friends of that State. A bazaar is to be held shortly in aid of the Adult Association. Gifts from the deaf of this or any other state will be welcomed.

Amongst other publications to hand the following contain articles of exceptional interest "Silent World (England), Messenger (Ireland) Silent Worker American Annals (American). Teacher of Deaf (England)

Personal Pars. Mr. S. Johnson, M.A. Principal of the South Australian School for the Deaf paid us a surprise visit last month. He went over our building & inspected the Home & flower farm at Blackburn & before leaving expressed himself pleased with all he saw.

Mr. Henri Gaillard of Paris, France, Editor of the Revue des Sourds-Muets & an old friend of our Superintendent has written sending greeting to all Australian deaf.

Mr. Charles McIntosh, Missionary to the deaf at Dunfries.

Scotland & who was educated in Victoria, has written a lengthy & interesting letter to his old school chum Mr. T. Nelson. He asks after the following school friends & would like to get word as to their health and progress. W. Peters, Tom Collins, James & Jack Anderson, J. Moran, Walter Cross, & John Ashley. Referring to his appointment as Missionary he says "Of course you must study a good deal to qualify yourself for the position. When I was serving the four years of my apprenticeship to my trade I spent every night at home, studying & in every way possible improving my english & general knowledge. The greatest difficulty that I ever came across in the course of those studies was my trouble & inability to understand the rules of the english grammar. I got the greater profit, not through the strictures of the grammar but with the more congenial way of enjoying good fictional works such as Dickens, Geo. Eliot & works by Prof. Huxley.

Mr. W. H. Duncan of Beech Forest has been ill in Colac Hospital for two weeks. He is now getting well & strong. He is employed on the farm of Mr. Pearce.

Mr. D. Ashby of Trafalgar secured first & second prizes for onions at the Moe Agricultural Show Lately. He had an acre of splendid onions.

Miss P. Ashby is now staying in Melbourne & intends going up north with her father & niece shortly.

The Ashbys lost their married sister (Mrs. Winterton) in Warragul on the 8th. April. They have our condolence

Mr. J. Brook of Lockoley is still at the wood cutting business. He think firewood in Melbourne is dearer than formerly as he gets 5/- a truck more.

Mr. G. Hodges had the misfortune of losing his mother on the 13th. Ult and it is only five weeks since his father died. He was sorely distracted with grief over this double loss. He has our most heartfelt sympathy and prayers.

Mrs. P. Cunningham of Ballarat is spending her holiday with her sisters in Melbourne. She is looking the picture of health.

The Hon. T. Grimwade has sent a donation of 2 guineas to the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society.

Lieutenant Henry Thornton (Teacher at Deaf & Dumb School) left Melbourne for a tour of Europe with a party of 22 Australian Mounted Cadets on the 18th. May by "R. M. S. Orvieto" with the object of witnessing military operations in Europe. It is with regret we learn

that Mr. Thornton has resigned his position of assistant head teacher at the school for the deaf.

Mrs Hartley of Euroa spent a few days in Melbourne & was congratulated upon having celebrated her silver wedding with her husband last May.

Miss B. Bromley of Sydney paid a short visit to Melbourne on her way back from Adelaide to Sydney after having spent a very pleasant holiday in Adelaide for 6 weeks.

We are happy to state that Mr. E. Salas of Adelaide is progressing well & his wife gave birth to a son on the 14th May. Both were doing well.

Mr. Alfred Nutt, a London publisher, has lost his life by drowning under affecting circumstances. He was on a visit to Paris, & was driving with his son, who was deaf & dumb, on the banks of the Seine, when the horses bolted. The son was thrown out of the carriage into the river. Mr. Nutt dived in to his rescue, but was unable to make headway against the strong current, & was drowned. The son was saved.

Our Letter Fund. We acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/6 from Mr. E. Burke of New Zealand, 2/- from Mr W. Kindell, 1/- from Mr. P. Smith & 1/6 from Mrs Lindo.

Sport. Football is in full swing now. Some of our young fellows are playing with junior clubs for the purpose of seeking promotion to the ranks of senior clubs in future. Non-players are taking very keen interest in their own favourite clubs. It is agreed that the prospects point to a great season.

The Deaf & Dumb Schoolboys joined the 4th grade of the Lacrosse Association & started their season well by winning 3 matches & having one drawn. 1st match against Hawthorn, 8 goals to 4. 2nd match against Middle Park, 17 goals to nil. 3rd match against Kooyong 5 goals to 4, 4th match against Fitzroy 7 goals each side. As it is their first experience we are pleased to learn that they are getting on well & hope that they will continue to do so and finally win the premiership.

A.D.D.A. The board of the Australasian D. & D. Association met at the Deaf Mute Centre on the 26th Ult, the president (Mr. Abraham) in the chair. It was decided to comply with the request of the National Deaf Ass'n of America & forward a paper on the condition & needs of the Australian Deaf.

SYLLABUS FOR JUNE

3rd :: King George's Birthday.
7th :: 8 p.m. Paper by Mr Abraham. both sexes.
14th :: 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
21st :: 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
27th :: Mr & Mrs F.J. Rose's Golden Wedding.
28th :: 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
30th :: 6.30 p.m. 20th Cong. Rally.

July 3rd :: 11 A.M. Our Lord's Supper.

Sunday Services. 11 A.M & 7 P.M.
Bible & Reading Class, every Thurs^y 8 P.M.
Recreation, Bank & Library, every Sat. 7.30 P.M.

The Argus 23/6/1910.

An application for financial assistance was received from the superintendent (Mr. E. J. D. Abrahams) of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society by the Nunawading Shire Council on Tuesday night. Councillor Scott said that if less money had been spent on the palatial quarters of the superintendent there would have been sufficient for the building of the women's wing of the institution. It was a matter that should be inquired into. It was decided to reply that the charitable vote for the year had already been allocated.

The Reporter - Box-Hill, &c. 1/7/1910.

"HEAR, HEAR!"

To the Editor.

Sir,—In your report of the last meeting of the Nunawading shire council, and in connection with an appeal on behalf of the women's wing of the farm and home for deaf mutes, Blackburn, the following paragraph appears:—"Cr. Scott remarked that if less money had been spent on the palatial quarters of the superintendent, there would have been enough money to build the women's wing. It was a matter that should be inquired into. (Chorus of councillors: Hear, hear!)" The only occasion on which these councillors visited the home was during their annual inspection, the building then being in course of erection, and when the quarters of the superintendent had not finally been settled upon. Anyway, they have not visited the home since he has been established in his quarters. Yet Cr. Scott makes the definite statement that if less money had been spent on the superintendent's quarters there would have been enough money for the women's wing, and the councillors chorus "Hear, hear!" This is not merely an exaggeration; it is untrue. In the circumstances, one is tempted to ask if this is the ordinary method of procedure of the worthy councillors of Nunawading, and whether we are to take it as an illustration of their idea of justice. If so, a further question may with all fairness be put, this time to the ratepayers of the shire. Are men who, without inquiry and without knowledge, pass judgment upon a matter of considerable importance to the general public, through which a very useful institution may be injured, fit and proper persons to be entrusted with the administration of so important a shire as that of Nunawading? The only part of the home that can truthfully be termed private to the superintendent is his bedroom, and even that his wife claims an equal right to. It is true that his son and daughter have a bedroom each, but perhaps Cr. Scott considers this an extravagance! Would he suggest one bedroom between them or banish them from the care of their parents? The superintendent and his family also eat their meals in one room and sometimes sit in another, but both these are also public reception rooms. Is this latter the "palatial" part to which the good councillor refers, and from which he could have saved sufficient to erect the women's wing? Of course, the superintendent and his family might take their meals and live in the general kitchen but for the difficulty that they would be very much in the way. There are the stables, it is true, but unfortunately at present the accommodation is so cramped that one of the horses has to content himself with the cowshed. At the earliest possible opportunity we purpose inspecting the accommodation Cr. Scott considers necessary for his own comfort. We shall then make an effort to fall in line with the example shown by him. Meanwhile, the public are invited to come and see the home for themselves. The superintendent will gladly show visitors over the building and the farm any Monday, Wednesday, or Saturday afternoon.—Yours, &c.,

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,
Founder and Manager.

Blackburn, 28/6/10.

The Argus 28/6/1910.

HOME AND FARM FOR DEAF MUTES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—In Thursday's issue of "The Argus" a paragraph appeared in which Councillor Scott, of Nunawading shire, is reported to have said "that if less money had been spent on the palatial quarters of the superintendent there would have been sufficient for the building of the women's wing" of the farm home for aged, infirm, and feeble-minded deaf mutes.

As this statement would, doubtless, injure this very important work, and at a very critical time, and wound the feelings of one of the most self-sacrificing men who has ever made this country his abode, if left unanswered, I ask you, please to spare me space for the following reply.

First, what does the "palatial quarters" spoken of by Councillor Scott consist of? A parlour, living-room, and five bedrooms. That is to say, a room to take their meals in, one to receive friends in, a bedroom for the superintendent and his wife, one each for their two children (who are training for this special work), one for a servant of the home, and a spare room. There is no breakfastroom nor kitchen. The superintendent receives no salary whatever for the management of the home and farm.

The front elevation of the whole of the buildings is certainly very unique, but this is part of the scheme, and is necessary to the success thereof, and it cost little, if anything, more than a plain building would have done.

I will briefly review what this man, whom Councillor Scott begrudges an eatingroom, a sittingroom, and a bedroom for each member of his little family, has done for Victoria. He was brought out from England eight years ago. At that time, for upwards of 17 years, we had been struggling to raise funds to erect an institute for the adult deaf and dumb of this city. We had saved a fair sum, but nothing near sufficient to complete it. Two years after his coming the building was up and paid for. Our income then was about £500; now it is £2,000 per annum, but still insufficient to maintain the work in its completeness. Practically the whole of the money for the farm and home for aged, infirm and feeble-minded deaf mutes—upwards of £5,000—was obtained by him. The scheme is his. He is in charge of the home, is managing the farm, is already bringing in a very substantial income from sale of produce, and it is believed by those who know the man that he will ultimately make it self-supporting.

He is professionally engaged as superintendent of the work carried on by the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, at their building in Flinders-street, at a salary of £300 per annum. When he was appointed manager of the farm and home, that he himself had founded, the question of salary arose, and he expressed the wish that the committee would permit him to undertake this part of the work as an honorary officer.—I am, &c.,

M. L. MILLER,
Assistant Treasurer Adult Deaf and Dumb Society.
181 Flinders-lane, June 24.

Golden Wedding of Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Rose.
Proposed Testimonial

June 1st 1910

Dear Sir or Madam.

The members of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Association are desirous of presenting Mr. & Mrs F. J. Rose with a testimonial on the occasion of their golden wedding which will be celebrated on the 27th inst.

The old couple are widely known & highly respected. Mr. Rose was the founder of the Deaf & Dumb School of Victoria & was its superintendent for 31 years. He has thus rendered to the deaf of the State an inestimable service by devoting his talents unreservedly to their cause. Had he refrained from the task. many of the deaf who are blessed with a fairly good education might have been left to grow up without one

We feel that the occasion should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. It is therefore our intention to make the circumstance known to all friends in Australia, so that through united effort we may be enabled to make the proposed testimonial worthy of the event.

Donations will be thankfully received by me & duly acknowledged

I am
Very sincerely yours
J. E. Muir

Deaf Mute Centre.
Flinders St. E,
Melbourne.

The Age 1/7/1910.

The deaf and dumb people of Melbourne and districts assembled at the institute, Flinders-street, last evening to mark the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Rose by presenting them with a purse of sovereigns. About 200 people sat down to tea in the large dining hall, after which the hon. secretary of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institute described to the meeting something of the history of Mr. Rose. He had been stricken deaf at the age of seven years owing to an illness, and had in consequence also lost the power of speech. He had come to Australia fifty years ago to join in the gold rush, but had discovered that a number of deaf and dumb children were without any means of obtaining instruction. He abandoned gold digging, and founded the Deaf and Dumb Institute on St. Kilda-road. He was the right man, and had come at the opportune moment. The institute this year celebrated its jubilee. Congratulatory messages were received from all quarters of Australia from former pupils of Mr. Rose, and from the institutes founded in the other capitals. The whole of the evening's proceedings, including a humorous recitation, was carried on in the deaf and dumb language, Mr. Abraham translating for the benefit of a few visitors.

Age & Argus 27/6/1910.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Rose, the founders of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, celebrate their golden wedding to-day. The ex-pupils of the institution will also celebrate the event at a social to be held on 30th inst., in the Adult Deaf and Dumb Building, Flinders-street, when Mr. and Mrs. Rose will be the guests of the evening and will receive a presentation.

The Argus 1/7/1910.

Mr. F. J. Rose, the founder of the Deaf and Dumb Institution, in St. Kilda road, and his wife, were entertained last night by the members of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association, on the joint occasion of their golden wedding and the jubilee of the institution. Mr. Rose was presented with a purse of sovereigns, in commemoration of the event, subscribed by members of the association and their friends, who were present in large numbers. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, the principal of the deaf and dumb church and building, presided. Mr. R. H. Luff, the hon. secretary of the Victorian branch of the association, in a speech in the language of gesture, prior to the presentation, said that Mr. Rose was one of the pioneers who came to Australia in the fifties to seek a fortune on the goldfields. Himself a deaf mute, he had been led to take up the task of educating the deaf mutes of the community, and founded the institution in St. Kilda road, where at present about 90 pupils received an education. The community owed a great deal to his self-sacrificing efforts.

The Board of the Victorian Branch
A. D. D A.

Requests the pleasure of the company of

To a Social at the Deaf & Dumb Building, Flinders Street East, on Thursday, 30th June, at 6.30 p.m., to celebrate the Golden Wedding of Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Rose.

F. H. Luff.
Hon. Sec.

R. S. V. P.

Mr. & Mrs. F. J. Rose
tender their grateful and
sincere thanks to
Mr. W. L. Miller
for kind Congratulations on the occasion of celebrating their Golden Wedding on the 27th June, 1910

"Oxonia,"
Jessie Street,
East Malvern.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s. 6d. per annum, post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 6. JULY 1910 Nº 10.

Services

There has been a satisfactory increase in the attendance at the morning services during the past month. A few weeks back our chaplain in the course of his evening address paid that whilst he was pleased to see the young men present at divine worship in the evening, the morning was the time when the young should be especially prominent at the worship of God. The following Sunday morning there was a great muster of young men and it has continued. There was a large attendance at Communion Service on the morning of the 3rd of July

Meetings.

"Friendship" was the title of a paper read by Mr. A. McLellan at the Young Men's Guild on the 31st of May. It was full of thought and showed how well the reader understood the meaning of the word friend. Perhaps at some future time we may find space for extracts from this excellent contribution to our lecture platform. Mr. Luff also spoke on the same subject. Short stories and impromptu speeches followed. The president (Mr. G. Mortimer) was in the chair.

The members of the Women's Guild also held a meeting on the 31st of May — a Bible study conducted by Mrs. A. Wilson. On the 14th June Mrs. J. E. Muir read a paper on "Helen Keller" before a good assembly of the members and as is usual when Mrs. Muir prepares a paper the audience was well repaid for their presence.

An interesting debate took place under the auspices of the Young Men's Guild, on the 28th Ult. The subject being "Ought bachelors to be taxed." Mr Frewin opened in the affirmative and Mr Luff in negative. Many of the deaf joined in the discussion including Messrs A. Miller, McLellan, Nelson and Downes. There was much merriment and some of the arguments used both for and against were more in accord with comic opera than practical. The negative won with a large majority, perhaps because most of those present were unmarried young men.

Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee held their meeting on the 21st June when the business was ordinary. A parcel of magazines etc from Mrs Campbell Thomson of Toorak accepted with thanks. Resolved that maps of Melbourne and Suburbs and Victoria be procured for the Library. The late King Edwards portrait to be hung in the Building. Letter of congratulation to Mr S. Freedman upon his marriage. "Benefit night". Mr F. Laver, ex-manager of Australian Eleven Cricketers to be asked to give lecture on the cricketers tour with illustrated views.

Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Rose.

The 30th Ult was a land mark in the history of the Australian Deaf. Upon that day the deaf of Victoria, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution and the golden wedding of its founder Mr F.J. Rose and Mrs Rose. Mr F.J. Rose was educated at the Old Kent Road London. School for the Deaf and, came out to Victoria during the gold rush in search of that precious metal. Very soon after his arrival his attention was drawn to the presence in the state of a number of deaf mute children and the need of some provision for their education and to, cut a long story short he opened a private school and it was not long before public and government support followed, with the result that his school soon became one of the principal charities of the State. The historical event referred to took place in the Adult Deaf and Dumb Building, Flinders St, under the auspices of the Victorian branch of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association, the President Mr E.J.D. Abraham was in the chair Amongst those present were Mr E.R. Peacock, chairman of the Adult Deaf and

Dumb Society and Mrs Peacock. Mr H. Sumner Martin B.A, L.L.B, Hon Secretary and Mrs Martin. Mr M.L. Miller, Hon Asst Treasurer, Mr H. Luff. Hon Secretary A.D.D.A, Mr J.E. Muir, Hon Treasurer. A.D.D.A, Miss Jones ex-assistant Matron of the Institution; and of the ninety odd deaf people who made up the larger part of the assembly very many were well known and successful "ex-pupils of Mr A.J. Rose.

Tea was provided in the lower hall and the "blushing" bride and bridegroom of seventy odd summers were provided with a wedding cake, and both took their turn at cutting it in the orthodox manner. After tea the guests both deaf and hearing, some 160 in all, adjourned to the upper hall, here Miss Jones, the ex-assistant Matron of the Institution came in for quite an ovation for from all parts of the hall she was excitedly greeted with "Mother, Mother" by the ex-pupils; a spontaneous expression of their appreciation of her loving care, which must have been very pleasing to her. The president opening the meeting with prayer. The Hon. Secretary then explained the object of the association which briefly put to raise the social status of the deaf. "The Association" he said was only performing its duty in bringing about this gathering, for Mr Rose was the foundation stone upon which the improved condition of the deaf was built. He mentioned that letters and telegrams had reached him from many who, whilst unable to be present in person desired it to be known that they were there in spirit, amongst the numerous friends who sent congratulatory greetings were the following — Messrs J. Watson, (Sydney), G. Pagulan, (W.A.) D. Piper, J. Cardwell, P. Cunningham, the "Collins", D. Moss (Sydney), Mr and Mrs Mercy, Hon F. Grimwade, Miss Mortimer, Miss Maguire, Mrs Blass (Tasmania), and J. Sloane and D. Ashby attended representing the country deaf. The chairman said they, the deaf of Victoria, were exceptionally fortunate in still having the founder of their school in their midst, he understood what the starting of the school meant to them, the greater their appreciation and gratitude would become. Braidwood who founded the first school in Great Britain, De l'Epee in France, Heinicke in Germany and Gallaudet in America had all passed on leaving behind them mighty oaks the fruit of their acorns, whilst Mr Rose still lived to

enjoy the fruits of his labour in having around him those who had benefitted by his efforts. Mr W. A. Paterson followed with a humorous recitation which was well received. Mr R. H. Luff then introduced a purse of sovereigns which had been subscribed to, not only by the deaf of Victoria, but by deaf and hearing friends in other states as well, it was therefore to be taken as a gift from the deaf of Australasia. He called upon Mrs Cove one of the first three pupils to enter the school, to make the presentation which she did in a few well chosen words. Mr Rose in acknowledging the gift in the name of his wife and self, gave us an outline of the series of events which brought about the establishment of the school. He thanked the subscribers to the purse heartily.

The meeting was brought to a close by a sketch entitled from "Darkness to Light" being the story of the Education of the deaf in seven scenes, the 1st being the home of the parents, the dread fear - is our child deaf? The Second is the visit to the Doctor with the usual result, "When your child gets older it will be alright." The 3rd illustrates a visit from a deaf mute (Mr Rose) from the old world who is seeking out deaf children with object of opening a school for them. Scene 4, the parting of child and parents at the school. Five, the boy's first lesson. Six, Prize Day - the pupils' successes. Seven was a tableau of the trades of the deaf as represented by the ex-pupils of the school with Mr Rose in the centre.

The performers were Messrs J. E. Muir, M. L. Miller, W. A. Paterson and Hull. Mrs J. E. Muir and Miss Bourke. Messrs H. Luff, W. A. Paterson, Miller, and J. E. Muir were in charge of the Rally and Mesdames Luff, Crompton and Cove and Misses O'connell, Potter, Graham and Smith were responsible for the tea arrangements, and to these ladies and gentlemen the thanks of the deaf are tendered for able manner in which they performed their parts of the programme.

Personal Pars.

Despite his great handicap F. A. Mackenzie (who is a deaf mute) has succeeded in obtaining high scholastic honors, he successfully passed through the Arts course at Cambridge University, England, and his name appears in the list of those who have obtained Bachelor of Arts degrees.

It is with much regret that Mr Sidney Martin has resigned his post on the Committee of our Society on account of being transferred to Brisbane. The Queensland deaf folks are sure to give him a welcome back to their Society of which he was Hon Secretary for some years.

Miss. P. Ashby has left Elmore for St Arnaud where she is having a pleasant time with her friends

Mr C. Turnbull is still busy on the station at Berramangra, N.S.W. Although old in years he still plays football.

Mr W. Hunter has gone to Philip Island to help his brother on the Chicory Plantation

The Trustees of the Felton Bequest has again remembered our Society donating £10 to the general fund and £25 Women's Wing.

Mr Geo. T. Burgess, of Stawell, won the batting average for Stawell C.C. last season. It seems that he has been most consistent in batting for years.

A deaf lady named Miss Newell was killed by being run over by a tram in Sydney lately.

Mr T. Collins, a leading country deaf mute athlete, who is a member of Longwarry C.C. has been presented with the bat given by Captain A'Beckett for the highest individual score (196) in matches for the West Gippsland premiership. He has also been awarded Mr A. Freeman's gold medal for best batting average (over 51 runs per innings); and Mr H. W. Edney's prize for best bowling average (40 wickets at an average cost of 7 runs per wicket) Collins is also a splendid footballer and all round athlete.

We are glad to learn that Mr E. Salas, of Adelaide, is improving in health. He has gained 1 stone

and 4 pounds in weight and expects to be in harness again before long.

Miss A. Foster returned to Melbourne after spending 3 months pleasant stay with her relations in Sydney.

Mr T. Collins, of Neerim South has been seriously ill with mumps for sometime. This sickness being prevalent in the district

Mr P. Smith, after his unsuccessful efforts to get work in Melbourne, is now in Adelaide having obtained a billet as a bookbinder in a big factory. He likes it very much.

Mr J. Kenworthy, of Bairnsdale, shaped well with the bat last season, his average being 15 runs per innings. His club won the trophy

The Hon Secretary of the Victorian branch (A.O.D.A.) Mr R. H. Luff begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Misses G. Mortimer (Traralgon) and L. Rosenfield and Mr A. C. Muir.

Parcel of Books etc donated by Mr H. Burdett and Mrs Campbell Thomson for the Library were accepted with thanks. More books will be much appreciated.

A handsome framed picture representing different martyrs was presented for the building by Mr R. H. Luff.

Our Letter Fund

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- from Miss M. G. Mortimer and 2/- from Mr and Mrs J. E. Muir. Subscriptions of 1/- for this fund will be gratefully received.

Any country deaf mute is welcome to ask the Hon Librarian for old magazines which have already accumulated in the Library.

On the 4th June Mrs Ferguson, mother of Samuel Ferguson, Bowman's Forest, succumbed after an illness extending over 2 months. The deceased was 74 years of age and was one of the earliest settlers of the Bowman's Forest district. She went there with her husband about 51 years ago and has lived there ever since. Mr S. Ferguson has our condolence.

The Farm

There is a vast deal of prepartory work to be done here yet. Men are still engaged in grubbing, clearing, ploughing and making ready for fresh lands of plants. Propogating frames, Shelter house and fowl run are also in course of erection. The stock of violets obtained for propogation purposes, are in bloom and are being much admired for their size and perfume. The bulbs also already give promise of a great show of bloom: Business is on the increase. Mr M. L. Miller has given Mr Abraham instructions to purchase a cow and has promised to see that the money to pay for it is forthcoming. Our Chaplain - Superintendent - Manager seems to be a very accurate prophet. The request for the cow only reached its "second time of asking" and yet the wherewithal to procure has materialised. He now wants to know who is going to make a start toward a couple of hundred head of poultry; "The new house and run will hold them" says he and looks awfully desolate for lack of inhabitants." The deaf men are as deeply interested in the progress made as is our Superintendent himself. Mrs Reynolds is proving herself to be a most useful and loyal helper to Mrs Abraham.

Lacrosse

The South Australian deaf mutes seem to be doing very well this season and are very confident of winning the premiership in their grade. They have won all the matches up to date. They consider that their team is the best they ever had since the club was formed. They reckon Mr. Parnell a born lacrosse player and also Mr. Lehmann a great goal potter.

The Victorian deaf boys are still progressing well.

June 4th Victorian Deaf School 4 goals v Melbourne Church of England Grammar School 8 goals - lost
June 11th Deaf School 16 goals v Kew 2. won.
" 18th " " 6 " " Malvern 4. won.
" 25th " " 7 " " Melbourne C. of E Grammar School 2 won.
July 2nd Deaf School 11 goals v Canterbury 1. won

The Late King Edward VII.

Our Superintendent has received the follow. — "The Governor-General has been commanded by His Majesty King George the Fifth to convey to you his sincere thanks and the gratitude of the Royal Family for the message which you were good enough to send on the occasion of the death of His Late Majesty."

SYLLABUS FOR JULY

3rd 11 a.m. Our Lord's Supper.
5th 8 p.m. Lecture by Mr Abraham.
12th 7·45 p.m. Annual Meeting of D.W. Guild.
" " 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
19th 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
26th 8 p.m Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.

Sunday Services. 11 A.M. & 7 P.M.
Bible Class. every Thursday 8 P.M.
Recreation, Bank & Library, Sat^ys 7.30 P.M.

Who doesn't appear to have gained success:
Instead of helping him all we can,
We strive to render his chances less.
A kindly word, or a friendly hand,
May help him — who knows? to pull easily through
It may give him fresh life to renew the strife,
If we only knew! If we only knew!

Services.

Our Chaplain has accepted the offer of the members of the Sub-Committee to relieve him of one of his Sunday services during the winter months. Mr. Abraham is officiating morning and evening alternately. The following members conducted services during July. Messrs. J. E. Muir, M. L. Miller, R. H. Luff, W. P. Muir and F. J. Rose. and will continue to thus lighten the labours of our Chaplain during August. There is generally a slight falling off in the attendance at Divine Service during the wet months of the year, but this year although the weather has been comparatively fine quite an unusual number of the older members were missing from their places at evening service in June and July. We trust the congregation will kindly make a note of this and favour God with their usual regular attendance.

"Just like him!"

When at the last meeting of the Sub-Committee the Hon. Secretary announced that Mr. M. L. Miller had promised a donation of twenty guineas to their funds, they were at a loss for suitable words to thank their generous brother. So many votes of thanks, expressed in every conceivable way and often in language far too generous in adjectives for multitudes of minor gifts, appear in our records that when it comes about that we have to acknowledge in a suitable way a very handsome gift, we find our vocabulary of appreciations absolutely exhausted and we ourselves quite unable to rise to the occasion. It is not therefore, to be wondered at, that the Committee took advantage of the Chairman's simple but appropriate exclamation "It is just like him" by receiving it with round after round of applause, for it expressed as no formal vote of thanks could, the true feeling of his fellow Committee men. Of the sum promised £10 is for the general fund, £10 to purchase new books for the

library and £1 to purchase a desk for the Large dictionary. When a certain friend of ours gave up his connection with the amateur stage for good and all to devote even his spare time to the deaf, it was many times said that a good actor had been Lost in him and he has never been certain in his own mind whether the comment was a compliment or otherwise. Anyway, whatever doubt there may be as to what was Lost in our friend, we are confident that a very generous benefactor has been found in Wm. M. L. Miller. We owe much to this gentleman. He has given most liberally of all that our Heavenly Father has blessed him with; his time, talents and money. His personality has also had a marked influence upon the deaf as a class. One fine character in the midst of a community can accomplish more than thousands of sermons and moral addresses. Actions speak louder than words. We are proud to own him as a brother and our earnest prayer is that the light that emanates from him will be the means of bringing into existence many of the M. L. Miller stamp amongst our juniors. We speak thus lovingly of him not with the object of praising him for he is beyond that. He never seeks it - does not want it; he will tell you that his reward is in the good accomplished. Our aim is a more useful one - to put the light in its proper place "the candlestick" (and not to leave it "under the bushel") so that others may see and profit therefrom. Neither do we wish it to be thought that these remarks specially refer to the latest of his gifts although we have taken advantage of this peg to hang our garment upon, for the best that is in him has been made a free will offering to his deaf brethren for many years past. We can think of no better, fitting or appropriate expression of our appreciation of Wm. M. L. Millers great services than that used by our Chaplain "It is just like him!"

Deaf Womens' Guild.

At the meeting of the Committee held on the 28th of June it was resolved that as the sewing machine would see more service at the home at Blackburn than at our building, it be transferred to that sphere of activity.

The ninth Annual meeting was held on the 12th of July and the members turned up in full force. Wm. E. J. D. Abraham presided. The report which was a record of progress, and the balance-sheet were adopted, as also was the penny bank account. The following Officers were

elected for the ensuing twelve months, President: Mrs. J. E. Muir, Vice-President: Mrs. A. Wilson, Hon. Secretary: Miss K. Cowan, Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. J. Boorby, Committee: Mesdames Abraham and Williamson, Misses M. Potter and E. Connell, Hon Secretary and Hon. Treasurer for the penny bank: Mrs. J. Boorby. The meeting wound up in the usual way that is, a supper provided by the committee, and the members of the Mens Guild trooped in and removed to their interiors such dainties as the ladies, in the goodness of their hearts, had set aside for them, Hearty thanks were tendered to those responsible for the spread.

The Mens' Guild.

Mr. J. E. Muir's paper, read before the members of the Mens Guild on the 12th of July, and entitled "notes from various sources" included extracts from the life of Helen Keller, cricket anecdotes, etc. He was heartily thanked at the close and several of the members contributed items in harmony with the title of the paper.

Winter Games.

The interest in the Saturday night competitions continues, in fact is keener than ever. Several friends have already promised prizes.

Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee met on the 19th ult. The Rally accounts were passed for payment and the next quarterly congregational re-union fixed for the 22nd of September. An announcement that Mr. M. L. Miller had donated £21 to the Committees' funds was received with much enthusiasm. This sum is to be divided as follows:- £10 to the Sub-Committee general fund, £10 to purchase new books and £1 for a movable desk for Websters dictionary. A parcel of books from Mr. Parks, Framed colored photo of the late Queen Victoria & illustrated papers of the diamond jubilee of Queen Victoria and Commonwealth celebrations from Mr. J. E. Muir, Monthly publication from the Commercial Travellers' Association and map of Victoria from Sands & Mc. Dougall were received and the Secretary instructed to convey the hearty thanks of the Sub-Committee to the donors.

The "Gesture."

This Australian Quarterly (July - September issue.) is brim full

of the doings of the deaf throughout the world, it is in every sense a newsy number. There is a fine illustrated article on "Messrs. Collins' Saw Mills," under the title of "The deaf in Business", A biographical sketch of M. Gaillard, Editor of the "Revue des Sourds-Muets" with portrait, Account of the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. F.J. Rose with a speaking likeness of that gentleman, A picture of Mr. Ernest Payne the New Zealand deaf motorist in his new motor car. Views of the flower plantation at the Deaf Mutes' Farm, Blackburn, Amusing articles by "The Tramp," "Bill" "Stickers" and "Unity" together with much other interesting matter.

A Chat about the Farm.

This month we are able to spare a little extra space for a chat about the farm. This we know will please the many friends who are following with no small degree of interest the various stages of progress. Hearing friends acquainted with the old Lake paddock are taken by surprise on visiting their old pleasure resort and the expressions of astonishment are amusing to see and listen to. Few seem able to realise that such extensive alterations could have been accomplished in so short a time and by the labour of the deaf & dumb. We are still grubbing, clearing, breaking up and ploughing additional acres, forming rough roads & paths, and from a state of apparent unredeemable confusion a systematic arrangement of gardens is beginning to appear. Our manager has in mind and on paper quite an elaborate plan and the work itself is being pushed on as rapidly as hands can labour and the rain will permit, the aim being to complete the fundamental part by November next and to have the whole of the cultivated land round the building a mass of bloom in the summer and autumn. Almost an acre is being made ready for the reception of violets, the white narcissus are to be transplanted to two acres of land now being cleared at the rear of the kitchen garden, and the irrigated three acres they vacate on the mens' wing side of the home are to be planted with summer and autumn blooming flowers, an acre has been cleared on the womens' wing side and is to be wholly occupied by chrysanthemums, a new bit of land is being cleared in the front of the home for dahlias, the rose plantation has been augmented for the reception of young trees raised on the farm, some hundreds of wattle, tamerick, willow and poplar trees together with a quantity of passion fruit, all raised on the farm are ready for planting. Three thousand carnation, a thousand or more rose and a quantity of marguerite cuttings have been planted. The propagating frames are being made ready for the reception of the annual and bi-annual seed

boxes. Strawberry runners removed and planted and the frame work of a fern and shelter house erected. Many thousands of sweet peas, cornflowers, etc are coming along strong and should make a handsome show. Such is the record of progress to date. **The Workers.** And now a few words about the staff. With such a record as given above it should be needless to add that the manager is supported in his efforts by a loyal and enthusiastic staff. Every one does his share, every one is hopeful, everyone is watching the development with increasing interest. Mr. Plumridge the expert florist has shared with our manager the responsibilities and anxieties of turning this brush land into a cultivated garden. To Mr. Plumridge belongs the honour of doing the actual work of laying out the lands and beds. He is on the spot at 7 a.m and is seldom away before darkness falls, is even magnetised to the spot on Sunday mornings although he has to prepare for his Sunday School of which he is superintendent and has lately, we are sorry to say, had more than his share of domestic trials, only recently losing his youngest child

Archie McLellan is an ideal overseer, one of the class that never asks any one else to do what he can make time to do himself.

C. Reynolds and W. Hindell are steady ploddersо, practically the whole of the planting falls to them.

Percy Swain is a kind of Jack of all trades, can mend a pair of boots, groom a horse and do his share in the garden. He takes a pride in driving our chaplain to Box Hill on Sundays to enable him to officiate at the services in town and which means eight journeys and being on duty from 8.30 a.m to 11 p.m.

Sam. Buse has become quite an expert with the axe and the jack and is never more happy than when associated with Archie in work where his muscular strength is needed.

Willie Skews is knight of the hoe and wields his weapon with fine skill.

George Woods is ever willing; his delight is the violet plantation, he is our champion picker.

"Lord" Nelson who is only with us for a time, is happy in his new work, he is an all-round worker, anxious to take on anything and has given birth to the hope that some day we may count him among the permanent workers.

Mr. Cook our blind deaf friend has a workshop of his own and is kept very busy caning bottles and caneing chairs, he is also a great reader and so with his work and his books is never dull. Being well read he can tell a good story and many a time have we listened and enjoyed them.

The Flower Plantation. The winter blooms at the flower farm are now

in all their glory, the paper whites give one the impression of a field of snow and the golden heads of the Soleil d'or are a sight to be seen even if you do have to pay the price of tramping ankle deep in mud for the privilege. Quite a business is being built up, the sales for the week ending July 16th reached £8. Large purchases of certain bulbs will however have to be made before the bulb plantation can be considered complete and equal to the varied demands.

The Poultry Yard. In response to our appeal made last month, Mrs. L. Manger has kindly led off with the gift of a rooster & two hens. The "house" is now inhabited, but the fowls look very lonely in their great mansion and the extent of their country is greater than they can cultivate and have whispered their desire for a great increase in the population. Will other friends be good enough to send along or instruct us to send for more immigrants suitable for this newly founded colony?

The Domestic Side. The domestic department of a home is always liable to be overrun with innumerable little difficulties, but even here we are emerging from the clouds. When the women's wing has been erected, then, and not till then will it be possible to carry on this department with smoothness and to the satisfaction and peace of those in charge. Mrs. Abraham is doing her best which is the best that can be done. The combat with the kitchen range is a worry of the past for the "old lady" that would'nt cook but insisted on smoking the whole day long has been removed and sold for scrap iron and has been replaced by a dear old soul who will do most anything you put her to.

Personal Pars.

Mr. G. Brown Curator of Public Gardens and member of our committee, is taking a great interest in our farm. He accompanied the Manager the other week in a tour of inspection and expressed pleasure at the rapid advances made and approval of the work done.

Mr. M. L. Miller was one of the fortunate passengers who escaped unhurt in the great railway accident at Richmond on the 18th July. He was in the train that ran into the other one, but was lucky to be in the back part of the train and got nothing worse than a bump. He was glad he did not catch the first train or he might have been in a worse position.

A daughter came to gladden the home of Mr & Mrs D. Nolan on the 15th July.

Mr. A. Morgan of Carpendeit is getting on well with his brother in law on a dairy farm. He always finds our "Monthly Letters" a great source of delight.

Miss M. Collins has settled in Melbourne with her mother and sisters. They resided in Longwarry for many years and are glad of the change.

Mr. C. H. Hosking lost his aged father on the 19th July. He has our condolence.

Mr. Henry Gladman has started a business of his own at Footscray in the furniture repairing, polishing & upholstering line. We wish him every success. He will be very pleased to do any furniture repairing, polishing etc for any of his deaf friends at very reasonable charges.

Almost every English mail brings a letter from some deaf friend, acquaintance and sometimes strangers asking our Superintendent for information about our country and expressing the desire to settle here.

Our Building. Workmen have been in evidence about our building during the month just passed. Alterations have been made to the shower in the Lavatory, a guard rail fixed to the eastern wall to prevent damage to building by passing traffic, rain pipe repaired and several repairs to roof. As usual the work has been done under the supervision of our kind friend Mr. E. G. Mercy.

The book "The story of my life" by Helen Keller and presented by the late Mrs. Hannah Martin in memory of Mrs. Templeton has been missing from our library for some months. Will the member or friend who has borrowed or forgot to return it kindly send it along to the Hon. Librarian.

A.D.D.A. The Hon. Sec. of the Vic. Branch (Mr. Luff) acknowledges with thanks subscriptions of 1/- each from Miss E. Mortimer and Messrs. W. Cann, Jas. Sloan and R. Hamilton.

La-Crosse. July 9th D & D. Institute. boys 1. v. S. Yarra 11. July 16th D & D. 8 v Kooyong 10. July 23rd D & D v. Hawthorn - no match on account of rain. July 30th D & D. boys will witness match Williamstown v Hawthorn at Albert Park Aug. 6th D & D. will play against Williamstown, they hope to win, so do we. This month the D & D boys will visit the British Aust. Tobacco Factory to see the work, etc.

Other Places. Our old friends Mr. & Mrs. Burke of N.Z. are still well in health and doing well. They continue to keep us supplied with Newspapers & cuttings containing references to the deaf which we much appreciate.

Mr. Ernest Payne who is the proud possessor of a motor car and a skilled driver intends to pay Melbourne a visit next Christmas.

We are pleased to say that Mr. E. Salas of Adelaide is much improved & expects to be at work soon.

SYLLABUS FOR AUGUST

2nd :: 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
9th :: 8 p.m. Lecture by the Supt both sexes.
16th :: 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.
23rd :: 7.45 p.m. Deaf Womens' Guild Meeting.
" - 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
30th :: 8 p.m. Deaf Mens' Guild Meeting.

Sunday Services. 11 A.M. & 7 P.M.
Bible Class. every Thursday 8 p.m.
Recreation, Library & Bank. every Sat.y 7.30 p.m.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. **SEPTEMBER 1910.** **No 1.**

Good to be Alive.!

I am the man that smiles – Because the day is bright, Because I sleep at night. Because God gives me sight to gaze upon my child; Because my little one can leap & laugh & run: Because the distant sun smiles on the earth – I smile.

I smile because the sky is high above my head, Because the rose is red, Because the past is dead! I never wonder why The Lord has made things so, that all things have to go the wrong way here below the over-arching sky.

I toil, and still am glad, Because the air is free. Because I love and she that claims my love, & me, shares all the joys I have! Because the grasses grow, Because the sweet winds blow, Because I still can sow and gather, I am glad.

How to live.

There is nothing more beautiful in this world than the spirit of genuine sympathy, the feeling of one heart for the sorrows & burdens of another. This is the human touch that makes the world akin. Without it life would be lone & loveless.

From this human sympathy may we not argue the sympathy & tenderness of God? Man is at his best when he forgets self in thinking & feeling for another. God must be infinitely better than man at his best. To see the tear of pity, to hear the word of sympathy, to witness the deed of tenderness & love, is to understand but faintly the sympathy & tenderness of the great Father heart of God. His children are ever his special care.

Amid the shadows of life, along all its rough way, cling to this truth, & let it comfort your aching heart; God knows & cares. His loving presence is going before you & His hand of sympathy is ever stretched out to help.

Our Monthly Letter. With this issue we enter upon our seventh year. We started with a circulation of 150 & although the distribution has been restricted to the deaf & those taking a personal interest in their welfare we are now printing near upon 400 copies monthly. We are again indebted to Messrs M. L. Miller, & R. W. Smith & J. E. Muir for the writing of the lithographic tranofers throughout the year & our hearty thanks are tendered to those gentlemen. Messrs Arnold & Jackson printed the paper to our satisfaction. We acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions to the "Letter" fund. Mrs G. Woods 2/-, Mr. J. Kenworthy of Burnsdale 2/-, Mr. J. McLean 1/-, & Mr. G. Oakley 1/-. About 25 have subscribed towards this fund since last September.

Education Bill. Many enquiries have been made during the past month in regard to the deaf clause in the education bill. We can do nomore at present than assure our friends, on the very best authority, that it is the intention of the Government, as soon as convenient, to provide adequate accomodation & make suitable provision for the education of the deaf children of this State.

The Late Hon F.S. Grimwade. Although President of our Society for only a year & a few months, the late Hon. F. S. Grimwade will be much missed by us, for he was exceedingly kind & generous. He helped every little movement that added to the well being & pleasure of the deaf. The fund for the erection of a Womens' wing at the Home at Blackburn was headed by him with a donation of £100. Mr. Grimwade died on the 4th of last month & was buried at St. Kilda. The Rev. A. W. H. Adeney & Mr. E. J. D. Abraham represented our Society at the funeral, & a telegram conveying the sympathy of the deaf members was sent to the family. At the meetings of the General Committee, & the Sub-Committee, also at other gatherings & the services, records of sympathy were made or words of appreciation of his services to our cause spoken.

The Blackburn Farm. There is still much that might be written about the improvements that are being made at Blackburn, but we can not spare the time nor space just at present. Room must however be given to the following:- Mr. M. L. Miller has presented us with a cow & calf, the former has been christened Mattie & the latter Millie. We no longer have to wait for the coming of the

milk woman, we are now our own milk purveyor. A Footscray Lady has followed the good example set by Mrs Mauger & contributed four fowls to our Poultry Colony & Miss H. Sayers has sent £1 to purchase more. From the Government Forest at Macedon we have received a package of trees & shrubs to help beautify our park, & from a gentleman at Brighton a parcel of rose cuttings, from Mr Brown a mulberry & some fig trees also a number of gooseberry bushes and rose cuttings. For all these gifts we offer grateful thanks. The Committee have sanctioned the purchase of a chest of simple medicines for use at the Home, & the farm is to be put in telephonic connection with Melbourne. Our violets, jonquils & daffodils have been much admired & commanded ready sales, the weekly sales being between £8 and £9.

Bank & Outing Fund. The Annual Meeting took place at our Building on the 18th of August. Mr M.G.B. Mortimer presided, & the following report was submitted by the manager Mr R.H. Luff, The Committee of the above Bank beg to submit their 5th Annual Report. They are pleased to say that the operations for the past 12 months have been satisfactory.

There were 27 depositors at the beginning of year, & 7 new members were added & 3 withdrew during the year. At present there are 31 on the roll.

The amount of £97.11.9 was deposited & the sum of £39.14.9½ was withdrawn. The present amount to the credit of the depositors is £57.16.11½. The sum of £1.5.10 was received as Interest from the Melb. Savings Bank.

The Committee decided to give a bonus of 10/- in the £5 this year, so the sum of £1.10.5 was distributed amongst the depositors & they have in their reserve fund the sum of £1.6.6

Meetings. The Deaf Womens' Guild Committee met on the 9th August & transacted its usual ordinary business. The chief item was the arrangements for the next Rally which is to take place on the 22nd Inst. It is expected that there will be an unusually large attendance at this rally, being the first under the management of the Womens' Guild & at which novel competitions & games are to be introduced.

On the 23rd Ult, at the meeting of Deaf Womens' Guild, Mrs J.E. Muir opened an educational class with an attendance of 21. She gave a

very instructive paper on the moving of motions, amendments etc, she also spoke interestingly on fables etc. The members thoroughly enjoyed it. The President announced amidst much applause that Mr. M.L. Miller had contributed £5 to the funds of the Guild.

The Deaf Womens' Guild meetings are now held every third week.

On the 20th August 1860 the ill-fated Burke & Wills expedition in Australia set out from Royal Park & on the same date half a century later, the event was commemorated by a ceremony, which took place on the spot from which the expedition started. In this ceremony nearly 1800 metropolitan scouts took part & on the historic ground they were told how those pioneer scouts sacrificed themselves to duty.

On the 15th Aug. (4 days earlier) in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the departure of Burke & Wills, at the Deaf Mens' Guild meeting Mr. R.H. Luff gave a very interesting paper tracing the history of the movement which resulted in the expedition, and also an outline of their experiences & the tragic ending of the expedition. He was forced to curtail his remarks, but he held the attention of the members well. A most hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. R.H. Luff for his excellent paper.

On the 9th August Mr. E.J.D Abraham lectured on "Things ancient & modern to a good audience of members of both guilds. Before delivering his lecture he spoke a few words of welcome in the name of the deaf to Miss Matthews a new arrival from England & Mr. J. Gordon of Sydney who has procured work in Melbourne.

The Sub-Committee met on the 23rd Ult. The Hon Secretary reported having received a handsome mounted map of Melbourne & suburbs (scale 2500 ft to 1 inch) for the Library from the Melb & Met. Board of Works, also a railway map of Victoria from the Victorian Railways Department. Both maps were very highly appreciated by the members & votes of thanks for the gifts were made.

Messrs M.L. Miller, R.H. Luff, M.G. Mortimer & J.E. Muir, & Mrs J.E. Muir & Miss E. Connell who were appointed by the Sub-Committee to select new books to the value of £10 donated by Mr. M.L. Miller have been busy with the work & expect to have got through before the next meeting of the Committee.

Cricket. The Cricket season is approaching & the Adult Deaf Cricket Club is busy getting things ready for the coming contests. The Club will hold its 29th Annual Meeting in our

building on the 6th Inst. when the usual prizes will be distributed. It is to be hoped that the club will be strengthened by the inclusion of several colts who have recently left school. Some of the old players are inclined to retire, but have agreed to fight on until the youngsters are able to fill their places. We expect to see some big cricket as the South African cricketers are coming here to play against Australia.

Games. The interest in the Winter games competition is Keener than ever. It will close at the end of this month. No one has been permitted to know who is leading in any of the games; this has added considerably to the excitement. About 10 prizes have been promised.

Lacrosse. The deaf school boys are at present level with Williamstown, being at the top of their Grade (D), & it is hoped that at the end of the season they will be the winners of their grade. They have our best wishes.

August 6th	D & D. School	7 goals	v Williamstown	1 goal Won
" 13th	" " "	Walkover	v Middle Park	won
" 20th	" " "	10 goals	v Kew	nil won
" 27th	" " "	5 "	v Casterbury	4 goals won.

Personal Pars. At Lyalls Timber Settlement Mill, near Collie, W.A, the two year old daughter of Mr & Mrs R. Hann wandered from home & fell into a water hole in a creek used for domestic supply, & was drowned. The mother recovered the body from the water. They have our heartfelt sympathy.

Miss A. Graham spent a pleasant holiday with her friend at Cowes lately. She was away for about 2 weeks.

Miss Matthews came out from England lately & has settled down in Melbourne for good. She thinks that Melbourne is a very lovely place, & also that our building is admirably adapted for all the purposes needed by the deaf.

Miss Fanny Bell of Maldon has followed the example of Miss M. Collins by settling down in Melbourne with her mother

Influenza is raging in Melbourne at present. Several deaf have been visited by it but not very seriously, & we are happy to state that they have almost recovered. Miss Elsie, our superintendent's daughter is the latest victim but with her high spirits it is not expected that she will be down long.

The condition of Miss K. Cowan who is ill at her residence, Box Hill, is slightly improved. We hope that she will soon be back amongst us.

Miss P. Ashby has been confined to bed with influenza for some days. She is now much better.

Mrs Crompton has had a serious cold but is almost her old self again now.

Mr. A. Williamson caught a chill whilst collecting at Ballarat & had to return to Melbourne. He has been laid up for a few days, but is now mending.

Mr. Sam Ferguson has presented a fine camera & outfit as a prize to the Cricket Club for the player who should be a runner up in averages. We appreciate Mr. Ferguson's thoughtful kindness. It is encouraging to us to see our country members taking so practical an interest in our town societies.

A very interesting letter has reached us from French Island written by Mr. Fred. W. Bond on behalf of Mr. C. C. Thompson who, since leaving the deaf school has become totally blind. Mr. Thompson is nearly 30 years old, and although so severely handicapped, he works with his parents & his brothers on their farm. He is much interested in the doings of the deaf of Melbourne & has not missed a single detail in connection with the working of the Blackburn Farm. Referring to a note in our last Month's issue he says that he also has pleasurable remembrances of the "Mothering" of Miss Jones. Mr. Bond & Mr. Thompson both think the Monthly Letter a splendid idea.

We thank the Eight hours Gala Committee for a donation of £15 toward the maintenance fund of the Farm & Home.

Dr. Bell and the Deaf. Dr. Bell the inventor of the telephone is in Australia. In his early days he was for sometime a teacher of the deaf & is still interested in the work of instruction. He is a strong advocate of the pure oral system, so it is not surprising to find him speaking in support of his pet theory on his visit to the schools for the deaf in this country. We all honour him & appreciate the many generous gifts that he has made in connection with deaf-mute literature & the getting together of helpful statistics. How much of what has been reported in the local papers was really said by him, we do not know.

The following facts may help to set right some of the statements that have appeared & which may have misled the uninitiated.

In the first school for the deaf established by Braidwood in Edinburgh, speech was the chief system of instruction, Germany has taught noother, although her first school was opened almost simultaneously with that of Braidwood. The "Oral" is the old not the new system so far as the teacher is concerned, though of course the "sign" has always been and always will be the natural language of the deaf. Although Dr. Bell favours the pure oral system, the professors of the Washington University for the deaf prefer the combined, which has been named the American System, and practically the whole of the deaf in America & in Europe use the finger & sign language & are opposed to the pure oral method. The deaf themselves are, of course, the best judges on this matter. We do not recognise Dr. Bell as an expert although he has our highest regard & esteem.

A very humorous paragraph, in connection with Dr. Bell's visit to Melbourne, appeared recently in the "Herald". We are told that when at the school for the deaf, placing his watch to the ear of a bright eyed mite of about four years, Dr. Bell said, "tell me what this is dear" & the child indicated with a movement of her little fingers that it was a "tick, tick". Ye teachers of the deaf! try & realize an expert in the education of the deaf placing a watch to the ear of a deaf child & a deaf child referring to a watch or a clock as a "tick, tick". Perhaps the greatest joke of all is the use of her natural language (Gesture) in making the sign for clock in reply to the oralists spoken question illustrated by the greatest sign of all the showing of the actual article he desired to be named.

Your Greatest Enemy. Selfishness has a thousand forms, but no matter what its aspect, it is always the deep fountain of all human sin, & the worst foe every one of us has to face.

Archbishop Whately once said:

"If you ask me to tell you who it is that causes the greatest trouble and threatens you with the direst danger, I can only say that if you look in the glass you will see an excellent picture of him."

If we would live happy lives we must get rid of selfishness. We must imitate the example of our Master whose life was spent

in the service of others, and Who died to redeem us from sin & selfishness. If we are to experience true joy whilst here on earth, we must "love our neighbours as ourselves."

Rally. Members are reminded the next Rally is to be held on the 22nd. Inst. Please make a note of it & see that you have no other engagements for that date & come early.

Lecture. At the meeting of the Deaf Mens' Guild on the 30th Ult. Mr. M.L. Miller gave a very interesting & instructive paper on "How the deaf can be a credit to their fellows in public". He said a mutual pointing out of faults & getting them corrected did a lot of good, & Deaf Mutes had a good few faults in their general bearing & conduct when in public which might be pointed out & an endeavour made to correct them. Mr. Miller considers the rough & loud use of signs, & the reckless use of facial play & gestures especially with the wide opening of the mouth undesirable & unsightly when talking in public. This mode of talking easily attracts the eyes of passers by & perhaps does not convey them a favourable impression. He reminded the members that the public are in the habit of judging the whole lot by one case they see. Deaf Mutes should endeavour to so bear themselves in public as to create a favourable impresion & bring credit to all their fellows, not discredit. If we talk quietly & use neat, light & graceful signs without the absurd facial play & gestures, What a lot of difference it would make in creating a good impression the aim of each of us should be, do "I" by my general bearing & conduct in public help to bring discredit on my fellows & if so, to thy & get it all altered for the better. Mr Miller donated £5 to the Guilds Fund.

Prospecting. A correspondent signing himself "Pick & Shovel" asks "suppose two out of work deaf miners wished to go prospecting for 3 months, would the Committee lend them £50, or undertake to pay the prospector 25/- a week & his assisant 20/- per week for a given period". We should think not. At the present time there is no reason why any deaf mute should be out of work, there is plenty to be had if willing to do it. Speculative borrowing is only another form of gambling. We would advise the "prospector" to get some honest work & stick to it.

N.S.W. Bazaar. The Deaf of New South Wales are holding a bazaar at the end of this month in aid of their association. The Deaf of this State are invited to help, donations in money or kind should be sent to Mr. V. Fisher, Adult Deaf Association, Newton Rd. Darlington, Sydney, N.S.W.

SYLLABUS FOR SEPTEMBER.

1st Agricultural Show Day
6th 8 p.m. 29th Annual Meeting of the A.D.C.C.
13th 8 p.m. Womens' Guild Meeting.
" " 8 p.m. Mens' Guild Meeting.
20th 8 p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
22nd 7.30 p.m. 21st Cong. Rally.
27th 8 p.m. Mens' Guild Meeting.
29th 8 p.m. Communicants' Class.
Oct 2nd 11 a.m. Our Lords Supper.
Bible Class every Thursday 8 p.m.
Recreation, Library & Bank every Sat 7.30 p.m.
Sunday Services. 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. OCTOBER 1910. Nº 2.

A TRIBUTE TO Mr ERNEST. J.D. ABRAHAM.
(9th Anniversary Oct. 9th 1910.)

By Acacia.

It was truly a good wind that blew him into our lives. This man of world-wide experience, who came to us from England nine years ago, took a more comprehensive and merciful view of our affairs than others could, and he saw our necessities. The very first matter to which he devoted his attention and time was the raising of the fund for the erection of the Church and Institute. Prior to this we had for 17 years been collecting money for the purpose. At first we were full of hopes and ambitions, looking forward to having a church of our own. The springs of our energy, being new and well-oiled, worked industriously and steadily, but they began to rust and went slower and slower. Disappointed at the lack of response to our efforts, we grew tired of travelling slowly, tired of struggling to get what we desired, and tired of racking our brains for new plans to swell the fund quickly. So we drowsed, were asleep when our new Superintendent arrived on the scene. The awakening was so rapid as to be almost a comedy. We saw a new world opening out before us, and, before actually realizing it, we were plunged into a whirl of activity, and raised from our recognized sphere of narrow usefulness to a higher and broader plane. It was quite a sensation to find ourselves working hard and full of new hope and spirit with Mr Abraham. He had inspired us

with enthusiasm. Within three years we saw our fine Church and Institute erected and furnished and free of debt. It now stands as one of the most imposing in the deaf world.

Having reached the goal of our desire, did we sit down and enjoy the rest? Oh no! Mr. Abraham had us at work again helping, by holding bazaars and carnivals, to obtain the required sum of money for the building of the Farm and Home for the Aged and Infirm deaf mutes, with the result, that we now have a Farm and Home at Blackburn.

Mr. Abraham works on strenuously planning and preparing schemes for the welfare of the deaf, bearing brightly the wear and tear of countless trials hard thought, and perious difficulties. Heart and Soul he is in his work. His outlook is a broad, deep, tender, and earnest one. By his self-sacrificing, indefatigable love and energy, he has done a great deal to ameliorate the conditions of the deaf. He has brought fresh interest and variety into our lives, and has helped to stimulate the desire of cultivating our special abilities, and helped us towards acquiring the capacity to observe and to enjoy all that is best in life. We owe much to him, for it is he who first put the creed of love, endurance, and courage into our hearts. He has strong faith in our power to do great things, especially when we co-operative with him.

Mr. Abraham is absolutely a man of culture and practical common sense. He is the editor, the lecturer, the preacher, the organiser and the dramatist, a most fearless and unselfish worker, a man so charitable that ones unkind thoughts slink away abashed before him. He is ever courteous, ready to help whenever he can, even though it be to his last shilling. He is so genial, so full of humour that he makes a delightful companion to young and old. He has a beauty-loving nature, — a nature that often makes one see beautiful things with new eyes — a nature that makes one think better of life. He brings a sense of cheerfulness, love, and sympathy into his surroundings, the effect of which cannot but be felt. One always retains a strong impression of his individuality, intense personality, and magnetic charm.

Mr. Abraham has an enormous fund of ability, energy, and enthusiasm. To him there is no such word as "cant." He believes in trying, he believes in taking pains. Evidently he must have

constantly in mind the motto "Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well", that is probably the secret of his success.

We know of no better or more graceful sign-maker than Mr Abraham. It is a treat to witness his clear and dignified delivery and mastery of his sermons and lectures.

That he, our greatest Australian benefactor, may long be spared to continue his labors of love is the earnest prayer of the writer.

ALMOST COMPLETED.

This month is the 9th anniversary of our Superintendents sojour amongst us, and he is striving hard to complete his work by the 10th, that is, Oct. 9th 1912. So far as the financial side is concerned, the sum of £750 is all that is required – it is the amount necessary to cover the cost of the erection of the Women's Wing of the Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf Mutes, at Blackburn. All can help in the procuring of this sum, indeed there are some who will read these lines who could make out a cheque for the whole amount and not miss it – 15 cheques of £50 each would lighten the load of the man at the helm considerably. The Committee are now satisfied that the income to maintain the Women's quarters will be forthcoming, and have decided to start building so soon as the above sum is obtained. The other side: the laying out of the flower farm, the training of the inmates and the creating of a market for the produce, means strenuous work, much patience and business ability, and will depend almost entirely upon the man at the helm.

SCHOOL NEWS.

At the Annual Meeting of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, St Kilda Rd, Prahran, it was stated that the expenditure for the year had exceeded the income by £150 and it was decided to call another meeting to discuss means for raising the sum of £1500 for improvements. Later, a deputation waited upon the State Treasurer and asked for a building grant of £1500. Mr Watt (the State Treasurer) in reply said that the Institution had an endowment fund of £14,000 and he was of opinion that the £1,500 should be taken from that fund. In the Education Bill at present before Parliament there is a clause which, if the bill becomes law, will make the Education of deaf children compulsory and we understand, that it is the intention of the Government to make such provision as will make this clause effective – a Government cannot very well compell rate paying citizens

to send their children to a charitable institution. This is perhaps, the reason why the State Treasurer did not see his way to comply with the request of the Board, for if the Government intends to provide for the education of deaf as well as hearing children, it is scarcely likely to assist in the enlargement of a charitable institution established for the same purpose. It is many years since the Governments of Europe and America recognised the duty of taking over the education of deaf children. How it came about that Governments should see the wisdom of educating its normal children and not the deaf is a mystery that has all along puzzled us. We are very much behind the times in Australia, but there is still consolation in the old motto "better late than never."

ARE THERE ANY LEFT?

Our attention has been directed to the conversion of Mr Victor G. Fisher, of Sydney, from the oral to the combined system of instructing the deaf, made by him in a letter addressed to Mr J. Watson, principal of N.S.W. School for the Deaf and written in reply to criticisms of Dr. G. Bell. This conversion does not surprise us in the least. Mr Fisher is himself deaf, we knew therefore that it must come about sooner or later; all depended upon how soon he would be impelled to obtain the necessary practical experience by personal contact with the deaf after school life. What does surprise us is that practically the whole of the supporters of oralism are either hearing people who speak without direct knowledge of the life of the Adult deaf; indeed pride themselves on the fact that they know nothing of the manual alphabet and signs and never mix with the deaf that use them, or the deaf offspring of wealthy people who have been forbidden to mix with the adult deaf and have no opinion of their own, merely parroting the views expressed by their one sided teacher and parents. Many a time have we witnessed the joy of these "rich unfortunates" when fortune has given them an opportunity to converse with their fellow deaf in their natural language which they are supposed to be ignorant of.

Mr Fishers confession is the same old confession to which we have become so accustomed that we weary of it. Briefly put it amounts to, "I did not know so favoured oralism, I have had experience and now know, so favour the combined". Here are his actual words "Although I was brought up in the Pure Oral System at your School, as it was then in vogue, and was in favour of it until a few years ago, still I have seen fit after more mature consideration to change my opinion

in favour of the present Combined Method".

THANKS TO THE GREAT AND ONLY ONE.

There has been general rejoicing on the part of all the guilds and clubs connected with Our Centre this month. The various Treasurers are the proudest and most stuck up creatures to be seen within a days march of Flinders St. For a whole month they have been strutting about with such enormous smiles that we are getting anxious about their getting their faces straight again. The G. and O.C. Matthew L. Miller to wit in addition to his £21 gift to the Sub-Committee of the Society, has donated £10 to the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association, £5 to the Victorian branch, £5 to the Mens Guild, £5 to the Womens Guild and £5 to the Cricket Club. May his shadow never grow less and his purse grow heavier.

THE FARM AND HOME.

Our farm bids fair to become a minature Zoo, as well as a botanical gardens. It now boasts of two horses, a cow, a calf, a dog, fowls, cats, a parrot, a canary, innumerable lizards, Jackasses, magpies and other wild birds, with fish in the lake. The latest arrival is a young monkey the gift of Mr F. E. Erwin. She is already very much at home and believes herself to be of supreme importance. Business was exceptionally good in August the receipts for cut flowers alone reaching £32. Hearty thanks are given to Mr Clark, of Mildura, who sent us, per Mr A. C. Muir, a huge tin of honey. This gift is largely responsible for our extreme sweetness of late

THEY ALL WITH ONE CONSENT. ETC.

At the World's Congress of the Deaf held at Colorado last August Dr Thomas F. Fox, Professor R. P. Mc Gregor and Olof Hanson were down in the program to argue in favour of the superiority of the combined over the oral system of instruction. Invitations were extended to Dr Graham Bell, Dr A. E. Crouter and Mr Frank W. Booth the grand sponsors of oralism in America and others to speak in defence of their system before the only Council that is able to judge by results, but they all with one consent began to make excuses, one was about to depart on a long journey, another – but why prolong the agony!

THE WORLDS CONGRESS OF THE DEAF.

Representative deaf from different parts of the world met in Congress at Colorado in August last. The programme was a magnificent one, there were ceremonies, papers, discussions, dinners, balls and pic-nics in fact it was an occasion of "high jinks" for all

sections of the deaf. A very hearty welcome came to Victoria, but we were, unfortunately, unable to send a representative this year. President Yeditz has written acknowledging the receipt of a paper on the "Deaf of Australasia" written by Mr. M.L. Miller at the request of the A.D.&D.A. We hope in a future number to record some of the results of the gathering.

NEW BOOKS.

The generous donations of Mr. M.L. Miller has brought to our Library 101 new books. The Selection Committee did its work thoroughly, catering for the tastes of all. Mrs. J.C. Muir and Messrs. M.L. Miller and K. Luff have been appointed a committee to arrange the books in sections in the library. We anticipate a busy time for the librarians in the lending department.

THE ANNUAL PIC-NIC.

A vote was taken at the Rally on the 22nd ult and it was almost unanimous, in favour of Blackburn, so to that place once again are we to journey on Cup Day (Nov 1st) An extra effort will be made to add new attractions in the way of sports and games. Those of our members who have not visited our beautiful homestead at Lake Park since the last pic-nic will need to use their thinking caps to enable them to recognise some parts of the estate. To many it will seem as though a fairy had waved her wand over the place so great is the transformation. We would like to see a great muster of hearing friends this year, so bring them along. the more the merrier. There will be no charge for admission to "our party," both deaf and hearing and perfect freedom to wander where you will. The return fare is 11d second and 1/2 first. You can bring your own tucker or if you desire it the Committee will make arrangements for the comfort of your inner man (or woman) Watch the announcements on the notice board at our Centre and make a note of the date - You are engaged to be with us that day.

GUILD MEETINGS.

At a meeting of the Deaf Womens' Guild held on the 13th ult Miss Potter read to a good audience, a very interesting paper on her experiences in England. She related several amusing incidents connected with her life in London. Miss K. Cowan is still to ill to attend evening meetings and so has reluctantly, resigned the post of Secretary to the Guild. We are all sorry, for it was hoped that she would have been able to render good service during the coming

year. She has the sympathy of all our members who hope that health will soon be restored to her.

Mr T. Peters made his debût at the Men's Guild as a lecturer on the 13th Sept, his paper being a miscellaneous one. He has a clear delivery and shows ease and confidence. We are sure that, with practice, he will become a good and interesting speaker. Mr J. Marks and Mr Hull are also down for maiden addresses, the subject of the former is "Swimming". "Our Boys" are coming to the front and the "old lads" intend doing what they can to encourage them to remain there. The old boys have had a mighty up-hill fight these past twenty years and now that the heavy fighting is done they are anxious that the young stuff should take up the drilling.

RALLY OF THE ADULT DEAF.

The 21st congregational rally under the management of the Deaf Women's Guild was held on Sep 22nd at the Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St, City, and passed off splendidly. Nearly 150 people including children were present (103 deaf and 44 hearing). Mrs J. E. Muir (the President) occupied the chair and our chaplain opened with prayer. Miss Dow recited "Schoolmates" prettily. The most interesting feature of the evening was a Scent Competition. A dozen bottles of different shapes and sizes were numbered and placed on a table, each one containing a small quantity of liquid of a different odour. Competitors were directed to sniff the contents of each bottle and then write down the name of whatever they guessed its contents. Vinegar, phenyle, spirits of camphor, eau de cologne and other strong smelling liquids were poured into the most unlikely-looking receptacles. It puzzled the competitor to find brandy in a tiny scent-bottle whilst tea and wine were put in blue bottles. Coloured water was the greatest puzzle of all to the players who were supposed to guess with the help of the sense of smell. Mr Boortz and Mrs Pierce were the successful winners (shaving paper and scent respectively). A very amusing competition "Blowing out a Candle" brought roars of laughter when the blindfolded competitors groped their way to where they fancied the lighted candle to be and commenced to blow vigorously in order to put it out. The effect was extremely funny from the onlookers point of view. This competition was won by Messrs Downes and Campbell (pocket books) and Miss G. Peters (buckle). The Dolls' Name Guessing Competition was another excellent one and Mrs Pierce guessed the names rightly (Alexandra and Victoria) and received the dolls as a

reward. Jolly games were also indulged in. The entertainment closed with supper. Mesdames Abraham, Williamson, Wilson, Boor and J.E. Muir and Misses Connell, Empson, and Potter supervised the arrangements of the rally. The party was a very happy one and the presence of several new faces gave quite a freshness to the gather The "Rally" is now looked upon as a permenant and very necessar feature of our Centre

CRICKET.

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Adult Deaf Cricket Club was held on the 6th Sept. at our Centre.

Mr J.E. Muir (President) occupied the chair and there was a large muster of members and friends. The report and balance shee (the latter showing a surplus of £4.1.0) were adopted. The Club under the captaincy of Mr R.K. Beattie carried out a pleasant, sociable an successful programme of matches during the past season. They played 22 matches of which they gained 11 victories, loosing 9, with one draw and one tie.

The president presented the trophies won as follows:—L. Downes, Batting average 21.14 per innings (the "Presidents" prize, Clock), J. McLean, Bowling average 6.40 per wicket (Mr M.L. Miller's prize, Carvers), R.K. Beattie, runner up in averages (Mr J. Ferguson's prize, Camer and photograph outfits), V. Harding, most regular attendance among junior players (Mr W.A. Paterson's prize, cricket shoes) W. Burge, fielding (Mr W.P. Muir's prize, purse with cash), D. Driscoll, best assistance to the Hon Sec. on the ground (Mr W.P. Muir's prize, pur with cash), and J. Hunter, best behaviour in matches (Mr M.G. Mortimer's prize, Shaving outfit).

The donors of prizes have been most generous and the heartiest thanks of members are tendered to them. The following office bearers were elected, President, Mr J.E. Muir, Vice-Presidents, Messrs M.L. Miller, W.P. Muir, W.A. Paterson, and W. Hindell, Hon Treasurer, Mr T.A. Nelson, Hon Sec, Mr J. McLean, Committee, Messrs R.H. Luff, E.R.W. Smi M.G. Mortimer, and V. Harding. Several prizes were promised in the room. It is to be hoped that the club will start the season under excellent auspices. Mr M.L. Miller donated £5. to the Cricket Club fund.

BIRTHS.

On the 25th Sept. to Mr and Mrs H. Gladman, a son.
Last August, to Mr and Mrs J. Collins, a son.

SYLLABUS FOR OCTOBER.

2nd 11a.m. Our Lord's Supper.
4th 8 p.m. Womens' Guild Meeting.
" " " Mr Abraham's Lecture to men.
8th 3p.m. A.D.C.C.r
9th Mr E. Abraham's 9th Anniversary.
11th 8p.m. Mens' Guild Meeting.
15th 3p.m. A.D.C.C.r
18th 8p.m. Sub-Committee Meeting.
22nd 3p.m. A.D.C.C.r
23rd Hospital Sunday.
25th 8p.m. Womens' Guild Meeting.
" 8p.m. Mens' Guild Meeting
29th 3p.m. A.D.C.C.r
Nov. 1st Cup Day Picnic at Blackburn.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. **NOVEMBER 1910.** **No 3.**

Services.

As we have had nothing special to report, and the attendance at the Services has been so good during the past few months we have not thought it necessary to refer to them. It is pleasing to see how our young people "remember their Creator in the days of their youth" and some day they will realise that their present happiness is due to that fact. There was a good attendance at the Communion Service on the 1st Sunday in October.

A Thought for Sunday.

Thou man of Sorrows, thou didst not
The bitter cup decline;
Why should I claim a better lot—
A smoother path than thine!

Where love and wisdom deign to choose,
Shall I the choice condemn?
Or dare the medicine to refuse
That is prescribed by them?

A gardener was about to sow some seeds when one exclaimed: "Oh, let me not be buried in the dark, damp earth! Why should I not remain in the warm sunshine where I am?"

But the gardener threw the seed into the ground and covered it, without regarding its complaint.

As he did so, another seed fell out of his hand upon the stone close by, where it remained exposed to the sunshine and heat. In a short time it was parched and shrivelled up; while the buried seed was just at the same time beginning to shoot up a delicate little stem, which grew till it blossomed into a flower, and afterwards brought forth fruit.

Hospital Sunday.

The Hospital Sunday Collections at our services on the 23rd Oct. were gratifying, £5-10-3 being collected as against £4-11-3 last year. This amount although it falls slightly short of the record sum collected during the first year of Mr. Abrahams' arrival from England (£6-8-9) was still highly creditable.

Mr. A. Hull one of our youngest members has been confined in the Melbourne Hospital for about 3 weeks and is now progressing favourably, he left the hospital lately and is now having a restful time at Blackburn. Messrs Daniels and Woodley are also patients at the same hospital.

Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee met on the 18th October and transacted its usual ordinary business. It was resolved to have the next Congregational Rally on the 20th December. Messrs F.E. Spewin (Chairman) W.J. Muir, J.R. Nelson and J.E. Muir were appointed to supervise the arrangements of the Rally. It was decided that for the future, copies of Syllabus would not be printed, but a list of coming events will be prepared and posted on the Notice board and events for each week will be announced by the Chaplain from the platform after the services on Sundays. Members are kindly requested to make a note of events in their pocket books.

Our Annual Pic-nic.

Our Cup-day pic-nic, held at Blackburn on the 1st of November, was, without doubt the most successful and the best enjoyed for many years past. There was an attendance of about 70 deaf together with a good crowd of hearing friends. Dinner and Tea were provided at the Home for all who preferred a substantial meal and were willing to pass over a humble silver coin. Mrs Abraham undertook the catering and all who partook expressed themselves as highly pleased with the spreads. The day was gloriously fine and our people in the humour to enjoy the outing to the full, which they did. In the morning a programme of races for both Ladies & Gentlemen was carried through satisfactorily under the supervision of the Sports Committee Messrs J.E. Muir, F.E. Spewin and M. Miller. Good entries had been received for the various races and the winners were as follows:- 150 yards Handicap (men) 1st J. Elvin, Hand bag, 2nd T. Peters, Shaving outfit. Alarm race (men) 1st Geo. Schubach, Clock, Trainers Race (men) 1st J. Elvin. Knife and T. Peters, Collar case. 100 yds Ladies Race 1st M. Clark, purse bag. 2nd E. Hickey, Bottle of Lavender Water.

Ladies Skipping race 1st R. Dow, Basket, 2nd E. Hickey, picture frames. Blind fold quoit match. J. McLean, Inkstand. The prizes were distributed to the winners after tea by Miss Alice Graham who said it gave her great pleasure to do so, each winner as he or she stepped blushingly forward received hearty applause, A walk about the grounds in the cool of the evening occupied the rest of the time and a departure for home was made about eight o'clock, every one having passed a thoroughly pleasant time.

Meetings, Lectures, &c.

Mr. Abraham lectured on "Stories from History" before the Mens' Guild on the 4th Ult.

At the Womens' Guild meeting on the 4th Ult. Mrs. D. Wilson gave a very interesting paper on "Work" followed by a lesson on "Books of the Bible". On the 25th Ult. Mrs. J. E. Muir gave a brief account of her visit to Adelaide which was greatly appreciated by the members present, as also was the educational class afterwards on the origin and meaning of language.

There was an attendance of 16 at each meeting, and it is gratifying to the senior members that the younger ones are coming forward to question or comment on the evenings programme.

Much business was transacted at the meeting of the General Board of our Society on the 14th October.

Our Chaplain preached two appropriate sermons on the 9th October, the occasion being the ninth anniversary of his arrival in Melbourne to take up the work of our Society.

Winter Games.

The Winter games competitions came to a close on the 24th September, the season was a most successful one, the average attendance being about 40 each evening during the whole of the three winter months. The following are the successful competitors:- Angling.- Miss Clark and Mr. L. Downes, Bagatelle.- Miss K. Christensen and Mr. P. K. Beattie, Word making.- Miss Clark and Mr. J. McLean, Vacuum Pistol Shooting.- Miss Rosenfield and Mr. P. K. Beattie Shooting.- Mr. J. Pierce and Mr. L. Downes. Euchre.- Mr. W. Burge. Several competitors were very close up to the Winners.

Cup-Day at the Flower Farm.

There were no less than five organised picnics at Lake Park, Blackburn on Cup-day,- St. Silas, Albert Park, Holy Trinity, Kensington, Baptist S. S. Port Melbourne, Mission Bible Class, Richmond, the Deaf Congregation and some

hundreds of stray visitors. The day was an ideal one for pic-nics and the surroundings so attractive and the arrangements so well carried out that the bands of young people returned at night in the happiest of spirits, all declaring the pic-nic and the place "the very best ever" and were already planning to come again soon. The boats were full all day long - crowds waited for hours in the hope of getting a row. It is a pity that there are not five or six good boats on the lake instead of two only, and the refreshment cottage was crowded with customers. the Home also came in for a good share of patrons for afternoon tea, fruit salads, etc. The work of catering for pic-nicers entails an enormous amount of real hard labour and means that some few have to be at it continuously from early morning until late at night. This fell to Mr. & Mrs E.J.D. Abraham, Mr & Mrs I. Abraham, Mr. A. McLellan, and Mr. P. Levain. The refreshment cottage was run by our manager, Mrs I. Abraham, Mrs Prior, Miss Empson, Miss Elsie Abraham, Miss Blair and Miss Williamson. The fact that something like £14 was taken in pennies for ice cream and drinks and half pence for lollies, will give some idea of the number of little customers. Four great coppers were kept going from breakfast time until dusk and hot water was served out by the pail, can, pot and billy by Mr. I. Abraham and Mr. Nelson. Over at the Home Mrs Abraham ably assisted by Mrs Prior and Miss Empson - who spent their time between the cottage and the Home, just wherever the rush was greatest were busy providing fruit salads and afternoon teas, also catering for the deaf pic-nic party and some 40 odd sat down to both dinner and tea. Mr. Lindell boiled the hot water for those who catered for themselves. Mr. Shonridge was kept busy in the flower garden making up 6d. bunches and was quite unable to keep up to the demand. Mr. McLellan assisted by Mr. Rose ran the boats, Mr. Hull had charge of the Flower and Tea Gate and Mr. Levain was jack of all trades working like a trojan, Altogether it was a magnificent day from a business and from every other point of view.

The Flower Farm.

Work progresses slowly. We are very backward with the planting and weeding for want of more skilled labour, that which we have is good but insufficient, a few more men would make all the difference. Every month makes us the more sure of ultimate success, but it is hard graft now and will be for a year or so until we get things ship shape and can all settle down to distinctive duties. Percy Levain had a kick from the waggon horse and was "lame" in the arm for a week and Ernest Daniels had to be taken to the Melbourne Hospital where he underwent an operation,

he is progressing as well as could be expected and we are hoping that he will soon be back with us. Alec. Hall left the Melbourne Hospital and is running himself out here, he is as merry as a rabbit and will soon be in the best of health again. Archie Mc. Lellan caught an opossum in the chimney of the engine the other day, we kept it for a day and then let it go. The cut flower business is still fair although no effort is being made to push it because the heavy planting and laying out is taking all our time and attention. Mr. Cork gave an exhibition of basket making at the Methodist Bazaar held in Blackburn and we sent in a donation of cut flowers.

Womens' Wing Appeal.

£720-1-6 is still required. Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham the manager of the Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf Mutes, begs to acknowledge with grateful thanks receipt of the following amounts towards the Womens' Wing Fund.

Previously acknowledged £252-4-0.

Mrs. V. Christian.	£ 5-0-0	Ball & Welch Pty Ltd.	£ 1-1-0
Mr. Jos. Kronheimer.	2-2-0	A. Wrighton.	1-1-0
" H. G. Turner.	2-2-0	Jas Miller & Co. Pty Ltd.	1-1-0
" E. Baines.	2-2-0	D & W. Murray Ltd.	1-1-0
" Henry H. Kemp.	2-2-0	Mr. H. V. Mc. Kay.	1-1-0
Hon James Balfour.	2-2-0	Beath, Schuss & Felstead.	1-1-0
The British Australasian Tobacco Co. Pty. Ltd.	2-2-0	Mrs. E. Ogilvie.	10-6
Mr. William Bruche.	2-0-0	Mrs. Elliot.	5-0
Adamson, Urettle & Co.	1-1-0	Mrs. J. Staughton.	2-10-0
		Miss E. L. Webden.	2-2-0

Personal Pars.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Hann who recently arrived from West Australia intend making a long stay in Melbourne. They both spent an enjoyable time at Trafalgar, Neerim and Portland. — Miss A. Foster is paying a visit to her sister at Inglewood, she expects to be away for a long time. Mr. J. Ashby of Trafalgar was in Geelong for a few days on business, he could not spare time to run up to Melbourne to visit his old friends. Mr. Andrew Pearce of Beech Forest spent a few days holiday in Melbourne, he came up with the intention of joining his brother in partnership on a farm in Queensland, he however changed his mind and returned home. We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of £1-1-0 from Miss F. Grimwade

and 1/- each from Mr. T. A. Nelson and Mr. J. Boorby towards "Our Monthly Letter" fund. - A gift of books was received from Mrs. E. Brockford for the library with thanks. - By mistake we mentioned in the last "Letter" that the Vic. Branch A. D. D. A. had received a donation of £5, the amount should have been £10.

The Deaf School.

The Deaf School children gave a very creditable display of gymnastic feats at the St. Kilda Town Hall on the 18th October before a full house in aid of the School fund. A good number of the Adult-Deaf were present.
It is understood that the Jubilee of the School will be quietly celebrated this month. It is known that nearly all the old pupils would have been pleased to celebrate this event by a social gathering at the Institution. For they do not forget that they received their education there. It is a pity that no such opportunity is to be given them.

La-crosse.

The Deaf School boys finished the season at the end of September and won 16 matches, only 4 being lost. They were 3rd on the (D) Grade list. The Melbourne Grammar School were the Premiers and the Williamstown runners-up. For the Deaf Boys V. Lyzzer threw 50 goals, J. Retallack 34 and T. Martin (capt) 29. The players who showed best form were:- T. Martin, V. Lyzzer, O. Lyzzer, J. Retallack and J. Elvin.
The South Australian Deaf La-Crosse team were the runners-up in the 1st Junior Grade, University being the Premiers.

Cricket News.

Owing to private reasons Mr. J. Mc. Lean resigned his position as Hon. Secretary to the Adult-Deaf Cricket-Club. Mr. W. P. Muir has kindly taken the post with Mr. C. Harding as his assistant. The club started the season rather badly with a weak team on the 15th October. and got beaten by Northcote C.C. A. D. C. C. could only put together 24 while the Northcote C.C. made 84 with the loss of 8 wickets. Mr. W. Burge was elected captain for the season and Mr. R. H. Luff Vice-Captain. The club would have been stronger but several of the best players were ambitious to better themselves and joined hearing clubs, thus leaving the poor old Deaf C. C. to be torn asunder by its foes. It is to be hoped that after all the deserters will find it is best to be in the old fold again.
Mr. G. Burgess of Glen Thompson made a good score of 98 not out

in a match between the married and single lately.
No word has been mentioned of the coming Interstate Deaf mute Cricket matches this year.

South Australian News.

The deaf of Adelaide were agreeably surprised by the visit of Mr & Mrs J. E. Muir and Miss Graham last month and received them with a royal welcome. The visitors were specially invited to their annual pic-nic at Brighton, S. A, on the 11th Oct. (Eight-Hours Day.) which went off splendidly. Mr & Mrs Muir and Miss Graham were much pleased with all they saw at the School. They also paid a visit to the Farm and Home at Parafield and spoke highly of it though it is entirely different to ours at Blackburn. Wheat, cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, &c are being raised on it. Mr Muir had to return to Melbourne after a week's stay but Mrs Muir and Miss Graham stayed for two weeks. They all enjoyed their visit thoroughly.
On Saturday October 8th the Adelaide Cottage apprentices were entertained at Mr E. Lalas' residence when they presented Miss M. Anderson with a handsome glass jewel case and serviette ring in appreciation of her services at the apprentices' Cottage during her residence for several years at the Mission quarters in Wright Street. She was very much pleased to accept the presents and thanked the givers heartily.
On the 19th Oct. Mrs J. E. Muir read a paper on "Helen Keller" to the members of the Women's Society in Adelaide and it was very much appreciated by them.
On the 21st Oct. Mr E. Lalas was presented with a purse of Sovereigns and an illuminated address from the Adelaide deaf friends at a social as a token of esteem after his long illness. He is reported to be improving very much in health and strength now.
It is stated that the deaf of Adelaide are talking of resurrecting their monthly News Letter which is to be something similar to ours.

Melb. Deaf Mens' Guild.

At one meeting held recently Mr J. Campbell gave a paper on "Manners in the Street" and at another Mr Clifford Robertson gave a paper on "various items of interest" It was both of these young members maiden effort and they acquitted themselves creditably. It is hoped they will give more papers on future occasions, also that other young members who have not yet plucked up courage to come forward, will emulate the example set by the above young members.

The Social side of Oralism.

Extracts from Address of Prof. Robt. Mac Gregor, read before the Worlds Congress of the Deaf.
It is difficult for me to treat seriously the subject assigned me for discussion

to-day. You all know that the "restored to society" deaf person is a standing joke among us. We are always hearing of him, but we have never seen him. Like the Irishman's flea, as soon as we put our finger on him he is sure to be somewhere else, so we have never been able to capture a real simon pure oralistic "restored to society" deaf person and hold him long enough to get him under the microscope & describe him. But seriously this is a serious question with us for it means much to us. Man is a social being. The deaf crave the society of their fellows just as much as other people and any system of education that deprives them of that solace is radically defective to say the very least. Our oralistic friends may be sincere in their belief that they can give us speech good enough for every day use and that "signs are a curse" to us, but they always remind me of the perpetual motion cranks. They are always on the point of success, but they never succeed, and what is more, they never will. But as all the science in the world will never convince a perpetual motion crank that he is attempting the impossible, so none of the arguments that we can put forward; none of the countless concrete examples of failure that we can show; none of the facts of practical experience in our own lives, will ever convince the Pure Oralist that he is attempting the impossible. The perpetual motion man injures no one but himself. The oralist injures countless numbers of human beings when it comes to considering his work from the social point of view, for as one of our most gifted members pathetically says of the orally taught "we do not fit in any where" in the social world. With imperfect speech they cannot mingle freely with the hearing, and knowing no signs they are equally at sea in a social gathering of the deaf. Their condition is truly pitiable. "They know what it is to be in the world and not of it - to be shut in by an imperturbable wall of silence" Pure Oralism as it exists to-day is such a total failure in the social life of the deaf that ninety per cent. of the orally taught drop their hardly acquired speech - except among very near relatives - almost as soon as they leave school and resort to writing and signs in all their social intercourse with the world at large. Theory is one thing, but practical experience is another. We are taught at great expense of time and money that speech is everything, but when we leave school and go out into the world we speedily discover that we have been deceived - and act accordingly - throw away speech and resort to signs and writing in all social intercourse. A great deal is just now being said in the public press about the conservation of our natural resources. All substitutes are frauds more or less. This is recognized in the business World. Why not recognise it in the educational World? Here is a chance to conserve. Let Pure Oralism be abolished and the waste of time and money and hopes deferred that it entails will cease, and the happiness of the deaf will be conserved where it is now wasted in fruitless efforts to accomplish the impossible - the substitution of lip-reading for hearing.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. DECEMBER 1910. No 4.

To the Deaf of Victoria and all hearing Friends
we send
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May the Blessing of God be yours, - bringing Joy, Love, Contentment & Peace into every home visited by Our Monthly Letter.

Our hearts are full of gratitude to Our Heavenly Father for His watchful care over us, for the glorious years of prosperity, for the sisterly & brotherly Love that has united us into one great family - each interested in the welfare of the other - too full for words. We have many times felt that we have that "Blessing of God which passeth understanding" for we can not give expression to it, can only feel it, realise it. There are no words capable of describing this feeling that God is with us, continually blessing; filling our Cup not only only full but brimming over - this joy, contentment & peace of the soul. In this thankful spirit we send you greeting praying that the like gratitude & peaceful contentment be yours.

To Parents of the Deaf.

Of late quite a number of letters have reached me from parents of the deaf, not only from Victoria but other States, asking advice re the education of their children. some have heard me speak others have read what I have had to say on the subject. It would give me pleasure to reply to all privately by letter as some of the questions put can not well be answered in a general way. This pleasure is beyond me, for the work already undertaken by me has got beyond my powers. I feel however that I must make some attempt at a reply, if only in a general way.

the chief question put to me is "Is it a disgrace to have my child educated at a charitable Institution". My reply is most emphatically, No. All Instructors of the deaf throughout the world maintain that in these enlightened times it is a disgrace that any school for the deaf should still be classed as a charitable Institution, but the disgrace is upon the Governments that fail to rise to their duty.

In Victoria education is practically free even to the deaf for the Government makes an annual allocation - although it is misnamed a charity grant - sufficient to cover the cost of the instruction of the deaf, on the point of principle, should decline to pay for the education of their deaf offspring, for it is the birthright of every child of this State, not that I mean to imply that it would be expected of them for I believe the board of the Victorian School is only too anxious to take all deaf children. Parents expecting & able to afford special instruction should of course pay the usual extras. Board is quite apart from education & parents should pay according to their circumstances. They must remember that their children have to be kept when at home, & when at school, their weekly outlay must be less.

I think the following figures in re to contributions toward a fairly safe maintenance guide. Parent earning £2 per week (and having other children) 2/6 per week. £2.10. (3/-) £3. (4/-) £3.10. (4/6) £4 (5/-). If there are two deaf children, half the sum named for the second child. In no case (except when extras are required) should the sum exceed 10/- per child. It is not suggested that the above cases the cost of maintenance but what parents having the weekly income named ought to be able to spare. If the government opened local schools for the deaf as is the case with the hearing the cost would be much greater than it is at a central boarding school, therefore the Government should meet the difference in the cost of board etc.

Ernest. J. D. Abraham. 30.11.10.

The Farm & Home.

November 27th was the first anniversary of the opening of the Farm & Home at Blackburn but no effort was made to celebrate the event for our never resting Matron has at last collapsed under the heavy strain of the difficulties, unusually heavy work due to insufficient staff, long hours & worry natural to the

founding of a new Institution, & the manager has no time for ceremony at present, for the business side of the farm demands all the time he can spare. The weekly sales already average about £300 per annum, the sales for the week ending Nov.r 26th being over £9. The manager had a fine Jersey cow & calf offered him the other day at a very low figure, Mr. S. Moss was with him at the time & the latter gentleman handed over half the cost of the cow, so the cow & calf now pasture on our meadows & our general is skirmishing round in search of more Matty Millers & Solly Moss'. We have a small patch of excellent strawberries, & a hint went out from the farm to the city office that we would like orders, the ladies in the city office went to work with the result that they have sold that patch of strawberries 100 times over - more trouble for our manager. Peray Swain is better. Ernest Daniels is back again looking the picture of health, apparently none the worse for his operation. Alex. Hull is also well & is staying on at the farm as a worker, tin work which never gained his heart has been deverted for flower cultivation.

Womens' Wing.

Grateful thanks are tendered for the following donations toward the erection of the Womens' Wing.

Previously acknowledged £284. 10. 6

Hon W. L. Baillieu	£5. 5. 0	Mr. G. Shaw	£1. 1. 0	Mrs. D. York Syme	£1. 0. 0
Mr. John B. Whitty	£5. 5. 0	Messrs. D & W. Gibb	1. 1. 0	Mr. J. Jacobs	1. 1. 0
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Williams	3. 3. 0	Mr. H. C. Croft	1. 1. 0	Mr. W. J. Sockey	1. 1. 0
Messrs. Moran & Cato	2. 2. 0	Mr. W. Bayles	1. 1. 0	Dr. G. Syme	1. 0. 0
A & Z	1. 1. 0	Mr. H. L. Buzzard	1. 1. 0	Aus. Kodak Co. Ltd	1. 0. 0
Mr. E. L. Vail	1. 1. 0	Miss Austin	1. 1. 0	Mr. John Lawrey	10. 0

Total £313. 15. 6

We are still a long way off the £1000 needed. Oh for a few very handsome donations to help these figures along. Christmas is just the time for giving & surely there is no more worthy object. Have you given yet?

A.D.&D.A. Victorian Branch.

The Annual meeting of the Victorian branch of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association was held at the Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. on Saturday Nov.r 26th. The president being engaged on other business in the building, Mr. W. L. Miller was voted to the chair.

The Hon Secretary (Mr R. H. Luff) submitted the Annual report the main features of which were the passing of the bill which includes a clause for the compulsory education of the deaf through parliament, the celebration of the Golden wedding of Mr & Mrs T. J. Rose founders of the Victorian School for the Deaf, the sending of greetings to the World's Congress of the Deaf at Colarado Springs, U.S.A, & the satisfaction of the Association at the rapid progress made at the Farm & Home, due to the painstaking care of the Association president (Mr E. J. D. Abraham). Hon Secretary in an interesting comment spoke of the arrangements that are being made to commemorate the jubilee of the introduction of "Education" for the Deaf in Australia. Mr W. A. Paterson submitted the sheet, which was the most satisfactory of any since the inception of the Association, due entirely to the generous donation of Mr W. L. Miller, the balance in hand being upwards of £12. Both report & balance sheet were enthusiastically adopted. Just prior to the reading of the balance sheet the president joined the meeting & Mr Miller vacated the chair in his favor.

Mr Abraham gave a short address in which he emphasised the need of Unity & Courage in all matters appertaining to the advancement of the deaf. "Nothing" he said "could be done without unity & a little sacrifice on the part of those for whom great sacrifices had been made by those who made education & improved instruction possible for the deaf." The deaf had received, they must now give. There was no class of the community that deserved contempt more than that section that took all they could get & gave nothing in return. The present ruling generation of the deaf owed a great debt to the generation that was passing, & could only pay it off by united efforts in the improvement of the condition of the generation now coming along. Personally, he was beginning to feel the weight of the many duties that the peculiar circumstances had placed upon him, & as he felt he could not at the present time do the work that the president should do, he had decided to retire from that honourable position. He did not intend therefore to seek re-election. Mr Miller at this point took the platform & remarking that they could not afford to

lose the valuable services of their leader proposed that he be re-elected. The president said he knew the kindly feeling of the members toward him & that he was aware if the motion was put it would be practically unanimous, but he felt they also knew him & would understand that his withdrawal was merely through inability to give that attention to the duties that should be expected of the president. Of course he would still seek a seat on the board & so be at hand to advise when necessary. He proposed that Mr. M. L. Miller be elected president, Mr. T. Nelson seconded & the motion was carried almost unanimously. Mr. J. E. Muir was elected Vice president, Messrs. W. A. Patelson & R. H. Luff returned as hon treasurer & hon secretary respectively & the following composes the board. Messrs. E. Abraham, F. E. Frewin, T. A. Nelson, W. P. Muir, M. G. Mortimer & J. McLean.

After votes of thanks & prayer the meeting closed.

Retirement of Mr. Samuel Watson.

Mr. Samuel Watson, principal of the N. S. W. Institution for the Deaf, after 40 years of loving service to the deaf of that State retires this month. We can only honour such man, in our minds & hearts.

Statues, presents, speeches may be thought fitting acknowledgements of some services. But for a life long sacrifice in labouring to give light to minds encompassed by the blackest darkness man has ever had to endure there is but one reward & that is the loving gratitude & human adoration of rescued souls. We were deaf, we now can hear; we were dumb, we now can speak. Thanks to you Samuel Watson, ten thousand times ten thousand. May your gentle loving face be a picture ever in our sight, & loving gratitude ever in our hearts.

Although the name of the gentleman has not yet been publicly made known we understand that a successor to Mr. S. Watson has been appointed & that he hails from Europe.

Meetings.

On the 15th. Nov. Miss E. Connell gave a very interesting paper on the "Best exercise for Women" to the members of Womens' Guild. She said Walking is the best exercise of all. Several members spoke on this subject. The meeting to be held on the 6th. Dec, will be the last of the session, when a large muster of members is required. No more

meetings will be held until March next.

On the 15th Nov. Mr. J. Elwin (another junior member) followed the example of his old schoolmates by giving a very instructive paper on various topics at the meeting of Mens' Guild. Afterwards Mr. J.E. Muir delivered a very interesting paper on his recent trip to Adelaide.

The Sub-Committee of the Adult Society met on the 22nd Ult & transacted its usual ordinary business. Mr. R.H. Luff's tender for making lockers to the cupboard in Mens' room was accepted. Resolved that the distribution of prizes to winners of winter games competition by Mr. J.E. Muir take place on the 10th Inst. X-mas gifts to be presented to indigent cases. a letter asking the Society Committee to make Mr. F.J. Rose a life governor of the Adult D & D. Society in recognition of his services in founding the Institution for the instruction of the deaf & the active part he took in the formation of the Adult D & D. Mission.

Mr. Abraham lectured to both sexes on the 8th Ult. his subject being "The birth of World". In his introductory remarks he dwelt at some length on cause & effect. After telling us of the birth of Mother earth & the stale of "grand mother Sun", he went on to describe the mode of the coming of the waters, land, life in the sea, seaweeds, ferns, grasses plants, the creeping things. mammals the great animal world & man. The progress of man & how much advancement depended upon ourselves yet some remained as the blind mole, others as the worm whilst a few like the butterfly left the caterpillar stage & mounted above their environment.

Xmas Rally.

Do not forget the 20th inst- this is the date fixed for the Xmas Rally and as the Sub Committee of the Society have the management it is expected that all members will attend. A fist class cinematographic entertainment is to be the main attraction. A charge of 3d will be made for admission, bearing friends 6d - the admission includes a chance of winning one of three prizes.

Jubilee of the Education of the Australian Deaf.

For the purpose of celebrating the Jubilee of the instruction of the deaf started by Mr. F.J. Rose in 1860. a committee has been formed consisting of two representatives each from Womens' Guild, Mens' Guild, Sub-Committee of A. D & D. Society & Vic. Branch of A. D. D. A. & called the jubilee celebration Committee. It was agreed to send

a deputation of 3 (Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Muir & R. H. Luff) to wait upon the Board of School for D. & D. with a view of securing their co-operation in this matter.

Personal Pars.

Old pupils of the Victorian School for the Deaf will well remember Miss Geddes who was for some years the nurse. She departed this life on the 16th Ult. at the great age of 92 years. Mr. F. J. Rose paid his last respects at the grave side (of the deceased member of the Institution's staff) at the Boroondara Cemetery.

Mr. H. J. Nash of Queensland spent about 10 days pleasant holiday in Melbourne. It was his intention of settling on a farm in Victoria, but he was called back by his father on account of the latters ill health.

Miss L. Rosenfeld left Melbourne lately for Sydney to be married to Mr. Griffiths.

Mr. R. Brown lost his married daughter on the 6th Novr. She left 3 young children to mourn her loss. He has our condolence.

Mr. Fawcett came from Sydney on the 11th Ult to fulfil an engagement with Messrs. Fischer & Co. as a designer for stained windows. He says if they desire to keep him for good, he will send for his wife & family from Sydney to settle in Melbourne. He was astonished at the great changes in Melbourne after his 15 years' absence. He thinks that Melbourne has improved wonderfully in all ways. He is anxious to settle here on this account.

Mrs. A. Williamson & her daughter returned home lately after 2 weeks pleasant holiday in Lurley Inlet. They look the picture of health.

Mr. & Mrs. R. Hann have gone back to West. Australia after spending some weeks enjoyable holiday in Victoria.

We heartily congratulate Mr. Ernest Irewin (son of Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Irewin) on passing his final University Examinations, & thus obtaining his degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Miss K. Cowan writing from Dayleosford Sanatorium where she has been since the middle of Novr., wishes all her friends & acquaintances a very Happy Xmas & New Year. Her health is improving & her weight increasing. She likes the surroundings very much & is enjoying the change.

Mr. J. R. Miller left Broken Hill where he worked in a mine for a good while lately & went to Ballarat to see his people.

He is talking of going to West Australia to try his luck.

Cricket.

Adult D.C.C. v Bedgood's C.C. on the 5th Nov. The latter made 71 runs J. McLean 4 wkts for 27 runs. W. Burge 2 for 2; R. Beattie 2 for 17, V. Harding 1 for 5 A. D. C.C. 4 wkts for 81 Beattie 45 n/o, J. McLean 16. W. Burge 10 won by 6 wkts & 10 runs.

A.D.C.C. v Campbellfield C.C. on the 19th Nov. The latter made 47, Beattie 3 for 4. McLean 2 for 11, Burge 2 for 27, A. D. C.C. 2 for 17 play stopped by heavy rain. match drawn.

A.D.C.C. v Prahran A.N.A. on the 26th Nov. The latter made 29 & 56 1st Innings. Beattie 6 for 22 & McLean 3 for 7. 2nd Innings Luff 4 for 7 Burge 3 for 16, Harding 2 for 25. & Robertson 1 for 3. A. D. C.C. 53 C. Robertson 19. Beattie 13 won on the 1st Innings by 24 runs.

Question Night.

Mr. M. L. Miller undertook the answering of the questions dropped into the box of the Mens' Guild during the year. There were seventeen in all, and perhaps the most interesting collection we have had for years. A good muster of deaf men turned up at the guild meeting on the 29th ult. to see the answers & were well rewarded - it was an intellectual treat. Mr. Miller must have devoted many hours to the getting together of the information that made his answers so complete & informative. Mr. Miller was heartily thanked for the enjoyable evening he had given.

Notes.

The Deaf & Dumb School broke up one month earlier than usual this year owing to an outbreak of measles among the pupils.

The N. S. W. Bazaar was a success, upwards of £110 being raised

Professor Gallaudet of the Gallaudet College for the Deaf, Washington, U. S. A. has retired from the presidentship after a life long service. His mantle is now worn by Prof. Percival Hall.

The World's Congress of the Deaf at Colorado Springs. U. S. held from the 6th to the 10th of August last was a great success. About 500 delegates were present. Messages were read from Thomas Edison, Helen Keller, & Dr. E. M. Gallaudet. The principal speakers were President Veditz, Prof Hall, Consul-General of China, Rev J. H. Croud, Mrs Hansen, Prest. Allabough, Dr. J. A. Fox, Dr. Dobyns, Prof. R. McGregor, Mr. O. Hanson, Mr. A. Schreeder, & Mr. L. P. Gibson.

1/- received with thanks from Miss Barry towards Monthly Letter Fund.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne**, to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. JANUARY 1911. No. 5.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

Dear Friends.

The year 1910 was a great year to us, as great as 1909; in fact the whole decade was brim full of important events. The building of our church & institute in the city of Melbourne, the purchase of one of the most beautiful estates within easy distance of Melbourne for the flower farm & the erection of the home for our aged & infirm. The increase of our income from £500 to £2000 per annum, & the passing of the bill making compulsory & free the education of deaf mute children, - all has happened in ten brief years. No organisation in the world can show a record like the above for one short decade. It is a record to be thankful for & proud of. Blessed are the eyes that see the things that we see; fortunate are we to live in so great an epoch of deaf mute history. Think of these things & rejoice in your heart over them. Take the measure of your own position as a deaf mute citizen. Just put the question to yourself "How much did I do toward bringing about these mighty & glorious changes for the improved condition of my fellows; &, if with shame, you have to confess that you have done little or nothing, well then it is up to you to make a resolve that you will do much this decade we are entering upon, & so atone for the past neglect. Don't be one of the "Greedy Grabbers" who "take all and give nothing. Great things have been done for you, live therefore to do

something for others. Do not run away with the idea that because you cannot build a church or buy a farm or give £100, you cannot do anything. Such acts, after all is said, are only temporary things. Just live a life that is a continuous influence for good, & you will accomplish greater things than any of the above, for you will make of yourself a perfect man or woman, & will be the means of helping to perfect others also, thus assisting to bring about that glorious millennium for which we all pray in the words "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Our New Year's Gift.

The Education Bill, containing the clause for free & compulsory education of deaf mute children, has been passed by Parliament, & is now law. We accept this as a seasonable gift. It however, is only the beginning. It will take a year of working to put the Minister of Education in a position of actual knowledge as to the number of uneducated deaf children. We shall have something to say upon this topic in the February letter, at present our inclination is to enjoy the festive season, & content ourselves with a few Hurrahs at the consummation of our labours after years of effort.

Farm & Home.

A small bulb farm has been purchased, & as it contains the varieties needed to complete our stock, & carry us right through the bulb months, we shall now be able to keep up a supply of flowers all the year round. Half of our men are at Tinstall digging out the bulbs, it is a long & tedious task. Two acres of land have been specially cleared & prepared to receive them. On the 1st Sunday of December, whilst driving into Box Hill to bring Mr. Abraham home from morning service, Percy Swain let our manager's pony "Dolly" fall; the pony was severely injured, & it will be months before it will be fit for work. The trap also was smashed. Swain escaped without any injury. A fine five-year old waggon horse has been purchased, & the manager is on the look out for a good buggy or jinker. A flower packing shed has been put up, & the dangerous part

of the lake is now fenced in.
Christmas was quiet so far as the deaf residents at the home were concerned, but the staff of workers were very busy, there being a good attendance of picnickers on Boxing day & also on the 2nd Jan., about £15 was taken on the latter date.
Miss A. Graham handed the manager £1 toward the Xmas fare at the Farm. We have received £1-1-0 from Mrs C. Menzies, & 5/- from Mrs Nicols for the Womens' Wing.

Womens' Social.

The break-up of the Womens' Guild for the Summer months took place on Dec 6th. The President, Mrs J. E. Muir, arranged a most delightful evening's amusement in the form of a Salamagundi. Each of the seven tables of games was filled by enthusiastic members, & after a sharp contest the prize was allated to Miss M. Collins. A very dainty supper also provided by the President was then partaken of, & Mrs Muir was warmly thanked for her kindness.

Pleasure.

On Dec 6th the Superintendent gave a very interesting address on "What is Pleasure" to a good attendance of men in the board room. Mr Fawcett occupied the chair, & also spoke on this subject. He has a splendid command of the language of gesture, which fact made his remarks the more interesting. Mr Abraham announced his intention to give 3 prizes (10/-, 7/6, & 5/-) for an essay competition on "What is Happiness". Conditions, etc., will be announced shortly.

Prize Distribution.

The distribution of prizes of the winter games competitions took place in the building on the 10th Dec. There being a large attendance of ladies & gentlemen. Mr J. E. Muir distributed prizes as follows:- Word-making & angling, Miss M. Clark, (silver-backed brush); Word-making, Mr J. McLean, (umbrella) Bagatelle, Miss K. Christensen, (clock), & Mr R. K. Beattie, ("Bobs"); Shooting, Mrs J. Pierce, (fancy box of tea), & Mr L. Davnes, (wallet); Vacuum pistol, Mrs S. Griffiths, nee Miss Rosenfield, (fancy box of tea), & Mr R. K. Beattie (razor

& leather strop); Angling, Mr L. Downes, (sleeve links); Euchre, Mr Burge, (pipe). Hearty thanks are due to the donors and Mrs Muir for distributing the prizes.

Landing.

December 11th 1910 was the anniversary of Mr F. J. Rose's settlement in Port Phillip, after a voyage of 96 days from Plymouth. It was 8 years after that he became the father of the deaf by founding a school for us in Australasia. About 520 pupils have participated in the benefits of this establishment.

Essay Competition.

On the 13th ult. 5 junior members of the Mens' Guild took part in an essay competition on "Australia". The results will be announced at the next meeting of the Mens' Guild, where the prize winners will read their essays. Mr Abraham was appointed judge.

Xmas Rally.

Deaf friends to the number of 105 including many young children who are on their holidays from school & about 40 hearing friends attended the Xmas Rally held at our Centre, Flinders St., on the 20th Dec. Mr F. E. Frewin occupied the chair. After the roll call & short speeches by the chairman, Mr J. McLean, & the chaplain, the members were treated to a bioscope exhibition. For the first time no supper was served on account of the heavy expense of the bioscope, but soft drinks & biscuits were obtainable for a penny; fifteen dozen bottles of aerated waters being donated by Schweppes Ltd. The lucky winners of numbered tickets were Miss Gibson, 1st prize (butter cooler), Mr Mortimer, 2nd prize, (photo frame), & Miss Vail, 3rd prize, (sugar sifter). A box of chocolates was sent to Miss K. Cowan, (ex-secretary of the Womens' Guild), at Wayleyford Sanatorium as a Xmas greeting from deaf friends, & also several gifts in the way of groceries, etc., sent to indigent cases. A gift was also given to Mr S. Mitchell, who is practically never absent from meetings. Messrs F. E. Frewin, T. Nelson, J. E. & W. P. Muir were in charge of the rally.
Miss Cowan writes as follows to Mr J. E. Muir: – "I think it was you who wrote the Christmas greetings on the lovely box

of delicious sweets, which a few of you so kindly sent me, so I am writing to ask you to thank the others for me. I do appreciate the kind thoughtfulness. It was a great surprise, & it has made me very happy to know that my deaf friends have remembered me."

A.D.D.A.

The Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A., sent a letter of congratulations to Mr. S. Watson for his 40th year of services among the deaf in N.S.W., & received a reply from him thanking the members of the Victorian Branch for their best wishes.

A letter was sent to Mr. F.J. Rose from the Vic. Branch congratulating him on the 50th anniversary of the School for the Deaf founded by him in Victoria. He, in replying, sent his hearty thanks to the deaf.

Miss M. C. Wilson, of Brisbane, has sent a card with the season's greetings & best wishes to the members of the General Board & of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A. It is very kind and thoughtful of her, & is much appreciated by the members of the A.D.D.A.

The Gesture.

The Gesture for January is exceptionally good. The series of pictures illustrating a lengthy New Year greeting in the language of signs is sure to be popular; the posing is by Miss L. Fletcher, & the gestures are so clear that explanations are unnecessary. The illustrated article on the Jubilee of the Education of the Deaf of Australia is especially appropriate, also that (with photo) on retiring President Gallaudet of Washington, U.S.A., & Mr. S. Watson of Sydney. There are also numerous articles which will prove most acceptable to "up to date" people.

Mr. S. Watson's Successor.

Mr. Harold Earlam, head assistant at the North Staffordshire Blind & Deaf School, Stoke-on-Trent, has been appointed Principal of the Institution for the Deaf & Blind, Sydney. We are informed that he is to take control in June next.

Bequest.

A donation of £10 has been received from the Felton Bequest.

Marriage.

On the 23rd Nov. a large company of friends & relations assembled at St. Stephens' Church, Newton, Sydney to witness the marriage of Mr. Sydney Griffiths, sixth son of Mr. & Mrs. Griffiths of Sydney, & Miss L. Rosenfield, second daughter of Mrs. Rosenfield, Carlton, Victoria, & the late Mr. Nathan Rosenfield of Russia. The Rev. Mr. Langley was the officiating minister, and Mr. Everingham interpreted. The bride, who was given away by Mr. Ben Bailey, wore a very pretty white silk dress richly trimmed with silk insertion & lace, & the usual tulle veiling. She also wore a wreath of blossom, & carried a handsome shower boquet. The bridesmaids were Miss Griffiths & Miss Eva Bailey. After the ceremony a reception was followed by the wedding breakfast which was partaken of in St. George's Hall, when the usual toasts were proposed. This was followed by a dance in the evening. The presents were numerous, handsome, & useful.

Personal Pars.

Mr. & Mrs. F. Martin, of Adelaide, stayed in Melbourne for a day on their way to Sydney where they intend spending about 6 weeks' holiday. During the day they visited the Farm and Home at Blackburn & were atonished & delighted at the beauty of the place.

The following members have left Melbourne to enjoy Xmas holidays of same length:- Miss A. Graham, Koolamurt; Mr. & Mrs. F. E. Frewin, Queenscliff; Mr. Mariner, Traralgon; Miss D. Hickey near Murray Bridge, S. Australia; Mr. Waren, Geelong, & Mr. C. Robertson, Drouin. Many others are away for a few days.

Mr. Fawcett has finished his contract with Messrs Fischer & Co, & returned to Sydney. He has some big jobs to do there. During his stay in Melbourne he was very popular as a conversationalist with the deaf folks. He expects to come back next February under another contract for the same firm.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Gretton, caretakers of the building, have presented the deaf congregation with a Xmas gift of 2 teapots & 2 hot water jugs, & they in return received a cash gift from the deaf.

Many old pupils of the Victorian School for the Deaf will remember Mrs Boshner, nee Miss Penny, who was for some years the tailoress at the Institution. She died some time last month. She attended Mr & Mrs F. J. Rose's golden wedding last June.

Messrs Collins (3), of Neerim, spent their Xmas holidays in Melbourne. Mr Alex. Collins paid a flying visit to Daylesford.

Miss A. Jackson, of Jindivick, is staying in Melbourne for one month.

Messrs J. Brooks (Docksley) & J. Johnson (Ballarat) were in Melbourne for a few days.

Mr W. J. Anderson, of Adelaide, intends settling in Melbourne after paying a visit to his people in Sydney.

Mr M. O'Sullivan (N. S. W.) is desirous of getting employment in Melbourne.

Mr D. J. Hood won a trophy for the handicap rifle match at Beech Forest last month.

Mr Abraham has received a lengthy letter from our old friends Mr & Mrs Tenney who now reside at Kalamazoo, Mich., U. S. A. Mr & Mrs Burke, of New Zealand, have also sent greetings.

Miss A. Edwards, who is in Tumbarumba, N. S. W., sends greetings to all deaf friends.

Mrs B. Lawson, sub-matron of the Angas Home for the Aged & Infirm Deaf-mutes, Parafield, South Australia, was in Melbourne on a short visit. She visited the Farm and Home at Blackburn, & was enchanted with the place. She said that the inmates ought to appreciate their beautiful home & do all they could to help the manager & his wife.

We received 1/- each, with thanks, from Mr J. Caughey, & Mr H. G. Smith, of Koondrook toward our "Monthly Letter" fund. Mr H. G. Smith writes:- "I have always taken pleasure in getting your Monthly Letter which reaches me safe. I have found it a most interesting paper & it is always well worth reading."

Motto for 1911.

They have altered the date from ten to eleven
In the Almanac hung on the wall.
What counsel of cheer shall we take through the year
To help and encourage us all.
By the happiest luck, I've recently struck
On a word that's in a spur and a stay
So rousingly breezy – so heartily easy
The motto, "Keep pegging away"
From now till December, dear friends, remember
Our motto is "Keep pegging away"
There is a kitchen to sweep; there is a promise to keep.
There is a temper to check or subdue,
There is a lesson to learn, there is a tribute to earn;
Or a beautiful life to pursue.
Don't hurry or worry, don't flurry or scurry,
Sure Rome was not built in a day.
If you want to go through it, stick quietly to it
Keep honestly pegging away,
It is patient and cheery and never be weary.
The trick is in the Pegging away.

Cricket.

The Adult Deaf Cricket Club Committee met on the 8th Dec. & transacted its usual ordinary business. Mr W. T. Muir regretted that he could not find time to act as hon. secretary on account of private business & proposed that Mr. V. Harding be elected in his place. Mr Harding was accordingly elected. It is pleasing to note that the club now has a lot of young players, & it is hoped that the club will soon be up to its old standard.

Dec. 3rd A.D.D.C.C. v. Camberwell Cong. C.C. The former made 46. R. Beattie 22, Camb. C.C. 7 wkts for 69, Beattie 2 for 20, Mr. Dean 1 for 11, Burge 1 for 17, Luff 1 for 6, Harding 2 for 7

Dec. 17th A.D.D.C.C. 72 v. Sunshine 79. The players were entertained to afternoon tea on the ground.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. FEBRUARY 1911. Nº 6.

Free & Compulsory Education for Deaf Children.

Clause 49 of the Education Act 1910, deals exclusively with the education of blind and deaf children, and as it is of no great length we are able to comply with the request of many Parents and give it in full:—

1. Where a child of not less than seven years or more than sixteen years of age is blind or is deaf and dumb or is so deaf or so deficient in the power of sight or is in the opinion of a medical officer mentally or physically defective as to prevent such child from profitably taking part in the instruction given in a State School (other than a special school) it shall be the duty of the Parent of such child to provide for the efficient and regular instruction of such child.

2. Where any such Parent is unable to provide for such instruction he shall.—

(a) give notice of such inability to the Minister;

(b) send the child to such special school or to such institution for the education of blind or short-sighted or deaf and dumb or deaf children or mentally or physically defective as the Minister may by general or special order direct; and

(c) contribute towards the maintenance thereat of the child such sum (if any) as is agreed upon between the parent and the Minister; but no contribution shall be required towards the cost of the education of such child thereat.

3. Where any parent fails, neglects or refuses to comply with any of the foregoing provisions of this section. —

(a) Any person authorised by the Minister may apply to a justice for and such justice shall issue a summons to such parent calling upon him to appear at a time and place therein specified before a court of petty sessions to show cause why the child should not be sent to such school or institution or why the parent should not make such contribution or both, as the case may require).

(b) The court may order that the child be sent to such school or institution, and (if the case so requires) may order that the parent contribute a sum not exceeding Ten Shillings a week towards the maintenance of the child thereat, unless the court is satisfied that the parent is unable to contribute any sum whatever.

4. Where any child is ordered under this section to be sent to any school or institution. —

(a) if such order is limited to attendance at any such school or institution without residence thereat such attendance shall mean attendance on every school half-day;

(b) it shall be the duty of the parent to cause the child to be sent to such school or institution as required by such order unless the child is prevented by sickness or fear of infec-tion, temporary or permanent infirmity or any unavoi-dable cause; and

(c) the parent of any child who fails, neglects or refuses to

cause such child to be so sent to such school or institution shall on conviction be liable for every such offence to a penalty of not less than Two Shillings or more than Ten Shillings or in default to imprisonment for any term not exceeding three days.

5. For the purposes of this section "efficient and regular instruction means instruction of such standard and in such subjects as may be prescribed.

Notes on the Act – Education.

The education of deaf mute children – whether "normal" physically or mentally defective – is now free, and parents must send them to school.

Parents unable to provide instruction by (a) private tuition (b) by private school for the deaf, must give notice to the Minister of Education. The Minister will name the school to which the child is to be sent and he will see that efficient instruction is provided.

Maintenance. A deaf child residing at the home of its parents has to be maintained, this must cost the parents something, when the child is away the household expenditure must be less by some amount. It is only right and just therefore that parents should contribute this sum toward the maintenance of their child at a special school. The law in this matter is most generous; the amount to be paid being left for mutual agreement between the Minister and parents. In no case is the sum to exceed 10/- per week.

Mentally Defective Deaf.

Clause 49 is a special one, dealing exclusively with the deaf and blind. We take it therefore, that the mentally and physically defective here referred to are deaf and blind children so afflicted. This means that even if the deaf child is mentally or physically defective it will not be accepted as an excuse for the neglect of its education.

Mentally defective children cannot be educated side by side with "normal" deaf children. Hence it will be necessary for

condition of the deaf. There are very few parents of deaf children who have not parted with guineas year after year going from doctor to doctor only to hear the same old parrot patter "dont worry, the child will be allright, wait until he is 7, 14, etc and his hearing will come to him" or words to that effect. Of course the hearing never does come to him, but the parents are minus many guineas plus the loss of much time and opportunities.

[It is always the wiser course for parents of deaf children to consult a recognised ear-specialist. He will be able to tell all that there is to be told, there is nothing to be gained by going a round" of doctors.]

The supreme champion medical genius on the mental condition of the deaf is a Dr. R. R. Rentoul of Liverpool, who, by the way makes a distinction between a deaf mute and a person who is deaf & dumb - What this difference is, the imagination of Dr. Rentoul alone can tell. This wise doctor has informed a Royal Commission that deaf mutes should be classified among the mentally diseased; It is evident he has never heard of blind-deaf & dumb Helen Keller the famous authoress and University graduate, and the host of other deaf mute graduates, chemists, journalists, artists, sculptors, etc. Mr. Illingworth, head master of the School for the Deaf, Liverpool, took the matter up in the local press and of course made small work of the medical genius.

A British journalist in an article on the deaf and blind dramatist Mlle. Lenero a woman of 25 years, who has just produced a play called "Emancipation" which we are told is quite unusual in its character, the situations being dramatic and the dialogue amazingly brilliant- says that "her deafness prevented her from having friends" Oh, journalist of the mighty intellect and prodigious genius, how earnest thou to discover a secret so long hidden from ordinary man "that deafness debars the afflicted one from having friends".

A deaf mute, Mr. N. G. Maddison, who is a youth of 20 years

the Government to provide a special school for this section, or a special division at the school for the "normal" deaf, or at the school for the ordinary mentally deficient – which the Government now that the 1910 Act is Law, will find itself compelled to establish.

State School for the Deaf.

As the State has taken over the education of the deaf and reserves to itself the deciding of amount the parents are to pay for the maintenance of their children, the establishment of a State school for the deaf is merely a matter of time. Meanwhile the question arises – What is the Minister going to do with the deaf children who are compelled to attend school? There is but one school for the deaf in this state, and this, a charitable institution maintained, chiefly by contributions collected from the public. Is the Minister able to compel parents to send their "normally" deaf offspring to a charit=able institution? If he has that power there is still an unjust distinction between the deaf and the hearing and their instruction cannot truthfully be termed State education. It will merely be subsidising a charity school. Then there is the question of the employment of teachers – are they to be fully qualified like those of the ordinary State School; Servants of the Government or the charitable institution; Is the school and domestic arrangements to be under the control of the board of the latter or the Director of Education; Other matters that will need consideration are "What constitutes efficient instruction"; Who will prescribe the "Standard", "How many pupils will constitute a class"; The teachers salaries etc. There are but two alternatives to ensure plain sailing, one is for the Government to take over the existing charitable institution, the other, to erect an up to date residential School for the deaf.

Doctors, Journalists & the Deaf.

If we judge by results, we are compelled to conclude that doctors and journalists are more ignorant than any other section of the community as regards the actual mental

and who was born deaf & dumb, went in for a classical and scientific education, and has been very successful. One of the most recent of his successes was the passing of a stiff examination in organic chemistry at the Royal College of Science.

Services.

January is a quiet month at our Centre, nevertheless, the attendance at Church has been far above the average. It is especially pleasing to see how regular the younger members are. Our Chaplain continues to conduct both morning and evening service, coming in from Blackburn to do so.

The Farm & Home.

At the last meeting of the Farm Committee the Manager (Mr. Abraham) reported his receipts from pic-nics, Sale of farm produce, etc for the month to be £70, and the total for the past six months £237. A horse had been purchased at the cost of £20. Dahlias are at present the chief blooms. Strenuous effort is being made to get the new bulbs in.

Gen.-Committee.

This Committee met on 16th ult. Accounts to the amount of £243-6-7 were passed for payment. It was resolved that as Mr. F. J. Rose has rendered signal service to the Society the committee recommend him for election as a life Governor.

Sub.-Committee.

This Committee met on the 17th ult. Accounts totalling £6-8-8 were passed for payment. A new book by Helen Keller to be purchased to replace one lost. A syllabus for February was prepared and approved.

Essay on Australia.

The Young Men of the Guild met on the 10th ult. to see the reading of the essays on Australia. Mr. Abraham acted as judge and selected the paper of Mr. T. Peters for the

first prize, the second went to Mr. G. Quantock, both these essays were read and appreciated. The latter half of the evening took the form of a social.

On the 24th Mr. McKenzie read a paper on a visit paid to the Williamstown Torpedo Depot before the members of the Guild, it was his maiden paper and was well received. This was followed by papers on Australia by Misses V. Harding and G. Elvin the unsuccessful competitors, who were able to make much better use of their material in their delivery than in written language. Mr. H. G. B. Mortimer presided and at the close presented the prizes to the winners - J. Peters, fountain pen, G. Quantock, inkstand.

Essay on Happiness.

Mr. Abraham is offering 3 prizes - 10/-, 7/6 - 5/- for the three best essays on "Happiness", that is to say, what constitutes happiness to you - Under what conditions would you be supremely happy. - What do you want that would fill your heart to the full with joy?

This competition is open to the whole of the deaf of Victoria.

Rules.

Essays must be written on one side of paper only.

Must not exceed 2 sheets of foolscap paper.

And must reach Mr. J. E. Muir, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders Street, E. Melbourne by the 28th of February.

A.D.D.A. Vic. Branch.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. R. H. Luff.) acknowledges with thanks the receipt of membership subscriptions of 1/- each from the following:- Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Muir, Mr. & Mrs. D. Ashby, (Trafalgar) Mr. & Mrs. T. Ashby, (Trafalgar) Miss G. Mortimer, (Boisdale) Mr. E. Daniels. 2/- Mr. W. A. Paterson, Mr. & Mrs. A. Williamson, Mr. T. A. Nelson and Mr. G. Mortimer. Will other members who have not yet sent their subs. kindly do so.

Our Monthly Letter.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 3/- from Mr. S. Watson (Sydney) and 1/- each from Messrs. D. Ashby and G. Battersby for "Our Monthly Letter" fund.

Pic-Nic.

The members of the Deaf Women's Guild are looking forward to their annual pic-nic on the 27th February. This time they are going down the bay to Sorrento. The most important thing to ensure successful enjoyment is fine weather. We hope they get it. Another thing to ensure successful enjoyment is, we think, - the company of mere men. - Are mere men to be debarred?

Cricket.

Mr. W. Burge has resigned as captain of the A.D.C.C. Mr. K. H. Luff was elected to the position with Mr. V. Harding as Vice-Capt.

Matches. Jan 7th Mission Hall C.C. all out for 75. A.D.C.C. all out for 131. McLean 13, Harding 40, Beattie 46. McLean 2 for 18, Beattie 3 for 18, Harding 3 for 2.

Jan 14th A.D.C.C. 33. Campbellfield C.C. 84. Elvin 9, Quantock 5. - Harding 4 for 14. Beattie 1 for 24, Luff 2 for 12 Elvin 1 for 7. Jan 21st A.D.C.C. 8 for 100. Sunshine C.C. 83. Jas. Anderson 25 n/o. McLean 21, Quantock 20. - Harding 3 for 25, McLean 4 for 24, Beattie 2 for 10. Luff 1 for 20.

The Sunshine team were entertained at afternoon tea on the ground.

Jan 28th A.D.C.C. 117, Prahran A.N.A. 53. A. Christensen 20, Harding 18, Quantock 16, McLean 13, J. Peters 10. - Harding 5 for 17, McLean 2 for 7, Beattie 2 for 11, Luff 1 for 3.

Personal Pars.

Mr & Mrs J. Collins of Nerrim lost their son aged 5 months on 23rd Jan. They have our condolence. Miss M. Collins spent 3 weeks holiday in Longwarry & Trafalgar having a good time with her old friends.

Mrs F.E. Spevin has returned from Queenscliff. Mr. Spevin spent the week ends with her while at the 'cliff.

Mr. G. Mortimer has returned to Town after a happy time spent with his people at South Traralgon. He broke his journey at Trafalgar to see Mr & Mrs D. Ashby. Miss Mortimer returns thanks for kind wishes sent her.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. **MARCH 1911.** **No. 7.**

March is the month that opens our year of activity. The sleeping organisations awake with renewed energy & work is re-started at our busy hive and continues for another nine months. There are no great events to look forward to this year, unless the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association decide to hold a congress, but there is much quiet labour to be got through with. Our foundations are all down, it is now steady building work that is required of us. It is to be a year of teaching & learning, teaching & learning. Come to all the meetings that you are able to:— Services, bible classes, lectures, Mens' Guild, Womens' Guilds, Rallies - everything, for time is precious & you cannot know too much.

Bible Class.

Mr. E. Abraham's bible class will re-open on Thursday March 9th at 8 p.m. He hopes that the class will begin with a big muster of bible students. He has prepared an interesting series of lessons.

Womens' Guild

After 3 months recess, the Womens' Guild will recommence their meetings on the 14th this month. It is to be hoped that much interest will be shown by members & intending members during the year

Harvest Thanksgiving.

These services are fixed for Sunday March 19th. all who are thankful for the bountiful gifts of Our Heavenly Father

will feel it their duty to be present & join in the thanksgiving. Supplies of flowers, fruits, vegetables, etc, will be thankfully received on the 18th inst at the Deaf & Dumb Building.

Rally.

The first re-union of the year 1911 will be held on the 28th of March and is to be under the auspices of the Mens' Guild, so look out for something novel & good.

Chaplain's Absence.

Mr. Abraham had suddenly to withdraw from his duties on the 11th Ult through ill health. He went to Queenscliff on the 14th but returned home on the 21st & has been confined to his bed since. He is now at Olinda for a few days. A good sea voyage would have done him more good than anything, but it is not wise for him to be far away from the Blackburn Home yet awhile. During his absence, Messrs R. H. Luff, J. E & W. P. Muir & M. L. Miller are conducting the services.

The Flower Farm.

The work still progresses. Strenuous efforts are being made to get the huge quantity of bulbs in that were purchased recently. The preparing of the lands for their reception is hard graft for the grubbing was badly done & the soil is very stony. At the last meeting of the Farm Committee the Manager reported his receipts for month of January as £38-0-6.

The Home.

There is sweet harmony here, at present & every body with the exception of "father" is enjoying good health. We have two blind-deaf men with us now, Alex Hull is acting as guide, philosopher & friend to our new blind-deaf chum. Alex is a good worker & gives promise of a successful future.

Womens' Guild Picnic.

The outing to Sorrento on the 7th February was thoroughly enjoyed by the party of 30 including four gentlemen (Messrs E. J. D. Abraham, F. J. Rose, A. McLellan & - Hughes). The weather at first threatening rain, turned out delightful. The Hygeia ran direct to Sorrento & our party made the trip to the Back Beach by steam tram, arrived there, each person enjoyed her (or him) self in their own way. Picnic lunch & tea on

board were very sociable & enjoyable. Not one of our party felt sick. & on arriving back at Port Melbourne we were met by some members who had unfortunately missed the boat in the morning.

A.D.D.A.

Some time ago Mr. R.H. Luff (Hon Sec of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A.) sent a letter of congratulation to Mr. L.J. Rose on his being permitted to see the Jubilee of the Instruction of the deaf founded in 1860 by himself. In reply Mr. Rose says he feels grateful to the Deaf at large for the kind expression of loyalty & good will towards himself & family, and he is also pleased to be with us at this conspicious event & hopes to be amongst us when we celebrate the event publicly at a later date. In his letter he mentioned the draw backs he had to contend with, for instance at one time he had one teacher to help him to teach 70 pupils & many of them were grown up. That teacher was Miss Lorrigan (now deceased) but he says he is amply rewarded in seeing so many intelligent deaf around. He hopes that we (the deaf) will prove ourselves worthy citizens of a worthy nation & recommends "Excelsior" to be our motto. He thanks all the deaf through the A.D.D.A. for their kind expressions of goodwill.

Meetings.

On the 14th Feb.y. Mr. V. Harding read a paper on "A Walk across Fiji" before the members of the Mens' Guild, it was his maiden paper & received a kindly reception. This was followed by a paper on "Australia" by Mr. C. Robertson, one of the unsuccessful competitors.

The 27th Annual meeting of the Mens' Guild was held in the Building on the 28th Feb.y. there being a fair muster of members. The President (Mr. M.G. Mortimer) occupied the chair. The report & balance sheet showing a surplus of £11.4.11 were read by the Hon Sec.y (Mr. J. McLean) & the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J. Campbell) respectively. The number of members on the roll is 23, eight new members being admitted during the year. Lectures, readings &c have been given by the members & most of them were greatly appreciated. It was unanimously decided that a picnic of the Mens' Guild be held annually

on the A.N.A Day. It is to be hoped that the younger members will take a more lively interest in the guilds work & help to bring it into a more flourishing & prosperous condition.

The election of office bearers for the next 12 months resulted as follows. President, Mr R.H. Luff, Vice President, Mr. J. McLean. Hon Sec.ty, Mr. C. Robertson, Hon, Treas.r Mr. J. Marks, Committee Messrs M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir, T. A. Nelson & M. G. Mortimer. After the meeting the members were entertained to supper.

On the 21st Feb.y The Sub-Committee met to transact its usual business. It was resolved that as the Rallies in charge of different societies during the last 12 months were successful they be continued, Mr. E. R. W. Smith's resignation as a member of "Our Monthly Letter" Staff was accepted with regret & hearty thanks tendered to him for his past services.

Magazines & London Illustrated News for the Library from Mesdames Larimer & C. Luke respectively are accepted with thanks.

Cricket.

The Adult Deaf C.C. is going to make a few days tour in Berwick & Narre Warren during the Easter holidays.

On the 18th Feb. A.D.C.C played against Port Melbourne Aux-XI on turf. & made 95, A. Christensen 16. & two substitutes 17 + 19 Ports 90. Harding 4 wkts for 20, McLean 4 for 34 Beattie 2 for 12 Won by 5 runs.

On the 25th Feb. A.D.C.C. 1st innings 57. Quantock 15 + Beattie 11 2nd innings 62 McLean 13. Cambendell Baptists. 43. R. Luff 5 wkts for 19 Beattie 4 for 21 Won by 14 runs

Personal Pars.

Mr. B. Hall of Goorombat spent a weeks pleasant holiday in Melbourne.

Mrs. Hartley of Euroa came to Melbourne for the purpose of seeing her son off to Thursday Island for 2 years military training.

Mr. E. Carter of Sydney enjoyed his 2 weeks stay in Melbourne. He was greatly disappointed at not seeing the 4th Test Cricket Match between Australia & Africa which was postponed for a week owing to wet weather.

Mr. R. J. Hamilton of Gippsland came to Melbourne especially to see the Test Match. He was more fortunate

than Mr. Carter & saw the match from the start to the finish.

Miss A. Foster returned to Melbourne after some months stay with her sister in Inglewood.

Miss K. Cowan left Dayleford Sanatorium last month & is now with her mother in Ringwood. She is much heavier in weight & looks very well.

Mr. A. Williamson is in Queenscliff for a while.

Mr. J. Moran returned to Melbourne after having worked in Brisbane for some weeks. He presented the Queensland D. & D. Mission with a set of massive silky oak table legs beautifully turned & also two church collection plates.

Mr. J.R. Miller stayed with his people in Ballarat for some weeks. One time during the storm he took shelter under a big tree with his nephew. the lightning struck the tree & dazzled him for a few minutes. This is a warning to others. He intends going to Walhalla for employment shortly.

Mr. C.Z. Bragg who came from England some months ago went to Creswick with his brother to seek for work. He is anxious to secure employment.

Mrs. Wright has been ill at St. Vincents Hospital for some time. It is hoped that she will be mending soon.

Twin daughters were born to Mr. & Mrs. G. Dummer of Warburton on the 27th Jan.y but one of them only lived 9 days. The other is making good progress.

Several country parents of the deaf have called to see Mr. Abraham during his absence from town & had to return home without an interview.

While Mr. G. Mortimer was with his people last Xmas, he and his sisters went to a private picnic on Boxing Day & he there met Miss West who is a pupil of the Deaf & Dumb School.

When coming down Miss West & her people met with a remarkable accident, their horses refused to pull them up a hill & backed the buggy to the edge of a creek-bank which passes close to the track with the result that the whole party went over the bank, luckily not into the water. It was a remarkable escape they had from getting a wetting & as the bank was not very steep, none of the party were injured. The most they got

was a good shaking. There has been some heavy rain & floods about the country districts lately.

Mr. D. Ashby had his potato crop spoiled but his onion crop was saved.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipts of 20/- from Mr. R. R. Paterson, 3/- from Mr. W. H. Rus, 3/- from Mr. J. R. Miller, 1/6 from Mr. S. Johnson (Adelaide) & 1/- from Mr. L. Ching, for "Our Monthly Letter" fund.

Mr. R. H. Luff (Hon Sec of Vic Branch A.D.D.A.) begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/- from Mr. R. Miller, & 1/- each from Messrs R. Hamilton, M. L. Miller & A. McLellan.

Testimonial to Mr Cook.

There is a movement on foot in connection with the coming jubilee celebrations of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution to present Mr W. D. Cook the headmaster with a testimonial worthy of the occasion. A circular letter has been issued in which past and present pupils, together with their relations, guardians & friends are asked to contribute. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Secretary Mr. M. L. Miller, 181 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, or the Hon Treasurer Mrs J. E. Muir "Moncrieff," Wheatland Road, Malvern. The Committee are Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham (Chairman) Messrs J. R. Davis, J. Boorty, A. Bull, A. McLellan, M. L. Miller, W. P. Muir & J. Marks. Mesdames E. E. Muir & J. Boorty, Misses D. Hickey & R. Dow. All our readers are invited to contribute to this fund.

"A Deaf Mute's Brutality."

Last month we had occasion to refer to the ignorance of journalists regarding the mental condition of the average deaf mute. This month we have to notice not only the want of knowledge but also absence of fairmindedness on the part of an editor. A deaf man kicked a dog & the dog died. The editor of a local paper is made aware of the fact & he straightway starts on a crusade to exterminate this brutal deaf monster. With a knowledge only of one side of the case he rushes into print with headlines thus "Bad Conduct of a Deaf Mute," "A Deaf Mutes Brutality," & the Superintendent of the Institution for the Deaf & Dumb, the Superintendent of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society & the Secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

are made aware of the conduct of this deaf man. We would here remark that there are brutal editors & cruel journalists as well as unkind deaf-mutes, yet we never read of the "Brutality of a one eyed editor" nor of the "Cruelty of a hop-minded journalist. Is not "A Man's Brutality" sufficient without advertising his affliction. We beg to submit the following facts to the Editor & respectfully crave that he will read, mark, learn & inwardly digest them.

An uneducated deaf mute knows absolutely nothing as to the existence of God nor of moral laws. His mind is a blank as regards good & evil. What he develops into depends entirely upon his instructors plus heredity, & before & after school environment. Yet to the average deaf mute - given time & a good teacher - <u>everything is possible</u>, for he is just a normal person minus the sense of hearing. The teacher can mould his pupil as he will & when he leaves school it is the teacher's religious views, the teacher's morals - ah a part of the teacher's very self that goes forth into the world, always allowing for heredity & environment. So before you condemn a deaf mute for his ignorance, or his wrong doing it is necessary to know his teacher - his parents, & his environment. This, of course, is much the case with that very large section of the hearing community who do not think for themselves, for if <u>The people</u> would only <u>think</u>, such a thing as a war between Christian nations would be impossible & people would begin to talk less about sin & more about disease, less about punishment & more about cure. But we are getting away from our subject. In the case before us, the man is not a mute in the ordinary sense of the word. He was not educated at an "Institution for the "Deaf & Dumb". In fact he appears to have had little or no education. He lost his hearing in his youth, he is blind of one eye & almost so with the other & his nose is almost gone - altogether he is anything but pleasant to look upon. He was rescued by the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society from the hands of the police some years ago. He had done nothing actually wrong, but, - well, the circumstances were suspicious in the eyes of the police & so he was taken before the court. Our Superintendent became guarantor for his good conduct, a risky undertaking perhaps, but better than that the poor fellow should go to prison for 2 years & then spend the rest of his life amongst criminals. For some years he has been selling - for a deaf mute publishing company - a magazine from door to door, & if those in arms against the "brutal"

deaf mute had only bought & read it, it is fairly certain the brutality in this particular deaf mute would never have been discovered. The poor wretch of humanity has kicked a dog & it died, & there is a cry made that the monster be punished. But let us put the case for the man. As he goes from house to house pushing his ware, he is now & again seen by some timid female or grumpy male to open the gate & make his way up the garden walk, the front door is immediately slammed in his face, or he is allowed to stand knocking while round at the back the dog is being let loose upon him; - for what might not that terrible monster do.' Never a week has gone by for years but that this has happened, not once but many times. Scarce a week when we have not seen him with torn clothes, bruised or bitten. What wonder then that when a dog comes barking at him - little or big - that he kicks out. We do not justify his action, it is brutal to kick a dog or any other dumb creature, but it is still more brutal for an educated man to come down with sledge hammer hits at a bit of poor unfortunate humanity who is more to be pitied than blamed; to be taught & cared for, not punished. If you treat him as a beast, what wonder that he acts like one!

"We understand" says the editor in his paper "his bad conduct has been reported to the Superintendent of the Deaf & Dumb Institution. But in case this has not been done we draw the attention of the management to the conduct of the man". The above has fairly tickled the funny bone of the whole deaf community. Should it ever happen that the editor be so unfortunate as to do anything wrong we will make an effort to find out the name of the school he attended & "draw the attention" of the steward head master or management to the conduct of this man. We will also make it our duty to inform the minister of the church he attends with a view to his punishment. And should this fail, we will endeavour to get into communication with his old nurse & advise the use of the slipper. How does the case strike you put that way, Mr. Editor?

Work!

Work! It is the sole law of the world.

The workless people are the worthless people even to themselves. An idle & useless life dulls the talents, ruins the character, and wrongs God, society, & ourselves.

Labour is man's great function. He is nothing, he can be nothing, he can achieve nothing, fulfil nothing, without working.

To be usefully & hopefully employed is one of the great secrets of happiness.

To the Pupils—Past and Present—of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution,

and their Parents and Guardians.

PROPOSED TESTIMONIAL TO Mr. W. D. COOK, Headmaster.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Feeling, as we do, that we should be wanting in gratitude if we let this, the occasion of the jubilee of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution pass without showing in some tangible form our appreciation of the long and valuable service of Mr. W. D. Cook (head master for upwards of 25 years) to the cause of deaf mute education in this State; it was decided to call a meeting of past and present pupils to consider the best method of recognising the efforts of their teacher. The meeting was held on February 4, and it was unanimously resolved to mark the occasion of the jubilee by presenting Mr. Cook with a testimonial that would convey to him the gratitude of all who have been the gainers by his instruction.

We feel that this object will meet with a hearty response, and that those pupils who have and are at present passing through Mr. Cook's hands, together with their parents, will be pleased at the opportunity to assist in the movement.

Therefore, we respectfully and confidentially appeal to you for a contribution towards the testimonial fund.

Subscriptions may be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. M. L. Miller, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders Street East, Melbourne, or the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. J. E. Muir, "Moncrieff," Wheatland Road, Malvern.

I am,
Yours respectfully,
M. L. MILLER,
Hon. Secretary.

TESTIMONIAL COMMITTEE.

Chairman:—MR. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM

MRS. BOORTZ	MISS D. HICKEY	MR. M. L. MILLER
MR. J. BOORTZ	MR. A. HULL	MR. W. P. MUIR
MR. J. R. F. DAVIS	MR. A. McLELLAN	MR. J. MARKS
MISS ROSE DOW	MRS. J. E. MUIR	MR. J. E. MUIR

Hon. Treasurers:
MRS. J. E. MUIR
MISS R. DOW

Hon. Secretaries:
MR. M. L. MILLER
MR. A. HULL

DONATIONS ALREADY GIVEN OR PROMISED:

E. J. D. ABRAHAM	£1 1 0	J. R. F. DAVIS	£1 1 0
M. L. MILLER	1 1 0	W. P. MUIR	0 10 0

Inscription on Butler Desk

Presented to W. D. Cook. Esq. by his Old Pupils and Friends as a token of Gratitude on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution and to recognise his services as a teacher of the deaf for nearly 30 years.

Melbourne, April 22nd 1911.

Jubilee of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, 1861-1911.

The Board of Management of the Institution

Requests the pleasure of the company of

.....

at a Garden Party and Reunion of the Old Pupils on Saturday Afternoon, the 22nd April, 1911, from 2 o'clock till 5.30 o'clock, in the grounds of the Institution, St. Kilda Road.

Please reply to Secretary not later than Tuesday, April 18.

JOHN ADCOCK, Superintendent & Secretary.

The Age 26/4/11.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE.

JUBILEE GARDEN PARTY.

A garden party was given by the board of management of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution in the grounds of the institution, St. Kilda-road, on Saturday afternoon to the past and present pupils to celebrate the jubilee of the establishment of deaf mute education in Victoria. There were about 100 old pupils, 100 present pupils and a number of hearing friends and relatives present. The founder of the institution, Mr. F. J. Rose, and Mrs. Rose were the guests of honor. After Rev. Dr. Watkin and Mr. David Brown had addressed the gathering on behalf of the board, Mr. R. H. Luff made presentations from the adult deaf pupils to the board of management (historic photos. of the school) and to Miss Jones (album and purse of sovereigns).

The most interesting ceremony of the afternoon was the presentation by the old pupils of a Cutler oak desk and an easy chair to Mr. Cook, the head master, who has been a teacher at the institution for

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. APRIL 1911. No. 8.

Services.

Our Chaplain resumed duties and conducted the services on the 12th of March. He is looking better. Good congregations have been the rule through the month of March.

The 12th March.

The Sub-Committee did not forget the 12th of March - perhaps the quietest birthday our Superintendent has had since his arrival. A letter was sent from this body to Mr. Abraham, congratulating him in the name of the deaf on his safe arrival at another birthday anniversary. It was the intention of the Sub-Committee to have celebrated the event by a party, but it was ultimately decided, on account of Mr. Abraham's illness, to put off the event to a later date.

General Board.

The general board met on the 13th of March. The chief business was the matter of repairs to damaged embankment at the lake, Blackburn.

Womens' Guild.

The winter session opened on the evening of March 14th, when, to an attendance of eighteen members, Mrs. J. E. Muir gave an interesting paper on the lives of three famous women "Joan of Arc", "Elizabeth of Hungary" and "Poccahontas". The paper was very much appreciated.

Mens' Guild.

On the 14th inst. the new President (Mr. R. N. Luff) delivered a paper, which may with safety be described as one of his best, the subject was Romeo and Juliet. The paper was much appreciated, some of the members going so far as to say that they enjoyed the recital almost as much as attending the actual play.
Some time in May next we are to have a debate on Monarchy v. Republicism.

Lacrosse.

A meeting was held on the 16th inst. to discuss the desirability of forming a lacrosse club for the deaf. Unfortunately but few enthusiasts turned up to consider the matter, after some discussion it was decided, owing to insufficient time for arranging matters and lack of interest shown, the matter be dropped until early next year when it is hoped that steps will be taken to get a better gathering and that a team will then be enthusiastically launched.

Harvest Thanksgiving.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Services for the 9th time were held in the Church on the 19th inst. The church was nicely decorated with flowers, fruit, vegetables, etc, presented by the deaf members to whom the best thanks of the Sub-Committee are here tendered. The Chaplain officated. Mr. G. Schubach, who has an extensive vegetable garden at Clayton, sent a very large pumpkin weighing about 80 to 90 lbs., and several large onions. Another fine pumpkin was received from Mr. Luff, this latter contained an inscription of the festival for which it was intended, which had been scratched upon its surface and which grew in size as the pumpkin increased in bulk. The weather was severely stormy, but the congregation was above what one would expect for such weather.

Womens' Wing Fund.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of £1-0-0 from Miss L. Grazebrook, of St. Andrews, for the Womens' Wing of the Home.

Rally.

The 23rd rally, under the management of the Mens' Guild, was held at the Deaf Mute Centre on the 28th ult. There was an attendance of 92 deaf and 12 hearing friends. Mr. R. H. Luff (President of the above guild) occupied the chair. Games and conversation were the order of the evening. At the last four rallies during the year 16 members' certificates have been issued, and the average attendance has been 96- an increase of 20. It proves that the rallies are of some value, and very influential to the members by bringing them into closer and stronger friendships with one another. May the rallies flourish and live to see their silver jubilee!

Farm & Home.

The flower farm is the dream of our manager's life just now. The roses, dahlias, gladiolas, calliopsis and gaillardia are a mass of bloom, and within the next two or three weeks there will be an acre of chrysanthemums in flower.

Our Chairman.

Mr. E. R. Peacock, chairman of our Society, has been elected chairman of the general board of the Y. M. C. A. for the whole of Australia. We congratulate him.

Edgar.

The Only Edgar has returned from his trip to Europe and America. He has been away a year and we have missed him. We are wondering whether he is looking older & whether his experiences abroad have robbed him of some of his bright vitality. We hope not.
His "Welcome Home" is to take place at Sargeant's on the 5th inst.

Cook's Testimonial.

Those, who intend but have not yet subscribed to this fund, are asked to do so at once, as the list will close on the 15th of April. Send your contribution to Mr. M. L. Miller, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne.

Garden Party.

On April 22nd a garden party will be given to the deaf by the Board of Management of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, St Kilda Road, to celebrate the jubilee of the school. The fête will begin at 2 pm and close at 5.30 pm. There will be addresses of welcome, replies & presentation of testimonials and prizes to pupils. Afternoon tea will be provided. Any deaf wishing to be present may apply to Mr. Adcock, Secretary of the Institution, or Mr. J. C. Muir or Mr. R. H. Luff for tickets. Country deaf desirous of being present will be welcome, and are requested to send word to Mr. J. C. Muir and a ticket will be saved for them. It is hoped that it will be a pleasant re-union of old pupils and friends.

Miss Jones's Testimonial.

Steps are now being taken to present Miss Jones with a testimonial at the garden party in connection with the jubilee celebrations, in appreciation of her 30 years' service as nurse and sub-matron of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution. Miss Jones is very much esteemed and affectionately called "Mother" by the old pupils. She has lovingly tended them in every way, comforted them and sympathised with them. She really deserves some recognition from her old charges. It is expected that all the readers will readily and speedily contribute towards the testimonial for their dear old nurse. The donations should be forwarded before the 18th inst. to Mr. Luff, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne.

Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee met on the 21st ult. when the ordinary business was got through with despatch. The announcement of another splendid gift of books to the library by Mr. Alex. Williamson brought forth quite spontaneous burst of applause from the Sub-Committee. Mr Williamson has for many years been a most generous donor to our library, the following is the list of the latest addition to our reading shelves:- 5 volumes of Amateur Work,

6 volumes of Shakespeares' Works – "King Henry IV," the first, second and third parts of "King Henry VI," "Love's Labours Lost" & "Measure for Measure"; and also a complete set of Dickens, (34 volumes). It was decided to hold the annual meeting of the congregation on the 20th April when a big muster of members is asked for. The rough drafts of the annual report and balance sheet were read and approved.

Cricket.

The Adult Deaf C. C. Committee met on the 7th inst. It was resolved that any player winning batting & bowling or fielding prize is entitled to have special prizes in other departments of the game. The Berwick C. C. informed the Hon. Sec. that they had to cancel the promised match on the 15th inst. Easter will be rather late for the cricket season, but the club intends playing a match against Harren Warren C. C. on Easter Monday. The members of the club have been photographed for the next issue of the Gesture.
On the 4th inst. A. D. C. C. v Bedgood C. C., the latter made 70. Harding 4 for 23. Beattie 2 for 2 & Luff 2 for 28. A. D. C. C. 5 for 115, Robertson 27. Mc Lean 22 Beattie 18 n/o, Luff 14, J. Anderson 13. Won by 5 wkts & 45 runs.
On the 25th inst. A. D. C. C. v E. B. C. C. B. C. 68, Mc Lean 5 for 33, Luff 2 for 20, Beattie 1 for 16. A. D. C. C. 53, Beattie 16, Luff 10. Lost by 15 runs.

Yacht Disaster.

The readers will have read in papers of the sad disaster of the yacht Mavis which occured during a gale in Port Phillip Bay. The Mavis had a crew of four men, one of them was the ably brother of Miss Empson who helps Mr. Abraham in the office, and was last seen a few miles off Mannington on the 19th March. Its fate was not confirmed for several days. The search for the missing yacht was kept up throughout the week. The torpedo boat, the launch and private motor launches searched without result. Fishermen, as well as residents of the neighbourhoods of Frankston & Mannington walked or cruised in boats many miles along the coast. Two or three days after a fore-hatch was washed ashore and

identified as a part of the last yacht. The opinion of the yachtsmen is that the Mavis sank in the terrific storm & that the crew went down with the boat or were drowned in attempting to reach the shore.
Great sympathy was expressed for Mrs & Miss Empson, it has been a week of terrible suspense to them, but they are bearing their sorrow bravely. Mr Empson has been a loving & good son & brother to his widowed mother & sister. His untimely & sad death leaves a blank which cannot be filled.
Letters of condolence from the General Committee, the Sub-Committee, the Womens' Guild and many deaf friends have been sent to Miss Empson.

Essays.

About a dozen essays on "Happiness" were sent in, but there were only three competitors who really followed the conditions made in February's issue of "Our Monthly Letter", while others have dealt with the subject as though religious essays. The best essay is awarded to Mrs J. Pierce; the 2nd, Miss R. Gow; & the 3rd, Miss M. Bourke.

First Prize Essay.

What constitutes happiness to me? True Friendship, Love, & Contentment. Friendship is my first consideration as there is no condition in life so utterly devoid of pleasure & happiness as to be friendless & alone. Next to our mother, the greatest blessing life can give us is a true & sympathetic friend. A genuine friend should ever be ready to help, cheer, comfort & guide us on the path of right. If we have a true friend, we are rich indeed, & sunshine or sorrow can neither spoil or harm us. Some people have been endowed by nature with a genuine loving disposition, but those who wish to be happy must ever be ready to sacrifice their own comfort for the good of those they love. If we could all follow this, what happiness & sweet contentment it would bring. The more we love others & disinterestedly serve them, the greater will be our joy, & every kind word or deed extended to others returns to us with added blessing & greater love. Some people find pleasure in their daily occupations, others at amusements, but worldly pleasure does

not bring true or lasting happiness. Illness often mars happiness, but our sufferings, however great they seem to us, are nothing compared with Christ's sufferings. I have often wondered if people ever sit down & think how beautiful God's world really is. We have everything we could wish for, therefore Christ must have meant each & everyone to be happy. Nothing would bring me greater joy or happiness than to see my fellow creatures happy. May our love grow more for our friends every day. May peace, love, & contentment enter our hearts. I trust that some day happiness will be an epidemic which one & all of us will be possessed of. May we never wander from the path of right when seeking happiness. Also may those, who spread it, be long spared to continue, as without it it would be like life without sunshine.

Second Prize Essay.

Happiness is one of the sweetest & best things in life if we only use it to its best advantage. There are so many different things created to help to make our lives happy. The greatest happiness I could enjoy is keeping others, who are not so happy & contented as myself. Some people find happiness in travelling around the world, & others in going into society while others in shooting, fishing, reading, etc., but they may for only a short duration. I should feel happy if I could travel & see other lands, especially England & Scotland, where I have relations whom I should like to visit, but my greatest happiness is to be found in giving happiness to others who are less fortunate in life than myself.

Third Prize Essay.

Happiness - Good health, a good husband and family, and constant employment.

Births.

On the 20th Feb. to Mr & Mrs C. Reynolds a daughter. To Mr & Mrs J. Ashley (nee Miss Abbey McLean) of New Zealand a daughter on the 25th Feb. Hearty congratulations to the parents.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/6 each from Miss Edwards of N. S. W. & Mr. C. Newnham, 1/- each from Miss Martiner & Mr. G. G. Mercy & 9d from Mr. W. Coles toward our Monthly Letter fund.

Personal Pars.

Mr. T. J. Rose has been confined to bed for several days with a severe cold. It will be some time before he can regain strength to go out. He has most regularly for many years attended the Sunday morning services and his fine example might be followed by the younger members of the congregation, particularly of the male sex.

Friends of Miss K. Cowan will learn with regret that she is laid up with another attack of pleurisy. She has been pluckily trying to get well & has taken every precaution to prevent her illness going very far. It is earnestly hoped that she will soon recover & attend the meetings once more.

Mrs A. Williamson has returned to town after spending a seven weeks' delightful holiday at Queenscliff and Sorrento.

Mrs L. Downes went to Ballarat with the railway picnickers recently & stayed there for a short time.

Mr. J. R. Miller is now employed at the silver mines in Broken Hill. He is highly pleased with his present situation, being at his own particular work again.

Mr. R. Hamilton, of Ensay, writing to a friend says, the country is now looking splendid and green after recent heavy rains which recorded 22 inches since last January. During the last storm his crop of vegetables were washed away & the fences much damaged. He was unable to obtain his mail for 4 days owing to the floods.

Mr & Mrs T. Martin have been for a three months holiday in Sydney. They passed through Melbourne on their return to Adelaide.

Miss Potter is away for a holiday at Ballart.

Miss A. Graham, who has been spending three months at Kooloonuk, is back in town.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s. 6d. per annum, post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. MAY 1911. No. 9.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

The 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Congregation was held in the Deaf & Dumb Building on the 20th April, there being a fair attendance. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham occupied the Chair. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. E. Muir) read the annual report which was of an unusually lengthy character and the balance-sheet showing a surplus of £16-5-2 was submitted by the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. W. P. Muir). Both were unanimously adopted. The Chairman delivered a stirring address in which he referred to the great privileges available to the deaf of this State, advising the members to be more loyal to each other and their Society and regular in attendance at divine services. The ballot for the new Sub-Committee of 9 members resulted as follows:- Messrs. R. H. Duff, J. E. Muir, T. Frewin, M. L. Miller, J. McLean, G. Mortimer, W. P. Muir, T. Nilson & L. Downes. Messrs. J. E. Muir & T. Frewin were re-elected representatives to the General Committee of the A. D. & D. Society. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded the retiring office-bearers, Auditor, Scrutineers and the Chairman.

Our Income.

There is another substantial increase in our Society's income this year, sufficient to enable the committee to maintain the full complement of inmates when the Institution at Blackburn is completed. The total receipts (excluding last years balance) was £2650. A very interesting statement has been prepared by Mr. Miller showing the value of the property owned by our Society, it totals some £13,000.

The Women's Wing.

We have in hand the sum of £344-8-9 towards the erection of the Women's Wing, We still need £656. it is hoped that some big effort will be made to get this sum in during the winter so that a start may be made on the building early in the spring. There is a man about the town who could get this money in but he is at present concentrating his energies upon that part of the home already erected & the raising of a substantial income from the farm itself.

The Farm.

The farm takings for the first year - 1909-10 was £82. and for the year just closed £383. Mr. Abraham is aiming at £500 for the coming year and £750 the year following, and when we asked what next, he gave us one of those broad grins with which we are all so familiar. We know that he aims high, he is trying to "hitch" our waggon to a "star" and if it is possible he will do it.

The Home.

Mrs Abraham has had a trying year owing to the inability to obtain suitable domestic help. Now that Miss Smith (who has a deaf brother) has accepted the position of Sub-Matron, and Miss J. Lynch who was for many years in Mr. Abrahams service in the old country has arrived from England, there is every probability that this difficulty has for some considerable time been removed. This news will gladden the heart of the two blind-deaf men Messrs Cork and Sherra for now they will get more opportunities to talk with "mother."

Annual Meeting of the Society.

The exact date has not yet been fixed upon but the annual meeting will be held between the 22nd and 23rd of May. Special notice will be given.

Pic-Nics.

There have been several pic-nic parties to Lake Park during the month of April, including the National Candy Co, North Melb. Cricket Club, Ludlow & Co, and St Johns (Camberwell) Sunday School. Mrs Abrahams undertook the catering for all of them and all were loud in their praise of our chef, most of them passing special votes of thanks to her.

Gifts to the Farm.

Mr. Archie McLellan has got together a fine collection of tools necessary to the mastership of the five horse power pumping Engine. Our

Manager got quite a surprise when he went into the Engine shed the other day and found the "engineer shop" appearance of the place. Archie has himself purchased the tools and takes quite a pride in the engine. He has also presented Mrs Abraham with a carpet-sweeper and a butter churn so that now we get plenty of fresh home made butter.

Donations.

We have received 1/6 from Mr F. Lynas and 5/- from Mr J. Jackson of Queensland towards our Monthly Letter Fund. Mr Jackson has also sent 5/- towards the Women's wing and 5/- to the Society funds respectively. Our best thanks are tendered to the donors.

Sub-Committee.

On the 25th April the Sub-Committee met and transacted its usual ordinary business. The following Office bearers were re-elected viz:- Mr J.E. Muir, Hon. Sec., Mr W.P. Muir, Hon. Treas., Mr G. Mortimer, Hon. Librarian and Mr J. Marks assistant-librarian. A gift from Mr A.C. Muir in the form of a general atlas of the world containing 70 maps for the Library was accepted with thanks. Coronation Rally was fixed for the 22nd or 23rd of June. Particulars etc will be announced in our next issue.

Cook Presentation Committee.

This Committee met for the last time on April 20th in the office of the Superintendent of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society, Flinders Street. E. Mr Abraham presided. The Cutler desk purchased for presentation to Mr Cook was much admired and approved as was also the balance-sheet of receipts and expenditure.

Deaths of Mr S. Watson & Mr P. Holt.

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of Mr Samuel Watson, Principal of the V.I.D. Institution for the Deaf & Dumb and Mr Peter Holt the first Missionary to the deaf of this State.

Mr Watson died on the 27th of April. He was a teacher of the deaf long before most of us saw the light of this world, and was beloved by the whole deaf community. Mr Holt died on the 13th of April. He was a wicker ware manufacturer by trade and the pioneer Missionary to the deaf of Victoria, holding the position from 1884 to 1889, also for 30 years an open air preacher at St Kilda and other places. He was a resident of Prahran for the last 39 years. Several deaf mutes attended the funeral. Messrs J.E. and W.P. Muir, A.

Williamson, D. Moss and G. Mortimer acted as pall bearers. A letter of condolence was sent to Mrs P. Holt and family on behalf of the Adult deaf. A similar letter was also sent to Mrs Watson.

Other Deaths.

Mr A. Pearce of Beech Forest and Mr G. Woods lost their fathers on the 6th and 20th of April respectively. They have our heartfelt sympathy.

"Lord" Nelson's Surprise.

"Lord" Nelson who is an earnest and conscientious worker, one of the pillars of progressive effort at the farm, had a surprise the other Sunday morning that made him question his own sanity. He never misses an opportunity of attending church, especially on occasions of the Lord's Supper. There are no trains from Blackburn on Sundays, he had therefore to do the 2½ miles to Box Hill on shanks' pony. Mr Abraham generally arrives at the station 10 minutes before the train (the only one) starts. At 5 minutes to 10 o'clock the buggy had not arrived, at 3 minutes to, there was no sign of the buggy and at 2 minutes to ten the train departed without our chaplain. Here's a catastrophe brought "Lord" Nelson. It is impossible for our chaplain to get to church now, and although the members could manage the ordinary service, they would not undertake a special service. All the way to church he was worried, endeavouring to think of a way out of the difficulty. But not one would present itself. On reaching Melbourne he hurried on to the church to communicate the news to the deacons. On entering he found our chaplain in calm conversation with one of our members just outside the library door. His eyes nearly fell out of his head. What miracle had happened, he had seen Mr Abraham at Blackburn that morning a few minutes before he left for his walk to Box Hill. "How?" was the only exclamation possible to him in the circumstances. "Walked" said our chaplain. Nelson shook his head. "Flew" said the preacher - another mystified shake. Then a member chipped in "Mr Abraham arrived in a Motor half an hour ago". This information brought "Lord" Nelson down to earth again, it cleared up the mystery. The chaplain had not performed a miracle after all. He was just ordinary and had arrived in an ordinary way.

Garden Party.

The Board of Management of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution

entertained the past and present pupils at a Garden Party in the grounds of the Institution on April 22nd to celebrate the jubilee of the establish-ment of the Institution. There were about 250 guests present, including a number of hearing friends and relatives. The founder and first superintendent of the Institution Mr. F.J. Rose and Mrs Rose were the guests of honour. Mr. David Brown gave an address of welcome to which Mr. M.L. Miller suitably responded. The Rev. D. Watkin gave a short history of the School which was very interesting. Mr. & Mrs. S. Moss who were the first male and female pupils of the School were present and Mr. Moss briefly addressed the gathering. Mr. R. Duff made presentations on behalf of the old pupils to the Board of Management (a souvenir of historic photographs of the School) and to Miss Jones (purse of sovereigns and autographs album) in recognition of her 30 years service as Nurse and Sub-Matron of the School. The feature of the afternoon was the presentation by Mrs. J.E. Muir on behalf of the old pupils of a handsome Cutler desk and an arm chair to Mr. W.D. Cook. On the desk the following inscription appears "Presented to W.D. Cook Esq by his old pupils and friends as a token of gratitude on the occasion of the jubilee of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution and to recognise his services as a teacher of the deaf for nearly 30 years. Melbourne, April 22nd 1911." Mr. Bell the gymnastic instructor was presented with a group photograph from the members of his classes at the Institution and Mr. F.J. Rose presented the prizes to the successful Scholars. Then the guests promenaded the garden or inspected the building. Sumptuous afternoon tea was served in the hospital building. The arrangements of the ceremony were carried out under the supervision of the Supt. and Secretary Mr. John Adcock. Mr. W.D. Cook acted as interpreter of the speeches. The afternoon was beautifully fine and a very pleasant time was spent by all who were present.

"But to do good, and to communicate, forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Hebrews XIII, 16.

Asylum for Deaf & Dumb - Old Kent Rd London.

"The first of the kind was established in the Metropolis in the year 1792, by one whose memory is and ought to be embalmed in the grateful heart of every educated deaf and dumb person."

The exemplary the Rev. John Townsend.

"Whose only joy was to relieve the needs
Of wretched souls, and help the helpless poor"

was one of those noble-minded individuals who seem figuratively to spring up once or twice in a century to bring benevolence and good deeds from Heaven. He enlisted Rev. Henry C. Mason, M.A. as a co-adjutor."

(Extracted from Hawkins on the constitution of the Deaf and Dumb.)

Mr. Rose is deeply indebted to those noble humanity for his education or else he would never have been the founder of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution, - the first school in Australasia.

Educated deaf mutes expressed as follows:-

"It was fortunate for the deaf of the day that there happened to be a gentleman of the right stamp in the person of Mr. Rose on the spot at the right time."

M. L. Miller.

"We are all proud the School was started by a deaf & dumb gentleman"

R. H. Luff.

Meetings.

On the 11th of April the members of the Women's Guild attended an interesting bible class conducted by Mrs. A. Wilson.

Owing to so many meetings taking place in april, the Deaf Women's Guild met only once, when to a very attentive audience Mrs. Wilson gave a most interesting and appropriate lesson on "The Temple of the Jews." The next guild meeting will be held on the 9th May.

On the 11th of April Mr. J. Marks one of the younger members delivered a very interesting paper on the work of the British Australasian Tobacco Manufactory at the meeting of the Men's Guild. Credit was due to him for the way he prepared his paper and for his good delivery. Several members also spoke on this subject.

Personal Pars.

The many friends and well wishers of Miss K. Cowan will be pleased to know she is once more recovering and regaining strength after her late illness. She will be welcome amongst us again when her health permits.

Miss Elsie Abraham had a nasty fall from her horse whilst returning from the Melbourne club Kennels at Oakleigh recently. When within four miles of Black Rock the horse suddenly changed from a gallop to a canter and Miss Elsie lost her stirrup and fell to the ground. She pluckily remounted after having had a narrow escape of having her leg crushed and rode home with her escort. Although she got a severe shaking, she met with no serious harm.

Last month a little daughter was born to Mr. & Mrs. Jas. Ashley (nee Miss

Annie Archer). Mrs Ashley is at present enjoying a holiday with her people in Geelong.
Mrs W.H. Bostock of Adelaide (nee Miss Robertson) gave birth to a daughter on the 28th April. Both are doing well.
Mr J. Hunter has gone to Cowes to help his brother on the farm.
The following deaf visitors from the country attended the Garden Party at the Deaf & Dumb Institution to celebrate the jubilee of its establishment. - Mesdames T. Ashby (Trafalgar). J. Collins (Neerim). D. Ashby (Trafalgar). Misses Doney (Ballarat). A. Jackson (Jindivick). and Mesdrs G. Danman (Warburton). J. Ferguson (Beechworth). C. Martin (Daylesford). and C. Nicholls (Tasmania).
Mrs T. Ashby is spending a months' holiday with her relations in Geelong.
Miss P. Ashby is back again in Trafalgar for two weeks. She has been away from her old home for 12 months.
Mr J. Ferguson intends paying a visit to Gippsland for a few days.
After many years absence from Victoria Mr J. Rayne brought his wife and child from Queensland to Melbourne for a months' holiday. He was greatly rejoiced to see his old acquaintances again.
Miss Doney spent a very enjoyable two weeks with her friends in Melbourne.
Mr C. Nicholls (Tasmania) has also had a very good time in Melbourne during the past 2 weeks. He intends to resign from the position of Collector for the D & D. School at the end of 12 months.
Mr & Mrs W. Cann celebrated their silver wedding on the 18th April. They have our hearty congratulations. It is about 3 years since Mr Cann arrived from England, his family followed him a year later.
Mr D. Ashby won the first prize for garden honey at the Trafalgar Show. He is now very busy bagging onions.
Mr J. Moran returned to Melbourne after a weeks' stay in Sydney on private business.
Messrs J. Campbell, A. & W. Christensen, H. McKenzie and two hearing friends had a jolly time camping at Morang during the Easter Holidays.
Mr R. Mills of Waaia was in Melbourne for a week on some important business. He has not been in Melbourne for about 20 years & was struck with astonishment at seeing the great improvement of the city.
Messrs R. & J. Collins of Neerim spent their Easter Holidays in Melbourne.
Mr John Gordon was married to Miss J. Black in Brisbane on the 4th of March.
The deaf & dumb school boys opened their La-Crosse season well on the 29th April by beating Kooyong by 15 goals to 5. Mr J. Ritchie threw 13 goals and Mr J. Carrick 2.

Cricket.

The Adult Deaf C.C. finished its season on the 1st of April, winning eight matches, losing six and drawing one. The club had a good trip to Narre Warren on the 17th (Easter Monday), the weather being perfect for the match. The local team won the toss and sent us in to bat on an excellent wicket. We made a very respectable score viz:- 186 runs. C. Robertson batted splendidly, making 82 runs, J. Peters 21, R. Beattie 20, J.E. Muir 13, L. Downes 10, G. Hodges 10 & W.A. Paterson 8 n/o. Narre Warren could only compile 86 runs, leaving us winners by 100 runs. Messrs L. Downes 5 for 36. R. Beattie 2 for 6. J. Collins 2 for 9. J. McLean 2 for 22, did the bowling honours. The match was played in a very friendly spirit and every one spent a happy day. After tea the team visited Miss Dunkinson (Mr. G. Mortimer's Cousin) who is an invalid and Messrs W.A. Paterson, L. Downes, J.E. Muir, J. Nelson and J. Carriss entertained her with a series of recitations, & Miss Dunkinson takes a keen interest in cricket and never fails to ask any visiting cricketers to write their names in her autograph Album.

Mr. R. Beattie wins the batting average with 16.35 and Mr. V. Harding the bowling average with 5.16.

"Happiness" (by E. Cork, Deaf & Blind).

What is true Happiness and how is it to be obtained? Much might be said on this question. But I will confine myself to a few pointed statements. Most of us have our little worries in life but often it is our own fault we are not happy. It is when we take a mean view of things, when we pest upon the surface, when we make ourselves miserable, when there is no cause for it instead of trying to be content with what God has given us. A school boy said to his mother one day. Mother, I feel so happy. What makes you happy my child asked his mother with a smile. The lad replied, because I gave a boy half my dinner to day at School. This is one of the secrets of happiness when we do an act of kindness for others. There will always be a joy in our hearts. I once saw a man who said he was always happy because he always found something to do to keep his mind employed. I am always happy when I am at work. There is nothing to be gained by morbid feelings and discontent, real happiness springs from a cheerful spirit and a good conscience. A certain writer dealing with this subject said:- A carriage and three thousand a year is not the summit of happiness, neither is it the end of God's judgment with Men. How then are we to gain real happiness if riches will not bring it? By self denial, by trying to help our brothers & sisters, no matter how small the act. If we find pleasure in it we shall feel happy. Let us all remember that when we cannot see our way, We can rest in Him who is willing to make us perfectly happy, & all will be changed in us. Only a little hasty frown, a spiteful word so small, only a mouth with corners down may make the the tear drops fall. Only a smiling word from you can brighten up the way. Only a little thing you do brings Happiness to day.



The COMMITTEE of the

Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

have pleasure in inviting

M

TO THE

Annual Meeting and Social Evening

of the above Society to be held in the

ADULT DEAF & DUMB BUILDING, Flinders St., E. Melbourne

on THURSDAY, 25th MAY, at 7.45 p.m.

W. H. FELSTEAD, Esq., will preside

Unique Entertainment by Deaf Mutes.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR PROGRAMME

The "Age" 26/5/11.

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

ANNUAL MEETING OF VICTORIAN SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria was held last night at the society's head quarters, in Flinders-street. Dr. Springthorpe presided over a large attendance.

The honorary secretary, Mr. H. Sumner Martin, B.A., LL.B., reported that the finances of the institution were in a healthy condition. The receipts from various sources had been about £2000. During the year £217 worth of flowers had been sold from the farm at Blackburn, where 10 acres was under cultivation. There were 17 inmates at the farm and home at Blackburn, but as soon as funds would permit it was intended to erect a separate home for women.

The secretary moved the adoption of his report. Upon the motion being seconded by the Minister of Customs (Mr. F. Tudor) it was agreed to.

The Chairman gave an interesting physiological description of the brain, explaining how the various functions of the senses were performed. Dr. D. M. Paton also gave an address, and the remainder of the evening was devoted to an entertainment consisting of items in the language of gesture and selections by the Blackburn orchestra.

The office bearers for the ensuing year were appointed as follow:—President, Mr. W. H. Felstead; treasurer, Mr. H. King; secretary pro tem., Mr. H. S. Martin; hon. physician to home and farm, Dr. W. J. Young; hon. horticulturist, Mr. J. Cronin; and a committee of twelve.



CUT FLOWERS

In any Quantity

We can, supply at short notice.

Telephones:
Farm, Canterbury 47
Office, City 223

We can supply you

with any quantity of

Cut Flowers

At Any Time

Carefully packed together with suitable foliage and sent anywhere

From 2/- per Box

Address:

Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm,
Lake Park,
BLACKBURN

Telephones:
Farm, Canty. 47.
Office, City 223.

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM.
Manager.

Keep this for reference

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. **JUNE 1911.** **Nº 10.**

Our Annual Rejoicing.

The strictly orthodox, we know, would speak of our gathering as an annual meeting of subscribers, it however is much more than that to us – it is a real carnival – a carnival of self-satisfaction & general rejoicing. Each year shows a record of uninterrupted progress & each succeeding one some special achievement that caps everything done during the previous twelve months. Hence if, just for one evening of one day in the year we form ourselves into a mutual glorification society, who can blame us! For we feel satisfied with one another & with everybody.

And how different are our gatherings from the ordinary meetings of subscribers, instead of the solemn faced gentlemen who hurry through the business as rapidly as decency will allow, we have a large & enthusiastic audience; instead of the usual wail of debt our cry is always the same 'Going strong'!

There is the same remarkable phenomena at all our gatherings; a galaxy of astonished speakers, who having been made cognizant of the position of our Society, follow each other in expressions of bewilderment at our sound finances, rapid progress & all round success.

The Hon W. A. Watt, at the opening of our Farm & Home gave it as his opinion that ours was the best-managed Society in Victoria. At our meeting on the 25th Ult. Dr. Springthorpe asked permission to congratulate us upon "such a society, such a committee & such a balance sheet." "I do not think" said he "that those three items could be beaten by an Society in Victoria, & I am perfectly sure that no

object is more worthy of support than this".

Dr. Springthorpe is interested in the Epileptic Home & says he is coming our way to find out how we grow & find a market for our flowers that he may introduce the same at the Epileptic Colony & compete with us.

Dr. Montgomerie Paton told us that he had seen so much that he did not know where to begin. The first thing he wanted to know was how we got our money. He belongs to the Y. M. C. A. and they have no money but want it very much. It was his intention to visit us until he found out how we got ours. Another gentleman is anxious to know our method of crowding our building with enthusiastic audiences on all & every occasion.

Business.

The meeting opened by the singing of The old hundredth, & the Rev. A. R. Stephenson, M. A (member of the Committee of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution) followed with prayer appropriate to the occasion. Mr. H. Sumner Martin B. A. L. L. B. then read the annual report. Mr. Harold Kent read the balance sheet, both of which were adopted. The following gentlemen were appointed officers for the ensuing year. President Mr. W. H. Felstead, Vice President, Mr. E. R. Pedcock. J. P., Hon Treasurer, Mr. Harold Kent, Hon. Sec. Mr. H. Sumner Martin B. A. L. L. B, Ass't Treas'r Mr. M. L. Miller., Committee. Rev H. W. H. Adeney, Mess'rs Geo. Brown, W. A. Dickens, J. E. Frewin, & Hon. S. Mauger, Mess'rs G. G. Mercy, M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir, Hugh. Munro, F. J. Rose & Hon'd. Tudor M. H. R. & Sir Henry Weedon M. L. A. Hon Physician Dr. W. J. Craig, Hon Consulting Horticulturist. Mr. J. Cronin.

Entertainment.

The Blackburn orchestra rendered three items in excellent style & the audience was not slow in the expression of their appreciation. Miss Rose Dow, dressed as a girl scout rendered with swing & confidence "Climb boys climb" in the language of gesture, & you just wanted to climb or do something, for her enthusiasm & vim was catching. "God made the World one State" was recited by Miss Doris Hickey, also in the sign language, the delivery was as it should be - impressive, strong & convincing. Mess'rs Cook & Shirra, both blind-deaf

men, gave us an exhibition of their method of communicating with each other, & Miss L. Fletcher recited some verses written by our superintendent about our flower farm, in which we were told all about what was grown there & the people engaged in the growing. Miss Fletcher was dressed as a flower girl & carried a basket laden with flowers of all kinds. At the conclusion of her recital, to the delight of the audience, she sent the beautiful contents of her basket flying amongst them & for which they gleefully scrambled. The piece was prettily rendered "Sun of my Soul" was next given in gesture by Miss Doris Davis. It was magnificently rendered - beautiful, solemn & dramatic. Miss Davis has a fine command of gesture & she made quite an impression upon the audience; during the recital the voice of the interpreter was the only sound that rang out upon the silence & at the conclusion there was a burst of applause that was well deserved, for with eyes, face, hands & body. Miss Davis gave life - soul to grand old hymn.

The concluding item was a sketch entitled "Clouds, Storm & Sunshine." It was a domestic story & dealt with the folly of overdoing things. A handsomely got up circular advocating the use of flowers upon the table as an appetiser & "love at home" "keeper is received & the young wife is so taken up with the idea that she covers her table with innumerable vases of flowers, but the food supply upon the table she has managed to get down to the almost disappearing point. This brings rebellion on the part of the husband who as he put it used to have plenty of feed, & no flowers therefore no appetite, now he has got plenty of appetite & flowers but no feed." The wife is in the end brought to the knowledge of the desirability of a happy medium & there is general sweetness with love looks & the smell of roast turkey, baked potatoes & other odours dear to the heart of man. Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Muir in role parts maintained their standard of excellence. They were dramatic & humorous in turns & pleased the audience immensely. Miss Davis took the part of the servant well and Miss Hickey, as the morning visitor was very natural. The piece was written & arranged by our Superintendent & is as usual at the last moment. The parts were handed round on the Saturday

for rendering on the following Thursday.

Report.

The following extracts from the Committee's report will be of interest to our readers:—

"The Committee have every reason to be pleased with the work of the Society during the past year. The public have subscribed well to the funds. The behaviour of the deaf mutes has given satisfaction and they are happy & contented. At present they are all employed.

"The usual lectures, classes, & other gatherings have been held throughout the year at the Flinders Street building. The facilities there offered for instruction & recreation are as fully appreciated by the mutes as ever & the expectations entertained by the promoters of the Society in its early years have been well fulfilled. The deaf mutes are trusted by the Committee to manage their own affairs under the supervision of the Superintendent. Thus they acquire the faculty of initiation & develop self reliance. The Committee are glad to say that during the history of the Society this trust has been fully justified."

Blackburn Farm & Home.

"The establishment of the flower farm & home for aged, infirm, & feeble minded deaf mutes has largely extended the Society's operations, especially while in the initial stage of laying out, clearing, & cultivating the farm & finding a market for the flowers. The work requires all the care & attention that the Committee & the Superintendent can give to it. In fact the dual duty of supervising both the Flinders Street & Blackburn institutions is a considerable tax on Mr. Abraham's time & powers. In the performance of this duty he does not spare himself, but brings a whole souled energy to the management of both branches"

Matron.

"The services of Mrs. E. J. D. Abraham, Matron of the Blackburn Home deserve special recognition. The duties properly belonging to her office have been performed by her in a manner eminently satisfactory to the Committee, & to the inmates whose comfort is so largely dependent on her ministrations. But she has not

limited herself to the performance of these duties. The impossibility of obtaining qualified cooks & other domestic help for more than a few weeks at a time has thrown upon her a variety of work which the Committee have been loth to see her undertake, but she has taken it upon herself & carried the burden cheerfully. In addition she has with the valuable aid of her daughter catered for picnic parties both in the grounds & in her own house. This service of itself has entailed a great expenditure of time & strength. It has been performed entirely voluntarily & as a labour of love & with a desire to assist in making the Farm self supporting"

Appreciation.

"There are several deaf mutes of ability & intelligence who have devoted themselves to the interests of the deaf, so that there has been no neglect. Whilst it may seem invidious to make any special reference where many have given assistance, it is due to mention Mrs J. E. Muir, who has made the training of the young women her special care, & Messrs M. L. Miller & J. E. Muir who have given practically all their leisure time to the work of the Society"

Balance Sheet.

Total receipts, £2,830-11-3. total expenditure, £2,761-6-9
Amount to credit of Furnishing & Benevolent Fund, £1,419-15-10
Amount to credit of Women's Wing £344-8-9, Value of Assets £12,964-7-9

Hon. F. Tudor's opinion.

The Hon. F. Tudor in seconding the adoption said the report was a magnificent one as also the balance sheet, that no society that he had ever been connected with had put forth a better report.

A night of congratulations.

Mr E. Peacock said - It was a night of congratulations, first we ought to congratulate the distinguished gentleman Dr Springthorpe on his able & highly interesting address, also the Society on having elected Mr Felstead as president. The Society is extremely fortunate in the type of gentlemen as president & other officers. Contributors ought to congratulate themselves on the efficient work accomplished.

One could scarcely credit the tremendous advance in the

time of educating the deaf & dumb in this state. Prior to 50 years ago there was no organisation, & no effort made to educate them. Mr. F. J. Rose founded the school on the St Kilda Road which now stands as a monument this noble & distinguished citizen. 25 years later this same gentleman took part in the founding of the A. D. & D. M. (now Society). For the first 15 years the mission met in rented premises but 10 years ago so careful had the committee been with the funds by that time raised that they were able to bring out from England an expert (Mr. Abraham). Prior to the arrival of Mr. Abraham valuable work was done by how workers & this fact must never be forgotten.

Mr. Abraham's coming brought considerable increase to the finances of the Society. This property was built & paid for, it is free from debt. It serves the purpose of all the requirements of the deaf, it is the centre of life to the deaf mute & the avenue through which all the possibilities of the mind wonderful can be brought to fruition

Monuments to Workers.

Just as the school for deaf children on the St Kilda Rd is a monument to Mr. F. J. Rose, so is the Farm & Home at Blackburn a monument to Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, it was his conception & his energy that made possible the purchase of the land & the erection of the buildings. But these things are not the real work, the real work is unseen. Who can pay for the development of a soul; or the training of a character. The character building is made possible by the organisation of the Society. You the subscribers have made possible the bringing together of these people for social & spiritual intercourse, - the real work which it is not possible to measure by assets.

The Japanese Teacher.

As an illustration I might mention the schoolmaster in Japan. In all Japan there is no one so cultured as the school-master & yet so poorly paid. The people realize that his services to the community are so great that no man is bold enough to offer him payment for what it is impossible to give adequate reward i.e. knowledge! & so the teacher remains poor. Mr. Peacock concluded by saying that it was a time of congratulation all round.

Stray Notes.

Mrs Abraham was too busy nursing everybody's baby to hear the good things said about her.

"Our Monthly Letter" was spoken of with kindly interest all over the Hall.

Dr Montgomerie Paton said the "Gesture" - our quarterly is a paper of high tone. That is what we intend it to be. It has a circulation of 8.000 & is growing in popular favour.

We noticed Mr. Dickens in the audience. He divided his evening between us & the 2nd anniversary gathering of his pastor Rev W. Spurr. Mr. Dickens has always been on the side of "Advance deaf Society."

Mr & Mrs Mercy were also present, but you had to look for them for they were modestly hidden between many heads. We heard some one say the other day that Mr. Mercy had given up professional work for the good of himself, & to carry bricks as an amateur for the good of others. Not many treasurers are able to appear before an audience with a financial statement to equal that submitted by Mr. Kent - he spoke as though he were proud of it. Mr. W. L. Miller hid himself away at the back of the hall, we think he was afraid of being called upon to speak.

There was quite a goodly number of Blackburn people present. Our hearing friends told us that the Blackburn Orchestra played well. They also seemed to get some enjoyment out of the meeting.

The interpreting was a heavy task for our superintendent, but it takes a lot of that kind of work to bowl him over.

Mr Frank Frewin as usual was the centre of a bevy of ladies & was all attention & smiles.

Mr. Hugh Munro, the new member of the Committee was observed making himself very much at home with the young people at the rear of the Hall.

Miss Empson & Mr. Edgar Peacock were busy reporting the proceedings, it has not yet transpired whether for the "London Times" or the "New York Herald"

We have notes on the addresses of Dr Springthorpe & Dr Paton & hope to insert same in our July number.

Our Secretary.

The work of a Secretary is a thankless task. Every body

expects this officer to think of everybody & to put together appreciative acknowledgements appropriate to the needs of all & sundry, but they generally omit to think of & thank him. We hope we shall never have this accusation brought against us. For 20 years W. H. Sumner Martin has been connected with our Society, most of the time as honorary Secretary. He was with us in our early struggles & is still with us in our prosperity. Words alone are quite inadequate to clothe the grateful thoughts & feelings that the whole deaf mute community have for W. H. Sumner Martin.

The Flower Farm.

The receipts from all sources at the Flower Farm during the month of April were £55. 18. 2. A magnificent start for the new financial year. We have entered upon our dull months - May & June. Roses, Dahlias & Chrysanthemums are done, & until the bulbs come into bloom we shall have to worry & scheme to meet the demands of our customers. Marguerittes, Carnations, Cornflowers & violets are our main blooms just now & not a great number of them but in a week or two the sol d'or & paper white will be cheering our hearts & keeping our fingers going. Archie McLellan & "Lord" Nelson under the supervision of our Superintendent undertook a very risky bit of work the other week. The heavy rains had caused the lake to rise to a dangerous height, so to prevent an overflow they stood in the rushing water almost up to their waists & removed by means of picks, part of a cement wall at the water outlet which allowed of huge volumes of water to escape & so making the dam more safe.

Coronation Rally.

On the 23rd June the Coronation Rally will be held. Tea will be served at 6.30 p.m. A splendid programme has been prepared. The Vic Branch of the A.D.D.A. Sub-Committee are exerting themselves to make this rally a big success.

Souvenir.

At the Garden Fete held last April at the Institution to celebrate the Jubilee of Instruction of the Deaf & Dumb in this State a framed souvenir of the occasion was presented to the Board of the School. It consisted of photographs of previous

buildings in which Mr. Rose the founder carried on the education of the deaf from the beginning. It is an historic relic of the past. The Jubilee board under the A. D. & D. A. auspices had copies of the souvenir taken to sell at 1/- each, & trust that every one interested in the history of the deaf will apply for a copy. They may be obtained from Mr. R. H. Luff, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. or by writing to Mr. J. E. Muir can have a copy sent post free. Please send 1/- when ordering.

Miss M. Jones to Mr. R. H. Luff.

"Will you please accept my warm thanks & also convey same to all those kind friends who contributed to the testimonial, which was presented to me at the Jubilee Garden Party at the Institution last month. It is very gratifying to know that one is remembered with affection & esteem, by the old pupils, in whom I shall always continue to take a warm interest.

Once more thanking you all for your kindness"

Miss Lily Holt writes.

"Will you please accept the sincere thanks of my mother for your very kind letter of sympathy. The Deaf & Dumb Society was always of great interest to Father & he very often spoke of the days he spent amongst you & those days were days of happiness to him. We thank you also for your kind service at the grave"

The Late Mr. S. Watson.

The family of the late Mr. Samuel Watson also returned sincere thanks for kind sympathy.

Lectures.

On the 2nd May owing to the unavoidable absence of Mr. E. Abraham his lecture was postponed. As there was a good muster of members the evening was in the form of a story night. Mrs. J. E. Muir gave some of her daring & thrilling adventures in the bush & vividly described the terrible bush fires that she experienced two or three times. Messrs. F. E. Frewin, S. Moss, John Anderson, & J. E. Muir & Miss Matthews gave interesting & humourous adventures that they had had during their early life & told them very well. Mr. W. P. Muir stated an hair-breadth adventure of a cyclist who met a lion & Mrs. Wright

a sad story which happened to her people during her childhood. Altogether the story night was a success.

On the 9th May Mr. Abraham delivered a very interesting lecture on "A peep in my note book" before a fair attendance of men.

On the evening of May 9th there was another good attendance of members at the Women's Guild meeting. The president (Mrs. J. E. Muir) gave a paper on subjects both instructive & interesting. On the Art of observation some of the members promised to profit by the hints given. A short history on the movement which has resulted in the company of "Boy Scouts" was very good. A few remarks were made about National flowers. Foreign correspondence was also advocated, & Mrs Muir agreed to secure correspondents abroad for any members who so desired. A very pleasant programme ended with a recital of two tales from Shakespeare & the members were urged to read & study the works of this grand writer.

A most interesting debate on "Monarchy" versus "Republic" took place at the Mens' Guild Meetings on the 16th & 30th Ult. Mr. M. L. Miller took the Monarchy side & Mr. J. E. Muir the Republicanism side respectively. We will have more to say on this subject in the next issue.

Wedding.

The first wedding amongst our members for this year took place on the 24th May, when Mr. R. K. Beattie of Brunswick was married to Miss Alice Morgan of Newmarket. The ceremony took place at the residence of the bride's aunt in Flemington. The Rev. Watsford officiated & the service was interpreted by Mr. E. J. D. Abraham. The bride was beautifully dressed in white silk. Only a few intimate deaf friends were present, the party being composed of relatives & hearing friends. Mr. & Mrs. R. K. Beattie left by taxi-cab for their new home in Brunswick. Some very handsome presents were received by them. They have our congratulations.

Personal Pars.

The Hon. S. & Mrs. Mauger took their departure last month for a 6 months' trip to England. On behalf of the Melbourne deaf, Mr. M. L. Miller wished them bon voyage

Mrs Clarkson nee Miss Lucy Murdoch whose mother was a tailoress at the Vic.n Deaf & Dumb School about 30 years ago paid a visit to the building on the 7th May. She was hardly recognised by her old acquaintances. She has been living in America for many years. Her husband is going to try fruit growing in the Mornington district.

Mrs E. Clockford is spending a month's holiday with her people in Morwell.

Mr S. Ferguson has returned to his home at Bowman's Forest looking the picture of health after his 4 weeks holiday in Melbourne. He stayed with Mr R. Hamilton at Ensay for 2 weeks, spending most of his time photographing the places in the district.

The father of Mr D. Nolan, Mrs R. Watson & Miss E. Williams passed away on the 20th May. They have our sincere sympathy.

Mr J. Elvin met with an unpleasant accident whilst playing in a lacrosse match with the deaf school boys at Canterbury on the 20th May he received a severe blow from a lacrosse stick which dislocated his nose, but fortunately he was quickly attended to by Dr Bird who soon set the injury right.

Lacrosse.

May 6th Deaf & Dumb School v Brighton Wanderers 3 goals each. draw. Goal throwers, Retallic 2. V. Izzzer 1

May 13th Deaf & Dumb School v South Yarra The former won by 15 goals to one. Goal throwers, Retallic 12. V. Izzzer 1 Carrios 1

May 20th D & D. School beat Canterbury by 6 goals to 3. Retallic 5 V. Izzzer 1.

May 27th D & D. School drew with Fitzroy 7 goals each Retallic 4. V. Izzzer 3.

Winter Games.

At the Sub-Committee meeting on the 23rd May it was decided that the Winter games competitions should start on the 3rd June. It is expected that keen interest in these games will be manifested this winter. Messrs J. E. & W. P. Muir & F. E. Frewin were appointed to look after the competitions.

Gesture.

The April-May-June issue of the Gesture contains the second of the series of signs. Miss I. Chapman posed for the pictures which are excellent. The words illustrated are from the chorus of the deaf mute anthem.

"Although our speech is dead to earth.
Our thoughts are known above.
Where spirit kindred spirit meet.
And love is met by love."

Amongst other interesting articles the one on the Melbourne Deaf Cricket Club (Illustrated) will prove of chief interest locally.

Monthly Letter.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/6 from Mrs C. Luke + 8/- from Adelaide deaf subscribers toward our Monthly Letter fund.

Melbourne Members of our Society are requested to call at our building for their copies of the Monthly Letter. In future no copies will be posted to the deaf residing in Melbourne & Suburbs.

Deaf Papers.

The New South Wales Deaf Journal & the Queensland Deaf Mission Circular will in future be published bi-monthly instead of monthly. Copies are on the files in our Library.

Mr F.J. Rose Honoured.

At the Annual Meeting of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria held in the building of that Society on the 25th of May it was unanimously agreed that Mr F. J. Rose be made a life governor in recognition of his valuable services to the Society. This discussion met with enthusiastic appreciation on the part of the deaf who look upon Mr. Rose as the founder of deaf mute instruction in this country.

Mr W.H. Felstead.

We were all greatly disappointed at finding Mr. Felstead through temporarily ill health was unable to preside at our Annual meeting, we had so looked forward to making his acquaintances. When he does make his appearance amongst us, we can promise him a very hearty welcome.

Gift.

Mrs C. Luke has sent to our Library a second parcel of 15 copies of the Illustrated London News for which she has our warmest thanks.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. **JULY 1911.** **No 11.**

Dear Friends

You have no doubt heard of Queensland and its little mission, little that is when compared to yours, but growing every year by the grace of God.
Most of the Brisbane Deaf are members of the A. D. D. A. therefore they have much in common with you.
The mission is nearly nine years old, and we want a mission building. The building fund is over £800, and this year the Deaf made up their minds to hold one more bazaar and exhibition of the work of the Deaf in October next, they also resolved to make a bigger effort and lift the fund at least £100 higher. They are all working hard and unitedly to this end, but they are few, and cannot represent so many trades as they wish. That is where you come in.
You have many trades down in Melbourne and you can help us, if you will, to swell our Exhibition of Work of the Deaf. How? You can each and all send me a piece of your own work. Trade work, of course, thus a book-binder may send me an autograph or other album; a bootmaker might send a pair of slippers, and so on. Those who have no trade are sure to have a hobby. All right - send along a bit of wood-carving, fret work, painting, or anything for the Art section. These small gifts need not be costly, rather not, or if any exhibits are sent on loan, I will guarantee their safe return to their owners.

This is the way in which you can help the Deaf of Queensland, not so much by the money value of what you give, (though that is something) but by backing them up and enabling them to show the public of Brisbane what the Deaf can do in arts, handicrafts, and brain work.
And what you do will help in other ways indirectly, at this particular time it will come in particularly useful. Why? The man who is Primer of this State is also the President of the Mission and takes a deep interest in its welfare.
The School Committee, the Mission Committee, the A. D. D. A. and the S. P. C. A. C. are making plans for a combined deputation to the Home Secretary when Parliament meets, on the question of Compulsory State Education for our deaf children - and with the Premier in sympathy and with such a knowledge of our aims and needs, it seems that we may fairly hope to succeed in getting an amendment of the Education Act.
All that the Deaf do in this year therefore will have a wide spread effect, like the circles caused by a stone thrown in water. Help us therefore to make as good an impression as we can on the public mind.

M. Everend Wilson.

Address all letters and parcels to Miss M. Everend Wilson, 578 Leichhardt Street, Brisbane, Queensland.
All gifts will be gratefully acknowledged and all enquiries answered.

Note. Here's your opportunity, Victorian deaf, to do a little in helping the Queensland deaf to procure the same glorious advantages that you for years have enjoyed, so send along your exhibits and your cash.

Ernest. J. D. Abraham.

Farm & Home.

The heavy rains have interfered very much with the work at the farm and have provided us with several nervous shocks as the waters of the lake approached the top of the embankment and more than once threatened to again overflow it. Now that the floods are practically over = the nervous strain gone, and we are able to settle down to our normal condition, we are beginning to appreciate our

good fortune, for our damage is very small when compared with the ruin that the floods caused in other places that we read of in the newspapers. In spite of the heavy dainpaurs and swampy condition of the land, we have not been idle, there is no marking time at our farm; we continue to march one way or another. Draining the land, grubbing, and gathering heath has been our main occupation during June, getting soaked to the skin almost daily, but, as we generally take a daily dip in the lake during the summer months, the only difference last month was we had full day dips with our clothes on.

A meeting of the Farm Committee was held on the 9th of June when Mr Abraham (the manager) reported total receipts for the month of May as £37-9-1. He also reported removal of cement wall at lake outlet; resignation of Mr Plumridge the nurseryman who left on the 3rd of June; also his own willingness to take over the duties of the nurseryman until a first class man could be obtained. The manager put in a requisition for a bath heater, buggy and horse rugs and buggy lamp, which were approved.

As mentioned last month June is the worst month of the year for flowers and our manager has had to use his hypnotic influences to their fullest extent to encourage a sufficient number of flowers to bloom so to enable him to keep faith with the contract customers. So far he has succeeded, by the middle of July we shall have acres of bulbs in bloom and early in August our fields of winter blooms will be worth a silver coin to see.

Mens' Guild.

On the 16th May a meeting of the Mens' Guild was held when a very interesting debate on "Monarchy" v "Republic took place. Mr M. L. Miller started the ball rolling by saying that Monarchy was more favourable to the people and was good for the nation. Mr J. E. Muir was in favour of a Republic and said that the people ought to have the power of choosing the men they think best for the Presidentship and for the Government.

The debate was adjourned till the 30th of May, when great

interest was shown by all present, Mr. T. J. Rose coming to the meeting specially for the purpose of witnessing his old pupils at the battle. He was given a hearty welcome by the President, Mr. R. H. Luff on behalf of the Mens Guild. The discussion resulted in favour of a Republic, the voting being 10 against 7. Messrs. M. L. Miller and J. C. Muir were heartily thanked for being the promoters of a very instructive debate. At both meetings there were very large attendance.

On the 13th June the members of the Mens' Guild engaged a very interesting paper on various items delivered by Mr. T. Nelson.

Womens' Guild.

On the 30th May our Guild members were treated to an excellent paper by Miss Matthews, descriptive of life in the Mother Country and America where her life was spent before coming out here. In spite of our enjoyment of the paper, we are still quite satisfied to continue living in Sunny Australia.

On the 20th June Mrs Wilson gave a good bible lesson, her subject being "The Flame Circle". The illustrations she gave were very true ones.

The next meeting will be the annual one on the 11th July.

General Committee.

The General Committee met on the 12th of June when it was resolved to ask Sir John Fuller to become patron of the Society. The expenditure for the month was £187.

Winter Games.

The Winter Games Competitions started on the 3rd June. The games are angling, shooting, word-making, tiddlywinks, bagatelle, quoits and cribbage. It was resolved that 3 prizes each to ladies and gentlemen be awarded for the largest number of points in all games except quoits and cribbage. Much interest is shown by the competitors. The games will continue to the end of September.

Vic. Branch, A.D.D.A.

The Hon Secretary begs to acknowledge with thanks receipts of 1/- each from Messrs. E. J. D. Abraham, S. Fergusan, R. H. Luff, J. McLean, W. P. Muir, J. Anderson (Gland) & Miss M. Clark, 2/-, Mr. R. Stewart.

Coronation Rally.

The Coronation Rally was held at our Building on the 23rd inst. under the auspices of the Victorian branch of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association. Messrs. M. L. Miller, W. A. Paterson, W. P. Muir and R. H. Luff (secretary) being the committee of arrangement. The large hall was tastefully decorated with flags and chinese lanterns, the gift of Messrs. M. L. Millick and J. E. Muir, others were kindly lent by Mrs. Charles Graham. At the back of the platform the words "Coronation Rally," "God save the King" appeared in letters of white on a red back ground, the work of Messrs. Miller and Muir. The place was a blaze of light and with the holiday clad guests parading beneath presented a most gladsome and brilliant array.

Tea was served in the lower hall at 6. 30 p. m. and about 80 persons partook. When the guests adjourned to the upper hall, Mr. M. L. Miller (President of the Victorian branch) presided and Mr. Abraham opened the meeting with the National Anthem in the sign language in which the whole of the deaf joined with enthusiasm. The Hon Sec. of the Sub. Committee (Mr. J. E. Muir) read the roll call and afterwards in the name of the deaf presented Mr. R. R. Beattie with a wedding present - a case of carvers and a bread fork. Mr. Beattie in a well worded speech acknowledged his thanks.

Captain Elden who has for some fourteen years acted as honorary missionary to the deaf of Ballarat and who was for some time a teacher at the School for the deaf on the St Kilda Road, having dropped in for a talk with our Superintendent, was immediately seized upon and led to the platform. He gave us a most loyal address which was received with great applause, as was an address by the chairman, the latter spoke at some length on the reign of Queen Victoria and Edward the Seventh with admiring references to our present King. A brief interval followed for conversation, then a farce which seemed to be without a name, but which illustrated the red hot excitement of a farmer and his family who

were anxious to be present at the Kings' Coronation. The piece was full of humour and the characters were well sustained by Mess.rs W. A. Paterson, J. Mc. Lean, T. Peters, C. Robertson, R. H. Luff and M. G. Martimer. J. Mc. Lean made an excellent farmers wife, and as the daughter, T. Peters was good. W. A. Paterson is a born humorist and is at home in any part that can procure a laugh.

An electric battery and shooting drew many patrons during the evening and there was a guessing competition in which 25 persons took part, Mr. Martimer was the most successful and won a sofa cushion, the gift of Mrs. Booth.

Before the close of the party a picture commemorating the jubilee of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution was presented to the deaf congregation

There were about 90 deaf and 50 hearing guests present.

Services.

Coronation Services were held at our Church on the 25th June. Our chaplain officated at both services.

Lacrosse.

June 3rd Deaf and Dumb School beat Melbourne Church of England Grammar School by 26 goals to 1 - a record under the "D" grade. Goal throwers, Retallick 16., V. Tyzzer 9., C. Robertson 1.

June 10th, D. D. School beat Williamstown by 9 to 2. Retallick 3. V. Tyzzer 3. C. Tyzzer 1. C. Robertson 2

June 24th D. D. School beat Kew by 14 to 2. Retallick 8. V. Tyzzer 4. N. Hughes 1. Robertson 1.

The boys threw totalled 105 goals in 9 matches, Retallick (a big, strong boy) threw 65, V. Tyzzer 28, Robertson 6. Retallick plays excellently, he ought to play with "A or "B" Grade.

New Australian.

Mr. Peter Sinclair arrived in Melbourne from Glasgow on the 26th inst. The Rev. J. Henderson of the latter city had acquainted Mr. Abraham of his coming, so Mr. Sinclair received a hearty welcome to Melbourne.

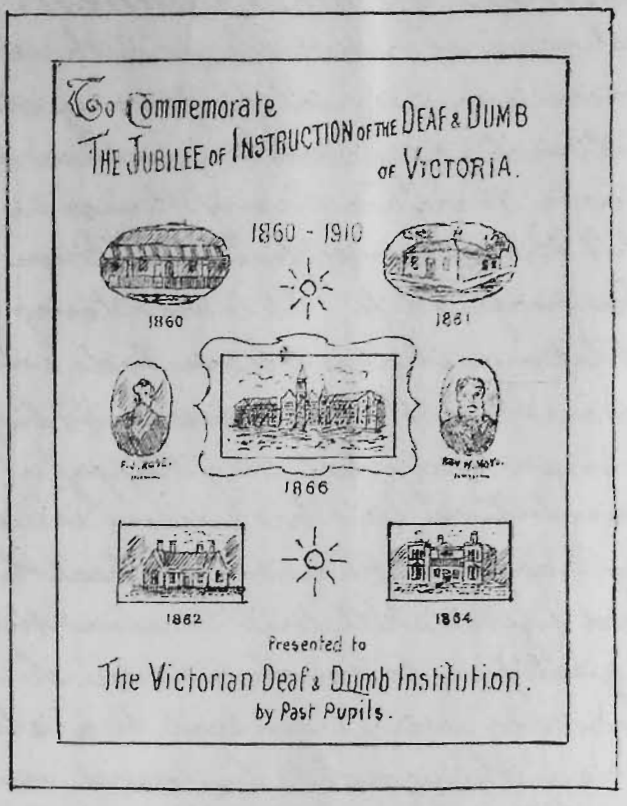
Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of £1/-

from Mrs A. Williamson, 2/- from Mr. Henry Gladman, and 1/- from Mr R. Mills towards our Monthly Letter fund.

Souvenir.

During the jubilee celebrations of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution last April a souvenir in the shape of a framed group of photos of the various buildings used in the 56 years progress of education of the deaf and dumb in Victoria, was presented to the Board of Management by the old pupils. Our illustration conveys a good idea of the souvenir. A similar presentation was made to the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society. The photos, mountings and framing of these souvenirs cost several pounds and the old pupils of the Institution are cordially invited to assist in defraying the cost. Anyone sending a contribution of 1/- will receive a cabinet photograph of the souvenir which should prove a good moments. Kindly send contributions to Mr Luff, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E.



Dr D. Montgomerie Paton.

Dr D. Montgomerie Paton who attended and spoke at our last annual meeting confessed that before coming he knew nothing whatever of the work going on amongst the Adult Deaf & that he had seen so much to astonish him that evening that he did not know where to begin. Said he "I want to know how you got your money. I belong to the Y. M. C. A. We have not money, but we would like to have it very much. Wonder whether it is good to be deaf & dumb, or dumb alone. I had a patient, an old woman, who fell and knocked her head & damaged her brain. She became dumb, afterwards got better & could hear again & told of her feelings when wanting to scold & no language to do it, under the circumstances it was a sad business. An Irishman filling in census paper gave his name, & whether blind or deaf & dumb, "Not deaf but I

wish I were. For his wife he put down, "Not dumb but I wish she were." You see, circumstances alter cases, it is good to be deaf and dumb."

Happiness by Miss Connell.

As there is no royal road to knowledge, so is there none to happiness. No schools or colleges where we can qualify for any state of happiness. It rests with ourselves to live happy lives, & is within the power of the majority of us to do so. Of course there are many things essential to a state of happiness, & the chief of these is unselfishness. "Even Christ pleased not Himself" & "His was the perfect life". It is not doing what we like that makes us happy, but liking what we have to do, whether it is agreeable to us or not. Success is another thing necessary to happiness, & that also has to be worked for. A man may feel very happy, if after years of working he succeeds in some ambition, but his success is due to his determination. A doctor may feel very happy if he restores to health some life that was in danger, & has been saved by his skill, but he went through years of work & study before he was qualified to touch a pulse. So, in those cases, determination & perseverance were essential to a state of happiness.

Perfect happiness is a thing not to be found on this earth, for there is no sunshine here without a shadow. Permanent happiness can only be ours when we have crossed the judgement bar. Contentment with one's earthly lot in life goes a long way towards individual happiness, & so does the good will of one's fellowmen. There was happiness in Eden before pain or sin were ever known. There was happiness afterwards in Gethsemane when the world had known the burden of sin & the agony of suffering; so that shows there are many different states of happiness. There can never be such a thing as national happiness while there is so much party strife. Even the most self sacrificing men & women experience many a heart-ache at the indifference that goes on around them, so that shows, if unselfishness brings happiness in one way, it brings grief in another. Doing one's duty should cause happiness yet in the very execution of that duty, there may be something to stop the real feeling of happiness. "What then constitutes happiness." It is a puzzle that the wisest amongst us may never solve. And there is no substitute for happiness either, though there are many factors towards it. Unselfishness, contentment, determination, success, good fellowship form as much earthly happiness as is meant for suffering humanity. And for the happiness that is to come when all suffering is over, we must bow to the will of our Maker, with hands ever ready for any work He puts in our way, with hearts that can say, even in trials & troubles "Father, not my will".

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any Deaf Person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum, post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. AUGUST 1911. No. 12.

Services.

Mr. Abraham is burdened with exceptional responsibilities just now and with the object of relieving him and enabling him to nurse his strength for the many big matters he is engaged on and still before him, the Sub-Committee have decided to share with him the Sunday Services, so that during the winter months, - which by the way have so far been unusually cold and wet and would be a strain on the strongest of constitutions, in the circumstances - he will take but one Service in town in addition to the Service at the Blackburn Home. Messrs. J. E. & W. P. Muir, M. L. Miller, R. H. Luff and R. R. Paterson officiated during July and their services were greatly appreciated. On the 30th an effort with successful results, was made to get a great audience for an old friend Mr. R. R. Paterson and we are sure the reception he received will have shown him that We do not forget our old friends. On the evening of Sunday Aug. 6 Mr. Abraham will preach, his subject being "Men or Parasites."

The Quarterly Rally.

Our Sub-Committee are ever mindful of our country cousins. To arrange festivities so as to enable our distant friends to participate is always a matter of keen pleasure to them. Sept. 9th having been fixed for the Agricultural Show, this date was thought appropriate for the Rally because it would give deaf visitors the opportunity of renewing old friendships. Country friends are asked to make

a note of it and spread the news. An additional attraction will be recognised in fact that this Rally is to be under the auspices of the Women's Guild for we always get a grand time when the Ladies rule the roost.

Farm & Home.

We are gradually emerging from the amateur stage with its doubts and difficulties and coming near the ranks of the experienced professional flower growers. No month so far, has gone by without leaving its marks of progress and improvement. Our Superintendent tackled the work of nurseryman with his whole heart and the boxes of flowers sent in to customers have given satisfaction all round, some of the boxes arranged for table decoration were specially pleasing. Not a single customer has been lost and we had the flowers very many might easily have been added to our list. At no time since the opening have the prospects appeared so bright and promising. Especial attention has been given to the nursery part of the farm during July and it is beginning to take the form we have wanted for the past twelve months. The receipts for July amounted to £ 28. odd. After waiting close upon twelve months we have at last procured a permanent Stall in the Victoria Market.

Saturday Nights.

The games' competitions are a great draw and the Social Hall is crowded every Saturday Evening. The competitors show a keen interest in the progress of the various tournaments.

General.

We know of no deaf mute in need of help or out of employment throughout the whole of the State and we believe all, at present, are enjoying average good health.

Women's Wing.

There is every likelihood of the Women's Wing of the farm home being an accomplished fact before the close of the year. A big effort is to be made either this or next month to bring in the necessary funds. In our next issue we hope to be able to make an announcement in connection therewith.

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the sum of £5 towards the erection of the Womens Wing of the Home at Blackburn from Miss E.J. Hearn of St. Kilda Also 10/- from Mrs J. Boorty and 10/- from the Telegraph Office.

Advance Deaf Organisations.

There is activity all over the World in matters appertaining to the deaf, and if we could sing we would have every reason to vocalise the old song "there is a good time coming" Our good time seems to be here, for the provision for the adult deaf in this state is easily first.- We are the vanguard of the world.

Mens' Guild.

Our young men dearly love a debate especially if it gives opportunities for a display of the humorous side of things, hence when Mr. F.E. Spewin proposed a bill on the "Harem Skirt" it is not surprising that a 'full house' turned up on the 25th of June, happy and enthusiastic. Mr. M.L. Miller was voted to the chair and opened the Miniature Parliament. Mr. Spewin presented his bill "To enforce the wearing of Harem Skirts by the deaf ladies of Victoria" The clauses from which we make the following extracts were discussed in a very humorous way and brought forth many a hearty burst of laughter. The bill set forth that the aim of the bill was to make compulsory the wearing of the harem skirt. It was to be the national fashion with the object of giving our fair friends an opportunity of displaying their charms to the best advantage and as a result making the male world happier. It was argued that the adoption of this fashion would encourage thrift and consequently save much of the hard earnings of poor man. Superfluity of dress had been rife with the few foldens that poor man was able to bring home by the sweat of his brow and aches of his back and it was thought that any method that would stay the terrific waste in skirts was to be welcomed. It was thought that with such an up to date dress ladies would be enabled to mount ladders, steps, tram, train and motor cars with ease (?) and that the over plus of material might be used for upholstering,-re-covering chairs, sofas, and making winter curtains, counterpanes and even hearth rugs. Where dark materials

were used, the economy in the wife's dress would perhaps allow the husband a few shillings extra for tobacco and living pictures by using the left over cloth even for suitings. With a dress allowing so much freedom women would be able to join in manly sports such as football, cricket, rowing and foot races. The heavy labour at present expended on the laundry, with its great expenditure where "sent out" would also be saved. Although the law should be strictly enforced for ordinary occasions, exception would be made for wedding and ball dresses, but then only by first obtaining the special sanction of the authorities. Refusal to comply with same was to bring dire punishment upon offenders. They were to be brought before justices and heavily fined. Amongst the penalties were, first offence a fine of a half penny, second one shilling & eleven pence three farthings, third imprisonment in a haunted dark cell for 5½ hours. Other penalties were the shaving off of their glorious locks of hair, and ducking in a public horse trough, the extreme punishment – transportation to Turkey with confinement in the harem of an eastern magnate until willingness to comply with the act was given, when the offender would be permitted to return as a respected citizen to deaf and dumb land. As men only were present it is needless to add the act was passed with acclamation Mr. Frewin was heartily thanked and complimented upon the manner in which he introduced and argued for his bill. Altogether it was a merry evening, but as no date was fixed for the compulsory wearing of the harem skirt, so far as we are aware none of our ladies have obeyed the new act. What the result will be remains to be seen. If any officers were appointed to enforce the new law, their names have not yet been made known to us.

At the Guild meeting on the 25th. July Mr. J. Mc. Lean delivered a very interesting paper containing extracts from early Roman history. At the conclusion of the paper some of the members added a few remarks on the subject and Mr. Mc. Lean was heartily thanked for his paper.

A Correction.

Mr. W. L. Miller writes to correct some remarks attributed to him in the debate Monarchy v Republicanism and which appeared in our last issue. It stated that "he favoured Monarchy because it was more favourable to the people." This conveyed an

altogether different idea to what he meant. Briefly put,- what Mr. Miller said was that he favored the principle of ruling by Monarchy because he considered it was the best and most suitable system and under a good and acceptable monarch it ensured a continuous, steady and progressive form of government.

Women's Guild.

The 10th Annual meeting of this Guild was held on July 11th. There was a good attendance. The result of the ballot for committee was the returning of the nine members who held office last year. Mrs. J. E. Muir being re-elected President, Mr. Williamson Vice-President, Miss Empson Hon. Secretary and Mr. J. Boorer Hon. Treasurer. The proceedings concluded with supper.

Library.

The attention of our readers is drawn to the large number of American publications for the deaf at present to be found on our library tables.

"Gesture."

Our quarterly, The "Gesture" which now has 8,000 purchasers is out once more, and full, as usual of good stuff. This publication is not so much for the deaf as it is to enlighten our hearing friends as to the condition and needs of the deaf. The July-September number contains a number of pictures illustrating the language of gesture. Miss Doris Davis posed for the lines "Sweet is the work my God my King, to praise thy name give thanks and sing" and the result is very beautiful & effective. An article, with illustrations showing how Mr. Hood does his grubbing by explosives on his farm is also a special feature. An article with portraits of the Queensland Deaf Cricket Club is another attraction. A variety of high class articles of interest to our hearing friends go to make up an all round number.

Queensland Bazaar.

This note is just to remind you of Miss Wilson's appeal on behalf of the Queensland Institute building fund. Don't put the matter off until the last moment but send along your exhibit or donation

now. Exhibits and contributions may be sent care of Mrs. J. E. Muir, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St, Melbourne, or direct to Miss Wilson, 578 Leichhardt St, Brisbane, Queensland.

New Principal.

Mr. Farlam the new principal of the New South Wales Institution for deaf children arrived, with his wife in Sydney from England on the 18th of May last. Abont 60 of the Sydney adult deaf tendered them a welcome on the Tuesday following their arrival.

Congress.

The British Deaf and Dumb Association is holding its bi-annual Congress at Aberdeen, Scotland from September 4th to 10th. An old friend of our Superintendent - Mr. William Wright is the Congress Secretary.

Personal Pars.

Mr. H. Mitchell (Superintendent of Deaf and Dumb school at Perth, W.A.) has sent a donation of 10/- towards the Monthly Letter fund. He said "I am always pleased to receive this interesting sheet. I hope you are all well and prospering. Kindly remember me to Mr. Abraham and all old friends. Our school is progressing well."

Mr. Peter Sinclair the latest arrival from home was in harness within a week after his arrival, he is working as a blacksmith at a good wage. He is now arranging to bring out his wife and 2 children both of whom are able to hear.

Mr. G. Burgess who is a member of the Willaura Cricket club, won the batting trophy - a handsome bat with an average of 20.42.

Mr. J. Moran won the 1st and 2nd prizes for the most comical costume at the Skating rinks in Mentone and Wirth's (Melbne) respectively. He also won a prize at the Richmond rink lately.

Mrs. W. Bass, widow of the late W. J. Bass was married to Mr. Geo. Thomas in Tasmania on the 4th. of April.

Mr. R. Mills sold his business at Waaia near Nathalia some time ago and has settled in Colac where he has opened a boot shop.

Mr. A. Morgan of Carpendeit spent a months' pleasant holi=day with his parents in Melbourne.

Mr. D. Williams of Ararat is in Melbourne for three months. He has not been in Melbourne since he left school and that is fifteen years ago.

Mr. L. Domes has our condolence. He lost his father on the 27th. June, after a long illness.

Mr. W. Young (father of Miss J. Young) met his death on the 27th. June through endeavouring to climb over a lock=ed gate in his anxiety to start his work. He evidently had fallen and broken his neck. We sincerely sympathise with Miss Young.

The Victorian Deaf and Dumb School broke up for the mid-Winter vacation of 2 weeks on the 28th. July.

Mr. R. H. Luff requests us to say that he will be glad to hear from those who wish to have a copy of the Souvenir that was presented to the Deaf and Dumb School, as soon as possible as he intends to close the offer at an early date. A donation of 1/- entitles the subscriber to the expense fund, to a copy.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 10/- from Mr. H. Mitchell of Perth, Western Australia and 1/- each from Mr. J. Ashley (Geelong) and Mr. J. H. Thomson (South Melbourne) for our "Monthly Letter" Fund.

Other News and Notes from abroad.

We nearly omitted this item:- At the Deaf Mens' Guild meeting on the 11th July Mr. J. Peters gave an interesting paper on "Slavery" Several of the members spoke on the subject afterwards and Mr. Peters was thanked for his paper.

The Annual Meeting of the Adult-Deaf Cricket Club will be held on the 5th September, when it is hoped increased interest will be shown and the prospects of the club advanced to a higher and brighter level than has been the case the last few seasons.

Speaking recently Dr. Gallaudet (America) testified as follows to the success of the college for the deaf at Washington. Graduates are engaged as Architects and builders, editors and publishers, Chemists and assayers surveyors and civil engineers, postmasters, bankers, recorders of deeds, patent lawyers, botanists, fruit and general farmers; As clerks in the executive departments in Washington and Customs houses, post offices, as with railroad and insurance companies; As inventors, Artists, Engravers Lithographers, photographers, and assistants in Public libraries; As teachers and officers in schools for the deaf, and last, but not least, as regularly ordained clergymen conducting missions and churches for the deaf in many of our cities and large towns.

Speaking of the printing exhibit at the Colorado Convention, Mr. G.W. Veditz makes the following comments upon the trade itself as an occupation for the deaf. There is no denying the fact, that printing and its branches still seems to be the trade par excellence for the deaf. They hold their own with their hearing fellow workmen and in several instances are foremen of their shop. One deaf printer earns £300 a year at his trade and in another city there is one whose pay the year through aggregates £360.

Information comes from Washington, U.S.A. that a short moving picture film was made of an address by Dr. Edward M. Gallaudet by way of experiment and that it was so successful, a longer film will be made at once. There were doubts at first as to whether an address could be satisfactorily reproduced by a moving picture machine, but these doubts seem now to be dispelled.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8. SEPTEMBER 1911. No. 1.

Our Monthly Letter.

"Our Monthly Letter" has now been in circulation uninterruptedly for seven years. We are now printing 450 copies monthly, and it is seldom that we have a copy to spare when all wants have been supplied. Messrs. W. L. Miller & J. E. Muir likewise Mrs. J. E. Muir who has taken the place of Mr. E. Smith who resigned in January last, are heartily thanked for writing the lithographic transfers month by month throughout the year. About fifty friends have given donations toward the cost of production since last September including £1.1.0 each from Miss L. Grimwade & Mr. R. R. Paterson, and 10/- from Mr. Mitchell. We have now to acknowledge with thanks 4/- from Mrs. Osborne of Mortlake.

His 10th Year.

In honour of the completion of Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham's first decade in Australia and of the great work accomplished by him for the deaf of this state, a special social is to be held in our building on the 9th of October - the tenth anniversary of his arrival. There will be speeches by prominent deaf & hearing friends of the deaf. The attention of the reader is drawn to the enclosed circular, and it is asked that the same will be read, and responded to.

Rally.

The 7th of September will be Agricultural Show Day and the members of the Women's Guild will enable us to celebrate the event, for they are to have charge of the quarterly rally

which is to be held on that date in the Deaf & Dumb Building. Tea will be served at 6.30 p.m. The entertainment will consist of tableaux, recitations, guessing competitions, conversations &c. This will be the 25th Rally Admission to tea 6d.

Queensland Bazaar.

Dear Friends.

Through the kindness of Mrs. J. E. Muir I am able to tell you that any articles or cash you may contribute to the Bazaar in aid of the Queensland Deaf Mission Building Fund can be given to her in charge for me. The Bazaar will be held on the 12th of October, and articles may be sent to Mrs. Muir up till the end of September.

With thanks & all good wishes.

M. Osborne Wilson.

The Flower Farm.

In the Weekly Times for August 26th there is a series of beautiful views of our flower farm at Blackburn. One shows four acres of jonquils & daffodils in bloom, another the gathering of the flowers, others illustrate packing for market, clearing of the land and the home upon the farm. There is also a group composed of Mr. Abraham, his workers & some of the residents & portraits of Messrs Cork & Shirra the two blind-deaf men. Friends who have only heard of what is being done out Blackburn way were agreeably surprised at the extent of the work done.

There is no doubt about the interest & enthusiasm on the part of the men. With the object of getting in touch with market prices direct, disposing of surplus stock & training some of the sharper youths in the buying & selling art, Mr. Abraham decided to open in the market. This he did on the 12th Ult. The day before most of the men were engaged in cutting, bunching & packing right up to 10 p.m. & two or three after, nobody wanted to go to bed & be out of the fun. In the silence of the early morning, soon after one o'clock Mr. Abraham, Percy Swain & Alex Hull took their seats on the heavily laden waggon & departed for their 12 mile drive. They had a successful opening at the market & did good business.

It was the evening of Saturday before they reached the farm tired but happy. The waggon with its flower stall is now to be seen every Saturday in the Victoria Market at Stand 57 in Shed C. The "Sales" figures in our own flowers Shed are watched with keen interest, the outsider might easily be led to believe that they were football or cricket scores by the attention they get. Last month the "Sales" figures were as follows:— August 5th £8-8-0. 12th £13-10-0, 19th £13.16.0 26th £15.5.0. A new nursery man has been engaged, Mr. Reynolds who comes from Bromley, Kent. England, he has made a good start & gives promise of helping to bring to fruition the plans of our Manager.

A trip to Blackburn.

On Saturday afternoon the 19th Ult. twenty five deaf friends took a trip to the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Blackburn. It was observed that during the last three months the Saturdays were always anything but loved, but that particular day turned out to be moderately fine, though rather cold. A very merry party it was, everyone in holiday mood. What a pleasant surprise they had, on arriving at the Farm, when they beheld the glorious sights spread out before them. Several acres of the land were clothed with masses of daffodils & Jonquils in gay profusion. As the eyes feasted on these marvellous blooms, the fingers flew rapidly, & the expressions in the faces varied, much to the amusement of the others. It was quite a treat to wander around the gardens, & to leisurely drink in the beauty of the flowers, of the extensive lake, & of the magnificent surroundings. The visitors were very loud in their praises of the manager (Mr. Abraham) who has wrought the harmony of this place. After such a delightful & exhilirating ramble the hungry visitors sat down to tea, every one having contributed something palatable towards it. There was sweet harmony amongst them. The girls linked arm in arm with one another as they strolled about the gardens, & in and out of the house. The old & young kept clustering around the father of the flock who evidently enjoyed replying to their questions and talking to them. And the male residents of the Home

were also surrounded & praised for their share in the work done on the farm. They said they loved the place & evidently seem happy & contented.

Early in the evening the visitors departed for home with great bunches of flowers. A lantern was brought out to show them the way over the treacherous roads. Every now & then they tripped or dipped their feet in the pools of water the result was that nearly every pair of boots & shoes nicely coated with the mud were seen in the train, but their owners were too happy & tired to mind, they were well pleased with their outing & they reached home in a satisfied frame of mind.

Meetings.

On the 15th Ult. Mr. M. L. Miller delivered a paper on "How King George is guarded when appearing in public" at the meeting of Mens' Guild. It has been said it was one of the most interesting papers that have been read before the members. Several of the members also spoke on this subject.

On the 22nd Ult. the members of the Womens' Guild had a very pleasant surprise when Miss D. Davis read a paper on "The life of Florence Nightingale" & Miss R. Dow, one on "The Power of little things." There was a good attendance & both papers were much appreciated. The fact of it being the "first paper" with each young lady added greatly to the interest of the evening. The next meeting will be held on the 12th Inst.

On the 22nd Ult. The Sub-Committee met & transacted its usual ordinary business. It was decided that the photograph of Mr. R. R. Paterson (ex missionary), be obtained & enlarged & hung in the building, & also that the auto-copyiste press that is not in use now be sold, the same to be advertised in the daily papers.

Victorian Outing Fund & Bank.

Manager's (Mr. R. H. Luff) Report

The board of management of the above fund have much pleasure in submitting report of operations during the past twelve months which have been satisfactory. The Bank has just reached its sixth year. At the beginning of the year there were 31 depositors. Six of which withdrew

and three new ones were added. Now the list stands with 28 depositors.

During the year the sum of £89. 14. 9½ was deposited thus bringing the total up to £147. 11. 9. The withdrawals amounted to £86. 4. 4 - leaving a balance on hand of £67. 7. 5

As the bank made satisfactory progress the board decided to raise the bonus from 10 to 1/ in the pound. The amount of bonus distributed was £1. 9. 7. It is to be hoped that this liberal increase will induce others to join the bank.

The board of management has a reserve fund of £2. 5. 2. They wish to thank Messrs J. E. Muir & M. G. Mortimer for assistance rendered, also Mr. F. J. Rose for auditing.

Personal Pars.

Mrs D. Ashby of Trafalgar came to Melbourne last month for the purpose of leaving her daughter at the Deaf & Dumb School.

Mrs Gus. Damman of Warburton has spent two weeks holiday in Melbourne.

Mr. J. Sinclair of West Australia is in Melbourne for a month on a visit to his friends. He has been doing well in farming pursuits.

Mr. W. Burge was married to Miss Fanny Bell on the 22nd August. They have our hearty wishes.

Births.

On the 23rd August to Mr & Mrs J. Pierce a son.
On the 27th August to Mr & Mrs J. Dempsey a son.

Agricultural Intelligence.

The genial weather & abundant rainfall has had a beneficial effect on the crops & plants, which are now looking well. Grass is also plentiful & stock of every description are in excellent condition.

Winter Games.

Several prizes have been promised for the Winter Games Competitions which will be finished on the 30th September. Keen interest is still maintained.

Cricket.

Cricketers will be pleased to learn that the Adelaide deaf cricketers intend coming to Melbourne next Christmas Particulars etc will be given later on.

Our Alma Mater speaks.

The report of the Victorian Institution for Deaf children just issued, has a kindly reference to the work of our Society, and our superintendent which we appreciate. In the historical sketch of the Institution written by the Rev Dr Watkin. Our Society is credited with having done admirable work in the interests of the Institutions ex pupils. He recognises the "enthusiasm & ability of Mr Abraham" & falls into line with the rest of us by bearing witness to the magnificent progress made since his advent amongst us by admitting that he has "done wonders".

The desire of the board that there should be most cordial co-operation between the school & our Society, our officials & theirs, is an echo of the oft repeated wish of the adult deaf & their leader, which has been shown by repeated invitations to the children to attend our various festivities.

We all remember with pleasure the great re-union of old & new pupils brought about by Mr Abraham soon after his arrival from England & have hoped for the time when such a re-union might be made an annual function.

Co-operation.

Will the time ever come when all teachers & missioners will co-operate in working for the welfare of the Deaf? It will not be till such co-operation is the rule and not not the exception that the best results in education will be obtained. I have every hope that in the near future the spirit of co-operation will come more to the front, and that both Schools & missions will take their full share as partners in the work which is begun at school & must be continued after school if the best results are to be obtained.

"Ephphatha" England.

Special Meeting.

A special meeting of the hearing members of the Committee was held in the board room of our building on the evening of Augt 28th to listen to a paper by our Superintendent on the "Past & future of our Society". The meeting began at 7 o'clock & was not over until nearly 11 o'clock. Next month we hope to be in a position to say something concerning his

opinions in regard to the past, & his proposals for the future.

Mens' Guild.

At the mens' guild meeting on the 29th Ult. Mr. G. Quantock made his debût as a reader of papers, his first effort being on the Indian Mutiny. He had a good audience & gave a good but short paper. Messrs. M. L. Miller & R. N. Luff, both experienced speakers, added to the pleasure of the evening by giving the assembly the benefit of their store of information upon the subject.

Lacrosse.

On the 26th August the deaf youths who make up the Deaf Institution team played against the Brighton Wanderers for the premiership in the Grade D. of the Victorian Lacrosse Association. The game was played in splendid spirit, & resulted in an excellent victory for the deaf by 12 goals to 8. J. Retallic threw 6 goals, V. Tyzzer 4, C. Robertson 1, & J. Elwin 1. Every one in the team played well. Special praise is due to J. Retallic, Victor & Oswald Tyzzer, Anderson who brilliantly defended the goals, J. Elwin, & C. Robertson who captained the team. The goal throwers for the season 1911 were Retallic 77, V. Tyzzer 43, C. Robertson 8, J. Caviss 3, O. Tyzzer, J. Elwin, G. Quantock & N. Hughes 1 each. A good number of the Adult deaf witnessed the game & showered congratulations on the team.

Sermonette by the Queensland Missioner.

But they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run & not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah XLc 31v.

Some people have a natural cheery optimism, they trust every body & everything. They put their confidence in men, & are often disappointed. This is better than an unthinking pessimism which distrusts everybody & everything, & drives its unfortunate possessor to despair & the grave. There is something better however than confidence in others, & that is confidence in self-self confidence or "self reliance". The self reliant is better

than the merely hopeful man, just as the unthinkingly hopeful man is better than the pessimist. The one clings unthinkingly to despair. Both are blind, but the one takes blindly the right road while the other takes blindly the wrong. The self reliant man however takes the right road with his eyes open. He knows where he is going & usually gets there. There is however something better even than self confidence & that is confidence in God. Here we have a man not only on the right road but making light of obstacles, he walks, he runs & he knows no weariness. He comes to dangerous & impassable places & he mounts up with wings like an eagle & laughs at impossibilities. This you may say is contrary to human experience. To some extent it is, but not entirely. There are few genuine christians who have not at some time or other experienced the uplifting effect of this attitude of mind. The reason why it is mostly contrary to human experience is because for the most part we do not remain for long in any one frame of mind. At one time we are self reliant, at others we are hoping for something to turn up or looking to friends to help us, but very rarely do we wait on the Lord with absolute confidence, and so while we are poking about for a hole to creep through, we are forgetting our wings & not relying on God. Who has not observed chickens frantically rushing to & fro in front of a wire fence, and only when the need has become desperate does the foolish chicken suddenly remember that it has wings & flutter over the fence into safety. We too have wings, they wings of faith & prayer, let us use them & thus obtain grace to help in time of need.

Have we no words. ah! think again.
Words come apace when we complain
And fill a fellow creature's ear
With the sad tale of all our care.
Were half the breath thus vainly spent
To heaven in supplication sent
Our rapturous cry would oftener be
Hear what the Lord hath done for me.

"Queensland Circular"



"COMPASSION" in the language of Gesture.

Your presence is very cordially invited.

Open and Free to all. Ladies welcome.

COLLECTION.



"MY GOD" in the language of Gesture.

City of Melbourne

Young Men's Christian Association

An Evening of Unique Interest

THURSDAY NEXT, SEPT. 21, 1911

In the Y.M.C.A. SOCIAL HALL,

Commencing at 8 o'clock

The Social Committee's

Final Public Entertainment

Of the 1911 Winter Series.

An Evening with the Members of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Adult Institute

Under the direction of

Mr. E. J. D. ABRAHAM, Principal

A Talented, Instructive and Interesting Performance by the Deaf and Dumb.

W. GORDON SPRIGG, General Secretary.

Thursday, 28th inst. at 8 p.m.

Y.M.C.A. Cricket Club Annual Concert

The Argus 7/9/11.

DEAF MUTES' HOME.

NEW WING WANTED.

Mr. Keast, M.L.A., introduced yesterday to the Acting Chief Secretary (Mr. M'Bride) a deputation from the Blackburn Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf Mutes. This deputation asked that the sum of £650 should be allocated by the Government to the building of a new women's wing to the institution. The history of the home, according to Mr. E. R. Peacock (chairman of the committee), began in 1906, when Sir Thomas Bent promised £2,000 to the committee, on condition that it obtained a further sum of £2,000. Instead of £2,000 it obtained £4,000, and the building was erected. Towards this new wing £365 had been obtained by public subscription.

Mr. E. D. Abraham (superintendent of the home), said that the grounds were used as a flower farm, and it was hoped, within a very short period, to make it self-supporting. The estimated expenditure for the current year was about £900, and the receipts from the farm would be about £500. They had never asked the Government for a penny towards maintenance.

Messrs. Agar Wynne, M.H.R., and Sir Henry Weedon and Mr. Solly, M.L.A.'s, spoke in favour of the charity.

Mr. M'Bride said that there was no money in the Chief Secretary's department. Nevertheless, he would take their case to the Cabinet, as he sympathised with them, and thought they were doing good work. If he had the money he would certainly give some to them, though perhaps not as much as they asked, as the Deaf and Dumb Society, from whom they received a maintenance grant, had £1,500 to its credit in the bank.

The Age 10/10/11.

In celebration of the completion of the first decade of his successful work amongst the deaf and dumb of this State, Mr. E. J. D. Abraham was tendered a social last night at the Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders-street. Mr. F. J. Rose presided, and his eulogistic references to the recipient were supplemented by Messrs. E. R. Peacock, J. E. Muir and M. L. Miller. A presentation had been decided upon, but, at the express wish of Mr. Abraham, it was agreed that it should take the form of something that would be of service to the deaf mutes. An order will therefore be placed for a cinematograph film, descriptive of the work amongst the deaf and dumb, and this will be of use to Mr. Abraham in connection with the lectures which he contemplates delivering whilst on a world's tour. During the evening recitations and dramatic pieces were given in the deaf mute language.

Mr. Abraham's first decade of work among the deaf of Victoria.

A Mark of Appreciation.

Dear Sir or Madam.

Our esteemed Superintendent Mr. E. J. D. Abraham will have completed his first ten years of work among the adult deaf of Victoria on the 9th. of October next. During that time he has accomplished a great deal of good work and has succeeded in making the provision for the welfare of the adult deaf of all classes one of the best equipped & second to none in the world.

The Sub-Committee feel that the occasion should be celebrated in a suitable manner and as Mr. Abraham has always strongly declined to receive any personal gift and has repeatedly suggested that appreciation of services can be best expressed by making possible the further betterment of the deaf, it is suggested that a series of moving pictures depicting the various interesting phases of the work accomplished and carried on by our Superintendent at both the headquarters in Flinders St., and the Farm & Home at Blackburn, should be procured and presented to him to be used in connection with the lecturing tours of Australia, Great Britain, Canada and the United States of America, he has in view in

connection with the welfare of the deaf.
A fund for the above purpose is being raised and as a good sum would be required to enable the necessary film to be procured, we appeal to you for a donation feeling confident that the object in view will meet with your hearty approval and support.

Donations may be forwarded to Mr. John E. Muir, Hon. Secretary, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St., E. Melbourne.

We are,

Yours Most Respectfully,

John E. Muir.
R. H. Luff.
M. L. Miller.
} Sub-Committee.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8. OCTOBER 1911. No. 2.

A Congress at Xmas!

Why not? Our Superintendent suggested a canvas encampment at Blackburn. Why not? There is a cricket ground out there for the interstate matches. There are plenty of trains for these who desire to spend their evenings in the city. The fare is only 1d return. So, why not? Lake Park is a beauty spot, and sleeping under canvas is better than lying awake in stuffy hotels in the month of December.

The cost of erecting and furnishing canvas town, and the purchase of tuck wholesale, and the engagement of an extra cook for a week ought not be be much, and the outlay could easily be met by the Melbourne deaf and their friends. So, why not? The Adelaide deaf are already booked for Melbourne. We have no doubt that the Brisbane deaf would join and perhaps, the Sydney deaf also, for there is a feeling of re-union over there. Many of our country cousins would be glad of such an opportunity to meet old comrades.

So once again, why not? What do you think?

Farm.

The bulb season is over, and those acres that a month ago were a mass of bloom now show only green foliage. The men have transferred their energies to the rose, marguerite, calliopsis, gaillardia and carnation plantations, which are the next to bloom. The roses are wonderfully clean from all pests, but the slugs, which are present in millions, have made sad havoc amongst the young seedlings, and have even made

serious raids upon the stronger plants, such as carnations, sweet peas and wallflowers.

Mr. Reynolds, the new nurseryman, has settled down and is doing well, he is going to be a big success when he gets a grip of the scheme, and becomes more accustomed to us and our eculiarities and vagrancies. He has caught the "flower farm" fever, and is often seen hanging about the raising frames or talking shop to the manager long after tools have been put to rest.

We have put some hundreds of golden wattle in, and our show of chrysanthemums ought to be ever better than last year. We have got new land ready for dahlias, the planting of which will make a big hole in our time next month!

Presentation to Mrs Abraham.

The 1st of September is the day of all days at our Blacktown Farm and Home, being the birthday of the Matron. This year it was celebrated by the presentation of a beautiful silver coffee service, being the gift of the Sub-matron, overseer, employees and inmates to Mrs Abraham. The Matron entertained the givers to a sumptuous repast. Mr Hull was the spokesman, and, in presenting the gift, said, "It is from the boys and girls of the farm to their dear friend and mother, as a token of appreciation of her loving kindness, which she has always shown toward them."

Our Country Cousins' Rally.

In order to give our country friends an opportunity to spend a merry evening with their city friends, Sept. 7th (Show day) was the date chosen for our last rally, which was, as usual, held in our building, but this time under the management of the Deaf Womens' Guild. Mrs J. E. Muir (President), Mrs Boorb, Mrs Williamson, Misses Connell and Empson (Hon. Secretary) were appointed to take charge of arrangements. By means of a huge box of lovely daffodils and gum foliage from our Farm at Blacktown, the lower rooms were transformed into a veritable hall of bloom, here tea was served to about 60 deaf and a few hearing friends. After tea was partaken of, the happy assemblage adjourned to the upper hall in

just the right mood to enjoy to the full the various amusement provided. The President occupied the chair. The Hon. Secretary of the Sub. Committee took charge of the calling of the roll to which was added seven new members. The President then gave a short address after which an excellent programme was gone through - which consisted of a display of Indian club swinging by Mr. G. Emmet, of South Australia; two tableaux vivants "You Dirty Boy" (Mrs. Moore and Mr. J. Nelson) and "Attention and Inattention" (Misses Potter, Hickey and Adams and Mr. Twmley). A recitation "Whore are you going to, my pretty maid" by Miss R. Dow and Mr. C. Robertson received a long and well deserved applause, and "The Hunter's Song" by Miss D. Davis was, as is usual with that young lady, a much appreciated treat. Then followed the guessing competitions, the weight of a basket of eggs (2 lbs) won by Miss M. Collins, and the length of string (57½ yds), the correct length was 58 yds, won by Mr. W. A. Paterson. Both prizes which were a photo frame and shaving case respectively were given by Miss Connell who was in charge of both competitions. The next was a flower competition, which was organised by Miss Empson, and created unusual energy and excitement, and after a keen contest the prizes were eventually carried off by Miss M. Collins (1st prize, cushion), Miss Hickey (2nd prize book) both given by Mrs. Boorty, and Mr. R. H. Luff (1st prize shaving outfit) and Mr. M. L. Miller (2nd prize wallet). Games, conversations, etc filled in the rest of a most enjoyable and happy. Miss Empson acted as interpreter.

Meetings.

On the 12th Sept. at the meeting of the Womens' Guild Miss D. Hickey delivered a paper entitled "The life story of the most distinguished woman scientist, Madame Pierre Curie, the discoverer of radium", which was very much enjoyed. Miss Hickey is to be highly commended on her paper, apart from it being her first attempt. The second half of the evening was given over to a bible lesson by Mr. Wilson on "Our duty (first) to God and (second) to the home folk. A blackboard illustration of the "Jolly Good Times" v the "Ready To Help Others" Societies was

given to explain the lesson, which proved most interesting, and was greatly appreciated.
The next meeting will take place on the 3rd inst.

On the 12th Sept. Mr. J. E. Muir delivered a paper on "How to succeed" at the Mens' Guild meeting. He had collected the opinions of many prominent Melbourne merchants, which he read the pith of which was that no one could hope to succeed without hard work. The secret of all success being a thorough grip of ones aims and incessant work. Strenuous effort in some direct line of effort alone could bring about success. Mr. Muirs paper, was enjoyed and appreciated, and was made more comprehensible to the younger generation by his graphic command of the language of gesture, by the means of which he is always able to drive home the chief points of his arguments.

On the 26th Sept. Mr. T. Nelson gave a very instructive paper on "How Great Britain became a great nation" at the Mens' Guild meeting. Time did not permit him to finish his lecture and it was adjourned till the 17th inst.

Mr. Abraham to be entertained.

The 9th of Oct. will be the 10th anniversary of Mr. Abrahams work amongst the deaf of Victoria. To fittingly celebrate the event, he is to be entertained at a social in our building on that date. All deaf friends are invited, so do not fail to be present. We must give him a "bumper" house.

Those, who have not already subscribed toward the cost of the purchase of the cinematographic film of work amongst the deaf of this State, are asked to send along their contribution as early as possible to Mr. J. E. Muir. The film will be a splendid advertisement, and its exhibition will do much in educating the public mind as to the capabilities and the real conditions and needs of the deaf.

Our Superintedent's record 1901-1911.

The following facts and figures will be read with especial interest this month as illustrating the remarkable progress of our Society under the direction of your present Superintendent.
When Mr. Abraham arrived in Victoria on the 9th of Oct. 1901, we had a block of land valued at £1,600, towards the erection

of the church and institute, £1,330; an annual income of about £600. In Oct. 1911, after ten years of strenuous work we have a church and institute, erected and furnished at a cost of £3,600; a farm and home purchased, erected and stocked at a cost of £5,976; a reserve fund of £1,300; an annual income of nearly £2,500. And there is every probality of the women's wing of the Home going up before the close of the present year at a further cost of £1000. So much for the financial side. As regards the actual work, we have had ten years of sound religious, moral and intellectual instruction. We have no unemployed, and the deaf, as a whole, are on a higher standard as wage earners. Our social status has improved, and we have no one in need, and there is a state of peace and harmony throughout the whole deaf community and God grant that these happy conditions may continue.

The Home - Womens' Wing.

A powerful and representative deputation including Sir Henry Weedon, M.L.A., Hon. Agar Wynne, M.H.R., Messrs W. Keast, M.L.A., R. Solly, M.L.A., E. R. Peacock (Chairman), H. Sumner Martin, B.A., L.L.B. (Secretary), Harold Kent (Treasurer), G. G. Mercy, W. A. Dickens, T. J. Rose, Hugh Munro, W. L. Miller, Rev. H. W. H. Adoney and E. J. D. Abraham (Supt.) waited upon the acting Chief Secretary (Mr. W. McBride) on the 6th ult. to ask for the sum of £656, the amount needed to enable the Committee to proceed with the erection of the womens' wing of the Home at Blacklurn. Mr. Keast, the member for Blacklurn introduced the deputation and spoke very highly of the work that is being carried on at Blacklurn. Sir H. Weedon, Mr. A. Wynne and Mr. R. Solly also eulogised the work of the Committee and Mr. Abraham. Mr. Peacock gave an outline of the history of the work, and Messrs Martin and Kent also spoke. Mr. Abraham replied to a number of questions put to him by the Acting Chief Secretary.

Mr. McBride said he would take the case to the cabinet. He sympathised with the aim of the deputation and thought the Committee was doing a good work. If he had the money he would certainly give some to them, though perhaps not all they asked.

Donations.

Mr. Abraham has received a cheque of £25 from Miss

Alice Graham, and 5/- from Mrs Keeps toward the Womens' Wing fund.

Eighty & going strong.

Our dear old benefactor Mr. T.J. Rose celebrated his 80th birthday on the 21st ult. We would have liked to have made an event of it, only our members have been satiated with parties of all kinds, and there is a danger of our doing this kind of thing. The Sub-Committee sent him a congratulatory letter in the name of the deaf of this State, and he acknowledged their thoughtfulness in a most fatherly letter. Mrs Rose's birthday is just a few days in advance of our father's, and our members were equally thoughtful of this event.

We are fortunate in still having in our midst the founder of our School. De l'epee of France, Braidwood, of England, Heinecke of Germany and Gallaudet of America have all passed on, but T. J. Rose is still with us, - the last link in the grand old chain that drove out darkness and linked up intellectual light for the deaf.

By the way, how many of our present day deaf remember that T. J. Rose was a school chum of the famous John Jennings, the successor of the first missionary to the deaf, (Matthew Robert Burns), and tutor of our present Superintendent, Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, who is, perhaps, the last link of the old School of Instructors of the Deaf.

Sub-Committee.

The Sub-committee met on the 19th ult. The chief business being Empire Day picnic. It was decided, this year to make Mordialloc the resort, the picnic to be on the 7th Nov. It was also suggested that a special picnic be held at Blackburn in connection with the visit of the Adelaide deaf cricketers at Xmas and it was decided that the next rally be held in honour of their visit. Messrs T. E. Frewin, R.H. Luff, L. Downes and J. E. Muir were appointed a sub-committee to make the rally arrangements. It was also resolved that our effort be made to raise funds by means of entertainments etc, to provide Mr. W. J. Anderson with an artificial arm.

Our Cricketers.

The 30th annual meeting of the Adult Deaf Cricket Club was held at the Deaf Mute Centre on Sept. 5th, and was attended by a fair number of members and friends. The President (Mr. J. E. Muir) occupied the chair. The report showed the club had succeeded in

winning 8 matches out of 16 last season, and the balance sheet proved the club to be in a good financial position. The outlook for the coming year was considered promising. The prizes won last season were awarded as follows;- Batting - Mr. Beattie 16.8 per innings (President's prize); bowling - Mr. V. Harding 5.16 per wickets (Mr. W. L. Miller's prize). The following office bearers were elected :- Patrons,- Messrs. W. H. Felstead, E. R. Peacock, H. Munro, S. Ferguson, R. J. Hamilton, J. Sutherland, J. Griffiths, E. J. D. Abraham and J. G. Mercy; President, Mr. J. E. Muir; Vice Presidents,- Messrs. W. L. Miller, W. P. Muir, W. A. Paterson and H. Hindell; Hon. Treas. Mr. Beattie; Hon. Sec. Mr. J. McLean; Committee - Messrs. Luff, Nelson, Martinner and Harding; Captain - Mr. C. Robertson; Vice Captain - Mr. Beattie.

Mr. W. McLean has since resigned as hon. sec., on account of private business. Mr. J. E. Muir is now filling the position for a while, assisted by Mr. Harding.

Our Family.

Show Visitors. There were many country deaf visitors to the Agricultural Show, the following visited our building during their stay in the city - Messrs. Sloan, D. Williams, Cardwell, D. and T. Ashby, A. Collins, Veale, Pepper (Tasmania) and Dunnet (S. Australia) Mrs. A. Collins and Miss Sloan. All, except Messrs. Veale, Pepper and Dunnet, made a short stay.

Mr. Dunnet, of S. Australia made good use of his three weeks in Melbourne. He visited all the public buildings and well known resorts outside Melbourne. He has already spent 2 weeks in Sydney and intends putting in the remainder of his three months' holiday by calling at Ballarat and Stawell on his way to Adelaide. Mr. Dunnet officated at our church on the evening of Sept. 17th, Mr. Abraham being absent through illness. He is a farmer, and assists his father whose station is situated some 500 miles from Adelaide.

Mr. W. P. Pepper (King Island, Tasmania) spent a very enjoyable time in Melbourne. He speaks highly of the island, it being especially adaptable for cattle, horses, etc. He stayed with Mr. Abraham at the Farm.

Mr. Cardwell, of Mitta Mitta, after spending a short time here, has gone on to Beerim to see his friends, Messrs. Collins.

Mr. Veale, of Lake Bolac is staying here till the 3rd inst.

Mr. A. Collins, of Heerim, was married to Miss A. Jackson, of Jindivick on Sept. 5th. They spent their honeymoon in Melbourne. They have our best wishes.

Mr. D. Williams has returned to Balranald, N.S.W., after a three months' visit to his sister in Melbourne. He intends returning to see the Adelaide deaf cricketers next Xmas.

Miss M. Cole has gone to stay with her sister in Geelong for 2 we

The Adelaide Deaf Lacrosse Team were not fortunate enough to secure the premiership of B. grade. They were runners up, the University A. Club are the premiers

Mr. J. Campbell intends to try his luck in the big road race fro Warrnambool to Melbourne (about 165 miles) on Oct. 14th. Mr. H. Christensen was too late for his entry.

Several of our members including Mr. Abraham have fallen victims to the influenza epidemic, but happily, all are now on the mend

Our Deaf at the Y.M.C.A.

On the 21st Sept. a company of our members visited the Y.M.C.A. building and gave an entertainment. Mr. Abraham was to have opened with a lecturette, but was too ill to attend. Mr. Edgar Peacock and Miss Empson acted as interpreters. Miss Hickey rendered "Rock of Ages very nicely, and Mr. J. E. Muir "The Village Blacksmith" in his well known demonstrative style. Mr. Downes gave "The Whimsical Ways of Wom and an exhibition of paper manipulating. "My Pretty Maid" as rendere by Mr. Robertson and Miss Dow caught the pleasure of the audience and they applauded for an encore, Mrs. Muir's hearer, My God to Th always moves the audience, and "The Hunter's Song", in romping spirit by Miss Davis, likewise, pleased the assembly. A sketch by Mrs. Muir, Misses Davis and Hickey and Mr. Muir brought an interesting evening to a happy close. The performers were afterwards entertained to a coffee supper.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/- from Mrs. Thomas nee Mrs. Bass (Tasmania), 1/6 from Miss Barry and 1/- from Mr. Dunnet toward the Monthly Letter fund.

A.D.D.A. Fund.

Mr. Duff (the Hon. Sec. of the Vic. Branch A.D.D.A.) begs to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of 2/- each from Messrs. J. Brook, of Docksley and W. Besemeris (Ballarat for the A.D.D.A. fund.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8. NOVEMBER 1911. No. 3.

Mr. Ernest J. O. Abraham Entertained.

There was a large gathering of the deaf together with a few hearing friends at Our Building on the 9th of October. The object being to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the arrival in Victoria from the United Kingdom of Our Superintendent (Mr. E. J. O. Abraham) Mr. F. J. Rose (Founder of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution and "Grandfather" of the Australian deaf) presided. Mr. W. H. Dickins, one of, if not, the oldest hearing member of the committee opened the proceedings with prayer.

The Chairman said:- "As I think you all know we are gathered together this evening the ninth day of October, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Mr. E. J. O. Abraham's arrival in Australia, and as a body we sincerely desire to congratulate him on the completion of his his first decade amongst us, We also earnestly wish to acknowledge the substantial work achieved by his untiring activity in the promotion of the welfare of the deaf of this State. Considerably within this decade two important institutions (previously anticipated) have been erected namely this - the Deaf and Dumb Building comprising a Church and Social Hall, also a Home & Flower Farm for the aged and infirm deaf at Blackburn; It is truly a fine record for a man to have accomplished such a noble work in such a space of time, and thereby he has verily proved himself both a philanthropist and a humanitarian. It has afforded me great pleasure to comply with the request of the members of the

Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria to preside on this occasion, and we would show our gratitude to Mr. Abraham for the strenuous exertions he has made on our behalf. We heartily congratulate him on reaching the tenth anniversary of his Superintendentship, and sincerely wish him the blessing of health and strength long to continue his great and good work amongst the deaf."

Mr. E. R. Peacock, J.P. (Chairman of the Committee of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria) who was heartily received, expressed his pleasure at being present to honour Mr. Abraham on the occasion. Mr. Abraham had accomplished great things during the past ten years and perhaps few men had left such an indelible mark on the history of Victoria during the same period as had that gentleman. It is sometimes difficult to fully realise, or appreciate the advantages we possess, and which come to us day by day, and one by one, but if we can imagine ourselves back where we were ten years ago, without the Flinders Street Building or the Farm & Home, and simply carrying on services in loaned buildings, we would see how much pleasure, and happiness has been brought into the lives of the deaf & dumb as a result of Mr. Abraham's Labours. His success was not alone due to his great energy, and indomitable perseverance, but very largely to his ability to infuse those around him with enthusiasm in "Service for Others" This spirit permeated the whole Society, and it must be the work of the deaf & dumb themselves to do all they can for their own people, and to carry on the work in the spirit of their Superintendent.

Mr. J. E. Muir (Hon. Secretary of Sub-Committee) said:- "It is a great pleasure to me to be here tonight to give my honest opinion of our great organiser Mr. E. J. D. Abraham. The anniversary is a red letter day to me, for it is my birthday, and so it was on my birthday when Mr. Abraham first stepped upon Melbourne soil. I remember how the general board left the choice of a new Superintendent to the Sub-Committee, and how they spent two nights considering the matter, and how unanimous they were in offering the call to Mr. Abraham. To-day they thank God that their choice has been justified, for had we searched the whole world over we could not have got a better man for our Superintendent than Mr. Abraham. The Sub-Committee desire here to make special mention of the high opinion they have of the capabilities of Mr. Abraham. He possesses in a high degree all the

qualities of the successful Superintendent – so essential to one in charge of so important and unique an organisation as ours. He is a fine lecturer and is untiring in his efforts, whether it be for the improvement of the financial position of the Society, the advancement of its members as a class, or the well being of the deaf individually, and we are grateful for all we have learnt from him. We have profited by his teaching, and under his able leadership improved."

Mr. Muir then gave an outline of the important events that have taken place during the past ten years in connection with our Society, and concluding, said, the Committee felt in duty bound to comply with the wish of Mr. Abraham who prefers not to accept any personal gift, but rather, that the occasion be celebrated in some way that will benefit the deaf generally, the Sub-Committee therefore decided to appeal to the deaf and friends for funds to procure a bioscope film of the work amongst the deaf of this State, that it might be exhibited in other States and different parts of the world as an illustration of what can be done in the way of making provision for the care and well-being of the deaf and dumb, and to assist in getting such provision established in countries where it does not exist.

Mrs. J. E. Muir (President of the Women's Guild) said:- "It means very much to me to have the honour of saying a few words here and to show my heartfelt appreciation of Mr. Abraham's self-sacrificing and loving services to us. We are not praising him just for the purpose of pleasing him, but we have a great desire to let all know what we feel for him. Personally my feeling for him is one of deepest thankfulness and gratitude. You all know and have heard of his noble work. He has devoted his entire time, thoughts and energies to the work of the Society and has never wavered in his championship of our cause. He has organised practical schemes for our welfare and improved our conditions. He is like the industrious bee who does not stop to complain that there are so many poisonous flowers and thorny branches on its road, but goes buzzing on, selecting his honey where he can find it, and passing quietly by the places where it is not". But Mr. Abraham does more in many ways. He is ever planning for our benefit, he works enthusiastically and strenuously, often overcoming serious difficulties as though they were not. His interest in us is that of a broadminded, affectionate

sympathetic benefactor. In fact he is to us what Napoleon was to the French Army. He has done great wonders for us - so much so that his name is a household word in every home of the deaf in Australia. In conclusion I want to say how difficult it is for me to thank Mr. Abraham sufficiently for giving his life and services to us, I do this with all my heart and also on behalf of my fellow members of the Deaf Women's Guild who also speak affectionately of him. First and last and always he is our friend and benefactor whom we delight to honour this evening. I pray he may be greatly blessed in the future, and that every one of us will learn to understand him better and honour him more and more and that each day will bring us into closer and more enduring friendship with him."

Mr. M. L. Miller, (President of the Vict. Branch A.D.D.A.) said:- "I am glad of this opportunity to assist in doing honour to the principal guest of the evening. I am very pleased to add my tribute to Mr. Abraham as an organiser and worker among the deaf. In this respect he is a "Napoleon" He has had a victorious career in almost everything he has undertaken. I cordially endorse the remarks of the other speakers in saying that during the last ten years Mr. Abraham has accomplished a great deal of good work for the welfare of the deaf of Victoria, work which has brought us great benefits - benefits that should call forth from us one warmest gratitude. No Man has done more to lift the position of the deaf to a better level in the eyes of the public than Mr. Abraham. Not long after his arrival here he helped to get the Institute built, it has been a great blessing to us all. He has done yeoman service in getting the Farm and Home set going, he was not long in transforming a bit of wilderness into a thing of beauty and joy. It is a comfort to the deaf to know that in time of adversity they have a nice home to fall back upon where they will be in congenial company among their own instead of being at sea in what would be to them, a "foreign place". In other directions Mr. Abraham has done much good work, he has assisted us in getting better facilities for the education of the deaf, with his help we have driven in a wedge, and we hope at no distant date to drive that wedge further in & bring about a better standard of education for the deaf. Tennyson wrote of Queen Victoria "She wrought her people lasting good". We can say of Mr. Abraham "He has wrought his deaf friends lasting good". I join the other speakers in wishing Mr. Abraham a long continuance

of usefulness in the sphere of work he has at heart – the uplifting and improving of the general welfare of the deaf, not only of Victoria but of the world; and I give my compliments to Mrs. Abraham also, for she has done a great deal of good work too, and has ably seconded her husband's efforts at the Farm and Home."

Mr. R. H. Luff (President of the Men's Guild) also gave an address. He endorsed the remarks of the other speakers. (As Mr. Luff has not supplied us with a copy of his address we are unable to reproduce his remarks.)

The various addresses evoked hearty applause from the audience.

The Chairman then on behalf of the subscribers to the Biroscope Film Fund, presented Mr. Abraham with a purse of sovereigns.

On Mr. Abraham rising to respond he was greeted with vociferous applause and waving of handkerchiefs, so hearty was the reception that he was visibly affected. Mr. Abraham who had to speak orally for the benefit of the hearing friends, his remarks being interpreted to the deaf by Mr. R. Paterson, said:- "I appreciate the kind words that have been said, and feel glad the deaf have fallen in with my wish. I know I am a poor speaker, I can think, feel, write, work and talk for hours in our own silent language but am a miserable failure when called upon to clothe my thoughts with spoken language. The past ten years have been glorious years to me. It has been my pleasure to see my early dreams take corporal shape. It has likewise been my good fortune to have lieutenants who have believed in me, and been loyal to me, taking their orders and obeying them as would the best of soldiers at war time. It is to this loyalty, faithfulness and heartwhole willingness to work on the part of the deaf that the great successes of the past ten years are chiefly due. As the deaf as a whole have done their share it is difficult to make distinctions but much of the responsible work has fallen to Mr. M. Miller, the Muirs, including Mrs. J. E. Muir, R. K. Luff and T. Fewin. I have never appealed to them in vain. However we may have differed as to methods, they have always loyally stood by me in all my aims. Had this not been so the achievements of this decade would not have been possible. Prior to my coming a large measure of foundation work had been accomplished by the late Mr. F. Holt, Messrs. Fred. Fewin and R. H. Paterson and that interest in the work has continued with these gentlemen. I have received sympathy and encouragement from the general board for which I also am grateful. It has been shown what unity and loyalty on the part of the deaf has done in the past, the same attributes could bring into evidence an

equal amount of progress in the decade before us" After speaking of his plans for the future Mr. Abraham again thanked them heartily for their affectionate regard and confidence in him.

Bioscope Film Fund.

We are requested to state that the Bioscope Film Fund is still open and any one who has not yet subscribed but desires to do so, can send his or her subscription to Mr. J. E. Muir, Deaf & Dumb Building, Flinders St. E.

Services.

There were Large congregations at church on the 15th Inst. when Mr. Abraham gave two special addresses, the morning being a Thanksgiving Service, and in the evening the subject of the address was "Yesterday, To-day & To-morrow."

Hospital Sunday.

The Hospital Sunday collection on the 22nd of Oct. in our church amounted to £5-3-10.

Meetings.

Mens Guild.- On the 14th Oct. Mr. T. Nelson continued his paper on "How Great Britain became a great nation" at the ordinary meeting. He was congratulated upon having presented so good a paper and complimented upon his patience in gathering his facts. The paper was most instructive and was appreciated by the members several of whom spoke on the subject.
The 31st October meeting has been cancelled on account of the gymnastic display by the deaf school children at the St. Kilda Town Hall. The next meeting will be on the 14th of November.
Womens Guild.- This Guild met on the 3rd of October when Mrs. J.E. Muir told the members some of the causes of the Italy-Turkey war, which proved most interesting. A lesson on the "Language" was also given which completed a most instructive and enjoyable evening.
The members also met on the 24th of the month when Mrs. Brockford delivered a paper, her subject being "Dr. Barnardo's Homes". It was much appreciated, after several of the members had spoken on the subject, the rest of the evening was devoted to impromptu speeches which judging by the merriment on all sides, must be voted a great success.
The next meeting will be held on the 14th of November.

A.D.D.A.- Victorian Branch.

The Annual Meeting of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A. will be held in our building on the 4th of November, when the report & balance-sheet will be read and officers for the next 12 months elected.

Cup-Day Pic-Nic.

Remember that the Cup-Day pic-nic (Nov. 7th.) is at Mordialloc this year. Our only hope is that we shall have pleasant weather, which always puts every one in good spirits. A large crowd is expected.

Winter Games Winners.

The successful competitors for the Winter Games Competitions are as follows:- Gentlemen. Mr. L. Downes, 1. Mr. J. McLean, 2. Mr. W.A. Paterson, 3. Ladies. Miss M. Clark, 1. Miss E. Matthews, 2. Miss K. Christensen, 3.
The games were, - shooting, wordmaking, Bagatelle, angling & Diddledy Winks. Special prizes, Mr. L. Downes, Quoits, Miss M. Clark, Quoits, Mr. W. Burge, Bowls, Mr. S. Moss, Euchre. The prizes will be distributed after the meeting of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A. on the 4th. inst. It is gratifying to mention that the competitions were a great success, and there was keen interest among the competitors.

Letter to Mr. H. Sumner Martin, B.A, LL.B.

Mr. H. Sumner Martin has held the post of Hon. Secretary to our Society for upwards of twenty years. Owing to the great increase in his own professional responsibilities has felt for sometime past that he must have relief from the Secretarial duties of our Society, he however consented to fill the position until a suitable successor could be obtained. We leave our General Committee to speak this month, next month we hope to speak for ourselves.
My Dear Mr. Martin, Your retirement from the position of Honorary Secretary of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria on account of your feeling that you could not continue to devote the necessary time to the increasing duties of the office, was at our meeting on the 16th. inst, the subject of a resolution of appreciation of the valuable services you have rendered during the twenty years of your occupancy of the position. As you are aware the motion was spoken to by every member present which included the Rev. W.H. Adeney, Messrs. G.G. Mercy, G. Brown, W.A. Dickins, H. Kent, hearing members, and Messrs. T. J. Rose, J.E. Muir and M.L. Miller, Deaf Mutes, and all bore testimony to their personal regard for you, and acknowledged the great indebtedness of the Society, and the deaf & dumb of Victoria to yourself as Hon. Secretary, Honorary Solicitor, and in other respects, as well as your mother - the late Mrs. Martin, of revered memory, and Mrs. H. Sumner Martin for life long unselfish & devoted service in their behalf. Our regrets at your retirement from the Honorary Secretaryship are somewhat minimised by the knowledge and assurance you have given us that you will not cease to be interested in the work of this Society but will continue to be associated with us in the administration of its affairs,

so that we hope to have the benefit of your wise counsel, skilled advice and co-operation for many years to come. Allow me to add my own endorsement of the kindly sentiments so fully expressed, as well as my gratification that your association in the work is to continue, and with every good wish. Believe me, On behalf of the Society, Faithfully yours. E. R. Peacock, Chairman of Committee. October 18th. 1911.

Our Monthly Letter Fund.

We acknowledge with thanks receipts of 1/- each from Rev. Mr. Thomas of Warburton, Miss Peake and Mr. J. Nelson toward our Monthly Letter fund.

Personal Pars.

Mr. D. McLellan, the overseer at the farm celebrated his birthday in a right good way. He took all of the employees and residents at the farm, who cared to participate in his hospitality to Moto Pictures on Saturday October 21st.

Miss Elsie Abraham has spent an enjoyable three weeks stay in Sydney.

Mr. L. Jones met with an accident while cycling near Kew on the 22nd Oct. A motor car ran into his bicycle and lifted him in the air, while in the act of falling he caught hold of the big lamp of the car which carried him for about 16 yards before the car stopped. He had a wonderful escape from serious injury but received a shock, and his bicycle was smashed.

Mr. W. Pollock of Warrnambool and Miss M. Bourke were quietly married on the 4th of Oct. They have our best wishes.

Mr. J. Campbell was plucky in trying to secure a position in the Warrnambool Road race (165 miles) on the 14th of Oct. It was the first race he had ever entered yet he was given only a 26 minutes start, while the winner got 40 minutes. Campbell made another attempt in the Bendigo to Melbourne (100 miles) ride on the 28th of Oct, and made a much better performance here, obtaining a medal.

Mr. D. Hood of Beech Forest came to Melbourne to try his luck in connection with the Riflemens Carnival. Although he has shown fine skill locally, he was unsuccessful in Melbourne competitions.

Miss P. Ashby has spent a months pleasant holiday with her relatives in Trafalgar.

Miss M. Potter who has been away for 5 weeks, partly at Ringwood partly at Maldon, has returned to Melbourne, much benefited by the change.

Mr & Mrs John Gordon are in Melbourne, having arrived from Brisbane.

Owing to want of space we have to hold over Cricket & other news until next issue.

SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW

THE
DEAF-MUTE ENTERTAINERS
of the ADULT DEAF and DUMB SOCIETY of VICTORIA

WILL GIVE THEIR

UNIQUE PERFORMANCE

IN THE

Mechancis' Institute, Sunshine

ON

SATURDAY, 11th NOV., 1911

at 8 p.m. (Doors open 7.30 p.m.)

THE PROGRAMME

WILL INCLUDE THE

PANTOMIMIC ABSURDITIES

"The Whimsical Ways of Women"
and
"Going to a Football Match"

Living Statuary

Paper Manipulation

Songs and Recitals in the Language of Gesture

Dramatic and Humorous Sketches
etc., etc.



Just a little.



The last hat pin.

Admission: ONE SHILLING

COME EARLY AND MAKE SURE OF A SEAT

SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW

THE

DEAF-MUTE ENTERTAINERS

of the ADULT DEAF and DUMB SOCIETY of VICTORIA

WILL GIVE THEIR

UNIQUE PERFORMANCE

IN THE

Mechancis' Institute, Sunshine

ON

SATURDAY, 11th NOV., 1911

at 8 p.m. (Doors open 7.30 p.m.)

THE PROGRAMME

WILL INCLUDE THE

PANTOMIMIC ABSURDITIES

"The Whimsical Ways of Women"
and
"Going to a Football Match"

Living Statuary

Paper Manipulation

Songs and Recitals in the Language of Gesture

Dramatic and Humorous Sketches
etc., etc.



Just a little.



The last hat pin.

Admission: ONE SHILLING

COME EARLY AND MAKE SURE OF A SEAT

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 7. DECEMBER 1911. Nº 4.

Christmas 1911.

Dear Friends.

The time when our thoughts turn to Peace & Good will to our fellow men is with us again, and the shop windows are beginning to be filled with the productive beauty & inventiveness of mankind to tempt us to give practical expression to our good will. Christmas is a time of giving & receiving, & after very many years experience we are inclined to the belief that the giving brings with it the greater pleasure. Still, to be honest, we must confess that for years past the balance of "receiving" has been with us. There is a beautiful hymn which tells us

"To count your blessings
Count them one by one
And it will surprise you
What the Lord has done"

It does surprise us, that is the thinking section of our community, and that section at least is grateful, for we have been so blessed that the counting of the good things & good times allocated to us would be difficult of achievement.

Never was a community more favoured than we are, and we can sing (in our language of Gesture) with all sincerity.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

We would much like to greet you friends, with a hearty handshake, & mutually congratulate you & ourselves upon this time of prosperity, but in the circumstances we must be content with a written greeting, therefore,

We wish you a
Very Happy Christmas
and
a Joyous New Year.

Congress. 1911-12

There are to be great doings in Melbourne at Christmas. Deaf visitors are expected from South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales & Tasmania. There is to be a Congress, Banquets, Picnics, Socials, an Inter-state Cricket match, & other interesting functions. Every deaf mute who can raise the passage money, or railway fare, and a week's board should be here.

This is a grand opportunity for the meeting of old school chums. The programme is not yet complete but the following may be taken as certain. Special services on the 24th Decr. in the church for Deaf Mutes, Flinders St, & an Inter-state Cricket match on the 26th & 27th between the deaf of South Australia & Victoria on the Albert Cricket Ground, & the Adult Deaf Society's Rally on the 28th Dec. All deaf friends interested are invited to communicate with Mr J. E. Muir. Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. Melbourne.

Xmas Rally.

The Quarterly Congregational Rally of our Society is to be held on the 26th of Decr. in our building. A charge of 6 will be made for tea to Melbourne members, but deaf visitors from other States, & the country will be entertained as guests. Free admission to all after tea. Messrs F.E. Frewin, R.H. Luff, L. Downes & J.E. Muir have charge of the arrangements.

New Hon. Secretary.

Mr R.J. Oehr, who is a well known accountant & secretary to several important organisations, has kindly accepted the position of honorary Secretary of our Society in succession to Mr A. Sumner Martin, B.A, L.L.B, retired. At the meeting of the General Committee held on the 13th of Novr. which he

attended for the 1st time, Mr. J.E. Muir on behalf of the deaf members of the Society spoke a few words of welcome, & expressed the wish that Mr. Oehr would long remain with us.

General Board.

The general board met on the 13th Nov. The Superintendent reported steady progress still maintained in all branches of the work. No unemployed. General contentment. Conditions harmonious & satisfactory. All meetings exceptionally well attended. The committee sanctioned the purchase of bulbs to the value of £23, & carnations for propogation purposes £4. The Manager was also authorised to make purchases of plants up to the value of £10, when found necessary. A grant of £10 was made toward the entertainment of guests at forthcoming Congress, & Mr. Abraham was instructed to obtain estimates for improved shower bath accomodation at our building. Mr. Oehr took over the duties of Hon, Secretary.

Cricket.

Through the kind courtesy of the Melbourne Cricket Club who have granted us the free use of the Albert Cricket Ground for the Inter-State Deaf Cricket match between Victoria & South Aus. on the 26th & 27th December. The interest is growing keen amongst the cricketers. Messrs A. & J. Collins, (Heerim), L. Lynas (Charlton), G. Burgess (Glen Thompson) & J. Kenworthy (Bairnsdale) are to take part in the big match.

The President & Vice presidents of the A.D.C.C. will entertain the Vic & S.A. cricketers at a dinner on the 27th Dec, after the match. The Club is getting on well under the leadership of Mr. C. Robertson who is very enthusiastic over the doings of the team which comprises nearly all young fellows.

Messrs W.H. Felstead, E.R. Peacock, J.P. J.M. Griffiths, E.J. Abraham, S. Ferguson & R.I. Hamilton have consented to become patrons of the Club. The Committee have decided that the club should join other societies in a moonlight trip down the bay early in December & that a wallamagundi be held in the building on the 9th December.

In connection with the visit of the Deaf Cricket team to Sunshine, an entertainment was given in the local

Mechanics Hall on the 11th Nov. by the members of our Society, in aid of the Cricket Club's Christmas reception fund. There was a fair & appreciative audience. Mr. Abraham opened with a lecturette on the language of Gesture.

Oct 7th A.D.C.C. 7 wkts for 92 C. Robertson 34 (retired) J. McLean 21 v Modern C.C. 18 J. McLean 6 wkts for 7 runs. Beattie, 3 for 4.

Oct 14th A.D.C.C. 36. C. Robertson 24 n/o v Hall C.C. 24. & 35 Robertson 8 for 18. Beattie 4 for 9. McLean 4 for 12. Harding 1 for 1 Quantock 1 for 10

Oct 21st A.D.C.C. 8 wkts for 71. Robertson 43 n/o McLean 14 v Bedggood C.C. 69 Beattie 4 for 24. McLean 4 for 21. Burge 1 for 3.

Oct 28th A.D.C.C. 52 Robertson 20. Beattie 18 v Edments C.C. 66 Beattie 6 for 17. Robertson 2 for 19.

Nov. 4th A.D.C.C. 34 Beattie 19 n/o & 8 wkts for 29 v Richmond Mascottes. 30 Robertson 5 for 14. Beattie 4 for 13.

Nov. 11th A.D.C.C. 36. Robertson 12. v Sunshine C.C. 104. Beattie 3 for 12 Robertson 4 for 39. McLean 1 for 28. & Harding 1 for 1

Nov 18th A.D.C.C. 23 & 1 wkt for 22. (Robertson 12 n/o & McLean 8 n/o) v Wesley Ramblers 83. Robertson 3 for 5. Beattie 2 for 22. & McLean 3 for 40

Nov 25th A.D.C.C. v Y.M.C.A. (2 days match) A.D.C.C 105. Robertson 64 n/o Beattie 11. Y.M.C.A 2 wkts for 29 Robertson 2 for 18.

Games Competitions.

On the 4th Alt after the annual meeting of the Victorian Branch (A.D.D.A) Mrs F. E. Frewin distributed the prizes to the following winners of the Winter games competitions – Miss M. Clark 1st prize Ladies Hand bag. Miss E. Matthews 2nd Cushion & Milk net cover, Miss K. Christensen 3rd Silver Stand for hat pins. Mr L. Downes 1st Jam Spoon, Butter Knife & Bread fork, Mrs J. McLean 2nd Picture Frame, Mr W.A. Paterson 3rd Gents purse. Special prizes for Quoits. Miss M. Clark, Table runner. Mr L. Downes, Tobacco pouch. Cribbage. W. W. Burge Fancy Clock. & Euchre Mr S. Moss Gents pen knife.

The prizes were given by Mrs J. Boorty & Misses A. Graham & A. Foster, & Messrs Abraham, Miller, J. E. Muir, Edgar Peacock & C. Dodge. Hearty thanks were accorded to these donors & to Mrs F. E. Frewin for distributing. The average attendance during the winter was about 40

Gesture.

The Oct-Nov-Dec, issue of the Gestura is 10,000 and it is a good number containing illustrated articles on Alice Betteridge the blind-deaf pupil of the Sydney School for the Deaf, the flower farms at Blackburn & a biographical sketch of Mr. S. Moss, also "What is truth?", "The Great object of life", "Mental Achievement", "The Calt path", "The cultivation of physical fitness", "The social side of Oralism", "Build your own monument" etc.

Cup Day Pic-nic.

Cup Day (the 7th Nov.) was observed by the members of the Adult Deaf Society holding their annual pic-nic at the well known seaside resort (Mordialloc), there being a good muster about 80 of our deaf members in spite of counter attractions. The weather could not have been more pleasant & everyone enjoyed the bask in the sun. The sea appeared to be at its best. Some of the members went in for a swim, others preferred rowing & rambling & a few made a trip in a motor boat. Hot water, milk, Tea & Sugar were kindly provided for those who brought eatables &c. while others went to the restaurants. Games &c. were most pleasantly indulged in by most of the pic-nickers. Altogether a happy & enjoyable time was spent.

Meetings.

On the 14th Nov. Mr. G. Newnham delivered his maiden paper on the British Navy at the meeting of the Mens' Guild. Several of the members highly commended him on the substance of his paper, & all enjoyed it. Before the reading of the paper the President (Mr. Luff) gave a short recitation on the "Bee" which was most interesting. In order that each member may be prepared to give a recitation at any of the socials etc, if called upon at a moments notice, it has been decided that each member shall recite in turn at the ordinary meetings of the Guild.

The Deaf Womens' Guild met on the 14th Nov. when Miss L. Fletcher took charge of the first part of the evening & held the attention of the members by reading a paper on "China & its Inhabitants" It was much enjoyed by all. Afterwards

when it became known that Miss Fletcher had forfeited her sisters birthday party, (which was on the same night) to come & entertain us, many were the nice things said about her, & she deserved them. Mrs Wilson then gave a bible lesson on the Gospel, which was greatly appreciated. The final meeting for the year will take place on the 5th Dec. As the Guild will not meet again till March. We expect to see a "record house"

A.D.D.A.- Annual meeting of Victorian Branch.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A. was held in the upper hall of our building on the 4th Nov. There was a large attendance (51) of whom 24 were members of the Association.

All office-bearers were present except Mr. E. J. D. Abraham. Mr. H. L. Miller (President) occupied the chair & opened the meeting with prayer. Then the Hon. Secretary read the minutes of the last Annual meeting after which he submitted the Annual report of the years proceedings which showed that satisfactory progress had been made. The Hon Treasurer also submitted the balance sheet which showed a good credit balance to carry forward. These reports were adopted on the motion of Mr A.C. Muir, seconded by Mr. M. G. Mortimer. The chairman in the course of his address spoke highly of the Associations objects & aims, & urged all to become members & support a very necessary work. He also added a few words of welcome to Mr. G. Armstrong of N.S.W. who was present & hoped he would take notice of the work done by the Association. Messrs. J. Peters & L. Downes were appointed scrutineers, but their services were not required as the Board of management were re-elected on the motion of Mr. J.L. Muir, seconded by Mr. W. Paterson. A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring office bearers & hon Auditor. The meeting closed with the benediction by Mr. R. H. Luff.

Subscriptions of 1/- each have been received from the following. Misses D. Hickey, D. Davies, M. Clark, Mrs J. Boorn & Messrs J. Boorn, A.C. Muir (2), J. Peters, J. McLean, H. Luff, G. Schubach, T. Nelson & W.A. Paterson.

Mr H. Sumner Martin.

In the last months Letter we gave prominence to the feelings entertained by the General Committee towards Mr. H. Sumner Martin on his resigning the Hon. Secretaryship of our Society. This time we will have our little say.

We cordially endorse the sentiments expressed in the letter sent to Mr. Martin by the chairman, Mr. E. R. Peacock. It is some 20 years since Mr. Martin stepped into the shoes of the late Rev. Wm. Moss, our first Hon. Sec.y & during these years Mr. Martin has been a good friend, & in the capacity of Hon. Sec.y he has rendered inestimable service in the interests of our Society. His legal experience had on many occasions been of value & came to the rescue of the Committee when they were dealing with certain matters & saved them a great deal of trouble & loss of time. Mr. Martin has always had kindly thoughts for the deaf representatives on the committee & not infrequently he has done a bit of interpreting for them when the Superintendent (Mr. Abraham) was too fully engaged in arguing a matter. This thoughtfulness is appreciated. We believe that had he been an expert in the finger & sign language he would have been happy to have done much more for us.

We frequently had the pleasure of Mr. & Mrs. Martin's presence at our social & other gatherings, on which occasions he always took a personal interest in our doings, sometimes he was to be seen chatting here & there with one or other of the many deaf mutes who have learned to honour & respect him. This is what we like in our hearing friends. Our Assistant Treasurer (Mr. M. L. Miller) had frequent occasions to call on Mr. Martin at his office on business connected with our society, & the business not being a fee matter. Mr. Miller naturally felt he was an intruder, & quaked in his shoes imagining that when Mr. Martin caught sight of him, he would feel inclined to take him by the coat collar & put him unceremoniously out of the office, but he always found Mr. Martin very courteous & willing to give attention to the business though sometimes pressed with his own work. Our Superintendent also had on many occasions to call on Mr. Martin on the same errand & although we have not asked Mr. Abraham for his experience, we believe his feelings were akin to those of our assistant treasurer. Although Mr. Martin has given up the Hon. Secretaryship of our Society we are delighted to know that he is not severing his connection with it, but will remain an active member of the Board of Management & that we will still have his business & legal experience associated with the work we hope for many years to come, & also for the sake of dear memories of his mother the late Mrs. Hannah Martin, who while she lived was a dear friend to us all & took an active part in the work of our Society.

Our Flower Farm.

November is one of our busiest months at the farm, the one just past

has been no exception, in fact it was a record month. The first week our sales amounted to £10 odd, the second over £40. of orders came in & the third over £20. As this is a five weeks month, that is between Committee meetings, there is a possibility of reaching £100 for Nov.t. The Motor Char-a-Banc that runs to popular resorts daily from Melbourne now visits our farm twice a week & is already considered the most popular trip. Carnations, Canterbury bells. Calliopsis, Gaillardia, Watsonia, Early Shasta Daisies, & Sweet peas are the flowers at present blooming strong. We are also doing fair with strawberries. The pic-nic parties keep us going every Saturday. The new boat which made its first appearance on our Lake on the 18th ult, did a good days business straight away. It carries twelve persons & is a fine boat. All are enjoying good health at the Farm. The Visitors from other States continue to increase in number.

Miss Cowan.

Miss Kitty Cowan passed away after a long illness on the 7th ult., at her home, in Ringwood. Last year she was elected hon. sec.y to the Deaf Womens Guild but the unsatisfactory state of her health compelled her to resign the position shortly afterwards. However she continued to be interested in our doings & kept in touch with us through the correspondence with, & visits of her friends, & "Our Monthly Letter" Just before she died, she wrote a most beautiful, unfinished letter to one of her intimate deaf friends, it showed her love, gratitude & patience - an extract from which follows:- "My dear Mother Love, See what a nice name I have given you. You seem to be nothing but love to me in all your sweet letters, & later (just) when I was so ill, I dreamt of you as Mother-Love. It is so sweet to me to know that you treat me as a real friend. I have for years wanted to know what real friendship was like, & so I thank God that I have not found my quest in vain.

I hope you will excuse the lead pencil, but darling Mother Love, I have just come through another very bad time. In all this long illness I never was so weak & low as I was during more than a week. Oh! the sleepless nights, lightheadedness, & other inconveniences. I don't know how I have got through it all. I am getting better again now, & my head is better a little since I have had a certain amount of sleep, for that is what I wanted badly"

We acknowledge with thanks receipts of 5/- from Mr. L. G. Phillips, 2/- each from Mrs Beanland & Mrs G. Woods & 1/- from Mr. J. Gordon toward our Monthly Letter fund.

CHURCH for DEAF-MUTES
Flinders St. East. Melbourne.

Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association CONGRESS.

Special Services

Sunday December: 24th 1911.
11 am and 7. p.m.

It is expected that all the members of the Congregation will attend, if not both, at least one of these Services.

Congress &c 1911-12.

The Herald 27/12/11.

DEAF MUTES.

INTERSTATE MATCH.

It is not very generally known that there is an Adult Deaf Mute Cricket Club in Melbourne, which plays matches every Saturday in the season on its ground in Yarra Park. There are similar clubs in South Australia, and other States and despite the disadvantages they are under, the members acquire very considerable skill in all branches of the game. Inter-State matches are played at suitable periods when Victoria is prepared to send a team to Sydney or Adelaide or the clubs in those cities are in a position to send a team to Melbourne.

One of these inter-State matches was commenced on the Albert Cricket Ground (formerly Warehousemen's), on the St. Kilda road, yesterday. A Victorian team met a team from South Australia. They were both representative, the sides not being restricted to members of the Melbourne and Adelaide clubs, but including some of the best deaf mute cricketers from the country districts of the two States. This is the fifth match that has been played beween South Australia and Victoria. Of the four previous ones, Victoria won three and South Australia one.

On this occasion Mr P. G. Simpson is captain of the South Australians, and Mr C. Robertson captain of the Victorians. Yesterday Mr Simpson won the toss and sent his side in first. They made 85 in their first innings, the small total being due to the fine bowling of Mr R. K. Beattie, of the Victorians, who put up the remarkable performance of taking five wickets for one run. The Victorians made 183 in their first innings. The principal scorers were the captain, C. Robertson, with 60, and W. Burgess, with 45. On the South Australian side, R. G. Simpson, the captain, made the highest score, going in first and carrying out his bat for 30. W. Abbott made 22.

To-day play was resumed, and the match was early brought to a conclusion, for the South Australians failed to make any stand in their second innings against the bowling of the Victorians. Beattie, who bowled so remarkably well in the first innings, only succeeded in getting one wicket for 15, but F. Lynas (three for 16), T. Collins (two for 14), and T. Peters (two for 1) came to the rescue. The Victorians won by an innings and 24 runs.

A scratch match was improvised to fill up the afternoon.

Scores for the inter-State match:—

VICTORIA.

First Innings 183

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

First Innings 85

Second Innings.

F. Lehmann, b Beattie	3
P. Simpson, b Lynas	0
C. Smith, st Robertson, b T. Collins	0
H. Parnell, c Beattie, b Lynas	27
W. Abbott, b M'Lean	13
J. Lehmann, b T. Collins	0
A. Rankine, c Downes, b Lynas	16
H. Langley, c Beattie, b Peters	0
W. Northey, not out	2
J. Hutchinson, c T. Collins, b Peters	0
J. Juncken, absent	0
Sundries	13
All out for	74

Victoria won by an innings and 24 runs.

Bowling Analysis.—R. K. Beattie, one for 15; F. Lynas, three for 16; L. Downes, none for 12; J. M'Lean, one for 3; T. Collins, two for 14; T. Peters, two for 1.

Mr John E. Muir, the president of the Melbourne Deaf Mutes Cricket Club, is to entertain the members of the two teams and their friends at dinner at Hardie's Cafe, Little Collins street, a few doors from Elizabeth street, this evening.

The Age 28/12/11.

CRICKET.

DEAF AND DUMB PLAYERS.

The Inter-State deaf mute cricket match between Victoria and South Australia was continued on the Albert cricket ground yesterday, and, mainly owing to the excellent batting of C. Robertson, the Victorian captain, and W. Burgess, who made 60 and 45 respectively, and the good bowling of R. K. Beattie, who obtained the remarkable average of five wickets for 1 run, resulted in a win for Victoria by an innings and 24 runs. For the losers, P. G. Simpson, the captain, who went in first and carried out his bat for 30; W. Abbott 22, F. Lehmann 19, H. Parnell 27 and A. Rankine 16, batted well. Scores:—

VICTORIA.—First Innings 183

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—First Innings.. 85.

Second Innings.

F. Lehmann, b Beattie	3
P. Simpson, b Lynas	0
H. Parnell, c Beattie, b Lynas	27
W. Abbott, b M'Lean	13
C. Smith, st Robertson, b T. Collins	0
J. Lehmann, b T. Collins	0
A. Rankine, c Downes, b Lynas	16
H. Langley, c Beattie, b Peters	0
W. Northey, not out	2
J. Hutchinson, c T. Collins, b Peters	0
Sundries	13
Total	74

Bowling.—R. K. Beattie, one wicket for 15 runs; F. Lynas, three for 16; L. Downes, none for 12; J. M'Lean, one for 3; T. Collins, two for 14; T. Peters, two for 1.

CRICKET IN TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON.—The North v. South cricket match was continued to-day in fine weather and before a good attendance. The play went in favor of North, who, dismissing South for 191, ended the day with a lead of 302 runs. Scores:—

NORTH.

First Innings 284

Second Innings.

Martin, b Paton	32
Westrope, b Paton	6
Elliott, b Eltham	45
Tumulty, c and b Donoghue	65
Harrison, run out	17
Vincent, not out	17
M'Kenzie, c Paton, b Watt	14
Headlam, not out	2
Sundries	6
Total for six wickets	209

Bowling.—Carroll, no wicket for 52 runs; Paton, two for 41; Watt, one for 56; Newton, none for 33; Eltham, one for 18; Pennycuick, none for 11; Donoghue, one for 8; Chancellor, none for 4.

SOUTH.—First Innings.

Pennycuick, c sub., b Martin	22
Newton, c Thomas, b Martin	8
Eltham, c Martin, b M'Kenzie	60
Paton, b M'Kenzie	7
Hawson, b Thomlinson	26
Hudson, not out	40
Chancellor, c and b M'Kenzie	6
Donoghue, st Thomas, b M'Kenzie	0
Carroll, b Martin	1
Watt, c and b M'Kenzie	4
Parkinson, b Thomlinson	7
Sundries	10
Total	191

Bowling.—Elliott, no wicket for 36 runs; Martin, three for 32; M'Kenzie, five for 40; Thomlinson, two for 23.

SYDNEY.—The Commercial Travellers' match between Queensland and Victoria resulted in an easy win for the southern State by an innings and 450 runs.

The Age 27/12/11.

DEAF AND DUMB PLAYERS.

A match between Victorian and South Australian members of the congress of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association, at present sitting in Melbourne, was commenced on the Albert cricket ground yesterday. When play ceased for the day the Victorians, mainly owing to the batting of Burgess and Robertson, and the bowling of Beattie, had a commanding lead, the scores being as follow:—

VICTORIA.—First Innings.

G. Burgess, lbw, b Lehmann	45
L. Downes, st Abbott, b Langley	16
C. Robertson, b Simpson	60
T. Collins, c Abbott, b Langley	10
A. Collins, st Abbott, b Langley	4
J. Kenworthy, b Parnell	3
T. Peters, not out	6
F. Lynas, b Parnell	0
J. M'Lean, c F. Lehmann, b Parnell	0
R. K. Beattie, b Parnell	0
V. Harding, c sub., b Rankine	12
Sundries	27
Total	183

Bowling.—H. Parnell, four wickets for 50 runs; H. Langley, three for 39; J. Juncken, none for 18; F. Lehmann, one for 22; A. Rankine, one for 19; P. Simpson, one for 12.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—First Innings.

F. Lehmann, b Collins	19
P. Simpson, not out	30
H. Parnell, b Collins	5
A. Rankine, b Downes	0
C. Smith, c Harding, b Downes	6
W. Abbott, c Harding, b Beattie	22
H. Langley, st, b Beattie	0
J. Juncken, b M'Lean	0
J. Lehmann, b Beattie	1
W. J. Northey, b Beattie	0
J. Hutchinson, b Beattie	0
Sundries	2
Total	85

Bowling.—Burgess, none for 7; Lynas, none for 19; Downes, two for 9; Kenworthy, none for 10; Collins, two for 11; Beattie, five for 1; M'Lean, one for 12.

The Age 1/1/12.

DEAF AND DUMB CONGRESS.

DELEGATES AND MEMBERS ENTERTAINED.

The serious business of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Association's annual congress having been satisfactorily concluded, about 60 delegates and members were entertained at Sargents Cafe on Saturday evening by the president of the Victorian branch, Mr. M. L. Miller. In the unavoidable absence of the president of the association, Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, Mr. E. R. Peacock, J.P., chairman of the A.D.D.S., presided. At the conclusion of the dinner a number of delegates "spoke." Mr. M'Donald (S.A.) said that although there was no branch of the association in South Australia at present, he would do his utmost to establish one on his return, after seeing the splendid work that was being done in Victoria and the success attending it. A vote of thanks to the host received most enthusiastic support from the guests.

At the association's rooms, in Flinders-street, an enjoyable evening was spent. The majority engaged in progressive games and competitions, a few of the more sedate watching their hilarious attempts to stab floating corks with hat pins, or pick up marbles with knitting needles and potatoes with salt spoons. The variety of games provided at the fourteen tables ensured the keenest interest and competition. The hall was decorated with flags and lanterns. Mr. J. E. Muir acted as master of ceremonies, and he saw to it that until the handsome prizes were finally won no one had cause to complain of lack of amusement and good spirits.

INTERESTING CHURCH SERVICE.

One of the most interesting but pathetic of church services held in Melbourne is that for deaf mutes, held at the Deaf and Dumb Institute in Flinders-street. Here every Sunday men and women gather to whom the solemn pomp of a great cathedral and the simplicity of a chapel alike would be even less than empty form. The tense silence, broken only by the concussion of the preacher's hands, emphasises the earnestness of the worshippers. And it is no listless silence of a congregation lulled by some droning murmur of platitudes, only rousing itself to stare at those around. Every eye is fixed on the flittering fingers of the leader, fearful lest one word should be missed of the message of faith and hope that they bear. Hymns, too, are but a silent following of the interpretation of one man. But that man's face, hands and body are so trained to express every sense and feeling that, even without the alphabetical signs, the struggle with darkness and the gladness of dawning light can easily be understood. Special interest attached to the services yesterday in view of the congress that has been sitting this week. Mr. M'Donald, a delegate from South Australia, preached both morning and evening, and there was an unusually large attendance at each service.

The Herald 1/1/12.

15.

SILENT PEOPLE.

PICNIC AND SPORTS.

The Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association congress and festivities, commenced on December 24, were concluded to-day by a picnic and sports on the Brighton Cricket Ground. About 100 were present.

Mr J. E. Muir, as secretary of the entertainment committee, assisted by Mrs Muir, whose special charge is the young girls, were active in promoting the pleasure of all. Mr Muir will be remembered particularly as an old-time footballer, playing with Fitzroy; his sturdy form was conspicuous wherever the hardest work was to be done. He acted as handicapper for the sports; associated with him were Mr L. Miller, a most efficient starter; while Messrs F. E. Frewin and G. Mortimer were judges; Mr J. R. F. Davis receiving visitors and dispensing hospitality on behalf of the committee.

The South Australian visitors, who were defeated at cricket last week, carried off all the honors as pedestrians.

The results were:—

Ladies' Race.—Miss Eva Hair, 1; Miss Doris Davis, 2; Miss Miller, 3.

Hobble Skirt Race.—Miss Eva Hair, 1; Miss Miller, 2; Miss Mabel Dow, 3.

Championship (100 yds., 150 yds., and 200 yds.)—Langley, 15 pts., 1; Parnell, 13 pts., 2; Smith, 8 pts., 3; Metcalf, 4 pts., 4; Johnson (Victoria), 3 pts., 5.

Siamese Race.—Cornell and Smith (S.A.), 1; Ramage and Lehmann (S.A.), 2; Burge and Quascock (Vic.), 3.

Alarm Race.—H. Lamley (S.A.) 1; J. Hunter (V.) 2; J. Metcalfe (S.A.), 3.

Children's Race.—Miss L. Beorty, 1; Master W. Beorty, 2; Master Reynolds, 3.

The Age 27/12/11.

DEAF MUTES IN CONGRESS.

HIGHER EDUCATION SOUGHT.

EXTINCTION OF THE DEAF BEGGAR.

A congress of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association was commenced in the adult deaf and dumb building in Flinders-street on Monday, and it proved a revelation to persons unacquainted with the methods of conversation adopted by those who have lost the two important senses of speech and hearing. The proceedings throughout were conducted by means of the finger and sign language, and the addresses were delivered with remarkable rapidity. The stillness was broken only at intervals by applause. Representatives from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand were present.

Special services were held in the church on Sunday, and a short service was held on Monday prior to the opening of the congress, Mr. E. J. D. Abrahams, president of the association, delivering the addresses.

Mr. M. L. Miller, president of the Victorian branch of the association, extended a cordial welcome to the delegates from the other States.

In the afternoon the delegates and their friends visited the deaf mutes' flower farm and home at Blackburn, and spent several hours in an interesting inspection of the buildings and in boating on the lake. They were entertained at tea by Mr. Abrahams.

The congress was resumed in the Blackburn Hall in the evening, when Mr. Abrahams delivered an address on the work of the association. He expressed pleasure at the fact that so many of the deaf were prepared to devote the greater part of their holidays in discussing ways and means of improving the condition of their fellow deaf. The last congress, held in 1903-1904, was brought into existence to unite the deaf and all interested in their welfare, with the aim of giving publicity by practical demonstration to their capabilities, and at the same time to advance their interests in every way that might be suggested. It was with feelings of satisfaction and pride that he now addressed them, for never before in the history of the deaf had so much been accomplished between two congresses covering so short a period as eight years. The association must fight for—(1) higher education for such of the deaf who could profit by it; (2) uniformity in the language of communication between deaf and deaf, which meant the adoption either of the double or single hand alphabet throughout the Commonwealth; (3) Government positions for qualified deaf; (4) a choice of better trades or professions for the deaf; (5) the extinction of the deaf beggar, who must be entirely erased; (6) the training of the mentally and physically defective deaf; and (7) the introduction of a scheme that would place adult societies for the deaf above the need of canvassing for charitable contributions to support them.

SECOND DAY.

The congress was resumed in the Deaf and Dumb Building, in Flinders-street, last night, Mr. E. J. D. Abraham presiding.

Mr. Thos. Williamson (N.Z.) read a paper on The Pure Oral System. He said that no other gateway out of the awful solitude was tolerated in the Dominion, but he did not believe that such a bigoted and exclusive claim for the system could be justified. The average product of the exclusively oral system was, as far as conversation was concerned, very far indeed from having escaped from his isolation. The entire suppression of signs and the manual alphabet in a school for the deaf meant cramping and restricting mental growth, especially of the younger children, whose command of English was entirely inadequate to satisfy the demands of childhood, for the free expression of their multitudinous wants and feelings. Among the adult deaf, after they left school, sign language was a great and good thing. As a medium for full social intercourse, for giving and receiving pleasure, for expressing their inmost feelings and calling forth the highest sympathy and fellowship, it could have no equal.

Mr. M. L. Miller, president of the Victorian branch of the association, said the contention that the pure oral system was the best channel by which the deaf should be educated was absurd. They should memorialise the New Zealand Government on the merits and demerits of the system. It would lead the Government to have inquiries made as to the wisdom or otherwise of the use of the system in educating the deaf.

Mr. J. E. Muir (Vic.) read a paper on a Uniform System of Sign and Finger Language for the Deaf of Australasia. He drew attention to the diverse systems of signs and finger language in Australasia, and suggested that a conference of head masters be arranged with the object of obtaining uniformity.

Mr. R. H. Luff (Vic.) stated that although all spoke the English language in the Commonwealth, they, by the diverse system of signs used in conversation, were more like foreigners.

Mr. Sturke said it was highly desirable that there should be one system of figures and one manual alphabet.

Miss M. O. Wilson (Q.) read a paper on Higher Education and Suitable Trades for the Deaf. She said the school curriculum could not very well devote more time than it did to language, without neglecting other important subjects, nor would two or three years extra at the same school suffice. To meet present needs, short of a college, she would like to see established a higher school for the deaf, and, in connection with it, a good technical school. A three years' course of this combined school, coming after the full primary school, ought to fit the deaf mute for earning his bread by skilled labor.

Mr. R. H. Luff, in a paper on The Jubilee of the Education of the Deaf in Australia, said that the education of the deaf in Victoria had steadily progressed, and, with public sympathy, Government co-operation and up to date requirements, it had almost reached its zenith.

The code of rules was held over for further consideration.

A hand, with an eye in the centre, being the symbol of the language of the deaf, was adopted as the emblem of the association.

Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham was re-elected president; Mr. M. L. Miller, hon. secretary, and Mr. J. E. Muir, hon. treasurer.

The congress will be resumed this evening.

The Argus 30/12/11.

DEAF AND DUMB CONGRESS.

Delegates to the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association Congress, numbering about 114, took a trip down the bay yesterday in the Weeroona to Queenscliff, and had a most enjoyable time, weather conditions being ideal.

In the evening the congress was continued at the building for the deaf and dumb, Flinders-street, under the presidency of Mr. E. J. D. Abraham.

Mr. J. E. Muir moved the adoption of the rules, as printed, with the provision that the board be empowered to make any clerical alterations necessary. This was seconded by Mr. W. Paterson, and carried.

Mr. M. L. Miller moved that the congress recommend to the general board the advisability of instituting some movement that would bring about higher education for the deaf; also a method or plan by which the deaf might be introduced into the higher trades and professions. This was a matter, added Mr. Miller, which would be of vast importance to the rising generation of the deaf. A high school and technical college, founded and endowed by the Commonwealth Government, could be so managed as to fit the intelligent deaf mute for any position.

Mr. A. C. Muir seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mrs. J. E. Muir (Victoria) read a paper on "Language," in which she contended that sign language was the natural method of expression for the deaf, and that speech, as taught in the oral, was simply a foreign language to them. The paper was warmly applauded.

Mr. F. E. Frewin (Victoria) read a paper, entitled "Provisions for Apprenticeship," in which he pointed out that the great difficulty in dealing with apprentices was that many boys from the country were unable to learn trades on account of having no places at which to stay. He suggested that a home be provided for such boys.

Mr. Muir spoke a few words in support.

Following on the paper, Mr. Frewin moved that the congress respectfully call the attention of committees of adult deaf and dumb societies in Australia and elsewhere to the necessity for giving grave consideration to the question of employment for the deaf, with a view to apprenticing or otherwise training youths leaving school at such an age as would enable them to be masters of remunerative trades on reaching manhood. This was seconded by Mr. W. P. Muir, and carried.

In a paper on "Civil Service and the Deaf," Mr. T. A. Nelson asked why the deaf should be debarred from the Government service, when in many cases they were quite competent to carry out the work required?

The Chairman moved that, in view of the fact that there were departments in the civil service in which deaf mutes might be employed with advantage, the congress request that the various boards of adult deaf societies in Australia give serious thought to the devising of some scheme for the training of such deaf youths as might be considered suitable.

Mr. J. E. Muir seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. M. L. Miller (Victoria) read a paper on "Deaf Tramps and Imposters." It was resolved that congress recommend the general board to take steps for the punishment of such imposters.

This concluded the sittings of the congress, but a number of functions still remain.

The Age 30/12/11.

DEAF AND DUMB CONGRESS.

PAPERS AND RESOLUTIONS.

The business of the annual conference of the Deaf and Dumb Association was resumed last night. The delegates spent the morning and afternoon pleasantly in a trip down the Bay.

Mr. M. L. Miller moved—

That the congress recommend to the general board the advisability of instituting some movement that would bring about higher education for the deaf; also a method or plan by which the deaf might be introduced into the higher trades and professions.

He pointed out that the subject of higher education was one of very great importance to the rising deaf generation. A high school and technical college founded and endowed by the Government could be managed in a way that would fit deaf mutes for any position. (Applause.)

Mr. A. C. Muir seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mrs. J. E. Muir (V.) contributed a paper urging that grammatical construction of sentences should be one of the most important subjects, if not the chief, in the curriculum of deaf schools. It was sad to observe that the majority of the deaf left school with an imperfect command of language, and so, through no fault of their own, when they went out into the world they felt handicapped at not being able to express their thoughts clearly in writing. She advocated the use of kindergarten lessons of a kind which were essentially language lessons. A continuation school for the adult deaf would be a great boon to many who were desirous of improving their education.

Provisions for Apprenticeship was the title of a paper read by Mr. F. E. Trewin (V.). He alluded to the great difficulty in dealing with apprentices, one of which was that boys from the country were unable to learn trades on account of having no place at which to stay. A home should be provided for the boys. He moved—

That the congress respectfully draws the attention of committees of deaf and dumb societies in Australia and elsewhere to the necessity of giving grave consideration to the question of employment for the deaf, with a view to apprenticeing or otherwise training youths leaving school at such an age as would enable them to be masters of remunerative trades on reaching manhood.

The motion was carried.

Following on a paper on Civil Service and the Deaf, by Mr. T. A. Nelson, the Chairman (Mr. E. J. D. Abraham) moved—

In view of the fact that there are departments in the civil service where deaf mutes might be employed with advantage, this congress requests various boards of adult deaf societies in Australia to give serious thought to devising some scheme for the suitable training of such deaf mutes.

Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which was carried.

The business of the conference then terminated.

, and also
a pilot en-
ded their

death was
ed through
n, and that
ne.

LINES.

SALS.

locomotives
urné subur-
he strength-
ridges. It
notives now
rained be-
consistent
the Rail-
provision
e extent of
ding. The
divided be-
o carry the
ater River,
piers put in
o carry the
Yarra at
rbs.
ived in the
ge at Haw-
of the pre-
the greatly-
erwell, Can-
urbs. Mr.
mers, stated
new bridge
to the re-
line. The
down, but
d with the
h the pro-
me a quad-
were being
the tracks.
to be pur-
very heavy.
of course,
om Parlia-
with claims
rn line was
dealt with

ulfield line
tion of the
he ordinary
pidly, and
r the busy
heavy race
ird pair of
d, on which
's being re-

ALITIES.

I. VAN.

ncar and a
which for-
t any serious
midday on
kville. The
o Brunswick
travelling in
was on its
to the tram
close to the
ed round in
mmy struck
e woodwork
forecarriage
ng itself re-
but was soon
ent of Bruns-
e front plat-
collision took
right thumb

the duty to their country demands the pay-
ment of the tribute."

GENERAL NEWS.

Amid picturesque surroundings, upwards of 200 deaf people of the State were on Saturday entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. D. Abraham at a garden party held at the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Lake-park, Blackburn. Upon arrival the guests were conducted upon a tour of inspection of the gardens and home. The superintendent of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, Mr. Abraham, found that about 25 per cent. of deaf mutes are so deficient mentally or physically as to be incapable of ordinary employment, he conceived the idea of the flower farm. The undertaking, which was only commenced some three months ago, has already passed the experimental stage, and the success which now seems assured will probably result in considerable development. The inspection concluded, the company occupied themselves during the afternoon in playing games and boating on the lake. A bioscope entertainment wound up a pleasurable day.

There is no monopolist in the community to equal the Postmaster-General in his official capacity. One can hardly turn round without bringing up against one of "the Postmaster-General's monopolies." It is provided in telephone regulation 126A that "any person who, without the authority of the Postmaster-General, or of the deputy postmaster-general of the State, prints, publishes, or circulates, or authorises the printing, publishing, or circulating of any list of the subscribers connected with any telephone exchange shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £10. All lists published in contravention of this regulation shall be forfeited to the Postmaster-General, and shall on demand in writing be delivered up to him." The Postmaster-General has given notice by advertisement in the "Commonwealth Gazette" that he intends to fully enforce the regulation, and "will take proceedings against every person committing any contravention thereof."

In the Australian Church last evening Dr. Strong took as his subject the article in the "Hibbert Journal" by Dr. K. C. Anderson, of the Congregational Church, Dundee, on "The Collapse of Liberal Christianity." Dr. Strong said he did not think Dr. Anderson had proved the hypothesis put forth by him and a few others, that a Christos guild or brotherhood existed before the time of Jesus, and that Jesus Christ was the creation of the church rather than the church the creation of Jesus Christ. Of this there was no historical evidence. At the same time the aim of Dr. Anderson was a noble one—to raise the Christian religion above the highest tide-mark of Biblical, historical criticism, to spiritualise and catholicise religion, and retain the deep universal truth that was struggling to express itself in such ancient dogmas as atonement and incarnation, which liberal Christianity rejected. It would have been better, however, if he had spoken of the evolution or fulfilment of liberal Christianity, rather than of its "collapse," owing to the advance of New Testament criticism, which had shown how fragmentary our gospels are, and how impossible to form from them a biography of the Master. Liberal Christianity needed to be supplemented, perhaps deepened and widened, but it could not be said to have "collapsed" unless it were of a very superficial kind. In the morning an interesting sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Tudor Jones, who has spent four years in Wellington, N.Z., where he has succeeded in establishing a church in connection with the British and Foreign Unitarian Association.

It is estimated that over 5,000 took part

on Sa
sustai
attend
to the
admit

B
The
mend
struct
at La
The
St. K
held c
and a
Barry
bourn
of the
A y
Braha
Satur
sories
Garag
was s
ment
being
twelv
The
Chur
An
tary
Easte
whic
Jol
by a
had

Th
to i
Heal
cils
spec
A
Satu
Th
held
on S
R
of C
the
the
ling
has
roll
ting
to a

S
Rec
wit
nee
serv
rese
and
Fra
at
a
sion
cen
Bos
of t
fen
gra

T
ing
Clu
A
inge
cea
can
tha
as
but
att
plin
me
tick
rep
ain
wa

Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association

The President (Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham)

Requests the pleasure of the company of

Mr. & Mrs. Roe

To TEA, at 5.30 p.m.

On CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25th, 1911

At Lake Park, Blackburn

TRAIN LEAVES
FLINDERS ST. STATION
1.55 P.M.

R.S.V.P. TO MISS E. EMPSON
DEAF MUTE CENTRE
FLINDERS ST. E., MELBOURNE

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8. JANUARY 1912. Nº 5.

New Year.

Old Father Time has finished the last line of the history of another year. Yet another volume has been closed, and that of 1911 like the books of many former years, contains faithful records of your life and mine; records that may not be erased, but must for ever remain in the library of the Universe - evidence for or against us.

What have you written there? Is there anything there that you would like removed? Let your mind go back over the year just passed; recall your mistakes, think over the things you are sorry you did and the things you are sorry you left undone. Call them forth one by one and examine them. Ask yourself why you let them appear in the records of 1911, and ask yourself what is to prevent you from preventing them from appearing in the records of 1912. Then watch them with the determination to keep out the things you are sorry you did and to put in the things you are sorry you left undone.

It is for this that you live; to gain experience by your mistakes. If you do not profit by your mistakes, then indeed is your life wasted. This world is God's School, only the kindergarten, it is true, but you are here to learn, so learn while you have opportunity, for you will not pass this way again and all you miss now is lost for ever.

The Flower Farm.

What can we say about the flower farm this month? We are still hard at it, improving, ever improving, putting down new plantations and pulling up old ones. Weeding takes up a good deal of time, as also does watering. The blooms that predominate at present are carnations, shasta daisies, sweet peas, gaillardias & gladioli. The dahlias and cosmos are coming along. Our receipts for December from flowers and picnics amount to £ 73-2-4.

Home.

We had our Christmas dinner on the 24th to enable our matron to entertain the Congress guests on the 25th. Archie McLellan accompanied Mrs Abraham to town when making the Xmas purchases, and contributed two chickens toward the dinner.

We had Mr. McDonald, the C. A. Missionary, and Miss Wilson, of Queensland, with us for a week.

An unusually large number of people visited our Home during the Xmas and New Year holidays.

Mr. Alex. Williamson has presented the Home with several interesting volumes.

Gesture.

The January Gesture is before us. It contains several articles of unusual interest, amongst them, "The Symbolic Hand" which is a strong argument in favour of contentment and faith in "All Things work together for Good," "My Silent Partner" is a story of the bravery of a deaf mute. "Mother Hen's Scraps" records the doings of the Victorian deaf. "I believe" is a creed for every one. "The Poison of Fear" is a good cure for many ills. "The Dollar Game" shows how to jog along contented. "The Dearth of Love" is an article to make one think. "A Wonderful World" makes us feel glad we are in it. The short article with a portrait of our new Secretary ought to make us feel grateful that such a man as Mr. Cohr is willing to give some of his time for our service. Miss Doris Davis again poses in some of her graceful gestures. There are other articles of interest.

A useful Xmas Box.

At a recent Sub-Committee meeting Mr. Duff suggested organising a series of entertainments with the object of raising £12 to purchase an artificial arm for Mr. Anderson. The Chairman (Mr. Abraham), however, volunteered to obtain the money. He appealed to a few friends with the following result

Mrs. Payne £1-1-0. Hon. Jas. Balfour £-10-6. W. G. Stephens Esq £1-0-0
H. G. Turner Esq. 1-1-0. J. Kronheimer Esq. 1-0-0. A. J. Banks Esq 1.0.0
Mrs. Grimwade 1-0-0. E. Baines Esq. 1-1-0. J. McPherson Esq £1-0
Miss A. Grimwade-5-0. Mrs. Christian 1-0-0. J. B. Whitty Esq. 1-1-0
H. V. McKay Esq 1-1-0.

After providing for the cost of the artificial arm there was still £2. left. This sum was handed to Cork, the blind deaf inmate of the farm, it has enabled him to spend a couple of weeks' holiday with some friends in the county. Mr. Abraham returns grateful thanks to the kind donors.

Womens' Wing.

We are still in the dark as to what the Government intends to do with regard to our request for a grant toward the building fund. "Wait and Hope" is the motto of our Superintendent, and that is all we can do at present, though we hope we shall not have to wait long. We acknowledge with sincere thanks £1-1-0 from Mrs. A. Williamson.

S. A. Missionary.

Mr. J. McDonald enjoyed his visit to Melbourne. He writes "that he returns to Adelaide with new hope in his heart." The ideals that he had begun to think unattainable, his visit to Melbourne has convinced him as quite within the bounds of accomplishment. We wish him God Speed.

Receiption Committee.

The various deaf Societies and Guilds of Melbourne appointed two representatives each to form an Entertaining Committee for the Congress visitors. The following were the gentlemen appointed & they carried out their work to perfection-Messrs Abraham (Chairman), J. E. Muir (Hon. Sec), W. L. Miller, R. H. Duff, W. P. Muir, F. S. Frewin, W. G. Mortimer & J. McLean. Most of the work fell to, & therefore most of the praise is due to Mr. J. E. Muir.

What a Gathering.

The Deaf Congress of 1911-12 will be remembered as the most representative gathering of the deaf ever held in Australasia. Every State of the Commonwealth was represented, likewise New Zealand, and for a more united and happier gathering you might search the whole world and fail to find it. Amongst our many visitors we noticed the following:-
South Australia - Messrs. J. W. Donald (Missionary), P. Simpson, H. & J. Lehmann, H. Parnell, J. Hutchinson, W. Abbot, A. Rankine, H. Langley, J. Juncken, C. Smith, J. Metcalfe, W. Northey, G. Ramage and R. Miller, Mrs. Mrs & Miss Lawson.
New South Wales.- Misses Shanks & Griffiths & Mr. Mason.
Queensland.- Misses M. C. Wilson, J. Sinclair and - Miller.
Messrs Arrell, Davis & Graham.
Western Australia.- Mr. Paqualin.
Tasmania.- Messrs C. Nicholls and - Salmon.
New Zealand.- Messrs T. Williamson and - Stokes.
Victorians up from the country:- Mr. & Mrs. A. Collins, Mr. & Mrs. T. Collins, Messrs. J. Collins, T. Lynas, G. Burgess, G. Lamman, J. Kenworthy, J. Cardwell and J. Johnson. Misses E. Hair, E. Mitchell and L. Kenworthy.

Opening of the Congress.

After a short Xmas Service the Congress of the A. D. D. A. was held at the Deaf Mute Centre and well attended. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham (President of the A. D. D. A.) occupied the chair. Mr. M. L. Miller (President of the Victorian Branch of the Association) extended a cordial welcome to the delegates from the other States. Then he read a very lengthy report, showing in detail the large measure of progress made during the last eight years. The report, which was adopted, was followed with the greatest interest and attention by all present, many of them expressed great satisfaction and gratification at the noble work accomplished. The balance-sheet, which revealed a healthy banking account was also read & adopted.

Then the congregation dispersed - some for homes to enjoy their own family Xmas dinner, and others for the

city cafes. Mr. Abraham, with characteristic generosity, presented the young girls with pretty boxes of sweets or perfume, and also entertained a dozen of them who live some distance from the city to dinner.

Trip to Blackburn.

In the early afternoon a trip was made to the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Blackburn, where Mr. Abraham as President of the A. D. D. A. was host at a reception and tea. The sultriness of the morning had abated, and the dull grey sky had become more sullen. Subsequently a heavy shower of rain fell. The girls in light dresses feared that their pleasure would be shrouded for the rest of the day, but the sun broke through the cloud and smiled while the party journeyed to Blackburn. It disappeared just as the station was reached, and the heavy masses of cloud drifted rapidly across the sky, and a strong gale puffed over and through the gums and drove the party towards the Home more rapidly than they wished, but, although the threats were strong, the rain did not come. There must have been over 130 of them (A great many others came in later on.) It was quite a pleasant sight to see flock after flock filing through the gate of the Farm and hailing Mrs. Abraham with the usual greetings - "A Merry Xmas". Being in a happy mood and in spite of the boisterous weather, there was no disposition to remain in the house, except the mothers and babies, and the grounds were soon swarmed with the interested, chattering throng. The buildings, nursery gardens, sheds, etc, were inspected. Rowing on the lake was freely indulged in, and some fine swimming and diving feats, performed by two or three members of the local swimming club, were watched with some enjoyment. Altogether, it was a delightful party, especially now the wind had abated. Tea was served in the largest two rooms. Mrs. Abraham who has the knack of making any one feel welcome and at home, was indefatigable in ensuring the comfort & enjoyment of the guests, particularly the mothers & babies. She was ably seconded by Mr. Abraham so that the reception was the best ever given at the Farm.

Blackburn Hall.

The Congress was resumed in the Blackburn Hall on the 25th. Mr. Abraham delivered his presidential address. He spoke at some length on the work of the past and of the future, he said, the Association must fight for higher education for those of the deaf who could profit by it; for uniformity in the language of communication between deaf and dumb, which meant the adoption either of the double or single hand alphabet throughout the Commonwealth; a choice of better trades or professions for the deaf; the extinction of the deaf beggar; the training of the mentally and physically defective deaf; and the introduction of a scheme that would place adult societies for the deaf above the need of canvassing for charitable contributions to support them. A Hand with an eye in the centre being symbolic of the "speech and hearing" of the deaf was adopted as the emblem of the Association.

Messrs. E. J. D. Abraham, M.A. Miller and J. C. Muir, all of Melbourne, were unanimously re-elected President, Hon. Sec., and Hon. Treasurer respectively. The branches alone have power to elect the board of management.

Mr. R. H. Luff read an interesting paper on the "Jubilee of Education for the Deaf in Australasia". After a hearty welcome had been extended to the South Australian Missionary, the meeting closed.

The Pure Oral System.

The Congress was continued at the Deaf Mute Centre, Melbourne at 7.45 p.m. on the 26th. Mr. Abraham presided. Mr. Mr. Donald opened with prayer. Mr. J. Williamson, of New Zealand, read a paper on the Pure Oral System. The following resolution was adopted:- That the New Zealand Government Education Department be made aware of the fact that the educated deaf throughout the world are practically unanimous in favour of the combined system of instruction and respectfully request the Government to examine the results of all methods, with the view to considering the advisability of introducing a more elastic system into the New Zealand Schools for the deaf.

Uniform System of Signs. Etc.

This was the title of the paper read by Mr. J. E. Muir and resulted in the subjoined resolution being carried. - That this Congress recommends the adoption of an uniform system of signs, figures and manual alphabet throughout Australasia. That head masters of Schools for the Deaf be approached with the view of bringing about a conference to achieve this object.

Higher Education.

Was the name of the next paper, and a very excellent one too. Miss M. C. Wilson, of Queensland, was the reader. This also produced a resolution. - That the Congress recommended to the General Board the advisability of instituting some movement that would bring about higher education for the deaf; also a method or plan by which the deaf might be introduced into the higher trades and professions.

Language.

Mrs J. E. Muir's paper on "Language" met with general approval. It was resolved - That this Congress recommends very strongly to the Committees of Schools for the Deaf that Language as spoken and written by English people be given more attention than at present, and also that the study of Poetry and Literature be made more general in Schools for the Deaf.

Provisions for Apprenticeship.

The Congress resumed its sitting at 7.45 p.m on the 29th. Mr. Abraham presided and Mr. T. E. Trevin opened with a paper on the above title. He made a clear case and pressed his claims well, with the result that the following resolution was adopted unanimously. - That this Congress respectfully draws the attention of Committees of Adult Deaf & Dumb Societies in Australia and elsewhere to the need of giving grave consideration to the question of employment for the deaf with a view to getting youths leaving school apprenticed or otherwise trained to most remunerative trades at such an age as will enable them to be masters of the same when they reach manhood.

Civil Service & the Deaf.

Mr. J. A. Nelson pleaded for the employment of the deaf in Government departments and on the motion of the Chairman seconded by the reader the following resolution was adopted.- That in view of the fact that there are departments in the Civil Service where deaf mutes might be employed with advantage this Congress requests that the various boards of Adult Deaf Societies in Australia give serious thought to the devising of some scheme for the training of such deaf youths as may be considered suitable.

There are already deaf men employed in the civil service, one in Queensland has a long and honourable record as draftsman in the Surveyor Generals Department. Another in N. S. W. has spent his years since boyhood in work at the Lands Dept., and yet another- while here in Victoria there are more than one. It has been proved that many deaf men can do the work required in the Survey Office as draftsmen merely mechanical as it is, while those who have brains as well as hands would be capable of filling a much higher position.

The Deaf Tramp.

Mr. M. L. Miller's paper was felt to be timely and there was no hesitation in approving of the resolution as below.

That this Congress recommends the General Board of the A.D.D.A. to take such action as may be considered best to put an end to the trouble and disgrace caused to the Deaf as a community by the deaf-mute beggar, also that steps be taken, whenever known, to expose and hearing imposter who personates a deaf-mute with the object of obtaining alms. This is a matter which demands attention inasmuch as that the genuine and respectable Deaf are the ones who suffer most the public is only too prone to lump the Deaf together as a class and judge the best by the worst. Hearing men convicted of such imposition ought to be severely punished.

The Congress also endorsed the recommendations made by the General Board to the Victorian Government in connection with the control of a State School for the deaf, and adopted the constitution of the Association as drawn up by the General Board.

Inter-State Cricket Match.

The Interstate match between Victoria & South Australia was commenced on the Albert Ground (formerly Warehousmen's) on the 26th Dec. This was the fifth match, & of the four previous ones, Victoria won 3 & S. Australia 1. S. Australia went in first & made 85, the small total being due to the fine bowling of R. K. Beattie who put up the remarkable performance of taking 5 wickets for one run. The Victorians made 183 in their first innings. The principal scorers were C. Robertson with 60, & W. Burgess with 45. The match was early brought to a conclusion on the 27th, for the South Australians failed to make any stand in their second innings. The Victorians won by an innings & 24 runs. The scores being as follow:—

South Australia.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
F. Lehmann, b T. Collins	19	b Beattie	3
P. Simpson, (c) not out	30	b Lynas	0
H. Parnell, b T. Collins	5	c Beattie b Lynas	27
A. Rankine, b Downes	0	c Downes b Lynas	16
C. Smith, c Harding b Downes	6	st Robertson b T. Collins	0
W. Abbot, c Harding b Beattie	22	b Mc Lean	13
H. Langley, b Mc Lean	0	c Beattie b Peters	0
J. Juncken, b Beattie	0	absent	
J. Lehmann, b Beattie	1	b T. Collins	0
W. Hartley, b Beattie	0	not out	2
J. Hutchinson, b Beattie	0	c T. Collins b Peters	0
Sundries	2	Sundries	13
	85		74

Bowling analysis.— Beattie, five for 1, & one for 15; Lynas none for 19, & three for 16; Downes, two for 23, & none for 12; T. Collins, two for 11, & two for 14; Mc Lean, one for 12, & one for 3; Peters two for 1.

Victoria.

G. Burgess, l.b.w b Lehmann	45	T. Peters, not out	6
L. Downes, st Abbot, b Langley	16	T. Lynas, b Parnell	0
C. Robertson, (c) b Simpson	60	J. Mc Lean, c T. Lehmann, b Parnell	0
T. Collins, c Abbot, b Langley	10	R. Beattie b Parnell	0
A. Collins, st Abbot, b Langley	4	V. Harding c Sub b Rankine	12
J. Kenworthy, b Parnell	3	Sundries	27
			183

Bowling analysis.– Parnell, four for 50; Langley, three for 39, F. Lehmann, one for 22; Rankine, one for 19; Simpson, one for 13.

There was a large muster of barrackers, including a number of ladies, who watched the play with great interest. Lunch & afternoon tea were provided on both days.

Photographs of both teams appeared in the Leader of the 6th Jan.

Dinner.

The President & Vice Presidents of the Adult Deaf Cricket Club entertained the members of the two teams & their friends at dinner at Hardie's Cafe after the match. The President spoke a few words, congratulating the teams upon the way the game was played, & also suggested that the triangular matches between Victoria, N. S. W. & S. A. should be played every year in Melbourne, because if played here, the expenditure would be considerably less than if played in Adelaide or Sydney. Such contests would be productive of a great deal of good, & in playing the game, they would be doing something to cement the Commonwealth. No matter what the result of the matches might be, the President felt certain that it would be received in a proper sportsmanlike spirit. Mr C. Robertson (captain of Vic. team) & Mr P. Simpson (captain of S. A.) responded. Messrs Mc Donald, E. J. D. Abraham & E. R. Peacock also spoke.

Sight-Seeing.

The 28th was spent in sight-seeing. The party, accompanied by Mr Abraham, was shown over the buildings and grounds of the Parliament House, and also over the metropolitan fire-station by the chief officer, Mr H. Lee, and the deputy officer, Mr. Wilkins. The signalling and life saving features were all explained and interpreted by Mr Abraham. The visitors were highly pleased. The members of the brigade spared themselves no trouble to make the exhibition entertaining & instructive.

Xmas Rally.

The Xmas Rally held on the 28th was another great success. Tea, jellies, trifles, and dainties of all kinds, were served in the lower hall of the Deaf Mute Centre, where the long tables were charmingly ornamented with pink carnations & white marguerites & asparagus ferns respectively arranged in glass vases.

Afterwards an adjournment was made to the upper hall which was gaily decorated with flags and chinese lanterns. The party entered into the spirit of the entertainment with zest, and the hall was soon filled with happy, smiling faces. Miss D. Davis recited one of our favourite pieces "The Hunter's Song," much to the delight of the visitors. Mr. C. Robertson and Miss R. Dow also gave the old fashioned, but ever popular dialogue "Where are you going, my pretty maid." and were so loudly applauded that they were recalled for an encore. A very fine display of club-swinging was exhibited by Mr. Stokes, of New Zealand. The rest of the evening was spent in various kinds of jolly games, and conversation. The lucky ticket-holders for the eight prizes, given gratuitously and drawn by little Miss Wena Muir and Master Booth, were Mr. Parnell, set of small spoons and forks; Mr. T. Williamson, leather wallet Mr. A. McLellan and Mrs Lindsay, pair of hairpin cases each; Mr. J. E. Muir, shaving outfit, Mr. Davis (Queensland), shaving mug and brush; Mr. Sturcke, perfume & Mr. A. Hull, tobacco pouch. A very attentive committee, consisting of Messrs. T. Frewin, R. H. Luff, L. Downes and J. E. Muir supervised the arrangements.

Down the Bay.

On the 29th the Congress party, comprising 114 persons took a trip down the bay by the "Weerona" to Queenscliff. The day was perfect, the air being pleasantly warm, and the breeze fresh. Some drove to Point Lonsdale to see the fine view of the sea and cliffs, while a good many others strolled about the beautiful park. They returned to the city, much charmed with their outing, & attended the Congress in the evening.

Banquet.

The President of the Vic. Branch of the A.D.D.A. (Mr. W.L. Miller) entertained about 70 guests & members of the association at dinner on the 30th at Sargeant's Cafe, Elizabeth St. Mr. McDonald made a very lively speech which was punctuated with many a burst of applause. Our dear "Grandfather", Mr. T.J. Rose also delivered a speech which was most impressive. He was loudly cheered and surrounded by a large number of friends who desired to show their appreciation and love

by shaking hands with him. He was deeply touched. Mr Miller also spoke, and he was warmly thanked for his hospitality.

Sallamagundi.

The Melbourne Deaf Cricket Club achieved quite a notable success in its mode of entertaining in the evening of the 30th when it gave a "Sallamagundi" at the Deaf Mute Centre. The upper hall was the scene of remarkable and very lively appearance. Fourteen tables were arranged around the hall, each holding a game in which four players took part. There were 56 competitors, all of whom were most enthusiastic and eager to win. Miss E. Kerr secured the highest number of marks (13) and was the happy recipient of the ladies' first prize (a silver-mounted glass jam pot). Mrs Pierce was the next winner (12 marks) and received a silver mounted glass hairpin case. Five ladies tied for the third prize, having 11 marks each, and Mrs J. E. Muir won in a final contest (a silver shoehorn). Mr A. McLellan was the winner of the gentlemens' first prize (a silver inkstand) Mr E. Graham the second (a tobacco pouch). Three gentlemen tied for the third prize, Mr J. Williamson, of New Zealand, winning in a final contest (a cigarette case). The prizes were all very handsome. Soft drinks were served to the tired, but charmed competitors, helpers and onlookers to be followed by the departure for homes. Great credit was due to Messrs R. H. Luff, M. L. Miller, W. A. Paterson and J. E. Muir for having carried out the arrangements in the most admirable way.

Pic-nic & Sports.

The last item on the Congress progamme was a picnic and sports. The gathering was held on New Years' Day on the Brighton Cricket Ground and it was a fitting wind up to a round of most successful and enjoyable business, social and recreative functions, the picnickers being blessed with another of those gloriously fine and cool days that prevailed throughout the whole of the week. Many of the company arrived on the ground early in the morning and some cricket was indulged in. A series of races was gone through before lunch, the principal honors falling to the South Australians, who were thus in a measure recompensed for the defeat they sustained in the

Interstate cricket match. They were heartily congratulated on their success. The cool and bracing nature of the atmosphere brought on excellent appetites, and the lunch and tea were thoroughly enjoyed. During the afternoon many went for a stroll on the beach. After tea, the prizes were distributed to the winners of the races by Miss M. E. Wilson, of Queensland, who spoke a few words to each, as they stepped up before her. She was heartily thanked for her kindly office. Cheers were then given for the visitors, and they in turn gave cheers for the Victorians. Some games were indulged in until about 7 p.m, after which the company wended their way to the railway station for the homeward journey. It went without saying that every one spent a most pleasant and happy time.
The winners of the races are as follow :-
Ladies' Race.- Miss E. Hair, 1; Miss D. Davis, 2; Miss Miller, 3.
Hobble Skirt Race.- Miss E. Hair, 1; Miss Miller, 2; Miss M. Dow, 3.
Championship (100 yds., 150 yds., & 200 yds.) - Langley, 15 pts., 1; Parnell, 13 pts., 2; Smith, 6 pts., 3; Metcalfe, 4 pts., 4; J. Johnson, 3 pts., 5.
Siamese Race.- Parnell & Smith (S.A.), 1; Ramage & Lehmann, (S.A.), 2; Burge & Quantock (Vic.), 3.
Alarm Race.- Langley, 1; Hunter, 2; Metcalfe (S.A.), 3.
Childrens' Race.- Miss Boorty, 1; Master Boorty, 2; Master Reynolds, 3.

Prizes for Sports, etc., were generously given by Messrs Ingram Bros; Melville, Mullen & Co; Craig Williamson Prop, Ltd; Edgar Peacock; M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir and Mrs J. E. Muir, to whom our best thanks are due.

Special Services.

Our Chaplain (Mr Abraham) officated at both services on the 24th December, Mr J. Mc Donald (Missionary to the South Australian Deaf), on the 31st. There were very large congregations at every one of these services, which were most impressive and interesting.

Wedding.

One of the prettiest weddings was celebrated at the Deaf Mute Centre on Dec. 6th when Jack Mc Lean, youngest son of Mrs A. Mc Lean, of North Melbourne, was married to May, only daughter of Mrs T. Clark, of Richmond. Rev. J. T.

Robertson performed the ceremony, and Mr. E. J. D. Abraham interpreted. The bride, who was given away by her grandfather, Mr. Willis, looked lovely in a robe of ivory white satin, trimmed with silk lace & finished with a long train which fell in graceful folds from the shoulders. Her fair hair, which was charmingly dressed, was encircled with a wreath of orange blossoms, over which a tulle veil was arranged. A boquet of white carnations and ascension lilies was carried. Two bridesmaids were in attendance – Misses N. Spinks and K. Willis. They carried posies of red carnations. The groomsmen were Messrs. C. Willis and D. Spinks. The bridegrooms gift to the bride was a gold bangle, & to each bridesmaid a gold Southern Cross brooch set with stones. The bride's gift to the bridegroom was an English Lever silver watch with a gold mounted black water

About 100 guests sat down to the wedding breakfast in the Australian Hall, Richmond. Usual toasts went through, and Mr. L. Downes made a presentation of a handsome clock to the happy couple on behalf of the Deaf Congregation. Afterwards dancing, songs & recitations were indulged in.

Womens' Guild Meeting.

On the 28th Nov. Miss Connell conducted an educational class, which was much appreciated by all present.

The last meeting for the year of the Guild was held on Dec. 5th. There was a large attendance. The reading of the proposed alteration of rules, & the voting for place to hold annual picnic of the Guild formed the business of the evening. The picnic will be held at Fern Tree Gully early in March. Further particulars will appear later. A most enjoyable supper was partaken of by the members, a vote of thanks passed to the President, who as usual, was the thoughtful provider. The younger members especially, are looking forward with pleasure to the resuming of the meetings in March.

Mens' Guild Meeting.

On the 25th Nov. Mr. T. E. Frewin answered a good number of questions made by the members of this Guild. Some of them proved very instructive and he was very heartily thanked for his task.

On the 12th Dec. Mr. S. Tunley delivered his maiden paper on Capital & Labour during the reign of ancient kings of Great Britain. Although he was not used to the way of delivering lectures, he did his part well. Several speakers spoke on this subject. Afterwards several amusing stories were given.

Personal Pars.

Miss Connell collected £1-7-6 from deaf friends, in aid of the fund for a little hearing child, whose arms were recently cut off by a passing train.

£1.4.0 was also collected by Mr. F. E. Frewin in reponse to the appeal for funds on behalf of an immigrant's widow and children in Warburton.

Mr. W. Peters & Miss M. Priddy were married on the 29th Nov. They have our best wishes.

Out of 26 candidates from the Australian College of Theology, Mr. Ernest E. Frewin, son of Mr. & Mrs. F. E. Frewin, has been successful in passing his examinations for Theology. He was ordained on the 20th Dec. We offer him our hearty congratulations.

Miss Flonie Hawkins, of Adelaide, was successful in winning a State School Scholarship last Xmas. She has our congratulations, too.

Mr. E. J. D. Abraham has been re-elected President of the Blackburn Swimming Club.

The mother of Mr. E. Burke, of New Zealand, & Miss W. Burke passed away on Nov 23rd. The bereaved have our sympathy.

Mr. E. Crockford, one of the oldest pupils of the Vic. Deaf & Dumb School, died suddenly on Dec 30th. The funeral took place on Jan. 2nd & Mr. Abraham conducted the burial service at the Boroondora Cemetery. A letter of condolence from the Melbourne deaf was sent to Mrs Crockford.

A son was born to Mr. & Mrs R. Watson on Nov. 29th.

A son to Mr. & Mrs W. Taylor some time during November. Our hearty congratulations.

Mr. T. Collins and Miss Skydd were married on the 20th Dec. They have our best wishes

Stray Notes.

Mr. Appleton, one of the directors for Huddart, Parker & Co. Ltd kindly granted the Farm hands & inmates a trip down the bay by S.S. Hygeia on the 29th Nov.

Our Hon. Sec. (Mr. Cehr) was seen at our Congress, & the Chairman of the General Committee (Mr. Peacock) was with us frequently. We appreciate this kindly interest.

Mr. Edgar was in evidence also. We have to thank him for the artistic Congress programme.

The choice of purchasing the prizes for the Sallamagundi & Rally was left to Miss Empson, for which she is thanked.

There was an attendance of 180 (150 deaf & 30 hearing) at the Xmas Rally.

Cordial thanks are due to those who helped to carry out the arrangements of our functions successfully.

A vote of hearty thanks was passed at the Congress in Blackburn Hall to Mr & Mrs Abraham for entertaining the Congress party to tea at the Farm.

Interesting accounts of our festivities were daily recorded in the "Argus," "Age" and "Herald."

Every one had a happy time at the Congress, in fact there was a general feeling that Melbourne has become the "Mecca" of the deaf.

The intellectual come here for learning. The Sports come here to "get licked". The young men come in search of pretty wives and find them.

Altogether we are general providers for the deaf.

Cricket.

Dec 2nd. A.D.C.C. beat Y.M.C.A. by 26 runs on the 1st innings. A.D.C.C. 105 & 45 wkts for 98. C. Robertson 64 n/o & 46 not out, Quantock 16, Beattie 11: Y.M.C.A. 79- Beattie 6 for 29. Robertson 2 for 31. Mr. Lean 2 for 13. Dec 9th 116th. A.D.C.C. 48 & 88. Robertson 16 & 18. Mr. Lean 10, Beattie 29. Turnley 10: Fitzroy Mission 104 & 31. Beattie 12 for 45. Mr. Lean 4 for 34. Robertson 2 for 23.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 5/- from Messrs. T. Collins; R. Miller, 2/6; E. Burke (N.Z.) 1/6 & J. Johnson 1/- towards our M.L. fund.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8. FEBRUARY 1912. No. 6.

The late Festivities.

The various Melbourne Deaf Societies and Guilds held "winding up" meetings during the month of January, when they came to a mutual agreement with regard to "paying the piper". The whole of the festivities in connection with the Congress only cost £40-11-0. A very moderate figure when compared with the money spent on the first big congress. As the Committee had £30-9-3 in hand the further sum of £10-1-9 only was needed so each Society or Guild interested unanimously agreed to pay £2-12-3. And we are all congratulating ourselves that our Officers were able to carry out so important and enjoyable a function successfully at so small a cost. Thanks are due to the following for contributions towards the entertainment fund, Adult Deaf & Dumb Society's Committee £10. Mr. Samuel Ferguson (Bowman's Forest) £1-1-0. Mr. Edgar Deacon 5/- "Stranger" 5/- and Mr. F. E. Frewin 2/-.

We have been complimented upon the summary of the Congress given in last month's "Letter". We are only sorry that we could not print the papers read, some of which are much above the average. We hope to see the most important ones in the "Lecture". As we a record of the resolutions adopted is the most important we therefore gave them preference for we shall have, we hope, to refer to them frequently.

The last of our visitors left on the 24th. and 27th. respectively. Mr. A. Stokes of New Zealand going on the former and Miss M. O. Wilson of Queensland on the latter. Miss Wilson made many friends whilst here and we shall

all be glad to have her amongst us again. She is an enthusiast in whatever she undertakes and so intends to take advantage of a two weeks stay in Sydney to "talk A.D.D.A." to the Sydney deaf folk. Mr. Stokes spent nearly six weeks in Melbourne and is quite fascinated with everything connected with the deaf here. He spoke of returning to settle in Melbourne some other time.

Humour.

The Sydney "Bulletin" and the Melbourne "Punch" both contained "jokes" about the deaf in connection with the Congress. If we attempted to make jokes about journalists and cartoonists, whilst under the impression that they did their work whilst standing on their heads, we would be about as near the mark as the "jokes" referred to were. We enjoy a good "joke" about ourselves but there is a limit to all things - or should be. We thought the old lady who knew many deaf mutes and admired them so much because so many of them were such good musicians and singers had reached the limit; but the "Bulletin" has gone one better.

"The Press!"

That is our toast this month. The Newspapers were very good to us during Congress week. They are always good to us and we are grateful, but see no other way of showing that gratitude than by acknowledging our indebtedness and saying "thank you" and that we say most heartily and sincerely.

Big Things.

The Executive of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association has a gigantic task before it. Still, with the same Skipper and first and second Officers that brought the Association with flying colours and ever increasing Cargo, safely through the storms of the past eight years in charge, we have every reason for anticipating another successful run. Briefly put their programme - according to resolutions passed at the late Congress - is (1) Provision for higher education of the deaf, (2) Provision for apprenticing the deaf to higher trades and professions, (3) Uniformity of Manual spelling and System of Signs and figures, (4) The training of the deaf for positions in the Civil Service, (5) The suppression of the deaf tramp and the deaf impostor.

Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee met on the 23rd ult and transacted its usual ordinary business. The Magic Lantern presented by Mr. J. R. Davis and three books entitled "Peoples' Friend" given by Mr. A. Williamson

were received with hearty thanks. Gratification was expressed at the news of the Government grant of £500 for the Womens' Wing of the Farm & Home and also of donation of £50 from an anonymous donor.

Mens' Guild.

On the 16th January "the pound night" was the attraction of the Mens' Guild meeting. Nearly every member brought one pound of every kind of eatables and gave a short story. Most of the stories were interesting and amusing. Before the stories were delivered Mr. C. Robertson recited a piece entitled "Christmas Song."

Rally.

The Mens' Guild will be responsible for the programme of the next rally, which is to be held on the 28th of March. Full particulars will be given in our next issue.

La-Crosse.

Several junior members of our Society who played in the deaf School team both during their school days and after, have expressed the desire that a team be organised in connection with the Adult Society. They feel that to continue to play with the school boys would be unfair to opposing teams and unsportsmanlike. With object of getting the feeling of the deaf on this matter a meeting of those interested was convened and took place on the 25th ult. at the Deaf Mute Centre. There was a large & enthusiastic attendance of young men and a sprinkling of old ones too. Mr. J. E. Muir, the convener presided and explained the object of the gathering and after several of those present had spoken in favour of the idea it was unanimously resolved on the motion of Mr. L. Downes that a La-Crosse club be formed. Mr. Ernest J.D. Abraham, who was fulfilling another engagement wrote most encouraging by offering to render what help he could to make the club a success from every point of view, the letter was received with enthusiasm. The following are the Office Bearers for the season of 1912-13.- President:- Mr. E.J.D. Abraham, Vice Presidents:- Messrs J.E. & W.P. Muir, M.L. Miller and W.A. Paterson. Hon-Sec:- Mr. J. Mc Lean, Hon-Treas:- Mr. L. Downes, Committee Messrs C. Robertson, R.H. Luff, S. Nelson & R. Beattie. Delegates Messrs Edgar Peacock and J. Mc Lean. The Committee will meet at an early date to discuss finances, ground, colours, etc. A good start has been made & there is every prospect of a very good team being got together.

The Blackburn Home-Womens' Wing.

"Wait and Hope" said our prophet last month. Well the hope was strong and

the wait has been brief for early last month our Supt received a communication intimating that the State Treasurer, the Hon. W. A. Watt had decided to make a grant of £500 towards the erection of the Women's Wing, and at the last meeting of our General Board when Mr. Abraham submitted this letter, he also announced that a gentleman, a very old friend of our Society had promised a further sum of £50. The Committee now having £950 to the credit of the Women's Wing decided to proceed with its erection at once. A "Building Committee" consisting of Messrs. E. R. Pecock, G. G. Mercy, H. I. Martin, T. Brown, J. R. Orbe & E. J. D. Abraham was appointed. This Committee met on the 27th at the farm and adopted plans prepared by the Architect. It is expected that these plans will be passed by the General Board at their next meeting, Tenders will be called and a start made as soon as the builder is in a position to do so.

Personal Pars.

Mrs. F. E. Frewin & Mrs. A. Williamson and daughter returned home after a few weeks pleasant stay at Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale respectively. Mrs. E. J. D. Abraham has gone to N.S. Wales & Tasmania for a few weeks holiday. Mr. & Mrs. H. Gretton (Caretakers) have made a gift of a silver Communion plate to the congregation who in return presented Mr. & Mrs. Gretton with a cash Xmas box. Mrs. J. E. Muir is spending a holiday with her mother & nieces at Point Lonsdale. Miss A. Graham has gone to "Koolooinurt" for her usual holidays & may not be back for 3 months. Miss M. Potter is staying with her friends in Geelong for a month. Mrs. J. McLean lost her father on the 18th Jan. She has our condolences. The Misses Anderson lost their father on 31st Jan through cancer. They have our condolences. Mr. D. Newell of Adelaide was in Melbourne lately & was pleased with the Farm & Home. Mrs. E. Smith, her children & Mrs. R. Beattie are at Healesville for a change. Mr. J. Morrow met with an accident & injured his leg on a Steamer lately. He was in St. Vincents Hospital, Sydney for 3 weeks. He is now out of hospital and on the mend.

Cricket.

Jan 13. A.D.C.C. 102. v Alphington 57. Robertson 45, Lynas 19, Elvin 10. Beattie 6 wkts for 21, Lynas 4 for 26. Jan 27. A.D.C.C. 8 for 141 v. Essendon Footballers 115, Robertson 67 retired, Downes 54 retired. Robertson 6 wkts for 26, T. Saunders 2 for 4.

Mr. J. Peters met with a bad accident through being struck with a ball and was laid up for sometime. It is to be hoped that he will be all right again before long.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8. MARCH 1912. No. 7.

In Swing again.

By the time "Our Monthly" is in your hands the meetings at our Centre will, once again, be in full swing. The various Committees are doing their best to make their programmes as attractive as possible and with you rests the responsibility of rewarding them for their diligence. There is but one way to do so and that is by taking particular care to be present at as many of the gatherings as you are able. Their labours are in your interest - take advantage of the provisions they make for you whilst you have the opportunity.

Harvest Festival.

The Annual harvest thanksgiving services will be held on Sunday 17th March. Members of the Congregation are invited to send their contributions of fruit, flowers & vegetables to the Church before 8 p.m. on Saturday the 16th. We would much rather have something out of your own garden, if you have no garden, you perhaps have friends who have, if not, well, there are shops. Let us make an extra special effort this year to show ourselves how good Our Heavenly Father is to us, for how can we but feel His goodness & swell with gratitude for it, when we sit and gaze upon the abundance & variety that the Creative goodness of God has provided for our enjoyment.

"Everywoman."

On Tuesday March 5th Mr. Abraham is to make the attempt of translating into the language of Gesture that beautiful moral play "Everywoman" for the benefit of the

Womens' Guild. If he succeeds, it will be a dramatic recital worth witnessing "Everywoman" is symbolical of the various abstract virtues, vices, thoughts & feelings of womankind, & each virtue, vice or condition is rendered as a distinct character; for instance Everywomans conoscience, beauty, youth etc are represented as distinct individuals who converse with "Everywoman" revealing the inner working of a woman's mind. To fully present the character of "Nobody," so as to be understandable by the average deaf mute, it seems to us, it will be necessary to break off at the most interesting situations to explain the meaning of the dialogue. We await with no little interest the result of this experiment and invite our lady readers to give us their impressions.

Womens' Guild.

The summer vacation is now closed and the Guild commences session on the 5th March. It is hoped that the interest in the gatherings this year will be keener than ever. The Annual pic-nic is to be at Fern Tree Gully either on the 16th or 23rd of March, the exact date will be fixed at the first meeting of the Guild.

Rally

The 27th Congregational Rally is fixed for the 28th March and is to be held in our Centre, Flinders St. It has become necessary to remind some of our readers that this gathering is a Congregational rally, that it is a "love feast" or meeting of the deaf-mutes of Melbourne & district who attend Church on Sundays & bible class on Thursdays. There is, and we state it to our sorrow & shame, a small section of the deaf who are only to be found at Our Centre on feed nights, entertainments & recreation evenings. Members of the Congregation are asked to keep this date open. The rally will be under the auspices of the Mens' Guild, so look out for a good programme.

Bon Voyage.

Our old and ever willing friend Mr. R. R. Paterson, we are sorry to have announce, is suffering from a nervous breakdown and has been ordered to take a long sea voyage. He will leave Williamstown for the old Country by S.S. "Essex"

on Friday March 8th, but before his departure we intend giving him a rousing send off, so all deaf mutes are invited to be at Our Centre on Sat.dy March 2nd at 8 p.m to take part. Roll up!

Outing Fund & Bank.

The summer months we presume were the cause of the falling off of deposits to our bank reported by the Manager. We expect that depositors will be more regular in putting away their spare coin now the busy season has begun. Attention is drawn by the Manager to the enjoyable trip the members of the Mens' Guild were able to have through putting by a small weekly contribution. Young deaf friends who are, not yet members of the bank are urged to join. The bank takes any sum from one penny upwards.

Lacrosse.

The newly formed Committee met on the 6th Ult. The gathering was of exceptional interest. Many matters were discussed including colours, suitable ground, finances, rules & affiliation with the Victorian Lacrosse Association. It was resolved that Messrs. J. E. Muir, M. L. Miller & J. McLean be entrusted with the finding of a suitable ground, that the Hon. Secretary write to the V. L. A re affiliation therewith, that Mr. G. Newnham submit at next meeting illustrations of colours suggested by various members of the Committee. The president (Mr. Abraham) promised a donation of £2.2.0 and also to devise means to meet the heavy original expenditure of launching the club.

Mens' Guild Pic-nic.

The first Annual outing of the Mens' Guild took place at Croydon on the 29th Jan.y (A.N.A. Day) The party assembled at Flinders St Station as early as 8 a.m. & caught a train at 8.20 for Croydon which was reached just before 9.30. A conveyance as arranged met the party & conveyed them a distance of 3 miles to Brooklyn Farm where arrangements were made for meals &c. This place was reached just after 10 o'clock, and as there was an hour or so to wait for dinner, they took a ramble around the paddocks & on returning found dinner ready after which the ramble

of the day was discussed. It was decided to walk to the top of Mount Dandenong, a distance (by route) of six miles. Coats were left behind & the party set out along the dusty road dodging in & out among the trees enroute to escape old Sol's smile which was very warm indeed. The party soon split into sections, the first four kept up the pace anxious to be first at the top. The next 3 just trudged leisurely along the Zig-Zag route while the last four declared the pace was too fast for them. Anyhow No 1 section reached a junction of roads near the top & waited for No 2 but No 3 was too long in coming, so they moved on, after a while the third section came up & went the opposite turn to the first party & never reached the top at all. No's 1 & 2 soon reached the summit a height of over 2000 feet above the sea level, upon which was erected a signal structure, for observation purposes. The President was the first to mount this structure. The whole scene around so high an elevation was superb quite a net work of roads & fields was observed for miles around. Sorry the atmosphere was not so very clear to permit sighting the sea. After 3/4 hours rest & signing of records - the party descended enroute for Brooklyn Farm. The mountain top was reached in good time for Tea & both enjoyed by all including the wandering quartette "who never went astray" The distance covered was altogether about 14 miles. We were conveyed to Croydon Station & just caught a train for Melbne reaching there at 9.30 p.m. Although we could not help but notice the extensive orchards on both sides of the road, The majority of the party not being descendants of Adam did not cast longing eyes on the apples etc. Unfortunately one of the party who claims pedigree from Eve could not resist the green colour of the Apples & after enquiring after their condition decided to purchase 2/6 worth of same for what purpose we know not, but are looking out for symptoms Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the outing in spite of the heat of the day. Everything was arranged for by Mr. R. H. Luff to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The Scamp.

The news of the Annual Meeting of Mens' Guild will appear in the Next months issue.

Flower Farm.

The receipts for January:- flowers - £35. 16. 5, picnics £38. 6. 5 sundries £2. 13. 0 Total £76. 15. 10. All well but want rain.

Home.

Plans of Womens' Wing passed, Specifications being prepared. A lot more money wanted. Further news on this subject next month.

Centre.

The Board of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Society have decided by resolution that henceforth our headquarters shall be named the "Deaf Mute Centre" instead of "Deaf Mute Building" Hurrah! - Still we advance - Up she goes!

Personal Pars.

Mrs. Abraham has returned from her trip to N.S.W. & Tasmania. Miss Elsie & Master Ernest Abraham are spending their holidays at Sandringham.

Several of the young girl members of our congregation have been spending weekends at our Home, Blackburn, the guests of Mrs. Abraham

A young deaf mute named Barlow arrived in Melbourne from Lancashire, England on the 25th. Feb.y. he is on his way with relatives to settle in Sydney.

Mr. H. Kent has resigned the honorary treasurership of our Society.

The Blackburn Swimming club of which our Superintendent is president held its second annual carnidal on our Lake on the 28th. Jan.y. A very representative muster of popular swimmers took part. The Club has over 70 members.

Brother Finton of the Roman Catholic Church paid a visit to our home on the 31st. Jan.y & had a long interview with Mr. Abraham. Mr. Finton is interested in the education of the deaf, he is from New Zealand & will shortly be in charge of a school for Roman Catholic boys near Sydney.

Mr. C. R. Peacock, J. P. chairman of Committee for the Adult Deaf Society has left Victoria for a six months stay in New Zealand.

Miss A. Foster returned to Melbourne after staying with her sister in Inglewood for some months.

Mr. Geo. Ashley of New Zealand is spending 6 weeks holiday in Victoria

Miss Eva. Mitchell of Benalla who has been staying with

new relations in Gippsland for 3 months has now returned home.

Mr. S. Ferguson of Bowmans Forest lost his father on the 24th. Feb.y. He has our condolence.

A son was born to Mr + Mrs. J. Ashby of Trafalgar on the 19th Dec.r

The Magic Lantern apparatus presented by W. J. Davis to the Adult Deaf Society was received by the Sub Committee with grateful thanks.

Mr. Marks + Miss M. O. Wilson of Queensland have presented our Library with some books for which we return thanks.

The historical record of the General Committee since the formation of the Society compiled by Mr. F. J. Rose was gratefully received by the Sub-Committee at its late meeting.

Mr. Thomas Williamson of N. Z. who attended the recent congress in Melbourne + impressed us so favourably by his geniality has written from Christchurch to our Supt. thus: "I greatly regret my low state of health whilst in Melbourne, it prevented me from showing my appreciation of all your great kindness to me- & the many friends I met there will always have a warm corner in my heart."

A.D.D.A.

The Hon Secretary (Mr. R. H. Luff) wishes to acknowledge with thanks the following for subscriptions of 1/- Mr. E. Abraham Mr + Mrs A. Williamson, Mr + Mrs A. Collins, Miss Potter, Miss Graham, Mr. G. Damman Mr. J. Cardwell, Mr. J. Collins, Mr. R. Miller, Mr. Paqualin (W. A). Mr. J. Williamson N. Z. Mr. A. Stokes, N. Z. Mr + Mrs E. Burke N. Z. Mr. Johnson (Ballarat) Miss G. Mortimer, Mr. A. Wilson, Mr. F. E. Irewin, Mr. C. Robertson, Mr. G. Schubach, Mr. G. Oakley, Mr. H. Gladman. Mr. M. G. Mortimer, Mr. J. Marks. Miss J. Wright 2/-

Monthly Letter.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/- from Rev. W. H. Adeney, 1/- from Mr. G. Brown, 1/6 from Mrs Arrell (2 2d.) 1/- Miss J. Huish of Maldon 1/- Mr. J. Booth, 1/- from Mr. J. H. Thomson & 1/- from Mr. H. G. Mercy towards Our Monthly Letter Fund.

Cricket.

Feb. 3rd + 10th no matches played on account of heat wave & the 4th Test-match between Australia + England respectively.

Feb 17th A. D. C. C. 4 wkts for 108. Robertson 42. Beattie 28 n/o + J McLean 14 n/o. Middle Park Ramblers 79. Beattie 3 for 12. McLean 4 for 22 Downes 2 for 11

Feb. 24th A. D. C. C. 6 wkts for 114. Robertson 56, Downes 26 + Harding 10

Hall C.C. 5 for 96 Quantock 2 for 18, Downes 1 for 17. Beattie 1 for 20

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne**, to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8. APRIL 1912. No. 8.

Farewell to R. R. Paterson.

On the 2nd March, Mr. R. R. Paterson, (who was our missionary from 1892 to 1901) has been ordered a long sea-voyage for his health's sake, was farewelled at a social at the Deaf-Mute Centre. Speeches were given by Messrs. E. C. D. Abrahams, M. L. Miller and J. E. Muir. On behalf of our chaplain and the deaf, Mr. Muir presented Mr. Paterson with a tropical suit, a safety razor and two sets of handsome ivory vest buttons as tokens of their affectionate regard. Mr. Paterson, in responding, said he was very much gratified at the reception given to him and thanked the deaf for their kind wishes. After the presentation he and his wife were entertained at a coffee supper. It was an enthusiastic gathering. Mr. & Mrs. Paterson left Melbourne for England on the 20th March by S.S. "Essex". Mr. W. A. Paterson and Mr. J. E. Muir were at the party that saw them off. Mr. J. E. Muir sent him a wire with "Good luck and best wishes" from the Melbourne Deaf. It is earnestly hoped that he will return home in the best health.

Mr. Paterson was also presented with a travelling bag, a dressing case and a purse of sovereigns from his fellow-officers at the Royal Bank, Melbourne.

Congregational Annual Meeting.

The 24th General Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held at the Deaf Mute Centre on Thursday evening, the 18th April when the report and balance sheet will be submitted.

Mens' Guild.

On the 27th February the 28th annual meeting was held. The President (Mr. R. H. Luff) was in the chair. There was a good attendance of members. The report and balance sheet were submitted. The report stated that meetings and gatherings during the year closed were much brighter than formerly and the young men had taken a keener interest in the affairs of the guild. During the past 12 months, 18 ordinary meetings had been held with an average attendance of seventeen, the largest being 24 and smallest 12. Eleven papers were read, a mock parliament and a debate on "Monarchy v Republic" given. The best thanks of the Guild were tendered to the readers and lecturers for their efforts in assisting to make the evenings pleasant and profitable.

A new feature was started late in the year. This being a recital by one or other of the members before each lecture. The first annual picnic was held at Mt. Dandenong on Jan. 29th.

The officers for the next 12 months are:- President Mr. J. Mc. Lean; Vice President, Mr. T. Nelson; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Elvin; Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. Robertson. Committee, Messrs. M. L. Miller, R. H. Luff, M. J. Martinez and T. Peters.

The ex President entertained the members to supper.

On the 12th March the new President (Mr. J. Mc. Lean started the year by giving a paper on "The Crusaders." to the members. It was very interesting.

On the 26th March Mr. M. L. Miller delivered a paper on "The Defeat of the Spanish Armada and what it meant to England". He had a good and attentive audience who were treated to quite a budget of historical information.

Womens' Guild.

On the 5th of March a big muster of the members assembled, all merry and smiling, because the meetings had re-commenced. It was about the largest attendance for the past nine months, the reason being Mr. Abraham had promised to give a paper and that in itself was enough to make everyone do their best to be present. Mr. Abraham chose for his subject "Every woman", but, unfortunately, the time allowed was too short, and much had to be left out, but what was given was watched with the greatest attention, and much appreciated by all

The next meeting took place on the 19th. After the usual business had been gone through, an educational lesson given by the President, which, as usual, was full of interesting and profitable information, was enjoyed by all. There was also a very large attendance.

Bible Class.

Mr. Abraham's bible class opened on the 7th ult. There is a great increase in the attendance, the mens' room being quite full on the last two occasions extra chairs had to be brought in. After prayer and bible lesson, addresses on the following subjects were given - "Chivalry", "Man - his possibilities" and "Woman - her powers".

Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

The 8th Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held on the 17th March. The platform was nicely decorated with tree foliage, flowers, vegetables and fruit. Mr. Abraham officated at the morning and evening services which were well attended, as nearly every seat was occupied.

A Journalist's Impressions.

A journalist from the "Herald" office was observed taking notes at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service & his impressions of the service appeared in the issue of that publication dated 18th March. The article was accompanied by a portrait of Mr. Abraham, and it is pleasing to know that one, who in the ordinary persuit of his occupation must take down many a discourse, is of opinion that our Chaplain can preach a "good sermon". We have only room for the following extracts: -

"From the opening to the close of the service there was impressive silence, broken only by the sound of Mr. Abraham's palms or fingers as they came into contact. For more than an hour the congregation followed his every gesture with the closest attention. The manner in which the silent preacher expressed mental emotions by graceful gesture was wonderful, and shows that, after all, the dumb can "talk" well.

"The service opened with the Lords Prayer. The lesson dealt with the parable of the sower and the seed, as given in St. Matthew, and the hymn was that familiar harvest song —

We plough the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land;
But it is fed and watered
By God's Almighty hand.

"Music, 'that unfathamable speech which leads us to the edge of the infinite' was, of course, absent. There was neither healing organ note nor "the sound of a great amen" to break the singular stillness of that earnest, reverent service. But the hymn was so beautifully expressed in gesture that, at least, it looked eloquent.

"The whole congregation rose to prayer and then settled down, not to hear, but to watch, the chaplain deliver his sermon. It was a discourse on the simplicity of the teaching of Jesus. Mr Abraham explained, pleaded, reproved, grew scornful, became gentle, portrayed despair, courage, love, triumph and many other emotions with an animation that was extraordinary. Dramatic pauses made the silence eloquent, and the congregation was deeply interested

"By numerous scriptural illustrations Mr Abraham emphasised the main points of his sermon, and he "spoke" just about as rapidly as an ordinary speaker, so facile is the gesture language. The impression which he conveyed to those who could not translate his movements was that of a highly accomplished elocutionist showing the power of gesture in the absence of speech."

Pic-nic.

Nearly the whole of the members of the Womens' Guild had a 'day out' at Fern Tree Gully on the 23rd of March. The main party left Flinders St. by the 8.52 a.m. train and were joined by our Chaplain at Blackburn, arriving at the Gully at 10.30. After partaking of luncheon at the Kiosk near the foot of the Gully, the party proceeded to climb to the summit, young and old enjoying it immensely. The only person left behind on the route upwards was our Chaplain, he having done the trip before and having found a log cabin retired to compose his sermons for the morrow, but on the way down we found him coming to meet us - the mosquitas had driven him out of his shady retreat. In the afternoon the President & other members joined us and soon after we

partook of tea, this was catered for and was the only cloud that interfered with the most delightful of picnic days.

The Rally.

One rally is very much like another - a happy family gathering, where smiles and good humour, games and supper are the chief features. That held on the 28th was under the Mens' Guild and Mr. J. McLean presided. Mr. J. C. Muir read the roll call. Mr. F. R. Frewin rendered a humorous recitation entitled "Gone", and Messrs C. Robertson, J. Elvin, J. McLean, G. Quantock, S. Tumley, L. Downes and M. G. Mortimer presented a sketch that was well acted and caused much laughter. After games, supper was partaken of and a pleasant evening terminated. The grateful thanks of the congregation are here tendered to Mrs Booty who undertook the mangement of the supper and to her helpers, Miss Graham, Miss Fletcher and Mr. Mortimer.

Lacrosse.

By the kindly offices of Mr. Brown, a member of our General Board, a ground has been obtained and the members of the new club expect to enjoy their first practice on April 13th.

The Farm & Home.

The absence of rain has made us ever on the alert at the farm, our five horse power engine rendering us useful service. At present we have plenty of bloom, the dahlias are beginning to make up for last time by giving us an abundance of bloom, the cosmas are a pretty show, the same can be said of the marguerites & carnations, and within a week or two there will be quite an exhibition of chrysanthemums and Autumn roses. The sales for Feb. totalled £51. 8. 4, the actual receipts £32. 5. 3. For March sales £45. 14. 3., receipts £76. 18. 5. making a grand total of £646 for the year with £41 in outstanding accounts. Not bad for our second year's effort, we think.

Cricket.

On the 2nd of March A. H. C. C. 51. Harding 15. Beattie 12 v Downes 10 v Sunshine 68. Quantock 4 for 14, Downes 6 for 30. McLean 1 for 7.

The 9th. A. H. C. C. 4 for 92. Robertson 55 n/o. Downes 26 v North Coburg 9 for 96. Beattie 4 for 19. Downes 4 for 31.

The 16th. A. H. C. C. 2 for 137. Robertson 77 n/o. Harding 26 n/o. Hughes 14 v Richmond Mascottes 21. McLean 7 for 11. Beattie 3 for 8.

The 23rd A.D.C.C. journeyed to Fern Tree Gully & made 207 for no wickets. Robertson (101 not out) & Downes (97 not out) batted well. These runs were made in one hour & 15 minutes. They beat the previous record for the first wicket partnership, the previous record being 110 made between Downes & J. C. Muir some years back. Fern Tree Gully went in for their innings & made 121. Downes got 2 wkts for 14, Beattie 4 for 3, Mc-Lean 2 for 22 & Quantock 1 for 14.

The 30th A.D.C.C. 48. Beattie 14 & Quantock 10 v Maribyrnong 8 wkts for 80. Lynas 4 for 21, Beattie 2 for 21, Mc-Lean 1 for 19. This was the last match of the season.

Wedding.

On the 20th of March Mr. G. Hodges, youngest son of the late Mr & Mrs R. Hodges, of Malvern, was married to Miss Kate Christensen, eldest daughter of Mrs Christensen, of Collingwood, at the Deaf Mute Centre. Rev. Mr. Williams of Collingwood performed the ceremony & Mr. Abraham interpreted. The bride who was given away by her uncle (Mr Moffat), wore a pretty robe of white silk, and her train was carried by two small girls. The bridesmaids were Miss Nellie Christensen and Miss Moffat. Mr. Fred Cave supported the bridegroom and Mr. W. Christensen was groomsman.

The reception was held in the Collingwood Town Hall where a large number of guests sat down to wedding breakfast. Afterwards dancing, songs & recitations were indulged in. The bridal couple received many handsome presents. We offer our best wishes for their future life.

Personal Pars.

Miss A Graham & Miss Potter returned to Melbourne after spending two months' holiday in Kooloomurt and Geelong respectively.

Mr. S. Ferguson, of Bowmans Forest spent a few days in Melbourne lately.

Mr & Mrs D. Piper lost their daughter Kitty on the 10th of March. We sent him a letter of condolence.

Mr & Mrs W. Dunstan, of Geelong paid a short visit to Melbourne for the purpose of attending the Seventh Day Adventists Camp.

Mr. G. Damman, of Warburton, won sixteen first and second prizes for fruits and vegetables at the Launching Place Show last month. His collection of fruits, which secured first honors, was greatly admired and evidenced in every way a high degree of cultural art, and he showed some magnificent pears - as per "Weekly Times" and "Upper Yarra Advocate." He also secured six first prizes at the Fruit and Floral Carnival, Melbourne.

Mr. W. O'Keefe, of Grasmere, (whose hair resembles that of a Fijian,) enjoyed his fortnight's stay in Melbourne.

Mr. Jack Anderson underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Melbourne Hospital. He is now on the mend.

Mrs Crockford is ill at the Queen Victoria's Hospital, but she is improving.

Mr. Fred Lynas, of Charlton, is now in Melbourne. He is very anxious to obtain employment here, as he finds it too lonely in the country.

Mrs Lindsay lost her aged mother on the 18th. of February. She has our sympathy.

Mrs G. Damman spent two weeks in Melbourne.

Miss Eva Hair is still staying with Mrs G. Damman at Warburton.

Mr. George and Miss Jessie Ashley, of New Zealand, came over to Melbourne for their holidays.

Monthly Letter Fund.

Mrs P. Holt, widow of the first missionary to the deaf of Melbourne, wrote to the Hon. Secretary of the Sub. Committee and said "I am very much pleased with your "Monthly Letter" and I think it a grand paper, and I trust it will be the means of doing much good." She sent us a handsome donation of £1 for the letter fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of £1 from Mrs P. Holt, 2/- each from Mr. W. O'Keefe, of Grasmere and Mr. Robinson, of Tharpdale, and 1/6 from Mr. P. Salmon, of Merrigum, for the letter fund.

A sum of nearly five pounds, made up of small donations from 1/- upwards, has been received toward the cost of production.

Marriages of the Deaf.

The Rev. F. W. Gilby, of the Saviour's Church for the Deaf London, has the following to say in regard to marriages of the deaf- "Let me say plainly what ought to be said often until the deaf all believe it to be so- that the born deaf ought not to marry the born deaf. There are about forty cases in London where deaf children have come of deaf parents. The deaf who have deaf relations ought not to marry the deaf who have deaf relations. Lastly, and it is quite as dangerous the born deaf should not marry the hearing sisters or brothers of other born deaf persons."

We endorse every word of Mr. Gilby's warning.

Melbourne & London.

"A whole State without a single deaf-mute in need of help or out of employment' is a condition of affairs which we, in England, must rather envy. This is the report of the "Monthly Letter," issued by the Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria. A very successful farm colony has no doubt largely contributed to such a prosperous state of affairs. We greatly need a farm colony in England. Is there no wealthy person who will furnish the money to start one." "Ephphatha", (London)

We would advise our London friends not to sit down and wait for a "wealthy person" to "come along", but to hunt out another Ernest J. D. Abraham and get him to raise the money and start one.

Appreciation From N. Z.

The following extracts from a letter to Mr. W. L. Miller from Mr. Arthur Stokes will be read with pleasure. "My mind is full of gratitude to the deaf friends in Melbourne for what they did for me. Mr. Williamson and self were overwhelmed with all the kindness that was poured upon us, & I desire to express my heartfelt thanks to them. I really cannot find words sufficient to convey to those friends the amount of thanks I would like to give you all. But there is one thing I must say & that is, I deeply appreciate the magnificence of their kindness. It helped to make my life in Melbourne happy & cheerful. I felt quite at home, for a more genuine & enthusiastic welcome no one could wish for."

Deaf Mute Centre.
Flinders St. Melb.
Feb. 26th 1912

Dear Friends,

I have missed many of you from Services during the Summer Vacation, but I hope to see you all often during the 1912 Session which Commences on Sat. March 2nd. The Sub-Committee, the Officers of the mens guild and the womens guild are doing their best to provide you with plenty of wholesome mental, moral and recreative food which I trust you will take advantage of.

I am looking too for a much larger attendance at Divine Service on Sunday mornings. All our young people - especially the men - should be regular in attendance.

For March Syllabus See other side.

Yours Faithfully Ernest J. D. Abraham

Syllabus for March 1912

Tues. 5th Dramatic Recital "Everywoman" by Mr Abraham to Members of Womens Guild.
Tues. 12th Mens Guild Meeting
Sun. 17th Harvest Thanksgiving
Tues. 19th Womens Guild Meeting.
" 26th Mens Guild Meeting
Thurs. 28th Gong Rally.

Bible Class

Addresses by Mr Abraham
Thu. 7th = "Chivalry"
" 14th - Man - his possibilities"
" 21st - "Woman - her powers"

Recreation Bank Every Saturday

To Wish

Bon Voyage to Mr R.R. Paterson

– who will (D.V.)

leave Victoria for England by the S.S.

"Essex" on Friday March 8th. –

YOU are invited to attend a

SPECIAL RALLY

To be held at the

D.L.C. Mute Centre

32.34. Flinders St. E. Melb.

on

SAT. MARCH. 2ND at 8. P.M.

for the above named object.

Coffee Supper

Roll up – Every one,

and Come early.

E.J.D.A

The Herald 18/3/12.

SILENT WORSHIPPERS.

DEAF AND DUMB CHURCH.

INTERESTING SERVICE

The Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria yesterday celebrated its harvest festival, and last evening the usual service was conducted by Mr Ernest J. D. Abraham, the superintendent and chaplain, in the hall of the Flinders street institution.

A Noble Work.

Mr Abraham's name is famous in England and Australia for his noble work on behalf of those who are bereft



MR ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM.
Sarony and Co., Photo.

of hearing and speech. He has devoted his life to the cause, and is a great expert in gesture language.

The platform of the handsome, hall was decorated with tree foliage, flowers, fruits and vegetables. Strong lights, shaded on the congregational side, were thrown on to the chaplain, as he stood at his reading desk, so that he could be well seen by all, and nearly every seat in the hall was occupied by well-dressed people—boys and girls and men and women, with the appearance of ordinary churchgoers. But from the opening to the close of the service there was impressive silence, broken only by the sound of Mr Abraham's palms or fingers as they came into contact. For more than an hour the congregation followed his every gesture with the closest attention. The manner in which the silent preacher expressed mental emotions by graceful gesture was wonderful, and shows that, after all, the dumb can "talk" well.

The service was that of the Church of England, except that there were no responses. It opened with the Lord's Prayer. The lesson dealt with the parable of the sower and the seed, as given in St. Matthew, and the hymn was that familiar harvest song—

> We plough the fields, and scatter
> The good seed on the land;
> But it is fed and watered
> By God's Almighty hand.

Music, "that unfathomable speech which leads us to the edge of the infinite," was, of course, absent. There was neither pealing organ note nor "the sound of a great amen" to break the singular stillness of that earnest, reverent service. But the hymn was so beautifully expressed in gesture that, at least, it looked eloquent.

Good Sermon.

The whole congregation rose to prayer and then settled down, not to hear, but to watch, the chaplain deliver his sermon. It was a discourse on the simplicity of the teaching of Jesus. Mr Abraham explained, pleaded, reproved, grew scornful, became gentle, portrayed despair, courage, love, triumph and many other emotions with an animation that was extraordinary. Dramatic pauses made the silence eloquent, and the congregation was deeply interested.

"What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" were the words of the text, from St. Mark. Mr Abraham emphasised the beauty of a life of sacrifice and teaching, and, in the course of his sermon, said:—

The question, what must I do to be saved? is still being put to-day. But, although Jesus is given as the only authority, the answer is not always the same. Instead of making clearer, as the words of Jesus actually did, the position between God and man, the teaching of Jesus has been so twisted that to-day there are 101 different doctrines, each of which it is claimed, is the only one and certain hope for man. But all through we find His teaching bearing upon one point—that if we are to attain eternal life we must on earth lead a life, not of mere beliefs, but of action, and of deeds of well-doing.

Illustrating Points.

By numerous Scriptural illustrations Mr Abraham emphasised the main points of his sermon; and he "spoke" just about as rapidly as an ordinary speaker, so facile is the gesture language. The impression which he conveyed to those who could not translate his movements was that of a highly accomplished elocutionist showing the power of gesture in the absence of speech.

The usual collection was taken up, one of those who handed the plate round being an old time Melbourne footballer. One of the announcements to the congregations was that the annual picnic of the Women's Guild would take place next Saturday, at Fern Tree Gully. This seemed to give a good deal of pleasure, as one or two members of the congregation flashed quick signals to each other, and smiled.

The service concluded with prayer and the Benediction, and the congregation after inspecting the harvest popples, formed into groups and conversed like friends in close sympathy with one another.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL 8 JUNE 1912 No 10.

What a cheque for £5.000 would do:

Eleven years ago there arrived in Melbourne one, who was, for many years, a missionary to the deaf and dumb in the North of England. We had resigned that position to devote himself exclusively to the establishment of a Home and Farm Colony for the reception of the deaf mutes of the old Land who have no other refuge but the workhouse. A very serious illness however made it necessary for him to take complete rest and to seek a warmer climate. He accepted the position of Superintendent of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria, and immediately on his arrival in Melbourne set to work to raise funds for a Church and Institute for the deaf of that city. £7.000 was needed but when £3.500 had been raised, as the deaf had worshipped and held their meetings and classes in rented premises for twenty years, it was decided to erect half the building. For the past eight years the Society has carried on its work in this incomplete "Centre" with remarkable success. When the various branches of the work became systematised it became apparent that some provision for the aged, infirm, blind and feeble minded deaf & dumb was even more pressing than the Completion of the Church and Educational Institute. We therefore set to work, and with the help of deaf and hearing friends raised £5.000 for this object. Land within easy distance

of Melbourne was purchased and a Home built. When the Appeal was made, it was intended to erect in wood, but because of the exceptional class of inmates it was found necessary to use brick, this meant the Women's Wing had to be omitted.

To meet the Annual expenditure of maintaining these two branches of the Work the income had to be increased from £600. to £2000. All this has been done.

It has meant however, that a man who has exceptional gifts for the training and care of deaf-mutes has had to Concentrate the best of his energies upon strenuous efforts in raising money.

To erect the Church, Apartments for Apprentices, Workshop &c and thus complete the building at head quarters will cost a further sum of £3.500.

The Womens' Wing and necessary improvements at the Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf Mutes, will cost (in addition to the £960 in hand) £1.500 to build.

Briefly put that means a further sum of £5.000. is still needed to Complete our buildings.

At present the mens' quarters has its full complement and 7 women are crowded into rooms meant for other purposes, awaiting the erection of the Womens' Wing.

Supposing our Superintendent continues his uphill efforts to get in this £5.000 in sums more or less small, another three years at least of his time will have to be centred upon this money getting.

But supposing some generous friend, or Combination of generous friends donated a Cheque for the whole amount what a mighty load it would remove from the shoulders of our Committee and our teacher, and what is of still greater importance he would be able to devote the special talents with which he is gifted to the work itself — the Spiritual, moral and mental advancement of the deaf & dumb not only of this state but the whole of Australia.

We send forth this little seed with the earnest prayer that it will fall upon the right soil and bring forth the

fruit which means so very much to the deaf and dumb of this State.

A Phenomenal Success.

Our farm is attracting the attention of philanthropists & others interested in experimental farm colonies. Every visitor to the farm who has had experience of this class of work has expressed surprise at the progress made. One gentleman said "It stands alone, - it's phenomenal". He knew of no experimental farm colony that could compare with it. It has become proverbal" he said "that all such schemes are doomed to failure, your success is bound to create new interest". Taking our balance sheet in hand and pointing to the figures he went on "You here show a total expenditure of £1004 on maintenance, which includes salaries of instructors, servants & deaf mutes employees and your receipts figure out £648, that, with the £42 outstanding accounts, you mention, brings the total to £690, a further increase of £316 in your sales would clear you maintenance expenses and I suppose you will do that next year. Three years ago you walk on to scrub land, you clear it, you drop on the right individuals who have the stock to meet your requirements, you get this transplanted by labour rejected by the competitive market & after two years of cultivation you show returns which cover two thirds of your expenses with every prospect of the other third turning in next year. Wonderful! Wonderful!

"Like reading a fairy tale."

"The April number of "Hacty" the organ of the Sheffield (England) Association in aid of the Deaf & Dumb, contains a full page article on our farm, by the editor Mr George Stephenson who is also the Superintendent of the Sheffield Association. The following extracts will give our members some idea as to how such a farm would be appreciated in the Mother Country. After referring to paragraphs about our farm and to the illustrations

of the bulb plantation etc in the "Gesture" he says "It seems almost like reading a fairy tale – there is the lake with boating, and surrounded by the lovely hill and vale and shady woodland spots. Besides this park there are ten acres of land under cultivation .... four acres of Winter blooming bulbs, one acre with roses – just fancy! ..... Certainly we have nothing to compare with this in the Old Country." Mr Stephenson thinks the motto of our Society must be "Moving" and he seems surprised that we can talk of raising £600 during a Winter. He says "This is something like moving. Our poor little extention to our Institute has now been hung up for about Eight years and has got so Shrivelled up that it is scarcely perceptable. I wonder what the people of Melbourne would say about us if they knew." The deaf of Melbourne do know. They are cognizant of the difficulties of raising money at home; they are also fully informed of the magnificient work being carried on in Sheffield and of the self-sacrificing man who has devoted his life to the cause of the deaf in that city. We send brotherly greetings to you Mr Stephenson. God bless you and the deaf of Sheffield, and may the day be near when you also will own a farm and home.

Temperance

In concluding his article Mr Stephenson says "One matter I have failed to discover in the propaganda of the Australian Societies is Temperance Work. It makes me wonder whether they are in the happy condition of that ignorance which is said to be bliss?" Well, almost Mr Stephenson; We could not tell you how many are abstainers, but so far as Melbourne is concerned none of our people are troubled with the drink curse. Now and again a deaf emigrant with the habit, arrives from the old World, but he either gives it up or disappears from our world.

Deaf Population

The Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics has just published the figures of the last census with regard to the deaf from

which we learn that there are, in the Commonwealth 1852 deaf mutes and of these 535 reside in Victoria. In 1904 when Mr Abraham stated that if a careful census were taken it would be found that there were upwards of 500 deaf mutes in Victoria, a Dr Iredell started a correspondence to prove that there were not more than 50, afterwards he raised the number to 100. He said that Mr Abraham's figures of 1 deaf person to every 2.500 of the population were ridiculous. The most curious thing about this correspondence was that at the time it took place there were 70 children at the School for the deaf and upwards of 250 adults connected with the Adult Society. It is the easiest thing in the world to use ridicule, but it requires knowledge and experience to foretell figures so accurately as the President of the A.D&D.A has done. We know that he knew what he was talking about.

Women's Wing

There has been a serious hitch in connection with the building of the Women's Wing. When the main building was erected it was supposed that twelve hundred would have covered Cost of Women's Wing, but since then the cost of material and Labour has increased considerably. The Committee too, found it necessary to re-consider the plans and make alterations and improvements, so that when the tenders came in, it was found the amount needed would be nearer £2.000, and if other improvements are to be done a further £500 will be needed. The Committee, recognising the urgent need of accommodation for domestic staff and women inmates, have decided to proceed with the building and our Superintendent has undertaken to see that the funds necessary are forthcoming.

Our Boys & Trades

Our 'old boys' are taking a lively interest in the selection of trades for our junior members. There is a determination that

the growing generation of the deaf shall be put to good trades. Mr F Trewin is indefatigable in his efforts and has already placed two or three of our youths and has made attempts on behalf of others. Mr Cann has taken one into his works, and Mr M. L. Miller, who is perhaps the leading copper plate engraver in Melbourne is taking special pains to impart his skill to another. Some time ago they were awakened to the necessity of taking some definite action by the number of boys being put to the boot trade.

Are you one?

There are still a few, a very few certainly, of the deaf who continue to take advantage of the excellent provisions made for us, without contributing anything toward the upkeep of same. This to say the least, is mean, and it is not manly nor is it womanly. Our Centre is open to the whole of the deaf of this State, six days of the week from 10 am to 10 pm. and all are welcome to all the advantages to be found here without any payment whatever. But we deaf, as a class, are of opinion that it is up to us to give what support we can, to show that we appreciate what is being done for us and, well, we havint any time for shirkers even when they are of our Community. We mean to make the word 'deaf' to mean something more than the loss of hearing. We want to hear the employer say "Deaf is he, Of Course I'll give him a job, those deaf folk are the most skilled workers I know of", and tradesmen "The new Customer is deaf, oh, let him have whatever he wants, those deaf people are prompt payers." And the General public "Help the Deaf Society"? Certainly! who would not help people who struggle so manfully, though doubly handicapped, to help themselves." So now then you few shirkers, Come into line, do your Share.

Our Collectors

Our Collectors, prompted by our Chief, made a special effort last year to bring our income up to a figure sufficient

to cover the increased responsibilities and they succeeded. We knew they would succeed. Mr Alex Williamson, our pioneer seeker of aid, still does the Country round, he is now assisted by Mr A. C. Muir, who without doubt has the most difficult task of all, yet he has met with good success. Mr S. Moss has become well known in the City and Mr M. G.B. Mortimer is quite popular in the Suburbs.

Deaf Employees of our Society.

Last year no less a sum than £ 1.123 was paid out from our head-quarters to deaf male employees. We wonder if there is any other Society for the deaf in the world that has ever put up such a record.

Our Annual Meeting

It was a great meeting. Our hall was packed, the walls being lined with men standing and in the doorway and passage outside could be seen upturned faces. Mr. W. H. Eidstead, our president was in the chair and the other gentlemen on the platform were Mr Donald Macdonald, Hon. F. Tudor (Minister of Customs), messrs H. Sumner Martin, G. G. Mercy, R. J. Ochr, F. J. Rose, and the Superintendent. The Annual Report was read by Mr Ochr and the balance Sheet by Mr Mercy, both were adopted. Addresses were delivered by Mr Macdonald, Mr Martin and Mr Mercy. Miss Doris Davis rendered "The Creation" and Miss R. Dow, "Lead Kindly Light" in the Language of Gesture. Miss D. Hickey told some humorous stories in pantomimic language and Mrs J. E. Muir, Misses Dow & Doris and Mr Hull acted a pretty dramatic sketch entitled "Aunt Tabitha & Cousin Tom" Instrumental Selections were rendered during the evening by the Blackburn Orchestra. That is all we can tell you this month because of the pressure upon our limited Space but next month we hope to refer to the report and the Speeches.

Our Financial Position

It is glorious to feel that you owe no man anything, Someone

suggested that if we only take a leaf out of other peoples' books and get into debt we would soon get the money for our two unfinished buildings, but we believe the public to be more businees like than that and more inclined to help an organisation that wont buy what it haint got the money to pay for. Our income, if it keeps up to this years figures is now sufficient to just maintain the two branches of our work when completed and to allow of the expert assistance which is so much needed, but a Special Sum of £5.000 will have to be raised before the City and Blackburn buildings can be completed.

Maintenance Fund

The total receipts for the year 1911-12 from all sources were £2.830, the total expenditure-maintenance of Deaf Mute Centre and Farm & Home, together with improvements, stock purchases etc £2.585, which means that there is a balance of £245 or sufficient to allow of the engagement of expert help for present Manager.

Reserve Fund

This is called the "Building Furnishing & Benevolent Fund" as a matter of fact, it is a kind of emergency fund. It totals £1.324.

Womens' Wing

In hand £435. Government Grant £500, Presidents' Conditional promise £25. Total £960.

Womens' Guild

A meeting of the Womens' Guild was held on April 30th Miss D Davis gave a recitation entitled "June" and the President had a very attentive audience while she imparted her educational lesson on various subjects. May 14th was the date of the next meeting of the Guild. The Hymn "Sun of my Soul was gracefully rendered by Miss Doris Davis, a paper dealing with the lives of Missionaries in tropical climates by Mrs Williamson and a paper on "Precious Stones" read by Miss Doris Hickey formed the programme for the evening all of which was followed with interest and much enjoyed.

A meeting was also held on the 28th ult, when the first part of the evening was taken Charge of by Mrs Wilson who gave a bible lesson on "Something". It was appreciated by all. The business of the Meeting was the forming of a Rambling Club which met with hearty approval on all sides. The first outing took place on Saturday June 1st. Also as June is generally a cold month, it was decided that no meetings would be held until the 25th inst, when the new rules will be submitted to the vote of the Members,

providing two thirds are present. The rest of the evening was filled in with impromptu speeches.

Mens Guild

On the 30th April at the Mens Guild Meeting Mr H McTeigie read a paper on the "Life of the Duke of Wellington" which was much appreciated. He also rendered a piece on "Napoleon". Mr S. Tunley also gave "A "Nanny Day" on On the 14th of May Mr T. A. Nelson delivered a very interesting & instructive paper on "Iron" to a fair muster of members. He spent several weeks gathering his information from different books in the Library. Several members spoke on the subject. Mr Nelson who has the thanks of the members also recited well "Once in a life time."

Farm & Home

Our President Mr W. H Felstead and Mrs Felstead paid a visit to our Home and Flower Farm on the 18th ult. He was met by Messrs H. S. Martin, G. Brown, R. J. Ochr, A Munro, T. J. Rose, J. E. Muir, T. Frewin, members of the Committee and the Manager. He was surprised at the extent of the plantation and the work generally. May is a month when our sales quieten down and do not rise again until the end of June, when the bulb blooms come in, nevertheless we have sent out flowers to the value of £43.9.0 during May.

A Welcome Gift.

Our kind friends Mrs Luke has us always in mind. We are indebted to her for still another gift. This time it is a fine large bagatelle table, almost new. Our brothers & sisters at the farm are delighted with the present and we are all very grateful and tender Sincere and hearty thanks to Mrs Luke for this token of her Continued interest.

Rally

The 28th Congregational rally will be held in the Deaf Mute Centre on the 27th June. It will be under the auspices of the Victorian Branch of the ADDA. It is expected that there will be several interesting items for the night. Please do not make any other engagement for this date.

Winter Game Competitions

The opening of the Winter game Competitions took place on Saturday June 1st.

The games will continue every Saturday evening until the end of September. It is hoped that the Competitors will take the usual keen interest in the games. Messrs F.E. Trewin, J.E. Muir & W.P. Muir were appointed by the deaf Committee to supervise the games &c.

La-Crosse

On the 4th May A.D.L.C v Maribyrnong on the latters ground. The deaf won by 12 goals to 3. Goal-throwers - C. Smith 7. C Robertson 4. N Hughes 1.

On the 11th May A.D.L.C v Fitzroy on the formers' ground. A.D.L.C. won by 8 goals to 2.

On the 18th May. Practice match against Deaf school boys on the latters ground. A-D.L.C won by 9 goals to 3. The school boys played with 18 against our 13.

On the 25th May A.D.L.C. v Kew at Kew the Deaf won by 6 goals to 3. Goal-throwers - C. Smith 2. C. Robertson 1. F Lynas 1. N Hughes 1 McKenzie 1. The ground was very wet & slippery.

Several Lacrosse players went to Wests Pictures on the 23rd May to help augment the fund for the Lacrosse Carnival which is to be held in Melbourne next August.

Personal Pars.

Mr. O Driscoll lost his father on May 20th. He has our Condolence.

Mr C. J. Smith of Adelaide has been successful in securing a position as french polisher at a big furniture factory in Melbourne.

Mrs E. Crockford, we are pleased to say, has left the Queen Victoria Hospital and has gone to Morwell to stay with her mother for a month. We hope the Change will do her good.

Mrs Wright is still in the Melbourne Hospital and is progressing favourably.

Miss Christian Muir (Sister of Messrs A.C, J.E, & W.P. Muir) died in England on the 8th of May. She went to England several years ago to complete her vocal training, and had, when stricken with illness, arrived at a very Complete Stage of her profession, and making quite a name for herself in the Musical World.

The Misses Edwards paid a visit to our farm last month.

Nurseryman Reynolds has quite an extensive plantation of

seedlings ready for Winter and Spring planting.
Mr G. Burgess of Glen Thompson fell off his bicycle and injured his shoulder. He was fortunate in winning a trophy for best all round play at cricket during last season.
Master Wallace Boonty has been absent from school for several weeks, Diphtheria was the trouble but we are pleased to say he is almost his old self again.
Mr C. Robertson has been appointed extra assistant Librarian to Mr Mortimer.
On the 16th April to Mr & Mrs A. Hann of West Australia - a Son.
In future the Sub-Committee will be known as the Deaf Committee.
The usual Quarterly parcel of the London Illustrated News from Mrs C Lecke and 5 volumes from Mr A. Williamson for the Library were received with grateful thanks.
Mr A. H Beswick of Stockport, England is expected to arrive in Melbourne the first week in June. He is a Cabinet maker by trade.
The Ballarat deaf send greetings to Melbourne deaf per Mr. A. C. Muir. All doing well.
Mr Abraham has been presented with a fine water Colour of the Lake by the members of the Blackburn Swimming Club.
Notice boards have been erected at the farm entrance and on the Blackburn Station.
An interesting notice of our work appeared in a recent issue of the American Annals of the Deaf.

"Monthly Letter" Fund

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Messrs O. Barlow (Sydney), T. G. Phillips and W. Kindell for "Our Monthly Letter" fund.

Holy-Land

On the evening of the 7th of May a lecture was given by Mr Pearce (a hearing friend of our Society) on the "Holy Land". The attendance was good but those who stayed away missed a treat. After a few words of introduction by Mr Mortimer the lecture began. The

Speaker said, that owing to ill health he had been compelled to go to England for a change. But, finding the Cold too much for him, went on a trip through the Holy Land. Journeying across Europe to Italy & thence to Port Said by boat, his party of five found themselves at last on the road to Jerusalem. The lecturer described very well the journey along the rough road, - the ever present fear of robbers, the lepers, and the ruins along the road. After journeying for some time they reached Bethlehem Here they found that the inn or cana was a shelter opening into a courtyard and that anyone might use it so long as they kept it clean. After resting there they pushed on towards Jerusalem. Their first view was decidedly ugly, just a mass of tumble-down ruins and filth. "People, said the lecturer, have fallen down dead." Their feelings were so hurt and their most cherished dreams dashed to pieces. However there is a bright side to every black cloud, and they (the party) soon found that the other side was pr beautiful & picturesque. There was the garden of Gethsemane, The Sepulchre, the praying wall and numerous other curious sights. The lecturer had some 40 photographs of Jerusalem & its surroundings hung round the hall and these helped to make the lecture more interesting. Some of Mr Pearce's friends were dressed in the Costumes pertaining to the Holy Land. These same friends portrayed in tableaux (in Costumes) various scenes in the streets of Jerusalem. Time being short, the lecturer had to cut short his lecture and display his Curios rather hurriedly. But as everyone, after the lecture, crowded round the table and examined them carefully - no one was very hurt. Among the Curios was a tear bottle used by the women of ancient times who, when they cried (as they still do) used to preserve the tears in these bottles, though how they did it is a wonder! A beautiful piece of pearl exquisitely Carved and a pair of ancient lamps were also much admired. The Curios were however so numerous that it would fill pages to write them out, so this poor Scribe will not attempt to do so as paper is expensive (to say nothing of ink). At the conclusion of the Lecture a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Miller & seconded by Mr J E Muir. The vote was passed unanimously with hearty acclamation. The lecturer in responding, said that it gave him the greatest pleasure to be there that night and he thanked the audience for their appreciation of his efforts and hoped that the mission would always continue to prosper.

Reported by Theo. J. Frewin. (Aged 15).

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8. MAY 1912. No. 9.

Congregational Meeting.

The 24th Annual General Meeting of the Congregation was held in the upper hall, Deaf Mute Centre on the evening of 18th April there being a good attendance of members. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham the Superintendent occupied the chair. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. E. Muir) read the annual report which was of a very lengthy & interesting character. The balance-sheet showing a surplus of £12·10·8 was submitted by the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. W. D. Muir.) Both reports were adopted on the motion of Mrs. J. E. Muir seconded by Mr. A. Wilson. Strong addresses were delivered by Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, & Mr. J. E. Muir on the duty of members. Mr. L. Downes retired from the Sub-Committee and as Mr. S. Moss was the only candidate there was no election. On the motion of Miss D. Davis seconded by Mr. A. Hull it was unanimously resolved that Messrs. F. E. Drewin, R. H. Luff, M. Miller, G. Mortimer, J. E. Muir, W. D. Muir, J. McLean, J. A. Wilson and S. Moss form the Sub-Committee for the ensuing year. Messrs. J. E. Muir and R. H. Luff were elected representatives to the Society Committee. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded the retiring office-bearers, Auditor, Scrutineers and the Chairman. Mr. F. E. Drewin briefly responded on behalf of the retiring office-bearers. The financial condition of the Sub-Committee's fund is satisfactory, the receipts being £50·16·3 and the expenditure £38·5·7 leaving a surplus of £12·10·8 to carry forward.

The Sub-Committee met on the 25th April and re-elected Mr. J. E. Muir as Hon. Secretary and Messrs G. Mortimer as Hon. Librarian and J. Marks as Assistant-Librarian. Mr. F. E. Spowin was appointed Hon. Treasurer in place of Mr. W. P. Muir who resigned after 6 years service. The next Rally under the auspices of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A. will be held either on the 20th or 27th June, due notice will be given later on.

Society Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of our Society is fixed for Monday, May 20th. The whole of the arrangements have not yet been made but we understand that this years gathering will be of exceptional interest. Mr. Donald Mc. Donald will be one of the Speakers & Miss Doris Davis will render "the Creation" in the language of gesture. Our hall has accommodation for 300 only, members are therefore advised to let the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Oehr) or the Superintendent (Mr. Abraham) know the number of tickets they require at once.

Girls' Ramble.

On April 20th the girls under the matronship of Mesdames J. E. Muir and J. Boothy had a most delightful outing. There were 15 in all and Mrs. E. Hawkins of Adelaide was the guest of the party. The company spent the afternoon at the Botanical-Gardens, admiring the beautiful Lake and green Lawns and the gardens which have been frequently described as not only amongst the most picturesque, but the most scientifically arranged of any in the world. Miss E. Graham entertained more than half a dozen to afternoon tea while the others who are supposed to be the Fletcherites preferred to roam about and to inspect the conservatory, where they were lost in the exquisite beauty of the plants. Long before dusk the party rambled along the Alexandra Avenue and then to the Deaf Mute Centre where tea was served. The Lacrosse players who happened to be in the building were invited to sup with them and they all enjoyed the feast. Directly after tea the "Hen" party went to secure good seats at the Glaciarium and spent an hour in chatting and nibbling sweets, every one was merry, the beautiful and true to nature-coloring of the moving pictures were greatly enjoyed.

The girls expressed their gratitude to their unknown friend who kindly gave a donation towards the outing. It would be a good plan to form a rambling club and perhaps the girls will have a talk about it.

Womens' Guild.

A meeting of the Womens' Guild was held on 2nd April, the attendance was very good. A recitation by Miss Dow, an instructive paper on "Manners" by the President (Mrs J. E. Muir) and a bible lesson given by Mrs Wilson were watched with interest and much appreciated by all.
Another meeting was held on the 16th Inst. (April). This time the younger members provided the entertainment for the evening. Miss Hickey recited, Miss Davis read a paper on the "Wonderful works of Insects" and Miss Dow gave a paper on the "Penny Post" We thank these three young ladies for a very enjoyable evening.
The Womens' Guild has had a very successful year. The present membership is 25. the highest attendance 18 on the occasion of Mr. Abrahams' paper on "Everyman". The smallest gathering numbered ten.

Mens' Guild.

On the 16th of April Mr. C. Robertson delivered a very appreciative paper on "Patience" to a fair attendance of members. On the conclusion of his paper several members spoke on the subject. Prior to the reading of the paper Mr. L. Quantock recited a piece entitled "The Golden Wedding."

Mr. Abraham's Birthday.

A paragraph thanking those of the deaf who remembered our Chaplains' birthday who crowded out of last "Monthly" The present of a Smokers' ash bowl from little Wallace and Iris Boorby is especially appreciated. Wallace when quite a wee mite used to sign "Smoker" for our Supt. and by the present it is evident the name still applies.

"The Gesture."

The April "Gesture" is a capital number. It contains excellent group pictures of the Victorian and South Australian Deaf cricket teams, also the opening sentences of the Lords Prayer by Miss Rose Dow in the Language of "gesture". The articles include "The joy of creative work" "The Secret of Influence" "The

Study of Eugenics" "When my ship comes home" (Poem) "What is friendship, etc."

La-Crosse.

Our La-Crosse club is the most electrical element in our sphere at the present time. Its members are just bubbling over with enthusiasm and determination to be absolutely the Vanguard of the game. They have been practising on their own (new) ground during the past week or so and the looker on, with experience, pronounced them "very fit and good to break through anything" and that is just exactly what they were and what they accomplished on the 27th Ult, the day of the opening match when they played against Hawthorn and scored 14 to 0. Norman Hughes hit up goals, C. Smith 5, E. Robertson 3, D. Lyons 1 and H. McKenzie 1. It was no easy task to select the team, for there are 20 anxious youngsters falling over each other to give an exhibition of their prowess. Some of them are quite new to the game. Nevertheless the Captain showed an exceptional grip of the necessary qualifications in selecting several "New chums" who more than held their own with some of the old hands. Our colours are black jerseys with red facings and Monogram "A.D.L.C." on the breast, White knickers, black stockings with red facings and black caps. The ground which has been rented for the season is situated on the north side of the Yarra river in the Yarra Park.

Farm and Home.

Never a month passes without leaving behind it evidences of progress. Manuring and planting go on steadily for we have to look well ahead. If the inflow of visitors from all parts of Australia and New Zealand continues at the present rate we shall very soon have to engage a guide to show them round. In three consecutive weeks we had visitors from West Australia, New Zealand & Queensland and all had been made aware of our experimental farm through the pages of the "Gesture". The whole of the South Australian deaf will have seen our farm soon,

They arrive in batches. The latest contingent included Mr. and Mrs. Bostock, Mr. Smith, Mr. Hodgson and Mrs. Hawkins. All were willing to admit that our farm was'nt a bad sort of place and one was rash enough to say we were 200 years ahead of S. A. and other countries. Of course we like the last best but no one will believe it outside of Victoria. An old Lady told us the other day that we grew flowers like cabbages and we are still divided in our opinion as to what she really meant. Is it that our flowers are as big as cabbages or that we grow them by the acre as cabbages are grown. The Sales etc, last month were:- Flowers £ 40.18.1, Pic. nics £ 5.15.0 Total £ 46.13.1.

Personal Pars.

Included in the list of visitors from Adelaide are Mr. and Mrs. Bostock who are the guests of Mr. & Mrs. E. R. W. Smith for a month, afterwards Mrs. Bostock is going to stay with her brother for another month. Mrs. C. Hawkins came over to see her brother who was ill. He died the day after her arrival. She has our sympathy. Mr. C. Hodgson (Caretaker of the Adelaide Deaf Church & Institute) is enjoying his 3 weeks holiday here. Mr. C. J. Smith intends to settle in Melbourne if he can obtain permanent employment at his trade of French Polishing.

Mr. George Mortimer has just returned to Melbourne after spending the Easter with his people at South Maralgon (Gippsland). He enjoyed the change greatly. His Sister Grace bade him convey her kind regards and remembrance to all old friends.

Mr. J. Collins of Neerim (Gippsland) came up to Melbourne for a few days. His wife gave birth to a daughter 2 months ago.

Mrs. E. Brockford and Mr. Wright are still in the Queen Victoria and Melbourne Hospitals respectively. They are slowly progressing towards convalescence.

Mr. W. Hunter went to Philip Island lately to help his brother on his chicory plantation.

Mr. J. Moran spent his Easter holidays at Bendigo. He visited several of the deep mines and took great interest in the workings.

Messrs. J. Campbell and M. O. Sullivan visited Ballarat during Easter. They had a good time with their friends.

Mr. Samuel Ferguson of Bonnam's Forest (Beechworth) had a flying visit to Melbourne during Easter.

Messrs. L. Downes and R. H. Luff paid a visit to Sunshine last month to help at an entertainment in aid of a poor family.

Miss D. Dobby went to Trafalgar during the Easter holidays and stayed with her people for a couple of weeks.

Mr. J. Kenworthy of Burnadale spent his weeks holiday in Melbourne lately. He is seriously thinking of settling down here.

Miss J. Young lost her aged mother on the 2nd April. She has our sympathy.

Mr. R. R. Paterson on his way to Great Britain wrote to Mr. J. E. Muir from Albany to say that he and Mrs. Paterson were so far having a pleasant voyage. He was feeling a good deal better and sent kind greetings to all his deaf friends.

Our good friend Mr. Edgar Peacock (son of the Vice-President and chairman of our Society) was married on the 3rd of April. We wish him and his bride every happiness, health and prosperity in their new life.

Cricket.

The Adult Deaf Cricket Club finished their successful season on the 30th of March. During the season 18 matches were played. Of these 13 were won and 5 lost. Mr. C. Robertson heads the batting average with 62.91 per inning. Mr. L. Downes comes next with 38.16 but he did not play in all the matches. Mr. R. K. Beattie is third with 9.88. The best bowling was done by Mr. Beattie who averages 5.35 per wicket. Messrs. Robertson and McLean following with 6.65 and 8.42. respectively.

great credit is due to Mr. C. Robertson for his excellent Captaining and for his endeavours in bringing about a good deal of improvement for the better in the standing of the club.

"Our Monthly Letter" Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Mrs. Newnham and Mr. W. J. Anderson for our "Monthly Letter"

Thanks.

Mr. W. J. Anderson desires to tender grateful thanks to all the generous donors through whose goodness he is now able by means of an artificial arm and hand to converse with his fellow deaf by the manual alphabet.

Sub-Committees' Report.

The Sub-Committee of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society in submitting its 24th Annual report and financial statement for the year have pleasure in being able to inform the members that satisfactory progress in every department has been a marked characteristic of the years operations, and that the prospect regarding further expansion and success is most encouraging.

General Committee.

Our best thanks are due to the members of the General Committee for their help in the management of the affairs of the Society. Meetings were held monthly, and all matters brought before their notice received the closest attention. Mr. H. Lummer Martin who has occupied the position of Hon. Secretary to the Society for many years, resigned during the past year, his reason being the growth of work since he originally undertook the duties, the expansion of the work in connection with his own profession and his disinclination to hold a position for which he could not devote the time necessary to its needs. It is with pleasure we add that he is still a member of the committee and ever ready with his advice. His successor is Mr. R. J. Dehr who has the best wishes of every member. Mr. Harold Kent has also resigned the Hon Treasurership of the Society. We thank him for the kindly services he has rendered our Society. It is pleasing to note the cordial relations existing between the Committee and the members of

Collections.

The total amount of the contributions of the year (private contributions not included) is £46·16·8. being £5·18·4 more than the previous year. Of this sum £30·10·6 was by the envelope system, £16·6·2 ordinary contributions, Private contributions by the deaf totalled £9·0·6. It is very pleasing to note that nearly all the members of the congregation have contributed their share during the past 12 months to swell the list of contributions to our Society. £5·3·10 was collected in aid of the usual Hospital Sunday Fund.

Membership.

It is gratifying to the Committee to report that the membership has been well maintained. Fourteen new members were added during the year. The work devolving on the Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. E. Muir) is considerable and members are reminded that each person they introduce into our deaf mute circle greatly assists their Hon. Secretary whose enthusiasm in this department has been largely instrumental in the securing of the increase. The work of the Hon. Secretary was of inestimable value to the Committee. He has carried out his duties in a thoroughly efficient manner and we thank him for the whole hearted way in which he has carried out his duties, also the Hon Secs of the various branches for their assistance in promoting the welfare of the Society.

Mr. E. J. D. Abraham.

Your Committee desire to record their appreciation of the services rendered to members of the Society by Mr. E. J. D. Abraham as Chaplain and Superintendent. He has occupied that position since October 9th 1901 and during that period has been a zealous worker, not only in the Societys interests, but in the general well-being of the deaf of Australasia.

"The S.A. Deaf Monthly News"

The first issue of "The S. A. Deaf Monthly News" has just reached us. It contains an interesting article on the recent Congress, a Sermonette, News of the S. A. Deaf etc. The price is 2/6 per annum, post-free.

The Age 21/5/12.

DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society was held at the Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders-street, last night, under the presidency of Mr. W. H. Felstead. There was a large attendance.

The report for the year ended 31st March stated that at present there were no unemployed, and the religious, educational, social and financial departments gave evidence of still greater progress than heretofore. Every effort had been made to counteract the handicap of the deprivation of the powers of hearing and speech by providing the deaf with, as far as possible, the same advantages as were enjoyed by the normal community, such as public worship, Bible classes, young men's and young women's guilds, recreation club, literary and reading rooms, bank, lacrosse club and cricket club, and for the country deaf mutes a monthly newspaper. Excellent work had been done on the Blackburn farm, and the income from sales had been more than doubled. The promise of a grant had been received from the Government towards the erection of a women's wing, but building operations had had to be postponed owing to the tenders being considerably higher than the estimate submitted. Fresh efforts were being made to secure, apart from the Government grant, what was needed, and the committee had every confidence that when the appeal was made the necessary amount would be subscribed by the friends of the society. There was an urgent need for the accommodation. It had been decided to in future to call the head quarters of the society the Adult Deaf and Dumb Centre. The balance sheet showed that the receipts had amounted to £2000, and the expenditure to £2000.

Mr. W. H. Felstead was re-elected president, Mr. E. R. Peacock vice-president, Mr. R. J. Oehr hon. secretary, and Mr. John Higgins hon. auditor.

Mr. Sumner Martin, who was hon. secretary for over twenty years, gave an historical sketch of the society, and a lecture on the Boer War was given by Mr. Donald Macdonald. There were also a number of vocal and instrumental selections, and several unique performances by deaf mutes, including recitations and a one-act play. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, the superintendent, acted as interpreter for the benefit of both deaf mutes and those members of the audience who were possessed of the power of hearing.

The Age 3/6/12.

W A R D, and [illegible], Architects, 341 Collins-street, Tel. [illegible]
Invite TENDERS for New WOMEN'S WING, in brick and tile, to Deaf and Dumb Home, Blackburn.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
(INCORPORATED)

HOME FOR AGED AND INFIRM DEAF MUTES

ADMIT BEARER AND FRIENDS TO THE

ANNUAL MEETING AND ENTERTAINMENT

TO BE HELD AT THE DEAF MUTE CENTRE
32-34 FLINDERS STREET EAST, ON

MONDAY, MAY 20TH, 1912, AT 7.45 P.M.

UNIQUE PERFORMANCES BY DEAF MUTES
VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL SELECTIONS

DONALD McDONALD, ESQ., WILL SPEAK

CHAIRMAN,
W. H. FELSTEAD, ESQ.

R. J. OEHR, F.I.A.V.,
HON. SEC.

The Argus 21/5/12.

DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY.

A large attendance assembled in the building of the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria yesterday evening, when the annual meeting of that body was held. According to the report, very satisfactory work was performed during the past year, and every effort was made to decrease the handicap which deaf and dumb people must necessarily endure through life. Having received from the Ministry the promise of a grant towards the erection of a women's wing at the home, tenders were invited, but the prices were considerably above the estimate submitted, and the work of building the wing had to be postponed. The accommodation for women was inadequate, and sympathisers of the society's work would be appealed to for funds shortly in order that the new wing might be erected. Mr. W. H. Felstead was re-elected president, Mr. E. R. Peacock vice-president, and Mr. R. J. Oehr hon. secretary.

DEAF MUTE CENTRE.
32-34 FLINDERS STREET, EAST.
MELBOURNE.

November 14th, 1912.

Sir or Madam,

For years the Committee of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria have been faced with two serious problems.

1. What to do with the feeble-minded, blind, and aged and infirm deaf mutes.
2. How to overcome the difficulty of providing board and residence, under supervision, for country deaf and dumb youths who are not otherwise afflicted, whilst serving their apprenticeship in the city to such trades as will make them PERMANENTLY self supporting.

They now believe themselves to be in a position to ask you, with all confidence, for your kind co-operation to enable them to complete the work begun.

So sure are they of your approval and support once the actual work accomplished has been seen by you, that they beg of you before subscribing, to visit the Adult Deaf Mute Centre in Flinders Street East, and the Farm and Home at Blackburn.

A special opportunity for the latter will be the opening, by His Excellency, the Governor General, on November 23rd, at 3.30 p.m., of that part of the Women's Wing which is now ready for occupation.

The sum of £7500 is needed which is to be used for building purposes only, for, if the support already given annually by the public is continued, and there is no reason for doubting but that it will, there is an assured income to maintain the work in its entirety.

They have already made provision for feeble-minded, aged, infirm and blind deaf mute MEN, also for the normal deaf mutes of the city and suburbs.

The present appeal is to make like provision for the Women so afflicted at Blackburn and for residential quarters, etc.. at Flinders Street, for country deaf youths during the years of their apprenticeship, and the completion of our headquarters in the City.

What this means to these afflicted people and to the public, they feel sure you will readily realise.

In the pamphlet enclosed will be found particulars of the work already accomplished and of the extension proposed.

On behalf of the Committee,

W. T. Fullard.

President.

ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

FUND FOR COMPLETION & FURNISHING OF THE WOMEN'S WING OF THE HOME AND FARM FOR AGED, INFIRM AND FEEBLE-MINDED DEAF MUTES.

Dear Sir,—

I have pleasure in *enclosing / promising* *a contribution of*

£ : : *for the above object.*

Name.....

Address.....

To MR. R. J. OEHR, Hon. Secretary,
Adult Deaf Mute Centre,
32-34 Flinders Street, Melbourne.

FUND FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE AND RESIDENTIAL HOME FOR DEAF MUTE YOUTHS WHILST SERVING TERMS OF APPRENTICESHIP.

Dear Sir,—

I have pleasure in *enclosing / promising* *a contribution of*

£ : : *for the above object.*

Name.....

Address.....

To MR. R. J. OEHR, Hon. Secretary,
Adult Deaf Mute Centre,
32-34 Flinders Street, Melbourne.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8. JULY 1912. No. 11.

From Behind the Scenes.

This month has brought us several encouraging letters. The hints to be found in this issue are very cheering. If there is one thing we rejoice in above another it is extending hospitality to our fellow deaf from other States and other countries, and the knowledge that our visitors "had a good time whilst amongst us" always fills our cups of pleasure to the full.

* * * * *

It has ever been our aim to make "Our Monthly" just what its title implies - a newsy letter, and by the evidence of friend Brook and others it would seem we have succeeded. We echo the hope of Mr. Brook that the year "Are you one" will lead others to a sense of their duty. We are only too conscious of the isolation of our country cousins, and so all along have striven to make the tone of our Messenger as conversational as possible. For the same reason we have kept the printers' type at a distance and stuck to pen and ink.

* * * * *

A deaf friend, who is most skillful in spotting the holes in our holiday attire and is on the alert to administer an antithesis when we are jaguns over some achievement, or suffering from swelled heads, reminds us that the deaf are not really angels and that there are some "drunks" amongst us. As to the first, we suppose not, if we were, we would not be down here. As to the second, we regretfully admit that it is only too true, but last month we referred especially to the members of our

Society. Admittedly, in the broader sense, our Society represents the whole of the deaf mute population of the State, good, bad and indifferent, but even then we believe the "drunks" could be counted on one hand, and two at least of these are hereditarily so-born of parents known to be victims of the same evil; and all reside in country towns and avoid our headquarters. But we want even them. God knows how we want them. They are our brothers, and the ninety-nine sheep do not satisfy us, we want the complete fold, and if we could only get them in, wouldn't there be a killing of the fatted calf. Wouldn't there just! Try ward! And a rejoicing that would beat anything we have had for years, and that is saying a big thing, but - well, there's a condition, "the habit" would have to be left outside. Our Chief on two occasions caught one of them and kept him sober for two weeks on each occasion, the last time the craving was so great that he bolted at the break of day before any one was up.

* * * * *

No! the £5000 has not reached us yet. But it will come never fear. If not sent spinning one way, then we shall go out to fetch it, - but come it will one way or another.

* * * * *

The Melbourne Charity Review for June contains an article on "How the Dumb Talk" with sub-title "Lip Reading Extraordinary" by A. E. Adams. It is of the kind written by the inexperienced to which we have become so accustomed to. The average person of average intelligence would tell you that "dumb" people would use some method of signs to convey their ideas to others, but this A. E. Adams has come forth to enlighten the world with the most astounding information that "dumb" people talk by the oral vernacular. We shall be told next that the blind can see with their eyes, and that legless men walk by means of their natural legs. In an editoral in the same review, it is admitted that "the inexpert" will have "a strong bias in favour of the oral method" of instruction. Just so! That is our contention. The inexpert - those who do not know what they talk and write about, are in favour. But the deaf themselves who have received instruction by all methods and

the instructors, who are experts in all methods, are against the pure oral system.

* * * * *

Captain Robert Watson (father of Mr. R. H. Watson) whose death occured quite suddenly on the 25th ult. at Williamstown, at the age of 86, was for many years associated with the steamer "Gem". Melbourne and Williamstown service. Mr. R. H. Watson, his deaf son, has our condolence.

* * * * *

The last issue of "Our Monthly" was written by one of the junior members of our Society - Mr. G. Newnham. It was his first attempt, and we are sure our readers will join us in complimenting him upon his successful effort. Our Chief, not knowing that a "new chum" was to do the penmanship, decided upon a double number, because of the quantity of matter awaiting publication. Mr. Newnham has proved himself equal to the extra effort, and it is with a most glad-some heart that we welcome him to the inner circle of our staff. Our old boys have for years been lamenting the absence of growing youngsters capable of filling their boots. They need lament no longer, for G. Newnham and a few others, we are confident, will be quite ready to assume duties when the old boys feel dispersed to throw off the mantle.

* * * * *

Some of our readers have asked for a resume of Mr. Donald Macdonald's lecture delivered at our Annual Meeting. Nothing would give us more pleasure than to comply, but our space is very limited, we would refer our readers to The Argus of June 15th (?) which contains the lecture in detail.

* * * * *

The Farm management is very late with the bulbs this year. Today, the 2nd of July, I visited the farm and could not but help observing the nakedness of the land - scarcely a flower to be seen, yet the manager scooped the market last year, being the first with the bulb tribe and fetched big prices on the 17th of May. It seems that this year our flower farm will find it hard to fit the saddle of even the last horse.

The management, however, is anything but daunted, and has, so far, succeeded in keeping together the whole of customers that the early supply obtained for them last year. It was hoped that a very great advance in the sales would have been made at the beginning of this month, but they are still hoping, hoping that the hope is only held over for a month or so.

* * * * *

The farm sales for June amounted to £36-9-0, not so bad considering the circumstances, for all flower-growers look upon June as the hardest month of the year. The receipts totalled £64-18-0, which proves that June isn't a bad paying month, anyway.

* * * * *

Terms of endearment are very much to the fore. Amongst us, for some time we have been quite familiar with "Mother Hen" and her "Chicks", but the other day through the blind-deaf friend Shirra at the farm we became acquainted with the "Queen Mother" (Matron) and the "Fair Princess" (her daughter).

* * * * *

Mr Cark, the other blind-deaf resident at the farm, has an awful appetite for books, he devours all he can lay his hands upon. He is also an interesting conversationalist and can keep you entranced with anecdotes and quotations.

* * * * *

Words that cheer.

Charra, West Coast, June 10th 1912, Dear Mr Abraham, I very much regret that, since returning home from a most enjoyable holiday trip to the Eastern States a few months ago, I did not promptly write to express my great appreciation and thanks to the Melbourne Deaf Mutes for their kindness and hospitality rendered to me during my short stay. I can assure you that words can scarcely express my heartfelt thanks. I would like to procure work in Melbourne so that I might derive benefit from the social provisions of the Deaf Mute Centre. I made many friends in Melbourne who will always have a warm corner in my heart. My visit would not have been cheerful and enjoyable, but for their hospitality which I

appreciated very much. While at my work (farming) I often think of them. I consider that your congregation is a God-fearing Christian lot. The "Monthly Letter" comes to hand regularly and I am always glad to get it. Every issue contains interesting news which is a source of comfort to me. Many thanks for your kind permission to look over the Flower Farm. I was delighted at the way the deaf mutes are provided with a nice home. It is a very good thing that the Victorian Government has granted the sum of £500 towards the erection of the profased Women's Wing. I hope it will be a great success. I am surprised at the grand receipts from the sales of flowers, etc. Fancy £73 earned during December alone! Trusting that I am not encroaching too much upon your valuable time. Again thanking you for your kindness. My mother and sister Isabel wish to be remembered to you. Please remember me to Mrs Abraham and Mr Mc Lellan. We are all well and I trust that this will find you the same. Yours gratefully, G. Dunnet

* * * * *

Lacksley, June 16th 1912, Mr John Muir, Dear Friend I thought it about time that I sharpened those dull wits of mine by writing one or two letters. It must be a long while that I am almost beyond forgiveness. The "Monthly Letter" continues to cheer me up, and always will. I am sending 1/- for the "Letter" fund, and 2/6 for the L.L. Society fund. That par in the "Monthly Letter" headed "Are you one" struck home to me that I was a shirker from helping the Society and I hope it will lead others to a sense of duty, too. To be reading the "Monthly Letter" is like having a good chat with an educated deaf mute, though without seeing him. I seldom meet with deaf people here. In fact every one around me can hear. Your sincere friend, James H. Brook.

General Board.

A meeting of the General Board of our Society was held on the 14th of June. Accounts totalling £192-19-8, were passed for payment. The manager of the farm reported receipts since the last meeting at £94-9-0. A grant of £10 was made to the Adult Deaf Lacrosse Club.

Lacrosse Club.

The Committee of the Lacrosse Club met on the 17th ult. Mr. Abraham presided. Accounts were passed for payment. It was announced that a sum of £30 was needed to cover the initial expenses of launching the club, toward which the General Board had made a grant of £10, this with £3-3-0 from Mr. M.L. Miller, £2-2-0 from Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, £1-1-0, Mr. J. E. Muir and about £3-10-0 fees from the members, brought the total up to nearly £20-0-0.

Deaf Committee.

At a meeting of the Deaf Committee held on the 18th ult, it was decided to invite Mr. Donald Macdonald to deliver a lecture to our deaf members in August. It was also decided to grant the Lacrosse Club permission to put up a cupboard in the hallway for their sport kit. A donation of Blackie's History of England and other books from Mr. Alfred Wilson per Mr. G. Martinez was accepted with thanks. A report on stage fittings was submitted by Mr. F. C. Frewin and he was thanked for his kind services.

Men's Guild.

On the 28th May, the members were treated to a very interesting paper by Mr. John Carias on "Mechanical Dentistry". The reader also showed several apparatus etc. He was warmly thanked for his maiden paper. Mr. Carias is, himself, a mechanical dentist. Mr. R. H. Luff rendered a piece entitled "Three Chinamen" which was amusing.

On the 11th June, Mr. Sidney Turnley delivered a very instructive paper on "The Conquest of Briton by the Romans". After his paper the rest of the evening was spent story telling by Messrs. T. A. Nelson and J. E. Muir. Mr. J. Marks recited "Let it pass".

On the 25th June, Messrs. C. Robertson and J. E. Muir gave excellent papers entitled "Try" and "Weather Facts" respectively. Mr. N. Hughes recited "Father is coming".

Women's Guild.

A meeting of the Guild was held June 18th. The attendance as usual was very good. The putting to the vote of the members the revision of the rules of the

Guild and the passing of same occupied the whole evening. The date of the Annual Meeting has been altered to Tuesday, July 23rd when we hope to see every member from far and near.

Lacrosse.

June 1st Adult Deaf Lacrosse Club v Brighton Presbyterians L. C. The latter won by 13 goals to 3. Goal throwers, Mr. Dean 1, Lynas 1, Hughes 1.

The 8th A. D. L. C. beat South Yarra by 12 goals to 4 Goal throwers, C. Smith 7, Hughes 4., Elwin 1.

The 15th A. D. L. C. defeated by Kooyong who threw 12 goals to 8. Goal throwers, C. Smith 3., Lynas 2., Hughes 2., C. Robertson 1.

The 22nd A. D. L. C. lost the match against Middle Park by 8 goals to 2. Goal thrower, Hughes 2.

The 29th A. D. L. C. beat Fitzroy by 12 goals to nil. Goalthrowers, C. Smith 5, Robertson 3., Hughes 3., Lynas 1., 6 matches won, 3 lost.

Rally.

The 28th congregational rally under the management of the Victorian Branch of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association was held at the Deaf Mute Centre on the 27th of June. Tea was served at 6.30 p.m. in the lower hall. The evening was pleasantly spent in games and conversation and concluded with supper. There was a good attendance.

Personal Pars.

We have received post cards from Port Said and London from Mr. R. R. Paterson which say that he and Mrs. Paterson had a very pleasant voyage and went to Oxford St. Deaf Church. Both were feeling well and sent greetings to Mr. Abraham and all deaf friends.

We are pleased to say that Mr. B. Hall, of Goorambat is so much better. We sincerely hope that it won't be long before he is his old self again.

Mrs. C. Hawkins, of Adelaide, wishes to thank her many friends in Melbourne for their sympathy with her in her sadness.

Mr. H. J. Hamilton, of Torquay, has been in a private for two weeks with an attack of quinsy. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mrs Wright although not quite better, is able to be about again.

Mr J. Duncan, of Cowra, on his way home from Beech Creek spent a few days in Melbourne.

Mrs W. H. Bostock, of Adelaide, thanks her Melbourne friends for the kind hospitality she received during her two months' holiday there.

Mr A. Morgan, of Carpendeit, intends staying with his people in Melbourne for some time.

A welcome parcel of large books namely 3 volumes of the "Universal Instructor" and 4 volumes of English History going by Mr Alfred Wilson, of Moonee Ponds for our Library was gratefully received by the Deaf Committee.

Mr W. Christensen was married to Miss Russell, who is a hearing lady, on Friday 29th. They have our best wishes for their future happiness.

Mr C. Graham, after a very successful six months trip in Tasmania has returned to Melbourne.

Mr Leon Lewis, of Sydney, is now staying in Melbourne for a few weeks' holiday.

We regret to hear that Mr Shawell, Missionary to the Deaf of Queensland, has been far from well for a long time. He is now taking a months rest and change which will, it is hoped, greatly benefit him.

Miss M. Everend Wilson is Acting Superintendent of the Queensland Mission during Mr Shawell's absence

M.L. Fund.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Misses A. Foster and D. Davis, Messrs J. Caughey, G. Oakley and J. D. Brook, of Docksley for "Our Monthly Letter" fund.

Royal Deaf Mute.

It is stated that the King and Queen of Spain have been informed by experts that their second son, Infante Jaime, is deaf and dumb.—"The New South Wales Deaf Journal".

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 8 **AUGUST 1912.** **Nº 12**

Behind the Scenes.

This issue completes our eight volume. We wonder how many of our readers have kept a complete file of "Our Letter"? Those who have been so thoughtful as to do so, will be in possession of a fairly complete record of the doings of the deaf of this State, and an accurate history of our progressive society.

* * * * *

In the new volume several interesting features will be introduced. Our readers are invited to make suggestions for improvements. Careful consideration will be given to all suggestions made.

* * * * *

Our Lacrosse Club is more than holding its own with the hearing clubs. We can not help but feel proud of our boys. The following is their record for the past month 3 matches won 1 drawn. 64 goals against 11 goals.

* * * * *

What is religion? was the subject of a recent sermon by our Chaplain. "Once" said he "I put that question to a deaf friend of average intelligence & after a few moments of thought he said, holding up his fingers to illustrate (1) Regularity at Divine Worship, (2) Prayer, (3) Reading God's Word, (4) Pleasing God by the singing of hymns." "No!" continued our Chaplain "that is not religion; true religion is a system of goodness – a system of being good. True religion is that which brings joy

good fruit not only for the enjoyment of the grower but for all who desire to partake. True religion is to think good of all, to speak good of all, and to do good to all."

Behind the Scenes.

Mr. Abraham's lecture on "Idols & Images" delivered on the 4th of July before a large assemblage, was not exactly what we expected. We did not realize before that so much could be said in their favour. From early childhood, we learn to look with contempt upon idols & images. Mr. Abraham taught us that only is it possible to have wrong ideas as to what they actually represent but even to misrepresent the meaning of the words. He took us back into the remote ages & pictured how it was possible for the "heathen" to become worshippers of idols & how easily for the Westerner to suppose that this were the case when it really was not. He spoke of modern statues to great men, of the monuments to the memory of our loved ones & the annual visit thereto with the tribute of affection, of the portraits of the beloved departed, of the symbol hanging from the watch chain, of "Mother's Idol" and the image of the "dear old Dad." Finally, he told us that we all worshipped idols & images & we suppose few of us could truthfully contradict him.

Mr. Matthew Miller, whom our Queensland correspondent has elevated to saintship as "Matthew the Good" got in a beautiful "floorer" for our Supt. by claiming "Method" as his (Mr. Miller) idol. The eyes of all our intellectuals found the face of the chief & then all with one accord lit up with a broad smile for it is well known amongst them that method is not one of his virtues. A hearing friend once likened him to Lord Roberts's march to Pretoria. He leads & he gets there but others have to follow on to clear up the mess. Yet when he sets out upon some achievement, his method is perfect, indeed it is all method. Every possible contingency is prepared for. You know it is going to be a success before he starts. But you never find him putting things away after him. It takes all the Millers & the Muirs & the Drewins & the host of others to do the clearing up. Matthew knows of this "Irresponsibility - after - Achievement" only too well. Hence

"Method" as an idol & the broad grin of the intellectuals"

The Women's Wing.

A start has been made with the Women's Wing. The foundation are down & the walls are rising foot by foot. The roads are bad for the carting of the bricks, but certainly not so bad as when the central building was being erected.

The Flower Farm.

We have lost two or three of our regular customers this month, & have had to decline a very large number of big orders including the wholesale people who so largely added to our exchequer last year, owing to the fact that our blooms are still shy of putting in an appearance. This means that when they do condescend to develop sufficiently to justify us in gathering them together in bunches to beautify the homes of the flower lovers, we shall have to go on the "Wallaby" to find new customers at a time when the market is glutted. We have made up our minds for a good scoop this July, but after all it is scarcely fair for us to expect everything we desire to come our way all the time. Preparations are being made for a real busy time during the month of August. We anticipate an early spring & are making ready for it. Our flower sales for July amounted to £34.

Prizes to Country Readers.

There are several words in this Letter that are incorrectly spelt. Prizes of 5/- & 2/6 will be awarded to the first two country deaf readers who point out the greatest number of spelling mistakes. Send your lists to the Editor, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St Melbourne

Next Rally.

The next rally is fixed for Septr 5th (Show Day) and will be under the management of the Committee of the Women's Guild. It is to be a "Country cousin's" night. Our country cousins are therefore invited to turn up in full force. The whole of the evening's entertainment will be quite out of the ordinary. Every item will be something new to the deaf mute world. So look out for a real "Bonza" night.

Gesture.

Our quarterly magazine the "Gesture" which is so great a favourite with our hearing friends is out again. The July-

Septr number is full of good stuff. It also contains a group picture of the Adult Deaf Lacrosse Club & of the youngest girl members of our Society.

Silent Worker.

"The Silent Worker" published at Trenton. N.J. U.S. America in its issue for June contains a most interesting article on Mr. Abraham and his work in Australia. It bears the title "The man of the Deaf in Australia" and is from the pen of our good friend "Unity"

A.D.D.A.

The General Board of the A.D.D.A met on the 29th Ult, Much business of importance was transacted. The Hon Sec^y reported that the various governments & other bodies concerned had been notified of the resolutions passed at the late Congress. The rules in book form & official writing paper containing the motto of the Association were laid on the table. A communication showing that the Queensland branch was very much alive was also read

Lacrosse.

July 6th Adult Deaf L.C. beat Hawthorn by 13 goals to nil. Goal throwers. N. Hughes 5. Smith 4. Roberton 2 Lynas 1 McLean 1

July 13th Adult D. L. C. defeated Kew by 15 goals to two Goal throwers. Smith 9 Hughes 3. Robertson 3.

July 20th Adult D.L.C. threw 28 goals against Maribyrnong who got only 1 goal. Goal throwers Smith 9. Hughes 8. Robertson 7, Peters 2 Lynas 1 McKenzie 1

A close & exciting contest between A. D. L. C. v Brighton Presbyterians took place on the latter ground on the 27th July The Deaf boys were confident of avenging their earlier defeat by the Brighton team who were keen to win, as victory was necessary to keep them level with the Kooyongites for first position. The result was a draw. The Deaf boys as a whole were seen to advantage for 3 quarters, but fell to pieces in the last quarter for want of training. At one time the score was 7 goals to 1 in favour of the deaf. The final scores were 8 goals each side. Goal throwers. Hughes 4. Smith 2. Lynas 1

Robertson 1 9 matches won 3 lost 1 drawn.

Lithography.

July 16th Mr. G. Newnham, read a very instructive paper on Lithography at the Men's Guild meeting to a large attendance of members. He exhibited several posters, show cards etc & explained the art of producing posters & of printing on stone. At the conclusion of his lecture he was warmly applauded. His deep & enthusiastic interest in lithography gives indication of his becoming a very good & clever lithographic artist. It is with great pleasure that we learn of his success in winning the second prize (£2 2. 0) for best artistic lithographic show card offered by the International School of Correspondence of which he is a member. There were many competitors, we congratulate him heartily.

Chairman.

Mr. A. Hull presided at Mr. Abraham's Lecture on 'Idols & Images' at our Centre on the 9th July. It seems but yesterday since he quietly emerged from his shell. Since that yesterday he seems to have travelled a great way, for though when he took the chair he was not familiar with the duties of a chairman, he did not display even a vestige of nervousness & by the close of the meeting was quite at home.

M. L. Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Mrs C. Luke & Messrs J. Elwin, J. C. Thomson & J. Caughey for the Monthly Letter fund.

Annual Meeting of Women's Guild.

As July is the end of the financial year for the Women's Guild, the Annual Meeting was held on the 23rd Ult. Mrs Luke, the founder of the Deaf Women's Society of the Old days & Mr. A. Sumner Martin were to have been the guests of the evening but unfortunately owing to unforeseen circumstances we were deprived of the pleasure of their company. A large box of Wattle together with some violets was the means of transforming the Women's Guild Room into a mass of bloom, for every possible place where a vase could stand was to be seen the beautiful blossom. The men's room which was kindly lent for the night was decorated

likewise, & on the supper table, set in the latter room, the violets were used & formed a pretty contrast to the larger vases of our national flower. In spite of the very heavy rain 18 members & 4 non-members were present. The President opened with prayer, the minutes of the last Annual meeting having been confirmed, the Hon. Sec.y proceeded with her report, some extracts of which are as follows:- The Committee of the Deaf Women's Guild have pleasure in submitting to the members the 11th Annual report & whilst doing so congratulate the Members & themselves upon the harmony that has been the happy feature of all the gatherings. It is earnestly hoped that this splendid friendship will ever continue making the meetings an event to be looked forward to.

"This is in part due to the personal interest taken by the President (Mrs. J. L. Muir) who takes a lively interest in every detail & partly to loyal, enthusiastic & cheery support given by the younger girls."

"The fact that our Hon. Treasurer (Mrs. Boorn) has held this position for the last 3 years in succession shows how very highly we appreciate the way in which she has carried out the duties falling to her lot. Each meeting she is to be seen hunting up the members for their pennies for the bank, but even that has not taken away the cheery smiles that are ever ready for one & all"

"Amongst the new features introduced during the year was the reading of papers by the junior members namely Misses R. Dow, E. Davis, V. Hickey & L. Fletcher their subjects being varied & entertaining."

"An educational class was conducted by the President, her curriculum being a very inclusive & much appreciated one"

"Mrs. A. Wilson one of the oldest of the hearing friends & the only remaining hearing link of the Women's Society of the old days of the Mission has conducted 4 bible classes with marked success & the members thank her for her continual interest"

"Mrs. A. Williamson, Mrs. Crockford & Miss Connell are also thanked for the intresting papers prepared & given by them"

Sixteen ordinary & 1 Special meeting have been held & the attendance has been all that could be desired. The membership being 28 & the average attendance 15. We are of opinion that if a serious effort were made the membership could be increased

& we suggest that each member make an effort to obtain one new member during the coming year"

The Hon Treasurer's Statement showed that the Guild was in a good financial position, the balance in hand being £ 6.19.4

The Hon Sec.y announced that our ever thoughtful fellow member Miss Graham had the day before given her £1 to be spent on supper but as the Committee always provide the supper, 2/- was spent & the remainder (18/-) put in as a donation to the Guild, the news of which caused a spontaneous burst of applause. The balance therefore now is £ 7.17.4. The President's address which followed the adoption of the balance sheet as usual was full of interest & good advice to one & all. The election of Office bearers for the ensuing year was speedily done, the nominating of same before the meeting proved a great success & saved much unnecessary waste of time & trouble. Mrs. J. C. Muir was returned for the position of President unopposed. Mrs Abraham declining to be nominated, her reason being her inability to be present at the number of meetings she thought necessary on account of the long distance from Blackburn especially during the winter months.

Mrs Booth was elected Vice President. Miss R. Dow, Hon Sec.y & Mrs. Williamson Hon Treas.r Committee as follows Mrs Abraham, Mrs. Wilson, Misses Graham, Empson & A. Foster. The election over Miss R. Dow moved that a vote of thanks be passed to the Pres. for presiding, to the retiring officers, & to the Scrutineers (Messrs G. Newnham & J. Elwin) who so kindly assisted us, it was unanimously agreed to. Miss Dow concluded by thanking the members for electing her as Hon Sec.y saying "I will try to do my best & fill the position satisfactorily"

After the Benediction had been pronounced by Mrs Wilson a very dainty supper was partaken, the members of the Deaf Committee being present also. And thus ended the year 1912. for the Women's Guild

The President, after reading of the report of the above meeting written by Miss Empson, feels that she can not pass it without recording the members appreciation of the excellent services rendered to the Women's Guild by the latter lady as Hon. Sec.y. It may be mentioned that at the conclusion of the meeting

Miss Dow (her successor) paid a warm tribute to her. It is with pleasure the President adds that Miss Empson has, during the past year, filled the position in a tactful & painstaking manner, & has been a zealous worker. She desires to express her grateful thanks to her for her ever cheerful readiness to comply with the wishes of the members & also for her sympathetic & personal interest, not only in the Guild but also in the whole deaf community.

It is pleasing to know that there are many deaf women & girls who look upon Miss Empson as a dear & valued friend & that she will continue to take the same kindly interest in them as she has hitherto done.

Rambles.

July 6th. was the date fixed for the second ramble and again it rained the best part of the morning, but that did not prevent a large number meeting at the Sandringham Station. Mr. Abraham, who was one of the party was sudenly missed but in a few minutes reapeared laden with sweets of all kinds which were hailed with delight & fully enjoyed judging from the marvellously short time they took to disappear. The heath paddocks were responsible for miles of walking & when the bunches got too big to even carry another piece, a start for home was make, but on reaching the road several trees of beautiful wattle met our gaze & one & all found room for a little of the lovely blossom that the owner allowed Mr. Abraham to gather. As the party trudged merrily along the beach road from Blackrock to the station many were the expressions of delight for the happy & health giving afternoon that had been spent, & when all were mustered ready for the departing train it was hard to find which was girl and which was flowers.

Personal Pars.

Miss M. Cole went to Newton near Ballarat on the 20th. July to see her youngest sister who died next day. She has our condolence.

Mr. E. Martin of Daylesford came to Melbourne for the purpose of getting employment.

Mrs. C. Luke has presented the Library with a quarterly parcel of London Illustrated News.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL 9 OCTR 1912 NO 2

£5000 to be raised.

A Special meeting of the General board of our Society was held in the board room on Monday Sept 30th to Consider a number of propositions submitted by the Superintendent. Mr E. R. Peacock presided and Messrs H. Sumner Martin, G. G. Mercy, W. H. Dickens, G. Brown, H. Munro, M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir, R. H. Luff, R. J. Ochr (Hon Sec), and E. J. D. Abraham (Supt) were present. The Hon F. Tudor, Rev H. W. H. Adeney and Mr Rose apologised for unavoidable absence. After a very lengthy discussion it was decided to make an appeal for £5.000, or such sum as is deemed necessary to Complete the building in Flinders St, and the Womens Wing at the farm. We hope to be in a position to give further particulars next month.

Our Chief visits Sydney.

By invitation of the Sydney deaf our Chief visited Sydney on the 15th of August last. He preached to the Deaf on the evening of Sunday August 18th and on the 21st ult addressed a special meeting of the deaf in the Australian Church, Liverpool St. There were about 60 of the Adult deaf present. The following resolutions were put and carried, favouring with five against: "That an independent Society, having its head-quarters in Sydney be formed, for the purpose of making provision for the spiritual and temporal needs of the Adult deaf of New South Wales." "That we, the deaf present as the organising members of the said Society, pledge ourselves

to be loyal thereto, and to do all in our power to induce other N. S. W. deaf to join".

Our Chairman

It did our eyes good to see our Chairman Mr E. R. Peacock back in his usual seat at the recent Board Meetings. He has been away on business in New South Wales and Queensland for half a year and we have missed him and his smile and cheery encouragement. He joined our Board soon after the coming of our present Chief and since that time we have never looked back, indeed we got into the position of the vanguard of the Adult deaf world and have remained there ever since. We are about to make another leap forward, and with great friends like Our Chairman, Mr H Sumner Martin, Mr W. H. Dickens, and Mr G. G. Mercy always ready to give their time and talents to our Cause there is every reason for confidence in the ultimate success of the leap.

Cup-Day Pic-nic.

The inhabitants of our deaf world are reminded that our Annual pic-nic will take place on the 5th of November and it is to be held at Blackburn. Our hearing friends think our Park an ideal place for a pic-nic and so do we, altho' sometimes we like a change, and journey to the sea. Several hearing friends "want to know" if they may join us. Why. Certainly. The more the merrier. Only both deaf and hearing are reminded that we want to know the names of all who intend to join the outing by the 29th of Oct. So that we can give the Caterers good notice. Fares- first class 1/2. Second 11d Dinner 1/6. Tea 9d. Those who prefer to bring their own provisions can obtain tea Sugar, hot water and milk at a small charge. The rose and Carnation plantations are in all their glory about the time of our pic-nic. There are boats on the Lake, and swings, and games and sports on land will also be features of the day. Be Sure and give in your name to Mr J. E. Muir early.

Magazines

When some kind friend sends in our parcel of magazines they appear upon the table at the Monthly Meeting of the Deaf

Committee, and attention is drawn to same with the result that there is a grateful acknowledgment. But when a friend sends in a parcel month by month as regular as clockwork they go straight on to the library table and the gift gets no acknowledgment. It was ever thus. The occasional donor, subscriber, giver, entertainer get his thanks, the man who is always giving, always working, always helping is taken as a matter of course. We have just become conscious of this strange fact; and we feel that if someone would just kick us we would be relieved. It is not want of gratitude however but want of thought. Our good friend Mr Edgar Peacock has for years, month by month sent to our library a most interesting parcel of magazines, which we have enjoyed and forgotten to say thank you. This month his parcel includes "Pearsons", "The Queen", "Ladys Pictorial" and "Illustrated London News". Mr Edgar. we thank you heartily and crave forgiveness for our apparent want of appreciation. Only apparent mind you, for we do appreciate your kindly gifts

Meetings.

On the 12th Sept at the meeting of the Mens Guild Mr M.L. Miller gave a very interesting paper on "Fairy Tales from Grimms". He also recited a piece called "Laziness and Bad Temper". Messrs Moore and Hammond of Sydney and R. Abbott of Adelaide were welcomed at the Meeting On the 24th Sept a paper on the "Federal Capital" was read by Mr J. E. Muir, at the close criticisms were indulged in by Messrs M.L. Miller, R.A. Luff, M.G. Mortimer, T. Nelson G. Newnham and T. Peters. The General opinion was that Yass Canberra was wisely selected in order to prevent jealousies on the part of the several states and also that the building of the City was a progressive movement. Mr J. E. Muir also gave a recitation - the title of which was "When Johnny comes marching home". There were very good attendances at both meetings and great interest is still maintained by the younger members.

A meeting of the Women's Guild was held on the 10th inst. A recitation "When the sun went down" was gracefully rendered by Miss O Davis. A paper was read by Mrs Boorty, the Subject

being "Strange Marriage Customs". It was much enjoyed by all. After several members had briefly spoken about their respective favourite historical characters and pictures, which was very entertaining and varied, the rest of the evening was devoted to impromptu speeches, which proved a great success.

Rally.

The fact that the August syllabus showed that the arrangements for the Rally, which is generally known as Our Country Cousins' Rally, and always held on the gazetted Show Day, in order to give us the chance of a large reunion was again this year in the hands of the Officers & Committee of the Womens' Guild was the signal for the excitement which prevailed at the Centre during that month, and when the programme became known, many were the conjectures as to what form the promised Competitions etc would take. Sept 5th arrived at last and by lunch time preparations to ensure a happy time for all were in full swing.

A more than friend of the deaf, one who has their every interest at heart, was the thoughtful provider of everything in connection with this most enjoyable evening, I would like to say more on this subject, but I am forbidden. Words cannot do justice to the beautiful flowers that were sent in from our farm, one had to see them to fully appreciate them. They were simply exquisite, and it was not long before, with the help of our good friend Mr Moss, who is always willing to forfeit his own pleasure, (which he did again on Show Day) when he can be of service to others, the hall upstairs had daffodils wattle and every kind of narcissi to say nothing of boronia and wall flowers massed any and everywhere in great profusion. Downstairs, and even as far as the front door the "farm boys" decorated everything they could find with wattle, and even the Officers & Committee of the Guild came in for their share for they were to be seen wearing either boronia or violets (their choice) and it is not hard to guess who was responsible for that pleasure. Although the Clerk of the weather "didnt" favour us in the evening about 90 deaf and 25 hearing friends participated in the enjoyment which more than fulfilled all expectations. Our Chaplain

opened with prayer and after the usual roll call he addressed the assemblage at some length and very much to the point, at the same time showing the sweetest side of nature, and urging all to see the beautiful in everything. The President (Mrs J.E. Muir) then gave a short address which pleased one and all, after which the Competitions started. The first "Afternoon Tea" in which the Competitors had to while waiting for the water to boil, cut bread & butter, then make tea, pour it out, put same with bread & butter on tray and take to a gentleman waiting at the far end of the room. The Ladys' prize which was a scent bottle was won by Mrs Pierce, she handing over her tray first, but Mr Stokes, her opponents' partner disposed of the contents of his first, and therefore secured the gentleman's prize - a shaving tidy.
The next "Who's who" Competition more than did its part in the merriment of the evening. When the Curtain was drawn, nine or ten pairs of eyes gazed through the smallest of holes in ghostly looking masks, defying the on-lookers to guess who they were. For a full 5 minutes the hall simply resounded with laughter, the guessing didn't amount to much, probably it was thought it was a pity to waste time writing and so miss any of the laughable spectacle presented to them. But when it was announced "Time's up" and the unmasking began, and it was found that "boys" were girls and a night capped old "Granny" to be none other than our dignified "Lord" Nelson to say nothing of the other "girls" who were "boys", the laughter was so hearty and prolonged that many sides ached and I doubt if some of the faces have got back to their proper position yet. Mr & Mrs Hodges were the lucky winners of this Competition receiving a wallet, and hat pin stand respectively.
The Doll dressing Competition come next, and we will leave you to imagine what 5 men looked like struggling to dress small dolls, it was worthy of a snap shot. The Winner was Mr Boocty, who somehow, I think ought to have been handicapped considering he is a Married man. The Prize was a Cigar ash tray.
The Human fishing Competition was most Popular. The "fishers" had long rods and lines, and the "fishes" were caught by rings

held by themselves. The "fisher" threw out the line and in some instances got a "bite" every time. Miss M Collins and Mr Tumley proved that their "bait" was of the best and secured the prizes which were a hair pin case for the former, and for the latter a photo frame. It was at this point that 3 Cheers for the originator of the Competition ought to have been given, but in this case, faces spoke louder than words, and I am sure when he looked on these he felt more than repaid for the large amount of time and work he had expended, for the happiness depicted was indescribable.

The handing round of the Supper in the Assembly hall upstairs proved a great success, and was much enjoyed by all, for it was dainty in the extreme, and added to that a Sweeter bevy of young helpers headed by our popular Hon Sec (Miss A Dow) to dispense it. Could not be found if you searched the wide world over. And thus ended the 29th Congregational Tally.

Rambles.

Sept 14th was the date fixed for the fourth Ramble. The weather was un favourable, being wet & cold, but in spite of that a good muster of enthusiastic Ramblers turned up at the Violet Farm at Gardiner. As it was still raining at the time of arrival, it was not wise to venture out to gather the violets. The Ramblers therefore contented themselves by looking in the flower room and buying what flowers they required. Mr Ferguson of Beech Forest took photos of the Ramblers, also the farm, then the party set out on a good miles walk to Malvern where a Surprise tea-party was awaiting them. Everyone did not wear his or her best, in honor of the tea party on account of the weather, but they were soon put at ease, and clothed in their richest smiles and happy spirits for they were all in good harmony with each other. After a dainty tea was partaken of the party flowed into the drawing room where games were indulged in, which caused much merriment and enjoyment. While partaking of Supper a vote of thanks was accorded to "Mother Hen" and her husband for their generosity in providing tea & supper to the Ramblers, moved by Mr Mortimer (one of the Ramblers) and agreed to by all. It was duly responded after which the party dispersed for their various homes, and while bidding good bye to the host & hostess all had a word to say as to the good time they had had.

La-Crosse

On the 7th Sept the Adult Deaf Lacrosse Club played the last Match of the season against the Middle Park L.C. on the Cutter's ground but after ¾ quater time the game was stopped by the deaf on account of Rough play on part of the Parkites the Score stood at 4 Goals to 2 in favour of the Park.

Four clubs in the "C" Section (Brighton Presbyterians, Kooyong, Middle Park and the Adult Deaf) were evenly matched, and a fixture between any two of the above teams always attracted more than ordinary interest. It is gratifying to the Members & friends that the Club made its debut this year by winning 10 Matches, loosing 5 & drawing one. The record was an excellent one & gave indication of the Capabilities of the players. 175 goals were thrown by the Club & 70 against.

Goal throwers — C Smith 64. R Hughes 54. C Robertson 30. T Lynas 11. E Martin 7. J McKenzie 3. J McLean 2. T. Peters 2. J Cairns 1. J Elwin 1.

A letter of Congratulation was sent to the Brighton Presbyterians by the deaf Club for winning the premiership of the "C" Section. They replied thanking us and also wishing to make an Annual Match with us in future.

"Monthly Letter" Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 14/- from the Adelaide deaf, 10/- from A. Hamson of N S Wales, 2/6 from J Kenworthy of Bairnsdale, 1/6 from E Burke of New Zealand and from Mrs Lynas of Charlton and 1/- each from Messrs A. Stokes, A Wilson, D. Hood, R. Hughes, T Nelson and Mrs Newnham toward the Monthly Letter Fund.

A. D. D. A

Mr Luff - Hon Sec of the Victorian branch begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/- from Mr & Mrs E Burke (N.Z.) and 1/- each from Messrs W. P. Muir, W Beserneres (Ballarat) & T Taggart (Maryborough).

Farm Notes.

Mr & Mrs Riggs have arrived from England and have entered upon their duties at the Farm & Home.

Mrs Abraham who has been ill for weeks past managed to keep up till the help came from England and then collapsed. She has gone on a short sea voyage accompanied by her daughter Elsie.

It is expected that there will be an opening Ceremony in Connection with the Women's W... of the Home in November.
September was a great business month. The flower sales reached the record figures of £67. An Average of £16" 5" 0 per week.

Personal Pars.

Messrs Hammond & Moore of Sydney made a short stay in Melbourne. During their visit they spoke very highly of the Farm at Blackburn and also of Melbourne in general.
Mr R. Abbott of Adelaide has returned home after staying for more than 3 weeks with his relations in Melbourne.
Messrs S. Ferguson of Bowmans Forest, G Dawnman of Warburton & James Anderson of Bulla were our only Country visitors attending the Agricultural Show last month. Mr S Ferguson stayed for two weeks and as usual was busy with his camera.
Mr A. Wilson is home again from the Dandenong Ranges where he & his wife have been for a months holiday. It is long since he had a holiday and we are pleased to learn he is greatly benefited by it.
Much Sympathy has been expressed for Mr & Mrs J Boortz. both of whose Children have been ill lately. Their little daughter Iris was taken to the Infectious Hospital at Fairfield. Two other girls from the Deaf and Dumb School are also there. all with diphtheria. We are Glad to learn that they are progressing favourably, and hope soon to have our merry little Iris back again for we miss her.
Esther Leber, a deaf little girl of 9 years died of pneumonia at the Alfred Hospital on the 13th Sept. Her parents have our sympathy
Mr & Mrs R Paterson have returned after their 6 months trip to England. Mr Paterson has improved greatly in health and we expect him to give us a lecture on his trip soon.
Mr J Rose Celebrated his 81st birthday on the 21st of September He has our best wishes
Miss Alice Graham is going to Europe for a year.
A daughter was born to Mrs Rockford on the 15th Sept and a Son to Mr & Mrs R Beattie on the 22nd Sept. All doing well. Our hearty Congratulations.
The Winter Games Competitions were successfully terminated on the 28th ult. The results of the Competitions will be announced later.
After a few years of Silence Mr A Hanson of Conargo N.S.W. sent a donation of 10/— for our "Monthly Letter" fund and said that he has taken great interest in the doings of the deaf. He has been doing well with wool on a big Station. He is seriously thinking of paying a visit to Melbourne next year.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9. SEPTEMBER. 1912. No. 1.

Our Ninth Birthday.

Another birthday for "Our Letter," and We congratulate her upon entering the ninth year of her usefulness. May she live long and grow in power and helpfulness is the sentiment thought felt and expressed in deaf mute Circles.

"Our monthly" has found her way into many countries. Hardly a month passes without knowledge coming to us of deaf friends sending her on to hearing relatives abroad, and there are deaf in the United Kingdom, America Africa, Germany & France who claim to receive occasional visits from her. Only yesterday we heard of her having been received with open arms by a friend in Fiji.

Victorian deaf residing in New Zealand and the various States of the Commonwealth never tire in singing her praises. We have been told that She is as welcome as the dearest of the family Circle, and that she can hold her own in gossip with the most fluent of the lady visitors. It is also claimed that she is a cheerful little soul, - fairly bubbling over with kindly sentiments, encouragement and good will.

It is likewise no secret that the general board of our Society and many old and esteemed friends of the work read every word of her monthly budget. From these friends we frequently receive requests for additional copies of some particular number, which all goes to show that although she has passed the interesting stage of early childhood she is still an attractive little person.

What she has accomplished in the way of uniting us into a bond of good

fellowship cannot be summed up in a few words. Here she shines like the very sun itself in our little world.
The Litho. transfers of Volume 8 of "Our Monthly" were written by Mrs. J. E. Muir and Messrs. M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir and G. Newnham. These friends are ever generous with their time and it is this generosity that makes possible the regular visits of our little paper to your home.

Chatter.

Our Chief left Melbourne for Sydney by the limited express on the 15th. ult. and was back in Melbourne on the 23rd. An account of the visit with its object may appear in our next issue.
Master Theo. Spewin, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Spewin has been successful in gaining the first prize for an essay on Australia offered by the Management of the Glenferrie Picture Theatre. There were some 130 competitors.
Lister Stella (Mrs. Rigg) the new assistant-Matron for the Blackburn Home is expected to arrive from England on the 14th. of September. It is expected that the part of the Women's Wing of the home now in course of erection at Lake Park will be completed by the end of October.
Mr. A. Stokes of New Zealand has settled in Melbourne for good. He attended the Congress here last Christmas and was so delighted with the social life of the deaf in this City that he made up his mind to make Melbourne his home. He has obtained employment and is now as happy as that little fellow, who, in the picture is seen struggling for the soap, ever hoped to be.
Mr. R. Abbott of Adelaide is spending a few weeks in Melbourne. He says he is having a right good time, thanks says he, to the hearty reception he is receiving on all sides from the Melbourne deaf. He visited our flower farm and admitted that it far surpassed everything he had expected to see.
We were not aware until recently that our circle of deaf included the manager of a skating rink. Nevertheless that is so. Mr. H. Allinson has a rink under his management at Walhalla and is doing fair business.
Mr. Curtin of Tasmania, who is on a visit to Melbourne, talks of going to work in the mines at Bendigo. May he meet with success.

Mr. A. Morgan who generally comes back to "dear old Melbourne" for a month or so during the winter has returned to Carpendict.
One of the porters of Blackburn Station, who has been transferred to Albert Park, was made the recipient of a pair of gold studs on his departure, a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Abraham and the residents of the deaf mutes' farm.
The departure of the farm manager for Sydney was the signal for considerable bustle at the farm. No sooner was his back turned on our beauty spot than the whole of the deaf men, led by Archie McLellan attacked the farm work like trojans. They determined to make "a big heap change" before he got back and so give him a pleasant surprise, and didn't he just open his eyes with astonishment when he got back! There had been a "big heap change" indeed. He had mapped out work for a fortnight, it had been done in less than a week. It is fortunate that none of the gentlemen of the "Government Stroke" brigade witnessed the achievement or there might have been a few funerals with a coroners verdict "died of fright."
Our Spelling mistakes competition cannot be called a success. Only two of our readers tried their luck. Mr. James Brook & Mr. F. Gunaberg. Both found seven spelling errors, the two prizes will therefore be equally divided between them.

Rally.

The Rally to be held in our Centre on the 5th inst. under the auspices of the Women's Guild promises to be of exceptional interest. Four original competitions are to be introduced, they bear the titles of "Afternoon Tea," "Who's Who," "Human Fishing," & "Doll Dressing," the latter for Men only.

Our Church.

We are still able to report increasing attendances at Morning Service and Thursday evening bible class, and we never have cause to complain of a small congregation on Sunday evening. During the past two months our Chaplain has been assisted by Messrs. W.L. Miller, J.E and W.P. Muir and R.H. Duff.

Saturday Nights.

The games Competitions are still going strong. The Library & reading room maintains its popularity & the bank is in robust health.

Mens' Guild.

On the 30th July a very enjoyable evening was spent in the form of impromptu speeches by the members of the Guild. Several questions could not be properly answered and it was agreed that they should be put into the Question Box for future attention.
Messrs. A. Hull and J. Carriss delivered recitations on "Forgive & Forget" and "The Loss of the Royal George" respectively.
On the 13th August Mr. D. A. Nelson delivered a very interesting paper of various items. He also gave a recitation "Mother's Kiss."
Mr. D. Peters was appointed Hon. Secretary in place of Mr. C. Robertson who desired to be relieved on account of his attending the wood carving class at the Working Men's College.

Womens' Guild.

A meeting of the Women's Guild was held on Augt. 13th. The President (Mrs. J. E. Muir.) had a very attentive audience while she imparted her interesting lectures on "God in Nature" and "The art of Confessions". In the course of the first lecture the President said nature is beautiful in every clime, and under every aspect. How often are we entranced by revelations of the grandeur wrought by the Divine Artist. It is the true love of nature made possible by a receptive and responsive soul that draws us nearer to God through his expressions in the flower, the tree, the mountain, the cloud, the sea, the bird, etc, making us realize that there is a Supreme Power, a transcending Personality working through nature. Communion with nature is more than a sentiment. It is a literal joining with the Infinite. Jesus Christ, who, like other Prophets and Seers loved to retire in the solitude of nature, feeling no solitude at all for they walked with God and returned among the people with renewed powers and fresh forces. The members were urged to remember always how beautiful are all the works of the Creator and that He wishes us all to be beautiful like He is, and lastly that the love of God is as wide as His nature. This lecture left a deep impression on all the members.
The second subject, "The art of Confessions" proved very instructive and entertaining. The answers to the last three questions, namely, What are your material, mental, and moral wishes were though varied,

very interesting. Miss D. Davis moved and it was agreed to by all present that a vote of thanks be accorded to the President for her splendid and well chosen lectures.

Ramblers.

On Saturday Augt. 10th. the Rambles numbering 35 assembled at Flinders St. Station for their third ramble. Their destination was the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm at Blackburn. The weather was beautiful, just ideal for the outing, and a very merry party it was as they journeyed to Blackburn, every one being in holiday mood for they knew what a happy time was in store for them. As soon as we came in view of the farm we were delighted to see so much progress had been made towards the Womens wing now in course of erection. Mr. & Mrs. Abraham met and welcomed us at the gate after which a ramble commenced, this time the larger part of the gardens was beautifully clothed with masses of jonquils, daffodils, violets, etc, which called forth loud admiration on all sides. It was quite a treat to wander round the gardens and leisurely drink in the beauty of the flowers, of the extensive lake and the magnificent surroundings. Boating was indulged in by the younger girls who were enthusiastic about rowing. After a delightful ramble the hungry party sat down to tea. Mr. & Mrs. Abraham and family also the inmates of the Home joining them, thus, making a very merry gathering. After tea games were indulged in, in which sweet harmony prevailed throughout. The old and young kept clustering round the "Father and Mother of the Farm" who had their work cut out to reply to the numerous questions put to them. The time passed all too quickly, but it was a very happy and satisfied lot of Rambles that started back on the homeward march, each one of the party being the possessor of a bunch of beautiful flowers grown at "Our Farm".

Bank Report.

The Operations in connection with the "Outing Fund and Bank" during the last twelve months have steadily progressed and there was a marked advance in the deposits. At the beginning of the year there were 28 depositors. During the year 8 joined and 4 withdrew. There are 31 on the roll at present. The sum of

£67-7-5 was carried forward from last year. By deposits amounting to £87-2-9½ the total was brought up to £154-10-2½. The withdrawals totalled £49-10-2½, thus leaving £105 to carry forward. The sum of £3-0-4 was distributed as a bonus, this ought to induce others to join the bank and learn to be thrifty. The Board of Management is pleased to state that there is a reserve fund on hand amounting to over £2. It desires to place on record its appreciation of services rendered by Messrs R. H. Luff G. Mortimer & J. E. Muir. The same board remains in office for the next 12 months.

Our Flower Farm.

The Winter bloom is now at its best. The jonquils and daffodil plantations have the appearance of fields of snow and of gold. So very many have we in flower just now that we are experiencing some difficulty in finding a market for them. The news soon spread that our garden of Eden was in its winter glory with the result that we have been and are so besieged with visitors that we cannot get our work done. We are always glad to see those interested and enthusiastic flower loving friends and we do not begrudge the time devoted to their entertainment, but we do wish there were just two of every one and each of us, so that the one self could do the showing, whilst the other self did the work. We have not had an opportunity of approaching the Office to ascertain amount of Sales for the month, but we believe it is in the neighbourhood of £45. Rain and cold winds are the worst of conditions for working in the open and are not conducive to high spirits and cheerfulness nevertheless the month of August has been the most peaceful and happiest of the whole year. We are well in advance with our Spring work and there is every prospect of a fine show for the opening of the Womens' Wing, when we anticipate an exceptionally big muster of Visitors.

Pic-Nic Park.

Applications for terms for catering for pic-nic parties are already rolling in. Our park bids well to become one of the most popular resorts near Melbourne. We however have not the necessary conveniences and so have to decline many that would prove the most profitable.

La-Crosse.

The Adult Deaf Lacrosse Team journeyed to Camberwell on the 3rd. of August and played against Kooyong in anticipation of beating them after the excellent display against Brighton Presbyterians. But the hope was doomed. The Kooyongites proved too good for the team. and won handsomely by 9 to 2. It was about the worst game the adult deaf played during the season. At the close of the game the team was entertained at afternoon tea.

On the 10th. and 17th. August no matches were played on account of the La Crosse Carnival. In this carnival the Victorian team retained for this state the title of Champion State of Australia and in a very meritorious manner.

On the 24th. August a Scratch match between mixed teams picked from the adults and the deaf school boys took place and it was a good bit of practice.

The La Crosse season will end on the 7th. Sept. and then the cricketers will go in for good practice till the cricket season begins on the first Saturday of October.

Bobby's Horse.

Bobby Bowers recently became the proud owner of a horse, anyway the gentleman that gave it to him said it was a horse. Now Bobby was faced with two difficulties - Where to keep it and how to feed it. After two or three weeks of pushing his cause, he got round the soft side of our manager and permission was given for Bobby to bring the horse to the farm. We are told, though we do not vouch for the truth of it, that Bobby and Percy Lewin and the waggon horse Peter took it in turn to drag, push or carry Bobby's charger the eleven miles from Melbourne to Blackburn. Anyway it took something like eight hours to get the noble steed safely to the farm. The sight of the manager's son in military uniform put an idea into the head of Bobby. He too would join the defence force but not as a common foot soldier. Why should he? was he not the proud owner of a horse. So Bobby went in for training. To see him saddle and mount his steed and charge the eucalyptus trees was a sight to be remembered. But the way he dismounted a sight best forgotten.

But alas and alack, for the want of a set of artificial teeth the poor beast was unable to take advantage of the liberal meals that Bobby thoughtfully supplied him with, and the first frosty night poor Daisy brought disappointment to the would be defender of his country, by quietly resigning the honour conferred upon her, and departing for that country where the horse labours not.

Ghosts at the Farm.

On city meeting nights which frequently occur two and three evenings a week, our chief considers himself fortunate if he is able to catch the 10·25 p.m. train from Melbourne to Blackburn, which means that he lands home on the stroke of midnight. But if the rumour be true that he never sleeps, this of course does not much matter. Some months ago on arriving home the light of the silvery moon tempted him to ramble round the flower plantation. On reaching the beds of sweet peas he was suddenly brought to a stand still by a strange ghostly sight; there in the midst of the sweet peas were three white figures gliding about, one was swinging a lantern and lime was sending into the air clouds of mystic white light. With fear and trembling he approached the white figures to investigate, only to find that the ghostly visitors were simply three of the men scattering lime to kill the slugs. One night last week his nervous system was again shaken by another visit from a member of the ghostly realms. As in the previous instance it was the silent hour of midnight as he entered the house & seating himself before the fire, he wrote & wrote until the clock chimed one, just then his attention was drawn to a clank, clank, clank which seemed to come from the men's lengthy verandah. He was on his feet, through the door & down the verandah in the twinkling of an eye and there, in the midst of a rising mist of silvery sheen, lit up by the rays of the clear cold moon, and awful to behold, stood the ghost. Our chief stood as one petrified. Was it really a figure or only just a visitant in the form of a silvery cloud? The cloud began to rise & before it disappeared yet another cloud shone in the rays of the moon, yet another & another. By this time our investigator's blood began to grow warm & he collected together sufficient courage to enable him to approach the mystery. As usual there was a natural answer. Lord Nelson had been liming the carnations & was merely shaking the lime from his clothes. It was his clogs that were responsible for the unearthly clank, clank. Where can you find your hearing workman with so great an affection for Natures lovely blooms that he will voluntarily & alone work at midnight to save the glories of the soil from their greedy enemy the Slug?

President

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Members of the Government of Victoria, Ladies & Gentlemen.

I may in brief before proposing vote of thanks mention the gradual progress of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria.

Fifty three years ago, deaf & dumb children in Australia were stated in the press to be in a deplorable condition of ignorance through the absence of means for their instruction. At that time there was not a school in existence.

Appeals to the Government of the day, also to the General Public were of no effect.

After a period of twelve months of vain efforts, it befel me to undertake the provision for their education on my own responsibility, the Government & the Public subsequently supported me in my endeavours. Well, at the sixth year the erection of the building in St Kilda Road was consummated.

In the course of time, a Mission for the Adults became a necessity in order to safe guard their intellectual welfare, hence it was requisite to appoint an All-Time-Missionary. This position was given to Mr Ernest J. D. Abraham, a British Expert.

To his strenuous efforts we are indebted for the ~~existence~~ erection of this Home & Farm as a residence for the afflicted people. to render themselves useful & to brighten their existence.

Further particulars regarding the deaf and dumb of this Society may be gleaned from printed pamphlets.

Now, I wish to propose that a hearty vote of thanks be tendered to His Excellency the Governor General & Lady Denman for their courtesy in coming here to open the Women's Wing.



To Meet

Their Excellencies the Governor General and

Lady Denman.

The President and Committee of the

Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria,

(Incorporated)

request the pleasure of the Company of

.....

at the Ceremony of the Opening of the Women's Wing,

at Blackburn

on Saturday, November, 23rd 1912, at 3·30 p m

THE FAVOUR OF AN EARLY REPLY, ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, 32 & 34 FLINDERS STREET, IS PARTICULARLY REQUESTED, ON RECEIPT OF WHICH ENTREE CARD AND TIME TABLE OF SPECIAL GUESTS TRAIN AND PROGRAMME WILL BE FORWARDED.

Deaf Mutes Farm and Home,
Lake Park, Blackburn

Opening of Women's Wing

Saturday, 23rd November, 1912

DEAF MUTES HOME AND FLOWER FARM, BLACKBURN.

OPENING OF WOMEN'S WING
BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
AND LADY DENMAN

SATURDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 1912

Guests Entree Card

.....

PLEASE PRESENT THIS CARD AT AFTERNOON TEA IN THE MARQUEE.





1. GENERAL VIEW OF THE HOME (THE NEW WING IS ON THE LEFT). 2. LORD DENMAN DECLARING THE BUILDING OPEN (MR E. J. D. ABRAHAM, SUPERINTENDENT, INTERPRETING THE SPEECH IN THE DEAF AND DUMB LANGUAGE).

OPENING OF THE WOMEN'S WING OF THE DEAF MUTES' HOME AT BLACKBURN BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9. DECEMBER 1912. No. 4.



We wish our readers one & all

A Happy Christmas

&

A Prosperous New Year.

The Governor General at our Farm.

Blackburn was gay with bunting on the 23rd Ult. It was a gala day for this picturesque little village, for His Excellency the Governor General, Lord Denman was to be the guest of the Committee of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria, & to open a part of the Women's Wing of their Home at Lake Park. A huge crowd of friends of the Society together with their friends assembled in the park to welcome His Excellency Lord Denman accompanied by Lord Richard Nevill arrived at 3.30 p.m. & was met by Sir R. Best, Hon T. Tudor, Messrs W. H. Felstead, E. R. Peacock, H. Sumner Martin, R. J. Dehr, G. G. Mercy, E. J. D. Abraham, F. J. Rose & a large number of other gentlemen; altogether there must have been close upon 2,000 persons who witnessed the opening ceremony. W. N.

H. Felstead presided, & Mr E. R. Peacock spoke at some length giving an outline of the work already accomplished by the Committee & of the improvements the Society proposed to make. Mrs Felstead presented the Governor General with a key of the Womens Wing & after Lord Denman had made a highly complimentary speech, he unlocked the door & formally declared the Wing open. Mr. Abraham interpreted the proceedings to the deaf. Lord Denman, accompanied by Lord Nevill, Mr. Peacock & Mr. Abraham, afterwards inspected the buildings & the flower farm finally joining a number of ladies & gentlemen at tea in the reception Room. The tea arrangements were successfully carried out by Mrs Dr. Thomas & Miss Abraham. The work of providing refreshments for the large assembly of general guests was a more difficult matter, yet, in spite of the smallness of the marquees & the rain, which drove the guests to the tea tents for temporary shelter. Mrs Abraham & Miss Empson with their large number of lady helpers managed to dispose of huge quantities of afternoon tea, scones, ice cream, strawberries & cream etc. During the Ceremony cinematograph films of the proceedings were taken by the Commonwealth Government operator & the representative of the Amalgamated Picture Co.'. The ordinary photographer was to be seen everywhere fixing up his camera at choice bits of scenery & the snapshotter was legion. A fine view of the buildings appeared in the "Weekly Times" of the 30th Ult. & good ones in the "Australasian", "Leader" of the same date. "Table Talk" contains a number of snapshots.

The Special train chartered by the Committee was crowded, as was also other ordinary trains.

During the afternoon the deaf took up a collection for the completion of the Womens Wing. they also canvassed for promises. Mrs F. E. Irwin being the most successful.

Every body had words of praise for our farm, which fortunately, was a mass of bloom at the time

* * * * *

The Governor General Lord Denman has contributed £10 toward the completion of the Womens Wing. Altogether about £150 has so far been donated for this purpose. A complete list of donors will appear next month.

many of the deaf attended on the 27th Ult. A private show of the Amalgamated Pictures Co's film of our opening ceremony. It was with ease that the deaf were able to read W. Abrahams interpretation of Lord Denmans speech.

* * * * *

The Melbourne Steamship Company kindly lent us a number of flags to decoriate the Home with.

* * * * *

The crowd that assembled at Lake Park to witness our opening ceremony was not the only crowd to be found in the park on the 23rd Ult. The Automobill Club brought out between four & five hundred little ones from the different hospitals & childrens homes of Melbourne by motors. Altogether there must have been at least 130 motor cars enter our gates that day. There were also two School picnics. - The Ascot Vale & the Canterbury Presbyterian.

Picture Night.

The Deaf Athletic Club is having a Picture night at the Majestic, Flinders St on Thursday Dec 12th, in aid of the Club funds. The Womens Wing Opening Ceremony film will be shown so that every deaf mute will have the opportunity of seeing a speech in the sign language delivered by means of the cinematograph. Prices of admission 2/- 1/- & 6 Tickets may be obtained from members of the club. All deaf and hearing friends are asked to help make the event a success

Christmas Rally.

The deaf community are united in the opinion that the "Country Cousins" Rally held under the Auspices of the Womens Guild last quarter was the most novel & pleasing of all the happy functions held since the word "Rally" became familiar to us. The Christmas Rally is to be held on the 19th Inst, & is under the direction of the Deaf Committee. A rumour is out which leads us to think that an effort is being made to outdo the effort of our women. Our Xmas Rally is the re-union of all who desire to convey personally their greetings of goodwill. We are looking forward to a very happy time.

Trip to Europe.

Mr. R.R. Paterson fulfilled his promise in giving a lecture on his travels in Europe at the Centre on the 9th Nov. About 40

were present. He spoke of the wonderful sights of London, the buildings of St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey & London Bridge, of the traffic in the streets &c, then of his native country (Scotland) where he visited several big cities. He said that the scenery from London to Glasgow as seen by rail was beautiful, & the journey fast. He visited the Oxford Deaf Church & also the Glasgow church where he preached. He continued his lecture on the 12th Ult. & spoke of a hurried visit to Paris. He admired its beautiful buildings & gardens. His lecture was full of interesting incidents & was appreciated by all. He was asked several questions & answered them to the pleasure of all. He was warmly thanked for his lecture.

Pic-nic.

On the 6th Nov. (Cup Day) the Annual Picnic of the members of the Adult Deaf Society was held at the Blackburn farm. The party numbered about 70. The weather being bleak & rainy, the sports were therefore abandoned. The day however was pleasantly spent in boating, walking about the Park & in conversation, the verandahs of the Home being crowded.

The members were greatly impressed with the rapid progress that had been made at the farm & expressed appreciation of the manner in which it was being managed. Most of the members had their meals at the Home, catered by Mrs Abraham. Others brought their own provisions & were supplied with hot water, tea, sugar & milk.

Bible Class.

The Bible class was closed on the 5th Inst. for the summer vacation. This class has been well patronised & the chaplain gave exceptionally interesting lessons. The average attendance has been much above any former year.

Distribution of Prizes.

Mrs E. J. D. Abraham distributed the prizes to the winners of Winter games competitions at our Centre on the 9th Nov.

Hearty thanks were accorded to her, to the donors, & to the Committee for supervising the games. The list of prize winners was printed in last month's issue.

Men's Guild

At the meeting of the Men's Guild held on the 29th Oct. Mr.

Mr. G. B. Mortimer gave a paper on "the Dangers of the Salt cellar" which proved interesting & instructive. We learned from whence it came, its qualities & uses. He also described the effects it had when used in excess. A general discussion followed, some members dissenting from the lecture. Mr. R. H. Luff recited "The Sea" at the close of his criticism.

November the 26th was the Question Box night when 18 questions asked by different members, were answered by Mr. J. E. Muir, who was appointed by the Men's Guild Committee to be the "Professor of Questions". The questions proved interesting & instructive. Mr. G. Newnham, who is the coming champion elocutionist of the deaf recited in his beautiful style "The Farmer's Boy"

Women's Guild.

On the 19th Nov.r at the meeting of the Women's Guild Miss D. Hickey gave a very interesting paper on "The Enemies of the Telegraph Posts & Wires". A paper on "Ponts" was also read by Mrs Wright & Miss Davis recited one of the famous poems - "Daffodils"

Rambles.

The Rambles numbering about 15 had a most enjoyable outing last time. The meeting place was the Public Library, where after as many pictures etc, had been viewed as time would allow; at the invitation of our popular member (Miss Graham) the party proceeded to Sargents Cafe where a much appreciated tea was partaken of amidst good natured banter on all sides. Tea being over did not finish Miss Grahams hospitality, for after a vote of thanks had been extended to that lady, the party next found themselves comfortably seated in the Majestic Picture Theatre, ready for the evenings entertainment & later when the time came to say Good night one & all felt they could not thank Miss Graham enough for the pleasure she had given them.

I might add that of course it rained heavily during the afternoon, but we are soured to getting wet that in case it should be fine next Saturday (7th Inst) when our ramble is to take the form of a beach tea at St Kilda, the girls have decided to meet a little earlier at the baths & this time get wet of their own accord

Personal Pars.

Mr. J. McKenzie of Adelaide spent a fortnight's pleasant holiday in Melbourne.

Mrs. J. Boorn has taken her two children away for a holiday in Gippsland. They expect to be away a month.

Miss K. Cullis of Bolinda stayed with her friends in Melbne for some time.

Mr. I. & Mrs. D. Ashby came down from Trafalgar to attend Mr & Mrs A. Stokes' wedding.

Mr. M. G. & Miss G. Mortimer lost their father who was a colonist of 74 years. Our sincere sympathy.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- from Mrs E. Crockford. & 5/- from Miss M. McCrabb of Wunghnu toward "Our Monthly Letter" Fund.

Wedding.

The marriage of Mr. A. Stokes late of New Zealand & Miss Priscilla Ashby of Trafalgar was celebrated at the Deaf Centre by the Rev. Mr. White on the 6th Nov. Mr. Abraham interpreted.

The bride who was given away by her father wore a dainty dress of white silk, her bridesmaid Miss M. Collins was also attired in white silk & carried a pretty boquet of red carnations. Mr. M. G. Mortimer acted as best man. After the wedding breakfast was partaken of, the bride & bridegroom left for Ballarat where the honeymoon was spent. Many beautiful presents were received, & many were the good wishes extended to the happy couple.

Cricket.

On the 9th Nov. A. D. C. C. beat Kennons C. C. by 10 runs the scores were A. D. C. C. 93. V. Harding 28. C. Smith 14. Martin 12 n/o. C. Robertson 10. Kennons 83. McLean 3 for 7. Lynas 5 for 37. Quantock 1 for 9. Downes 1 for 11.

On the 16th & 23rd Nov. A. D. C. C. won the match against Ascot Vale C. C. by 7 wickets & 1 run. A. D. C. C. 59 & 3 for 40 C. Smith 23. & J. McLean 10 n/o. L. Downes 13. Ascot Vale 50 & 48. Lynas 11 for 50. Downes 6 for 39. McLean 1 for 3.

On the 30th Nov. A. D. C. C. made 167 against Everleigh who got 3 wkts for 53. C. Robertson 78. Downes 21. Lynas 20 Harding 18. Xmas trip to Sydney abandoned on acc of no team being available.

The Blind & Ourselves.

Last month we promised to tell our good friend, Mr Church + Organ of Punch something about ourselves + the blind. In a par, in a recent issue of Punch he expresses sorrow "that there is not as much done for the blind who are infinitely worse off than those very interesting + happy persons the deaf-mutes."

First; we would like to say, that what has been done is largely due to the deaf themselves. Second, a leader with a combination of exceptional qualifications - not of themselves in affliction, but of them in everything else - is devoting his whole time + talents to the development of an organisation that is the ideal of our community to make the most perfect in the world. We started off with a knowledge of practically every detail of what we desire to accomplish; + step by step we have fought our way to success. Our first stand was against the Charity Education of deaf children. So we stabbed + hacked + hacked + stabbed until education for the deaf child was made free + compulsory by act of parliament. We set our face against deaf mute beggars + have practically wiped them out + investigate every case of want + then, not to tinker with it, doling out relief in small sums, but to stand by until it was no longer a case but an independent self-supporting citizen. We took stock of the various provisions made for the spiritual, moral, intellectual + social advancement of the hearing, + one by one made like provisions for the deaf. Our next step was to house our aged + infirm + to train our own feeble of intellect to maintain themselves. Here again we have succeeded.

At the present time to use the words of the Chairman of our Committee we are appealing for the Coping Stone to our work, that is, the completion of the Women's Wing of the Home, + accomodation for apprentices together with the finishing of our Centre in Flinders St. we need £7.500, + we are out to get it. This is the summit of our ambition but not that of the guiding intelligence. The latter will not stop till the deaf have their University, that is to say, a college for the training of the deaf in the higher professions + trades.

With regard to the Blind. When our leader approached the late Sir. Thomas Bent on behalf of the deaf, he also submitted a scheme which, in his opinion, would make the blind as

independent & self supporting a community as are the deaf. Briefly it was this, that the Government should make a monopoly of one or two trades, suited to the blind, such as basket making - make the tariff so high that outsiders could not compete, & for the Government to employ the whole of the blinds at a living wage, having seeing instructors & supervisors. Supposing this scheme did not pay its way. The few thousands necessary to subsidise it would be so trivial it would not be missed. Any way that is our belief. What is your opinion. Mr Church & Organ? If the Federal Government took this scheme in hand we are inclined to the belief that they would be the gainers, not losers. Leaving out of consideration altogether the moral effect upon the blind by removing from them the stigma of charity & making them self supporting citizens.

Our Farm Work.

The month just closed was, far & away, the best since the establishment of the farm. About £75 worth of flowers & strawberries being sold. The total revenue for the month was £111. We are not only keeping our old customers on our list, but adding new patrons weekly, & the ladies who attend the 'phone & used to dread its ring now respond cheerfully, for of late customers have taken the trouble to ring us up to tell us that our "flowers are beautiful" or "carefully packed" or "just the very thing they had in mind when ordering"

Mr. Riggs is devoting almost the whole of his attention to the Kitchen Garden & there is already every evidence that very soon there will be no necessity to purchase vegetables of any kind. At present the farm is a picture. Carnations, Canterbury bells, Delphenuims, Antirrhinums, Calliopsis, Gallardias, Gladioli, Cornflowers & Sweet peas are the blooms in their glory just now.

The children of the Governor General spent best part of the afternoon of the 27th Ult. at our flower farm. They rambled amongst the flowers with Mr. Abraham, gathering choice blooms here & there. The packing shed was inspected & still more flowers carried away. When returning, the Hon Judith, who is a beautiful child, with most pleasing manners, on entering the motor gathered the bunches of bloom around her, some upon her lap & a bunch in each arm, until only her face was visible. And as the car started off, in the most bewitching mimicry she began to bow in the way, no doubt, she has seen her mother do on many occasions when she has been the recipient of boquets.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9. NOVEMBER 1912. No. 3.

In Honour of De L'Epée.

Deaf-mutes journeyed from all parts of the world to Paris, France to be present on the 1st of August at the bi-centennial of the Abbe de l'Epée. The educated deaf the world over, although unable to be present in person were there in spirit to honour the 200th anniversary of the birth of our great benefactor who gave us the sign language. Eight hundred deaf persons visited Versailles to pay homage at the statue of the Abbe, and six hundred were present at the Congress. The bi-centenary was gloriously celebrated but the Congress itself, with the exception of the passing of a few resolutions, was a failure. For although the leading deaf scholars and thinkers were present to interchange views they were given little or no opportunity. The hearing teachers who are absolutely ignorant of the language of gesture for France is a "pure oral" country, took possession of the platform and monopolized the time. Self-appointed censors, holding positions of authority under the French government made free speech, so far as the deaf were concerned, hopeless. To illustrate, we need but refer to but one incident, when the wife of our clever friend, M. Gaillard, the editor of the "French Deaf Mutes' Gazette", courageously rose and spoke in favour of the combined system of instruction, a hearing lady oral teacher went up to her on the platform and told her she ought to be ashamed of herself, at which

Madame Gaillard burst into tears, the whole of the deaf, however cheered her. In face of these difficulties, however, before the Congress closed, the deaf carried the following resolution unanimously:-

"That we believe the best system for the education of all deaf mutes to be a combination of speech, writing, spelling, and signs - all methods that have proved useful for their benefit, and which comprise the combined system".

Results of Oralism in Germany.

In "Eos" for April 1912, Mr. H. Hoffman, of Ratibor, says that within the past five years he has been called upon to act as interpreter and expert in two hundred police court cases in the five judicial districts of Upper Silesia where deaf mutes were summoned as witnesses, accused persons or complainants. There is also another sworn interpreter in three of these districts, who has also been called to attend other cases, and the services of yet another interpreter from Breslau were likewise in demand now and then. The total number of deaf between the ages of 15 and 70 in Upper Silesia is only 1,390. The most frequent charge against the deaf was stealing, other charges were begging, vagabondage, disturbance of the peace, ill-treatment, insult, threatening injury to property, etc. Upwards of two hundred deaf mute court cases in five years with a population of 1,390! It is appalling. There must be something very wrong in the method of instruction in Germany.

Germany, too, is the birthplace and home of the pure oral system. Another matter that is beyond us in connection with this report is, what do they want with interpreters in a country where the whole deaf mute population is taught to speak and read the lips?

Victoria.

The following extracts from the report of the Superintendent of our Society read at the October meeting of the Committee will be pleasant reading to the deaf and to their wide circle of hearing friends. "I am still in that happy position which enables me to report a condition of harmony amongst the deaf and of general prosperity and contentment. The work goes on as regular as clock-work. Every helper doing his or her share ungrudgingly. Our services, lectures, classes and other gatherings are as well attended

as ever they were. "Our Monthly Letter" has lost none of its popularity. The Quarterly Rally has become the social function of the Deaf." Mrs Muir has started a Rambling Club, the Lacrosse Club had a successful season, the Cricket Club gives promise of like success. Not one deaf member out of employment. Everything running smoothly at the Blackburn Home. On the flower farm the more intelligent deaf are working with a spirit of enthusiasm which is having a good effect upon those under training. September was the record month for our sales, the turnover for flowers alone being £68-10-5.

Thank you, Mr. Punch.

That intellectual Hercules who bears the awful weight of the Church and Organ for "Punch" so good humouredly, is evidently a friend of ours. We have to thank him for many a kindly reference. We are glad to know he thinks us pleasant people. We will all the more try to deserve his good opinion. That he thinks so well of our "Monthly Letter" as to recommend it to his readers is also cheering to us. We will tell you something about ourselves and the blind next month, Mr. Church-and-Organ, just now the wife is making an awful noise with her fingers, inviting us to supper and we really must go. If you are married, Mr. Church-and-Organ, you will know what we mean. If you are not, well, experiments are very interesting.

The "Dumb" that talk.

"The Charity Review" in a kindly reference to a recent comment of ours insists that the "dumb" did talk. Well, so let it be. Mr. Adam who was present and heard must know better than we, for we were not present, and had we been, could not have heard. We are reminded of a friend of ours who saw a dead dog wink his eyes and wag his tail. It afterwards turned out that the dog was stuffed and a two-legged animal manipulated the winking of the eyes and wagging of the tail. Practically speaking, there is no such thing as dumbness, at least, so far as the average deaf are concerned. The deaf child is merely taught to use his vocal organs. If a child is dumb, he is dumb, and if a dog is dead he is dead. Anyway that is the logic we learned when we went to school. No, friend, it is not a fact that there are 1,000 pupils in the Brighton (England) Institution in "which the pure oral system is the only one allowed." We have visited that school

for a long time, it is true, but should be much surprised if there are more than 200 pupils attending. The great headmaster of the Brighton School, Mr. William Sleight, who has just died, was one of the strongest opponents of the pure oral system, and always advocated the use of signs and the manual alphabet. "The hand and the expression of the countenance alone can ever unite the hearing and the deaf in one common band of living and loving sympathy," was the opinion of Mr. Sleight. Those are his own words.

Friends, like the writer of the editorial par. in the Review, with every intention of doing good, for want of knowledge of the subject, frequently do us much harm. For instance, he speaks of the school for the deaf as "the Deaf & Dumb Asylum". How does this strike you, "State Elementary Asylum for normal children" or Presbyterian Ladies' Asylum" or "Church of England Grammar Asylum"? The deaf are in every way like the normal with the single exception that they lack the sense of hearing.

Our Chief has cut out many of our best arguments on this point, but has allowed us to add that had he complied with the kind invitation of the Review and written up the subject for the C. C. S.'s publication, our comments would not have been necessary. He however, has been suffering from "hookworm" for a considerable time, therefore is to be excused. We add the last par. on our own responsibility.

Hospital Sunday.

Our Chaplain is very pleased with the generous response of his deaf congregation and he wants them to know it. There were about 90 at Church on Sunday and the collection for the hospital fund totalled £5-13-4, an increase of 10/- on last year's offertory.

Opening of Women's Wing.

There is to be a ceremonial opening of the Women's Wing of the Blackburn Home toward the end of this month. If possible, a Saturday afternoon will be fixed upon the event. The arrangements are in the hands of Mr. G. G. Mercy, Mr. Cehr (Hon. Sec.) and Mr. Abraham. Invitations will be sent to all deaf members and it is hoped that they muster strong on this important occasion.

Gesture.

The October Gesture is full of good things. We are not going to enumerate the contents this time. Buy it and see for yourselves. There is enough food for thought to satisfy the most diligent of thinkers for every day of the next three months.

Guild Meetings.

The members of the Men's Guild were treated to a very interesting paper on "Ancient Nations" delivered by Mr. Luff on Oct. 15th. He also recited "The Ship that never returned".

A very successful and enjoyable meeting of the Women's Guild was held on Oct. 22nd. Successful, because the business of the Guild was speedily and satisfactorily got through; and enjoyable because the President gave a most interesting lesson dealing with familiar Greek and Roman legends and myths, and as usual made the very most of her subject. The time passed all too quickly and we hope she will soon give another like it. The attendance was very good.

Miss Empson is Acting Hon. Sec. to the Women's Guild during Miss P. Dows' absence from Melbourne. It seems like old times having her again, she understands the work so well.

Winter Games Competitions

After counting the averages in all the games which comprise word-making, magnetic lotto, angling, shooting & bagatelle, the 1st prize in the ladies' division was won by Miss Collins who secured 226.94; the 2nd by Mrs Pierce, 217.22; the 3rd by Miss Matthews, 184.83. In the gentlemen's division, 1st prize, Mr. W.A. Paterson, 232.33; 2nd Mr. Elvin 224.62; 3rd Mr. Mortimer 198.43. For quoits, 1st, ladies - Mrs. Pierce; gentlemen - Mr. Harding. Cribbage, Mr. W.A. Paterson. There were about 20 competitors who took a very keen interest in all the games throughout the winter. Nearly every one of the competitors attended every meeting.
The prizes will be distributed to the winners at the Deaf Mute Centre on Saturday evening, Nov 9th at 8 o'clock.

The Flower Farm.

Our farm is a picture just now. The rose trees are a mass of bloom and the sweet peas in their rows of seperate colours give one the impression of a glorified rainbow. The perfume, too, is just delicious, yes, delicious, for it is so powerful, you can almost taste it. Watsonia, carnations, marguerittes, cornflowers, single chrysanthemums and antirrhinums are also at their best. The sales for the month of October amounted to £32-13-10.

Our Centre.

Improvements have been made in the electric lighting at our Centre & the building is to be renovated. The new lavatory accommodation with slipper shower baths is now in use. The cricketers are well pleased, for they are its best patrons.

Cricket.

The 31st annual meeting of the Adult Deaf Cricket Club was held on Sept. 3rd at the Deaf Mute Centre. There was a good attendance of members. The chair was occupied by the President (Mr. J. E. Muir). According to the report submitted, the past season was a good one. Reference was made to the skilful captaincy of Mr. C. Robertson throughout the season. C. Robertson was successful in winning Mr. J. E. Muir's trophy for batting, also Mr. S. Ferguson's trophy for highest individual score. R. Beattie won Mr. Miller's trophy for bowling, & J. Elvin won Mr. S. Mass' prize for fielding. It was resolved that the club should enter a competition this year, & also the Cricket & Lacrosse Clubs be amalgamated & under the management of one committee. It is believed that this will work smoothly after a few months' trial. Office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:- Patrons, W. H. Felstead Esq., E. R. Peacock Esq., H. Skinner Martin Esq., Edgar H. Peacock Esq., Miss A. Graham, J. Davis Esq., R. R. Paterson Esq., J. Griffiths Esq., S. Mass Esq., G. Damman Esq., S. Ferguson Esq., H. Kindell Esq., A. Williamson Esq., R. J. Hamilton Esq., and E. A. Sturcke Esq. Pres. Mr. J. E. Muir. Vice Pres. Messrs Miller, W. A. Paterson & W. P. Muir. Committee, Messrs Robertson, Luff, Downes, McLean, Beattie, J. Peters & Mortimer.

The Committee met on the 10th Sept., & elected Messrs Lynas and Nelson as Hon. Sec., & Hon. Treas. respectively. It was decided that the new combination should be called the Deaf Mute Athletic Club, yet while in action both clubs will still retain their old names. After some consideration it was resolved that the club should enter the 3rd grade competition of the Victorian Junior Cricket Association. Mr. M. C. Hughes was appointed the delegate. Mr. S. Ferguson has kindly presented the club with two splendid new bats, & will give a trophy for the highest individual score made during the season. He is a most enthusiastic supporter & is most desirous to see the club succeed, & if the club should be so fortunate as to be premiers of 3rd grade competition he has promised to pay one-third of the cost of a celebration banquet.

The club started the season on Oct. 5th, playing a two days' match against Simpson's Road C. C. on our ground. The scores were as follows:- Simpson's Rd 84 & 7 for 60 declared. A. D. C. C. 43 & 2 wkts for 77. Downes 14 n/o & 22; Robertson 12 & 40 n/o; Smith 10 n/o, Downes 6 for 32; Beattie 3 for 39; McLean 4 for 37. A. D. C. C. lost by 41 runs in 1st inning. The play was stopped several times by rain on the first day. A. D. C. C. v Flemington & Kensington C. C. on the 19th & 26th Oct. A. D. C. C. 104 & 51; Smith 39; Quantock 27; Downes 18;

Robertson 10 & 25; Beattie 13. Flemington 77 & 9 for 81, Downes 10 for 52, Beattie 3 for 38, Lynas 2 for 20, Hughes 2 for 4, Martin 1 for 6. A.D.C.C. lost by 1 wkt & 3 runs. All being well, the Victorian Deaf Cricketers will take a trip to Sydney next Xmas for the purpasi of playing an Interstate match against the N.S.W. Deaf.

Rambles.

The Ramblers have decided in future to speak in whispers when the dates for their rambles are being fixed, for they had their usual luck - a wet afternoon - on the 5th of last month when Black Rock was again the chosen place, this time the wild flowers being the attraction. The Ramblers are a very happy lot for whatever the conditions they are always smiling, & though they were obliged to take shelter several times, & even when the rain came thro' the ti-tree it did not deter them, for one & all saw the funny side of the situation & determined that as they came out for wild flowers they would not go back without some. The paddocks were simply a mass of beautiful flowers, & very soon each one was laden with as many as she could carry, but all being more or less wet it was thought advisable to return as soon as possible, & very soon the goodbyes had been said, & the party had dwindled down to two, but one & all were satisfied with the pleasure derived from their afternoon's outing.

The ladies' rambling club has passed its experimental stage & our "Mother Hen" sets one Saturday afternoon in each month followed by quite a family of young chicks. Now & then our male members are permitted to accompany them. The librarian seems to be the most favoured, this is not to be wondered at, for he fairly bubbles over with politeness & nice little attentions that the average man finds a difficulty to acquire, and which our gentler sex, somehow, cannot do without.

Queensland.

The Queensland Deaf Society Circular is to hand, & judging by its contents, everything in the garden is beautiful over there, at which news we are as glad as they are. Just grip this & you will understand what we mean. "The year 1912 finds all the members of the Mission practically united in the bonds of brotherly love and with a comman aim and a genuine wish for the comman welfare." That is an exctract from the Circular.

South Australia.

From all we can gather by printed letters, things are much the same in Adelaide as in Brisbane, there is a glorious unity amongst the deaf in our sister State; all are in health, in work & doing well.

Personal Pars.

Mr. G.S. Mercy, of our Committee & Mr. E.J.D. Abraham were amongst the guests at a dinner given by Prof. Payne, of the Melbourne University, for the object of laying before prominent Congregationalists & Sympathisers, a scheme to place the Congregational College on a more sure foundation. The gathering was a small one, but successful in its object.

Mr. Duff lost his mother on the 21st ult, & Mrs. Crockford lost her infant daughter on the 23rd ult. Both have our condolence.

Mr. Jesse Evans died on the 30th ult. He was one of the very first pupils of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb School. His wife & family have our sympathy.

Mr. J. Dempsey has been laid up for 6 weeks, we are happy to state that he is now almost well.

Mr. H. Goddard is at present ill, but we hope he will soon be well again.

Miss R. Dow spent a very happy three weeks with her old school-mate, Miss Eva Mitchell at her home in Benella.

A daughter was born to Mr & Mrs H. Cross on the 17th ult. Our congratulations.

Mr. C. Smith has gone to his birthplace (Adelaide) for a weeks holiday.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/6 from Miss Eva Hair, of Willung, & 2/- from Mr. G. Dunnet, of South Australia.

Rally.

At a recent meeting of the Deaf Committee, it was decided to again invite the pupils of the School for the Deaf to the Christmas Rally, the same to be held on the 12th of Dec., if the invitation is accepted, & if not, to hold it on the 19th inst. The Chaplain is to preside & Messrs. J. E. & W. P. Muir & J. M. Dean are to be entrusted with the arrangements.

Our Benefactors.

The arrangements for the forthcoming appeal in connection with the completion of the Women's Wing & our Centre & the various alterations at the Home are keeping the Committee & Superintendent very busy at present. There have been meetings of the General Board or of Sub-Committee almost weekly. We are fortunate in having friends who give so much of their time to our welfare.

Blind-deaf Friends.

Our modern Jab, blind-deaf friend Cark has been very busy of late at the Home, Blackburn, therefore more than usually content. His cry is the same continuously "Work, more work & yet much more work". He has accompanied our Chaplain to Church twice during the past month. Friend Shirra, who is also blind & deaf has had a nasty acquaintance with neuralgia, but is bright & up once more, now the enemy has departed. All well at Home.

HEAD MASTER, &c., SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF and DUMB.

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

APPLICATIONS will be received by the Public Service Commissioner, Victoria, from persons who are qualified for the undermentioned positions in the School for the Deaf and Dumb, Department of Public Instruction:—

HEAD MASTER; salary, £300 a year.
FIRST MALE ASSISTANT; salary, £150 a year.
FIRST FEMALE ASSISTANT; salary, £150 a year.
SECOND FEMALE ASSISTANT; salary, £130 a year.
THIRD FEMALE ASSISTANT; salary, £115 a year.
FEMALE ASSISTANT (three vacancies); salary, £110 a year; and
JUNIOR ASSISTANT (two vacancies); salary, £60 a year.

Applicants will have to be well educated, and in the case of the Head Master must have a knowledge of the modern methods of instructing deaf and dumb children.

DUTIES.—The Head Teacher will be required to take charge of the school, and to instruct the pupils in such subjects as may from time to time be determined by the Director of Education.

The Assistants will be required to carry out such duties in the school as may be allotted by the Head Master.

The days and hours of attendance will be those observed in State schools.

Applications, which must be accompanied by evidence of experience and qualifications, together with a statement of date of birth, should be lodged at the office of the Commissioner, Geological Museum Building, Gisborne-street, Melbourne, not later than Friday, the 13th December, 1912.

By order.

J. D. MERSON,
Secretary.

Office of the Public Service Commissioner, Victoria, Melbourne, 28th November, 1912.

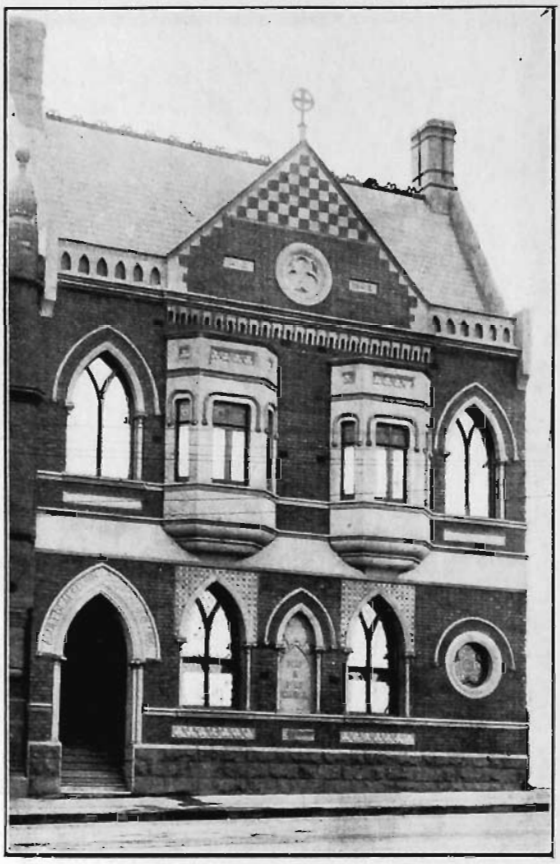
The Coping Stone to a Great Work

The Deaf Mute Problem Solved

What the People of Victoria Have Done and What They are Now Asked to Do



Two Men who are both Blind and Deaf conversing with each other



Adult Deaf Mute Centre, 32-34 Flinders St. East, Melbourne



Interior of Church for Deaf Mutes, Flinders Street, East

The Service is being conducted in the finger and sign language

A Fact to be Realised

Although the absence of the sense of hearing and consequently speech is a very serious handicap, and makes instruction impossible except by trained experts and special provisions, there is absolutely no reason why people so afflicted should be a burden to the State; no, not even when the deaf and dumb are also of weak intellect.

And yet, if left to themselves, without education, training and expert supervision in after-school life, the majority would become so, and many a menace to the community also; most certainly in the case of those who are of feeble intellect. Once this fact is realised, it becomes a duty to make provision for their instruction, protection and care. Not only for the well-being of these sorely handicapped people, but for the good of the community at large.

For, in the first case, sunshine is brought to these afflicted ones, and life made worth the living, and in the second, the people of the State are relieved of a great and expensive problem.

Read On, Please

A perusal of this little brochure should convince the most sceptical of the wonders that patience and philanthropy can do for these people.

The State has decided to take over the elementary instruction of deaf mute children. This important work has, hitherto, been carried on with excellent results by the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, St. Kilda-road. Deaf children, to the age of 16, are, therefore, well provided for, and in good hands.

But when they leave school their only means of receiving instruction is cut off, and supervision and care is at an end, unless some special organisation steps in to carry on the work so well begun. This, too, is the most dangerous period in the life of both normal and deaf mute, for the latter also has to face the world and find a means of livelihood.

A Matter of Money

It rests with the community whether the deaf mute is made a law-abiding, self-supporting citizen, or allowed to grow up a burden, perhaps a danger, to the State.

It is merely a matter of money, for the means by which the whole deaf mute community can be cared for and trained are at hand; all that is now required is sufficient funds to complete the buildings.



Library and Reading Room at Adult Deaf Mute Centre



A Group of a few of the younger Members of the Deaf Mute Women's Guild

A glance through the following summary of reports will show what training and supervision means both to the deaf and to the public.

A Comparison

In Australia, Great Britain and the U.S. of America, there are organisations for the adult deaf in all the large cities: this will explain why we go so far away for a comparison. In Germany, there are no properly organised societies for the adult deaf mutes, as in the countries above mentioned, though adequate provision is made by the Government for the instruction of deaf children.

What is the consequence?

Mr. H. Hoffman, a licensed interpreter connected with five judicial districts of Upper Silesia, has just reported that, during the past five years, he has been called upon to interpret at *two hundred* cases where deaf mutes were summoned before the courts of justice as accused persons, witnesses or complainants. Another sworn interpreter is also engaged in the same district, and the services of an additional interpreter from Breslau were also in demand now and then. The number of their cases is not reported. The most frequent charges were stealing, begging, vagabondage, disturbance of the peace, improper conduct, injury to property and injury to persons. Yet in Upper Silesia the number of deaf mutes between the age of 15 and 70 is only 1390.

In a recent report to the Committee of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, their expert agent made the following statement:—

"I am still in the happy position which enables me to report a condition of harmony amongst the deaf and dumb, and of general prosperity and contentment. Our services, lectures and classes and other gatherings are as well attended as ever. Not one deaf member out of employment."

We do not mean to imply that we are quite without bad cases; nevertheless, it is a fact that we would have to exaggerate to bring the number up to ten.

Danger Realised

Realising the danger of leaving the adult deaf and dumb without supervision and instruction and the great possibilities to be obtained under expert direction, the Committee of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria upwards of a quarter of a century ago took over the care of the adult deaf, beginning by providing religious instruction only, gradually enlarging their sphere of influence, with the result that to-day the provision made and proposed by the Com-



Members of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria with few hearing friends

mittee is full and complete. When the work was ripe for greater development, the Committee, eleven years ago, brought out to Victoria one of England's leading experts on matters appertaining to the deaf and dumb, and to him was entrusted the carrying out of the Committee's project.

The Needs of the Deaf and Dumb

The needs of the deaf and dumb may be stated under the following heads:—

1. Primary education.
2. Means for moral and spiritual development.
3. Pastoral supervision.
4. Means for adult social intercourse and intellectual advancement.
5. Facilities for recreation suited to their handicapped condition.
6. The housing and boarding of youths whilst learning a trade.
7. Help in securing employment.
8. Relief to the temporarily distressed.
9. Care of the aged and infirm.
10. Training of the feeble-minded and undisciplined.
11. Employment of "unemployables."
12. Enquiry office and interpreter.

Already being done

The first is provided by the Government at the Institution for Deaf and Dumb Children on the St. Kilda-road.

The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th and 12th are partly provided at the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders-street East, our headquarters. The building needs completing before 6 can be attempted.

9, 10, 11 are provided for at Blackburn in the case of the men, but not the women.

To be Done

To put the coping stone to their work, *i.e.*, to make full provision for the whole of the adult deaf mutes of the State, it is now only necessary to complete the buildings already planned at Blackburn and Flinders-street, which will mean an additional capital expenditure of about £7500.

The Work at the Centre

In 1903, seeing the pressing need of a central building where the adult deaf mutes could gather for instruction and social intercourse, although they had sufficient money only to erect a part of the Institute planned by them, decided to proceed so far as the money would allow. The edifice is called the "Adult Deaf and Dumb Centre," and is the headquarters of the Society, containing provision for public worship, lectures, classes and social and recreative gatherings, all of which are conducted in the language of the deaf. There are also reading and club rooms.

From here, Melbourne deaf mutes, not otherwise afflicted,

The Adult Deaf Mute Lacrosse Club



A few of our young deaf mute citizens of whom we are proud

are, on leaving the special school, apprenticed to trades; employment procured for the adults and those in temporary difficulties relieved.

The Centre has its own lending library, bank, cricket, lacrosse, and rambling clubs, and publishes its own little monthly newspaper. In short, every possible provision is, in the circumstances, made for the deaf mutes who are earning their own livelihood or serving their term of apprenticeship in Melbourne and district.

Our Centre is to the deaf what the churches, educational and social institutes, labour and relief bureaus are to the hearing.

Two Serious Problems

The work amongst the adult deaf becoming thus centralised, the Committee soon found themselves faced with two serious problems, namely:—

What to do with that section of their charge who, by reason of mental or physical defects, are unable to follow ordinary occupations, and the housing of the aged, infirm and blind deaf and dumb.

And how best to provide for deaf mute youths, not otherwise afflicted, in need of a home whilst serving their time of apprenticeship.

For the training and housing of the first-named, it was decided to purchase land for a farm, and to erect a home thereon. But before building, the Committee decided to rent a house at Box Hill as a temporary home for experimental purposes, and to open with men only.

The Box Hill experiment giving satisfactory results, and land having been purchased at Blackburn, a portion of the Home, including the men's wing, was erected, and a flower farm established.

To secure the best results, it was essential that the locality should be healthy and attractive, and that the building should be in harmony with the surroundings, and the occupation provided for the inmates of an elevating character, for it must be borne in mind that the only avenue for instruction and pleasure open to our people is the eye.

The Committee have all along proceeded with much caution. But, having succeeded with the men, they now feel fully justified in launching into the complete scheme by making adequate provision for women, for, after three years' work at Blackburn, there is evidence that the experimental stage is passed. As proof of this, it is only necessary to mention that the aged and infirm and blind deaf are contented, even happy; the feeble of intellect have been trained in the cultivation of flowers, and the "uncontrolables" are also obedient, and do their share of work in the garden; vices are restrained, virtues are developed. The revenue from



Deaf Mutes gathering Jonquils and Daffodils



Preparing for Market at the Deaf Mutes Flower Farm,
Blackburn, Vic.

the farm last year was upwards of £600, and the expenditure for maintenance, including wages, only £1004.

Help Our Women and Our Boys

The few women that we have felt compelled to admit through pressing necessity, being crowded into rooms meant for other purposes, the Committee resolved that, so soon as they had sufficient money in hand, they would proceed to erect the women's wing. Unfortunately, owing to the greatly increased cost of labour and material, only a portion has been built. This part is now being opened, and is ready for occupation, but will not nearly suffice to accommodate all the cases claiming our service. It is hoped that one result of this appeal will be the immediate completion of this building.

As regards the youths away from home learning trades in the city, the Committee feel that it is only necessary to draw attention to the fact that they have little or no opportunity of learning good trades whilst living in the country, most of them working on farms for their board and a small wage, only to become dependent upon the charitable at times of sickness, and permanently so, surprising soon in life, for being isolated from their fellow afflicted, they *deteriorate*, forgetting what little they learned at school, and being without supervision and left to their own devices; no wonder many fall into temptation and afterwards become a life-long charge to the people.

What the Committee propose to do is to make possible the housing and boarding of deaf mute youths whilst serving their term of apprenticeship to trades which will enable them to earn reasonable wages, and so become permanently self-supporting. They will also be enabled to continue their education by attending the evening classes and lectures at our Centre, and to join in the social gatherings of their fellow deaf, which opportunity has meant so very much in the intellectual advancement and earning capabilities of the deaf and dumb of Melbourne and district.

The sum of £7500 will enable the Committee—

To complete the Home for aged, infirm, feeble-minded and blind deaf mute women.

To finish the Adult Deaf and Dumb Centre building serving their apprenticeship.

To complete the Adult Deaf and Dumb Centre building in Flinders-street East, and thus complete their scheme, which is to provide for the whole of the adult deaf mute population of Victoria that are in need of supervision, training and care.

In conclusion, the Committee would remind the reader that the money is needed for building and furnishing purposes only. The support already given in annual contributions by the public and the revenue from the farm is sufficient to maintain the work in its entirety.



Office Bearers of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

PATRON: His Excellency Sir John Michael Fleetwood Fuller, Bart., Governor of Victoria

PRESIDENT: Mr. W. H. Felstead

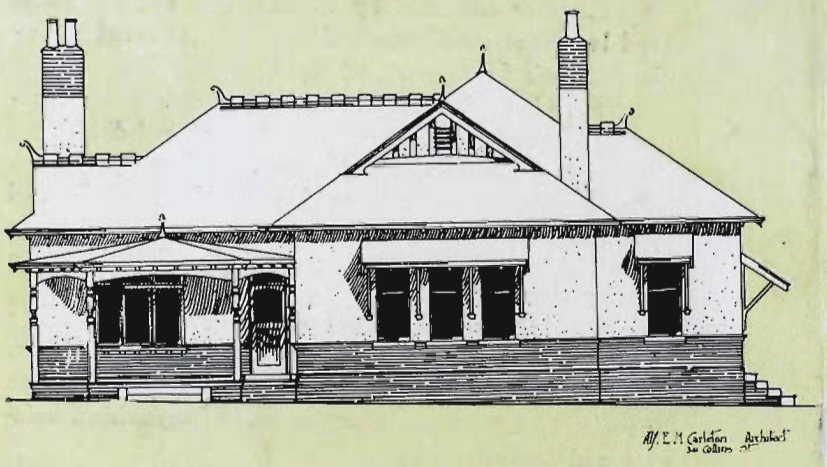
VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr. E. R. Peacock, J.P.

HON. SECRETARY AND ACTING TREASURER: Mr. R. J. Oehr, F.I.A.V., 17 Queen St., Melbourne

ASSISTANT TREASURER: Mr. M. L. Miller, 25 Davis Avenue, South Yarra

COMMITTEE: Rev. H. W. H. Adeney, Messrs Geo. Brown, W. A. Dickins, R. H. Luff, H. Sumner Martin, B.A., L.L.B., G. G. Mercy, M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir, Hugh Munro, F. J. Rose, Hon. F. Tudor, M.H.R, Sir Henry Weedon, M.L.A.

SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham



1. Home for Aged, Infirm, and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes
2. Part of Women's Wing just completed

PEACOCK BROS.
PRINTING CO.

"The Age" 14/11/12.

The Governor-General will open the main building of the women's wing of the Home for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes at Blackburn on Saturday, 23rd inst. Mr. W. H. Felstead, the president, will preside, and Mrs Felstead will present the Governor-General with the opening key. On the same day the Automobile Club will also visit the flower farm, taking the annual load of little ones. The owners of upwards of 100 motors have generously granted the use of their cars for the purpose.

"The Herald" 13/11/12.

Deaf Mutes' Home.

His Excellency the Governor-General has consented to open the main building of the Women's Wing of the Home for Aged, Infirm, and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes at Blackburn on Saturday, November 23. Mr W. H. Felstead, the president, will preside, and Mrs Felstead will present the Governor-General with the opening key. On the same day the Automobile club will visit the flower farm, taking a large number of children. The owners of upwards of 100 motor cars have granted the use of their cars for the purpose.

"The Herald" 23/11/12.

HOME FOR THE INFIRM

NEW WING OPENED.

A new women's wing was opened in connection with the Blackburn Home of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria by his Excellency the Governor-General this afternoon. The wing, which was erected at a cost of £1075, contains sitting and work rooms, bedrooms for the inmates and matron's quarters.

Lord Denman, who was attended by Lord Richard Nevill, was received by Mr W. H. Felstead, president of the institution; Mr E. R. Peacock, chairman; and Mr E. J. D. Abraham, superintendent and manager, and there were also present representatives of the Federal and State Ministries, Sir Robert Best, Sir Henry Weedon and Mr H. V. M'Kay.

Mr Felstead introduced the Governor-General to the gathering. Mr Peacock explained the aims and work of the society. Mrs Felstead presented Lord Denman with a golden key with which he performed the opening ceremony.

After his Excellency had delivered a short address eulogising the work of the society an inspection of the home and the flower farm connected with it was made. Subsequently the company partook of afternoon tea.

"The Argus" 19/11/12.

DEAF MUTE PROBLEM.

ITS SOLUTION.

By E. R. PEACOCK.

Deprived of the sense of hearing, and unable to speak, no opportunity of acquiring true knowledge, and only primitive means of making wants known; talents atrophied, vices developed, couples ill-mated, progeny foredoomed to a life of misery; cut off from the environment which makes the life of normal people happy; scattered subjects in different parts of the State, objects of rude jests, dangerous to the morals of the community, and a burden and tax on the charitable, such, in feeble colours, was the problem which had to be faced within the life of many persons living in Melbourne to-day, the theory at that time being that a deaf person must of necessity be of defective capacity in other respects. It is now recognised that such is not so, but that in most cases all that is needed are proper methods of teaching and suitable environments in other respects, to develop equal capacity and ability with the rest of mankind.

To-day the State had been led to see its responsibility towards these handicapped people, and our free and compulsory system of education is now made to apply to the deaf and dumb, as well as hearing and speaking people. Thus deaf and dumb children are educated in the regular primary subjects at the Deaf and Dumb Institute, St. Kilda road, up to the age of 16 years.

At this age they would be passed over to their parents, or turned loose on the community, to fight their own battles of life at a disadvantage—(a people within the community, yet not of the community)—were it not for the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, which has taken on the responsibility of their spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical, and social welfare for the rest of their lives. At the headquarters of the society, in Flinders-street, a deaf and dumb "centre" has been created, which aims at providing for its subjects the hearing and speaking peoples' equivalent of church, night school, social clubs, recreation clubs, labour bureau, benevolent society, publication and trading department, boarding-house for young men away from home learning trades, pastoral supervision, skilled counsel, advice, and intercession. Here every influence is exercised, and environment created, to enable the latent faculties to be trained, passions controlled, and normal development achieved, making these people happy, useful, independent, and self-respecting.

In addition to those who are able to take advantage of the opportunities afforded at the "centre," there are in this "silent community," a number of aged, infirm, feeble-minded, as well as blind, deaf, and dumb people, who come under the care of the society. These are provided for, so far as means allow, at the flower farm and home at Lake Park, Blackburn. Here, among delightful and healthy surroundings, congenial occupation is found in cultivating, picking, and packing for market large quantities of flowers, which all the year round are used for decorating public and private diningrooms and other purposes in the city. The work is light and agreeable, and provides the means of employing and controlling numbers who would otherwise be a great burden and possible danger in the community. The income from the farm during the past year amounted to approximately £600, and goes far towards paying for its maintenance. To adequately deal with the whole of those it is desired to serve, buildings, already planned, both in Flinders-street and at Blackburn, need completion, and a further capital sum of about £7,500 is required for this purpose.

The results already achieved are gratifying in the extreme, and beyond anticipation. The work fully justifies in its comprehensive scope and scientific treatment, as well as by the results obtained, the magnificent generosity of the people of Victoria. The administration has been characterised by full sympathy with the subjects of the society, cautious, yet enterprising, development, and a deep sense of the responsibility of the work. The committee now appeal with confidence for the additional capital necessary to complete their plans, which would place the work of this society in the proud position of being the most complete in, and an object-lesson to, the whole civilised world.

Friends interested can obtain tickets admitting to the opening ceremony by the Governor-General on the 23rd inst., by communicating with the hon. secretary Adult Deaf Mute Centre, 32 Flinders-street east, Melbourne.

"The Herald" 21/11/12.

DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY.

NEW BUILDING AT BLACKBURN.

His Excellency the Governor-General and Lady Denman will on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of representatives of both Houses of the State Parliament, open the new wing of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society's build- at Blackburn. The additions, which cost £1075, have been carried out by Messrs J. Knox and Son, under the supervision of Mr A. E. H. Carleton, architect. In the additions are sitting, work and bed rooms for the inmates, matrons' quarters, and a large verandah. All the apartments are well ventilated, and are finished in plaster and woodwork of oiled red pine. Externally the building is of brick, with a tile roof.

"The Herald" 21/11/12.

MOTOR OUTING FOR CHILDREN.

The Automobile Club of Victoria will give its annual outing to children on Saturday next, when the juvenile inmates of the various metropolitan charitable institutions will be taken for motor ride to Lake Park, Blackburn. About 100 members of the club have placed their motor cars at the disposal of the committee, and it is expected that about 420 children will be entertained. The cars will pick up children at the following institutions, and drive them to the picnic grounds:—Children's Hospital, Melbourne Orphanage Asylum, Austin Hospital for Incurables, Sutherland Home, Ragged Boys' Home, Church of England Mission (Middle Brighton), Convalescent Home (Hampton), Victorian Neglected Children's Aid Society, Methodist Home for Children (Cheltenham), and the Girls' Training Home (East Melbourne). At the grounds there will be sports, Punch and Judy shows, boating trips and other forms of amusement dear to children; and the Box Hill Band will be in attendance. Each child will also be presented with a newly-minted shilling, and a motor car brooch, bearing the initials of the club.

"The Herald" 23/11/12.

MOTOR DRIVE FOR CHILDREN.

The annual outing given by the Automobile Club of Victoria to the children inmates of the various metropolitan charitable institutions took place this afternoon. Abut 100 members of the club placed their motor-cars at the disposal of the committee in charge of the arrangements, and between 400 and 500 children were entertained.

The cars drove to the various institutions shortly after midday, and having received their burdens of happy, bright-eyed children, treated them to a delightful ride to Lake Park, Blackburn. Various kinds of sports were provided for their amusement, and welcome tokens of the occasion were given them in the form of bright shilling pieces and enamelled motor brooches.

His Excellency the Governor-General, who had an engagement at a neighboring charitable institution, visited the grounds and addressed a few kindly words to the children.

"The Argus" 25/11/12.

DEAF MUTES' HOME.

WOMEN'S WING OPENED.

The rural quietness of Blackburn was pleasantly disturbed on Saturday afternoon, when a large number of visitors attended to witness the formal opening of a women's wing to the Deaf Mutes' Farm and Home, Lake-park, by His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Denman).

On behalf of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, the president (Mr. W. H. Felstead) welcomed His Excellency on arrival, and Mr. E. R. Peacock gave an address, showing the accomplishments and aims of the society. Mr. Peacock said that the institution in the St. Kilda road took care of deaf and dumb children up to the age of 16 years, and he was glad that the State had realised its responsibilities to its deaf and dumb subjects. Twenty-five years ago, Mr. F. J. Rose, with others, started the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission, at Flinders-street, and ten years ago steps were taken to provide a home for the aged deaf and dumb and feeble-minded. In "The Argus" of Saturday last there had appeared an excellent article, descriptive of the kindergarten system of teaching, in which the principle was emphasised that the mind must be reached through the senses. That was the method of teaching adopted in this institution, and it took nearly three times as long to instruct deaf mutes as to teach normal persons. During the past twelve months the produce of the farm had been sold for £600, and it had been demonstrated not only to Victoria, but to the Commonwealth, what could be done when the problem of dealing with the unfortunate deaf and dumb was taken in hand comprehensively. The committee appealed to wealthy men to help them to complete the buildings, both at Blackburn and Flinders-street.

Lord Denman said that he had learned a great deal about the unfortunate deaf and dumb from Mr. Peacock's remarks. It was a worthy object to educate these afflicted people, and fit them to take their place in life by earning their own livelihood, and becoming happy, independent members of the community. He congratulated the committee and staff on their successful achievements, and noted that this was the only institution of its kind in the world. The inmates had an incentive to develop their own character, and the experiment must be watched with the keenest interest. He hoped that the new building would realise the best hopes of the committee.

After Mrs. Felstead had presented a golden key to Lord Denman, the building was formally declared opened.

In proposing a vote of thanks to the Governor-General for his attendance, the Minister for Customs (Mr. Tudor) stated that he was not present as a member of Parliament, but as a member of the committee.

Sir Robert Best, M.H.R., seconded the motion. In acknowledgement, His Excellency expressed his pleasure at finding that two such sturdy political opponents as Mr. Tudor and Sir Robert Best were engaged together in work for the deaf and dumb. (Cheers.)

Lord Denman subsequently inspected the new and old buildings, and flower farm, and renewed his congratulations to the committee and management of the institution.

Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, superintendent of the home, in sign language interpreted the speeches to the deaf mutes present. The new wing is of six rooms, and the cost approached £1,300.

The Age 25/11/12.

DEAF MUTES' HOME.

OPENING OF WOMEN'S WING.

A large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled at the Deaf Mutes' Home at Blackburn on Saturday to take part in the opening of a wing, which has been added to the home for the accommodation of afflicted women. The addition contains six rooms, which have been provided at a cost of about £1500. It is only part of the complete idea, but the expenditure was as much as could be incurred at the present time. It is hoped eventually not only to be able to provide a home for about twenty women, but to employ them all satisfactorily. Those who will go into the home immediately will be engaged in general house work, and in picking and arranging flowers, which are being largely cultivated.

The Governor-General, attended by Lord Richard Nevill, performed the opening ceremony. His Excellency was received by the president, Mr. W. H. Felstead; the vice-president, Mr. E. R. Peacock; the superintendent, Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, and other members of the committee.

In an explanatory address, Mr. Peacock pointed out that the whole organisation and education of deaf mutes in this community was comprehended within the life of one man. A little more than fifty years ago, Mr. F. J. Rose gathered a few deaf and dumb persons and started a school, which developed into the institution on the St. Kilda-road, at which children from all parts of the State, and even beyond it, were educated till they were sixteen years of age. Another organisation was started by Mr. Rose about twenty-five years ago, and was known as the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission, at which deaf mutes gathered together for divine worship. Then the vision of the mission widended, as it was realised that education did not cease at sixteen years of ago, nor did divine worship find its fullest expression in meeting for an hour once a week. So the operations of the institution were extended, and a building was erected in Flinders-street which served the purpose not only of a church, but of a social centre and labor bureau. A further extension was desired to reach those who might be aged, infirm, or feeble minded, and the property at Blackburn was secured. (Applause.) Deaf mutes were not necessarily inferior to those who possessed all their faculties, and they showed great capacity for development. (Applause.) During the last twelve months produce from the farm had been marketed to the value of more than £600—a material fact in the conduct of the institution which was cheering and full of hope. (Applause.)

Mrs. Felstead asked Lord Denman to accept a golden key with which to open the building.

The Governor-General, after apologising for the absence of Lady Denman, said he gathered that the object of the institution was not only to educate deaf mutes so as to render them able to earn their own living and become independent members of the community, but to bring into theier lives happiness which it would be otherwise impossible for them to attain. (Applause.) That was a noble work in which to be engaged, and he congratulated the office bearers and the committee for their part in the undertaking, and the success already achieved. All who had met those suffering from deafness and dumbness must have been struck by the patience and cheerfulness with which they met their serious deprivations. (Applause.) He hoped the building would achieve the object for which it was erected, and that the hopes of the committee would be fully realised. (Applause.)

The Minister of Customs, in proposing a vote of thanks to Lord Denman for attending, said it was only four or five years ago that the property on which the buildings have been erected was uncultivated bush. He was glad to have been associated, as a member of the committee, in the development of such a beneficial institution. (Applause.)

Sir Robert Best, M.P., in seconding the proposal, said it was gratifying to have the Governor-General identifying himself with such an institution. His presence on such an occasion was deeply appreciated. (Applause.) They all realised that it was a noble institution, and was doing magnificent work. (Applause.)

The Governor-General, in replying, remarked that it was interesting to find two stanch political opponents as Sir Robert Best and Mr. Tudor assisting in the work of such an institution.

All the speeches were interpreted by Mr. Abraham, as they were delivered, to the deaf mutes, of whom there was a large number present.

The Age 25/11/12.

CHILDREN'S PICNIC.

OUTING BY AUTOMOBILE CLUB.

The fifth annual outing under the auspices of the Automobile Club of Victoria for inmates of orphanages, hospitals and other asylums for children took place on Saturday, and it proved even more successful than its predecessors. Each year sees an increasing number of children being entertained, Saturday's picnic being attended by about 440, which is at least 40 more than were present last year. The grounds attached to the Deaf Mutes' Home at Blackburn were kindly lent by Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, superintendent of the home, free of charge, a consideration much appreciated by the club. The Box Hill Band also gave its services for nothing. The grounds are admirably suited for the holding of such outings, and could be made still more so if the committee of the institution had money to spare for the purpose. The children were gathered on Saturday from a dozen different institutions, over 100 cars being provided by considerate owners, many of whom placed not only their motors, but their own services at the disposal of the committee. Whatever may have been the sacrifice, there was ample compensation in the pleasure thus given to lives overshadowed in some instances by poverty and in others by sickness and disease, which has too firm a grip on its victims ever to be relaxed until the struggle for existence is over. To sweeten for a brief fleeting hour or two the lives of such unfortunate members of the community; to make sufferers forget even for a little while the hopelessness of the future, must surely make such occasions possess the quality ascribed to mercy—both givers and receivers sharing in the blessing. It was a full afternoon for most of the children, and an exceedingly busy one for those assisting. The children who were able to run had races, and all shared in an abundance of things delightful to all children, especially those whose opportunities in this connection are very limited. Punch and Judy made the woods ring with happy, unrestrained laughter; the clown aided in the merriment, and hearts were still further gladdened by the presentation of quite a number of things, including a shilling of this year's minting, presented by Miss S. A. Rand; an Australian flag, a motor car brooch in enamel, a bag of fruit, a box of lollies, and plates of strawberries—what child could desire more. It was quite a study to watch the faces of the little ones as they were handed the gifts in succession on their way home. The first bag filled them with joy, and they became eager to explore its contents. Scarcely had they sounded its depths before they were called upon to hold out their hands for something else, and again they were interrupted to get another article. The new shilling, so generously provided, was the last article to be handed to them, and if anything else had been in store the majority would have been incapable of further surprise.

Moving pictures were taken of various phases of the picnic, including the start of the home journey, and they will be displayed at picture shows during the week.

The Governor-General attended by Lord Richard Nevill, witnessed the despatch of the party on its homeward journey, and took a keen interest in all that passed before him. Many of the little ones went by his Excellency with their hand at the salute, while others waved their tiny flags and were accorded a gracious bow or other acknowledgment

It was inevitable that some of the children should miss their cars, and one little group provided a good deal of amusement. It was proposed to put them in a light covered in delivery car, but they rejected the offer with an air of good-natured contempt. "Oh, we must have our own car," the leader said, with quiet confidence. "It will come back for us" It did.

The arrangements were carried out by a committee, with Dr. R. E. Weigall, president, and Mr. H. W. Chenoweth, the secretary, at the head; Mr. E. W. Cox and Mr. G. Cummings being also indefatigable in their efforts to make the outing a memorable one in every respect. It was estimated that if the cars had been hired at the ordinary rate the expenses of the picnic would have run into between £500 and £600.

The Argus 25/11/12.

CHILDREN'S MOTOR OUTING.

ORPHANS AND CRIPPLES.

LORD DENMAN INTERESTED.

More than 400 children, inmates of metropolitan orphanages and children's hospitals, were entertained at Blackburn on Saturday, by the Automobile Club of Victoria. The event is an annual one, and each year sees an increase in the number of children and cars. On Saturday 402 children, with 22 attendants, were conveyed to the park of the Deaf and Dumb Institution at Blackburn, in 105 motor-cars, provided by members of the club. Between 1 o'clock and half-past 2 a constant stream of gaily-decorated cars, laden with happy children, passed through Blackburn, and entered the gates of Lake-park. The delight of the children at the prospect of a day in the country, with free rides on the merry-go-round and unlimited cakes and sweets, was so plainly reflected in their faces that the motorists who took part in the outing felt amply repaid for their trouble. Even the faces of little crippled inmates of the children's hospitals became radiant with happiness. Those who were not able to walk were placed on large rugs in the centre of the ground, where they could have a good view of the races and Punch and Judy show. They were also carried by their kind-hearted entertainers to the lake, and taken on the water in boats, lent by Mr. Abraham, the superintendent of the Deaf and Dumb Institution.

In addition to dolls and toys won by the children in races, and other sports, each was presented by the club with a motor-car brooch, a bag of fruit, and a packet of lollies. Lord Denman, after performing the opening ceremony of a new wing at the Deaf and Dumb Institution, paid a visit to the ground, accompanied by Lord Richard Neville. He was greatly interested, and spent more than an hour with Dr. R. E. Weigall (president of the Automobile Club) and Mrs. Weigall, in watching the children at play, and inspecting decorated cars. A start was made for home at 5 o'clock. As the cars passed out through the gates each child was handed a bright new 1912 shilling, the gift of Miss S. A. Rand, a lady member of the club.

The Argus" 25/11/12.

The Governor-General and an old man who has the misfortune to be blind as well as deaf and dumb were the central figures in a pleasing incident at the Deaf Mutes' Home at Blackburn on Saturday. The old man, on being introduced to Lord Denman, intimated by means of the finger language, interpreted by Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, the superintendent of the home, his appreciation of the manner in which he was being treated. His only fear was that he was in danger of getting too fat. The Governor-General, after expressing his pleasure at knowing that his new acquaintance was being so well looked after, remarked on the beautiful flower he was wearing. "It is beautiful," the old man replied, and, handling it with a touch which was almost a caress, he presented it to Lord Denman, who graciously accepted it, and wore it in his coat during the remainder of the afternoon.

The Age" 5/12/12.

MONEY FOR CHARITIES.

DANDENONG MAN'S LEGACIES.

DANDENONG, Wednesday.

The late Mr. William Thomson, of "Norley," Dandenong, probate of whose will was granted at £13,737, has made collateral legacies to Victorian charities as follow:—Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, Old Colonists' Home, Beechworth Hospital, £300 each; Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, £200; Alfred Hospital, Eye and Ear Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, Women's Hospital, Melbourne Hospital, £150; Charity Organisation Society, £100. The will includes a long list of legacies, mainly to relatives in the Shetland Isles, and the residue finally goes to two hospitals at the same place.

The Age" 26/11/12.

TO the GUESTS of the OPENING CEREMONY
Of the DEAF MUTES' HOME,
Blackburn.
You are invited to witness the production of a BIOSCOPIC PICTURE of SATURDAY'S PROCEEDINGS at
THE MAJESTIC THEATRE,
Flinders-street,
On WEDNESDAY, at 11 a.m.
Tickets may be had from officials of the Adult Deaf Society at the doors, free of charge, at 10.45 a.m.

VICTORIAN BRANCH

AUSTRALASIAN DEAF & DUMB ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1904.

AD EDUCANDUM ET ELEVANDUM.

OBJECTS:

To unite the deaf and dumb and all interested in their welfare.

To advance and protect the interests, to elevate the social status, and as far as possible to secure higher education, better employment, etc., for the deaf.

To afford educational departments, members of Parliament, school authorities, and the press information as to the condition, education, and opinions of the deaf.

To gather and preserve all facts, statistics, and opinions relating to the deaf.

DEAF MUTE CENTRE

32-34 FLINDERS STREET

Melbourne, ... 19

Special Notice.

To the Deaf of Victoria.

Dear Sir or Madam.

We desire to bring prominently under the notice of the deaf of Victoria the claims of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association (which is entirely & independently controlled by the deaf.) to their encouragement & support. The Association which was formed 9 years ago has for its objects the advancement of the interests of the deaf, protection from unjust restrictions & to secure as far as possible better educational facilities & therefore better employment for the deaf. Branches of the Assocn are being formed in the various States of Aust., and the Victorian Branch has already accomplished some good work so far as Victoria is concerned for the betterment & advancement of the deaf at-large. The Association needs a fund to enable it all the better to prosecute its useful work. Will you kindly rally round it & give it every encouragement & support by becoming a regular annual member & subscriber. The subscription is only One Shilling a year.

A booklet of the code of rules will be sent to each member. Kindly fill in the accompanying form & forward it with your subscription to Mr. F. E. Frewin Hon. Sec. Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St., Melbourne.

Majestic Theatre
Flinders St
Wed. Nov. 27th 11. a.m.
Picture of Ceremony of Opening
of Deaf Mutes Home
Admit Bearer & Party 6

11/12

MAJESTIC THEATRE — Flinders Street,
THE NEW THEATRE. NEXT TO BALL and WELCH'S

Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

Deaf Mutes & Athletic Club **Picture Night**

Thursday, 12th December, 1912.

Family Circle, 6d.

THI TICKET MUST NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR OF THE THEATRE.

SHOVELTON & STOREY, PRINTERS, 11 BOURKE ST.

MAJESTIC THEATRE — Flinders Street,
THE NEW THEATRE NEXT TO BALL and WELCH'S

Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

Deaf Mutes & Athletic Club **Picture Night**

Thursday, 12th December, 1912.

Stalls, 1/-

THIS TICKET MUST NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR OF THE THEATRE.

SHOVELTON & STOREY, PRINTERS, 11 BOURKE ST.

The Victorian Branch of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association.

President:- Mr. W. L. Miller. Hon. Sec. Mr. F. E. Frewin

Dear Sir.

I wish to be enrolled as a member of the above Association. I enclose herewith my annual subscription of One shilling.

Name:- .....

Address:- .....

Occupation:- .....

Please say whether Mr. Mrs. or Miss.

"Argus"
Feb 14th 1913



Snowden Theatre,
PRINCES BRIDGE.

Deaf Mute Ladies' Guild

Picture Night

In Aid of the Furnishing Fund of the Women's Wing of the Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf Mutes.

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1913, 8 p.m.

Dress Circle, Reserved Stalls, or Smokers' Gallery - - 1/-

JUMPED INTO BAY.

At half-past 6 o'clock yesterday morning Violet Elwins, a young deaf and dumb girl, jumped from the Railway Pier, at Port Melbourne, into the bay. A sailor on a neighbouring boat saw her disappear, and, plunging into the water, he rescued her. The girl was taken to the Melbourne Hospital in a St. John ambulance, but as she was suffering no serious effects from her immersion, she was handed over to the police, who escorted her back to the care of her mother, at Port Melbourne.

MAJESTIC THEATRE — FLINDERS STREET,
The New Theatre. Next to Ball & Welch's

ADULT DEAF ATHLETIC CLUB

Picture Night

3rd DEC.,
WEDNESDAY, ~~25th JUNE,~~ 1913.

Family Circle, 6d.

This Ticket must not be sold at the Door of the Theatre.

MAJESTIC THEATRE — FLINDERS STREET,
The New Theatre. Next to Ball & Welch's

ADULT DEAF ATHLETIC CLUB

Picture Night

3rd DEC.,
WEDNESDAY, ~~25th JUNE,~~ 1913.

Stalls, 1/-

This Ticket must not be sold at the Door of the Theatre.

"The Teacher of the Deaf" Eng. April 1913.

WANTED. Assistant Missionary for Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, Victoria. Salary, £200 per annum. Passage paid for two persons on White Star Line. £20 for incidental expenses. Particulars of experience, copies of testimonials to Hon. Sec., Mr. R. J. OEHR, 17, Queen Street, Melbourne, Australia.

"The British Deaf Times" Eng. April 1913.

WANTED, ASSISTANT MISSIONARY for Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, Victoria. Salary, £200 per annum. Passage paid for two persons on White Star Line. £20 for incidental expenses.—Particulars of experience, copies of testimonials, to Hon. Sec., Mr. R. J. Oehr, 17, Queen Street, Melbourne, Australia.

THE "Age" 7/3/1914.
also all principal Papers in Australia & N.Z.

DEAF (ADULT) SOCIETY of VICTORIA requires ASSISTANT MISSIONARY (Hearing), salary £200. State age and qualifications. Apply R. J. OEHR, 17 Queen-street, Melbourne.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9 FEBRUARY 1913 No. 6

Joy-Time

It is still vacation time, and our busy hive of learning, social intercourse, and recreation continues closed down, excepting on Saturdays and Sundays. Nevertheless, whilst we have the pleasure of daily witnessing the departure of members on holiday bent, and seeing the recital of the happy times spent by the Returned ones, we stay on to keep the machinery going. We are not envious, but we follow the doings of our American colleagues who get their three months' vacation and our European & Australian fellow-workers who can take their six weeks, and wonder when our times will come. It's awfully nice to be driving, whether horse, engine, or Concern, but it's terribly lonesome and tiring at times, especially when pressing work prohibits you from joining in the merriment, or taking the necessary rest that nature demands, but which duty forbids. We guess we have been everywhere with every member mentally, though physically our surroundings have been the same old routine, and yet, -Yes there's a fullness of pleasure in that routine after all

March

Our Womens' Guild, and Mens' Guild, our Chaplain - Superintendent - Chief, and the various Secretaries are all making great preparations for a grand opening in March. So members can look forward to programmes exceptionally good. If rumour is not incorrect the Coming season is going to be the finest we have had.

30th Year.

This month is an historical event in the life of our Chief – the arrival of the thirtieth year as a worker amongst the deaf. Just thirty years ago, on the day this paragraph is penned, he took charge of a free school for deaf mute children in the South of London, England. We are informed that the members of our Society are to be invited to join him in Celebrating the Event.

Our Centre

Our Centre is not exactly the palace of perfumery just now, unless the odour of paint may be described as such. Our dear old Centre – young in years but old in our affections – is undergoing renovation. The decorators have taken possession of our building and we enter and exit with fear and trembling through mazes of scaffolding and paint pots, and work amidst the Confusion and "fragrance" of the various uninspiring effusions arising from the painters' paraphernalia. But this is only another illustration of life with its lessons of endurance and reward, for we do but pass from the effort to the Consummation :– the labour and its reward. Like the Youngster who is Compelled to take his weekly bath we shall be glad and proud that we had it

Our Deaf Women on the War Path

A Meeting of the women members of our Society was held in the upper hall of our Centre on the 27st ult, when an executive Committee was formed to raise a fund to furnish the Sitting room of the Women's Wing of the Blackburn Dome. It was decided to have picture nights at the Snowden Theatre on the 19th & 20th of February. Four thousand tickets have been issued, and the first bombardment of our male members has put 2000 in Circulation. When our women undertake ~~anything~~ they mean business, there is no half heartedness about their efforts. Some of our hearing friends might pick up a lesson or two from their enthusiasm. Chairwoman – Mrs J. E. Muir. Hon Treas – Miss Empson. Hon Sec – Miss R Dow.

Flower Farm

The past month has proved a most trying one at the farm owing to the absence of rain. The pumping apparatus has been working day and night to keep the plants alive, but engine, tank and watering appliances are quite inadequate. Instead of a 5000 gallon tank we need one of 6 times its capacity at least and conveniences that will cover twenty times the soil that our present hose can do. This is the seventh month that our manager has acted as his own nurseryman, and personally, with the help of Percy Swan and alex Hull, packed the boxes of flowers for Customers Our trade continues to expand. The farm returns for January were £ 81, & this month will be about £ 88 On Anniversary day there were Seven pic-nics at the Farm, and Mrs Abraham Catered for 150 people at the Home. The weather was glorious.

"Pound Night"

Once upon a time "pound nights" used to be very Popular amongst the members of the Mens' Guild, but during the past few years they have been so well fed with "good things" in the way of Rallies, garden parties, picture nights etc that the "pound night" has taken a back Seat. On the 14th of Jan last however it was Shown that these "all bring Something" Events can still draw a Crowd. The evening was Spent in feeding the mind with interesting information and Stories, and the bodies with the Contents of the bags of mystery that snuggly reposed under the arm of each member until he deposited same on the Communal heap. Mr N. Amos of England and Mr Monisset of Queensland were welcomed to the inner Circle of the Melb^ne deaf. The Annual Meeting of the Guild is to be held on the 25th of February.

Deaf Committee

The Deaf Committee met on the 21st of January and transacted its usual ordinary business. The Chief items were as follows:-

That the present mode of managing rallies by different bodies be discontinued and that a permanent Rally Committee be appointed for the Year. It was thought that, under those conditions each succeeding programme should be better than the last.

That the General Committee be approached with regard to the money collected at the Church, the Deaf Committee to use it to the extent of £20, instead of the usual £5 granted every quarter by the General Committee. The balance to be sent to the General Treasurer at the end of the Year.

Rambles

The Ramble that was arranged for the 7th of December had the worst luck of all. It rained so heavily all day long that noone would venture out. It is remarkable to relate that the first Saturday in each month for a longtime past has generally recorded a bad day, while the second has been all that could be desired, so after a laughable discussion it has been decided to favour the second Saturday in the month instead.

The next one held at St Kilda on the 11th of January was a very good omen, for the weather was simply glorious, and the sea breeze most refreshing. After strolling along the pier and watching the Yachting manoeuvers, a merry tea was partaken of under the trees at the tea gardens. Tea being over, the younger ramblers indulged in paddling and building sand castles, their elders being content to watch and talk. All too soon came the end of a very happy and enjoyable outing, but while some turned their faces homewards, several remained a little longer and visited the places of entertainment.

Books

Our honorary Secretary, Mr R.J. Ochr has not forgotten that we have a library which is hungry for more books at all times & so left some to add to our Stock. Mr Edgar Peacock has sent his usual Complement, and Miss Elsie Abraham

has also forwarded a large parcel of interesting literature.

Deaf Correspondence Club

Last December Mrs J. E. Muir received the budget of the Cosmopolitan Correspondence Club safely. She started it last June & it passed successively through the hands of Mlle Yvonne Pitrois & Miss Egan-Desmond of France; Mr Brodie of Scotland; Mrs Balis of Canada; Miss B Edgar of Ohio; Mrs Schuyler Long of Iowa; Miss Annabel Kent of New Jersey. The letters were most interesting to read, the writers of which described their lives, their work, & the conditions of the deaf in their countries. Mlle Yvonne Pitrois who is a gifted authoress, sends many kind wishes to the deaf of Australia in whom she is greatly interested. She intends writing an article to French deaf papers, entitled "The Paradise of the Deaf in Australia".

"Monthly Letter" Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipts of 2/- from Mr J Anderson of Gippsland, 1/- from Mr G. G. Mercy, 1/- from Miss C. A. Clayton, 1/- from Mr Kindell & 1/- from Mr J Thomson towards our "Monthly Letter" fund.

Cricket

The Adult Deaf C.C. seems to have fallen to pieces for they have been badly beaten in 3 successive matches. Possibly the fault lies in its tail. It has been suggested that a good coach be engaged one day a week as a means of improving the team for most of the men have been far from their usual form lately. We must however Congratulate Mr C. Roberton on his Splendid Score of 135 runs in a match played against the Loyal Rose of Brunswick team. He is a hot favourite for the trophy for the highest individual score.

Jan 4th & 11th. A.D.D.C. 78 & 50 against Richmond Footballers 178 Lost by an innings & 42 runs. C Roberton 48 & 12. G Quantock 13. C. Smith 21. & V Harding 10. C. Roberton 6 for 50. J McLean 2 for 28. Beattie 2 for 50.

Jan 18th & 25th A.D.C.C 230 & 31 (2 men short) against Loyal Roe of Brunswick 284. Beaten by an innings & 23 runs.
C Robertson 135, L. Downes 24, J. McLean 14, C Smith 13, V. Harding 10, G Quantock 10. C Robertson 4 for 85. Beattie 3 for 73. Harding 1 for 27. McLean 1 for 32.

The following is the list of names of donors to the Womens' Wing and Flinders St Building Fund.

— Womens' Wing —

	£	s	d.
Sympathy	25	0	0
British Australasian Tobacco Co Pty Ltd	5	0	0
Mrs Luke	5	0	0
Miss A. Graham	5	0	0
W. M. McPherson Esq.	5	0	0
Dr J. Alexander Scott	2	10	0
Mrs M. Gibb	2	10	0
Edwin King Esq.	2	2	0
W. J. Urwin Esq	2	2	0
David A Lewis Esq.	2	2	0
Mrs Ramsay Miller	2	2	0
Hon Frank Tudor	2	2	0
Mrs Robertson	2	0	0
Miss Davies	2	0	0
Mr MacRobertson	1	1	0
J. J. Pawsey Esq.	1	1	0
A. Whybrow Esq.	1	1	0
G. Stephens Esq.	1	1	0
Mrs J. Collings	1	1	0
H. Giles Turner Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Kernot	1	1	0
Mr A de Bavay	1	1	0
Mr R. Dacres	1	1	0
Mrs E. Allport	1	1	0
Miss B. Graham	1	1	0
A. Stenhouse Esq.	1	1	0
T. Judd Esq.	1	1	0
C. C. Tuggard Esq	1	1	0
Bjelke Petersen Bros	1	1	0
J. A. Price Esq.	1	1	0
P. Conway Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs E. C. Roberton & Co.	1	1	0
Mrs. M. Cherry	1	0	0
Mrs Borthwick	1	0	0
M. Turnbull Esq.	1	0	0
Messrs Ratcliffe Bros.	1	0	0
Miss E. C. Kenny	1	0	0
S. Anketell Allen Esq	1	0	0
S. K. Hoskin Esq.	1	0	0
Mrs Dawman	1	0	0
R. Tuckett Esq.	1	0	0
Miss G. Tredinnick		15	0
T. W. Gunnerson Esq.		10	6
Chris. A. Cowper Esq.		10	6
Jas. Bradford Esq.		10	6
A. W. Brazier Esq.		10	6
Geo Hendy Esq.		10	6
Mrs Margaret Dean		10	6
H. H. Hatfield Esq.		10	6
T. Curphey Esq.		10	6
Mrs A. S. H. Ward.		10	6
H. Hooker Esq.		10	6
Col. Burston		10	6
Mr T. Williamson		10	6
Mrs Lennon		10	0
Mrs R. Woods		10	0

	£	s	d
Mrs Mair		10	0
A. Valentine Soul Esq.		10	0
W. G. Huntoff. Esq.		10	0
Mrs J. E. Muir		10	0
Miss Carleton		10	0
A. Hanson Esq.		10	0
E. A. Pleasents Esq.		7	6
E. H. Leete Esq.		5	6
W. J. Lording Esq.		5	0
C. G. Gwather Esq.		5	0
Mrs Leslie		5	0
Miss Bowden		5	0
P. P. King Esq.		5	0
Mrs. Groot.		2	6
Jas. D. Brook Esq		2	6
Total	£	105	17 · 0

Completion of Flinders St Building.

	£	s	d
Felton Bequest Committee	50	0	0
British Australasian Tobacco Co. Pty Ltd	10	0	0
Dr J. Alexander Scott	2	10	0
Mrs. M. Gibb	2	10	0
W. Roberts Esq.	2	2	0
A. Whybrow. Esq.	2	2	0
Mrs. Ramsay Mailer	2	2	0
The Sea Pilot Service of Port Phillip	2	2	0
W. MacRobertson	1	1	0
T. Judd Esq.	1	1	0
Messrs Ratcliffe Bros	1	1	0
H. Giles Turner Esq.	1	1	0
Miss Kennot	1	1	0
R. Daeres. Esq.	1	1	0
E. Kercroune Esq.	1	1	0
A. Stenhouse Esq.	1	1	0
C. C. Buzzard Esq.	0	1	0
T. W. Gunnersen Esq.		10	6
Chris. A. Cowper Esq		10	6
Jas. Bradford Esq.		10	6
A. W. Brazier Esq.		10	6
G. Hendy Esq.		10	6
Mrs Margaret Dean		10	6
Thos. Cuphey Esq.		10	6
H. Hocken Esq.		10	6
Col. Burston		10	6
Mrs. R. Woods.		10	0
Mrs. Mair		10	0
A. Hanson Esq.		10	0
C. G. Gwather Esq		5	0
E. H. Leete. Esq.		5	0
Total	£	90	1 · 6

Personal Pars.

James. D. Brook is one of our most loyal Country members, he takes a personal interest in every thing connected with our Society. He enters the Competitions. He comments upon the various movements for the advancement of the deaf and offers his advice. He congratulates and gives praise, where, in his opinion, they are due. He subscribes to every new effort. In fact in every way he is a model member of our Society and we are proud of him. He is an example to our Country members and it would gladden our hearts to see the whole of the Country deaf community following his loyal example. We acknowledge with

thanks a donation of 2/6 from Mr J. D. Grout, and 2/6 from his mother.

Miss A. Graham, one of our most loyal and generous members is to leave us on the 8th of February, for another trip round the World. She is to be accompanied by Miss A. Damman, a sister of Mrs J. C. Muir. We shall miss her happy face at our meetings. One of her latest gifts to our Society is a series of handsome volumes containing photographs of the places visited by her on her last trip round the World. At the last Rally these volumes were surrounded by many interested admirers. Our Sincere hope is that she will have a real good time and return to us in the best of health with much interesting news to tell us of the World of the deaf.

Last month we omitted to record the receipt of a handsome wedding gift from Misses K. Dow. D Hickey & D Davis to Mr & Mrs McLellan & we gladly convey the thanks of the recipients.

Bobby Bowers & Sammy Buse of the Blackburn Farm have just returned from a few weeks' stay at Wilsons' Promontory. They seem to have had a good time. Bobby has sent us a letter that would take up the whole space of the "Monthly" describing their encounter with a devil fish. We are glad to know that Sam & Bobby still live & that the monster has ceased from troubling and is at rest.

Miss M. Potter has returned to Melbourne. She has had a pleasant holiday spent partly at Point Lonsdale and Geelong.

Miss Pansy Elliott of Mildura is in Melbourne for a few weeks She was delighted to meet many of her old school chums at our Centre.

Miss Elsie Abraham is spending a few weeks with her friends in Tasmania. Master Ernest Abraham returned from Mornington on the 25th ult. He has left College, and before many weeks are passed will be in full training to "follow in his father's footsteps"

Mr D. Newell of Adelaide, who always takes full advantage of his holidays, treasuring every golden moment of liberty and enjoying it to the full and divided his three weeks' annual leave between Sydney Melbourne & Kerrini South.

Our Queensland friends have been burnt out. The Rooms rented by the Queensland Deaf & Dumb Mission, together with the rest of the building was destroyed on the night of the 8th of January. But this Catastrophe has only made the deaf of our Sister State all the more Enthusiastic to get a "Home of their own" and according to rumour, this happy consummation is nearer than we of Victoria thought. Certain suitable sites, it seems, are under consideration, and it will not be the fault of our good friends "unity" if one of them is not fixed upon at a very early date.

The Great De-who-must-be-obeyed, J. C. Muir to wit, like the Egyptian of old, gave us no straw this month with which to make the bricks for the February "Monthly" neither did he allow us much time for their manufacture, so if this month's budget is not up to Standard we set this forth as our excuse & look for pardon and hope for congratulations at being sufficiently competent to erect the usual Structure without material

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9. JANUARY 1913. No. 5.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

We wonder how many of us started the New Year with resolutions. We do it every year. Some of us keep them for a month or two but the majority break down very soon, very few carry their resolve to the close of the year. It is carelessness more than anything else that is responsible for our lack of success. If we could only bring ourselves to concentrate upon our resolution say for a few minutes each morning, we would not only gradually strengthen our will power, but our character also. It is not too late to start now, and if you want a motto that will give you one of the happiest if not the very happiest year you have ever had, here it is: Never encourage an unkind thought of any one, nor speak an unkind word about any one, nor do an unkind action toward anyone. Think well and speak well of all, and do good to all.

HOLIDAY TIME.

This being the holiday of the year and most of our ordinary meetings closed down for the summer months, we have little news to record, and those who might add to the programme are disinclined, preferring to forget news and everything else and to bask in the sun or do what is usually done at holiday times - anything indeed but work.

CHRISTMAS RALLY.

It would not have been necessary to have informed visitors to our Centre on the 19th ult. when our quarterly rally was in full swing, that it was the festive season, for the building told that fact as plain as any words could. The hall was tastefully and appropriately decorated with evergreens, flags, mottos, streamers and Chinese lanterns. There was an attendance of 110 deaf people together with about 40 hearing friends.

Our Principal presided and opened the meeting with prayer after which he gave a short address, emphasising the spiritual side of the anniversary that we were celebrating, whilst it was a time for rejoicing, he said it was also a time when every member of Christ' Church should meditate upon the message from heaven that came with Jesus, "Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men" and that we should do all in our power to make peace everywhere and all the time and show good feeling toward all men.

The Hon. Sec. Mr. J. E. Muir, read the poll call, and gave us an outline of many events that had happened during the year in connection with our little family.

The introduction of some new feature to each rally requires special exertion in the use of the thinking cap. This time the new game was called a "Butterfly Chase". About 18 persons competed in three heats and Mr. J. Peters was the final Victor.

Mrs Crompton and Miss D. Davies tied in the candle guessing competition which was settled by ballot, the latter being successful.

A second edition of "Who's Who" was introduced. This time the audience was more successful than was the case when the game was first produced. Miss J. Kennedy guessed 3 out of six whilst five gentlemen tied in guessing three - Messrs. J. Carriss, F. Lynas, J. Peters E. R. W. Smith and W. J. Anderson.

A seasonable sketch entitled "Uncle" was performed by the following young members of the Society - Misses R. Dow and D. Davies and Messrs. G. Newnham, S. Burnley, C. Robertson and J. Elvin.

A Ticket-bearing a number was given to every one entering the

hall. and when the draw was made it revealed Mrs. J. Boorby as winner of 1st prize, Mrs. Cove 2nd, Mrs. Crockford 3rd (Ladies) and Mr. G. Newnham 1st, Mr. J. Elvin 2nd, Mr. V. Harding 3rd (gentlemen). Round games and conversations made up the rest of the programme that appealed to the eyes, but there was one other item that appealed to the palate - the supper, which was also enjoyed. Thanks are here tendered to the friends who had charge of the refreshments. Mrs. E. Abraham and Mrs. J. Boorby and their Lady helpers. The rally was under the management of Messrs. E.J.D. Abraham, J.E & W.P. Muir and J. Mc. Lean.

MEETINGS.

The Women's Guild met on the 10th Ult. Mrs. Wilson gave a scripture lesson and Mrs. J.E. Muir read extracts from letters of the Deaf Cosmopolitan Correspondence Club.

The same evening a meeting of the Men's Guild was held and the evening spent in recitals and short stories.

Mr. Abraham delivered a lecture to both sexes on the 3rd of Dec. His subject being "Signs and Symbols". It was of unusual interest

FILM OF A SPEECH IN SIGNS.

The Commonwealth Government operator and a representative of the Amalgamated Pictures Ltd. took films of the opening ceremony of the Women's Wing of the Blackburn Home. The latter film was of a miscellaneous character, whilst the former was almost entirely devoted to the opening speeches especially that of the Governor-General. A large party of the deaf attended private views of both films and at the exhibition of the government film the interpretation of the Governor's speech by Mr. Abraham appeared so distinct upon the screen that the audience was able to read almost every word and applauded the address just as they would have done had it been the Governor-General really speaking.

PICTURE NIGHT.

The Picture Night Party held at the Majestic Theatre on the 12th Dec. was a success beyond expectations for but little time was allowed for the sale of tickets, but those deaf who volunteered

to dispose of them worked hard bringing together quite a large audience which resulted in a profit of £12 for the Adult Deaf Athletic Club.
The Entertainment Committee tender hearty thanks to all who contributed towards the success of this effort on behalf of the funds of the club.

WELCOME GIFTS.

Miss A. Graham has our Centre always in mind. Her latest gift is a number of handsome volumes containing large photographs of the places she visited on her tour round the world. It is a most welcome gift and was greatly appreciated on the occasion of the Christmas rally. Miss Graham has also donated £5 to the Women's Wing fund of the Blackburn Home.

BEQUESTS, &c.

By the will of the late Mr. William Thomson of Dandenong our Society is to benefit by £200.
The Felton Bequest Committee has donated £50 toward the completion of our Centre and £10 toward the general maintenance fund.
Owing to the illness of our Hon. Secretary (Mr. R. J. Dehr) and the absence of Miss Empson on holidays, we are unable to give list of names of donors to the Women's Wing fund this month.

VIC. BRANCH, A.D.D.A.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Victorian Branch of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association was held at the Centre on the evening of 30th Nov. There was a good attendance of 42 of which 27 were members. The President (Mr. M. L. Miller) occupied the chair. The report which was submitted by the Hon. Sec. (Mr. R. H. Luff) showed that we had much to be thankful for. Though the past year was a quiet one so far as business was concerned there was an exceptional time during last Xmas when there was a congress and much festivity in connection with the visit of the South Australian team of Cricketers. The report

was adopted unanimously.
The Hon. Treasurer (Mr. W. A. Paterson) submitted the financial statement which showed a good credit balance on hand of some £12. to carry forward in spite of a large contribution towards the Congress festivities, this statement was also adopted unanimously.
The Chairman gave an appropriate address with reference to the objects and aims of the Association.
The election of officers for the next twelve months resulted as follows:- President, Mr. M. L. Miller, Vice-President Mr. J. C. Muir, Hon. Treas. Mr. W. A. Paterson, Hon. Sec. Mr. F. E. Spencer, Committee, Messrs. B. J. D. Abraham, R. H. Luff, A. Williamson, J. A. Nelson, J. McLean and G. Newnham.
Votes of thanks were accorded the retiring Officers, the Auditor and the Scrutineers.
NOTE: Members are kindly requested to forward subscriptions 1/- for the next twelve months to Mr. F. E. Spencer Hon. Secretary, Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St., Melbourne.

WEDDING.

Mr. A. McLellan and Miss Ada Essing both employees at the Blackburn Farm were married on the 14th inst. The ceremony was performed at St. James Church, Melbourne by the Revs. Hawkins and White, Mr. Abraham interpreting. After the services the bridal party had their portraits taken at Lavenys and then the guests to the number of about 40 sat down to a dainty repast at the Winter Gardens. The happy couple spent their honeymoon at Warburton.
The following is the list of presents received. Mr. & Mrs. B. J. D. Abraham, silver tray and coffee service. Mr. & Mrs. J. Muir, Jam dish, Miss Empson, silver candle stick, Mr. Munro Hot water Can & Tray, Deaf Mutes, marble clock, Mr. R. J. Hamilton, Serviette rings, Mr. Pierce, pr Butter dishes, Mr. J. Marks, Jardiniere, Mr. J. Peters, Butter Knives & Jam Spoon, Mr. & Mrs. Clark, pr fruit-dishes, Mr. & Mrs. Burnard, Fruit-dish & Sugar Castor, Miss R. Hatch, Butter dish & Knife, Mr. Goodwin Fruit & Jam dishes, Mr. Robert Blake, set of Jugs, Mr. C. Bush,

Pr Vases, Mr & Mrs F. Frewin, Tea spoons, Mr & Mrs Hewish, Jardiniere, Mr & Mrs Lacey, Meat dish & plates, Mr Mrs Intyre, Dining Room Lamp, Miss Ruby Ewing, Silver Sugar Scuttle, Mr & Mrs Strandgard, Tea Set, Miss L. Ewing, Pr salt Cellars, Mr Bragg, Biscuit Barrel.

PERSONAL PARS.

We heard with regret of the illness of our Hon. Sec. Mr R.J. Oehr, and were pleased to learn just as we were about to issue this "Monthly" that he is much better and well enough to go away for a change. We hope he will soon be in the best of health.

Our Chairman, Mr E. R. Peacock is in New Zealand.

An old friend of our Society, Miss A. M. Barry was married on the 14th ult. to Mr E. M. Trebilco.

Mr and Mrs Abraham desire to thank the many deaf friends of the different States who so kindly remembered them with Xmas and New Years greetings.

Mr G. Mortimer is spending a quiet time with his people at Eyers near Traralgon for the benefit of his health. He was called away from Melbourne on the 2nd ult. on account of his fathers death, and he will return shortly to resume his duties.

Miss and Mr G. Mortimer desire to thank their friends for kind sympathy expressed in their recent sad bereavement.

For the convenience of her husbands business, Mrs D. Lawson has left the Angas Home, Parafield, S. A. and settled down at Glandove near the city (Adelaide).

Mr R. Amos, a deaf youth, arrived from Great Britain last month and immediately found employment as a carpenter through the kind offices of Mr F. E. Frewin.

A Son was born to Mr and Mrs J. McLean on the 5th ult. We offer our hearty congratulations.

The following is the list of deaf visitors to Melbourne during the Xmas and New Year holidays. Messrs C. Nicholls & Mr Grath from Tasmania, R. Bruce from Bairnsdale, J. Morrisset from Queensland, C. Graham, Mr & Mrs Alex. Collins, Mr & Mrs J. Collins and Mr & Mrs J. Collins from Nerrim South.

Mr J. Morrisett intends to settle in Melbourne if he is successful

in getting employment as also does Mr. Mc. Grath.
Mr. R. Bruce is working on the railway line in course of construction between Bairnsdale and Orbost and expects to stay with the Railway Dept. for a long time.
The following are the absentees from Melbourne on holiday. Miss A. Graham to Koolcomurt, Mrs. J.E. Spevin and son to Sorrento, Miss M. Collins to Trafalgar, Mr. & Mrs. A. Stokes to Trafalgar, Mrs. D. and Miss Williamson to Sydney, Miss Matthews to Sydney, Mr. T. Lynas to Charlton, Mr. E. Martin to Daylesford. Miss M. Smith to the country. Mr. and Mrs. W. Martin and Messrs Stewart and Northey of Adelaide passed through Melbourne on their way to Sydney for the holidays and Mr. W. Hutchinson of the same city is in Melbourne.
The annual Xmas Box from the deaf was given to Mr. & Mrs. Gretton the Caretakers of our Centre, and in return Mr. & Mrs. Gretton presented us with 4 dozen cups and saucers for use on social evenings.
A very interesting article on the doings of the Melbourne deaf from the pen of Mr. Alex. Williamson appeared in the Oct. "Silent Worker". It was illustrated by portraits of Mr. Abraham and Mr. McDonald, Views of the Blackburn Home and groups of the Victorian and S. Australian Cricket-teams. A later issue contained a portrait of Mrs. J.E. Muir the originator of the Deaf Cosmopolitan Correspondence Club.

"MONTHLY LETTER".

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Miss M. Orde of Bendigo and J. Williamson of N.Z. towards our "Monthly Letter" Fund.

CRICKET.

Dec. 7th A.D.C.C. v. Everleigh. A.D.C.C. 167 and no wickets for 21. Everleigh 102. A.D.C.C. won on first innings by 65 runs. On the second day the match was several times interrupted by rain.
L. Downes got 6 wkts for 45 and T. Lynas 3 for 47.
Dec. 14th A.D.C.C. were badly beaten by Collingwood United by an inning and 57 runs. A.D.C.C. 44 and 54. Collingwood United 7 wkts for 155 (declared.) L. Downes 2 wkts for 28, T. Lynas 1 for 31. R. Beattie 1 for 31, J. McLean 1 for 13. E. Martin 1 for 11.
Mr. C. Robertson batted well in both matches, with 60 and 19 r/o respectively.

ON TRAMPS.

There are tramps, and tramps, and yet again tramps. There is the ill-looking unwashed fellow who camps under a tree within sight of your boarding-house by the sea; whom you dont like to meet in your lonely walks along the Pacific beaches yet who is really harmless enough, only doesnt want work. There is the tramp who approaches your back-door in the hot mornings when the good man is in town, and asks for a meal or a pair of old boots with one eye on the dog and the other trying to see through you into your house. But the tramps I write of are not of that sort: my tramps are busy tramps, wearing out more shoe-leather than many, and more patience than God has given to most of us, in the service of their brother-man. I possess a strong affinity for tramps and I met a good few lately and they stand foremost in memory. There was the Gallant Knave of Hearts, immersed in business, always ready for the road and equally ready to assist a damsel in distress; and the man from the west, with his strong dark foreign face and bright black eyes, and the quick intelligent ways of him. Then the big boy from Tasmania who complained of the smallness of that little island and wanted Queensland to walk about in. I keep a warm corner in my heart for the cheerful indefatigable little city tramp, with his bit of oily fun for everybody, and a snap of temper for some of us, old but untried and not easily discouraged; how well I remember meeting him walking west in Flinders St. one day, and when he caught my eye with what a lightning change he became a blind beggar with an air of supplication sitting on a shop window-sill hat in outstretched hand; till I signed to him as the policeman at the corner "move on" when he changed back, and still hat in hand shook hands heartily and asked how I liked the cold of Melbourne after Queensland. Last, but not least, the King of tramps, the little grey man in spectacles who has been on the road long enough to take the ups and downs of life with a philosophic cheerfulness all his own. Guide, Philosopher and friend whose left hand never knows what his right has done by way of comforting and encouraging others. These and many others, form the honourable company of tramps, doing the thankless work of the Societies, swallowing rebuffs and unkind words here & there finding out, more than others, how much injustice, selfishness & ingratitude there is in the world but never losing faith in human nature & God's goodness, gathering in through Summers dust & Winters rain, the wherewithal to help their brethren in misfortune to higher & better things & finding in the work, higher & better things for themselves. God bless them all, Surely they have their reward where there will be no more collecting. "Unity" September 1912.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9. MARCH 1913. No. 7.

Launceston
Tasmania

My Dear People,

A few weeks ago, as most of you will know, I had to leave my work amongst you because I was too ill to continue. Knowing that there is very heavy work, in connection with our Society, before your "Chief" this coming year, and how necessary therefore, that he should be enjoying the best of health, also that there was yet a few weeks to run before the opening of the busy session, his good friends packed his portmanteau, booked his passage, and shipped him over here.

It is wonderful what change and rest and sleep can do. Nature is truly the best of all physicians. I did not know that I could be so lazy as I have been this week or two, and it seemed so very long ago since restful sleep came my way that when it did come, with "healing in its wings" I awoke with the strength of the eagle and the energy of youth. Sleep! I feel I could write page upon page about sleep. It is the most beautiful word in the English language to me at the present time. It seems necessary to take away, for a time, the gifts that Our Father has given us before we can be made to appreciate them. Most of you,

dear friends, I suppose, will not be thinking "sleep" much of a gift. It is so common to you. You get it so regularly. Whereas to me, just now anyway, it seems the most precious gift God has given me. Which goes to show that all the gifts of Our Father are most wonderful and precious, and so numerous and so regularly given to us that we lose the sense of appreciation and gratitude for these mighty blessings "until the sweet voiced bird has flown" as the hymn says.

But I did not come out here into the park and write about sleep. I have been writing any thing but this instead of what I came to write about.

Whether the "Chief" is away or at home you want your "Monthly Letter" especially, is this so with our country cousins, and the blank pages of the Monthly Letter want filling.

What shall I write about? Well, as I started about sleep, I'll tell you what led me on to those thoughts on sleep.

Some years ago we had as a member of our Society a clever young artist named Tenney. He was fond of sketching the events of our little world. Sometimes current topics were scarce and so to keep his active brain occupied he would fall back upon the inexhaustible realms of his imagination. At these times he not infrequently reached the borders of the prophetic. One February he presented to your "Chief" as a valentine, a booklet of some twenty cartoons, the work of his brain and hand, many of which were purely imaginative conceptions of the possible future, and several of which have come true. One of these was a cartoon entitled "Deaf and Dumb on the Brain." It was a gigantic head - a striking likeness of your "Chief," the top portion of the head was open like the raised lid of a box, revealing the mental machinery working upon the two words "deaf" and "dumb". Friend Tenney gripped the truth when he sketched that picture. For your "Chief" has had "deaf and dumb" upon the brain for the past thirty years. In another sense he was prophetic, for thirty years of strenuous work, ever thinking and scheming for you was instrumental in bringing about a most peculiar mental condition. For weeks your "Chief" was quite unable to think in words - indeed he found it most difficult to think

Miss Rose Abraham is spending a few weeks with her sister

at all and when the mental faculties did consent to work they made a most Labarious task of it. Every word that came, came in the manual alphabet. All his thoughts were spelled out upon the fingers within the mind so that whenever he wanted to think to compose letter or article he had to close his eyes and mentally look into his own brain, and there he saw what he desired to think, or an approach to his desire, spelled out upon the fingers

What strange phenomena has taken wings unto itself to and flown. Hence my praise of sleep.

And now I'll let my thoughts control my pencil once more, for they are very persistent this morning, they evidently think you will be more interested in them than in the pages of miscellaneous news that I have before me to write up. Now then thoughts, go ahead.

"For 11 years I have been as a pilot of a ship, sailing through strange waters and being the one man on board knowing the only safe course of a sea abounding with hidden dangers I have been compelled to remain on the bridge all the time. Now that we have got into smooth waters and within sight of the harbour I have left the dear old craft to the care for a time, for I'm in sad need of a "wash and brush up" and a little sleep. (I was quite unable to prevent that precious little word sleep from creeping in).

"Our ship whilst on her long voyage to the harbour of Paradise has undergone great changes. She has, practically, been rebuilt and refitted whilst on her voyage and the old name has been erased from her bows, and a new one substituted. She is laden to the water mark with a valuable cargo, and her officers and seamen are second to none. But, says the ordinary passenger, "give us detail about that cargo that has been accumulated during those eleven years.

Shall we call the purser to give the list?" My thoughts were on the point of saying "Yes" and calling up the purser to give the list, when I stepped in and said "No." We will, instead, give our readers an opportunity of winning prizes over the matter.

Three handsome gifts will therefore be awarded to the three readers who come nearest in their answers to the following questions :-

1 What was the original name of the Ship?
2 What is the sea abounding in hidden dangers?
3 Where is the deaf mutes' "Harbour of Paradise"?
4 What is the present name of the Ship?
5 In what way has it been re-built and re-fitted?
6 Who are its Officers and Seamen?
7 What is the valuable cargo that has been accumulated?
Send your replies to the "Monthly Letter", Deaf Mute Centre, 32 Flinders St. E., Melbourne.

Now, did you ever receive such a rambling kind of a letter as this? But, says many of my good friends, "It's just what one would expect from" —

Yours affectionately
Ernest J. D. Abraham.

Picnic of Mens' Guild

On the 27th January (Foundation Day) the Mens' Guild had its second annual picnic. The party which numbered 20 members strong journeyed to Yan Yean - 26 miles from Melbourne for the purpose of seeing the Reservoir which most of the members had never seen before. The weather was all that could be desired for the outing. Having reached Yan Yean Station by the 9.18 a.m. train and walked about 1½ miles across the paddocks the members found themselves standing on the embankment with a pretty vista of the Reservoir revealed to them - a broad sheet of beautifully clear water, here showing greenish blue patches of the sky, and, there white fleecy clouds mirrored in it, bounded on all sides by sloping banks fringed with sombre-foliaged pines, adding greatly to the beauty of the lake beyond which the members greatly admired. A pretty panoramic view of the undulating surrounding country with farms and paddocks here and there. It was a pretty sight. It was delightful and refreshing to gaze on the cool pellucid water, after walking along the hot dusty road from the station. What impressed the party greatly was the immense size of the lake which is some 1360 acres in extent and has a circumference of 11 miles and a depth of 30 feet. The members felt quite sure that the Melbourne people would never run short of water. Very unfortunately, time would not permit the members to walk right round the lake - as they would

have liked, but they had previously made arrangements to have dinner at South Yan Yean - one hour's walk from the Reservoir. After inspecting the tunnels through which volumes of water rush in the direction of Melbourne, they walked to South Yan Yean where they had an excellent dinner, after which some of the members indulged in a game of billiards for an hour. After a good rest the party meant to walk to South Morang - 6 miles from South Yan Yean, by following the Plenty River, but they were told that if they wanted, they would have to walk 10 miles - 4 miles more. Therefore, as most of the members thought it would be too much for them, they took to the main road instead. Arriving at South Morang the party took a stroll among the hills which were very steep in some places and then had a good rest in the cool, shady nooks by the creek. After they had some tea at the local hotel the party went home, tired but happy, at the same time agreeing that they had a most enjoyable time at their second annual picnic, and feeling quite proud of the number of miles covered by them in their long walks.

Picnic of Womens' Guild

On Feb 4th the Women's Guild had an annual picnic down the bay. The floating castle "Cygone" carried them down & back. There were 26 pinnickers including Baby McLean. As usual the Chaplain & Mr Mortimer were pressed into accompanying them. Half a dozen female inmates of the Farm & Home joined the party, their expenses generously being paid by the male inmates. The boat called in at several of the favourite holiday resorts, Brighton, Mornington, Dromana, Rye and Sorrento. There was an awfully jolly lunch on board. Some one most daringly smuggled in a huge teapot from the Centre. (We hope this guild will not be found out). All went ashore at Sorrento. Two or three girls bolted for the beach to bathe and paddle while the others lazily (alas!) strolled in the park. Miss Graham was the guest of the party. It was given to her as a farewell before she sailed for England. So great was her pleasure that she felt loth to leave Sorrento & so nearly missed the boat. Fortunately for all, she just caught it by the skin of her teeth. They were all ravishing at tea-time & afterwards one or two were quite seasick. It was very nice weather (104 in the shade in Melbourne), but when we approached the city we felt the biting north winds in

faces. Baby McLean received great attention. Everyone, including the Chaplain & Mr Mariner, took it in turns to nurse him. Some of the passengers were greatly interested in our merry party and watched our flying fingers. We all landed home tired, but we could look back to a most pleasant day.

Farm

February has been a most trying month at our Farm. Owing to the long absence of rain the engine has been going night & day pumping the water, and our men have been going solidly with the hoses in order to keep the plants alive. In spite of the trying circumstances our flower sales will amount to nearly £40 for the month.

Society Gossip
by "New Hand"

So far, we have heard nothing of our Chaplain. He disappeared most mysteriously. It is causing quite considerable gossip among us. Some do say he is burying himself in that little island down south. Goodness only knows what for, but perhaps his family know & won't let out. We really & truly hope that he won't remain away from his flock too long, or we'll have to look round for another chaplain. We'd be glad to see him back if he is not too long.

Now the Chaplain has gone, poor Miss Empson is just about worked to death. She has such a lot of heavy extra work to do & no one is too keen on helping her. She is going through it slowly but gradually, but it is leaving marks upon her. She is ever ready to deliver messages & see to the 101 things that are pressed upon. Each evening we think is her last, but each morning she just manages to get into the office. Isn't there anyone with a kind heart who feels inclined to help her. Don't all speak at once.

It is a perfect wonder Mrs Abraham is alive, considering the rate she goes round the farm, vigorously stirring everybody up, even the fowls. The men are just worked to death under the stern eyes of Overseer McLellan. The Chaplain & Manager has left so much work to be done before his return that they have very little time to spare. I think we must speak to the Chaplain. He is giving everybody far too much work to do.

The Melbourne friends of Mr. Frank Martin were glad to see him. Going home to Adelaide from Sydney, Mr. Martin spent one day in our city. He said that he had had quite enough of the bustle & scurry in Sydney, having been roving there for two long months. He also added that he was jolly glad to get back to his beloved quiet city. His wife, who was a Sydneyite, evidently finds it quite impossible to tear herself away from her beloved gay city, for she has decided to stay with her mother until after Easter.

Mrs A. Williamson has fallen in love with Sydney. She has been there ten weeks & says she would like to be there always. But how long will she leave her good man? All are wondering.

Miss Matthews, who some time ago came out to Victoria from England, has also fallen in love with Sydney. Having found a situation, she has, I think, made up her mind to stay there for good.

Another has fallen under the spell of Sydney in the person of Mr. Bragg, a recent arrival from England. Having work to do in Melbourne, he could only stay for three weeks, but he talks of going back, perhaps for good. We hope not!

Goodness alone knows how many of Melbourne's citizens Sydney has captivated! Among all those previously mentioned, we find Mrs Oakley gaily flitting about.

Here is joyful news! Several Sydney deaf ladies have condescended to pay our humble(?) city a visit this month. Let us show them that we can give them a cordial welcome & let us make the stay a most delightful one. We are quite prepared for them to open their eyes just a wee bit & then leaving with breaking hearts. Just you wait and see if they don't.

Miss K. Edwards, of N. S. W. could not resist paying a flying (not in an aeroplane) visit to our noble city last month.

Here's news. Listen. Messrs Short & Thompson have actually gone & forsaken Sydney & are now in the clutches of Melbourne, looking for employment. Of course, everybody knows that the attraction is Our Deaf Mute Centre & the social life of our Deaf. There is no doubt that the big building up Flinders St. is the Mecca of the Deaf in Australia.

Another visitor to Melbourne is Miss Enid Jackson, from the Western district. She has spent a delightful time here, meeting her old schoolfellows again after several years of absence. (Absence makes the heart grow fonder).

At the time of writing, news has reached us that our Chaplain is safe. We are all greatly relieved to hear it. On the verge of collapse and having had no holiday for the past two years Mr. Abraham started on a short sea voyage which will, it is hoped, be very beneficial to him. We all acknowledge that he deserves three months' holiday, but then we all know he is too fond of his flock to leave them for that long. Our prayer is that he will return in the best of health & with renewed vigour & new forces. His services will recommence on March 9th (D.V.) Rally up and give him a right royal welcome.

We hear that Mr. Abraham will issue invitations for a social on the 12th inst. to celebrate his 30th anniversary of work among the deaf. We do not forget that it is also his birthday. We send him our heartiest congratulations. May he see many more happy birthdays. God bless him.

We've lost one of our friends in the person of Miss Alice Graham who sailed for England on February 8th by the Anchises. The boat was quite overloaded with useful presents which she received from her many friends. Amongst those who went all the long way to Williamstown to say a tearful adieu to her were Mrs. J. C. Muir and Miss R. Daw, (President and Hon. Secretary of the Womens' Guild respectively) and Mr. Thartiner who very kindly said he represented the Deaf Committee and the Mens' Guild. (We hereby tender our thanks to him for his gallantry. Miss Graham so far intends to leave England immediately for Italy. She is a regular globe trotter. We envy her.

Another globe trotter from Melbourne is Miss Dorothy Edwards who sailed last month with her father for the Old World. She has made several trips round the world. Lucky girl!

Mr. Gerald Edwards has left Trinity College, Kew, and is now in his father's office, working harder than ever he did at school. It is rumoured that he declined to go globe trotting with his father and sisters this time because he has quite enough of it and wants to practise in athletic sports this year.

Messrs. Oswald Tyrrer and W. Anderson who were mighty glad to leave school at Xmas, are now employed as apprentices at the Waggon Builders, Ascot Vale.

Mr. J. Marks has been appointed to the exalted position of Hon. Sec. to the A. D. Athletic Club in place of Mr. Lynas.

The poor Adult Deaf Cricket Club is still in very bad form. They can't get over the loss of their best all round player, Clifford Robertson, who has gone and joined the service club to better his position, and also the loss of one of their best bowlers, Freddy Nas who has been and gone and left Melbourne.

Our young generations miss their Bible classes dreadfully. They were so popular last year. Probably each one will be glad to know that they will re-open early this month. Come early to avoid the crush.

The energetic Hon. Treasurer to the Deaf Committee (Mr. T. E. Trewin) is distributing those circulars to the members of the Society, reminding them to make up their annual subscriptions before the end of the month. He particularly urges them to give more than they intended, and no doubt many will be influenced to do so by this good man.

A daughter came on the 7th Feb. to gladden the hearts of Mr. & Mrs. J. Hodges. If they have not done so already, we strongly advise them to apply for the maternity bonus.

Mr. & Mrs. W. Christensen have a son who was born on the 17th Feb. We give them the same advice as well as our hearty congratulations.

On the 11th inst. at the last ordinary meeting for the year of the Mens' Guild, Mr. Morrissett who came recently from Queensland, read a most interesting, although too short, paper on "My life in Queensland". (How do you like Victoria, Mr. Morrissett.). And several other members contributed items to the programme.

The Womens' Guild had a good meeting last month. Miss Doris Hickey recited "The Red Rose" prettily and Miss Dorry Davis gave a splendid instructive paper entitled "Success of the Womanhood". Impromptu speeches concluded the meeting. Mrs Boorty (Vice President of the Guild and one of our best workers) took the chair most kindly in absence of the President. We congratulate her for discharging her duties for the first time so admirably.

The rooms at the Centre quite cheer our hearts, they are so fresh and bright after their renovations. Even the portraits on the walls have mustered up sufficient courage to smile on us.

Everyone was excited one night during the last week of the past month. Didn't you know? Oh, it was the annual meeting of the Mens' Guild when the glorified title of President was conferred upon "Lord" Nelson, and Mr. G. Newnham, who is just coming to the front, received the title of Vice President. Good luck to them. Particulars elsewhere in this number.

Mr. Jim Sloan, of Inglewood is never happy away from home. At the end of last month he ventured out to the whirl of our city, but rushed home again in two or three days, happier with his wife and children (five noisy boys and one wee girl)

There was a very gay butterfly here last month, who gadded about the city for four weeks and that was Mrs. W. Pollack, of Warrnambool. We hear that she is just the same girl, talking 16 to the dozen of her happy new life and home.

There is a whisper that there will be a bridal couple coming from Adelaide this month. They are going to spend their honeymoon in Sydney & Melbourne. Give them plenty of confetti and rose-leaves.

More visitors! Messrs. Hart and Hugo Smith from Back-Blacks are now skipping round Melbourne.

The Adelaide Lacrosse players (deaf, of course,) intend coming to play against our players during the Winter. We'll hear all particulars later on. You Melbourne boys must practise now and beat them.

Mr. Newell, of Adelaide, is a great traveller and, in his annual holidays, makes trips to various places of interest. Last month, having wandered over N. S. W. & Victoria, he had a great desire to travel home on the briny ocean. So quite naturally he walked into the shipping office & requested a ticket that would safely carry him over the sea in a boat. But this was denied to him unless he was accompanied by a hearing person. Some people have no sense & evidently the man who made those shipping rules was one of those people. Here is something for the A. D. D. A. to bring before the eyes of the Government. It is quite time that we were allowed to go on sea. If we don't soon get this, we shall have to resort to the suffragette system in England and smash everything we can lay our hands on.

Miss W. Burke spent her holiday in Ballarat last month.

Here is something new for us to see Mr. Downes and his family in a motor car at Luna Park. Must be a hired one!

Mr. A. Williamson is (his wife being in Sydney) patiently tramping onwards to Healsville. And Mr. A. C. Muir is trotting round in the north-west. Both are working hard to make the Society richer. Messrs. S. Mass and G. Mortimer are also vigorously pleading in the city and suburbs respectively for the same purpose.

The Executive Committee of the furnishing fund for the womens' wing at Blackburn have netted over £29 so far. Final results will be announced next month.

"New Hand" thinks (it) has had about enough of this, so will now French leave, bidding the readers adieu. Can you guess who it is?

Annual Meeting of the Mens' Guild.

The 29th annual meeting of the Guild was held on Feb. 25th in the mens' room at our Centre. The President (Mr. J. McLean) presided over a large number of members. The Hon. Secy (Mr. T. Peters) report showed the guild to be in a prosperous condition. The number of members at present being 20. Five new ones were admitted during the past year. The average attendance (including non-members) has been 17. The largest 22, and the smallest 13. Twenty ordinary meetings were held during the year, - the lectures, readings, recitations etc, being much appreciated by all. The financial side of the guild is in very healthy condition, the balance sheet showing a balance of £14-4-3 to start the new year with. The President gave a very stirring address, at the same urging the younger members to take more interest in the guild, also more advantage of the splendid library provided for them by using the books to prepare instructive papers etc., to be given at the meetings, I concluded by saying if they would give the same loyal support that the older members have always given, and are still giving, the guild would always maintain its present very high standard. The election of office bearers resulted as follows:- President, Mr. T. Nelson; Vice Pres., Mr. G. Newnham; Hon. Treas., Mr. J. Elwin; Hon. Sec., Mr. T. Peters; Committee Messrs. M. L. Miller, R. K. Duff, J. McLean & J. Marks. Messrs. G. Swantock & G. Newnham gave recitations entitled "Billiards" and "Apple" respectively. The latter proved to be especially amusing. The meeting was brought to a happy ending with a very enjoyable supper.

Welcome News from Queensland.

The following is an extract from the Queensland Mission Circular :- After much anxious thought and comparison of the merits of rival sites, the Committee has purchased a block of land in Gipps Street for £1350. It has a frontage of 66 feet, and includes a substantial two storied brick house which is revenue producing, and is capable of being utilized for the purposes of the Mission. The building covers 36 feet of the frontage leaving 30 feet vacant. The architect has submitted a plan for building a church at the side of the existing building".

We, one and all, wish the Mission every success in their new undertaking.

Cricket.

The 1st & 8th February the Adult Deaf Cricket Club made 69 & 49 against Fawkners' Footballers 99 & 51. The former claim the match an account of the latter club having several unregistered players. Quantock 14. Downes 22 & Harding 12. Downes 11 wkts for 54. Beattie 8 for 62. The 15th 22nd, the deaf boys received one of the worst beatings. They made 46 & 18 against Saint Ignatius who scored 211, Smith 12 & Martin 10. Beattie 5 wkts for 60. Downes 1 for 72. McLean 1 for 28. Quantock 1 for 8.

Volunteers.

Messrs R. H. Duff, J. E. Muir, W. P. Muir and M. L. Miller conducted the services during the Chaplain's absence. They are to be thanked for their services. Up to the end of last month, the first two mentioned each officated at 3 services.

Advice.

Read carefully our Chaplain's remarkable letter which appears in this number. Study it. Think on it. Ponder over it till you understand it thoroughly. Try and answer his questions as best as you can. There is a chance for you to win one of the three prizes.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipts of 1/6 each from Mrs Arrell of Q'land, & Miss Miller of Q'land; 2/6 from Mrs Duke & 1/- each from Miss Edwards of N. S. W. & Miss Quish of Maldon.

Beg Pardon.

Having "not the heart" to reject numerous interesting items, the "Acting Editor" (?) is responsible for making four more pages in this number.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9. APRIL 1913 No. 8.

Our Church

The Chaplain resumed duties on the 9th of March. There were large congregations both morning & evening although the weather was anything but favourable. The ladies of the congregation were busy on the 8th Ult, & turned the church into a perfect garden of Eden - it was a mass of flowers. On the Sunday it was difficult to pick out our Chaplain from amongst the bloom.

"Love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength & neighbour as yourself" was his text, & long before he concluded, that was just what we felt we wanted to do.

On the 16th Ult, We offered up our Harvest Thanksgiving. The text was I Cor IX. 10 The song of the Plough, in the morning, & at the evening service Our Chaplain preached from Ruth II 4-8. We left Church with a warm place in our heart for Ruth & Boaz & a determination to read the book of Ruth at the first opportunity.

Bible Class

Our teacher re-opened his bible class on the 19th Ult. The room was packed, not a chair vacant, indeed one or two additional seats had to be brought in. His subject was "Things Beautiful". He opened with references to the beauty of flowers, fruit grass, trees, ferns, mountains, the sky, birds, gardens, rain, snow, rivers, the sea, paintings, statuary, carvings, needlework, buildings dress, home, manhood, womanhood, cleanliness etc. He said these things though beautiful were but temporal, of the earth earthly. They were of time, they were but for a period & passed away. The really beautiful were "for all time". Things truthful, honest, just, lovely,

pure, were the really beautiful because they were not temporal but everlasting. Things not left behind, but taken with us wherever we went & for ever.

Our Chief's At Home

The 12th. of March is the birthday of our leader, & on that date we celebrated his 30th. anniversary as a worker amongst the deaf. He made his debût in London, afterwards spending 14 years in Lancashire, & near upon 12 years ago came out to Australia. Mr. Abraham is, above all things an organiser & an enthusiast. Nothing daunts him. Once he makes up his mind to obtain, he obtains. Our board of directors are skilled men of business, & although they have always proceeded with much caution, they have never refused our leader a free hand in developing his schemes for the spiritual, mental, moral & social advancement of the deaf. Once their consent has been given for some original development they have stood by him loyally, & we believe never to their regret.

The celebration on the 12th. was an "At Home" in every sense of the word. Our upper hall was full, very few of the congregation being absent. All the members of the Deaf Committee put in an appearance except our "Spirit of universal goodwill" – Mr. M. L. Miller, who was engaged on business connected with our Society but found time to pen congratulations. He wrote "though absent in person I am with you in spirit" concluding with the wish that our Supt. "would be spared many years to continue his beneficial labours"

Grandfather Rose (the founder of the Victorian School for the Deaf) who long since celebrated his eightieth birthday, was very much in evidence & as ready as ever to mount the platform & give his quota of praise to our Chief, but the command of "no speeches" had gone forth so like the dear old grand dad that he is, he fell in with the law of the evening & told all he had to tell by one of those hearty handshakes of his which means so much to the recipient. Mr. Rose has known Mr. A. since a boy & has watched his career with deep interest. He is as proud of him as though he were his own son.

Mr. Abraham opened the meeting with prayer & then delivered a short address of welcome to the members. He told us what a joy it was to him to find that, after nearly 12 years of work

amongst us he still retained our affection & that we were today as loyal to him as he was to us. His organising, he said, was anything but complete, there remained as much to be done as had been accomplished. The provisions of "Our Deaf Centre" were second to none in the world, yet he was not satisfied, it was with feelings of joy that he was able to announce that the Committee had decided to allow him to complete his scheme, which meant the adding of accommodation for apprentices, a workshop & other helpful additions to the Central building. The Home for the Aged & Infirm was as comfortable a retreat as could be wished for, & the training farm for the deaf who by reason of other afflictions were prevented from procuring employment was not only unique in the world's work for the deaf, but was a financial success. Nevertheless he could not rest content until he had procured for the deaf a college that would rank with the Gallaudet College for the Deaf at Washington U.S.A. He rejoiced at having many friends in the State & Federal Parliaments who sympathised with his aims. The final consummation was just a matter of time & pegging away. His remarks were greeted with round after round of applause, for we all know by what he has already done that if he has made up his mind to do these things, given health & strength, they are as good as done.

Mr. J.E. Muir spoke on behalf of the congregation. He said: Dear Mr Abraham. In the name of the congregation of the Church for the deaf I beg to wish you many happy returns of your birthday & to congratulate you on the attainment of your 30th anniversary of your work amongst the deaf. Looking back one has to admit it to be a magnificent achievement. We gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to you for all you have accomplished on our behalf. We realise the self denial that is so evident in all your work, & that you are the mainspring of all the activities of our Society. The value of your untiring efforts can hardly be exaggerated. Not only have you shown an interest in the well being of the deaf, but also all, with whom you have come into contact. Every one recognises you as a genial friend & all sincerely wish that you will long be spared to continue the work to which you have given your life & talents.

The members of the Women's Guild gave expression to their feeling in a letter which we give in full.

Dear Mrs Abraham

Being requested by the Committee of the Womens Guild I have the greatest pleasure in conveying to you their heartiest congratulations upon the attainment of your thirtieth year of invaluable work among the deaf, & also on their behalf in wishing you many happy returns of your birthday.

Well we know how during your eleven years in Australia, you have worked & fought for us & given up your life to us. And we owe you a very big debt of love, gratitude, loyalty & help which we can never fully pay back.

We are proud to know that we have such a good & loyal friend in you, & that you will never desert us, & will always stand up for us.

We pray that you will be thrice blessed & continue your good & noble work

With warmest greetings
I remain
Yours very Sincerely
Rose Dow
Hon Sec.y Womens Guild.

Other members of the Congregation including Mrs J. E. Muir & Mr. R. H. Luff were ready to add their part to the congratulatory orations, but had to abide by the rule of the evening. Mrs Muir undertook the duties of "M. C." for the evening & introduced, with the help of her niece, a number of novel & interesting games which were much enjoyed. Mrs Abraham did the supper catering which was voted "exceptionally good." The variety of good things was sufficiently numerous to tempt the taste of all. Hence the concluding item of the evening was not the least interesting of the evenings programme. Many of our younger members honoured the host with birthday cards, one lady, whose indentity we have not yet been successful in fathoming sent a coloured painting of our Supt. Altogether it was a most enjoyable evening & there is little doubt that the best pleased at the gathering was our host himself.

Our Flower Farm.

There is an old saw which runs "When the cat's away the

mice will play." That can not be said of the workers at the farm. for as a matter of fact when the manager is away they work the harder. They take a delight in showing him what a lot they can do in his absence. When leaving for Tasmania he left with the overseer a list of work that needed attention. He was not certain how long he would be away so the list was a pretty long one. It was meant that the workers would do what they could, but they made up their minds to do it all before the Governor came back When he did return our manager was quite speechless with astonishment at the work they had got through during his brief absence.

After three months of dryness. we are at present enjoying most beneficial rains. There is no more need for our engine to work day & night & we are sure the dear old chap deserves a rest after his three months puffing & blowing. The whole garden is a mass of bloom, dahlias, roses, gladioli, carnations calliopsis, gaillardia, Michaelmas daisy etc & the violets chrysanthemums, & cosmos are just coming into flowers.

The Motor cars continue to dash over rough roads for the passengers can not resist the glories of our floral display

We have not received the figures of the month's takings but we understand that in spite of the unfavourable weather & the absence of "the prophet" they are not so bad.

Messrs G. G. Mercy & G. Brown of the Farm & Finance Committee are frequent visitors to our farm. They are as interested in its development as we are. We are indeed fortunate in having hearing friends who take so deep an interest in our affairs.

There is a rumour that these two gentlemen purpose supervising the laying out of the drives & gardens of the pleasure part of the Home this autumn. Mr Brown is the curator of Melbourne's public parks & gardens, & Mr Mercy is no novice. He is one those remarkable men who are living storehouses of all kinds of useful knowledge.

The guests at the farm during March were 2 Sydney ladies, Misses Saunders & Goldring. We dare not put in here all the kind things they have said about our Centre, our fellowselves because we do not want to be accused of suffer from "Swelled Head" all the same in our hearts we are glad

that our Centre & ourselves are "in the boom" with our lady visitors.

England wants a Man.

Amongst our numerous exchanges there is an ever welcome little quarterly called "Ephphatha" published by the Royal Association in aid of the Deaf, which is an organisation of the Church of England. More than once it has referred, in complimentary terms, to the work of our Society, but always with the wish that the "work" in the old land was "supported as well financially as in Australia" or that "Some one" would "come forward" & give a farm &c. The people in the old land are just as generous as Australians, & it is just as easy to obtain a farm for the deaf in England as it was in Victoria & Adelaide. What England needs is the MAN to "GO forward & GET," & until THE man comes forward England will have to wait for its farm & its financially successful deaf Society. Sitting & wishing is a profitless kind of business.

Our Chairman.

Our Chairman, Mr. E. K. Peacock. J. P. has again been away in New Zealand for some months. We miss him awfully. He stood by our Supt. in the early days of his struggles for our cause. Believed in him & his efforts, hence there is an exceptionally big place in our hearts for Mr. E. K. Peacock. It is rumoured that he will be back in Melbourne early in April which is good news to our little world.

Mr. Edgar Peacock has done his best to make up for the absence of his father. He is a frequent visitor to the farm & a generous contributor to our Library.

Police.

Our Melbourne Police, good fellows all, always willing to help us, are nevertheless very skilful in capturing "deaf & dumb-mutes" who turn out to be "hearing & speaking who can speak & hear" the newspapers make a big sensation of the doings of these wicked "deaf-mutes" but they appear too busy to tell their readers that the wicked ones were not deaf after all.

Personal Pars.

Mr & Mrs Harris of Adelaide have settled in Melbourne for good. Mr. Harris having obtained good employment here. They have since been at Portarlington staying with Mrs. Harris' relations

Mr. G. Hodges has gone to Rochester in connection with business expects to be away for 2 months.

Mr & Mrs Alex Collins & Mr & Mrs J. Collins were our only country visitors in Melbourne during Easter.

Mrs L. Booth & Misses Saunders & Goldring of N.S.W. are very much enjoying their months sojourn in Melbourne.

Mr G. Dunnet has gone back to Adelaide after 3 weeks holiday in Melbourne. He has given up farming & taken work in a factory in order to be near enough to enjoy more intercourse with the deaf.

Mr J. Rankine of S.A. was married to Miss Bundey of S.A. on the 6th March. They were to have spent their honey-moon in Sydney, but unfortunately the bride got seriously ill on the way to Melbourne, & on arrival had to be taken to a private hospital, where she was successfully operated on for appendicitis. We are pleased to say she is now getting on splendidly & will be able to return home shortly but the trip to Sydney will have to be abandoned.

Mrs L. Downes is now spending her holidays in Adelaide for a while.

Mrs H. Gladman has returned home from Adelaide where she spent a very enjoyable holiday. She was accorded a hearty welcome at a social tendered by the deaf ladies of Adelaide.

Mr J. Moran's intentions of going to Ballarat via Geelong by motor bicycle during the Easter holidays were spoiled by the wet weather. He motored to Geelong on Good Friday & stayed there all night, but next day he found it too wet to go on to Ballarat.

Mrs G. Damman of Warburton spent 3 weeks pleasant holiday with her parents at Williamstown.

Miss Graham has notified us that she has reached the Shore of South Africa. Is well & having a good time. She sends greetings to all deaf friends.

Congregation Notes

The 25th General Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held at the Deaf Mute Centre on Thursday evening April 26 when the report & balance sheet will be submitted.

In future new magazines may be borrowed after being retained on the table in the Library for one week.

Sports

Adult Deaf C.C. got beaten by Brunswick St. C.C. on the 1st & 8th March by 100 runs. A.D.C.C. 1st Innings 69 & 2nd Innings 39. Harding 13 & 10. Zeantock 16. Downes 14. Martin

13 & 7 for McLean 10. Brunswick 134 & 74. Downes 7 for 70, Beattie 6 for 61, McLean 3 for 41

The Club finished the season earlier than usual. They played 11 matches, winning 4.

The Lacrosse players who are very enthusiastic started to practise on the 22nd Ult & will play a few scratch matches before the commencement of the season. It is to be hoped that they will be more successful than last season & gain the premiership honours.

Women's Guild.

A meeting of the Guild was held on March 18th. The attendance as usual was very good. Misses Saunders & Goldring of Sydney were present & were accorded a hearty welcome tendered by the President & members. Miss Davis recited in her beautiful style "Sun of my Soul" and Mrs. J. E. Muir conducted an Educational class & her subjects being on "Statues & Streets of Melbourne" & other various subjects proved very interesting.

Ramble.

On March 8th the ramblers once more assembled at the Botanical Gardens this time all the younger girls with our Mother Hen to chaperon them but alas the older girls could not come. The presence of their popular schoolmate Miss Enid Jackson of Dandaford was an additional delight to the ramblers. As the wind was getting colder & boisterous. After a stroll round the beautiful gardens the party proceeded along to the Majestic Theatre where they enjoyed seeing the pictures & there they broke up for their various homes.

Gossip by old hand.

"New Hand" had all her own way last month. We compliment her upon her gettings. If we could only have done as well when we were sixteen we might have been able to do better now. She was rather hard on the "Governor" though. Certainly you have to work when he is about, but things are not quite so hard as "New Hand" would have us believe. We work, not from compulsion, but like the "Governor" himself, for the love of it.

After asking for "kind hearts" to come forward & help, she has cleared out to Tassy. Now we know she has a kind heart so ——!

The "Age" 21/5/1913.

DEAF MUTES' MEETING.

ENTHUSIASM WITHOUT APPLAUSE.

It was somewhat an unusual experience for the Governor to find himself presiding at a meeting at which his remarks had to be conveyed to his audience by means of signs. Yet on that account the applause which followed was by no means the less spontaneous. He was in the chair at the annual meeting of the Deaf and Dumb Society. The superintendent, Mr. Abrahams, throughout the proceedings translated and conveyed by every manner of suggestive gesture the tone and purport of the speeches, and judging by the intelligent interest and the applause which broke through the silence in an uncanny manner at intervals the speeches lost nothing in the telling. Perhaps not the least impressive portion of the ceremony was the translation of the prayer from the words which fell from the lips of the minister by signs which were watched for by hundreds of upturned eyes.

The balance sheet and report, showing the great progress which is being made by the society and need for the further outlet for the deaf mute workers, hinted in an appeal for funds for the extension of the Flinders-street building, was put to the meeting by his Excellency, and carried by uplifted hands, the Governor declaring that "the Ayes have it." Formal business dispensed with, a remarkable recitation was given by a deaf mute girl, Doris Davies. Mr. Abrahams had written the poem, a story of nature, with the sequence of ideas very simply and clearly put. The young girl had learnt the recitation in four days. Clad in a flowing white robe, her devotion to nature was demonstrated in a score of ways, and the audience followed with the deepest sympathy her rendering of the sentiments, breaking into applause at the conclusion.

Rev. F. V. Pratt, in a hearty speech, said he intended to be bright, brief and brotherly. An American writer, Philip Brooks, had pleaded for a man "four square." Now that phrase did not mean the man who was as broad as he was long—(laughter)—but a man who cultivated the four sides of his nature; the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual. It was the happy blending of all these four attributes that made the well developed man. In the same way the members of the deaf and dumb society were being taught. He paid a great tribute to the work which was being done by the superintendent, Mr. Abrahams. It was his enthusiasm and his power which lay behind the whole of the splendid work which was being done for the deaf and dumb people of the State. (Applause.) In conclusion he told a story concerning Helen Keller, that gracious triumphant spirit whose name was one to conjure with in an audience such as he was addressing. She was puzzled when she was a child at all the religions she heard of, so she said to the Bishop one day, "Bishop, why are there so many religions?" "Ah, my child," replied the Bishop, "there is only one religion—the religion of love." It was a matter for rejoicing that the man who was guiding the destinies of the deaf and dumb of the State was a man who worked because he loved to make better the lot of others. (Great applause.)

Sir John Fuller briefly spoke of the pleasure it gave him to be present at the meeting. He considered it was his duty to attend a function of the nature. He assured his audience that he had come to show that he took a lively and real interest in the work of the society, and expressed a hope that the lot of the truly unfortunate people would improve as far as it was possible for their position to improve; that they might be relieved, as far as possible, from their affliction, which was no fault of their own. He thanked the officials for the manner in which they were carrying out their noble work. (Applause.)

At the conclusion of a short concert programme views were shown of the work which was being done at the Blackburn flower farm, and a special series of pictures was thrown on the screen of Mr. F. J. Rose, the founder of the deaf and dumb school on St. Kilda-road. He had been stricken down with illness, and was unable to be present at the meeting, the first he had missed for over 30 years. The pictures of the old man were received with delight and applause by the deaf mutes.

The "Argus" 20/5/1913.

The annual social gathering of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria was held in the society's rooms, Flinders-street, last evening, the Governor (Sir John Fuller) presiding over a large assemblage. In the annual report, read by the secretary (Mr. R. J. Oehr), it was stated that during the year a women's wing had been erected at the Blackburn Home, and the buildings in Flinders-street had been completed. In the latter, which had cost £7,500, deaf mute apprentices would be accommodated. The centre was now a rallying spot for the deaf mutes. They gathered there every Sunday for Divine worship, and on week nights they attended for mental instruction. In Victoria there were 535 deaf mutes, of whom 370 were adults. It was one of the aims of the society to make the deaf self-supporting, and those who were not fitted for ordinary occupations were employed at the Blackburn flower farm. The receipts from the farm last year totalled £816. The election of officers for the ensuing term resulted:—President, Mr. W. H. Felstead; vice-president, Mr. E. R. Peacock; treasurer, Mr. G. G. Haldene; secretary, Mr. R. J. Oehr, together with a strong committee. An excellent musical programme was gone through during the evening, and at the conclusion bioscope pictures of the home and farm for deaf mutes were shown.

The "Argus" 24/5/1913.

Fund.

DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY.

In the annual report of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, which appeared in "The Argus" on Tuesday, it was erroneously stated that extensions had been made at Blackburn farm, and new buildings erected in Flinders-street, at a cost of £7,500. The secretary of the society has advised us that this should have read that about £7,500 is required to complete the women's wing at Blackburn farm, and provide necessary additional accommodation at the "centre" in Flinders-street. Donations for this purpose may be sent to 32 Flinders-street.

Adult Deaf Mute Centre

32-34 FLINDERS STREET EAST, MELBOURNE

THE COMMITTEE

OF THE ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA HAVE PLEASURE IN INVITING YOURSELF AND FRIEND TO THEIR

Annual Social Gathering

TO BE HELD IN THE ABOVE CENTRE ON MONDAY, MAY 19TH, 1913, AT 8 P.M.

DOORS OPEN 7.30.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN FLEETWOOD FULLER, BART. GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA, WILL PRESIDE

SPEAKERS: REV. F. V. PRATT, M.A., AND MR. H. STEAD EDITOR OF THE REVIEW OF REVIEWS

ENTERTAINMENT BY DEAF MUTES, ETC.

NOTE—IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE RETURN THIS CARD. THE ACCOMMODATION OF OUR HALLS COMPEL US TO SEND BUT A LIMITED NUMBER OF INVITATIONS, AND THERE ARE FRIENDS WHO WOULD BE GLAD TO ACCEPT, IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

R. J. OEHR, HON. SEC.
E. J. D. ABRAHAM, SUPT.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9. MAY 1913. No. 9.

Annual Meeting of Society.

The Annual Meeting of our Society is fixed for Monday 19th May and is to be held in the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. His Excellency the Governor Sir John Fuller will preside. There will be addresses by Rev. F. V. Pratt, M.A., a new friend of our work, and other gentlemen, also an entertainment. Tickets of admission will be available shortly for distribution.

Congregational Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the deaf congregation was held in the upper hall of our Centre on the 24th Ult. The Chaplain presided and there was a larger attendance of members than we have had for some years. The gathering was a strictly business one. After opening prayer the Hon. Sec. (Mr. J. E. Muir.) read the Committee's report. It is the twenty fifth. The report opens with a grateful acknowledgement of the services of the general board. The deaf Committee are fully alive to and thankful for all the privileges that the board has procured for the deaf of the whole state. They realise the sacrifices of time and talents that the Committee are continually making on their behalf. Unlike the majority of the churches for the hearing, the attendance at divine service is not only as good as in the years that are passed but even better. Practically the whole of the junior deaf of Melbourne are regular in attendance. As usual, there is a word of appreciation for the Supt- Chaplain, he is spoken of as the mainspring of all the activities of the Society and the value of "his untiring efforts" are spoken of as "hardly possible to exaggerate." His bible class is a strong feature, a third and at times quite half of the

Congregation attending. The collections are better than ever. The Mens' Guild, Womens' Guild, Bank, Library, Lacrosse and Cricket Clubs continue to flourish. The average attendance at rallies scored two. The membership roll beats all records. The circulation of the "Monthly Letter" also holds its record - 450 copies monthly. In concluding the Committee offers its prayerful gratitude to Our Heavenly Father for all the blessings enjoyed by the deaf. The Balance-Sheet submitted by the Hon. Treas. (Mr. F.E. Freeman) showed a most healthy financial position - Income £42, Expenditure £35. The whole of the deaf Committee were returned with the exception of Messrs McLean (resigned) and Wass, their places were filled by Messrs Newnham and Robertson, two of our younger members. Messrs J.E. Muir, R.H. Duff and M.L. Miller were returned representatives of the deaf to the General Board unopposed. The chairman in his address said that we had everything to be thankful for. Every branch of the work continued to increase in efficiency. The standard of the deaf, whatever point viewed from, was better than ever. They were totally without financial difficulties. Each year added new advantages and new plans were made for future benefits. A plan for very important improvements had been approved by the Committee and sanction given for the raising of £7.500. Realising the great strides that had been made in the work of the Society and the impossibility of the Superintendent fulfilling the whole of the duties, the Committee were advertising for an assistant Missionary. The loyalty of the deaf to himself and their affection for him and his love for them remained unbroken. Peace and Harmony was writ large over the whole of the movement.

Illness of Mr. Rose.

The news of the collapse of our old benefactor Mr. Rose came as a shock to the deaf, especially to those who had been at school under him. Grief was visible everywhere amongst the deaf when the illness of Mr. Rose was made known, and when the news came of the remarkable improvement in his health it lifted a weight of anxiety from the minds of the deaf. The following letter has been forwarded to Mr. Rae.

Dear Mr. Rose.

At the Annual General Meeting of the deaf congregation held last Thursday evening, the members requested me to express to you their sincere sympathy in your serious illness, and they earnestly hope

that the reported improvement in your condition will be maintained. They most fervently trust that you will by God's blessing long be spared to work among the deaf. Yours in deep sympathy, J. E. Muir, Hon. Sec. Deaf Committee.

The Flower Farm.

This is the month for chrysanthemums. The plantation is a sight worth many a mile walk to see. The cosmos was the attraction last month. We were able to send some hundreds of lily of the valley bloom to town this month. The total sales etc (including outstanding accounts) reached £800 last year.

Womens' Wing.

A meeting of the executive Committee, formed to raise money to furnish the sitting room of the Women's wing of the Blackburn Home was held recently. It was announced that the amount realised by the Snowden Picture Nights was £ 32-12-0 and that the following donations had been received, Miss Foster 15/-, Miss Graham £1, Friends 5/- Mr. C. Hosking 2/- Recipient £1-8-6. B. District Social Club Pic-nic 10/6. The Ladies who composed the Committee were, Mesdames Muir, Boorby & Brockford, Misses Dow, Davies, Hickey & Empson (Hon. Treas.) Mesdames Muir & Boorby and Miss Empson did the purchasing. The sitting room is now furnished and is without doubt the most comfortable room at the Home.

Womens' Guild.

The Women's Guild met on the 8th ult. The attendance was good and Mrs Booth a visitor from Sydney was welcomed. Mrs Wilson gave an instructive and interesting scripture lesson and Miss Dow read a paper on "Daniel"

Ramblers.

On April 12th the Ramblers numbering about 15 including Mrs Booth and Misses Saunders & Goldring of Sydney journeyed to Heidelberg where a most enjoyable outing was spent. The weather was everything that could be desired and a very merry party it was as they strolled through the park and along the bank of the river Yarra. The visitors were greatly impressed with the beauties of the scenery. At the invitation of our popular member (Mrs Peirce), the party proceeded along to Westgarth where a much appreciated tea was partaken of amidst good natured

banter on all sides. Tea being over, games were indulged in which caused much merriment and enjoyment. While partaking supper "Mother Ken" on behalf of the ramblers and Mrs Booth on behalf of her Sydney girls thanked Mrs Peirce heartily for her generosity in giving tea and supper and thus ended our happy time.

Mens' Guild.

On the 15th April at the meeting of the Mens' Guild the members had a good treat in Mr. Luff entertaining them with a very interesting and instructive paper entitled the "Conquest of the Sea" Mr. Luff also recited a piece called "Psalm of Life".

Social to Visitors.

On Tuesday evening the 1st April the deaf of Melbourne entertained the Visitors (Mrs Booth and Misses Saunders and Goldring of Sydney & Mr Rankine of South Australia) at a welcome social at the Deaf Mute Centre. There was an attendance of 70 deaf folk. Mr. Abraham on behalf of the Melbourne deaf welcomed the visitors. He said the deaf were proud of their organisation and the advantages it offers the deaf. They took a delight in welcoming the deaf from other States and countries and all that they could do to add to their pleasure they endeavoured to do. Games and conversations, &c. were the items of the evening. Supper was served in the lower hall. Thanks are due to Mrs Booth and Misses Smith, Davis & Fletcher for supervising the supper. The arrangements of the social were in the hands of the Deaf Committee.

"Our Ship" Competition.

An offer of three gifts was made the month before last by our Supt. to the three best sets of answers to his seven questions. The best answers were sent in by Mr. T. J. Peters, Mrs Brockford and Miss D. Hickey. Here are the correct answers:- 1. Original name of Ship - "Adult Deaf & Dumb Mission" 2. The sea of dangers - Difficulties in obtaining permanently increased income. Management of work largely experimental etc. 3. Harbour of Paradise for the deaf - Melbourne. 4. Present name - Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria. 5. Re-built and re-fitted - Improved constitution (or objects) which now makes, or will make when work is fully completed, every possible provision for the Adult Deaf. 6. Officers and Seamen - Board of Management, Deaf Committee, Superintendent and other helpers. 7. The property

of the Society, with reserve fund and income. Miss Doris Davis came a very close fourth, being the only competitor to give the correct answer to No. 2. question. She is therefore awarded a consolation prize.

La-Crosse.

The Adult Deaf La Crosse club has every reason to be satisfied with the success which attended its initial effort against the University team. Judged by this match the deaf team should develop into a fine combination and should be able to make a much stronger bid for premiership honours than last year. Of last years team Messrs J. McLean, J. Peters & D. Lyons (returned to the country) were absentees. The new man is Mr. W. Anderson, late of the Deaf School team, his inclusion has materially strengthened the team, his specialty being goal defending. C. Robertson & L. Downes were appointed Captain and Vice-Captain respectively. On the 26th ult. the club began the season by beating the University by 26 goals to 2. Goal throwers - C. Smith 10, N. Hughes 6, B. Martin 5, C. Robertson 4, A. Christensen 1. The club is still in the "C" Grade and its enthusiasm runs high.

Rally & Winter Competitions.

The next Rally will probably be held sometime in June and the Winter Games Competitions on Saturday nights will commence its campaign in the same month.

"Monthly Letter" Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 19/- from Adelaide deaf, 1/6 from Mrs Woods and 1/- each from Miss Fanny Elliott and Messrs W. Mills, G. Oakley and G. Brown.

The "Gesture".

The "Gesture" publishers will be pleased to receive the names of any deaf person living in the Country districts who would like to be a canvasser for the magazine. Half of the sales return will be allowed each canvasser. Will any one desirous of enlisting as a canvasser kindly send name and address to Mr. M. L. Miller, 70 Bourke St, E. Melbourne.

Personal Pars.

Those captivated by Sydney, seem to have got tired of the new toy, and are back at the Mecca of the deaf. The magnetic influence of the Centre

is too great to be resisted long.
Miss Saunders and Miss Goldring of Sydney who have been staying at the farm as guests of the manager have returned to Sydney. Whilst here they talked "Our Centre" and "Our Farm" morning, noon and night. They would stay with us for good if they could and on our part we have to admit, they would be a most welcome addition to our circle of harmony.
Mysteries are so few in our little world where everybody knows everything about everybody else, that it is not surprising that everybody is trying to find out who left a painted sketch of our Superintendent on his desk the night of the "At Home". We know it was a deaf lady, but WHO?
"Mother Ken" and Miss Doris Hickey have been on a visit to Warburton. The former for a well earned rest and the latter because "Mother Ken" is never happy unless she has one or more of her "chicks" about her. "The chick" sent quite a volume to our Centre giving details of their doings.
Mr. W. Dickens who is one of the oldest members of our Committee and one of our most generous friends, scarcely misses a meeting of the board, yet we see him but seldom. Even at our annual meetings, we only get to know that he is really present. He is so very modest, that we dont get the chance to shake hands with him. Members are reminded that our annual meeting takes place on the 19th of May, and the order is, to waylay him at the door, and just show him our method of showing our friends that we haven't forgotten them and their labours on our behalf.
Mr. H. Sumner Martin is another friend who has stood by us longer than most of us can remember and is well informed as to our needs. Although he has rendered our Society great service he also is always invisible to us. We hear of him and what he says at Board meetings but do not see him, unless it is at the annual meetings.
Won't someone hint to our Supt. with the suggestion that an occasional meeting of the board and the deaf would be a welcome feature at our Centre. We get lots of good things at their hands, but it will be time enough to appreciate them as Angels when they really have passed on to the better life, at present we would much prefer to show our appreciation personally by a grateful smile and a grip of the hand.

Say Supt., if you read the "Monthly". It is said you can do most everything. There is something we want you to do. Make these good friends come along and fraternise with us.

Mrs Booth and the Misses Saunders and Goldring returned to Sydney after spending a months pleasant holiday in Melbourne.

Mrs Williamson and Miss Matthews are back in Melbourne after a very long absence in Sydney.

Mrs J. Rankine has improved greatly since undergoing a severe operation and returned to Adelaide with her husband.

Mr. C. Reynolds has been ill with pleurisy but is now much better and able to return to his employment.

The South Australian deaf have re-constructed their branch of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association.

Mr. and Mrs W. Mills have gone to Queensland to see their married daughter (Mrs Lewis Sutton) they expect to stay with her for about four months.

Mr. R. J. Miller had a rather uncomfortable time at Broken Hill during the strike. He was idle for a time and found it difficult to procure provisions.

Tribute to Mr. Abraham.

The following is part of a paragraph that appeared in "Punch" of April 24th. "Abraham is a proper name for a founder. From Abraham sprang all Jewry, and the Christian religion. Mr. Abraham is the head of the Melbourne Deaf Mute Society, which we boldly claim to be the best in the World. Positively England envies us the possession of Mr. Abraham. The Royal Association for the Deaf publishes a quarterly called "Ephphatha" this publication regrets that London is not up to Melbourne! The Melbourne Institute has just honoured the thirtieth anniversary of Mr. Abraham as a worker amid the deaf, partly in England. An admirer remarks that with Abraham if a thing be only difficult it is done, and if impossible it will be done. The Flower Farm at Blackburn, beyond Box Hill, goes ahead. A mass of bloom, with roses, dahlias, gladioli, carnations, gaillardia, etc. Violets and Chrysanthemums coming along. A money-making concern, too. Visit it."

Language of Conventional Signs, Etc.

The following items of interest appeared in the February issue of the "Silent Worker" (America). In an address Dr. Graham Bell took occasion to administer a well deserved rebuke to many of his hearers in the following words: "I must say that I think oral teachers are unnecessarily afraid of the manual alphabet. So far as I am concerned I see no objection to any child, deaf or hearing, spelling English words upon his fingers."

The Miss Afraid-of-the-Manual-Alphabet is by far too numerous in the teaching profession. One is too many.

The ignis fatuus of speech exclusively for all the deaf all the time hovers over the slough of despond. A wise teacher with a sincere interest in the deaf – an interest extending beyond the class-room and school days – will avoid going to such an extreme.

Not long since a prominent educator asked for one "Silent Worker's" written opinion of the sign-language. We complied with the request with alacrity. The letter is not copyrighted and is given below:

Dear — —:– In regard to the use of the language of conventional signs by the deaf my emphatic and unqualified opinion, after more than thirty-five years experience with the language, both in and out of school, is that it unquestionably has a very important and permanent place in the most successful system of deaf-mute instruction. It is the reverse of being detrimental to the acquisition of speech and lip-reading on the part of the deaf possessed of any special aptitude for success in these branches. It is absolutely indispensable as a rapid, reliable, and satisfactory means of addressing the deaf in chapel and at other public gatherings. It is a means of great social enjoyment to the deaf both during and after their school life. To deprive the deaf of the sign-language would be criminal. As a senseless agitation the opposition to the sign-language is not outclassed by anything in recorded history. Yours very truly, James H. Cloud, Principal, Gallaudet School for the Deaf, St. Louis.

We need hardly say that the educated deaf (if not the whole of the deaf) of Australasia will cordially agree with the above.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL 9 JUNE 1913 No 10

Annual Meeting

Unfavourable weather is no determent to our Audiences. On the 19th ult the Crowd at our 29th Annual Meeting was greater than ever. Every seat occupied and the walls lined with patient spectators who stood the Meeting out.

The Rev H. W. H. Adeney, one of the oldest hearing members of the Committee opened the proceedings with prayer.

His Excellency the Governor Sir John Fuller, presided, and amongst those present on the platform were Capt Curwen, Rev F. V. Pratt M.A. W. H. Stead, Rev H. W. H. Adeney, Mr E. R. Peacock J.P. Mr K. J. Ochr. Hon Sec. and the Superintendent Mr Abraham, the latter acted as interpreter throughout the proceedings.

The Hon Sec. Mr Ochr submitted the Report and balance Sheet. The subjoined extract Shows the present position of the Society at a glance. "From its simple aim of providing the deaf and dumb of the State with religious instruction, the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society has in the past twenty nine years developed into an organisation, making, or planning to make, provision for the whole of the needs of the Adult Deaf & Dumb of Victoria."

Last Year what has been termed the "Coping Stone" to the work was decided upon, that is to say, the erection of the Women's Wing of the Home for Aged & Infirm Deaf Mutes at Hackham, and the Completion of the building in Flinders Street; the Chief feature of the latter will be the accommodation for deaf mute apprentices. This work will Cost £7.500, almost

the whole of which has yet to be raised."
The Maintenance Fund showed total receipts for the Year as £ 4 4 4 9 and the expenditure £ 4 . 1 5 3 . On the erection of the main building of the Womens Wing £ 1105 had been Spent. There was a Sum of £ 93. 12. 6 in hand toward the Completion of the Flinders St building. There is a reserve fund of £ 1 4 5 2 . 7 . 2 and the Societys' assets were valued at £ 14 . 0 11 " 6 - 5.
The Rev F. V. Pratt M.A. gave a most interesting address which was frequently applauded. He said he would endeavour to make his Speech bright, brief and brotherly. An American writer, Philip Brooks had pleaded for a man "four square. Now that phrase did not mean the Man who was as broad as he was long — (laughter) — but a man who Cultivated the four sides of his Nature; the physical, intellectual, social and Spiritual. It was the happy blending of all these four attributes that made the well developed man. In the same way the members of the deaf & dumb Society were being taught. He paid a great tribute to the work which was being done by the Superintendent W Abraham It was his enthusiasm and his power which lay behind the whole of the splendid work which was being done for the deaf and dumb people of the State. (Applause) In Conclusion he told a Story Concerning Helen Keller, that gracious triumphant Spirit whose name was one to conjure with in an audience such as he was addressing. She was puzzled when She was a Child at all the religions she heard of, So she said to the Bishop one day "Bishop, why are there so many religions?" "Ah, my child," replied the Bishop "there is only one religion — the religion of love." It was a matter for rejoicing that the Man who was guiding the destinies of the deaf & dumb of the State was a Man who worked because he loved to make better the lot of others. (Great applause.)

Sir John Fuller said he was pleased to be with us that night. He had come at Considerable inConvenience to himself but he not only Considered it his duty to attend

but he wanted to show us that he sympathized with the work and took a live interest in what was being done for the deaf. He Complimented the officials upon the Success of the work and before leaving assured our Superintendent that the work was of exceptional interest to him and that he would pay a visit to the Blackburn Home at an early date.

Mr Stead gave us a Lecturette on eugenics introducing some of his own experiences in Europe and America. Speaking of the work being Carried on at Blackburn by our Society he said it had been his pleasure to visit and examine the work, & there was every proof of Success. The Public did not realize what had been and was being done in the direction of the training of the feeble of intellect by Mr Abraham. It was good to know that there were men willing to face the difficulties of experimenting in this line. Mr Abraham was fortunate in having a Committee so advanced as not only to allow but to encourage him in this Special work.

Mr. E. K. Peacock J. P. Said that the Blackburn Farm Receipts told their own story of Success. The fact that at the close of the third year the receipts amounted to £800, nearly two thirds of the Cost of upKeep of Home & Farm was a Convincing argument in itself.

A recital written by Mr Abraham entitled "Beautiful Spring" was most gracefully signed by Miss Doris Davis and much appreciated so was the song sung by Mr Piggott. Miss Doris Moore also Contributed a most enjoyable item, we feel we must Congratulate that Young Lady upon her Sweet rendering of her Song. The rest of the evening was given over to a Bioscope Entertainment. To the Surprise of most a picture of Mr Rose giving Mr Abraham a message to the deaf was shown. Two pictures of the opening Ceremony of the Womens' Wing Blackburn were also shown, these came in for a big Share of applause.

New Hon. Treasurer.

Mr. Gilbert Grange Haldane, Chief Accountant of the Commonwealth Postal Dept. has Consented to accept the position of Hon. Treasurer to our Society, and the Rev. F. V. Trott M. A.

has joined the Committee

Help for Our Supt.

Our Committee is advertising for an assistant Missionary in British publications for deaf. The Salary offerred is £200 a year, with two paid passages on White Star Line and £20 expenses. So far, we understand, ten applications have come to hand, two of whom have worked under Mr Abraham

Lucky Chicago

There is a probability of Melbourne and Adelaide being beaten in their Social provisions for the Deaf. In the near feature it is possible we shall have to haul down our flag of "The Mecca of the Deaf." A hearing lady in Chicago has donated £2.600 for a site on which she proposes to build an £8.600 Institute for the Adult Deaf. The building is to contain a Chapel, assembly halls, ball room, gymnasium, library, Club rooms, billiard tables bowling alleys and other Conveniences Common to a well appointed Club.

Rally

The 33rd Rally is fixed for Monday the 9th of June (King's Birthday) and will be held as usual at our Centre Hall at 6.15 pm. for which a charge of 6d will be Made The "Start turn" of this Rally is to be a fancy Costume parade Two prizes are offered for most original Characters, one to go to the fair, the other to the Sterner Sex. The Chief topic of Conversation after meetings at present is, "What are you going to wear?" There will be guessing Competitions, Games &C. in addition to the parade.

Deaf Committee.

At the meeting of the above Committee held on 6th May the following officers were re-elected. Hon Sec - Mr J.E. Mann. Hon Treas. Mr F Frewin, Hon Librarian, Mr G.B. Mortimer. Assistants, Messrs J. Marks & C Roberson. Messrs W.L. Miller

T. Trewin, R. H. Luff, J. E. & W. Muir were appointed "Committee for Amusements". This Committee will have Charge of the Rallies winter games, socials, picnics &C.

Hereditary Deafness & Mentally Deficient

Dr Kerr Love, who has, for some twenty years at least, devoted much of his time and talents to the Subject of deaf-mutism, recently lectured under the Auspices of the National Bureau for Promoting the General Welfare of the Deaf. (London, England). In the Course of his lecture he said there were about 3.600 hereditary deaf people in Great Britain, and probably twice as many Carrying deafness, but who hear. In Considering preventative measures, he divided the deaf into:—

1.- Those who Carry deafness and nothing more.
2.- Those who carry deafness plus mental deficiency or imbecility or epilepsy.

For the latter he proposes segregation during the whole of their lives.

This has been the Contention of our Supt for the past 15 years. He has gone further, he has undertaken the training of the mentally deficient deaf and with results far in advance of his most sanguine expectations. So far as Melbourne is Concerned theorising is a thing of the past. We are in a position to give practical demonstration. What we ask now is "Come and see" then Go and do likewise".

The Farm.

June is a month when everybody is willing to transfer their Custom to you for the Simple reason that growers have little or no flowers for sale. The tantalising feature is — neither have we. It's an off month and it requires no end of Scheming to keep faith with Contract Customers. Although our plantation is at its worst just now so far as the twelve months of the year are Concerned, there is every prospect of being in a better position to tide over the difficult month than in any former Year.

During May we made a bid for the Sydney trade and obtained as much as we were able to supply, indeed more. The drawback is that the freight is ridiculously high, in excess really of the value of the flowers. But as the buyer pays carriage our sympathies are naturally with him. Much of the labour during May was Concentrated upon improvements, this will be Continued during June by the end of this month we expect to have planted something like 700 wattles, willows & poplars, Chiefly round the lake. In four or five years time the lake, if properly advertised Should be the rendezvous of the people of the City and Suburbs on Wattle day. Many thousands of Carnation Cuttings have been got into the nursery bed, the Manager having decided to lay out several acres of this popular bloom. Mr Abraham is giving his personal attention to all orders, packing the cases in the early hours of the morning. The Chrysanthemum Season just closed gave magnificent returns. the blooms being exceptionally good. Farms Sales &c for the month of March amounted to £59" 7" 9, and for April £64" 6" 1.

The Home

The Committee has decided to make a start on the laying out of the ground round the Home itself. It looks very bare at present and is the one ugly Spot of the estate. Mr G. G. Mercy and Mr G. Brown will supervise this work. With the exception of Colds the General health of the residents is good. Our family has been increased by two, one to each wing.

Men's Guild.

"The Australian Navy" was the Subject of a paper read by Mr M. L. Miller before the Mens Guild on May 13th. Mr Miller is above all things methodical, we were

not surprised therefore to find the paper full of interesting and instructive detail. He described to the members the different kinds of warships with their cost. He Concluded by telling us that within ten years Australia will be the Possessor of a fairly well equipped Navy. Several Members spoke on the Subject. Mr Miller also gave a recital " Put Your Shoulder to the wheel ". The Audience was one of the largest we have had for some time past.

Womens' Guild.

On April 29th at the Meeting of the Guild the members were favoured with two excellent papers. There was a large Attendance. The first paper " Woman - Mans Helpmeet," which was prepared by Miss Empson & read in her absence by Mrs R. Dow made a deep impression upon the members, Showing several Strong points. Subsequently the members agreed that every wife Should be a true helpmeet & Companion to her own husband and that a wife who fails to do her duty to her husband is his greatest enemy, he being tied to her for life. The second paper " A Spinsters Worries " was read by Miss Meehan who made her debut as a lecturer She related many strange incidents both sad & amusing. The two papers were thoroughly enjoyed & enthusiastically applauded. Miss Ida Kennedy gave her maiden recitation There will be no meetings in June on account of wintry weather. The Annual Meeting will be held in July Nominations for Office bearers must be forwarded to the Hon Sec not later than June 30th. Members who have not attended three meetings during the Year are not entitled to vote nor Stand for Committee

Rambles.

Why does it almost invariably rain on a Saturday afternoon? That must be a thought exercising the minds of the Members of the Rambling Club. On the 10th of May five members only put in an appearance including "Mother Dew". The pouring rain had no power to wash out the Enthusiasm of these dauntless Souls. They did the trip planned just as tho' Old Sol was Smiling down upon them

all the time, first to Queens Park, Moone Ponds, then to the Saltwater River Maribyrnong, afterwards to Red Market by Electric tram and then home. They found the Scenery Surrounding the Saltwater River So attractive that it was decided to pay the locality a further visit next Summer.

Winter Games.

The Games Competition opens on the 7th of June and will run to the last Saturday in Sept. The following are the games Selected ÷ Bagatelle Shooting, Angling, Word Making, Table quoits, and Dart throwing Entrance for the whole Session — one Shilling. The Charge is made to provide a fund for the purchase of prizes

Deaf Lacrosse Club

Our Lacrosse club is fulfilling the promise it made at the opening of the Season, by remaining unbeaten. We dont want to Crow but we cannot help feeling glad, and when we are glad we like to Say So. There is a hope hanging about us that they will remain unbeaten to the end of the Season. May 3rd " Carlton v Deaf - latter won 11 to 2 goals. Throwers C Smith 7 & N Hughes 4. May 10th " Middle Park v Deaf. Latter won 8 goals to nil Throwers. C Smith 4. N Hughes 2. C Roberton 1. J Martin 1. May 17 was a bye for the deaf team. May 24 Coburg gave the Deaf a walkover.

Deaf Athletic Club

This Club is holding a Picture Night at the Majestic Theatre on June 25th " It is to be hoped that the Majestic people will give them a better Show than they put on at our Annual Meeting. Disappointing is the very kindliest way we can describe it.

Mr. F. J. Rose.

Mr F. J. Rose we are pleased to Say, is slowing improving in health, and wishes to thank all his deaf friends for their kind Sympathy. A letter has been received from Mr Rose which we print in full, as follows

Mr. J. E. Muir. Hon Sec. Deaf Committee

Dear Sir as my husband is not yet able to put his thoughts & feelings into Correct language by writing, allow me on his behalf to return you & the members of the Deaf Congregation Sincere thanks for the kind Expressions of Sympathy conveyed in your letter. I am very thankful to Say he is gradually improving day by day both mentally & bodily & I trust will eventually be restored to his usual health & ability. I know it would be his own Ambition to further the Cause of the Deaf & Dumb.

With kind regards & Sincere thanks.

I am Yours respectfully
E. M. Rose.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9. AUGUST 1913. No 12

Monthly Letter.

This is the one hundred & eighth visit of our dear bright little "Monthly" to your home, that is of course, if you have known her from the beginning, for this number completes the ninth year. She is our family register & for that reason alone should be treasured. She brings to us month by month news of the doings of our old school chums. She keeps us up to date in all matters appertaining to the deaf & is the bond that binds us together in unity & affection. So precious has she become, that should circumstances stay her monthly call her absence would be mourned as would be the departure of a dear friend. We admit she is a terror for gossip, yet we can affirm without fear of contradiction that she is in no way like the ordinary gossip, for she is kindly & sympathetic all the time. There was a prolonged discussion at the last meeting of the Deaf Committee regarding the wisdom of bringing her out in a new dress. Some thought she had reached the age for fashionable attire; a dress of type was suggested, fortunately the majority preferred girlhood to womanhood. In the fashionable frills of type she would no longer be the innocent little darling that she at present is. Besides in type she would no longer be "a letter" so "a letter" she will remain at least for another year

New Missionary.

The General Board have, for sometime past been greatly concerned over the pressure of work upon our Superintendent. It is impossible that he can continue much longer to carry so heavy a load without help. Not only has he the financial responsibility

of our Society, but the actual work of the two Institutions – Flinders St & Blackburn, & is in addition, running a most successful business in the interests of the Society. There is every probability of the longed for help arriving within a few months. At the last meeting of the Board it was decided to offer the position of assistant, to a well known missionary to the deaf in the old world, a gentleman who was for sometime assistant to Mr. Abraham, & who is familiar with our Chief's methods. Should he accept the invitation of the Committee, & we sincerely hope that he will, Our Superintendent will have behind him a man in full sympathy with his aims, one who has come to believe from personal experience that it is only necessary for the Chief to say a thing can be done & it will be done. With so enthusiastic an officer at his right hand nothing will be impossible.

Dear old Grandad.

A final effort is being made by the Victorian Branch of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association to persuade the Victorian Government to recognise in a tangible manner the valuable services rendered the State by Mr. F. J. Rose, founder of the Vic^n. Deaf & Dumb Institution. The Minister of Education, Sir Alex Peacock has promised to receive a deputation who will submit the case of Mr. Rose. We rejoice to be able to say that Our Grandad, is improving in health, he has been well enough to attend Committee meetings & to submit valuable advice on matters pertaining to the deaf.

Vic. Branch. A.D.D.A.

There is great activity in the Victorian Camp of the A. D. D. A. The case of Mr. Rose is only one of many that is receiving the attention of the board. The Hon Sec.^y lets no opportunity pass that may bring possible benefits to the deaf. The matters referred to above have not yet reached the stage where publicity would be helpful. When sufficiently developed our reader will be taken into our confidence

The local board met in the board room at the Deaf Mute Centre on the 10th July. A letter to the Director of Education was read & approved of. In regard to the passing of a bill making provision for elementary instruction of Deaf Children, this association made certain recommendations to the minister of Education which were afterwards laid before him by a very representative deputation.

In reply the Director stated that the Government has taken over the control of the St Kilda Rd. Deaf School but that the maintenance of the

children is still left to charity. [In the U.S.A., Canada & many European countries the Governments have for many years past provided for the maintenance of Deaf children.]

A copy of a letter to Sir Alex. Peacock, the Minister of Education, re the case of Mr. F. J. Rose was also read. The Minister has consented to receive the deputation upon date to be fixed. A letter congratulating Mr. E. Salas of Adelaide upon the attainment of his 21st anniversary as a missionary to the deaf & upon the magnificent work accomplished by him, was agreed to, also a letter to Mr. S. Phillips conveying hearty congratulations to the Sydney Deaf upon the formation of an independent Adult D. & D. Society.

The Hon Secretary (Mr. F. E. Frewin) acknowledges with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Messrs G. Battersby (St Arnaud) W. J. Bezemeres (Ballarat) S. Ferguson (Boroomans Forest), Alex. James & Tom Collins (South Yeering) E. J. D. Abraham, M. G. Mortimer, R. A. Jasmon (Lancaster) H. H. Allinson (Cowwar) Victor & Oswald Lyppiatt, P. Clark (Wildwa.) M. O'Sullivan, J. Moran, D. J. Hood (Beech Forest) Mr. & Mrs. H. Gladman, Misses R. Doo, D. Hickey & J. Wright. Members who have not sent their annual subscriptions, which are due now will kindly do so as soon as possible. There are 64 members on the roll, up to date.

Gesture.

"The Gesture" has discontinued publication. It was powerful to the last the final issue being up to the usual standard - 10,000 copies. the board being faced with the difficulty of getting permanent & reliable agents, & the Editor overwhelmed with other duties decided to withdraw the magazine for the present. Hearing friends are deluging the board with requests to make an effort to keep the "Gesture" alive, this makes their decision harder, for they are not a bit less concerned at the closing of so useful & helpful a career as that of the illuminating & uplifting "Gesture".

Lecture.

"The Miracle of the White man in Africa" was the startling title of Mr. Abrahams lecture given on the 1st July, & the lecture itself was in no way less surprising: it was the story of Africa, ancient & modern. He took us from Cairo to South Africa. With him we wandered amongst the ruins of Ancient Egypt, we entered forests of wild life, we passed over battle fields & had converse with the dervish, diamond fields & gold mines were visited by us,

the homes of the Boers were made familiar to our sight. We watched fights between the British & the Zulu. We examined gigantic engineering works & travelled over the latest miracle of the White man,- the railway from South Africa to Cairo.

Men's Guild.

On the 15th July Mr G. Baldry, who arrived from England sometime ago, gave a very interesting paper on his life in England. He is to continue his paper on the 12th August. The Attendance was very large. So far the average attendance has been very satisfactory, better than that of previous years. Before the lecture several questions were answered to the satisfaction of the members

Women's Guild.

The 12th Annual meeting of the Women's Guild was held on the 15th July. The President (Mrs J.E. Muir) presided over a good muster of members. The Hon Secretary (Miss R. Dow) read the annual report some extracts of which are as follows;- It is gratifying to record that the work of the Guild is still going on satisfactorily. It is also pleasing to note the sweet harmony & friendship prevailing throughout the old & young. It is congratulatory to have such an excellent President in the person of Mrs J.E. Muir, who has always something very interesting to say at meetings, & also given sound advice, which is much appreciated by the members. We are greatly indebted to this lady for the valuable assistance rendered at all times & desire to convey to her our sincere thanks for her splendid services.

Four educational classes have been held during the year in charge of the President & all her subjects proved worth learning. Mrs A. Wilson's Bible classes are well patronized. She gives such interesting lessons & our best thanks are tendered to her for her splendid teachings. Several interesting & instructive papers were prepared & given during the year by the members namely Mesdames Boorty & Wright & Misses Empson, J. Wright, Meehan, Davis, Hickey & R. Dow, to whom our best thanks are due for their share in all evenings entertainment. The Penny Savings Bank is still well supported with Mrs Boorty as Hon Treasurer, who though has held the position for 4 years in succession has never failed us in any way, & she is heartily thanked for her valuable assistance rendered at all times. The financial side of the guild shows to

be in a healthy condition, the balance sheet showing a balance of £7.9.11 to start the new year with. Then the President gave a stirring address, urging the members to take more interest in the guild, & also to be more lovable & sympathetic. Mrs Muir was re-elected President for the fourth time in succession, Miss Empson was elected Vice President, Miss R. Daw re-elected Hon Secretary. After many years of untiring services to the Guild Mrs A. Williamson retired from the position of Hon, Treasurer & Committee, & her resignation was accepted with regret. She was succeeded by Miss D. Hickey. Committee. Mrs E. Abraham, Mrs A. Wilson, Mrs J. Boorty & Misses A. Foster & D. Davis. Miss L. Fletcher was elected Hon, Treasurer for the Penny Savings Bank. The Meeting was brought to a close with a very enjoyable supper.

Ramble.

On the 12th July. the ramblers had their monthly outing which was spent at Blackrock in not too pleasant weather. A party of 10 including Messrs L. Baldry & G. Newnham, met at the Sandringham Station. We rambled for a considerable distance along the beach road & through the Ti-trees & then through the paddocks which were just covered with beautiful wild flowers & the ever welcome wattle, the harbindger of spring, each of the party taking away with them as much as they could pick. Afterwards our party proceeded to the poultry farm & a very pleasant time was spent, each one being interested in every part of the farm. Having been impressed with all we had seen & all being very tired we dispersed wishing each other good bye & hoping we would all be spared to have many more rambles, all agreeing we had a very enjoyable time & hurried off to our homes to replenish the inner man.

New Works.

Never a report comes before the Farm Committee that is not embellished with the two very important words. "Suggested Improvements." The Manager has had quite a list before the Committee for some months past & at the last meeting they wiped them all off the slate, with the result that fencing, a shed in which the men can change working clothes, clean boots, etc. a new store shed & workshop, new coach house & horse box are in course of erection at the farm, & £100 of bulbs ordered from Europe.

The Farm.

We have had little rain this month & our bulb bloom looks very sick for want of it. Nevertheless we have been doing good business. The flower sale for June reached £48. We are busy preparing for the Spring. This years attraction will be the Sweet pea plantations, this flower was so popular last year that four lands are being filled. We hope also to have a good show of stock, hitherto a failure with us. The roses are in a healthy condition, & if the fruit trees keep their promise, they should contribute toward the upkeep of the kitchen. Attention is also being given to the kitchen garden & there is no reason, as things look at present, why we should not have a good supply of vegetables. An attempt is being made to grow food stuffs for our cattle & should this succeed it will only be necessary to add poultry when there ought to be a considerable reduction in the maintenance account.

Our Church.

If there is any truth in the Statement that a church attended by the youth of the district is in a healthy condition, ours must be in robust health for quite ninety five per cent of the youth of our community attend Divine Worship at least once every Sunday. And it is a whole hearted worship, there is a sincere seeking after knowledge & spiritual grace, harmony & love. A mutual craving for Christian fellowship. A sympathetic interest in the joys & sorrows of one another. On the first Sunday in July there was a greater number of Communicants than at any previous assembly of the heart of the Congregation. There are old members who have scarcely ever been absent since the Lords Supper was instituted amongst us, & it gladdens their hearts to see so many of the younger generation joining them at the holy sacrament.

Mr E. Salas.

A letter of Congratulations from the Deaf Committee on behalf of the Deaf Congregation was sent to Mr E. Salas of Adelaide upon his 21st Anniversary of work among the deaf in Adelaide.

Mrs Halley.

Mrs Halley, wife of the late Rev. J. J. Halley one of our first & most loved friends, has sent us a most motherly letter. She reminds us of the large place the deaf had in the mind & heart of her husband & says she cannot but feel very affectionately towards us all. We have

not forgotten. Mr. Halley & whenever we enter our board room & see his dear familiar face we remember his many kindnesses. It is gratifying to us to know that friends like Mr. Halley & Mrs. Luke who are not now able to mix with us still have loving thoughts for us & our welfare.

Lacrosse.

On the 5th July. A. D. L. C beat Middle Park by 6 goals to nil Goal throwers. C. Smith 2, N. Hughes 2, Martin 1 & McKenzie 1

On the 12th July A. D. L. C. threw 18 goals against Coburg who netted only 1 goal. Goal throwers. C. Smith 9. Hughes 5. Marks 2. Harding 1 & Martin 1

On the 19th July A. D. L. C. defeated Caulfield after a good game by 11 goals to 2. Goal throwers C. Smith 4. C. Robertson 2 N. Hughes 2 & Martin 2.

On the 26th July A. D. L. C suffered their first defeat from Carlton by 9 goals to 4. Carlton have improved greatly since the 1st match which was easily won by the Deaf. Goal throwers. C. Robertson 3 & C. Smith 1

The Deaf are still at the Lead on the list, but will have to win all the rest of the matches to gain the premiership.

South Australia.

South Australia has just issued a cheering report of work accomplished. Its finances are as sound as the Bank of England & its surplus makes one's mouth water. Its property in Adelaide increases in value & its provision for usefulness grows year by year. Its Home & Farm for the Aged & Infirm is in every way O.K., but all this is only a matter of course with such men as Sam. Johnson, Salas, McDonald & the brothers Cox as guides, philosophers & friends. Lucky Society to have so powerful a combination of benefactors.

Queensland.

Young Queensland is in no way behind in achievement, indeed, if her youth counts at all, She has made greater strides than any of us. The Queensland Deaf Society has bought a property in a leading thoroughfare, with a Sixty feet frontage on which there is a building, that with alterations can be made suitable for gatherings of the deaf. In addition to their maintenance income they have £1.300 in hand for building

purposes the property aforementioned is free of debt. Bravo Showell, Bravo Wilson, the latter is a lady so we crave pardon for our familiarity, but we know she will understand

New South Wales.

Our dear old mother state, is the last of the elder children to make a move, this, the oldest of the Empire's Australian daughters has been very loyal to her mother School. She has grown so old & had got so accustomed to the "old home" that we had despaired of finding her a husband who would give her a home of her own. This world is full of surprises & nothing nowadays seems impossible, for lo, & behold, our N. S. W. sister has suddenly decided to get a home of herself & by the news that has reached us it is evident she is as healthy & strong as the youngest of us & in no way less determined. Our superintendent has been invited to Sydney to take the lead in the forwarding of the new home. Our good wishes to our N. S. W. friends. We are sincere when we say that we hope the day is not far distant when our elder sister will take her proper place & lead us in everything. She is last to make an effort but that is no reason why she should not be first at the finish.

Prince Jamie.

Prince Jamie of Spain, although a bright & healthy boy in other ways, is both deaf & dumb, & all the efforts of physicians in the different cities of Europe have been unavailing. The King & Queen of Spain recently summoned Miss Helen Keller to the Palace at Madrid, & she has agreed to undertake the education of the little boy. Miss Keller, as our readers are doubtlessly aware, is is both blind & deaf.

Stray Notes.

Mr. J. Campbell spent a months pleasant holiday in Sydney, but was unfortunate in having to be vaccinated on account of the small pox epidemic before he could get back to Melbourne.

Messrs S. Ferguson of Bowmans Forest & J. Collins of Neerim St. stayed in Melbourne for a few days on business.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 5/- from Mrs Halley, 1/6 from Mr. R. A. Salmon (Lancaster) & 1/- from Miss Marshall towards Our "Monthly Letter" Fund

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 9. JULY 1913. No 11

The Quarterly Re-union

For the thirty-second time the deaf congregation rallied at our Centre on the 9th ult., and was regarded by both deaf and hearing a distinct success. There were 115 of the former and 35 of the latter present. The function opened with a tea in the lower hall. Later in the evening the upper hall took a picturesque and festive appearance; the decorations and the fancy costumes added much to merriment of the evening. The "feature" - a costume parade, was admitted on all sides to be a real star turn. Thirty seven took part, twelve ladies, fifteen gentlemen and ten children. Several of the characters were so good that it is practically certain that they would have won prizes at any first class parade organised by the hearing. Mrs. J. Boorty personated a witch in the most realistic manner, sustaining her part throughout the evening and was awarded the first (ladies) prize by unanimous consent. Miss M. Crabb, who secured the second, was the most original character. She was made up as a brown paper parcel of sweets & was addressed to our Superintendent, who, by the way, wanted to take his parcel home. Mr. A. Stokes, (of New Zealand), won the first gentleman prize. His representation of a Maori warrior was very good. Mr. M. Sullivan, who carried off the second prize, acted the part of a Red Indian chief to perfection. Exceptional good taste was shown in the costumes of the children. Master Dempsey (a newspaper advt.) gained the first, and Master C. Smith (Chinese boy) the second prize.

Mr. F. Frewin as "Miss Ophelia" was certainly "the draw" of the evening. Not only was his "make up" good but his personation of the prim dame could not be beaten. It was hard to recognise Mr. Martinus as the blind beggar. He, too kept to his part from beginning to end. Mr. Newnham kept the assembly alive by his antics. Pierrott suited him to the ground.
The other characters, all of whom did justice to their costumes, were

Mrs Crockford, Spanish Gipsy.
" Pierce, Sister of Mercy.
" Stokes, Bride.
" J. E. Muir, Lady of 1860.
Miss M. Collins, Cassie.
" R. Law, Milkmaid.
" M. Law, Cadet.
" D. Hickey, Australian Bush Girl.
" Potter, Aunt Tabitha.
" Fletcher, American Girl.

Mr. J. Booty, Highlander.
" J. Campbell, Lass.
" Edwin, Cowboy.
" Gladman, Prospector.
" Hull, Stock-rider.
" Hughes, Jockey.
" Marks, Bear
" J. E. Muir, Farmer.
" A. Tyzzer, Stockrider.
" J. Moran, Delapadited swell.

Children:- Chas Pierce, Newsboy; Wallace Booty, clown; Gladys Smith, Japanese; Daisy Muir, Swedish maid; Iris Booty, Prince. Maisie Dempsey, Newspaper advt; Muriel Gladman, Poppy.

The Hon Secretary read the roll call, also names of new members. The dialogue on "The Combination that did not work" was well acted by Messrs J. E. Muir & G. Newnham. Mr. Stokes gave an excellent display of swinging with tomahawks. The Name Guessing Competition introduced by Rev. W. G. Thomas, of Fern Tree Gully was won by Miss Hickey. There were also several indoor games in which those who took part experienced great delight. Soon after 10 o'clock the party was brought to a close, and the officials fairly hugged each other with mutual satisfaction over the success of their effort. Hearty thanks are due to Rev. W. G. Thomas for his competition, Mr. Abraham for prizes, Mesdames Muir & Booty & Misses R. Law & Fletcher for supervising tea, Mrs Abraham for corned-beef & Messrs Newnham, A. Hull H. McKenzie, J. Caiss, G. Quantock & J. Marks for decorating the hall. Messrs F. Frewin, R. H. Duff, M. L. Miller, J. E. and W. P. Muir were in charge of the rally.

It is hoped that there will be a repitition of the fancy costume parade some time next year.

Next Rally

The next Rally is to be held on Shaw Day next September for the purpose of welcoming country deaf visitors. The Amusement Committee have made the programme for this occasion which will comprise recitation competitions, dialogue competitions and sketches. Prizes will be given to the best reciter, and for the best dialogue. The audience to be the judges. Those who take part in recitations & dialogues may do so in character. Coffee & light refreshments will be served. Collection by silver coin. Look out & be well prepared for the competitions which we believe, will cause keen interest.

Family Corner

Miss Alice Graham, accompanied by Miss A. Damman & Miss Burton, of New Zealand, left London early last April and went to Nice where Miss Damman's mother & sister were staying. Since then they have been travelling together. They have had several delightful long motor rides, passing through some famous places. They spent a month at the Italian lakes which are, they said, most fascinating, being surrounded by snow-capped mountains. When last heard of, they were touring Switzerland. Misses Graham & Burton generally go on long tramps, & also do a bit of mountaineering. The former is at present evidently too much of an enthusiast to care to write letters to us, but she sends interesting pictural post cards occasionally. It is from Mrs Damman that Mrs J. E. Muir obtains glowing accounts of their travels every week.

Our cheerful comrade, W. G. Martinner, has just passed through another successful operation – if he has many more of them we shall begin to think he likes it. We visited him the other day at the Homeopathic Hospital & found him in excellent spirit. He said he felt better than ever and was enthusiastic in his praise of the hospital, its management, the nurses, the doctors & the kindly attention he receives. Mr. Martinner has a very high opinion of the skill of Dr. Boulton who performed the operation. Many deaf friends have been to see him, including Messrs. Miller, Muir & Moss, the latter frequently.

Mr. D. Ashby, of Trafalgar, was in Melbourne for a few days

We are happy to learn that our dear grandfather (Mr. T. J. Rose) is now quite restored to his usual health, though he has to keep more quietly than formerly. Consequently his gentle, lovable face is much missed at our Sunday morning services, for he used to attend them with great regularity. Some of his old pupils, however, continue to visit him at his place which is quite a good long way from the city.

We have another new deaf Australian in the person of Mr. Geo. Baldry who arrived in Melbourne last May from Lincoln, England. He is an iron turner by trade. He had been in correspondence with Mr. Frewin for some time before he decided to emigrate. He was accompanied by his eldest son, a bright lad of nine years old, & was accorded a hearty welcome at the recent Rally and the Bible class. He was able to start work immediately through Mr. Frewin's kind efforts. He is land in praises of our climate & of our Centre. He has sent for his wife & children.

Mr. Marisset went back to Queensland last month & was received there with open arms after five months' absence.

Miss Darry Davis spent a fortnight with her chum, Miss Eva Hair at Wilcannia. She is still relating her thrilling adventures to her friends.

Miss Maud Mc Crabb, of Wunghnu, is making a very long stay in Melbourne. She is most delighted to be with her old schoolfellows again & to talk over their good, old times.

On May 25th Mr. & Mrs Burge became happy parents of a little girl. Congratulations!

Mr. A. Williamson & Mrs. Dempsey lost their mothers recently, and Miss M. Cole her father. As is the custom, on behalf of the Deaf Congregation, a letter of condolence was sent to each of the bereaved.

Miss Healey, who has been living in the country for a great number of years - ever since she left school - came down to Melbourne some time ago. So greatly altered is she that none of her old schoolfellows recognised her, but she speedily made herself at home and asked them endless questions as to the whereabouts of her particular old friends who are either dead or living away from the city. She expects to remain here for good.

Mr. Abrahams' Bible classes are well patronised, and as popular as ever. No wonder, for he gives such beautiful entertaining addresses. After the classes the members generally interchange their views on the subjects & it is good to see their smart replies. They look forward to these happy meetings which the Chaplain will probably not wish to give up when our prospective assistant missionary arrives, they bring a source of great pleasure to him.

Mr. A. Williamson came across a deaf old lady in Lara the other day. Her name is Mrs Mary Berry. She is 87 years old & lives in a little house by herself. She came out from England about 70 years ago. She carried on a long conversation with Mr. Williamson by means of a slate without the aid of spectacles.

We noticed in the papers that a deaf mute, Mr. Philip Bruce by name, was killed by a tree falling on him whilst cutting at Yarram last month. We are doubtful whether his first name was Isiah & whether he was the brother of Mr. Robert Bruce who is working on a new railway line between Erbast & Bairnsdale.

On Sunday June 1st Mr. E. Salas celebrated the 21st anniversary of his appointment as missionary & collector to the deaf of South Australia. Afflicted himself he has never spared himself in the cause of his deaf brethren, & it is due mainly to his untiring energy that there is no debt on the property of the mission. In reviewing his 21 years' work on Sunday evening he remarked that the South Australian Mission has probably experienced the most rapid & wonderful growth of any similar body in the world, which he attributed largely to generosity & sympathy of the public, & to the indefatigable efforts of the Founder, Mr. Samuel Johnson.

Women's Guild Picture Nights

The final meeting in connection with the raising of the money to furnish the Women's sitting room at Blacktown was held June 14th. At the previous meeting the balance sheet showed £32-12-0 in hand, since then the following has been received £1. donation from the Women's Guild, 15/- collected by Mrs Williamson & 10/- from "Anonymous" making a total of £34-17-0. The expenditure amounted to £34-16-5, leaving the balance of 7d.

Flower Farm

As we anticipated, we have passed through the difficult month of June without disappointing a single contract customer. It is the first time since we opened up, and as we have been "just an awn awn" without any professional advice or help we are not a little pleased. The jonquils are becoming more abundant, and the wattle has made its bow. We are very forward with marguerittes, wallflowers and carnflowers, we should be cutting bloom therefrom in August. June was given over almost entirely to draining, and to lifting and drying and storing dahlia tubers and gladioli bulbs, the taking of carnation marguerite and rose cuttings, and the planting out of Spring annuals and sweet peas. Farm sales etc. for May £52-4-0, for June £33-7-0.

Special Donations

We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following special donations. For "Womens Wing Building Fund:- W. H. A. Wilcox (per W. C. R. Peacock) £10. Centre Building Fund:- J. J. Sumner Estate £25. Maintenance Fund: David Syme Charitable Bequest £30. Felton Bequest £10.

Women's Guild

On May 27th the members of the Womens' Guild held their last ordinary meeting of the year. The attendance was large (22). The Educational Class was in charge of the President as usual. Miss R. Daw recited a piece entitled "Live to do well". After giving some sound advice to the members the President took up two subjects, "Woman's Vote" and "A few facts about the Referendum". In the course of the lecture, she said that woman has had no weapon against man's aggression except her influence through all the centuries until now, and in the 60 years which have elapsed since the rebellion against unequal rights for men and women, more has been accomplished towards giving justice to both sexes than in all the years of the Christian era. The President compared the condition of women of the past with those of today. She then showed the members how to vote, and explained about the Referenda, afterwards turning to other minor subjects.

All her subjects proved very instructive and were much appreciated by all present.

The annual meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on July 15th. Nominations for the office close at 7 o'clock on that evening (not at the end of June as mentioned by mistake in the previous number of the Monthly Letter).

Ramble Club

For the past year many of the members of the Women's Guild, with a few of their friends, have met one Saturday afternoon in each month and journeyed to different places where very happy times have been spent. Many of the afternoons have been wet, but even if the ramble was changed to a "paddle" thro' the rain, the ramblers have the happy knack of seeing the funny side of things and perhaps enjoyed themselves more than they would have done had the weather been fine.

It was thought that as the enthusiasm is still as keen as when the Ramble Club was first started, a committee might be formed, and with that object a meeting was held in the evening of June 14. During the afternoon a party of about 20, including Mr. Abraham and Mr. Newnham, met at the Burnley Station, and after rambling through the Horticultural Gardens and along the river bank for a considerable distance, finally reached Mrs. Boorty's house where an enjoyable tea was partaken of. It is needless to say all were in the best of spirits, for that is the usual thing with the ramblers. After tea a meeting was held and the following officers were elected:- Pres. Mrs. J. E. Muir; Vice Pres. Mrs. Boorty; Hon. Treas. Miss R. Law; Hon. Sec. Miss D. Hickey; Committee, Misses J. Kennedy, L. Fletcher, D. Davis and E. Empson. It was decided the membership fee be fixed at 1/- per annum and in less than 5 minutes the club had a roll of about 20 members. Many delightful suggestions were put forward which show that the future of the club is indeed a very pleasing one. The rest of the evening was given over to games of all kinds and after supper a hearty vote of thanks were tendered to Mr. & Mrs. Boorty for the happy time they had given their

guests. The party, altho' loth to leave, then proceeded to the Railway Station where "goodbyes" were said and farewells waved until the trains were out of sight.

Mens Guild Meetings

On the 27th May Mr. Harman Hughes (one of the youngest members of the guild) delivered a very interesting paper on "Oliver Cromwell" at the meeting of the Mens Guild. Afterwards several short stories were contributed by some of the members.

On the 24th June another young member, Mr. Harman Amas, who came from England last year gave his maiden paper on "Life in England". Mr. G. Baldry also gave a brief paper on the same subject, but will speak again at the next meeting on the 15th inst. Both speakers made their subject very interesting.

Winter Games Competitions

The Winter Games Competitions started on the 7th June and seventeen competitors joined, there are no lady competitors this time. The following are the games:- word-making, shooting, bagatelle, angling, table quoits & dart-throwing. The two latter being recent additions. The dart-throwing is very popular.

Picture Night

The Deaf Athletic Club had their picture night at the Majestic Theatre on June 25th, which proved a success in spite of the many appeals of the kindred clubs &c. Credit is due to those deaf who worked so hard to sell tickets. There was a very large attendance. Among the pictures the film of the Blackburn Farm was shown with good effect. It is expected that the profits will be satisfactory.

Lacrasse

The 7th June the Adult Deaf Lacrasse Club beat Caulfield after a very exciting game by 10 goals to 5. Goal throwers, C. Smith 6, Martin 2, Hughes 1 & Mc. Kenzie 1.
The 14th. A.D.L.C. threw 16 goals against South Yarra who netted 4 goals. Goal throwers, Smith 7. Hughes 4. Martin 2. McKenzie 2 & A. Christensen. The 21st. A.D.L.C. got a walk over from New L.C. The 28th. A.D.L.C. got the bye.

The Vic. Branch of the A.D.D.A.

The Board met at the Centre on April 8. The President (Mr. W. L. Miller) occupied the chair, & on behalf of the Board, extended a hearty welcome to Mr. G. Newnham, the new office-bearer, who suitably acknowledged. Mr. Frewin, the Hon. Sec. reported a case in which a deaf mute, who desired to return from Melbourne to Adelaide by sea, was refused a passage by the P. & O. Company. It was resolved that as this matter concerned more than one State, the General Board be asked to act in the matter. A similar case, that of Mr. G. Baldry (England) who was refused a passage by the Orient Company unless he paid a double fare, was also referred to the General Board for consideration. The Hon. Sec. also reported that a deaf mute blacksmith, when he arrived from England, applied for work at the Newport Workshops, but was refused. He was informed that there were restrictions against the employment of deaf artisans. The Hon. Sec. was directed to write to the Hon. Minister of the Victorian Railways, and to ask if there were any such restrictions & if so, what they were, & why. A letter from Mr. F. J. Rose, the founder of the Deaf School, St Kilda Road, was read. He asked that the association take action with the view of obtaining him a pension or other permanent assistance. It was agreed that the Board again take up the case of Mr. Rose. A deputation was formed to wait upon Sir Alex. Peacock in connection therewith. Messrs. Abraham, Miller & Frewin were appointed a special committee to interview Mr. Rose & obtain from him some information & other necessary facts in order to successfully prosecute his claim. The Hon. Sec. was requested to send a letter to Mr. Bostock, the Hon Sec. of the South Australian Branch of the A.D.D.A., conveying the hearty congratulations of the Vic. Branch Board on the re-formation of the former.

The Board met June 3rd. Two letters were received from Mr. J. R. Paterson, the Sec. to the Minister of the Victorian Railways, & Mr. E. B. Janes, the Acting Sec. to the Commissioner of Railways, & it was intimated that there was no record of an artisan being refused employment at the Newport Workshops & that it was considered inadvisable to employ deaf mutes in the Workshops, as considerable danger would be involved in consequence of the continual shunting of engines throughout the yards. It was agreed not to take further action for the present. Re the case of Mr. Rose, a letter was drafted, submitted

& approved of. It was decided the letter & arrangements for deputation be left in the hands of the special committee.

The Hon. Sec. begs to acknowledge with thanks the following annual subscriptions to the Vic. Branch:- 1/- each from Messrs G. Gatley, A. Wilson, W. O'Keeffe (Crossley), R. J. Hamilton (Ensay), P. Paton (Karait), F. Th. Johnston (Ballarat West), W. P. Muir & G. Baldry, Mr^s B. Cunningham (Spring Mount), Mr^s W. Pollock (Warrnambool), Miss V. West (Traralgon), Miss G. Martimer (Traralgon), & 7/- from Mr. F. C. Johnson (Welshman's Creek).

In Memorian, Captain Scott

The only tribute that the world has left
To pay, with heads bowed down, to men like these
The only comfort given to those bereft
By savage Nature in Antartic Seas,
The highest peal of triumph we can raise
To souls heroic gone beyond our Kew,
The lowest sob that mingles with our praise
Counts up in this, "they died like Englishmen".

They died, as Englishmen can die, because
A flame-white spirit dominates the race
Scorning sacrifice to meaner laws
Of lower lives that may not hold a place
Equal to theirs when they have gained their end.
It made them take the bitter risks alone;
Wild Nature broke that which she could not bend
And through Death's gate they came into their own.

Bearing a crest of stainless victory
Tho' failed by Death, they passed beyond our Kew.
The race of Arthur's Knights is here today
And God be praised there are such Englishmen.

"Unity"

The above poem was published in a recent number of "The Life". "Unity" has written quite a good number of poems, & is a prominent & valued member of the Queensland Adult Deaf & Dumb Mission

Monthly Letter Fund

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 3/- from Mr. F. G. Phillips, 2/- each from Mr^s Neilson & Miss E. Hair, & 1/- from Mr^s Newnham & Mr. J. Johnson (Ballarat).

Programme.
25th Sept. 1913.

Recitations.

1	Miss R. Dow.	"A merry old maid"
2	Mr. T. A. Nelson	"A jolly old swaggy"
3	Miss D. Davis	"Joan of Arc"
4	Mr. R. H. Luff	"The Baby"
5	Mr. J. E. Muir	"How he died"
6	Mr. G. Newnham	"All through the Wedding March"
7	Miss D. Hickey	"A parody of 10 little niggers"
8	Mr. G. Baldry	"Suffragette"
9	Mrs E. Crockford	"Two little girls in blue"
10	Mr. T. Peters	"Daffodil"
11	Miss L. Chapman	"Fishing Party"
12	Mr. W. Anderson	"The little blacksmith"
13	Miss M. Meehan	
14	Mr. N. Hughes	"For a rainy day"
15	Mr. C. Graham	"How I shot the bunny"
16	Mr. J. E. Muir	"Bedd Gelert or the grave of the greyhound"
17	Mr. E. J. D. Abraham	"Alfonso Spagonie"

Dialogue

1	Miss D. Davis & Mr T. Peters	"Sunshine after Rain"
2	Miss L. Kennedy & Mr. G. Newnham	"Love in the Moonlight"
3	Misses R. Dow & D. Hickey	"I don't want to play in your yard."

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Vol 10 OCTOBER 1913 No2

Woman - the Helpmate of Man

Many of our Country Cousins have, from time to time, written to ask if it is not possible for us to give them a little more than the "title" of the various papers read and sermons delivered at our Centre, in the pages of the Monthly. The request is one that appeals to us very forcibly and we have had it in mind to comply for many month past and have only been prevented from doing so by the quantity of news handed in for publication. This month we are giving preference to the wishes of our Country Cousins. News for which there is not room will have to Stand over. The paper following was read at a recent meeting of the Deaf Womens Guild. —

Woman — the Helpmate of Man. The first great lesson in life for man and woman is to realise — to understand their position + responsibilities. God, we read, created Eve to be a companion to Adam. God, we are told, made Eve from Adam. Here, we have two truths in allegory.
First, that woman was meant to be the friend, the Companion, the helper of the Man. Second, that woman is in reality the other half of man. That man is incomplete without the woman. That although they appear as two beings in reality they are but one. Two halves of a whole. As man was meant to be a Companion of woman and woman a Companion to man, to ensure happiness it is necessary for each to learn how to be real Companions or helpmates to each other; and unless this lesson is properly understood and followed the result is misery instead of happiness
It is not for us to study what the man should do to make the

woman happy, but what the woman ought to do to bring happiness to the man. Do women really study men? Do they try to find out what gives genuine pleasure to the Man? Do women even give consideration to, what may be called their duty toward man? If not, then the woman is not only spoiling the life of the man but of herself. Before you can grow a plant successfully you must understand its habits & its needs. It is the same with a man you must understand him. You will then better see what is required of you. A woman who goes in search of a man "to marry" and is not particular what or who he is so long as he wears trousers, is making a bed of thorns & thistles for herself. When a man and a woman who are not in sympathy with each other's aims, or on the same plane of education, marry, there is always a danger of want of sympathy between them, and that means the loss of a peaceful & contented existence, —— in short, an unhappy married life.

Men are just human and perhaps somewhat more selfish than women. Yet, when their "inner Self" is properly understood, and their peculiar wants attended to, their selfishness vanishes and they become "self-sacrificing." The woman who attracts & holds the best of man is she who is sweet in thought, speech and action, that is to say, thinks well, speaks well & does well, especially toward her own sex. Or, in other words speaks no evil & finds no fault. The most objectionable of all women, are those who are continually harping upon the faults of the women & men of their acquaintance.

A very wise old lady has given these commandments to woman-kind, — When your husband sits down to breakfast, dinner or tea, do not entertain him with a list of the faults, deformities or wrong doing of your women friends & neighbours. For if there is anything a man hates, it is to gulp down his meals to the tune of scandal. Do not worry him with the little troubles of your household duties. He has business worries of his own. Should he tell you his business troubles listen with sympathy. Then if you desire, you may tell your own with the certainty of his sympathy. Do not be everlastingly excusing "your cooking" or being "late with dinner" or the "untidyness of your dress", or the unswept

dining room". There is no more excuse for these things than there is for your husband to excuse himself for having already spent his wages on himself.

For if you do not do your duty how can you expect him to do his? If "the Companion", that is, the wife, desires to retain the affection of her husband, She should always make it a practice to let him see her at her best.

Study him and the things that appeals to him. The food he likes. The things that please him. The Company that appeals to him. Do not put before him the food he dislikes, nor bring to the Home the people with whom he is not in harmony Attend to his little domestic needs, his clothing, his tools, his books, his hobby, & his pets. Refrain from doing things that you find he dislikes. And, if you have chosen the right man you will soon find, that he will act in the same way toward you. He too, will try to do the things that please you. He will bring home little dainties that you like. He will encourage friends that you like. He will refrain from doing things that displease you.

This sympathy for the likes and dislikes of each other will bring about that harmony that will very rapidly show that you two are really one. One in everything. For the likes & dislikes will disappear. And ere long it will be found that you both like & dislike the same things. For he will have learned to sympathize with your likes & you will have learned to sympathize with his.

Remember always, that the man has to go out and battle with the world to earn the daily bread for both. That is his duty. When he comes home. he looks for love, sympathy comfort. That is your duty.

When you give him anything else but love, sympathy, comfort then you are not his Companion, but the greatest enemy he has ever had. For he has tied himself to you for life; for these three things; — love, sympathy & homely comfort; and if they are denied to him, then you break your part of the bargain. You are not his helpmate. Not his Companion. Not the other half but a life long enemy You have robbed him of what some other women might have been only too glad to give...

battling for our Sydney fellow deaf. It is the way he would like to spend his anniversary.

Cup-Day Picnic

Our Annual Pic-nic is to be held at Mordialloc on the 4th Nov Fares and all other information Connected therewith will be announced at the Sunday Services & upon the notice board at the Deaf Centre.

Men's Guild Meeting

On the 16th of September, at the Meeting of the Mens' Guild Mr J. Marks gave a very interesting paper on "David Livingstone" and the rest of the time was spent in short stories.

Women's Guild Meeting

On Sept 9th the members of the Womens' Guild were treated to a "paper night" when Misses Dorie Davis and Ida Kennedy read most interesting papers on the "Battle Flash of the Heavens-Lightning" and "Elizabeth Fry". Miss N. Adams rendered her maiden recitation entitled "The Wonderful World".

Lacrosse

The Adult Deaf Lacrosse Club finished their Successful Season by beating Maribyrnong easily by 22 goals to one on the 30th August The goal throwers were C Smith 8, C Roberton 6, E Martin 5, G Edwards 1, R. Beattie 1. N. Hughes 1.
As our club showed the best record of goals for & against as well as of matches won in the C. Section of Victorian Lacrosse Association they gained premiership honors, and are heartily congratulated The record is 13 matches won & 1 lost. Goals thrown for 138 & against 30. It is believed that the play of the team was considerably above the standard of C. Section. Goal throwers-C Smith 63, N. Hughes 24, E. Martin 23. C. Roberton 17, H. McKenzie 3. R Beattie 2. J Marks 2. A. Christensen 2. G. Edwards 1 & V Harding 1. The Enthusiasm of the team did not diminish and an enjoyable season has resulted. The President (Mr J.E Muir) marked his appreciation of the success of the Lacrosse Club by inviting the team to a dinner at Saigent's Cafe.
Photographs of the team may be obtained for 2/ each from Mr J. Carvis, Deaf Mute Centre - Flinders St East Melbourne.

Athletic Club

The Annual Meeting of the Deaf athletic Club was held in the Deaf Centre on the 2nd Sept. There was a good attendance. The President (Mr J. E. Muir) was in the Chair. The Annual report which was of a very lengthy character, showed a successful year with Lacrosse but not so far from the Cricket

Stand point, as the performances of the players were not up to expectations. The record is 4 wins & 7 losses owing mainly to want of practice. Last Year the Club entered the 3rd grade Competition of the Victorian Junior Cricket Association Mr. C. Robertson obtained the President's prize for batting (36·81 per inning), also Mr Fergusons prize for highest individual Score (138) & the Victorian Junior Cricket Association presented him with a bat for making the highest individual Score among the Clubs of the C. Grade Competition. We heartily congratulate him on his excellent batting. Mr. L. Downes won Mr M. L. Miller's trophy for his bowling Average (9·64 per wicket) he having been one of the Main stays of the Club for many years. It was resolved that the Club should play friendly matches this Season. The Club is in a good financial position.
The following Office bearers were elected for the ensuing Year :- President - Mr J. C. Muir, Vice Presidents - Messrs M. L. Miller, W. P. Muir & W. A. Paterson, Hon Treasurer Mr T. A. Nelson. Hon Secretary W. J. Caris. Committee - Messrs R. Beattie L. Downes, M. G. Mortimer & C. Robertson.

The Ramblers at Blackburn.

On Saturday Sept 13th the Ramblers met at Flinders St Stn & and journeyed to Blackburn. The Members of our Club invited non-members to join this Ramble, so that we numbered 344 altogether. The weather was very warm & cloudy when we left Flinders St. It was a merry party that left the City for the picturesque village of Blackburn, everyone being in good spirits. When we came in sight of our flower farm we were delighted to see so many improvements had been made there. Some part of the land were beautifully covered with daffodils, violets, Ixonias, Carnations &c. We were met and welcomed by Mr & Mrs Abraham and were accompanied to the Women's Sitting Room which looked very Sweet with its show of the varieties of beautiful flowers grown at the farm displayed in our honor & for our pleasure.
Suddenly the weather changed & the hail came down like a deluge. It Continued to rain until the time for our departure; so we were denied the pleasure of a Ramble round the flower beds and a visit to the Lake, we, there-

fore, Contented ourselves by Conversation. A few of us ventured out between the deluges and got some glimpses of the beautiful blooms, though we slipped & slid a good deal & one at least, had a fall. Boating was indulged in by some of the Young of both Sex, but it was only for a little while, the rain being so heavy they were forced to seek Shelter. It was a delightful day to as in Spite of the weather, & we partook of a good tea in a merry manner. Every one did not wear her or his best in honor of the tea gathering owing to the wet weather, but one thing we are certain of all were as happy as larks and if all the rambles give us the same enjoyment and prove the same success we will be ever, willing to start off on other occasions whether it be in rain, hail or sunshine

VIC Branch A.D.O.A.

The Hon Sec (Mr J. Frewin) acknowledges with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Messrs J. Morgan, J. Elwin, J Carins, A Smith (Myall NSW), W. Burge, D. McKenzie, J. Sloan (Inglewood) J Dempsey J. E. Kenworthy (Baunsdale), Misses F Chapman, Ida Tennent M. Corbains, Pansy Elliott (Meldura) 1/6. Donations Mr W. Cann 2/- Mr T. Thomson 1/-.

Note Members who have not yet sent in their Annual Subscriptions are reminded that they are now due, and are asked kindly to forward same as soon as possible. There are 89 members on the roll up to date. Eleven members wanted to make the Century The Hon Sec would like to get the number up to 100 or more if he could. The Annual Sub is 1/- So if you have not already joined: please do so at once.

We are sure that the Deaf of the whole of the Commonwealth will read with Sorrow, the news of the death of the wife of our benefactor - Mr F. J. Rose. Mrs Rose died on the 24th ult and was interred at St Kilda Cemetery on the 25th There was a large assemblage of the deaf at the grave-side. The service was Conducted by the Rev. H. W. H. Adeney and Mr. Ernest J. D Abraham interpreted. Mr Rose has our Loving Sympathy in his loss.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent, kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 10. SEPTEMBER 1913. No 1.

Increase of Income.

Owing to the engagement of an Assistant Missionary at £200 per annum and the increase in salaries of other members of our staff and various necessary improvements, it is imperative that our income for 1913-14 be increased by £250 to £300. Our Superintendent and Collectors will note this fact. Past experience is evident in itself that they are equal to the task, and as the success of our Society is largely in their hands we look to them for the special effort to provide the wherewithal to meet the additional expenditure.

Our Country Collectors Messrs Williamson and A. E. Muir have had a spell in town. These two good fellows do much important work, the getting in of the income. Hence miss most of the fun at the Centre. Some one is responsible for the comment that the fathers go out to labour for the bread that the Kiddies eat and the fathers are glad that it is so. Possibly Messrs Williamson and Muir think the same. Nevertheless we are glad when father comes home.

The City Collectors, by the way, are likewise quite equal to the best in bringing in the wherewithal, but they have the advantage of the benefits of our Centre, they make up for this however by officiating at every function, there are no better workers to be found than Messrs Maas and Mortimer, the latter is our Librarian and the former just the willing "Haas" that without question carries everyones burden.

New Club.

An inaugural meeting, called by Mr J. E. Muir, was held at her Residence on Tuesday evening the 19th ult. to discuss the advisability

of establishing a Workers' Club. Fourteen ladies attended. The club was enthusiastically formed and named the "Deaf Workers' Club". Every one present enrolled as members. Nine volunteered for a Committee and they were formally elected as follows:- President Mrs. J. E. Muir, Vice-President Mrs. J. Boosby, Hon. Sec. Mr. A. Williamson Hon. Treas. Miss A. Foster, Committee Mrs. E. Smith, Misses M. Potter, R. Dow, D. Hickey and D. Davis. It was decided that the membership fee be fixed at 6d. per annum. Donations amounting to 10/- were received with applause from Mr. L. Moss and Mr & Mrs. J. E. Muir. The main object of the club is to help in every possible way. Members also to undertake to individually supply the Centre or the Blackburn Home with one or more useful articles annually, particularly of their own making. Material for this purpose will be provided out of the fund if desired. An enjoyable supper brought the meeting to a close. The members are confident that the club will be successful and very helpful in an unostentatious way. Deaf ladies are cordially invited to join and may apply to the committee for particulars. Small donations will be thankfully accepted.

Meetings.

There was a Special Meeting of the General Committee on the 22nd August to receive the cable message from Mr. W. Wright declining the office of Assistant Missionary and to consider the position. Last April Mr. Wright wrote to our Supt. stating that he had been asked to say a word in favour of one of the applicants for the position advertised. After doing so he continued "I am emboldened to say that on receipt of a wire from you telling me to pack up and 'come' I shall do so with confidence that you have been led to do so and that I have been truly called of God to help you in your great work." As our Supt. had known Mr. Wright prior to his leaving England and was aware of the good work done by him - he supported the appointment of Mr. Wright. This gentleman has now declined the appointment, and the position has been offered to the next favoured on the list of applicants, Mr. Taylor, late of Wakefield, now of Leicester.

Mens' Guild.

The acquisition of knowledge, especially in the form of recitations, dialogues and Essays seems to have taken a strong and permanent hold upon the "Coming generation" of the Melbourne deaf. There are very few of the

members of our centre who cannot entertain by essay, recital or speech. On the 29th of July the Committee of the Mens Guild invited the members of the Womens Guild to their social in the upper hall, when recitations and short stories were delivered by members of both guilds. Nearly every piece was received with applause. The following contributed to the programme, Misses D. Hickey, R. Dow, D. Davies, M. Meehan, Mrs. J. E. Muir, Messrs. W. L. Muller, E. Martin, J. E. Muir, R. E. Luff, J. Peters, J. Nelson and G. Newnham and L. Baldry. The members and guests were entertained to supper by the President of the Guild, Mr. J. Nelson in the lower hall.

On the 12th Aug. Mr. L. Baldry finished his interesting paper on "His life in England" In concluding Mr. Baldry said he was pleased to be in Melbourne. He thought it a splendid place for business, and especially so as regards the social provisions for the deaf. He was heartily thanked for his excellent paper.

Womens Guild.

On the evening of Aug.st 12. there was an unusually large attendance of members at the Womens Guild meeting. Miss Doris Hickey read from her bible the story of Ruth, and owing to the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Muir took charge of the Bible class when she related some interesting stories about the ancient prophets, and her questions on various scriptural subjects were promptly answered by the members present.

Outing Fund & Bank.

In presenting the 8th Annual Report and financial Statement of the Victorian Deaf Outing Fund & Bank the manager (Mr. R. E. Luff) states that the progress made has been very satisfactory. There was a marked advance in deposits which quickly doubled the previous years balance. There are 32 depositors on the roll, only one being added during the year. At the beginning of the year there was £105 to carry forward deposits amounting to £106-9-5 brought the total up to £211-9-5. The withdrawals amounted to £64-9-1. so that there is now a balance of £147-0-4 to carry forward. The sum of £4-1-1½ was distributed amongst the depositors, the rate being 1/- in the £. bonus which is an inducement for others to join. Thanks are due to Messrs J. E. Muir & G. Mortimer for assistance rendered to the manager and to Mr. J. Neirnberg for auditing the financial Statement.

Our Flower Farm.

The "new works" are moving. Pinus Insignas have been planted as a break-wind on the north of the estate, a shed erected for the convenience of the men, also a new waggon shed and horse box, the Women's wing has been fenced in and a new bulb shed is almost complete. Repairs are being made to three of the large tanks on the men's side. We possess a new horse, a six year old roan, also a second cow, likewise a new waggon.
Planting out is the all important occupation at present, and includes chrysanthemums, dahlias, cornflower, wallflower & sweet peas. The roses are very advanced, in fact everything points to a early spring. We cannot claim success with our daffodils this year the rains came so late to give the the length of stalk which adds so much to their attractiveness in the eyes of our customers. The vegetable garden is beginning to show signs of careful cultivation, the cabbages are nearing the state commonly referred to in restaurants as "off" and the broad beans and peas look as if they were close on the point of being a very healthily "do". Potatoes and oats are in.
This has been our record month for sales. We believe it must be over £70 for flowers alone, during the last week of August our sales reached £22-10-0. The 30th was the busiest. The manager & Alex Hall were cutting "rattle" until 10 p.m. Friday & this was continued all Saturday morning from an early hour, yet as fast as the manager sent the rattle in to Market, Alex Hall & Percy Swain disposed of it. It was a very wet day, nevertheless at the farm itself we were kept busy making up bunches of cut flowers. All are well at the home.

Show Day Rally.

We are to have still another novelty in the way of entertainments. The quarterly rally which is to take place on the 25th of Sept will have for its programme a recitation and dialogue competition. Ten minutes will be allowed for recitation and fifteen minutes for dialogues (two persons). So far the following entries have been received. Mrs J.E. Muir "Lovely death" Miss M. Meehan "Who is she". Miss Hickey "The Sea" Miss R. Dow "The wind & the Leaves", Miss D. Davis "Excelsior" Mrs J.E. Muir "Tragedy," Mrs J. Peters "Poor little Jim" Mrs E. Martin "Pa Surprised", Mrs J. Nelson "Johnny and the Bees", Mrs G. Newnham "When I am a Man", Mrs G. Baldry "Humorous Stories".

Supper will be served at the close of the competitions, and a collection taken up during the interval. Friends are urged to be punctual, the programme being a very long one, a start will be made at 7.30 prompt. Country deaf visitors to the Agricultural Show are specially invited.

Victn Branch, A.D.D.A.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. F. C. Prewin) acknowledges with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Messrs W. H. Duncan (Dandenong) J. Peters, J. Campbell, J. Martin, Misses D. Davis M. Potter M. Cole D. Fowler, Mr & Mrs G. Damman, Warburton) Mr & Mrs E. Smith. Members who have not sent their annual subscriptions which are due now are kindly requested to do so as soon as possible. There are 76 members on the roll up to date.

24 Members wanted. - The Hon. Sec. is most anxious to get the number of members to the century (100) by the 31st October. If 24 new members join during the next two months he will have his 100. The annual sub. is only 1/- and the V.D.D.A. is doing more permanent good for the deaf than the average realize, so send in your sub. and gladden the heart of the jealous Hon. Secretary.

La-Crosse.

August 2nd V.D.L.C. got a walkover from Kew. August 9th another walkover for the deaf boys from Maribyrnong on account of several players of the talk. club having to go to drill. August 16th V.D.L.C. gained a good victory over the University team by 6 goals to 4. The University forms had improved very much since the teams last met. August 23rd V.D.L.C. obtained a walkover from South Yarra on account of six of its players going to drill. On the same day a friendly game against the Brighton Presbyterians (Premiers of D. Section) was won by the deaf boys by 8 goals to 4.

Premiers.

The premiership of the C. Division of the Lacrosse Association has been won by our team. Owing to the Compulsory Drill Act several of the opposing teams were made short of players and had in each case to give us a walkover. Although this in no way lessened the honours of victory, it was nevertheless most disappointing to all concerned.

At the last moment we learn of complaints of rough play having been lodged against our team. Presumin have the information and have commented upon it, yet the Secretary of our team has

received no official intimation whatever of the complaint. The complainants are Middle Park and Carlton, two teams that so severely handled our team, that the following mornings quite one fourth of the team showed evidence of the brutal treatment they had received. In the case of Middle Park one of the players struck at our referee, and the language used by this team had it been possible to collect and set fire to, would have made a bonfire powerful enough to light up all Melbourne. Our own team expressed the desire to appeal against the rough play of these teams, but were advised by our officials that the best protest of gentlemen was to play the game in the hope that such opponents might themselves in time learn to play the game as gentlemen should. Had the complaint come from the University or Brighton teams, gentlemen who play the game for the games sake there possibly would have been reason to examine our teams conduct - but from Middle Park and Carlton !! Carlton were second on the list for premiership !! The Reporter of the La Trobe results in the "Leader" claims to have warned our team of their rough play early in the season. We presume this was after Middle Park and Carlton had mistaken our team for the ball. We assure the writer that, even had we been guilty it would not have been possible for us to have benefited by his warning as none of our team, nor any of their acquaintances interested in the game ever see his comments. Had the "Leader" man been acquainted with all the facts we very much doubt if he would have ventured upon his criticism. The deaf are only too well aware that the mass of semi-educated people are as ignorant and biassed as the "Leader" man shows himself to be as to the capabilities and status of the average deaf. The deaf as a people are united in an effort to fight down this bias by "playing the game" all the time, whether at work at pastime or in everyday life. Of course it is quite possible that our team may have been a bit rough at times, it is also possible that the "Leader" man did not see the game, or that he is biassed in favour of one or other, or both of the teams that made the complaint of roughness. Or that he was one of the group of one of these teams that expressed the determination that the "dummies" should be prevented from becoming premiers at any cost. So many things are possible.

The facts of the case are simple. These clubs do not appreciate the idea of being beaten by those "poor deaf and dumb mutes who cant hear nor speak."

C. C. C.

The letters of the Cosmopolitan Correspondence Club reached the Australian correspondent (Mrs. J. E. Muir.) last month in its second round, accompanied by a bulky packet of pamphlets, newspaper clippings and pictoral post cards. The letters proved to be most interesting and of educative help to those who were privileged to read them. The interesting extracts from the letters were published in the June issue of the "Silent Worker" which occupied two pages. An extract from the Australian letter re the Farm and Home at Blackburn was also published in the "Ohio Chronicle". Owing to limited space in this letter we are sorry that we are unable to insert some of the interesting extracts from the correspondence. There are now ten members (all deaf.) in the club viz:- Mrs. J. E. Muir, Australia, Mdlle. Pitrois, France, Miss Egan Desmond at present travelling on the continent, Mr. Brodie, Scotland, Revd. J. Bodvan Anwyl, Wales, Mrs. Chapin Balis, Canada, Miss A. Kent, New Jersey, Miss Edgar, Ohio, Mrs. Long, Iowa, and Mr. Douglas Zilden, California. Miss A. Graham and Miss Desmond unconsciously chased one another at Genoa, Nice and Lugano and thus lost the opportunity of meeting each other, but Miss Graham hopes to see her somewhere else. She was unable to go to see Mdlle Pitrois as she lives rather too far away from Paris.

Stray Notes.

On the 5th August our Chief delivered a lecture on "Grand Music". As usual the lecture was not exactly what we expected but it was deeply interesting and full of information that does not generally reach the average mind. He dealt with Music from the 20th Century point of view and now Music is to us greater than ever.

Mr. R. Harley, Headmaster of the Tasmanian School for the deaf has written in for copies of the "Leader". We feel to regretfully inform him that that unique piece of literat

are no longer shed its light. Whether at some future time it will be re-incarnated in some other form remains to be seen, for the present it is dead.
A Cinematographic film of our La-Crosse Club was taken on the 23rd ult. We have not yet heard whether the film turned out successful or not.
A bicycle in good condition is offered for sale. Price £ 6. It is strongly built. Particulars, etc. can be obtained from Mr. J. E. Muir.
Messrs V. Harding and W. Waren recently lost their mother and brother respectively. They have our sincere sympathy.
Mrs J. Dempsey and her two children are now at Monbulk, where they intend to stay for two months. We trust they all will have an enjoyable and beneficial time.
Mr. R. Bruce from the new railway works at Buchan was in Melbourne lately, he had been to see his sister Mrs Osborne and family, he has now gone back to work.
Mr. C. Turnbull writing to an old friend states that for 30 years he has been connected with farming in Berramangra, N. S. Wales. He wishes to be kindly remembered to all his old friends in Melbourne.
Mr. & Mrs W. Pollock (Miss Bourke) of Warrnambool intend settling in Melbourne shortly. Mr. Pollock will be employed by his present Master, who is starting a new boot factory in Melbourne.
We beg to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of 1/3 from Mr. J. Thomson towards our "Monthly Letter" Fund.
Illustrated London News from Mrs C. Luke, a parcel of books from Mr. J. Thomson and Magazines and periodicals from Mr. H. Stead were received during the month. The donors have our hearty thanks for same.
The Congress of the British Deaf and Dumb Association was held at Bradford, Yorkshire in July and the Association of Teachers of the deaf met at Glasgow the same month.
The Annual Meeting of the Adult Deaf Athletic Club was held on Tuesday Evening 2nd Sept. Particulars will appear in next months issue of our Letter.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 10. NOVEMBER. 1913. Nº 3.

Mr Abraham & N.S.W. Deaf.

In response to a requisition from the Adult Deaf of N S W. to "come over & help us." Mr Abraham accompanied by his daughter Miss Edie left Melbourne by the mail train on Sat^y Oct 4th. A large deputation of deaf mutes met them at the Sydney Station on their arrival Sunday morning and in the name of the deaf of N S. W. tendered them a hearty welcome. The same evening Mr Abraham preached to a large congregation the room rented by the deaf in Pitt St. being crowded. The time chosen for the campaign could not have been worse. Everything was against the inducement of public interest. It was race week to begin with and the people were holiday making & illuminating & rejoicing over the visit of the fleet. Added to this was the small postmare. Nevertheless Mr Abraham let no grass grow under his feet. He started on a systematic canvas of likely sympathisers immediately after his arrival, & hard work he found it. So meagre were the results that the following week he had a motor car & called & called & called again until he did succeed in catching & convincing the men. People must have thought that there was some kind of an election on the way that car "muzzed" the city. The chauffeur was an expert. He knew every body & everything worth knowing in Sydney & helped Mr Abraham to do in a few days what in other circumstances might have taken months.

It is hard enough to get gentlemen to serve on the Committee where the Adult Deaf Society is well established & its position financially sound, so what must it have been to get a committee for a new society without property or funds & where the people were satisfied that they had an asylum for all sorts & conditions of the Deaf. He succeeded of course & amongst the names on this new Committee we notice Professor David of the University. Hon. D. R. Hall, Minister of Justice. Ald. G. T. Clarke. Mr W. Roberts Director of Griffiths Bros. Mr H. Richardson Clark (Solicitor) & Rev W. J. Cocks. M. A.

A public meeting was held in the Sydney Town Hall on Monday Oct. 20th The Lord Mayor Ald. Cocks presided and Mr Abraham addressed the meeting. He submitted the case of the Adult Deaf in detail. In the course of his remarks he said he had come to Sydney with the intention of trying to inaugurate an association similar to those existing in other parts of the world at the request of a hundred & fifty deaf mutes of New South Wales.

They very often did not realise that amongst them were many, who by reason of their infirmities, were as much foreigners almost as the people to whom they sent missionaries. In the matter of provision for the Adult Deaf & Dumb Sydney was 20 years behind the times. The people of New South Wales were not to blame for this state of affairs, as was evidenced by the generous support afforded their Deaf & Dumb Institution, which was one of the richest in the world. This was a proof that the people were only too anxious to help the afflicted. The simple truth was that the case of the Adult Deaf & Dumb had not been placed before the public. The Speaker went on to describe the work of Melbourne Institution, as it afforded a common social ground for deaf mutes. The property owned by the Melbourne Adult deaf mutes was valued at over £15,000 with an annual income of public subscriptions amounting to £3.000. In Sydney they had none at all belonging to them, although, according to the statistics they had a hundred more deaf inmates in this State.

Mr P. Forbes moved, — "That this meeting of Citizens, being strongly of the opinion that something should be done immediately to ameliorate the lot of the Adult deaf mutes

proposes the formation of an association to be called the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of New South Wales, to take on the spiritual, intellectual, moral & social needs of the afflicted people."
This was seconded by Mr Fletcher Booth & carried unanimously.
The following board of management was then appointed:-
Professor Anderson, Mr W. R. Hall, M. L. C. (Minister of Justice) Mr R. Roberts, Dr Halliday, Rev. R. J. Cocks, M. A., Rev J. Barcroft, Rev. Robert Vey, Alderman G. J. Clarke, Mr H Richardson Clark, — Angelmetta & P. Forbes, J. P.
Just prior to the meeting a deputation consisting of the President Committee, Secretary & Head master of the N. S. W. Institution waited upon the Lord Mayor in his room & presented their side of the question. A letter signed by the President & Secretary of the Institution has also appeared in the Sydney newspapers. Followed by reports of interviews with the Adult deaf & officials of the Institution, & a lengthy letter from Mr Abraham.
The Adult Deaf entertained Mr & Miss Abraham to a picnic down the Harbour on the 11th Oct. There was a great & happy assemblage. Speeches welcoming Mr Abraham were delivered by Messrs Forbes J. P., Fletcher Booth, Phillips, Doran, & others. & Mr. Abraham responded.
Our chief officiated at Divine Service on the 12th & again on the 19th. The deaf decided to entertain Mr. Abraham at a Banquet on the evening of the 20th, but he learned of their intention just in time to enable them to cancel the arrangements. He pointed out that they would need all their money for propaganda work. Although Mr. Abraham submitted 3 times to vaccination in connection with his visit to Sydney. The Health Department said he would have to be detained another week, but as his presence in Melbourne was imperative he wired to the ex-minister of Customs the Hon T. Tudor, who succeeded in getting through. When it was found that Mr. Abraham could not return on the 21st there was great rejoicing on the part of the deaf, for they realised what another week of his services would mean to them. Through the kind offices of the Hon T. Tudor Mr & Miss Abraham were enabled to return the following day. A beautiful boquet was presented by Mr. Phillips to Miss Abraham

on behalf of the deaf Mr P. Forbes, a hearing gentleman, who is acting as chairman of the deaf Committee is rendering yeomans services to the cause & Mr Richardson Clarke, a well known Sydney solicitor is now interesting himself on their behalf Mr Abrahams final message to the deaf was. Stick together, be loyal & patient & you will win

Something like a Secretary.

Mr F. E. Irwin is thorough in everything he undertakes. When he was elected to the office of Treasurer of our Church, it was thought that the utmost possible had been achieved by previous treasurers, in the way of obtaining subscribing members, yet Mr Irwin's additions took up no mean space on the list. At his election as hon sec.ry of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A. he expressed his determination of bringing the subscribing membership up to one hundred. The membership at that time was about half that number & it was thought he had set himself a task impossible to accomplish during the current year. He has, nevertheless succeeded. The last three members being enrolled on the last day of the financial year.

We heartily congratulate the Victorian branch in its possession of so enthusiastic an officer. Mr Irwin has shown us what can be accomplished if we only put our heart into the work & our shoulder to the wheel.

The Hon Secretary (Mr F. E. Irwin) acknowledges with thanks receipt of 1/- each from Mrs Hartley, Mr & Mrs J. Boork, Mr & Mrs D. Nolan, Mr W. Anderson, Miss E. Smith, Mr J. Brooks (Locksley) Mr & Mrs A. McLellan & Miss Ewing. There are now 100 members on the roll up to date. The financial year closes on the 31st Oct.

Christmas Rally.

The Christmas Rally is fixed for the 18th of December. Arrangements have been made for another novel attraction & one in every way appropriate to the festive season.

Suggestions however are always welcome, & if any of our readers know of a novel form of entertainment or good game, they are asked to communicate with the Hon Sec.ry Mr J. E. Muir.

Winter Games Competitions.

Some time has been taken up in counting the averages in

the games. (Angling, Dart throwing, Bagatelle, Wool making. Shooting & Table quoits) and the results are now available the competitions were very keen & close. The winners turned out to be Mr. M. G. B Mortimer 1. Mr G. Quantock 2 and Mr. G. Oakley 3. These games were open to gentlemen only this year. The prizes will be distributed on the 15th Nov.

Mr. Rose.

Mr. F. J. Rose & family desire to express their sincere thanks to their deaf & dumb friends of the Commonwealth of Australasia for the kind letters of sympathy & condolence tendered to them in their recent sad bereavement.

In answer to numerous questions as to the cause of Mrs Rose's death, it was thought to be through a paralytic stroke which terminated suddenly.

Women's Guild

At the meeting of the Women's Guild held on the 30th Sept. the members were well entertained by the President whose devotional lesson was "Gods & Goddesses" & other interesting subjects. Mrs Crockford recited "The Tempest"

On the 21st Oct. A paper on Joseph & Benjamin by Miss A. Adams & a bible lesson given by Mrs Wilson were watched with interest & much appreciated.

Miss R. Dow has resigned the position of Hon Sec. of the Guild. Misses Hickey & Davis were nominated for election to the position, but as there was not the full complement of members present it was decided to postpone the voting until the next meeting which is to be held on Tuesday 11th Nov. It is hoped that all the members will be present.

Men's Guild

On the 30th of Sept. at the Men's Guild meeting. Mr M. L. Miller gave his very interesting paper on "Abraham Lincoln" which was continued on the 14th Oct. His paper was greatly appreciated & applauded by all the members present. It was said to be one of the best given during the past 30 years.

Collection

The Amount collected at the Deaf Church in aid of the Hospital Sunday Fund was £4-14-3. Last year the amount was £5-13-4

Ramblers.

On the 11th October the ramblers rendezvoused at 13, assembling outside St Paul's Cathedral for their usual Rambling. Their destination was Studley Park, Kew. The weather was not very promising. Our party strolled through the park & along the bank of the River Yarra. We stopped several times to admire the landscape. Mother Nan & one of our members visited the Asylums where a deaf mute friend of theirs is staying. Meanwhile we enjoyed ourselves by watching the young people in the canoes. The Kew proceeded along the road to the tram terminus & boarded one of the trams for Flinders St Station where we bid Good Byes to each other, thus ending a very enjoyable outing.

Cricket.

The Adult Deaf C.C were rather late in starting the season. They played their first friendly game against the Balaclava Rovers on the 18th & 25th Oct. The scores were Balaclava 85 & 67. Deaf 64 & 21. C. Robertson 30 & 6 wickets for 49. Martin 5 for 19. Lancaster 3 for 10. Downes 3 for 34. Burge 1 for 1. The players have not struck form yet for want of practice. It seems that their interest in Lacrosse is still the governing power. It is expected that medals from the Victorian Lacrosse Association will be awarded in a couple of weeks time. A social will be held shortly in honour of the Lacrosse team's premiership of the "C" Section.

Late Rally Notes.

The names of Miss E. Chapman & Mr R. H. Luff were omitted through an oversight in Our last Monthly Letter that their recitations on "The Fisherwoman" & "The Baby" were delivered at the last Rally. The prizes to the winners will be given on the 15th Nov.

Helpers.

During Mr. Abrahams absence in Sydney, Mrs Mr L. Miller R. H. Luff, J. E. & W. P. Munn officiated at the Sunday Services in rotation. The Bible classes were also conducted by Mr & Mrs J. E. Munn.

Stray Notes.

Mr A. Morgan of Carpenter spent his usual holiday in Melbe

& went back before the Show week
Messrs J. Swan (Brylewood), J. Mills (Nathalia), A. Collins (Neerim)
J. Cadwell (Craigieburn), S. Burgess (Bowmans Forest), J. Veale
(Lake Boloc), S. Damman (Carbunton), James & John Anderson
(Euroa), C. Graham & Mr A. Cobby (Trafalgar) came to Melbourne
to attend the Show which was said to be a great success &
also attended the Rally.

Mr & Mrs W. Smith past through here on the 8th Sept^r & Mr S.
Moss' mother left for New Zealand lately. They have our sympathy.

Miss M. Potter went to Maldon for some days holiday
for a change.

Son born to Mr & Mrs G. Damman on the 7th Sept^r.

" " " Mr & Mrs J Harris late of Adelaide on the 2nd October.

Messrs London, Kent & Sutherland came out from England
lately & have settled in Melbourne for good.

Revd E. C. Irwin M.A. son of Mr & Mrs F. E. Irwin, sailed
on the 7th October by S.S. "Commonwealth" for England. It is
expected that he will be away for a year or two.

Many deaf subscribers have been asking about the "Gesture".
We can only repeat & with sorrow that our dear little friend
is no more.

Miss A. Graham has been travelling from place to place in Germany.
She stayed with Mr J. E. Muir's relations at Hamm, most of whom
fortunately could talk english on their friends to her. She & Miss
A. Damman are now in Austria. Mr Abraham & several of the
deaf, including Mr J. E. Muir & Mr J. Boord have received letters or
post cards from the various countries visited by her.

Mr Arthur E. Illingworth has succeeded Mr W. Carey Roe as
Secretary of the National Bureau for promoting the Welfare of
the Deaf, London.

Miss F. Swanson is appealing for £1.500 to secure a school
for the deaf of Madras. There are 30,000 deaf mutes in Madras
& no school or any other organisation for the deaf.

It is with regret we record the death of Mr Edward Thomas,
Missionary to the deaf of Bristol. Although he was not connected
with progressive movements on behalf of the Adult Deaf, no
missionary was more beloved than he amongst those for whom he laboured

The work amongst the deaf in the old world continues to learn anew life. There is little or no progress. Australia is fast in advance in everything pertaining to the Adult deaf.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of £1.1.0 from Mr J. Finlay, 3/6 from Mr F. Lynas of Charlton. 2/- from Mrs Lindo. 1/6 each from Miss M. Orde & J. Brooks (Tockslay) & 1/- each from Miss J. Knish (Maldon) & Mr J. Nelson toward our Monthly Letter fund.

Cup Day Pic-nic.

The rain spoiled our outing this year. Mordialloc is a very nice place for a days enjoyment when the weather is favourable but when boistrous winds & cutting hail are in possession of this pretty seaside resort well, then there is something in the sea side air that suggests a rapid return to the City. The sun certainly did peep out at us now & again & we took full advantage of his presence, but scarcely did we start the fun of the fair than down came the rain & up started the wind. Our spirits were high enough for anything, but what could one do in the way of enjoyment out in the open down by the sea whilst besieged by wind & hail! We can not claim that it was a successful pic nic. We did our best but the weather was against us. There is a rumour that Mr. Abraham intends to entertain us at Blackburn on a Saturday afternoon at an early date. We hope he will have his usual fine weather.

Farm.

There are no figures available as to sales for October, we are assured however that there is an increase on the previous years business. The Gardens are looking beautiful just now & although the rain was anything but welcome to the pic-nickers, it was received with rejoicing at the farm.

Our Pleasure Resort.

The rain spoiled the pic-nic business here on Cup Day. It was the quietest day we remember. Nevertheless we did well with cut flowers.

Ibid's Advice.

Old friends burn dim like lamps in noisome air.
Love them for what they are: nor love them less.
Because to thee they are not what they were.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 10 DECEMBER. 1913. No. 4.

Christmas 1913

Dear Friends

Christmas is with us once and we suppose your thoughts are in a line with holiday resorts and festivities. Christmas nowadays is certainly more of a holiday and less of a festive season than it once was. Many old customs seem to have passed away for good and all. The old greeting "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," which once upon a time, in street train and tram car, could be heard the whole day long, is seldom expressed, at least in the old hearty way.

But Christmas should mean more than a holiday or enjoyment to us. It is our great anniversary, the greatest of all anniversaries. It is the day of the Coming of the Christ. When the "Ward of God" - Love in human form was born into the world bringing a Heavenly Greeting of Peace for Earth and Goodwill toward men. It is a time, therefore, when we should give more thought than usual to the doings of deeds of love and goodwill and to the promotion of peace. It is really astonishing what a great amount of good we can do, at so very little cost to ourselves. It is wonderful, when we come to think

of it what little things make people happy. Give this matter a thought – a long thought, dear friends. Make at least one person happy this Christmas. If you have quarrelled, you give in and make up. If you have an enemy, let him see you want to be friends. Has some one harmed you in word or deed, forgive her. And you must know someone surely whom you could make happy by some little token of affection or esteem. Have a cheerful word for everybody. Oh, it's absolutely marvellous what happiness you can scatter, and so very easily, if you only will!

We wish you, dear friends,

A Very Merry Christmas and a New Year of Peaceful Contentment.

Garden Party to the Deaf

Mr and Mrs Ernest J.D. Abraham request the pleasure of the company of the deaf of Victoria to a Garden Party to be held at Lake Park, Blackburn on Saturday, Dec. 13th 1913. Formal invitations are to be issued, but as, in former years some of these have gone astray, and through removals and want of knowledge of others' addresses. Many have not received the invitation. It is desired, therefore, that the deaf accept this as a formal invitation. It should not be necessary after all these years of intimate knowledge of our Chief to remind the deaf that when he sends forth an invitation, it is meant for the whole crowd of us, and if there happens to be a solitary absentee, he wants to know the why and the wherefore of that "lost sheep". So whether that invitation reaches you or not, just "Come along".

Hearing recipients of the "Monthly Letter" are equally welcome, but a postcard intimating intention to be present addressed to Mr. J. C. Muir, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St, Melbourne, would be appreciated.

Christmas Rally

The Christmas Rally is to be held on the 18th Dec. at our Centre. The Entertainments Committee are not very talkative upon the subject, but we were able to gather that it is going to be just the "Greatest Ever". We got one member into a quiet corner & squeezed him of the bit of news that there is to be a Christmas tree for adults, another later on, admitted orders had been given for a plum pudding stuffed with presents, another that a gift of Xmas crackers had arrived, and then they found me and threatened me and so you will have to restrain your curiosity as to the rest of the programme until the 18th. There is no doubt that it is going to be a real "hip-hopper". By the way the Committee had to tell me about that Christmas tree because they want me to announce that gifts for the tree from deaf or hearing friends will be thankfully accepted & should be addressed to Mr. J. E. Muir, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St.

Deaf friends, roll up & be one of the happy crowd.

Greeting from N. Z.

Mr. & Mrs. E. Burke, formerly of Melbourne, now of New Zealand, send greetings to the deaf of Victoria. "A Bright Joyous & Peaceful Christmas & A Happy New Year" is their kindly wish. Mr. Thos. Williamson, also of N. Z. echoes the above wish. They also give three cheers for the deaf of Sydney, & wish every success to the new & independent Deaf Society. Mr. Burke adds "We receive the "Monthly Letter" regularly, we have never missed a single issue since our arrival in Christchurch. It is becoming quite crowded with interesting paragraphs & is full of interesting facts, information & useful instruction. It is very entertaining. We always enjoy the reading of it. We trust it will continue to grow in interest & usefulness. Accept our congratulations for the Monthly Letter. All well in Christchurch."

In the name of the deaf of Victoria we reciprocate the friendly greetings of our loyal comrades.

Farewell to Darry Davis

The best of friends must part. There comes a time when the happy family circle is broken into. Life's duties compel first one & then another to seek fresh fields and pastures new. Many dear friends have left our circle for other States & in one or two instances for other countries, but never one has placed the new before the old. Their affection for "dear old Melbourne town" remains paramount, the superiority of the deaf folk at home, both old & young over the deaf of all other places, grows with time & distance, & as to our Centre, well to them there is no place like it in the wide world. Yes, Melbourne deaf are intensely loyal & are ever interested in the doings of the deaf folk at home. They appreciate our "Monthly Letter" most of all.

Adelaide has many of our people & is again to benefit at our cost. The name of the latest wanderer from home is Darry Davis. For business purposes the father of Darry will make Adelaide his home, & Mr. & Miss Davis left for that city on the 29th ult. But before their departure we had a very pleasant gathering, there was a good muster of the young people & a fair sprinkling of the active older members.

Mr. Abraham presided, & on behalf of the deaf presented Miss Davis with a case of silver mounted hair brushes & a beautiful silver manicure set. He said they would all miss her happy face & cheerful company. She was one of the loyal & one of the most willing workers. She had been called "one of his favourites". He would take advantage of the opportunity to say that he had no favourites. He favoured none. It was he that was favoured, favoured by the loyalty & affection of such as Darry Davis. In a big family, as they were doubtlessly aware, most of the young people's interest is concentrated upon themselves & they chase after pleasure, but there is generally one who forgets self & thinks of Father. She it is who attends to his every comfort & the only reward she

looks for is a smile. It is her pleasure to give pleasure. But the rest of the family call her "Father's favourite". In reality the father is the favourite. It was Mr. Abrahams joy to be surrounded by many souls, both men & women, yet he could not spare one of them. He was sorry that circumstances made it necessary for this little friend to leave their family circle. But as it has been with many others who went out into the world the chain of affection between Darry & himself & the Melbourne deaf would never be broken.

Mrs. J. E. Muir, in the name of the Women's Guild, expressed regret at the loss they were about to have by the departure of Miss Davis. They all benefited by association with her, for she was as a ray of sunshine wherever she went, & always willing to help at anything found to be needful. They were sure she would be received with open arms by the Adelaide deaf. Their loss would be their gain. In conclusion Mrs. Muir recited "God be with you till we meet again".

Mr. Davis, Mrs. J. E. Muir, & Mr. Baldry on behalf of Mr. Frewin, who was unable to attend through sickness, also spoke. Miss Davis, in acknowledging the gifts, said that she was grateful to her friends for their handsome gifts. She would always treasure them, & remember their goodness to her, & would keep them in remembrance of the happy hours she had spent with them. She thanked Mr. Abraham for the intellectual enlightment she had received through him, for his advice & the continuation of her education since leaving school she was indebted to him. She thanked "Mother Ken" (Mrs. Muir) for taking care of her & giving some of her time to her. She promised that the lessons she had learned would not be wasted, that she would do all she could to help on the work for the Adelaide Adult Deaf Institute to show how much she appreciated the benefits she had received. In concluding she said "I wish you all every

success. God bless you - goodbye." During the evening Mr. F. Grass presented Mr. Davis with a leather attache bag & Miss Davis with a hand bag, to the first in acknowledgement of his kind interest, & to the latter as a memento. After the presentation, games were enjoyed, concluding with supper in the lower hall.

There was a great muster of deaf young people to bid farewell to Miss Davis. Accompanied by her father, she left Melbourne on Sat. 29th ult by the S.S. Karoola. She was loaded with flowers, sweets & good wishes.

Our Flower Farm

At the time of writing the farm is a picture. It is a mass of summer bloom. Visitors, coming up for a ramble over these old picnic resort invariably seem mystified at the transformation of the wild bush into a blaze of colour & perfume. Great improvements are being made in all directions with the flower plantations. The cash receipts amounted to £99-6-5 in October. The November returns are not yet to hand. Mr. Abraham is now packing as many as twenty boxes before 6 o'clock some mornings, & the flower shed before packing begins is a sight worth seeing. The old shed is far too small to hold the bloom & there is little room to spare in the new one. On market days Swain & Hull are working with a good connection in the Victoria Market, & Mr. Sellar, Kindell & Nelson have lost none of their enthusiasm. Eva Hair is the latest addition to the domestic staff & we never had such harmony & good health. Mrs. Abraham carries her heavy & trying load cheerfully & Miss Elsie volunteered to take on duties during a recent pressure of work & lack of helpers in the domestic department. Master Ernest who is a student at the Burnley Horticultural College lived during his father's absence in Sydney.

Prize Distribution

The distribution of prizes for the Winter games & the recitation & dialogue competitions took place

on Nov. 15th Mr Miller presented the prizes to the winners. Games competition:- 1st prize, Mrs Martinez, gold sleeve links presented by Mrs E. J. D. Abraham; 2nd Mrs Bramble, leather attache bag; 3rd Mrs Oakley, clock. Recitations, 1st, Mr Newnham, wallet; 2nd Miss Davis, jewel casket. Dialogue, Miss J. Kennedy & Mr Newnham, jewel casket & clock respectively. Hearty thanks were accorded to Mrs Abraham for her gift, to Mr Miller for distributing prizes, & the Amusement committee for supervising the games.

Mens Guild Meetings

On Oct 28th Mr J. Nelson gave a paper on "Perpetuated Personalities." The 11th inst. Mr Duff on President Garfield. This paper evoked much interest. There was no chance for members to criticise or ask questions as Mr Duff finished the paper just on time. The 25th inst. Mr Baldry on "Man's Greatest Conquest." He having some knowledge of engineering, explained the works of the locomotives of England & America & said if there was iron obtainable in Australia, work would be more plentiful.

Women's Guild

On the 11th inst. at the Women's Guild meeting, a large number of members, including Miss E. Jackson, of Sandford - who was accorded a hearty welcome, were treated to a paper of unusual interest on "The Pyramids" by Miss D. Davis. The President recited "The Fox and the Peacock". Miss Kirkby was appointed hon. sec. in place of Miss Daw (resigned). All wished the new secretary every success.

School News

The pupils of the Victorian Deaf School had an attractive stall at the Children's Welfare Exhibition which was last month held at the Masonic Hall. They showed all kinds of school work, mapping, mats of raffia & clay modelling, specimens of boot mending

& a nice display of plain & fancy sewing & dolls. There were also many kinds of carpentry which gave practical evidence of the work done at the institution. Cakes & scones provided in the refreshment-room were made or prepared by the girls of the Deaf School & three other institutions, they were pronounced to be most excellent. A good number of old pupils assembled at the exhibition on the 19th ult. to witness a gymnastic display & other interesting performances by the present pupils, & had the pleasure of mingling & chatting with them & their former teachers.

It is very pleasing to note that some of the senior girls at the Deaf School attend a cookery class every Thursday at the State School, Hanby St, Windsor, where girls from various other schools are being instructed in the mysteries of cooking. They find great delight & interest in preparing & cooking meals, & also cakes. They also wait upon customers who drop in for lunch. We learn with pride that these deaf girls are considered to be the best pupils at the cookery class this year.

Obituary

Miss Emily Kent, who has for some time been ill in the Melbourne Hospital, died there on the 29th ult. As she resided at an institution at Cheltenham, far away from our centre & all its advantages we saw little of her, but when she did pay us a visit, she always gave expression to her longing to be with us often. She more than once spoke to the effect that she was missing all that went to make the life of the young deaf happy. We were sorry to hear of her death but God knows best when to call His children home.

Vic. Branch A.D.D.A.

The report of the annual meeting of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A. is a long & interesting one & must therefore be held over until our January issue because it is too good to cut down to a paragraph & we have no room for more than that this month.

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

HOME FOR AGED, INFIRM AND
FEEBLE MINDED DEAF MUTES
(INCORPORATED)

TELEPHONES
CENTRAL 5223
CANTERBURY 47

ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE
32-34 FLINDERS ST. E.

MELBOURNE. 191

To the Members and Friends
of the
Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association
and the
Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria.

Mr & Mrs Ernest J. D Abraham
request the pleasure of your
Company to
A Garden Party
to be held at the
Deaf-Mutes' Home
Lake Park. Blackburn.
On Saturday, Dec. 13th 1913.
Trains- Flinders St. to Blackburn—
1-35, 1-40, 1-55, 2-5, and 2-15. p.m.
From Blackburn to Melbourne—
6-9, 6-27, 7-52, 8-34 and 9-6 p.m.

"Punch" 22/1/1914.

Clergy don't appear to mix with the admirable Deaf Mute Institute in Flinders-street East. Important question raised. Qualified deaf mutes want employment at the Newport Railway Works. The authorities refuse them on the ground of danger. An appeal is made to Premier Watt.

"Punch" 26/3/1914.

Pardon another reference to the Blackburn Flower Farm, beyond Box Hill, belonging to the Deaf Mute Mission. Dreadful water famine, more or less for a succession of months. Yet the farm is in Lake Park, with a good lake. There is a pumping plant, but it is small, and the farm could drink ten times as much as it supplies. A millionaire gave two thousand pounds the other day to the Wesleyan Centennial Fund. Let that kind of man just take a look at the Blackburn Flower Farm, really a splendidly remunerative property, with a fair chance.

Telephone Cant. 47. Central 5223

A Garden for a Guinea!

We are Overstocked

Most nurserymen in these circumstances DESTROY rather than sell cheap.

We prefer to sell Cheap

rather than destroy.

DEAF MUTES' FLOWER FARM
Lake Park, Blackburn, Victoria

(SEE INSIDE)

You can have the following delivered at your door for £1/1/-

(TERMS—5/- with order, balance on delivery of plants.)

Let us have your order, and we will deliver when ready for lifting—

4 ROSE TREES—Many to select from, such as Maman Cochet, de Rohan, J. B. Clarke, Cecil Brunner, Frau Karl Druschki, etc. These are well established, healthy trees, from two to three years old. These trees are worth 3/- each - - - - - -	4/-
6 CHRYSANTHEMUM CLUMPS, all different	4/6
2 MICHAELMAS DAISY CLUMPS -	1/6
2 AGAPANTHUS CLUMPS, blue and white	1/6
2 BLUE WINTER IRIS - - -	1/6
4 SHASTA DAISY CLUMPS, all different	3/-
2 CALLIOPSIS CLUMPS - - -	1/6
2 Clumps, Mrs. Simpkins - - -	1/6
25 Watsonia (value 2 6 doz.) - -	2/6
12 Emperor Daffodils (value 2/6 doz.) -	1/6
50 Paper White Narcissus (value 1/6 doz.)	2/6
25 Strong Princess Violets - - -	2/6
Packet of our own mixed Spencer type Sweet Pea (value 2/6) - - -	1/-
1 Strong Perpetual Carnations (value 2/- each)	1/-
	£1/10/-

These are NOT seedlings, but well established clumps and plants that will give a mass of bloom for a certainty the first season.

GREAT SURPLUS STOCK

OF THOUSANDS OF ROSE TREES

Chiefly Maman Cochet but also many others

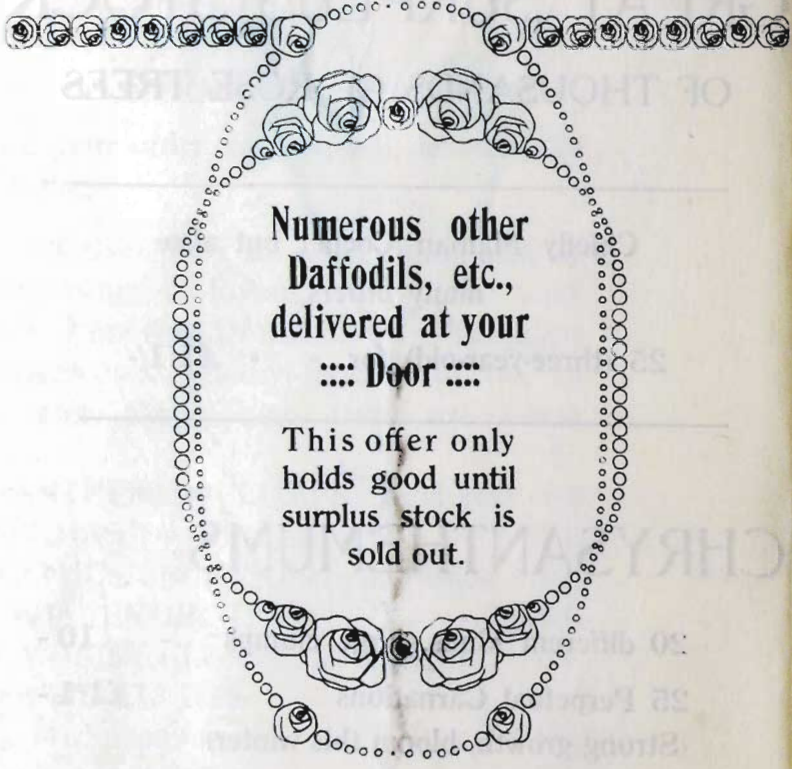
25 (three-year-old) for - - £1/1/-

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

20 different kinds, large clumps -	10/-
25 Perpetual Carnations -	£1/1/-
(Strong growth, bloom this winter)	

WE HAVE MILLIONS OF BULBS. IF ORDERED AT ONCE YOU CAN HAVE

100 White Watsonia for - -	10/-
100 Emperor Daffodils for - -	10/-
100 Pearl White Narcissus for -	5/-



Our Representative

Will wait upon you in course of a few days

iment, no conventional phrase, for we have ev
o anticipate a year of happiness. Did ever an
eaf & Dumb Society begin a new year under
avourable conditions! What more do we re
o fill our cup of happiness than the attrib
hat are within ourselves. Our environmen
ractically perfect, it is now a question of
ividual control and effort. The future is
hat we ourselves make it.

The Vic Branch A.D.D.A

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Victorian Bra
the A. D. D. A. was held in the upper hall of our
Flinders St. on Saturday evening 29th November.
was an attendance of some 50 of whom 46 were
W. Miller, the President occupied the Chair - W
the Hon Sec.ty submitted the Annual Report whi
that although nothing that could be designate
great magnitude had been done during the
still some useful work was entered upon, mu
which is still incompleted. The Committee
good many times during the year and the wo

...man might feel none had seen him. And so with "the new
the next, until men began to say it was but a hoax and the
never come at all and never would come. But on the fourth d
woman, bent and grey, but with a face that was like an
lit by the sun for beauty and serenity, went up to a ragged
man who was selling papers in the street and said, "I hav
thee - thou who art fairer and nobler than the sons of men." "
hast found me, beloved," he replied. "For four long days I
here and lifted up my voice in the street. But men looked a
and went on. Once a maiden stood and gazed at me for a l
and verily I thought that she had discovered me, but her
called and she went away, and I heard her say, "That
yonder hath an excellent face. If

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Vol. 10. *January 1914.* **No 45.**

A Happy New Year

We wish our great deaf family, their friends & sympathisers, a Happy New Year, this is no mere sentiment, no Conventional phrase, for we have every reason to anticipate a year of happiness. Did ever an Adult Deaf & Dumb Society begin a new year under more favourable conditions? What more do we require to fill our cup of happiness than the attributes that are within ourselves. Our environment is practically perfect, it is now a question of individual control and effort. The future is, largely, what we ourselves make it.

The Vic Branch A.D.D.A

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Victorian Branch of the A. D. D. A. was held in the upper hall of our "Centre" Flinders St. on Saturday evening 29th November. There was an attendance of some 50 of whom 46 were members. W. Miller, the President occupied the Chair - W. Trewin the Hon Sec'ty submitted the Annual Report which showed that although nothing that could be designated as of great magnitude had been done during the year still some useful work was entered upon, much of which is still incompleted. The Committee met a good many times during the year and the usual

careful attention had been given to whatever business was brought forward for consideration. The Education Department had been communicated with re the recommendations made by the branch with reference to the education & maintenance etc of the Deaf Mute Children. It is the intention of the Branch to endeavour to get the Government to take over maintenance as well as that of education of deaf children and it is confidently felt that it is only a matter of time when the whole of the Branch's recommendations will be given effect to by the Government. Correspondence had passed between the Branch & the Railway department with regard to the employment of deaf mutes at the Newport Workshops. Several deaf applicants fully qualified for position sought, had been refused employment, the reason given was, it was not considered advisable to employ them on account of the danger involved, because of the passing to and fro of engines & carriages at the Workshops. The Board decided to leave the matter over until it can see a chance of paying a visit to the Workshops. Much & earnest attention had been given to the case of Mr. T. J. Rose the founder of the Victorian Deaf School, and representations had been made to the Treasurer of the State urging that a pension for the remainder of his life should be granted to Mr T. J. Rose in consideration of the valuable services rendered by him to the State.

Mr M. L. Miller, the President & Mr Trewin the Hon Sec accompanied by Mr E. J. O. Abalam, the President of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb association, had an interview with the Under Treasurer, and placed all the facts before him. He promised to bring the matter under the notice of the Premier, who later on promised to give the matter favourable Consideration. Gratification is expressed at the formation of a branch

of the Association by our fellow Deaf of South Australia and a letter of congratulation and best wishes for Success & Progress of the new branch was sent to the Hon Secty Mr W. Bostock. Great pleasure was expressed at the fact that through the energetic & painstaking efforts of the Hon Sec the number of members on the roll of the Victorian branch increased to 100. This affords evidence that the Deaf members of the community are beginning to show their appreciation of the effort that are being made by the branch for the well being & advancement generally of the Deaf of the State.

The financial position of the branch as shown by the Hon Treasurer (Mr. W. A. Paterson) is very satisfactory A good addition to the fund was made by the large increase of membership during the year. There is a balance £ 13. 6. 5 on hand to carry forward for next years work. The Report & Balance Sheet were unanimously adopted

The Chairman, in his address said that it might have appeared to some that the branch had been doing nothing during the year but the Report showed that some useful work was being carried through, the most important & pressing of which was an effort to get state recognition of the valuable services rendered by Mr. P. J. Rose in establishing education for the deaf & grant him a suitable pension. He was glad to say that from the latest news, the effort was likely to be crowned with success.

A pleasing incident was the large increase of Membership during the year through the energy of the Hon Secretary He Considered Mr Trewin a "good Lasser". It was gratifying to know that the deaf of Victoria were beginning to recognise the good work done by the Association and he hoped those who had enrolled as members would never forget to fulfil a duty they owed to their fellows by always remaining members and thus support the work done and to be done by a subscription of 1/- each year The trouble was that this important fact was often

overlooked. Mr Baldry,- "I suggest that each member when lassoed should be branded, cowboy-fashion (Laughter) The Chairman said it was pleasing to note too that our fellow deaf of South Australia honorably acknowledged that the Association was doing some good work and had reformed a branch for their State. (Applause) It was to be hoped that before long our fellow deaf of New South Wales would also see their way to form a branch. In Nature there are clouds & sunshine. We had the Clouds around us for a while but now they are passing away & the sunshine of fraternity, Good fellowship & unity is beginning to assert itself (Applause) This was very Cheering and if matters keep on progressing so well the Deaf of Australia as a whole will soon have a strong Association to represent them in any matter that crops up affecting their welfare (Applause) The election of office bearers for the ensuing twelve months resulted as follows :-

President - Mr M.L. Miller. Vice President Mr J.E. Muir. Hon Treasurer Mr. W.A. Paterson. Hon Secretary Mr. F.E. Frewin. Committee. Mr. E.J.D. Abrahams Mr. R.D. Luff. Mr. G. Newnham. Mr. A. Williamson. Mr. F.A. Nelson. Mr. G. Baldry.
Messrs L. Downes, and E.R.W. Smith acted as scrutineers for the Voting.
A resolution was heartily and unanimously carried that the best thanks of the Meeting be accorded the Hon Secretary Mr. F.E. Frewin for having increased the membership to 100 during the past year. Miss P. Downes moved & Mr. J. Carris seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring officers. Scrutineers, Hon Auditor & the Chairman which was Carried unanimously.
Mr F Frewin the Hon Sec - begs to acknowledge with thanks the following Annual Subscriptions to the Vic Branch @ each - from Mr. F.J. Rose, Miss Matthews, Mr D.J. Hood (Beechforest), Mr. C.T. Smith. Mr. W.A. Paterson Mr. M.L. Miller, Mr & Mrs J.E. Muir. Miss M. Meehan, Mr. & Mrs. F.E. Frewin. Miss E. Connell. Mr. E.J.D. Abraha

Mr & Mrs E. Burke (Christchurch. N.Z) Mr T. Williamson (Christchurch (N.Z).

Garden. Party

The delightful weather conditions of Saturday Dec 15th assisted in ensuring the success of a garden party at Lake Park, (The Deaf Mutes' flower farm) at which our much loved Superintendent & his wife Mr. Ernest J. O. Abraham entertained over 100 deaf & a good number of hearing friends. With such spacious & beautiful grounds as Lake Park there is every facility for spending an enjoyable day, especially in pleasant weather. The guests were received by the host & hostess in front of the handsome buildings. Then they had a chance of inspecting the women's new comfortable sitting room, of strolling through the nursery gardens which were gloriously clothed with all kinds of marketable flowers in season, of lingering in the flower shed when lovely flowers in great masses were waiting to be disposed of, deliciously smelling many of them different odours, of rowing on the calm extensive lake, of taking part in games which were indulged in with the highest of spirits & of joining, (Of Course) in conversation which is, you know, one of the phases of the game of life. Mrs Abraham had so arranged that there was tea, including jellies & strawberries & cream served in the women's & men's sitting rooms & the dining room between 4.30 & 6.30 to suit the guests who did justice to the tables. Several friends assisted the host & hostess by seeing to the enjoyment of the guests. Cool drinks were served in the back verandah & fully appreciated. Before dusk Mr. J. E. Muir mounted the front steps & in flourishing signs, moved a vote of thanks to Mr & Mrs Abraham for their cordial hospitality & he was seconded by Mr. Downes. Mr Abraham who was received with loud cheers, briefly & very feelingly responded. Subsequently the guests bade good bye to their kind host & hostess. &

departed in many groups to catch their own trains, every one carrying a big bunch of flowers. Mr Abraham accompanied the last crowd to the station, probably to see that none of his enthusiastic friends, who fell under the spell of Lake Park that memorable day were loth to betake themselves, stayed behind. On entering the train everybody (in the last crowd of which the writer was one) commenced to talk at once (their fingers flying quite in confusion. Each one, anxious to be polite, was trying to see what each other was saying. How delightful it had been! How proud & happy Mr Abraham looked! With what energy did he show us around. What a good hostess Mrs Abraham made? Lovely gardens. Oh flowers! So on. Then we went on relating our own little incidents that had happened during the day. In the meanwhile, one by one we dropped out at our respective stations tired & happy. Thus ended the most enjoyable day.

Society Chat.

After the bustle & merriment of Christmas it is practically quiet at our Centre which is in fact, gradually emptying. A very large number of members are away for their holidays The following fortunate holiday-makers are:- Mr Stuke in Hindsmarsh Ls. (S.A), Miss F. Chapman Adelaide; Mr. M.L. Miller, Stawell; Mr & Mrs Alex Wilson in Portland & afterwards going to Port Fairy; Mr & Mrs F. E. Frewin, Misses Maria Collins & Emily Smith & Mr Clifford Robertson, Sorrento; Mr V. Harding, Sydney; Mr. J. Johnston - Tasmania; Mrs J. Dempsey, Monbulk; Mr G. Mortimer, Lyons; Miss Potter, Geelong; Mr & Mrs J Harris, Portarlington; Mr O. Iggger, Creswick; Mr E. Martin, Daylesford; Mr & Mrs P Christensen, Messrs A. Christensen & McKenzie, near Goulburn; Messrs W & F Peters & Mr A Dull, Flinders; Mr L. Downes Blackrock; Mr J. Marks, Gippsland Lakes.

Visitors to Melbourne during the last two months were Mrs C. Hodgson of Adelaide; Mr W Duncan of Dandenong; Mrs Gus Damman of Warburton; Miss Enid Jackson of Sandford; Mr G. Battarsby of St Arnaud Mr J. Johnston, Messrs Newell, Beswick, Barrel & Kenihan of Adelaide; & Mr Nicholls of Tasmania.

Miss Empson (client at the Centre) who went under an operation is still too ill to return to duties. Miss Blair, a former assistant to our Superintendent, & who is familiar with our office work – although engaged in the management of a private hospital in co-operation with her mother, readily returned to take up Miss Empson's duties until she is well enough to resume them

Mrs Luke continues to send her usual parcel of the London Illustrated News to the Library. We tender our hearty thanks for the gift.

Mr Campbell, who is a linotypist – from Canada was in Melbourne for a few days after working in Geelong for 3 months. Subsequently he sailed for West Australia.

Miss Lizzie Bond, who came out to Australia from England a year ago was discovered in Windsor & brought to our Xmas Rally which she enjoyed immensely. She is now anxious to become a member of the Society.

After wandering from place to place of historical interest in Germany, Misses A Graham & A Damman joined & remained with Mrs & Miss L. Damman for a while in Vienna. Afterwards they all visited Tyrol & Meran, famed for unique scenery. They journeyed to Montreaux in Switzerland where they parted, the first two mentioned going to Engelberg to meet Miss B. Graham (her sister). The other two will travel

on to Italy where they leave for Melbourne. Mrs J.S. Muir is kept so well informed by her Mother of their doings every week. Miss Graham's big correspondence with her relations keeps her very busy; every spare moment she has she sits down to write. She however writes often to her deaf friends. Our travellers were all looking forward to the winter life in Switzerland.

Mrs Alice Cove has gone to West Australia to join her son who is in a good position.

Mr Brown has just arrived in Melbourne from America, looking for work. He is quite a traveller having seen many Countries. He was born in Russia, & educated in Austria on the oral system & lived for a number of years in America. He Finds five languages.

Mr Rockfeller - the American Standard Oil K recently addressed the National Association of the Deaf at Cleveland. U.S.A. In concluding his speech he said "My heart is greatly touched by looking upon your faces. You are infinitely more blessed than many other people. Your sign language is beautiful and I wish I knew it God bless you a

New South Wales Deaf

At a recent meeting of the Adult Deaf of N.S.W a resolution was unanimously carried, tendering to Mr & M Abraham the grateful thanks of the Adult Deaf for their recent successful effort in establishing the adult Deaf & Dumb Soci N. S. W. One of the gentlemen - W. A. Richardson Clark, a w Known Sydney Solicitor, whom Mr Abraham introduced to th movement is taking a most active interest in the new So and is already immensely popular amongst the Adult Deaf of Sydney. Mr Hall, minister of Justice for N. is also taking a personal interest in the Adult-Deaf & D enthusiasm of W. P. Forbes J.P. is as strong as a the beginning of the movement.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Vol. 10. FEBRUARY 1914. No. 6.

The Eyes of the Soul.

One day the news came to the earth that one of the Nobles of Heaven was coming to the earth, and that whoever recognised him first should be greatly rewarded. And so all men were on the outlook for him and many gave up employment to find him. "We shall know him by the shining of his face," said one. "And by his noble bearing," said another. "His speech will betray him," remarked a third. "Nay," answered another, "but I shall look for him at the Palace Gates. He is sure to enter there and will look right-kingly." "I shall visit the Cathedral," said still another "for if anywhere surely he will be found in the House of God." The day arrived for his coming, but though there were sharp eyes everywhere when night fell none had seen him. And so with the next day, and the next, until men began to say it was but a story and that he had never come at all and never would come. But on the fourth day an old woman, bent and grey, but with a face that was like an inlaid farm lit by the sun for beauty and serenity, went up to a ragged and tattered man who was selling papers in the street and said, "I have found thee - thou who art fairer and nobler than the sons of men". "Yes, thou hast found me, beloved," he replied. "For four long days I have stood here and lifted up my voice in the street. But men looked at my clothes and went on. Once a maiden stood and gazed at me for a little while, and verily I thought that she had discovered me, but her companions called and she went away, and I heard her say, "That poor man yonder hath an excellent face. If he were but dressed in royal robes

he would look right kingly," and the others laughed at the conceit. Then again, but yesterday, when it rained, and I stood begging of those who passed to purchase my papers, a little child came and thrust a penny into my hand to buy a cup of coffee. See, it is here, and has turned to gold. This I shall carry back, and blessed shall be that child evermore. But he answered me not. How came it, mother, that those eyes which are dimmed by years could do it nevertheless see with clearer vision than all the thousands who have hurried by?" "By this did I know thee," she replied. Once I had an only child who grew up to be a fine youth. And while he was yet young and of fair countenance he heard the great call to go and preach the Gospel to those who knew it not. And I gave him up though it was as the rending of heart-strings. He went to where the darkness was densest, and men were cruellest, for he had a great heart and they slew him and would have eaten him if his poor body had not been rescued from them. And I have spent many lonely nights in picturing what he will be like when I see him again and we meet in the presence of his Lord. So I prayed, when I heard that one was coming from Heaven, that I might find him and that his face might be like the face I have seen in my dreams. And thou hast my boy's face - as it is - rather than as it was. I looked through the eyes of my heart's love and I saw thee". "Mother," exclaimed the noble one, "it is I, thy son." "I have known that since thou didst first begin to speak," said the woman, trembling for joy. "What wilt thou that I give unto thee, dear one?" he asked. "One of the Kisses thou didst give me as a child," was the reply. "It is done," he cried, and he kissed her. "But what other blessing can I give unto thee," he said, "for that is but for myself, and I have one from Him who sent me." "Nay," she replied, "thy child-kiss has enriched me for evermore. But if it may be I would come to thee soon for sometimes the earth seems drear and lonely, now thou art gone, but nevertheless not my will, but God's be done." "Mother," he cried, "thou shalt go with me now." There was a cry as an old woman dropped in the street and many rushed to pick her up. "Poor old woman", said one, "she is dead, I fear, heart failure, I guess." "Nay," replied the newspaper seller; "She is neither poor, nor old, nor dead. She is young and beautiful, and rich." All turned to see him who spoke, but he hurried away, and was seen no more.

Greetings Reciprocated.

Greetings, official and personal, have reached us from near and far

"Our Centre" has evidently attained to the higher honour of the Centre. The New South Wales, South Australian and Queensland branches of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association send greetings to the Chief, his daughter and the Officers and members of the Victorian branch, and the chairman of the Vic. Adult Deaf & Dumb Society, Mr. E. R. Peacock, who is in New Zealand sends good wishes to the members and friends. Mr. & Mrs. E. Burke also of N.Z. and representatives of the A.D.D.A. sends a "World of Good Wishes." Miss Graham writes from Germany wishing all the Victorian deaf a Happy New Year. There are also greetings from Great Britain, France, Italy, U.S. of America & Canada. We are certain that our readers will, as we do, appreciate this good feeling and kindly interest, and join us in reciprocating most heartily, a world of Good Wishes to all near and far.

The Rally.

Of all the successful rallies held at our Centre, none can compare, numerically, with the recent Christmas festival, when there was an attendance of 132 deaf members and 30 hearing friends. The hall was gaudily decorated and the centre of the stage taken up by a huge Xmas tree of real Australian descent, a wattle tree. It was weighed down with gifts of all kinds, from an umbrella to a tablet of soap, presented by Mesdames J. E. Muir, J. Boorby, Linds and Gretton, Misses A. Foster, Potter, Hickey and Meehan, Messrs E. J. D. Abraham, W. Jeckins, M. Miller, J. E. Muir, J. Nelson, R. Luff, J. Thomson, G. Mortimer, T. J. Rose, N. Hughes, C. Robertson & K. MacKenzie. After parlour games had been enjoyed, gifts were distributed to all of the deaf present, from the Christmas tree by Mr. J. E. Muir who appeared as a Stock-rider, a modern Australian Father Christmas. Mr. A. McLellan won the candle guessing and Mr. O. Tyzzer the pea-nut competitions respectively. The supper of which the plum pudding was the chief attraction, was enjoyed with much merriment. Mr. M. Miller entertained with an electric battery and had a great crowd round him all the evening. Mr. T. J. Rose sent Christmas cards which were distributed. Thanks are tendered to Mesdames Abraham, J. E. Muir, Boorby and Frewin, Misses A. Foster & Collins and Messrs M. Miller, G. Mortimer & J. Peters for jellies, and to the enthusiastic young friends who decorated the hall. The rally was under the supervision of Messrs J. E. & W. P. Muir, M. Miller, T. Frewin and R. H. Luff. The supper arrangements in the hands of Mesdames J. E. Muir & J. Boorby & Misses E. Smith & A. Foster.

The first quarterly Rally for the year 1914 will be held (D.V.) on the 19th March. For particulars see the March "Monthly Letter".

La-Crosse Social.

There was a great muster of our young manhood at the Centre on the 29th Jan. It was a mutual admiration assembly. The "Boys" had met to congratulate themselves and to celebrate their victory in the "C" grade of the Victorian La-Crosse Association. Our "Premier" team assembled to officially receive the honours they had so well and ably won. Mr. J. E. Muir, the president occupied the chair and amongst those present were:- Mr. W. A. Dickins & H. Dunmer-Martin (members of the Board of Management), Mr. Abraham (our chief) and Mr. W. Forster (Vice-President of the La-Crosse Association). After Mr. Muir had congratulated the team upon its victory, Mr. Dickins was called upon to distribute the medals. He mounted the platform amidst a storm of applause. This gentleman is one of our oldest friends and is beloved by the whole deaf population of this city. He roused us to a point of intense enthusiasm, encouraging us with words of advice and praise. He rejoiced in the magnificent advancement made by the Society generally during the past decade. He remembered the time when we were glad enough to meet in rented premises but now we were able to gather in a Centre of our own that any club or other organisation might well be proud of. He wished the team success in "B" grade (applause) and he saw no reason why it should not also come off premiers of "A" grade. (great applause) In concluding he advised us never to forget the source of all that is good and helpful that no achievement was worth the having that was not guided by the spirit of the christ. Mr. Dickins then distributed the medals. Mr. H. Dunmer-Martin who was also received with enthusiastic applause made a very humorous speech which nevertheless bristled with kindly advice and words of encouragement and praise. He knew the members of the committee were proud of their achievement. It was the aim and desire of the Committee that they should be successful in all their undertakings. Some people seemed to make a distinction and difference between hearing and deaf people, but in reality there was none. Members of this Society had held honourable places in representative hearing teams in the past, and he hoped to see the same again. (applause). They had attained to the premiership of the "C" Grade. He hoped he would live to see

them premiers of "B" and likewise "A" Grades as well. He did not think he was too old to reasonably hope to see it. (applause). Mr. Forster said he had watched the team with much interest and he congratulated them upon their success. He did not see why they should not come off victorious in "B" Grade. Mr. Forster was also heartily welcomed and his interest in them was much appreciated. Recitations and humorous stories were given during the evening by Messrs. G. Newsham, W.H. Paterson and H. Luff. Mr. J. Brown, a new arrival from America gave a good display of roller skating. Mr. Abraham interpreted. A Supper and Smoke brought the evening to a pleas-ant termination. The "Smoke" was the gift of Mr. P. Dawson, -Box of cigars and cigarettes, and to this gentlemen we tender hearty thanks.

Farm & Home.

The sales, etc. for Nov. £83, Dec. £71. Jan £46. These have been very busy months, although improvements and cultivation have largely been left to look after themselves and the attention of all hands concentrated upon watering to keep our stock of plants alive for we have had little or no rain for months. There was a great slump in Jan. not because of want of orders, our 'phone has not rested from early morning until late at night. We have been going up as early as 6 a.m. and as late as 11.30 p.m. But because of the scarcity of bloom. On Xmas Eve our manager packed & despatched no less than 36 boxes before 8 a.m. The management has had no time for pic-nics. This in itself will mean a drop of from £100 to £200 and has caused considerable disappointment on the part of various organisations who hoped to pic-nic at our park. We have been quieter these holidays than any previous years. At the home all are in good health.

Pension for Mr. Rose.

The Premier (Mr. Watt) has responded to the representations of the Victorian branch of the A.D.D.A. He has promised a pension of £100 per annum conditionally that the Adult-deaf and the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution for deaf children each grant £50 yearly. The Adult-Deaf & Dumb Society has guaranteed the £50 asked for. But we have not yet heard if this has been the case with the Institution board.

Womens' Guild.

On Dec. 9th the Committee of the Guild invited the members of the Mens' Guild to a return social in the upper hall. The President in an address of welcome said:- "You are richer and better for joining the guilds. The Society is our "Mother" and the guilds help her to build character. The

guilds help to teach you to reach out of self into a better and truer life, to dwell on thoughts of love, of friendship, of independence, of abounding forgiveness and they help to refine your minds and lead you onward on the path of intelligence, contentment and popularity (applause). The President of the Mens Guild briefly responded, The evenings' trainers partook of the nature of relating short-stories and experiences by members of both guilds, nearly every piece proved most interesting as well as being appreciated by all present. The following members contributed to the programme, namely Misses Dow, Hickey, Adams, Wright, Mesdames J.E. Muir & A. Wilson, Mrs^te Quantock, J.E. Muir, Luff, Miller, Peters, Newnham, Abraham, Nelson and Baldry. A dainty supper was then partaken of which brought the proceedings to a close.

On Jan 20th the usual ordinary meeting was held. The attendance was good and a new arrival from England (Miss Connie Bell), was welcomed. A recitation on "The Rain" was rendered by Miss Dow. After giving some sound advice to the members, the president conducted an educational class as usual.

The Ramblers.

On Jan 10th the Ramblers had a very enjoyable outing at St. Kilda, the weather was beautiful and the sea-breeze most refreshing. Two of the girls went in for a swim while the rest sat and enjoyed watching the people. After strolling along the pier and on the lawn, a merry tea was partaken of under the big foliage of a tree in the tea-gardens. The Ramblers then went to Luna Park where a very jolly time was spent.

Mens' Guild.

The members of the Mens' Guild spent a pleasant evening on the 13th Jan. It was a "pound night". Most of the time was spent in story telling and holiday experiences. The meeting wound up with the members sampling the good things brought in.

Mens' Guild Pic-Nic.

Members of the Mens' Guild spent A.N.A. day in a ramble from Mentone to Brighton along the coast. The day was just ideal for the outing, but it was rather disappointing to the older members that so few of the young ones, only two, joined the Ramble. It had been unanimously agreed to hold the Ramble at the last meeting of the Guild. Despite the absence of the "boys" a little crowd caught the train from Melbourne to Mentone in the morning and then started their ramble from Mentone

to Beaumaris where they stopped for lunch which was greatly appreciated, Afterwards they walked leisurely along the shore towards Brighton and stopping again on their way at Black Rock where some of the party went for a swim while others rested and discussed the topics of the day, then started again reaching Hampton in time for tea where they met Mr. W. P. Muir who had walked from St. Kilda. Some of the party travelled to St. Kilda by electric tram while two went by train to Melbourne and two continued the walk to St. Kilda. Altogether the ramble was most pleasant and enjoyed by all.

"Monthly Letter" Fund.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/6 from Mr. B. Burke and 1/6 from Mr. Thos. Williamson of N.Z. 2/6 from Mr. J. Davis of Adelaide and 3/- from Mr. R. Miller of Broken Hill towards the "Monthly Letter Fund.

Post Cards.

A magnificent series of post cards of the "Centre" and the "Farm & Home" have been secured and are now on sale. apply to Mr. J. E. Muir.

Personal Pars, Etc.

Mr. Taylor of Leicester (England) who was offered and accepted the post of Assistant-Missionary to the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria has cabled that his mother will not let him come.

Mrs. G. Baldry and family left England by S.S. Port Lincoln on the 20th Jan. and are expected to arrive in Melbourne sometime in March.

On the 19th Dec. at the Adult Deaf Institute, Adelaide, a social was tendered to Mr. E. Salas who has just completed 21 years of faithful service to the South Australian deaf. Mr. Salas is just 50 years old and a purse of Sovereigns was presented to him as a birthday gift.

Mr. J. Moran rides on his motor cycle is a lot of country towns every week end. He reckons that his cycle can go along with ease between 50 and 60 miles an hour. One day while motoring in the country he frightened several horses on the road and one bolted with a jumker which was capsized and damaged. The driver had a narrow escape of being hurt.

Mr. Henry Taggart of Maryborough is now enjoying a holiday in Melbourne.

Mrs. E. J. D. Abraham had to relinquish her duties at the home for a couple of weeks and take a complete rest for her health's sake. She spent most of the time on the water, journeying to and from Sydney by mail steamer and almost every day during her stay, on the waters of the harbour.

Mr. H. G. Smith of Mygall, Victoria has, we regret to say, met with a serious

accident while mounting a young & restive horse. He was about to leap on to its back, when it suddenly reared, being frightened by a stock-whip, and fell back-wards on him heavily, breaking his leg just above the ankle. Mr. Smith was taken to a private hospital at Barham, but he is now, we are glad to say, at home again. In a letter we received from him, he congratulates the Ka-Brose Club on the premiership honours gained.

Misses Beaumont and Bromby of N.S.W. visited our Centre on their way home from Adelaide after having had a long holiday. They were in Melbourne for a few hours only before their homeward journey. They were shown round the building and spoke highly of its conveniences.

Miss Eva Mitchell of Benalla and Miss Gibson of Adelaide have been holiday making in Melbourne.

Mr & Mrs H. Gretton, caretakers of our Centre, spent 2 weeks holiday at Sandringham, and feel much benefited by the change.

The son of Mr. Saml. Johnson of Adelaide was inducted at the Kew Trinity Church last December. We offer him our hearty congratulations.

It is stated that Mr. J. McDonald, Missionary to the Adelaide deaf, was married on the 17th Jan. We wish him & his bride happiness & prosperity in their future life.

A large clock, presented by the Caretakers of our Centre as a Xmas gift to the deaf congregation has been hung on the wall at the back of the upper hall.

Cricket.

Nov. 1st and 8th A.D.C.C. got badly beaten by Y.M.C.A. Scores:- Y.M.C.A. 41 and 61. A.D.C.C. 43 and 32. E. Martin 8 for 26. L. Downes 8 for 43 and Quantock 3 for 12. Nov. 15th and 22nd A.D.C.C. were again beaten by Buerdin & Sainsbury. Scores:- B & S. 51 and 82. A.D.C.C. 54 and 34. E. Martin 7 for 17. Beattie 6 for 43. Hughes 1 for 14 Anderson 2 for 2. Downes 1 for 19. E. Martin got the hat trick in 1st innings. The opponents presented him with money to buy a hat. Nov. 29th A.D.C.C. v Wesley Ramblers. A.D.C.C. 63. Quantock 10. Anderson 20. O. Tyzzer 10 n/o. Wesleys 97. Anderson 3 for 28. Beattie 2 for 16. Martin 2 for 29. Quantock 1 for 20. Harding 1 for 0. Dec. 6th A.D.C.C. v. St. Columbo. St. Columbo 90 for 3. A.D.C.C. 98 for 6. Harding 47 n/o. Hughes 16. Chapple 16. Beattie 2 for 21. Martin 1 for 19. Dec. 13th A.D.C.C. v. St. Marks. A.D.C.C. 37. Martin 17. St. Marks 65. Beattie 5 for 9. Martin 1 for 5. Downes 1 for 20. Robertson 1 for 23. A.D.C.C. 2nd 58 for 2. Quantock 20 n/o. Martin 12. Downes 10 n/o.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 10. APRIL 1914. No 8.

The Christmas Rally holds the record for attendance & that held on the 19th ult was patronised by one of the smallest musters we have had for sometime, although there were over 80 deaf & their hearing friends present. The long dry spell we suppose, is responsible for the "below standard" attendances of the past quarterm. The last Rally which was the 35th was also the quietest. We are in doubt as to what we ought to attribute the latter to. Certainly the weather has been against indoor gatherings & may have had something to do with the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the leaders. That their powers of originality are exhausted we will not admit. We must not expect them to be at "concert pitch" all the time however much we might wish for that ideal state of affairs. We wonder if all comments in the last letter was a factor in the matter! The average attendance for the whole year was 110. this is indeed a record. The highest 132. The Hon. Sec.' (W. J. E. Muir) as usual was to the fore. He was here, there & everywhere & everything to everybody. He read the roll call & commented upon passing events in the deaf mute world. Four new members were enrolled & a hearty welcome tendered to Mrs Baldry & Miss Connie Ball (both recent arrivals from England) Fifty seven persons competed in the guessing exercises which consisted of the weight of a "Rally Cake" & the time that the presentation Clock would stop. Mr. George Woods of the Blackburn farm took the Cake & Miss M. Collins

the time piece. Games & Conversation filled up the rest of the evening above stairs & supper concluded it below The next Rally will be held on the 8th of June (King's Birthday)

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

Our Thanksgiving services were held in our Flinders St Church on Sunday March 15th. From the Blackburn Farm came most of the decorations; foliage flowers, fruit & vegetables including a great quantity of grapes & tomatoes. The contributions from the Congregation were exceptionally few. Our Chaplain preached two most appropriate sermons & we doubt if one member of the Congregation left the church without feelings of intense gratitude to the loving Father who is ever mindful of His children of affliction.

THE FARM.

It is not wise just now to ask anyone at the farm how things are with them up there. We therefore have not done so. As far as the residents of the Home are concerned we believe everything is well. But the flower farm! Six months with practically no rain isn't the very best of conditions for a flower farm. We were up there the other day & although everything looked green & healthy, flowers were conspicuous by their absence. Quite half of the contract customers, we understand, have been lost, though everything possible that could be done, has been done to get the water from the lake to the plants. We desired to see the manager very particularly & were met at the entrance by a friend of his. "Where is the manager" said we. "Over there" said he "Come down this walk". "But he is going the other way" said we "I know that" said he. that's why I am taking you this way, he is absolutely unapproachable. There is only one man on the farm who has the courage to approach him for orders & he, only when needs must.

It is said he never speaks now & the men find their particulars of work to be done tucked away in their trousers pockets when they awoke on the morning. See the youth over there searching for stray blooms as though he were looking for a needle in a hay stack! That's Alec Hull. If by tearing his clothes into strips & planting them they would turn into flowers he'd do it to please the Manager

and the manager knows it. Well, one day a week or so back this youth searched from dawn to dusk and cut every bloom to be found upon the farm & was up at dawn the following morning with the hope of finding a few missing links. When we reached the packing shed with his little load of treasures he was greeted by the manager with "Is that all you can find. How can I pack twenty boxes with two gaillardias & a rose bud" Of course you must not expect me to vouch for the truth of this story, but I assure you that after my meeting with the manager on that particular day. I could easily have believed it. I am told that even his family go to bed before he gets home & stay there until he goes out. Here he comes shall I tell him you desire to see him?" "No thanks said we "we think our business will wait."

Women's Guild.

At the meeting of Women's Guild held on March 5th Mrs A. Wilson gave a most interesting bible lesson, & Miss R. Dow recited a well known hymn entitled "Sow well. Mrs J. R. Muir also spoke a few words of counsel & advice to the members.

Men's Guild.

On the 17th March the newly elected President of the Men's Guild (Mr. R. H. Luff) delivered his paper on "John Bunyan" which proved very instructive & was appreciated.

Congregation.

The Annual meeting of the Deaf Congregation will be held on the 21st April, when the annual report & balance sheet will be submitted. All members are requested to attend in order to show their interest in the affairs of the Society.

Ramblers.

On the 14th March the ramblers this time only the younger girls with 3 boy friends for alas! Mother Hen & elder girls could not come. The ramblers assembled at Flinders St. Station for their outing which was spent at Williamstown beach. We journeyed by train to Port Melbourne & one of the small boats carried us to Williamstown Wharf. The journey was simply glorious & the weather was warm & fine

On arrival at the wharf we were met by Mrs Watson (our mentor) who kindly showed us the way to the Back Beach & Botanical Gardens. After walking a long winding way, we entered the gardens where many beautiful flowers grew. A very merry party it was as we rambled round the flower beds & along the velvet grass & through the uncivilised parts of the park until we came to the beach. We partook of a good tea, in a merry mood, in a shed. Tea being over, games were indulged in which caused much merriment & enjoyment. We then proceeded to Williamstown Station & boarded one of the trains to Flinders St Station where 2 or 3 girls bid good bye to each other, while others went to our centre bringing fruit, etc for the harvest thanksgiving.

SPORTS.

The Cricket Club finished their season on the 14th March The club failed to beat the Richmond A.N.A. ramblers— The scores were A.N.A. 48 & 72 = 120. Deaf 54 & 35 = 89 Downes 12 & Quantock 11 Downes 8 for 29. Martin 7 for 34 McLean 2 for 6 Beattie 2 for 25. The record is 4 matches won & 9 lost.

The Lacrosse Club started practice on the 28th March & expects to be in form for the first match of the season on the 2nd May. After some futile efforts to get a good enclosed ground the club has decided to play on their old ground which has been levelled since last year. Mr G. Brown (Curator of Parks & Gardens) kindly promised to see that the ground would be improved. Mr G. Brabin is our new delegate in place of Mr Hughes who has retired on account of his wife's continued illness. The patrons of the Club are S. Ferguson Esq. J. Griffiths Esq. W. Dickens Esq. J. Marks Esq. J. Thomson Esq. S. Moss Esq. J. Dempsey Esq. A. Williamson Esq. R. L. Hamilton Esq. W. Kindell Esq. J. Sutherland Esq. H. Sumner Martin Esq. W. Selsted Esq. Miss A. Graham.

We have a real good supporter in Mr S. Ferguson who paid 1/3 of the cost of the late social & said that he is quite willing to pay the whole cost of a social if the

club should win the premiership next season. The Hon Secretary of the Adelaide Deaf Lacrosse Club wrote congratulating the club upon the latter's success in winning the premiership. The Adelaide Club was pleased to see that one of their boys took part in the winning of the premiership. They wish the club another successful season & expect that it will be a harder fight in B. grade. They are looking forward to having a lacrosse trip this year, but have not fixed the date.

BIBLE CLASS.

The Bible Classes resumed after Summer vacation on the 5th March, when Mr. Abraham read interesting subjects to good attendances. It is hoped that the attendances will be well maintained.

PERSONAL PARS.

Mrs. Baldry & her two children arrived here from England last month to join her husband.

Mrs E. Crockford has gone to Trafalgar for a holiday.

Mr. James Johnson of Ballarat has settled down in Melbourne

Mr. James Sloan & his sister of Inglewood stayed in Melbourne for 2 weeks holiday.

Miss F. Chapman is again in Adelaide for a time.

Mr & Mrs. Gus. Dammann of Warburton lost their dear little daughter on the 12th March. The bereaved have our sympathy.

Mr. Percy Swain lost his aged father in Geelong last month His father has been a colonist of over 60 years. We tender him our sympathy.

Mr. M. O'Sullivan has arrived back from Adelaide. He left on account of slackness of trade

Mr. W.P. Muir having been a resident of Prahran for 24 years has moved to 22 Hopetoun St. Ebbernwick.

Our City Collector (Mr. S. Moss) deserves a word of commendations. Every year he succeeds in beating his previous records. This year the sum collected by him is the highest of all being £695. Four sums like that together with the farm receipts would, we believe, keep the wolf from our door.

Miss Bernice Vale has returned from King's Island & is now

living in Melbourne.

W. J. Dickson, Superintendent of the Brisbane Institution for the Deaf + Blind is on his way to Europe. He is expected to be away six months. It is but recently that the Supt. of the N. Z. school returned from England. Not very long ago W. S. Johnson M. A. of the Adelaide School tripped to the old world and just prior to his death the late W. S. Watson of the N. S. W School also visited the old world.

The Committee of the Queensland Mission to the deaf now have the plans of their new Mission building before them. We presume that means building operations will be commenced shortly.

VIC, BRANCH. A.D.D.A.

W. L. E. Frewin (the Hon Secretary) begs to acknowledge with thanks the following annual subscriptions 1/- each from Messrs. G. Baldry, J. Cariss, J. Marks, H. Gretton, O. Tyzzer, V. Tyzzer, T. A. Nelson, A. Hill, C. Robertson, G. Newnham, A. Wilson, G. Mortimer, J. Campbell, V. Harding, G. Batteroby, Mr + Mrs McLellan, Mr + Mrs A. Williamson, Mr + Mrs H. Gladman, Mr Pierce + Miss G. Mortimer, 2/- each from Messrs R. J. Miller of Broken Hill + J. Cardwell of Longwarry.

FUNDS.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 5/- from W. F. Ching, 19/- from the Adelaide deaf folks, 3/6 from W. L. Lynas of Charlton, 2/6 each from Mrs C. Lake + W. Ranking 1/- each from Miss A. Edwards + Mr A. Soul + 6d from W. G. Brown towards Our Monthly Letter fund.

ASSISTANT MISSIONARY

Our board of Management are leaving no stone unturned at may give promise of unearthing a possible assistant to our perintendent. They have advertised in the Brisbane papers + refully considered the qualifications of the applicants. But result was barren. Just recently they advertised in all the leading papers of the Commonwealth, again without success. This comes without surprise to those acquainted with work amongst the Adult Deaf, + the educated deaf also. The man qualified to act as Assistant Officer to our Society can get £300 a year in Great Britain, which is equal to £400 a year here. He would have to leave relatives, friends + colleagues.

the latter in itself has enormous weight for he looses all possibilities of interchange of ideas & the helpfulness that comes from constant association with those engaged in the same work. Then too, so far as preferment is concerned there is absolutely nothing to look forward to. Supposing he gets on well with the Superintendent but fails to do so with the Committee or the Congregation, or other circumstances appear that makes it inconvenient to continue an officer of the Society! The man is stranded. Supposing he is able to save his passage home, which is not at all likely he might have to wait two or three years for a vacancy even when he got home. Hence there is no reason for surprise that the board have failed to tempt an expert from home. It is a great pity that no college for the training of experts for work amongst the Adult Deaf exists. We believe that Mr. Samuel Johnson M.A. Principal of the S.A. Institution for the Deaf & Dumb some years ago, put forward the suggestion that an effort should be made to make possible the establishment of such an institution. Anyway it is plain to all educated deaf & those acquainted with Adult Deaf work that something of the kind will have to be instituted, and if this matter does not receive serious consideration within the next year or two the boards of Adult Deaf Societies will be face to face with a dilemma out of which we see no landing. There is, unfortunately a most absurd idea current that any man who is fairly morally clean & can talk on his fingers more or less quickly, is qualified to take charge of an adult deaf society. It seems just about as easy to get the family rooster that gives you no rest after daylight, to acquire a knowledge of algebra as it is to get the average man of superior intelligence to understand that a sermon or lecture spelled out on the fingers is just as aggravating to a deaf-mute Congregation as would be a sermon or lecture if the preacher spelled out every word instead of giving the words their accurate pronunciation. As a matter of fact there are few professions where a greater number of years of careful training are found necessary. Tact & patience are essential, so also is a knowledge of the common duties of life

which, although the words "Common" & "duties" are exceptionally common in ordinary converse the necessary acquisition of these most desirable attributes are strangers very uncommon. The Missionary must be an organiser able to raise money, tactful in advice on most varied matters, find employment for his charges, settle disputes, preach sermons, deliver lectures, retain the confidence of his deaf congregation, his deacons & his board of management which do not always see eye to eye with each other. Indeed there are a hundred & one difficulties to be faced by the missionary that the wise man refrains from putting in print.

The men willing to make the necessary sacrifice are few & hard to be found. They must either be born to the love of the work or trained from early youth. especially is this so in this age of the worship of the "Golden Calf". For the salaries offered are absurdly inadequate; only just sufficient to maintain a single man to the position & certainly insufficient for a married man with a family. It takes ten to fifteen years to acquire the necessary knowledge to qualify for such a post, hence it can not be expected that, with the knowledge that there are "no prospects" men will come into the work.

Something will have to be done to train men for the work and it will be necessary to guarantee a salary that will enable them to live in comfort & free from financial anxiety. The Deaf of the Commonwealth will ever pray that God's blessing will descend upon & ever remain with the benefactor that is instrumental in making this possible.

Lost from Our Centre. Our chief's smiles & genial ways, his good temper & a huge bale of other attributes which we have learned to expect & appreciate. Finder will be richly awarded.

Found. A bear with a sore head, afflicted with looks that freeze, claws that sign all kinds of sarcasms & eyes that see only black spots. Owner urgently requested to remove same. Apply Supt. Deaf Mute Centre.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 10. MARCH. 1914, Nº 7.

To Our Workers

Professor Tyndall once said the finest inspiration he ever received was from an old man who could scarcely read. This man acted as his servant. Each morning the old man would knock on the door of the scientist and call out "Arise, sir; it is nearly seven o'clock and you have great work to do to-day."

The month of March is the old man that knocks at our door and calls "Awake it is seven o'clock and you have a lot of work to do today." We have. We must get wide awake and ready. We have slumbered and slept through the hot months and our "long vacation" is now ended. Let us take up our tools with renewed energies, and with determination to get yet another story higher in the building up of our young manhood and womanhood, and all that pertains to the betterment of the deaf generally. Be not weary in well doing. Let us add to our building operations by ploughing & sowing, digging and planting. God will look to the watering and the harvest.

To Our Members

Professor Tyndall is not alone amongst the labourers in the great vineyard who feels stimulated

by appreciation and confidence. There are others. Amongst them are those hearing and deaf friends who devote so much of their time and talents to your service. All leaders and teachers must have inspiration of some kind or other if their work is to be successful.

Loyalty and sympathy will sustain where, very often, nothing else will. And the absence of loyalty and sympathy have ruined many a noble cause and killed many a worker. If only a few believe in the value of the teacher's labours, it is a stimulus to him. Even the appreciation of the few will make the worker redouble his efforts. Appreciation and encouragement cost the giver nothing. Yet they are the strongest of all motive powers. Steam, oil, electricity are but mere toys when compared to the moving powers of encouragement and appreciation. Remember this, friends. It is all important. You are exceptionally fortunate in the number, the ability, and the ever readiness of your leaders and teachers. Then go to the stream whilst the clear water flows. Gather the fruit whilst it hangs ripe and within your reach. The hearing churches are lamenting the absence of leaders and teachers. Let us have a care or it may be, some day, we shall be thinking in chorus with that touching hymn which reminds now that it is

"Strange we never prize the music
Till the sweet-voiced bird has flown."

We shall arrive – We shall!

Our Chief has lived to see many of his "air castles" and many of those of other advanced thinkers come down to terra firma with strong foundations. But we doubt if anything roused his enthusiasm and brought forth more expressions of satisfaction, than the news, that the Congress of the National Association of Teachers of the Deaf had, by a large majority, - almost unanimous, resolved that the lowering of the school

age of deaf children to five years and permissive attendance from the age of three years be urged. This has long been the view of Instructors qualified to speak. Says the "Teacher of the Deaf" in an editorial "Scarcely a voice is raised against it..... In our work we are now realising that the whole of the problems of life are wrapped up in each individual deaf infant, and that their full solution is a continuous development from infancy onwards. We now know that it is impossible to realise a normal and adequate solution of these varied problems in the life of the deaf, if the mind of the child be left in the deadness and isolation of the deaf into which he was born until the age of seven or later." The same editorial emphasises the opinion of Miss Langwell that the little deaf child of three is far more normal than one of seven. And we are of the same opinion. Yet, and yet those placed in authority in one at least of the Schools for the Deaf in the Commonwealth refuse admission to children under seven. Only recently it came to our knowledge that a protestant father had to send his deaf child of six to a Catholic institution. The excuse of the authorities of the School in his own State was that the child was under seven.

Men's Guild

The 30th annual meeting of the Men's Guild was held at the Centre on the 24th Feb. There was an attendance of 25. Mr. J. A. Nelson (President) occupied the chair. The report and balance sheet showing progressive work and a surplus of £10-4-4½ were read, approved and appreciated. The number of members on the roll at the present is 29, being an increase of 9 over last year's total. A series of lectures, readings and recitations given by the members was greatly appreciated. It is hoped that a still greater and intelligent interest will be taken by even more of the younger members during the present year. The election of office bearers resulted as follows:- President, Mr. R. N. Duff; Vic. Pres, Mr. G. Newnham;

Hon. Treas. Mr. J. Marks; Hon. Sec. Mr. T. Peters. Committee Messrs M. L. Miller, J. McLean, T. Nelson and A. Hull. At the conclusion of the meeting a supper was given.

Rally

How the months fly! No sooner have we recorded the doings of one rally than we have to announce the next. Is it possible that we are over-doing the social element! It is true that these friendly re-unions are becoming more popular than ever, it is likewise a fact that they are the means of providing most innocent recreation and social intercourse, and incidently, a feed which is an item of some little favour in deaf circles. But is there not a danger — a danger of getting too much of the good things to be wholesome to one's mental health! We have noticed that there is a section, almost wholly elders who ought to know better, who turn up at social functions and Saturday night amusements, but whose faces are scarcely ever seen at Divine worship, or bible class or guild meetings. Nor do they help in any way. Will these good friends just come along and show themselves in the fighting lines as well as at the feasts of Victory?

The 19th of March is the date for the next Rally. As usual it is to be held at our Centre. The Committee of Arrangements purpose making the evening as bright and pleasant as they are able.

Personal Pars

Mr. R. J. Hamilton has left Ensay Station and is now living at Paynesville. He will be pleased to see any deaf friends who are visiting the Gippsland Lakes during the holidays.

Mr. M. O'Sullivan who came here from Sydney a year or so back left Melbourne for Adelaide lately to search for a billet. He succeeded in getting work.

Mr. & Mrs. W. Junction, of Adelaide stayed in Melbourne for two days on their return from Sydney where they stopped with their relations for six weeks.

Mr. J. McDonald (Missionary to the South Australian Deaf) and his bride desire to express the the pleasure that our good wishes have given them. They sincerely pray that the most cordial relationship will always exist between these two States.

It is reported that Miss Helen Keller intends touring round the world as a lecturer, her subject being her own life. Australia is included. Should she come here there is no doubt but that the deaf of Melbourne will give her a hearty welcome.

Mrs A. Collins, of Beerim, has been seriously ill and it is hoped that by the time this appears, she will have recovered.

Farewell Social

On the 26th Feb. deaf friends, to the number of 40, entertained Miss E. Matthews, who came from England a few years ago, at a farewell gathering at the Centre, prior to her marriage and departure from Melbourne. Mr. J. E. Muir spoke a few words tendering Miss Matthews & Mr. J. Mills the best wishes of the deaf. Mrs Muir, on behalf of the Women's Guild of which Miss Matthews is a member, spoke and as also did Mr. Baldry. Mr. Mills was heartily welcomed & briefly responded on behalf of his intended wife. Games, conversations, etc. were pleasantly indulged by all. Before supper Mr. F. E. Frewin, on behalf of several friends, presented Miss Matthews with a pretty clock & a cruet, & spoke a few words of congratulations. She, in acknowledging the gifts, said that she was grateful to her friends for their gifts & would always treasure them and remember their goodness to her. The pleasant affair was concluded by supper in the lower hall. Mr. Mills & Miss Matthews were quietly married on the 28th Feb. They are now spending their honeymoon at Point Lonsdale. They are going to settle in Kaaia in the north-eastern district of Victoria. We offer them our hearty congratulations. — Who will be the next to get married?

Harvest Thanksgiving

Was ever there a Community that had greater reason for Thanksgiving than ours. Did ever prayer witness answers so soon? We have reason to be thankful for years of continuous blessing. Then come. Come with joyous and grateful hearts and render thanks and pour forth gratitude to our loving Father who has been so mindful of us. Ours is not only a Thanksgiving for the harvest of the field, but the harvest of other gifts which will enlighten and uplift, comfort and entertain many a generation of the deaf to come as well as ourselves.

Sunday March 15th. morning and evening in our little church. Come. Gifts of fruit flowers, vegetables etc. will be received gladly by the Hon. Secretary at the Centre on the 14th.

A Happy Day

We are indebted to Messrs Huddart Parker for many a pleasant trip down the bay, and the Congress party of 1903-4 has been looked upon as the happiest of these events. We think that record came very near being beaten on Feb. 10th, when, by the kindness of Messrs Huddart Parker, the residents of our Blackburn Home had a trip to Sorrento on the Hygeia. The outing was made the more enjoyable by the presence of a large number of the members of the Deaf Women's Guild. The officers and in fact all the members of the Guild set themselves to put as much enjoyment into the day for the Home people as was possible. The party, 45 in number, were entertained to luncheon and tea on board. This came as a pleasant surprise, and was made possible by the generosity of Mrs Grimwade, Mrs V. M. Christian, Mrs M. E. Payne, Mrs W. H. Felstead, Mr J. B. Whitty, Mr Westmore G. Stephens & Mr Ed. Baines who paid the cost of same. The weather was also in favour of the party, the day being ideal for a bay trip. Mrs Hodgson & Miss Gibson, of Adelaide & Miss Band, a recent arrival from England, joined the party at the invitation of the Guild members.

Farm

We are experiencing an exceptionally trying time at the farm. Little or no rain has come our way for the past five months. We made great preparations for a special show of summer bloom and were looking forward with pleasure to an harvest that we anticipated would astonish all. But we are the astonished ones. For most of all our blooms have been or are being scorched up. Orders are rolling in from everywhere, but we have no flowers, or to be strictly accurate, very few. "Why don't you pump the water up from the lake" said a gentleman the other day, looking at us in a way that made us think he thought us very stupid for not having thought of this before, and all the time in the distance, we could hear the throb, throb, throb of our five horse power engine. We had heard it day & night for months. We had wandered from spot to spot morning, noon & night shifting the hose first in one place then another, irrigating, doing everything we could think of to keep the plants alive & in bloom. We took our gentleman friend to the other side of the plantation & pointed to the hose at work. Ahem! said he, you want ten times that number of hose & you should mulch the whole plantation. We knew this, & we know a lot of other things, but as we reminded our friend, it was in his power to help obtain the improvements he suggested by helping to make up the wherewithal. We acknowledge with thanks receipt of four cases of apples from Mr. Gus Dawman of Warburton.

Monthly Letter Fund

We acknowledge with thanks the following amounts toward the Letter Fund, Miss D. Davis (Adelaide) 2/6; Mr. A. O. Callaghan (Sydney) 1/6, & from Mrs. Fred Fraser Miss C. A. Clayton & Mr. G. G. Moray 1/- each, & Mr. J. Murphy 2/-.

Cricket

One is inclined to the belief that the mind of our boys has been hypnotised by Lacrosse, otherwise it is difficult to account for their poor show in the cricket field. We have so much confidence in them that we are certain in our

minds that they could do much better than the figures below testify. Whatever the cause of the "slump" may be, there is one certainty & that is, they have the ability to do better, & next year we must see that better is done.
Jan. 10th A. D. C. C. made 50 against North Coburg who scored 86 for 3 wickets (declared). Hughes made 30 not out.
The 17th Wesleyan Ramblers beat our C. C. for the 2nd time. Scores as follows:- W. R. 5 for 133. A. D. C. C. 5 for 108. Smith 31, W. Anderson 27, Downes 20 n/o, Harding 10.
The 24th no match on account of N. Coburg being unable to fulfil engagement.
The 31st A. D. C. C. made 35 against Government Printing Officers 75. Beattie 11 n/o & 5 wkts for 29. Martin 3 for 25. W. Anderson 1 for 9
Feb. 7th A. D. C. C. beat Richmond Mascottes. The former made 68 & latter 23 & 8 for 49. Quantock 19, Anderson 18, Hughes 10 n/o, Downes 6 for 15, Martin 5 for 6, Beattie 2 for 22, Quantock 1 for 3, Smith 1 for 2, Anderson 1 for 6.
The 14th A. D. C. C. scored another win against St. Colombos by making 5 wkts for 128 while St. Colombo made 84. Smith 49 n/o Harding 26, Beattie 20, Downes 19, Quantock 2 for 3, Downes 4 for 34, Martin 2 for 28, Beattie 1 for 14.
The 28th A. D. C. C. made 99 against St. Marks 51. Robertson 32, Smith 32, Beattie 4 for 11 Downes 4 for 14, Martin 2 for 9.

Picture Post Cards

A series of picture post cards of our Centre & Farm has for years been, to use an hackneyed phrase, "along felt want". Our enthusiastic Messrs Miller & Muir have brought that want to a very successful fruition. They have succeeded in obtaining two very fine series of pictures illustrating the front elevation church, library & office of our Centre, & the Barns, Roses & Lake of Blacktown farms. Hundreds were sold on sight & re-productions had to be ordered. The Special Committee now have on hand sufficient to meet all demands. The edition de. lux is photographic & we doubt if they could be excelled. They are 3d each. Plain 1d each, or a packet of 6 for 6d. Our never resting perpetual motion machine, Mr. C. E. Muir assisted by Mr. Newnham, will promptly attend to all orders. Address Deaf Mute Centre, 32 Flinders St, Melbourne.

THE VOICE OF THE DEAF AND DUMB OF AUSTRALASIA

"The GESTURE"

AN ILLUSTRATED ORGAN OF THE DEAF AND DUMB HAVING NO DIRECT CONNECTION WITH ANY SINGLE ORGANIZATION. IT AIMS AT HELPING ALL AGENCIES ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE DEAF.

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY.

Office: 181 ~~FLINDERS LANE,~~ 68 Little Collins St.,
Melbourne, April 1914

To our Hearing and Speaking Friends—

We desire to make known as widely as possible the real condition and needs of the Deaf and Dumb, and to maintain an independent Magazine to plead our cause. This we cannot possibly accomplish without the assistance of our hearing friends.

We ask you, therefore, kindly to help us by becoming an annual subscriber to "The Gesture."

You will find the paper well worth the money paid.

Manager:
Mr. J. E. Muir.

Secretary:
Mr. M. L. Miller

Treasurer:
Mr. W. A. Paterson

Editor:
Mr. E. J. D. Abraham

Dear Sir or Madam.

The Board of Management of the "Gesture" publication regret to inform you that owing to inability to obtain canvassers to sell a sufficient number of copies to make the publication pay expenses, it has been reluctantly decided to discontinue publication of the magazine.

We thank you for your kind support and interest in the magazine while it was in circulation.

We return to you herewith the balance of your subscription, the value of which has been unfulfilled.

Yours Faithfully,
M. L. Miller.
Secretary.

Church for Deaf Mutes.
Juniors St. East.

Members of the Congregation
are earnestly
Invited to attend the
Celebration of the Lords Supper
On Sunday April 5. 1914
at 11. am.

CHURCH for DEAF-MUTES.
Flinders St. E. Melb.

Mr Ernest J. D. Abraham
(Supt.) will Preach
morning & evening
Sunday June. 7th 1914
He will also speak on
"Creators Geared"
Thursday June. 4th. 8. pM

Note.. Mr Abraham will Conduct
Divine Service – both morning
and evening – On the First
Sunday of each month & the
Bible Class on the Thursday
preceding.

Deaf Mute Centre
32-34 Flinders St. E. Melb.
" May 1st 1914.

Dear Friend,
The General Board of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria has selected Mr. R. H. Luff to act as Assistant Missioner pending permanent appointment. As his duties will consist, mainly, of visiting you at your homes, seeking work for the unemployed and the conducting of Sunday Services and Bible classes, and believing that it would be mutually advantageous for the Congregation and the new Missioner to meet in friendly conference before he enters upon his duties, I have arranged for a Social to be held in Our Centre on Thursday May 7th at 7.45. pm at which Mr. Luff will speak.

Yours faithfully.
Ernest J. D. Abraham

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 10. MAY 1914. No. 9.

Our Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of Our Society is fixed for Monday May 18th and is to be held at Our Centre 32-34 Flinders Street, Melbourne, Commencing at 7:45 p.m. His Excellency the State Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley will preside. The Hon. Robt. Beckett M.L.C. and Mr. G. G. Mercy, J.P. will speak. There will be a miscellaneous entertainment by the deaf including a quaint & original performance entitled "What Mary did" and as our young friends Mr. Geo. Newnham and Miss Doris Hickey whose talents need "no blush" are to appear in the leading roles:- "Mr Nobody" and "Mary" - we can confidently promise a real treat. You are all familiar with the fact that on these occasions our hall is invariably crowded to the "standing room only," in these circumstances we must urge our friends to obtain the tickets they need for their hearing friends on or before May 10th to prevent disappointment, as none will be issued after that date. We must also ask our members to assure themselves that the friends to whom tickets are given really intend to use them, and if they still have tickets in their possession on the 10th to return them to the Hon. Sec. We have names and addresses of many sympathisers entered up in our books who will be only too pleased to be present. And it is our wish to have present as many sympathisers and deaf friends as it is convenient to invite. Tickets can be obtained from the Hon. Sec. of the Deaf Committee, Mr. John E. Muir, Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders Street, Melbourne.

Mr. Nobody.

This Gentleman will speak at our Annual Meeting and give us an insight into his philosophy. Yes, that evasive, contraductory, unapproachable and unknowably Nobody will be present, and Nobody will speak. Hence Nobody who is really Anybody will be absent because Nobody will be there. Nobody knows everything. Nobody has done everything that was ever done. Nobody alone has seen Nobody. And Nobody knows before having read what I am writing about. So there is a treat in store for everybody, because it may be everybody's only opportunity to see Nobody speak. Nobody is to appear in "What Mary Did" - or the "Innocence of Mary". A song with refrain and chorus. Mary sings the song. Nobody the refrain and everybody the Chorus, and the song will be in pantomime.

Appointment of Assistant.

At a meeting of the General Board of the A.D.& D. Soc. held on the 27th Ult. Mr. R. H. Luff was appointed temporary Assistant to Mr. Abraham. His duties will be, chiefly, the visitation of the members of the Society at their homes, the conducting of Services and Bible classes and seeking employment for the out of work deaf.

Assistant Missionary.

Mr. John Paul, Teacher of the deaf and son of Mr. James Paul, Missionary to the deaf of Ayrshire, Scotland has offered his services as Assistant-Missioner to our Society. Our Superintendent favoured the appointment of Mr. Paul and the Committee of our Society decided to offer him the post. We all hope that nothing will come between him and acceptance.

Report of the General Board.

The following extracts from the Annual Report of the General Board we are sure, will be read with pleasure, by all our members. Next month we hope to take further cullings.

The Church for the Deaf.

Although the Committee have seen the necessity of encouraging the development of the Educational, Social & Benevolent side of the work, a development that has been rapid and extensive in recent years; the religious work of the Society has always been of the first importance to them. According to a recent report of the Supt. quite 90 per cent of the deaf mutes of the City and Suburbs attend Divine Worship. One third of the congregation are members of the Bible Class, and the year just closed witnessed a larger number of communicants than in any previous year. and nearly 95 per cent of the known deaf mute population of Victoria are members of one or other of the organisations connected with our Society. When considering work of this character, it is well to bear in mind that we are not dealing with the members of a Church, or denomination but the <u>whole population</u> of a State, good, bad & indifferent. So that when we claim that there is practically no drunkenness and that the moral and intellectual tone especially of our young people in City and Suburbs will compare favorably with hearing Church members of the same age and station in life, we believe we are submitting excellent evidence to the usefulness of this work.

Assistant Missionary.

So anxious are the Committee to keep up this high Standard and to relieve the Superintendent of the great strain that this section of the work taken in conjunction with the organising and the farm must be to him, that they have been making strenuous efforts to procure the services of an expert Missionary to the deaf, who will devote himself almost exclusively to the religious work. Advertisements have been inserted in British and Inter-State papers, and it is hoped that soon an appointment will be made.

Educational & Social.

There are several Guilds carrying on educational and social work amongst the deaf at our centre in Flinders Street

under the auspices of the Committee of the Society. The chief of these is the Deaf Committee who with the Superintendent as chairman have the general supervision of the work at the centre. The Mens and Womens Guilds are mainly educat= =ional and it is their proud claim that there are few members of both sexes, who cannot make a speech, read a paper, take part in discussions and put a motion to a meeting. The Saturday night socials, Quarterly Rallies, Bank, the "Monthly Letter", Cricket, Lacrosse and Rambling clubs are also mana= =ged by deaf Committees. Our Lacrosse club were premiers in the "C" Section last season.

Historical Records.

Soon after his arrival from England our Superintendent suggested the keeping of a record of the doings of the deaf of the State and Mr. M. L. Miller undertook the duties of recorder. This has been no mean task for the past twelve years have been years of rapid development as is shown by the two heavy volumes of past events so carefully put together and arranged by our most methodical Assistant Hon. Treasurer. These records are undoubtedly the most interesting documents in the possession of the deaf. At a recent meeting of the Deaf Committee Mr. Miller asked to be relieved from the recordship and as it was admitted on all sides that the strenuous part of the work had already been accomplished and the future work connected therewith would be much easier it was decided to ask the Hon. Sec. to take over the duty. He expressed his willingness and the Committee placed on record their gratitude to Mr. Miller for his years of painstaking effort in gathering and preserving this historical matter.

Congregational Meeting.

The 28th. Annual General Meeting of the deaf congreg= =ation was held at our centre on the 21st. Ult. The Superintendent, Mr. T. J. D. Abraham presided and opened the meeting with prayer. There was a fair attendance of members. The Report

summarised the Years work, (details have appeared month by month in our Letter). It concludes with a prayer of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for the blessings bestowed upon us and an appeal to the deaf for Loyalty and unity in effort for the mutual well-being of the deaf. The Balance-Sheet, although showing the smallest surplus for many years past - £1-19-9 recorded the highest total receipts and a magnificent array of improvements, the result of the untiring perseverance & energy of the Hon. Treas. Mr. F. E. Spewin. The Report and Balance-Sheet were unanimously adopted. The Chairman, in the course of his address regretted the absence from the meeting of so many of the older deaf. He said it was a most remarkable fact that those that benefited most by the operations of the Society were the least appreciative and most difficult to deal with. As a whole the deaf were very loyal. He had every reason to be satisfied with the condition of affairs generally. Every organisation within the sphere of the Society's work was pregnant with evidence of successful effort and promise of future advancement. He was especially pleased with the younger generation; the youth of both sexes who had left school since his arrival in Victoria. They had come more directly under his own personal training & were at the present time the backbone of the Society. On his coming he had promised that he would not rest until an Adult Institute had been built, a Farm and Home for Aged, Infirm and Weak of intellect had been procured, a Bill making Education for deaf children free and compulsory. Government recognition of Mr. F. J. Rose's services and a Missionary to devote himself practically exclusively to the religious work amongst the deaf and visitation, appointed. This promise had now been kept. The fulfilment of the latter was merely the matter of a few months, and the whole had been accomplished in a little over twelve years. Truly he, and they, had much to thank God for. There was still a serious problem to be faced and that was the annual income to keep the Society well fed. It was true that hitherto we had never had an adverse balance, but it would be necessary to increase the income by some hundreds to cover the expenses of maintenance of the next and coming years, and

relief from much of the routine work of the Society would enable him to give this most important matter more serious consideration. The whole of the Deaf Committee were returned:- Messrs J.E. Muir, F.E. Prewin, R.H. Luff, M.L. Miller, T.A. Nelson, G. Newnham, W.P. Muir, G. Mortimer & C. Robertson. Messrs M.L. Miller, J.E. Muir and R.H. Luff were returned representatives of the deaf congregation to the General Board, unopposed.
Hearty thanks were tendered to the retiring Officers, Auditor, Scrutineers and the chairman.
At a meeting of the Deaf Committee held on the 28th Ult. the following were unanimously elected for the next 12 months. Mr. J.E. Muir, Hon. Sec., Mr. F.E. Prewin, Hon. Treas., M.S. Mortimer, Hon. Librarian. Messrs C. Robertson and J. Marks, assistants. Messrs J.E. Muir, W.P. Muir, M.L. Miller, F.E. Prewin & G. Newnham, Amusements Committee.

The General Board.

This is a pleasure hunting age. Business - the making of money and pleasure occupy the minds and time almost exclusively of the men of to day. The great majority of people, although willing to give in cash and kind are not willing to take over the worries and anxieties of the Management of charitable and religious organisations. In this matter, as with others, we are very fortunate, for the members of our board continue month after month and year after year to devote many hours of their valuable time to the management of our Society. During the past year the attendance at Board meetings has been above the average of former years and the business so voluminous and varied that frequently daylight is superseded by the electric ray before the meetings are brought to a close.

Rally.

The next Rally will be held on Monday, 8th June. (Our Kings Birthday). Tea will be ready at 6. p.m. for which a charge of 6d will be made. The chief item of the Rally is a fancy Costume parade. Prizes are offered for - Most Original costume, Best dressed costume and best sustained character. Entry fee 3d

There will also be a competition for children and several novelties, games, &c.

Guilds.

No meetings were held during last month on account of the holidays. (Easter and Eight Hours day).

"Monthly Letter" Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of 2/6 from Mr. J. Campbell (late of Canada) and 1/- from Miss Connie Ball towards our "Monthly Letter" Fund.

Visitors.

Our N.S.W. friends Messrs Phillips and Mr Nervin who were on a visit to Melbourne lately were not a little surprised at the beauty of our Blackburn home and the extent of the flower farms. They realised how far Sydney is behind Melbourne. Mr Phillips is the Hon. Sec. of the deaf Committee of the newly formed Adult-Deaf & Dumb Society of N.S.W, and his visit to Victoria, we are confident, will not be without fruit.

Lacrosse.

The Adult-Deaf Lacrosse Club is fortunate in having secured a good delegate to represent them on the V.L.A. This gentleman, Mr G. Brabin fought hard to get the club into "B" section at the meeting of delegates on 17th ult. There were 15 teams trying for B section. The delegates decided to limit all sections to 9 clubs each so we had to be content with "C" section. It was finally decided to admit the Deaf to "B" section. In the fight for place Mr Brabin claimed that the deaf team was quite above "C" class. The Club has had good practice for 3 Saturdays, playing a friendly match against Caulfield "C" team on 25th ult. our boys won by 16 to 5. There were 15 players on the ground so it was arranged to drop 3 out at half time and give the other 3 a turn. Every one played well & it will be no easy task to pick the team, as many being up to Standard. The players were given some good advice and hints by the President & Committee at a meeting held recently. It was agreed that the match Committee consist of the President, one Vice-President, Captain, Vice-Captain and Hon. Sec. It is hoped a bold bid will be made for the B

premiership. Mr. E. Martin has been elected Captain and Mr. L. Downes, Vice-Captain for the season. On the 2nd inst. the club opened the season by beating the Williamstown team by 14 to 9. Goal throws:- V. Iggers 6, C. Smith 3, E. Martin 3, N. Hughes 2. V. Iggers (Deaf School team) inclusion has greatly strengthened the team, his play was much admired. Another new man is E. Brabin (hearing). He will greatly improve when he gets more used to his new surroundings.

Personal Pars.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley has honoured us by accepting the position of Patron of our Society.

Mesdames E.R.W. Smith and A.C. Muir have been seriously ill lately, but we are happy to say that they are now getting better. - Mr. & Miss Wilkinson have gone to stay with Mr. & Mrs. J. Wills at Waaia for a time. - Messrs A.N. Christensen, K. MacKenzie, D. Driscoll & J. Campbell spent a happy time camping at Wallan at Easter. - Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Muir spent Easter at Warburton, the latter remained 3 weeks longer. - Mr. & Mrs. J. Damman of Warburton went to Willung just before Easter. Mrs. Damman remained for a longer stay. Before going to Willung they spent a week in Melbourne. - Mr. V. Harding went to Sydney for his Easter holidays. - Miss M. Collins & Mr. C. Robertson enjoyed a trip to Nerrim where they stayed with the former's relations. - Mr. Alex. Collins was the only country visitor in Melbourne at Easter. - Mr. J. Nelson spent an enjoyable time in Adelaide for 2 weeks. - Miss M. Cole is having a 2 weeks holiday in Geelong. - Mr. Geo. Mortimer had a good time in South Gippsland where his married sister keeps a nice farm. - Mrs. R.K. Beattie lost her mother on the 9th April. She has our sympathy. - Mrs. J. Adcock (wife of the Supt of the Deaf School) died on the 23rd April and was buried at Bendigo. The bereaved has our condolence. - Mr. E.R. Peacock, J.P., Chairman of our Society has returned from New Zealand and we welcome him back in our midst. Mr. F.G. Mercy, J.P. has been acting Chairman during his absence. - We congratulate Mr. J. Kenworthy of Bairnsdale upon his splendid performance at cricket against the Fitzroy team at Easter when he took 5 wickets for 19 Runs. He also made 5 for score (17) for his side in the first innings. He was praised by the Fitzroy team for his bowling. He took 72 wickets for 410 runs. Average 5.69. He also had the hat trick during the season.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Vol. 10 **JUNE 1914** **No 10**

Divine Service

Mr Abraham will officiate both morning and evening on Sunday June 7th and will deliver a bible lecture on Thursday June 4th; the subject being "Creator and Created". Our Superintendent will conduct Divine Service on the first Sunday of each month and the bible class on the Thursday preceding. Mr. R. D. Luff will officiate on all other Sundays and bible meetings

Winter-Games

The Winter Games Competitions will re-open on Saturday June 6th and continue until the end of September The Competitions are open to both ladies and gentlemen. Shooting, dart throwing, bagatelle, word-making, bob and skittles are the games chosen. The fee for whole series of games throughout the season is one shilling only.

Annual Meeting

As usual there was only standing room soon after the opening of our Annual Meeting on the 18th ult, and not long after, not even that. It is most encouraging to see our large hall packed to overflowing year after year and with an audience that is always cheerful; always enthusiastic year after year we see the same dear old faces, the same expression of personal

interest, ah; - "proud smile of ownership"; it seems to us, if our good patrons and subscribers who are so loyal will pardon this liberty of thought. But it really does seem so; not even the Board of Management realise more than our annual Audience the progress made, nor do they appreciate it one whit the more. We have served on many Committees and we have attended many Annual Meetings, mostly cold and formal, but we know of no meeting that can be Compared to the Annual Meeting of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society. "It's a real live wire" to use the expression of an American friend.

Friends Present. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley presided, and amongst those upon the platform & in the audience we noticed the Hon S. Tudor M.P., Hon R. Beckett M.L.C., Messrs E. R. Peacock J.P., G. G. Mercy J.P., A. Sumner Martin B.A. L.L.B., R. J. Ochr (Hon Sec), M. L. Miller, F. J. Rose J. E. Muir, G. Brown, W. A. Dickens, D. Munro, Rev W. Gibbon B.A., Rev F. V. Pratt M.A., Mrs & Miss Luke Mrs H. S. Martin and Mr and Mrs Abraham.

The Rev F. V. Pratt opened the Meeting with prayer and Mr Abraham interpreted the whole of the proceedings with the exception of the annual report which was read to the Deaf by Mr. T. B. Luff.

Annual Report. The report was read by the Hon sec, extracts from which giving particulars of the work at the Centre appeared in the May Letter. This month we call a short paragraph from the Report on the farm & home :- This has been a trying year for the whole of the Staff, and more especially to the Management of the Farm. Six months with little or no rain and an apparatus for watering that was not meant for the extensive lands now under cultivation, have resulted in an anxious time for all Concerned. Since the water Service was laid down, a large additional area of land has been brought under cultivation; there is now an

urgent need for a Corresponding extension of the water Supply. It may interest the many supporters of the Society to know that this branch of our work has fully realised the most sanguine anticipations in regard to the success attending the housing and employment of the Aged, Infirm and Feeble Minded of our deaf Community This is Shown by the fact that between seven and eight hundred pounds have been raised this year on the farm from the sale of flowers &., thus relieving the maintenance account of a large amount of the expenditure"

Balance Sheets Mr G. G. Mercy read the balance sheet. The Maintenance fund showed amount received as £3.598 including loan of £200 from Reserve fund, & the balance of the previous year & donations to women's Wing & Flinders St Fund and £723 being receipts from the farm & Home. The Expenditure was £3.264 and included Architects' fee for women's wing additions. Of the Sum of £1626 Spent on the farm £300 was for stock and improvements & repairs. Balance in hand for Maintenance £45. Women's Wing Fund £13. Flinders St Building Fund £118. Reserve Fund £1254. Assets £13.889 Liabilities nil. In Commenting upon the Report Mr Mercy paid a very warm tribute of praise to the Superintendent Mr Abaham. He said that on his arrival from England some twelve years ago the income of the Society was about £600 it was now over £3.000. Mr Abaham devoted himself exclusively to the welfare of the deaf & dumb, not only of Victoria or even Australia, but the whole World & Mrs Abraham Joined in his work. Mr Mercy further said that the Success at the farm encouraged development & that so soon as funds were forthcoming, such improvements would be made that would add still further to the income from this Source. Mr Mercy's address was received with applause.

His Excellency Speaks.

His Excellency, who was received with prolonged clapping of hands, had much to say in praise of the work carried on by our Society. He thought the financial position was very sound indeed. He looked in vain for any expenditure in connection with the Central management for the various social and educational work that it carried on. The Manner in which the work was organised deserved the highest praise and commended the Society to the Support of the public. He spoke of his visit to the farm and of the harmony and happiness of the people & of the happy surroundings and conditions He thought it must have made the heart of the Superintendent glow with pride to have been able to show him so happy a family

The Hon Robt Beckett M.L.C. also Spoke of the work in most appreciative terms. W. E. R. Peacock, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Governor, said they all had reason to be proud of their Society and its achievements. Not only the Members and the Board of Management but the Subscribers also, for the Society made more complete provision for the Adult Deaf & Dumb & it was better equipped for carrying on such work than any other Similiar society in the World; in fact the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria was at the head of them all W. M. L. Miller in seconding the vote amused the Governor as well as the Audience by showing how familiar he was with the doings of his excellency since his arrival in Victoria.

The entertainment Consisted of recitals and Sketches by the Deaf; Miss Doris Davis rendered "Smiles". W. T. Nelson "The Tramp." Misses Dickey & Dow "I dont want to play in your yard". W. G Newnham & Miss I. Kennedy "Love in the Moonlight". The leading Characters in the Concluding Sketch. "What Mary did" were "Nobody" W. Newnham, "Mary" Miss D. Dickey, Supported by Misses D Doris, R & M Dow & I Fletcher & Messrs A Dull, J. Johnston, J Marks & J Elwin.

Mr Abraham & a number of deaf young ladies recited a few lines of "God Save the King" which brought the most interesting meeting to a close.

A kindly appreciation of our Society appeared in a recent issue of the "Argus" the Sub-title of which was "A successful Social Experiment". We are grateful fu this help. An interesting sub-editorial which appeared in the "Age" we hope to quote from next month.

His Excellency the Governor at the Farm.

His Excellency Sir Arthur Stanley, Governor of Victoria, paid a visit to Blackburn Home & Farm on Saturday 16th of May. He was received on the Steps of the Central entrance by Messrs E. R. Peacock J.P. (Chairman), G. G. Mercy J. P. and D. Munro. (Members of Board., R. J. Ochs Don Sec. Councillor Walker J.P. Mesdames Munro, Abraham, and Holder, the Misses Abraham and Moreton and Mr E. J. O. Abraham (Founder & Manager). Mr Abraham introduced those present to His Excellency and Mr E. R. Peacock spoke a few words of welcome. The buildings were then inspected and afterwards the flower farm. the Chrysanthemums, which were a blaze of bloom, being the Main attraction. The Governor spent some time watching Mr Cork (blind & deaf) at work. and through the Manager had a short conversation with him. Mr Cork afterwards presented His Excellency with a basket (made by himself.) Containing flowers artistically arranged. Afternoon tea was partaken of in the Managers quarters, the Governor entering most interestedly into a general Conversation on matters appertaining to the Deaf. Mr. G. G. Mercy thanked the Governor for his early visit to the farm & took advantage of the opportunity to expound the aims of the Society and the ambitions of the Committee in connection with future work.

The Governor in responding expressed himself as surprised and pleased with the unique undertaking and successful achievement which was so very evident. On behalf of the deaf inmates the Manager handed to His Excellency a huge bunch of violets. With this token of appreciation he showed much pleasure and said that Lady Stanley would appreciate the gift.

Social to Mr. R. H. Luff.

To welcome him to his office of Assistant Missionary. W Abraham entertained W Luff and the Congregation at a social on the 4th ult. There was an attendance of about 60. Our Chaplain occupied the chair and after prayer gave an address upon the past and the future of work amongst the Adult Deaf, concluding by asking that the Congregation loyally cooperate with him in helping to make W Luff's duties as easy and harmonious as possible. He pointed out that the position of Missionary to the Deaf was one needing tact & patience and difficulties of one kind or another had to be met with and overcome almost daily W Luff said he would do his best to show that he appreciated the confidence placed in him W. J. E. Muir also spoke. Games & Conversation followed Concluding with that without which no meeting of the deaf is a real success - Supper

Our Chief's Daughter

Miss Elsie Abraham celebrated her 21st birthday on the 8th of May by taking the Employees and inmates of the Blackburn Home for the Deaf to the Glen Ferrie Theatre. W Langley, the manager provided the party with the best seats in this popular place of amusement. Supper was also provided in the Hall of the Home. On behalf of Employees and inmates Miss Eva Blair presented Miss Abraham with a gold wristlet watch. Speeches appropriate to the occasion were

made by W. W. Sharra (blind & deaf) and W. J. Nelson W Abraham responded on behalf of his daughter. The latter also acknowledged the gift with words of grateful thanks appreciating the kindness of her father's big family.

Lacrosse

Adult Deaf v Hawthorn. The Adult Deaf Club lodged a complaint against the Dawthorn team for rough play. The Committee of the Lacrosse Association met on the 25th ult to hear the evidence of both side with the result that two of Dawthorn team were suspended for rough play for four and two weeks respectively. W Abraham interpreted for the deaf. We were not present at the match when the rough play complained of took place but we attended the enquiry and certainly admired the manly way in which the Dawthorn men stated their case. The two young gentlemen who stand suspended admitted that at certain periods of the game they over stepped the mark. The Dawthorn team took the decision against them as all Sports should, and left the association rooms with the deaf team the best of friends. They have accepted an invitation from the deaf to a social on the evening of June 30th at the close of the return Match. The business like and impartial way in which the Committee of the Association made their enquiry would have put to shame many of those who are entrusted with the Government of the Country had they been present.

Anonymous Letters.

There are two kinds of ignorance. The unconscious ignorance of those who do not know they are ignorant, and there is the conscious ignorance of those who are cognisant of the fact that their store of knowledge is very

limited. For the latter there is hope, indeed all great men began there. The former must remain in their awful condition of darkness and hopelessness until something in the form of a mental earthquake shatters the barrier letting loose the death spreading stagnant pool and releasing the crystal waters of understanding. To the former class belong the anonymous letter writer. Anonymous letter writing seems to be quite a pastime in Victoria We remember in our boyhood days how certain of our school companions used to glory in sloshing through the muddy gutters, splashing all and sundry with the gutter filth, whilst others of us preferred the clean and wholesome pathways. We wonder now, if this habit became habitual. Anyhow it's fairly certain that there are people who can only see the evil side of life, they see evil in every thing even where it does not exist. They would much prefer to write a letter of Complaint than a letter of appreciation. They would observe & exaggerate the size of a small speck of dirt on a beautiful Countenance, but the glory & the sweetness of the face would be quite invisible to them. Why this thus? Oh Life; wilt not reveal this mystery.

"Lacrosse" is the anonymous signature attached to a letter bearing the address of the Y. M.C.A. accusing our dear team of Lacrosse players of roughness at play and ordering that we reprimand, scold, & otherwise bring our team to the proper state of submissive mildness as will enable the poorest of teams to run away with them. Now we wonder if it would be possible to convince this Christian young gentleman that it is more un gentlemanly, unchristian & uneverything good to write anonymous letters than is playing roughly. More the individual who writes anonymous letters is a coward, a sneak, a crawler, indeed there is no word that we know of with sufficient stinging Contempt in it to allocate a full dress uniform for the anonymous letter writer. This will also act as an answer to two correspondents who want "Nobody's" advice as to what action they ought to take after having received anonymous letters. "Nobody" says "burn them & wash your hands afterwards.

"Lacrosse" is asked, should these lines come under his notice, not to take the whole dose unto himself. There are others, much worse than he but as we destroy the anonymous as we would mosquitoes & Keep no record & we only work when forced, and as we have been forced, well, we hang our coat on his apple tree.

Come round and shake hands "Lacrosse" but write no more anonymous Letters.

"The Argus" 19/5/1914.

DEAF MUTE SOCIETY.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR'S WORK.

GOVERNOR'S APPRECIATION.

The large hall of the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders street, was filled to the last inch of standing space at the annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria last night. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Arthur Stanley) presided. Mr. Frank Tudor, M.H.R., and Mr. Robert Beckett, M.L.C., were among those present. The speeches were translated by the superintendent, Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, into the wonderfully eloquent language of gesture.

In delivering the annual report, the honorary secretary (Mr. R. J. Oehr) said that although the committee had seen the necessity of encouraging the development of the educational, social, and benevolent side of the work, a development which had been rapid and extensive, the religious work of the society had always been of the first importance to them. Quite 90 per cent. of the deaf mutes of the city and suburbs attended divine worship, and nearly 95 per cent. of the known deaf mutes in Victoria were members of one or other of the organisations connected with the society. So anxious were the committee to keep up the high moral and intellectual tone, and to relieve the superintendent of the great strain of that side of the work, taken in conjunction with the organising and the farm, that they were making efforts to secure the services of an expert missionary, who would devote himself almost exclusive y to the work. It had been a trying year for the staff, especially of the farm. Since the water service had been laid down a large additional area of land had been brought under cultivation, and there was now an urgent need for corresponding extension of the water supply. This would be very profitable, as there would be a large increase in the income from the sale of flowers, which had realised between £700 and £800 that year.

The balance-sheet presented by the hon. treasurer (Mr. C. G. Mercy) showed that the income amounted to £3,508 0/10, including £2,172/18/1 from subscriptions and donations, and £723/16/1 from the farm. Expenditure was £3,421 16/, £1,626/7/7 in farm expenses being the heaviest. There was not a penny of debt on the whole of the property of the society.

The Governor, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said that he was not a chartered accountant, and he was not, therefore, in a position to criticise the balance-sheet, but there was one part which was easy to understand, and that was the blank on the debit side. (Hear, hear.) It was clear that they had paid their way, and avoided one of the many causes of misery in this world—debt. But a thing of greater interest was the fact that they had earned sufficient in the open market, competing with those who were more favoured than their workers, and done admirably well. (Applause.) It must be a source of great satisfaction to feel that they were doing something towards the world in which they lived, and that they were not an unwilling burden on others. The headquarters was run on extraordinarily economical and efficient lines. Mr. Abraham must indeed be proud of the happy family he had on the farm, where, through his energies, people were enjoying life more than many who had sight, speech, and hearing. (Applause.) He thought a society of this character most deserving of the support of the more fortunate. It was doing God's work. (Applause.)

The report and balance-sheet were adopted. A delightfully interesting programme of silent recitations was given by members of the institute.

Adult Deaf Mute Centre, 32-34 Flinders St. East, Melbourne

The Committee of
The Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

have pleasure in inviting yourself and friend to their

Annual Social Gathering

to be held in the above Centre on Monday, May 18th, 1914,
at 8 p.m., Doors open 7.30

His Excellency Sir Arthur Stanley, Governor of Victoria
will preside

Speakers: Hon. Robt. Beckett, M.L.C., and G. G. Mercy, Esq., J.P.

Entertainment by Deaf Mutes,
etc.

R. J. Oehr, Hon. Sec.
E. J. D. Abraham, Supt.

"The Age" 19/5/1914.

To many people the suggestion of a conversation with deaf mutes conveys a laborious spelling out of words and phrases. Any such idea would have been dispelled by watching the language with which Mr. Abrahams, the superintendent of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, spoke to the audience of about 250 last evening, in the presence of the Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley. It was the language of signs more than words. Occasionally a more ambitious word, as it were, would be spelt out by this splendid friend of the afflicted. There were whole phrases that a stranger could almost have understood. His gestures were marvellously expressive. His audience followed him as rapidly and easily as he was able to translate the various speakers' remarks into the language of the deaf mutes. The people had assembled, some percentage being strangers, for the purpose of passing the annual report and balance sheet. The institute differs from other charities in many respects. In the first place, it is not wholly dependent upon charity, for the deaf mutes have been taught to help themselves by working a farm, which very nearly pays its way; and furthermore, the assets of the institute are set down at £13,000, being the value of buildings and lands, while the liabilities are nil. The financial position is very sound indeed, and, as the Governor remarked, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, he looked in vain for any trace of expenditure in connection with the central management for the various social and educational work that is carried on. He praised the manner in which the work was organised. He commended the institute to the support of the public. In the report it was stated that 90 per cent. of the deaf mutes attended divine service, and that it was estimated that 95 per cent. of the known deaf mutes in the State were helped by one or other of the various branches of the institute.

"The Age" 19/5/1914.

No one has read the life of Helen Keller, the girl whose name was at one time on the lips of almost all Americans, without a sense of almost bewilderment that it was possible to make a child, who had for but a few brief years seen and heard what nature had to tell and then became deaf and blind, learn to talk and read. In the course of a recent visit to the farm of the deaf mutes of Victoria, the Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley, found, so he told an audience of deaf mutes last evening, an old man who had been similarly placed to the American child, and now was quite happy. The Governor spoke with feeling. He thought it must have made the heart of the superintendent glow with pride to have been able to show such a happy family. An old gentleman well past middle life was typical of many others on the farm. He had learnt to use his voice. He had become deaf when still a child, and a few years later had lost his sight. Yet there he was on this farm, plaiting straws for baskets and reading his Shakspeare, and conversing happily. He had presented him (the Governor) with a basket of flowers, the basket having been made with his own hands. This man appeared to be enjoying life as much as if he had both his sight and hearing. As in the case of Helen Keller in whose success Miss Sullivan, her teacher, played so important a part, so to Mr. Abrahams must be attributed the success which was marking the life of so many of the lives at the deaf mute institute.

"The Argus" 13/5/1914.

FARM FOR DEAF MUTES.

SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL EXPERIMENT

During the five years that have elapsed since the doubtful experiment of establishing a farm for the deaf mutes of weak intellect was undertaken by the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria success beyond the most sanguine hopes of the founders has been achieved. So confident is the committee of the future of the work that at the annual meeting, to be presided over by His Excellency the Governor, on Monday next an appeal will be made for funds to enlarge its scope.

Five years ago the training farm was established at Blackburn to give useful, healthy occupation to deaf mutes whose mental calibre did not allow of their following the clerical pursuits open to their more gifted brethren in affliction. Flower and vegetable culture is the principal feature of the farm, and experience has proved that at this work the majority of the mutes of feeble intellect can be trained to earn at least sufficient to cover the cost of their maintenance, while becoming happier and healthier themselves. The superintendent, Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, says that the mental and physical improvement that has taken place in every case submitted has been remarkable. Revenue from the sale of flowers grown on the farm now covers half the cost of maintenance of both the training farm and the home for the aged, infirm, and feeble-minded deaf mutes. With improved watering apparatus and general appliances it is expected that the work will be entirely self-supporting. The institution is the only one of its kind in the world, and, apart from its unique features, offers many attractions to visitors. An acre of chrysanthemums has just been in full bloom, and other flowers follow in rotation. To complete the home and install a larger irrigating plant at the flower farm about £2,500 is required. It is for this and for funds to complete the building at the adult deaf mute centre that appeals will be made at the annual gathering.

"The Age"
"The Argus" 16/5/1914.

THE ADULT DEAF and DUMB SOCIETY of VICTORIA, INCORPORATED.—The annual MEETING of Life Governors and Subscribers will be held at the Centre, 32 Flinders-street, Melbourne, on MONDAY, 18th MAY, 1914, at 8 p.m. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley, will preside.

Business:
To receive and adopt the annual report and balance sheet, and election of office bearers.

R. J. OEHR,
Hon. Sec.

"The Age" 18/5/1914.

The Governor, attended by Captain Gale, A.D.C., paid a visit to the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society's Home for Feebleminded Deaf Mutes at Blackburn on Saturday and inspected the flower farm.

"The Herald" 16/5/1914.

His Excellency the Governor, attended by Captain F. H. Gale, A.D.C., paid a visit to the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society's Home for Feebleminded Deaf Mutes, at Blackburn this afternoon, and inspected the flower farm.

The "Herald" July 8th 1914

DUMB MAY NOT BEG

As a result of a deputation which waited upon him yesterday from the Deaf and Dumb Association, Mr A. G. Sainsbury, Chief Commissioner of Police, has given instructions to the police that in future deaf and dumb beggars are to be treated in the same way as other able-bodied beggars, and when they are found soliciting alms are to be brought before the Court.

The Herald 9/7/14

Beggars Must Go

Regard for the stricken and afflicted should be one of the qualities of all communities making any claims to advanced humanity and civilisation. It was with a conviction of this that a deputation from the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association yesterday waited on Mr A. G. Sainsbury, Chief Commissioner of Police, with a request that steps should be taken to prevent deaf mutes from travelling and begging about the country or the streets. Any objection to the proposal seems to be obviated by the statement that remunerative and legitimate employment can be found for these people. They can earn wages up to £3 a week by honest work, but prefer to get £5 or £6 by begging—which must be an unsuspectedly profitable calling, and dispenses with apprenticeship. There does seem a certain degree of natural preference about the choice, but that is not the point of view; nor does it seem quite fair to accuse these lingerers by the wayside indiscriminately as worthless characters who gambled and drank. That also is not the point of view. The question is, Is it right to permit the practice? And the answer is obvious. It is undignified and undisciplined so far as the community is concerned, and can only have a degrading effect upon the sturdy beggars themselves. It is a survival of those unorganised old times when all life was an individual scramble, and beggars roamed the country pretending to be mutilated, deaf, and dumb, till they became a menace. One of the finest and most encouraging signs of the times is the self-sacrificing, inventive, and unremitting care which has been shown in improving the condition of the afflicted. There are accredited ways whereby the public is prepared to provide for deaf mutes, and people should not be subjected to individual importunity. This fact should be carefully borne in mind by those who are too inclined to follow the dictates of impulsive kindness of heart. They are really fostering a process of imposition, which would soon cease if the source of supply were cut off. Wherever begging is not a necessity, it should be consistently suppressed by law and discouraged by citizens themselves. A man or woman who is afflicted should have the same self-respect as anyone else, and be prepared and glad to give services for value received. There are many instances of honorable and even distinguished careers carved out by the persistence and courage of people far more deeply afflicted than are deaf mutes, great as their misfortune is. When institutions are supplied and equipped at great effort and expense, one would suppose that the suggestions of common honor would bring a response from those whose lot it has been desired to lighten. Civic dignity requires that the beggar should be abolished.

The Age 9/7/14

MENDICANTS IN THE CITY.

Mendicant deaf mutes who haunt the streets of the city and suburbs soliciting alms and making capital out of their afflictions, are in future to be dealt with by the police in the same manner as ordinary beggars who impose upon the generosity of the public. Instructions have been issued by the Chief Commissioner of Police that no distinction is to be shown between the two. This order has been made as the result of a deputation of deaf mutes that waited upon Mr. G. A. Sainsbury yesterday. They came as representatives of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association, and their remarks were interpreted to the Chief Commissioner by Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, president of the association. It was pointed out that there was no real necessity for deaf and dumb persons to go round seeking help. Any deaf mute who applied to the association could obtain work at the farm at Blackburn, and wages of £3 or more per week could be earned there. The opinion was expressed that numbers of mendicant deaf mutes imposed upon the public by representing that they were collecting funds for some society. It was requested that when such cases came under the notice of the police the offenders should be strictly dealt with. It was considered that the police displayed too much sympathy towards this type of offender, thus encouraging an undesirable evil. The question of granting hawkers' licences to deaf mutes was also referred to by the deputation, who asked that magistrates should first refer the applications to the officers of the association. It was stated that many of these persons would be better off under the care of the association. At present only about half the number of deaf mutes in the State were members of societies conducted on their behalf by public subscriptions. A letter from the Adult Deaf Mute Society, supporting the representations of the deputation, was also handed to Mr. Sainsbury. His reply was to the effect that the police would endeavor to put a stop to mendicancy on the part of deaf mutes. With regard to the question of supplying such persons with hawkers' licences, he referred the deputation to the Clerk of Courts.

The Argus 9/7/14

A deputation from the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association waited on the chief commissioner of police (Mr. Sainsbury) on Tuesday afternoon, requesting that the police should prevent deaf mutes from travelling round the country begging. It was stated that there was no necessity for any afflicted person to seek charity, for the association had sufficient funds to assist all indigent cases, and can find good employment, earning wages up to £3 a week, for all willing to work. The police, it was stated, had been too lenient with these persons, who were described by the deputation as worthless characters, who gambled and drank. They preferred to earn £5 or £6 a week by begging rather than work honestly for £3. The deputation asked that no hawkers' licenses be granted without some inquiry being made as to the character of the applicant. In reply, Mr. Sainsbury said that he would advise the superintendent to inform constables not to be lenient towards such beggars, but advised the deputation to write to the clerk of courts with reference to the licenses, as it was a matter out of his control.

The "Herald" 18/7/14

DEAF AND DUMB BEGGARS

EMPLOYMENT PREFERABLE.

"Publicity" (Malvern) writes:—

A deputation from the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association waited on Mr A. G. Sainsbury, the Chief Commissioner of Police, requesting action to put down begging by deaf mutes in the city and suburbs.

The matter applies to the country equally with the city, if not more so. I know of some who reap rich harvests in the country. It is the desire of the association that strong, healthy, able-bodied men should find honorable and useful employment, instead of loafing on the sympathetic and charitably-disposed. Country papers would render great service by publishing the facts.

The Moon Maid

The MOON MAID

"This class is a distinct and recognised variety of the human race, for it 'breeds true' and re-appears generation after generation."

Dr. Robert Jones.

She never knew her mother, although she once saw her in the street sodden with drink and spotted with disease: but they did not recognise each other, and would have felt no pleasure if they had.

Other girls had fathers who gave them pennies; it would be nice to have a father to give one pennies, and in her dull mind she vaguely wondered why she had none. Once she asked the people at the "Home", where she was brought up, about it, but they were silent; and when she repeated the question they chid her as though she had said something bad. It was very perplexing, so she did not bother about it any more.

Evil is wrought by want of thought

She was such a dull girl, she could never remember things. They tried both kindness and severity, but it was of no use, she never learnt to do anything properly, and the other children called her "Dilly." She wasn't exactly miserable, and she wasn't really happy, she was just stupid and her feelings were opaque: best of all she loved her mealtimes and her bed. No one took much notice of her, and there were several others like her in the "Home."

When she was fourteen they sent her out to service; she was to act as scullery-maid in a large house. But she was too slow, and she made so many mistakes, that she had to be sent away very soon.

After that she served eleven different mistresses, and they all gave her excellent characters:—she was honest and she was truthful—but they would not keep her, oh, dear no! She was too insufferably slow.

At last she got a place where there was very little to do, and where she could go out into the streets every night. It was nice to see the gaslamps, and to wear one's best hat; and the boys weren't rude now, they behaved quite differently. They even called her "Daisy," and one in particular was very kind. He used to give her glass jewellery, and money, and sometimes treat her to drinks.

By and by she was to become a mother. She did not understand it much herself, but her mistress sent her away, and she was received into a different kind of "Home." There she remained six months, and when she went away she left her baby behind.

It was very difficult to get anything but temporary work now, so she was more in the streets than ever. During the next twenty years she was often in prison for drunkenness, and she went into various Maternity Homes year after year. Her children, when they grew up at all, were very much like herself.

This common little character has not been described

that we may point at the Moon-maid the finger of scorn. Indeed she was too dull to be held responsible, too stupid to be blamed.

The people to be blamed are those who let these things go on, and they who, being responsible for our laws, have yet made no provision for the permanent care of the feeble-minded, nor any effort to check their propagation.

A Bill dealing with the feeble-minded has just been declared law by the English Parliament. When will Australia move in this matter?

The Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria has established a Home for Mentally Defective Deaf Mutes of both sexes at Blackburn, Victoria. And so successful have their efforts to train the mentally defective proved that the income from sales at the Farm reached over £700 last year. The Home also provides care and shelter for Aged, Infirm, and Blind Deaf Mutes.

An appeal is now being made to complete the Women's Wing, to enable the society to admit more of those needing the protecting care provided at the Home for these sad cases. The sum of £3000 is required.

WILL YOU HELP?

Contributions may be sent to...

MR. G. G. MERCY, J.P., Hon. Treas. to the Fund
"Ripley," Victoria Avenue, Canterbury, Vic.
or to the "Argus" or "Age."

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 10. JULY 1914. No. 11.

Mr. Ivers Tenney.

Our Assistant Hon. Treas. Mr. M. L. Muller has received a lengthy & most interesting letter from our old friend Ivers Tenney, who now lives at Battle Creek, Michigan, U. S. A. and who rendered yeaman service at the public demonstration, when we were out on a money hunt to pay for the bricks & mortar of our Deaf Mute Centre. His exhibitions of rapid sketching were one of the "star" attractions of these entertainments. Mrs Tenney also took a very prominent part in the "Living Statuary". Those were good old happy days. Mr. Tenney says he misses dear old Melbourne very much & wishes he had never returned to America. He goes down to the city library where a copy of the "Leader" is to be found, & so keeps in touch with Victoria. "The Monthly Letter," he says is as much to him as the ordinary newspaper is to the hearing. He can no more live without the Letter, than ordinary folk could do without their newspapers. He is of opinion that the Melbourne deaf have been well rewarded for their faith in Mr. Abraham. When he lived in Melbourne, Mr. Abraham's progessive programme & experiments were considered risky by some & quite impossible by others. But now the deaf had the buildings to demonstrate to the sight of all the actual achievement of the supposed impossibilities.

"I think Mr Abraham is wonderful" he says & wonders what England would give for him now." Melbourne continues friend Tenney, is the dullest place in the world for the deaf," & then proceeds to prove it by detailing what poor provision is being made, & what might easily be done for the 4,500 deaf mutes of New York &c. Mr Tenney has not forgotten his school, the debt due to his instructors as witness:-

I know little doings of my dear old school at St Kilda. Is it a state school now? I hope so. It ought to be. I like to talk about my old teacher, Mr. William Cook, for whatever we thought & stupidly said in our days of inexperience, I, at least, know now that he is a great teacher. I honour him for the service he has rendered the deaf. I owe much to his skill in free hand drawing. I believe he could have earned more money as an artist than as a teacher. I feel sorry for my old superintendent Mr. T.J. Rose, who has lost his wife. I still remember his lectures." He concludes with greeting to all the deaf. "my wife joins me in the wish, may God bless you all."

The Rally.

Our quarterly re-union is undoubtedly the most popular of all our gatherings. There were 116 deaf & 30 hearing friends present at the last, held on the 8th of June in celebration of the King's birthday. The main feature of the entertainment was a fancy costume parade. The costumes were pretty, some very clever, but the parade would have tried the patience of Job. The management kept it circling round & round, round & round until our eyes became so weary that the Gipsy Girl seemed to be part of Scrooge, & Scrooge got mixed up with the Dutch Boy. There were 27 characters in all, & 5 prizes offered for most original, best sustained & best dressed. The judges were Mrs Luff, Misses W.A. Paterson & W. Muir & their award was as follows: Most original costume,- Dutch boy, Mr A. Sutherland; Best sustained character-1, Snow Queen, Miss L. Davis; 2. Scrooge, Mr W. G. Martinuzzi; 3. Big footed comedian, Mr T. Peters. Best dressed - 1. Witch, Miss Daisy Muir, 2. Naval Officer,

V.P. M.L. Miller. After the parade an original game (at least to us) called shadowgraphy was witnessed. Some 16 shadow likenesses of the staff & members had been sketched & were on exhibition. The game was to name the pictures. Remarkable to relate, although it seemed impossible to fix at least half of the portraits with any degree of certainty they may have been meant for one out of any dozen present, yet Messrs Baldry & Leber guessed everyone & so will have to compete for the prize. Prior to the parade tea was enjoyed in the lower hall by about 60 & the evenings enjoyment was brought to a close by "Sir Roger".

Our Flower Farm.

There is no doubt that the year just closed was most trying since the farm was founded. Nevertheless it was a most successful year. It was trying mainly because of the exceptionally dry summer & the many schemes that had to be resorted to, to keep the plants alive. Sweet peas, calliopsis & dahlias were all failures for the want of rain. It was a successful year because the sale of flowers was greater than any previous year. The value of the years work can be summarised thus:- receipts in cash £723. Value of milk, vegetables, eggs & butter consumed at the Home, £70. Outstanding accounts £40. Total £833. Add thereto the stock of our own propagation, such as 3,000 carnations, 20,000 chrysanthemums, 3,000 roses etc. Our show of chrysanthemums attracted many visitors during May, this particular flower brought in over £60. The total sales etc. being £775-5-8.

The slugs & hares are giving us some trouble. "Lord" Nelson has begun the "ghost business" once more & can be seen any moonlight night in a cloud of lime.

Miss Eva Hair has left the Home. She is at present on a visit to her sister at Warburton, after a few weeks stay she will return home to her people. We were sorry to lose her.

Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of £2 from Mr. Geo Hiscock, 1/6 from Mr. G. Brown & 1/- each from Mrs J. Mills of Wania, Messrs. Tindall & A. & T. Collins of Hecrim.

What His Excellency Couldn't Find.

At the annual meeting of our Society, in moving the adaption of the report the Governor said that our financial position is very sound. He looked in vain for any trace of expenditure in connection with the central management for the various social & educational work carried on. Nevertheless, the expenditure is really there. The sum however, is so small that it is not surprising that His Excellency failed to locate it. The Deaf Committee received a grant of £20. per annum from the General Board, & this, with a small additional amount raised by themselves, is sufficient to cover the cost of the inner work of the Society, mainly because the work is voluntary, also because the deaf contribute liberally, according to their means, to the funds of the various guilds that promote the educational classes & social functions. The Deaf Committee appreciate His Excellency's compliment to their management.

Gesture Language.

Says the Age "To many people the suggestion of a conversation with deaf mutes conveys a laborious spelling out of words & phrases. Any such idea would have been dispelled by watching the language with which Mr. Abraham spoke to his audience. It was a language of signs. Occasionally a more ambitious word, as it were, would be spelled out by this splendid friend of the afflicted. There were whole phrases that a stranger could almost have understood. His gestures were marvellously expressive. His audience followed him as rapidly & easily as he was able to translate the various speakers' remarks into the language of the deaf.

Lacrosse.

On May 9th, the meeting of the Adult Deaf & Hawthorn at Auburn attracted a fairly good attendance. The deaf had the advantage by 5 goals to 2. Goal throwers, C. Smith 2. V. Tyrrell 2. H. McKenzie 1

The 16th the deaf followed up their success of the previous week again winning with a good margin this time, defeating Essendons by 11 goals to 3. Goal throwers, V. Tyrrell 7. C. Smith 3. E. Martin 1.

The 23rd., another good win by the deaf against Canterbury. The scores were Deaf 12 goals, Canterbury 8. Goal throwers, V. Tyzzer 6, Smith 2, Martin, Christenson 1, Mc Kenzie 1.
The 30th. the deaf achieved a very easy win over Thalwon by 23 goals to 2. Smith 10 goals, V. Tyzzer 6, Martin 4, Robertson 2, Anderson 1.
June 6th. the meeting of Middle Park & the deaf, the two undefeated teams in the B Section drew a large attendance to Middle Park. The former won after a strenuous game by 7 goals to 3. Both sides played well but the Parkites gained the lead chiefly by their combined play & superior forward work. For the deaf there were plenty of fine individual efforts on the side which was nullified by lack of combination.
The 13th., the deaf had another tough game against Coburg & the result was a draw (7 goals). The match should have been won by the deaf because the opponents should not have had 2 goals at all, owing to bad umpiring. Goal throwers, Smith 2, Martin 1, V. Tyzzer 3, Robertson 1.
The 20th. the deaf beat Hawthorn again by 10 goals to 6 Goal throwers, V. Tyzzer 6, Smith 3, Martin 1.
After the match the Hawthorn players were entertained at tea & a social at the Centre where games &c. were pleasantly indulged in.

The second meeting of the deaf & Middle Park took place on the 27th. The latter, by defeating the deaf again, are now practically assured of the B Section premiership. With the deaf in front for the first 3 quarters, the Parkites assumed the lead in the final term. The result was M. P. 11 goals, Deaf 8. Goal throwers V. Tyzzer 5, Smith 1, Martin 1, Robertson 1. The match was started late at 3.35, owing to the non appearance of the referee (one of the best in the Association) specially appointed for the match, & subsequently an delegate was appointed to act as referee. The game was finished in the dark. The deaf were keen on winning the game as that would once more place them at the top of their section level with the Parkites. They were greatly disappointed with the result.

The Adelaide Deaf Lacrosse players asked us if they could come & play against us in Melbourne on August 7th. We are willing to play if the Lacrosse Association grant our request. It will be the first Interstate Deaf Lacrosse match in Australia.

The Ramblers.

The members of the Rambling Club spent an enjoyable outing at the Botanical Gardens on the 9th May. The weather was fine & warm. The ramblers assembled outside Flinders St. Station & strolled along Alexandra Avenue. Our Chief, just like him, added to the pleasure of the walk by distributing bags of lollies. He also entertained us to afternoon tea at the Tea House at the Gardens. After a jolly repast the party rambled round, inspecting the beds of beautiful chrysanthemums, Proceeding along the river bank to the Centre where they found an enticing tea awaiting them.

The ramble for the month of June was held on the 13th ult. Most of the members met at Burnley Station, & after alighting at Gardiner, made their way to the violet farm. Having inspected the violet & wallflower plantations, we set out for Glen Iris, here we met a further detachment which made our party so large that pedestrians along the way were attracted by the many whirling fingers. We then set out in a long walk along the winding roads for a considerable distance, & finally reached the home of Mrs. J. E. Muir in Malvern. Here an enjoyable tea was partaken of. Eighteen sat down & all were in the best of spirits, which is the usual thing with the ramblers. After the dainty tea had disappeared, the members flowed into the drawing room, where the annual meeting was held. The second annual report & balance sheet were read & confirmed. The officers were re-elected. The club has a roll of 17 members, including 2 hearing. It was agreed that the membership fee be fixed at 3/ per annum. The rest of the evening was given over to games of all kinds & after supper a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the hostess for the happy time she had given the guests. Our party, while bidding the hostess good night, all had a word to say as to the very enjoyable time they had

New Assistant Missionary.

Mr. John Paul, son of Mr. James Paul, Missionary to the Deaf of Ayrshire, Scotland, has accepted the position of Assistant Missionary to the A.D.D.S. of Victoria. He is expected to arrive in Melbourne in October.

Women's Guild.

At the meeting of May 5th Miss Doris Thirkey recited "If I Knew". An educational class on "Stories from Wagner", also other instructive lessons were given by the President & watched with interest & much appreciated.

On May 26th Mrs Wilson gave a bible lesson entitled "Giving" which was good.

On June 16th Miss L. Davis read an interesting paper on her observations in Adelaide, which was well received. The members were in an inquiring mood & kept Miss Davis busy answering questions for 15 minutes. She also recited "The Sentinel or Who's there". The evening proved a very amusing one.

The annual meeting of the Women's Guild will be held on July 21st. Nominations for the office close at 7 o'clock that evening. Every member is kindly asked to attend.

Men's Guild.

At the meeting of May 12th, Mr J. Johnson (new member) gave his maiden papea on "Shakespeare" His delivery created a very good impression among the members, & with more experience he will make a fine speaker. He was warmly congratulated. Several members also spoke to the subject.

On May 26th, the members were well entertained by Mr T. Nelson who gave an account of his trip to Adelaide.

On June 16th, Mr W. L. Miller gave a paper on "Topical Topics". His comments were followed with interest, & his entertaining choice of subject gave pleasure to all.

Vic. Branch A. D. D. A.

Mr F. E. Fremin, the hon. sec. begs to acknowledge receipt of following subscriptions with thanks, 1/- each from Messrs Duff, J. Mills (Waaia), W. P. Muir, G. Oakley, T. & A. Collins (Neerim), J. McLean, Mrs J. McLean & Miss J. Muir. He also desires to remind the members of the above association that annual subscriptions are now due.

Picture Night.

The Deaf Athletic Club purpose getting up a picture theatre night at the Majestic or Westi on the 5th August in aid of their fund.

Music

Professar Rimmington an American Musician, has invented a new kind of organ which diffuses melody that gives pleasure through the medium of the eye instead of the ear. He claims that there is music in colour & that it is possible to enjoy the sensation of music without hearing a sound. Rimmingtons organ has what looks like an ordinary key board, but when a note is struck, there is no sound, only a beautiful colour thrown from a powerful electric lamp upon a screen. Instead of listening to music you watch the colours, & by varying these, & suddenly flooding the screen with some bright tint, the sensation of music is produced to those who have became accustomed to this new "sense". This invention should be a source of much pleasure to the deaf

Sydney.

Our Sydney comrades are still struggling to keep their new ship "The Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of N. S. W. afloat". Their position is a difficult one. It is a case of a ship without a qualified captain. The Attorney General & several other gentlemen who are interested in the new Society, have written for our captain to go over at once. It is unfortunate that circumstances make it quite impossible for him to leave his own ship at present. When he was in Sydney last October he met an old friend, the Rev. T. Barclay who was minister of the Pilgrim Fathers' Church, New Kent Road London, & preached to the hearing, whilst our leader held forth for the benefit of the deaf in the Memorial Hall adjoining. Mr. Barclay has became a loyal friend of the Adult deaf of Sy.

Stray Straws.

A son was born to Mr. & Mrs. Dempsey on May 8th.
Also a son to Mr. & Mrs. Downes on May 11th.

Miss M. Maguire, of Learmouth, one of Mr. T. J. Rose's pupils, died recently after a brief illness of acute pneumonia.

Mrs. J. Boorty, a valued member of the Society, has been seriously ill, but she is now slowly improving. We hope to see her at the Centre very soon.

Mr. Kindell spent his two weeks' holiday with his brother in Geelong & had a very enjoyable time.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 10. AUGUST. 1914. No 12.

Services.

Mr R. H. Luff is conducting all the morning & evening services on Sundays & the bible class on Thursdays excepting on the first Sunday of each month & the Thursday before. Mr Abraham will officiate on Thursday July 30, & Sunday August 2nd

Those Lost Sheep.

Say, Hearing friend! This paragraph is for you. It is possible that the paragraphs dealing with deaf-mute beggars, may lead some to think that there must be many such. Fortunately that is not the case. There are not more than ten deaf-mute beggars & hawkers in the whole of Victoria. But that is ten too many from our point of view. The deaf as a class are exceptionally industrious. As a class they have no time for the loafer. They are jealous of their own good name. Most anxious to be considered desirable citizens by you who can hear. It is because of this that they want to reform the few of their class who have no shame at the thought of living on the labour of others, when able to work themselves. They want a clean slate.

The Master has told us, in story, that however much joy the safety of the 99 may give us, there must be no rest, no self satisfied contentment until the missing one, is within the fold. We have tried many ways to get these lost sheep within the fold without success. It has now occured to us that if we stop the food supply outside the fold they will ultimately have to come in. And once they taste the sweets of honest toil, of independence & self respect they will wander never again. So please Mr, Mrs & Miss Hearing Friend do not give to deaf and dumb beggars, or those who pretend to be deaf. Refer them to the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society.

Beggars.

"Faithful" has read of our deputation to the Chief Commissioner of Police & now she wants to know "why are you against beggars". She thinks it cruel of us, & reminds us of a well worn story of our Superintendent.

A member of our Society evidently thinking that he would wear a certain text to threads, irritably asked "When are you going to use other than the text "Love one another", and his reply was "When you you all love one another"! Faithful asks do we consider our attitude in keeping with the sentiment therein expressed. We do. We are not against beggars. We are against begging. We are not even against drunkards. But against the excessive use of intoxicating liquors. If a man is afflicted with an ungovernable temper, it is our aim to kill the temper, not the man. Begging is degrading. Very much more so when the beggar is strong & healthy & able to earn a living by honest toil. And it is not only degrading to the man that begs. It also injures the whole deaf community. To prevent him from succeeding in his canvass for alms, is to make for him the first step toward, real manhood. No. Faithful. we are not against beggars. We hold out the hand of brotherhood as longingly to them as to any. But we expect them to show the world that they can hold their own in spite of affliction.

Hawkers.

Yes. We are opposed to hawking too. But please do not confuse our position. We have no feeling against the hawker. We simply want to compel him to give up disgracing us & himself. We claim that there is no reason why any able bodied deaf-mute should beg or walk. We will undertake to find him employment. And will attend to his needs until we succeed. That is of course if the man is not an out & out loafer, who has made up his mind not to work.

Our method for that class is a short one - no work, no food, no bed.

There are one or two elderly deaf who are making a living by selling goods from door to door, giving value for value. We see no harm in this. Indeed, they are to be praised for their sturdy independence. It's the "gentlemanly" young man who sells alphabet cards at 3d & 6d each (they cost a few shillings a thousand) & who pretends that he represents the "Deaf & Dumb Society" or "cannot get work because he is deaf & dumb" or "has a wife & children dependent on him" that we are determined to stop.

It is true there are not many of him. The whole of mute begging community of our State could easily be accounted for on our ten fingers. But even those few blots irritate us, and have got to go. The deaf are cleaning up their house in Victoria & it is going to be a thorough cleaning. We will do everything possible for the comfort & happiness of our weaker brethren, but we are determined that deaf & dumb "beggar" shall not be synonymous in any single instance.

Our Farm & its Aim.

In the report of the deputation to the Chief Commissioner of Police one of our morning papers said that the deaf were paid as much as £3 per week at the farm. Of course this is a mistake. What the deputation really said was that "Normal" deaf can earn £3 per week & that there is no need for any deaf mute to beg because food & shelter is obtainable at the farm & they can stay until permanent work is obtained for them. The Home is intended for that section of the deaf who through age, infirmity, or other causes are unable to obtain regular employment. It also provides opportunity for acquiring a knowledge of farming & gardening.

Our own Carnegies.

It is a fact. We have our own Carnegies. And thankful we are for the same. Our Carnegies however, are not Carnegies in name. But in nature. That is the reason why, perhaps, this knowledge may seem new to you. For just as Carnegie is stocking Libraries everywhere with books, so Messrs M. L. Miller & A. Williamson are stocking the Library of the Deaf Mute Centre. We have had many large donations of books from these gentlemen that we have lost count of them. And now another huge parcel has arrived to the delight of our Librarian & the joy of the bookworms. Some one has said "It is noble to feed the hungry but more so to stock a library". For the hungry poor will hunger again, but if the poor will but stock his mind with knowledge & use it, poverty will leave him, or rather he will leave poverty.

Deaf Committee.

"The Centre" Committee of Management met on the 21st July There was a full meeting. The only business outside the ordinary routine was the change of the date of the next Rally. It had been decided to hold the quarterly gathering on "Show Day". But the 9th of October being the anniversary of the arrival of

Mr Abraham in Victoria it was decided on the motion of Mr J.E. Muir seconded by Mr R. H. Luff, to hold the Rally on the Thursday nearest to the 9th of the month. It was also agreed that this Anniversary be a fixed event to take place on or near the 9th of October annually. Mr Abraham intimated that it was his intention to continue his garden party to the Congregation on or about the 12th of March of each year.

The Amusement Committee have decided to have a "Sketch" Competition at the October Rally. Four Companies led by Messrs J.E. Muir, R. H. Luff, F.L. Irewin & G. Newnham respectively are taking part. The time limit for each sketch is 20 minutes.

Meetings.

On the 30th June there was no meeting of Men's Guild on account of insufficient attendance of members.

On the 7th July Mr E. J. D. Abraham delivered a lecture on "The Origin of dancing" to a fair audience in spite of boisterious weather. The lecture was well appreciated & several questions were answered.

On the 14th July at the Men's Guild meeting Mr N. Hughes read his paper on the history of the "Discovery" which was fairly interesting.

Annual Meeting of the Women's Guild.

On Tuesday July 21st the popular Deaf Women's Guild celebrated its 13th birthday (is it an unlucky number?) by holding an annual meeting which proved in every respect a most successful & enjoyable evening. Braving one of the coldest nights for many years, every member was present except one who was on the sick list. The President (Mrs J.E. Muir) was in the chair. The Hon Secretary (Miss Hickey) read the annual report which showed the continued success of the guild. During the year several educational & Bible classes have been conducted by Mesdames J.E. Muir & A. Wilson, & interesting papers prepared & given by many other members who are progressing steadily. Both the report & the balance sheet showing a surplus of £5.12.0. were adopted. The President addressed the members & spoke warmly of their loyalty & good fellowship. To comply with

the young members expressed wishes, it was almost unanimously agreed that the guild be closed in June & July on account of cold damp nights & open in January & February instead, & that the annual meeting be held in May hereafter.

The election of office-bearers resulted as follows:- Mrs J.E. Muir, Miss Empson & Mr. Boorty were respectively returned. President Vice President & Hon Treasurer unopposed. Miss Hickey tendered her resignation as Hon Sec.y which was accepted with regret. Words of tribute were paid to her for her untiring & excellent services to the Guild. Miss Dow was elected unopposed in her place. Committee Mesdames Abraham, Wilson & Williamson, Misses Hickey & Davis. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the retiring office bearers, the Auditor (Mr. G Newnham) & the scrutineers (Messrs. J. Johnston & H. Gretton) & the Committee for providing supper. The Guild promises to be more successful both in numbers & ability during the next year.

Deaf Worker's Club.

The first annual meeting of the Deaf Worker's Club will be held sometime in August & the members will be notified of the date by the Hon Secretary. Those who have not yet sent their promised gifts, will kindly do so at their earliest convenience so as to give the Hon Sec.y time to prepare her report. Full particulars of the club will be given in the next issue. The Hon Secretary is Mrs A. Williamson, Deaf Centre Flinders St. E. Melbourne.

Assistant Missionary

Mr. John M. Paul, our newly appointed assistant Missionary in a recent letter to Mr. Abraham said "Since last week I have had the pleasure of reading some copies of the "Monthly Letter" issued by your Society & need hardly say that both the spirit shown in them & the language in which they are couched have made a very happy impression."

Lacrosse.

On the 4th July the Deaf L. C. journeyed to Williamstown & defeated the local club by 10 goals to 9. Goal throwers V. Tyzzer 5. Smith 1 Drummond 1. Hughes 1. McKenzie 1 Martin 1

On the 11th July The Deaf played a return match against Coburg & won by 9 goals to 5 after a strenuous game Goal throwers V. Tyzzer 5. Smith 3 Drummond 1

On the 18th July The Deaf were beaten by Canterbury by 7 goals to 5. Goal throwers. V. Tyzzer 2. Smith 2 Hughes 1
On the 25th July The Deaf got a walk over from Essendon as the latter has withdrawn from the competition

Visit of S.A. Lacrosse Team.

The South Australian Deaf Lacrosse team are expected to arrive in Melbourne on Thursday July 30th & will be welcomed at our Centre on the evening of that day.

Arrangements have been made for the entertainment of the team. A match has been arranged to take place between the Victorian & South Australian Lacrosse teams on Saturday August 1st on the Malvern Cricket Ground. For particulars Watch notice board at our Centre.

Picture Night.

Do not forget Wednesday August 5th That is Picture Night. The place - Wests. The Attraction - "Antony and Cleopatra" The object - To supplement the funds of the Athletic Club. Wests is packed nightly so there is no mistake about the Show being worthy of a visit. Get your tickets at once. Almost any one at the Centre will be willing to oblige you. All you have to say is "Ticket, picture night" and all you have to do is to hand over the price of the ticket.

Personal Pars.

Mr. J. Brown, late of Delmo Bros Richmond has kindly donated a parcel of macaroni & vermicilli to the Blackburn farm & home through Mr. M. G. Mortimer.

Miss J. Wright has recovered completely from her accident. She was run down by a motor car some time ago.

Miss A. Graham has been travelling in Sicily & is at present in England. She leaves for Melbourne at the end of August.

A son was born to Mr & Mrs G. Hodges on the 30th June.

Mr. Norman Hughes lost his mother on the 30th June He has our sympathy.

Mrs A. Williamson returned to Melbourne from Wagga

where she stayed with Mr + Mrs J. Mills for 3 months. The change has done her good. Mrs J. Mills came with her + stayed 2 weeks in Melbourne.

Mr. Dan. Mitchell's face has been missing from our Centre for sometime. He has for many years been the most regular attendant at the services. We find that he is now at the Melb Hospital suffering from a skin disease. We sincerely hope that he will soon be well + back in his old place.

Two books called "Illustrated history of the World" have been presented to the Library by Mr. Wilson of Moonee Ponds, also a volume entitled "Man's miracle from Mr. M. L. Miller. These gifts, were acknowledged with thanks by the Deaf Committee.

The Ramblers.

Once more have our Ramblers rambled. They met on the 11th of June to the number of 22, including the never failing Mother Hen, and our ever smiling Chief + two other of the masculine gender. This time the place of our rendezvous was at Deepdene. We met at the Glenferrie Railway Station + journeyed by tram to Deepdene. After waiting for a few minutes at the tram terminus we turned our faces for the same purpose as last month, to Violet Farm. Here, one of the gentlemen added to our pleasure by presenting each of us with a bunch of violets. We then started on a long tramp to Balywn + back, a distance of 5 or 6 miles, finally returning to Glenferrie where our Chief parted from us. Mr + Mrs A. Wilson kindly invited us to their place for tea – a fitting wind up to the enjoyable walk – where we settled down to a most inviting repast. After giving our hearty vote of thanks to the host + hostess for their kindness we adjourned to the front room, where we indulged in a few merry games + after a light supper we dispersed for homes contented + happy.

Census returns & the Deaf.

We doubt know what effect the census returns have upon the average man, nor what specialists think of the returns in relation to their special sphere of operation. But to us they are nonsensical, therefore useless. The figures appertaining to the deaf are absolutely ridiculous. In 1901 the number of deaf + dumb in Great Britain was put down as 19,000 odd, with "deaf only" bringing the figures up to 29,000. In 1911 we are told the deaf mute population was only 13,427, a decrease of 6,000 in 10 years, with all the evidence of

previous years showing such a steady increase; & the deaf only had grown from 11,000 to 26,649! Of course the greater portion of the deaf only are deaf-mutes, but because they have been "educated" on the oral system & can say "Mamma" & "Papa" more or less distinctly their parents have returned them as deaf only. In these same census returns, 1095 are returned as "dumb." What that may mean, those who entered up the returns alone can tell. It may mean anything. We are of opinion that "Mentally deficient" would have been the more accurate division, for the majority anyway. Technically of course, there is no such thing as dumbness, that is as applied to the average deaf mute. So in what manner can the census returns help us anyway? Suppose the authorities took the very commonsense view of dividing the deaf as follows:- 1. Born deaf. 2. Lost hearing before age of 5, 3 after age of 5. We would then be in possession of information that might be of service to us. We could fill in the dumb section ourselves fairly accurately, without the assistance of further figures.

Helen Keller & E. Cork.

The following interesting paragraph is from a recent issue of the "Age"

No one has read the life of Helen Keller, the girl whose name was at one time on the lips of almost all Americans, without a sense of almost bewilderment that it was possible to make a child, who had for but a few brief years seen & heard what nature had to tell & then became deaf & blind, learn to talk & read. In the course of a recent visit to the farm of the deaf mutes of Victoria the Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley, found so he told an audience of deaf mutes last evening, an old man, who had been similarly placed to the American child, & now was quite happy. The Governor spoke with feeling. He thought it must have made the heart of the superintendent glow with pride to have been able to show such a happy family. An old gentleman, well past middle life, was typical of many others on the farm. He had learnt to use his voice. He had become deaf when still a child, & a few years later had lost his sight. Yet there he was on this farm, plaiting straws to baskets & reading his Shakespeare, & conversing happily. He had presented him (the Govern.) with a basket of flowers, the basket having been made with his own hands. This man appeared to be enjoying life so much as if he had both his sight & hearing. As in the case of Helen Keller, in whose success Miss Sullivan her teacher, played so important a part, so to Mr. Abraham must be attributed the success which was marking the life of so many of the lives at the Deaf-mute institution.

The "Argus" & The "AGE" 24/7/1914

DEAF AND DUMB APPEAL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—You will see by the enclosed letter from Lady Stanley that she has identified herself with the appeal for funds to complete the Home for Mentally Defective, Aged, and Infirm Deaf and Dumb Women. We will be glad if you can see your way to insert this appeal and to receive and acknowledge donations for this object. On behalf of the committee,—Yours, &c.,

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,
July 23. Founder and Supt.

State Government House, Melbourne.

It is with pleasure that I endorse the appeal made by the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria for funds to complete the women's wing at the Blackburn Home for Deaf Mutes.

The claims made on the charitable in Victoria are many, but I feel sure that in supporting this appeal they will be assisting a very valuable institution.

The deaf mute is, by his or by her affliction, cut off from most of the solaces of life, and it is a deserving charity that attempts to compensate these unfortunate people to some degree for the sadness of their lot.

The special intention of those who issue this appeal is to provide a safe home for a particularly unfortunate class—mentally defective deaf and dumb women. It requires no word of mine to recommend the care of these people in their helplessness to the public. Their sad case will be the most powerful appeal.

MARGARET STANLEY.

The Home for Aged and Infirm, and Training Farm for Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes, Blackburn, Victoria, was opened four and a half years ago. Although experimental in its inception, being the only institution of its kind, it has proved successful in every way, fully realising the most sanguine anticipations of all connected with its management. The central and administrative buildings and men's wing were at first erected, and in November, 1912, the front portion only of the women's wing was opened. Lack of funds prevented its completion at that time. The need for additional accommodation and certain conveniences has become daily more and more evident, and the Board of Management feel that the demands upon the benefits of the home make it imperative that the women's wing be completed at once.

The home aims at providing shelter and training for a section of the community that needs protection and watchful care more than any other class—i.e., mentally defective deaf and dumb women.

For these unfortunates to be permitted to mix indiscriminately with the community is to leave them to dangers apparent to all, and to make possible further additions to the already large population of the feeble of intellect. This probability cannot be too strongly emphasised. A further reason for the collecting together of these sorely afflicted ones is, it is the only way of bringing sunshine into their otherwise dark and dreary lives, and interesting them in wholesome activities in healthful surroundings calculated to improve their condition. At their own homes—and they are almost invariably the offspring of the poor—they are isolated and frequently uncared for, and their needs not understood. At the Home for the Deaf they are cared for, under supervision, and in constant contact with similarly afflicted women, who are able to converse with one another in their own language. The board of management also desire to complete the improvements to the flower farm for the training of mentally defective deaf mute men, and thereby adding to the income for maintenance of the home from this source. The total cost will be about £3,000. The income from the sale of the produce of the farm last year reached between £700 and £800. The cost of maintenance (exclusive of improvements, &c.) was £1,350. Thus half the cost of maintenance has been obtained in a period of less than five years with the present limited means for raising income. When necessary extensions are made a much larger amount can be obtained, thereby making this branch of the society's work more nearly self-supporting.

They feel, too, that no charity has a stronger claim upon the generosity of the people than this, not only because of the good it is doing for those unfortunates under its charge, but because of the strenuous and successful effort that it is making to become self-supporting.

The board cannot better conclude than in the words of His Excellency the Governor (Sir Arthur Stanley)—"A society of this character is most deserving of the support of the more fortunate. It is doing God's work."

W. H. FELSTEAD, President.
E. R. PEACOCK, Chairman.
G. G. MERCY, Hon. Treasurer.
R. J. OEHR, Hon. Sec.

[We shall be glad to receive and acknowledge subscriptions to this fund.—Ed. "A."]

Lady Stanley's Appeal
on behalf of Mentally Defective Deaf Mute Women.

The Committee of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria request your kindly co-operation support and presence at a Meeting to be held in the Town Hall, Melbourne on the Afternoon of Monday 3rd. August 1914. at 3 o'clock To Consider the best means of furthering the object of the above appeal.

The Lady Mayoress of Melbourne has kindly consented to preside.

H ..... Hon

The "Argus" 4/8/1914

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB.

LADY STANLEY'S APPEAL.

A meeting connected with Lady Stanley's appeal on behalf of the mentally deficient deaf mute women was held yesterday at the Town Hall. The Lady Mayoress presided over the meeting. Mr. E. R. Peacock, chairman of the committee of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission, said the occasion was unfortunate, coming, as it did, under the cloud of a possible national calamity. The appeal which was being made called especially on womanly sympathy, and no less a person than His Excellency the Governor, who recently visited the farm at Blackburn, commented on the inadequate provision for the adult deaf and dumb women, many of whom were mentally deficient. A sum of £3,000 was necessary to complete the wing.

Mr. E. J. D. Abraham (superintendent) said that the farm at Blackburn was opened six years ago as an experiment, and was now an established success. Last year the returns, mostly from flower cultivation, were close on £800. Among the afflicted who found work at the Blackburn home were eight men all of whom could claim either the old-age or invalid pension, but who were self-supporting wage-earners, and in this way the country was saved about £200 a year. Mentally deficient women who were not segregated were at all times a menace to the community, and when, in addition, they were handicapped by being deaf and dumb, the situation was almost hopeless. It was for such as these that the money was being asked for. He had now under his care four attractive deaf and dumb girls, and he dreaded letting them out in the world. Yet far worse cases were waiting for admission. With the new wing there would be room for every case.

The Lady Mayoress said that the claims of the society had her sympathy, and she was sure the women of the State would help. In view of the present pressure of national affairs a meeting would be called later on. Meanwhile all those present undertook to do what they could, and the suburban mayoresses will be asked to do what they can towards opening a fund for the object.

The Argus 17/8/14

Much enthusiasm was shown at the first annual meeting of the Deaf Workers' Club held last Saturday at the Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders street, when, after a stirring address by the president (Mrs. J. E. Muir), all the members present decided unanimously to support the appeal made by the Lady Mayoress by making hospital comforts for soldiers on active service. It was resolved to secure material out of the club's fund, and numerous gifts of money were voluntarily given and promised. The work will be in full swing by Tuesday. Deaf women residing in the suburbs and country who can knit socks, scarves, or mittens are invited to communicate with the honorary secretary (Mrs. Williamson), Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders street.

The "Argus" 25/8/14

DEFECTIVE DEAF MUTE WOMEN.

LADY STANLEY'S APPEAL.

The hon. treasurer (Mr. G. G. Mercy) desires to acknowledge the following further donations on behalf of the above fund:—Mr. J. W. Barrow, £2 2; Mr. H. V. Mckay, £2 2; Mr. Andrew Tait, £2; Mrs. R. Mailer, £1 1; Miss F. Slaney, £1 1; Mrs. S. Gibson, £1; Mr. Rees Miller, 7/6.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—At a meeting of the board of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria it was decided, with the concurrence of Lady Stanley, to postpone the appeal on behalf of the completion of the women's wing for mentally defective deaf mute women until some future date. It was felt that at this time of national crisis there should be but one appeal before the people—the patriotic funds. Lady Stanley having been made aware of the proposed postponement, wrote that she quite agreed with the decision arrived at by the board. The appeal, therefore, is withdrawn for the present. It is pleasing to be able to add that the response made to the appeal to date is very encouraging.—Yours, &c.,

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM.
Aug. 24.

"The "Herald"

MELBOURNE, MONDAY EVENING, JULY 27, 1914.

LIFE AT THE BLACKBURN HOME: PURPLE AND GOLDEN BLOOMS MAKE SWEET THE LAND OF SILENCE WHERE BUSY DEAF MUTES DWELL



EACH GESTURE REPRESENTS A WORD. THE PHOTOGRAPHS REPRODUCED ABOVE GIVE THE SENTENCE: "FATHER, GIVE SWEET HEAVEN OUR TRUE THANKS."

Picture a bright red tiled house of two stories and an artistic garret, with a single story building as an annex in the same design. Set this on the crest of a hill with a commanding outlook.

DEAF MUTES' HEADQUARTERS AT BLACKBURN



WELL-BUILT HOME IN ATTRACTIVE SURROUNDINGS

of income in leasing the lake to picnic parties or for the holding of carnivals.

WORK BRINGS REWARD

All the labor on the farm itself is citement. Mr Abrahams stopped for a minute, and then he, also, made signs with his hand, not in the least like the deaf and dumb alphabet which most people learned at school. Then he turned. "This man makes baskets. daily sets him to work near the lake, always accompanied by a good swimmer. Gradually it percolated into the weak brain that its owner was put near the lake so that he could commit suicide. This is now ingrained in his mind, and he becomes quite angry whenever he thinks of it. He resolutely refuses to be jockeyed into doing away with himself.

SOCIAL SIDE GUARDED

The deaf mutes in Victoria number approximately 535, of which about 150 are children. It is the aim of the committee of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institute to attend to the needs of the whole of these. It is recognised that for them to be left to their own devices is bad for themselves and for the community. Living, as they do, in a world of their own, and speaking a language of their own, special treatment and care are necessary. Thanks to the Committee, Melbourne deaf mutes have religious services, lectures, classes, and social entertainments in their own language, and they even have their own newspaper. Many of them, in fact the majority of the deaf and dumb, are able to maintain themselves as well, and sometimes better than normal folk. One of the leading engravers in Melbourne and a draftsman in Government employ are both deaf mutes. But, as with those who can hear, there is a section that needs care and ward. The mentally defective must have special treatment. It was for these that the Blackburn Home and Farm was established.

Upon a normal deaf mute leaving school steps are taken by the institute to apprentice the child to some trade. Afterwards adults are helped to employment and at times monetary assistance is given. To the aged and infirm, and those who are also blind, the Blackburn Home opens its doors. A sum of £3000 is now being asked for to assist in completing the women's ward, and an appeal has been made by Lady Stanley to the charity of the Victorian people. The strenuous and

all around, except in the immediate proximity, picturesque eucalyptus gums descending to the foot of a hill, where lies a quiet lake bathed in sunlight, and with the reflection of trees rising from its other brink to a horizon of olive and sage green. A gentle breeze blows, and the oxygen-laden atmosphere is as a draught of clear spring water. This it at Blackburn, where the Home for Aged, Infirm and Feeble-minded Deaf Mutes is situated.

HUMAN SYMPATHY SOUGHT

Afflictions to which humanity is prone are many and indiscriminately apportioned to the unfortunate. But none is worse or more deserving of human sympathy than that which takes away sight, hearing or speech, or all three, at birth, at middle age, or in the heyday of youth. And let weak mentality be added, and surely the well of human pity must overflow for the sufferers. They who daily use their eyes with pleasure in regarding some sylvan glade or a bunch of delicately colored blossom, or perhaps watching the manoeuvres of a picture-show hero, or even attending a boxing match, what can they know of a world wherein the sun neither rises nor sets, but where all is a black nothingness. They who daily hear the song of a bird, who have heard Melba, or listened to the prattle of their own children, what can they know of a land of absolute silence, where the rain is never heard beating on the roof and a thunder clap wakes no echo in the brain.

But even worse than deaf are some poor playthings of fate and grim jests of Nature to be seen at Blackburn—the deaf and dumb and blind. Men and women living for ever in a tomb where no light nor sound can penetrate, and where all their world is limited by the touch of the unseen hand and the feel of the ground under foot. Is it any wonder that such pitiful flotsam should be classed as mentally defective? Born to such a life, how could the trammelled brain develop; afflicted in maturity, how could the sufferer reconcile himself or herself to so atrophied a life.

INTEREST IN LIFE GIVEN

This home at Blackburn looks after such sad cases, endeavoring to give the inmates, if nothing else, at least an interest in life. It is a branch of the work carried out by the Deaf Mute Centre in Flinders street. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham, who is the superintendent and principal of the Deaf Mute Centre, is manager of the Blackburn home and farm. Mrs. Abraham is matron. Both manager and matron have their hearts in their work. For many years Mr. Abraham has made the care of the deaf and dumb his life's study, and to relieve the wretched is his pride. He has been ably assisted by his spouse. Fortunately, for the success of the Blackburn home, Mr. Abraham's hobby is horticulture. When he managed, after a long uphill fight, to obtain from the late Sir Thomas Bent, when Premier, a promise of £2000 if he could collect a similar amount, Mr. Abraham saw one of his projects within distance of realisation. After a wearisome search, he obtained the present superb site of 70 acres (including the lake) for £1500. That was 4¼ years ago. Setting to work, a space was cleared for building, another laid out for horticulture. It is in the floral industry that the inmates are able to work and assist in their own support. In the past year an acre was under roses, an acre under carnations, and other acreage under jonquils and violets. About £506 was realised last year, which went far to provide the £1350 expended in upkeep. There is also a growing source

performed by the mentally defective mutes. By constant study, each man's particular weakness is overcome by kindly and judicial treatment. No man works for nothing, and the laborer is considered worthy of his hire. One earns only 1/- a week, but the overseer draws his £2/2/- with never-failing regularity. He is not a "defective," however, and lives away from the institution. Some earn 4/, others 5/, and so on upwards. One proud earner of 1/- a week has, by constant thrift, amassed a small fortune of £2/10/, which is carefully hidden in his box. Mr. Abraham's experience is that the deaf are almost invariably inclined to thrift.

Some of the men sleep in single rooms, some in double, and some in small dormitories containing as many as five beds. The women have in the new wing accommodation on similar lines; but all the men and women take their meals in a common dining-room. Little habits of the mentally deficient have even to be watched at the table. One man was late for his meal, but his dinner had just been put out for him. His neighbor, who had exactly the same first course provided, looked furtively round for a second, and then

THE SUPERINTENDENT



MR. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM

seized the other plate and began eating with astounding rapidity. His was a childlike jealousy that fancied the other man's plate was better "fixed."

"CHAIRS REPAIRED WELL"

Friendly and cheerful in the presence of visitors are most of the inmates. It is, though, slightly disconcerting at first to hear the manager speaking out loud about this one or that, in his or her presence, until it be remembered that they cannot hear.

While the visitor was going through the rooms on Saturday, a middle-aged man began making funny movements with his hands, apparently in great ex-

LIGHT AND SHADE ON WATER'S BROAD EXPANSE



VIEW OF BLACKBURN LAKE

He wishes me to tell you that he makes good seats for chairs, and that we repair chairs here, and repair them well."

Does he make much money at the trade?

"Not very much, but still it provides him with an interest in life, and enables him to earn a little money."

There is a rather curious system adopted by the manager. It is a kind of endless chain of supervision. Each inmate "looks after" another, who in turn is guardian of another. The older hands look after the next oldest, and so on. When the latest comer is qualified to look after someone, it may occasionally happen that he is given the oldest. Most of them look upon this duty with the gravest responsibility, and watch and tend the protege as a parent. It has a good effect that cannot be too highly appreciated: it teaches the guardian, cultivating in him or her a spirit of self-reliance, that is half the battle in recapturing the lost and feeble intellect.

FLOWER TRADE SUCCEEDS

Horticulture has been a success. The blooms are sold to hotels and boarding-houses in the city and at the markets. But the commercial possibilities were not the only reason why this industry was taken up. It was considered that in working with flowers a mental improvement would be manifest in the toilers. Mr Abraham states positively that such has been the case.

Among some of the difficult cases received at Blackburn are inmates with suicidal mania, ungovernable temper, kleptomania, and complete absence of will power. The would-be suicide is now cured of his obsession by a kind of homoeopathic treatment. Mr Abraham

successful effort being made by the flower farm to make itself self-supporting must surely commend itself to the generosity of all, and the good that it is doing for the unfortunates under its charge merits the greatest encouragement.

CARE OF AGED AND INFIRM

Pay is seldom asked for any of the inmates unless, being uncontrollable they are sent to the home by friends. One old man who receives the old age pension is charged 7/6 a week, but the remaining 2/6 is his own property, with whatever else he can earn. Tobacco is a great solace to the men, who are provided with a smoking and reading room. What the Blackburn Home does is to care for the aged and infirm, train the feeble-minded and undisciplined, and give employment to "unemployables."

LADY STANLEY'S APPEAL

ON BEHALF OF MENTALLY DEFECTIVE AGED AND INFIRM DEAF AND DUMB WOMEN

STATE GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MELBOURNE.

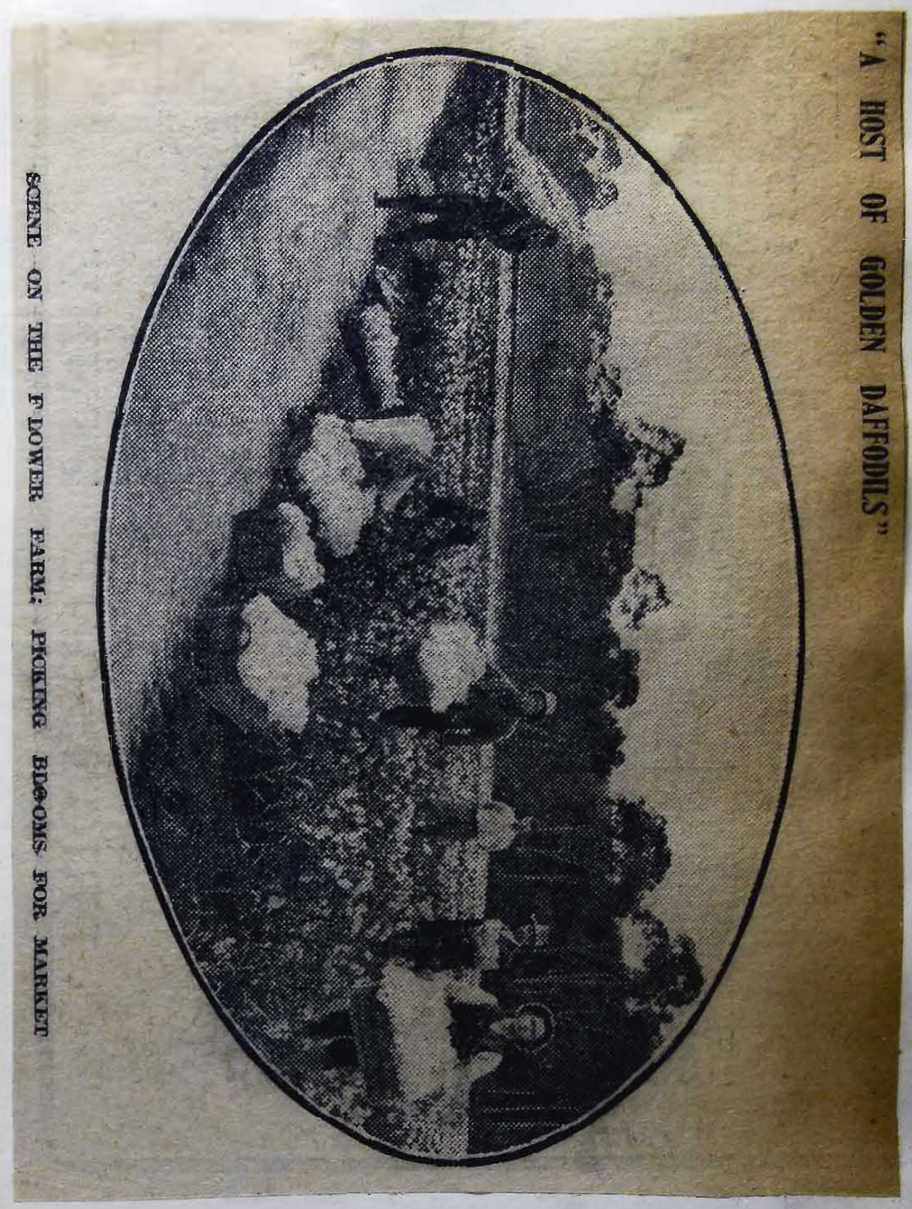
It is with pleasure that I endorse the appeal made by the Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria for funds to complete the women's wing at the Blackburn Home for Deaf Mutes.

The claims made on the charitable in Victoria are many, but I feel sure that in supporting this appeal they will be assisting a very valuable institution.

The Deaf Mute is by his or by her affliction cut off from most of the solaces of life, & it is a deserving charity that attempts to compensate these unfortunate people to some degree for the sadness of their lot.

The special intention of those who issue this appeal is to provide a safe Home for a particularly unfortunate class - mentally defective deaf & dumb women. It requires no word of mine to recommend the case of these people in their helplessness to the Public - Their sad case will be the most powerful appeal -

Margaret Stanley -



LADY STANLEY'S APPEAL

on behalf of

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE and AGED and INFIRM DEAF and DUMB WOMEN

Deaf Mute Centre

32-34 Flinders St.

Melb., Aug., 1914

Dear Sir or Madam:

I beg to bring to your notice the Appeal of Lady Stanley and the Board of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria on behalf of Mentally Defective Deaf Mutes, and to ask for your kind co-operation in this movement.

We are at a loss what to do to spread a knowledge of the needs of these sorely afflicted folk and so secure the necessary funds to complete the work commenced. It has occurred to us that if we could but obtain the sympathy and help of the teachers of the State our difficulty would be overcome.

May we, therefore, ask you kindly to act as the local Hon. Sec. to this fund? If unable to render this service, you could help by bringing the appeal to the notice of some lady or gentleman who might be willing to assist, or by sending us the names and addresses of possible sympathisers.

I enclose a collecting book in the hope that you may be able to put it into the hands of some friend willing to help so deserving a cause. I shall be pleased to send you literature bearing upon this special work and if you can arrange a Drawing Room or Public Meeting locally, Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham, the expert on the care and training of the deaf and dumb and the language of gesture, who is also the founder of the Home, will gladly come and give an address if a convenient date can be arranged.

You would add a further service if you would bring to our notice any case of aged, infirm, mentally defective or blind deaf mutes living in your district.

Hoping to receive a favourable reply

I am

Yours faithfully,

Eileen R. Simpson

Hon. Sec. to the Fund.

P.S.—By sending donations and result of collections to the "Argus" or "Age" you will assist in keeping this cause before the public.

1

LADY STANLEY'S APPEAL

On behalf of

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE

Aged and Infirm

DEAF and **DUMB WOMEN**

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

LADY STANLEY'S APPEAL

ON BEHALF OF

MENTALLY AFFECTED DEAF AND DUMB WOMEN

A "Double-Up" Appeal.....

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

In view of the extended work of the Society, and the necessarily increased cost of maintenance, the Committee appeal to subscribers to "double-up" the amount of their contributions at the present time.

The funds of the Society are received from a very large number of friends, who contribute small sums each.

It is hoped this will not put an undue burden on any, and yet the benefit to the Society will enable very much increased service to be rendered to the Deaf and Dumb.

Will you kindly "DOUBLE UP" THIS YEAR?



Two men who are both blind and deaf conversing with each other

HOME FOR MENTALLY DEFECTIVE AND AGED AND INFIRM DEAF MUTES

APPEAL ENDORSED BY LADY STANLEY

£3,000 Needed

To Complete the Women's Wing and Improvements to the Farm

The Home for Aged and Infirm and Training Farm for Feeble Minded Deaf Mutes, Blackburn, Vic., was opened four and a half years ago. Although experimental in its inception; being the only institution of its kind, it has proved successful in every way, fully realising the most sanguine anticipations of all connected with its management.

The Central and Administrative Buildings and Men's Wing were at first erected, and in Nov., 1912, the front portion only of the Women's Wing was opened. Lack of funds prevented its completion at that time. The need for additional accommodation and certain conveniences has become daily more and more evident, and the Board of Management feels that the demands upon the benefits of the Home make it imperative that the Women's Wing be completed at once.

The Home aims at providing shelter and training for a section of the Community that needs protection and watchful care more than any other class, i.e., Mentally defective deaf and dumb Women.

For these unfortunates to be permitted to mix indiscriminately with the Community is to leave them to dangers apparent to all, and to make possible further additions to the already large population of the feeble of intellect. This probability cannot be too strongly emphasised.

A further reason for the collecting together of these sorely afflicted ones is, it is the only way of bringing sunshine into their otherwise dark and dreary lives, and interesting them in wholesome activities in healthful surroundings—calculated to improve their condition.

At their own homes—and they are almost invariably the offsprings of the poor—they are isolated; and frequently uncared for and their needs not understood. At the Home for the Deaf they are cared for, under supervision, and in constant contact with similarly afflicted women who are able to converse with one another in their own language.

The Board of Management also desires to complete the improvements to the Flower Farm for the training of Mentally Defective Deaf Mute Men and thereby adding to the income for maintenance of the Home from this source. The total cost will be about £3,000.

The income from the sale of the produce of the farm last year reached between £700 and £800. The cost of maintenance (exclusive of improvements, etc.) was £1,350.

Thus half the cost of maintenance has been obtained in a period of less than 5 years with the present limited means for raising income. When necessary extensions are made, a much larger amount can be obtained, thereby making this branch of the Society's work more nearly self-supporting.

They feel too, that no charity has a stronger claim upon the generosity of the people than this, not only because of the good it is doing for those unfortunates under its charge, but because of the strenuous and successful effort it is making to become self supporting.

The Board cannot better conclude than in the words of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley, "A Society of this character is most deserving of the support of the more fortunate. It is doing God's work."

W. H. FELSTEAD, President
E. R. PEACOCK, Chairman
G. G. MERCY, Treasurer
R. J. OEHR, Hon. Sec.
EILEEN R. EMPSON, Hon. Sec. to Appeal

LADY STANLEY'S APPEAL

On behalf of Mentally Defective Deaf and Dumb Women

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in enclosing £ : : for the above fund.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

To Mr. G. G. MERCY, J.P.
Hon. Treas. to the Fund
"Ripley," Victoria Avenue, Canterbury, Vic.

Or to the "Argus" or "Age."

Interstate Lacrosse.

Victorian Deaf

versus

South Australian Deaf

Saturday Aug 1. 1914.

at

Malvern Cricket Ground

Grand Picture Night

At West's Palace

Wednesday Aug 5th 1914

Please buy a ticket to help to defray expenses, etc.

ADULT DEAF ATHLETIC CLUB

GRAND

Picture Night West's Palace

(Melbourne)

Wednesday, 5th August, 1914

Stalls, 1s. This ticket must not be sold on night of party

ADULT DEAF & DUMB BOWLING CLUB

ADULT DEAF ATHLETIC CLUB

GRAND

Picture Night West's Palace

(Melbourne)

Wednesday, 5th August, 1914

Ticket, 6d. This ticket must not be sold on night of party

ADULT DEAF & DUMB BOWLING CLUB

The "Argus" 3/8/1914

INTERSTATE DEAF MUTES' MATCH.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA DEFEAT VICTORIA.

A large attendance was attracted to the Malvern Cricket-ground on Saturday to witness the first interstate game between teams representing the Deaf Mutes of Victoria and South Australia. The visitors provided the spectators with a first-class exposition of lacrosse, and their superiority over the Melbourne team was undoubted from the "face-off." They had the advantage in physique, were faster, and handled their sticks more cleverly than the Victorians; and, with no fewer than five or six senior players in their ranks, the Victorian team, although playing hard and pluckily, were quite outmatched. The South Australian team was an extremely even combination, and appear to be equally strong both in defence and attack. Parnell in goal was a tower of strength, and it was not surprising to learn that he has claims to inclusion in the interstate game against Victoria this month. W. Abbott (point), C. Lehmann (defence), F. Lehmann (centre), and Langley (with seven goals), all played fine lacrosse, the combination, with the bright, snappy stick work of the team as a whole, making the game, although one-sided on the scores, always interesting to watch. The Melbourne team, though outclassed, played the game to the finish, and everyone was pleased to see some clever forward work bring them two goals (Smith and Hughes) in the final term. The Victorian keeper did some good stopping at times in the second half, but found most of the shots too good. Others on the side who worked hard were Edwards, Robertson, and O. Tyzzer, but the team lacked the uniformity of the opposing side. The absence of V. Tyzzer (owing to an accident) from the Victorian home lines was a big handicap. McRae, Thomas (2), F. Lehmann, and C. Lehmann were the other goal-throwers for Adelaide. Mr. H. Balmer satisfactorily refereed the game, in which hard knocks in plenty were given and taken in a true sportsmanlike manner. Judged by this game, the visiting team should be capable of making an interesting game with the strongest of the V.L.A. teams.

The members of the South Australian team were entertained by the Melbourne Adult Deaf Society at Sargent's Cafe on Satuday evening at the conclusion of the match. Among the guests were Messrs. Peacock (chairman) and Abrahams (superintendent). The Victorian Lacrosse Association was represented by Messrs. W. W. J. Foster (chairman), Lampard (assistant secretary), and H. Balmer.

The South Australian Deaf Mutes' team will play Middle Park (the V.L.A. B section premiers) on the Albert Cricket-ground this afternoon, at half-past 2 o'clock.

The "Age" 3/8/1914

The first inter-State match between representatives of the Adult Deaf of South Australia and Victoria took place at the Malvern cricket ground on Saturday, and resulted in an easy win for the visiting team. The Adelaide team had included in its number some half a dozen senior lacrossers who are members of the Port Adelaide club, while the Melbourne team are competitors in the third grade only. They were also handicapped by the absence owing to a scalded arm of Tyzzer, their best forward. The game was played in a strenuous but friendly spirit, and very good lacrosse was shown. The goal keeping of Parnell, the visiting keeper, was a revelation, while Abbott played a fine point game. The goals were obtained by Langley (7), Thomas (2), McRae, C. Lehmann and F. Lehmann. The goal throwers for the local team were Smith and Hughes, while Edwards in defence was the best player for his side. In the evening the visitors were entertained at dinner at Sargent's Cafe. Messrs. Foster, Lampard and Balmer represented the Victorian Lacrosse Association, and the speeches were interpreted by Mr. Abrahams.

The "Herald" 7/8/1914

The first interstate match between representatives of the Adult Deaf of South Australia and Victoria took place last Saturday at the Malvern cricket ground, before about 500 spectators, and resulted in a victory for South Australia by 12 goals to 2. The game was keenly contested throughout, hard bumps being frequent but the utmost good feeling prevailed. The visitors were a strong and heavy team, compared with the Victorians, and had the assistance of three or four senior players in their ranks, but notwithstanding this advantage, the Melbourne lads struck well to their task, and are to be commended. The visitors were very expert in their work, particularly Langley on the forward line, who was responsible for 7 goals. The goalkeeping of Parnell was above the ordinary, and he was mainly instrumental in keeping the tally against his side down to two. M'Rae and Thomas also scored goals, and showed good form, while on the back line Abbott (point) and Lehmann were the best. The Victorian team were unfortunate in not having the services of their crack forward, Tyzzer, who had met with an accident a few days prior to the match. Mr H. Balmer refereed with satisfaction to both sides.

The visitors were entertained at dinner in the evening, and speeches made congratulating them on their victory. Mr Abrahams, superintendent, interpreting.

The "Winner" 5/8/1914

S.A. DEAF MUTES VISIT VICTORIA.

A team representing the South Australian Deaf Mutes visited Melbourne, and were met at Spencer street on Thursday morning by Mr H. E. Pool, on behalf of the Victorian Association, and Mr Luff, missionary to the Adult Deaf Mutes of Victoria. The visitors were entertained on Thursday evening to a welcome social in the institute in Flinders street, Mr J. E. Muir, president of the Lacrosse Club, being in the chair. The ability of our deaf mute friends to enjoy and to provide enjoyment is probably not realised by anyone who has not visited one of their entertainments, but the beaming faces and hearty laughs that filled the hall gave evidence of the good feeling that existed. A visit to Newport workshops and a picture show in the evening filled in the Friday, and on Saturday the visitors gave an exposition of their ability to play lacrosse by defeating their hosts by twelve goals to two. Several of the visiting team are players in the senior division in Adelaide, and their goal-keeper (Parnell) is reckoned one of the finest savers in South Australia. The passing, catching, throwing and combination of the visitors is excellent, and at no period of the game were they pressed by the local team.

THE DINNER.

On Saturday evening the visitors were entertained at Surgents Cafe. Messrs Foster, Lampard, and Balmer representing the Association. These sportsmen each spoke after dinner to the assembled deaf mutes, who numbered about sixty, and despite the drawbacks of having to address a gathering to whom their remarks had to be interpreted, they spoke in happy vein, and were frequently interrupted by applause. On Sunday, the visitors attended Divine service at the Adult Deaf Mute Institute, the preacher being Mr Abrahams. On Monday, the Middle Park Lacrosse Club gave the visitors a game when their superiority was in evidence. After a farewell social the deaf mutes travelled back to Adelaide on Tuesday, well pleased with the result of their visit and their reception in Melbourne.

Results of Saturday's matches:—

Interstate Match.—South Australian Deaf Mutes, 12, v. Victorian Adult Deaf, 2.

The "Argus" 4/8/1914

LACROSSE.

ADELAIDE DEAF MUTES DEFEAT MIDDLE PARK.

The South Australian Deaf Mutes team played their second game yesterday afternoon, on the Albert Cricket-ground, when they defeated Middle Park, the V.L.A. "B" section premiers, by 8 goals to 5 goals. Feeling the effects of Saturday's game, coupled with the fact that they were up against better team than in their previous game, the visitors were hardly seen to such advantage as on Saturday, and there was a lack of the snap and dash which made their play so attractive on the first appearance. Holding the advantage in physique and pace, they held the comfortable lead of 6 to 1 at half-time, their defence proving too solid for the Middle Park to break through. The stick work of the Park team was also at times very faulty, and discounted a lot of good work. In semblin, after the interval, the work of the local team improved, and fine play alone on the part of the opposing backs, in which Parnell (goal) and Abbott (point) were prominent, prevented them from making up three leeway. The final term was all in favour of Middle Park, who had the visitors rattled, and the three goals which they added were the result of some fine team work. The effort has come too late, however, to avert defeat. Parnell in goal emphasised the favourable impression created by him on Saturday, and his efforts were mainly responsible for his side's success. Abbott, at point, was another fine player. Rankine and F. Lehmann also showed out well. Langley, on the forward lines, with 3 goals, was again the best man in attack, and others who did well were D. Donaldson and C. Lehmann, with 2 goals each. One of the Adelaide goals was scored for them by an opposing player accidentally. Ross (goal), Montgomery, Biggs, and Hopkins, on the local side, did fine defensive work, and in the last quarter were at their best. The two McKeans, Poyett, Worrell, and Metcalfe were the most prominent on the home line, where faulty passing lost them many good opportunities. Poyett (3), A. McKean (2), and H. M'Kean scored the goals for Middle Park.

The "Age" 4/8/1914

The South Australian Lacrosse Club tried conclusions with Middle Park, the premiers in the "B" Grade, at Albert Ground, yesterday, and won an interesting game by 8 goals to 5. Abbott, a very fine point player, was well backed up by Parnell and F. Lehmann. The goals for South Australia were obtained by Langley (3), C. Lehmann (2), Donaldson (2) and Accidental. Middle Park's goals were scored by Poyett (3), A. M'Kean (2), and H. M'Kean. Hopkins, Montgomery and Biggs also played well. Holding the ball too much and slow passing spoilt the game in good spots, but otherwise it was a very good example of lacrosse.

CHURCH for DEAF-MUTES
Flinders St. E. Melb.

Special Services etc for Sept. 1914.

Sundays

Morning: 11 o'clock Preacher Mr R. H. Luff.
Evenings. 7. p.m. Lessons. " " " "
Preacher - Mr Ernest J. W. Abraham.
Subjects:- Sept. 6th "Loyalty What does it mean and how shall we show it"
" 13th "Fine Weather Christians"
" 20th "Religion. Its use & abuse"
" 27th "What did Jesus teach".

Thursdays.

8 p.m. Bible Class Conducted by Mr R. H. Luff.
8.45 p.m. Address (weekly)
"The War & its Lessons"
by Mr Abraham.

Communion Service

Sunday. Oct. 4th at 11. o'clock.

Special Notice.

To The Deaf of Victoria.

Are you a member of the Victorian branch of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association?

If not, why?

Do you not know that this Association took a leading and active part in procuring many social improvements for the deaf? Amongst them the passing of the Act which made education for deaf children free and compulsory, the procuring of the Home and Farm for Adult Deaf, and the Government Pension for W. J. Rose?

There is much other important work yet to be done.

Be Loyal to your fellow Deaf =

= JOIN NOW. The Subscription is only 1/-.

SEND YOUR 1/= TO-DAY.

MEMBERS are reminded that their subscription (1/-) must be sent in before the 31st Oct. 1914.

There are 100 members on the roll already.

M. L. Miller - President.
F. E. Trewin. Hon. Sec.

Deaf Mute Centre
32. Flinders St. Melb.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. II. SEPTEMBER 1914. No. 1.

Eleventh Year of Our Monthly Letter.

With this number we enter upon our eleventh year of existence. Great changes have taken place during those years. Many a dear old face is no longer seen at our assemblings. Some are divided from us by the great seas, whilst others have gone the long, long journey. But faster than the old friends wander, new young friends arrive. And the young ones are vigorous and loyal, enthusiastic and helpful and give promise of being worthy successors of some of our fine old veterans. Our Committees are no longer composed entirely of 'old boys'. Many of the young men have pushed their way to the helm of administration. The same can be said of our young girls. New organisations, healthy and strong, have sprung into existence, such as the 'Deaf Workers' Club', the 'Lacrosse Club', the 'Rambling Club' and the C. L. S. and accompanying the new blood are new methods. Perhaps the most prevalent difficulty in connection with the older Adult Deaf and Dumb Societies has been the hold scandalmongering had upon the deaf. No matter how good a man or a woman might be they were never safe, because we are all prone to err and sooner or later must be the provider of the special little tit bit for the 'mongers' enjoyment. A few of these, of both sex, still remain. The younger people however, find something more wholesome to occupy their minds. Yes, our atmosphere, our surroundings, everything that goes to make up life is certainly much cleaner and sweeter. Those eleven years have not been wasted. The steps of progress are visible even to the most casual observer. Of course I'm a little gossiper myself. That is the object of my existence. I was born a gossiper. And must remain a gossiper. I came to replace the old 'gossip monger' whose chatter was

mostly evil, revengeful, unkind or bitter. I'm here to talk wholesome, healthy gossip. Pleasing gossip, cheering gossip. If you only gossip as I gossip I do not think you will do much harm. Here's health, prosperity and mutual good feeling between you and your little 'Monthly Letter' during the year Eleven.

Special Services, etc. for Sept. and Oct.

The Sunday morning Services will be conducted by Mr. R. H. Luff, who will also read the lessons at the evening services, the preacher at the latter will be Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham. (Supt). The subjects for Sept. being as follows:- 6th 'Loyalty' - What does it mean and how shall we show it. 13th 'Fine Weather Christians'. 20th 'Religion' - Its use and abuse!! 27th 'What did Jesus teach'. The Thursday evening bible class will be conducted by Mr. R. H. Luff. commencing at 8 o'clock. Address by Mr. E. J. D. Abraham every Thursday evening at 8.45 p.m. on 'The War and its Lessons'. Sunday morning service at the Home, Blackburn, 9.30. - Mr. Abraham.

C. L. S.

Meet at Barracks Sat. Sept. 19th 8. p.m. Countersign necessary. Ammunition supplied. Reports expected.

Chief's 13th Anniversary.

With the object of celebrating the anniversary of the arrival in Victoria of our Supt. Mr. Abraham, the quarterly rally will be held on the 8th of Oct. instead of in September, about show time, as in former years. This is to be an annual fixture. Mr. Abraham arrived in Melb. on the 9th of Oct. 1901. It is a strange coincidence that his new Assistant, who will shortly be on his way from Scotland, is timed to arrive in Melb. during the month of Oct. also. At this rally four dramatic companies are to compete for the histrionic Laurels of the Melbourne deaf. The Managers of the Companies who propose to outclass Williamson Ltd. Tait, Pictures Ltd. and Harry Lauder combined, are Messrs. G. Newnham, R. H. Luff, F. E. Prewin and I. E. Muir. The titles of the plays have not been made known to us. Doubtless we shall be able to give this information in the Oct. number which we shall endeavour to publish early. Look out for a great and special programme.

More Books.

At the final meeting of the "Gesture" Board, after meeting all liabilities it was found there was a balance of over £6. in hand. It was decided to keep this sum in reserve and to donate same to deaf funds

needing immediate aid. Later on the board found they could spare a further 35/- One of our Carnegies said he had complete sets of Deaf Societys' reports, Gestures, Silent-Worker, Monthly Letter, etc, and that he would see that same were bound and presented to the Library if money for cost of same were forthcoming. It was. For the other Carnegie proposed that the 35/- go to the purpose named. And this suggestion was adopted with acclamation by the board. Once more we have to thank Carnegie Williamson.

Patriotic Fund.

The Deaf Workers' Club have taken unto themselves the work of collecting for the Patriotic Fund from the deaf. Country deaf may post their loyal offerings to Mrs A. Williamson (Hon. Sec. to the fund) Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. Whilst the City deaf will find Mrs Williamson waiting at the Centre ready to 'button hole' them as she 'button-holed' us.

Our Boys.

We were indeed proud of our boys at the Interstate Lacrosse Match and equally proud of the S. Aust. deaf team. Yet the winning and the losing of the game was but a side issue to our pride. It was the sportsmanship, the manly way in which both sides took the severe punishment of the game. There was absolutely no sign of ill temper or desire to retaliate by either side, although the knocks some of the players got were uncommon severe. Yes, We are proud. We must have been a bit of a nuisance we fear on the ground, for our fingers would wag, and our one topic of conversation was the sturdy self contained and chivalrous young men of our deaf teams. Bravo, Adelaide! We congratulate you. Turn out some more. We lost and you won the game of Lacrosse. But we have both won a greater game; the game of making chivalrous men.

Outing Fund & Bank.

The Board of Management of the Victorian Deaf Outing Fund & Bank has much pleasure in submitting to the depositors the Hon Managers' report which shows the bank to be in a very satisfactory condition. The board has every confidence in the progress and usefulness of the bank. The depositors during the past few years have placed their confidence in the bank and deposited large amounts which would have shown a large balance at close of year but for only necessity compelling several withdrawals. At the commencement of the year there were 31 depositors on the roll with the sum of £147-0-4 to their credit in the bank. During the year four depositors closed their account and three new ones joined the bank and

now there are 30 on the roll at the close of this year. During the year the sum of £80-16-4½ was received in deposits and the withdrawals totalled £131-3-2½. This sum being in excess of the deposits of the year, the balance now is £97-13-6. The liberal bonus of 1/- in the pound was repeated again, and the sum of £3-1-1 was allotted to the depositors. The bank has a reserve fund which after paying the bonus & incidental expenses now amounts to £1-4-0 to carry forward to next years operations. The Board of Management, (Pres:- M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir, W. P. Muir, G. Mortimer, J. E. Flewin, R. H. Luff and G. Newnham) met whenever necessary to transact business. The Hon. Manager (W. R. H. Luff) desires to thank Mr. G. Mortimer for valuable assistance rendered during the year. Mr. J. Johnston is also thanked for auditing work done.

The Deaf Workers' Club.

The first Annual meeting of the Deaf Workers' Club was held at the Centre on Augt. 15th at 4.30 p.m. Mrs. J. E. Muir (President) occupied the chair and there was an attendance of 17. The Hon. Sec. (Mrs. A. Williamson) read the report which gave a record of unostentatious, good work done during the year. There were 17 members on the roll including 2 in the Country. Sick members & friends have been visited, a deaf mute, on her arrival from England, was met & welcomed by the Hon. Sec. at the wharf and subsequently visited by several other members. It is a pleasure to state that she has become a member of the club. Another English stranger was sought for in one of the suburbs and brought to the Centre which she has since frequented. The other English girl (The "Baby" of the Centre) has been placed in charge of the younger members with whom she is learning to know her way about. Thanks are due to Mesdames J. E. Muir, Williamson, Boorty, E. Smith, H. E. Muir, Geo Dawman, Baldry, Lindo, J. Mills & Brockford, Misses Potter, A. Foster, Enid Jackson, Meehan, R. Dow, Hickey, Davis & L. Kennedy for contributing gifts which were shown at the meeting, viz:- For the Centre, 2 Cushions. For the Farm House, 1 Cushion, 1 Vase, 5 Dorleys, 2 Tray cloths, 1 afternoon tea cloth, 2 Covers, 1 Rolling Turkish towel, 6 aprons, 1 Table centre, 3 glass cloths, 5 Kitchen towels, 1 Underskirt. Both the report and balance-sheet were adopted. The President, in an address, said that, though only one year old, the club was doing excellent work in a quiet way and she felt sure it would see many years of valuable work. She was gratified to notice that the members spoke in high terms of the usefulness of the club. The question of assisting in the organisation inaugurated by the Lady Mayoress of Melbourne by making garments, etc. for Soldiers on active service was warmly supported by all

present. It was agreed to buy material out of their own little fund & not to seek assistance from other Societies in way of money or material, but here, several of the members jumped from their seats and voluntarily promised to give sums of 2/6 and 5/- each towards the fund amid much applause. It was a most enthusiastic meeting & every one was in a happy mood. The happy afternoon terminated with tea. The object of the Club is - for each member to undertake to give one useful article or more annually to the Centre or the Farm & Home, Blackburn. The membership fee is 6d per annum. The Committee will be glad to enrol new members. Deaf women in the country are cordially invited to join the club. Apply for particulars to Mrs A. Williamson, Hon. Sec. The following donations have been thankfully received, 5/- each from Mr & Mrs J.E. Muir, Miss Potter, Mr M. Miller & Mrs Williamson, 2/6 each from Mrs Baldry, Mrs E. Smith, Miss A. Foster & Mr S. Moss. We shall have more to say about the making of garments in a future "Monthly Letter". The Hon. Sec. will collect money for the Patriotic Fund shortly.

Visit of Adelaide Deaf.

The Adelaide Lacrosse Players arrived in Melbourne on 30th July and were met at the Station by Mr H.E. Poole on behalf of the V.L.A. and Mr R.H. Luff on behalf of the Melbourne deaf. In the evening they were enthusiastically welcomed at the Deaf Centre by Messrs E.J.D. Abraham on behalf of the Adult Deaf Society and J.E. Muir (President of the Adult Deaf Athletic Club.) Mr T.J. Martin (Manager of the S. Aust. Team) in responding said it was with great pride that the team came to Melbourne for the purpose of playing the first Interstate match in Australia. He also explained how the team had raised the money, which made this visit possible, they had organised a theatre night, following the example of Victorians, and all the members worked hard and succeeded in selling sufficient tickets to covers cost of the trip. The visitors accompanied by Messrs E.J.D. Abraham J.E. Muir, R.H. Luff, W.A. Paterson & T.J. Rose paid a visit to the Newport Workshops on the 31st July and took great interest in the works. Mr Abraham interpreted. In the evening the visitors were kindly invited by the manager of Wests Palace to see the pictures.

La-Crosse Match - Vic. v S. Aust.

An event which caused a considerable amount of interest in Lacrosse circles was the first Interstate match between representatives of the deaf clubs of Melbourne and Adelaide. For a number of years the deaf community of Adelaide has had a flourishing club but it is only during the past 3 seasons that the Melbourne Club has been in existence. The Melvern Club kindly placed their ground at the disposal of the teams for the match which took place on the 1st of August. There was a large attendance and the visitors provided the spectators with a

first class exposition of Lacrosse. Their superiority over the Melbourne team was undoubted from the "face off". They had the advantage in physique, were faster and handled their sticks more cleverly than the locals and with no fewer than 5 senior players in their ranks, the Victorian team, although playing hard and pluckily, were quite overmatched. The visitors were an extremely even combination & appear to be equally strong both in defence & attack. The goalkeeping of Parnell, (S.A.) was above the ordinary & he was mainly instrumental in keeping the tally against his side down to two. W. Abbott, (point.) C. Lehmann, (defence). F. Lehmann, (centre). & W. Langley (with 7 goals) all played fine Lacrosse. The Victorian team although outclassed played the game to the finish & every one was pleased to see some clever forward work bring them 2 goals (C. Smith & N. Hughes) in the final term. They were unfortunate in not having the service of their crack forward (V. Dyzer) who had met with an accident a few days prior to the match. W. H. Balmer satisfactorily refereed the game in which hard knocks in plenty were given and taken in a true sportsmanlike manner. The scores were - S.A. 1st Qr. 4 goals, 2nd Qr. S.A. 7 goals, 3rd Qr. S.A. 10 goals, 4th Qr. S.A. 12 goals, Vic. 2 goals. Goal throwers for S.A. - Langley 7. Thomas 2. Mc Rae 1. C. Lehmann 1 and F. Lehmann 1. For Victoria N. Hughes 1, C. Smith 1.

On the 3rd Augt. the South Australian team tried conclusions with Middle Park, the premiers in the "B" grade at Albert Cricket Ground and won an interesting game by 8 goals to 5.

Dinner to the Teams.

At the close of the match on 1st Augt. the teams, (S. Aust. and Vic.) were entertained at dinner at Largents Cafe by the Adult Deaf Athletic Club. There was an attendance of about 50 and amongst the guests were, Messrs. W. Foster, W. Lampard, H. Balmer (Chairman, Secretary & Referee of V.D.A.) E.R. Peacock, J.P., M.L. Miller & E.J.D. Abraham (Chairman, Hon Treas. & Supt. of Adult Deaf Society). W.J.E. Muir presided and in a few opening words congratulated the S.A. team upon their brilliant Victory. He thought that the Victorians had much to learn from the visitors and he hoped the home team would take advantage of the lessons they had had that afternoon, so that the return match might be won by the Victorians. Messrs F. Lehmann (Capt. of S.A. Team) & C. Robertson (Capt. of Vic. team responded amidst much enthusiastic cheering. W. F.J. Martin (Manager of S.A. team) expressed pleasure at being able to bring the team to Victoria and gratitude for the reception given them. Of course he was proud to return with them as Victors.

The hearing gentlemen present representing the V.L.A. and the Adult Deaf Soc^{y}. all spoke in the highest of terms of the sportsmanlike play of the deaf, all were also frequently interrupted by applause. Altogether it was a most enthusiastic meeting, and what is more, a most enjoyable one. It made a marked impression upon the hearing friends.

Service.

On Sunday 2nd Augt. the Visitors attended the Divine Services at the Centre, the preacher being Mr. T. J. D. Abraham who delivered two appreciative sermons. During the day the Visitors were invited to dinner & tea by different members of the Club with whom a very happy time was passed.

Social.

On Monday Evening the 3rd Augt. the Visitors were entertained at a farewell social at the Deaf Centre, tendered by the Adult Deaf Athletic Club. There was an attendance of 110. Mr. J. E. Muir (President) spoke a few words complimenting the S. A. players for their good win over Middle Park. In return he was taken with great surprise, in expressing which he stepped back & nearly fell over when Mr. T. J. Martin, on behalf of the S. A. team & friends handed him a handsome silver watch in recognition of the very happy time they had in Melbourne. Mr. Muir in acknowledging the gift said he simply worked to make everything pleasant for their enjoyment & comfort, he would always treasure the gift and remember their goodness to him. During the evening recitations were given by Messrs T. J. Martin, Blackmore, (S. A.) & J. E. Muir. Mr. G. Nevnham & Miss I. Kennedy gave a pantomimical dialogue, as also did the Misses R. Dow & D. Bickey. Games & conversazione filled in the rest of a very pleasant time which concluded with supper in the Lower hall under the supervision of the Committee of the Deaf Women's Guild. All the arrangements were in the hands of Mr. J. E. Muir ably assisted by the Committee of the Athletic Club. Some of the Visitors travelled back to Adelaide on the 4th Augt. Others stayed on until the 5th and all were well pleased with the result of their visit and reception in Melbourne.
Several of the S. A. deaf visited our Home & Farm at Blackburn on the 4th and were delighted with the beauty of the place. They were entertained by Mr & Mrs Abraham.

Deaf Women's Guild.

The Deaf Women's Guild started its 14th year on Tuesday Augt. 11th when an educational class conducted by Mrs J. E. Muir (President) was held. There was a good muster of old members and a few new members were en-

polled. Miss R. Dow who was welcomed back to her place of Hon. Secretary recited "Night". Mrs Muir's subject for her class was "Home & Public Influence" which proved very instructive & interesting. At the close of the meeting the members recited the National Anthem.

Deaf Mens' Guild.

Mr A. Hull read a paper on "Radium" at a meeting of the Mens' Guild on the 14th Ult. It was his maiden effort which however did not interfere with him being quite at home with his subject which he made understandable and excited the wonderment of his audience at the marvels and possibilities of Radium. Several members spoke to the subject. Mr Hull was appointed Hon. Sec. in place of Mr J. Peters who resigned.

Picture Night.

Of Picture Nights there is no end and people are weary of buying tickets which they are unable to use. We have sufficient of these tickets to build a seven roomed house, more or less and of limited size. Nevertheless the Adult Deaf Athletic Club managed to make their picture night a success on the 5th of August they cleared £ 15.

The Ramblers.

On the 8th August some 20 members spent a very pleasant time at the Farm & Home, Blackburn. They received a hearty welcome from Mr & Mrs Abraham. An inspection of the beauties of the place and some rowing on the lake was enjoyed. A most inviting tea, kindly provided by the host & hostess, was done justice to. After a few games, a short meeting was held in the sitting room and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr & Mrs Abraham for a happy time passed.

Personal Pars.

Two new deaf Comrades, Messrs Chapman & Handson, have arrived from the Old World bringing letters of introduction from Mr W. Mc Candlish of the Hull Adult Deaf Institute. Both are in temporary employment at the farm the first named until permanent work can be procured & the latter awaiting the arrival of his tools, he has work to go to.

Mrs J. Boorty underwent another successful operation at the Melb. Hospital last month & is now back in our midst cheerful & well and was welcomed by all at the Centre on the 23rd Ult. after 4 months illness.

Mr & Mrs G. Hodges wish to correct a statement of last Months' issue. It is not a daughter but a son who was born to them on the 3rd July.

Mr Salmon of Mersigum enjoyed his stay in Melbourne lately and Messrs Geo Damman, J. Cardwell & Jas. Anderson were amongst the visitors to see the Interstate Lacrosse Match.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Vol II OCTOBER 1914 No 2

Commemoration Rally

As announced in our previous issues the Congregational Quarterly Rally has been fixed for Thursday October 8th. this, and the third rally of each year will be known as our Chief' Anniversary Rally. The programme is of an unusual character including Sketches by Company's organised by Messrs Irwin, Luff and J. E. Muir. It is hoped that every member of the Society will be present.

Cup Day Picnic

At the last Meeting of the deaf Committee there was a strong feeling in favour of our own resort – Blackburn. It was finally decided to leave the choice of one of three places to the Congregation – Blackburn, Brighton Beach, Mordialloc. The Voting will take place at the Rally on Oct 8th.

Assistant Missioner.

Mr Paul, the recently appointed assistant Missionary is scheduled to arrive in Melbourne on the 28th inst. Many of the larger ships are being used as transports, and it is most difficult to get a passage out. In all probability Mr Paul will not arrive until several weeks later. The Deaf Committee have decided to give him a Congregational welcome. The date will be fixed when they are in possession of definite information as to date of arrival.

The Lady Stanley Appeal

Lady Stanley joined our Board in an appeal on behalf of the Completion of the Women's Wing of the Blackburn Home (Messrs E. R. Peacock J.P. (Chairman), G. G. Mercy J.P. (Treasurer to the fund) and W. Abraham (Supt) who formed the Special Committee for this object had all their plans ready for a great effort when the News of the War came. The appeal had really been launched and letters from Lady Stanley, the Board, and W. Abraham had been inserted in the Morning papers and the Herald of July 24th gave a magnificent illustrated article on its front page. There was every indication of a generous response. Money had begun to come in when the Board decided to postpone the effort feeling at this time of national Crisis, only one appeal should be before the people – The Patriotic Fund. With this decision Lady Stanley agreed.

Our Flower Farm.

We have had a most anxious time here for many months past. An exceptionally dry Summer followed by an equally dry Winter and a Spring without rain has hampered our work. Difficulties, we have been taught, were made to be overcome. And overcome they have been and shall be. Difficulties overcome add pleasure to the work. Progress amidst difficulties is something to be proud of, and as we are progressing we are satisfied. We are gaining a firm footing in the flower trade. Sales for July £64, for August nearly £90. This season we have had Gladioli and Sweet Peas in bloom side by side with Jonquils, Violets & daffodils, giving a blaze of Colour to the plantation which in Winter usually consists of yellow, white & violet. We had the honor of providing some of the decorations at the Town Hall (Melbourne) on the occasion of the Lord Mayor's reception to the Visiting Scientists At the time of writing there is scarce a flower on the farm For which we have to thank the weather of Sept. 1914. First a Summer sun accompanied by North Winds scorched up the daffodils, then came frost that killed off the early Spring flowers and tomatoes. Then a shower of rain that put hope into our hearts, it however was followed by strong winds that dried up

the little rain, leaving the soil as hard as burnt bricks. But we survive, and are looking for the better things in store.

New Appointment.

Mr E. J. D. Abraham junr. was appointed Assistant to the Manager of the Farm at a recent Meeting of the General Board.
Mr Ernest is qualifying himself for this special work, studying under Professor Pescott at the Horticultural School, Burnley.

The Deaf Workers Club

The Deaf Workers Club has attained a higher place and is now better understood by the whole of the deaf Community of Melbourne. In fact, it is fast becoming popular, and the members are proud to belong to it. There are now 25 members on the Roll. They have been asked to Communicate with their old School fellows in the Country & bring under their notice the objects of the Club. It is, therefore, hoped that the Club will have a good number of Country Members. The Members were most energetic over the Making of Garments for the soldiers. They were able to send a large parcel to the Lady Mayoress, which consisted of 6 nightingales, 10 Cholera belts, 4 pairs of knitted socks, 3 scarves, 1 pair of mittens, 13 doz large Coloured handkerchiefs, some bandages & old linen. Attached hiddenly to the Garments were little Cards on which cheering words were written by some of the Members. A letter of thanks was promptly received from the Lady Mayoress after receipt of the Parcel.
Mrs Williamson (Hon Sec) has, it is believed, captured nearly everyone at the Centre and reaped about £6 from them for the Patriotic Fund. One deaf Lady in the Country has sent a donation in. Will other loyal Country deaf follow her good example & send their contributions to Mrs Williamson, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St Melbourne.

Women's Guild.

The Women's Guild is steadily increasing both in numbers and popularity. Since the opening of the Year there has been an average attendance of twenty at the Meetings. Every member takes a keen interest in the proceedings. It is especially pleasing to see the Younger Members come forward unhesitatingly and move the adoption of the.

minutes or a vote of thanks, and also close meetings with Benediction in rotation. On Sept 22nd the Meeting of a scriptural character was held. Miss Arikey rendered a hymn. The first part of the evening was taken by Miss I. Kennedy who read a paper entitled – The Greatness of the true Character. She was afterwards followed by Mrs Wilson who lectured on "The Soldiers of Christ". Miss Adams closed the Meeting with Benediction.

Mens Guild

The Mens' Guild had a Ladies Night on 1st of September It was held in the Upper hall. About forty persons were present W. R. Luff presided. The main feature of the evening was the introduction of the "You must do something" game. The fines amounted to 4/3, it will thus be seen that there was a fairly good list of those who did'nt "Mast". The Collection was given to the Womens Movement on behalf of the Patriotic fund. It was a very pleasant Evening.

Deaf Athletic Club.

The General Annual Meeting of the above Club. was held at the Centre on the 5th of Sept. The President (W. J. E. Muir) was in the Chair. The Annual Report & balance sheet were read & adopted. The Receipts for the year totalled £67. 3. 11 and the expenditure – £53. 6. 7. leaving a credit balance of £13. 17. 4 which is very satisfactory. The President congratulated the Members upon the progress the Club had made during the year, especially in Lacrosse. The Cricket Clubs performances during last season was rather disappointing, as most of the players had greatly reduced their average. Their record is 3 wins & 10 Losses. Batting W. C. Robertson, although playing a few matches – 14. 28 per innings. W. V. Harding 8. 90 & C. Smith 8. 38. Bowling W. L. Downes W. E. Martin 2 Wm R. Beattie 3

The "B" Lacrosse team which so brilliantly Carried off the "C" Section premiership honor last year have had a most successful season & have achieved the distinction of Runners up of their section. The delegate (W. G. Brattin) to the Victorian Lacrosse Association has been keenly attentive to the Clubs welfare & the thanks of the Club are due to that Gentleman

for the able manner in which he carried out his duty.
The Committee desires to take this opportunity of thanking
Mr W. J. Brownscombe (Manager for Boronia Eucalyptus Oil
Works) for some gallons of eucalyptus oil, Another gentleman
for medical appliances, Messrs M. L. Muller & G. Mortimer
for supplying oranges at all matches during the Winter & those
gentlemen on the donations list for their valued & practical assistance
Mr. Green (the trainer) has had his share of work & has earned
the warmest thanks of the Committee for his services as well as the
interest displayed by him in all matters pertaining to the Club's
welfare. The Club must add their praise for the very zealous
attention to the Club's affairs by the President (Mr J. S. Muir)
& Vice Presidents (Messrs M. L. Muller & W. A. Paterson)
The Committee regret that Mr L. Downes has expressed his intention
of retiring from the game after 21 years service & they therefore
thank him on behalf of the Members for the earnest way in
which he has conducted the numerous duties attached to the
Club. He has been one of the Mainstays & most attentive
to the interests of the Club, being a keen player, in touch with
all Club matters. The Club presented him with a gold
rolled watch in recognition of his 14 years service to the Club
He gratefully accepted it saying that he would always
support the Club in future. It was decided to have 2
separate meetings for the reading of the Cricket & Lacrosse
reports during the year. Select the Office bearers for the year
The following Office bearers were elected viz - President
Mr. J. S. Muir. Vice Presidents — Messrs. M. L. Muller, W. A.
Paterson, & H. P. Muir. Hon Secty. J. W. Anderson (Cricket)
& W. J. Gavin (Lacrosse). Hon Treasurer Mr. T. Nelson.
Committee. Messrs Beattie, Downes, Martin & C. Robertson.

Lacrosse.

The Deaf team finished the season on the 5th Sept by beating
Malvern by 15 goals to 2. Goal throwers V. Tyzzer 5. C Smith 5
J. Martin 3. C. Robertson 3. Drummond 1. Their record was
10 wins, 3 losses, 1 drawn. Goals thrown for 132. Against 48.
V Tyzzer. 59. C Smith 36, Martin 14. C. Robertson 7. Hughes 5, Drummond
3. McKenzie 2. A. Christensen 2. J Anderson 1. After the Match
Mr. W. A. Paterson (one of the Vice Presidents entertained the players

at a dinner & was heartily thanked for his generosity.

Mr. S. Fergusons Stock

Some time ago at Wangaratta a large and representative supply of all classes of stock including some extra prime pens of both sheep and cattle were sold. Mr. S. Ferguson of Bowmans Forest sold prime X bred wethers at £1.5.6, prime Comeback wethers at £1.6.6, also extra prime pen of bullocks between £14 & £16. The prices received establish the record for this year at the Wangaratta Market and the Condition of the bullocks was highly commented upon. One bullock when killed turned the scale at 1134 lbs. By the way Mr. Samuel Ferguson & his brothers have divided their deceased fathers large & valuable Fairfield properties and are busy subdividing, clearing and building &c. employing several hands at present. These gentlemen have marketed a quantity of stock at booming figures recently and that grazing pays handsomely is certainly evinced by the fact that Mr Sam Ferguson has just stocked with young bullocks. We offer our hearty Congratulations to him upon his excellent business abilities in managing his farm etc.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/6 from Mr. J. W. Thomson, 2/6 from Miss P. Elliott of Mildura; 2/- each from Miss Marshall, Mrs Cove (N. A.), Mr. N Hughes, Mr. J. Marks, Mr A Collins (Nerrin), Mr. T. Collins (Nerrin); 1/6 from Mr. Salmon of Merrigum, 1/- each from Mr J Williamson (NZ), Mr H. Leber, Mr P. Cunningham, Mrs Tyzzer of Creswick, & Miss Murdoch. for the "Monthly Letter" Fund.

Personal Pars.

Mr. J. Collins has left Nerrin and started a boot shop at Warburton Lately.

Mr & Mrs R. Collins of Nerrin are spending their holiday in Melb. during the Show week and also Mr Veale of Lake Bolac, Mr R. Miller of Broken Hill, Mr J. Cardwell of Longwarry and Mrs Crompton of Ballarat.

Mr Carter of Sydney is now staying in Melbourne. He says employment in Sydney is very dull on account of the war.

Mrs. Cove is still in West Australia but expects to return to Melbourne in a few weeks' time. She wishes to be kindly remembered to all deaf friends.

We learn by a cablegram that, after several unsuccessful efforts to return to Australia Misses B & A Graham & A. Damman secured berths in the "Medina" which left England on Sept 18th. The boat is due in Melbourne on Oct. 24th. Our travellers said in their letters that they were passing a weary time in London & dyingly anxious to get back to Australia They had been helping to make garments at their hotel for soldiers. It is hoped that the Medina will not be held up by the enemy, but will be allowed to go on her way unmolested.

Miss Elsie Abraham was one of the numerous band of ladies who collected in the streets of Melbourne for the Children's Charities on Wattle Day. She had one of the best positions (The Stock Exchange) and so obtained a full box. The Deaf of the farm made up nearly £1. so she had a good start before she left home.

Stick to your Job.

This is not a time for seeking pastures new. For discontentment at what we have, or where we are. It is a time to hang on with all the strength and skill we can summon to our aid. If you have employment, do your best to keep it, and to keep it you must deserve it. Here are a few most important truths that it would be well for every deaf Mute to read, mark, learn & inwardly digest. If you only remember them and have the ability and the common sense to act upon them you will never be out of employment long. There is always some work to be done. Even at the worst of times of depression and bad trade there are jobs that must be done. No master will part with a quick & skilful workman if he can help it. Even if he is slack he will find something for his skilled hand to do. He would prefer to lose a little weekly during bad trade in keeping that man on, rather than dispense with his services. Why?

Because the Master knows a good thing is hard to get & worth keeping. The skilled hand may go over to the opposition firm. There are duffers, muddlers & mediums by the thousand, but the quick & thoughtful man who can adapt himself readily to all conditions is a treasure that no sensible master will

part with. At a time of slackness the first to go are the
men, the most incompetent, then the mediums. Such talk
as "favouritism", "got me set" "had a spite against me" &c,
is simply silly nonsense. A man does not run his business
for fun, but to make money. The Master is not such an ass
as to employ a slow & incompetent man when he can obtain
a quick & skilled one. If you are one of the first to be dis-
missed, then it is 99 to 1 that you are not so good a workman
as the others. Dont Grumble and complain. Face the facts. ask
Yourself. "What's wrong with me." Put your heart into your
Special work. Learn all you can about it. Then you are on a
Jot think about it. Dont let your thoughts go wool-gathering
or chasing a football. Your Master is paying You to turn
out the best Job You can. If You do not do so You are as much
a thief as if you walked into a jeweller's Shop & Stole a
watch. Having turned out the best Job you can, let the
next one be better still. It Pays. It Pays the Master, but
it pays you still better. Take our tip & You will never be
out of work.

The War and the Deaf of Europe

We have news that the deaf in the old world are already enduring
hard times. If this is the case at the end of one month's war
what will it be at the end of twelve? Certainly we shall have
to face a share of the trials, but ours will be nothing in
comparison to what our fellow deaf in the old World will
have to suffer. There is an anxious time in front of all
of us, but we must face it with brave hearts. We must
make it a self denial year, a period of self sacrifice so
long as the war lasts. If the "Call" comes ~~not~~ must be
prepared to part with all our Athletic Club, Guild & other
bank balances. The first Consideration must be the
immediate needs of the deaf whether here in Australia,
or in Europe.

Mr Joseph Stephens, an English Teacher of the deaf has been
appointed Resident Assistant Master at the Institution for the
Deaf, Perth. W.A.

Mr J. S. Monisett of Queensland has organised a Patriotic
Fund amongst the Brisbane Deaf. A sum of £ 3. 6. 0 has been rec

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged

VOL. II. NOVEMBER 1914. No. 3

Our Chief's 13 Year.

The Congregation celebrated the 13th anniversary of the arrival in Melbourne of Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham from England by entertaining him at a social at our Centre on the 8th of October. Mr. R. H. Luff, the acting assistant missioner, presided & Mr. J. E. Muir, (hon. sec. to the Congregation), after reading the roll call & commenting upon the difference at Rallies & at Services & explaining the object of the meeting, congratulated Mr. Abraham upon the successful organising work done by him.

Mr. M. L. Miller (assistant hon. treas. to the Society) said he was pleased to take a live part in the meeting, the object of which was to commemorate the coming of Mr. Abraham to this country. He heartily congratulated Mr. Abraham on the completion of 13 years of useful work. He passed out of the old land, England, broken in health & almost at the door of death. He does not look like that now. Although he has had exceptionally hard & worrying work, today he looked the picture of health. He remembered a book of cartoons drawn by Mr. Tenney, soon after the arrival of their Chief, one of which was Mr. Abraham looking around upon the work he had done, & the details of the cartoon promised so many great things that a miracle seemed

necessary for their accomplishment. Yet Mr. Tenney was right. Those prophecies of his really have come to pass. Looking back upon the work he had done in twelve years, he (Mr. Miller) felt the deepest appreciation. He doubted if they would have had much done had Mr. Abraham not dropped into their midst. He came to us with great experience & used it with telling effect on our behalf. He likened Mr. Abraham to a gunner whose ammunition was always perfect, who took steady aim & never missed the target he aimed at, with the result that he always obtained whatever he tried for & so we came into possession of many advantages very much quicker than would have been the case had he not been with us. Another thing, which to his mind was of great good to the deaf, he had helped the Committee to have a higher opinion of the deaf & of our capabilities, this was very noticable & was well illustrated in the trust that the Committee repose in us in leaving so much of the actual work in our hands. It was time for us to knock at our hearts & ask if gratitude dwelt there. He felt sure that the great majority of the deaf did appreciate all he had done. Mr. Miller concluded by some very sound advice to the members. Mr. W. P. Muir also spoke feelingly of the work done by Mr. Abraham & congratulated him.

Mr. Abraham, who was received by prolonged applause, spoke of the pleasure it had always given him to be of service to the deaf. Practically the whole of his life from youth until now had been devoted to their service. He had had ambitions & inclinations & temptations to go into the world & make money, but he had battled them all & whatever talents he had he had used in their service & would continue to champion their cause & to work for them to the end. He had tried to be fair & just to all without fear or favour. He had tried to give honour & credit where due without fear of consequences. There had been times when he had been compelled to take severe

measures & he rejoiced to say that these times had been very few & far between in the thirteen years, but with these exceptions there had been a glorious harmony between himself & the deaf. They realised that he was their friend & whatever he did he believed to be for their good & they had been loyal & true to him & he was grateful & happy in that knowledge. (applause).

The prizes won at the fancy dress parade at the previous rally were then distributed by Mr. J. E. Muir & were as follows:- Most original costume, Mr. A. Sutherland (watch); best sustained character, (ladies) Miss Dorry Davis, (crumb tray & brush); (gentlemen) Mr. M. G. Mortimer (razor); best dressed character, (ladies) Miss Daisy B. Muir, (dress embroidery); (gents) Mr. M. Miller (books).

A sketch entitled the "Patriots" was then performed by Messrs. J. E. Muir, C. Robertson & A Hull, Miss D. Davis, little Miss Iris Boorty & Master H. Boorty. Supper was provided in the lower hall & was under the supervision of the Deaf Workers Club. The floral decorations were sent by Mrs. Ernes. Smith. The hall was decorated & otherwise made attractive.

An article summerising the work of Mr. Abraham amongst the deaf & hearing both in England and Australia, has been crowded out. We hope to insert it next month.

German Deaf at the War.

Very many of the deaf of Germany are taking an active part in the war. Certainly, they are non combatants, but many are engaged under military supervision in digging trenches & throwing up breastworks. "Taubstummen-Zeitschrift", the newspaper for the deaf published in Berlin is appealing to the deaf to serve in the ranks of the Red Cross Society.

For Red Cross & other duties thirty deaf mutes, of Colonge, enlisted at the outbreak of the war. In a small town of Thuringia, two women while walking toward a railway crossing were challenged

by the sentinels, & not replying, were shot dead. They were afterwards identified as two deaf mutes belonging to the town. On the East Prussian frontier two deaf mutes were shot while walking across a bridge. The soldiers on guard had called to them & receiving no reply, fired, killing both.

Finance.

Prior to the appointment of the Assistant Missionary at £200 per annum & the grant of £50 toward the pension of Mr. Rose, our income just about comfortably covered our expenditure. To meet these additional responsibilities & others that are gradually growing, we must increase our annual receipts by £300 at least. Mr. Abraham had made every preparation to take the lead in propaganda work with the object of obtaining the money, he had also made a magnificent start in his effort to get in £3000 to complete the Blackburn Home, when everything in the way of special effort had to be abandoned because of the outbreak of war. It had been Mr. Abraham's ambition to complete the home, add to the farm equipment, & to see the grounds laid out this year.

Our collectors, however, are making a strenuous effort to at least keep up to their last years collections. Mr. Moss, the city collector, has already brought in considerably more than in any former year. The many special appeals upon the purses of the city deaf have had a marked effect upon the Sunday collections. We would remind our members that the Church Offertory should always receive first consideration.

Vic. Branch A.D.D.A.

Mr. F. C. Frewin (hon. sec.) begs to acknowledge receipt of following subscriptions with thanks 1/- each from Miss Mc Kendell, J. E. Kenworthy (Bairnsdale), W. Johnston (Ballarat), H. Mc Hengie, W. C. Keefe (Crossley), N. Hughes, A. Morgan (Carpendeit), G. Battersby, 2nd sub. (St Arnaud), N. Amras, J. Elvin, J. Moran, John

Anderson, J. Dempsey, Victor Soni (Gapsted), F. W. & T. Ching (Linton), Mr. & Mrs Boorty, Mr. & Mrs D. Nolan, Mr. & Mrs G. Dammann (Warburton), Mrs G. Oakley, Misses M. Potter, J. Wright, M. Mc Crabb (Wunghnu), E. Smith, I. Kennedy, N. Adams, D. Hickey, M. Collins, R. Law, R. Essing, D. Davis, P. Elliott, (Mildura), M. Ching (Linton).

Picnic.

Our annual picnic is to be held at Blackburn on Cup Day, Nov 3rd. For full particulars see notice board at the Centre. In the voting for choice of place, Blackburn was the most favoured, receiving 43 votes, Brighton next with 15 & Mandialac 15.

Olla-Podrida.

Miss Elsie Abraham has just returned from a fortnights holiday in Sydney.

Miss A. Graham reached Melbourne in safety on the 29th Oct, after an absence of nearly two years. She spent a most enjoyable time, visiting the principal cities & places of interest in Europe. The arranging for the voyage home & the actual voyage home were times of anxiety. First there was the difficulty of getting berths, & still more nerve racking, the knowledge that any moment your ship might be captured by the enemy. But those trying times are now passed & we are right glad to have our good friend once more in our midst.

What is the matter with our cricketers? There are symptoms of decline. They must be decor. "Mustard" is the physic needed. Seriously, it is to be regretted that the interest, so far, this year in cricket has not been sufficient to enable the club to minister a playing team. Has the enthusiasm for lacrosse exhausted the enthusiasm that should have been reserved for cricket? We hope not, cricketers. See our Chiefs' concluding note in his open letter to the deaf & act upon it.

On account of the outbreak of war & the

drought no effort is to be made to take a cricket team to Sydney or Adelaide this Christmas.

The Hospital Sunday collection at the Centre on the 25 ult. was £4.16.10, being 2/3 more than last year. Mr. Luff officiated at both services.

We learn with regret that Mr. H. H. Watson is ill. We sincerely hope he will soon be well again.

Mr. Paul, our new Assistant Missioner arrived in Melbourne from Scotland on the 29 Oct & was welcomed by the Committee at a tea in the Supts room & by the congregation in the Church on the 30th. Details next month.

Mrs T. E. Frewin is enjoying an holiday in N. S. W.

The Lady Mayoress of Melbourne acknowledge a parcel of rabbit skins from Mrs J. Mills of Waaia, recived through the Deaf Workers' Club.

The Womens' Guild held their ordinary meeting on the 13th ult. The evening was one of "School Experiences" & one can well believe that, as one of the younger members expressed it, "It was immensely enjoyed". Very many chipped in with their experiences & got quite excited over their recollections. There was a good attendance.

The Ramblers paid a visit to the Aquarium on Sat. Oct 10th. After inspecting the various exhibits we watched the performing seals & educated dogs, also we paid a visit to the maze & found our way in and out without much difficulty.

Mr. Abraham presided at an interesting function which was held in the Mitcham Hall on the 13th Oct. About 200 residents of the district showed their appreciation of the 2½ years services of the retiring constable, Mr. W. H. Proudfoot, by entertaining him & his wife at a social. During the evening, Mr. Abraham, on behalf of the residents, presented Mr. Proudfoot with a beautiful case of cutlery. Over £20 was raised for the object within a few days.

The latest deaf motor car victim is Mr. John D. Ziegler, one of Brooklyn's (U.S.A.) most prominent & popular deaf men. He was struck by a police automobile & killed. We often wonder at the few accidents to the deaf in Melbourne especially from the motor buses that pass through the city to St Kilda. They have knocked down a fair number of hearing people & we have had two or three narrow escapes. The deaf cannot be too careful.

Mr. W. Cann lost his youngest son on the 10th Oct. & Mr. C. H. Reynolds his father on the 19th. The bereaved have our condolences.

A son was born to Mr. & Mrs. T. Collins, of Neerim on the 28th Sept. Congratulations.

"Are you going to the Panama Exhibition in 1915"? That's a big question to put to anyone just now. We might have given you a fairly definite answer three months ago. But now! Well, "It's a long way to Tiperary".

"Who is the richest deaf man in Victoria"? We confess we do not know. Perhaps the gentleman will himself favour us with the information. We, as well as our correspondent, would very much like to know. For we frequently want money & it's awfully handy to know just where to go.

The next Rally is fixed for Dec 17. Full particulars later.

There were quite a number of well known American deaf in Europe at the outbreak of the war, including Prof. J. A. McIvaine of Philadelphia, Mr. & Mrs. Stryker, of New York & Mr. F. Jergens, of New Jersey. At the end of August they were still looking for ships to take them home.

Our Little War at the Farm

We have a little war of our own down at the flower farm. War against the drought. And it's a fairly tough proposition. War conditions prevail too. Talk about forced marches, methinks we could hold our own with any

regiment at the front. All through the weary hours of the night we march, march, march, dragging, wheeling, pulling great lengths of hose. "Waist high in water in the trenches". We know something about that too, for we are wet through & through from head to foot. Talk about a battle field. We are saving the dying day & night – dying flowers. Almost a year without rain, & appliances sufficient only to water about one sixth of the plantation & then only under favourable conditions. We have fought. We are still fighting. But the month of October outgeneraled our General. On the 15th, although the weather had been exceptionally warm for weeks, there came a severe frost, it killed the whole of the promising grape crop, apricots, peaches, melons, vegetable marrows, potatoes, tomatoes & beans. You should have seen our Chiefs face the following morning. Nine days after, to be precise, (Oct. 24th), it was 100 in the shade & the heat so great that two large plantations of watsonias, roses, sweet peas, & other tender blooms were scorched up. "Somebody" said "The Chief will give in". But "Somebody" doesn't know our Chief. But there is one who does & that is Miss Wilson of Queensland – writing to Victoria recently she said "The Chief is up against a real Australian drought & isn't used to it, nor to being thwarted." There's one thing certain, & that is, he will make the lake dry land, burst the engine & drive the neighbours away by the noise, thereof, before he does give in, & it's also fairly certain that all at the farm have caught the same fever. Our battle, fortunately, is one in which we are fighting to prolong life, not take it & we are succeeding amazingly in keeping up a good supply of blooms. The sales for Sept. amounted to £65.

Hospital Sunday.

On Sunday, 25th ult. there was a good attendance at both morning & evening services. Mr. Luff the temps. assistant missionary officiated at both services. In the morning he spoke about the Good Samaritan, & the Sufferers, & used the words for his text, "Go & do thou likewise", the subject of his discourse being the pathway of suffering. In the evening his subject was the Haven of refuge for the sufferers – spiritually, mentally & bodily – dwelling chiefly on our Lords affectionate appeal when He said "Come unto Me, all ye are heavy laden & I will give you rest".

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. II. DECEMBER 1914. No. 4.

Christmas, 1914.

Christmas, the season of Peace & Goodwill is once more with us. The anniversary of the Prince of Peace is at hand. But peace itself is no longer with us. The peace of the world has been broken. Our beautiful earth is stained with the blood of our fellow-men. Many deaf are writing asking why we do not talk about the war in our little paper. What can we say to you, dear friends at such a time. The war is too terrible a thing to talk about here. Nor can we wish you a merry Christmas, for we are all too sad to talk about merriment. We are facing the most awful thing that ever afflicted this world of ours. And this world will never be the same again. And Christmas for many years to come will be a time for sad, sad memories. What shall we say to you, friends! We can only say, God bless you. Draw closer together in the bond of unity & love. Comfort each other & pray for peace, the true peace, the peace that will end war for ever.

Divine Worship.

Mr. Abraham will preach at the Church for the Deaf, Flinders St. on the evening of Sunday Dec. 6th, all other services during the month of December will be conducted by Mr. Paul, also the Thursday evening bible class. There will be a service on Xmas Day at 11 a.m. Holy Communion service Sunday January 10th 1915, at 11 a.m.

On the 1st of Nov., our Superintendent (Mr Abraham) brought to a close his 30 years of ministerial labours amongst the Adult Deaf. He will continue to conduct services & bible classes from time to time, but the regular ministerial duties will, in future be conducted by the newly appointed assistant-missioner. Two

large congregations attended, 36 being present at morning service & 78 at night. Mr. Paul entered upon his pastoral work on the 8th. ult. preaching both morning & evening, the attendance being 25 & 60. He also took control of the bible class the following Thursday, there was a full muster of members, 30 being present. Mr. Paul has already made a very favourable impression.

Christmas Rally.

The Annual Christmas Rally will be held on the evening of the 17th December. This year the rally is to be a quiet one consisting of parlour games, competitions & conversation.

Pic-nic.

Blackburn was one of the most popular resorts of pic-nickers on Cup Day 5th Nov. & it presented a scene of much activity. Enjoyment, success & brightness were apparent everywhere. Lake Park was thronged with holiday makers from many Sunday schools, & from the Deaf Centre. The nursery gardens were clothed with showy flowers. The lake was animated with gliding boats, the flower sheds besieged with admirers & buyers, & the Home enlivened with the endless tramp & laughter of deaf visitors. The day was fine & warm, & a thirsty one it was, too. The lolly shop did a thriving business, so much so that towards the evening all cool drinks had been sold out. The deaf picnickers roamed leisurely over the lovely gardens, strolled to the creek in the back, lounged on the verandahs or rested in the cool rooms. Perhaps the most pleasant function of the day was boating. All day long the little jetty was crowded with the enthusiasts, patiently awaiting their turn. Along the banks under the shade of the trees were little groups of people watching the merry makers in the boats & it was a pretty sight on all sides. The manager was here, there & everywhere, chatting with the visitors & seeing to one hundred & one things. The matron was, as usual, kept busy in the Home, superintending the cooking & the tables. The new assistant missionary made himself at home & mingled freely with the party, evidently enjoying himself immensely. Excellent dinner & tea were served in the dining room for those who did not bring their lunch baskets with them. Tea, hot water, etc. were provided for those who did. After tea, games were indulged in with much merriment & as darkness set in, all departed for their homes, having spent the most enjoyable day.

Welcome to the Assistant Missioner.

Some of us remember the time when our meeting place was any convenient lamp post, and so the Sunday we took possession of rented premises with a missioner & regular services was an event to be remembered. Although in those by gone days the Missionaries only gave us part of their time. We owe much to those pioneers Messrs P. Holt, F. Frewin & R.R. Paterson. And then in Oct.r 1901 there arrived from England our first full time missioner & with him came the revolution of the Adult deaf & also the revelation of things possible. Things that in those days we did not even dare to dream about. And now that we are in full possession of all these blessings, we are wondering how we can make the younger generation appreciate them as they should. We, of the "lamp post" days, can realise the glories of the present because of the trials of the past.

Welcome by the Board.

October must be our lucky month for our new assistant Missioner also arrived that month. Mr. John M. Paul arrived at Port Melb.e on the S.S. Ceramic on the 29.th & was met by Mr. H. Sumner Martin, B.A. L.L.B, & Mr. Ernest J.D. Abraham (Supt) representing the Committee & Mr. M.L. Miller, Mr. J.R. Muir & other deaf friends representing the Congregation.

The Chairman (Mr. E.R. Peacock J.P.) and the Board of Directors of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society welcomed Mr. Paul at a dinner early in the evening of the 30.th Oct.r in the Superintendents room of the Deaf Centre Flinders St. The table was one mass of Prince Camile de Rohan roses, sent from the deaf mutes farm & arranged by Mrs Abraham, who with the assistance of Miss E. Empson, was responsible for the repast.

The Chairman, in extending a cordial welcome to Mr. Paul, counselled him not to estimate the work of our Society by old world standards, as we had taken a wider field & attained higher achievements in the interests of the deaf.

Mr. H. Sumner Martin (who has been a friend of our society from its youth upwards & was hon Sec.y for many years), said that the Superintendent by his enthusiasm, untiring labour & his knowledge of the requirements of the deaf had brought the work to such a state of excellence that it would require the best that was within Mr. Paul to keep up with it.

Mr. F. J. Rose (Founder of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution) spoke of the early days of educational & missionary work amongst the deaf of the present excellent provision for the Adults.

Mr Dickens (a member of original Committee) referred to the War & the drought with their trials & difficulties, yet he had never lost confidence, nor would he ever do so. The Society had passed through innumerable difficulties, yet look at its wonderful achievements. God was with them always. There were no difficulties with God. As in the past, so it would be in the future. All we need do was to trust in God.

Mr. G. Brown & Mr Oehr (Hon Sec) also spoke words of welcome.

Mr. Paul in thanking the Committee for the very pleasing manner in which they received him, said that fortunately, he had the pleasure of reading "The Gesture" & some copies of the "Monthly Letter" so he knew something of our aims & successes, yet, he realised there was still a great deal to be learned, & that to help & be associated with a work that is carried on in such a splendid spirit would be a great pleasure to him.

The Rev. H. W. H. Adeney, Rev H. V. Pratt, Hon F. Tudor, & Mr. G. G. Mercy J. P. apologised for unavoidable absence. Mr. Abraham interpreted.

By the Congregation.

The same evening at 8 p.m. the deaf congregation welcomed Mr. Paul in the church, which was tastefully decorated, at the back of the platform was a large representation of the Australian Arms in the centre of which a huge thistle had been painted. There was over 100 present, & Mr Abraham who presided, opened the meeting with prayer. An "Ode of welcome" written by our Superintendent, was then appropriately & beautifully rendered by the Misses Hickey, Dow & Davies. & Messrs Newnham, Hull & Anderson.

Mr. E. R. Peacock & Mr. H. Sumner Martin spoke words of welcome in the name of the Committee, and Messrs R. L. Wilbe & J. L. Muir & Mr. J. L. Muir on behalf of the Congregation

Mr. Miller said our masters, the general Committee have just welcomed our Assistant Missioner & it now remained for us to put the finishing touch to the welcome of our new friend. In the name of the Congregation he offered Mr Paul the heartiest of congratulations on his safe arrival & a warm & hearty Australian deaf welcome.

In welcoming Mr. Abraham 13 years ago he had said that being in need of a leader they had had to cast their line far out &

had been fortunate in catching a fine big fish. When we found ourselves in need of an assistant we had once more to cast out our line 12,000 miles & we had managed to catch another fine fish & we were now gathered around to inspect & admire our catch. Mr Paul was the right stamp of gentleman for the work because he had been associated with the deaf & their language from childhood. He trusted that Mr Paul would find his work in Australia congenial & that he would get on well with them, & they with him.

Mr J. E. Muir expressed words of gratification that Mr Paul arrived here safely & well during the most critical time of the war, & that he was making himself at home with us, though at the time he had not yet met many. Mr Muir said it was indeed a blessing to have men like Messrs Abraham & Paul, they having studied the affairs & necessities of the deaf early all their lives. Mr Paul would find us very loyal to the Society.

Mrs Muir said it was with feelings of much thankfulness that she had an assistant missioner in our midst at last, & trusted that Mr Paul's intercourse with us would increase & strengthen this new bond between us. She asked us to help, sympathise with, & encourage him in his new work, & then he would very soon learn to love our beautiful country & glorious climate. She also asked us to continue our loyalty to Mr Abraham, & to honour & love him as she hoped we would honour & love Mr Paul. She foresaw that our patriarch, Abraham & his new disciple, Paul would work side by side for us, thinking of us & planning for our advancement.

Mr Abraham said the work had so grown that he had been needing help for years. It was with great pleasure therefore that he welcomed Mr Paul. They understood each other already, & he felt they would work well together.

In replying Mr Paul said he could not adequately express his thanks for such a splendid welcome, the only way he could reply to the many kind things that had been said would be to try & be worthy of them in his work amongst the deaf. Mrs Muir had said they would need to keep their new chum so happy in their friendship that he would not be thinking of, or longing for home, but he confessed he had been thinking of home just then; thinking how proud his father would have been to see them all put such a splendid spirit & so much heart into the meeting. He looked forward to the work, feeling that he

would have the help & sympathy of all.

During the evening Miss Davies recited "Joan of Arc." "My pretty maid" a dialogue was rendered by Miss Dow & W. Newnham. A hymn "Will you meet me at the fountain" by Misses Davies, Dow & Heckey. & a dialogue "If I could only be" by Miss Davies & Mr. Hull. Supper was served in the lower hall & here again the tables were decorated with quantities of roses.

Help.

To the Deaf Women of Australia

Oct. 13th. 1914.

Dear Friends

You know what a terrible fight is now raging all through Europe. Among so many miseries caused by this atrocious war, one is specially worth of our compassion – the silent voiceless misery of our deaf & dumb sisters. There are hundreds & hundreds of them, of Belgium & North of France, small & big girls, married women, mothers with helpless babies, who, at the threatening approach of the German soldiers, have escaped in a frantic fear from their homes, schools & asylums. After a painful & perilous journey, most of them being unable to express themselves, to ask for information & help, they are now homeless, friendless, penniless, "refuges" in unknown countries, & "strangers" in a strange land"! Oh! do think of them, dear friends. God has given you the blessing of a family & home; as a thanks-offering, do something for our sisters in affliction! I am searching them all through France & Switzerland, & gathering money & warm clothing for them. I try to comfort their broken hearts, & at the same time to soften their desolate lives. Every day I am finding new & terrible cases of isolation, poverty, sorrow & despair. Help! help! Send me everything you can. I shall acknowledge any gift, every cent will be useful.

I am
Your deaf sister in deaf service
(Mlle) Yvonne Pitrois.
90, rue de Marseille
Bordeaux, France.

This touching letter was received by Mrs J. E. Muir, & she thereby asks the Australian deaf women, & men too, to think of those lonely, sorehearted deaf refugees, & to let their hearts go out to them

in sympathy. We are very far away from the terrible evil of war & it is difficult for us to realise the full horror of it. We have so great cause for thankfulness & gratitude. Mlle Pitrois is a well known deaf authoress, & has devoted her life to the deaf of France. Let us help her to compensate those stricken deaf women in some small degree. Money & clothing may be forwarded to her, or Mr. Williamson, hon sec.y of the Deaf Workers Club, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. Melbourne.

Women's Guild.

At the invitation of the Women's Guild, the members of the Men's Guild were present at their meeting held on the 10th. Ult. The attendance was large - being 44, Messrs Abraham & Paul were also present.

After the usual business was transacted, the President said that she noticed a very decided improvement in the younger members of both the guilds & that was due to a great extent, to their regular attendance at meetings, & to their love of reading. She impressed upon their minds the value of reading & strongly urged them to cultivate the habit of letter writing, & she promised to help them to obtain foreign correspondents if they desired. Mr Luff (President of Men's Guild) returned thanks & pointed out that the non-members who were present at this meeting should join the guilds. Mr Paul who was well received made a breezy speech which was enjoyed.

Miss Ida Kennedy recited an interesting bush story entitled "Barneman of the Dandenong". The rest of the evening was taken up in the character of "Competitions". The results of the winners are as follows:-

Flower Competition - 1st Mr. Hull. 2nd Miss M. Collins.
Leaf " - 1st Mr. Nelson. 2nd Miss A. Foster.
Capital " - 1st Mr. Luff. 2nd Miss M. Collins.

Miss Davies brought the meeting to a close with Benediction which was followed by a dainty supper.

Men's Guild.

Mr. G. Newnham gave a paper entitled "Lord Nelson" on the 29th Sept. Mr. R. H. Luff recited "Rule Britannia"
On the 13th the members contributed stories.
Mr. M. G. Mortimer's subject on the 27th October was "The sagacity of animals."
On the 24th Nov. Mr. J. E. Muir gave a paper on Items of interest chiefly about the war.
All these papers were much appreciated & enjoyed.

Deaths

Mr. A. Morgan of Carpendiet lost his mother on the 31st October.
On the 4th Nov. Mr. & Miss Mortimer lost their mother
Mr. & Miss Keniworthy of Bairnodale lost their mother on the 7th ult.
Mrs Lindo lost her husband the same day.
On the 11th Nov. Messrs D. & J. Ashby & Mrs Stokes of Trafalgar lost their father.
On the 16th Nov. Miss Connells mother died.
All the bereaved have our condolence.

Stray Notes.

At the welcome to Mr. Paul, Mr Abraham took advantage of the presence of Miss A. Graham to extend to her a most hearty welcome home to Melbourne. We have missed her very much. She arrived at Port Melbourne the same day as Mr. Paul by the S.S. Medina

Mrs J. Boort is at present on a visit to Trafalgar, Gippsland.
Mrs G. Oakley is on a visit to Sydney.

Mr. Paul spent his first week in Victoria a guest of Mr & Mrs Abraham at Lake Park, Blackburn, where he obtained an insight into the flower farm. We shall presently ask him what he thinks of our effort in this direction.

We regret to learn of the resignation of Mr Mc Donald the missionary to the Deaf of South Australian Mission. Mr. Edwin Johnson has been appointed acting Assistant Missionary to Mr. Salas.

A few days ago the cables from the old land informed us that the Berlin newspapers had been stricken dumb. We are of opinion that we might have been spared this affliction.

We are informed that Miss L. Chapman late of Melbourne is engaged to Mr. W. H. Abbott of Adelaide. Congratulations.

The General Board met on the 16th Ult. There was no special business. The report of the Superintendent was received. We have no room this month for details. It is probable we may find room next month for a few notes. Accounts passed for payment totalled £. 260. 16. 6. Mr. Paul attended as interpreter for the deaf members of Committee.

Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/- from Mr. J. Collins of Warburton, 1/6 from Mr. M. O'Sullivan of Sydney & 1/- each from Mrs Lindo, Messrs G. Vanman of Warburton & J. Nelson & 2/- from Miss A. Foster towards our Monthly Letter fund

Deaf Mute Centre,
Flinders St. East,
Melbourne,
October, 1914.

My Dear People,

As our Society is entering upon a new epoch, it seems at this particular time, there is something due from me to you, that there is something that has to be said, and that it is for me to say it.

The period of strenuous organising and raising of funds for building, etc., and the continual increasing of income to keep up with the expenditure of the added responsibilities is now drawing to a close.

The time has arrived for concentration upon the management of present resources and the systematic arrangement of the inner work of the Society. By this, I do not mean to imply that the spiritual, educational, and social work has not hitherto received first attention. As a matter of fact they have grown out of all recognition of what they originally were thirteen years ago. The spiritual and moral standard and the attendances are at present higher than at any time in the history of our Society.

But it has become mentally and physically impossible for one man to bear the weight of financial responsibility, organisation and management of the City and Blackburn Institutions, and at the same time to give that personal attention to all the varying needs of the special bodies working under the wing of our Society; not to mention that most important work of attending to individual needs, such as seeking employment and visitation of sick and others at their homes, as conditions demand.

Our Committee have recognised this fact for years past and have made repeated efforts to procure expert help. This expert help is now at hand in the person of Mr. John Paul, from Scotland. Mr. Paul will devote himself chiefly to the religious branch of the work, and the seeking of employment and visitation.

These conditions and this change means my withdrawal from that happy association with you that has given me so much joy during the years of my sojourn amongst you. It became necessary for me to give up some part of the work. The question was,

which? After prayerful thought, ever bearing in mind the needs of our Society and its members, I had, most reluctantly, to conclude that it was my duty to forfeit that part of the work that appealed to my heart and which I had learned to love, and to concentrate my skill and energies upon that for which my experience makes me exceptionally fitted and the most useful to you, who are my chief concern.

Many of you will remember that I came to you from England thirteen years ago, simply as your Missionary, and you hoped that I would help you to obtain a little church.

But I had built, in my mind, much greater things for you and told you of them, promising that if you would give me your loyal support I would not rest—

1. Until you were in possession of a Church and Institute.
2. Until you owned a Home and Farm for your Aged and Infirm.
3. Until Education of Deaf Children was Free and Compulsory.
4. Until Mr. F. J. Rose's work was recognised by a Government pension.
5. Until you had a Missionary who should devote the greater part of his time to religious work amongst you.

With your loyal help all these things have been accomplished and very much more.

You have property to the value of £14,000. A reserve fund of £1,250. Your income which was £600 per annum is now over £3,000. You have no liabilities.

But in engaging an Assistant Missionary and consenting to contribute to the Government pension to Mr. Rose the Committee have increased their responsibilities for the present year £300 over and above the expected current income. This extra sum must be raised annually. There is also £3,000 to be raised to complete the Home at Blackburn. And funds are still needed to complete the Centre.

For the present we must satisfy ourselves with an effort to raise the extra income needed, but so soon as the war is over we must set to work to raise the funds to complete the Centre and the Home.

And now, dear deaf people, I think I am justified in saying that I have kept faith with you, I have done my share, and as the

Americans say, it is "up to you" to do something; it remains for you to do yours.

Your Deaf Mute Centre cost many thousands of pounds to build and equip. The same may be said of the Farm and Home, and it costs £3,000 annually to maintain them, which sum is a yearly gift from our innumerable hearing friends. Our Committee, too, who are gentlemen of wide business experience, give much of their valuable time to the work of administration.

And what is my share? What am I expected to do? You ask.

Well, your share is most pleasant because it is to your interest and well being to do it. Show your appreciation for the provisions made for you.

How?

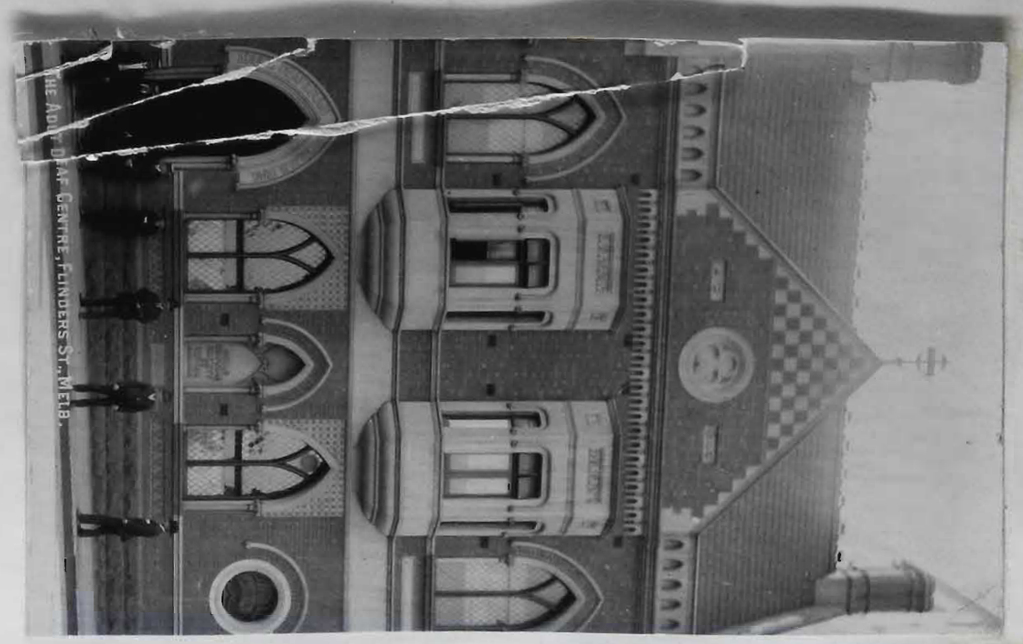
Well, to commence with, the Committee have brought a special Minister 12,000 miles to devote himself to your spiritual needs. The services will be conducted in your own church and in your own language. Attend these services regularly. The Missionary will give much time to the preparation of biblical lessons for your benefit. So make it a point not to miss the Bible classes. The Men's and Women's Guilds also have their educational and other classes. Join all, attend all, help all. Need I enumerate further?

Finally, I am conducting both morning and evening service next Sunday (Nov. 1st) and I have a special message for you and I want to see you present. Come early. God bless you all.

Yours affectionately,

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM.


THE SOCIAL ROOM, ADULT DEAF CENTRE, FLINDERS ST., MELB.


THE ADULT DEAF CENTRE, FLINDERS ST., MELB.


THE LIBRARY, ADULT DEAF CENTRE, FLINDERS ST., MELB.


NO EXIT
NO EXIT
THE HALL, ADULT DEAF CENTRE, FLINDERS ST., MELB.


Deaf Mutes Flower Farm and Home, Blackburn, Vic.


Deaf Mutes Flower Farm and Home, Blackburn, Vic.


Deaf Mutes Flower Farm and Home, Blackburn, Vic.


Deaf Mutes Flower Farm and Home, Blackburn, Vic.

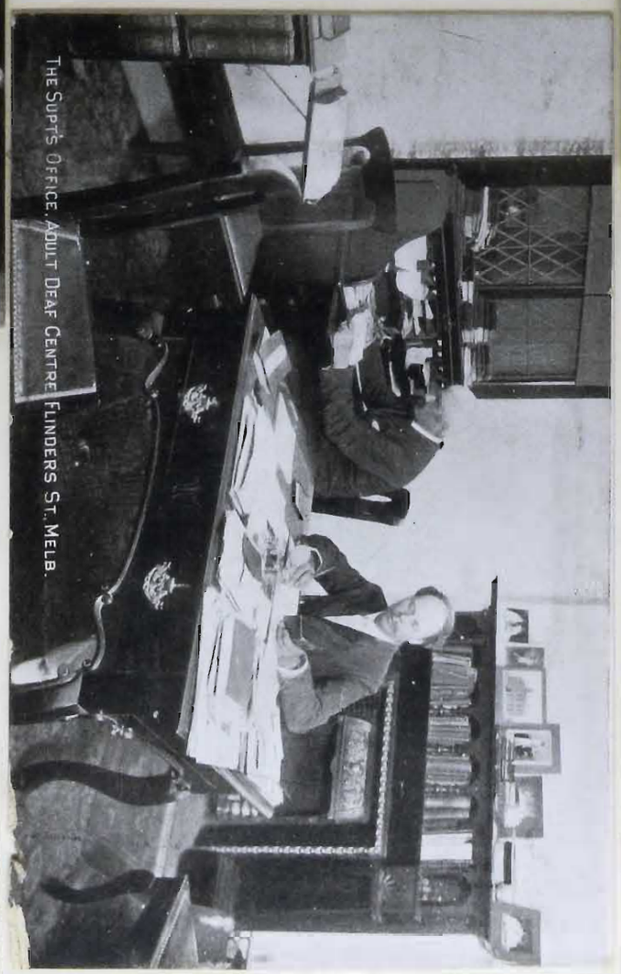

Deaf Mutes Flower Farm and Home, Blackburn, Vic.



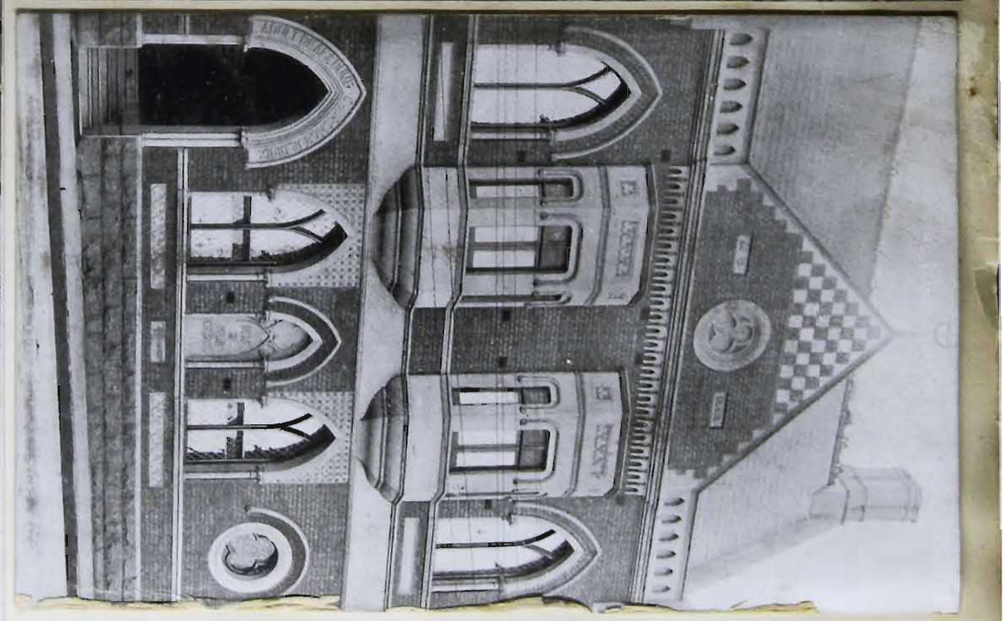




Admission
TICKET. Retain This.











DEAF MUTES' CHURCH.

FLINDERS ST. E., MELB.

SUNDAY, JAN. 3RD., 1915

11 a.m. Preacher. Mr J Paul

7 p.m MEMORIAL SERVICE for the late Mr. R.R. PATERSON.

Preachers Mr E.J.D. Abraham.
Mr. J. Paul.

SUNDAY JAN 10TH 1915.

11 a.m. Communion Service

7 p.m. New Year Address.

To my young men and young women.

I especially expect you at the Evening Service. COME

E. J. D Abraham

Strike out two places which you do not wish to vote for

Blackburn.
Brighton Beach.
Mordialloc.

Weekly
Sunday Collection.

£ . s . d

"Herald" Feb. 22nd 1915

ACTIVITY AMONG DEAF

FUNCTIONS TO BE HELD

Mr and Mrs E. J. D. Abraham invite the deaf of Victoria to a garden party to be held at Lake Park, Blackburn, on Saturday, March 13. A personal invitation is not necessary.

Notwithstanding the dry spell, slackness of employment, and the numerous calls that the deaf have had lately, the response to the Belgian Deaf Refugees' Fund has been most gratifying. Those desiring to help the Belgians may send money or clothing to Mrs Williamson, Deaf Centre, Flinders street, Melbourne. The fund will close at the end of this month.

The harvest thanksgiving services will be held in the Church for the Deaf, Flinders street, on Sunday, March 7. Both Mr Abraham, the superintendent, and Mr Paul, the missioner, will officiate.

The Deaf Committee has decided to hold the next quarterly rally on March 25.

The "Argus" 27/2/15

The war correspondent of the "Neue Freie Presse" describes life in St. Mihiel. He spent several days there, and says that what struck him most was the number of older people who had gone mad and the number of children who have become deaf and dumb. People never walk in the middle of the streets now; they creep along sides of houses, seeking shelter from shrapnel. The little knots of children playing in the streets have disappeared. They played in the first few days after the fighting began, but they saw so many fathers and relatives killed that they do not venture out any more.

Hon. Treasurer.

_____ 191 _____

The "Argus" 2/3/15

The many friends of Mr. Harold Kent, who for many years held high office in the Victorian railways, will regret to hear of his death, which took place in England. A cable message has been received in Victoria from Mrs. Kent, stating that her husband died last week at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, from pneumonia supervening on influenza. Mr. Kent was 65 years of age. He came to Australia with his father and brother, the late Mr. R. G. Kent, in the ship Julia in 1853. Mr. Kent's father opened a business in Melbourne, and his sons were educated at the old Melbourne Grammar School, in connection with St. James's Church. Eventually both young men entered the railway service, in which they distinguished themselves. Mr. Harold Kent became head of the audit branch, and was subsequently chief accountant, a position which the late Mr. R. G. Kent had also filled prior to becoming secretary. Mr. Harold Kent retired in 1905, after 40 years' service. With Mrs. Kent he has been touring England.

Adult Deaf Society of Victoria
Flinders St E.,
Melbourne.
Feby, 28, 1915

To .....

Dear .....

I beg to remind you that the annual subscriptions fall due on the 31st March, 1915. Your contributions paid to Feby. 28th amount to £ 2. 8. 0. Will you kindly make up your contributions to a pound and forward at the end of March.

I beg also to remind you that contributors of sums under 5/- are not eligible for membership of the Society.

Kindly give this your early attention, and oblige,

Yours truly,
J. E. Irwin,
Hon Treasurer.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. II. JANUARY 1915. No. 5.

We wish all our Hearing Friends & Deaf Members

· A · HAPPY · & · PROSPEROUS · NEW · YEAR ·

1915.

1915 Will witness the birth of the most wonderful and glorious changes since man became a living soul. It will be the beginning of a new era. The Christ-Spirit will encompass the whole earth. 1915 Opens with the forces of evil rampant. It will close with peace and righteousness triumphant. The most terrible of all wars will have ended, and man will find himself more than ever before in harmony with the Spirit of Jesus.

1914 may well be called the year of the broken heart, the year of the Souls' agony. It is hard to know what to say to herald the coming of this new year, for whilst we know there is light & love & peace ahead, still, just now we are indeed passing through the valley of the shadow of death and every heart is laden with a sob. As we write inspiration comes in the form of a new year greeting card from the Chairman of our Society, in which we find the following lines by E. C. Ball.

"I reckon I'll just have to fall back on the text of scripture which says "All things workin' together for good." Not some things, Honey, but "all things". Did you ever think of that? The things you want, and the things you don't want; the things you complain about, the things you laugh over, and the things you cry over - all of 'em workin', not against each other, but together, and all workin' for good." And we reckon that it is about the best thing we can do, - to fall back on scripture. For do not our own experiences teach us that all things do work together for good!

An Appreciation.

In his first monthly work report, our assistant Missioner, Mr. Paul, said he desired to add an appreciation of a particular part of the work that had been done during the past years, that value of which was incalculable in raising the status of the deaf. "The individual had been taught to realise himself or herself, to be self-respecting, a real "live" intellectual and social atmosphere has been created, and an educated opinion on matters relative to the general welfare of the deaf has been cultivated." "These, the very things so often considered outside the scope of the average deaf person, must have been fostered through the exercise of an infinite amount of tact, patience and affection. In other large cities you will find that a small section of the deaf, whose position offers exceptional educational & social opportunities, has advanced in the matters referred to, but they form a small percentage of the deaf community." "Apart from the value to the individual deaf persons in bringing them into fuller contact with everyday influences, and apart from the greater pleasure it brings to those who work among them, the effect in creating a good and sympathetic public opinion must be most valuable and gratifying."
"It has been a higher education to the deaf, and gratitude and appreciation are due to Mr. Abraham, his deaf Co-workers, and all who helped to achieve such a happy state of progress."

£13·15·0 in 5 Minutes!

A very exciting but pleasing incident occurred at the annual meeting of the Victorian Branch of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association. The audience was waiting for the results of the voting in connection with the election of officers, when our Chief stepped forward and asked permission of the Chairman to speak. Permission having been granted, he mounted the platform and turning to the Hon. Sec. asked if he had paper and pencil, receiving an affirmative reply, addressing the audience he said - "When the Committee of our Society undertook to be responsible for £50 annually toward the pension of Mr. Rose, I guaranteed that the deaf would subscribe from £10 to £15. I want half of that amount to-night, and I know you are going to give it to me." It was just here that the exciting incident occurred as some one afterwards said Mr. Abraham "bobbed about like an auctioneer doing good business," and he really was doing good business, and so was the Hon. Sec, for names with promises rolled in faster than he could get them down. Within five minutes £13·15·0 had been subscribed, the promises of absentees bringing the amount up to £15. This on the top of the numerous calls that have been made upon the deaf of late, is very gratifying indeed.

Contributions from the Deaf to Rose Pension Fund.

Mr. W.A. Paterson.	£ 2·0·0	Mr. J. Marks.	·7·6	Miss A. Foster.	·5·0
" E.J.D. Abraham.	1·0·0	" F. Baldry.	·5·0	" M. Potter.	·5·0
" M.L. Miller.	1·0·0	" G. Oakley.	·5·0	" J. Wright.	·5·0
Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Muir.	1·0·0	" A. Hull.	·5·0	" D. Davis.	·5·0
Mr. & Mrs. A. Williamson.	1·0·0	" J. Elwin.	·5·0	" N. Adams.	·5·0
Miss E. Connell.	10·6	" E.R.W. Smith.	·5·0	Mr. A. Wilson.	·3·0
Mr. G. Mortimer.	10·0	" J. Carries.	·5·0	Miss D. Hickey.	·2·6
" J. Nelson.	10·0	" J. Caughey.	·5·0	" R. Dow.	·2·6
" G. Newnham.	10·0	" W.P. Muir.	·5·0	Mr. J. Peters.	·2·6
" J. Paul.	10·0	" J. Moran.	·5·0	" N. Amos.	·2·6
" C. Robertson.	10·0	" W. Kindell.	·5·0	" W. Chapman.	·2·6
Miss A. Graham.	10·0	" R.H. Luff.	·5·0	" S. Turnley.	·2·0
Mr. & Mrs. D. Nolan.	10·0	Miss M. Meehan.	·5·0		

Total £ 15 · 10 · 6.

The 38th Rally.

The Christmas Rally, held on the 17th December, was almost entirely a night of parlour games. There was a large muster, especially of the younger members. To quote the Hon. Sec. who like our Asst. Treasurer, is most painstaking and methodical, there were present 125 deaf, 25 hearing and 20 children, or 170 in all. The hall was prettily decorated with banners, lanterns, greens, etc. Mr. Abraham presided and gave a short address appropriate to the occasion as did Mr. Paul. Mr. J. E. Muir read the roll call and the "family register" of the quarter. Competitions and parlour games occupied the rest of the evening until supper-time. As usual the 'feed' was enjoyed - where is the deaf-mute who doesn't enjoy a good meal! Mr. J. McLean was first in the word-making competition with 67. Kenneth Muir second with 61. Mrs. J.E. Muir third with 57. J. Nelson & W.A. Paterson 55 each. R. Beattie 53. Miss A. Foster 52. Others made from 49 to 14. The holders of winning numbers in the ticket drawing competition were, Mrs. J. Boorty (Photo frame) Mr. J.E. Frewin (Photo frame) Mr. G. Mortimer (Xmas Pudding) and Mr. A. McLellan (Bible). The Amusement Committee who were responsible for the arrangements are to be congratulated upon the success of the gathering.

Christmas at the Home.

We had a most enjoyable time on Christmas day at the Home. Certainly it rained and rained heavily, but as we had been praying for rain for a year

and more, this did not interfere with our happiness but rather added thereto. The Manager and his family and a number of friends, including our new missioner joined us at dinner in the large hall which was decorated with flags and lanterns. It was a merry party and the table fairly groaned with good things. The matron had kindly and most thoughtfully placed a useful present beside the plate of everyone of us and it was a big family too. After dinner each little group sought its own method of entertainment. The younger ones led by Archie Mc Lellan had a good time with "Blow Football" a new and exciting game. Another group of men chiefly, and from whom came burst after burst of laughter, were watching the funny story teller in the person of Mr. Paul. In the late afternoon the weather improved and many of us took advantage of the pleasures of boating.

Our Flower Farm.

It is not our fault that there was nothing in the "Letter" about the farm last month. We sent a report in but the Editor must have crowded it out. We did good business in October, better still in November and champion in Decr. indeed we have reached the limit. Before we can increase our business it will be necessary to lay down a watering scheme on a much larger plan than the present one. The sales, etc, for the past five months amount to over £400, an average of £20 a week. We have had a great crop of carnations, the Gaillardia & Calliopsos are at present a mass of bloom, Dahlias and Chrysanthemums give promise also of a fine crop of bloom. In the Vegetable garden after the severe frost of October, another attempt was made to re-inhabit this part of our little world and this time with success, beans, marrows, tomatoes, etc, are coming along fine. The pains have come too, after a year of waiting, and in abundance. Everything & everybody looks refreshed and grateful. We are getting quite systematic and gradually are becoming specialists. Archie Mc Lellan is now quite an expert, and as we have no hearing gardener, is responsible for the actual work, under the direction of the manager. Alex Hull is becoming quite a reliable salesman and together with Percy Swain is entrusted with the market work. Sid Dunley has charge of the horses & cows and Chapman is practising with the poultry. Lord Nelson is our Master-bed-maker, - flower beds we mean, and Kindell is propagator. Altogether, just now, everything gives promise of greater things.

General Board.

The General Board and the Farm and Finance Committee met on Monday,

Dec. 14th at the Centre. The Chairman (W. E. R. Peacock, J.P.) presided and Rev. H. W. H. Adeney, Messrs. S. S. Mercy, J.P., W. Dickins, S. S. Brown, M. Miller, F. J. Rose, E. J. D. Abraham, R. J. Ochr and J. Paul were present. Account amounting to £236·19·0 were passed for payment. It was decided to admit Thomas Smith, a deaf mute, aged 16, at present living at Kyneton, to the farm. The reports of the Superintendent and of the Missioner were read and received. An extract from the Missioner's report will be found elsewhere.

Victorian Branch, A. D. D. A.

The Victorian Branch of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association is a "live" organisation. Its membership is 103 and the officers believe in doing things. The Ninth Annual Meeting was held in the Upper hall of the Deaf Centre on the 28th of Nov. and there was an attendance of 50, and not "lukewarmness" but enthusiasm. W. M. L. Miller the president occupied the chair, and before proceeding with the business extended a hearty welcome on behalf of the Association members to the new Missioner Mr. Paul. The welcome was heartily given and Mr. Paul returned thanks and hoped to be of much help in furthering the good work of the branch. The Hon. Sec. (W. T. E. Trewin) read the report, a long one, but one brimful of records of work attempted and work done. Reference was made to the successful effort on behalf of a pension for W. Rose, to the successful representations made to the Chief Commissioner of Police with the aim of putting a stop to the hawking and begging nuisance, to the visit to the Newport workshops, with the object of ascertaining whether the deaf could be employed in any of the departments there, and of the visit to Melbourne and conference with representatives from South Australia. If there is anything W. W. A. Paterson likes more than another, it is to present a good balance sheet. He was in that happy position on this occasion, being able to show a handsome bank balance. The Hon Secretary has left no stone unturned to make the branch a success and he is ever watchful for opportunities to improve the status of the deaf, and this the committee & the members recognised by a special expression of thanks. The chairman in a short address said:- No one who listened to the report could fail to see that some good & useful work had been done during the past 12 months. He trusted the members were satisfied with all that had been done. There was more work for the board to turn its attention to during the next 12 months and he hoped success would attend the same. He desired to correct a wrong impression which some deaf-mutes held with regard to the representations made to the Commissioner of Police re Tramps & beggars, it was to the effect that the association desired to put a stop to their hawking work because they were

not members of the Association & did not pay a subscription. He said this was all nonsense, the Association did not want to do harm, but good, to the deaf, and that hawking coupled with begging only tended to bring discredit upon deaf mutes generally, and should be, therefore, put down with a strong hand, no matter whether the deaf-mute concerned was a member of the Association or not. So long as hawking work was carried on honestly it would not be interfered with.

The healthy condition of the branch can best be illustrated by the very large number of candidates for positions on the Board of Management; the list filled the blackboard. Mr. M. L. Miller was re-elected President unopposed, as was also Mr. J. S. Muir, Mr. T. E. Trewin & Mr. W. A. Paterson, - Vice-Presidents, Hon. Sec. & Hon. Treas. respectively. There was some change in the personnel of the Committee, Our chief headed the poll, but that fine little worker & popular preacher, Mr. S. Newnham was only one vote behind him, and our new Chaplain & Missioner, Mr. Paul, but one vote behind Newnham, Messrs. J. A. Nelson, R. H. Luff & W. P. Muir were the other members who secured seats on the board. At this juncture, Mr. Abraham, (The President of the General Board of the Association) made an appeal on behalf of the Rose pension Fund & was given more than he asked for. Miss D. Davis proposed & Mr. W. Muir seconded hearty votes of thanks to the Chairman, Retiring Officers, Auditor & Scrutineers. It was carried unanimously.

The Ramblers.

The Ramblers were entertained most lavishly on the 12th. of December by our very generous friend, Miss Graham. Our rendezvous was St. Kilda & in addition to Miss Graham we had with us our chief, and the new assistant Missioner, Mr. Paul. After inspecting the newly put up statue of Captain Cook, we strolled along the pier, enjoying the sea breeze and watching the yachting. We then enjoyed tea, also strawberries & cream at Miss Grahams' expense. Afterwards by the kind invitation of the same Lady, we visited Luna Park where she absolutely compelled us to go on every sensation and into every show. Needless to say we enjoyed ourselves immensely and when the hour of ten approached & we had to make for home every one of us felt we could not thank Miss Graham enough for the happy time she had given us.

Lectures, &c.

On the 1st. of December, Mr. Paul gave an account of his voyage out to Australia, this, by special request. He dwelt very largely upon the humorous side of the voyage and amused us immensely.

"Galilee or Corsica" was the title of a lecture by Mr. Abraham delivered on the 8th ult. It was the story of the present war and the possibilities of the future. The question as to whether we will permit ourselves to be ruled by militarism or by the principles of the Prince of Peace. The lecturer showed himself to be a master of his subject, and we learned much therefrom and appreciated his lecture to the full.

On the 15th ult. we had a paper from Mr. M. L. Miller, under the auspices of the Mens' Guild. Amongst other matters of topical interest he touched on Australia and showed us how things should be done. The diagrams, which must have cost a lot of time and labour, illustrated the bigness of Australia in comparison with Europe, far better than any arithmetical problems could have done, and they did more, they illustrated the bigness of the heart and mind which our friend puts into the many things he does for us.

At the meeting of the Womens' Guild held on the 1st ult. the members were spellbound as the president (Mrs. J. E. Muir) gracefully recited "The Lady of the Shallot" and also "The Kings' Idylls." She afterwards gave an educational lesson on "Language". She was accordingly praised and thanked by the members.

Subscriptions, Donations, &c.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of 2/6 from Mrs. J. J. Kelley of Adelaide, 2/- each from Miss Jones, Mrs. Walker of Eaglehawk & Miss E. Hair of Willung, 1/6 each from Mrs. Trebilco, Miss M. Orde & Mr. A. Barlow of N.S.W. and 1/- each from Miss J. Hunish of Maldon & Mr. W. Nancarrow of Maryborough for our "Monthly Letter" Fund.

Mr. F. E. Frewin, Hon. Sec. Victorian Branch, A.D.D.A. begs to acknowledge with thanks, the following subscriptions:- Miss A. Foster 1/-, Miss B. Connell 1/-, Mr. S. Bernley 1/-, Mr. W. Chapman 1/-, Mr. W. A. Paterson 1/-, Mrs. M. Miller 1/-, Mr. J. J. Roe 1/-, Mr. J. Paul 2/6, Mr. J. A. Nelson 1/-, Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Muir 2/-, Mr. & Mrs. E. R. W. Smith 2/-, Mr. & Mrs. J. Caughey 2/-, Mr. & Mrs. A. McLellan 2/-. Will other members kindly send their subscriptions as soon as possible to Mr. Frewin, Adult Deaf Centre, 3 Flinders St. E. Melb.

The sum of £1.15.6 has been received from the deaf for the deaf poor, and £1.5.6 towards the expenses of the Christmas Rally.

The Belgian Deaf Refugees.

Mrs. A. Williamson (Hon. Sec. of the Deaf Workers' Club) has been successful in collecting from the deaf £8.6.0, out of which £5.6.0 has

been given to the Lord Mayor's Patriotic Fund while the remainder, £3, has been set aside with the members' approval, in response to Mdlle. Pitrois' pathetic appeal. (See the last number of our "Monthly Letter".) Mdlle. Pitrois is pleading persistently on behalf of the Belgian Deaf Refugees. Her cry for "Help", has also been heard in Great Britain, U.S. America, Canada, France, Queensland. It will very soon be answered in S. Australia and other countries. The deaf in these countries are responding with remarkable eagerness & their hearts are full of pity towards those stricken refugees. Australian Deaf, do not lag behind & be the last on the list! Come forward! You have been most generous and have lately contributed to several funds. Now, will you still be a little more generous & help your unhappy & starving brethren of Belgium & North France? Just picture yourself in their condition. Help! Give, Give, Give cheerily! No matter how much or little you can give! Mdlle. Pitrois says every cent will be useful. Nice warm clothing will be gladly accepted. A parcel of sweaters & Ladys' coat has been received from Mrs Hair of Willung, for which she is warmly thanked. The following donations have also been received with thanks:- Mr. & Mrs J. E. Muir 10/- Mrs J. J. Halley of Adelaide 7/6, Mr. M. L. Miller 10/6, Misses Eva, Ella & M Hair of Willung 5/6, Miss M. Orde 5/- Mr. N. Hughes 4/- & Miss Connie. Ball 2/6. Send your donations of money or clothing to Mrs A. Williamson, Deaf Centre, Flinders St, E. Melb. and she will acknowledge them in this "Letter".

Stray Notes.

The Deaf School broke up for Xmas on the 18th Dec. Work will be resumed on the 15th February. — Mr. B. Phillips who arrived in Adelaide from England sometime ago is now in Melbourne seeking work. — A son was born to Mr. & Mrs J. Peirce on 1st Dec. They have our congratulations. — Mr. Jas. Johnston has settled down in Melbourne as his people have moved from Ballarat to Auburn. His sister attended the Rally for the first time. — Mrs G. Dammann (Warburton) & Mr. S. Ferguson (Bowman's Forest) were down for the Rally and enjoyed themselves very much. — Mrs Cove has returned to Melbourne after 12 months stay with her daughter in W. Aust. — Miss J. Hirsh (Maldon) & R. Durham (Ballarat) send Xmas greetings to friends. — Visitors to Melbourne, - Mr. Northey (Adelaide) Misses G. Nicholls, W. Mc Grath & Salmon (Jee.) Miss Beaumont (Sydney). R. Mills (Ballarat). Misses S, J, & D. Collins (S. Nectrin). — The following are away from Melbourne, - Misses A. Graham, M. Collins & M. Gibson, Mrs J. Dempsey, Mr. & Mrs J. Nolan, Mr. & Mrs J. Harris, Mr. & Mrs J. McLean and Misses D. Peters, A. Hull, N. Amos, J. Marks, J. Blowin, N Hayden, C. Robertson, S. Mortimer, E. Martin, G. Duenbost, H. Mc Kenzie & A. Christensen.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Vol II **February** **No. 6**

January and February are quiet months at our Centre. This year has been no exception to the rule so far as special functions are concerned. Nevertheless the classes and Saturday night socials have drawn attendances quite up to the average of the busier months of the year. The same too may be said of the Sunday Services. Many of our members have been away on holiday and our Centre has been favoured with visits from the deaf of other states. The hot weather will have passed on the advent of March and doubtlessly that month will find our Centre the usual hive of industry We hope that, after the long vacation, all our members will be bursting with zeal for another years strenuous work.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held in the Church for the Deaf, Flinders St. E. On Sunday March 7th. Both the Supt (Mr Abraham) and the Missioner (Mr Paul) will officiate. Gifts of flowers, fruit & vegetables will be gratefully received. You are not only asked to contribute toward the wherewithal for decorations, but you are earnestly invited to attend on the 6th of March (Saturday) and help in the decoration of the Church.

The Chief's Garden Party

Mr & Mrs. E.J.D. Abraham invite the deaf of Victoria to a Garden Party to be held at Lake Park, Blackburn on

Saturday March 13th. This invitation is open to the whole of the deaf and a personal invitation is not necessary. The fact that you receive this "Monthly Letter" means you are wanted and are expected and will receive a hearty welcome.

Rally

The Deaf Committee have decided to hold the next quarterly Rally on the 25th of March at our Centre. The Programme will appear in the March number of "Our Letter".

The late Mr. R. R. Paterson.

A memorial service was held on Sunday - January 3rd. It was good to see such a large Congregation come to pay a tribute to the memory of their friend who had done so much for us. Mr Abraham in a most appropriate sermon spoke of the splendid spirit and affection which Mr Paterson had brought into his work amongst the Deaf and the lasting results he had achieved and encouraged us to show our remembrance of Mr Paterson by Carrying out his teaching. The photo of the Late Mr Paterson which usually hangs in the Superintendents' room was painstakingly wreathed with white flowers by Mr Paul and hung in the church for the occasion. The pulpit also was prettily decorated with white flowers from the farm.

The many or the few. Which?

In an article in the American Annals a teacher writes " An awakening has come and we see the results in the introduction of Manual Training, agriculture & other practical subjects in the Common schools and the establishment of trade schools. Of the pupils who go out from the American Schools for the deaf, only about 2 per Cent go to College . . . What is needed is a Course of Study for the 98 per Cent who do not go to College and which will fit them better for the life they will lead in the World."

From the Age of Jan 26th.

Vermelles, an important position in the German line of defence in Flanders, was recently captured by the French owing to a soldier who was familiar with the language of the deaf & dumb. The story of a remarkable Conquest was published in the French Newspaper the "Temps". The Germans had placed several machine guns in the village school

building but as they had driven a number of old women and children into the Court yard of the School it was impossible for the French to fire the building. On 5th of December the Colonel received orders to take the building at all costs. He was observing the position from behind a wall when he suddenly noticed among the old women in the School yard one who was evidently deaf & dumb. He called one of his men, whom he knew to be familiar with the deaf & dumb language. Handing him a pocket mirror he told him to attract the old woman's attention by flashing the rays of the sun in her face, and at a given order to signal to her to move over into the right hand corner of the School Yard together with the other Captives He then placed a number of sharpshooters in good positions The old woman perceived the signals of the French Soldier and carried out her instructions without awakening the suspicions of the Germans, and the sharp Shooters having picked off most of the enemy manning the guns, the position was rushed at the point of the bayonet. Thus Vermelles, which had long defied attack, was taken in the Space of ten minutes with the aid of the deaf and dumb alphabet.

Belgian Deaf Refugee's Fund

Notwithstanding the drought, slackness of employment, and the numerous calls that the Deaf have had lately the response to the above fund has been most gratifying indeed, has exceeded our expectations. The Spirit of Generosity has penetrated the whole deaf Community God grant that it may live for ever. The hon Sec. of the Deaf Workers Club desire to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of the following Contributions :— Miss A Graham. £5. Mrs Linds 5/-. Mr Paul 5/-; Messrs Lusk. Nelson. Hull. Newnham & Miss A. Adams 2/6 each. Messrs O. & O. Iggers. 2/- each.; Mr R. Hamilton 3/9; Mr. Lumley 1/6; Mrs Caughley, Misses Hickey & Collins. Messrs Baldey, Elwin, J. Anderson, J Moran & B. Phillips 1/- each. Mr. A. Hughes 1/- (second instalment) Messrs Dickenson, Amos, McKenzie 6 each. Mrs Brotherton Sweater; Mrs Oakley 2 Scarves; "Friend"; Costume. Miss A. Foster. woollen garment; "Two friends"

1/- each. The Fund will close at the end of this month. If You have not helped DO IT NOW.. Those desiring to help our Belgian brethren will kindly send money or clothing as soon as possible to Mr Williamson (Hon Sec.) Deaf Centre. Flinders St. Melb. The fund has now reached the sum of £ 12.19.9.

Women's Guild

The Meetings have been largely attended during the Summer months. There was an attendance of 19 at our meetings on Jan 12th. Miss Dorry Davies recited "Sum of my Soul". Mrs. Wilson then conducted the Bible class and referred to prophecies and the war. She paid a high tribute to the late W. R. K. Paterson. A letter of Condolence has been sent to Mrs Paterson.

Men's Guild

The members of the Men's Guild spent a pleasant evening on "Round Night" Jan 12th. After business and extending a hearty welcome to our visitors we "spun yarns" and told holiday experiences. One Member tried to frighten us by producing the awesome head of a "Cat fish" he had caught, but, as the "Rounds" were still there, we stood our ground. Thank goodness he did not flourish it around during the Supper.!

Mr Abrahams Lecture

On Tuesday Jan 5th Mr Abrahams gave an open lecture on Espionage. That it was Splendid need hardly be said; our only regret being that it was too near the holidays to get the Audience it deserved.

A. O. O. A. Victorian Branch.

Mr. Hewin, Hon Sec. begs to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions:— Mr & Mrs Williamson 2/- Mrs. J. Mills, Waiai 1/-. Will other members please Send their Subscriptions as soon as possible to Mr. Hewin. Adult. Deaf Centre, Flinders St. Melb.

Stray Notes.

Mr J. Moran lost his Mother in West. Australia some time ago. He has our Condolence. Mr & E. Hewin has returned to Melbourne after Spending a pleasant holiday in N.S.W.

Mrs H. Goddard is now ill in the Melbourne Hospital
During Xmas and New Year we had quite a number
on holiday — Messrs E. Martin, J. Mark, G. Murdoch, J.
Thom & N. Dingher at Warrnambool, Messrs J. Peters,
A. Hull & N. Amos camped at Flinders; Messrs A. McKenzie
& A & V. Christensen pitched their tent at Nanagibie on
the Goulburn River; Miss M. Collins stayed with her
brothers at Kerrin, and Miss M. Gibson visited School
chums at Waaia. Mr & Mrs Nolan were at Chelsea, Mr.
& Mrs Harris at Geelong and Portarlington. Mr G. Mortimer
at Geelong; Mr C. Robertson at Kerrin; Mrs. Dempsey &
her children at Monbulk.; Mr J. Moran picnicked at
Alexandra, Rubicon Falls & Crystal Creek; Miss Potter
was at Geelong; Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Muir saw some fine scenery
in the Port Campbell & Rivernook district. Mr. O. Harding
went to Tasmania. Mr & Mrs Dempsey have gone up to
Aspendale for a fortnight. Miss A. Graham is staying
with relatives at Koolomint & expects to return during
February. We were pleased to see our friends: Miss
Beaumont, Messrs Nicholls, Pagnalin, Capt. McGrath.
Salmon, Gibson, Newell & Barrell at the Centre during
the holidays. Messrs Newell & Barrell had a pleasant
visit to Mr. Ashby's farm at Trafalgar. Mr. J. Caldwell
of Trafalgar recently paid a short visit to Melbourne
on business.

Mr. Jamieson, through Mr. Mortimer, & Mrs Nelson of
Sydney through Mrs Oakley who was her guest for the
holidays; sent large parcels of magazines which the
Deaf Committee gratefully accepted for the Library
Mr. & Mrs. Pretton (our Caretakers) presented the Congrega
with a table cover as an Xmas gift. They have our
best thanks.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks, Receipt of
2/6 from Mr. J. Paul. 2/- from Mr. J. W Thomson. 1/6 each
from Miss Clayton & Miss Beaumont, 1/- from
"Anonymous" toward the above fund.

General Board.

The Committee of our Society met at our Centre on the 18th. Alt. W. E. R. Peacock presided. In the course of his report the Superintendent (W Abraham) said it was with deep regret he recorded the death of W. R. Paterson, who was for nine years, Missioner to this Society. It was during his term of office that the money was raised to purchase the land upon which the Deaf Centre stands, and when he resigned there was upwards of £1000 in hand toward the building. He was the first to accomplish important fundamental & permenant work. He had a great influence over the deaf and was highly esteemed by them. Right up to the time of his illness he was ever willing to assist at services interpreting &c.

The different branches of the work continued as smoothly and successfully as heretofore. W Paul was now quite at home with the work. The Assistant Missioner reported good attendances at Services & meetings and particulars of help he had endeavoured to render.

He further said "I wish to take the opportunity offered to express my gratitude for the very kind manner in which you received me on my arrival. It was most inspiriting and encouraging, and I can assure you it is deeply appreciated." "To the Congregation also, my sincere thanks are tendered, not only for the Cordial welcome which they gave to me, and the efforts of the Deaf Workers, which ensured the success of the gathering, but in that throughout my work among them they have given ample proof of their sincerity and loyalty in every possible way." "I cannot express how much all this has meant to me, I can only endeavour to reflect the Splendid spirit of it in my work. So far being a "new Chum" has somewhat handicapped me but a better knowledge of the Conditions and a more intimate knowledge of our Deaf People will soon alter that."

The Committee expressed deep regret at the death of W. R. Paterson & the Hon Sec was requested to write to Mr Paterson & give expression to their deep sorrow

and sympathy at her loss.

Flower-Farm

We are just beginning to feel the effects of the war Nevertheless Last month was a record one. Our Sales amounted to £ 100, of this sum £ 91 represents flowers - Dahlias, Gaillardia, Shasta Daisy, Calliopsis & roses constitute the present bloom.

Deaf Committee.

The Deaf Committee met at our Centre on the 19th Jan Mr Abraham presided. A number of small accounts were passed for payment. The Annual Thanksgiving was fixed for 7th March, and the Rally for 25th of same month.
The matter of evening educational classes was discussed and finally left to Mr Abraham & Mr Paul to report upon at next Meeting.

A visit to Mr Salas.

Mr Salas, the missionary, had an agreeable surprise on Saturday evening December 19th when over 130 of the deaf along with Mr. S. Johnson (the Superintendent of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution, Brighton) met together at his house at Wayville to wish him Christmas Cheer and to present him with a purse of Sovereigns as a token of love for his 22 Years of Labor amongst the Deaf Mr Salas' ill-health has prevented his visiting the mission for some time, so that it was a real pleasure to him as well as to his friends to meet again.
Some very nice speeches were delivered by Mr. S. Johnson and several of the Deaf and although Mr Salas could not rise up from the lounge, his responses were most touching. He told us how he valued his kind friend, Mr Johnson, and how it grieved him to be away from his beloved work. Mr Johnson said we all have our Cross to bear and we must bear it bravely, he said he he would always do his best for Mr Salas, he was sure that we all value our dear friend (Mr Salas), and we sympathize with him in his prolonged illness Mr Salas is one that is always ready to give and sometimes when I have expressed surprise at the amount he has given to some cause he would say it is n. t.

too much for a good cause. His hand was always in his pocket for others and I know he found it more blessed to give than to receive. We spent a very happy evening and Mrs Sulas treated us to cool drinks and refreshments. We pray that God's best blessing may rest upon Mr & Mrs Sulas and their children. The present was collected & presented by the writer." M. Solomon. "South Aust. Deaf News"

At the Front.

From the European publications to hand we learn that very many of the teachers of the Deaf of England, France and Germany are in arms at the front; and some of the British and French names are very familiar to us. We understand that more than one of the French Schools have been compelled to close down because so many of the teachers are in the ranks.

School Commandeered

It was reported at a meeting of the Works Committee of Dundee School Board last September that the military authorities had taken over the building occupied by the Deaf and Dumb School, and that in consequence the Board would require to seek new temporary accommodation for the pupils.

Special

Just as we go to press we learn that the entertainments Committee have decided to hold a Recitation and Dialogue Competition for the next Rally. Recitations etc. such as the "Village Blacksmith" will be selected and the Competitor who the best rendering of the piece will receive the prize. Full particulars in the "March Letter". We are pleased to hear that Mrs Goddard is progressing favourably.

Animals are such agreeable friends — they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.

THE END

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. II MARCH 1915. No. 7.

To the Deaf People of Victoria
Mr. and Mrs Ernest J. D. Abraham
have pleasure in inviting you to their annual
Garden Party
at Lake Park, Blackburn,
on Saturday, March 13th 1915.
Trains leave Flinders St, Melb.: 1.35 pm; 1.55 pm; 2.15 pm.
Trains leave Blackburn: 6.9 pm; 6.27 pm; 7.39 pm.
No other invitation will be issued. This number of the Monthly is your invitation card.

To the Work.

March! What an appropriate month. What an appropriate watchword for the opening of our working session. Vacation over. Work begins. What is it the old hymn says, To the work, to the work, there is labour for all." Forward – March! Ever onward, ever upward – Excelsior! Off with your coats & turn up your sleeves, there's much to be done. Come on, girls. Come on, boys. Let's be at it. Here's to another record. Out with your books, ye learners. Stock your minds & give us of your best, ye lecturers. Exhibit your patience & your skill in the transference of knowledge, ye teachers. Put muscle & wit & endurance & chivalry into your game & bring in the honours, ye sports. Fill us with good humour & merriment, ye humorists, & bind us together in unity & goodwill, ye lovers. To the work. Here's to the Deaf Mute Centre & all its benefits.

The Church Work

Our Missioner is no longer "new". He is already one of us. He has been quick to acquire a knowledge of our signs, & we are becoming quite familiar with those of his that differ from signs popular amongst us. It is anything but easy to preach to a congregation born into almost every shade of religious opinion. "Love" and "Forgive" might with all truth be the foundation stones of our church, & we were not a little anxious to know in what direction our new Missioner would lead us. Our cup of joy was full when we found him to be in complete harmony with our Chief & the church. His ministrations have already proved very acceptable to the congregation. In his January report to the General Board, Mr. Paul was able to show good attendances. The highest at Services being 71 & the lowest 20, the highest at bible class 25 & the lowest 13. There is an improvement in the attendance at morning service, & this is encouraging.

Educational

On Tuesday March 2nd Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham will lecture to both sexes. His subject is - "True Patriotism" Taking into consideration the exceptional demands upon the finances of the deaf generally & the smaller earnings owing to the war conditions, the Deaf Committee have decided for the present not to fix upon a special evening for the educational classes, but to hold them after the bible lesson on Thursday evenings.

The first class will be in charge of Mr. Abraham for the month of March, assisted by Mr. Paul, & will commence at 8.45 pm prompt. Both sexes invited.

Our Staff

We have pleasure in complying with the request of a reader who thinks "others would like to know also". The following briefly put, are the duties of the members of our staff.

Mr. Abraham, the Superintendent, has the general supervision of the whole of the work at the Centre and at the Farm. The educational work is under his direction & the Society looks to him to obtain an income sufficient to maintain the work. He resides at the Blackburn Home,

& has the management of the Farm. He conducts Sunday Service at least once a month & the bible class occasionally. He may be seen at the Centre, Tuesday & Thursday afternoons or by appointment, & is mostly to be found at the Farm on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Mr Paul has charge, (under the direction of the Supt.) of the religious work, conducting the Sunday Services, & Bible classes, visiting the deaf at their homes & seeking work for unemployed deaf. He may be seen before & after all meetings & by appointment.

Miss Simpson acts as secretary to the Superintendent. She has charge of the office & the office work, books, accounts, correspondence, etc. Leave your message with her & it will reach its proper destination, or get your hearing friend to ring up, Central 5223, & she will put you in the way of getting what you want. Anyway she will do her best for you.

Mr Abraham Junr. is Assistant Manager of the Farm.

Mrs Abraham is Matron of the Blackburn Home & has charge of the inmates & the supervision of the Home.

Mr Mc Lellan is overseer at the Farm & carries out all the work under the direction of the Manager.

Mr Moss is City Collector, Mr Martinez collects in the suburbs. Messrs Williamson & A. C. Muir are Country Collectors.

Mr & Mrs Grettan are the Caretakers of the Centre. It is their duty to open & close our Centre & keep it clean.

We hope we haven't left anybody out.

The late Mr Salas.

It was with feelings of deep sorrow we recorded the death of Mr R. R. Paterson last month, & now news has reached us of the passing away of another fellow worker & dear friend, Mr Salas. Mr Salas was beloved by all the deaf, and rightly so, for the best of life was unselfishly devoted to missionary work among the deaf of South Australia. He was a native of Victoria & once a prominent member of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society here. In 1892 he accepted the position of Missionary-in-charge of the S. A. Adult Deaf & Dumb Mission, & proved himself a success in everything he undertook. His sympathy & labours won for him an ~~ever~~increasing popularity We all loved him. We shall all miss him.

The Deaf of Belgium.

For months past the whole world has been talking of brave little Belgium, & it is exceedingly gratifying to know that practically the whole of the deaf paper family is appealing for funds to help the deaf of this most unfortunate country. Mdlle. Yvonne Pitrois, of France, is the guiding spirit of the movement. God bless her. There are, or we suppose we ought to say were, for probably they are in ruins & ashes now, thirteen schools for the deaf in Belgium, & the deaf population, according to the last census, was 4191. When the war broke out, most of the pupils were on holiday, at home with their parents, & have had to escape in frantic fear from the approaching enemy, to England, Holland, France & Switzerland. Mdlle. Pitrois is making strenuous efforts to seek them out. Many Australian deaf have already helped. Have you? If not, do so at once. There is not a deaf mute in the Commonwealth who is unable to contribute at least a shilling. Some of you could, if you but would, give gold. We of the British Empire owe Belgium a great debt. They have suffered martydom for us. Pay, according to your means, your share of that debt. Address your gift to Mrs Williamson (Hon. Sec. to the fund), Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St, Melbourne.

King of the Belgians Father Deaf.

We learn from an American Exchange that King Albert is the son of a deaf mute. King Albert is more than six feet in height, & is fair of complexion, is 39 years old, married & has three children. He is the son of the Duke of Flanders.

Deaf Star of the "Movies"

"We are holding our own and advancing with the times" writes an American friend. For years we have had our representatives in the ranks of the Sculptors, Artists, Chemists, Teachers, Novelists, Poets, Inventors, Scientists, and the minor professions & now we can claim leading lights with the Cinematograph makers. Mr Charles Chaplin of the Ford Sterling Company of picture actors. He is advertised as the funniest comedian in filmdom, & there are others who are earning handsome salaries as "film actors".

"By What Miracle"

A gentleman who was acquainted with our Chief in the Old World & who is on a worlds tour & at present doing the sights of Melbourne, recently paid a visit to our Flower Farm. He was not a little surprised to be re-introduced to his old acquaintance & greeted him with "By what miracle did you became the possessor of so beautiful an estate?" "By the miracle of generasity of the people of Victoria," responded our Chief. "Fortunate, fortunate, extremely fortunate are the deaf of Victoria," said our visitor. "It will exhaust my capabilities of the description to convince the people of the Old World how beautiful a home you have & how good must be the people who made such an Institution possible."

Adelaide Deaf Church.

Mr. Samuel Johnson, Supt. of the S. A. School for Deaf Children, is officiating once a month at the Adelaide Church for Deaf Mutes, so also is Mr. A. C. W. Cox, the head teacher. The other services are conducted by Mr. Edwin Johnson, a deaf-mute from England who is Acting Assistant Missioner. Mr. S. Johnson has taken the position of Chairman of the Deaf Consultation Committee.

S. A. Mission Report.

The annual report of the South Australian Adult Deaf & Dumb Mission is before us. The Committee are thankful that of the 110 deaf mutes connected with the Mission so many are leading respectable, steady christian lives. Mr. S. Johnson, the founder of the Mission, continues to hold the position of Hon. Supt. & to give much of his valuable time to the work. Mr. A. C. W. Cox, another instructor of deaf children, is also an honorary officer of the Adult Mission. The income for the year was £2.550, & the expenditure £2.730. The services of the resident missionary have been dispensed with, & Mr. Edwin Johnson engaged as acting missioner.

S. A. Farm & Home.

The Angas Home for Aged & Infirm Deaf at Parafield continues its good work under the management of Mr. A. G. H. Cox. New bath & lavatary conveniences have been

fruit in the home at a cost of £194. The area for lucerne growing has been increased. Further, sheep & cattle have been purchased for fattening for market, & new poultry yards erected. Three additional deaf mute workers have been engaged, there are 20 deaf mutes now at the Home. There has been one death. Receipts from sale of produce & board of inmates £345. Total expenditure for the year £1.328, of this sum £180 was paid to deaf employees.

Sculptor & Artist.

Our old friend Edwin A. Hodgson, editor of the New York Deaf Mutes Journal, says he is the possessor of two oil paintings by Douglas Tilden, the famous deaf sculptor. One represents a small table upon which is a wine bottle, a cigar stump & playing cards carelessly thrown face upwards, & by their side are well used specimens of paper money. The other is a student's lamp standing beside an open book upon which rests a grinning skull. We were well aware that Tilden is a sculptor of the highest rank, a writer of no little skill & a brilliant conversationalist, but it is news to us that he is an artist also, & apparently as original with his brush as with that of his chisel.

Deaf Farm attacked by Blackfellows.

We had imagined that we had had more than our share of reverses. A year & more without rain. Then frost that killed every tender little thing on the farm, then hot winds that scorched up the stranger garden inhabitants, followed by a downpour of rain that verily laughed in our faces at coming too late to be of practical service, & now to be attacked by blackfellows. They have come in their millions & they are nasty cannibals, too. This is the time when it's real nice to be tough as leather. But our Chief! Oh dear! You should see him. He must be awfully tender, for these blackfellows have bored holes into every part of his head, neck, hands & arms & he really does look lovely. I saw him telling a lady that he did not mind the pain but that he did object to the spoliation of his beauty. We had a certain missioner come down to stay at the Farm. He came from a certain Centre. But he did not

stop long. It is said that he was up all night fighting with the blacks, anyway he looked very worn & weary in the morning. We had a lot to talk to him about, but you couldn't see his heels for dust, - he was on his way to the railway station. "No more of mosquito land for me," said he.

Appreciation Appreciated.

The Kneyton Ladies Benevolent Society recently brought to the notice of our Board a deaf boy of that Township, for whom they were unable to obtain admission to the Institution (School) for Deaf & Dumb Children, Prahran because he was sixteen years old. The Board decided to admit the lad to our Blackburn Home. In appreciation of this action the Kneyton Ladies have sent £5 to the funds of our Home, & we appreciate their appreciation. That reminds us, about a year ago we received into the Home a deaf boy, stated to be subject to fits, from the Institution for children. He had a fit the first month, but has had none since. Indeed he is the strongest and healthiest of us all. No place like the Blackburn Flower Farm for health in spite of the mosquitos

Flowers.

In January we reported that rain had come & in abundance. Our delight, however, was short lived, for so dry was the soil that the hot winds that followed made matters worse than they were before. But "are we downhearted"? No! We have been doing our best. Our very very best & a "fellow can't do more". We are labouring with a plant put down to pump up water for about four acres, not fourteen: to produce an income of say £300, not £1.000, & for ordinary, not extraordinary, weather, & as we have already succeeded in earning £720, & have two months to go yet, we suppose we ought to smile. The £720. is actual cash receipts. Outstanding accounts would make the figures nearer £800, & we do not include produce raised & used on the farm.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/6 from Mrs Duke, 2/- from Mr J. Chwin & 1/- from Miss Potter.

Picnics.

Some day we hope to be able to make suitable provision for picnics at Lake Park, for this will, undoubtedly be a fine means for adding to our income. There were three picnic parties at the Lake on the 13th inst. About 800 persons in all, and Chapman, who had charge of the boats, had a busy time & did well. Nelson governed the hot water supply with success.

Mens Guild Picnic.

On A. N. A. Day a goodly muster of members set out from Fern Tree Gully for a circular walk. Ascending Jacobs Ladder under a hot sun, some of us discarded collars and ties, & began to wonder if the surveyors had not mistaken the height, & put down 1,000 ft for 10,000! However, the view from the "Look Out" compensated us amply for the climb. On one side were the lovely gum clad hills and below lay a great rich plain studded with orchards. Lunch time provided a welcome break, & the contents of our bags soon disappeared. On we went, under lovely tree ferns & foliage, to Sherbrooke Falls. By the way we met our good friends, Mr & Mrs H. Sumner Martin, with a lady friend, & had a pleasant chat with them. At the falls we found as much water coming down as comes out of the spout of an average tea pot, but a bevy of pretty girls, who had evidently come from North of the Tweed, made the scene as beautiful as it could be. Taking the main road we soon reached Belgrave where the good hostess of the Coffee Palace soon had a tastefully decorated table laid with an ample supply of good things suitable for hungry "gentlemen of the road". Having shown practical appreciation of the good ladys success, we strolled down to Fern Tree Gully, in nice time to board a train for home. That the day was a success is the verdict of everyone who was there. Tired? Oh no! It is much less tiring to walk twelve miles than to "sleep" for a night at a certain Farm we know. The Missioner who joined the party took photos. of the ramblers which turned out well.

Women's Guild Picnic.

The weather was perfect when we gathered at Sandringham on Saturday the 13th. The drive to Beaumaris on the tram proved interesting, only we were doubtful whether the horses would live till we got there. One member suggested that it was the harness that held them up, & described how the poor beasts have to be propped up against the stable wall when they are unharnessed at night. Some of the members enjoyed a 'dip' while others had a stroll & a talk till tea-time when we did justice to the good things. After another little while on the cliffs we tramped along to Cheltenham & were soon home, having added another pleasant day to the many others we can look back upon.

Men's Guild Meeting.

At the meeting on Jan. 26th Mr. J. Johnston, one of our promising members, gave an excellent paper on "Paper & its evils". Mr. Nelson, one of our "never fail" members, read a humorous paper on "Our Selection". The merriment that resounded from the Guild room showed in what good measure both papers were appreciated.

Women's Guild Meeting.

There was, as usual, good attendance at the Recitation night on Feb. 9th. Our Chief & our Missionaer were both present by special invitation. Mesdames Muir & Wilson & the Misses R. & M. Dow, D. Hickey, M. Meehan, L. Fletcher & C. Ball ably carried out a good programme. It was a special pleasure to see the two youngest members of the Guild (Misses C. Ball & M. Dow) recite their first pieces so sweetly. Miss Meehan, Mr. Abraham & Mr. Paul were the humorists of the evening, the two gentlemen hanging their funny stories upon each other, much to the merriment of the members. Thus passed one of the jolliest evenings & the meeting, in the circumstances, closed somewhat later than usual.

Lecture

On Thursday the 11th ult. we had a special treat when the Rev. R. Bowell, of the China Inland Mission gave us an address. The many interesting things he told us gained

much from the fact that they had a part to play in the building up of Mrs Mills' splendid work for our brethren in China. Mr Powell's graphic story kept our interest throughout & his explanation of the beautiful little models he brought was most instructive. Messrs Duff & Nelson suitably expressed our appreciation to the lecturer, & incidentally the lecturer gave Mr Paul a lively hour & a half, for although, when made conscious of his rapid delivery, he slowed down, he soon returned to his natural pace. Nevertheless, the interpreter got the whole lecture home to us. The same address was given to the residents of the Farm on the afternoon of Feb. 16th Mr Abraham interpreted. At the close of the meeting the residents agreed, that if the members of the church were in unison, they would be pleased to subscribe toward the support of two Chinese pupils, which would cost £6. per annum.

The Belgian Deaf Refugees.

The Hon. Sec. of the Deaf Workers' Club begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:- Previously acknowledged, £12.19.9; Collected by Mr Turnbull of N.S.W. £2.; Mr Turnbull 5/-; Mrs Mills 10/6; Mr M.L. Miller, 9/6 (second donation); P. M. Art 5/-; Miss Potter 5/-; Mr T. J. Rose 5/-; Miss P. Elliott, of Mildura, 5/-; Miss L. Fletcher 5/-; Sympathiser 5/-; British Tommies 5/-; Mr A. Hull 2/6 (second instalment); Mr Kindell, E.J.D.A., Miss A. Foster, M.G.M., Miss Meehan 2/6 each; Miss Kenworthy, Sympathy, Miss Wright, Mr Oakley 2/- each; Misses R. Dare, Davis, Essing & Connell, Mrs Boots, Friend, Mr Harding, Mr Trewin, Friends 1/- each; Miss Davis, 2 pillow cases. The total at the closing of this fund reached £19-1-3. Will the country deaf friends kindly send in their contributions at an early date.
The money & clothing received for this fund will be forwarded to Mdlle. G. Pitrois early in March. Further particulars will appear later.

Queensland Deaf Belgians' Fund

Last month Miss M. Everend Wilson mailed £25 for the Belgian Refugees' Fund. Most of the money was given

by the Queensland deaf, the rest being collected by them. Miss Wilson says "Queensland is taking the lead". She is indeed. Wake up, Victoria. We lead in most things, we must lead in this. Dear little sister Queensland is beating us hands down.

The Deaf Workers' Club.

It was unanimously agreed that the "Deaf Workers" should make more garments for the soldiers. Their own fund is now almost exhausted, and the question of raising money to purchase material was discussed. It is the desire of the club to preserve its independence & to raise money by means of picture nights, but, unfortunately, that is out of the question at present. Owing to the fact that the deaf have had so many demands on their purses lately the Workers have decided not to approach them for money at this time. Instead they will seek assistance from other societies, & they are confident that they will receive it for so worthy a cause.

Sports.

Although it is late in the season, the Cricket Club made a start on Feb. 20th, playing against Fitzroy Mission. Our lads did very well, considering they have had limited practice. We totalled 111 runs for 7 wickets. Robertson 54, Hughes 16, Drummond 14, Harding 9; Fitzroy took 9 wickets for 71. Dickenson took 3 wickets for 8 runs, Martin 3 for 16, Robertson 3 for 28. The Club will continue playing until the end of March.

The Lacrasse Club will hold their annual meeting on March 6th. It is said that about 100 players from different clubs in the Lacrasse Association have gone to the war.

New Treasurer

We are pleased to be able to announce that Mr. H. L. Walters has consented to act as Treasurer for our Society. Mr. Walters has shown a real interest in our work.

Personal Pars.

Mr. H. Allinson, of Cow-warr, spent a pleasant holiday in Melbourne. He was thinking of settling among us, but had to go back for his mother's sake.

Miss Elliott of Mildura, is in Melbourne for a month's holiday.

We are glad to see Miss A. Graham among us again after a pleasant stay at Koolaamurt.

Mrs J. Pierce lost her father on Feb. 6th. A letter of condolence was sent to her on behalf of the Melbourne deaf. She wishes to thank them for their sympathy.

Mr H. Taggart, of Maryborough, enjoyed a fortnights' holiday in Melbourne.

Mr J. M. Paul has presented a set of jardinieres for the pulpit decorations to the congregation.

Gunfire & Deafness.

In a reference to the siege of Liege an issue of the London Times contained the following – "How many of us realise even vaguely the character of life within the forts, the long stress of it, the fierce tension, the darkness, & the unending night of silence? For it is morally certain that all those within the forts have been rendered stone deaf.

Coming Events.

Feb. 25th, Blackburn Deaf Mutes' Farm & Home Picnic to Dromana by kind invitation of Huddart, Parker & Co. Ltd.
" 27th, Swimming Carnival at Lake Park, Blackburn, in aid of the Belgian Fund.
Mar. 2nd, Mr Abraham's Lecture, "True Patriotism", to men & women at our Centre.
" 4th, at 8.45 pm, Opening of Educational Class.
" 6th, Adult Deaf C. C. v Anglis & Co.
" 7th, Harvest Thanksgiving Service; Morning, Mr Paul Evening, Mr Abraham.
" 9th, Women's Guild Meeting.
" " Mr Paul's Lecture to men.
" 13th, Garden Party at Lake Park, Blackburn.
" 16th, Mens Guild Meeting
" 20th, Adult D. C. C. v –
" 23rd, Deaf Committee Meeting.
" 25th, Congregational Rally.
" 27th, A. D. C. C. Country trip.
" 30th, Women's Guild Meeting.
" 30th, Mens Guild Meeting.
April 4th, Communion Service

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. II. APRIL 1915. No 8.

Congregational Annual.

It is hoped that all members of the Congregation will make a special effort to be present at the Annual Meeting of the Deaf Congregation, to be held in our church, Flinders St. on Thursday April 15th. Business:- Annual report, balance sheet & election of officers.

Down the Bay.

The deaf of the Blackburn Home, together with a party of young deaf people from Our Centre, Flinders St. - who were in attendance to entertain the "Home" people - spent a most enjoyable day down the Bay on the 25th Feb.y. There were 48 of us in all, including our Chief, the Assistant Missioner, Mother Hen, the "Queen Mother", Mrs Empson, & two blind deaf men & two blind deaf women. We are indebted to Mr. W. J. Appleton of Messrs Huddart Parker Ltd for the trip & to Mr. Grimwade & Messrs W. H. Felstead, E. Giles Turner, A. V. McKay, Ed. Baines, W. M. McPherson, Dr G. A Syme & W. E. J. D. Abraham for dinner & tea. To this lady & these gentlemen we offer grateful thanks.

The sea did not look very inviting as we left Port Melbourne pier, on the S. S. Hygeia & as we were met with a well developed "Heade" some after, it is not surprising that some faces began to wear an anxious look, but once out on the deep the faces assumed their natural pose, plus an added smile or two, for there the sea was as calm as a millpond. It was just the right sort of a day to be cruising & everyone enjoyed the trip. Luncheon was ready & all we had to do on arriving at Dromana, was to walk from the ship to the Hotel & partake thereof; & we did justice to all put before us. Thus comforted

we set forth to enjoy more of the sea breeze, this time from along the shore. Breaking into groups we enjoyed strolls over the sands till the signal for the return. We were not long on board before mysterious signs travelled round the ship which led us all to the saloon below where we found tea awaiting us. Several people remarked on the wonderful efficiency of the "stewards" & "stewardesses". Indeed, so rapid was the service that one young lady was seen, with a round dozen scones, sandwiches, cakes etc, collected on her lap. Home again & good nights said brought to a close a very happy day which was thoroughly appreciated by every one.

The editor of "the Monthly" has received a letter from Mr W. Shirra writing on behalf of the Blind-deaf people of the party, thanking Mr & Mrs Abraham & the many friends who made the outing possible, for their kindness & solicitude for their comfort & "heartily wish them long life, health & prosperity".

The Chief's Garden Party.

Favoured by the Chief's own weather, a party of about 100 of the deaf of Victoria attended the Garden Party given by Mr & Mrs Abraham at Lake Park, Blackburn on Sat.y March 13th. On almost every former visit we have found the gardens a mass of bloom & on returning, Blackburn Station has had the appearance of the wind up of a flower carnival, for most of us bore away a mighty armful of bloom. This year flowers were conspicuous by their absence, the long drought has made serious havoc with both plant & blossom. Nevertheless, there was much to be seen that gave a promise of a great display if only the rain will but come in time. We strolled round the grounds, along the shady walk beneath the eucalyptus trees that brink the smooth expanse of the waters of the Lake. Here & there we walked into little groups of friends, stopped & talked, often leaving a comrade behind & taking one or two of the other party with us. All the boats were busy & the swimming box occupied, some of our young men, we found out, are most graceful & skilled divers & many are above the average as swimmers. Whilst we were enjoying the glorious sunshine & the inspiring aroma of the eucalyptus leaves brought to us by the impulsive little rushes of the refreshing breeze. Mrs Abraham & her staff of lady friends were occupied in making the Dining room tables fairly groan with good things. Nothing that would tempt somebody's palate seemed to have been forgotten, & the skill of the fruit & floral decorations has caused us to enter up a

memo in our note book in the column "where to find" when we want a fine table effect. Even the cook contributed, for at the head of the table was a huge cake specially made & presented by her. Needless to say all this thoughtful kindness on the part of Mrs. Abraham was much appreciated & we assure her, she succeeded in her effort "to please the eye & the palate too; & to make a merry party." After tea, in the cool of the evening & in front of the palatial buildings, we spent an hour or so in games. At a signal from Mr. J. L. Muir, the Hon Sec.y to the Deaf Committee, we assembled in front of the entrance to the Home, & though Mr. Muir & Mr. W. L. Miller gave expression to our gratitude & appreciation for all the great work done for the deaf by Mr. Abraham, & for the pleasure they had had by the thoughtful arrangements of Mrs Abraham.

Mr. Abraham, in responding, said although it was not possible for him to be with them a great deal, & at the same time advance the interests & manage the affairs of their Society at the same time he still looked upon the whole of the deaf as his children, & the young men & young women who had left school during the past 11½ years were still "his own boys" & "his own girls." He felt like a father who had, not only to go out to work, but to work overtime, so that he might earn sufficient to maintain his great family in the charge of others. This did not say that he loved them the less, but it showed that he loved them the more. He was pleased to see so many present & that they had enjoyed themselves & that they were so prosperous & so much respected.

The One Thing he Cannot Do.

Alex. L. Pach, the clever New York deaf photographer, who employs many hearing assistants in his large studios, has given publicity to an interesting conversation that took place on the lawn of the Chicago University during the small hours of one morning at the time of the World's Fair of 1893. Amongst those present was Dr. Alex. Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone & innumerable other helpful wonders. The conversation turned to the possibilities of a cure for deafness & Dr. Bell whose wife, by the way, is a deaf mute, was asked why he did not direct his inventive genius to such a consummation. "Do you suppose" said Dr. Bell "that if it were possible to bring about this happy matter that I would not have brought it about long ago, primarily to benefit my poor wife."

And he put strong emphasis upon the last three words.

A Deaf leader of "Prussianism."

Sir A. Conan Doyle says that "the man above all others who has been the evil genius of his country, & has done most to push it towards this abyss," is Professor Treitschke of Germany, who was deaf. Fond of investigating the records of his country, he wrote a book which has been described as "the History of Germany", & soon the powerful classes flocked to hear him lecture. "Power & the glory of a nation which is an Army" was his teaching. When we think of other deaf men who have used their talents for the uplifting of their fellowmen:- Kitto, in literature; Edison, in invention; Beethoven in Music; Davidson, in Art; Tilden, in Sculpture; Massieu, in Philosophy & feel proud of the fact that in whatever branch of true culture we turn to we will find the Deaf represented, it is with deep regret that we find that our age has produced a deaf man whose teaching is opposed to that of Christ & harmful to our fellow men.

Men's Guild.

The Men's Guild held its 31st Annual meeting on the 23rd of February. There was a fair attendance of members. The President (Mr R. H. Luff) occupied the chair. The Annual report which showed that the Guild had had a busy & successful year, & the balance sheet which showed a surplus of £11.1.0 were read & approved of. There are 28 members on the roll. The papers, readings, recitations & lectures given during the year maintained a high level & were much appreciated. The election of office bearers, resulted as follows:- President Mr. G. Newnham, Vice President, Mr J. Peters; Hon Treasurer, Mr. R. H. Luff; Hon Secretary; Mr. J. M. Johnston, Committee, Messrs. M. L. Miller, J. A. Nelson, & A Hull. At the close of the meeting the members had their usual supper. To any of our young men who are not members we would say come along & join <u>now</u>. Every meeting is a pleasant evening:-

Our newly elected President (Mr G. Newnham) gave a paper on "Various items" on the 16th March. It proved both very interesting & very humourous. An "open night" will be held on March 30th & on April 13th Mr. M. L. Miller will give a paper on "Ants & some of their habits". We hope to have a "full house"

Women's Guild.

At the meeting of the Women's Guild held on the 9th Ult. the President had a very attentive audience while she imparted her educational lessons on "Mythology & Observations". Miss R. Dow recited a piece entitled "In a strange land"

The Late Wallace Boorty.

It is with deep regret that we record the passing away of one of our youngest, brightest & dearest members. Wallace Boorty, although deaf & dumb & but 15 years of age, was one of natures gentlemen. No child was more affectionate, no child more forgiving. Everybody loved him. He died in the Melbourne Hospital on the 26th of March & was buried the following day at Box Hill Cemetery. Amongst those who followed his body to its last resting place were 15 of his old chums accompanied by his teacher from the Deaf School. Messrs. G. J. D. Abraham & J. M. Paul held short services at his late home & at the graveside. We sorrow with his parents & little sister for he was dear to us also.

Cricket.

On the 27th Feb.y the Cricket Club played against the Railway Construction Branch & made 129 for 8 wkts. Robertson 44. V. Tyrrer 22 n/o, Martin 18, Hughes 13, O. Tyrrer 10
Railways 4th for 82. Robertson 7 wkts for 29 runs, Martin 1 for 17 Harding 1 for 7

On the 6th March the Club met Anglis & Co.'s team at Footscray & scored 80 for 5 wkts. while the other club made 101 for 8 wkts. Robertson 5 wkts for 40 Martin 2 for 29.

On the 20th March The club scored a victory over the Newport Power House C.C. by 23 runs. The scores were as follows:—
The Club 57 Robertson 11 M. Hughes 10 & C. Smith 12.
Newport 34. Robertson 6 for 15. Martin 2 for 16.

On the 27th March the Club journeyed to Dandenong & played against the local ramblers who beat the club by 2 wkts & 6 runs.
The Club made 112. Robertson 32 Beattie 24 n/o, Harding 14. Martin 12, Ramblers 8 wkts for 118. Beattie 2 for 18. Martin 3 for 41. Robertson 1 for 41. This match was the last game of the season.

Stray Notes.

Miss Potter has returned to Melbourne after a pleasant holiday at Warragul.

Mr. J. Sloan of Inglewood enjoyed his stay in Melbourne, and

reports that the country up north is in a serious condition for lack of rain.

Mr & Mrs D. Ashby of Trafalgar brought their two children to the school, & stayed with their friends in Melbourne for 10 days.

Mr. L. J. Rose accompanied by his sister has gone to Ballarat for a short visit.

Mrs J. Caroghey paid a short visit to her sister at Creswick lately.

Mrs E. Salas wishes to thank the members of the Society for their kind sympathy in her recent bereavement.

Our sympathy goes out to Miss E. Connell in her loss through the recent sad accident at Monbulk, while driving home with four children & their mother, the wheel of the spring cart struck a stump. The vehicle overturned, two of the children lost their lives, but the other occupants were thrown clear & escaped with minor injuries.

Mr & Mrs E. Burke & Mr. J. Williamson of New Zealand who are well & flourishing send kind remembrances to friends in Melbourne.

Mr. P. Cunningham of Creswick stayed in Melbourne for 3 weeks & enjoyed himself very much.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/- from Mr J. Kenworthy of Bairnsdale, 1/6 each from Mesdames E. Burke & J. Williamson of New Zealand & 1/- each from Misses G. G. Mercy & W. Hindell toward our Monthly Letter Fund.

Mr. L. J. Rose has presented to the Library the reports of the Deaf School from 1863 to 1912 in five beautifully bound volumes. They will be very valuable records in future years & were accepted by the Deaf Committee with our most hearty thanks.

We are pleased to see that the work done for the soldiers by the children at the Deaf School got an appreciative "par" in the School Paper. We hear that the articles made were praised as being among the best work sent in. Well done!

Through the generosity of Mr. Samuel Ferguson of Bowmans Forest the sum of £6. 17. 6, raised at a sale of Wethers gifted by him, goes to the Lord Mayor's Belgian Fund.

Mr. J. Kenworthy of Bairnsdale mentions that last month several houses near his place were damaged by lightning & also bricks from the chimney fell through the roof into the dining room.

Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham returns grateful thanks to hearing & deaf friends who sent telegrams, 'phone messages, letters & cards wishing him many happy returns on the 12th. of March last.

Miss Lydia Sanders of White Hills, Bendigo sent our Chief a box of tomato seed last year. He used it & as a result has had a big crop of fine tomatoes this year.

39th Rally.

The Congregational Rally held on the 25th. ult. at our Centre was, without doubt, the quietest of the thirty nine. In all our pleasures just now, we are conscious of a sentiment of sadness which acts as a barrier against our enjoying everything to the full. We realise it is a time of great sorrow to the whole world, & this subconscious thought is ever present, no matter how joyous our own circumstances & surroundings may be. And that, doubtlessly, is the reason why our last was a quiet rally. There was a great muster however & ample proof that this particular function has lost nothing of its popularity. Mr. Paul opened the meeting with prayer, & in the course of his quarterly address Mr. Abraham (the Chairman) said they had much to congratulate themselves upon. When so very many hearing people were out of employment & many more on short time & hundreds facing really distressing conditions, practically the whole of the Melbourne deaf were in work. He congratulated them upon their prosperity & upon the generous way in which they had met the appeals submitted to them. These calls had been unusually numerous but they had responded splendidly & wholeheartedly. Mr. J. E. Muir, the hon sec, read the roll call & in thanking the members for the support they had given the deaf committee said, he hoped that they would all combine their endeavours to strengthen the bonds that bound them together in advancing the welfare of the Society.

The Chairman here announced that he had a very pleasant duty to perform, but would first call upon Mr. J. E. Irewin for a few words. The latter gentleman said they were perhaps aware that Mr. Baldry who arrived from England in 1913 & has now been a member of the Congregation for 2 years, was shortly to return to the Old Land together with his wife & family. He had, unfortunately, been unsuccessful in obtaining a permanent position in his special branch of work. They all liked him & were sorry he was leaving & they desired him to know that they wished him success in England.

Mr. M. L. Miller said he had looked upon Mr. Baldry as a welcome acquisition to the Society, he was intelligent & a most enjoyable companion & one who might be able to render much service to the deaf. He was sorry that conditions made it impossible for him to stay in Melbourne. Mr Abraham, in making the presentation which was a purse of money subscribed to by the members of the Society, said that the deaf members might have given him an inscribed medal or a watch, something that would keep them & Victoria permanently in his mind, but they were a business people & therefore preferred to give him that which would be the most useful in the circumstances. Mr. Baldry feelingly responded, he expressed his gratitude & appreciation for their many kindnesses & was sorry that he had to leave them. Competitions followed, in which only a few of our young people took part. Mr Luff & Miss D. Davies signed the well known hymn "Abide with me" & the latter carried off the honours. In the "Ass & Wolf" Messrs. Nelson & Newnham took part, the former was very good & rendered his piece as a recitation should be given, but Mr. Newnham's mimicry was so absolutely accurate & clever that the audience were unanimously in his favour & they would have been daring judges indeed had the laurels gone to other than our little big Comedian. Messrs. Nelson & Hull gave a very clever rendering, in dialogue, of the "Hare & the Tortoise". Mr. J. R. Muir & Messrs. M. L. Miller & J. E. Irwin were the judges. After games, supper was enjoyed & there's another rally ended.

Belgian Deaf Refugee's Fund.

Mrs. Williamson, the hon. sec.ᵗ to the above fund wishes to express her thanks to the kind friends who have so readily responded to the appeal made through the "Monthly Letter" for the Belgian Deaf Refugee Fund. Amount previously collected £19- 1- 3. Collins Bros. (Reerim South) £1. 1. 0, F. J. M. Ching (Linton) £1. 0. 0 Miss Peel (Kew) 10/- Mr. G. Stucke 10/-, Miss Beaumont (Sydney) £1. 0. 0. J. & C. Sloan (Kurting) 5/- Mr Paul 5/- Mrs Empson 5/- Miss Empson 5/- British Tommies 5/- Mr & Mrs. D. Ashby. (Trafalgar) 5/- A Donator 3/6. Mr & Mrs. Stokes 2/- Miss Pettit (Inglewood) 1/- Mrs. Irwin 1/- W. P. Cunningham 1/- Grand Total £25- 2- 9. It was announced to the delight of the members that half of the Women's Guild funds were donated to the Deaf Worker's Club for the purpose of buying material for Soldier's garments.

ADULT. DEAF MUTE CENTRE
32. 34. Flinders St. Melb.
MR. ERNEST. J. D. ABRAHAM
will conduct the Evening
SERVICE
SUNDAY NEXT. MAY. 2nd 1915
and Lecture -
On Tuesday. May 4th 8. p.m.
Subject
"Our Language of Signs"
— Open Night —
The Annual Meeting of our
Society is to be held in the Melb.
Town Hall. Monday. May 31st.
Volunteer Helpers Wanted.
Particulars at Tuesday Lecture.

THE LATE MR. EUGENE SALAS,
First Deaf Missioner to South Australian Deaf People. Aged 51.

Deaf and Dumb Church.

THE LATE MR. SALAS.

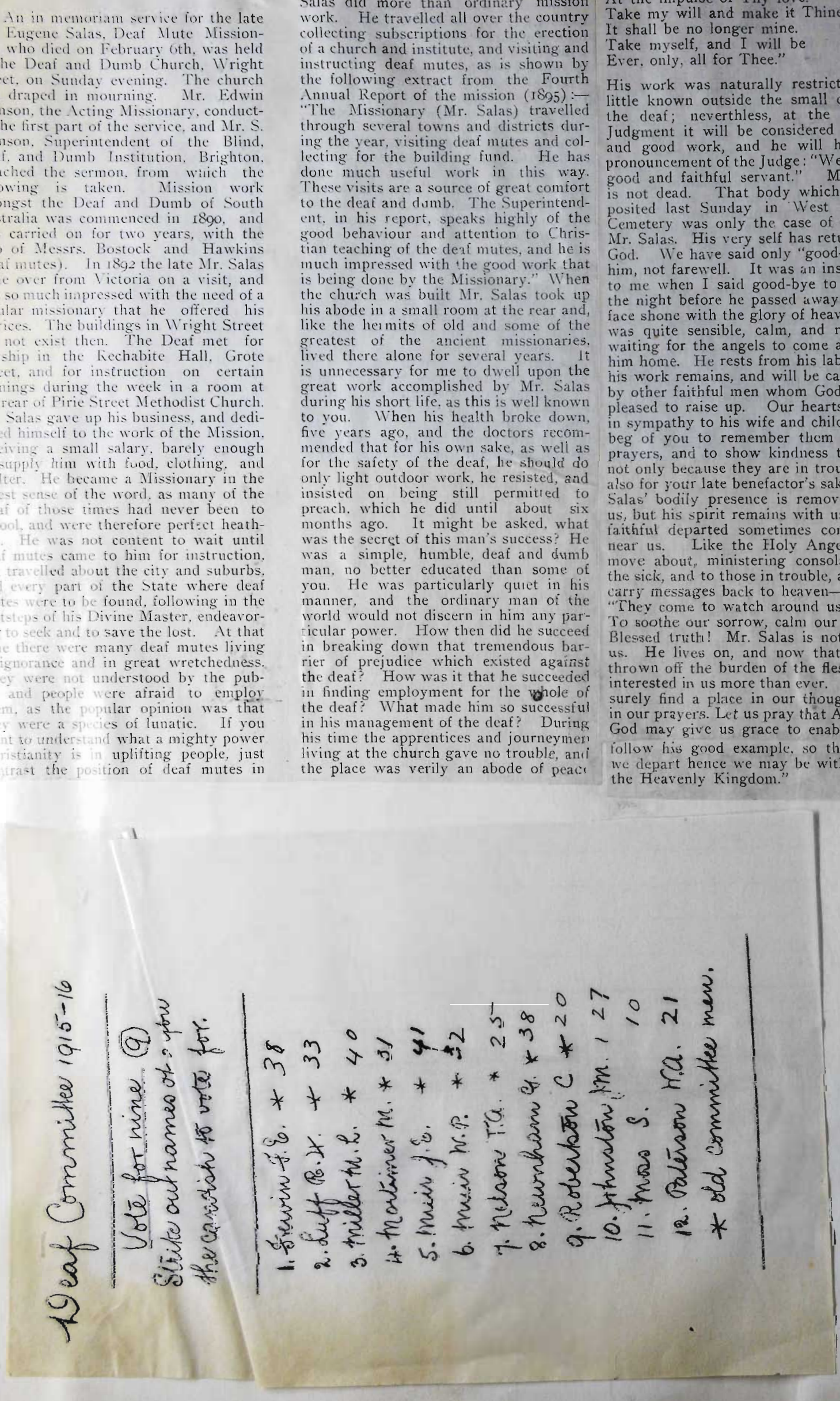
An in memoriam service for the late Mr. Eugene Salas, Deaf Mute Missionary, who died on February 6th, was held in the Deaf and Dumb Church, Wright Street, on Sunday evening. The church was draped in mourning. Mr. Edwin Johnson, the Acting Missionary, conducted the first part of the service, and Mr. S. Johnson, Superintendent of the Blind, Deaf, and Dumb Institution, Brighton, preached the sermon, from which the following is taken. Mission work amongst the Deaf and Dumb of South Australia was commenced in 1890, and was carried on for two years, with the help of Messrs. Bostock and Hawkins (deaf mutes). In 1892 the late Mr. Salas came over from Victoria on a visit, and was so much impressed with the need of a regular missionary that he offered his services. The buildings in Wright Street did not exist then. The Deaf met for worship in the Rechabite Hall, Grote Street, and for instruction on certain evenings during the week in a room at the rear of Pirie Street Methodist Church. Mr. Salas gave up his business, and dedicated himself to the work of the Mission, receiving a small salary, barely enough to supply him with food, clothing, and shelter. He became a Missionary in the truest sense of the word, as many of the Deaf of those times had never been to school, and were therefore perfect heathens. He was not content to wait until deaf mutes came to him for instruction, but travelled about the city and suburbs, and every part of the State where deaf mutes were to be found, following in the footsteps of his Divine Master, endeavoring to seek and to save the lost. At that time there were many deaf mutes living in ignorance and in great wretchedness. They were not understood by the public, and people were afraid to employ them, as the popular opinion was that they were a species of lunatic. If you want to understand what a mighty power Christianity is in uplifting people, just contrast the position of deaf mutes in this State to-day with their position twenty-five years ago. Contrast the fine congregation worshipping here to-night with the condition of the Deaf when Mr. Salas commenced his work. But Mr. Salas did more than ordinary mission work. He travelled all over the country collecting subscriptions for the erection of a church and institute, and visiting and instructing deaf mutes, as is shown by the following extract from the Fourth Annual Report of the mission (1895):—"The Missionary (Mr. Salas) travelled through several towns and districts during the year, visiting deaf mutes and collecting for the building fund. He has done much useful work in this way. These visits are a source of great comfort to the deaf and dumb. The Superintendent, in his report, speaks highly of the good behaviour and attention to Christian teaching of the deaf mutes, and he is much impressed with the good work that is being done by the Missionary." When the church was built Mr. Salas took up his abode in a small room at the rear and, like the hermits of old and some of the greatest of the ancient missionaries, lived there alone for several years. It is unnecessary for me to dwell upon the great work accomplished by Mr. Salas during his short life, as this is well known to you. When his health broke down, five years ago, and the doctors recommended that for his own sake, as well as for the safety of the deaf, he should do only light outdoor work, he resisted, and insisted on being still permitted to preach, which he did until about six months ago. It might be asked, what was the secret of this man's success? He was a simple, humble, deaf and dumb man, no better educated than some of you. He was particularly quiet in his manner, and the ordinary man of the world would not discern in him any particular power. How then did he succeed in breaking down that tremendous barrier of prejudice which existed against the deaf? How was it that he succeeded in finding employment for the whole of the deaf? What made him so successful in his management of the deaf? During his time the apprentices and journeymen living at the church gave no trouble, and the place was verily an abode of peace and love. The answer is that he lived what he preached. His life was wholly dedicated to the service of God. His sentiments were those of Havergal—

"Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my will and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee."

His work was naturally restricted, and little known outside the small circle of the deaf; neverthless, at the Day of Judgment it will be considered a great and good work, and he will hear the pronouncement of the Judge: "Well done, good and faithful servant." Mr. Salas is not dead. That body which we deposited last Sunday in West Terrace Cemetery was only the case of the real Mr. Salas. His very self has returned to God. We have said only "good-bye" to him, not farewell. It was an inspiration to me when I said good-bye to him on the night before he passed away. His face shone with the glory of heaven. He was quite sensible, calm, and resigned, waiting for the angels to come and take him home. He rests from his labors, but his work remains, and will be carried on by other faithful men whom God will be pleased to raise up. Our hearts go out in sympathy to his wife and children. I beg of you to remember them in your prayers, and to show kindness to them, not only because they are in trouble, but also for your late benefactor's sake. Mr. Salas' bodily presence is removed from us, but his spirit remains with us. The faithful departed sometimes come very near us. Like the Holy Angels, they move about, ministering consolation to the sick, and to those in trouble, and they carry messages back to heaven—

"They come to watch around us here,
To soothe our sorrow, calm our fear."

Blessed truth! Mr. Salas is not lost to us. He lives on, and now that he has thrown off the burden of the flesh, he is interested in us more than ever. He will surely find a place in our thoughts and in our prayers. Let us pray that Almighty God may give us grace to enable us to follow his good example, so that when we depart hence we may be with him in the Heavenly Kingdom."



OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. II. MAY 1915. No. 9.

Annual Meeting of Society.

The Annual Meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria will be held in the Town Hall, Melbourne, on Monday, May 31st. The Lord Mayor will preside. Concert by the Lyric Orchestra & Chorus. Entertainment by the Deaf, etc. All deaf and hearing friends invited. Invitation cards will be ready shortly and will be obtainable at our Centre.

Rally.

The next quarterly rally will be held at the Deaf Centre on Monday, 7th June. For full particulars, watch the Notice Board in Hall of Centre.

Congregational Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Deaf Congregation was held in the Upper Hall at the Deaf Centre on the 15th April, there being a very good attendance. Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham occupied the chair. Mr. Paul opened with prayer. The report which was of considerable length was read by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. E. Muir and Mr. F. E. Pearson, the Hon. Treasurer submitted the balance-sheet. There were twelve candidates for the nine seats on the Committee, the following being returned, Messrs. J. E. Muir, M. L. Miller, F. E. Pearson, R. Huff, W. P. Muir, G. Newnham, G. Mortimer, J. Nelson and J. M. Johnston. The following are the opening sentences of the Committee's report: "In presenting the 27th Annual Report and Financial Statement, We, the Deaf Committee feel that our first words must be words of whole-hearted thanksgiving to God by whose loving kindness so many blessings have been vouchsafed to us. Also grateful appreciation for the kindly interest shown by the General Board in our welfare. We are anxious that they

should know how greatly we value their thoughtful guidance and the great service they render us in devoting so much of their valued time to matters pertaining to our interests. We know that every hour they devote to the management of our Society, (and the hours are many) are hours taken from their own businesses and realising our indebtedness we take pleasure in offering them our grateful thanks. We have pleasure also in being able to state that all is well with the congregation and that the progress made during the past 12 months is in every way satisfactory.
The Congregation has shown a broader outlook, contributing most generously to philanthropic work outside their own special sphere, and at the same time rendering still greater financial support to their own church.
Once more we have to place on record the valued services of your worthy Superintendent, Mr Ernest J. D. Abraham. He has, at all times, the interests of your Society at heart and too much cannot be said in his praise and in appreciation of his untiring efforts in advancing the welfare of the deaf.
Reference is then made to the appointment of Mr Paul to the position of Assistant Missioner. The attendance at Divine Worship has been well maintained during the year and the Committee are gratified to see the young people showing so deep an interest in the Bible Class, Educational Meetings, Rallies, and Saturday night gatherings have all been successful.
The Membership now numbers 185, about 100 attended the Garden Party given by Mr Abraham, and 70 the Annual Picnic. The Monthly Letter has now been in existence 11 years and is as popular as ever. The Men's and the Women's Guilds have lost none of their freshness, and the Band is in a flourishing condition. Words of appreciation of the services of the Deaf Workers also appear, and the doings of the Athletic Club noticed.
The Balance Sheet showed a surplus of £ 6-18-5. Report & Financial Statement were adopted.
The Chairmen's address was appropriate to the occasion but by no means all praise. He spoke of the things left undone as well as the things done, and of the things done that would have better been left undone.
Hearty Votes of Thanks were accorded the retiring Office Bearers, Auditor, Committees and the Chairman.
Messrs M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir and R. H. Kiff were re-elected representatives of the Deaf Congregation on the General Board of the Society.

The Deaf Committee.

The Deaf Committee met on the 20th April and re-appointed the following Officers for the ensuing twelve months. Hon. Secretary, Mr John E. Muir,

Hon. Treasurer Mr. F. E. Fyfe, Hon. Librarian, Mr. G. Mortimer with Messrs G. Robertson, J. Marks and J. Carrico as assistants. Amusements Committee, Messrs F. J. D. Abrahams, (Chairman) J. M. Paul, J. E. & H. P. Muir, M. L. Miller, F. E. Fyfe and G. Newham.

The Womens' Guild.

At a meeting of the Womens' Guild held on the 31st March, Mr. Paul read, before a large assemblage of members, a paper on "A School for the Blind." Mr. Paul being a former teacher of the Blind was able to handle his subject in a very interesting manner, the conclusion of the paper was followed by a discussion on the subject, and expressions of the appreciation of members to the reader of the paper. Miss Kennedy, the same evening recited "The Wonderful World." "The heart of Christianity" was the title of Mrs Wilson's address at the Guild Bible class held on the 13th April. Miss Davis read a paper on "The Sea Lepers." Both subjects were instructive and entertaining.
Extracts from a letter from Mrs G. Baldry in which she thanked the members of the Guild for their kindness to her, & likewise those who saw her off were also read

The Mens' Guild.

Farewell Speeches were delivered on the 30th of March of the above Guild's meeting to one of our members, Mr. G. Baldry on his impending departure for the old country and Mr Baldry gave some of his experiences in England and Australia which the members appreciated and he also thanked all for the kind words of farewell.
A very interesting and instructive paper was given by Mr M. L. Miller on "Ants and some of their habits" on the 13th Inst. and so good was it that most of the members wished that he would continue it another evening. The Programme as far arranged for May is. 11th Mr. Paul's rendering of Shakespeare's Play "Hamlet." 25th Mr. J. Johnston's paper on "Napoleon."

La-Crosse.

The Victorian La-Crosse Association has decided to put our La-Crosse team into the A. Junior Section this season and the boys have been training hard since then. The season opens on 1st May. Our team meeting Canterbury.

The Deaf Workers' Club.

The Committee met at the Presidents' home (Mrs J. E. Muir) on Saturday afternoon the 26th Inst. The Hon. Sec. (Mrs A. Williamson) gave a brief

report of the work done and explained that the meeting was specially called to discuss the question of purchasing material to make more comforts for soldiers. The Hon. Treasurer (Miss A. Foster) reported that as the result of generous donations, a sum of £5.18.11 has been added to the fund, making a total of £7.10.6. Owing to the scarcity and dearness of flannel, it was unanimously agreed to knit various kinds of garments and make white handkerchiefs for the present time, and to send them to the Red Cross Depot. Wool will be distributed to the members, and also to friends who may like to help. We learn with much pleasure that the deaf women at the Blackburn Home are knitting face washers for the club. They have already forwarded some for which they are thanked. Miss Belle Damman has knitted and presented a muffler and pair of bed socks to the Club. The meeting was enthusiastic and afternoon tea was partaken of during an interval. Grateful thanks are due to the Committee of the Deaf Women's Guild for a donation of half the balance of the Guilds' fund (£2.16.5) the Committee of the Deaf Mens' Guild £2-2-0, Mrs. E.J.D. Abraham 5/-, Mrs Muir 5/-, Miss A. Graham 5/6 and Miss M. Potter 5/-.
Miss Eva Hair of Willung has sent 2 Flannelette night dresses for the Farm Home.

The Belgian Deaf Refugees Fund.

Though it was announced that this fund was to be closed at the end of last February, it is most gratifying to note that during the last two months an additional sum of £7.4.0. was sent in, making a total to date of £26.14.3. This amount will now be despatched to Mlle. G. Pitrois through the French Consul. A Collection box will be placed at the Centre on behalf of the refugees. Mrs Williamson, Hon. Sec. of the fund begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:- The Deaf Mens' Guild £1.1.0, Mr. S. Moss 5/- monthly instalment, Mrs G. Damman (Warburton) 2/6, Mrs Owen (Ararat) 2/-, Mrs A. Wailes (Ararat) 1/-. Miss A. Graham, a large bundle of clothing and baby garments, Mrs and Misses Damman, Mrs J.E. Muir, Mrs Williamson, Mrs F.E. Trewin and Miss R. Dow coats, skirts and dresses. The large case of clothes was sent to the Belgian Clothing Depot through the Belgian Consul who will transship it to Mlle. Pitrois free of freight.

Womens' Guild Annual.

The Annual Meeting of the Womens' Guild will be held sometime in May for the reading of the 13th Annual Report and the election of Office Bearers. Nominations for office close at 7 o'clock on the evening of the Annual Meeting. The date will be fixed as soon as the date for the annual meeting of the Adult Deaf Society has been arranged. The Guild will close during the months of June and July on account of cold, wet nights. This will, no doubt be good news for the members of the Mens' Guild, who, during that period will be able to give free expression of their feelings by hearty applause in their own way. They having been forbidden by their next door neighbours to make a row by stamping of feet.

The Rambling Club.

It was with feelings of gladness that the Ramblers met once more on the 14th Ult, after having postponed their outings since last January owing to several other entertainments being held. They all turned up at the Doncaster Terminus and rambled along the unique winding roads, admiring many beautiful Mansions and gardens. They passed through Heyington to the River, and rested for half an hour in the park. Then they trudged happily on to Kooyong where they parted for their various homes all agreeing that it was one of the most enjoyable and practical outings they have had.

The Victorian Branch, A.D.D.A.

Mr. F.E. Frewin the Hon. Secretary begs to acknowledge with thanks, the following subscriptions, Mr. & Mrs. D. Ashby (Trafalgar) 2/-, Mr. & Mrs. A. Stokes (Trafalgar) 2/-, Mr. & Mrs. E. Burke (N.Z.) 2/-, Messrs. J. Oakley 1/-, G. Newnham 1/-, Peter Sutherland (Castlemaine) 1/-, D. Izzzer 1/-, J.E. Kenworthy (Bairnsdale) 1/-, R. Crompton (St. Arnaud) 1/-, per G. Batterby, J. Williamson (N.Z.) 1/-, W. Kindell 1/-, J. Johnston 1/-, A. Hull 1/-, A. Wilson 1/-, R.J. Miller (Ballarat) 1/-, Miss J. Wright 1/-. Will other members kindly send their subscriptions as soon as possible to Mr. F.E. Frewin, Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St, E. Melb.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of 19/8 from the Adelaide Deaf subscribers, 1/6 from Mr. R.J. Miller (Ballarat) and 1/- each from Mrs. J. Mills of Naaia and Miss Pettitt of England towards our "Monthly Letter Fund."

The La-Crosse Club.

The Annual Meeting of this club was held on the 6th March, and the attendance was good. Mr. J. E. Muir, the President who occupied the chair congratulated the club on its fine effort to gain honors in the "B" Grade and hoped that it would be more successful during the coming season. It was announced that more than 200 players from the various clubs have enlisted in the Expeditionary Forces. Mr James Johnston was appointed to the post of Hon. Secretary vacated by Mr J. Carriss. Mr E. Martin was again elected Captain and Mr C. Smith Vice-Captain for the coming season. Mr G. Mortimer fills the Vice-Presidentship resigned by Mr W. P. Muir. The following were elected Patrons:- Messrs J. M. Paul, E. A. Hurcke, T. Ferguson, D. Ashby, W. Kindell, T. Mase, J. Dempsey and Alex. Williamson. The Club was promoted to the "Junior A" Section and will find it a harder teasle to gain the premiership honors. The team has been putting in good solid work at practice and may be expected to give a good account of itself. The Association will open the season on the 1st May when our team will be pitted against Canterbury, the match is to take place in Flinders Park, which as before our Club has again secured as their ground. O. Dyzer, one of our best players will be much missed as he has gone to the Country for 3 months but T. Peters after 3 years absence will re appear and should be a great force in the team.

Is Christianity Doomed?

Mrs Alice Terry, writing on the subject of the forthcoming Congress of the Deaf at California, in the "Silent-Worker" and opening with a reference to the terrible war in Europe says, "Wise men shake their heads sadly and murmur 'Is Christianity doomed'? We doubt if any 'wise' men would ever make such a silly remark, even in a murmur. No! Christianity is not doomed. Christianity has never had a trial. Beliefs, Creeds and Ceremonies, bible readings, prayer meetings and going to church have little to do with the actual and practical teaching of Jesus, although all are certainly helpful, and to a degree necessary. To be a Christian, that is a disciple or follower of Jesus we must do good to those who do evil to us. In short, live, not for our own personal gain, but to serve our fellowmen and at any cost to ourselves. "He that

would save his life shall lose it". We have never tried it. Until we have tried it, it is absurd to talk of Christianity being a failure. We are the failure. The teaching of Jesus is perfect and is the only hope of the world. The words that Jesus used to the Scribes and pharisees, and strong words they were too, no man ever used stronger, are equally applicable to us. It is quite possible, indeed probably true that we are doing the very best we can according to our light. But let us be honest and admit that the fault is ours, not Our Teachers.

Personal Pars.

Mr. L. Moss, our city Collector, made a strenuous effort last year, and succeeded in getting in £38 more than he did in the previous year.

Mr. G. Mortimer also succeeded in getting in some pounds more than his previous effort.

A large donation of books from "Friend" for the library was gratefully accepted with thanks by the Deaf Committee at its last meeting.

Mr. and Mrs Geo. Balding and their children sailed for England by the S.S. Benalla on the 3rd. April. About 40 deaf folks gave them a send off at the Port Melbourne Railway Pier. In a letter from Adelaide to one of our members Mr. Balding said he was unable to sleep all the way to that port and he still felt downhearted at leaving Australia which he liked so well and hoped to be able to return at some future time. He and Mrs Balding desired to thank all the friends who kindly gathered on the boat to see them off. They were deeply touched by the kindness.

Our old friend Mr. J. J. Rose is seriously ill.

Mrs J. E. Irwin and Mrs A. Williamson lost their sister (Mrs Carter) on the 28th. March. They have our condolence.

The mother of Messrs James, John and William Anderson died on the 24th. April. We tender them our sincere sympathy.

Mr. Jas. Boorty has lost his sister who died lately. He has our sympathy.

Mr. and Mrs J. Boorty and Mesdames J. E. Irwin and A. Williamson desire to thank the deaf for their kind expressions of sympathy with them in their sad bereavement.

Miss D. Hickey is enjoying a months holiday at Port Albert.

During the Easter Holidays Mr. and Mrs A. Stokes of Trafalgar, Messrs A. and J. Collins of Neerim South with their wives and Mrs J. Mills of Waaia stayed in Melbourne.

Mr. W. Duncan of Euroa is enjoying his three weeks holiday in Melbourne.

Mr. Alf. Wallis of Ararat in a letter to a Melbourne friend says he is

doing well and wishes to be remembered to all friends.
The amount donated by Miss Pettitt of Inglewood to the Belgian Deaf Refugees Fund was 2/- not 1/- as stated in last month's Letter.

S. Aust. Monthly Paper.

We congratulate our South Australian brethren upon their neat and newsy little Monthly. On the cover of the April issue there is illustrated in the finger language the new motto of the S. A. Deaf. "Unity is Strength" The contents include an interesting article on the "Belgian Schools for the Deaf." "Why not learn the manual Alphabet." and "How can the Deaf best be prepared for practical life?"

Various items of Interest.

"The Canadian" a paper for the Deaf says that Mr. Mc. Hardy a deaf mute who arrived from Scotland some years ago is serving in the Toronto Home Guard. The duties of the Guard is to prevent Germans from the United States invading Canada.

* * * * * * *

The American Deaf through a Committee of which Mr. Edwin A. Hodgson, Editor of the "New York Deaf Mutes Journal," is Chairman, have contributed £115 in response to the appeal of Mlle. Yvonne Pitrois for the Belgian sufferers from the war. The December issue of "Petite Silencieuse" contained the first list of deaf people, who have already received assistance in money, food or clothing from Mlle. Pitrois' Fund.

* * * * * * *

Up to January last 29% of the German teachers of the deaf had taken part in the war of whom fifteen had been killed and fifty four wounded. Most of the killed were officers. Forty three of those teachers now wear the Iron Cross.

* * * * * * *

The names of four French teachers of the Deaf have already appeared in lists of Killed, and many have been wounded and taken prisoners.

* * * * * * *

A beautiful Window depicting the Gospel Story of "Ephphatha" was dedicated in Trinity Chapel, Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A. in January last. "In Loving Memory of Austin Ward Mann, for thirty six years Missionary to the Deaf." The window was the gift of the deaf to whom Mr Mann had ministered.

* * * * * * *

There are 2.500 deaf Hebrews in New York, U.S.A. for whom a monthly periodical entitled "The Jewish Deaf" has been started. The first number appeared in February.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged

VOL. II. JUNE 1915. No. 10.

Rally

Monday June 7th. is the date for the 40th quarterly Rally. It is to be a "Guessing Night." There are six items on the programme, thus all kinds of talent and want of talent will be catered for. In addition to the guessing, there will be a new kind of contest which, it is hoped, will prove educational as well as entertaining. From our school days on through life, the signs for liar, fool, ass etc. are in constant daily use, and more often than not there is no desire on the part of the signer to be offensive. The fact is, these signs are used without proper comprehension as to their actual meaning. Thusly when used by the deaf, "liar" means "Do you really mean that", words to that effect. "Fool" would be used for "don't be silly" and "ass" often means "you are funny." Our hearing friends, however, cannot be expected to know this. We are, therefore, having a "sign contest." We want three original signs for (1) "Untrue, (2) "Silly," (3) "Do not care". We hope many will compete. We also hope that the deaf will take note that the signs "liar", "fool" and "ass" are very objectionable at any time and that the deaf will drop their use, at least, in ordinary conversation. As usual, there will be a supper to terminate the proceedings. Everbody invited - also expected.

Farm and Home.

It is very hard to know what to say about the farm this month. You see, we have been practically without rain for a year and six months - that is, sufficient downpours to be beneficial to our flower plantations. And now we are flooded! For a year we have devoted the best of our energies to the conserving of every drop of water that came our way, to keep the plants alive, and now we are digging trenches and draining to prevent them from rotting, through the over abundance of water. Looks like grumbling, doesn't it? But we are not, really! We are merely stating facts. We have become quite philosophical. Big word, isn't it? Don't know what it means, but a gentleman visitor at the farm the other day wrote on a piece of paper "you are quite philosophical" and showed it to us and smiled. So we suppose we are, and smile too, for he surely wouldn't have smiled if it wasn't something nice. Now, would he?

Toward the end of last year the Manager imported twenty huge cases of rare bulbs from Holland. Some thousands were of the expensive sorts of gladioli. They have been in bloom during the past three months and visitors to the farm have raved over them. We are booking orders at 1/6 per bulb. Fancy 18/- for a dozen bulbs. The blooms alone fetch as much as 1/- per dozen. The Manager went out one afternoon with some of these sample blooms of what we can grow, and came back with a £208 contract, from one Company, for a daily supply of flowers for a year. These blooms have also enabled him to obtain other of this class of customer, whom he has from the beginning set his eyes upon.

Our great chrysanthemum plantation was a failure & the lands of marguerites have entirely disappeared. We have had no roses worth speaking of & the strawberries we had to neglect altogether. Nevertheless, we have done very well. Our readers may obtain some idea of what a rainless year means to us from the fact that our eight and a half acre lake subsided to five and a half acres. The recent

rains have made it normal. Flowers to the value of £61-7-3 were sold during the month of April.

Our Church

Mr. Paul officiated at all the Services and conducted the bible classes in April. The highest attendance for the month was morning, April 4th - 36; Evening April 25th - 60. Highest at class meeting - 20. The total offertory for the month - £3-16-9.

Marriage.

Miss Maud Mc Crabb was united in the holy bonds of wedlock to Mr. Sam. Ferguson at our Church on the 12th of May. The Rev. G. Lamble conducted the marriage service and Mr. Abraham interpreted. The wedding feast was also held at our Centre. The Rev. G. Lamble proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom, and Mr. Mc Crabb, brother of the bride, responded on her behalf, the bridegroom for himself. Mr. Abraham also spoke, he said both bride & bridegroom were popular with their deaf friends, & that the bridegroom had always been loyal to everything pertaining to the general good of the Adult Deaf, and a liberal subscriber to all their funds.

Our Chief makes a Claim.

At the marriage festivity of Mr & Mrs S. Ferguson, our Chief whilst complimenting both bride and bridegroom on their choice of wife and husband, said that property belonging to him had been taken possession of without his permission. At a certain fancy dress parade the bride came robed as a brown paper parcel addressed to himself. At the close of the parade he claimed the parcel and said he was quite prepared to carry it home. Her friends, however, promised to forward it. He had waited, but the parcel had not reached him. Mr. Duff said that the Chief ought to have applied at the Lost Property Office. It was too late now to make claims.

The Women's Guild.

At the last ordinary meeting of the Guild on the 11th ult. the President took charge of her educational class and her lessons on "Domestic Economy", "Idioms" and "Scandinavian Mythology" were watched with much interest and appreciated by one and all. Miss Mabel Dow recited "The Points of the Compass".

The annual meeting took place on the 18th ult. In spite of the stormy night, the attendance was large, being 25. The Hon. Sec's (Miss Rose Dow) report was read, showing the guild to be of a very progressive nature. The number of members on the roll is 33, an increase of 15 over last year. A series of lectures, bible and other readings, educational lessons & recitations given by the members were greatly appreciated. The average attendance was 18. The balance sheet shows the guild to be in a healthy condition, although the year's expenditure was exceptionally heavy and included a donation of £2-16-5 towards the Deaf Worker's Club.

The President's address, as usual, was full of good advice to one and all, and was followed with interest. A wedding gift of a china tea set was presented to Mrs Thomson, nee Miss Meehan, one of our faithful members and she cordially responded.

Then the election took place. Mrs J. E. Muir, who has been President of the guild for some years, desired to withdraw as she thought there should be a change, nevertheless, she was returned President (unopposed) with much applause. Mrs A. Williamson was elected Vice President, and Mrs Boorty re-elected Hon Treasurer. Miss R. Dow (Hon. Sec.) also expressed her willingness to stand aside in favour of aspirants to the honour of Hon. Sec., but in obedience to the desire of many members, allowed her name to appear as a candidate. Miss Dorry Davis also agreed to stand for the position. The voting resulted in favour of Miss Dow, with 15 votes

to 9 votes for Miss Davis. The election for Committee resulted in the re-election of last year's Committee as follows:- Mrs Abraham, Mrs Wilson, Misses Empson, Davis and Hickey.

It was unanimously agreed that Mrs Muir's educational classes should be held every alternate meeting, they being very instructive and of great value to the members. It was also agreed that nominations in future close a week before the annual meeting, and that the Hon. Secretary be empowered to ask members to stand for Committee. Supper, provided by the Committee, brought the happy meeting to a close.

The Mens' Guild.

A very good rendering of Shakespeare's play "Hamlet" was given to the members of the above meeting on the 11th ult, by Mr J. M. Paul. Everybody present declared that it was excellent and easy to understand, for it would be otherwise if they were to read in the book.

On the 25th Mr J. Johnston gave his paper on "Napoleon" which was a lengthy one, and was much appreciated.

The Deaf Workers' Club.

The "Deaf Workers" are busy knitting socks, scarves, helmets, mittens etc. Most of the members, who have not touched knitting needles for many years, are now reviving their interest in knitting, & several others are receiving instruction for the first time. We expect to send away a good pile of garments shortly. As soon as our stock of wool is exhausted, it being expensive, we hope to obtain some from the Red Cross Society.

The Belgian Deaf Refugees.

A draft of £27 was mailed to Thalle Pitrois on behalf of the Belgian refugees. Mr Paul is cordially thanked for adding a further subscription of 6/- to make up the proper amount.

Readers are reminded not to forget our Belgian brethren. Please continue to help them if you can. There is a collection box on the hall table at the centre for the Belgians. The Hon. Sec. of the fund begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of "Za"'s monthly subscription of 5/-

The South Australian Deaf have set their minds on raising £40 for the Belgian Relief Fund. An edition of 3000 illustrated souvenirs is to be issued at 3 pence each, the whole of the profits to go to the fund. The deaf have already subscribed £3-7-6.

Lacrosse.

May 1st the Adult Deaf Lacrosse Club started the season by playing against Canterbury in Flinders' Park and made a draw. Canterbury led at half time by 5 goals, but were pressed right through the second half till the final bell when the score was 7 goals each side. Goal throwers, V. Tyzzer 3, Hughes 2, Smith 1, Mc Kenzie 1.

May 8th the Deaf scored a brilliant victory over the Hawthorn Club. The latter scored 6 goals against 3 at half time, but were defeated at the finish by 10 goals to 8. Hughes 4, V. Tyzzer 3, Smith 2, Martin 1, being the goal throwers.

May 15th, the Kooyong Club defeated the Deaf by 10 goals to 6. The latter did not have their full team & could not score more frequently owing to the failure of the forwards to take advantages of opportunities offering. Goal throwers, Robertson 2, Johnstone 1, Smith 1, Tyzzer 1, Martin 1.

Junior "A" matches still continue to be keenly contested.

May 22nd The Adult Deaf had the bye.

Mr A. Drummond (hearing player) lost his step-father (Lieut-Colonel Gartside) who was killed in action at the Dardanelles. The Club has sent a letter of sympathy to him.

Personal.

Mr. E. J. Douglas Abraham, son of our Superintendent, met with a nasty accident recently whilst motoring. He and a friend were descending a hill at some speed when the mud guard somehow got between the wheels. Mr. Abraham was thrown some yards, coming to the ground heavily; his friend, unable to stop his own motor in time, rode over his back. Fortunately no bones were broken, he, however, had a very narrow escape. It is hoped that he will soon be about again.

We regret to learn that Captain W. Hodgson, brother of Mr. C. Hodgson of Adelaide, was killed in action at the Dardenelles. A letter of condolence was sent to Mr. Hodgson.

The S. A. Deaf should consider themselves exceptionally fortunate in having their Church pulpit so ably filled. The Acting Missioner, who is deaf, conducts the morning service, and the evening devotions alternately with Mr. A. E. W. Cox, head teacher of the S. A. School for the Deaf. Mr. Samuel Johnson, M. A. the Supt. also officiates one Sunday evening a month.

Mr. W. Thomson and Miss M. Meehan were married on April 28th. They spent their honeymoon in Ballarat. They have our best wishes

Miss E. Connell is away on a visit to Kilenda for a month.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 1/- from Mr. A. Wilson & 2/- from Mrs Neilson towards our Monthly Letter Fund.

We are pleased to state that Mr. Rose continues to improve in health.

The "Benella" in which Mr. & Mrs Baldry & family left Melbourne for England on the 3rd of April arrived at London on Saturday May 22nd

A Garden Fete was held at the School for the Deaf on May 1st. Several of the young lady members of the Adult Centre helped at the stalls, & quite a large number of the adult deaf were present. About £270 was raised.

Lecture.

Our Superintendent lectured on "The Language of Signs at our Centre on May 4th & was favoured with a larger audience than we have had for many a year. The lecturer traced the origin of many signs in common use. Natural signs were much the same the world over, there was very little difference between the signs of the North American Indians & those used by the deaf. It was when we approached the conventional signs that we began to see the difference. He instanced the South & North of England where different systems of figures are used. Hearing people use signs frequently without realising it. They still shake & nod their heads, wave goodbye, point, shrug their shoulders, shake hands & use numerous other gestures in everyday conversation. He believed that the original language of man was one of signs. It was as easy to make the language of signs as grammatical as any other language. Shorthand was a language of signs on paper, gesture a language of signs in the air. That was the only difference. If signs were crude or ugly or interferred with the acquisition of language, the fault was the teachers'. Mr. Paul presided & many members spoke to the subject after the close of the lecture.

Financial Position of our Society.

So generous has been the response to the ordinary annual appeal of our Society that the expenditure upon maintenance is only £180 in excess of the years income, although additional responsibilities which meant extra expenditure of £300 were undertaken by the Committee. They were also faced with the drought & the war. Still it is a deficit and we must set ourselves to make good. Altogether we have had to withdraw £480 from the "Building and Benevolent Fund" and it is necessary that this sum be replaced at the earliest date possible.

The total receipts for maintenance were £3,217-18-6 & of this sum, £858-6-11 was from the Blackburn Home

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged

VOL. II. JULY 1915. Nº 11

Town Hall Demonstration.

It was great to see our beautiful City Hall once again Crowded with our friends and sympathisers. There must have been at least 2.000 present on the 31.st of May, and it was a concordant Audience; harmonising with every word and expression that came from the platform. This gathering took us back mentally, to that first occassion in March 1902, and we shall never forget it, when the same hall was packed to the doors, and the great concourse of people outside, unable to obtain admission, caused the stoppage of the traffic and the neccessity for the presence of some 20 Mounted troopers to restore order. And again in 1907 on the occasion of the Farm and Home Bazaar when, for three days from noon until 10 pm. the hall was so Crowded that it was hardly possible to make purchases. The net result of the first Meeting was the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, of the second effort the Blackburn Home. Hence the Town Hall is a place of pleasant Memory to the Deaf Mute

The Lord Mayor.

If the Lord Mayor was as pleased with us as we were with him, then he must be proud of his deaf Citizens. He seemed to be astonished at himself for being unacquainted with, to use his own words, " So important and successful a work which had for so many years been Carried on in the City of Melbourne We feel that we are to blame for not having brought our Society and its needs directly under his notice. Any way our Chief Magistrate soon made up for lost time, he asked to be put down as annual Subscriber and expressed himself anxious

to be of service to the Society, whatever he could do, he would to farther the aims of the Committee.

If we were to write all that is in our mind Concerning the recent Meeting and the thoughts that it gave birth to, we suppose it would take up the space of Many "Monthlys." We will therefore, try to Keep as near as we can to the point. First, so our hearing friends inform us, the Audience sang the National Anthem with an earnestness that showed the People were alive to the Needs of the times "Peace Perfect Peace" So beautifully rendered in the Gesture language by Miss Doris Davies, and by the Lyric Orchestra and Choir was received by the great Audience in breathless Silence. One gentleman afterwards said it impressed him as a wave of emotion rolling through the great hall, he himself felt like Sobbing. Of the Instrumental and Vocal items it would be absurd of us to write. It must Suffice here to State that our hearing friends appreciated and enjoyed every item, and we are grateful to Mr Levy and the Melbne Lyric Orchestra and Choir for the enjoyable evening they gave our hearing friends.

Mr E. R. Peacock J. P. (Chairman of our Society) gave an address on the work of our Society. It is no easy task to Pack a waggon load of information into a twelve inch box, for that is what a time limit of ten Minutes for even an outline of our work really amounts to. Any way our Chairman got near doing it.

There are very few honorary Officers of Deaf Societies who have got so real a grip of the Condition and needs of the adult Deaf as Mr E. R. Peacock, Mr Sumner Martin and Mr. J. G. Mercy. We are indeed fortunate in having Gentlemen in our Midst who not only thoroughly understand our case, but are ever willing to give the weight of their influence and Voice on our behalf. The day is not so very far back when we used positively to shiver in our Shoes at Annual Meetings, wondering to what insult we would be subjected to next and all by well meaning friends who Came to help us. "These poor deaf & dumb Mutes" "I once knew a deaf mute who could write his name as well as I can write my own." "I think these poor people ought to be fed and Clothed for they have bodies and mouths as well as us etc. used to be Common. On the occasion of an Annual when sentences something akin to the above found their way into the Speeches. a young deaf man of impulsive Nature, was asked to Propose a vote of Thanks

he opened by saying. "It is fortunate that My master has let me off my chain otherwise I would not have been able to submit the motion" Only the deaf got this part of his remarks for the interpreter had the tact to omit it.

The Lord Mayor was not only delighted with the performance of our deaf young ladies, but also with the deaf ladies themselves. He said he had never seen anything sweeter, so innocent or more graceful. He had been in many a drawing room where beauty and grace was wont to assemble yet he could not remember anything to compare with the grace of these deaf ladies.

The Hon T. Tudor proposed a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and to the Lyric Orchestra & Choir

The only Complaint the Audience had against Mr Abraham and his deaf young ladies was that their part of the programme was far too short. Miss D. Davies, Miss R. Dow & Miss D. Hickey gave illustrations of natural, semi natural & Conventional Signs & were afterwards joined by the Misses I. Fletcher, I and N. Kennedy & M. Dowdin living Statuary. For Comments on the performance & also upon that of Mr George Newnham we refer our readers to the extract from the "Age" which appears in another part of our "Monthly".

Some kindly but innocent lady friend who had also been present at the entertainment of 1902 asked if the young ladies who were taking part in the Statuary that evening were the same as performed on the first occasion. This question gave us food for thought. Where were they? We thought their faces to mind one by one - Miss Ada Pritchard now Mrs Ernest Smith living in Victoria, Miss Abby McLean now Mrs J Ashley in New Zealand, Miss Eva Secomb - Mrs Dann of West Australia, Miss Robertson, - Mrs Bostock of South Australia, Miss Burrows - Mrs Wilbow of New South Wales & Miss Maggie Langdon who has passed on to the better land.

At the close of the Town Hall Meeting we were again & again accosted by friends who were present at our first Town hall Meeting thirteen years ago. One gentleman asked Mr Abraham if he remembered being refused admission to the Hall. He did. Some of the Choir were wedged in the Crowd outside. Mr Abraham through a private door went to the rescue giving instructions to the policeman in charge not to admit any

one under any circumstances. When he returned with the rescued ones the policeman, not recognising the organiser refused to admit him saying he had orders and he was going to obey these orders. Finally Mr H. S. Martin had to come to the rescue of Mr Abraham

Quite a number of the audience asked what had become of the "Gesture" and begged us to re-issue it. Bear with us just a little friends and if not the "Gesture" Something as good, even better, we hope shall see the light.

Miss Rose Doid looked most bewitching in her "Invitation" dress She signed "Come" and they came - 2000 of them. Oh. that we could draw that.

Everyone admired the pretty "Invitation" brooch issued by our Chief. We get Something original everytime. He has the loyal support of his printer and helps to get the gingerbread Mr Edgar Peacock is quick to cotton to an idea & equally quick into putting it into execution. People say the wording inside was strikingly appropriate to the point.

The Lord Mayor was astonished to learn that our Society receives no grant from the Government towards maintenance We have had £2,500 toward the Blackburn buildings from the Government and we are hoping to obtain another £1000 for the same object. We purpose asking the Lord Mayor to help us to get this. By the way the City Council grant to our Society which is a City organisation is only £10. Hitherto we have not pushed our claim in this direction, but now well, My Lord Mayor it is getting near next allocation time, Suppose we suggest £50. It really is not over much in the circumstances and just now we are in need of money badly. We have borrowed £480 from our Building Fund for immediate needs and must replace it.

Although our experience in organising has enabled us to work out a system whereby success is a mathematical certainty a system so perfect that we could on any occasion at any time & for any object fill any hall of any size to the last chair last Month we almost lost faith in ourselves. For positively all the Job's Comforters, Fog signal men, storm petrels & pessimists generally of this progressive city must have arranged to alternatively turn into us & prophesy misfortune & failure They shook our hand, then shook

their heads sorrowfully "How could we hope for a successful meeting, in the Town Hall too, at such a time.?" and so on. When one had finished up came another & yet another so that by the time we reached our work we had little heart for it. And when almost every important letter we wrote went astray and those sent to us did likewise & other things that generally run smoothly went wrong, well, whose to wonder that the faith in us was at its last gasp & then a little bird, that for safety, thereof we keep cages whistled "Never Mind Your faith Stick to Your System. We did. Hence forth the Jonahs & other prophets of gloom will need to find other victims to torment.

Mr Abraham, our principal interpreted the Speeches Mr Paul & Mr E. Peacock had charge of the Stewards at the front of the house The Collection which included contributions from Messrs Klingender & Alsop, Mrs Gumwade & Mr Smythe amounted to £ 4 8

We have to thank the Evening Herald for a Magnificent notice of our meeting which was accompanied by a portrait of Mr Abraham

The Grecian Robes worn by the deaf ladies were designed by Mrs Abraham.

Opinion of the "Age".

We are sure that our readers will appreciate the following Comment upon the performance of the Deaf in the Town Hall It appeared in the "Age" of June 1st. :-

"One will seldom see a more beautiful spectacle anywhere than that of the eight white robed Maidens in flowing costumes that recalled the days of Ancient Greece as they spoke in Language of signs and gesture, and grouped themselves in a series of graceful poses. Here was a beauty that very few actors ever achieve on the Stage, and indeed a splendid object lesson for the play-house profession. The ladies who contributed this item to the programme were the Misses D. Davies, R Dow, M Dow, D. Hickey, T. Fletcher, I Kennedy, A. Kennedy and I. Bootz. Equally effective was the humorous description of various sports as seen through the eyes of a deaf mute. Mr George Newnham's Command of facial expression as well as gesture would, had he the power of speech place him high among Comedians. These displays do great credit to the work of the Society and its principal Mr Ernest J. D. Abraham and show that there is abroad a real regard for learning &

Corrections.

The Rally.

The Kings birthday Rally drew a good Crowd, there being present 110 deaf & 15 hearing friends. The Superintendent being ill, Mr Paul presided & Mr J. E. Muir opened with the National Anthem, afterwards reading the roll call and a long letter from Mr Abraham who said how disappointed he was at not being able to be with us. He wanted to add to the high praise the Lord Mayor had given the Deaf Ladies for their performance in the Town Hall & to Congratulate & thank them, also the deaf gentlemen who acted as Stewards. He was pleased with & proud of them all. The letter was received by many a burst of applause. & Concluding Mr J. E Muir regretted to hear of Mr Abrahams illness but felt sure he would soon be restored to health again. Mr Paul gave a short address appropriate to the occasion. He said there were present at the Rally that evening deaf friends who were seldom seen at the Services. He hoped that they would become regular attendants.
The results of the various guessing Competitions was as follows- Weight of Pumpkin 40 lbs. Messrs J Carvis, Nolan & A Wilson guessed correctly. Mr J Carvis won by ballot. The Candle burnt out at 9.48 P.M. Messrs Luff, Cruch, McLellan, Misses Sutherland & Mrs Goddard tied at 9.50 pm. Mr Luff succeeded by ballot. The number of pages of the book chosen was 403. Mr Swain & Miss O'Brien guessed 400. Ballot once again had to be resorted to. with a coin for the former. Number of packets in a packet; 388 was the actual number & Miss M. Collins guessed 379 & won In the Concentration game. Mrs J E. Muir was able to remember accurately every article on the tray 15 in all & so won.
The Clock stopped at 1.50 a.m. & Mr Nolan had guessed 1.30 a.m. he was nearest & won. The Sign Contest was a disappointment The Judges Messrs Mills. Paul & Paterson had to come to some decision but it is doubtful if they were satisfied even with their own awards. The best substitute for the sign for "liar" was submitted by Mr Luff; for "ass" by Mr N. Hughes for Dont Care by Mr S. Turnley. After several games had been played Supper was announced partaken of, and enjoyed & another harmonious evening became a thing of the pleasant past

Thanks.

To the Melbourne Lyric orchestra & Choir the hearing & deaf gentlemen who acted as stewards. Glens & Co for free booking. Salvation Army for loan of collecting plates. J. R. Tait for "Reserved seats" Cards - all in connection with the Town Hall Meeting.

Mr. Monsr P. d'Argeval of the French Bank for sending total subscribed by Deaf for Belgian Deaf through to Planet without deducting the usual Commission or exchange charges

Mr Rose.

We are glad to say Mr Rose has made a good recovery we had the pleasure of a visit from him at the Centre.

Photos of Mr Abraham.

Signed Panel photos of Mr Abraham are on sale at the Deaf Mute Centre 2/- each. Postage paid. Profit to Belgian Deaf Relief Fund. apply to Mrs J. E. Muir.

Home and Farm.

Things are very quiet at the Farm just now. June is always a dull month with us. We are getting ready for the Spring. Propogating Carnations, Gaillardias, Marguerettes & Chrysanthemums. Sales for the month of June £67. Mr Sam Rose met with an accident, fell & broke his knee cap & had to be taken to the Melbourne Hospital where he underwent an operation. He is almost right again now, we expect him back at the farm in a few days.

Ladies Rambling Club

The Rambles spent their monthly outing at the Botanical Gardens on June 12th Some of the members met at Flinders St Station and strolled along Alexander avenue, then through Botanical Gardens to the Tea House, where they met a further detachment which made the party so large that Pedestrians along the way were attracted by the many whirling fingers. After rambling for a while they sat down in a pretty summer house where the annual Meeting was held. The Hon Sec (Miss D. Dickey), read her short report. The membership on the roll was 23. Only six rambles were held during the year on account of many other functions being held, and also owing to the heavy rains. The Hon Treasurer submitted the balance sheet. Mrs J. E. Muir was re-elected President. Misses D. Dickey and R. Dow who have been Hon Sec & Hon Treas.

respectively for two years retired to give other members the chance and Messrs O. Davies & I. Kennedy were accordingly appointed to the positions in order. The Membership is, as usual, 3 pence per annum After the Meeting they trudged happily on to Alexandra Gardens & visited the base of the new Monument of King Edward VII & then they parted for their various homes, bidding good bye to each other thus Ending the delightful outing

Personal

On the 29th May at a large gathering at the Deaf Centre. Mr J. E. Muston behalf of the Athletic Club. presented Mr. S. Ferguson with a silver mounted oak biscuit barrel and a salad bowl as tokens of our esteem and gratitude for his valuable interest in the Club's welfare. Another presentation in the form of a handsome clock, was made in the name of some deaf friends, by Mr. Luff as a recognition of Mr Fergusons helpful loyalty to our Society. The Speaker Congratulated him on being the first deaf man from the Country to be married in our Church.
Mr Ferguson suitably replied and his bride also expressed her appreciation
Mrs J. Wilson (nee Miss Burrows) of Sydney is Staying in Melbourne for some weeks.
Mr W. Crush. of Adelaide is at present on a visit to Melbourne
Mr & Mrs S. Ferguson stayed in Melbourne for a fortnight after Spending their honeymoon in Gippsland. Their new home is "Fairholme" Bowmans Forest.
Several deaf men went to the barracks to enlist for the War, but were debarred owing to deafness. They were greatly disappointed
Messrs. J. Boots & C. Hodgson have our sympathy in their sad bereavement. The former losing his sister & the latter his mother

Lacrosse

On the 29th May. the Adult Deaf team scored a brilliant victory aga Carlton. by 7 goals to 6. The deaf players wore black arm bands in respect to Mr. Drummond step father (Lieut Col Garside who was killed in act at the Dardanelles. Goal Throwers. C. Robertson 2. V. Tyzzer 2. C. Smith 1. N. Hughes 1. E. Martin 1.
June 5th Middle Park (Premiers of B. Section Last year). were beaten by the deaf by goals to 2. the deaf played a great game - being the best they have played this season. Goal Throwers. V. Tyzzer 4. W. Anderson 3. C. Robertson 3. C. Smith. 3 Hughes 1. E. Martin J. Peters 1. G Edwards 1. June 12. Beat Kew by 11 goals to 6. Goal throwers Smith 3. Hughes 3. Martin 2. Anderson 1 Tyzzer 1 Harding 1. June 19. Defeated by Canterbury by 6 goals to 2. Goal throwers C. Smith 1. W. Anderson

ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

HOME FOR AGED, INFIRM AND
FEEBLE MINDED DEAF MUTES
(INCORPORATED)

TELEPHONES
CENTRAL 5223
CANTERBURY 47

ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE
32-34 FLINDERS ST. E.
MELBOURNE

May 20th 191

Rev & Dear Sir.

I am appealing to the Churches to render the Deaf-Mutes of this state a similiar service to that of 13 years ago, when I asked for the co-operation of the members of the Churches in a movement to make adequate provision for the Spiritual, Moral and Social needs of these afflicted people. The response was prompt & generous. Our first Meeting, held in the Melbourne Town Hall, being announced in almost every Church in the City and Suburbs, with the result that the hall was crowded & the Meeting most enthusiastic. Funds were soon forthcoming, enabling the Committee to erect a Church & Institute in Flinders St, and later to open a Home & Farm for Aged, Infirm & Mentally Defective Deaf Mutes at Blackburn.

We are holding a Demonstration in the Town Hall on the 31st May when we hope to give an account of our Stewardship. Will you kindly add to your Churches' former favour by announcing our Demonstration at One or other of your Meetings & having accompanying invitations handed to such as may desire to attend?

If it is convenient for you to be with us we shall be pleased and will gladly reserve seats for you on receiving intimation of your intention to attend.

Yours faithfully
Ernest J. D. Abraham

Invitation Concert

By the LYRIC ORCHESTRA AND
— CHORUS and —
DEMONSTRATION by DEAF MUTES
in connection with Adult Deaf and
Dumb Society of Victoria

Town Hall, Melbourne

Monday, May 31st, 1915

THE LORD MAYOR
ALD. SIR DAVID HENNESSY WILL PRESIDE

Doors open 7 p.m. To commence 8 p.m.

Invitation Ticket . . . **Admit Two Adults**

COLLECTION



The Argus 22/5/15

INVITATION CONCERT and DEMONSTRATION, in Connection with ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY, TOWN HALL, MELBOURNE, Monday, MAY 31, 8 p.m.
MELBOURNE LYRIC ORCHESTRA and CHOIR.
ENTERTAINMENT BY DEAF MUTES.
The Lord Mayor Will Preside.
Admission free. Seats may be reserved at Glen's on payment of 1/ each. Booking opens May 24.

The Argus 28/5/15

The annual demonstration of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society is to be held in the Melbourne Town Hall on Monday, May 31. The Lord Mayor (Alderman Sir David Hennessy) will preside, and the evening's entertainment will consist of a concert by the Melbourne Lyric Orchestra and Choir and performances by the deaf and dumb. The admission is free, but seats may be reserved at Glen's on payment of 1/.

Herald 29/5/15

DEAF MUTES' DEMONSTRATION HAS ATTRACTIVE FEATURES

CONCERT IN TOWN HALL

At the Melbourne Town Hall on Monday next, May 31, at 8 p.m., the Deaf Mutes of this City will hold their annual demonstration.

The programme, which is one for the enjoyment of people in possession of hearing and not for the deaf, consists of a concert by the Melbourne Lyric Orchestra and Chorus, and performances by the deaf mutes. The deaf



MR. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,
Founder of Blackburn Home.

mutes have called it "An Invitation Concert," and the public are asked to "Come and enjoy the concert and learn something about ourselves."

Admission is free, but those who desire to make sure of a seat can do so. Any number may be reserved at Glen's on payment of one shilling each. The Lord Mayor will preside.

The demonstration is under the auspices of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, which has its headquarters at the Deaf Mute Centre, 32-34 Flinders street, and conducts a home at Blackburn for aged, infirm, blind and mentally defective deaf mutes. Mr Ernest J. D. Abraham is Principal of the centre, and founder of the home.

The Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

(INCORPORATED)

Office Bearers

Patron: His Excellency Sir Arthur Stanley, K.C.M.G., Governor of Victoria.
President: Mr. W. H. Felstead.
Vice-President: Mr. L. R. Peacock, J.P.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. R. J. Oehr, F.I.A.V., 59 William Street, Melbourne.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. H. L. Walters, Accountant, Home Affairs Dept., Melbourne.
Assistant Hon. Treasurer: Mr. M. L. Miller.
Committee: Rev. H. W. H. Adeney, Messrs. Geo. Brown, W. A. Dickens, R. H. Luff, H. Sumner Marlin, B.A., LL.B., G. G. Mence, J.P., M. L. Miller, J. E. Muir, Hugh Munro, Rev. F. V. Pratt, M.A., Mr. F. J. Rose, Hon. F. Tudor, M.H.R.
Principal: ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM

..... Annual .....

Demonstration

Town Hall, Melbourne

Monday, May 31st, 1915, 8 p.m.

THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR,
ALD. SIR DAVID HENNESSY will preside

MELBOURNE LYRIC ORCHESTRA and CHOIR
Hon. Conductor, Mr. Chas. Levy

ENTERTAINMENT BY DEAF MUTES

The "Argus" 1/6/15

DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY.

The annual demonstration of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society was given with success last evening in the Town Hall, every seat being occupied. During the interval in the well-varied programme Mr. E. R. Peacock, vice-president of the society, said that the success of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society was shown by the fact that by means of its agency, which included the advantages of the farm and home at Blackburn, 30 per cent. of the deaf and dumb in Victoria were enabled to take care of themselves and also to maintain themselves. The remaining small section, who were not able to fight their way in the world, were looked after at Blackburn. There were no debts on the Flinders street centre, nor on the property at Blackburn, but later on, when peace was declared, an effort will be made to raise £3,000 to complete the work. Last year the income from all sources was £3,482, and the expenditure, which included the wages of the deaf and dumb farm labourers, was £3,742, leaving a deficit of about £200. The Lord Mayor congratulated Mr. E. Abraham and the committee on the extension and success of the society. He had no idea of the work that was being done in this direction, and was astonished to hear it had no Government support. A collection, the results of which amounted to £40, was taken up. The musical programme was contributed by the Lyric Orchestra and Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Charles Levy.

The "Age" 1/6/15

The affliction of being unable to hear or speak is one we do not care even to contemplate. Yet to have been in the midst of the deaf mutes at last night's demonstration of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria at the Town Hall was far from being depressing. One will seldom see a more beautiful spectacle anywhere than that of the eight white-robed maidens, in flowing costumes that recalled the days of ancient Greece, as they spoke in language of signs and gesture, and grouped themselves in a series of graceful poses. Here was a beauty that very few actors even achieve on the stage, and indeed a splendid object lesson for the playhouse profession. The ladies who contributed this item to the programme were the Misses D. Davies, R. Dow, M. Dow, D. Hickey, L. Fletcher, I. Kennedy, N. Kennedy and I. Boortz. Equally effective was the humorous description of various sports as seen through the eyes of a deaf mute. Mr. George Newnham's command of facial expression, as well as gesture, would, had he the power of speech, place him high among comedians. These displays do great credit to the work of the society and its principal, Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham, and show that there is abroad a real regard for beauty and comeliness. For the rest of the entertainment, excellent work was done by the Lyric Orchestra and Chorus, under the conductorship of Mr. Charles Levy.

ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY.
DEMONSTRATION and CONCERT
TOWN HALL,
Monday, 31st May, 1915.
RESERVED CHAIRS
J 10
ADMIT ONE
This part to be given up at the Door.
Enter Swanston Street Door.
Ernest J. D. ABRAHAM, Superintendent.
Norman Bros., Print.

Adult DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY
Demonstration and Concert
TOWN HALL,
Monday, 31st May, 1915.
Reserved Chairs
J 10
RETAIN THIS CHECK.
Seats cannot be guaranteed after 8.

ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY.
DEMONSTRATION and CONCERT
TOWN HALL,
Monday, 31st May, 1915.
RESERVED BALCONY
N 18
ADMIT ONE
This part to be given up at the Door.
Enter Collins Street Door.
Ernest J. D. ABRAHAM, Superintendent.
Norman Bros., Print.

RETAIN THIS CHECK.
Seats cannot be guaranteed after 8.

Programme

National Anthem—The Audience is requested to join in the singing

"Peace, Perfect Peace"—In the Language of Gesture by Miss Doris Davies and the Melbourne Lyric Orchestra and Choir.

Peace! perfect peace! in this dark world of sin!
The love of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace! perfect peace! by thronging duties prest!
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.

Peace! perfect peace! with sorrow surgings round!
On Jesus' bosom nought but calm is found.

Peace! perfect peace! with loved ones far away
In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.

Peace! perfect peace! our future all unknown!
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.

Peace! perfect peace! death shadowing us and ours!
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.

It is enough! earth's struggles soon shall cease,
And Jesus call to heaven's perfect peace.

Triumphal March "Aida" *Verdi*
Orchestra (Mr. Oscar Levy, Principal Violin)

Address "The Work of Our Society" Mr. E. R. Peacock, J.P.
Chairman of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

Chorus "Come with Flowers" (William Tell) *Rossini*
Choir and Orchestra

Address by the Lord Mayor

Overture "Raymond" *Amb. Thomas*
Orchestra

The Language of Signs, of Gesture and Pose

Misses D. Davies, R. Dow, M. Dow, D. Hickey, L. Fletcher, I. Kennedy, N. Kennedy, I. Boortz.

Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham

COLLECTION

Tableaux and Humour—Misses D. Davies, R. Dow, M. Dow, D. Hickey, L. Fletcher, I. Kennedy, N. Kennedy, I. Boortz. Messrs. J. M. Johnson and A. Hull.

Sports through the Eyes of a Deaf Mute—Mr. Geo. Newnham

Bridal Chorus "Lohengrin" *Wagner*
Choir and Orchestra

Ballet Music "Faust" *Gounod*
Orchestra

Waltz Chorus "Faust" *Gounod*
Choir and Orchestra

National Anthem

The Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

Incorporated

This Society is NOT CONNECTED with the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution, the Residential School for Deaf Mute Children.

Objects of the Society



HE **ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE**, Flinders Street, Melbourne, is the rendezvous of the Deaf Mute population of **ALL** sects and nationalities in Victoria. **Here ALL their needs are catered for,** providing Library, Reading Room and Club accommodation for both sexes. Public Worship, Lectures and Classes in their own language. Youths on leaving school are helped into situations. Employment obtained for adults. Relief given to those out of work, sick, or in temporary difficulties. Pensions granted to aged and infirm deaf mutes.

The Home for Aged and Infirm, and Farm for Feeble-Minded Deaf Mutes

LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN, provides training and employment for that section of the Deaf and Dumb who by reason of mental or physical defects, are unable to follow ordinary occupations, and a home for aged, infirm and blind deaf mutes.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. II **AUGUST 1915.** **No 12**

My dear people.

This number completes the 11th volume of "Our Monthly". For eleven years she has kept you fully informed upon all matters of interest to the Victorian Deaf, thanks to the unchanging enthusiasm of the staff who are ever alive to all matters appertainting to your interests.

"Our Monthly" too, has done much towards keeping Our little family united & interested in each other & everybody appreciates her spirit. One hearing gentleman has said "If 'Our Monthly' is the voice of the spirit of the Victorian Deaf then our deaf family must be exceptionally happy & united". We believe that she is the voice of the spirit of our deaf. Indeed the very pulse of the body of our deaf beats through every number. Another hearing friend, a lady, writes that she has been informed that we propose to print "Our Monthly" in type & adds "Please don't - you call "Our Monthly" a letter. It is a letter. Let it remain a letter. Print it in type & it at once looses its originality & loveableness & at once becomes commonplace." We are at one with our lady friend & are able to assure her & all our readers that no change in the get up of "Our Monthly" is likely to be made at least for another year.

The eleven years of "Our Monthly" have been years of uninterrupted progress. We have climbed, climbed, climbed & this is the very first year that we have been brought almost to a standstill. True, the work itself continues as heretofore. But the might bounds upward & onward are stayed - To fully realise the marvellous progress of our society it is only necessary to compare the annual reports of 1900 & 1915. This year we all feel that we must forget ourselves & our own cause & concentrate all our energies upon the cause of our Empire. Our little family for the time being must forget its little needs & work unitedly for the great family of which we are all proud to be a part.

Continued on 8 page re Patriotic Meeting

Belgian Deaf – Letter from Mdlle Pitrois.

A few months back Mrs. A. Williamson collected £27 for Mdlle Yvonne Pitrois Belgian Fund. Mrs J. E. Muir started a movement for supplying the deaf refugees with clothes & has already forwarded a huge case of useful garments. The money was forwarded through the French Consul. Like a true French lady Mdlle Pitrois has shown her gratitude by promptly writing most appreciative letters to the two active workers for this cause Mesdames A. Williamson & J. E. Muir. We print her letter to the former in full:-

Dear Mrs Williamson, How grateful I am to you for having acted as Secretary of the fund, & for having succeeded so splendidly in your good work! I have just received through M. Paul, the £27 you have raised & I can tell you how happy I am in thinking of all the good this money will do. I thank you heartily! Thanks, too with all my heart to every helper; though I know them not & probably will never do – at least on earth. I feel as if every one of them was now my personal friend! Tell that to them please. I am looking forward for the clothes (it is such a need of them!) & will immediately write to you again when they reach me. I have had several other contributions from Australia. I hope my open letter in the "Deaf News" will interest you all, & increase your loving sympathy for the poor Belgian & French deaf sufferers. If you can (as you intend to do) send me some more money for them later on, you can be certain it will always be of great use either for my own refugees or for the deaf that have remained in the invaded zones. If any one of the Australian Deaf is able to read the "Petite Silencieuse" & like to have it, I should be so pleased to send it to him or her. I am posting a few copies to you. With kind remembrances to your husband, & affectionate greetings to you & the helpers. I am, Lovingly your friend, Yvonne Pitrois"

In her letter to Mrs Muir, an old friend & correspondent, Mdlle Pitrois expressed her thanks in her usual charming way to the latter for having forwarded & made her appeal known in Australia. She also sent two pictural post cards; one is that of King Albert's with the following words in the back "To thank you all for your good work on behalf of King Albert's silent people!" The other shows a map of Belgium & a part of France with the words "to show to you all the places in Belgium & invaded France where your gifts are going to bring help & comfort to so many ones!"

Mr J. Paul, the assistant Missioner has also received a letter from mdlle Pitrois in which she expresses thanks for the "big beautiful collection from the Victorian Deaf" "How grateful I am to all the far away friends who have responded so well to my call" She says "This sum will allow me to do so much good to a great number of poor & needy! May God richly bless ~~every~~ one of the donors for their generosity & self sacrifice". In conclusion she mentions that she has heard of Mr Paul through her friend Mr Brodie & hopes he is happy in far away Australia, & that he does not miss Scotland too much & that she is aware that he is already much liked in his new field of work.

The Deaf Workers Club.

Last month we had the pleasure of forwarding two parcels of comforts to the Red Cross Depot. They comprised 9 pairs bed socks, 13 prs socks, 13 prs mittens, 9 mufflers, 4 helmet caps, 1 cardigan jacket, 26 face washers, all knitted, & 60 handkerchiefs. Another parcel will be sent shortly. We have already spent over £14 on wool, & our stock is now exhausted. We will have to buy more, unless some kind friend comes to our rescue, many members are waiting to knit more socks & scarfs.

The Annual Meeting of the club will be held on Saturday August 21st at the centre, when the report & the balance sheet will be submitted. All members in the city & suburbs are kindly asked to attend, & non-members (ladies) will be welcome. The hon Sec.y (Mrs Williamson), wishes to remind the members to bring one article each for the Farm & Home by the first week of August. She begs to acknowledge with thanks the following contributions:- Mrs Gretton 2/- Mrs Muir, Misses A. Foster & D. Williamson, wool for the Club, & "Za" 10/- (2 monthly instalments) for the Belgian Refugees.

The Chief's Anniversary Rally.

The Annual Rally to celebrate the arrival of Mr Ernest J. D. Abraham in Australia will (D.V.) be held on the 7th Oct.r at our Centre. The Rally Committee have an interesting programme in hand, particulars will be announced next month.

Photos of Mr Abraham.

Handsome panel photographs of Mr Abraham are on sale at Our Centre. Price 2/- each (post free to country cousins) Each copy bears the signature of our chief. As the number is limited this announcement will not be repeated. Apply to Mr J. R. Muir Deaf Centre 32 Flinders St E.

The Women's Guild.

Many members of the Guild have been congratulating themselves upon having their first Winter vacation because the Tuesday nights during the past two months when the guild meetings would have been held were either bitterly cold or stormy. They naturally prefer to stay home & sit by the fireside in such weather. The Guild will re-open on August 10th. Now the members are looking forward eagerly to it.

Men's Guild Meeting.

At the meeting of the above Guild on the 13th of July. Mr. J. A. Nelson gave an amusing recitation entitled "The Bachelor's Love Affair" & he afterwards gave a paper re "Thomas Edison" which was very interesting & much appreciated.

On the 27th ult. Mr. M. G. Mortimer contributed a paper on "Sagacity of Birds," which was also much enjoyed.

The attendance at both of these meetings, was good, but still we want more. Say! Young men, show your loyalty by attending these meetings as much as possible, & swell our number.

Open Night.

On the 6th July which was an open night, Mr. Abraham lectured on "Palestine" there was not a great audience, nevertheless an appreciative one.

Lacrosse.

On the 3rd July The Adult Deaf Team beat Kooyong by 4 goals to 3 after a most strenuous & keen game. Kooyong claimed a goal which was disallowed by the Referee. Thereat Kooyong protested to the V. L. Association, the protest however was dismissed. They also sent complaints of rough play against the Deaf team. Complaints also were dismissed except in the case of Quantock who was suspended for 2 weeks. Goal-throwers, Hughes 2. Anderson 1. Tyzzer 1

On the 10th July another easy victory went to the Deaf against Middle Park, the scores being 13 goals to 4. Goal throwers Tyzzer 4 Martin 3, Smith 3, Hughes 2, Downes 1

On the 17th July. The Deaf team got a walkover from Carlton who could not muster a team owing to enlistment of several players for War.

On the 24th July. The Deaf team won a very easy victory over the Hawthorn team by 12 goals to 4. The game was somewhat rough & spiteful at times especially on part of the Hawthorn team. Goal throwers Tyzzer 7 goals Smith 4 Hughes 1

The Deaf team intend making a trip to Kyneton some time next month.

Personal Pars.

Daughter born to Mr. & Mrs. G. Damman of Warburton on the 11th July

The wife of Mr. F. Martin of Adelaide (well known to the Melbourne deaf folks) died on the 13th July. Our letter of condolence was sent to him.

Mr. J. Cardwell of Longwarry spent a few days in Melbourne for business, & also did Mr. A. Stokes of Trafalgar.

Congratulations have been showered upon Mr. G. Newnham for his splendid work in enlarging & lithographing the now well known poster "Will they never come".

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/- from Mrs. E. Morrison of Carpendict towards Our Monthly Letter"

Our 2nd Legacy.

Mr. George W. Clarke of Wadelock, near Maffra, a labourer, usually known as "Black George" died on the 12th of Feb.y, leaving legacies to the value of £900 to various public Institutions, to ours £50. The total amount left however was insufficient to pay all the legacies named by testator, so the actual sum received by our Society was £33. 18. 0. This is the second legacy we have received & both have been from working men. The first was from Mr. Deane, himself a deaf-mute. Our Society would have received many other legacies but for the confusion in the minds of the public as to the nature of organisations that make provision for the Deaf.

The Ramblers.

July 18th was the date fixed for our monthly ramble. The weather was unfabourable, but in spite of that, a good muster of enthusiastic ramblers including our ever-smiling chief & Mr. Crush (late of Adelaide) turned up at the Violet farm at Gardiner. Four or five younger ramblers contented themselves by picking violets while older ones passed the best of their afternoon chatting with the Chief. In a few minutes each of us was loaded with bunches of beautiful flowers such as violets, jonquils & wall flowers, generously paid for by one of our party. We then journeyed to the Deaf Centre by electric tram & motor-bus via St. Kilda Road. As we flew along in the tram, we had many pleasant fleeting views of lovely stretches of country, an ever changing panorama which was interesting. Finally we reached the Centre where a pleasant tea was awaiting us provided by the Chief But alas! altho' tea had been prepared in the Chief's room, he had left

the Key at home. Fortunately all the eatables, sweets etc were discovered in the office & accordingly another table was hastily brought in & tea was soon ready to which needless to add we did full justice. After tea we were all smiles & happy spirits. The time passed all too quickly in general conversation, but it was a very happy satisfied lot of ramblers that dispersed for their various homes, each one of the party being the possessor of a bunch of beautiful flowers grown at Gardiner & also our own Farm. Thanks were tendered to Mr. Abraham for providing us with tea & flowers.

Mr. Baldry.

In a letter to a friend Mr. Baldry who, on account of unability to get work in Victoria returned to England by the S.S. Benalla stated that he & his family had a pleasant voyage all the way, the sea was calm almost all through. In the deck sports incidental to long sea voyages his two children won several prizes & his boy Albert was lucky enough to win a watch. Nothing out of the ordinary happened until the steamer was a week out from Capetown when orders were given to paint the name off the ship & to cover over the port holes & all lights turned off at night. Everyone was warned & given a life belt & the boats were all lowered flush with the deck to be ready in case of emergency. All passengers had to parade on deck at their own respective divisional boat stations twice a week for training. When nearing home the passengers received a slight shock when they saw suddenly looming up out of a mist a warship which came straight for the steamer & ordered her to stop, but great relief was experienced when it was found to be a French warship on patrol duty, & the steamer was allowed to proceed. The ladies on board were much startled when they were told that the English Channel was heavily mined & gave the Captain much trouble to calm their fears. However nothing unpleasant happened & the steamer arrived safely at port of destination all well. Some of the passengers told Mr. Baldry that they could hear the guns firing in France, but it was too misty to see the coast clearly.

Mr. Baldry found work immediately he got home, his class of trade was in great demand. The boss & 2 others came to him & wanted him, so Mr. Baldry chose the one he knew best & has now the satisfaction to know that he has got a real good start. He is proud to say he is now doing his bit for the war by helping to pile up the munitions of war. They are working day & night shift to meet the cry for Shells, shells, shells. Mr & Mrs Baldry send kind regards & best wishes to all friends.

Death of Sir A.H. Fairbairn.

The death of Sir A. H. Fairbairn, Bart will cause regret in all deaf circles, not only because he was the only deaf mute in the peerage, but in that his influence, energy & resources were ever whole-heartedly given in any cause for the welfare of the Deaf. He took a personal interest in the Institutions & Societies, & will be remembered not only by his many benefactions, but also for his kindly encouragement & personal endeavours

Notes from Near & Far.

Mr. B. St. John Ackers is dead, & the deaf & all associated with their education have lost a great friend. He was one of the most persistent advocates of a system - the pure oral - with which we are out of sympathy. But that does not prevent us joining in the natural & universal regret. He was inspired by the noblest of motives. His love for the deaf was of the sincerest. Every movement for the advancement of the deaf had his wholehearted support.

The Madras (S. India) School for the Deaf which was founded in Feb.y 1913. Now has 24 pupils on the roll. It is an oral school & all the classes are taught in English. The Government has recognised this effort on behalf of the deaf children of India by a grant of £150!

. Mr. B. H. Payne, who has spent 56 years in the service of the deaf, - 40 in South Wales, has retired. He has given his only son to the work, the Rev. Arnold Payne who is one of the most popular British missioners to the deaf.

The Deaf National Fraternal Society of U. S. A has a membership of 2,000 & a fund of £14,400.

There are Schools for the Deaf in every state of the United States of America except three - Delaware, New Hemisphere & Wyoming. Every State of the Commonwealth of Australia has its school for the Deaf.

Mr. Harley D. Drake the Professor of Agriculture at the Gallaudet College for the Deaf is deaf.

There are 2.500 deaf jews in New York City.

Humphrey Moore, the celebrated deaf painter is at present engaged in portrait painting.

Prince Jamie, the deaf son of the King & Queen of Spain is to become a pupil of a French School for the Deaf in Paris.

The Americans are going strong against the Deaf "imposter". The National Association of the Deaf have issued a circular for distribution.

The Deaf of Tennessee U. S. A. contribute from £20 to £40 annually to the Chefoo School for the Deaf, China & have recently subscribed £35 for the relief of the Belgian Deaf.

Mr. Howard L. Terry, the deaf author of Los Angelos, whose latest serial had for its hero, a young deaf man has been invited to prepare the story for production in film form by the Selig moving picture company. Our deaf are advised to look out for it, the title will be "A voice from the Silence"

A gentleman acquainted with Mr. Chas. Hagneaux, the late missionary to the deaf of Brussels, Belgium once wrote of him as follows:- "If there are any deaf people as good as Pastor Hagneaux they are few indeed, but of deaf people better than him there are none". Mr. Hagneaux died in 1890. Since then he has never been worthily succeeded.

A contemporary says it is characteristic of the deaf to be independent, & if you will give a deaf man even half a chance, he will take care of himself. Taken as a class, the deaf are as courageous in their efforts, as faithful in service & as square in their dealing as any people in the world. This is due in a great measure to the careful training they receive & we might add to the study of other provision made for their individual needs.

Some of the Advertisements for teachers of the Deaf in the British publications for the Deaf make us fairly green with envy. Here is one "Required male assistant teacher certificated; if college-trained £85 with residence" Our Cook would turn up her nose at such an offer.

Patriotic Meeting.

The Deaf of Melbourne are holding a Patriots' Meeting at Our Centre on the 29th July chiefly to consider how best we can help our Empire. Our country cousins are asked to join this movement. We hope to hear from every one of you. Have you a suggestion? Then let us know it. Are you willing to help? Then write at once. We will tell you how you can help. Remember everybody is able to do something. Sit down and write now.

"God save our Men"
God bless our splendid men.
Send them safe home again.
God save our men.
Keep them victorious.
Patient & chivalrous.
They are so dear to us.
God save our men.

Yours affectionately
Ernest J. D. Abraham

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged

VOL. 12. SEPTEMBER 1915. No. 1.

Appeal to Patriotic Deaf.

So far our appeal to the patriotism of the country deaf has been fruitless. We have received but one letter from the country, containing the suggestion that a charge of sixpence be made at the next Rally and an entrance fee of threepence for each game. The result to be given to the Patriotic Funds. The suggestion is a good one in its way, but the Melbourne deaf are already doing more than their share. Our appeal was to the country deaf who have so far done little, and not one single offer of help has been forthcoming. Once more we ask our Country deaf who are willing to make some little sacrifice for our Empire to send along their names and addresses. We will correspond with you, and show you how you can help. Address your letter to The Editor, Monthly Letter, 32 Flinders St, E. Melbourne,

Bravo Ladies!

The second annual report of the Deaf Workers' Club is pleasant reading, and never was a more appropriate name chosen for a club. They are workers indeed. Yes, in deed. Details of the work done will be found in this Months' "Letter" and we ask our country cousins to go and do likewise.

Melbourne Men Volunteers.

A letter was read at the Deaf Committee meeting held on the 24th ult. from the Deaf Workers Club suggesting that the men form a club also to do useful work both for patriotic movements and for the Blackburn Farm and Home. The Committee was in full sympathy with the suggestion that the men should do something for both these objects but was of opinion that there were enough Clubs, guilds and associations connected with the Deaf Society already. The question was asked "What is to prevent the men from joining

the existing club?" The result being a recommendation to the Workers Club to accept men as members. There was a general expression of willingness to work with no desire to take part in the management but to take their orders from the ladies. Is this humility a forecast of the coming millennium, or what?

How to help our Farm.

Here are a number of ways by which our country friends might render material help to the Deaf Mutes Home at Blackburn. At the present time there are 30 deaf mutes benefiting by the provisions of the Home, and as the price of food stuffs and other necessaries are very high, in some instances three times as much as when the Home was first opened, and our expenditure exceptionally heavy, unless something is done we shall show a serious deficit at the end of the year. It is in the power of our country friends to help the Home in a very practical way. We suggest that they canvass amongst their friends and neighbours for donations in kind for the Home. Any of the following in any quantities would be gratefully accepted and acknowledged by the Manager. – Rabbits, eggs, butter, honey, fruit, chaff, oats, potatoes, poultry, clothing, etc.

The Deaf Workers' Club.

The second annual meeting of the above club held on Aug.t 21st. at the Centre, was just as successful as the first. Mrs. J. E. Muir (President) was in the chair. Mrs Williamson (Hon. Sec.) read a lengthy report. There were 34 members on the roll, including 5 in the country. Sick members and friends were frequently visited. The club took charge of suppers at all the rallies. The Hon. Sec. collected £ 5·6·0 for the Patriotic Fund, & £ 27. for the Belgian Deaf Refugees. A large case of clothing was also sent to these refugees. The members have knitted 21 pairs socks, 9 pairs bed socks, 16 pairs mittens, 15 mufflers, 26 face washers, 4 helmet caps, and made 10 cholera belts, 6 nightingales, and 18 doz. handkerchiefs for the Lady Mayoress' League & Red Cross Society. Wool has been received from two Suburban Mayoresses & the members have undertaken to knit 1 doz. pairs socks within 3 weeks for them. Miss A. Foster (Hon. Treas.) submitted the balance-sheet which was audited by Miss Collins. Receipts – Last years balance £ 1·0·11. Donations £ 7·19·5. Membership fees 17/-. Expenditure – material £ 2·9·4½. Knitting wool etc, £ 6·3·3½. Towels 16/6, Hon. Secs account 4/2. Leaving a small balance of 4/-. Mrs Muir and Miss Foster gave £ 1 and 10/- worth of wool respectively. Both report & balance-sheet were adopted. The President in the course of her address paid warm tributes to Mrs Williamson & Miss Foster for their valuable services & thanked the members for giving much of their

leisure to make comforts for soldiers. The suggestion of monthly or quarterly contributions of groceries, chemists' goods & other necessities for soldiers was enthusiastically received & the members have unanimously decided to contribute monthly so long as they can afford. It was thought that the deaf congregation would like to do the same if it was brought under their notice. The whole of the retiring officers were re-elected as follows:- President, Mrs. J.E. Muir V-President, Mrs. J. Bowtz. Hon. Sec, Mrs. A. Williamson. Hon. Treas, Miss A. Foster. Committee, Mrs. E. Smith, Misses Potter, R. Dow, Hickey, Davis and Graham. After the meeting tea provided by the committee was served & the evening was pleasantly passed in chatting, knitting & winding wool. Annual gifts of useful articles brought by the members for the Blackburn Home were shown at the meeting viz:- 1 cushion, 4 aprons, 5 work bags, 5 brush & comb bags, 6 glass towels 2 roller towels, 2 blouses, 3 night dresses, 3 pillow slips, 5 jug covers, 2 dolleys, & 1 soiled clothes linen bag. Thanks are tendered for gifts named, to Mesdames J.E & A.C. Muir, Williamson, Bowtz, Nolan, E. Smith, Thomson, Damman, (Warburton) Mills (Waaia), Lindo & Brockford, Misses R & M. Dow, Hickey, Adams, Davis, Graham, Collins, Jackson (Sandford), and E. Hair (Willung) also to Mr & Mrs J.E. Muir for donation of 10/- Miss Graham 10/- Mr. Mortimer 5/- Mrs E. Smith 2/6, Mrs D. Ashby (Trafalgar) 2/6. Mr S. Moss 2/6. Judy 6d, Mr F. Trewin 2 deck chairs for wounded soldiers, Mrs F. Trewin pair sox, 7a 5/- for Belgian Fund. and the women inmates of Blackburn Home, face washers. Special mention must be made of Miss Murdoch (Hearing Friend) who has forwarded to the club 4 prs socks, 3 prs slippers, 1 pr mittens & some wool and she is gratefully thanked. Mrs Muir desires to thank all who generously responded to Mdlle Pitrois' call.

Women's Guild.

The Guild reopened on August 10th with an attendance of 20 members. They all wore happy faces and were undoubtedly glad to attend their own meeting once more after the Winter vacation. Mrs Muir (President) conducted an educational class. Her first subject was "The Glad Game" which she quoted from a book called "Polly Anna" It was an excellent and entertaining lesson, She purchased the book for the members to read in rotation by ballot, but some of the members, having no patience to wait for their turn, decided to either buy or get copies from their circulating libraries. The second subject was "Ulysses and the Sirens" (a painting of which was at our National Gallery). The President said that we should study and understand the best known pictures at the Gallery and that she would therefore give stories about some of these pictures from time to time. Then she went on with "Observations and Spelling" which were answered with lively

interest by the members, thus a most enjoyable and profitable evening was spent with a hope that it will be repeated at many a meeting.

Open Lecture.

On the 10th August a lecture on the Panama Canal was given to a good attendance of men by Mr. J. M. Paul. The lecturer avoided the usual "facts & figures" and showed that the history, the natural difficulties, the engineering problems, the scientific and medical skills, the government and maintenance of the army of workers all combined to make a story of skills, heroism & humour. Several sketches showing the construction of the canal were shown on the blackboard. The lecture was very interesting and several questions were asked. Hearty thanks were tendered to the lecturer.

The Ramblers.

The Ramblers' Club usually holds its meeting on the second Saturday of the month but the ramble this month was altered to the first Saturday to suit the convenience of the Lacrosse Club which intimated that it had an important match on the 14th and which it might, perhaps did say! it wanted the Rambles to view and, of course, cheer the team on to victory! A party of thirty four members including a visitor from Adelaide (Mr. F. J. Martin) assembled at Flinders St. Station, the objective being the Deaf Mutes Flower Farm & Home at Blackburn. The party was prepared to notice a shortage in bulbous blooms, knowing the season for them had barely commenced, but when its gaze fell on the lovely golden wattles surrounding the lake and dotted about the farm it was one and all delighted. It made a lovely picture and was admired to the full. Piloted by our chief many members trudged round the lake under the wattles, and enjoyed the view from there and a sweet scene it was. The younger members disported themselves in the boats, and rambled round the grounds at their own sweet will. Tea followed in the large room, and a hungry lot of Rambles we were. Messrs Abraham, Paul, Martin and the inmates of the Home joined us, making quite a large number & needless to say, we did full justice to all the nice viands provided. Games were afterwards indulged in and a pleasant hour was spent. As nine o'clock approached, we all "fell in" ready for our homeward journey, the chief generously providing us with fragrant souvenirs in the shape of huge bunches of violets and wattle blooms, all too soon came the end of a very happy and enjoyable outing.

Patriotic Meeting.

There was a most encouraging response to the appeal of the Patriotic Dept to attend a meeting to consider how best we can help our Empire. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham

our chairman, who presided said the deaf of Victoria have repeatedly made the claim that the deaf as a community is not one whit behind the hearing as loyal citizens. They had no desire to shirk their responsibilities but to shoulder their fair share. Given the same opportunities they would give as good results as any other section of the people. The difficulty of allowing the deaf to enter the firing lines was admitted, but there were other ways of serving their country. Many of them had relatives at the front and some of the deaf had actually volunteered. He was a man of peace, he was almost saying peace at any price, but there was a limit to all things. When a nation gives orders for the killing of innocent women and children it was time even for the 'peace at any price' man to take up the sword. His own services were at the command of his country to do that for which it was considered he was best fitted.

Mr. J.M. Paul said that it was the ideals of Freedom, Unity, Progress, Justice and Honour - ideals which made an especial appeal to the Australian people - which were at stake, and it was our duty not only to our Empire but to the World to play our part. The ancient Greek word "Hero" meant one who worked on the side of the right. Every situation had its ideal and its duty, it is for us now to say if we will offer ourselves on the side of right.

Mrs. J. E. Muir made a strong appeal for self sacrifice at this time and reminded us that the Deaf Workers' Club, which had already done good work for the Red Cross Society, will welcome more workers. No one should think that their efforts are too small but come forward and do all that is possible for us to do.

Mr. J. E. Muir said he hoped for a good result from the meeting. Deafness has debarred us from some branches of national service, yet there is work for us to do and we must unite loyally to do it, do not let us forget our obligations to those who are bearing the trials of battle for us, but offer willingly to do whatever service may be asked of us. Every service was a pledge to help to preserve the freedom and honour of the British Empire.

Mr. M. L. Miller said War was a cruel business and no right thinking person wanted it. In a national crisis such as the present one, the best thing one could do is to do all one can to help to check & overcome the enemy, and while other sections of the community were having their war councils and deciding what they could do, We the deaf might as well have our little war council. If there is one thing we deaf hate more than another it is to have others think we are useless & incapable of doing anything. He thought the best thing we could do was to tell the Defence Authorities that though we formed only a small percentage of the community, we did not want to be swept aside as useless

and therefore were prepared to offer our services in any capacity that the Government thought suitable.
Mr. J. Irwin thought the best way to show our loyalty would be to devote ourselves more earnestly to our daily duties. To do the work we already had in hand, and do it well.
Mr. R. H. Luff expressed himself in full sympathy with the remarks of the other speakers. There were various ways of showing patriotism, and if anything arose necessitating action he was sure the deaf would be ready to fall in and do their share of whatever was asked of them. If he was to say more he could only repeat much of what had already been said.
On the motion of W. J. E. Muir seconded by Mr. R. H. Luff the following resolution was adopted unanimously. "That this meeting of deaf Mutes, realising our inability to go on active service, offer our services to the Government to be used in such manner as may be considered to the greatest advantage".
The following formed themselves into a committee of ways & means with power to add to their number viz:- Messrs E. J. D. Abraham, J. M. Paul, J. E. Muir, M. Miller, R. H. Luff, G. Mortimer, W. Paterson, J. Johnston, J. Peters, G. Newnham, A. Ball, S. Moss, Mrs J. E. Muir & Mrs A. Williamson.

Patriotic Council.

At a meeting of the council held in the Superintendents room on Aug.t 5.th Mr. E. J. D. Abraham was unanimously appointed Chairman & Mr. J. M. Paul, Hon. Secretary. The following were added as members of the Council— Miss E. Connell & Mr. Nelson. After minor business had been disposed of some discussion arose as to the scope of the resolution passed at the patriotic meeting. It was agreed to instruct the Hon. Sec. to forward it to the Defence Department and await its advice or action.
The Minister of Defence has acknowledged receipt of a copy of the resolution passed, and will give the matter further attention.

Our Farm.

We are too busy making preparations for the Spring to do much letter writing. It is dig, dig, dig all the time. Trenching here and then there and the soil is so sodden that it is as much as a man can do to lift a spadeful. But if we do not drain the land we shall lose our plants, so drain it we must. There are other jobs we like better, but nevermind, we are not always digging. The other day a returned officer said the best qualifications for a soldier of the present day was to be able to dig and shoot, we can do the first to perfection, we are experts and some

of us down here can shoot too and we can grow flowers as witness - Sale of flowers, etc for July £94, Amount banked from farm sales £123.

The Outing Fund & Bank.

The Board of Management of the Victorian Deaf Outing Fund & Bank has much pleasure in submitting to the depositors the report for the year just closed, which shows affairs to be progressing satisfactorily. A review of the work will show the actual progress made. The Bank was started in 1898, but it was not till 1905 that it was established on a firm basis. Mr. J. E. Muir was Hon. Secretary until 1905, then Mr. T. Spensin took up the management until 1907. Since then it has been in the hands of Mr. R. H. Luff. The following figures show the progress made.-

Year.	Interest Given.	Balance	Year.	Interest Given.	Balance.
1898 to 1906.	.....	£14-2-10.	1911.	1/- in £.	£67-7-5.
1907.	2½%	45-7-11.	1912.	do.	105-0-0.
1908.	3%	63-16-6.	1913.	do.	147-0-0.
1909.	10d in £.	33-14-4.	1914.	do.	96-13-6.
1910.	do.	55-15-10.	1915.	10d in £.	100-0-0.

During the year the sum of £113-15-0 was deposited and after withdrawals there was a sum of £100 to carry forward. The Board met whenever necessary and in August last it decided to make an improvement by issuing new printed pass books which proved very convenient. It regrets having to reduce the bonus this year owing to expenses in printing new books etc, 10d in the pound could only be given, but the board hopes to repeat the 1/- rate next year. The sum of £3-3-11 was received as interest from the Savings Bank, and the sum of £3-4-5 was distributed as bonus. Thanks are due to Mr. Luff, Hon. Manager, Mr. S. Mortimer for services rendered & to Mr. J. Paul for auditing. It is hoped the members of this Society will take a renewed interest in the bank and help keep up its reputation. The year closed with 34 depositors, three had closed accounts, but six new members joined. The same board of management remains in office for the next year.

Lacrosse.

On the 31st July the Adult Deaf Team got a walkover from Kew who could not muster a team owing to several players enlisting. The premiership contests were brought to a close on the 31st July. The Deaf Team deserve our warmest congratulations upon its excellent achievement in securing the position of runners-up in the Junior "A" Section. Its record is 9 matches won, 2 lost and 1 drawn. 89 goals were thrown for and 56 against. Goal throwers V. Tozer 26, C. Smith 19, H. Hughes 16, E. Martin 9, C. Robertson 7, W. Anderson 6, D. Peters 1, G. Edwards 1,

J. Johnston 1, V. Harding 1, L. Downes 1, H. McKenzie 1.

The Deaf School Boys have our congratulations upon achieving the premiership honours in the "E" Section. Their record is 10 matches won, and 2 drawn. 182 goals were thrown for and 28 against. Goal throwers F. Rees 45, W. Vivian 41, A. Tyzzer 29, W. Donnellan 22, R. Kemble 9, B. Ryan 9, B. Tyzzer 9, W. McMillan 7, O. Quinton 3, A. Moloney 3, A. Sutherland 2, G. White 2, & Hennessey 1.

Services, Etc.

In his report to the Board in August last the Supt. stated that although the war had the effect of arresting various forward movements, especially in the way of necessary improvements at the Blackburn Home, it had in no way curtailed the activities so far as the actual work among the deaf was concerned, nor had it any influence upon the attendances or the general interest of the deaf themselves in their Centre. The various registers of the Society revealed the very encouraging fact that an all round average is still well maintained. A summary of attendances at Divine Worship was submitted by the assistant Missioner, Mr. Paul, and was as follows:-

	Morning.	Preacher.	Evening.	Preacher.	Offertory.
July 4th.	32.	Mess. Abraham & Paul.	48.	Mr. Abraham.	19-10.
" 11th.	23.	Mr. Paul.	43.	Mr. Paul.	14-3.
" 18th.	19.	do.	52.	do.	18-10.
" 25th.	22.	do.	46.	do.	13-10.
Aug. 1st.	22.	Mr. Abraham.	61.	Mr. Abraham.	1-3-7.

On the 3rd. ult. Mr. Abraham lectured to a large attendance of both sexes on "Microbes". The lecture was given in such a way as to be interesting even to those who do not hunger & thirst after knowledge. Several deaf members spoke to the subject at the close of the lecture and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer.

Rally.

October 9th. will bring to a close the 14th. year of Mr. Abraham's sojourn among-st the deaf of Victoria. He arrived from England on the date mentioned of 1901. With the object of showing our appreciation of the great work accomplished by him on our behalf, the third rally of the year has been made a permanent anniversary of the event. This year it will be celebrated on Thursday Oct. 9th. and will take the form of a conversational & games party.

Personal Pars.

Our friend Mr. W.H. Crouch who came from Adelaide, has obtained work for a while at Richmond. He enlisted as a recruit & had passed but later on was rejected when it was found he was deaf. We hope he will be in work longer than he expects.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 12. OCTOBER, 1915. No 2.

Rally.

Yes, Rally! And rally strong on Thursday Octr. 7th. 8 p.m. prompt at our Centre. As previously announced this rally is to do honour to our Superintendent Mr. Abraham, and is the 4th. Anniversary of his sojourn amongst us. All the deaf folk are invited to come along, Come along all deaf folk, All deaf folk will be there. The Rally Committee says "bring flags." It is hoped that every one will enter with a flag. Flags can be bought from 3^d. each, so bring your flag & join the flag parade.

Pic-nic.

It was decided at the last meeting of the Deaf Committee to hold the Annual Picnic on Cup Day, Nov 2nd. The choice of place was left to the Congregation, the voting will be taken at the rally on the 7th. Oct. Five places have been named:- Blackburn, Heidelberg, Mordialloc, Sandringham, & Williamstown Beach.

General Board.

At the monthly meeting of the General Board held at our Centre on the 13th. Septr. Mr. E. R. Peacock. J. P. in the chair, the Rev. H. W. H. Adeney, Messrs. W. A. Dickens, G. F. Mercy, J. P., H. Summer Martin. B. A L. L. B, M. L. Miller, H. L. Walters, (Hon Treas), Geo, Brown, J. E. Muir, R. H. Laff, R. J. Oehr (Hon Sec), E. J. D. Abraham, (Principal) & J. M. Paul (Missioner) being present, it was decided to grant the Patriotic League the free use of our offices, conditionally that such grant would in no way interfere with the work of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society. The Assistant hon treasurer submitted the following accounts which were passed for payment. Flinders St. £201. 15^s. 6, Farm & Home £123. 9. 10, Managers accounts £58. 16. 6, Total £384. 1. 10.

The manager of the Farm & Home (Mr. Abraham) reported that the business for the month amounted to £89. 5. 11 & the actual amount banked £99-13-9 It had been his pleasure to contribute a quantity of flowers in connection with the public appeal on behalf of wounded soldiers, also to send in a waggon load of wattle for the wattle day Collection on behalf of the children's charities. It was resolved that David Miller be received into the Blackburn Home.

The Farm.

September is one of our most difficult months. By the middle of this month the winter flowers are over, & the spring blooms only just thinking about pushing forth their green shoots prior to pleasing us by their glorious colours & perfumes toward the end of October. As we have contracts with certain of the leading restaurants to keep up a continuous supply of flowers all the year round, it will be readily understood, our position is no feather bed affair. Fortunately for us, our manager had the forethought to import a huge quantity of Spanish Iris bulbs from Holland last year which are now blooming out of season, hence giving us an exceptionally attractive supply of flowers for our permenant customers at a time when they are more than usually welcome.

Belgian Deaf Relief Fund.

A lengthy & most interesting letter has just come to hand from Mdlle. Yvonne Pitrois, the deaf French lady who is devoting herself unselfishly to the needs of the deaf refugees of Belgium & France. It would have been a pleasure to us to have inserted the letter exactly as received, but, as it would have taken up the whole of the space of our Monthly, we are compelled to content ourselves by making extracts. We are able, notwithstanding the compulsory curtailing of this most pleasing letter, to present our readers with a very full summary of same. First, Mdlle. Pitrois, states that she has been anxiously waiting to receive all the gifts promised so that she might acknowledge them all together, But as so many valuable donations have arrived she felt she could wait no longer, but must acknowledge the generous gifts already received. From the deaf of Queensland, per Miss Everend Wilson she had received £25 From the deaf of South Australia, per Agent General in London, Mrs Lawson & Miss Stenhouse £44. 16. 0, From the deaf of Victoria, per Mrs A. Williamson £27.

The gifts promised but so far not received are those of Mrs Cox of Angus Home, Parafield., Mrs Hodgson of Adelaide & the case of

clothing sent by the Melbourne Deaf by medium of the Consul of Belgium. In paying a well deserved tribute to Mrs J.E. Muir, Mdlle. Pitrois says she was the only correspondent she had in Australia, & it was to Mrs Muir that she made her first appeal on behalf of the Belgian Deaf & that it was mainly due to the magnificient propaganda work of Mrs Muir that she had received upwards of £96, for the Belgian fund from Australia. Mdlle. Pitrois not only thanks the deaf of the Commonwealth in her own name & in the name of those relieved but "adds in the dear sacred name of the One who, the first on earth, sighed over the misery of a neglected deaf-mute."

"I have had other beautiful donations" continues Mdlle. Pitrois "from other lands including America, but I can truly say the Australian offerings were more dear & precious to my heart than others, because they were so spontaneously & generously offered."

Proceeding Mdlle. Pitrois, tells us how she came to take up the movement which is, at present a consuming fire to her, she has always been interested in the welfare of the deaf. She was acquainted with many of the Deaf of Belgium, & when the war broke out she was troubled in mind as to how best she could serve them. Day after day she read list after list of the French & Belgian refugees who, in their frantic fear, had escaped from burning cities, towns, villages, loosing husbands, wives, fathers, mothers or children in the confusion. One day whilst reading one of these heart breaking lists Mdlle. Pitrois came across the following paragraph "Mr Mathieon Lambert, from Obet, province of Namur, Belgiums refugee at Kerguehvit, Brittany, is searching for his little girl 22 months old, lost in the escape with her guardian. Zelie Derenne, 58 years old, a deaf-mute." When she read this she felt that God had opened the way for her to render service to the Deaf of Belgium. For three years she had been editing a little magazine for Deaf Women, & had over 600 subscribers. Her first move was to appeal to them & gifts soon began to roll in, & Mdlle. Pitrois adds "as all, or nearly all my readers were very poor, these gifts were specially touching."

Then she appealed to the Mayors of France & Belgium & when the demands of the many deaf refugees became so great she appealed also the deaf of foreign countries. Altogether she has already helped 90 lonely deaf refugees, also 40 deaf

girls from the Arras & 28 deaf girls from the Lille Institutions.

Next month we hope to give further extracts from Malle Pitrois' letter.

Sam. Ferguson's New Home.

We cut the following interesting paragraph from a Country paper. Usually one hears of the drawbacks & inconveniences of living in the Country compared with city life, but after a visit to the commodious residence erected to the order of Mr. Sam. Ferguson of Bowmans Forest, one is convinced that these luxuries can be extended to country homes. The new building, which contains nine rooms, & is built of bricks with steel ceilings throughout, is a very imposing structure, & an ornament to the Bowmans Forest district, though a tour of inspection through the building leaves a keener impression of its comforts as a home.

The enterprising owner has had a Quirk air gas plant erected, & the light, which is manipulated by means of switches, is laid on to every room, whilst the gas can also be used for cooking & ironing. The house has a sewerage system & septic tank installed; and is pronounced to be one of the most up to date plants in Victoria. Every detail entolving the comfort & convenience of the lady folk of the house has been carefully studied & carried into effect, hot & cold water taps are laid on to different rooms, & as the house has been furnished throughout with oak furniture, a striking effect is produced, & Mr & Mrs. Ferguson have reason to be proud of their new home.

The Deaf Worker's Club.

The club is rapidly increasing its activities & the members are still knitting, knitting & knitting. They have enthusiastically entered into the project for the despatch of Christmas billies to our Soldiers.

Gifts for this purpose are rolling in to a considerable extent, & will be sent away in the beginning of October. The hon sec, (Mrs Williamson) is kept very busy distributing wool, checking garments & receiving gifts for the billies, & the committee are also doing their share in other ways. The two deck chairs made by Mr. J. C. Frewin have been presented to the Base Hospital & accepted with thanks by letter. On the recommendation of the Deaf Committee it was decided to invite the deaf men to join the club if they are willing to follow the objects of the club- viz:- to help in every possible way & to give annual gifts of useful articles to the Blackburn Home or the Centre. The management is, as usual, to be left in hands of the ladies, & it is fair that

it should be so. They will be pleased to receive suggestions from men for consideration. The membership fee is only 6/ per annum. How many men will join! Mr. M. L. Miller's donation of 10/- towards the club was accepted with grateful thanks.

Patriot's League.

By the kindness of our general board the Patriot's League have been granted the use of rooms at our Centre for their temporary offices. Our Superintendent (Mr. Abraham) is a member of the executive Council & is taking an active part in the work of the league. The Australian Patriot's League is an organisation of men & women of British birth & descent who pledge themselves to do all within their power to advance Local National & Imperial ideals. The Council met for the first time at our Centre on the 9th Sept. in our superintendent's room. His Excellency Sir John Madden presided. On the 23rd the Crown prosecutor Mr. E. J. Z. Woinarski, K.C. presided, & amongst others present were Dr. Alex. Leeper, Warden of Trinity College & Mr. L. A. Adamson, Head master of Wesley College.

Patriotic Council.

At a meeting held on the 9th Sept. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham in the chair, after the ordinary business was passed, the Hon. Sec. read a letter from the Minister of Defence regretting that there are at present no places for which our members could be considered, but the offer has been noted for consideration should necessity arise, and adds that the Minister highly appreciates the kind offer of assistance.

Reference was made to the address given by Mr. Abraham suggesting that, pending a call upon our services from other sources, a "working bee" should be formed to carry out some extra improvements at the farm. The suggestion was unanimously agreed to. A letter from Miss E. Connell suggesting that use of a part of the grounds at Blackburn Home be offered for tent accomodation for those wounded soldiers who were not ill enough to remain in hospital yet were not strong enough to return to the ranks, as the rest and country air would help many who would have no other chance of obtaining it. It was agreed to lay Miss Connell's suggestion before the General Committee.

Women's Guild.

At the meeting held August 31st the Members were treated to a scriptural night when Mrs. Williamson & Mrs. Wilson read very interesting & instructive papers on "Warfare" & "Destiny of Christ"

respectively Miss Davis recited "Thoughts". The attendance was 26

On the 21st. Sept. the President conducted her educational class. her subjects being "well known paintings at the National Gallery"; & Observations, & as usual she made the most of her subjects. The attendance was unusually large being 28.

Men's Guild.

Mr. R. H. Luff gave a very good rendering of Shakespeare's play "The Merchant of Venice" to a fair gathering of members on the 31st August, & he has promised to give another Shakespeare's rendering of "Romeo & Juliet" at a future date.

On the 14th. Sept. Mr. W. Anderson delivered his maiden paper on the "Growth of Britain's Power". He was warmly congratulated for his fine delivery. Several members spoke on this subject.

New recruits are urgently needed & the Hon Secretary would be grateful if any one would fall in at once & spend some nights with us in our snug dug out.

Ladies' Night

The Mens Guild held their "Ladies Night" on the 7th. Ultimo the Upper Hall at the Centre, & there was a grand muster of over 50 persons. The evening was given over to the game of sallamagundi, & it was a merry night too, with a spice of excitement on account of prizes offered to those who gained the most number of wins in the competitions. The result was, Ladies, Miss Ruby Peters 1st. Prize & Miss Ida Kennedy 2nd. Prize, Large & small Japanese trays respectively. Gentlemen. Mr. J. Leber 1st. Silver match stand, & Mr. N. Amos 2nd. Silver mounted brush.

The winding up of this enjoyable evening was a general attack by the whole assembly, upon a nice selection of eatables, under which the tables fairly groaned.

The Ramblers.

The ramblers, numbering about 19 had a most enjoyable & instructive outing on the 11th. Ult. The meeting place was the Public Library. In the Picture Gallery the ramblers enjoyed a happy hour or so in watching the President give a series of short stories of well known pictures which were very instructive & helpful. After with this they proceeded to the museum where they took great interest in the well known antique Connells' furniture. The new technological museum & the Public

Library were also enjoyably visited. One of the members had a desire to take photo's of pictures, but Alas! she was caught at the entrance & was compelled to leave her camera in the stern officer's care. Before their outing came to its close, the ramblers were amused at seeing three gentlemen panting for breath after a long pursuit throughout the building, in search of us & who at last succeeded in finding us as we were about to depart.

Mr. Abraham had had official duties at the Soldier's Rest Home where Sir John Madden was putting in a window, & Miss Elsie Abraham serving out tea. Mr. J. H. Paul & Mr. J. Johnston were also present. it was these 3 gentlemen who hurriedly departed from ones pleasure participate in another. The Ramblers proceeded happily to St. Paul's Cathedral corner where Good Byes were said, after an enjoyable afternoon. The membership is as usual 3p per annum & members, desiring to be notified by letter of prospective outings are requested to send 3 or 6 penny stamps to the Hon Sec Miss Davis

Lacrosse.

At the termination of the Lacrosse season Our President (Mr. J. E. Muir) & Vice Presidents (Messrs M. L. Miller, W. A. Paterson & M. J. Mortimer) entertained the players, supporters & friends to tea held at the Centre on the 4th Sept. About 30 sat down & enjoyed this kind hospitality. Speeches were delivered by the President & supporters congratulating the team upon their splendid effort in the A. Junior Section (Runners up) & hoped to see them more succesful next year. They also spoke highly of the players who reciprocated the appreciation expressed & said they all felt proud of the enthusiastic support given by the deaf & thanked them for their kindness in looking after the welfare of the club.

Athletic Club.

The 34th Annual meeting of the Adult Deaf Athletic Club was held on the 4th Sept. at the Centre. The Chair was occupied by the President (Mr. J. E. Muir), there being a good muster of members & friends present. The report & balance sheet were adopted.

The report showed that the club, although started late in the season played 5 matches, the result was 1 win 1 lost & 3 drawn greatly in favour of the club. Mr. C. Robertson gained the honours in the batting & bowling averages viz 30.60.

per innings & 6.90 per wicket respectively, but Mr J. Dickenson, who only played in 2 matches showed the better bowling average of 5.33 per wicket. Office bearers for the ensuing season were elected as follows:- President Mr J. E. Muir, Vice Presidents, Messrs M. L. Miller, W. A. Paterson & M. G. Mortimer. Hon Treasurer Mr J. Nelson Hon Secretary Mr J. M. Johnston. Committee Messrs C. Robertson, R. K. Beath W. Anderson & E. Martin. The meeting terminated with supper.

Funds.

Mr F. E. Frewin (Hon Secretary of Victorian Branch A.D.D.A.) begs to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions:—Misses G. Mortimer, D. Hickey, M. Collins, M. Potter, R. Dow, Messrs N. Amos, M. G. Mortimer, D. Driscoll, N. Hughes, V. Harding, J. Cariss, H. McKenzie, A. Morgan, I. Peters, C. Robertson, & R. H. Luff. Will other members kindly read the circular enclosed in "Our Monthly Letter" & send their subscriptions as soon as possible.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 10/6 from Mr F. Martin of Adelaide, 1/6 from Mr A. Ellis of Hobart & 1/- each from Miss Orde & Mr P. Cunningham of Creswick toward "Our Monthly Letter Fund.

Help our Farm Home.

In response to our appeal for goods in kind we have received £1 from J. G. & M. Ching of Linton, & eight pounds of butter from W. Lynas? of Charlton. We would remind our deaf & hearing friends that gifts in kind just now will receive a great welcome. Eggs, butter, honey, poultry, rabbits, vegetables, even old clean newspapers & fruit cases are wanted. All these articles are wanted at the Blackburn Farm.

Personal Pars.

Mr John Jackson, formerly of Melbourne is now the happy father of a girl born last month in Queensland.

Miss Fletcher is still holiday making with Miss Fanny Elliott at Mildura.

Misses Enid Jackson of Sandford, Eva Hair of Willung, & F. Chapman of Adelaide are now enjoying the delights of Melbourne.

Miss W. Burke has returned to Melbourne lately from Ballarat where she stayed with her old friends for 5 weeks.

Mr P. Cunningham of Creswick spent 1 month's holiday in Melbourne.

Mr R. Bruce finished his work on the Bairnsdale - Orbost Railway line lately & is going to try & get railway work in N. S. Wales.

Services.

Sunday, Aug 1st
Morning & evening. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham
Aug. 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Mr Paul

Thursday, Aug 5th Mr E & D Abraham.
Aug 12th 19th 26th Mr Paul

Lectures etc.

Aug. 3rd Mr E & D Abraham
10th Re-opening of Women's Guild
" Men's open meeting. Mr J Paul.
14th Rambler's Club. (to the Blackburn Farm)
17th Men's Guild
24th Women's Guild
31st Men's Guild

Our Centre is open daily from 10 AM – 10 p.m.
Wednesdays 10 AM – 6 p.m.
Saturdays - Recreation and Bank

Members are specially invited to keep the Hon. Sec. (Mr. J. E. Muir) informed as to the doings of our Deaf members and friends, so that they may receive notice in our "Monthly Letter" It should always be borne in mind that "the Family" is interested in the successes or failures of all our members.

Adult Deaf Mute Centre
32 Flinders St., Melbourne.

DIVINE SERVICE.
SUNDAY, SEPT., 5th.
Preacher. 11 a.m & 7 p.m Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham.
SEP. 12th, 19th 26th 11 a.m & 7 p.m Mr J. M Paul.

BIBLE CLASS.
THURSDAY, SEP 9TH. Address. Mr Ernest J. D Abraham.
Subject "Work For Workers"
Members and intending members of the "Workers Club" specially invited

9. p.m. Patriotic Council Meeting.
SEP 16th 23rd, 30th. Mr J. M. Paul

° ° °

Adult Deaf Mute Centre
32 Flinders St., Melbourne.

Dear Friend,

As you are doubtless aware the deaf women connected with our Society have done a great deal of work toward improving our home at Blackburn, but up to the present the deaf men have not made any special effort on the same lines.

A voluntary working party of men is now being formed to effect some much needed improvements on our farm, and we will be glad to have you with us on Saturday afternoons. We start on Saturday first (Sep 18th). There is something for everyone to do, and we will not only be saving money for our Society at a time when economy is urgent, but also benefitting our own little community.

If you have any carpenters tools that we can have the use of they will be very welcome. Bring your "tucker", tea will be provided. Come.

Yours faithfully

J. M. JOHNSTON } HON ORGANISERS.
T. PETERS

Trains to Blackburn leave FLINDERS ST AT

12.55. 1.35 1.40 1.55 2.5. ON SATURDAYS.

SPECIAL
COME

TO THE *Patriotic Deaf of Melbourne*
A PUBLIC MEETING
To give expression to our Loyalty in the present crisis, and to consider how we can best help our Empire.
will be held in the
Adult Deaf-Mute Centre
ON
THURSDAY, JULY, 29TH 1915
AT 8 P.M. PROMPT.

Chairman. Mr. E. J. D. Abraham.
Speakers. Mr. J. M. Paul, Mr. M. L. Miller, Mr. J. E. Miller, Mr. J. E. Muir. Mr. R. Luff Mr. F. E. Frewin.

There should be NO ABSENTEES *on this great occasion. Every Deaf-Mute* MUST *make it a* DUTY *to be present*

Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria



Home for Aged, Infirm, and Mentally Defective Deaf Mutes
(INCORPORATED)

Patron: His Excellency Sir Arthur Stanley, K.C.M.G., Governor of Victoria
President: Mr. W. H. Felstead
Chairman: Mr. E. R. Peacock, J.P.
Hon. Sec.: Mr. R. J. Oehr, F.I.A.V.
Hon. Treas.: Mr. H. L. Walters
Principal: Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham



Home and Farm for Aged, Infirm and Mentally Defective Deaf Mutes, Blackburn

PHONE CANTERBURY 47

32-34 FLINDERS ST. E.

PHONE CENTRAL 5223

MELBOURNE, September 14 1915

My Dear Friend,

It is not often I appeal to my deaf country friends for help, but this is just where you can help me better than anyone else. At the present time there are more deaf inmates and workers employed at the Deaf Mute Home and Farm, Blackburn, than ever before.

Subscriptions are more difficult to obtain, and food stuffs etc. are very high in price, and unless we are able to obtain substantial and regular help we shall be in debt at the end of the year, and possibly may have to curtail our usefulness. YOU can prevent this if you will but give a little of your time to the canvassing of your friends and neighbours on behalf of the Home. Tell them we are appealing for donations in kind, such as:- eggs, rabbits, butter, honey, fruit, jam, poultry, potatoes, clothing etc., and these would be gratefully accepted and acknowledged.

All your friends, we feel sure, will be able and glad to help contribute one or other of these goods. Some may be willing to donate in kind, weekly or monthly.

Goods should be sent per rail to Blackburn Station, addressed to the Deaf Mutes' Home.

I shall be glad to receive a letter from you telling you how many hearing friends you have appealed to, and how many have promised help, and if you send me the names and addresses of the latter, I will write and thank them.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

Ernest J. D. Abraham

Notices

Church for the Deaf

32 Flinders St. E.

Mr. Abraham

will conduct

Divine Worship

morning & evening

Sunday October 31st

Cup Day Picnic

Nov 2nd

to Mordialloc

Particulars from Hon. Sec

Mr. Geo Brown

will give a practical lecture on

-Potting-

Tuesday Nov 9th 8 pm.

Working Bee at Blackburn Farm

- Every Saturday Afternoon -

If you cannot come every Saturday

Come when you can.

For the RED CROSS FUND

Adult Deaf Athletic Club

— GRAND —

Picture Night West's Palace

(Melbourne)

WEDNESDAY, 29th SEPT., 1915

The whole proceeds to go to the Red Cross Fund.

Ticket, 6d.

This ticket must not be sold on night of party.

Painted in oils by Mr G. Newnham
4 Ft. long by 2' 6" wide.



for "Australia Day"
30th July 1915

For the RED CROSS FUND

Adult Deaf Athletic Club

— GRAND —

Picture Night West's Palace

(Melbourne)

WEDNESDAY, 29th SEPT., 1915

The whole proceeds to go to the Red Cross Fund.

Stalls 1s.

This ticket must not be sold on night of party.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Vol 12 **November 1915** **No. 3**

Hospital Sunday

The weather was unfavourable both on Hospital Saturday and Sunday nevertheless the people contributed upwards of £10.000 – being quite £1000 more than last year and established a new record. In every Church there was a substantial increase in the Offertory the single exception being the Church for the Deaf and we were only 2/4 behind last year. This is remarkable for the demands upon the Public during the past 12 months have been most extraordinary. At our Church St. Paul preached both morning & evening and the attendance was 16 & 03 respectively. The Offertory – morning – £. 2" 0" 6 Evening £ 2" 13" 9. Total £ 4" 14" 3.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks – the following Contributions to that above fund – 5/- from Mr Stewart of Bolinda, 4/- from Mr F. G. Phillips. 3/- from Mr J. D. Groat of Lockaley. 2/6 from Miss Fanny Elliott of Maldura 1/6 from Mr Chung of Linton. 1/6 from Mr P. Salmon of Merrigum 1/- each from Mr A. Smith of Myall. Miss L. Coles. Mr F Coles. Miss Bond. Mr T. A. Nelson & Miss Nellie Young of Jeeralang

Our Supt's 14th year.

In Compliance with the request set forth in the October "Monthly" we rallied in Numbers on the 7th ult. – we also brought flags. It was strictly a "Deaf night"; the only

hearing people present being officers of the Society Mr Trewin presided. Mr Paul opened the gathering with prayer. Mr J. C. Muir, the hon sec, read the roll call, he also delivered a short, yet most impressive address He referred to the Crowded attendances at Rallies and other Social functions and the comparitively small attendances at the Religious gatherings. He had looked for a great increase at Divine Worship & Bible studies as a response to the augmented effort in this special direction, instead, there was a falling off in the attendances of late.

Mr Trewin said they all knew the object of the gathering it was to do honor to Mr Abraham; it was to celebrate the 14th year of his sojourn amongst them. It was, he thought, peculiarly appropriate that he should be presiding on that occasion because it was upon the motion of Mr Rose & himself that Mr Abraham had been invited to take up the work in Victoria. They had had no cause to regret their choice. He had done a great work. It is true that they had the land upon which to build a Church & some portion of the funds in Mr Paterson's time but it was Mr Abraham who got in the money they had so long waited for and the church was up soon after his coming. He remembered well the hard work of those early months; their new Supt. gave them no rest. There were public meetings all over Melbourne & the older deaf gave up their evenings to supporting Mr Abraham in his strenuous effort it was seldom they got home before midnight. In concluding Mr Trewin said there was a General feeling that the deaf members would like to see more of Mrs Abraham & Miss Master Ernest & Miss Elsie. They wanted to see the whole of the Abraham family more often at the Centre.

Mr Abraham thanked his "children old & young" for making the anniversary of his coming an occasion for celebration. It was very pleasing to him to be thus honored by those for whom he

had laboured so long. He rejoiced at being able to claim that he had been able to keep every promise he made them fourteen years ago. There was a very strong feeling at that time that he should settle down amongst them as their Pastor pure & simple, devoting the whole of his energies to religious work & systematic visitation of the deaf at their homes. Fortunately for them, their leaders fell in with his own views. He had promised that if they would give him their loyal support, he would secure them a central Institute a Farm & Home and income to maintain both branches, also when this was done a missionary devoting the whole of his time to religious work and visitation. The Deaf did loyally support him and all these advantages were now accomplished facts. He had hoped that at the coming of the missioner & the rounding up they would get in consequence there would be a very great increase in the Church & bible class attendances, instead during the past few months there had been a noticeable decrease especially at bible class gatherings. He was looking for great improvements in those directions. Messrs J. D. Muir & T. Irwin then manipulated the Flag Parade in which some seventy Deaf took part, afterwards laying our flags at the feet of the Masters of Ceremonies as a kind of thank offering. Games followed, then Supper, our partners being chosen for us by means of numbered tickets. A remarkable incident in connection therewith was that although they obtained their tickets in different parts of the hall and at different times, Six Jovial most "very chummy chums" received tickets in consecutive numbers, thus coupling them as they would have desired.

Library.

It has been found that a number of volumes that have been taken out from time to time during the past year have not been returned. As a new catalogue is

being Compiled it is earnestly requested that those of the deaf who have books belonging to the library will return them at once.

Women's Guild.

On the 12th ult. the members of the Women's Guild had a very pleasant surprise when Miss Enid Jackson of Sandford read a paper on "Friendship and Miss Maria Collins on "Keepsake". Miss Mabel Dowd recited "The Dove and Ant." It was a wet night and in consequence the attendance was small. Both papers were much appreciated, the fact of it being the "First paper" of each young Lady added greatly to the interest of the evening. Both Miss Jackson & Miss M. Collins were quite at home with their readings and showed ease and confidence The rest of the evening was enjoyably spent in the form of impromptu speeches.

Men's Guild.

At the Meeting held on the 28th of Sept. Mr Cruch gave an account of his recent trip from adelaide to Thursday Island" to a good gathering of members and it was very much Enjoyed. He also showed the members the different mineral ores, shell & pictorial post cards of Places visited en route. His lecture was a lengthy one which necessitated its continuance at the next meeting held on the 12th of Oct. and "Life amongst the Northern Territory Aborgines, and Darwin was the title he gave to the second part. It was his first lecture before the Melbourne Deaf & we congratulate him on his Splendid delivery.

Mr Sutt gave another rendering of Shakespearian play - the title being Romeo & Juliet on the 26th ult which proved as interesting as the other plays he gave some time ago

Adult Deaf Cricket Club

The Cricket Club made a start on October 16th playing against Caledon C.C. The Scoring was

very poor nevertheless we won the match by 6 runs. We totalled 42. E. Martin & O. Lyzen 7 not out. were the highest scorers. Clarendon CC. scored 36 runs. J Dickinson & V Harding gained the best bowling average 2.00 each. R Heathcis next with 3.8 & E. Martin 9.00. The Hon Sec. (J Johnston) is busy at present trying to get teams to play against us for this season.

"Our Little Bit"

Everybody who is worthy of the slightest consideration I thought is doing something to help the Empire, and every little helps. Are You doing Your little bit? There are an hundred and one things that anyone can do. To excuse ourselves is merely to admit selfishness or idleness. Even if You devote Your leisure time merely to the sowing of a few vegetables which if given to some charitable institution or other worthy cause is a saving to and a helping of Your Empire. Just now everything counts.

May You join the "Working Bee" at Blacktown? Why, Certainly! Come next Saturday. You thought You'd be in the way, did You? Well, Nobody is in the way when working. Our working Bee isn't the success it ought to be yet. But it is going to be; to be a very busy Bee, and You are going to help make it so. Come along boys. Come next Saturday, take off Your coats and set to. The starters on the 18 Sept were Messrs Paul, Johnston, Peters, Moss & Amos, Since then Messrs Muller, Crush, J Carriss Leber & Hughes & even our Chairmans Son, Mr Edgar Peacock, have joined, and Messrs J.E. Muir, M.L. Miller Newnham, R.A. Cuff, are painting signs at the Centre for the farm.

Archie McLellan, Lou. Nelson, Percy Swain & Mandelson have dedicated their Recreation hours to improvement work at the farm. McLellan, with the assistance of the deaf friend named has erected two magnificent rustic

bridges over the creeks that feed the lake. Swain has repaired & painted the boats and built a "hot water" shed. Messrs. Peacock, Johnston, Crush, Peters, Cavis, Amos, Leben & Paul have made and erected rustic seats around the lake.
The farm at Blackburn is no way behind in helping other Patriotic movements. Several large cases of wattle were sent to various suburbs and a huge waggon load to the Melbourne Town Hall on Wattle day to assist the cause of the Children's Charities. Cases of flowers were sent to the Central Committee to be sold for the benefit of wounded soldiers on Anzac Day. In connection with the latter Mr Newnham painted a very attractive illustrated sign announcing in powerful letters, "For our wounded Soldiers".
The farm also undertook to supply a stall with pot plants & flowers for the Blackburn Patriotic Bazaar when £110 was raised. Messrs Alex Dull & Percy Swain of the farm and the Misses O'Hickey and K. Daw of the Deaf Workers Club had charge of the Stall.
Mrs Abraham, the matron of the Blackburn Home is to be seen at all times and in all places "knitting Socks for Soldiers".
Miss Elsie Abraham is devoting the whole of her time to patriotic work. When there is any "selling" going on whether wattle, badges or flags She will be found at her own Special stand on the Block doing big business. Her pretty face was recently to be seen behind the Counter at a Shop on the Block taking orders for plum puddings that are to delight our soldiers at the front this coming Christmas and on Hospital Friday & Saturday "Sister" Elsie was at her usual stand pleading for the hospitals
The Superintendent is as busy as the rest. He had charge of a Section of the Motor Cars that welcomed home some 200 of our wounded soldiers. He was a member of the deputation that waited upon the Minister of Defence recently in Connection with an application for help on behalf of a Section of the

returned heroes when Sir John Madden was the chief Speaker. He has also temporarily given up the first room at the Centre for the work of the Patriotic League. At a great Patriotic Meeting held in the Town Hall on the 30th September, he seconded his motion motion on the programme, proposed by His Excellency Sir John Madded.

The Ramblers

On the 9th ult a party of 12 Ramblers including Miss Enid Jackson of Sandford assembled at the Glenferrie Station. Piloted by Miss Hickey the Ramblers journeyed to Kew by electric tram & then happily trudged through that lovely suburb to the Yarra River which revealed them its splendour of Spring foliage in the sunshine. They rested on the bank of the river and enjoyed the pretty view also the occupants of canoes and boats lazily rowing up and down under the weeping willow trees Then they proceeded by a different route through paddocks dotted by the yellow cape-weeds & subsequently reached Glenferrie Station where each ramblers turned his or her face towards their respective home and awaiting tea.
Needless to say it was a most pleasant outing & the ramblers all enjoyed themselves very much indeed

Donations & Promises for the Home

Mr Hugh. G. Smith of Myall, Koondrook has sent 10 dozen eggs. which were received with thanks. He is of opinion that everything excepting meat, will be cheap after the harvest. He desires to be remembered to the Deaf.

Miss M. Bentley of Geelong is Collecting for the Maintenance fund of the Farm and has already got in a good sum. It will be remembered by many that Miss Bendley collected £12. 6. 0 for the Blackburn Home Building Fund being the 2nd highest amount on the list. We appreciate

her efforts.
Mr R. A. Salmon of Merrigum has promised that when the fruit comes in, he will send a case along to the Home, and also intends to ask his friends to do likewise. Will others follow Mr Salmons good example.
Mr Geo Paton of Koriot has collected five shillings from his friends for which we thank him.
Again we have to thank W. J. D. Brook of Cocksley and his mother for donations - three shillings each. They never forget us.
Mr H. Allinson of Cowwarr has sent us £3. 6. 0 in cash, a turkey, chicken & a case of oranges. This is the best donation we have received so far and we are grateful to him for his substantial help.
From Mrs Mills of Wadia we have received 12 lbs of jam and we can assure her it was welcomed & very soon disappeared. The Butter acknowledged in last month's Letter as from Mr Lynas was from Mr Cox.

A. D. D. A. (Vic Branch)

Mr. F. E. Trewin (Hon Sec) begs to acknowledge with thanks, the following Subscriptions :- Misses R. Adams 1/- E Smith 1/- D Davis 1/- Eva Davis 1/-. Messrs R. Stewart 1/-. J. W. Elvin 1/-. B. B. Phillips 1/-. Geo Batterby of St Arnaud. 1/-. W. D. Duncan of Bamawn East 1/-. D Smith of Myall 1/-. F. J. Rose 1/-. J E. Tenworthy of Burnsdale O. Wood of Beech Forest 1/-. R. J. Hamilton of Paynesville & Mr & Mrs J. Mills of Wadia 2/-. & Mr & Mrs J. Booth 2/- & Mrs G. Oakley 1/-.

Forthcoming Lecture.

On Tuesday Nov 9th Mr G. Brown, Curator of Public Parks & gardens. & a member of our Committee will give a lecture with demonstrations on "Potting" in the Lower Hall at our Centre. All Lovers of flowers are invited to attend. The dinner cookers (those who go out to earn the wherewithal to buy the neccesaries which makes it possible for the dinner cookers to cook the dinner. All who love a Comfy home with the little sweetnesses & final touches that makes "Bubby" a home bird. Come Along Come along.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged

VOL. 12 DECEMBER. 1915. Nº 4

Lest We Forget.

Our pioneer, the first friend of the deaf in Australia, the philanthropist who established the first school for the deaf in this country, has reached the ripe old age of 84. He was born on the 21st September, 1831, sailed for Port Phillip 7th Sept. 1852, was ninety six days at sea. He settled in Bendigo in 1856. In Feb. 1859 he made his first appeal on behalf of deaf children & founded the first school for the deaf on the 12th of November, 1860. Today he is the sole survivor of those good benefactors of the deaf who stood by him in his uphill work. To him the deaf of Australia [illegible] owe in some measure, their Adult Centre + Farm & Home, for it was largely due to his advocacy jointly with that of Mr. S. Jobinson of South Australia that Mr. Abraham was invited to Australia.

Lecture.

Rev. C. Brown a member of the General Board, lectured on "Potting" before a good audience at the Centre on the 9th inst. He made his lecture, by means of oral illustrations, demonstrations & his homely conversational way, not only instructive, but very entertaining. He was bombarded by questions, all of which he answered & seemed to enjoy the situation as much as his audience. He is coming again & we think, given favourable conditions, his audience will be a much larger one.

The Deaf Workers' Club.

Mrs Williamson, the Hon. Sec. of the Deaf Workers' Club wishes to acknowledge the following gifts with thanks; Miss Potter, 3 mufflers & 2 prs mittens; Mrs Lindo, 3 prs mittens; Mr. Frewin, 1 pr mittens; Miss Davis, 2 prs sox, & 1 pr mittens (wool worth 3/6); Miss Ball 2 prs sox; Miss Adams, 3/6 worth of wool, & is knitting for the club. The Hon. Sec. went to the Malvern Town Hall on Aug. 30 with a parcel containing 4 prs sox (Red Cross wool) knitted by members; also a donation of 4 prs sox & 3 prs slippers. Mrs Marley, the Hon Sec. desires to thank the members on behalf of the Malvern Branch of the Red Cross Society. Sept 1st, a parcel containing the following gifts was sent to Federal Govt. House, 4 prs. sox, 3 mufflers, 38 hdkfs & prs mittens & 1 rainproof helmet Mrs J. C. Muir & Miss Lickey visited the Hawthorn Town Hall on two seperate occassions, returning 4 prs sox & 3 prs respectively & the members are gratefully thanked. A letter was received from Federal Govt. House acknowledging & thanking our club for parcels of goods sent for the Red Cross Society. An appeal was made to members of our congregation for a small offering either in money or goods to help make Xmas bright for our soldiers at the front. Twenty four billies were filled & forwarded to Mr. Fairburn, of Toorak, who organised a movement for providing the sick and wounded soldiers in Egypt, with Xmas cheer, & a billy was also sent to Alexander Club. Donations received for the billies are as follows; the employees & inmates of Deaf Farm & Home, Blackburn £1-1-0; Mrs J. Mills of Wadia, 5/-; Messrs M. L. Miller, Nelson & Retallick, 10/-, 5/- & 2/6 respectively, Messrs Harding, Quantick, Phillips, McKenzie, Kindell, 2 Sympathisers, Mrs E. Smith & Miss E. Jackson 1/- each; Gifts, Mr. & Mrs Booth, Mr. & Mrs J. C. Muir, Mrs Williamson, Mr. & Mrs Grefton, Mr. & Mrs Frewin, Mr. & Mrs Oakley, Mr. & Mrs Caughey, Miss A. Foster, Miss Wright, Messrs Kent & Johnston, Mr. & Mrs Moss, Mr. A. Muir, Messrs Lober, Phillips, M. L. Miller & Trockmer, Misses R. & M. Low, Connell, Davis and 4 unknown donors. These donors are thanked.

A block of cake & two boxes of biscuits were sent to the Base Hospital, St. Kilda Road. Thanks are due to Mr. B. Miller, of Ballarat, 5/-; Jas 2 monthly instalments of 5/-; & Mr. Paul, 1/- for the Belgian Deaf Refugees' Fund. Mr. M. L. Miller, 2/6 for wounded soldiers' Xmas treat, Mrs A. Williamson, 1 tin plum pudding & 2 bottles coffee essence; Miss A. Foster, gifts for the Farm & Home. Further donations for the soldiers may be sent to Mrs Williamson, the Hon. Sec. Deaf Workers' Club, The Centre, Flinders St, Melbourne.

On hand Mesdames Muir & Williamson were at the Centre packing 2 parcels of Soldiers' comforts which were forwarded to Federal Govt. House & Malvern Town Hall. For the Federal Govt. House (Red Cross Society) 12 towels donated by Mr. Phillips, 11 prs mittens, 6 prs sox, 4 mufflers, 1 pr. knee caps, 1 pr. slippers, 13 hdkfs & a bundle of old linen; For Malvern (Red Cross Society wool knitted by Workers' Club), 8 prs sox & 1 pr mittens & 12 towels donated by the club. Also 2 parcels of chemists' goods & stationery for the soldiers were forwarded to the Lady Mayoress' League. The donors are gratefully thanked, namely:- Messrs M. L. Miller, Mortimer, McLellan & J. E. Muir, Mesdames Muir & Williamson, Misses Graham, Adams, Collins, Wright, Hickey, R & M. Daw. A sum of 7/6 was given to the Club, being the proceeds of the sale of a coloured umbrella at the last rally, which was put up for auction & secured by the highest bidder, Mr. Hughes, the receipt of same was acknowledged with thanks. The collection box was opened by Mesdames Williamson & Muir, & brought 7/6, & with the amount previously contributed made £ 3. 5. 0, which was forwarded to Indlle. Yvonne Pitrois, of France last month, through the French Bank. Two letters were received acknowledging donations sent to Lady Mayoress' League & Malvern Branch Red Cross Society respectively.

Picture Night.

The Adult Deaf Athletic Club held a picture night at Wests' some time ago in aid of the Australian Red Cross Fund, & despite numerous calls, managed to make a profit of £ 9-2-0.

Further Extracts from Mdlle Pitrois Letter.

Continuing Mdlle Pitrois gives due recognition to the help by the French Government both to hearing & deaf refugees, "a few cents," she says, "just enough to keep them from starvation". The deaf refugees therefore appreciate the postal notes that reach them from time to time from the funds raised by friends, they feel also that they are no longer alone, but surrounded by kind loving friends. Most of the deaf refugees, when they escaped, had only the clothes they were wearing at the moment of their flight; some, having left their homes amidst fire & bombs, had little or no clothing at all. They have lost, too, everything they possessed. For the past ten or twelve months they have had absolutely no news from their families. Many before escaping, saw their parents & friends brutally murdered. A poor deaf man had had his wife killed & his house & furniture burnt to ashes. The father & brother of a deaf lad were shot by the German soldiers. In the flight from Charleroi a young deaf Belgian woman lost her husband, also a deaf-mute. A deaf girl aged ten is a refugee in the neighbourhood of Rheims with her mother who is very poor, the father went to the war ten months ago & has never been heard of since. Mdlle. Pitrois has placed several deaf refugee girls in Institutions, one a four year old Belgian, in Holland, & 3 in France. As long as the war continues, Mdlle Pitrois intends to continue her work on behalf of the refugees & will, therefore, always be pleased to receive additional contributions.

The Womens' Guild.

At the meeting of the Guild held Oct. 26th, the evening was very pleasantly occupied with the educational class by Mrs J. C. Muir. She took the subjects of Fables, Observations & Manners, which the members followed & discussed. Miss R. Peters rendered her maiden recitation entitled "The Cowslip".

On the 16th inst. Mrs Wilson took charge of her Bible class when she & Miss J. Kennedy read their papers on "The Surrendered Life" & "Charity believeth all things" respectively. Both papers were much appreciated by all present.

The Mens Guild.

There was only one meeting of the above, during the past month, which was held on the 16th ult. It was the occasion of W. M.L. Miller's paper on "Some Natural and other Curiosities", which turned out to be a very interesting one as well as educational. The paper was so long that he could not finish it that night & everyone agreed that the lecture be continued at a future date.

Picnic.

On Nov. 2nd (Cup Day) about 50 members of the Deaf Society travelled by train to Moorabbin where a picnic was held. With fair weather & calm sea the picnickers had the opportunity of having long rambles & indulging in games with merriment. Mr. F. J. Rose accompanied by his daughter, was amongst those present also Mr. Paul, asst. Missioner, and enjoyed the sea breeze immensely. Mr. J. Campbell took several photograph groups during the day.

The Farm.

Our sheds etc are getting a much needed cleaning up. Chrysanthemum planting has been the chief industry during Sept. & Oct. Preparations for the picnic season are being pushed on with & we are hoping for a record year. Although it is not now possible for us to cater for large numbers, we may do better by catering for small select parties.

The wives of the Baptist Ministers & other lady representatives attending the Baptist Church Conference in Melbourne paid a visit to our Farm on the 22nd ult. The party, about 50 in all, partook of afternoon tea in the ladies' sitting room, & dinner in the general dining room. Miss Lake was a member of the Company & we were pleased to see her.

Boys & girls from West Footscray & South Melbourne State Schools, under the charge of Mr. Fred Mellar, also made our Farm the place for the celebration of 'Bird Day'. We were sorry to see their outing marred by the rain. They seemed happy enough anyway and are most enthusiastic flower lovers.

Farm Receipts

The term business for the month of October was as follows:- Sale of flowers £52-12-5; picnics, £21-4-1. Special donations etc., £22-4-0; total £96-10-6.

Miss Bentley helps again.

Miss M. Bentley of Geelong, has collected £12-17-0 toward our Farm & Home Maintenance Fund. It was all in small sums & must have taken her weeks to collect. This is the kind of self sacrificing effort that one cannot resist in giving special publicity, too, in the hope that other good friends will go and do likewise. We appreciate this exceptionally sustained effort and thus Miss Bentley our grateful thanks.

Xmas Surprise Party.

Particulars are not yet available as to the composition of the programme of the Christmas Rally, but we have every reason for believing we are to have something good. Tuesday, Dec. 21st. is the date and don't you forget it. Keep your eye on the board notice for programme.

Vic. Branch A.D.D.A.

Mr. F.E. Frewin (the Hon. Sec.) begs to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions:- Misses P. Elliott of Mildura, Jessie Muir, M. Gibson, I & N. Kennedy, Messrs W.P. Muir, J. Retallick, of Ballarat G. Patak of Kariot, W. O'Keefe of Killarney, T. Smith, E.J.D. Abraham, 1/- each; Mr & Mrs F.E. Frewin 2/-; Messrs F. & J. & Miss Ching 3/-. Mr R. Stewarts' sub (1/-) was acknowledged in "Our Monthly Letter" of last month but should have been 3/-.

Monthly Letter Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 3/- from Mr W.H. Rees of Wonthaggi, 2/- each from Mr R. Ross of Fern Tree Gully, Mr F. Sutherland of N.S.W. & Mr J.M. Johnston & 1/- from Mr F. Byrne towards "Our Monthly Letter fund. These subscribers speak very highly of the letter. Will other readers who have not contributed to this fund during the year do so.

Personal Pars

On the 14th of October at a gathering at the Centre Mr. J. E. Muir on behalf of the Lacrosse Club, presented Mr. A. C. Drummond (a hearing player) with a silver cake dish as a token of esteem and gratitude for the valuable assistance rendered to the club by him. He suitably responded. Mr. Drummond was married to Miss Walters of Harcourt on the 29th of Sept.

It is with regret we announce the resignation of the Rev. V. Pratt, M. A. member of our General Board, who is leaving Melbourne for Brisbane. He has our good wishes.

Mrs D. Lawson, of Adelaide, is at present in Melbourne. She enjoyed her visit after many years' absence to the Deaf School (her Alma Mater). She found the place greatly changed with up-to-date improvements. It was a pleasure to go over it, and also to meet her old teacher, Mr. Cook again. She also visited the Blacktburn Home and spent a delightful day there. She was shown over the handsome building and the nursery gardens, and she was, as usual, interested in all she saw. She spoke very highly of the School and the Home.

We learn with pleasure that the Deaf School now issues a little monthly journal. The pupils are encouraged to write little essays for it, and it is reported by some of the adults that the essays are admirably composed and interesting. We wish the journal every success.

Miss L. Fletcher has been missed from our meetings for two months and consequently everyone was glad to see her sweet face again when she returned from her holiday in Mildura.

Mr. J. M. Paul (Assistant Missioner) has now been with us a year. He arrived from England on October 30th 1924. He is now thoroughly at home with the city & suburbs & enjoys life in his new country.

Mr. Veale of Lake Bolac, spent his usual holiday of 4 weeks in Melbourne

After a months stay in Melbourne, Miss Enid Jackson went back to Sandford, taking Miss Darry Davis to stay with her for a few weeks, where they are having many delightful rides and walks, taking their cameras with them. It is whispered that Miss Davis, the city-bred girl, loves to watch the sheep being shorn by machinery, and is amazed at the quickness of the work.

Miss Mortimer of Traralgon, paid a short visit to Melbourne after staying with her relations in South Gippsland for some weeks.

Major C.L. Elder (ex teacher of the Deaf School & Hon. Missionary to the deaf in Ballarat) is now in charge of a transport between Melbourne & Egypt.

Mr. J. Moran is now working as a stoker in the S.S. Zealandia plying between Queensland and West Australia.

It is mentioned that Miss Keeble, of Yarragon, was recently married. She has our hearty congratulations.

Mr. W. Crush has met with a nasty accident by wrenching his thigh through slipping on a banana skin whilst walking at a fast pace. He is staying at the Blackburn Farm, awaiting admission to the Homeopathic Hospital to undergo an operation.

Mrs Hartley returned to Melbourne after some weeks' holiday in Sydney. She states that, despite the warm weather, she spent a most enjoyable time.

Mrs R.H. Duff paid a visit to Adelaide where she spent a month's pleasant holiday.

Mrs L. Downes has gone to Bendigo for four weeks.

There are many at the Centre who have fathers and brothers fighting for the Empire or on the way to the front.

Miss Dorothy Edwards, the globe trotter, is now in England with her father and sister.

News just to hand that Mr. S. Ferguson of Bowmans Forest, has forwarded a donation of £5-9-2 to the Deaf Welfare Club as the result of the auction sale of his fine Leslie Particulars next month.

F. J. ROSE PENSION FUND.

Adult Deaf Mute Centre

32.34 Flinders St.

Melb. Jan 1st. 1916.

Dear Friend:

When the Victorian Government promised a grant of £100 per annum toward a pension for Mr. F.J.Rose, founder of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution; conditionally that the said Institution and the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society agreed to give £50 each, the Adult deaf of Victoria undertook to contribute £15 of the latter sum.

Last year this amount was subscribed by the adult deaf of Melbourne and there was no necessity to appeal to Country friends. It has been suggested that the Country deaf and old pupils of Mr. Rose now residing in other States, if asked, would be only too glad to make up the whole of the £15. needed this year.
We feel that it is not necessary to " appeal " to you. For you are only too well aware how great is the debt we owe to our old benefactor and that the very least we can do is to relieve him, so far as is possible, of worry and anxiety in his declining years.
Please send your subscription to Mr. F. E. Frewin Hon.Sec. Rose Pension Fund. 32 Flinders St, Melb.

Yours faithfully,

M. L. Miller President.

W. A. Paterson Hon. Treas.

F. E. Frewin Hon. Sec.

Nov 2nd 1915
Cup Day Picnic

Strike out 4 places
which you do not wish
to vote for

Blackburn. 21
Heidelberg. 10
Mordialloc. 29
Sandringham. 11
Williamstown Beach. 7

ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE.

32 Flinders Street. Melb.

ANNOUNCEMENTS for DEC. 1915.

Services

The Supt. will officiate Sunday Dec. 5th. 7 pm.
The Missioner will conduct all other ~~sem~~ services.
Holy Communion Second Sunday in January 1916.
Bible Class every Thursday 8 pm. in charge of Missioner.

Meetings. Dec.7th. Open Lecture by the Supt. Subject -
"Australia - Past & Future". 8 pm.
Dec.14th. Mens Guild - Womens Guild - 8 pm.
Dec.21st. XMAS SURPRISE PARTY. 7. 30 pm prompt.
Amusements, Library, Bank every Saturday Night.

Cricket. 4th. Dec. A.D.C.C. v Thornbury off
11th. . . . . v Newport Workshops On
18th. . . . . v _____

Holidays.

Our Centre will be closed Xmas, Boxing and New Years Day.

ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE.

32. 34. Flinders St. E, Melbourne.

P R O G R A M M E of

X M A S S U R P R I S E P A R T Y

To be held in above hall

T U E S D A Y D E C. 21st. 7. 30 pm sharp.

BY INVITATION of the GENERAL BOARD
of the ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY of VICTORIA.

This Programme admits to Everything.

See the

FINE ARTS EXHIBITION.

- IN LIBRARY.

Under Direction and Management of the One and Only Old Hull of the Victory, assisted by Lord Nelson himself - Mind the rudder and be careful of the steps.

See special programme for list of exhibits.

Open 7. 30 prompt.

PLEASANT SURPRISES.

- IN THE OLD MARKET PLACE.

Surprises for the senses - taste - sight and smell - Going all the time. This is the place for a cooler.

BLUE BEARDS CHAMBER.

is closed against the Curious. We are not afraid to open the door, but we are not-a-going-to until the right moment, and when we do - O H !

SUPPER. In Mens Room.

"Oh for a feed - a jolly good feed". When prospects look exceptionally good, often there is but little and that little not tempting to the palate. It is then that we cry, Oh ! for a fairy to transport us to Banqueting Halls.

Moral. "One never knows" and "you cant be too careful" even the burglar does not always seek gold.

G R E A T D O I N G S

In the Great Hall.

Preliminary : - Roll Call - Chairman's Address.

COMPETITION -

" After the Honeymoon "

Various couples, taking advantage of their 'severial' talents will, in drama or comedy demonstrate their views as to how a husband should treat his wife, and the wife her husband after the honeymoon.

ENTERTAINMENT.

" A RELIC OF ANCIENT EGYPT. "

introducing Second Sight and Mind Reading

A New Dance for the Deaf.

GAMES.

Butterfly Race	The Dancing Boquets
Double Musical Chairs	Blind man's Exercise
Obstacles.	etc, etc.

GIFT. Each gentleman guest will be given a lady partner - not of his own choosing - to take down to supper. Take care of her for, you take my word for it, 'though she may not be precious to you she certainly is to some other male person.

Adult Deaf Mute Centre

32 Flinders St.

Melbourne.

Jan. 1st 1916.

My Dear People:

I send you greeting.

My New Year Morning has been spent with thoughts of you.
Praying that our Heavenly Father would bless you with those gifts that make life sweet and wholesome; beautiful and full of peace.
That He would strengthen the faith within you. Let you and I start this New Year with an endeavour to get nearer an understanding of Christ than ever before. To strengthen our faith and hope; our love and the spirit of generosity. Our affection for things beautiful. To be an influence for good in our homes and workshops. To master our own evil moods and to delight in all that is simple, pure, lovable and good.
Let us make a good start by meeting together at Communion Class - Thursday Jan 6th. 8 pm - that we may prepare ourselves for the Lords Supper and the year's work before us.
The Lords Supper will be administered at 11 am on Sunday Jan. 9 th.
Mr. Walters will preach in the evening at 7 pm. Your Chaplain will interpret.
I shall also (D.V.) conduct the bible class on Thursday Jan 13th. and the Morning and Evening Services - Sunday Jan 16 th.

I hope to see you present at all these meetings.

Yours Affectionately

Ernest J. D. Abraham.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 12. JANUARY 1916. No. 5.

New Year.

Dear Friends.

For many years past it has been my pleasure to wish my readers "A Happy New Year." This year the same wish is in the mind and at the bottom of the heart but it is quite impossible to give expression to it. All my readers I am sure, will be in perfect harmony with me when I say that our hearts are too sad to think of happiness just now. No true man or woman wants selfish happiness or pleasure whilst so many who are dear to us are enduring unthinkable agonies and sacrificing life and limb for their country and the great ideal of the Master. There can be no real happiness until this disastrous war is over and peace once more reigns upon earth. But unfortunately, that consummation is not even in sight; indeed we seem to be only making ready for the great struggle. Therefore it is necessary that we should realise that this year of 1916 is to be a year of sacrifice. A year of stupendous effort. We must work and work with a will to. And what is more, We must let the Shirker and the Waster, the idler and the gadabout feel our contempt. It is true you cannot go into the firing line, but soldiers cannot alone win battles. They must be clothed and fed and their dear ones must be looked after. In fact there are a hundred and one ways in which the deaf can render service almost as great as the man who carries the rifle. Smile by all means, be cheerful and partake of relaxation, not in the spirit of frivolity and thoughtlessness; but as a means to an end; let it be as a necessary physic to keep up your condition for still sterner and greater efforts. The hands that help are better far than lips that pray. Love is the ever gleaming star that leads the way:- that shines not on vague worlds of bliss, but on

a paradise in this. For love is life, and hate is death; and love is heaven as hate is hell. What art thou? Not where shalt thou dwell when God has caught away thy breath. What hast thou done? To make man sorrow at thy death. Friend: find thy place, then work with heart and will that when you go your soul will work on still. A deaf friend has been kind enough to tell me that I can get my points home best in story. So to keep the good will of that particular friend I'll try again. On an appointed day some gifted friends met that they might study the life work of each other. They had devoted time and talent to the point of weariness and to the perfection of their own special endowment and the whole world marvelled at their genius and gave homage. For they had enriched the world with precious gifts. The Engineer had built a mighty bridge, the Architect a cathedral of exquisite grandeur, the Sculptor had formed a statue so life like that men gazed upon it and waited in expectation that at any moment it might speak like the oracle of old. The Painter and the Poet had also hypnotized their fellow men with the fruit of their mighty intellect, and in each instance the work had been a labour of love. And so they set out, like a crowd of school boys in happy anticipation of the pleasure before them. And then it happened that without solicitation or request Little Stickey Nose joined the party. Now Stickey Nose, like many men of his kidney, had never done anything worth speaking about, nevertheless he was a great expert at fault finding and pushing his beak where it was not wanted. In fact was a general nuisance, and as is the nature of the beast, no matter how persistently this fact was thrust upon him he could never be persuaded to realise it. He was the genius and all the rest of the world were fools. And so it came to pass that when the Sculptor stood in awe before the work of the Artist and the Architect bent in homage at the work of the Engineer and there was a mutual understanding and appreciation amongst these Gods amongst men that Stickey Nose spoke. "Do you not observe" said he "that one leg of that statue is thinner than the other." "Look at that picture, did you ever see the sky of so peculiar a tint." "The Architect who designed that cathedral must have got mixed in his study of the architecture of Greece and Rome." "Who was the Engineer that built that bridge I wonder, the fool did not surely have taken into consideration the traffic that must go over it." "Did you ever paint a picture said the Artist." "No" said Stickey Nose. "Did you ever build a bridge asked the Engineer." "No" was the answer. "Show me the statue that you carved" said the Sculptor. "I have never carved one" he admitted. "Well what have you done" said the architect. "What have I done?" shouted Stickey Nose at the top of his voice. "Yes, what have you done" said the

crowd in chorus. "What have I done" repeated Stickey Nose in anger. "Have I not shown you the faults of these blunderers" and he turned his back upon the labourers of love with feelings of indignation. It was good, he soliliquised, to be rid of the company of such fools. Friend. What have you done? Don't be a "Stickey Nose". Set your hands down and do something. You have a full new year before you. Come up next December with an arm full of results.

Yours, The Editor

Xmas Surprise Party.

There was no mistake in the name given to our Christmas Festival. It was a Surprise Party, and it attracted one of, if not, the largest assembly of Melbourne Adult deaf within memory. The young people were in great evidence and this was well, for it was a young peoples' night. It was a merry party too. Whether our young people have not yet realised the seriousness of the times or that the whole surroundings inspired merriment we are not sure. Possibly the latter. Anyway it was a very happy crowd that spent the evening of December 21st at our Centre. Mr. Abraham presided and Mr. J. E. Muir acted as M.C. Amongst the guests present were Mr. & Mrs. G. G. Mercy and the Hon. F. Foster, Minister of Customs. The party was subscribed for by members of the General Board privately, and was invented and arranged by Mr. Abraham and Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Muir. The Chairman made but a few appropriate remarks. He said it was not to be a speech night, and Mr. J. E. Muir amidst a burst of appreciation & applause thanked the Committee in the name of the deaf for the party.

On entering the building each guest was met by young ladies who in a very pretty ceremonious way decorated you with a flower, on reaching the upper hall you were presented with a bon-bon and expected to wear the cap so neatly rolled up within. In the Library was a "Fine Arts Exhibition". In the Office "The Old Market Place" ice creams, fruit and soft drinks were to be obtained throughout the evening. A very novel competition called "After the Honeymoon" caused much amusement. The Competitors being Miss M. Collins and Mr. C. Robertson and Miss D. Davis and Mr. J. Johnston. The former couple were the winners and Miss Collins was presented with a handsome box of chocolates by Mr. Abraham. There was a Jam & Butterfly race, A Dancing Draguet competition. (Winners Miss R. and Mr. J. Peters.) Bombs, Musical Chairs and other games. Mind Reading by Mr. A. Hall, who whilst blindfolded & with a black bag over his head was able to walk on a chalk line and to readily recognise any one in the audience. A very pretty dance was then introduced by the Misses R. Dow, D. Hickey, D. Davis and N. Kennedy Messrs A. Hull, J. Johnston, G. Newnham and J. Peters the dance ended

quite a burst of applause and is likely to be popular at all our future parties. Miss Elsie Abraham was the teacher of this new dance for the deaf. When supper time came round we got the greatest surprise of all for on taking our partners down to the usual supper room we found no supper, instead there were two masked burglars seated in the midst of much broken crockery and food and just as we were beginning to wonder where the joke came in a fairy in the person of little Iris Boorty appeared and with her wand beckoned us out into the back, up the fire escape steps and into the brilliantly lighted and gaily decorated hall once more where we found supper awaiting us. Messrs Nelson and Bowers were the burglars. Messrs Hull and Nelson had charge of the Arts Exhibition.

The Home.

Thanks to the generosity of the members of the workers' Class and the kindly thoughtfulness and never wearying effort of our good Matron, Mrs Abraham we had a good time on Christmas day.

The Farm.

There are no holidays here. Certainly we take it in turns to go off for a holiday, but the farm work and the manager's work goes on for ever. The manager packed nearly thirty boxes between 4 and 8 a.m. on Christmas eve, and also had to pack a number on Christmas day. We had quite a number of visitors on Boxing Day. Messrs Hull Brae, Bowers and Bork are away on holiday. Tarnby has secured work at Werribee and Chapman is engaged on a Barwood Farm.

Our Chairman goes to Egypt.

A conference of the various branches of the Y.M.C.A. of Australia & New Zealand was held recently at which it was decided to extend the efforts of the Associations on behalf of the Australasian troops. This will necessitate the sending to Egypt of an additional number of Secretaries and a skilled organiser to regulate and supervise the work. This latter position which is honorary has been offered to and accepted by Mr. E.R. Peacock, J.P. The members of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society wish their Chairman every success in his noble enterprise, and a safe journey home at the completion of labours in that field which every true man would glory in being called upon to assist.

The Victorian Branch, A.D.D.A.

The tenth Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday evening 27th Nov. in the Upper Hall at our Centre. There was a fair attendance. Mr. M.L. Miller the President in the chair. The annual Report was submitted by Mr. F. Newton Hon. Sec. It stated that the Board of Management regretted being unable to report much progress during the past year owing to the war. It was

thought that any attempt to carry through important work would almost certainly be doomed to failure and so it was considered that the wisest course was to suspend all important business until the close of the war. The Board has forwarded the sum of £15 to the Asst. Hon Treasurer of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Soc.y towards the Rose Pension Fund. and it has to raise another £15 before the end of March next. There has been an increase of 4 members since the last Annual Meeting.

Mr. W. A. Paterson, Hon. Treasurer, submitted the balance-sheet. It was most satisfactory. A credit-balance of £18-10-0 being carried forward. Half of the membership fees £2-7-0 had been remitted as usual to the General Fund. Both reports were unanimously adopted. The President gave a short address regarding the work that had been left undone during the past year. He said it would be unwise to push on with important business in the present state of affairs but when the war was over work would be attended to with renewed vigour. He was pleased to see that members continued their interest in the Association. A very creditable feature of the last annual meeting was that members & others responded in a few minutes to an appeal for contributions towards the Rose Pension Fund, some £13 being booked. He intended to see that the Board makes a direct appeal to the country deaf and others who had not contributed previously. Mr. Abraham, President of the A.D.D.A. and Chairman of General Board congratulated Mr. Miller, President, Mr. Paterson, Hon. Treas.r and Mr. Spencer, Hon. Sec.y and said they had done good work for the Association. He was pleased to see that they had been re-elected without opposition. He had asked for permission to withdraw from the Committee for the present. He had much other work on hand. Mr. J. M. Paul said he was pleased to see those who had "done the work" occupying the Honourable positions of the Association. The election of Office-Bearers resulted as follows:- President, Mr. M. L. Miller, Vice President Mr. J. E. Muir, Hon. Treas Mr. W. A. Paterson, Hon. Sec.y Mr. F. E. Spencer, Committee (6) Messrs J. M. Paul, R. H. Luff, J. A. Nelson, G. Newsham, W. P. Muir and G. Mortimer. All with the exception of Mr. Mortimer were re-elected officers. A hearty vote of thanks to the retiring officers, Treasurer, auditor and the chairman brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

The Hon. Sec.y begs to acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions Mrs. Brookford 1/-, Mr. Victor Doni (Gippsland) 1/- Miss J. Wright 1/-, Mr. & Mrs. J. Caughey 2/-, Mr. J. A. Nelson 1/-, Mr. H. Allinson (Cowarr) 1/-, Mr. & Mrs. E. Buskie (N.Z.) 2/-, Mr. J. Williamson, (N.Z.) 1/-, M. L. Miller 1/-.

Rose Pension Fund.

Mr. F. E. Spencer. The Hon. Sec.y begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations:- Mr. W. A. Paterson £2-0-0, Mrs. D. Lawson (Adelaide.) 2/6.

Womens Guild.

The members of the Womens Guild gave the members of the Mens Guild a Return Social on Nov. 30th. There was a grand total of 50 members and the evening was given over to the game of "Tangled Words" and conversazione. It was an exciting night on account of prizes offered to those who gained the most number of wins in the competitions. The result was, Ladies Miss R. Peters 1st Trinket Box, and Miss M. Collins 2nd Picture Frame. Gentlemen Mr. J. E. Muir 1st Pencil Case and Mr. R. St. Luff 2nd Purse. At the conclusion of the games the Committee of the Womens Guild tripped downstairs with the Committee of the Mens Guild as their partners where a dainty supper awaited them. Both Guilds spent a most happy and enjoyable evening together.

A meeting of the Womens Guild was held on Dec. 14th The President had a very attentive audience while she imparted her interesting address on "Vodka" and "Mythology". The attendance was 22.

Mens Guild.

There was only one meeting of the Mens Guild last month which was held on the 14th when Mr. J. Heber the newest member gave a paper on "Health of the Body" to a good assembly. It was his maiden paper and he acquitted himself excellently. We hope it will influence othe young members to come forward and give papers. The next meeting will be on January 11th which will be a "Pound Night" and short stories. Each member is requested to bring a pound of eatables as well as give a short story on that evening.

The Ramblers.

A happy muster of Ten ramblers assembled at Ivanhoe Station on the 11th ult. Mr. Dickinson who is a resident of that suburb met them and guided them to Mr. Rossi's Rose Nursery where they thoroughly enjoyed viewing the "prize winner" roses. Then the Ramblers happily strolled through the pretty suburb towards the Yarra River where they rested for a few pleasant moments under the friendly trees. A most inviting tea kindly provided by Mr. & Mrs Dickinson was done justice to and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to them for a happy time spent.

Deaf Workers' Club.

The month of December has been a very busy one. The President, the Hon. Sec. and the Hon. Treas. have been busy shopping and packing Xmas delicacies for the Soldiers and the Blackburn Home. The suggestion of giving money out of the membership fee to help provide a Xmas treat for the Blackburn Home was submitted to the members and it was heartily approved, especially by the new new members. The fees netted £2-3-0 up to date and the money

vanished into cakes, nuts, preserved fruit, sweets, fruit, &c, which were despatched to the Home just before Xmas day. Also 13/6 worth of delicacies contributed by several deaf friends were purchased for the soldiers and sent to the Lady Mayoress' League together with other gifts already donated. It was with much gratitude and joy that the Committee received a Cheque for £5-9-2 from Mr. S. Ferguson for the purchase of material to make garments for soldiers. It was the result of an auction sale of five lambs. The Committee greatly appreciate Mr. Ferguson's thoughtfulness and tender their warmest thanks to him for his generous donation. Mrs. Williamson, the Hon. Sec. wishes to acknowledge with thanks the following contributions for the soldiers Xmas treat:- Mr. N.L. Miller 5/-, Mrs. J. Nelson 2/6, Mr. McLellan 2/-, Mr. J. Johnston 1/-, Mrs. Boorty 1/-, Messrs J.M. Paul & W.P. Muir, Miss G. Peters & "Well-wisher" 6d. each, also gifts from Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Muir, Mrs. Williamson, Misses Wright, Adams, Graham, Ball and Mrs. Brookford. A parcel comprising 3 mufflers, 2 prs mittens, 12 prs sox and 12 face washers was sent to the Lady Mayoress' League. Miss A. Porter donated 5 prs sox to the club for soldiers. Jas 5/- for Belgian Deaf Refugees (monthly instalment.) Again these donors are gratefully thanked. A letter of thanks was received from Federal Govt. House. The Hon. Sec. has much pleasure in stating that there are 50 men members of the club and with the lady members there is a total of 84 members in all.

Adult Deaf Cricket Club.

November 27th Richmond A.N.A. 115 for 8 wkts. v A.D.C.C. 65. V. Hyder 25, C. Smith 18 were the principal scorers. Mr. Collie 5 for 34 and Mr. Matthew 2 for 16 gained the bowling honours, these two players from the Railway Construction Branch helped the A.D.C.C. December 4th A.D.C.C. were again beaten by Thornbury C.C. who made 121 for 4 wkts. A.D.C.C. 62. V. Harding 15, C. Smith 11 were the highest scorers. Bowling- V. Harding 2 for 15, E. Martin 1 for 9, J. Dickinson 1 for 13. December 11th A.D.C.C. again failed to win from Newport Workshops C.C. who made 114 to the A.D.C.C's 42. J. Johnston 13 was the only batsman who made double figures. Bowling, E. Martin 3 wkts. R. Beattie 3 wkts, J.E. Muir 2 wkts and C. Smith 1 wkt. The next match will be against Clarendon C.C. on 8th January on our own ground.

Personal Pars.

Mr. Walters, Hon Treasurer of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society will preach at the church for the deaf on the evening of Sunday January 9th Mr. Abraham will interpret Mr. Walters' address, a large attendance is looked for. Mr. Crush underwent a successful operation at the Homeopathic Hosp.

and is getting on finely well. He left the hospital for Mr. Blackburn Farm on the 25th Inst. — Mr. V. Lyzzer is in the Melbourne Hospital and has been very ill. We hope to hear good news of him soon. — Mr. R. Miller of Ballarat paid a flying visit to the West coast of Tasmania on business and returned for his Xmas holidays. Afterwards he will go there to work. — A good number of city deaf people have gone away for their holidays ranging from 5 days to 2 weeks. — Five Adelaide deaf folk, Messrs Martin, Gibson, Newell, Barrell and Miss Lines are spending their holidays in Mel Mr. Beswicke came over from Sydney. — Mr. A. Beaumont of Adelaide stayed in Melbourne for the rally & then went on to his old home in Sydney. — Mrs. Crompton and Misses V. Crawford & E. Kebablack of Ballarat are staying in Melbourne at present. — Mr. & Mrs. E. Burke of N.Z. send compliments of the season to their old acquaintances in Melbourne. They have been absent from us for nearly 10 years. — Mr. T. Williamson of N.Z. also sends compliments to Melbourne friends. — Mr. & Mrs. Alex. Collins of Gippsland are in Melbourne for Xmas & New year. — Mlle Pitois of France sends greetings to the Editor & readers of our Letter. We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/6 from "Friend" 1/6 from Mrs. Lawson of Adelaide, 1/- from Miss Jones, 2/- from Mr. & Mrs. E. Burke, N and 1/- from Mr. T. Williamson of N.Z. towards our "Monthly Letter" Fund and also 5/- from "Friend" towards the "Xmas gifts" Fund.

Deaf School Breakup.

The Annual Breakup of the Victorian School for the Deaf was held on Thursday, 19th The prizes were distributed by Mr. F. Jake, Director of Education. Mr. Dale was of opi that more accommodation was a necessity for sub-normal children & also for their chers and promised, if the Board of Management approached the Minister of Educa on the matter, he would recommend the erection of an up-to-date School building There are at present 106 children on the School roll and during the year the teach and pupils made 1000 articles for the Red Cross Society and contributed £7/1/ State School Patriotic League.

Australia - Past & Future.

The above was the title of a lecture delivered before a large audience at our centre by Graham on the 7th Ult. In opening he said Australia's history is all before it. Aust was a big country with a population no greater than an old World city. It was in its in but gave promise of, some day, being the greatest nation of the world. It was alrea present man had more equal opportunities. Australia was a country of experiments experimenters. The World was looking on. It was a World's Laboratory and the scientis rest of other nations would take advantage of our successes & avoid our failures. The outlook was full of promise & we could with confidence look forward to the future of Aus

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL 12 FEBRUARY 1916. No. 6

Every Man born into the World has his work born with him There is always work and tools for those who will. Always Hope for the best. Hope gives birth to Actuality Hope on, Hope ever; though today be dark, the sweet sunshine may smile on thee tomorrow.

The Cause of all things that happen is within ourselves :- "The Moving finger writes; and having writ Moves on: Nor all your Piety and wit Can have it back to Cancel half a line Nor all your tears wash out a word of it."

If we but knew. If we but realised.

Mdlle Pitrois sends Greetings

"To The Editor of "our Monthly Letter" Dear friends I dare not take too much of the precious space of our Letter, but I wish to send to you all my hearty greetings for Xmas and the New Year. May God abundantly bless every one of You, and the ones dear to You, Specially the brave soldiers fighting so hard at the Dardanelles, in Egypt or Serbia: Oh. if the wishes of our hearts are many I am certain there is one wish, our earnest prayer that can be found in each of our hearts as it is in all or nearly all hearts of human beings: May the Coming Year brings us Peace! A sweet side of the hard times we live will always be for us all the Memory of our good work for the Poor

deaf ; thank You once more for what You have done for them during this declining Year ; owing to Your generousity I shall be able to send to every one of my scattered refugees a Christmas present. I have already bought for them ; for most of them, the only one they will receive : to the women, a warm woollen shawl. white for the girls & Young women and black for the elder, and to the men a comfortable neck wrapper, all of them with a card of greeting, & a small toy for the children of deaf Couples. How pleased they will be ! & how pleased You are ; are you not ? - to have given me the means to bring to them this little joy in this second sad winter of exile.

With my love, believe me to be Your Sincere French friend

Joanne Petrois

November 1915.

Chief's New Year Greetings.

The following was our Chiefs' New Year Greeting to the deaf - " My dear People I send you greeting. My New Year Morning has been spent with thoughts of You. Praying that our Heavenly Father would bless You with those gifts that make life sweet & wholesome; beautiful and full of Peace. That He would strengthen the faith within You. Let You & I start this New Year with an endeavour to get nearer an understanding of Christ than ever before. To strengthen our faith & hope ; our love and the spirit of generousity. Our affection for things beautiful. To be an influence for good in our homes and workshops. To master our own evil moods and to delight in all that is simple, pure, lovable and good.

Deaf Worker's Club

The Hon Secretary (Mrs Williamson) of the Deaf Workers Club desires to acknowledge with thanks the following gifts from members & friends :- Miss A. Adams' sister of Ascot Vale - 2 prs of sox ; - Mrs Dempsey 1 pr Sox, Mr Cross - 4 walking sticks made from branches of trees. Mrs J. P. Beaumont of Adelaide 1£ for the Belgian Refugee Fund. and Mr M. S. Miller 2/6 for January.

a card has been received by the Hon Sec from Mr Crush wishing all members the Compliments of the Season.

The Lady Mayoress of Melbourne has acknowledged with thanks our gifts to the Soldiers for Xmas treat.

Gifts of vegetables from friends of Mrs Boorty were put up for auction - the proceeds £1.1.0 was donated to our Soldiers fund towards purchasing materials. An effort is being made commencing next week to raise funds for Returned Soldiers All gifts in money or materials Etc. to be addressed to Mrs Williamson Hon Secretary. Deaf Workers Club. The Centre. Flinders St E. Melbourne.

The Ramblers.

The Members of the Rambling Club Spent an enjoyable outing at Brighton Beach on the 8 ult. The weather was fine & warm. The Ramblers, being attracted by the bathers were seized by a desire to go in for a dip and one of the party volunteerly hired several bathing gowns to enable the members to enjoy a refreshing bath under the roasting sun. Needless to Say the members did enjoy it thoroughly. The Members had decided to have a Gipsy Tea at Brighton Beach but this intention was dropped as Mrs Boorty hospitably invited them to her house for tea after which a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the hostess for the happy time She had given the guests. The party when bidding the hostess Good Night spoke many a word of appreciation for the enjoyable time they had had.

A "Vegetable Tree."

The Xmas Spirit was shown in an incident which followed the distribution of gifts from the Xmas tree to friends assembled at Mrs Boorty's house. Some of the gifts were as carefully packed as any nugget of gold would be. One Young Lady decided to sacrifice her treasure for the benefit of the Red Cross Fund and it was put up for "Dutch Auction". Competition was keen and the sum of 8/9 had flowed in ere the fortunate bidder found he got possession of a — Small onion! With the Australians proverbial belief in luck the bidding continued, the sum of £1.1.0 was reached

before the two remaining lots - a potato and a pumpkin found their owners. The proceeds of the auction were given to the Deaf Workers Club for their Red Cross work.

£1.000 for S. A. Deaf Farm.

The S. A. Deaf Mission like the rest of us is beginning to feel the pinch of the times. They are generally able to show a handsome balance at the close of the Year. This Year it is only £45, still it is a balance in hand and that is more than the majority of us can say at this Critical time too. The S. A. Mission has been made the recipient of a legacy of £1.000 from the estate of the late Mr Dan Smith. Here again are the Adult Deaf indebted to Mr. S. Johnson for it is to his persistent advocacy of the Cause of the deaf and his influence and popularity all over the State that the deaf of S A. have so many friends. We remember a remark of a S. A. Gentleman some time after Mr S. Johnson had raised a large Sum of money. "Sam Johnson; Why if he asked South Australia for £20.000 he would get it.

The S. A. Farm did not escape the drought last Year any more than we did. The Manager is of opinion that it was the worst season experienced since the opening of the farm The receipts for the Year from sales of stock & produce was £257. As our farm returned £800 during the same trying Year we have good reason to Congratulate ourselves and be thankful. We hope that the present Season will be more favourable to the efforts of that plodding grafter Mr. A. G. B. Cox who has had the management of the Angas Farm & Home since its establishment

Deaf Motorists

Our Chief has been gathering evidence with which to convince another Chief - the Chief Commissioner of Police - that a deaf man is at least as safe on a motor cycle as the average hearing man. A well known and skilled deaf rider had applied for a licence and been refused so Mr Abraham took the case up. It seems that the Automobile Club had advised the Commissioner not to issue licences to deaf men because they would prove a

danger to the public as well as to themselves. Our Chief claimed that the Automobile Club had given judgement without evidence in fact, the said club was not in a position to give evidence either way. He mentioned that there were hundreds of deaf men riding motor cycles daily through such congested cities as London, Paris and New York. He had yet to learn of the first serious accident. There was one deaf man in Melbourne who has been riding for four years who has never had an accident and never been held up. There were others in Victoria, South Australia and Queensland who had been riding for various periods, none had had an accident and there was more than the members of the Automobile could claim. Some one has asked us if we cannot find ground for an action against the Automobile Club for defamation of character. Well, not quite, but there is good ground for another kind of action and that is to convince our friends of the Automobile that they are wrong. Even a dog is allowed just a bite before you may deal with him. We claim the right to, at least, one spill or one Summons for exceeding the Speed limit before we are put off the road. Needless to add Mr Abraham secured his license

The Home

We are full up yet still they come. Three more new Chums this month. Everybody enjoying the best of health. Miss May Woodward, the house maid left last month after being with us for two years. The Staff & inmates presented her with a wristlet watch. We are to lose our Cook now. She is very popular with all and we are sorry at her going. She is sorry too but is right in deciding that her first duty is her Mother.

The Blackburn Farm.

This is the very worst Summer we have experienced so far We have had plenty of dry winds but no rain since September The long drought of the previous two Summers brought the water in our tanks down very low, this year. Some are already empty and unless we get rain very soon all will be. The water in the lake is also low. Our Pumping apparatus stops not day

nor night. We are told that some night our neighbours purpose a raid upon our throbbing engine with intent to kill, that is to say Silence it. We are sorry for our neighbours but if we do not pump we shall lose the entire labor of six years & we are not disposed to "start again" if we can prevent it. We are working in shifts & our manager bobs up serenely in Everyone of them. The other night we saw Alex Hull with a gun as we came on to relieve him. It occured to us that he was stalking a neighbour bent on the destruction of our puffing Billy but he wasn't. He was after rabbits who were after our Carnations. Our Laundry has been on fire. very little damage done, and we have had a bush fire. We must get a bit of Excitement somehow.

Our Church.

From Christmas 1914 to the Festive Season of 1915 fifteen Young deaf people left school & joined our Society and Seven Adults from other States & England & have also enrolled themselves. The attendance at the Evening Service maintains a good average, but there has been a very noticeable falling off in the attendance at Morning Service & Bible Class of late. Mr Walters, our Hon Treasurer, was the preacher on the 9th of January and attracted a large Congregation, the members of whom expressed the hope that he will again address them at an early date. Mr Abraham interpreted.

The Assistant Missions (Mr Paul.) Conducted Six Services & five Bible classes during December, made 29 visits to homes of deaf, 25 to hospitals and 5 in search of employment. Mr Abraham Conducted Communion Class on Jan 6th Communion Service Jan 9th 11. a.m. Bible class on the 13th & both Services on the 16th.

Deaf Sculptor's Work at Panama Exposition.

The five heroic figures in front of the Palace of Machinery at the Great Exposition are the work of Douglas Tilden, the well known deaf Sculptor. The design consists of five upright figures about seventeen feet tall representing Valour, Morality, Truth, Imagination and Industry. Valour stands, with a spear in hand, on a

commanding attitude. Industry holding a sledge & plow blade, inscribed with "Labour conquers all things", stands with impassive mein. Truth is throwing backward the drapery. Imagination is leaning against a tree trunk in a pensive mood. and Morality is folding a robe around her body.

Cinema Play for Deaf

Dr. Kotchkies and Professor Drake of Gallaudet College. have written a play presenting as true to life as possible the scenes connected with the establishment of the first school for the deaf & deaf mutes have acted it. portraying Dr. Gallaudet, Sicard, Clerc, Alice Cogswell etc before a moving picture camera, the N.A.D. having appropriated £70 for that purpose. The N. A. D. already has several excellent sign films, with more in prospect. Twelve state schools possess expensive cinematograph machines for displaying these and other films before the Pupils viz:- Washington, California, Montana, Utah, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Iowa, Mississippi, South Carolina & New York. A deaf man of Los Angeles, California has invented a moving picture camera designed on original principles, and is training a class of the deaf in acting. his aim being to produce films not only superior in cleanness but in quality.

Cricket.

Mr G. Edwards & C. Robertson are to be Congratulated for playing good cricket with Melbourne CC. 1st XI. and Northcote 2nd XI respectively. The former is a good left-handed batsman & has made several good scores lately & the latter has been showing good form behind the wicket & also made a few fair scores.

Personal Pars

The following holiday makers during the Xmas & New Years holidays were as — Mr & Mrs J. S. Munn in the Western District, Messrs J. Elwin & N. Hughes at Port Fairy. Messrs Marks, Martin Harding & Quantock at Daylesford. Misses L. Newin & M. G. Mahon in the North Eastern District. Mr. C. Robertson at Sorrento. Miss M. Collins at Sorrento & Nerrin South. Misses Hall, Nelson

& Innes at Flinders. Mr J. Johnston at the Jeppolan Lakes
Miss M. Gibson at Ballarat. Mr J. M. Paul at Lower Bethanga.
Miss A. Graham has gone to Toolamont with her sister to stay
with their relations for 2 or 3 months.
Mr A. O'Callaghan of Sydney spent a few weeks holiday in Melbourne
Miss O. Crawford of Ballarat has secured employment in Melbourne
Mr O. Tyzzer left the Melb. Hospital after 3 weeks illness & has
gone to his father's farm at Creswick for a change which, we
hope, will do him good.
Mr R. J. Hamilton in sending 2/6 from Mrs R. Burrell of Paynes-
ville. toward the Farm Maintenance Fund, says he is very
lucky to have succeeded in getting a good billet at Paynesville
His brother Tom was in the trenches at the front for four months
has returned to Egypt.
Mrs Yates, a friend of Mr W. Dindell presented the inmates of the
Farm at Blackburn with a fine game of "Bob."
Writing to a friend, Mr & Mrs Baldry who will be well remembered
by all Melbourne Members send New Year greetings to all friends
Mr Baldry is very busy - working overtime. He says that both he
wife & self miss the sunshine of Australia & the enjoyable gather-
ings & meetings for which the Melbourne dept are noted. They would
like to be with us as they do not get the same opportunities for
pleasure where they are. Mrs Baldry sends greetings to the Members
of the Women's Guild. The "Monthly Letter" is received regularly
by them & they are grateful for same as it keeps them up to date
as to the doings of their old friends.
The Hall Keeper (Mr Gretton) has enlisted and is to go into camp
Camp on the 31st. He left us on the 19th. Our Superintendent
in the name of the General Board, is to present Mr & Mrs Gretton
with an appropriate recognition of their services at an early date
We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 5/- from Mr J. G. Mc
and 1/- each from Mrs Linds & Mrs Crompton of Ballarat & Miss C. A.
towards our Monthly Letter Fund.
Our Society has received £100 from the Edward Wilson Bequest & £15 from
the Felton Bequest.
Our chief has been more in evidence at the Centre during the two weeks follo
the holidays than for many months past.
Chief's Garden Party at Blackburn March 11th
Dept Rally - March 30th at our Centre

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.,** and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged

VOL. 12 MARCH 1916, Nº 7

Happy Day with Blackburn Deaf

Thanks to the thoughtfulness & generasity of our many friends, every section of the deaf community participate in at least one red letter day of whole hearted enjoyment each year. It was only two months ago that we gave an account of that delightful function got up at the expense of the members of the General Board and to which all deaf mutes were invited, came and had a glorious time. And now we have the pleasure of presenting an epitome of another happy event. For the fifth time Mr. Appleton, of Messrs Buddart, Parker Ltd. presented the Manager of our Home for Deaf Mutes, Blackburn, with 40 party bay trip tickets for the staff & inmates of the Home. The party, forty one in all, including five blind-deaf, boarded the "Hygeia" at Port Melbourne. The weather was magnificent, the sea calm & the whole party in the best of spirits. If appearance goes for anything, the blind-deaf verily extracted more pleasure out of the trip than any other member of the party although every individual looked the picture of health & contentment & smiles were the rule without exception. We lunched on board & all were delighted with the tempting spread & did full justice to everything set before them. The officers, waiters, indeed everybody on board was exceedingly kind & did everything they could to add to our days enjoyment.

On reaching Sorrento, we at once made for the Back Beach & there enjoyed ourselves as people generally do when visiting the sea side. Some of the younger people, who came to look after the old, forgot us & everything else for that matter for the time being & romped like mermaids & porpoises at play in the sea. On the return journey we spent our time alternately in conversation and devouring fruit & sweets until tea-time came when we adjourned to the ship's drawing room & partook of tea, scones & cake. The day came to an end much too soon. We were home at Blackburn by 8.30 pm. & we are very grateful to those who made such a happy day for us possible. The luncheon, teas, fares etc. were provided through the kindness of Messrs W. H. Felstead, H. Giles Turner, W. M. McPherson, MacRobertson, H. V. McKay, & Dr G. A. Syme; Mesdames Grimwade, V. M. Christian, J. T. Payne & Miss E. J. Beam.

The Ramblers.

The ramble that was arranged for the 12th Feb. duly took place & proved a most enjoyable outing, the weather conditions being all that could be desired. The rendesvous was the familiar one "Under the Clocks" & the objective the Maribyrnong River & Bridge. Eight girls & Mrs Muir comprised the party. We went by train to Newmarket, thence by electric tram to the above mentioned place. Arrived there we went afloat in a motor-launch for a spin on the river, a most agreeable part of the afternoon's ramble, the day being a warm one. At the turning point we had afternoon tea (out of the funds) & then returned the bridge per launch just at sunset. On the run we had a distant view of the Maribyrnong Camp, a most extensive one which has quite transformed what was once the late Mr C. B. Fisher's Sylvan Maribyrnong Estate. We also saw the Cordite Factory where the explosive is manufactured for the use of guns, big & little, by our brave troops. We had a most enjoyable afternoon and arrived home healthily tired but happy.

There will be no ramble in March, on account of Mr & Mrs Abraham's garden party at Blackburn.

Letters from Egypt.

There was a flutter of excitement at the Centre one evening when it was announced that four letters had been received from the soldiers who were patients at the Mena House Hospital, Cairo, expressing thanks for the Xmas billies that the Deaf Workers' Club sent through Mrs G. Fairburn, of Toorak. These letters were from three Englishmen (who wrote on Xmas Day) & one Australian (who wrote the next day.) They seemed to have received a good deal of knockings during the transmission; one (a letter card) was very much crumpled & partly torn, & some words were missing. We print the following from Driver Leatherdale, of the British Mediterranean Exp. Force :-

Mena House Hospital - My dear Australian Friends, Having the great good fortune to be sent into an Australian Hospital, I woke this Xmas morning to find a feast of good things prepared for me, & chiefest of these was a big "billycan" with cake, chocolate, sardines, &c. and for this I am now writing to express my very sincerest thanks. As an Englishman (& a Landoner) I feel that perhaps I have received something which was sent to one of your own boys, but I hope that many a parcel sent from the Old Country will reach some of the glorious "Anzacs" & that these little "interchanges" will help to cement even further, if that be possible, the ties which bind the distant parts of the Empire to the Mother-land. It may interest you to know that in this hospital the general opinion is that it is tip-top, & certainly (with all due thankfulness to the others) it is quite the best of the four hospitals, it has been my misfortune, & yet also my good fortune, to find myself in since I left England. Your people certainly do things well. I may never see you, much as I should like to meet you & thank you "face to face", but I shall send the card home & hope, if I have the luck to get back safely, to keep it as the most pleasant memory of this campaign, & a perpetual reminder of the kindness of Australians who "Have been there" & those who've "done their bit" from afar. With very best thanks & every good wish for your health.

happiness & prosperity in the coming year. Yours very sincerely, Kenneth G. Leatherdale. He addressed us as the Deaf Australian Patriots & enclosed a snapshot of himself which greatly interested the girls. We intend writing to him & hope to have the pleasure of hearing from him again. Another English soldier informed us in his letter that the patients opened their billies, sorted the articles out like big children, & then said "Good people, God bless them". Another said that he was very happy as a lot of the chaps were & they all liked the Australians. They hoped we would have our soldiers back safely. It gratified us to know that our billies reached the soldiers safely, & it will encourage us to send more next Xmas if the war continues.

Farm & Home

Since last month we have had two good downpours of rain. Another few days & we would have been without drinking water, now we have plenty. But the soil is going back to its dry condition & we have had to give up planting out. With two great horses & a huge plough we managed to bite into the bulb plantation & plough some of them out. These are now being transplanted, but it is very slow work. We have had a fine show of gladioli, our flowers are so very scarce that they are denied the opportunity of attaining to perfection. It is cut, cut, cut immediately the blooms begin to show themselves. The early dahlias also are helping us to keep faith with our contracts. The sales etc. for the month of January amounted to £5 4-18-5.

The Women's Guild.

On Jan. 18th at the meeting of the Guild, Miss Hickey read before a muster of members a most interesting paper on "Gnats & their eggs". Several members rendered stories

On Feb. 18th Mrs J. C. Muir took charge of her educational class when she spoke on "The Wandering Jew", "How to save" & "The Magazine Wedding" which were much appreciated & enjoyed by all. Letters from soldiers in Egypt were read at the meeting & caused great interest to all. Having "economy" in their minds the members have wisely given up their annual picnic this season.

The Men's Guild Meetings.

Two interesting papers on "Curiosities of Nature" by Mr. M. L. Miller on Jan. 25th & "Two Gentlemen of Verona" by Mr. R. H. Luff on Feb. 15th were enjoyed by all present.

The annual picnic of the Guild which was arranged to take place at Sassafras on Jan. 31st (A.N.A. day) had to be postponed, owing to the inclemency of the weather.

Mr. J.M. Johnston's resignation from the position of Hon. Sec. to the Guild was accepted with regret. Mr. Luff has kindly offered to fill the vacancy until the end of February.

Cricket

The Cricket Club has not played many matches this season, owing to a number of junior clubs being disbanded on account of enlistment.

On Jan 29th, despite the wet weather the team played against Dandenong & made 71 runs while the local team scored 61 without the loss of a wicket. The game was frequently stopped by the rain. Rees 13 n/o, Johnston 11, Quantack 12.

The club was beaten by Gasometer C.C. on Feb. 12th. The scores were Deaf C.C. 36, Burge 10; Gasometer 5 for 85.

Feb. 19th & 26th the Deaf played against Imperial C.C. at Footscray & made 41 in the first innings.

Mr. J. M. Johnston's resignation as Hon. Sec. to the Club was accepted with much regret. The Club has written a letter of appreciation to him for his past good services. Mr. Willie Anderson was appointed Hon. Sec. in his stead.

The Deaf of London Drilling.

We are informed that the deaf men of London are drilling vigorously. What for, we are not informed. Possibly home defence; anyway it will do them good, make them better citizens and ready, should they be wanted.

Deaf Schools in America.

There are in the United States of America 64 public residential schools for the deaf with an attendance of nearly 12,000 pupils & 70 day schools with 2000 pupils. There are almost 2000 teachers of whom 288 are deaf. Quite a large number of the American schools for the deaf own fine moving picture outfits. The West Virginia School recommends picture frame making as a trade for the deaf.

Personal Pars.

Miss J. Maloney (one of the oldest pupils at the Deaf School) died after a lingering illness on Jan. 15th.

£1.1-0 has been received from Mrs & Mr. Fred Lynas, of Charlton, towards the Blackburn Farm Fund.

Mr. J. M. Johnston has gone to Harston via Byrneside for the purpose of studying farm work. He has been one of the most promising members of the Society, having held the position of Hon. Secretary to the Men's Guild, the Athletic Club, & was also a member of the Deaf Committee. He is an excellent worker & ever ready to help. Whilst regretting his loss we sincerely hope that he will be successful in his new vocation.

Mr. Hugh Smith of Koondrook has returned home after having spent a month in Melbourne.

Mr. W. Crush has gone on the round to Tasmania, returning to Melbourne via Sydney & Eden.

Mrs Geo. Thomas (nee Bass) of Launceston, intends taking a trip to Melbourne some time this year if all is well. She has not been over here for 30 years.

February has been a very quiet month at the Centre.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 5/- from Mrs Geo. Thomas of Launceston, 2/6 from Mr. J. W. Thomson, 2/- from Mr. & Mrs J. C. Muir & 1/- from Mr. W. Bladier toward "Our Monthly Letter Fund.

The Hon. Sec. of the Deaf Workers' Club desires to thank "Ja" for his donation of 10/- (2 monthly instalments) towards the Belgian Deaf Refugees' Fund, & Mr. W. L. Miller for 2/6 towards the Soldiers' Fund.

Schools for the Deaf in India.

A few years back there was but one school for the Deaf in India. Now in addition to the College Green School, Calcutta, there are schools at Baroda, Mehsana, Byculla, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Lahore, Nagapur, Mysore & Palamcootah.

The Vic. Branch A. D. D. A.

Mr. Frewin, Hon Sec. begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/- (2 years) from Mr. S. Ferguson of Bowhan's Forest, 1/- each from Mrs S. Ferguson, Miss Connell, Miss Kenworthy & Mr. J. M. Johnston, 2/- from Mr. & Mrs D. Ashby (Trafalgar.)

F. J. Rose Pension Fund :- £7-13-6 still needed

When the Chairman of the General Board of the A.D.D.A. Mr. Ernest Abraham & the executive of the Victorian Branch (Messrs M. L. Miller, F. E. Frewin & W. A. Paterson) waited upon the Victorian Government & obtained a promise of £100 a year, conditionally that the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society and the Victorian Deaf & Dumb School made up another £100 towards a pension for Mr. F. J. Rose. Messrs Abraham & Miller pledged themselves to raise £15 annually from the Adult Deaf. Last year at a meeting held in the Adult Deaf Centre, in response to an appeal made by Mr. Abraham the Adult Deaf of Melbourne contributed £15 in a little over 5 minutes. Toward this years' £15, which we must have in hand by the 31st of March, we have about half. It is thaught, and rightly so, that it is the turn of the Country Deaf and ex-pupils of Mr. Rose now residing in other States to contribute the £15 this year. Have you sent in your donation yet? If not, please send at once to the Hon Sec. Mr. F. E. Frewin Adult Deaf Mute Centre, 32. 34. Flinders St. Melbourne.

The Hon. Sec. acknowledges the following donations with thanks

	Previously acknowledged, £2.2.6			s.	d.		
Mr. M.L. Miller	1..0..0	Mr. J. M. Paul		10.	6	Mrs. A. Cunningham (Springmant)	2..6
Mr & Mrs J. E. Muir	1..1 0	Mr. A. Wilson		5.	0	Mr. H. Smith	2..0
Messrs F.L. & M. Clingl	..0..0	Mr & Mrs J. Mills (Waaia)		5.	0	(My all)	
Mr. J. Sloan (Kurting	10.0	Mr. F. Lynas (Woorinooki)		3.	6	Mr. B. Phillips	2..6
						Mr. C. Tyrrer	2..0

Total received £7-6-6.

Work for all

With so many thousands of the best of our manhood either facing the Empire's enemies or preparing to do so there should be no unemployed deaf just now. Masters, hitherto reluctant to take on deaf employees, faced with pressing needs, will be only too willing to secure whatever substitutes they are able. So now is your opportunity, boys. Do your very best when you get a start. And do it smilingly. Be obliging. Get a grip on the detail of the job before you. Master it. Let your job be the very best turned out that day. It's your opportunity. The reputation of the Deaf as a worker is at

stake. It rests with you to make the final verdict of the master one in favour of the Deaf. You have a big responsibility, boys. If you go out for incompetence - for bad work - out go the rest of the deaf from that workship perhaps for a generation. If yours stands out clear first over the workmanship of your hearing comrades - Good for you, lad, you have made that workshop a "Welcome Home to the Deaf" for many a long year. Now then tighten up your belt and slip in. You will win.

The Deaf as Barbers

That the deaf make fine barbers is a fact long known to those who have to do with their education. There have been successful barbers in almost every country. The wonder is that so suitable a trade has never been adopted by any of the Australian deaf. We knew of several in England. There was in Heywood, Lancashire, some years ago an elderly deaf mute who had plied the razor for quite half a century.

Mr. A. B. Moler, originator & proprietor of the Moler Barber Colleges, thirty two of them throughout the United States & Canada, recently had an article in the Michigan Mirror commending the trade to the deaf. He says that it is specially adapted of them, that they make excellent Students & are very successful in pursuit of the trade & that there is a real demand for deaf barbers. The conditions for teaching the rudiments of the trade at schools for the deaf are good, better indeed than for teaching some other trades that many of the schools have attempted for years. A barber's outfit is inexpensive & that there are many tousled heads & sprouting beards to practise upon. Every large school for the deaf should number among its trades that of barbering.

Forthcoming Events.

Harvest Thanksgiving. Sunday March 5th.
Preacher - Morning & Evening. Mr. Abraham.
Mr. & Mrs. Abraham's Garden Party to the Deaf at Lake Park, Blackburn. Saturday, March 11th.
Deaf Congregational Rally at our Centre, Flinders St. Thursday March 30th.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"**OUR LETTER**" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all Communications should be addressed.

"**OUR LETTER**" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 12. **APRIL 1916** **No 8**

Monthly Letter Copy.

Every month with us seems to be an anniversary of some outstanding event. We can not very well celebrate them all. April brings to a close the financial year of the Society & we have to begin all over again our organising & scheming to provide "the necessary" to continue the work. April also marks the 32nd milestone in the history of our Society. It does not need the talents of the specialist or expert to discern the fact that the past year was a trying one to those who have been entrusted with the responsibility of its management. There is a dear old friend of our Society who is strongly of the opinion that the rapidity of our growth is too mushroomy to be lasting. It may be true that we have sprung up like a mushroom in the night as it were, but the illustration ends there, it is only "like", for the following day the dainty autumn relish may be gobbled up whereas we stand upon two solid foundations one in Flinders St & one at Blackburn. Property that increases in value almost every day is a fine asset. Our income too, has never once gone back, always forward, even the war & the drought have made no difference in the actual income. Our trouble is, almost everything is half as much again in price to that of former years, & we have also added to our responsibilities. All things considered we are really in a prosperous position, for our difficulties are but temporary, & it is said that a certain individual knows where to dig for money should our difficulties ever become really serious.

Our Chief was very much in evidence at the Centre during the early part of the month. It is his own month, just as October is ours. He conducted the Harvest Thanksgiving Services & a bible class, also delivered a lecture. On the 11th he entertained the Congregation to a

garden party at Lake Park, Blackburn. No one has yet found reason to complain of his want of plain speaking. Just recently he has been somewhat more than plain & with beneficial results.

There is already an improvement in the attendances both at services & bible classes. Although there had been a slight increase at evening service, there were fewer attending morning devotions & biblical instruction.

The month of March has given promise of better things. Not that we have ever really had cause to "grumble", but we have set a high standard & we mean to maintain it.

After service, on one occasion when the Superintendent had been relieving himself of what he had on his mind, some of the boys came forward & manly admitted that they had n't been doing what was up to them but they would, & apparently they have.

Few seem to be gifted with the power of observation, hence, most that goes to sweeten life is missed. Progress is seldom realised until it becomes so conspicious that it stuns the intellect. The observant cannot but wonder at the rapid development taking place at the Blackburn Farm. Who would believe that this garden of Eden was just bush a little more than six years ago! Each years progression adds to the beauty & profit of our suburban estate. Our Chief, who was instrumental in bringing this little fairy land into existence is proud of it, and well he should be.

Why is it that when the novelty of a trade has worn off so many of our deaf lads want to change to another? The trade you propose to adopt boys, should have your most serious consideration. Remember that to be a master you must give years of earnest effort to your particular trade. If finally, you decide to give it up, those years have been largely wasted. The more you change about the less chance will you have of success.

Farm Notes.

The Home has been full for months past & there is quite a list of "Waitings". Several have left to take positions on farms, but the vacancies are immediately filled. We hear that Turnley, Chapman & Morgan are doing well. Hull, Nelson & three other boys from the farm with Mr. Ernest are out in the wilds fruit picking. You see we are trying to do our little bit. They wont let us go to the front, we can however, take the places of those who have gone & help get the harvest in.

The sales etc, at the farm amounted to £62. for February. We have had very few official picnics this year, but a good number of individual visitors. The labour for the few is as great as for the many, so we would

naturally rather have the many as the latter means income. For 3 years we have not been able to get our bulbs out because of the prolonged drought & hardness of the social. This year things were desperate, they had to be got out somehow & replanted before the end of March if we were to have any winter bloom. It took three heavy horses & a huge road plough to open the "soil". Some one remarked that it was like ploughing out the ruins of Rome.

We have had plenty of bloom to keep our customers going & could some weeks, have supplied as many again, but no effort is to be made to increase trade, until we are in a position to put down a better watering plant, because we are quite unable to keep up a constant supply all the year round in exciting conditions. The Gladioli, imported from Holland were a glorious sight & have been admired by everyone. The bloom brought great prices, undoubtedly the most profitable flower we have on the farm. The roses rushed into bloom after a slight refreshing rain, only to be immediately scorched up by a hot wind day. We have had dahlias blooming since November & they look like blooming until the end of May.

Government Grant Sought.

Our Superintendent arranged for a deputation to wait upon the Premier, Sir Alex. Peacock on the first of March last with the object of obtaining a grant of £500 toward the maintenance of the Blackburn Home. In normal times this course would not be necessary as the support given by the public & the revenue from the farm just about covers the ordinary expenditure. The demands upon the accommodation of the Home & the increased price of all necessaries are however exceptionally abnormal, making a special appeal for an immediate & substantial sum imperative. The deputation was introduced by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne & after Mr. G. G. Mercy J.P. Acting Chairman of our Society had concisely & convincingly played our position before the Premier vigorous appeals were made by Sir Robert Best & Sir Henry Weedon. Mr. Abraham in the course of his remarks laid strong emphasis upon the fact that the revenue from the farm was more than half the total cost of maintenance. Mr. R. J. Ochr (Hon Sec) Mr. H. L. Walkers (Hon Treas.) & Mr W. A. Dickens (the oldest member of Our Committee) were also present. The Premier said that the demands for special grants were so great that he could make no definite promise just then, but the work had his fullest sympathy & would receive favourable consideration.

Men's Guild.

The Deaf Men's Guild held its 32nd Annual meeting on the 29th Feb.y when Annual Report & Balance Sheet were read & adopted. The report showed marked progress during the year just closed. The election of office-bearers resulted as follows:- Mr. R. H. Luff. President, Mr. G. Newnham. Vice President, Mr. M. G. Mortimer. Hon Treasurer, Mr. N. Amos Hon. Secretary, Messrs M. L. Miller, T. A. Nelson, J. Carriss & J. Leber. Committee. A vote of thanks was passed to the retiring officers, the Chairman, & Auditor after which members were entertained to supper.

On the 14th March the Guild held its first ordinary meeting. There was a good muster of members present to listen to the President's address in which he likened the opening of the session to the launching of a ship & hoped the crew & passengers would work together to make the 12 months voyage a success. He also strongly urged upon the members to take advantage of every opportunity for self improvement. Several members spoke in the same strain. A vote of thanks & the benediction brought a pleasant evening to a close. The new Secretary who is a junior has promised to acquire all the knowledge he can that will make him the more useful to the guild.

Women's Guild.

At the meeting of the Women's Guild held Feb.y 29th Miss Ivy Cole read a scriptural paper on "Ruth" & Mrs Wilson read an article out of a book called the Reprobate Silver. Both papers were very interesting.

On the 21st Ult. Mrs J. E. Muir took charge of the educational class when she spoke on "The Sphinx" & "Bush myths" & taught the members a game called "All about Ma". Then she proceeded with "Observations". All these subjects proved very interesting & instructive. The attendance was 24.

Appreciation.

Mr. T. Marks, Secretary of the Association for the Advancement of the Blind, writes, "On behalf of the Committee of above Home I have to tender you our sincere thanks for your great kindness in allowing our folk at the Home to participate in your treat down the Bay last month. We can assure you they enjoyed themselves very much & it was such a nice change for them. The Committee are very grateful to those who, in such a practical manner as you did, help to brighten the lives of the more afflicted."

Harvest Thanksgiving.

It is generally admitted that our building had never before shown so picturesque an appearance as on the occasion of the Thanksgiving services. The larger part of the decorations came from the farm, still there was a generous response from the Congregation. On this occasion instead of the pulpit & platform alone coming in for notice, the whole church gave practical praise and grateful thanks in nature's dress to the Giver of all Good Gifts.

After kneeling in supplication for guidance of thought & blessing on the service, whilst awaiting the commencement of devotions one could not help but think whence this eternal Goodness; these luxurious gifts to mankind! However mighty the intellect of man is it possible to really appreciate & appropriately extol the glorious loveable kindness of the Giver of all the good things that as one single harvest brings forth for the enjoyment of man? But I must come back from the blue skies of wonder & loving thanksgiving to the Cradle of mankind. Our Chaplain (Mr Abraham) was assisted by many good friends in the decoration of the Church including Mesdrs J.E. Muir, R.L. Miller, F.E. Frewin, M.G. Mortimer, N. Amos, T. Nelson, J. Leber, Misses Hickey, E. Smith, L. Fletcher, D. Davis, J. Wright, & others to whom our best thanks are tendered.

F.J. Rose Pension Fund.

Mr F.E. Frewin (Hon Secretary of Vic Branch of A.D.D.A.) acknowledges the following donations with thanks. Previously acknowledged £7.6.6.

Mr J.D. Brook (Lockley) 2/6, Mrs E.J. Beanland (Wonthaggi) 5/-
Mr & Mrs S. Ferguson (Bowmans Forest) £1.1.0, Miss A. Graham £1.1.0
Mr J.F. Hunt (Ouyen) 3/- Mrs E. Simpson (Euroa) 10/-
Miss E. Hair (Willung) 2/6 Mr & Mrs D. Ashby (Trafalgar) 2/-
Mr J.E. Kenworthy 2/6. Total (received) £10.16.0.
Still needed £4.4.0

Cricket.

The Club wound up the season on the 25th March with a trip to Dandenong. There was a party of 32 including a dozen ladies. The team played a match against the local ramblers & made a draw scoring 113 runs for 6 wickets while the opponents made 138. Quantock made 29, Downes 22, V. Tyzzer 16 n/o Beattie 10 Harding 10 Anderson 9 n/o. Beattie bowled well taking 7 wkts for 49 Downes 2 for 32. & Harding 1 for 10. During the afternoon some of the party were busy with their pocket cameras taking numberless photo groups &c

After the match the party partook of an excellent tea at the Coffee Palace & had a most pleasant time.

Cause & Effect.

As you sow so you reap is the sum total of our Mr. Abrahams sermon at the evening service of the Harvest Thanksgiving Festival. He said that the Kingdom of Heaven might be likened to the various processes of harvest. There was the grubbing & the clearing, the ploughing, harrowing, sowing, reaping & gleaning in all that pertained to life.

The successful man in the worldly sense was he who in his youth faced the hard rough way with a joyous, earnest & determined heart & in the spiritual sense he who was willing not only gladly to shoulder his own burdens but the burdens & sorrows of others. This was the sowing time.

When he returned to conduct his old bible class he felt something was missing. It seemed to him as if the class had lost its soul. There was an indifference, a shiftiness, a want of interest & what hurt him most of all was the appearance in the building after the close of the class of so many young men who used to be regular & interested members of the Class.

"Some of the boys will have a bad harvest" he continued "they are sowing for destruction". Let us like sensible men sit down & consider where we are & where our destination is likely to be". There is going to be a Harvest every time, whether beneficial or detrimental depends upon ourselves. A great deal of sowing has been done on your behalf, but if you come in & throw out tares amongst the wheat you will spoil the harvest.

You have entrusted me with the sowing & I've scattered the best of seed that the Giver of all good has entrusted me with for a good harvest but just for a few of our own people who for the time being are the "enemy" have come along & sown tares. I remember when the Public Mind connected "Deaf Mutes" with idiots, asylums, begging, rogues, ignorance, nuisances, - in fact a class to be avoided. And all because they judged us by the very few rogues & impostors with whom they came in contact. I could count the whole of our 'bad eggs' on one hand with one or two fingers missing & yet the public is inclined to judge the whole deaf community by them, rather than the great majority who in spite of their handicap shoulder their share of responsibility, & chiefly because they know more about the few door to door canvassing rogues than they do of the deaf who strive to be independent of help outside their own efforts.

It has been my ambition & I have concentrated my life to the making of provision for a great & beautifying harvest for the deaf. It is therefore painful for me to learn, after all these years of earnest striving after all that tends to the enrichment of the soul to find that in my brief absence many of my dear boys have returned to "lamp post" meetings at all hours of the evening, & coming in to the building in clusters when services & classes are over. This kind of thing has got to stop & right now.

Are you boys cognisant, if so, have you forgotten the uphill work we experienced in educating the public mind as to the condition & capabilities of the deaf? Those great public meetings where, night after night we had our sweetest sisters arranged in the loveliest of robes posing & reciting gracefully & the best of our men devoting the best of their talents to influence the public mind in our favour? How we started a paper called the "Gesture" as the organ of the Deaf & Dumb & filled it with illuminating thoughts & noble teaching with the aim of connecting all that inspires & uplifts with the deaf, so do impress the reader with not only the normal condition of the deaf mind, but also our higher aspirations? Do you remember too, how we strove to change the name of our Organisation from "Mission" to "Society," because the former name made the average man in the street think of savages, ragged youngsters & ignorance? The exhibition of work by the deaf by which we hoped to show our normal fellow citizens what we can do? Have you ever realised that everything connected with our society tends to the beautiful? The architecture of the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, our beautiful park at Blackburn, the artistic Home created thereon, the choice of the occupation of the inmates - the cultivation of flowers? We have in every possible way striven to convince our fellow citizens that the deaf are a cultured, refined & loyal section of the community willing to share & share alike with their fellows the duties of citizenship & if necessary to carry a portion of the load of those less favoured than ourselves. Do you know that we have gained the esteem, the confidence & faith of the "Public Mind" & that today instead of being 'pitied' & looked upon as "burdens" we are at least treated as equals? Is all this noble effort to be made of no effect because of want of thought & appreciation on the part of a few? I hope & I believe not. I have never yet appealed to you in vain, & I am convinced that this little straight talk will bring to fruition all the ambitions that inspire me to talk to you thus. Let us raise the name of the deaf beyond reproach. Let us work for a Harvest that will make the coming generation of the deaf esteem & love us for the good name we have given them. Not only must we reap what we sow but our class also will suffer or benefit thereby. Then let us sow such good seed that in the natural course of events must bring forth an hundred fold.

Congregational Annual Meeting April 13th

You will be there. At least, we hope so. The Annual Meeting of the members of the Congregation of the Church for the Deaf will be held in the Upper Hall of the Adult Deaf Centre on date mentioned above at 8 p.m. sharp. Help to make this a record gathering. It is'nt necessary to urge you to attend the rallies, you come anyway and in crowds. You fill the hall. Our annual business meeting ought to be pre-eminently the event of the year. Make it so. And although it is "only" business and not pleasure, help to make the attendance a record gathering

Mr. Geo. Burbury.

It is with deep regret we record the death of George Burbury who was found shockingly mutilated on the railway line near Oakleigh early in March. All the boys, especially the blind-deaf at the farm were very fond of him. He was a man of imperfect intellect but of a most loveable nature. And in the experimental stages of our Home Mr. Abraham took him as a private guest for he is ever anxious to study the mental condition of the "normal" as well as the deaf. He came to us in a most melancholy & despondent condition but soon brightened up & was helpful & obliging to all. In fact within a couple of months was as happy as the day is long. Then the demands of the deaf upon the accommodation of the Home made it imperative for him to leave. For our own people come first & our Superintendent had to part with his experimental 'normal' case. He was loth to leave & bid us good bye with tears in his eyes. This was 3 years ago. Had he never left us we are sure there would have been no need to record his sad death.

Garden Party.

There exists between our Chief & ourselves a mutual understanding that we annually show our mutual appreciation in some practical form. We have therefore mutually agreed to mutually celebrate our mutual affection by mutually entertaining each other. Our Chief entertains us on his birthday or the nearest convenient date thereto & we on our part entertain him on the anniversary of his arrival in Victoria. This year Mr & Mrs Abrahams garden party took place on the 11th of March & was as usual held at Lake Park, Blackburn. 110 members of the Congregation were able to accept the invitation & we spent one of the most enjoyable days in recollection. The weather was ideal and the gardens & Home looked so spick & span that you could almost imagine that even nature had been renovated specially for the occasion. The occasional visitor to the Park cannot but notice the strides that are being made in the way of improvements. Our host divided himself up amongst his guests & our hostess made ready to entertain us in that way that all mankind like 'o be entertained. The repast she set before us reminded us of the henchmans description of his friends lady friend. She was "Pretty & Plenty" We can add & good for the eyes & the palate. We enjoyed it & are sorry that it is an annual & not a weekly function. At the close Mr. J. L. Muir thanked the host & hostess on behalf of the deaf & Mr Abraham in responding amidst prolonged clapping of hands said he was only really happy when he was engaged in making them happy or doing things that would bring better times for the deaf. He had devoted the best of his energies to their welfare from his boyhood & nothing now pleased him more than to have them about him & to see their happy laughing faces.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. D. Abraham

Request the pleasure of

YOUR COMPANY

at a

GARDEN PARTY

To be held at

LAKE PARK - BLACKBURN

Saturday March 11th. 1916.

Mr. ABRAHAM.

Will officiate at the

following Meetings:-

Bible Class

Thursday March 2nd.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

Sunday March 5th.

(Morning & Evening)

Lecture. "The End of the War"

Tuesday March 7th.

Holy Communion.

Sunday April 2nd. 11.a.m.

Table Talk 16/3/16

The garden party held at the Deaf Mutes' Home and Farm, "Lake Park," Blackburn, last Saturday, was a really delightful affair. It was the annual garden party given by the Principal of the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders-street. Everyone seemed very much at home; there was a total absence of ceremony and stiffness which often mars such gatherings. "Lake Park" is a beauty spot and a charming setting for such a function. There was nothing to distinguish the guests from normal people, indeed, one explained, "We are just ordinary normal citizens who cannot hear." They were a cheery, well-dressed, independent gathering, bent upon amusement, and self respecting because they are self-supporting. The history of the training and provision for our deaf mutes in this State is something to be proud of, for it seems it has reached the world's high-water mark, mainly through the persistent efforts of the principal.

Argus 2/3/16

Money for Charities.

Replying yesterday to a deputation from the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, which asked for a grant of £500, the Premier (Sir Alexander Peacock) stated that, as a result of the war, charitable institutions generally were showing a serious loss of revenue. It might be necessary, if this year's vote was insufficient for real requirements, to ask the Cabinet to consider the question of raising additional revenue. The request of the deputation would receive consideration.

Age 2/3/16.

CHARITIES AND THE WAR.

COMMENTS BY THE PREMIER.

The Premier, in replying yesterday to a deputation which waited upon him with a request for financial assistance for a charitable institution, expressed grave doubts as to what was to be done with these charitable institutions generally in consequence of their financial deficits during the present state of affairs.

The deputation, which consisted of the Lord Mayor, Sir Robert Best, Sir Henry Weedon, and Messrs. J. J. Mercy, H. L. Walters, W. A. Dickins, E. J. D. Abraham and R. J. Oehr, requested that a vote of £500 should be granted to the farm and home for aged, infirm and feeble-minded deaf mutes at Blackburn, to relieve it of its financial difficulties.

The Lord Mayor, in introducing the deputation, said the request was a very moderate one, considering that the institution was doing wonderful work for the unfortunate men and women who were its inmates. The sum of £500 was required to wipe off the deficit in the maintenance account.

Mr. J. J. Mercy, acting chairman of the institution, said the home existed for the aged, infirm, feeble-minded and blind deaf mutes, who, under the conditions of life obtaining at the farm, had been able materially to improve themselves. The income from the work of the men on the farm during the past year alone had been £300, which was a little more than half the upkeep. At present there were 28 inmates of the home, and if such an institution as this were allowed to languish through lack of funds the inmates, especially the men, would prove a serious charge on the State.

Sir Robert Best, Sir Henry Weedon and Mr. E. J. D. Abraham (superintendent) supported the request, and spoke in high terms of the work of the institution.

The Premier, in reply, said there was not much in the charity vote, and to cut down the vote of those long-established charitable institutions which were receiving assistance would be very hard. Several large public institutions were seriously behind in their financial position, and it was becoming a grave problem what to do with them. He would not make any definite promise of a subsidy then, but would have to get the Inspector of Charities to go down and make a report on the institution. He did not know what they were going to do with the charities generally on account of the evil effects of the war and the drought. Parliament would have to discuss seriously this big problem, and consider means to preserve the charities in a financially stable position. The charity vote at present was not sufficient to meet all the demands on it.

Adult Deaf Mute Centre

32. 34. Flinders Street, E. Melbourne

DUTIES of CARETAKER.

The Caretaker will receive 40/. per week with fuel and lighting.

There will be no gratuities.

The agreement will be with the husband.

He will have two living rooms with the use of the kitchen and will provide his own furniture

The Society will have the exclusive use of the kitchen when required.

The Caretaker or his wife will have to be in attendance from 8 am to 10.30 pm daily except Fridays when the hours will be from 8 am to 6 pm and Sundays 10 am to 1 pm and 6 pm to 9.30 pm.

He and his wife will at all times carry out the requests of the Superintendent.

In addition to cleaning and arranging the premises according to instructions of the Superintendent the Caretaker will be expected to deliver to customers such boxes of flowers as arrive at the Central Railway Stations from the Blackburn Farm during each day.

The Caretaker and his wife will be allowed fourteen days holiday annually, with pay. Other holidays by arrangement with the Superintendent.

The Caretaker and his wife will be expected to take on extraordinary duties in cases of emergency at the request of the Superintendent. Such duties to be recompensed by mutual understanding between the Superintendent and Caretaker.

One month's notice on either side, which may be given at any time, will be required to terminate the agreement.

Intending applicants should send copies of testimonials with particulars of ages and occupations with their application.

R. J. OEHR

HON. SEC.

Annual Garden Party given by Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Abraham at Lake Park, Blackburn, TO INMATES OF HOME AND FARM FOR DEAF MUTES





Table Talk 16/3/16

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 12. MAY 1916. No. 9.

Special Notice.

For the duration of the war "Our Monthly Letter" will consist of four pages only instead of eight. Strict economy in everything has become a necessity. Paper is so scarce and consequently dear and the rates of printing so high that it now costs more to print four pages than we used to pay for eight. When times are once more normal we hope to revert to the old order of things with, perhaps, certain improvements. Meanwhile we are asking for special donations to help keep "Our Monthly" alive during the war.

Forthcoming Events.

Sunday - May 7th Service - Morning and Evening - Mr. Abraham.
May 14th, 21st, 28th, Morning and Evening - The Missioner.

Bible Class - Thursday, May 11th Mr. Abraham.
Thursdays, May 4th, 18th, 25th, The Missioner.

Lectures - Tuesday, May 2nd "Wonders of Insect life" (men only) Mr. Paul.
Tuesday, May 9th "Man in the making" (both sexes) Mr. Abraham.

Deaf Ladies Entertainment Club Class - May 3rd, 13th, 17th, Mr. Abraham & Mrs. Muir.

Deaf Mens Entertainment Club Class - May 6th, 13th, 20th, Messrs. Abraham & J. Muir.

Women's Guild - May 2nd & May 23rd
Deaf Committee Meeting - May 23rd
La-Crosse - Every Saturday Afternoon.
Men's Guild - May 16th & May 30th
Next Rally - Monday June 5th
Bank - Every Saturday Evening.

Annual Meeting of Society - End of May, Date to be announced.

Our Church.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held at the Deaf Centre on the 13th of April. Our Chaplain (Mr. Abraham) presided and the Missioner (Mr. Paul) opened the meeting with prayer. There was a large attendance. The Hon. Sec (Mr. J. Muir) read the report and the Hon. Treas: (Mr. F. Fresin) the balance sheet both of which

were considered satisfactory. We have only room for brief extracts this month we give the Committees' report on the work of the church." Divine Services have been administered every Sunday morning and evening, on the first Sunday of the month by the Superintendent (Mr Abraham) and on the other Sundays by the Missioner (Mr Paul). Mr H.L. Walters, Hon Treas: to the Society conducted the evening service on the 9th Jan. and the Superintendent the Harvest Thanksgiving Services on the 5th of March. With the advent of an assistant-Missioner devoting practically the whole of his time to religious ministrations and visitation, the Committee reasonably hoped for a large increase in the attendance at the religious meetings, it is therefore with feelings of disappointment that they report a slight falling off. The total average is just below that of the previous six years. The evening Service has attracted an attendance of four over last year and one over the previous five years but there has been a decrease of three at morning Worship and three at Bible Class. There is still quite a number of members who by irregular attendance show that they are lacking in earnestness and zeal and that they have not yet fully realised their duty to God. Once again we appeal to those of our members who place their religious obligations above all others to sanctify some of their time to missionary work amongst their fellow members".

Presentation.

A break was made in the proceedings of the Annual Congregational Meeting to allow of a presentation being made to the Ex-Hallkeeper and his wife - Mr & Mrs Gretton. Mr Abraham in the name of the General Board presented them with a handsome marble clock which bore the following inscription. "Presented to Mr & Mrs H.H. Gretton by the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria in recognition of 12 years faithful service as Caretakers of the Adult Deaf Centre 32 Flinders Street, Melbourne, 13.4.1916."
On behalf of the Congregation Mr M. Miller handed Mr Gretton a wristlet-watch, a Safety Razor and nickel mirror. Messrs Abraham and Miller both spoke in terms of appreciation of the faithful service of Mr & Mrs Gretton, Mr Gretton in acknowledging the gifts suitably responded.

Officers for 1916-17.

Owing to the withdrawal of Mr G. Newnham who is leaving Melbourne for a time, there was no election for Deaf Committee. The following gentlemen being returned unopposed. Messrs F.E. Spevin, R.H. Luff, W.A. Miller, G. Mortimer, J.E. Muir, W.P. Muir, J. Nelson, A. Hall & W.A. Paterson, the two latter are new members. At a meeting of the Deaf Committee held on the 18th April the whole of the Officers were re-appointed. viz:- Hon. Sec. Mr J.E. Muir, Hon. Treas. Mr F.E. Spevin, Hon Librarian, Mr G. Mortimer, Assistants, Messrs C. Robertson, J. Marks and J. Carriss. The following

gentlemen were appointed Amusement Committee, Messrs. J. E. Muir, F. Frewin, R. H. Luff and W. A. Paterson with Mr. Abraham as Chairman and Mr. Paul as Vice-Chairman.

Rally.

The 43rd Quarterly Congregational Rally held at our Centre on the 30th of March was a very quiet function. Nevertheless there was a large attendance, 130 being present. Most of the time was given up to conversation and games and of course the inevitable supper. Our Chaplain presided and in the course of his address drew attention to the large numbers of deaf that found time to attend pic-nics and rallies but were absentees at the more serious and helpful gatherings of the Society. He had however, to acknowledge that the attendance and the tone of the deaf was superior to that of many great cities, but whilst there was room for improvement he would continue to encourage them to strive toward perfection. He himself intended to work for a forward movement for 1916-17. The Hon. Sec. in the course of the reading of the roll call said that Miss M. O'Brien and Messrs. J. Mitchell, R. H. Luff, J. E. Muir and W. P. Muir had been present at every rally. Through unavoidable circumstances Mr. J. A. Nelson had missed one. The average attendance for the year was 116.

Rose Pension Fund.

Mr. F. E. Frewin (Hon. Sec. of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A.) acknowledges the following donations with thanks. Previously acknowledged £10-16-0. Mrs. A. Stokes (Trafalgar) 1/- "Victorian Mute" 5/- Miss M. G. Mortimer (Yoora) 2/6, Mr. H. H. Allinson (Cowrarr) 2/-, Mr. R. H. Luff 4/-, Mrs. G. Newnham 2/6, Mr. G. Mortimer 10/-, E. J. D. A. 10/-, A. and M. Williamson £1, Mr. W. O'Keefe (Wbool) 2/6, Mr. Geo. Batterbee (St. Arnaud) 2/-, J. & A. Collins (Neerim South) £1-1-0, Mr. R. Stewart (Bolinda) 10/-, Per Mr. W. A. Paterson (Hon. Treas.) A Friend 5/- P.U.N. 5/-, Mr. & Mrs. W. B. 5/- "all I can" 10/-, Total £16-13-6. The sum of £15-0-0 has been handed over to the Treasurer of the Adult Deaf Society leaving a balance of £1-13-6 for the third year.

Meetings, &c.

Owing to the Eight-Hours Day and Easter holidays the Mens' Guild had no meetings during April.

The Womens' Guild held a meeting on the 4th April when papers were read by Misses Connell, Davis and Wright.

This year the Church Receipts from the deaf amounted to £60-10-8 an increase of £4-9-9 over last years' receipts.

Personal Pars.

The following members spent Easter out of Melbourne Mr. J. E. Muir at Warburton, Messrs. W. A. Paterson & C. Robertson, Rutherglen & District. Messrs. J. Marks, E. Martin

and G. Cruickshank, Daylesford, Mr. W. Crush, Adelaide, Mr. V. Harding, Wagga & Sydney. Mr. G. Mortimer, Traralgon, Mr. O. Dyzer, Creswick.
Visitors from the country are as follows:- Mr. & Mrs. L. Ferguson (Bowman's Forest). Miss P. Elliott (Mildura). Miss E. Mitchell (Benalla). Miss G. Robin (Adelaide). Mr. D. Ashby (Trafalgar).
Mr. O. Dyzer was at the Melb. Hospital for some time lately, he met with a nasty accident through a collision with a jinker whilst cycling. We are happy to state that he is now out of the hospital.- Mrs. Goddard lost her father on the 21st April. She has our sympathy. - Mr. B. B. Phillips is now working on an orchard at Launching Place some miles from Lilydale. - Miss M. Williamson, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A. Williamson was married to Mr. F. Walters on the 15th April. They have our best wishes.

"Monthly Letter" Fund.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/6 from Mrs. Luke, 2/- from Mr. N. Hughes, 2/- from a "well-wisher" and 1/6 from Mr. G. Oakley towards above fund.

La-crosse.

On the 15th April, the 5th annual Meeting of the Lacrosse Club was held in the Lower hall at the Deaf Centre. Mr. J. E. Muir presiding, there being a large attendance of members and friends. The report, which was adopted, stated that the club had a successful season and deserved the warmest congratulations upon its splendid achievement in securing the position of runners-up in the Junior "A" Section of the Victorian Lacrosse Association. The Chairman announced that 50 per cent of the players of the Association, a total of about 300 members had enlisted and although our Club did not send players to the front as they were debarred on account of deafness they offered their best wishes to those who had volunteered and wished them good luck and a safe return. The Club is greatly indebted to Messrs. G. Brabin and A. Drummond for devoting a large amount of time and energy in the interests of the game and the Club. Mr. Brabin represented the Club on the V.L.A. and gave every satisfaction. This gentleman is worthy of the best thanks of the Club for his work. - It is mentioned that there will be club or friendly matches this year. - Mr. C. Robertson was elected Captain and Mr. J. Peters Vice-Captain of the Deaf Team for the coming season. - It was unanimously agreed that the colours of the Club should be all white instead of red and black.

Letter From Mr. G. Baldry.

A very newsy letter has been received from Mr. G. Baldry of Lincoln, England. We are sure the deaf of Melbourne would read some extracts from it with interest but we regret we are unable to find space for them in this issue. We shall try and find space for them in next month's Letter.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d.** per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 12. JUNE 1916 No. 10

The Women's Guild Annual Meeting.

It is with pleasure we record the fifteenth annual meeting of the Women's Guild. Tuesday, May 23rd was the date. In spite of a very cold night, a large number of members & 3 visitors were present to hear the result of the year's work. Our popular Hon. Sec. (Miss Daw) gave a glowing account of the progress of the Guild, and Mrs Boorty, (Hon. Treas.) in reading the balance sheet, showed the financial position was very sound. There were 37 members on the roll. The members are more than fortunate in having such an ambitious president in Mrs J. E. Muir, whose address, not only congratulated the members on the success of their efforts, but contained much interesting advice. A little feeling of uneasiness had prevailed during the first part of the evening - due to the fact that the President had announced her intention of resigning for a year, & naturally one and all wondered what would become of them individually & the Guild as a whole, if that occurred. When the election began, the intention became a fact & Mrs Wilson was asked by the President to take a turn at the helm. She, however, did not feel prepared to devote the time to the work that would be necessary in the position, therefore declined, & after much persuasion, Mrs Muir agreed to take charge for another year, amidst great applause & much satisfaction. for whatever would we have done without her.

Mrs Abrahams resignation from the Committee was accepted with much regret. Altho' we fully realise how difficult it is for her to attend the meetings, we have not parted with her yet. We hope she will accept the position of Patron of the Guild & still take an interest in us. The rest of the election resulted in the following:- Vice Pres, Miss Empson; Hon. Sec. Miss D. Davis; Hon. Treas. Miss Fletcher; Committee, Mesdames Wilson & Williamson Misses Dow Hickey & Collins. Mrs Luke, who took a prominent part in the founding of the Guild, of which she was President for the first few years, has also been asked to be one of our Patronesses.

We want to thank the retiring Hon. Sec. (Miss Dow) and Hon. Treas. (Mrs Boorty) for their untiring efforts on our behalf. The latter is, we are sorry to say, retiring on account of ill health, we sincerely hope she will soon be quite well again. She was very warmly thanked for her splendid & faithful services both at the committee & general meetings. We are glad to know she will continue to attend meetings as often as she can. As for Miss Dow, she deserves the very best we can wish her & she gets it from the bottom of our hearts. All good luck for the new Hon. Sec. & Hon. Treas. We cannot close without congratulating Miss Ruby Peters on the most capable way she moved the vote of thanks, it was a treat to watch her, no wonder the President looked proud of her. Afterwards, of course, there was supper. The Guild will close during the months of June & July on account of damp weather.

The Ramblers.

On the 13th, 14 ramblers, including 3 young men, assembled at the gates of the Deaf School, St. Kilda Road. The weather was so unfavourable & unsettled that their intended ramble to the new Port Melbourne pier was dropped. Instead the members enjoyed viewing the improvements of the Deaf School & afterwards the idea of travelling the circular tram trip was favoured in spite of the wet, windy weather. The trip from St. Kilda to Spring St, Melbourne, via Malvern, Kew & Richmond was thoroughly enjoyed by the party. Tea at the Centre came at the end of their happy afternoons ramble.

The Deaf Workers' Club.

The following contributions are acknowledged with thanks:- for Belgian Deaf Refugees' Fund, "Za" 15/- (3 months' contributions) & Mrs J. C. Muir, 5/-; for soldiers, Mr W. L. Miller 10/- (4 months' contributions), Mrs Williamson & Mr & Mrs J. C. Muir, 5 months' contributions of groceries, & Mr Grass, 3 walking sticks made from branches of trees & polished. Ten walking sticks were sent to the Base Hospital, & 3 large parcels containing groceries & 13 prs socks, 4 jug covers, 2 helmets & 1 muffler, to the Lady Mayoress' League. A large quantity of wool has been bought & many members are still knitting socks etc. Two or three more letters have been received from the soldiers in Egypt, expressing thanks for Xmas billies. Mdlle. Y. Pitrais has acknowledged the receipt of £3.5.0 which the club forwarded for the Belgian Fund. She appreciated the gift greatly & desires to thank the donors very much. She asks them to realise that they have brought little sunshine & happiness to the sad hearts of many deaf men & women on the other side of the world. She hopes they will try to add a little more money later on, for the needs for the refugees are so great. She thanks Mr "Za" specially for his devotion. We have received booklets entitled "Miss Edith Cavell" written by this gifted authoress.

The Farm

Hundreds of motor cars crowded with cheering returned soldiers have visited our farm during the past few months, the guests of Mr Abraham, & were entertained to sumptuous repasts by various eastern suburbs branches of the Red Cross Society. Most of the soldiers were natives of Q'land & N.S.W. Almost all of them bugged huge bunches of flowers when they left. Miss Elsie Abraham is taking a keen interest in this particular work & is often to be seen with them on their motor trips. She is at present working hard getting votes for Miss Madden in connection with the Queen of St Vincents' Carnival.

Mr W. McLellan is rendering yeaman service to our Manager just now. Misses Hull, Nelson, Turnley, Chapman & Morgan who shared the skilled part of the work are

now in comfortable positions & giving entire satisfaction their new employers. This means that Master Ernest & Mr Dellar have complete control of the farm when the Manager is away. Not-withstanding the absence of rain the prevailing war conditions we did uncommonly well last year. The total receipts being £9 34. We have had two days of severe frost which has killed off about half an acre of chrysanthemums.

Lacrasse.

The Lacrasse Club had a weak team when they played a practice match against Malvern (Senior A.) on their ground May 20th & got beaten by 16 goals to 3. Lacrasse matches will start on June 3rd. Mr C. Roberston is the hon. sec. in place of Mr W. Anderson who resigned.

Meetings.

Mr Abraham lectured on "Man in the Making" to a good audience on the 9th ult, & Mr Paul on "Wonders of Insect life" on the 2nd. Mr Walters, an Evangelist, preached at our Church on the 21st May, Mr Paul interpreted. Next Rally June 5th. Unique programme. Something new. Roll up.

Extracts from Mr Baldry's letter.

"I had to leave you & all the good times I had among the boys. At times it almost brings tears to my eyes when I set my thoughts about the happy times we had together on those delightful rambles, also at the rallies etc I am pleased to say my work is still going strong, but we don't get any pleasant things like you are still having. I have not had any holiday since landing (in England), it would be a shocking waste of time. All engineering workshops are under the control of the Government, you can guess what England is like now, just one vast arsenal turning out munitions of war, working day & night, & new shops springing up everywhere like mushrooms. The women of England are splendid they are taking the places of men called to the colours, on the farms in the foundries & workshops doing the same work as myself. It is a common sight to see women going to work each morning at 5.30. We have had a few Zepp. raids since we came home. One passed over Lincolnshire, but did no damage. We always get the alarm when they come then all lights are extinguished & the towns in complete darkness."

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 12 JULY 1916, No 11

The Chief Justice & the Deaf

Speaking at our Annual Meeting on the 30th ult. May last, Sir John Madden (the Chief Justice) said that "In the course of 51 years that I have been practising as a barrister in the law courts & as a judge upon the bench, I have never seen a deaf mute presented in the Criminal Court for any offence whatever. I would congratulate everyone associated with the Society on having brought about the result." He further said that the method adopted throughout was one that relieved the deaf mute from the feeling that he was dependent upon charity. The work at the Centre was protective & educational & that at Blackburn provided home comforts for the aged & training for many that would otherwise be dependent upon charity. Sir John expressed himself as especially pleased with the graceful, intellectual & beautiful performances of our deaf young ladies & also thought the deaf youths showed in a marked degree refinement & skill in the pieces rendered by them.

Our Annual Meeting.

There was a crowded attendance at our Annual Meeting overflowing from the hall to the landing. His Excellency, the Lieut. Governor presided & delivered a rousing address. Sir Robert Best also spoke & it was very easy to see that he is well acquainted with the deaf & their capabilities, also with the work of our society. Mr R. J. Oehr (Hon. Sec) read the report which is a record of much useful work. Mr H. L. Walters (Hon. Treas) submitted the balance sheet & although there is no falling off in the support given to our Society, the extraordinary conditions caused a deficit of £660.

The entertainment by the deaf consisted of dialogues in verse written & arranged by our Principal. "A graceful charm of sweetness & innocence" was the description given by a hearing friend to the deaf maidens, who robed in the costume of Ancient Greece, rendered a piece in statuary & gesture entitled "We Cannot Hear".

It consisted of 5 parts- birds, books, fruit, flowers & the flags of the Empire, each part was 'Signed' by one of the maidens & illustrated in statuary by the rest of the company. The performance was very beautiful & pleasing & the performers very winsome. A number of deaf young men also gave a dialogue dealing with deafness & also one entitled "A Farmer I will be".

Mr. A. Hull gave "The Sheeny Man" & the Deaf Maidens a second series of living statuary. The following deaf ladies & deaf young men took part. Misses Hickey, R. Dow, M. Dow, J. Muir, V. Crawford, M Gibson, E. Fletcher B. Vail, I. Boortz, Messrs A Hull, N. Amos, A. Sutherland, J. Leber, H. Bladier, J Dickenson. The Principal & the Missioner shared the interpreting between them.

Rally.

The Rally held on the 5th. of June was quite a new departure. Our hall represented a miniature theatre or concert hall & each "turn" was announced by the Stage manager. The performance was full of surprises & altogether the entertainment was one of the best we have had for many a year. The whole-songs, dialogues & sketches were written & arranged by our Superintendent. The first item "Sheeny Man" was well rendered by Mr. A. Hull, the second "We are going to be Farmers" by Messrs Leber, Bladier & Amos caused much merriment, especially when they disputed over the attractions of the women of their fancy. "The Village Burglar" (Messrs J. E. Muir & M. L. Miller) was good. "The Talkative Husband" (Mrs J. E. Muir & Mr. Abraham) was a piece where the poor hubby could'nt get in a word, no, not even edgeways. Mr. W. A. Paterson told the story of clever "Silly Billy" in his well known humorous way. "10.000" a year" Messrs Abraham & Paul) a costume dialogue, in two parts was highly appreciated by the sentimental portion of the audience, it being a story of ups & downs of life. "The Deaf Tramp" (Mr. N. Amos) was a skit on the deaf mute who prefers "charity" to honest work. "Alfonso Spagoni" (Mr Paul) the story of a toreador, whose lady love had been stolen by a bold bad man Mr Paul dressed & acted the part to perfection. "Betsey & I" (Mrs J. E. Muir, Messrs Abraham & Frewin) an adoption of a well known recitation written up in sketch form. Mr. Frewin makes an ideal lawyer & Mr. Abraham & Mrs Muir have taught so much together that it is not surprising their parts harmonised. The great surprise of the evening was the rendering of "The Washerlady" by Mr. J. Leber. He certainly more than held his own as a humorist, & although he is but a boy, there was absolutely nothing wanting in his performance. He kept the whole audience in a continuous roar of laughter from beginning to end.

"Going to the Cup" (Messrs. W. A. Paterson & F. E. Frewin, Misses Collins & Hickey) was however the star piece. It must be seen to be enjoyed, words fail to describe the comicalities of Mr. W. Paterson, he was just bubbling over with fun; all his movements were quaint & original. The audience laughed until it could laugh no longer. Miss Collins too, threw herself into the part & did much toward the success of her partner. Mr Frewin & Miss Hickey had parts where boisterous frivolity was not permissable, their duty was to render amusement as one would expect from the occupants of a motor car, as compared with a couple driving in a donkey cart & they sustained their parts well.

There was an interval for refreshments. Mr. R. Luff acted as Stage Manager and Mr Paul as property man who showed originality in a marked degree in the manufacture of the "props" which always contribute in a large measure to the success of any performance. The erection of the Stage etc. was undertaken by Messrs Frewin, Luff, Paterson & Amos.

Mr. Peacock.

Our Chief has received a post card from Mr. E. R. Peacock, our chairman sending greetings to all the Deaf from Egypt. Mr Peacock is now in London.

Welcome Help

Since the beginning of the present financial year the following grants & special donations have been received by our Society. David Syme Charitable Trust £50, J. J. Sumner Trust £25, Mrs Mary St Clair £25 (for Farm & Home) Directors of Howard Smith Ltd. £3. A few more such grants and we shall be relieved of much worry for we should then be assured of being able to meet all liabilities for the year.

Acknowledgements.

Mr. F. E. Frewin (Hon Sec'y of Vic Branch A.D.D.A) begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations for F. J. Rose Pension Fund. Mrs J. J. Halley of Adelaide 5/- & Mr. S. Turnley of Werribee 2/6 & the following subscriptions for A.D.D.A. 1/- each from Misses E. Connell, L. Kenworthy, G. Mortimer, J. Muir, & M. Muir, & Messrs O. Tyzzer, G. Newnham, W. P. Muir & M. F. Mortimer, Mr & Mrs J. E. Muir 2/- & Mr & Mrs A. Collins of Nerim South 2/-

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 5/- each from Mrs J. J. Halley & Mr. G. J. Hiscock who speak very well of our Letter, 2/6 from Mr. B. B. Phillips, 2/- from Mr. S. Turnley, 1/6 from Mr. E. Oakley & 1/- each from Misses Marshall & D. Davies & Messrs M. L. Miller & A. Wilson, also 18/6 from the Adelaide Deaf towards our Monthly Letter Fund. Will others help to subscribe towards this fund?

Stray Notes.

Mr. Abraham performed the opening ceremony at a Children's Bazaar in aid of Wounded Soldiers, at Blackburn on the 14th June. There was a crowded attendance of both young & old although the weather was anything but favourable.

Mr. & Mrs Abraham again had the pleasure of entertaining about 100 returned wounded soldiers at Lake Park on the 20th Ult. They arrived in motor cars & the ladies of Tunstall & Mitcham provided refreshments & Mrs. Abraham, Miss Elsie & Miss Empson were to the front as helpers.

Mr. G. G. Mercy & Mr. G. Brown have both been down with influenza. We are glad to learn that they are out & about again. Mr & Mrs Mercy are at present in Sydney where we hope Mr. Mercy will get the rest his strenuous work has made so necessary.

Two friends have presented 3 new books for our Library & they make a welcome addition to our collection. We tender our grateful thanks to the donors.

We are pleased to exchange with the Victorian Deaf School paper, a most interesting type written publication.

Mr. L. J. Rose has resigned his seat on our board through failing health. We shall miss his cheery face. We hope however to have the pleasure of his company at all "specials"

Mrs A. Williamson returned to Melbourne after a long pleasant holiday in Camperdown & Mortlake

Mr. A. Stokes of Trafalgar won 1st prize (Gold Medal) in the local patriotic procession. He was dressed as a Maori.

Lacrosse.

There are only 14 teams playing in the Lacrosse Association this season, the Adult Deaf Club is therefore now in the first section. The Club opened the season on the 3rd June by playing against Malvern who has more experienced players than most other clubs. After a very good game the Malvernites were the victors by 12 goals to 7. Goal throwers V. Iggo 4, Smith 1, Hughes 1, Elvin 1,

On the 10th June. The Deaf team won a victory over Kew by 8 goals to 7 after a most strenuous game. Goal throwers Smith 5, V. Iggo 2. Hughes 1

On the 24th June. The Deaf team proved themselves too strong for the Brighton Presbyterians. The Seasiders were unable to keep pace with the home side except in the first & final terms. the final scores being 15 goals to 2. Nearly every player on the home side was in good form. Goal throwers. V. Iggo 5, C. Robertson 5. Smith 2 Hughes 2, & Sutherland 1. Smith received a very nasty wound on his forehead which required a few stitches.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 12. AUGUST 1916. No. 12.

Our "Monthly Letter."

This issue of Our "Monthly Letter" marks the close of its twelfth year. Our little paper has lost none of its popularity. Letters still continue to reach us from all parts of the world speaking in the kindest terms of the "spirit" of the "Monthly." Sincere thanks are tendered to all who have helped in its success.

Voluntary Work.

The spirit that led Messrs. R. H. Luff, Elvin and Bladier to spend the whole of a public holiday in cleaning the church roof and windows is a spirit to be encouraged and appreciated. In the name of the members of the centre we thank these gentlemen not only for the sacrifice of their holiday, but for the fine example shown. One volunteer is worth more than the whole of a press gang crew.

Omission in Report.

Our attention has been drawn to the omission of Mr. W. A. Paterson's name from the Deaf Committee in the recent annual report. We regret this oversight very much for Mr. Paterson has taken up his duties with interest and enthusiasm.

Deaf Mens' Guild.

On the 24th June the members of the Deaf Mens' Guild were entertained with a very interesting paper on "Air Raiders" by Mr. C. Sutherland. This was his maiden paper and was given in excellent style. Several speakers eulogised and congratulated him on his maiden effort. A vote of thanks was passed to him.

On July 11th Mr. J. Mc. Paul entertained the members with a recital of Justin Mc. Carthy's story entitled "If I were King" in his usual graphic &

entertaining style, at the conclusion of which he received a hearty vote of thanks instead of a crown.

On the 25th July the members held a games tournament. The evening was occupied by sides picked by the President Mr. R. H. Huff and Mr. M. L. Miller playing draughts. The former side proved victorious. An enjoyable time was spent.

Lecture.

Our Principal (Mr. Abraham) delivered a lecture to a large audience on the 4th July. His subject being "Russia". It was of exceptional interest and drew many of the audience to speak to the subject.

The Deaf Workers' Club.

The Annual Meeting of the Deaf Workers' Club will be held at the Centre on Saturday, Augt. 26th at 4 p.m. All members are invited to attend. They are kindly reminded that they should send their annual gifts in before that date. Country members are especially asked to remember their promises & send their gifts in. If any member desires to give an useful article to the Centre or the Blackburn Home, but cannot afford to buy it individually, he or she can ask a few others to club together and buy it as a gift from themselves. One member is collecting money from a few others to purchase about two dozen flower vases for the Centre; another is collecting a sufficient sum from some others to buy material and make a table cover for the Women's Club room. And another is canvassing to buy a few dozen yards of white flannelette for the Blackburn Home and so on. So it is to be hoped that there will not be a member who has not contributed a gift to the Centre or the Blackburn Home this year. Gifts with their donors names may be left with the Caretaker, and they will be shown at the annual meeting. Particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Sec. (Mrs. Williamson) or the Committee.

A letter has been received from Mdlle. Pitrois, informing us that our case of clothing has never reached her and she greatly regretted the loss. Inquiries have been made both at the Belgian Clothing Depots in London and Melbourne. The general opinion is that our case, with hundreds of others was sent to Belgium and that the authorities there would not take the trouble to forward it to France, and that the contents were distributed among the Belgians in Belgium. However Mdlle. Pitrois thanks all the donors, and sends them her best wishes.

The Hon. Sec. begs to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of 7/6 (3 months) contributions towards the soldiers treat-fund from Mr. M. Miller, and 10/- (2 monthly instalments) from Lya. and 6/- from Grace for the deaf Belgians.

The Ramblers.

July 8th was the date fixed for the monthly Ramble, and the threatening state

of the weather did not prevent a fair muster of members meeting at the Sandringham Station. The heath paddocks were responsible for miles of walking but, sad to say, not a stalk of it was visible, the ramblers were either too early or too late. Then, worse luck! they were caught in a heavy rain storm, which damped them considerably, and they were obliged to walk back to Sandringham through it all! no friendly char-a-banc coming along. However, with muddy boots (and still buoyant spirits in spite of it all) they at last boarded the tram for home, quite delighted with their pleasant tho' damp outing. Verily, the Ramblers are a tough lot" after this!!

La-Crosse.

On the 1st July the match between the Deaf and High School was postponed until the 12th Augt owing to several players of the school having to attend Military drill.

On the 8th July the return match between the Deaf and Malvern, and which the deaf team won, provided an even and interesting exhibition. The winners held a slight lead throughout, and entered the final term leading by a single goal, and finishing vigorously they wore down Malvern, and won a finely played game by 8 goals to 5. Goal throwers - V. Tyzzer 2, Hughes 2, Rees 1, Smith 1, Erwin 1, and Martin 1.

On the 15th July, the second meeting of the Deaf and Kew provided an exciting contest, and resulted in a win for Kew by a bare goal. The Deaf team entered the final quarter with a comfortable lead of 3 goals, but Kew forced matters, and with a sudden push netted 4 goals, one of which was thrown by the deaf in error, thus Kew had made a great recovery, and fully deserved their win, The final scores were, Kew 6 goals, Deaf 5. Goal throwers - Smith 2, Rees 2, V. Tyzzer 1. On the 22nd July the Deaf had the bye.

A.D.D.A.

Special Notice:- Members of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association (Victorian Branch.) are kindly requested to forward their annual subscription as soon as possible to Mr. F. E. Erwin, Hon. Secretary, Adult-Deaf Centre, Flinders St, Melbourne.

Personal & other News.

Mr. Sam. Ferguson of Bonmano's Forest is the first deaf Victorian to own a Motor Car. In consequence of having obtained his license, he pays a high compliment to the Victorian Branch of the A.D.D.A. for having so ably and strenuously contested the right of the deaf to drive, and in succeeding in convincing the Chief Commissioner of Police as to the justice of our claims.

Mr. C. A. Hocking, one of the oldest members of the Deaf Society, passed away after a lingering illness on the 17th July. A letter of sympathy was

sent to his widow and family.
Miss L. Sanders of Bendigo has enjoyed a six weeks holiday with friends in Melbourne.
Miss M. Cole has been away from Melbourne on several weeks holiday, and is still at Waitcha.
Mr. F.J. Rose has sent relics, books, &c, including a very large bible with fine maps and engravings to the Deaf Society. They were accepted with grateful thanks.
A number of books have been presented by Mr. J. E. Muir & a "Friend" for our Library. The donors have our hearty thanks.
The next "Rally" will be held on the 10th October, 15th anniversary of the arrival of our Principal in Melbourne. Particulars, etc. for the programme will be published next month.
We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/6 from Mr. J. H. Thomson, 2/- from Miss L. Sanders of Bendigo, 1/6 from Mrs. J. Mills of Waaia and 1/- from Miss E. Thomson of San Remo towards our "Monthly Letter" Fund.

Letter from our Chairman.

June 3rd 1916. To my Friends of the A.D.D. Society. Dear Friends, After four months of very strenuous work in Egypt I am now on my way to Europe to carry on the work among our Australian troops in England & France. The ship I am travelling on is a troopship full of various sections of our Australian army. It is very curious and interesting. You know we are in the area infested with submarines. When we left Alexandria last Monday the admiralty gave us a new course to steer, which took us away over East of Crete, & even then we steered a zig zag course, about ten minutes on one course & then sheer off in another direction. Now we are supposed to be running along the coast off Algiers, & expect to reach Gibraltar tomorrow. We have the fact of danger before us all the time, by our being obliged to have Life-Belts with us night & day, either wearing them or carrying them. Every night at 7.15. (They call it 19.15) the 24 hour time, we have to "stand to" in Boat Positions. Then all port holes & windows are closed, lights are reduced, & no concerts, music, or noise of any kind permitted, so you can imagine it is pretty quiet. We are continually meeting naval patrol boats which give us instructions & course. Occasionally we also pass other vessels. We have Marconi news every day. To day we hear of the naval engagement & loss of several ships in the North Sea. The weather has been delightful & were it not for the presence of the war on everyone it would be a delightful pleasure trip, as it is we try to be cheerful, but it is a very subdued note we strike. This morning it is reported that some dead bodies had floated by. I did not see them. next week we expect to be in England & soon after I expect to be in France. We do not know what is before us & can only go on working & living from day to day. Hoping but without much confidence, for a speedy end to the war, when we can return home to our friends & scenes of peace again. I remain, Faithfully yours.
T. R. Peacock.

PROGRAMME. for Rally on the 5th June 1916
-o-oOo-o-

1. "THE SHEENY MAN"
Mr. A. Hull.

2. "WE ARE GOING TO BE FARMERS"
Messrs Amos, Bladier, Leber.

3. "THE VILLAGE BURGLAR"
MR. J. E. Muir & Mr. M. L. Miller.

4. "THE TALKATIVE HUSBAND"
Mrs. J. E. Muir & Mr. E. J. D. Abraham.

5. "SILLY BILLY"
Mr. W. A. Paterson.

6. £10,000 A YEAR" (Part L)
Messrs Abraham & Paul.
-()-()-()-

INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES FOR REFRESHMENTS.

-()-()-()-

7. £10,000 A YEAR" (Part 2)
Messrs Abraham & Paul.

8. "THE DEAF TRAMP"
Mr N. Amos.

9. "ALFONSO SPAGONI"
Mr. J. M. Paul.

10. "BETSY AND I"
Mrs. J. E. Muir, Messrs Abraham & Frewin.

11. "THE WASHERLADY"
Mr. J. Leber.

12 "GOING TO THE CUP"
Misses Collins & Hickey.
Messrs Frewin & Paterson.

Invitation

Friends are asked kindly to be seated by time of opening

To the ANNUAL MEETING of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria and

Demonstration by Deaf Mutes

to be held in the ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE, 32 and 34 Flinders St. (Spring St. end), on TUESDAY, MAY 30th, 1916, at 8 p.m.

The Lieut.-Governor, the HON. SIR JOHN MADDEN, G.C.M.G. will preside.

Speakers: Sir Robert Best, M.H.R., and W. S. Keast, Esq., M.L.A.

ADMIT TWO ADULTS
Doors Open 7 o'clock

COLLECTION

Age 31.5.16

DEAF AND DUMB CITIZENS.

THEIR FREEDOM FROM CRIME.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, held last night at the Flinders street Mute Centre, Sir John Madden (the Chief Justice), who presided, said that in the 51 years of his professional career as a barrister and as a judge, he could not remember a single case in which a charge of any kind had been preferred against a deaf mute in the Criminal Court. The society was engaged in work of the most beneficent character. Many deaf mutes were taught the business of farming at the home provided for them at Blackburn, and, by becoming efficient, were released from any feeling they might otherwise have of being dependent upon charity for a living.

Sir Robert Best, M.H.R., said that the society, in common with other institutions, had suffered from the abnormal conditions arising from the war. The finances had dropped back to the extent of £660. This amount had been borrowed from the building fund to meet maintenance accounts, and there was a further outstanding liability of £80.

The following, among other office-bearers, were elected:—President, Mr. W. H. Felstead; vice-president, Mr. E. R. Peacock; hon. secretary, Mr. R. J. Oehr; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. L. Walters; assistant treasurer, Mr. M. L. Miller; auditor, Mr. J. Higgins.

Age 31.5.16

Adult Deaf and Dumb Society.

At the annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society last night the chairman (Sir John Madden) referred to the admirable work that is being accomplished by that organisation. Large numbers of deaf mutes, he said, were being taught farming at the home set apart for them at Blackburn, and consequently they were relieved from the feeling that they were dependent upon charity. They were instructed under ideal conditions, and were afterwards sent out into the world as capable farmers. "In the course of 51 years that I have been practising as a barrister in the law courts, and as a judge upon the bench," said the chairman, "I have never seen a deaf mute presented in the Criminal Court for any offence whatever. I would congratulate everyone associated with the institution on having brought about that result." Sir Robert Best, M.P., said that as a consequence of the war the society was in urgent need of funds. The amount of £660 had been borrowed from the building fund to meet maintenance accounts during the past year, and an outstanding liability of a further £80 remained. Office bearers were elected as follow:—President, Mr. W. H. Felstead; vice-president, Mr. E. R. Peacock; secretary, Mr. R. J. Oehr; treasurer, Mr. H. L. Walters; assistant treasurer, Mr. M. L. Miller; auditor, Mr. J. Higgins, in addition to the usual committee.

Adult Deaf Mute Centre,
32-34 Flinders St.

Tuesday, Aug. 1st 1916. 8. p.m. prompt.
Illustrated Lecture on

"HOW A GREAT NEWSPAPER IS PRODUCED"
by
Mr. G. Sweetland
of "The Age"
- - - - - - - - -

ADMISSION SIXPENCE.

The Lecture will be interpreted to the deaf.
PROCEEDS TO THE DEAF WOMEN'S GUILD RED CROSS FUND.

See other side for forthcoming events.

SERVICES:-
Sunday, Aug. 6th. Morning & Evening.
The Principal. (Mr.E.J.D.Abraham)
Sunday, Aug. 13th, 20th, 27th.
The Missioner. (Mr.J.M.Paul)
Bible & Educational Class every Thursday at 8 p.m. Conducted by the Missioner.
GUILD MEETINGS:-
Women's Guild. Aug. 8th & 29th.
Men's Guild. Aug. 15th. & 29th.
LACROSSE:- v. High School
Aug. 5th. (on) 12th. (off)
SATURDAY EVENING. Social & Bank. 8 p.m.
RALLY. October 10. 1916.

Adult Deaf Mute Centre ,

32 - 34 Flinders St.

Dear Friend,

I am taking the liberty of forwarding to you a few tickets for Mr. Sweetland's lecture, and hope that you will purchase one or two, also that you will persuade hearing friends to attend. With best wishes,

Yours faithfully,

Ernest J. D. Abraham.

THE WINNER Sept 27th 1916

ADULT DEAF LACROSSE CLUB, 1916



STANDING—C. SMITH, O. TYZZER, A. SUTHERLAND, H. M'KENZIE, V. QUANTOCK, V. HARDING, R. KEMBLE, V. TYZZER. SITTING—J. ELINER, E. MARTIN, C. ROBERTSON (CAPTAIN), T. PETERS, L. DOWNES, F. REES, W. B. ANDERSON, N. HUGHES.

THE WINNING TEAM

DEAF MUTES ARE TRUE SPORTS

BY T. A. PATERSON

The Adult Deaf Lacrosse Club has good reason to be satisfied with the progress in form shown by its members during the past year, they having secured the premiership.

Last year the Adult Deaf Club were players in the junior section, but owing to the senior clubs being unable to form teams owing to enlistments, only junior teams were in the competition, and they also were depleted from time to time. But even taking this fact into consideration, the Adult Deaf team has done well in coming out at the head of the list.

GAMES ENJOYED.

It is a popular fallacy that deaf mutes must necessarily hold a morbid view of life, and one has only to see this team in one of their matches or at practice to realise how thoroughly the lads enjoy themselves, and how heartily they enter into the sport. During the season the Adult Deaf team won eight matches out of ten, and threw 89 goals against 45. Their principal goal-throwers were V. Tyzzer (37), C. Smith (19), and C. Robertson (10).

THEIR PATRIOTISM.

The young men comprising the deaf mute team follow various trades and professions, comprising mechanics, carpenters, blacksmiths, dentists, bootmakers, and they follow the progress of the war with absorbing interest. Each man is an intense patriot, and an effort was made at one time to induce the military authorities to avail themselves of their services. The lads themselves felt that although they perhaps might not be accepted for service in the trenches, yet their handicraft might prove useful in other directions. The military authorities, however, decided that the time had not yet arrived to call them up.

ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY of VICTORIA.

On TUESDAY Oct. 3rd at 8 pm.

Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham
(Principal)
will deliver a

LECTURE

to Members of the above Society

by special request on

C O N S C R I P T I O N

A hearty welcome to al. Deaf.

Open Discussion at close of Lecture.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR**, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. SEPTEMBER 1916. Nº 1.

OUR PRINCIPAL'S 15th. ANNIVERSARY.

On the 9th of October next our Principal will complete his fifteenth year of labours amongst the Deaf of this State. Of these, thirteen were strenuous years. During the past two, it seems to us, we have merely been "marking time". Nothing of moment has been accomplished since that never-to-be-forgotten day, two years ago, when with the powerful support of Lady Stanley, the Lady Mayoress and the General Board, our Principal, in the Town Hall, launched his appeal for the completion of the Blackburn Home but which had, immediately after, to be withdrawn because of the declaration of War. And we are still waiting for the opportune moment, and we have not the least doubt but that our Chief will recognise it when it comes and be ready to "lift that Coping Stone".

Meanwhile, suppose we take a glance backward and review the events of those fifteen years. Of course it can only be done in the very briefest of outlines here. We will pick up our Chief in Lancashire, England. It is July 1901 - he is being " farewelled" - 7.000 people take part and wish him God Speed. August in London - here he is "farewelled" in Exeter Hall. Oct. 9th. arrived in Victoria and "Welcomed" by the Deaf. Six months of quiet planning followed, then work began in real earnest.

1902 - Campaign begins with gigantic demonstration in Melbourne Town Hall; building crowded and 5.000 people unable to obtain admission. Demonstration repeated few days after. Visits all suburban Town Halls with like success. The great Alfred Hall, Ballarat also packed to the doors. Lecturing tour through Gippsland - " Deaf & Dumb Land" issued, 30.000 copies distributed - system of collecting re-organised.

1903- Great Congress of, and exhibition by the Deaf, with our Chief as organiser and President, - Newspapers devoted columns to proceedings - Publication of " TheGesture", attained a monthly circulation of 10.000. Memorial Stone of Adult Deaf Centre laid.

1904 - Opening of Adult Deaf Centre - ' birth ' of " Our Monthly Letter" - Great Demonstration Melbourne Town Hall - addressed great meetings at Exhibition Building, Brisbane and School of Arts, Ipswich, Queensland, 3.000 people present at former, at latter so crowded that Mr. Abraham was wedged in between rows of standing men upon the platform.

1905 - First Harvest Thanksgiving Service - First Quarterly Rally - Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association founded with our Chief as President.
1906 - Demonstration in favour of free and compulsory education for deaf children and for Home for Aged Deaf. The Premier, Hon. Thos Bent in chair. Our Principal spoke for 90 minutes on the " Case for the Deaf ". Premier promised help - Government Grant of £2.000 toward establishment of Home for Deaf.
1907 - Our Chief starts out to raise £2.000 to fulfil conditions of Government Grant - actual sum raised, £4.000 - Great Bazaar Melbourne Town Hall, 17 Municipalities represented, over 100 meetings addressed in connection with this effort.
1908 - Raised £300 for Mr.F.J.Rose - Re-opening of free education campaign with Minister of Education in the chair - Purchase of Lake Park, Blackburn, site for Home - Opening of experimental Home at Box Hill with Mr.Abraham as Manager - Laying out of flower plantation and erection of Home at Blackburn.
1909 - Further campaign in favour of free education, deputation to Director of Education - Opening of main building of Blackburn Home, 8.000 people present, The Chief takes up his residence at the Home, establishment of cut flower business.
1910 - Free and compulsory education for deaf children made law.
1911 - Second Congress of the Deaf - Successful introduction of Picnics as source of revenue for farm.
1912 - Government Grant of £500 toward Women's Wing - erection of section of Women's Wing, 4.000 people present at opening. Organised Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of N.S.W. in Sydney Town Hall.
1913 - Pension of £200 per annum procured for Mr.F.J.Rose, - arrival of Assistant Missioner from England.
1914 - 1915 - No outstanding event to report.
Income 1901 - £600. Income 1915 - £3.500. Assets 1901 - £3.000
Assets 1915 - £13.500. Farm earnings 1915 - £880.

The above is a brief summary of the work of the years that are gone. Done in prior War days. What is to come after the War? Both Centre and Blackburn Home have yet to be completed. Shall we have another great campaign? Although we are convinced that at the psychological moment our Chief will be found ready for another big effort, still, we find it well to confess that he would prefer to say with Edward Carpenter: -
" I used to go and sit on the beach at Brighton and dream, and now I sit on the shore of human life and dream practically the same dreams. I remember about the time that I mention coming to the distinct conclusion that there were only two things really worth living for - the glory and beauty of nature, and the glory and beauty of human love and friendship. And today I still feel the same. What else, indeed, is there? All the nonsense about riches, fame, distinction, ease, luxury and so forth - how little does it amount to ! It really is not worth wasting time over"

OCT. 10th. OUR PRINCIPAL'S 15th ANNIVERSARY

CELEBRATION RALLY

will be in the form of a CONVERSAZIONE.

Sleight of Hand Entertainment by Mr.A. Drummond.

THE DEAF WOMEN'S GUILD.

At the meeting of the Women's Guild August 8th, Miss Adams read a paper on " Lifting of the earth by the moon" written by Miss D.Davis, Miss R.Dow read a paper on " Goodness & Kindness" and Miss D.Davis contributed a paper on " Great men of Rome ". All three efforts were highly instructive and entertaining and hearty votes of thanks were passed to the above named young ladies.

DEAF MEN'S GUILD.

" The Fly Peril" was the subject of a paper read by Mr.J.Leber at the Guild Meeting on the 15th ult. Several members also spoke on this subject.

DEAF RAMBLERS CLUB.

About a dozen ramblers met at Princes Bridge on Saturday 12th August, and took the electric tram to Burwood, a most enjoyable run. Arrived there, a proposal was mooted that we should walk to Our Flower Farm at Blackburn, 4½ miles distant, but the majority were appalled at the idea of a further lengthy walk, so returned home, however, a plucky minority bravely started on their long trudge and reached the Farm shortly before 6 o6clock. Mrs. Abraham regaled them with a thrice welcome and a cup of tea and then they caught the 6.20 pm train to town, healthily tired after such a long, but most enjoyable afternoon's ramble.

DEAF LACROSSE CLUB.

We regret,exceedingly, that we have not the space in this issue to go into details concerning the doings of our victorious lacrosse players. They are leading by three points at the present time and it seems to us, that only some very unexpected occurence can prevent them finishing the season as premiers. On the 5th of Aug. the deaf had another tussle with Kew - result Deaf 8 Kew 1. There are three matches yet to be played. The " Argus" has weekly given considerable space to descriptions of the various games played by the deaf. Mr. G.Brabin has resigned his position as delegate to the V.L.A. Mr. A.Drummond now represents the Club.

DEAF BANK & OUTING FUND.

The board of management of the above have issued their eleventh Annual Report and the balance sheet shows the bank to be in a position even still more healthy than in any previous years. The success of the bank is almost entirely due to the enthusiasm and persistency of Mr.R.H.Luff who has occupied the position of Hon. manager for eight years. The board also desire to record their appreciation of Mr. Luff's valuable service, also to thank Mr. M.G.B.Mortimer, who has so ably assisted him. The year closed with forty depositors on the roll, with deposits amounting to £193.0.4, to their credit. Of this sum £61.17.4 has been withdrawn leaving a balance of £131.3.0 to carry forward.
The following are the officers for 1916 - 17. Hon. Manager, Mr.R.H. Luff, Sub-Manager Mr.M.Mortimer. Committee - Messrs J.Paul (Chairman) M.L.Miller, J.E.Muir, F.E.Frewin, W.A.Paterson and W.P.Muir.

Many of our British Missionaries to the Deaf have joined the Military forces at Home, and practically the whole of the British teachers of the Deaf are at the front, or preparing to go.

VIC. BRANCH A. D. & D. A.

Mr. F.E.Frewin, the Hon.Sec, begs to acknowledge with thanks subscription from the following: -
Mr. W.Hindell (Blackburn) Miss Pansy Elliott (Mildura) Mr. H.G.Smith (Myall) of 1/. each. Mr. & Mrs. J.McLean 4/. (2 years) also a donation 5/. toward the Rose Pension Fund, and Mrs. Osborne of Camperdown 2/6.
Note. As the financial year ends Oct.31st 1916, members of the above Association are kindly asked to forward their annual subscription as soon as possible to Mr. F.E.Frewin, (Hon Sec) Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St. Melb.

OUR MORNING PAPER.

Under the auspices of the Deaf Committee and in aid of the Deaf Workers R Cross work, on the 1st of Aug at Our Centre Mr. Sweetland of the " Age" delivered his deservedly popular lecture "How a great newspaper is produc Mr. Abraham presided and Mr.Paul interpreted. The lecture was illustrate by humorous stories and lantern views of the various departments of newspaper life. Hearty thanks were tendered to Mr. Sweetland at the close of Lecture. The "Workers" will benefit to the amount of £1.14.0

PERSONAL NEWS.

Misses I.Foster and M.Potter, two of the oldest members of the Adult Deaf Dumb Society have been seriously ill lately, but we are pleased to state that they are now on the mend. They wish to thank their friends for their kind enquiries.
Mrs. Osborne of Mortlake after about 30 years absence from Melbourne is no enjoying a holiday of four weeks in Melbourne and Gippsland. Needless to say she notices a big difference in this City.
Mr. D. Ashby of Trafalger has been holiday making at Nhill one week, and Adelaide two weeks.
We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following contributions toward " Our Monthly Letter" Fund, Miss P.Elliott 2/6, Mrs. Osborne 1/6, Mr.H.Smith 1/6, Miss R.Murdoch and Mr. W.Hindell 1/. each.

FARM & HOME

Several kind and interested friends are disappointed because, of late, the has been an absence of farm and home news in the " Monthly ". We beg to assure them that it is not because we have not plenty to say. We have. W could fill any number of the "Monthly " with our doings, but space is limited. The Home is full to its utmost capacity. We are waiting the opportunity to complete the Women's Wing, and there is need for addition t the Mens Quarters, but what can we do whilst the war rages. The Flower Farm continues to give results far beyond what, in the circumstances, coul reasonably be expected. August of this year has been a record month as far as sales are concerned. Upwards of £70 for cut flowers alone, has been sold. Improvements are quietly being carried out. Something near 550 fru trees have been planted. Great trenches dug - not for the protection o our soldiers - but to drain our very heavy soil. We are never without interested visitors and experts from other States who have gained a knowledge of our successes and, like the wise men of old, come to pay their homage and gather jewels for their adornment.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL.13. OCTOBER 1916. No 2.

GENERAL BOARD.

The General Board met on the 11th Sept at Our Centre. Mr. G.G.Mercy J.P. presided. The Principal (Mr. Abraham) in the course of his report said that whilst no special public movement had been undertaken of late, the inner work of the Society continued its regular course. He had taken the Morning and Evening Services on the 1st Sunday when the attendance was 20 and 68 respectively, lectured on the 5th - attendance 28. The Workers Club now numbered 88 and had made or given hundreds of articles to the Red Cross Society and the Home for the Deaf. The Meetings of the Guilds were well attended. The Deaf Bank had deposits amounting to £131. The Deaf Lacrosse Club had gained the position of Premiers of Victoria. The Saturday night provision was well appreciated. Some 46 members of the Rambling Club had visited the farm. He had found employment for one member, and Mrs. Abraham had secured work for another. The Collectors were making strenuous efforts to keep the income up to expenditure and in spite of the many Patriotic appeals had actually increased their totals. He desired to record his appreciation of this loyal help. With regard to the Farm, the returns had attained to the extreme limit possible under existing conditions. There had been a weekly average of £21, or £[illegible] for the month for cut flowers alone. They were at present engaged in planting chrysanthemums, dahlias, violets, gladioli etc.
The Missioner (Mr. Paul) reports having conducted six services with an average attendance of 18 in the morning and 51 in the evening, five bible classes - the average attendance 18. Made 47 visits to the homes of the deaf, 3 of which were to the sick, 8 on their behalf and 4 in search of employment.
The Asst. Hon.Treasurer (Mr.M.L.Miller) submitted accounts totalling £24[illegible] 0.5 which were examined and passed for payment.

DEAF COMMITTEE/

This most inhuman war of all times, has for the time being stayed our wheels of progress. Now-a-days we appear to meet only to read minutes, pass accounts and pronounce the Benediction. Whilst the outside world rages, it is tranquility and peace within our doors, but our activities must of necessity slow down and gently hum, we must keep the wheels well

oiled however, sothat when man is weary of killing man, and is again filled with the holy aim of giving life and peace to his fellow man, we may again " go the pace". The only two matters of sufficient interest to report here were (1) Mr. F.J.Rose's 85th birthday - the Committee subscribed a goodly sum amongst themselves to purchase what all agreed would be an acceptable and appreciated token of their regard. (2). Picnic arrangements - there was an almost unanimous feeling in favour of Blackburn until the Chairman hinted at pleasure of an exceptional kind Sandringham way. Certain gentlemen are to visit and report.

THE DEAF WOMEN'S GUILD.

On the 29th Aug, the President (Mrs. Muir) conducted her usual educational class, her subjects being "The Beneficence of Mutual Friendship" and "Flags and the National Anthem". Both proved most interesting and instructive to one and all.
On the 9th Sept, the Bible Class was conducted by Mrs. A.Wilson. Her lesson was on " Jonah". Miss Gwen Peters also read a paper on "A Dream in the Garden". A vote of thanks was passed to the above named ladies for their interesting papers.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 29th Aug, at the meeting of the Men's Guild, a very interesting paper on " Should Australia be governed by one Parliament" was given by Mr. M.L.Miller, who spoke strongly in favour of one Parliament. There was much criticism by the members, most of which appeared to be against the single Parliament.
At the meeting on the 12th of Sept, Mr. M.G.B.Mortimer gave a paper on "Snakes". It was very interesting and created much discussion. The lecturers were heartily thanked for their excellent papers.

THE RAMBLERS.

The Ramblers visited Lake Park, Blackburn on the 9th Sept. Notwithstanding the unpromising weather some 46 members were found " under the clocks" at the appointed time for the start. On reaching Our Flower Farm our gaze was immediately attracted by the avenues of golden wattle all in full bloom, also around the lake the golden bloom was to be seen in abundance and our eyes enjoyed the feast to the full. A stroll to the other side of the lake revealed a large plantation of Emperor daffodils. The foliage of the roses and carnations were in their spring glory and ere long will be a mass of flowers. Tea was partaken of at the Home and enjoyed, and some very pleasant hours were spent in conversation. Then, as darkness overspread the sky, we gathered up our bunches of wattle, daffs, and violets and " fell in" for our march to the Station. Thus ended one of the pleasantest of our rambles.

VIC. BRANCH A.D.& D.A.

Patriotic efforts should receive first consideration, never-the-less we must not neglect our own Cause. The A.D.& D.A. has done great things for us and at a cost that is most astonishingly small. This great and powerful organisation is kept going at a cost of 1/. per member per annum. The Hon.Sec reminds us that all subscriptions must be in before 31st Oct. Have you sent your 1/.? If not, send it today. Send more if you can afford it. We shall need all the funds we can get, for propaganda work

after the war. Now's your chance to cheer the heart of our non Sec. Send your sub. along to Mr.F.Frewin, Adult Deaf Centre, 32 Flinders St, Melbourne.

WHAT is " A SPORT " ?

Some one asked the other day for a definition of the term "Sport" as understood by the modern. Our Principal(Mr.Abraham) undertook to lecture upon the subject, and on the 5th ult had a good audience of both sexes. He said it would be easy to deal with the subject in the negative and tell them what a "sport" was not. The affirmative was a far more difficult task. In summing up he said, his definition of "a sport" was one who not only conforms to the letter of the law of the duty of man toward man, but goes beyond even the spirit thereof. He further said a sport was a man who did his duty as a matter of course, and would scorn to take advantage of any opportunity to shirk it. There were "temporary" sports and "permanent" sports, "impulsive" sports and the sport who remained a sport although fully cognisant of the consequences. His own Mother was the greatest sport he had ever met. She was absolutely Bonza. Speaking in the negative, he thought the man with the Government stroke was the best illustration of what a sport was not. Any person who contracted or undertook to do certain duties for certain pay, and who shirked these duties, or only half did them was as big a thief and as great a rogue as the man who broke into a jeweller s shop and stole diamonds. The "Sport" was the man who took a delight in giving his fellow man more than his fellow man expected of him.

"THE LEADER" & OUR FARM.

Our Farm was the subject of a very interesting and well written article in the "Leader" of Sept.9th. A picturesque view of the Home also appeared. The writer was most appreciative and put into words what has, for some time past, been in our mind. He says the present reticulation plant is inadequate, instead of power to keep 5 sprinklers going, their should be power to support fifty at least. A system of underground drainage was also needed. "In a Capatalistic business", said the writer " these improvements would be made at once, but an institution dependent on public generosity has to wait until the necessary contributions come in. In the circumstances it must be acknowledged the returns from the farm are very good indeed. "

RETURNED SOLDIERS AT THE FARM .

Our Home is very popular with the returned soldier. Thousands of them have made the acquaintance of our flower plantations, our Home and our Manager. Almost every fine day brings its motors, phaetons and buggies loaded with returned warriors. Many branches of the Red Cross Society have organised outings to the Lake when anything from 50 to 100 motor cars have taken part, each bringing its share of Australian defenders who have " done their little bit". Parties of children from the near Melbourne suburbs are also frequently to be seen enjoying the gloriously embracing air of our Haven of peace and beauty.

OUR COLLECTORS.

It is a strange anomaly, never-the-less very common, that those who bear the burden and heat of the day seem to come in for but scant share of prais Our Principal says he can organise but that without the loyal support of the Collectors he would be " absolutely up a tree". One might reasonably expect a decrease in returns, with the very many patriotic funds ever befor the people, yet our financial pioneers not only manage to keep public sympathy and support up to concert pitch, but to go many a note higher. Here is their record for the past three months.

Mr. Williamson	£172 19 9 -	an increase of £50.
Mr. S. Moss	£178 15 11 -	an increase of £5 10 .
Mr. Mortimer	£167 14 -	an increase of £32 6 6
Mr. A.Muir	£110 2 9 -	an increase of £22 13 .

It is up to us to put on record our appreciation of the services of these men who, by their persistent energy make possible the many advantages we enjoy.

ELECTRIC LIGHT for BLACKBURN HOME.

At the recent meeting of the General Board, Mr.Abraham drew attention to the danger of the use of candles and kerosene at the Home for lighting purposes, and suggested the installation of electric light now that the Municipality has made this possible. He volunteered to raise the necessary £80 locally if the Committee decided upon the installation. Mr. Abraham's offer was accepted.

PERSONAL NEWS.

Our dear old friend and benefactor, Mr. F.J.Rose celebrated his 85th birthday on the 21st ult. The Deaf Committee sent him a suitable gift accompanied by a letter of good wishes.
The late Miss Maloney left £32. to the Belgian Fund.
We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 2/. from Mr.W.Crush and 1/. each from Miss Bond and Mr.A.Wilson toward "Our Monthly Letter" fund.
The name of this year's ~~Cup~~ Day (Nov.7th) Picnic Resort will be announced at the Rally on 10th Oct. Particulars from Hon.Sec. to Deaf Committee, 32 Flinders St.

GONE ASTRAY.

This month's " Letter " is late because a goodly portion of the "Copy" sent through the post has not yet arrived at our office, and fresh matter had to be written. Two of the interesting articles lost are "The Workers Club" and "Lacrosse Premiers". We are exceedingly sorry to have to leave them out, but will give them full prominence in our next " Letter ".

Mr. ABRAHAM'S ANNIVERSARY RALLY OCTOBER 10th.

IT'S YOUR NIGHT - SO RALLY UP - ALL WELCOME.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. NOVEMBER 1916. No 3.

THE DEAF WORKERS' CLUB.

The third annual meeting of the above club was held at the Centre on Saturday afternoon, the 26th. August. There was a large attendance of members, including several gentlemen who watched the reading of the report with great interest as well as with astonishment when they learned of the good work that had been wholeheartedly done during the past 12 months. There are 88 members on the roll - 37 women and 51 men. The women members have knitted or made for the club 82 pairs of sox, 28 pairs of mittens, 27 mufflers, 17 face washers, 3 helmets, 1 pr of knee caps, 51 handkerchiefs, 4 pairs of slippers and 4 jug covers. One man made 2 deck chairs and another 10 walking sticks. These articles were distributed between the Lady Mayoress Patriotic League, the Base Hospital, the Federal Government Depot and the Malvern Red Cross Branch together with 36 towels and several large parcels of chemist s goods and luxuries contributed by members of the club. Twenty five billies filled with Xmas gifts were sent to the front. The club also helped to provide a Xmas treat for the inmates of the Blackburn Home. A further sum of £3.5.0 was forwarded to Mdlle.F.Pitrois for the Belgian Deaf Refugees and an additional grant was to be sent to her shortly. " Za" donated to this fund 5/. monthly for the past year,(£3.) Four members contributed luxuries for the soldiers every month for the same period, Mr.M.L.Miller also gave 2/6 monthly. Sick friends were frequently visited at the hospitals and at their homes. The report was adopted and also the balance sheet which was audited by Miss Empson. Receipts balance on hand 4/. - membership fees £1.19.0, donations £9. 5.8 - Total £11. 8.8. Expenditure, Xmas treat for the inmates £2.2.0, billies 11/., wool £5.6.9, towels 15/., luxuries for soldiers £1.18.2, Hon Sec's account 4/9½, sundries 1/6, - leaving a balance of 14/5½. The President explained the objects of the club and spoke of the loyal and enthusiastic support given to various clubs by their respective members in aid of the different organisations in Melbourne, also of the successful Ohio Home for infirm deaf mutes in America, the last named place being solely supported by the deaf of Ohio. The President emphasised the duty of the members to help support the A.D.& D.Society and said that the chief aim of the club is to teach them to help whenever necessary, to be more thoughtful and more unselfish. It was decided to have a small benevolent fund to purchase necessities for the poor and sick during the war. The following office bearers were re-elected with the exception of Miss Potter who is in ill health. President, Mrs.J.E.Muir, Vice-Pres. Mrs. Boortz, Hon Sec. Mrs. Williamson, Hon Treas. Miss A.Foster, Committee- Mrs.E.Smith,

Misses Graham, Hickey, R.Dow, D.Davis and Fletcher (new member). After the meeting tea was served and brought the happy evening to a close. The annual gifts were on view and consisted of (for the Centre) 22 flower vases, 1 jardiniere, 1 paper basket, 3 dusters, 5 glass cloths, 6 large trays, (for the Farm) 45 yds of flannelette, 3 large meat dishes, 4 aprons, 1 tray, 3 roller towels, 8 towels, 1 runner, 3 glass cloths, 5 jug covers and 2 undergarments. The purchase of a large table cover for the Centre is left in abeyance till the summer sales. Hearty thanks are due to the office bearers and women members for their services, particularly Mrs.Williamson(Hon.Sec) who has worked with great zest, and to all the members for gifts in every kind. It may be mentioned that Miss A.Foster and Miss Hickey have knitted for the club during the year the largest number of socks, the former 13 pairs besides knitting a good number for her relations and friends, and the latter over 20 pairs. Most enthusiastic knitters they are. They have our warmest thanks.

Since the above report was written there has been a further increase in the membership, it now stands - men 51, women 43,- 94 in all or only six more to reach the Century. The youngest member is a child of a few months enrolled by his parents, Mr.&.Mrs.McLellan. It is proposed to contribute in some small way toward the Xmas treat for returned and wounded soldiers. Donations of eggs cakes, plum puddings, cigarettes etc will be most acceptable and should be addressed to the Hon. Sec. (Mrs.Williamson) Deaf Workers Club, Deaf Centre Flinders Street, Melbourne.

LACROSSE PREMIERS.

The expected has happened. Our boys are Premiers of Victoria. Our last match was with Kew on Aug 19th when we defeated. Owing to enlistments and military drill Brighton Presbyterians and the High School were unable to muster teams hence the Deaf had " walkovers" in each case, and were declared Premiers of "A" section of the Victoria Lacrosse Association. The Deaf won ten games and lost two, put up 89 goals as against 45. V.Tyzzer succeeded in throwing 37 goals, C.Smith 19, N.Hughes 11, C.Robertson 10, E.Martin 6, F.Rees 3, J.Elwin 2 and A.Sutherland 1. The Officers of the V.L.A. congratulated the team upon obtaining the honour of Premiership and also upon their splendid play. An exceptionally good photo of the victorious team, taken by one of our young amateurs (J Campbell) appeared in "The Winner" of Sept.27th. Our President and Vice-presidents entertained the players to a substantial spread at the Deaf Centre on the 16th Sept, when our President (Mr.J.Muir) outshone himself in his enthusiasm over the victory of his team. As a matter of fact we all were awaiting the moment when he would fall upon our necks and kiss us, so delighted was he. Mr. G.Brabin our ex-delegate also congratulated us.

ATHLETIC CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting of the Athletic Club was held in the lower Hall at the Centre on Saturday afternoon the 16th Sept. there being a large muster of members and supporters present. Mr.J.E.Muir(President) was in the chair. The report of the Cricket Club(a short one) and balance sheet showing a surplus of £8 odd, were adopted without question. The war has affected the game of cricket to a great extent causing the club to find difficulties in arranging matches, hence only 10 matches were played out of which two were won, 5 lost and 3 drawn. Mr. G.Quantock heads the batting average and Mr. J.Johnston comes second. Mr. V.Harding won the bowling average with Mr.R.Beattie second. The office bearers for the ensuing year are- ; President Mr.J.Muir, Vice-Presidents Mr.M.L.Miller, Messrs. W.A.Paterson and M.C.Mortimer. Hon.Treas Mr.A Sutherland, Hon.Sec. Mr. J.Johnston. Committee Messrs. J.McLean, C.Robertson W.B.Anderson and J.Cariss.
The Cricket Club opened their season on the 21st of Oct. by playing againstthe

Richmond A.N.A. who won by 23 runs. The former, who had had no opportunity for practise before the match, scored 30 runs of which T.Peters (Captain) made 12. The A.N.A. made 53 runs (the last over brought them 14 runs). J. Ryan got 3 wkts for 5 runs, E.Martin 3 for 15 and R.Beattie 4 for 26(his last over getting 14 runs). There are plenty of young players in the new team and and with practise and coaching some of them, at least, should turn out good cricketers.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

The Hospital Sunday Services on the 22nd ult were conducted by the Missioner (Mr.Paul). The attendance was 19 in the morning and 48 at night. Our members showed that they are in no way behind the rest of the Community (who have this year given more generously than ever) but come quite up to expectations, contributing £5.2.3 - an increase of 8/. upon last year's amount.

GENERAL BOARD.

At 3.15pm on the 16th of Oct. the Farm & Finance Committee met at Our Centre. Mr. G.G.Mercy J.P. presided. The Manager (Mr.Abraham) stated that the farm business for the month of September was, sale of flowers £56.18.9. Picnic returns £12.13.9. Sundries £7.17.6 - Total £76.10.0. The Hon.Asst. Treasurer (Mr.M.L.Miller) submitted accounts amounting to £312.4.8 which were examined and recommended for payment.
The General Board met at 4 pm. Mr. H.Summer Martin B.A, L.L.B. presided. Accounts recommended by Farm Committee were passed. The Principal (Mr. Abraham) reported that he had officiated at the morning and evening services on the 3rd ult, when there was an attendance of 20 and 68 respectively. He lectured on the 5th of Oct. on " Conscription" - attendance 80. There were 120 deaf mutes and 20 hearing friends present at the Quarterly Rally of Oct.10th. Other gatherings and classes continued to be well attended. Early spring was always a busy time at the farm, preparations were well in hand for the summer and autumn bloom, also arrangements for the picnic season well ahead. The amount banked during the month for farm sales etc was £100.1.8. So far as he knew there were no deaf out of employment. The Missioner (Mr.Paul) had conducted six services with an average attendance of 15 in the morning and 52 in the evening. Conducted four bible classes, average attendance 18, paid 44 visits to the homes of the deaf, 6 on their behalf and three to hospitals.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIAL.

The members of the Men's and Women's Guilds to the number of 56, held a very successful social on the 26th Sept at the Centre. The evening's programme was made up of games, conversation and supper. A very enjoyable evening was spent.

MEN'S GUILD.

"The end of the Raider Emden" was the title of a paper read by Mr.A.Sutherland at the Men's Guild on the 17th of Oct. Afterwards Mr.Sutherland was congratulated both upon the contents and his able delivery of the paper.

CONSCRIPTION.

There was an attendance of 80 at the Lecture on "Conscription" delivered by the Principal(Mr.Abraham) on the 3rd of Oct. At the close of the lecture there was quite a rush for the platform, for everybody had something " red hot " to say upon the subject. Although many took part in the discussion and the meeting was not brought to a close until 10.30, there were still many with views to give. It was therefore decided to continue the debate on the 26th of Oct.

45th. RALLY.

The 45th Congregational Rally held at Our Centre on the 10th of Oct was to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the arrival in ~~Australat~~ Australia of our Chief. There was a great attendance - 120 deaf and 20 hearing. Mr.W.Paterson presided. The Hon Sec (Mr.Muir) read the roll call and in a short address Mr Abraham referred to the many things accomplished and the things yet to be done. He thanked them for their loyalty and hoped that there would always be a strong bond of affection between them. The evening was spent in games and concluded with a supper which was of the best and much credit is due to the ladies in charge, (Misses D.Davis, R.Dow and E.Fletcher). This is the first occasion upon which the younger members have been entirely responsible for the supper arrangements etc and we sincerely congratulate the above named young ladies upon their sound capabilities.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MONTHLY LETTER FUND. We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of 3/. from Mr. F.G.Phillips, Miss A.Foster 2/, Miss M.Orde and Mr.Ching of Linton 1/6 each,Mrs. Gray, Mrs.A.Williamson, Misses Phillips of Ballarat, Messrs J.Huish of Maldon T.A.Nelson, and P.Cunningham of Creswick 1/. each toward our"Monthly Latter Fund.

BELGIAN DEAF REFUGEES. "Zas" (Sept &Oct) 10/. Miss Empson 5/. "Grace" 4/. Mr.J.Brooks (N.S.W.) 2/. SOLDIERS TREAT. Mr. M.L.Miller 5/.

DEAF WORKERS CLUB. Mr.Sweatland's Lecture £1.14.0 Mr.Miller 10/. Mr.J.Brooks (N.S.W.) 5/. Mrs.J.E.Muir 5/. Mrs.Williamson 5/. Mr.S.Moss 2/6 Mr.Bruce of Neerim South 2/. Mr.Hull 2/. Mr.&.Mrs.Frewin 2/. Miss Graham 2/. Mr.Mortimer 1/ Mr.Paul 6d.

The Matron (Mrs.Abraham) of the Blackburn Home for the Deaf acknowledges with grateful thanks a parcel containing the following articles -: 45 yds of flannelette, 3 large dishes, 4 aprons, 2 singlets, 5 jug covers, 3 glass cloths, 1 centre runner, 8 towels, 3 roller towels and 1 tray from the Deaf Workers Club.

PERSONAL NEWS.

A letter of sympathy was sent to Mrs.D.Lawson and Mr.J.Gibson of Adelaide in the loss of their Mother who died in Melbourne on the 29th of Sept. They desire to thank the deaf sincerely for their kind expression of sympathy.
Mr. Webb of Tasmania came to Melbourne last month and at once found employment.
On the 27th of Sept to Mr.& Mrs.R.Beattie a son
On the 20th of Sept to Mr.& Mrs.H.Gladman a son. Our hearty congratulations.

THE CUP DAY PIC-NIC (Nov 7th) is to be held at Sandringham. Luncheon and Tea 3/. Tickets from Mr.J.Muir (Hon Sec to Deaf Committee) Adult Deaf Centre, 32 Flinders St, Melbourne.

FARM NOTES.

Mr.C.G.Mercy J.P, Mr.H.Sumner Martin B.A,L.L.B and Mr.G.Brown (Curator of Parks and Gardens) members of the Committee of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society paid a visit to the Farm on the morning of Oct.21st. The same day, in the afternoon a number of the deaf girls from the Centre gave our Chief a surprise visit.
For four years we have been grumbling because of the absence of rain, but now, well, we have had a deal too much of it. Will it never leave off ?
We are too busy planting to talk much this month, will tell you more in our next Letter.

Mr.Abraham will officiate at Evening Service Sunday November 5th 1916.

Leader, Sept 9th 1916

11

HEALTH IN THE GARDEN.

THE DEAF MUTE FLOWER FARM.

(BY OUR HORTICULTURAL REPORTER.)

Although human troubles are commonly supposed to have originated in a garden, it is the universal experience that the occupation of gardening conduces both to health of body and soundness and serenity of mind. It is particularly suitable for those whose affliction cuts them off from the intercourse of human speech and the sounds of common life. Too often such invalids grow up mentally deficient, or at least undeveloped, and become a burden to themselves and the community. It is to rescue these, or as many of them as can be accommodated, from this sad fate that the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society's Home and Training Farm has been established at Blackburn. The site is eminently suitable, its picturesque beauty being no small part of the appeal which is made to the minds of the inmates. The land is adapted for floriculture, as can be seen by the number of market flower gardens in the district, and the abundance of wild flowers in the uncleared parts. The area of the farm is 70 acres, including a lake 9 acres in extent, which is one of the most valuable features in the estate. At present about 14 acres are under cultivation, the remainder being still uncleared. The buildings themselves are substantial and attractive, and the immediate surroundings well laid out, but the whole site has possibilities for landscape gardening which have not yet been utilised. It is only six years since the society took possession of what was then a piece of rough bush land, and what has been accomplished speaks well for the good management and energy of the superintendent, Mr. E. J. D. Abrahams. This will be better understood when it is said that the monetary returns from the farm for the year ending 31st March were £891. This defrayed more than half the cost of the institution, so that the latter may be reasonably expected to become self-supporting at no very distant date.

The only trees that have been planted, excepting fruit trees, are wattles, and these more for utility than ornament, long rows of them serving to divide the garden into sections and afford shelter from wind. They were also expected to be a source of revenue from the sale of blossom, but have been somewhat of a disappointment in that respect, principally, Mr. Abrahams says, owing to Wattle day having created a demand for "free wattle" for sale in the streets. The same thing is experienced at other flower farms in the district, and we found the trees being grubbed out. They are, however, a soil improver, and leave the land better than they find it. The kinds chiefly grown are Cootamundra (Acacia Baileyana and Golden A. Pycnantha). On the occasion of our visit, which was the day before Wattle day, several motor cars and other vehicles arrived, and all went away with baskets and bunches of the fragrant blossom, freely given for the good cause. The trees themselves are all the better for the hard cutting, and the blunted branches soon send out new shoots to bear next year's flowers.

The lake was formed many years ago by damming a stream which is a feeder of the Dandenong Creek; it is irregular in shape and of considerable depth—as much as 23 feet where an old clay pit is included in it. The border of trees and a few boats help to make it attractive to picnic parties, whose purchases of flowers and refreshments are a slight addition to the earnings of the farm. The land slopes from the house towards the lake, and rises again on the opposite side, where there is a clearing of about four acres entirely planted with bulbs. Here we might see Wordsworth's vision of the daffodils "beside the lake, beneath the trees fluttering and dancing in the breeze"; but they have not been planted in that way, the rows are formal and utilitarian, the object being a crop of salable blooms and not the harvest of a quiet eye; but it is just the sort of moist sheltered spot where the bulbs could be naturalised in the woodland. There are large beds of narcissi and other bulbs in other parts of the garden, altogether nearly eight acres. Gladioli and Watsonias are in great favor, especially the latter, of which there are four varieties. Watsonias, Mr. Abrahams finds, improve the soil for succeeding crops, breaking up the clay and making it much more friable. Other flowers which are largely grown are Chrysanthemums, Dahlias, Carnations, Roses, Gaillardias, Marguerites, Calliopsis and Violets. The soil is as yet too intractable for annuals, which need a fine seed bed and soft mould for the young plants. Water is obtained from the lake, a five-horse power oil engine pumping it directly into the pipes which run through the garden. But this only serves to keep five sprinklers going, which is a very inadequate supply for so large an area; to get the best results there should be quite fifty sprinklers, and a system of underground drainage is also required. In a capitalistic business these improvements would be made at once, but an institution dependant on public generosity has to wait until the necessary contributions come in, and the present is not a good time for obtaining them. In the circumstances, it must be acknowledged the returns from the farm are very good indeed, and meanwhile the workers are receiving training which makes for bodily and mental health and will fit them, if anything will, to fill a place in the outside world.

Near the entrance were a couple of men planting chrysanthemums between the rows of a large bed of Watsonias. This, Mr. Abrahams explained, is a scheme for getting flowers in June. There are contracts with Scott's and other large hotels for the supply of flowers all the year round, and some difficulty is found in providing them in sufficient quantities in February, June and October. The Chrysanthemums are protected by the Watsonias during the heat of January and February, and are cut down from time to time until late in March to keep them back; they continue to flower until well on in June. Frost sometimes cuts the open blooms, but this does not interfere with the buds coming out. One particular kind—a bronze—is not damaged by frost. The Watsonias come out as soon as they have done flowering. In another part a land was being spaded to put in Dahlias, which are a very important line. The earliest tubers are planted in September, as soon as the soil is dry enough, and planting continues until January, giving a flowering season from November to April. Other men and lads were cutting wattle blossom, but none at the time happened to be picking Narcissi, the earliest being over and the Daffodils not forward enough. Some of the workers had the appearance of being mentally deficient, but others, including a foreman, were bright enough, and all seemed contented and happy. A covered waggon returning from the station was driven by one of the inmates, and Mr. Abrahams says some of them can be trusted to take in a load to the city. During the past year five deaf men have so benefitted by the opportunities of the farm as to need its shelter and training no longer. Four are earning good wages on other farms, and one has obtained work in Melbourne which enables him to support his widowed mother. The great over-shadowing war has unfortunately increased expenses and diminished contributions, making it necessary to postpone improvements which would facilitate the working of the farm and increase its productiveness; but considering the excellent work which it is doing for a particularly helpless section of the community, the institution can make a strong claim on the generosity of the public.

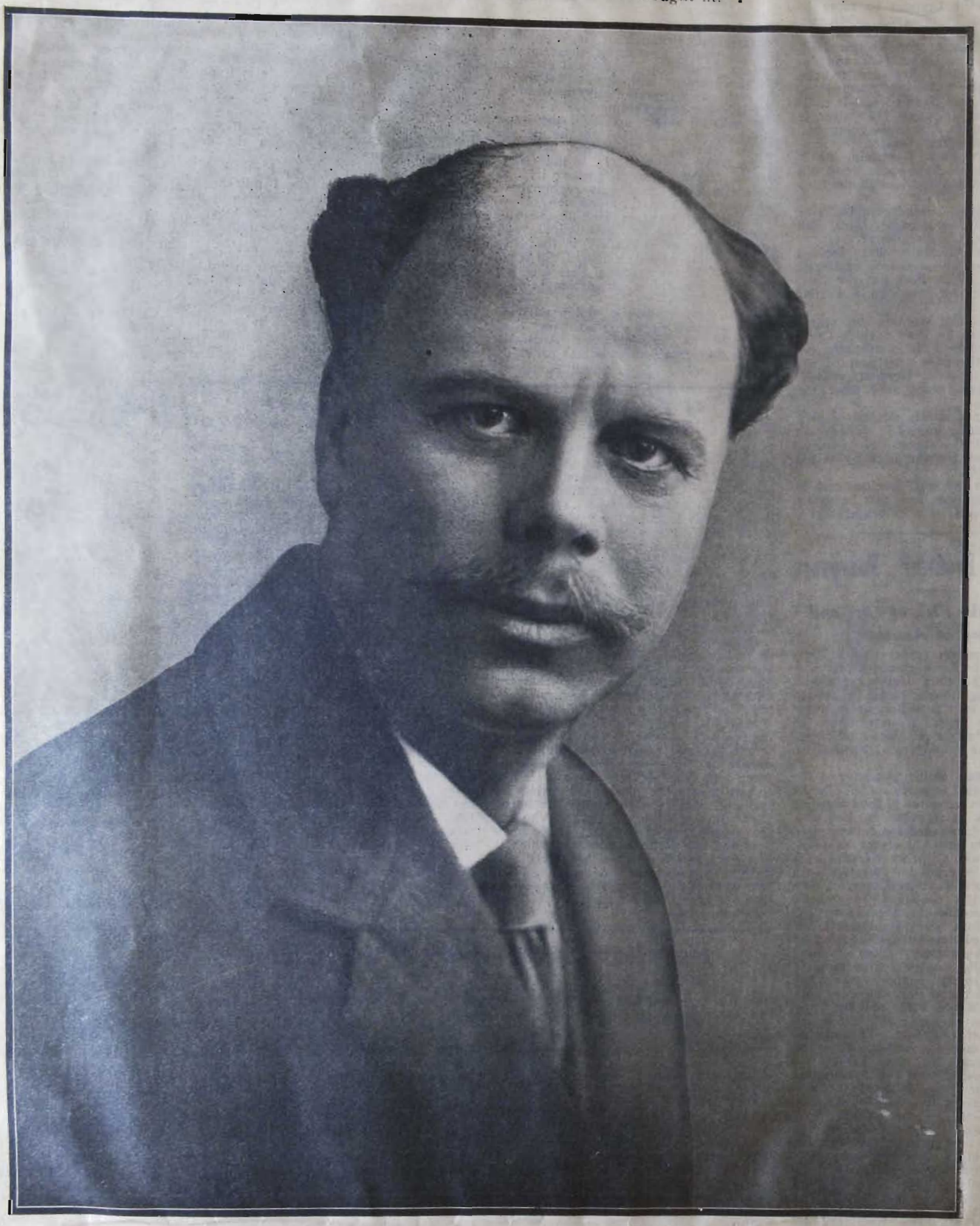


W. H. Gretton (First Hall Keeper of Deaf Centre from 1904–1916 who joined the Australian Expeditionary Forces in March 1916 & has sailed for the War in May 1916.

The Graphic of Australia March 30th 1917

A GENERAL OF DISABLED "SOLDIERS"

When war was declared the Deaf Mutes, without a single dissentient, offered their services to their country, "to be used in any way that the Minister of Defence thought fit."



MR. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM,

Principal of the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, 32-34 Flinders Street East, Melbourne, and Founder and Superintendent of the Home for Aged, Infirm and Blind Deaf Mutes, and Training Farm for Deaf Mutes Mentally Defective, Blackburn, Vic.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. DECEMBER 1916. NO. 4

AN EXPLANATION.

Just as we were ready with the Copy our printer intimated that because of the coal dispute, it was not then possible to print the December issue of "Our Monthly". It therefore accompanies the January number as a supplement and though the news it contains is somewhat belated, it will never-the-less have lost little or none of its interest to our readers.

XMAS.

It is too late now to wish you a Happy Christmas for although these lines are being written on Xmas Day it will be some days before they reach you. Our wish therefore, must appear in the past tense, and the wish is that you will have had a pleasant Christmastide.

A GALLIPOLI HERO.

The hero referred to in this paragraph is a brother of Roy Martyr, an inmate of the Blackburn Home.

" There was a general parade of the troops at the Royal Park camp on Wednesday, when the Governor-General (Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson) presented the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Private H.C.Martyr for gallant conduct at Gallipoli on April 26, 1915. A detachment from the Domain camp was also present, and the men on parade numbered 1.566, under the command of Major G.Ebeling D.S.O. His Excellency, who was accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, and attended by Captain Firth, A.D.C., arrived on the parade-ground at a quarter to 4 o'clock, and there were also present Brigadier-General Williams, Acting Commandant 3rd Military District, and Brigadier-General Burston. The Governor-General was received with a Royal salute, and immediately proceeded to the centre of a hollow square. "

Addressing Private Martyr, His Excellency said :-

" It affords me great pleasure to present this Distinguished Conduct Medal to you for splendid service at Gaba Tepe on April 26, 1915. You went out and carried in wounded men over open ground, exposed to heavy shell-fire, and showed a great example of courage and devotion. I am more than ever pleased to pin this medal on your breast in a camp where there are still

some men on parade. The German advance in Roumania clearly proves that the war is not yet over, as might be supposed from the appearance of some of our camps. The deeds which we now commemorate prove that the Australian forces, though not so strong as we could wish, show that quality which stands high and has given a character to our troops which places them second to none."

After the ceremony the troops marched past to the strains of the Royal Park and Domain camp bands. It is worthy to note that the 8th Battalion, to which Private Martyr belonged, took part in the capture of Pozieres, where they obtained the distinction of one V.C., two D.S.O.'s, four Military Crosses, and one bar to the Military Medal. six D.C.M.'s, and six Military Medals. "Argus"

THE SANDRINGHAM PICNIC.

It was a big crowd that met at "Coggleshall" Sandringham on Cup Day. When, at the recent rally members were asked to vote in favour of their choice of a place for the annual outing, there was a very luke warm response, indeed it looked very much as if we would have to respond to enquirers as did the boy with the apple, who, on being asked by another boy for the core said " there aint going to be no core", only it would have necessitated the substitution of " picnic " for core. But that irresistable and indispensable " snowy " as old footballers still call him, took the matter in hand with determination - the result being something like a record in number, for about 100 put in an appearance during the day. "Coggleshall" is a very pretty place and well adapted for picnics providing shelter for all kinds of weather and the beauty of the avenues of pine trees contributed not a little toward our enjoyment. The lawn tennis court came in for a fair share of patronage, as did Mrs. Abraham's motor car. The driver (Mr. Abraham Junr.) made numerous trips to Brighton and back with loads of half a dozen or more. Luncheon and tea were both exceptionally good, our Principal presided at the former, but had to leave early in the afternoon for Blackburn where he had several hearing picnics to cater for. Mr. Paul was to be seen participating in every game. The weather was very unsettled never-the-less it in no way interfered with our enjoyment. We had long rambles along the shore and in spite of the strong wind and rough sea had a good time, some even went bathing. It takes a lot to damp our spirits, altogether it was a most enjoyable day.

MEN'S GUILD.

It cannot be said that the subjects dealt with at our Guild gatherings are lacking in variety. We verily travel from pole to pole in diversity. "Organs of Government" was the latest effort of our versatile and ever ready member, Mr.T.A.Nelson and he had a very attentive audience on 31st of Oct. Other members also had " views " on the subject and were not backward in giving expression to them. Mr.J.Johnston's paper on " The Wool Track " given on the 14th ult was of exceptional interest and he was heartily thanked for his " budget " on Australia's chief industry.

XMAS RALLY.

The Forty sixth Rally is to be held on the 21st of Dec. at Our Centre. It will be in the form of an old English Christmas Party. The programme will include a Paper dress, and other competitions, (particulars and conditions may be obtained from the Hon.Sec Mr.J.E.Muir). " A Modern Pantomime with a moral " will be played by deaf members. Games of course will be in evidence. A refreshment bar will be open all the evening where ices, soft drinks and fruit will be obtainable. Supper at 9. 45pm.

the aptitude of our Members, but it did not. Anyway not where the ladies were concerned. It is true only three men entered but there were nine lady " triers". The most original character, without a doubt, was two faced " Mrs. Scandal" (Mr.T.Nelson) which was made of brown paper and paint, Mr. T Peters made up well as a"Swagman"and Mr.R.Luff as a"lady of today", but the deaf ladies carried off the palm for prettiness and ingenuity; they were just living fancy costume fashion plates. We agree with the judges that it would have been unwise to have made comparisons by awarding a prize for the " best", the fact is from one point of view or another they were " all bests " and a suggestion that they should all have prizes was jumped at especially when Mr.Edgar Peacock (son of our Society Chairman and one of the judges) and another hearing gentleman present promised to be responsible for the ladies prizes. Mr.Paul and a lady visitor were joint judges with Mr.Peacock. Mrs.Pierce was very clever as a " Bon-Bon " and Mrs.E.R.Smith must have devoted much time and taken infinite pains in the production of her wonderful and graceful costume representing " Billiards ". Mrs.Boortz was as usual to the fore with a very attractive arrangement named " The Gardener", Miss R.Peters was another sweet little " Bon-Bon ". Miss Iris Boortz made a lovely little butterfly, she was just exquisite; Miss Violet Crawford was an ideal poppy and as " Bridge" Miss E.Mitchell was tasteful and pleasing. Miss N.Kennedy "Queen of Roses" looked very nice and Miss D. Davis wore her costume entitled " The Allies " with that gracefulness which is so peculiar to her. Whatever Miss Davis does it is always done gracefully. We understand that many of the costumes were either wholly or in part her handiwork and we heartily congratulate her. It is to be hoped that we have not seen the last of these costumes and that in the very near future they will be joined by many more in some original and pretty competition or performance. That old but very popular competition of threading a needle whilst seated on a rolling bottle caused much amusement and was won by Mr.T.Peters. " Box Making " by ladies attracted many competitors, Miss D.Davis won for quickness and Miss R.Peters for neatness. Much laughter was caused by a new platform game, ladies had to assume the position of gentlemen's hair dressers, to comb and brush the gents hair and afterwards to arrange his collar and necktie. The successful couple- Miss V.Elwin and Mr.N.Ames. A doll's bedstead put up for 'auction " was knocked down to Mr.M.L.Miller, altogether £1.1.9 was realised for the Workers Club. When one is enjoying oneself the hours seem to fly by, they did on this occasion. "Supper" was announced and partaken of and the evening's fun came to a close all too soon.

MEMBERS on HOLIDAYS.

Messrs. J.Marks, E.Martin, V.Harding, G.Quantock and N.Hughes have gone to Sydney. Mr.C.Robertson to Maryborough and Mr.W.A.Paterson to Neerim South. Miss E.Connell to Kilcunda, Mr.M.G.B.Mortimer to Toora. Mr. & Mrs. H.McKenzie (newly Married) to Bairnsdale. Messrs. A.Sutherland and J.Leber to Olinda, Mr.O.Tyzzer to Creswick, Mr.T.Peters to Neerim South. Mr. J.Johnston - somewhere in Gippsland. Mr. J. Cariss to Geelong also Mr. W. Warren. Miss M. Collins to Neerim South.

VISITORS to MELBOURNE.

Mr.C.Graham (after 3 years absence from Melbourne.)
Mr. Kenihan of Adelaide, Mr.R.Owen of Sydney, Mr.J.Cardwell of Lorne
Miss J. Rettallick of Ballarat.

NOTES.

The Rally supper was supervised by the Misses R.Dow,D.Hickey and J. Rettallick.
Everyone was pleased to see Miss I.Foster at the Rally. She has had a long illness but is now much better.
The Hon.Sec. acknowledges for Monthly Letter Fund 1/6 each from Mr.Ellis (Hobart) and Mr.Burke (New Zealand) and 1/. each from Mr.J.Brooks and Miss Jones with thanks.
On the 12th Dec. Mr.J.M.Paul delivered an interesting address on his fortnight's experience in the Military Camp at Broadmeadows.
The Men's Guild has decided to hold its Annual Picnic at Olinda and Sassafras Gully on the 29th January.
Mrs.S.Griffiths of Sydney nee Miss Rosenfeld has been in Melbourne with her relatinns and friends for 6 weeks.
Mr.G.Battersby of StArnaud paid a short visit to Melbourne and took advantage of the opportunity to join his old school mates at the Cup Day Picnic
Mrs. Osborne of Mortlake underwent a successful operation at the Homeopathic Hospital in Melbourne lately and is now much better.
The Missioner (Mr.Paul) is spending Christmas at Warburton.
Miss Kenworthy and Mr.H.McKenzie were married on the 20th Dec. Our hearty congratulations.
Miss Graham has gone to Koolomurt Station for 2 or 3 months holiday.
A daughter was born to Mr.&.Mrs.S.Ferguson of Bowmans Forest on the 15th. of December.
Mr.J.Moran has been at sea on transport work and has not landed for 13 months.
Mr.L.Downes lost his youngest son on the 19th Dec. He has our heartfelt sympathy.
Our Missioner, Mr.J.M.Paul was amongst the men of 21 to 35 called up to serve in the Australian Military Forces. He went into Camp on the 9th of November, but Government failing to get a majority vote in favour of Conscription decided to disband the men, so Mr Paul remained only a fortnight in Camp. We understand he enjoyed th e experience.
Mr.A.Hull has taken a position at Leongatha for some months.
Private Gretton (Ex Caretaker) is now in France and sent his best wishes to all in a letter to the Hon Sec of the Deaf Committee.
Mr.& Mrs.G.Oakley celebrated their silver wedding on the 28th of Dec.

OUR PICNIC RESORT.

Lake Park is a much busier place during public holidays than at any other time. It was a popular picnic resort long years before we became the fortunate possessors and now, adorned as it is with the picturesque Home and the many acres of flowers it would not be possible to keep the public out. It is one of the sights of Melbourne. But this means very trying times for the Home Staff - Our Principal, The Matron, the Overseer(Mr.McLellan) and Mr.T.Nelson are hard at work from early morn until late at night throughout the holiday season. Hitherto we have had Christmas Day to ourselves but this year it even was no exception and crowds of Melbourne folk spent a quiet day at the Lake and someone had to serve the tea and soft drinks.

The account of the A.D.& D.A. Annual Meeting will appear in next months issue.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. JANUARY 1917. NO. 5

1 9 1 7

e enter upon the mystery of another year. Another journey into the great nknown, and as the year 1917 will be known the wide world over and go own to posterity as " The Great Year of Peace " we do not hesitate to wish ur readers a Very Happy New Year.

GIFT of £20.

r. S. Moss, our well known City Collector, has shown in a most practical nd generous manner his realisation of the need of safer lighting than andles and kerosene at the Blackburn Home by donating £20 toward the cost f the installation of electric light. Our Principal undertook to raise 80 f the above named object, he however, has his hands more than full ust now and as the Matron of the Home wants that light on at once ogether with a few other very pressingly needed improvements, she has aken on this special effort, and it is by her desire that we assure our eaders that if there are any other good friends with stray £20 notes or heques, or even of the value of £10 or £5, she will welcome them most earti1y, thank, and gratefully acknowledge same. Send your donation to rs. Lizzie Abraham, Deaf Mutes Home, Blackburn Vic.
mounts already received : -

r. S. Moss	£20	Mr.P.Bamford	£1. 1. 0
essrs. Kingston & Lord	3	Mr.J.M.Griffiths	1
etropolitan Gas Co	2.2.0	Mr.R.J.Oehr	1
Mr. A.T.Danks	2	Mr.E.H.Peacock	1
Mr. J. Hollick	1.10.	Mr & Mrs.H.Davidson	10
Lord Mayor (Sir David Hennessey)	1. 1.	Mr.Edments	10
Sir Robert Best	1. 1.	Mr.Warren	10
Mr. W.M.McPherson	1. 1.	Mr.Hindell	5
Mr. W.S.Keast M.P.	1. 1.	Miss A.Cox	2 6
Mr. W.W.Stephen	1. 1.	Total	£39. 15. 6

WOMEN'S GUILD.

On the 21st November the Misses Hickey and Davis read papers on "How Esther saved her people" and " Peeps at the Heavens". The last named young lady also explained a game of Authors and Poets. The efforts were very interesting and entertaining.
On the 12th Dec, it was a King Arthur's night, and each member of the Guild contributed a paper on the Arthurian Legends and Idylls. The evening passed pleasantly and enjoyably.
Votes of hearty thanks were tendered to the readers.

THE RAMBLERS CLUB.

On the 16th Dec, a muster of some 23 members had their monthly outing at the Blackburn Farm and Home. The weather was so beautiful and warm that the members found themselves in the Garden of Eden enjoying the sweet fragrance of the flowers and a rest in the cool shade by the Lake.
The third Annual Meeting of the Club was held in the Womens Room and the report and balance sheet was read and confirmed. All the office bearers were re-elected with the exception of Miss D.Davis who resigned from the position of Hon. Sec. Miss Mabel Dow was appointed her successor, and we wish her the best of good luck. A dainty tea followed, after which the members, in turn, enjoyed a spin in a motor car driven by Mr.Ernest Abraham Junr. As the darkness over spread the sky we gathered bunches of carnations and sweet pea and fell in for the march for the home bound train. Thus ended one of the pleasantest of our rambles.

THE DEAF WORKERS' CLUB.

Once more the President, the Hon Sec and the Hon Treas of the above club were early astir in town purchasing Xmas luxuries to the value of £3.10.0 which, it may be mentioned, came out of the Soldiers Treat Fund and the membership fees. £3. being spent for the soldiers at the Base Hospital and 10/. on sweets (in tins) for the inmates of the Blackburn Home. Then they went to the French Bank and forwarded £5. to Mdlle.Y.Pitrois, without any charge, for the Belgian Deaf Refugees and returned to the Centre where they packed the sweets for the inmates and 16 prs of sox and 1 pr mittens for the Lady Mayoress Patriotic League and addressed Xmas cards to sick deaf friends. It was half past four when they left the Centre.
The Hon Sec begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations :- For the Belgian Fund Zas 2 month's contribution 10/. Mr.M.L.Miller 10/, and Grace 8/; For the Soldiers Treat Fund, Mr.M.L.Miller 2 month's contribution 5/.; Mrs.J.E.Muir 5/.; Mrs.Mills 5/.; Miss Graham 5/.; Mrs. Williamson 2/6. Acknowledgments of goods have been received from the Federal Govt Red Cross Depot and the Malvern Branch.

OUR XMAS FESTIVAL

The Congregational Christmas Party was held at our Centre on the 21st ult. The hall had been most tastefully decorated by a band of " busy boys "and this added in no small degree to the lightheartedness of the whole assembly Besides hearing visitors, there were 125 deaf people present - mostly young; some had but just left school and one and all entered into the joy of everything . Our Principal (Mr.Abraham) presided and the Missioner(Mr. Paul) opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. J.E.Muir recited the National Anthem and read the Roll Call. Ice cream and soft drinks were on sale all the evening. The programme consisted of competitions of no common order and altogether made up a really first class entertainment . It was supposed that the Paper Costume competition would prove to be just a bit beyond

the aptitude of our Members, but it did not. Anyway not where the ladies were concerned. It is true only three men entered but there were nine lady " triers". The most original character, without a doubt, was two faced " Mrs. Scandal" (Mr.T.Nelson) which was made of brown paper and paint, Mr. T Peters made up well as a"Swagman"and Mr.R.Luff as a"lady of today", but the deaf ladies carried off the palm for prettiness and ingenuity; they were just living fancy costume fashion plates. We agree with the judges that it would have been unwise to have made comparisons by awarding a prize for the " best", the fact is from one point of view or another they were " all bests " and a suggestion that they should all have prizes was jumped at especially when Mr.Edgar Peacock (son of our Society Chairman and one of the judges) and another hearing gentleman present promised to be responsible for the ladies prizes. Mr.Paul and a lady visitor were joint judges with Mr.Peacock. Mrs.Pierce was very clever as a " Bon-Bon " and Mrs.E.R.Smith must have devoted much time and taken infinite pains in the production of her wonderful and graceful costume representing " Billiards ". Mrs.Boortz was as usual to the fore with a very attractive arrangement named " The Gardener", Miss R.Peters was another sweet little " Bon-Bon ". Miss Iris Boortz made a lovely little butterfly, she was just exquisite; Miss Violet Crawford was an ideal poppy and as " Bridge" Miss E.Mitchell was tasteful and pleasing. Miss N.Kennedy "Queen of Roses" looked very nice and Miss D. Davis wore her costume entitled " The Allies " with that gracefulness which is so peculiar to her. Whatever Miss Davis does it is always done gracefully. We understand that many of the costumes were either wholly or in part her handiwork and we heartily congratulate her. It is to be hoped that we have not seen the last of these costumes and that in the very near future they will be joined by many more in some original and pretty competition or performance. That old but very popular competition of threading a needle whilst seated on a rolling bottle caused much amusement and was won by Mr.T.Peters. " Box Making " by ladies attracted many competitors, Miss D.Davis won for quickness and Miss R.Peters for neatness. Much laughter was caused by a new platform game, ladies had to assume the position of gentlemen's hair dressers, to comb and brush the gents hair and afterwards to arrange his collar and necktie. The successful couple- Miss V.Elwin and Mr.N.Amos. A doll's bedstead put up for 'auction " was knocked down to Mr.M.L.Miller, altogether £1.1.9 was realised for the Workers Club. When one is enjoying oneself the hours seem to fly by, they did on this occasion. "Supper" was announced and partaken of and the evening's fun came to a close all too soon.

MEMBERS on HOLIDAYS.

Messrs. J.Marks, E.Martin, V.Harding, G.Quantock and N.Hughes have gone to Sydney. Mr.C.Robertson to Maryborough and Mr.W.A.Paterson to Neerim South. Miss E.Connell to Kilcunda, Mr.M.G.B.Mortimer to Toora. Mr. & Mrs. H.McKenzie (newly Married) to Bairnsdale. Messrs. A.Sutherland and J.Leber to Olinda, Mr.O.Tyzzer to Creswick. Mr.T.Peters to Neerim South. Mr. J.Johnston - somewhere in Gippsland. Mr. J. Cariss to Geelong also Mr. W. Warren. Miss M. Collins to Neerim South.

VISITORS to MELBOURNE.

Mr.C.Graham (after 3 years absence from Melbourne.)
Mr. Kenihan of Adelaide, Mr.R.Owen of Sydney, Mr.J.Cardwell of Lorne
Miss J. Rettallick of Ballarat.

NOTES.

The Rally supper was supervised by the Misses R.Dow,D.Hickey and J. Rettallick.
Everyone was pleased to see Miss I.Foster at the Rally. She has had a long illness but is now much better.
The Hon.Sec. acknowledges for Monthly Letter Fund 1/6 each from Mr.Ellis (Hobart) and Mr.Burke (New Zealand) and 1/. each from Mr.J.Brooks and Miss Jones with thanks.
On the 12th Dec. Mr.J.M.Paul delivered an interesting address on his fortnight's experience in the Military Camp at Broadmeadows.
The Men's Guild has decided to hold its Annual Picnic at Olinda and Sassafras Gully on the 29th January.
Mrs.S.Griffiths of Sydney nee Miss Rosenfeld has been in Melbourne with her relatinns and friends for 6 weeks.
Mr.G.Battersby of StArnaud paid a short visit to Melbourne and took advantage of the opportunity to join his old school mates at the Cup Day Picnic
Mrs. Osborne of Mortlake underwent a successful operation at the Homeopathic Hospital in Melbourne lately and is now much better.
The Missioner (Mr.Paul) is spending Christmas at Warburton.
Miss Kenworthy and Mr.H.McKenzie were married on the 20th Dec. Our hearty congratulations.
Miss Graham has gone to Koolomurt Station for 2 or 3 months holiday.
A daughter was born to Mr.&.Mrs.S.Ferguson of Bowmans Forest on the 15th.of December.
Mr.J.Moran has been at sea on transport work and has not landed for 13 months.
Mr.L.Downes lost his youngest son on the 19th Dec. He has our heartfelt sympathy.
Our Missioner, Mr.J.M.Paul was amongst the men of 21 to 35 called up to serve in the Australian Military Forces. He went into Camp on the 9th of November, but Government failing to get a majority vote in favour of Conscription decided to disband the men, so Mr Paul remained only a fortnight in Camp. We understand he enjoyed th e experience.
Mr.A.Hull has taken a position at Leongatha for some months.
Private Cretton (Ex Caretaker) is now in France and sent his best wishes to all in a letter to the Hon Sec of the Deaf Committee.
Mr.& Mrs.G.Oakley celebrated their silver wedding on the 28th of Dec.

OUR PICNIC RESORT.

Lake Park is a much busier place during public holidays than at any other time. It was a popular picnic resort long years before we became the fortunate possessors and now, adorned as it is with the picturesque Home and the many acres of flowers it would not be possible to keep the public out. It is one of the sights of Melbourne. But this means very trying times for the Home Staff - Our Principal, The Matron, the Overseer(Mr.McLellan) and Mr.T.Nelson are hard at work from early morn until late at night throughout the holiday season. Hitherto we have had Christmas Day to ourselves but this year it even was no exception and crowds of Melbourne folk spent a quiet day at the Lake and someone had to serve the tea and soft drinks.

The account of the A.D.& D.A. Annual Meeting will appear in next months issue.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. DECEMBER 1916. No. 4

AN EXPLANATION.

Just as we were ready with the Copy our printer intimated that because of the coal dispute, it was not then possible to print the December issue of "Our Monthly". It therefore accompanies the January number as a supplement and though the news it contains is somewhat belated, it will never-the-less have lost little or none of its interest to our readers.

XMAS.

It is too late now to wish you a Happy Christmas for although these lines are being written on Xmas Day it will be some days before they reach you. Our wish therefore, must appear in the past tense, and the wish is that you will have had a pleasant Christmastide.

A GALLIPOLI HERO.

The hero referred to in this paragraph is a brother of Roy Martyr, an inmate of the Blackburn Home.

" There was a general parade of the troops at the Royal Park camp on Wednesday, when the Governor-General (Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson) presented the Distinguished Conduct Medal to Private H.C.Martyr for gallant conduct at Gallipoli on April 26, 1915. A detachment from the Domain camp was also present, and the men on parade numbered 1.566, under the command of Major G.Ebeling D.S.O. His Excellency, who was accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, and attended by Captain Firth, A.D.C., arrived on the parade-ground at a quarter to 4 o'clock, and there were also present Brigadier-General Williams, Acting Commandant 3rd Military District, and Brigadier-General Burston. The Governor-General was received with a Royal salute, and immediately proceeded to the centre of a hollow square. "

Addressing Private Martyr, His Excellency said :-

" It affords me great pleasure to present this Distinguished Conduct Medal to you for splendid service at Gaba Tepe on April 26, 1915. You went out and carried in wounded men over open ground, exposed to heavy shell-fire, and showed a great example of courage and devotion. I am more than ever pleased to pin this medal on your breast in a camp where there are still

some men on parade. The German advance in Roumania clearly proves that the war is not yet over, as might be supposed from the appearance of some of our camps. The deeds which we now commemorate prove that the Australian forces, though not so strong as we could wish, show that quality which stands high and has given a character to our troops which places them second to none."

After the ceremony the troops marched past to the strains of the Royal Park and Domain camp bands. It is worthy to note that the 8th Battalion, to which Private Martyr belonged, took part in the capture of Pozieres, where they obtained the distinction of one V.C., two D.S.O.'s, four Military Crosses, and one bar to the Military Medal. six D.C.M.'s, and six Military Medals. "Argus"

THE SANDRINGHAM PICNIC.

It was a big crowd that met at "Coggleshall" Sandringham on Cup Day. When, at the recent rally members were asked to vote in favour of their choice of a place for the annual outing, there was a very luke warm response, indeed it looked very much as if we would have to respond to enquirers as did the boy with the apple, who, on being asked by another boy for the core said " there aint going to be no core", only it would have necessitated the substitution of " picnic " for core. But that irresistable and indispensable " snowy " as old footballers still call him, took the matter in hand with determination - the result being something like a record in number, for about 100 put in an appearance during the day. "Coggleshall" is a very pretty place and well adapted for picnics providing shelter for all kinds of weather and the beauty of the avenues of pine trees contributed not a little toward our enjoyment. The lawn tennis court came in for a fair share of patronage, as did Mrs. Abraham's motor car. The driver (Mr. Abraham Junr.) made numerous trips to Brighton and back with loads of half a dozen or more. Luncheon and tea were both exceptionally good, our Principal presided at the former, but had to leave early in the afternoon for Blackburn where he had several hearing picnics to cater for. Mr. Paul was to be seen participating in every game. The weather was very unsettled never-the-less it in no way interfered with our enjoyment. We had long rambles along the shore and in spite of the strong wind and rough sea had a good time, some even went bathing. It takes a lot to damp our spirits, altogether it was a most enjoyable day.

MEN'S GUILD.

It cannot be said that the subjects dealt with at our Guild gatherings are lacking in variety. We verily travel from pole to pole in diversity. "Organs of Government" was the latest effort of our versatile and ever ready member, Mr.T.A.Nelson and he had a very attentive audience on 31st of Oct. Other members also had " views " on the subject and were not backward in giving expression to them. Mr.J.Johnston's paper on " The Wool Track " given on the 14th ult was of exceptional interest and he was heartily thanked for his " budget " on Australia's chief industry.

XMAS RALLY.

The Forty sixth Rally is to be held on the 21st of Dec. at Our Centre. It will be in the form of an old English Christmas Party. The programme will include a Paper dress, and other competitions, (particulars and conditions may be obtained from the Hon.Sec Mr.J.E.Muir). " A Modern Pantomime with a moral " will be played by deaf members. Games of course will be in evidence. A refreshment bar will be open all the evening where ices, soft drinks and fruit will be obtainable. Supper at 9. 45pm.

THE FARM.

We used to think farmers a most unreasonable class of creatures and considered them to be quite outside the ordinary chips of good humanity we ourselves are. They were just habitual grumblers. Not males nor men, just " grumblers", a species all to itself.

We have changed our mind. For years we have been trying to grow things. We now understand. For four seasons rain refused to come and visit us and our plants withered. This season it has done nothing but rain and our plants have rotted. We are also invaded by Germ- no shellbacks - giants they are too. We go out at nights with lanterns and catch them by the bucketful and then tumble into bed to dream about them. We have seen and handled so many of them that everything now looks and tastes like snails and slugs. No ! we are not grumbling, we are only telling you the news. Never-the-less we are no longer unsympathetic toward the farmers and unhesitatingly admit that they are not unreasonable, nor do they belong to a distinct species. They are just human - very human. Someone told us the other day that the first thing his Master did on receipt of "Our Monthly " was to turn to the "Farm" par to see how much we had taken during the month so we must not forget that bit of news.
Here it is sales for the month of November 1916, £73. 8.0.
Amount banked £48.9.8.

A. D. & D. A.

Mr. F.E.Frewin (Hon.Sec) begs to acknowledge with thanks subscriptions from the following - Mr. F.J.Rose 5/, Mr. J.M.Paul 2/6, Mr.& Mrs.G. Damman of Warburton 2/. Mr.& Mrs J.Mills of Waaia 2/. Miss A.Foster (2 yrs 2/, Mr.& Mrs Frewin 2/, and 1/. each from Misses I and N.Kennedy, N.Adams, J.Huish of Maldon, E.Hair of Gippsland, A.Graham, D.Hickey, P.Ching of Linton, D.Davis, M.Collins, J.Wright, M.Gibson and R.and M.Dow. Messrs. E J.D.Abraham, G.Battersbyof St Arnaud, V.Harding, J.M.Johnston, L and F. Ching of Linton, C.Robertson, J.Cariss, N.Hughes, D.J.Hood of Beech Forest, H.Amos, R.H.Luff, J.Leber, J.E/Kenworthy of Bairnsdale and R.J.Hamilton of Paynesville. Mr. J.Marks (2 yrs) 2/. Mr.& Mrs.A.Williamson 2/. Mr. & Mrs E.R.Smith 2/. and Mr. & Mrs. J.Boortz 2/.

LAKE PARK.

Eight Sunday School picnics were booked to spend Cup Day at our picnic park but the weather was so unfavourable that only three of the smaller put in an appearance, and instead of three or more thousand for whom we had made provision our visitors numbered but a few hundred. We had had a busy week building Mia-Mia's for " cutting up " rooms, carting water and cleaning up, and were, perhaps not without reason, proud of the completeness of everything as we surveyed our handiwork the night before the event. We calculated on making about £60, our takings actually was £20, not so bad considering the conditions. Most of the poor little children that did come went home drenched yet apparently, anything but unhappy. Mr.Tom.Abraham was in charge. Mr.McLellan "bossed" the boats and Mr.Tom Nelson the coppers. Mr.Chapman managed the flower shed and Mr.S.Moss the gate. Up at the Home luncheon and tea was served by Mrs. Abraham and Miss Empson. Dad Senr.and Dad Junr. motored away at 11.30 am to attend the picnic at Sandringham but were back at 4.30 pm.

SILVER WEDDING.

To show that they rejoiced with Mr.and Mrs. E.J.D.Abraham on the attainment of their Silver Wedding, the Deaf Committee on behalf of the deaf Community commissioned Mr.J.E.Muir to make a presentation to our Chief and his wife on the 17th Oct. Accompanied by Mr.Paul he journeyed to Blackburn early in the morning, both Mr.and Mrs. Abraham being taken by surprise for the latter was supervising work in the kitchen and the former armed with secateurs and leather gloves was on his way to the rosery to gather in the morning's harvest. The gift of the deaf consisted of a large handsome rose bowl and four vases, and was accompanied by the following letter : - " Dear Mr.& Mrs. Abraham

I have the honour, at the request of the members of the Deaf & Dumb Society, to convey to you that it is with feelings of gratification and pleasure that we learn of you having attained the 25th Anniversary of your wedded life, and to express our warmest congratulations. We sincerely appreciate your efforts in the interests of the Deaf and gratefully remember how you have rendered the Deaf of this State inestimable service by devoting your many talents unreservedly to our cause. Our earnest prayer is that a continued happy and prosperous life may be vouchsafed to you and yours and that the Great Father of all love will bless you abundantly with health and strength to enable you to continue your good work " Blessed in being a blessing " . I am, Yours Most sincerely, J.E.Muir. Hon Sec. Deaf Committee. "

Mr. J.E.Muir in a few but appropriate words made the presentation and both Mr.& Mrs. Abraham expressed their gratitude and appreciation of the thoughtful kindness of the deaf. They hoped 'ere long to have the opportunity of personally thanking the good friends who had subscribed for the handsome gift.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

At the meeting of the Women's Guild held Oct.17th, the Misses E.Connell and V.Crawford contributed papers on the "Woman's Sphere" and "Must the British Empire fall". These efforts were highly instructive and entertaining and hearty votes of thanks were passed to the above named ladies. It is with pleasure we announce that our old friend Mrs. Luke has accepted the position of Patroness of the Women's Guild.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

A lady residing in Gippsland desires to engage two deaf young women (companions preferred) one as cook-laundress and the other as housemaid. Wage £52 per annum each.
Deaf housemaid also wanted for Eastern Suburbs at 15/. per week and
Two general servants at 10/. per week.
Apply by letter to the Principal, Adult Deaf Mute Centre, Flinder St, Melbourne.

CRICKET.

On the 28th Oct, the club gained a victory over the Wallbridge Club, although the scoring on both sides was small owing to the sodden state of the ground - the following scores were Wallbridge 20 and 5 wkts for 39 (Innings declared) and Deaf 28 and 7 wkts for 36. Robertson 13, Johnston 10.

On the 4th Nov. the club played against the Gasometer club with 8 men - Gasometer made 70, and Deaf 7 wkts for 37 . V.Tyzzer 14 not out. On the 11 Nov. the Hall's team beat the club by 3 wkts and 14 runs. The following scores were Hall 7 wkts for 82. Deaf 68. F.Rees 12, V.Tyzzer 10.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13 FEBRUARY 1917. Nº 6.

Country readers have, form time to time, expressed the desire that we should give space to news of the Worlds Deaf, and with this aim in view we have frequently put together a budget of interesting news items of the deaf of all parts of our Empire and of foreign lands only to find that the mass of local news claimed every inch of our available space. This month however, owing to the summer vacation and the remissness of officials who should have sent along news we have space to spare.

PRINCE JAMIE & HELEN KELLER

Magazines and newspapers alike have repeatedly assured us with more or less detail that the second son of the Queen of Spain is deaf and dumb, and quite lengthy articles have appeared giving circumstantial accounts of the engagement and success of Miss Keller in her efforts to instruct the young Prince. Information to hand shows that the whole story was based on a flimsy foundation. Anyway Dr. Kerr Love has received a letter from Miss Keller stating that so far as she is concerned there is no foundation whatever for the story.

A MAMMOTH DEAF GATHERING.

A mammoth gathering of the deaf is to be held at Hartford Cr. U.S.A. this summer to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of the first school for the deaf in America. The founder was Thomas H. Gallaudet and he devoted his life to the welfare of the deaf, both children and adults. The deaf of America keep the memory of this great benefactor green by setting his birthday apart for annual demonstrations and the event is always celebrated with enthusiasm in every City where the deaf can be got together.

THE MANUAL ALPHABET SHOULD BE LEARNED ——

At a Meeting of the National Association of the Deaf & Dumb held at Flint, Michigan. U.S.A. Dr. Dougherty (Deaf) advocated that the two handed alphabet should be taught the pupils of schools for the Deaf in America. He said " this alphabet is much easier to learn than the single hand one, and a great many more people apart from the deaf are familiar with its use. In the two handed alphabet starting with the thumb and taking the fingers in order, we have the five vowels. The thumb being " A " and the little finger " U ". Anyone can learn the rest of the alphabet in five minutes."

—— BUT NOT BY SOLDIERS.

A writer in the " Teacher of the Deaf " thinks that the position of the soldier deafened by the War is a matter which demands all the relief, knowledge or skill can bring and continues " But one suggestion we have heard is so completely absurd that we must give it a publicity to which its value certainly does not entitle it and merely in order to prevent its acceptance by persons who know nothing of the position, or need of the soldiers. The suggestion put forward is that they should be taught to spell on their fingers ". Why such a suggestion is " completely absurd " we fail to see. Is it absurd because it only takes five minutes to learn the manual alphabet and a teacher is not necessary ?

Captain Chesmond of the Newcastle-on-Tyne school for the Deaf who was recently wounded is making good recovery.

Mr. F.T.Brown who was Supervisor of the Preston Deaf School is reported killed in France.

Five members of the Birmingham Deaf School staff have left for general War Service.

GENERAL BOARD.

The General Board met at the Adult Deaf Centre on 15th Jan. Mr. G.G. Mercy J.P. presided and Messrs. W.Sumner Martin B.A, L.L.B., W.A.Dickens, H.J.Oehr (Hon Sec) G.Brown, M.L.Miller, the Principal and the Missioner were present. The Hon.Asst Treasurer (Mr.M.L.Miller) submitted accounts to value of £243.6.11 which were passed for payment.
The Principal (Mr.Abraham) reported general good health of inmates at the Blackburn Home. Temporary admission of a deaf mute who had escaped from Ballarat Hospital for Insane. General allround improvement in mental and physical condition of special cases under training. Returns for month : - Flowers £71., Picnics £16., Maintenance £77 or a total of £164. Amount Banked £203.10.0
With regard to the work at the Centre he reported that the mid-summer months were always the least active. Most of the educational classes were closed down until March. The Missioner had made 86 visits to the homes of the deaf, conducted ten services and two bible classes, average attendance at Services - morning 18, evening 47, bible class 15.
The Principal was authorised to engage a Nurseryman for the farm, to proceed with renovation work at the Home and to purchase blinds for the Men's Wing.

VIC. BRANCH A. D. & D. A.

The eleventh annual meeting of the subscribers to the above Association was held in the Adult Deaf Centre on the 9th Dec. The President (Mr. M.L. Miller) presided and there was a good attendance. The Annual Report and balance sheet were submitted by the Hon.Sec. (Mr.Frewin) and the Hon.Treas (Mr.W.Paterson) and were adopted. The Board of Management regretted being unable to lay before the members a statement of progress. Two matters only had been before them, the continuance of the Rose Fund, and the matter of a motor license for a deaf gentleman. The membership roll contained 106 names, the same number as last year. The Board thanked the members for continued interest. The whole of the officers were re-elected with the exception of Mr.C.Newnham (resigned) whose place was filled by Mr.J.M.Johnson. Officers for 1917 : - President - M. L.Miller, Vice-Pres J.E.Muir; Hon. Treas. W.A.Paterson; Hon.Sec. F.E.Frewin; Committee - J.A. Paul; R.H.Luff; W.P.Muir; G.Mortimer; T.A.Nelson and J.M.Johnson.

DEAF COMMITTEE

The Deaf Committee met on 23rd Jan in the Principal's room. The HonSec submitted report of Christmas Rally. Easter Rally fixed for April 10th. With the view of making the younger members of the Society better acquainted with the past friends of the Deaf, it was decided to hang the portraits of our Benefactors, now on the walls of the Principal's room, in the church

DEAF WORKERS

Mrs. Williamson (Hon Sec of Deaf Workers Club) acknowledges with thanks contributions from the following ; - For the Belgian Deaf Refugees Fund Mr.Williamson £1.1.0; " Grace " 12/. and "Za's" monthly 5/. Mr.& Mrs. Frewin and Mrs.Boortz who donated £1.1.6 to the Deaf Workers Club Fund from the raffle and auction of a doll's bedstead and paper roses respectively.

Someone is again enquiring why we do not put deaf youths to the profession of hairdressers. It is specially stipulated that " apprentices to the razor " should be taught on the " Silent " system and not by the " oral " otherwise it would merely be a jump from the frying pan to the fire for the customer. It seems that it is not " deaf " barbers that are so much in demand but " dumb " ones.

BLACKBURN HOME BAY TRIP.

We are again indebted to Messrs. Huddart Parker Ld for free passes on the " Hygeia " to Sorrento and back for the inmates of the Blackburn Home. The trip is fixed for Wed. Feb.7th. Sympathetic friends will again cover the cost of dinner on board. Deaf and hearing friends who wish to join the inmates may do so. Boat ticket (4/.) may be obtained on board. Dinner ticket (2/.) from Miss Empson at our Office.

of their Silver Wedding, the Deaf Committee on behalf of

NOTES.

Mrs. Abraham is spending her summer holidays in Sydney.

Mrs. Boortz, Miss I.Boortz and Miss V.Crawford enjoyed their two weeks holiday in Ballarat.
Mr.& Mrs. Lawson of Adelaide with their daughters have been holiday making with their friends in Foster and Melbourne.

Messrs. F.Martin, Newell and Barrell of Adelaide have also been in Melb. for a few weeks.
Mr. Gus Damman of Warburton was recently thrown from his horse and sustained a broken leg. He was brought to Melbourne and is now progressing favourably.

Mr. A.Williamson our chief Country Collector, has donated £2.2.0 to the Women's Wing Fund and £2.2.0 to the Flinders Street Extension Fund, for which we heartily thank him.

Mr. Councillor Morton J.P. has rejoiced the hearts of our Premier Lacrosse team with a donation of £2.2.0 (per our Principal).

Mr.W.A.Paterson and Miss E.Connell were very quietly married on 8th Jan. They have our hearty congratulations.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Mr. Handson in the loss of his brother who was killed in the recent Burwood Tram accident.

We beg to acknowledge with thnaks receipt of 1/6 each from Mrs, Stewart and Mr. John Bourke (not Mr.Burke of N.Z. mentioned in last month's issue) and 1/. from Mr.H.Taggart of Maryborough towards our Monthly Letter Fund.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 16th January, the members of Men's Guild spent a most enjoyable evening in the form of a pound night, each member bringing a pound of eatables etc. Interesting stories were told by some of the members and also by Mr. F.Martin of Adelaide.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J. D. Abraham's

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY to the DEAF

at Lake Park, Blackburn

SATURDAY MARCH 10th. 1917

All deaf friends invited.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne**, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free**. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13 MARCH 1917. Nº 7

A WORD WITH THE " OLD BOYS ".

Shall we blame the war, or what, or whom ? Certainly something has happened. Something has gone most radically wrong. There is a hitch in the machinery somewhere. What has become of our Great Enthusiasm anyway ? Who has crushed or hidden or stolen that spirit of our Movement with its mighty slogan " Forward! " that nothing once could stay ? Is it lost, or dead, or what ? What has become of that irresistibleness that built Our Centre and brought into existence the Home and the Farm and so many other aids to the advancement of the deaf ? Is the " Beauty " of our Fairyland sleeping, awaiting the coming of a New Prince with his magic wand of ' Time ' to re-awaken her, or have we had our day ? And like the great nations of old, must we, like them, mark time for a while then gradually fall into the mummy state of inactivity; just a " was " or a " has been " ?

True the War may be accounted for much, that is generalising on world wide events. But what concerns us as a Community is, has it really had any direct effect upon the deaf of Victoria ?
We think not.
Never were we more financially sound. Our opportunities for general improvement were never better. Never before had our less fortunate brethren such care and comfort. We have practically, no unemployed. And the deaf never stood in so happy a position as we do today, as wage earners side by side with the hearing. Our little world too, is exceptionally fortunate as regards health, and never in our recollection, have so many young deaf people come amongst us from their elementary training in so short a period as this present. And yet never before have there been such dismal attendances, nor such an absence of enthusiasm at our Centre. Sunday Evening Services and Rallies alone being excepted. Once upon a time there was an attendance of 40 at Sunday Morning Service, it is now 14 to 17. We remember how, in the days of the railway strike, many of us tramped five miles and more to be present at the morning Services. At present we have an unusual muster of fine strapping specimens of muscular manhood and yet we cannot get a cricket team together ! The young Men's

Guild, of glorious memory, can only attract 10 to its annual picnic and on a public holiday at that ! The once popular Ramblers had 6 and 10 respectively at their last outings ! The " Saturday Nights " is also gradually dwindling away.

It seems to us that we may be passing through a change, to us abnormal. That is to say direct from the old experienced workers to the irresponsible youngsters. We are without an intermediate section to " take over and carry on " until the youngsters are quite equipped. And so there is just a slipping away on the part of some of those who have done their twelve hours in the heat and the burden of the day. We have been shoving up hill for a long, long time and looking back it seems there is little hope of the other fellow hitching on unless we let go, and so we are inclined to let go with the comforting consolation that " we have done our bit anyhow, - let the other fellow have a go ".

But seriously,have we ?

Have we really done until we make the " other fellow " realise his responsibilities. It cannot be denied we ahve fully earned the rest due to us but our position is exceptional. We must not give in until the youngsters are fully awake to the work before them. It is only fair to admit that the "Old Boys " have done more than their little bit but those youngsters have got to be hitched up to the waggon before we give up pulling. We have got to " break them in " and to do so must pull side by side with them until they get warmed to the work and they get that inspiration which tells them that they have got to do something better and bigger than anything the old boys ever did. And when they get that spirit we can safely let go, but not until then So pick up that banner with its mighty slogan "Forward!" and buckle on that old sword of enthusiasm that has served you so well in the past and get into line. Remember we are the old irresistibles. We never failed in the past why should we now ? March is a most appropriate month for marching so fall in boys. That's right. Attention ! Mark time! Eyes right ! Eyes left! Eyes front ! - FORWARD !

THE HOME PEOPLE GO DOWN THE BAY.

Without a doubt this year's Bay Trip of the employees, inmates and friends of the Blackburn Home for Deaf Mutes was the most enjoyable outing of deaf folk in our recollection. This was, at least, the concensus of opinion of all who took part in it. First, the day was " just lovely" as one of the ladies put it. Second, all were in good health and spirit. So the conditions were ideal and had we not enjoyed ourselves it would have been no fault of the fairies. We numbered nearly fifty in all - entertained and entertainers. Practically the whole of the older deaf in addition to the inmates received invitations. There were not many passengers so the ship was almost our own. Officers, stewards, everybody went out of their way to put pleasure in ours. The Captain made room for some who desired to mount the upper deck and had the charts etc explained to them. We had luncheon on board and having brought healthy appetites with us, we are not ashamed to admit, most of us went right through the menu of soup, cold collation, salads and sweets. And just here is the place to tender thanks to the following friends of our Home who made this special event possible, like - wise the tea which was also enjoyed on board together with fruit and lollies distributed to us during the afternoon and evening - Miss Grimwade; Mrs. Clive Teece; Mrs. V.M.Christian; Miss E.J.Hearn; Mr.W.H.Felstead; Messrs. Beath, Schiess & Felstead; Dr.G.Syme;Mr.H.V.McKay; Mr.MacRobertson; and Mr. H.Giles Turner. It was essentially a'sea trip' our stay at Sorrento being very short, the sea being calm we were glad of this, even so Port Melbourne pier was reached long before we had seen as much of the sea as we would have liked. We are again indebted to Messrs. Huddart Parker Ld for the free passes and we cannot close this brief account without thanking Our Chief (the Organiser of the outing) Mrs. Abraham (Matron) and Miss Empson (Asst.Sec.) for their part in the days enjoyment.

ROSE PENSION FUND.

Whilst acknowledging the following donations to the above fund, we wish to remind our readers that the Adult Deaf of Victoria are pledged to contribute £15 annually toward the £50 promised by the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria. The School for the Deaf gives £50 and the Victorian Government £100 making £200 in all.
Mr. Frewin (Hon Sec) has received from Mr.W.A.Paterson 40/.;Mr.M.L.Miller 20/.; Miss A.Graham 20/.; Miss Pansy Elliot (Mildura) 20/.; Mr.E.J.D. Abraham 20/.; Mr.J.McPaul 10/.; Mrs.W.A.Paterson 10/.; Mr.R.Stewart (Bolinda) 10/.; Mr.J.Sloan (Kurting) 10/.; Mr.T.Nelson 10/.; Mr.J.F.Hunt (Ouyen) 7/6; Mr.A.Wilson 5/.; Deaf Friend 5/.; Miss E.Hair (Willung) 2/6; Mr. D.J. Brook 2/6; Mr. G.Battersby (St.Arnaud) 2/6; Misses amy & Lily Williams (Baulkamaugh) 2/.; to whom thanks are tendered. Further donations are required.

A. D. & D. A. - VIC. BRANCH.

The Hon.Sec. of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Deaf & Dumb Assoc. desires to acknowledge receipt of following membership subscriptions : - Messrs.J.D.Brook (2 years) 2/.; Mr.A.McLellan 2/.; T.A.Nelson 1/.; H. Taggart (Maryborough) 1/.; M.L.Miller 1/.; J.Retallick 1/.; Mrs. W.A. Paterson 1/.; and Mrs.A.McLellan 1/.

BLACKBURN HOME ELECTRIC LIGHT APPEAL.

Mrs. Lizzie Abraham desires to tender grateful thanks to the following donors for contributions toward the cost of installation of the electric light at Blackburn Home for the Deaf : - Previously acknowledged £39.15.6 Mrs. G.Doery 20/.; " Allowance " 52/6; Lutheran Church 21/.; Brunswick Methodist Church 20/.; Captain Carside 20/.; T.Nelson 10/.; " Balance" 30/.; Total £47. 3. 0. A further sum of £40 at least is required and Mrs. Abraham hopes same will be forthcoming quickly.

DEAF WORKERS CLUB.

The Hon.Sec. of the above offers thanks for following contributions for the Belgian Fund, Mr.M.L.Miller (3 months donations) 7/6; " Za " 5/.; "Grace" 4/.;

MONTHLY LETTER.

Mr.J.E.Muir reports having received subscriptions and donations for the " Monthly " from the following and desires to record his thanks for same. Mr.R.Harley (Tasmania) 5/.; Miss Young (Jerralang) 2/.; Miss E/Hair (Willung)1/6; Miss Pansy Elliot of Mildura 2/6.; Mr.R.Salmon 1/6 and Mr.M. L.Miller 1/.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

Mrs. Wilson conducted her usual Bible Reading on the 16th Jan, her subject being " The Virgins ", and Miss R.Dow spoke on " Confirmation ". On the 6th Feb. Miss Ida Kennedy gave an excellent paper on " How earthquakes are recorded ". This was followed by a number of short stories by various members.

MEN'S GUILD.

Mr. T.Nelson delivered a paper at the meeting of the Men's Guild on 13th Feb. He chose for his subject " The Machinery of Government ". He had a fair audience and it was easy to see that Mr.Nelson had devoted considerable

time to his subject, needless to say his paper was very much appreciated.

GIRLS RAMBLING CLUB.

The first ramble of the new year, which took place on the 13th Jan. was somewhat disappointing. The weather was cold but fine, " a day of days " for a ramble, but we numbered but six when the last possible train arrived at Brighton Beach. Mr.Leber who resides in the locality joined us and presently the Chief was observed leaving a lolly shop with chocolates and other dainties most welcome to us. We strolled along the shore and two of our company took " dips " and frightened the life out of our Chief at their daring. As they came up out of the water anyone might have been forgiven for mistaking them for extraordinary large boiled lobsters and they were not at all offended when we told them so. Tea and numerous delicious sandwiches and other goodies soon restored them to their normal attractiveness and the rest of us partook of and enjoyed the feed and had an uncommon good time.

The Ramblers decided to meet on St.Kilda Beach for their second ramble which took place on the 10th Feb. It was a very quiet party contenting itself by rambling over the lovely lawns and along the sea shore - the many amusements of the locality failing to attract. Tea was partaken of in one of the Pavilions.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

The Harvest Thanksgiving services are to be held on Sunday March 4th. The Missioner (Mr.Paul) will officiate in the morning and the Principal (Mr.Abraham) in the evening.
Gifts of evergreens, flowers, fruits and vegetables which it is hoped all members of the Congregation will endeavour to bring, should be left at the Church not later than 8 pm Saturday March 3rd, but the earlier that day the better.

MR. & MRS. ABRAHAM'S ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham desire it to be distinctly understood that all deaf friends are invited. Hearing friends also will be welcomed if the deaf friends inviting them will only notify Miss Empson in good time so that adequate provision may be made. We are informed that there is to be an exceptionally attractive programme. Saturday March 10th is the Date and the place Lake Park, Blackburn as usual.

EASTER RALLY.

The next quarterly Rally has been fixed for April 10th, the day following Easter Monday, the reason for choosing Easter week is to give Country members the opportunity of attending one of these very deservedly popular functions. It will be in the form of a Conversazione but with plenty of attractions. Look out for announcement in April " Monthly ".

The Graphic of Australia March 23rd 1917

Our Life-Long Disabled "Soldiers"

Our Deaf-Mute Citizens

"Granted the odds are against us, granted we enter the field
When Fate has fought and conquered, broken our sword and shield;
What then, shall we ask for quarter and say that our work is done?
Say, rather, the greater glory if the field be won."

So wrote a deaf mute poet, and there, in a few words, you have the spirit of our fellow-citizens who have the misfortune to be deprived of the two most glorious senses—hearing and speech. When war was declared, these doubly afflicted people, without a single dissentient, offered their service to their country, "to be used in any way that the Minister of Defence thought fit."

They are "sports" in every sense of the word, impelled with the desire to do their "little bit" whenever and wherever duty calls. They hold their own in the workaday world, being employed side by side with the normal in office and factory. In athletes they are in the vanguard also. They have a fine cricket team. Three of the older deaf were popular players in the old original Fitzroy football team, "Snowy"—or "Dummy"—Muir being, perhaps, one of the best-known players at that time. At present the Adult Deaf Mute Centre Lacrosse Club are Premiers of the Victorian Lacrosse Association.

And the deaf ladies are in no way behind. A company of deaf mutes, young girls, have gained a unique place as public entertainers by their "Living Statuary." One of our morning papers recently spoke thus of one of their performances: "One will seldom see a more beautiful spectacle anywhere than that of the white-robed maidens . . . . as they spoke in language of signs and gesture, and grouped themselves in a series of graceful poses. Here was a beauty that very few actors even achieved on the stage, and indeed a splendid object-lesson."

And yet few of us realise what the loss of hearing really means. It means to be cut off from almost every avenue of pleasure and instruction; from the ambitions of public life, and the pleasures of social intercourse. To be isolated from most that makes life worth living. Life to the deaf mutes is a cinematograph film, passing, ever passing. Life to them is a dramatic, wordless story. The eyes alone drink in the passing show, leaving the mind to unravel the mystery, but being without an interpreter.

Until fifteen years ago we knew little about our deaf mute citizens. Some of us had met or heard of people who could not hear or speak, and in a vague disinterested sort of way connected them with the mentally defective and supposed them to be inmates of asylums; indeed, there were those amongst us who had "been over" the asylum in the St. Kilda-road.

In March, of 1902, an expert enthusiast in the cause of the deaf and dumb arrived from England and took Melbourne by storm, opening at the Town Hall with a crowded audience, some 5000 being unable to obtain admission, afterwards visiting the whole of the suburban halls with like success. He declared that the only difference between normal people and deaf mutes was that the latter could not hear. They were competent, given education, to fill any position where hearing was not essential. He claimed that they had as much right to free education as normal children; to educate them by charity was to insult fellow-citizens, who, in spite of *their double handicap, earned their* own livelihood, paid their rates and taxes, and carried their share of responsibilities like the rest of the community. If secondary educational institutes, churches, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., and places of amusement were needed for those possessed of the powers of hearing and speech, the need was a thousand times greater on the part of those without.

The result of this agitation, in which the expert was loyally supported by the adult deaf mutes themselves, was the passing of an Act of Parliament, making the education of deaf and dumb children free and compulsory, and the erection of the Adult Deaf Mute Centre in Flinders-street East. "The Centre" is perhaps the most inclusive building in Australia, containing church, lecture hall, class rooms, library, portable theatre, employment bureau, relief agency, and also the office of a little monthly publication for the deaf. Services, lectures and entertainments are all conducted in the sign language. The purchase of Lake Park, Blackburn, and the



Deaf Mute Lady Entertainers,
Students of the Adult Deaf Mute Centre.



The Adult Deaf Mute Centre Lacrosse Club.
Premiers of the Victorian Lacrosse Association.



Home for Aged, Infirm, Blind and Mentally Deficient Deaf Mutes, Blackburn, Vic.



Adult Deaf Mute Centre,
33, 34 Flinders Street E., Melbourne.



There's two sides to every question—
nd three to some.
The name of the Portuguese torpedo-
at that destroyed two Ham sandwi-
hes is "Eadie"—"Very Good Eddie."
Von Bethmann-Hollweg says he
oesn't care a scrap for the Allies—not
scrap of paper. But it is the scrap
paper. Don't kid yourself that you
are a superior Ass when you are as
blissfully ignorant as any other old Ass.
There is astride of you a Little Bajaam
who declared a while back that he, and
not you, saw the Light. In one of your
more reverential moods just keep on chasing
that bunch of carrots, and hee-haw as
much as you please. You were born an
Ass, and it seems to me you will re-
main an Ass until the millennium. In
that belief, I wish you well, and s'b-
scribe myself ever most affectionately
yours,
THOMAS DIDYMUS.

STARTING SATURDAY—March 24
PATERSON'S LIMITED'S
GREAT EASTER SALE
Of Furniture.
173—181 Smith Street, Fitzroy
(Opposite Foy's)

TO THE DEAF OF VICTORIA.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest J.D.Abraham

request the pleasure of your Company at a

GARDEN PARTY

to be held at

LAKE PARK. BLACKBURN.

on

SATURDAY MARCH 10th. 1917.

Deaf friends wishing to invite Hearing friends to the Party are invited to do so, but are requested to notify Miss Empson (32.Flinders St,Melb.) on or before the 5th, stating the number they intend to bring along, so that adequate provision may be made.

Train Service. From Flinders St. to Blackburn : - P.M. 12.55; 1.22; 1.35; 1.40; 1.55; 2.5; 2.15; 3.5. From Blackburn to Flinders St. ; - P.M. 4.12; 6.23; 6.28; 7.39; 8.18; 8.34.

CHURCH for the DEAF.

Flinders St, East.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

SUNDAY MARCH 4th 1917.

11 am. The Missioner - Mr.J.M.Paul

7 pm. The Principal - Mr.E.J.D.Abraham

Gifts of Evergreens, flowers, fruit and vegetables are asked for. Please bring your gift on Sat. March 3rd, not later than 8 pm, the earlier in the day the better.

TUESDAY MARCH 6TH 8 pm.

at Adult Deaf Mute Centre
Flinders Street, East

" LOOKING BACKWARD " an ADDRESS by

Mr. Ernest J.D.Abraham (Principal)

A hearty invitation to the Deaf of both sexes.

BIBLICAL ADDRESSES by the PRINCIPAL.

March 15th 8.pm " Where are we ? "

March 29th 8.pm " The Communion of Souls

The Principal hopes to see you at all of these Meetings.

INVITATION

To the ANNUAL MEETING of the
Adult Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria

— and —

Demonstration by Deaf Mutes

to be held in the

ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE

32-34 FLINDERS ST., MELBOURNE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23RD, 1917

AT 8 P.M.

The Rt. Hon. the LORD MAYOR ALD. SIR DAVID HENNESSY WILL PRESIDE

TO OUR FRIENDS.—The accommodation of our Hall is very limited. We, therefore, request you kindly to come early and to be seated by time of opening, as the meeting is open to the public.

Collection.

ADMIT TWO ADULTS

DOORS OPEN - 7 O'CLOCK



ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE LADY ENTERTAINERS

Deaf Committee 1917-18

Vote for nine (9)

Strike out names of 2 of the Candidates whom you do not wish to vote for.

1 Frewin * 36
2 Luff * 36
3 Milles * 38
4 Mortimer * 37
5 Muir W. P. * 35
6 Nelson * 26
7 Paterson * 34
8 Carins 22
9 Johnston 37
10 Lebes 13
11 Sutherland 24

* Old Committeemen

"The Age" 23/5/17

Deaf and Dumb Society.

The annual meeting of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society was held last evening at the society's centre; Alderman Sir David Hennessy presiding. Mr. G. Mercy, on behalf of the committee, read the annual report, which showed that the accumulated sum of £580 borrowed from the building and furnishing fund to pay maintenance accounts had still to be replaced. Apart from this, the current year had been one of success. Aided by the grants received from the David Syme Charitable Fund, the T. J. Sumner Trust and the Felton Bequest Committee, the current income had been sufficient to meet the total cost of maintenance of both branches of the society's work. With regard to the farm, the income had shown a satisfactory improvement on that of the previous year. The report and balance sheet were adopted. Sir David Hennessy, in moving the re-election of office bearers, congratulated the committee on the "healthy state of the finances and the good progress made during the year." With regard to the accumulated deficit of £580 shown in the report, he anticipated that the committee would have little difficulty in paying off this sum in the near future. Rev. A. M. Caldwell seconded the motion, which was carried. Mr. W. G. M'Beath was elected president for the ensuing year, and the following officers were re-elected:—Patron, Sir Arthur Stanley; vice-president, Mr. E. R. Peacock, who is at present at the front in connection with Y.M.C.A. work; secretary, Mr. R. J. Oehr; treasurer, Mr. H. L. Walters; assistant treasurer, Mr. M. Miller; auditor, Mr. John Higgins.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. APRIL 1917. Nº 8.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM MADEMOISELLE PITROIS.

Is it possible that a whole year has elapsed since I wrote my last open letter to you ? I have been so very busy that I could not come to you again sooner, yet my heart and mind went out very very often to you. More especially did I think of you when the British offensive began, and when our papers were full of the heroic deeds performed by the Anzacs and of the Australian troops generally at the front of Picardie ! I wondered then if any of you had " a darling " (somebodys darling you know) amidst this terrible furnace, and I heartily wished, that they all might be spared. By the way, dear silent friends, if ever you have a dear one wounded or missing in France, and if I can do anything for him, - for your own sake, - you have only to write to me; I shall be only too pleased to return back to you in a small way, the kind help you have rendered toward my poor refugees.

This year I have continued with all my heart to search out the poor and lonely deaf victims of the war, scattered all over France, and have found several more; an old woman of 77 who says pathetically " My pretty house was burnt to ashes, I am reduced to nothing after having worked so hard all my life ." Another old woman of 79 deaf and a cripple, who has been terribly wounded on the head by a German shell told me " I have no more shelter, nothing left at all." A girl of 20, who, when I discovered her, had for a bed a pair of curtains and a very small wrapper, a little girl of 9 whose father had been killed at the war, and whose house has been burned down now lives with her Mother in a wooden hut, also a dear sweet girl of 20, refugee of the Rheims Zone, who is quite blind as well as deaf. I did my best for these afflicted ones, sending them little sums of money, clothing, cheap dollies for the children and affectionate messages. My dream is to search until I find a personal friend for each of them.

I have sent this year other big sums to the deaf of invaded Belgium - the total amount of my payments there being £84. I hope you will continue to do your best for our poor afflicted brothers and sisters in their long, long time of depression and sorrow. I regret so much to say that the parcel of clothing sent by the Melbourne Deaf never reached me, although I made most searching enquiries. Next time I write D.V., I shall tell you something of the Christmas of my poor refugees. I must close now with New Year Wishes to you all.

Yours affectionately, Yvonne Pitrois. Bordeaux, France.

GOOD SIGNS.

Last month we had a word or two with the " Old Boys " and if we may judge by comments, both in converse and letter, it went some way toward accomplishing its object. It seems too, that we are not altogether without " intermediates ". There are, we are glad to say, several claimants. And claimants who intend to be a " Power in the land " too. One in particular, temporarily employed in the country writes " I am proud to tell you there is at least one at the Centre " and he goes on to tell what he intends to do when he gets into " Centre" harness again. This is very encouraging. Indeed the conviction is growing upon us that there is going to be quite as great things accomplished by the young folk in the near future as has been brought about by the" Old Boys" in the past. There is a great awakening going on, the new generation is " showing signs " and thats a good sign anyway and a cheering sign. So when the right moment arrives we expect there will be a great signing on for participation in the work of progress.

ROSE PENSION FUND.

Mr.F.E.Frewin desires to acknowledge with grateful thanks the following contributions to the above fund. Mr.J.M.Johnson 2/6, Miss Enid Jackson (Sandford) 10/. Miss J.Huish (Maldon) 5/. Messrs. T.Z, F.W. and M.A.Ching (Linton) 20/. Mr.R.J.Miller (Broken Hill) 10/. Mr.W.P.Muir 2/6 Mr.G. Newnham (Ringwood)2/6, "Sympathetic" 2/6,Mr.M.G.B.Mortimer 10/. Mr.&Mrs. S.Ferguson (Bowmans Forest) 20/. Mr.F.Lynas(Wooroonooki) 20/. Mr.Ernest J.D.Abraham 21/. (Not 10/. as stated in last issue) Mr.and Mrs.J.E.Muir 10/. Mr.A.W.Sutherland 5/. X.Y.Z.5/. H.H.Allinson(Wonthaggi) 4/6. With his donation Mr.R.J.Miller sends words of gratitude and appreciation, unfortunately we have only room for a brief extract from his interesting letter. "Mr.F.J.Rose" he says " deserves a big pension for all the worry and trouble he must have undergone in establishing such a splendid school for the deaf and dumb as that on the St.Kilda Road . . . accomplished through his self-sacrificing labours and whilst handicapped by the same affliction himself. . . without this great provision the majority of the deaf might have grown up ignorant and become burdens to their relations and to the State and would have been denied the happiness of matrimony". He congratulated Mr.Rose from the bottom of his heart for his successful achievement.
Have you sent your contribution ? If not, why not. Send today.

"COMMUNION of SOULS ".

Mr.Abraham's address "The Communion of Souls" on the 29th March was an appeal for closer communion. He said the word Communion meant " fellowship", the interchange of thoughts and interests, the giving and receiving for mutual benefit. A Union of believers in an ideal, aim or object - and all that might apply to material things. What he was now asking for was a spiritual fellowship, a union of souls, a fellowship of those who were prepared to give their best to the well being of their fellows. A union of lovers of love - that is, God. It was the spiritual, the immortal in man that counted, nothing else mattered. The intellectual was a means to an end, but unless the advancement of the Soul was that end, it would all prove to be vanity and vexation of spirit.
There was a crowded audience.

MEN'S GUILD OUTING.

Monday Jan.29th (A.N.A.Day) was fixed for our annual outing so 10 members assembled at Flinders St.Station before 9 am and caught a train for Fern Tree Gully, where 2 others were waiting for us. As our Hon.Sec. had not turned up, we waited for the next train from Melbourne in the hope that he may be aboard, but he was not, so we took train to Belgrave on the narrow guage line. Mr.Sutherland acted as guide, being familiar with the locality. He took us by pleasant paths round Begley s bridge to his home at Olinda, where we arrived about 1 pm. We got out our bags and spread the contents on the table. Mr.and Mrs.Sutherland kindly provided tea and " extras ". After luncheon we strolled around the place for a couple of hours or so, as we were specially invited by Mr.and Mrs.Sutherland to partake of afternoon tea before we made a move for home. Their generosity equalled the beauty of Olinda and was greatly appreciated. Mr.H.Luff, the President, on behalf of the members thanked Mr.and Mrs.Sutherland for their hospitality, also Mrs. Warner fro befriending us with gifts of flowers. After tea we lingered around awhile. " O Linda we were loth to leave thee". Finally about 5.30 pm we made a move for home, as it was a down grade to Ferntree Gully we did not find it tiring, we branched off ata certain point and went to the top of One Tree Hill where we had tea provided by the Guild. After which we descended the steps (Counting them as we went) and finally reached the station where we picked up the missing Secretary at F.T.G. station who explained having missed our train, took the next one which took him to a different destination - Sandringham -(was the Chief there? it is his spot - and had he a magnet and was he in one of his mischievous moods)? as he had to return to Melbourne and catch another train for F.T.G. reaching there about 12 o'clock, failing to find traces of us made the best of it. We will send a guide for him in future.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

The Church was tastefully decorated for the Thanksgiving Services on the 4th March. by Messrs. M.L.Miller, J.E.Muir and M.G.B.Mortimer. The Missioner (Mr.Paul) officiated in the morning when there was an attendance of 22, and the Principal (Mr.Abraham) preached at night, attendance 78. His text was, 1.Cor.15 - 40,41, and he emphasised the "Glory" of life. He said everything has its distinctive glory, there was nothing too small nor too mean to be without its glory to those with spiritual eyes. Everyone had some distinctive power, some beauty, some attraction, talent, something peculiarly his or her own. Sun, moon, stars, sky, sea, mountain, river, valley, green meadows, trees, flowers, birds, beasts, insects and the inhabitants of the sea, all had their distinctive glory. There was the glory of labour, of rest, of sport, the glory of fellowship, of patient sacrifice, and the glory of Harvest when the heart, of thoughtful men went out to the Great Giver of all good things. The Harvest Festival was the glory of grateful thanks, the riches of plant life with their fascination of eye, smell and taste were the smiles of a loving Father.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

March 20th, Miss D.Hickey delivered a very interesting paper on " Where do nuts come from " to a fair attendance of members of the women's Guild. After her paper, impromptu speeches were given with great interest. Before the meeting closed, Mrs.W.A.Paterson was presented with a wedding gift from the members.

THE OUTING FUND AND BANK.

The Board of the Adult Deaf Centre Bank have issued their twelfth Annual report. It is brief and to the point. The sum of £131.3.0 was carried forward from last year, and during the past twelve months £50.18.10 was paid in by depositors, - an average of almost 20/. per week from 37 depositors - making a grand total of £182.1.10. The amount withdrawn was £41.5 leaving the sum of £140.16.10 to the credit of the Bank. The management has a reserve of £3.6.0. Interest will be allocated in July. The Board recognises the services of the Hon,Manager, Mr.R.H.Luff also of Mr.M.G.B. Mortimer, Asst. Manager and Mr.J.Johnson, Auditor. The Board express the hope that the interest shown by the deaf will be steadily maintained. The principal business of the year was the framing of a new Constitution, which was subsequently approved by the Board of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society; also the financial year was made to end in future, in February instead of July. The Board report that " the confidence and interest of the depositors has been well maintained ". It has. The fact that there is a substantial increase to the credit of the depositors left in the bank, proves this. Never-the-less, the report is not altogether satisfactory. The average weekly deposit per member was about sixpence and there are only thirty seven depositors out os a possible 150.
There should be an average weekly deposit of at least one shilling and a membersnip of between fifty and sixty to be in accord with the standard average of the Society.

ELECTRIC LIGHT FUND.

Mrs. Abraham acknowledges with sincere thanks receipt of £2.2.0 from Mr. Alex. Williamson, £1. from Mr.& Mrs.S.Ferguson of Bowmans Forest, £1. from Mr.M.L.Miller and 10/6 from Mr.J.M.Paul, toward the cost of installation of electric light at the Blackburn home. Mrs. Abraham desires us to state that she is still £40 short of the cost of the amount required.

PERSONAL PARS.

Mr.W.H.Crush has been selected by the State Munitions Committee of the Defence Department to proceed to England and take up work as wood machinist at one of the ammunition works at home. He is under orders to be ready to leave at a days notice. He will take with him the good will of the whole of the deaf who know him.
Lake Park, and the Home for Deaf Mutes, Blackburn must be more familiar to the returned wounded soldiers than any other part of Melbourne's suburbs, for almost every month, and on occasions twice a month hundreds of motor cars, filled with returned soldiers are received by Mr.Abraham at the Lake. The Blackburn young ladies undertake the tea arrangements, the deaf inmates boil the water and look after the boats.
Mrs.D.Ashby and 2 children accompanied by Mrs.Stokes, (both of Trafalgar) spent a most enjoyable week at Queenscliffe.
Miss L.Williams of Waaia is enjoying her holiday in Melbourne.
Want of space compels us to hold over much interesting news till next month.

EASTER RALLY - TUESDAY APRIL 10th - 7. 30 pm.

ADULT DEAF CENTRE,
32.34 Flinders Street,E; Melbpurne.

HEARTY WELCOME TO ALL DEAF FRIENDS.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. J. E. MUIR, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s. 6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. MAY 1917. Nº 9.

THE LATE MR. W. H. FELSTEAD.

Mr. W.H.Felstead, President of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria died on the 27th ult. He accepted the position of president when in ill health some six years ago, and on the occasion of his election told us that although he would be able to attend but few of our gatherings, he would do all in his power to further our cause, and so it came about, that whilst our Principal was in constant touch with Mr. Felstead, the deaf saw but little of their President. He fulfilled his promise in letter and in spirit and always unhesitatingly set his own business on one side when his advice or help was sought on behalf of our Society. He took pains to become acquainted with the doings of the deaf, and in conversations with the members of our Staff showed that he was familiar with all that was going on, even to the recreative side of the work for when our Lacrosse team became Premiers he congratulated us. He responded to every special appeal and even asked to be given the opportunity of participating in helping all special deserving cases of distress. He was one of the group of good friends who provided the luncheon and tea for the inmates of the Blackburn Home on their Annual trip down the Bay. We shall miss him, for whilst there are hundreds of Sympathisers willing to give an annual contribution, there are few that are willing to open their purse and interest themselves in individual cases of distress that do not come under the ordinary rule. Mr. Felstead was one of the leading members of the Chamber of Commerce and for many years was at the head of almost every philanthropic effort. He leaves a widow and family four sons and one daughter. Three of the sons are on active service. On hearing of the death of Our President, the Lord Mayor of Melbourne said Mr. Felstead was one of the founders of the Commonwealth Button Fund, and had at all times taken an active part in patriotic and Charitable movements. Mr. Felstead was buried at the Melbourne General Cemetery on the 30th ult, a beautiful wreath was sent in the name of the General Board and the Principal of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria and another from the Staff and Inmates of the Blackburn Home for Deaf Mutes, all of whom realise their loss and deeply sympathise with the relatives and friends of their late President.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Deaf Congregation was held in the Adult Deaf Centre hall on the 17th April. There was a good attendance. The Principal and Chaplain presided; the Missioner opened with prayer. Mr. J.E.Muir (Hon Sec) read the Annual Report and Mr.F.Frewin (Hon Treas) submitted the Balance Sheet, both of which were adopted. The report outlined a year of steady work and the treasurer was able to show a balance in hand. Eleven candidates offered themselves for the nine seats on the Committee. The following were elected, Messrs.F.E.Frewin, R.H.Luff, M.L.Miller, M.G.B.Mortimer, W.P.Muir, T. Nelson, W.A.Paterson J.M.Johnson and A.Sutherland, the two latter are new members. There was considerable comment and surprise at the absence of the familiar name of " J.E.Muir " from the list of candidates, and a shadow of depression fell upon the meeting when it was learned that he was shortly to leave Melbourne. It was decided to place on record the valuable services Mr. Muir had rendered the Society, but it was thought that no words could fully cover all he had done. The Chairman said it would be absurd to attempt to thank Mr.Muir at that late hour, their gratitude must be stored up for a more fitting occasion.

EASTER RALLY.

The 47th Quarterly Rally was held at Our Centre on the 10th April and although there was a great attendance, it was a quiet never-the-less a very happy function. The date was fixed for the convenience of Country Cousins but very few were present. There was no outstanding feature, the programme being made up of games and conversation with the inevitable supper. Mr. Abraham presided and in the name of the Congregation presented Mr.W.Crush with a wristlet watch as a memento of his departure for Europe as a Munition Worker. Mr.J.E.Muir on behalf of the Adult Deaf Athletic Club and a few friends presented Mr.C.Robertson with a fine clock as a wedding gift.

STRAY NOTES.

A special form of Service has been arranged by Our Chaplain for use in our Church. It is to be used for the first time on Sunday May 6th, when both Chaplain and Missioner will officiate assisted by a deaf ' choir '.
The Hon Sec. of the Deaf Workers Club tenders thanks for following contributions, Mr.A.Williamson £1. 2a 10/. and Mr.M.L.Miller 2/6.

The last ordinary meeting for the year of the Women's Guild was held on the 24th April when Mrs.J.E.Muir conducted an educational class, her subject being " Tales of Shakespeare ". She also told some mythical stories of plants and stars and as usual maintained the interest of her audience throughout. The Annual Meeting of the Guild is to be held in May.
THE MONTHLY LETTER COMMITTEE acknowledge with thanks receipt of 10/. from Mr.S.Ferguson (Bowmans Forest) 5/. from Mr.F.Lynas (Wooroonooke) 3/. from Mrs.J.J.Halley (Adelaide), 2/6 each from Mrs.C.Luke (Melbourne) and Mr.R.Miller (Broken Hill), 2/. from Mr.M.O'Sullivan(Sydney) "Friend" 2/., 1/6 each from Mrs.Lawson (Adelaide) and Mr.Oakley. Mr.Cunningham (Creswick) and Mr.J.M.Johnson 1/. each toward our " Monthly Letter " Fund.
Owing to the Easter Holidays and Eight Hours Day the Men's Guild held no Meeting during April.

Mr. C.Robertson and Miss Collins were united into the bonds of wedlock on the 4th of April at Our Church, Flinders St, which was crowded with relatives and friends. The Rev. Mr. Marshall performed the ceremony and Our Principal interpreted. They spent their honeymoon at Lorne. The best wishes of all the deaf go with them.

Many Melbourne deaf sought pleasure far afield during Easter. Miss E. Smith visited Sorrento and Warrnambool, Misses D.Hickey and R.Dow had a three weeks spell at Bendigo, Messrs Marks, N.Hughes and W.B.Anderson also visited Tomato Town. Messrs.J.Johnston and T.Peters went to Lorne Mr.N.Amos to Waaia and Mrs. A.Williamson, Camperdown. Among the visitors to Melbourne were Messrs.A.J. and T.Collins (Neerim South) J.Cardwell (Lorne) Mr.& Mrs. Stokes (Trafalgar) Mr.Carter (Sydney) and Mr.F.Martin (Adelaide). Miss A.Graham has returned to Melbourne after a three weeks stay with relatives at Koolomurt.

A daughter was born to Mr.and Mrs.R.Hodges on the 23rd of April.

A bazaar in aid of the Blackburn Returned Wounded Soldiers League was held in the local hall on Sat. April 28th. Mr.and Mrs. Abraham had charge of the flower stall, being assisted by Mr. Engman and three local young ladies. Three of Mr.Abraham's nephews were players in the Brass Band that gave their services.

Mr.Abraham's brother Will who has been badly wounded in the face has returned to the firing line. No news has been heard of his brother Ted since the landing in France of the first Expeditionary Force.

Mr.F.E.Frewin , Hon Sec of the Deaf effort of the Rose Pension Fund begs to acknowledge with grateful thanks contributions as follow : - Mrs. D. Lawson (Adelaide) 2/6, Mr.J.Cardwell(Lorne) 5/. Miss M.C.Mortimer (Toora) 2/6, Mrs. J.J.Hailey(Adelaide) 2/.

There will be but 12 clubs playing Lacrosse this year and perhaps two sections will be made. The Deaf team will be slightly altered owing to the retirement of several old players, but fresh players will admirably fill their places. It is with regret we note that Mr.A.Drummond has resigned as our delegate to the Victorian Lacrosse Association owing to ill health. A letter of thanks for his past services and wishes for his recovery to health was sent to him. Mr.Courtney has been asked to fill his place.

The Hon.Sec (Mr.Frewin) of the Vic.Branch of the A.D.& D.A. acknowledges receipt of subscriptions of 2/. each from Messrs.R.J.Miller(Broken Hill) and J.Cardwell (Lorne).

At the Congress of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-Laryngology held at Memphis U.S.A in reply to Dr.Goldstein a german and an advocate of the Pure Oral System, the Rev James H.Cloud (Deaf) reminded him in regard to his claims that Germany was 100 per cent oral, that the Oral Method was forced upon that Country and not adopted in response to a demand for it by those best informed in matters pertaining to the education of the deaf; that in Germany assembly addresses were given to the deaf simultaneously orally and in signs - orally to conform with the law and in signs that the deaf might understand what was being said. Good for Cloud. " Orally to conform with the law and in signs that the deaf might understand ! " It's worth repeating, is it not ?

The Annual Meeting of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria will be held in the Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St,E. on Wednesday May 23rd. The Right Hon, Ald Sir David Hennessey, Lord Mayor of Melbourne will preside.

Instruction is being given to deaf soldiers at the National Institute for the Deaf, Paris and also at the Schools for the Deaf at Nantes and Orleans and in a hospital for deaf soldiers at Bordeaux.

Some American firms employ large numbers of deaf men and pay them well too. The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company Akron, Ohio have 150 deaf men on their pay roll with a wage ranging from 12/. to £1. per day. The Ford Automobile Company at Detroit employ 100 and pays them from £1. to £1.10. per day.
The Buick Automobile Company Flint, Michigan gives work to 75 deaf mutes at wage of 10/6 to 16/8 per day.

The American Deaf have discovered a Solomon of their own. Here are a few of his"wise sayings ". " In spite of what college professors say, the pale young sheepskin specialist has no show beside the illiterate old sport of a deaf numskull with a big wad ". " The deaf fellow who prays so distressingly about the iniquity of other fellows, may find a shoulder brace useful to improve his sign delivery and help his conscience". " However humble a deaf mute be, he is successful who is on to his job, and the next successful is he who best adapts himself to the conditions around him".

All deaf America is preparing for the great Convention to be held at Hartford U.S.A. this summer. It will, without doubt, be the greatest gathering of the deaf, the World has ever seen.

"'TIS SPLENDID."

'Tis splendid to live so grandly That, long after you are gone, The things you did are remembered, And recounted under the sun; To live so bravely and purely That a people stops on its way, And once a year, with banner and drum, Keeps the thougnts of your natal day.
'Tis splendid to have a record, So white and free from stain, That, held to the light, it shows no blot, Though tested and tried again; That age to age forever Repeats its story of love, And your birthday lives in a people's heart All other days above.

"TELL HIM NOW."

If with pleasure we are viewing Any work a man is doing, If we like him or we love him, tell him now Don't withhold your approbation Till the preacher makes oration, As he lies with snowy lilies o'er his brow.
For then, no matter how we shout it, He won't really care about it; He won't know how many teardrops we have shed. If we think there's praise due to him, Now's the time to hand it to him, For he can't read his tombstone when he's dead. More than fame and more than money Is a kind word true and sunny, And the hearty warm approval of a friend For it gives to life a savor, And it makes one stronger, braver, And gives him strength and courage to the end. Then, if he deserves your praise, bestow it, If you like him, let him know it; Let the words of true encouragement be said Don't let's wait till life is over, When he is beneath the clover, For he can't read his tombstone when he's dead.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. JUNE 1917. No. 10

The observant reader will notice this month the absence of that old familiar name - J.E.Muir from the fixed setting above and find substituted that of Mr. F.E.Frewin. Mr. J.E.Muir has resigned the position of Hon. Sec. to the Deaf Committee of the Centre not because he is any the less enthusiastic for the cause of the deaf, no one regrets more than he this unavoidable severance from the work he so dearly loves, but circumstances have made it necessary for him to take up residence in the Country. We Melbourne deaf have been accustomed for so many years to his self-sacrificing labours that we have acquired the habit of accepting them as a matter of course, and do not yet realise what the departure of Mr. J.E.Muir means to us.

We have looked upon Mr. Muir as something permanently attached to the Centre - " a fixture " as it were. He was with us " in the beginning " Old familiar faces have passed out into the Ever - Ever, but J.E.Muir has remained at his post, as young, as merry and as willing as in the days of our youth. He is still young, still full of vitality; there is an abundance of " ginger " to spare for many more years of enthusiastic work in the cause of the deaf. He is still the same fine "sport", the best of all sports, a healthy bodied, healthy minded Christian leader of his fellow men. God bless you John E.Muir and may He grant that you come back to us soon.

MR. and MRS. J.E.MUIR.

The following is from the current report of the General Board of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria, -

" It is also with regret that the Committee have to intimate the retirement of Mr. and Mrs. J.E.Muir. The former, as Hon. Secretary to the Deaf Committee, and the latter, as President of the Women's Guild, have devoted themselves unceasingly and enthusiastically to the welfare of their fellow-afflicted - Mr.Muir from the year of the Society's inception and Mrs. Muir for upwards of 20 years. There is not a single movement in relation to the advancement of the deaf with which one or the other was not prominently connected. Mr. and Mrs. Muir, for private reasons, are taking up residence in the Country. The Committee feel that they cannot do better than quote their appreciation from last year's report : - Mrs. J.E.Muir's work amongst the deaf women is invaluable. A lady of refinement and considerable artistic skill, she has endeared herself to all by her unselfish example, tactful, original, and impressive methods of instruction. Her classes are very popular, especially amongst the

young girls, and her lessons, such as every Mother would delight to know her own daughter was receiving. Her own refinement is mirrored in everyone that comes under her influence. Mr. J.E.Muir is equally energetic in his labours for the young men. For many years he has been the moving spirit at the Centre. He is part of every activity, whether connected with the Church, education or recreation of the deaf."

MR. F.E.FREWIN.

Mr. F.E.Frewin, who has been elected to take up the reins laid down by Mr.Muir, is a man ripe in experience of work among the Adult Deaf. He too, has an abundance of " ginger ". He is a good organiser and a willing worker, ever ready to volunteer his time and talents for the advancement of the deaf. We ask our members, with all confidence, to rally round our new Hon. Secretary and loyally support him in all his undertakings. Make his work as easy as you can, and you can do a great deal if you only will. Do not make it necessary for him to have to approach you, you approach him. Do not wait for him to ask you " to join the Envelope System " - go up to him and tell him to put your name down. Let that principle apply to everything, - and everything will be as sweet and as pleasing as a garden of roses.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 27th of February, the Annual Meeting of the above Guild took place in presence of a large attendance. ThePresident, Mr. Luff gave a brief address and the following office bearers were appointed for the ensuing year. President, Mr. M.C.B.Mortimer; Vice-President, Mr.Luff; Secretary, Mr. N.Amos; Treasurer, Mr. J.Leber; Committee - Messrs. M.L. Miller, J.M.Johnston, J.Cariss and A.Sutherland. Afterwards the members partook of supper.
On the 13th March, the first ordinary meeting was held. The new President gave a short address and paper on " Peculiar Pets " which was much appreciated and interesting. Afterwards he invited the members to light refreshments.
On the 27th March, Mr. Luff delivered an interesting paper on Shakespeare's play " King Lear ". Odd stories were also given by members.
On the 15th May, a card tournament was held. There was a fair attendance. An interesting and pleasant evening was spent.

ADULT DEAF LACROSSE CLUB.

On the afternoon of 5th May, the 6th Annual Meeting of the Lacrosse Club was held in the lower hall at the Deaf Centre. Mr.J.E.Muir presiding. There was an excellent attendance of members and friends - totalling 35. The President congratulated the Club on its splendid achievement in gaining the Premiership in the " A " Section of the Vic. Lacrosse Assn. and he also intimated that on account of taking up residence in the Country, he regretfully had to tender his resignation as president. Mr. M.L.Miller was elected to the vacancy. Mr. F.E.Frewin fills the Vice-presidentship in place of Mr.Miller and Mr.J.M.Johnston was again appointed to the post of Hon Secretary vacated by Mr.C.Robertson. Mr.W.Anderson was elected Captain and Mr.V.Tyzzer Vice-captain for the coming season. Our team will now be entirely composed of young players drafted from the Deaf & Dumb School, the majority of the old players having left or retired.
The season opened on 19th May, when our team was pitted against the Deaf & Dumb School. We won, scoring 18 to their 5. Goal throwers were Donnellan 5, N.Hughes 5, Vivian 4, J.Retallick 3, A.Tyzzer 1. It was quite a one sided game.

DEAF COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Deaf Committee held at Our Centre on 22nd May, the Principal in the chair, Mr. F.E.Frewin was elected Hon.Sec. in place of Mr.J.E.Muir (resigned) and Mr.W.A.Paterson Hon. Treas. Mr. M.G.B. Mortimer was re-elected Librarian - this is his 14th year of office. Messrs. F.E.Frewin, R.H.Luff and J.M.Johnston were appointed to represent the deaf Congregation on the General Board and Messrs. C.Robertson, J. Cariss and J.Leber assistant Librarians. It was decided to put on record the Committee's high appreciation of the many years of valuable service given to the Society by Mr. J.E.Muir. Mr. Muir in a few words of farewell expressed his regret at being compelled to bring to an end the many years of happy association with his fellow members of the Committee. He thanked them for their loyalty in entrusting him with the secretorial duties for so long and rejoiced at being able to part with them all the very best of friends.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Mr. F.E.Frewin, Hon.Sec. to the Rose Pension Fund acknowledges with grateful thanks 5/. from "All-I-Can", 20/. from Mr.&.Mrs.Williamson and 7/. from Mrs. J.J.Halley (Adelaide) not 2/. as stated last month. Mr. Frewin, Hon.Sec. to the Deaf Committee reports having received donations for the "Monthly" as follows: - Mr.G.Edwards 2/. Mr.D.J.Brook (Locksley(2/. Mr.R.Salmon (Merrigum) 1/6, Mr.J.Anderson (Yinnar) 4/. and in the name of the Committee thanks the donors. He also desires to inform our readers that it costs about £22. per annum to produce "The Monthly Letter".

ADULT DEAF SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING.

Our hall is far too small to accommodate the crowd of friends that find pleasure year after year in attending our Annual Meeting. The audience is always a cheerful one and generous in applause and encouragement. The meeting was held on the 23rd ult and the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Ald. Sir David Hennessey presided. The back and the side walks of our hall were lined with deaf men who had given up their seats to hearing visitors. Mr. G.C.Mercy J.P. (Acting Chairman) in the unavoidable absence of our Hon.Sec.(Mr.R.J.Oehr) read the Annual Report and Mr.H.L.Walters (Hon. Treas) the Balance Sheet. In a most interesting address full of reminiscences of the early days of the Adult Deaf Society Mr.F.Frewin moved the adoption of report and balance sheet, and Mr.W.Paterson seconded. The Lord Mayor in proposing the Officers for the year 1917-18 reviewed the report and congratulated the Committee upon their satisfactory financial position. He said he was always glad of the opportunity of presiding at our very interesting gatherings. The Rev.A.Macauley Caldwell (Member of Committee) was very popular with the audience. He out-lined the work of our Society for the benefit of hearing friends and in the course of his speech said that speeches and sermons were not sufficiently popular to secure encores anyway you seldom heard of a speech being encored. He had heard of a Minister getting his sermon encored but he died soon after - possibly from shock. Of course Mr.Caldwell got a very hearty encore and responded not with a speech however, but just a remark.
The Entertainment came in for a full share of applause. Miss Iris Boortz who recited "Tell him Now" in the gesture language quite captivated the audience by her gracefulness. The Misses R.and M.Dow, M.Gibson, V.Crawford M.Retallick and Iris Boortz rendered the well known hymn "Nearer My God to Thee" in living statuary, whilst Miss Hickey gave it in gesture and Miss Newell in song. These ladies also gave a series of poses and five of them

acted a very amusing piece entitled "Five Merry Maidens". Miss Nan Mc Leliand recited in a most pleasing way and was encored for both items. Miss Newell , who has a very sweet voice, snag two solos and was also appreciated. Miss Davey who gave her services at a few hours notice, presided at the piano.
By special request, Mr.W.A.Paterson pantomimed "The Whimsical Ways of Women" and for an encore gave "The Parson and the Pot". The concluding item was an exhibition of fancy paper costumes worn by fourteen deaf young ladies. Although the meeting was not over until 10.30pm most of the audience stayed for some considerable time after talking, apparently loth to leave the surroundings they always find so pleasant, which is naturally, also very pleasing to us.

PASSING NOTES.

The Lord Mayor has written wishing us all kinds of success for the future.
We missed the kindly face of our Hon.Sec.(Mr.R.J.Oehr). An important engagement prevented his attendance at the Annual Meeting. He says he also missed us, he was sorry to be away. We also missed Mr.Dickins and Mrs.Luke. Our good friends Mr.H.Sumner Martin, G.G.Mercy,Mr.G.Brown and Mr.Walters however were noticed.

The Adult Deaf of Melbourne offer a very hearty welcome to their New President, Mr.W.G.McBeath and to the new Committee men Mr. Harold Bickford and Mr.Geo.Vial and hope soon to have the pleasure of meeting them.

With a single exception, the pretty paper costumes so much admired at our Annual Meeting were made by the skillful fingers of Mrs.Beertz.

The Victorian Government has made a grant of £300 to our Society's Building Fund, and the late T.J.Sumner Trust and the David Syme Charitable Fund £25 each, to our Maintenance Fund.

Mr. Luff has undertaken the duties of Choir Master and his share at the Morning and Evening Services adds much to the success of this new inovation.

Coming down the stairs after the Meeting we " over saw" a Mother say to her daughter, -who had taken a prominent part in the performance - "I am proud of you". Needless to say we are all proud of her, she was just magnificent.

NEXT RALLY JUNE 4th - KING'S BIRTHDAY.--

FAREWELL NIGHT to MR. & MRS. J.E. MUIR.

TEA 6 pm. ENTERTAINMENT 7. 30 pm. ADMISSION 6d

ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE, 32-34 FLINDERS ST, MELB.

ALL WELCOME.

TO MR. and MRS. J. E. MUIR

On the occasion of their resignation as honorary officers of the ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY of VICTORIA.

And Presented at a FAREWELL MEETING on

4th June 1917.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. J.E.Muir:

We, the undersigned, on behalf of the Adult Deaf of Victoria desire to record our deep sense of the many valued services you have rendered the Cause of the Adult Deaf of this State, and our gratitude for your faithful and devoted labours for many years.

Mr.Muir as Honorary Secretary to the Deaf Congregation, Manager of the " Monthly Letter ", Hon.Treasurer of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association, President of the Men's Guild and Lacrosse Club. Mrs. Muir as President of the Women's Guild, the Workers' and Rambling Clubs.
All these organisations owe much of their success to your enthusiasm, tact and devotion.

MRS. J. E.MUIR. Your work amongst the women has proved invaluable. You endeared yourself to all by your unselfish example, tactful, original and impressive methods. Your refinement, is today, mirrored in everyone that has had the good fortune to come under your influence.

MR. J. E. MUIR. We feel that with your departure we are losing a tried, experienced and beloved leader. There is not a single movement in relation to the advancement of the Deaf of Victoria with which you have not been prominently connected. Your patient, genial and willing disposition has had a wholesome influence upon the whole of the Deaf Community.

Your withdrawal from our midst we deplore as a loss most difficult to replace.
With the aim of giving practical expression to our feelings toward you we ask your acceptance of the accompanying purse of sovereigns.

And we sincerely hope that God's blessing will rest upon you both.

We are, Dear Sir & Madam,
Yours Gratefully,

M. L. Miller, Pres. Vic. Br. A.D.D.S.A.
E. J. B. Abraham, Principal A.D.&D. Soc. of Vic
J. M. Paul, Missioner do
J. E. Irwin, Hon. Sec. Deaf Committee.
Agnes Foster, Deaf Workers' Club.
Rose A. Dow, Deaf Women's Guild.

W. P. Muir
R. H. Luff.
Z. A. Nelson.
W. G. B. Workmen
J. M. Johnston.
W. A. Sutherland.

} Members of Deaf Committee.

"Argus" August 9th 1914.

MISSIONER,
By the ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.
Knowledge of the finger and sign language not essential. Full particulars may be obtained from the Principal, 32-34 Flinders Street, Melbourne.

TO MEMBERS OF THE DEAF CONGREGATION.

Put a cross (X) to seven (7) of the following magazines that you like best, and give this paper to Mr. F.E. Frewin Hon. Sec.

Worlds Work (American)

Cassells Magazine of Fiction.

Windsor.

Wide World.

Popular Science (American)

Popular Machanic (American)

My Magazine.

The Red Book (American)

Life.

Photoplay (American)

Motion Picture (American)

Cosmopolitan (American)

London.

Ladies Home Journal.

Strand.

New York Herald.

Graphic.

Illustrated London News.

Table Talk.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. JULY 1917. No. 11

STAFF OF DEAF SOCIETY.

" The Principal desires to give expression to the pleasure he feels in the enjoyment of the loyal support and ever-ready co-operation of his expert Staff, Missioner, Assistant Secretary, and Caretaker at the Centre, Matron, Assistant Manager, Nurseryman, and Overseer, at the Farm, to render every service possible to further the interests of the Society and work in harmony with each other. "

" Annual Report 1917. "

EMPLOYMENT OF THE DEAF.

There was a time when it was most difficult to persuade employers to even give the deaf a chance to earn their livelihood, and when work was procured for them it was almost invariably at a much lower wage than that recognised as the standard wage.
But for some years past there has been a gradual upward tendency in the earning capacity of the deaf. This is largely due to the improved mentality of the deaf, and also in a degree to the establishment of the Blackburn Home for mentally defective Deaf Mutes.
Prior to its opening, the expert agent of the Society devoted the greater part of his time in seeking employment for the slow or more or less defective, and, as they seldom held their positions more than a few months place after place was obtained, the result being an ever-increasing detrimental effect, for masters with this experience would not employ other deaf, however efficient they might be. The inefficient are now employed at our Farm, with beneficial results to themselves and to the " normal " deaf.

" Annual Report 1917. "

ADULT DEAF CENTRE LACROSSE CLUB.

The meeting of the Malvern No 1 and the Adult Deaf always provides an interesting contest and that of Saturday May 26th was no exception. The " Malverns " were too much for us on this occasion and came off victorious The final score was Malvern No 1, 12 goals - Deaf 5. Our goal throwers were A.Tyzzer 2. F.Rees, N.Hughes and W.Donnellan one each.
On 2nd June, Adult Deaf made amends for their Junior team at the expense of Malvern No 2, defeating them by the large tally of 26 to 3. Goal throwers were : - A.Tyzzer 7, F.Rees 4, R.Kemble 3, V.Tyzzer 3, W.Vivian 3 W.Donnellan 3, J.Retallick 2, N.Hughes 1.

On 9th June, the Brighton Presbyterians met us and were defeated without much effort, by 14 goals to 5. V.Tyzzer 6, W.Vivian 3, A. Tyzzer 2, J.Retallick 2, and F. Rees 1 were the goal throwers.
June 16th brought another victory for us at the expense of High School for which we scored 16 to their 2. V.Tyzzer 5, W.Dennellan 3,W.Vivian 2, F.Rees 2, N.Hughes 1, J.Retallick1, R.Kemble 1, and A.Tyzzer 1, made the score.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 29th of May, at the meeting of the above Guild, Mr.M.L.Miller delivered a very interesting and instructive paper on " Prussian officers ". It was much appreciated by all the members.
On the 12th of June, a smart maiden paper on " Origins of War " was given by one of the new young members, Mr. J.Bladier, who was congratulated by all upon his initial effort. The lecturers were heartily thanked.

RALLY.
The 48th Congregational Rally held at Our Centre on the 4th of June attracted a large audience of the deaf and quite a number of hearing relatives. Mr.F.Frewin, our new Hon.Sec. is to be congratulated upon his maiden effort, for it was certainly one of the most successful gatherings we have had for some years. Not that there were any novel features, from this point of view it was very ordinary, but the spirit of harmony and " the good feeling " were never, never more evident. It was a family party whose main object of assembling was to wish " God speed " to a retiring brother and sister - Mr. and Mrs. J.E.Muir.
Our Principal presided and Messrs. M.L.Miller, F.Frewin, R.Luff and Miss Rose Dow used up every complimentary adjective to be found in the Worlds dictionaries in their effort to out do each other in words of appreciation and recognition of the services Mr. and Mrs.Muir had rendered the cause of the deaf.
When handing Mrs.Muir a purse of sovereigns - gift of the Deaf Congregation - Our Principal said it was not easy for him to give expression to all he felt, he knew that partings had to come but he had not thought that conditions would so soon mature to bring about a severance between himself and two of the very best workers, and to whom so very much of the success he had achieved during his sojourn amongst them had been due. Officers like Mr. and Mrs.Muir and Mr.Miller were hard to replace he might almost say could not be replaced. They had been loyal to him for upwards of fourteen years and he would still hope that the time was not far distant when they would again be joined together in still greater efforts in the name of the Deaf.
The entertainment was of the variety character, opening with a recitation " The Highwayman and Bess " by Miss Doris Davis. It is only necessary to say that the delivery did her justice. She has a beautifully clear and dramatic method of rendering serious pieces and her long"rest" has in no way impared her histrionic powers. "The Suffragette", a sketch arranged by Our Principal and in which he was " star"turn - that is to say he had most to say - was the next item. Miss Doris Hickey displayed no common ability in her rendering of the title character. Her adaptability to needs of the situation are extraordinary; she can storm, weep, smile, look bewitching, enticing or angry at a moment's notice, all of which powers were on exhibit in the suffragette. Mr.W.A.Paterson as " hero " divided his attention between emotions humorously sentimental and extremely funny. Our Principal - Father Anthony entered heart and soul into the " point of view "of each of his protegees, settling their quarrels and bringing about the one and only desiredum - marriage.

A very amusing and homely little dialogue by Miss Rose Dow and Mr. Paul was the third and last item on the programme and seemed to be a lovers quarrel over that terrible habit of man - smoking. She insisted upon her lover giving up his pipe and later he found a counter weapon - she might give up her knitting - this happy idea occured to him after comfortably sitting upon and ungracefully rising from a knitting needle. It was just lovely to see our Missioner - legs kicking in mid air whilst his arms were engaged behind a piece of furniture searching for the " pipe " he had so rashly thrown away. Miss Dow was no way behind in her rendering of the part entrusted to her, was demure, perky, loveable and severe as occasion required. The rest of the evening was given over to conversation. The tea which preceded the entertainment was provided by the Deaf Workers Club, and the whole evening's arrangement were under the management of the Amusements Committee.

WOMEN'S GUILD ANNUAL MEETING.

The 16th Annual Meeting of the Deaf Women's Guild was held on Tuesday May 15th and in every respect proved a most successful and enjoyable evening. The President (Mrs.J.E.Muir) presided over a large number of members. The Hon.Secretary's(Miss Hickey) report showed the guild to be in a prosperous condition. The members on the roll number 30. Several educational and bible classes had been conducted by Mesdames J.E.Muir and A.Wilson and interesting papers prepared and given by many other members who are progressing steadily. The report was adopted but the balance sheet was not submitted owing to the absence of the Hon.Treasurer (Miss Fletcher) who was lying ill in hospital. The President's address - rich with interesting advice and teeming with congratulations to the members on the success of their efforts - was received with applause. The Hon.Sec. read letters of resignation from Mrs.Muir as President owing to her departure for the country and Miss Doris Davis as member of the Committee on account of her approaching marriage. Both resignations were accepted with regret.
The election of office bearers resulted as follows : -
President, Mrs. A.Williamson, Vice-President, Miss R.Dow; Hon.Treas, Miss Fletcher; Hon.Sec.Miss Hickey. Committee - Mesdames A.Wilson, C. Robertson, E.R.Smith, Misses Empson and Graham.
The President presented Mrs. Robertson with a lovely honey dish as a wedding gift from the members of the Women's Guild. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the retiring office bearers and the scrutineers (Messrs. M.L.Miller and J.E.Muir). The meeting was brought to a happy ending with a very enjoyable supper.

PASSING NOTES.

Miss Agnes Foster is back again with us after spending a most enjoyable three months holiday.
Mr. Goddard has also been away on holiday and is looking better for the change.
Our Principal has had two weeks " holiday " in bed with neuralgia. Being 'ungetatable' he also did more work there than would have been managed at the office with the many callers.
Congratulations to Jim Johnston on his elevation to the General Board. He is the youngest deaf man to have had that honour conferred upon him, also to Arthur Sutherland the " baby " of the Deaf Committee.

Miss L.Fletcher recently underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Womens Hospital. She is home again and hopes soon to her old self among her friends at the Centre.

Mr. Gus Damman put in an appearance at the Lacrosse Club Annual Meeting on crutches but still wearing the old familiar smile. He also attended the Sunday evening service. He looked none the worse for his four month lay up. He is now back at Warburton.

Mr. S.Fergusen motored up to Melbourne last month on business. He was seen at the Centre adding pleasure to business. We understand he had a splendid trip home in his car.
Mr. Abraham recently lectured to the Melbourne Printers Overseers Association at the Hardware Club. They are to visit our Centre in October.

A. D. & D. A.

Members of the Victorian branch of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association are reminded that their Annual Subscription should be paid before 31st Oct. It's so easy to forget , so send your sub. now to the Hon. Sec (Mr.Frewin) Adult Deaf Centre, 32 Flinders St.Melbne.

TWENTY ONE.

Mr. Ernest J.D.Abraham Junr attained his twenty first year on the 13th ult. The event was celebrated at the farm in the morning by the presentation of a handsome wristlet watch to Mr.Abraham Junr from the employees and inmates. Mr.Archie McLellan, overseer, performed the ceremony and in a few well chosen words congratulated our Assistant Manager upon having reached manhood estate. Mr. Cork - blind and deaf also spoke on behalf of the inmates. Among other gifts was a gold watch and fob from his Father. The Matron contributed to the event by an exceptionally attractive spread and Mr.Abraham Junr wound up the day by entertaining the employees and inmates to a Theatre night at the Glen.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Mr s. Abraham tenders grateful thanks for following donations toward installation of electric light at the Blackburn Home. Mr. Geo.Vial £1.1.0. Miss Cox £1. Miss Foster(Footscray) 2/. She also wishes to express her appreciation of the kindness of Miss Foster in presenting a washing machine to the Home.
Mr. F.Frewin has received 5/. from Mr.G.Hiscock (Ivanhoe) and 1/6 each from Miss Gladys Caldwell of Ballarat West and Mrs. J.Mills of Waaia for " Monthly Letter" fund and thanks donors for same.

GENERAL BOARD.
Mr. C.G.Mercy J.P. presided at the usual monthly meeting of the General Board on 12th June. The following gentlemen were in attendance, Messrs. R.J.Oehr,(Hon.Sec) M.L.Miller(Asst.Hon.Treas.) W.Dickins, G.Brown, H. Bickford, G.Vial, F.Frewin, J.Johnston, the Principal and Mr.Paul (interpreter). The Principal reported continuance of successful work at the Centre and of the unabating enthusiasm of the Deaf Committee in everything appertaining to the welfare of the adult deaf. That the deaf of both sexes on leaving school almost without exception, enrol themselves as members of the Society. Attendance at all meetings had been well maintained. All members were in employment. Messrs. H. Bickford and Geo. Vial were elected to the Farm and Finance Committee.

OUR PRINCIPAL'S ANNIVERSARY RALLY - OCT. 9th 1917.

Particulars Later.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 13. AUGUST 1917. No. 12

This " Letter " is the 156tn. number and completes our thirteenth year of publication.
A Special Meeting of the General Board of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria was held at our Centre on the evening of Friday July 27th, to consider certain proposals made by the President. Mr. G.G.Mercy J.P. presided and there was a large attendance. It was resolved that so soon as funds could be obtained a separate building be erected for Women at the Blackburn Home, and that as soon as conditions permitted deaf youths be admitted to the Farm, for instruction in Agriculture and Horticulture, including the care of cows, horses, poultry and attendant subjects.

Mr. Abraham (The Principal) is " AT HOME " to the Deaf every alternate Saturday from 7.30pm to 10 pm, in his room at the Centre. Deaf friends are invited to open the door and walk in.

Deaf Mute Farm (Blackburn) receipts for July £57.

Mr. and Mrs. J.E.Muir of Montcliff, Warburton, Vic send greeting to all deaf friends and will be glad to be remembered by letter. Letters from old friends are naturally, a source of great pleasure to our old friends and co-workers.

GREETINGS from W. H. CRUSH.

W.H.Crush our " only ammunition worker " sends greetings from Durban, South Africa, to the Deaf of Victoria. After a somewhat exciting voyage from our shores he arrived sound in body and mind at Durban. Mr. Crush tells us that the ship had to shape a " zig-zag course up and down the Indian Ocean for three weeks " to escape a German raider. The ship touched at Mauritius and Reunion Islands also at Madagascar, and our friend expresses pleasure at being able to see " some more of the world ". Our Fleet" says Mr. Crush " comprises fifteen transports and several war ships, British and Japanese". He has taken many snap shots, but is unable to forward them. He is enjoying the best of good health but "is just longing for a deaf talk ".
Since above letter came to hand our Principal has received news from one of the Ship's Officers that Mr.Crush arrived safely in England.

WEDDING BELLS.

Our Church was comfortable filled with an animated crowd of happy young people, both deaf and hearing, on the evening of Wednesday, June 20th. John Cardwell and Bernice Vail of " our little family " were to be joined in the bonds of wedlock. Sufficient reason in deed, to attract a friendly assemblage. It was a very pretty function, everything pertaining to a wedding had been thoughtfully and scrupulously put into order and action. The bride, bridesmaids, groom, groomsmen and " supporting relatives" did their part in the ceremony as tho' they had had many a rehearsal, and as regards appropriateness of dress, it would have done credit to the Melbourne Cathedral. To use a phrase, not common to marriages, Mrs. Phillips (sister of Mrs. Boortz) was " master " of the ceremonies. She has been a Mother to Bernice, and let her goodness fairly overflow in her desire to give Bernice a happy send off.
The Rev. A. Macaulay Caldwell officiated and Our Principal interpreted, and say this only in whispers, they both kissed the bride after the ceremony. The bride, who was given away by our good friend Mr. Boortz, wore a gown of ivory satin and ninon, richly trimmed with maltese lace. A pretty veil with orange blossom daintily arranged and a boquet of white roses and asparagus fern put the finishing touches to one of the sweetest and prettiest of brides. A dear wee girl of about 4 summers was train bearer. The bridesmaids were the Misses Violet Crawford, Iris Boortz and Maggie Rettallick. They were frocked in white silk and looked just adorable. Their pretty crooks were mounted with scarlet geraniums and ribbon streamers. Gold bangles to the two elder maids and a brooch to the younger were the gifts of the bridegroom.
The groom was supported by Messrs. F.Byrne, Arthur Sutherland and J. Alexander who played no small part in the success of the event.
In the lower hall a sumptuous repast had been prepared for the guests some fifty in number, and by the time the 'goodies' had been transferred to the abodes for which they had been specially created to adorn, the party was in excellent spirits. Mr. Boortz proposed the first toast " The King " and Mr. F.Byrne "The Bride and Bridegroom ". The groom nervously but smilingly responded. Our Principal thanked the Hostess)Mrs. Phillips) for her painstaking and motherly preparations for the great event, Mr. Paul followed with the toast of " The Bridesmaids ". The rest of the evening was spent in games, the bride and groom adding to the joy of the party by remaining for part of the evening.
The honeymoon was spent at Mitta Mitta. The bride travelled in a velvet coat frock, fur coat and cap,and wore a lovely gold bangle(the girt of the bridegroom). Mr. and Mrs. Cardwell will reside at Lorne, and judging by the good wishes that go with them they ought,indeed, to be a very happy couple.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 26th of June, the members of the above Guild held a word-making tournament, supervised by Mr. J.M.Johnston. He also gave prizes to the winners - Messrs. R.H.Luff and W.B.Anderson. The donor was heartily thanked by the members.
On the 17th of July, Mr. J.M.Johnston gave a paper on his trip to Lorne. It was very interesting. His companion on the trip, Mr. T.Peters gave supplementary particulars which added to the pleasure of the audience.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER FUND.

Mr. F.E.Frewin, Hon. Sec. of the Deaf Committee, tenders grateful thanks for following donations - Mr. H.W.Bickford 5/. Mr.J.Cardwell of Lorne "/. Mr. J.Thomson 2/6, Mr.A.H.Readof Kenmare 10/. Adelaide Deaf Subscribers (Per Mr. C.Hodgson) 11/.

The readers of " Our Monthly Letter " will regret to learn of the death of Mr. Francis William Ching of " Ophir Hill " Linton, on the 4th of June. He had been operated on for appendicitis, and was within a few days of his 61st birthday. Deceased was one of the early pupils of Mr. F.J.Rose at the Deaf School. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his relatives."

PASSING NOTES.

Mrs. A.Williamson is still in Brisbane. Miss M. Arem is enjoying a holiday in Tasmania and is expected to return to Melbourne this month.

Mr. R. Bruce of Neerim Junction recently visited Melbourne and called at the Centre on his way to Camperdown to see his married sister (Mrs. Osborne) and then went to see their aged Mother who is ill in the Nhill Hospital.

THOUGHTS.

Do you ever think - that is to say, do you ever use your brain to some useful purpose outside of cricket, football, tucker and sleep ? Most people do not, so there is no reason for surprise at my question. "Sufficient for the day is my uselessness thereof " would make an excellent motto for the average Tom, Dick and Harry; Elizabeth, Mary and Ann.

"Every successful concern " says Hubbard " is the result of a One-Man-Power " - the man of ability. But when you find this man " his weary eyes will look into yours and the cry of his heart shall echo in your ears, O, for someone to help me to bear this burden ! "
Workmen who will meander over their tasks, and then strike for higher wages he can get by the gross. Clerks who will waste his stationery and abuse him behind his back, he can pick up in abundance. Of assistants who will drive his customers elsewhere, he finds no lack. But able men and loyal, who will throw themselves heart and soul into their work - Ah ! these are rarer than rubies, they are more precious than gold. Ability is the one crying need of the hour. " The world reserves its big prizes for but one thing and that is initiative, in other words, doing the right thing without being told. Next to doing the thing without being told, is, to do it when you are told ".

OUR FARM.

It cannot be said that our receipts are falling off. The actual sales appear to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of last year's returns. The puzzle is we have had nothing to sell these past two and a half months. Never before have we had such a disappointing season. It is now August and the bulbs are only just beginning to show themselves and are very poor at that. We put in enough sweet pea seed to cover acres and lost the lot, we are also without mignonette and wallflower, although great quantities of seed were sown; and for the first time for years we are totally without vegetables. Great preparations are, however, being made for the coming season, land is being grubbed and cleared for violets, cow paddocks, potatoes, cattle feed and for new bulb plantations.

BELGIAN DEAF REFUGEE FUND.

Mdlle. V.Pitrois acknowledges receipt of £5. from the Melbourne Deaf toward the above fund, and through Mrs. J.E.Muir sends thanks and greeting to the donors.

ADULT DEAF LACROSSE CLUB.

The above Club is showing improved form, and putting up phenomenal scores. On June 23rd, our club journeyed to Williamstown and played the Local No.1. and won by 12 to 0. The goals being scored by V.Tyzzer 5, A.Tyzzer 2, W. Donnellan 2, E.Martin, F.Rees and R.Kemble 1 each.
The following Saturday, the Williamstown No.2. met on our ground when we scored 21 to their 0. W. Donnellan 6, J.Rettallick 5, A.Tyzzer 5, V. Tyzzer 4. R.Kemble 1 were the goal throwers.
On July 7th, we followed up our run of success by beating Coburg by 13 to 2. The goals were scored by Vivian 4, Rees 3, Donnellan 2, A.Tyzzer 2, V. Tyzzer and Martin one each.
July 14th brougnt another victory for us at the expense of Maribyrnong, when we put up a high score of 26 to their 1. J.Retallick 5, A.Tyzzer 5, W.Anderson 4, Vivian 3, V.ryzzer 3, -Donnellan 3, A.Sutherland 2, R.Kemble 1.
July 21st witnessed our last match of the First Round when we played against Malvern No.3 and won again. Scoring 14 to 6. W.Anderson 5,-Vivian 3, Martin 3, Hughes 1. A.Tyzzer 1, W.Donnellan 1.
We had a bye on Saturday July 28th. Our team are now heading the Premiership list with Malvern No.1. Brighton Presbyterians a good second. The Second Round of matches will begin on the first Saturday in August.

QUEENSLAND.

The report for 1917 of the Queensland Adult Deaf Society contains the Architect's drawing for the fromt elevation of the proposed Institute for the Adult Deaf to be erected at the Corner of Turbot St, Brisbane. If the building itself, looks but half as imposing as the sketch, then our Queensland friends will soon own an Institute second to none.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Adult Deaf of Adelaide have succeeded in forming a football club. Mr. F.Lehmann is Captain and Mr. H.Blackmore, hon.Sec. A gymnastic club is also in course of formation.

NOTES FROM ABROAD.

Rev. James H.Cloud (deaf) has been elected President of the National Association of the Deaf (U.S.A.) securing 570 votes as against 67 polled for Douglas Tilden, the famous deaf sculptor. Arthur L.Roberts, being unopposed, retains his position of Hon Secretary .

The Deaf of America have subscribed £160 in a week, and purchased a motor Ambulance. The car will bear the following inscription " De L'Epee Ambulance - Presented to France by the deaf people of the United States of America, in appreciation of the teachings and services to them of the Abbe de l'Epee, the Abbe Sicard and Laurent Clerc. The ambulance is to be sent to the front at once and to be driven by Mr. J.K.Cloud son of Rev.J. H.Cloud. It is expected that sufficient money will be forthcoming to purchase a second car.
There has been quite a rush on the part of the American deaf for Active Service at the Front. Their rejection is, of course, a foregone conclusion.

Practically the whole of the Teachers of the Deaf of military age in Great Britain are serving the colours.

Many deaf men and women are employed as Munition Workers in England.

PRINCIPAL'S ANNIVERSARY RALLY - OCT. 9th 1917.
(Particulars later.)

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. SEPTEMBER 1917. No. 1

VISIT to FEDERAL PARLIAMENT.

The Centre " Sight Seers " went a sight seeing in real earnest on the evening of Thursday Aug.9th. Some thirty five in number, and accompanied by the Principal (Mr. Abraham) visited the Federal House of Parliament. As the gesticulating little army ascended the steps of " The House " the police must have imagined that yet another Womens Demonstration had to be faced. The party, however, was quietly admitted and met at the inner doors by Sir Robert Best M.P. and shown through the House of Representatives and the Senate. As we left the latter Chamber, the bells began to clang, calling "the House " together. A visit was then paid to the Library and to the Strangers Gallery where the debate was watched with keen interest. Later the deaf party was met by Mr. Matthews M.P. and Mr. Sampson M.P. and a further visit was made to the Library, also to the grounds concluding with a short stay in " the party " quarters. When we left each member of us carried away an envelope and sheet of paper bearing the Parliament imprint, as a memento of the occasion.

FARM and HOME

On Sunday August 19th, we had the pleasure of a visit from our new President, (Mr. W.G.McBeath) Mr. Chalmers (Managing Director of Farmers, Sydney) and Mr. G.G.Mercy J.P. Mr. H.L.Walters (Hon Treasurer) and family also paid us a visit on the 25th of August.

We have not had near so many requests for wattle this year as in former years. Buttons seem to be replacing the wattle.
During the past few months, there has been and still is, unusual activity at the farm. Men grubbing and clearing, men ploughing and cutting wood, men measuring and taking levels for reticulation purposes, men mending tanks and fixing up pump, pantries etc.
The farm sales for August totalled about £78.
Although we were almost totally without bloom in June and July, this month we are glutted. This year the jonquils and daffodils have ignored their usual systematic order of appearance, and regardless of consequences, have all come out together. Of course they are very beautiful to look upon massed together so, but it is very bad for trade.

ROLL of HONOUR.

An interesting ceremony was performed at the Men's Guild Meeting on the 14th of August by our Principal (Mr.Abraham). It was the unveiling of a " Roll of Honour " containing the names of the principal Officers of the Guild for each year since it was founded in 1883 by Mr. Samuel Johnson now, Principal of the Brighton Institution for the Deaf S.A. There was a large and enthusiastic gathering. Mr. Abraham, in the course of an address appropriate to the occasion said, in inviting Mr. Samuel Johnson's son (the Rev. Mr. Johnson) to unveil the roll of honour, they had done the right thing and it would have given him pleasure to have supported the son of his old friend. Unfortunately for them, but to the honour of him whom they had desired to honour, he was doing his " little bit " as a Military Chaplain. Mr. Abraham was gratified to find that the seed of his teaching had not fallen upon thorny ground. They had not " forgot Joseph " but took a delight in going back 34 years to give honour to him to whom honour was due. He hoped the young men would honour the Roll. That they would aspire to have their names added thereto. Their opportunities, he said, were greater and easier, they were born as it were, with the silver spoon in their mouths, whilst those men they had met together to honour had been born with pick and shovel in their hands. The rough work had been done, it was up to the younger generation to build upon the magnificent foundations prepared for them. In unveiling the roll, Mr. Abraham said it was a magnificent piece of workmanship and a credit to the two gentlemen (Messrs. Miller and Luff) who had devoted so many evenings to its making. In the name of the glad,good time to come, he revealed to their view the names of those worthy men who had helped to give them so many advantages. Messrs. Miller, Luff, Paul and others also spoke.

On the 31st of July, at the ordinary meeting of the Men's Guild, Mr. O. Tyzzer delivered an interesting paper on " The World at Work ". Several members also spoke upon the same subject. Mr. Tyzzer was congratulated upon his maiden effort.

HUMOUR.

This was the title of our Principal's lecture on the 7th ult. Mr. Tom Nelson presided and there was a good audience. In opening , the Lecturer gave illustrations of different forms of humour, and the classification took up the first part of his lecture. He referred to English, Scotch, Irish, French, American, of Cockney and Lancashire humour, of the humour of Mark Twain, Gilbert Sullivan etc, etc, of the brutal and practical " jokes " once so common in public boarding schools, and in the streets, and of the present tendency toward a less personal and offensive form of humour.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

The Women's Guild re-opened on the 14th ult with a Social Talk. The attendance was large. Owing to the absence of the President (Mrs. Williamson) who is at present in Queensland, Miss Rose Dow was appointed acting president and was in the chair. Mr. Abraham (Our Principal) opened the meeting with prayer and gave short opening address. He said, that if women would only realise the magnitude of their opportunities the world would be a happier and a far better place to live in. They were the flowers of the world. Be sweet all the time, he said, and in everything and in every way be sweet. Smile girls, smile, smile all the

time, as the song says " Pack up your troubles and smile, smile, smile ". Their smiles were needed more today than ever before. Several members gave short talks and the pleasant evening was brought to a close with supper, partaken of with the members of the Men's Guild.

THANKS.

The Principal desires to acknowledge with sincere thanks, receipt of two cases of oranges - one for the Centre and one for the Blackburn Home - from Miss Pansy Elliott. Also a large parcel of newspapers from Mrs. Brown and one from Mr. Bourke. Old, but clean newspapers, and fruit cases are in great demand at the Blackburn Home. If any of our readers have either or both to spare, and will send them along to the Centre, they will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Left off clothing of every kind is also needed.

DEAF COMMITTEE.

The usual Monthly Meeting of the Deaf Committee was held in the Principal's room on the 21st Aug. Mr. Abraham being indisposed, Mr.Paul presided. The chief business on the agenda was form of Membership card, choice of place for annual picnic and the form of church service. It was decided to keep to the old matter on certificate of membership. A sub-Committee was appointed to confer with the Principal in relation to the form of service and South Morang, Sandringham and one other place are to be submitted to the Congregation for choice for Cup-day picnic.

The Annual Meeting of the Deaf Workers Club will be held at the Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St. at 4 o'clock on Saturday Sept. 1st. The President, Mrs. J.E.Muir, will preside, and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

VIC. BRANCH of A. D. & D. A.

Mr. F.Frewin, the Hon Sec begs to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of subscriptions of 1/. each from Messrs. J.M.Paul, W.Hindell, O.Tyzzer, F. Rees, T.Peters, A.Wilson, J.Dempsey, J.M.Johnston, Misses D.Hickey, Rose and Mabel Dow, Ida and Nora Kennedy. Note. Members of the above Association are reminded that their annual subscription should be paid before 31st Oct. DO IT NOW.

RAMBLING CLUB.

The Ramblers, in fair good muster, met at the Centre on the 14th July. Everybody missed the popular president (Mrs. J.E.Muir) but our Chief did his best to make up for her absence. We rambled through the Fitzroy Gardens, dividing our time between the discussion of popular topics and the enjoyment of the scenic surroundings. Our Chief and Miss Wright were suddenly missed and we had to stand about until they loitered back to we poor waiting souls. They told us they had been inspecting and admiring the beauties of the park. Having secured a strong hold upon the stray sheep, we made a bee line for the Lacrosse Club's ground and were in time to witness the final, which was in every way in favour of our team. Arriving at the Centre, the Chief's son picked up one of our younger girls on the back of his motor cycle and fairly whirled her away, bringing her back rosy of face and full of her experience of lightning travelling. As our Chief entertained us to a most enjoyable tea and a pleasant evening we have quite forgiven him for his temporary desertion.

OUR CHURCH.

The attendance at Divine Worship is not altogether all that we might wish, never-the-less, in the circumstances, it is all that we can reasonably expect. We have had an exceptional number of week night meetings of late, and in many instances the increased railway fare to town has become an exceptionally heavy tax upon our members. The Missioner (Mr.Paul) continues to retain the attention of the Congregation and his discourses always meet our spiritual and moral needs, and he is ever ready to attend to the temporal requirements of our members.

DEAF VOLUNTEERS.

The Adult Deaf of London, on the initiative of Mr. Barnes, headmaster of the Homerton School for the Deaf are being drilled with the aim of assisting in the War. At a meeting at St.Saviours Church over 100 deaf volunteered for service. The deaf of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen (Scotland) are also clamouring for the privilege of Military service. The American deaf are volunteering by the hundred, but have been advised that they will be more useful in the ammunition works at home.

DEAF SERVING at THE FRONT.

We gather from French, Italian and German Deaf publications, that many deaf mutes are actually serving in the firing lines. In America, several deaf mutes have been shot by soldiers on guard, through venturing too near to bridges etc. All the American papers of the deaf have displayed warnings.

COMING ACTIVITY on the PART OF " OUR BOYS ".

There is an undercurrent of activity on the part of the youth at our Centre. Since the unveiling of the " Roll of Honour ". Some of the more intelligent boys have entered upon a campaign to enlist volunteers for Active Service in the Cause of the Adult deaf and to be ready to take the place of the "old boys " who are beginning to feel the weight of strenuous and continuous activities.

PRINTERS OVERSEERS.

The printers overseers are paying our Centre a visit on Saturday Oct.13th. Book the date and be one of the many to give them a hearty welcome, and if you are able to entertain by recitation or in any other way please hand in your name to the Hon. Sec. (Mr.Frewin) and your contribution to the programme will be welcomed.

DEAF SOLDIERS.

Mrs. H.H.Gaellison in an article in the " Outlook " entitled "Germany in War Time" describes a visit to a school in Germany in which soldiers who have lost their hearing during the war, are taught to read the lips.

PRINCIPAL'S ANNIVERSARY RALLY - OCTOBER 9th 1917

Particulars next month.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. OCTOBER 1917. No. 2

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 28th of August, the members of the above Guild were treated to a lecture on " Ancient and Modern Dentristy " by Mr. J. Cariss. Mr. J. Leber another dental " artist " followed with additional particulars, which were added to by other of our teeth specialists. Various articles appertaining to this ache stopping profession were on exhibit and created and satisfied much curiosity.
On the 11th of Sept, Mr. T. Nelson entertained us to a programme of Humorous Stories. Mr. Nelson is a connoisseur par excellence of humour and is also gifted with a delivery that the average story teller might justly be forgiven for envying.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

There was agood attendance at the meeting of the Women's Guild on the 4th of Sept. The Principal opened the Meeting with prayer and then delivered a short address, this was followed by a paper entitled " Four wise Men " by Mrs. W.A. Paterson, after which Mrs. A. Wilson gave her usual scripture lesson and under the title of " The Influence of young Women " some very sound advice.

THE RAMBLERS.

Because of an expressed wish on the part of our Lacrosse players that we attend and witness the final match, we reserved Saturday Sept. 8th for that event. We mustered strong and were all ready to give our boys a right good cheering when they won. Alas, they did not win, but were very badly beaten. Our boys took their defeat bravely as all real sports should. We girls went back to town, where we had tea, and spent the evening with our Principal at his fortnightly " AT HOME ".

THANKS.

To Mr. Geo. Vial for mechanical scone maker and nickel iron shields. To Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Pierce and Mr. Bourke for newspapers. A Friend (Mildura) for oranges. Mr. Williams and friends (Station Refreshment Rooms, Seymour) for fruit cases.
(The £1.1.0 from Mr. Alex. Williamson recently acknowledged as for Deaf Workers Club was meant for the Blegian Deaf Relief Fund.)

THE WORKERS CLUB.

The Workers Club sprang into life like a great mushroom. Within a few months it embraced a greater number of members than any other of our organisations and was doing more practical, beneficial work than all the rest put together. Then, just as sudden, came about the departure of the moving genius, Mrs.J.E.Muir, and with it a slump. The Annual Meeting was held at our Centre on the 1st of Sept. when everyone present was delighted to find the Club's originator, Mrs.J.E.Muir, in the chair. The attendance was poor. Had the news been widely circulated that the President would attend it would have been great. Mr.Abraham opened the meeting with prayer and gave a short address on the work. The Acting Hon.Sec, Miss Foster, read a lengthy and interesting report of " deeds done ". All the officers were re-elected. Mrs.Williamson (Hon.Sec) being still away in Queensland, Mrs.Frewin kindly consented to accept office as Acting Secretary. The other officers are, President Mrs.J.E. Muir; Vice-Pres. Mrs.Boorts; Hon Tres. Miss E.Empson; Committee: - Mrs.E.R.Smith, Misses A.Foster, A.Graham, R.and M.Dow, D.Hickey, T.Fletcher V.Crawford. Tea was served by the Ladies Committee at the close of the meeting.

DEAF COMMITTEE.

That we do not hear more of our Deaf Committee and its work is in reality a compliment to its harmonious working, and the fact that it carries out its duties so well as to leave no cause for exception or complaint.
At the last meeting,the discussion on the form of conducting Divine Service showed that above a diversity of thought there was, with all, an earnest desire that our Service should always reflect the spiritual ideals of the Congregation. It was decided that,after giving a trial to the suggested changes, the Congregation will be asked to choose the form most suitable for our needs.
The Library grows apace and takes due share of attention, the " housing " of the many volumes gifted by generous friends makes arrangement and space quite an important matter.
Picnic time draws near so a sub-Committee was appointed to find a place where we can combine comfort with pleasure and make provision to defy the weather if it does not behave.

BIBLE CLASS.

This class is beginning to regain its old time popularity. There was a time when the B.C. was the pivot upon which practically every important movement revolved. The members constituted the backbone of our Church, the bearers of " the burden " and the grafters in the " heat of the day" The Missioner recently gave an interesting address on the life of John Bunyan and at the Educational Class a lesson on " Soil". There was a good audience and it is hoped that the attendance will continue to grow.

VIC. BRANCH of A. D. & D. A.

Mr. F.Frewin, Hon Sec, begs to acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following subscriptions: - Mr.&.Mrs.C.Robertson 2/. Mr.& Mrs.J.Caughey 2/. Mr.&.Mrs.J.E.Muir of Warburton 2/. Mr.E.J.D.Abraham 2/6. and 1/. each fromMisses A.Foster and P.Elliott,Messrs. W.A.Paterson, A.Hull and A.W. Sutherland. He also wishes to remind members of the above Association that their Annual subscription should be paid before 31st of October.

DREAMS - now REALITIES.

Mr. George Stephenson, Superintendent of the Sheffield Association in aid of the Deaf, in his Monthly Magazine " DACTY " amongst other nice things has the following to say of our Principal.
" I have just received a long and very interesting letter from Mr.Ernest J.D.Abraham, the Principal of the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, Melbourne, Australia. Many of you older members of the Institute will remember Mr. Abraham who for some years had the care of the Deaf and Dumb of Bolton, Lancashire, and was also editor of the " British Deaf Times", and other periodicals published in the interests of the deaf. A restless, enthusiastic personality, always on the look-out for ways and means to uplift the deaf and dumb, for whom he had great affection, and to whom he had devoted the whole of his talents. He was the first in the country to draw up a scheme to unite the whole of the deaf and dumb attached to the various societies into one great federation, the object of which was to unite the members into a grand and true Christian Fellowship, under the name and title of " The Guild of St.John of Beverley." With the able co-operation of Mr.McCandlish of Hull, the Guild launched under the patronage of the Bishop of Beverley, Rev.Canon Nolloth, the Vicar of Beverley being the first president. Some of you my friends remember our first pilgrimage to Beverley, the inspiring service inside the beautiful Minster, the Bishop being the preacher; then on the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee how we celebrated the occasion by presenting a life sized statue of St.John to the Minster, and afterwards at a cost of £130 placed a beautifully illuminated window in the edifice illustrating Ephphatha, " Christ opening the ears of the deaf man. "
All these and other pleasant memories were recalled as I read the letter of my old co-worker and brother, now separated from the sphere of his former labours by the whole hemisphere. Though so far away and 15 years have gone by since he left the old country, I cannot detect the slightest change in the man, the missioner, the friend. The same enthusiasm, the same transparency, having the same ideals, only what 15years ago were ideals are now realities, even beyond his fondest dreams. An enemy to all insincerity, and all humbug, his aim has always been to make of the deaf " manly men and womanly women ", and he writes " I have succeeded beyond my fondest dreams, I have now around me a band of Deaf men and women the like of which I knew not elsewhere. "

HIS LIFE for HIS COUNTRY.

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Flight Lieutenant Alfred W.Peacock, son of our esteemed Vice-President,Mr.E.R.Peacock. He left Australia with the Ambulance Corps at the beginning of the War and quickly gained a Commission in the 4th Royal Scots, Imperial Forces. He served in the Gallipoli campaign and took part in the evacuation, being subsequently transport officer at Kantara. Later he was transferred to the Imperail Flying Corps, and gained a flight-lieutenancy.
He was familiarly known to us all as Alf. and was ever willing to render yeoman service at all our important functions. We are proud to have known this young hero. He began early in life in giving his services to those less fortunate than himself and died in the defence of his Country, and if we took up pages we could render no greater honour, nor do more justice to a youth than this simple acknowledgment. Our sincere sympathy is with Mr.and Mrs.E.R.Peacock and family for we well know how much they will miss him. Victor, the youngest son ,is like his father engaged in war work in England.

PASSING NOTES.

Miss Enid Jackson who is paying a prolonged visit to Melbourne took advantage of the opportunity to master the art of motor driving, and on the evidence of her instructor she became an expert, as though born to the sport. We had the pleasure of seeing Miss Enid dodging car and instructor through the busy streets of Melbourne, and on the strength of her skill, seen by one eye and corroborated by the other, we accompanied her to the Chief Commissioner, (our genial and,until this event, ever willing friend Mr. Sainsbury) and pleaded hard and earnestly for a license, only to be " turned down ". He was most sympathetic, believed all we said, wanted to grant it, but finally decidcd that a jury would hang him if an accident did unfortunately happen, and he wasn't taking any chances.

According to Show visitors our old and original Country Collector, Mr.Alex Williamson is a " never-rester". It is said of him that he works twelve hours on ordinary days and twenty four on Sundays. The " ordinarys" being given up to collecting and the Sundays to writing. One hotelkeeper where he put up was of opinion that, Mr.W. " wrote so long that they must be sermons " If this is the case, we hope Mr.W. wont publish them.

Mr. A.Pearce of Beech Forest was in Melbourne for a short time. He says he enjoyed Mr.Paul's lecture on " Soil ".

Mr.Jas.Anderson of Oaklands Junction came down to see our Lacrosse team play their final match, and was very disappointed they did not win.

We were delighted to see Mr.J.E.Muir at the Lacrosse match, also at the Centre. He returned home to Warburton on Sept.10th.
Mrs.J.E.Muir was in town to attend the Annual Meeting of the Workers Club. Members were pleased to see her again.

We met Miss Irene Ross of Traralgon at the Lacrosse match. She was glad to see her old school mates.

Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr.and Mrs.A.Hartley who recently received news of the death of their son, Private A.Hartley.

We also wish to express our deep sympathy with our fellow member, Miss N. Adams, whose sister was called to rest on Aug.30th, after a long illness.

We are sorry to hear that Miss Nora Kennedy is very ill with a severe chill.

Mr. F.J.Rose, Founder of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb School reached his 86th birthday last month. Mr.R.J.Oehr(Hon.Sec.) and the Principal wired their congratulations and best wishes, and many of the Deaf wrote and visited him.

Mr.H.L.Walters, (Hon.Treas) was seen at the Deaf Lacrosse final.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER FUND.

Mr.F.Frewin, Hon Sec. to the Deaf Committee, tenders thanks for following donations. Mrs. Alex.Williamson 10/. Miss E.Brett of Kurraco W. 5/. Mr. J.F.Hunt of Ouyen 2/6, Messrs.J.Bourke and T.A.Nelson 1/. each.

THE ANNUAL COMPLIMENTARY RALLY to OUR PRINCIPAL

is to be held at the CENTRE on TUESDAY OCT.9th.

Mr. M. L. Miller will preside.

The Rally will be in the form of a Conversazione. Competitions and Recitals will be given during the evening.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. NOVEMBER 1917. No. 3

NEWS from N. Z.

Mr. M. L. Miller has received a lengthy and entertaining letter from dear old comrade Burke once a prominent member of our Society, but now of Christchurch, N. Z. His letter is brim full of loyalty to his old Society and Associates and it breathes the same old loving generous spirit. He says he devours the " Monthly Letter ". " It always reaches me safely and we always enjoy the reading of it " he says, " sometimes we get quite excited at some particular bit of news and at others we feel admiration at some exceptional achievement ". He derived considerable pleasure from the group in the last Annual Report hunting for faces of those he knew, he found Mr. Miller and " Snowy" (Mr. J.E.Muir) also the Chief (Mr.Abraham) and Mr.Rose. He wishes he could bring about the establishment of a " Centre " in Christchurch like that of ours and has the confidential courage to " wait and hope ". He also wishes he could have the pleasure of being present at the Principal's Anniversary Rally. He says " our thoughts go back thousands of times to the happiest days of our lives and then we wish we were back in dear old Melbourne and could see his dear old face and our deaf friends again. Mr.and Mrs. Burke send greeting to all old friends.

OUR MUNITION WORKER.

Our Principal and Mr.W.A.Paterson have both received letters from Mr.W.H. Crush from which we make the following summary. Mr. Crush says that after enjoying two weeks holiday with his parents he was sent to take up duties as an all round skilled mechanic at a new Government Aerodrome situated about twenty miles from his parents home. They work late almost nightly and sometimes on Sundays. All parts of air craft are made at the Aerodrome where he is employed, at present 150 large aeroplanes of the newest type are being constructed. The cost of living is very dear, considerably higher than in Australia. He hopes to take a flight - as a passenger of course - in an aeroplane before he returns to Victoria.

One of his brothers who was wounded at the Front allowed the Doctors to transfer a pint of his blood to a soldier dying from loss of blood and this act saved the soldier's life. Mr.Crush has lost so many relatives at the War that he has entirely lost count of them. " It would open the eyes of Australians " he says " if they could but just get a peep of what is going on in England, women are doing mens duties everywhere, especially on the farms where they work, dressed in trousers and long smocks ".

He has only received one letter from Australia and that was from his brother. He misses his Melbourne deaf friends and would welcome letters from any or all. His address is, W.H.Crush, Australian Ammunitions Worker No. 2183 c/o High Commissioner, Australia House, Strand. London England.

QUEENSLAND.

Dame Rumour' recently paid a visit to Melbourne and caused the air to pulsate with reports or forthcoming " doings " in connection with the opening of the new Institute for the Deaf. The Ceremony - as'released' by Dame Rumour - is to take place about January 1918 and that our Chief is to be invited to take part in this function.

N. S. W.

It is not likely tnat our Principal will forget his visit to Sydney in Oct. 1913 when he and Miss Abraham journeyed to the Mother State to awaken interest in the Adult Deaf and to found a new Association of the Deaf for N.S.W. For he went over during the small pox scare and Miss Abraham had to be vaccinated when going, and Mr.Abraham had to be vaccinated three times before he was able to get back to Melbourne and even then he had to call in the help of the Minister of Customs to get him back. In spite of great opposition, the new Society was founded and a Committee appointed and so successfully have they worked that they now have £725. in War Bonds in addition to a good sum in casn. May our Sydney deaf friends soon own an Institute of their own.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

At the meeting of the Women's Guild held on the 16th Oct, Miss R. Dow (Vice-President) presided and gave an interesting paper entitled Stories in " Shakespeare", which was followed by an address by the Principal on " Sincerity ". Miss Hickey(Hon.Sec) calls upon members to "Rally up". It is hoped that increased interest will be shown in the work of the Guild and that there will be no lack of volunteers to read papers.

" THE GREAT EMPIRE RALLY".

was the subject of Mr.A.Sutherland's paper at the Men's Guild meeting Oct. 16th. The paper was well written and exceptionally well delivered. It was the story of the rallying of the Colonies and Dominions, or shall we say free States of the Empire, to the Mother Country, and it was a good story well put receiving (deservedly) many a spontaneous burst of hand-clapping. Altogether, it was a very interesting and much appreciated paper and Mr. Sutherland was heartily congratulated by his audience. At the opening of the meeting the President, Mr.M.G.B.Mortimer, welcomed a visitor from Adelaide (Mr. Blackmore) and this gentleman briefly acknowledged the compliment.

THE AMALGAMATED GUILD.

On the 25th Sept, the second Amalgamated Guilds Social was held in the lower rooms. The attendance was large. The President of the Men's Guild (Mr.Mortimer) on behalf of both Guilds spoke a few words of welcome to the Country Deaf Visitors who were down for the Royal Show. The evening's programme was made up of games and conversation. Miss R.Dow (Vice-Pres) on behalf of the Women's Guild made a presentation of a case of silver spoons to Miss Doris Davis as a wedding present. She briefly responded. Afterwards supper was served and thus ended a very enjoyable evening.

ADULT DEAF LACROSSE CLUB.

The second round of Matches still showed our boys keeping well ahead on the Premiership list until the last and final match in which our team ingloriously failed. The 1st of the 2nd Round match Aug.11th, we played against Malvern No.2. and won scoring 10 goals to 3. Messrs.R. Kemble 3, J.Rettallick 2, F.Rees 2, V.Tyzzer2 and W.Vivian 1 were the scorers. On the 18th Aug. we again journeyed to Williamstown and played the No.1. The result was 10 to 1 in our favour. The principal goal throwers were J.Rettallick 4, V.Tyzzer 3, J.Johnston1, W.Donnellan 1, and W.Anderson 1. The score of 14 goals to nothing was the result against Coburg. V.Tyzzer5, J.Rettallick4, A.Tyzzer 3, W.Donnellan1 and E.Martin 1. Plenty of vim and energy was shown in the match against Brighton Presbyterian on the 1st. of Sept. and the game resulted in our favour showing the scores at 7 to 3. W.Donnellan 4, W.Vivian 3, J.Rettallick 1, made the score. The final match for the Premiership was held on the 8th at Central Park, East Malvern, in the presence of a good crowd. Our team failed badly through lack of form and system, whereas their opponents played in splendid form piling up a formidable score of 19 goals to our 5. J.Rettallick4, V.Tyzzer 1 were the only players who could break through the tough defences of the Malvern No1. team. The Premiership Honours go to Malvern No. 1. this season.

ADULT DEAF ATHLETIC CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting of this club was held at the Centre on the afternoon of Sat. Oct.6th. Mr.M.L.Miller, the President was in the chair and there was a good attendance. The report and balance sheet, the latter showing a balance of £11. were adopted. The Committee admitted the absence of the enthusiasm of former years, this was regretted. The Secretary (Mr.J.M.Johnston) had done everything in his power to combat this indifference, arranging for no less than 20 matches, but could only muster teams for 5 matches, necessitating the abandonment of the rest. This was not the kind of thing to ensure confidence in the deaf. The President's address was an appeal for a return to the old time enthusiasm and Our Principal (Mr.Abraham) said that Cricket was essentially a British sport and that today,more than any other,was the time when all true "Boys of the Empire " should do everything to make still more popular this, our National Sport. Amidst applause he promised to donate a Champion bat and ball, with silver inscription for best batting and bowling average. There is every hope that this year will reveal more vim amongst the players, anyway we make a start under more encouraging conditions.
The Office bearers are: - President, Mr.M.L.Miller; Vice-Presidents, Messrs.W.A.Paterson, M.G.Mortimer and F.E.Frewin. Hon Treas, Mr.A.Sutherland; Hon. Sec. Mr.J.M.Johnston; Committee. Messrs.C.Robertson, T.Peters R.Beattie, J.Cariss, W.Anderson and E.Martin.

The Cricket Club opened their season on 13th Oct. by playing against the " Court of Robin Hood " which resulted in a draw. The "Court of Robin Hood" made 95 runs for 3 wickets then declared closed, and the Adult Deaf scored 51 runs with the loss of 9 wickets. J.M.Johnston topped the score with 14 not out and T.Peters next with 11 runs. On Oct.20th, our boys met Imperial C.C. and got defeated. We were all disposed of for 33 runs. E.Martin 7 not out and G.Quantock 7 runs were the two who made a better stand. Imperial scored 2 wickets for 33 runs. The N.S.W. Deaf Cricket Club intend to send a team to Melbourne next Xmas to try conclusion with the Victorian Team. The South Australain boys are uncertain about their proposed visit on account of the prolonged strike.

VIC. BRANCH of A. D. & D. A.

Mr. F.E.Frewin, Hon.Secretary, begs to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of following subscriptions : - Mr & Mrs. Boortz 2/. Mr.& Mrs.Ferguson or Bowman's Forest 2/. Mr.& Mrs.Reynolds 2/. Mr.& Mrs.E.Smith 2/. Mr.& Mrs. Mills of Waaia 2/. Mr.& Mrs.J.Stokes of Trafalgar 2/. Mr.&.Mrs.D.Ashby of Trafalgar 2/. Mr.J.Anderson of Conargo N.S.W. 3/. (3 years). Mr.& Mrs.E Burke and Mr.T.Williamson(New Zealand) 2/. each (2 years). and 1/. each from Misses G.Mortimer, M.Gibson, E.Thompson, N.Adams, E.Smith, J.Wright, E.Jackson. Messrs. M.Mortimer, B.B.Phillips, J.Marks, F.Lynas, H.Smith, R.J.Hamilton, G.Battersby, J.Elwin, R.Luff, E.Martin, J.Bourke, N. Amos and Mrs. F.Martin of Adelaide.

PERSONAL.

During the Agricultural Show week, several visitors came up from the country to Melbourne. Amongst them we noticed, Messrs.F.Lynas, J.Veale of Lake Bolac, Hugh Smith of Myall, J.Anderson of Conargo N.S.W, S.Ferguson of Bowmans Forest, T.Collins of Neerim Junction. All have since returned home after having a happy time.

Mr. Blackmore of Adelaide is over for a holiday. He returns on 2nd of Nov. He is very pleased with our Deaf Centre and considers that our Society is a grand and ideal place for the Deaf.

Mr.N.Hughes is spending his holiday in Gippsland.

Miss Enid Jackson returned home to Sandford on Oct.13th after a long holiday. We hope that she will succeed in getting a license for motor driving. She is very keen on this matter.

Miss Doris Davis of Melbourne was quietly married to Mr.F.Martin of Adelaide at Dandenong on the 1st of Oct. Congratulations.

Mr.& Mrs.J.E.Muir, now of Warburton,received a surprise visit from Misses M.Dow and R.Peters and Messrs A.Hull and H.Blackmore on Sunday Oct.21st. It was a mutual pleasure.

Mr.J.White sustained a serious injury through being knocked down by a motor car. We are pleased to report that he is nearly well again.

Miss Nora Kennedy's many friends will be pleased to hear she is on the way to recovery, although she is regaining health very slowly.

The Hon.Sec.of the Deaf Committee received a letter from Mr.Hamilton of Paynesville stating that he would be pleased to see any of our deaf members at his home during the Xmas holidays. He promises to do his best to give them a good time and to act as their guide through the beautiful surrounding country.

NOTES

A beautiful film of our daffodil farm was screened at Hoyts Cinema Theatre in September. It is now in Sydney.

Mr.Abraham was recently caricatured in a kindly way as the "Monarch of the Silent World" in the first issue of a new and very successful sixpenny Monthly called " The Onlooker".

Much interesting news has had to be held over till next month.

PICNIC to MORDIALLOC - CUP DAY - NOV. 6th.
Full particulars from Mr.Frewin, Hon Sec. to Deaf Committee.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. DECEMBER 1917. No. 4

THE GREATEST BENEFACTOR of the DEAF.

The deaf of the whole world are sorrowing. Edward Miner Gallaudet has passed to his reward and the deaf have lost their greatest benefactor, their truest friend and the most influential power of their cause. He died at his home Woodland St, Hartford U.S.A. on Wednesday September 26th. Dr. E.M.Gallaudet was born in 1837 and was the youngest son of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, the founder of the first school for the Deaf of America. At seventeen he entered Trinity College as a Junior, and graduated in 1856, at the age of nineteen years. He next taught the deaf at the Hartford School for eighteen months, and then at the invitation of Amos Kendall went to Washington to take charge of a small school for the dear. But he had a vision of a school for the higher education of the deaf, which was realised seven years later, when he succeeded in having a college established by Congress with power to confer degrees. This was in the year 1864. He was elected president, and continued in that office up to the year 1910, when he voluntarily retired. He returned to Hartford to pass the low sunshine of life at the place of his birth amidst the memories of his boyhood's joyful days.

We also regret to have to record the death of another great friend of the deaf of the U.S.A. - Principal Enoch Henry Currier, of the New York Institution for the Deaf. He died suddenly at his summer home in Essex N.Y. on Sunday Aug.19th. For forty five years he served the educational interests of the deaf and was beloved by all who knew him. He was really a great educator of the deaf and a genial, warm hearted and courteous gentleman.

It is with sorrow too, we intimate the passing over of Mr.Edward Athay Illingworth, Headmaster of the Institution for the Deaf, Edinburgh, Scotland. The sad event took place on the 4th of August.

The Rev. F.W.G.Gilby, Chaplain and Superintendent of the Royal Association in aid of the Deaf and Dumb London, owing to ill health, has at an early age (52) been retired on a pension of £200 per annum. He has had a very long and painful illness, it is therefore with pleasure we are able to add that Mr. Gilby is considerably better at present, and there is hope that a year's rest may bring health sufficient to enable him to resume, some at least, of his activities in the cause of the deaf.

PRINTERS OVERSEERS' NIGHT.

Members of the Printers Overseers' Association, at the invitation of our Principal, paid a visit to Our Centre on the evening of Saturday Oct.13th. A programme had been arranged by Mr.F.E.Frewin (Hon Sec to Deaf Committee) and was given in the upper Hall, the opening item being a rather lengthy, nevertheless amusing, recital by Mr.Tom Nelson entitled " The Courting of Pushalong Briggs ". Our Principal's Deaf Lady Entertainers followed with Living Statuary, " Five Merry Maidens " and the " Deaf Anthem ". Mr. Luff gave " The Baby " which turned out to be of exceptional interest to the printers and Mr.W.A.Paterson brought the usual roars of laughter with his " Whimsical Ways of Women ". Mr.Paul interpreted the whole of the proceedings. Arrangements had been made for chess, draughts, bagatelle and other tournaments but the upper hall programme absorbed so much of the evening that our guests only had time for supper which was given by the Principal in his room and at which thanks were tendered and acknowledged. Altogether it was a pleasant evening and it is to be hoped the first of many such.

THE PRINCIPAL'S RALLY

was a great success, thanks to the efforts of the Entertainments Committee. We are led to enquire " Is our hall getting too small or are we growing too big ? Anyway, it was quite a " deaf mute crush " but a merry one. Everyone seemed animated with the spirit of endeavouring to make someone else happy. There was nothing in the programme itself, it was the spirit of harmony in the air. May it ever be thus. Of course Mr. Mrs.E.J.D, Miss and Mr.Douglas Abraham were the guests of the evening. Mr.Miller presided and as is customary with our " Friend of Everybody " had a lot of nice things to say of Our Principal and of " things attempted,things done". Mr. Abraham thanked the deaf for making an anniversary event of the date of his arrival amongst them, was glad to have been able to be of service to the deaf and hoped to be allowed to do much more. Mr.Paul opened the meeting with prayer. A Childrens Spelling Competition gave several of the young offspring of the deaf an opportunity to show their powers in finger talk. Games followed, then supper in charge of the Workers Club and supervised by Mrs. F.E.Frewin, to whom thanks are tendered. Do we men folk realise the hours our lady friends spend in preparing the dainty sandwiches etc, etc, that we in so short a time cause to disappear.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY.

The Principal desires to thank the Members of the Congregation for the generous response they made to his Circular Appeal. The Collections this year, were higher than any previous year. The Hon. Secretary (Mr F.E.Frewin) was able to hand over £8 (including £1.2.0 from the Employees and Inmates of the Blackburn Home) to the Hospital Sunday Fund. Mr.Paul officiated at the Morning and Mr.Abraham at the Evening Service.

CUP DAY PICNIC.

Our enterprising Church Secretary (Mr.F.E.Frewin) has a " strong weakness " for Mordialloc. If he can get " a pull " at all in the matter of the place for our annual outing he invariably " pulls " in that direction, and the number of times we have visited that pretty spot on the Bay is evidence in itself of the might of his pull. This year he secured a big majority in its favour and a good crowd attended. The day

was an ideal one for a picnic so we were in the very best of spirits and enjoyed the day's outing to the full. Mr.Paul (Assistant Missioner) was with us. The Principal (Mr.Abraham) and the Asst.Hon.Treasurer (Mr.M.L.Miller) were both absent, the former was busy with picnic parties at the Flower Farm and the latter with the Monthly Accounts.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 30th Oct. at the ordinary meeting of the above Guild, a very interesting paper on " The History of a street " was given by Mr.J.M.Paul. It was accompanied by designs of ancient buildings of Edinburgh. There was a good attendance and his paper was much appreciated by the members. On the 13th Nov, the mambers of the Guild held a word-making or riddle tournament, supervised by Mr.J.M.Johnston. An enjoyable evening was spent.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

A meeting of the Deaf Women's Guild was held on Nov.13th. Our Principal opened the meeting with prayer and delivered a short address on " Windbags ". Miss Connie Ball recited a poem called " Dusters ". Miss Hickey gave a paper on " Daniel and the Kings ", and Mrs. Wilson conducted her usual bible reading, the subject being " Alms Giving ".

ADULT DEAF CRICKET CLUB.

A match against Sth. Yarra Christ Church C.C. was played on Oct. 27th and resulted in a win for our boys by 11 runs. The top scorer was J.Rettallick 21 runs out of the total 57 runs. Christ Church scored 46 runs. E.Martin captured 6 wickets for 17 runs.
On 3rd Nov, our team journeyed to " Beautiful Eltham " and played against the local team and again we scored a victory by a wicket and 22 runs. Adult Deaf piled 9 wickets for 80 runs. G.Quantock 29 runs, W.Anderson 11 runs. Eltham scored 38 runs. V.Harding 3 wickets for 8 runs, E.Martin 3 for 13 and R.Beattie 2 for 13 were the best bowlers.
On the following Saturday Nov.10th, we met the " Erratic " on our ground and suffered our second defeat by 1 wicket and 38 runs. Adult Deaf were disposed of for 71 runs. G.Quantock 13, N.Hughes and F.Rees 10 each were the best batsmen for the day. " Erratic " scored 9 wickets for 109 runs. E.Martin 4 for 24 runs and R.Beattie 2 for 27 were the bowlers.

PERSONAL.

The Hon. Sec. of the Deaf Committee has received a letter from Mr.& Mrs. G.Thomas of Launceston, regretting to have to impart the news of the death of Mr. ArvonClifton Ellis who passed away on the 23rd ult. rather suddenly. He had not been in good health, though he went to work as usual. He was only 18 years old. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas wished to be remembered to all deaf friends.

Miss M.Cole's sister in law died on the 3rd of Nov. from Meningitis. She has our sympathy.

Mr. Blackmore of Adelaide conducted the Bible Class on the 26th Oct. and returned to Adelaide on Nov.3rd after having a pleasant and enjoyable holiday.

Mr. J.F.Hunt of Ouyen paid a flying visit to Melb. Nov.5th, to see his father who is in hospital. We are pleased to note that his father is

progressing well, although very slowly.

Mr. J.Hughes of Liverpool paid a visit to Our Centre during a short stay in Melbourne. He is a cook on the Transport ship " Oramic ". He made himself quite a popular friend among us and also spent the day at our annual picnic. We were sorry that he had to go away again. Misses I. Kennedy, R.Dow and W.Burke went to the Pier and saw him off. He sailed on Nov.8th for New Zealand. He spoke of settling in Victoria.

Mr.Norman Hughes is back again from Gippsland after a long spell.

Mrs. Cross recently underwent an operation for appendicitis at the Melb. Hospital, and we are glad to add that she is home again and as well as can be expected.

Our deep sympathy is with Mr.Bowers in the death of his father at Aspendale, last October.

Mr. F.E.Frewin, the Hon.Sec,has received a long letter full of interesting news from Mr.J.R.Miller. Mr.Miller says he returned home to Ballarat during the late strike at Broken Hill, and will probably go back to Broken Hill after the Christmas holidays.

Miss Enid Jackson of Sandford has been driving their new motor car. She will be quite an expert driver before long. We her success in her effort to obtain a license. She wishes to be remembered to her deaf friends at the Centre.

Mr.J.Kenworthy states that they had a good rainfall last Oct. A lot of farmers did not finish planting maize on account of the wet weather. Some of them lost potatoes and pumpkins through the heavy frosts. The river rose up to the bank and stopped the people from going to Bairnsdale for a couple of days..

We were pleased to hear from Mrs.A.Williamson, she is still on holiday in Brisbane and is much better in health.

Miss Mabel Dow - the life and spirit of our ramblers - recently had her tonsils operated on and although she was away from the Centre but a couple of weeks, she was very much missed.

The Annual Meeting of the VIC. BRANCH of A.D.& D.A. will be held on Tuesday, Dec.4th at 8 pm at our Centre.

Article on the Deaf Mute Farm and paragraphs on General Board, Farm & Finance and Deaf Committee, Deaf Patriotic Council and Workers Club together with much other matter crowded out.

Mrs.F.E.Frewin has shouldered the activities of the Workers Club with enthusiasm. She means business.

Mrs.W.A.Paterson is determined that the Patriotic Council shall be patriotic in action as well as name. She also is out for business.

Among the younger generation we have some promising members. Neuclus of future great activities. Johnston, Hull, Sutherland, Robertson and others are not allowing us to forget that they are very much alive. We miss Newnham, a bright and shining star who had to make his home in the Country for healths sake.

WE WISH OUR READERS A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.

"The Herald"
December 24th 1917.

DEAF MUTES PLAY CRICKET

VICTORIA V. S. AUSTRALIA

Interstate cricket matches are to be played between teams of deaf mutes representing New South Wales, South Australia, and Victoria, on the Albert Cricket Ground every day through the week in the following order:—December 24 and 25, Victoria v. South Australia; December 26 and 27, South Australia v. New South Wales; December 28 and 29; New South Wales v. Victoria.

Victoria and South Australia began their match this morning. The teams are:—Victoria: T. Collins (capt.), C. Robertson (vice-capt.), A. Collins, F. Lynas, G. Burgess, T. Peters, E. Martin, R. Beattie, R. Ryan, G. Edwards, V. Harding. South Australian: A. Hann (capt.), F. Lehmann (vice-capt.), H. Parnell, W. Abbott, Leo Spencer, Rankine, Langley, Hindes, Simpson, Simons, R. Crouch.

When our report closed the scores were:—

VICTORIA.
First Innings.

Edwards, c Hindes, v Crouch	69
Burgess, c Hindes, b Lehmann	27
T. Peters, c Abbott, b Spencer	31
C. Robertson, not out	132
T. Collins, c Hindes, b Simons	26
R. Ryan, c Simons, b J. Rankine	9
A. Collins, b Langley	1
V. Harding, lbw, b Langley	22
Seven wickets for	317

"The Herald"
December 26th 1917.

DEAF MUTES AT PLAY

SOUTH AUSTRALIA V. N.S.W.

Teams of deaf mutes representing New South Wales and South Australia played an interstate cricket match today on the Albert cricket ground. A series of triangular tests is being played this week in Melbourne, the teams representing Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales. The scores today were:—

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
First Innings.

Lehmann, b O'Callaghan	39
Langley, b Emerson	1
Parnell, b Bridgen	18
Crouch, c Smith, b Emerson	0
Spencer, b O'Callaghan	7
Abbott, c Smith, b O'Callaghan	35
Hann, c Beswick, b Bridgen	7
Rankine, c and b O'Callaghan	0
Simons, b O'Callaghan	4
Hindes, not out	5
Brodie, b Emerson	8
Sundries	15
Total	139

"The Herald"
December 24th 1917.

DEAF MUTES' TEST MATCH

N.S.W. DEFEAT STH. AUSTRALIA

Teams of deaf mutes concluded their interstate test match between South Australia and New South Wales yesterday afternoon on the Albert cricket ground. New South Wales won by an innings and 90 runs. Scores:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.
First Innings.

Bridgin, c Simon, b Langley	4
Briscoe, b Parnell	30
Emerson, b Langley	110
O'Callaghan, c Hann, b Crouch	71
S. Phillips, c Abbott, b Langley	5
Riddell, b Crouch	0
Smith, b Crouch	18
Beswick, not out	25
Barrington, run out	4
Arthur, c Spencer, b Crouch	1
M'Nevin, c Brodie, b Langley	0
Sundries	33
Total	301

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
First Innings 139
Second Innings.

Langley, b O'Callaghan	9
Spencer, b O'Callaghan	13
Hann, b Emerson	9
Parnell, c Arthur, b Emerson	1
Lehmann, b Emerson	0
Rankine, run out	23
Crouch, st Phillips, b Emerson	0
Brodie, run out	0
Abbott, not out	11
Hindes, b Emerson	1
Simons, b Emerson	0
Sundries	5
Total	72

The "Age"
December 28th 1917

CRICKET.

DEAF MUTE INTER-STATE MATCH.

A number of deaf mutes from New South Wales and South Australia are at present visiting Melbourne, and a series of inter-State cricket matches is being played on the Albert cricket ground, which has been placed at the disposal of the Melbourne Adult Deaf Athletic Club by the Melbourne Cricket Club. On Monday and Tuesday a match was played between a Victorian and South Australian team, and resulted in a win for Victoria by an innings and 46 runs. The scores were:—Victoria: First innings, 330 runs. South Australia: First innings, 99; second innings, 194.

On Wednesday a match between New South Wales and South Australia was commenced. It was concluded yesterday, the result being in favor of New South Wales by an innings and 90 runs.

The scores were as follow:—New South Wales.—First Innings: Bridgen, c Simons, b Langley, 4; Briscoe, b Parnell, 30; Emerson, b Langley, 110; O'Callaghan, c Hann, b Crouch, 70; Phillips, c Abbott, b Langley, 5; Riddell, b Crouch, 0; Smith, b Crouch, 18; Beswick, not out, 25; Barrington, run out, 4; Arthur, c Spencer, b Crouch, 1; M'Nevin, c Brodie, b Langley, 0; sundries, 33. Total, 300.

South Australia.—First Innings: Lehmann, b O'Callaghan, 39; Langley, b Emerson, 1; Parnell, b Bridgen, 18; Crouch, c Smith, b Emerson, 0; Spencer, b O'Callaghan, 7; Abbott, c Smith, b O'Callaghan, 35; Hann, c Beswick, b Bridgen, 7; Rankine, c and b O'Callaghan, 0; Simons, b O'Callaghan, 4; Hindes, not out, 5; Brodie, b Emerson, 8; sundries, 15. Total, 139. Second Innings: Langley, b O'Callaghan, 9; Spencer, b O'Callaghan, 13; Hann, b Emerson, 9; Parnell, c Arthur, b Emerson, 1; Lehmann, b Emerson, 6; Rankine, run out, 23; Crouch, st Phillips, b Emerson, 0; Brodie, run out, 0; Abbott, not out, 11; Hindes, b Emerson, 1; Simons, b Emerson, 0; sundries, 5. Total, 72.

The winners, Victoria and New South Wales, are to try conclusions to-day and on Saturday at Albert cricket ground, starting at 10.30 a.m.

At the Adult Deaf and Dumb Centre, Flinders street, last night, the visiting cricketers were cordially welcomed by the members of the Victorian society. Mr. M. L. Miller presided.

The "Age".
December 29th 1917.

CRICKET.

DEAF MUTES' INTER-STATE MATCH.

NEW SOUTH WALES V. VICTORIA.

New South Wales and Victoria met yesterday at the Albert cricket ground, and will continue the match to-day. Victoria won the toss, and sent New South Wales to bat. Scores:—New South Wales—First Innings: Bridgen, b Lynas, 18; Briscoe, b Edwards, 5; Phillips, b Edwards, 25; Emerson, c Robertson, b Lynas, 42; O'Callaghan, not out, 76; Beswick, b Lynas, 4; Smith, c Martin, b Burgess, 3; Riddell, b Burgess, 7; Barrington, c Edwards, b Martin, 5; Arthur, b Burgess, 0; M'Nevin, c and b Edwards, 25; sundries, 5. Total, 214. Victoria—First Innings: Edwards, lbw, b Emerson, 58; Peters, b Bridgen, 20; Ryan, lbw, b Bridgen, 23; Robertson, b Emerson, 45; Burgess, c Briscoe, b Emerson, 7; Collins, c O'Callaghan, b Emerson, 4; Harding, b Emerson, 2; Vivian, run out, 4; Martin, c and b Emerson, 44; Beattie, not out, 51; Lynas, b Bridgen, 0; sundries, 20. Total, 258.

"The Herald"
December 29th 1917.

CRICKET

DEAF MUTES AT PLAY

VICTORIA V. NEW SOUTH WALES

This interstate fixture was continued at Albert Cricket Ground today. Scores:—

VICTORIA.
First Innings 258
NEW SOUTH WALES.
First Innings 214
Second Innings.

O'Callaghan, b Martin	7
Emerson, not out	109
Briscoe	1
Phillips, l.b.w., b Martin	11
Bridgen, b Martin	28
Smith, b Martin	3
Beswick, b Burgess	0
M'Nevin, c Edwards, b Burgess	4
Riddell, not out	54
Sundries	23
Seven wickets for	238

The "Age"
December 31st 1917.

CRICKET.

DEAF MUTES' MATCH.
VICTORIA V. NEW SOUTH WALES.

FINAL TEST MATCH.

The match between Victoria and New South Wales was continued at the Albert ground on Saturday. Scores:—

NEW SOUTH WALES.
First Innings 214
Second Innings.

O'Callaghan, b Martin	5
Emerson, not out	124
Briscoe, c Robertson, b Martin	1
Phillips, lbw, b Martin	11
Bridgen, b Burgess	28
Smith, b Martin	3
Beswick, b Burgess	0
M'Nevin, c Edwards, b Burgess	4
Riddell, b Ryan	54
Arthur, b Ryan	0
Barrington, c Martin, b Burgess	8
Sundries	26
Total	261

VICTORIA.
First Innings 258
Second Innings.

Edwards, st Smith, b Emerson	60
Peters, run out	5
Ryan, st Phillips, b Emerson	22
Robertson, c Emerson, b Phillips	54
Burgess, b Emerson	6
Martin, c Beswick, b Phillips	0
Beattie, c Riddell, b Emerson	0
Collins, b Emerson	4
Harding, not out	27
Vivian, run out	6
Lynas, not out	8
Sundries	11
Total for nine wickets	221

Victoria won by a wicket and 4 runs.

The "Age"
January 1st 1918.

The Inter-State Deaf Mute Cricketers.

The visiting teams of deaf mute cricketers from New South Wales and South Australia, together with the Victorian team, were at the close of the test matches entertained at dinner on Saturday evening last at Sargent's Cafe, Elizabeth-street, by the president of the Melbourne Adult Deaf Athletic Club. A very pleasant time was spent. The toast The King was enthusiastically honored. The toasts The Victors (Victoria), The Runners Up (New South Wales), The Triers (South Australia) and The Host were also proposed and responded to. Hearty cheers were given for the Melbourne Cricket Club, which kindly placed the Aberr cricket ground at the disposal of the cricketers. Yesterday the visitors and their Victorian friends were entertained at a garden party at the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Blackburn, by Mr. and Mrs. E. J. D. Abraham, the principal and matron. The light rain that fell at intervals in no way interfered with the pleasure and enjoyment of the party. The visitors were much impressed with the progress made at the farm, and with the beautiful surroundings of the home. The host and hostess were heartily thanked for their hospitality.

"The Weekly Times"
January 5th 1918.

Test matches have been played between teams of deaf mutes representing New South Wales and Victoria, and South Australia. The Albert Ground, kindly lent by the Melbourne Cricket Club, was the scene of a very enjoyable series of games. Many of the players showed themselves no mean exponents of cricket, while all gave evidence of intense interest in the contests.

At the close of the triangular series the players were entertained at dinner at Sergeants' Cafe by the president of the Melbourne Adult Deaf Athletic Club. Among the toasts submitted were the teams: The victors (Victoria), the runners-up (New South Wales) and the triers (South Australia). A very cordial expression of thanks to the M.C.C. for the use of the ground was given by demonstration. The players were also entertained at the Deaf Mutes' Flower Farm, Blackburn, where Mr and Mrs E. J. Abraham, the principal and matron, were rewarded for their hospitality by hearty tokens of appreciation.

In the concluding game, New South Wales scored 214 (O'Callaghan 75 not out, Emerson 42—Edwards and Burgess each three wickets) and 261 (Emerson 124 not out, Riddell 54—Martin and Burgess each four wickets). Victoria made 258 (Edwards 58, Robertson 45, Martin 44—Emerson six wickets, Bridgen three wickets) and 221 for nine wickets (Edwards 60, Robertson 54—Emerson five wickets). Victoria won a most exciting match by one wicket and four runs.

FORM of SERVICE

for use in the

CHURCH for the DEAF.

Flinders St,E. Melbne.

MORNING PRAYER.

A Silent Prayer (to be said on being seated)

LOVING FATHER, I thank Thee for guiding Thy child to Thy Holy Place this morning. Help me to realise all it means to be here with Thee. Help me to think so highly of my relationship that I shall think or do nothing mean or unworthy. Help me to rest in Thee today. May I not grow impatient. May I be quiet and trustful. Fill my life with holy purpose. May I see good in all and love it. In all my difficulties make known to me Thy will, that I may be an obedient and true child of light.

MORNING SERVICE.

OPENING PSALM.

Choir & Peolpe. I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord: behold ! how good, and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity !
This is a day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it;
we will enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise
Our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. He that walketh in darkness and hath no light, let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

Choir & People. Of Him, and through Him, and unto Him are all things, to Him be glory for ever.

Minister. O.God, Spirit of Light and Love, who dwellest with the pure in heart and makest man Thy temple.

Choir & People. Be with us,
and bless us.

Minister. We pray that Thy Spirit may pervade all the affairs of men. May all governments and rulerships be under Thy most gracious Sovereignty. May all who hold authority be animated by pure and lofty aims.

Choir & People. We beseech Thee, Good Lord, to help us to be worthy citixens.

Minister. We pray for all Christlike movements, for all Ministries that are seeking the extension of Thy Kingdom. For all labourers among the poor, among the sick and afflicted, among the outcast and those in prison, among the children in this land, and in all lands.

Choir & People. Strengthen them with Thy Mighty Power O God.

Minister. We humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldst be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations.

Choir & People. Have Mercy upon them O God. Have mercy upon them.

Minister. Gracious Lord. Look with loving kindness upon Thy children here assembled. Permit that TODAY they may be blessed with new vision, new sense of duty, new perception of opportunity, new conscious-

ness of the privilege of being a child of God. Pour grace into their minds that all their conversations may be gracious and may tend to enrich and sweeten the society in which they move.

Choir & People. May our mistakes be our teachers, may our failings be our warnings.

Minister Choir & People. Our Father who art in heaven . . . . . .

RECITAL God's Law. (Minister)

Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.
This is the first commandment, and the second is like, namely this thou shalt love thy neighbour as thy self.
There is none other commandment greater than these.
This is the love of God that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not grevious;
for the end of the commandment is love out of a pure heart, and a good conscience, and trust unfeigned.
Let us not love in word, neither with the tongue, but in deed and in truth:
A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another;
even as I have loved you, that ye also love another.
By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples.
if ye have love one to another:
if a man love Me, he will keep My word: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him,
and make our abode with him.
Incline our hearts to keep this law of love,
we beseech Thee O Lord.
Glory be unto the name of the Eternal Love:

and let the whole earth be filled with His glory.
Amen. Praise ye the Lord.

RECITAL

Choir. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

People Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin: for I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

Choir. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

People. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Choir. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

People. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy Spirit from me.

Choir. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

People. For Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it:
Thou delightest not in burnt offering.

Choir. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise.

Minister. Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may in such wise receive them,

read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy Holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

LESSON and EXPOSITION.

HYMN by CHOIR.

PRAYER. (Minister)

SERMON.

Announcements and Collection.

Minister. Almighty God, who has given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in Thy Name Thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Benediction (Minister) Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, and the God of love and peace be with you.

People. Amen. Blessed be His Name for Ever.

HYMN.

" Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. "

Holy, Holy, Holy ! Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, Holy, Holy ! Merciful and Mighty,
Thay wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, Holy, Holy ! All Thy sons adore Thee
Worshipping Thy glorious name in love and liberty:
All earth's noblest spirits veil their eyes before Thee
Lord of all light and solemn mystery.

Holy, Holy, Holy ! though the darkness hide Thee
Though in mirrors dimly now Thy glory we may see,
Still in trust and reverence we will bow before Thee
Father of power, and love, and purity.

Holy, Holy, Holy ! O Eternal Spirit !
Great and marvellous are Thy works in earth, and sky and sea;
Let Thy children worship Thee in truth and spirit,
That wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Amen.

FORM of SERVICE

for use in the

CHURCH for the DEAF.

Flinders St,E. Melbne.

EVENING PRAYER.

A Silent PRAYER (To be said on being seated)

MY GOD AND FATHER, help me to renew my hunger and thirst after righteousness. Fill me with a Holy Zeal that I may accomplish Thy will. Make my heart to sing with gladness for the joy of being in Thy Presence. May the spirit of Unity and love dominate my heart, and perfect harmony in all that is good in Thy sight be with this Congregation.

EVENING SERVICE.

OPENING PSALM.

Choir & People. Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God ?
He hath shewed thee, O Man ! what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God ?
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
a broken and a contrite heart, O God ! Thou wilt not despise.
Offer sacrifices of love, and put thy trust in the Lord, for thou art no longer a bond-servant, but a son, and to love thy God, and to love thy neighbour as thy self, is much more than all offerings and sacrifices.
Now blessed be the Lord our God, who only doeth wondrous things :

Choir & People — and blessed be His glorious name for ever and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

Minister. — Heavenly Father, Inspire, we beseech Thee, the minds and hearts of all our teachers, rulers and legislators with the Spirit of justice, wisdom and humanity, and may our nation be established in righteousness, in peace and good will to Man. To Thy loving kindness do we commend all our brethren of mankind. May truth and right prevail, and Thy law of love knit all men in one holy brotherhood.

Choir & People. — Thy Kingdom come :
Thy will be done on earth.

Minister. — O God, our refuge and our strength, we remember before Thee the sick and sorrowing, the afflicted, the lonely ones and all such as are in danger or trouble of any kind. Teach us to bear trial with a brave heart, and evermore to put our trust in Thee. Teach us also to bear each other's burdens of sin and sadness, and by gentle words and generous deeds to make the world around us brighter and better.

Choir & People. — Loving Father, May that mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus.

Minister. — Dwell in the hearts and homes of this Congregation, O Lord and unite us in one spirit with all Thy faithful children. Be Thou, O Father, the Brightness and Beauty of our youth, the strength of our manhood and womanhood and the Hope and Joy of our old age.

Choir & People. — Grant these, our prayers,
most gracious Lord.

Minister. Teach us the spirit of true Worship. Save us from all formality. May our approach to Thee be reverent and fruitful, may the fellowship of Thy people be sanctified and sweet.

Choir & People. May we be willing to bear our Cross and not seek the way of ease.

Minister. May the Holy Spirit accompany us through the hours of this week. May His Presence illumine our minds and warm our hearts. May He teach us how to think and how to speak and may we not offend in speech or deed.

Choir & People. Father, let our obedience to Thy will be a pleasure.
Let our duties be our delight.

Minister Choir & People. Our Father, who art in heaven . . . . .

Minister. RECITAL.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God
and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God.
He that loveth not, knoweth not God;
for God is love.
Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death,
even the death of the Cross.
Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you;
that ye may be the sons of your Father which is in heaven.
For He maketh His sun to shine on the evil and the good,
and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.
For if ye love them that love you, what reward have ye ?
do not even the publicans the same ?

and if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others?
Ye therefore shall be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect.
Put on as God's elect, a heart of compassion, kindness, humility,
meekness and long suffering; forbearing one another, and
forgiving each other, even as the Lord forgave you.
And above all these things,
put on love which is the bond of perfectness.
Now the God of peace make us perfect in every good work to do his
will,
working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight,
through Jesus Christ
And unto Him be glory for ever.

Amen.

RECITAL.

Choir. God that made the world and all things therein
seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth,
dwelleth not in temples made with hands:

People. Neither is He worshipped with men's hands as though He needed
anything. Seeing He giveth to all life and breath and all things.

Choir. He is not far from everyone of us, for we are His offspring,
and in Him we live and move and have our being.

People. The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall
worship the Father, in spirit, and in truth,
for the Father seeketh such to worship Him,
God is Spirit, and they that worship Him
must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

Choir. Know ye not that ye are a temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you ?
Ye are an holy priesthood
ye, as live stones are built up a spiritual house.

People. Let us present ourselves before a living sacrifice,
Holy acceptable unto God.

Choir. And to do good, and to communicate, forget not,
for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Choir & People. Now unto the king Eternal, incorruptible, invisible, and the only God,
be honour and glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Minister. O GOD, the Spirit of all Truth, and the Inspirer of all goodness, guide us in the reading of the Scriptures, and in our meditation on that which was spoken to them of olden time, that we may now and ever receive Thy Word, not in the letter which killeth, but in the spirit which giveth life, and that it may be in us a well of living water.

LESSON and EXPOSITION.

HYMN by CHOIR.

Prayer (Minister)

SERMON.

Announcements and Collection.

Minister. Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord; and by Thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Thy only Son. our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ . . . . . .

People. Amen. Bless the Lord O my Soul, Bless the Lord and forget not all his benefits .

The day is past and over;
All thanks, O Lord, to Thee;
We pray that pure and sinless
The coming days may be:
Oh ! keep us ever in the Light,
And guide us through the world's dark night.

The day is past and over;
So passes Life's long day
And like the morning's brightness,
Its glories melt away:
Shine Thou within us, Heavenly Light !
In Thy bright Presence is no night.

The day is past and over,
The day of rest and prayer;
And soon the morning bringeth
The common toil and care:
Shine O'er our lives, Thou beauteous Light !
Thy peace be ours by day and night.

The day is past and over,
The day of joy and love;
Oh ! grant that to our brother
We ever true may prove:
Lord keep us in Love's gladsome Light,
And guide us through the world's cold night.

Amen.

CHURCH for the DEAF

32.34. Flinders St,E.

Melbourne.

F O R M of S E R V I C E.

Members of the above Congregation are asked to vote for the Form of Service preferred.
By putting a X to the form favoured.

1. The old system - the whole of Service conducted by Minister only.

2. Form of Service with Minister, choir and Congregational responses.

3. Form of Service with Minister and two Lay Readers.

4. Present system i.e. the Minister and one Lay Reader.

Please put your ballot paper in box on table at rear of Church. The ballot will close on the 25th of Nov. 1917.

Scrutineer. Mr.E.H.Peacock.
Hon. Sec. Mr.F.E.Frewin.

Principal and Chaplain

Mr. Ernest H.D.Abraham.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. JANUARY 1918. No. 5

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

To Mr. F.J.Rose, Founder of the education of the deaf in Australia. It is good to have you with us still. May you find comfort and consolation in the knowledge that you brought many hundred of your fellow citizens "out of darkness into light ", and the peace of God that passeth understanding be with you alway. - To Mr. W.D.Cook, headmaster of the Victorian School for the Deaf, a generation of the deaf wish you well. - To Our President, Mr.W.G.McBeath J.P. To our Vice-President Mr.E.R.Peacock J.P. To Our Chairman, Mr.G.G.Mercy J.P; Members of the Committee, Subscribers and friends. -To "Mother Queen ", Matron of the Home, Miss Empson - " Universal provider " Mr. J.M.Paul, Missioner and all our readers.

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT

Our brothers are doing more than their " bit ". The latest to win honour for himself and to confer it upon us is Sgt. F.J.K.Hickey of the Australian Field Artillery, who has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Congratulations to Sgt. Hickey, Miss Doris Hickey and her parents.

Mrs. A.M.Hartley has received the letter printed below from Major W.H. Osborne. Australian Imperial Force, Victoria Barracks, Base Records Office, Melbourne.

Dear Madam. With reference to the report of the regrettable loss of your son the late No.562 Private F.C.Hartley, 18th Battalion. I am now in receipt of advice which shows that he died at 1st Auxilliary Hospital, Harefield, on 24th July 1917, of Empyema, and was buried in Parish Church yard Cemetery, Harefield. Section, Australian Military Burial ground. Single grave No. 33. Consecrated portion on 25th July 1917.

The deceased soldier was buried with full Military Honours, Band of the 1st Auxilliary Hospital, Harefield, firing party and bugler of the Administrative Headquarters Staff A.I.F. London, were in attendance. A party of the patients from same Hospital followed the remains to the Cemetery (under the command of Major Dennis). The coffin was draped with the Australian flag, and was borne to the graveside by members of the A.I.F. Prior to the interment a service was held in the Parish Church, Harefield by Chaplain Gregg Macgregor. The "Past Post" was sounded at the graveside. No relatives were present at the funeral. Memorial is being erected by the Authorities of the 1st. Australian Auxilliary Hospital, Harefield. These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy

of the Department, to forward all information received in connection with deaths of members.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 11th Dec. at the ordinary meeting of the above Guild, Mr.F.Rees one of the youngest members, delivered a very interesting and much appreciated paper on " Coal ". Mr.Rees was complimented by members upon his successful efforts.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

At the Meeting of the Women's Guild held Dec.11th4 " Word-making " competition was held, supervised by Miss Dow. Mrs.J.E.Muir, our esteemed ex-President was present and was accorded a hearty welcome, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

ADULT DEAF CRICKET CLUB.

The Union Memorial C.C. paid us a visit on the 24th of Nov. and succeeded in giving us a walloping. Our team batted first and scored 42 runs. O. Tyzzer 14 runs, was the only one who could make a stand against a battery of bowlers. The opposing team scored 5 wickets for 64 runs. E.Martin 2 for 12, R.Beattie 1 for 20 and J.McLean 1 for 18 were the bowlers. December 1st was the cricketers picnic afternoon. Accompanied by a number of ladies, we journeyed to Hampton and played against the Sandringham Baptist C.C. and we failed again to win. We were all disposed of for 58 runs. T.Peters 20; E.Martin 14 and W.Anderson 10 were the batsmen. Sandringham Baptists scored 78 runs. R.Beattie 4 for 33, T.Peters 2 for 7 and V.Harding 1 for 13 were the principal wicket getters. Our boys were entertained to a sumptuous spread under the ti-tree after which we all indulged in various games till late. All present declared tnat it was a ripping picnic.
The match on the 8th Dec. was against the Botanic Gardens at the Dpmain which resulted in their favour. The Deaf Team scored 83 runs. V.Harding 14; J.Johnston 13; G.Quantock 10 and E.Martin 20 not out. Botanic Gardens scored 3 wickets down for 92. T.Peters 1 for 16. G.Quantock 1 for 6. On the 15th Dec. a match against the Imperial C.C. was played on the flats beside the Saltwater River at Footscray. Both sides spent the afternoon in high scoring. Adult Deaf made 6 wickets for 118 runs. V.Harding 29; G.Quantock 26, R.Ryan 20 not out; O.Tyzzer 18; E. Martin 15. Imperial C. C. 5 for 130. The Bowling Analysis was not recorded.
We hope to be able to print the results of the Interstate Matches in next month's letter.

VIC. BRANCH A. D.& D. A.

Mr.F.E.Frewin, Hon.Sec. acknowledges with best thanks receipt of the following subscriptions. 1/. each from Misses.M.Cole, A.Meikle and M.Ching of Linton. Messrs.J.Kenworthy of Bairnsdale, V.Harding, R.K.Beattie, A. Morgan, J.R.Miller of Ballarat.Oswald Barlow N.S.W. J.F.Hunt of Ouyen. R. Stewart of Bolinda. T.Ching of Linton,D.J.Hood of Beech Forest, R.Salmon of Merrigum. 2/. each from Mr.and Mrs. Williamson and Mr.& Mrs. H.Gladman.

Mrs.Frewin, Hon Sec. of Deaf Workers Club , acknowledges with thanks receipt of £1.1.0 from Mr.& Mrs.A.Williamson and £1. from " Za" toward the Belgian Fund.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER FUND.

The attention of Readers is called to the fact that the production of "Our Monthly Letter" even in its reduced war time form costs about £22 per year. Further subscriptions will therefore be welcomed. Kindly send your sub. to Mr.Frewin, Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St, Melbourne.Mr.Frewin (Hon.Sec) tenders thanks for following donations. Mr.&Mrs.H.Caldman 2/. Miss E.Jackson(Sandford) 4/. Mr.J.Kenworthy (Bairnsdale) 2/. Mrs.E.Burke (N.Z.) 2 yrs 3/. Mr.T.Williamson (N.Z.) 2yrs 3/. Mr.R.Stewart(Bolinda)1/. Miss M.Orde (Bendigo) 1/6 Mr.B.Hall (Goorombat) 1/. Miss M.Ching 1/.

PERSONAL

Mr.W.A.Paterson more familiarly known as " W.A.P." supplies more than an ordinary share of the petrol for the Centre engine. He is in everything where work is to be done, from the reading of lessons at our Sunday Services to encouraging our boys in manly sports. He is a member of the Church Committee, the A.D.&D.A, Council(Deaf Patriotic) and the Athletic Club and there is no movement which aims at the betterment of the deaf that does not receive financial help from him, infact, he is always " subscribing " to one thing or another.

The deaf of the United States of America have subscribed £600 for Ambulances as a thank offering gift to France from where originated their educational system.

Our Principal has received a letter from Mr.J.Hughes, who has arrived safely at Wellington N.Z., in which he expresses gratitude to the deaf of Melbourne for the kindly way he was entertained by them during his short sojourn in Melbourne. He says the kindness he received and the attractiveness of the Centre has made him want to come back and make his home in Melbourne.

The past month was one of great activity at our Centre. We could fill this number with reports of Committee meetings alone. The General Board met on the 17th inst with Mr Mercy J.P. in the chair, the Farm &Finance Committee have held several meetings in connection with the great reticulation scheme at the Farm. We hope to be able to tell you all about this undertaking in the next "Montaly". The Athletic Club have had quite a syllabus of meetings on their own. They are determined to have everything right for their visitors. The Reception Committee have had two sittings and got through a great deal of business, the Vic.A.D.&D.A,Women's Guild and Men's Guild have also held business confabs.

It is to be our honour and pleasure to again entertain our N.S.W. and S.A. deaf brethren and we admit without hesitation thatwe were proud to learn of their desire to spend the Festive Season with us. This will be the third successive occasion upon which we have enjoyed the privilege of being host.

The Deaf Patriotic Council met at the Centre on Nov.21st when it was resolved on the motion of Mrs.W.A.Paterson that " The Deaf of this City realising that their deafness is a handicap to Military Service and being desirous of rendering some service however small, to show their Patriotism beg to offer the use of their building as a polling booth on the occasion of the Reinforcements Referendum". The resolution was forwarded to the Minister for Home and Territories.

VISIT of N. S. W. and S. A. DEAF to VICTORIA.

Dec. 23rd 1917 - Jan. 1st. 1918.

P R O G R A M M E.

Sunday Dec.23rd. DIVINE WORSHIP, Church for the Deaf, Flinders St,E.
11 am The Chaplain, E.J.D.Abraham. 7pm. The Missioner J.M.Paul

Monday Dec.24th. Opening of the Interstate Cricket Tournament. on the Albert Ground - St.Kilda Rd. commencing at
10.30.am VICTORIA V. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
8 pm PUBLIC WELCOME at the Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St,E.
Principal, E.J.D.Abraham will preside. Supper 9.30 pm.

Tuesday Dec.25th (Christmas Day)
10.30 am - On the Albert Ground - SOUTH AUSTRALIA V. VICTORIA
(The Deaf Centre will be closed all day).

Wednesday Dec 26th (Boxing Day)
10.30 am - on Albert Ground - SOUTH AUSTRALIA V. NEW SOUTH WALES
(Deaf Centre open at 6 pm)

Thursday Dec.27th.
10.30 am - on Albert Ground - NEW SOUTH WALES v. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
7.30 pm CHRISTMAS RALLY at Adult Deaf Centre, 32.Flinders St
Mr.M.L.Miller, President of the Victorian Deaf Athletic Club in chair. Speeches - Conversazione - Games - Supper 9.30 pm.
Admission - Gentlemen 1/. Ladies 6d.

Friday Dec.28th.
10.30 am on the Albert Ground - VICTORIA v. NEW SOUTH WALES.
8.pm MEETING of VIC.BRANCH of A.D.&D.A. -
Mr.M.L.Miller (President) will preside - Light refreshments.

Saturday Dec.29th.
10.30 am on Albert Ground. VICTORIA v. NEW SOUTH WALES.
7.30 pm The President (Mr.M.L.Miller) ENTERTAINS COMPETING TEA

Sunday Dec.30th. DIVINE WORSHIP Church for the Deaf, Flinders St,E.
11 am Missioner J.M.Paul
7 pm HOLY COMMUNION - Chaplain E.J.D.Abraham.

Monday Dec.31st. GARDEN PARTY at LAKE PARK, BLACKBURN
(The site of the Deaf Mutes Home)
By invitation of Mr.E.J.D.Abraham, President of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association and Principal of Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria - and Mrs. Abraham.

Trains leave Flinders St. for Blackburn 1.0; 1.50 pm.
Trains leave Blackburn for Flinders St 7.22; 9.6 pm

January 1st. 1918. OPEN. DAY.

The Adult Deaf Mute Centre will be open daily from 10 am to 10 pm

EXCEPT DEC.25th when it will be closed all day and DEC 26th till

6 pm.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. FEBRUARY 1918. No. 6

HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE.

There is so much to tell this month that we scarce know where to begin, nor how much space to allocate to this or that matter. The cricketers would have it all cricket and the gossipers all gossip. In the dear dead days of our youth we sat in the editorial chair of a little newspaper and had to do the editing at some considerable distance from the town where it was printed, the sub-editor being on the spot he was entrusted with the final choice of matter to appear in the next issue, and this sub-editor used to say of us, it didn't matter much what he did, for he invariably got a wire after the paper was out to say " you have put in just what we would have left out and left out what we would have put in " and he would end up with " what's the good ! " Moral - Make your choice and chance the consequences, and that is just exactly what we intend to do. And you, dear reader, are thinking " look what a lot of space you have already wasted on this introduction ". To which we reply " there are others who are of the same opinion.

Mr. George Vial who joined our General Board at the last Annual meeting has proved to be an acquisition that we should not now like to lose. Now-a-days it is difficult to get " live " business men on Committees. We consider ourselves exceptionally fortunate in having secured the sympathy and help of Mr. Vial, and we owe Mr. Bickford, another new member, a full share of thanks for bringing us this new friend. If money saved is money earned, then Mr. Vial has been as good as a " new Collector " during the past few months, for one way and another he must have saved us at least £100 in purchases in connection with the Farm Reticulation Scheme. He has also donated belting to the value of £10 and presented us with an electrical apparatus of some considerable value that projects picture post cards and photographs somewhat after the manner of the old time magic lantern. Nothing so well combining instruction with amusement and at the same time suited to the needs of the deaf, has so far come under our notice.

Five cases of Japanese Iris !" Such were the words that " came over the phone " the other day. The rest of the message was indistinct but we soon had the full context. Our President, Mr. W. C. McBeath, had presented the farm with a large quantity of Iris which he had had sent from Japan, and the bulbs were on their way to Blackburn. This is a most welcome gift to us, for we can sell as many of this particular kind of bloom as we can grow. We appreciate this thoughtful kindness of Our President and we thank him for the gift.

To the gratification of the deaf members our Board now meets in the evening instead of afternoon, and the first evening meeting was held on the 14th of January. In the course of his report the Principal spoke in appreciative terms of the services of the Church Hon Sec, Mr.F.Frewin, Mrs. Frewin, Mr.M.L.Miller and other deaf workers, and our Chairman, Mr.G.G. Mercy J.P. enlarged upon the occasion. There are few men outside the actual instructors of the deaf who have a clearer knowledge of and insight into the capabilities and needs of the deaf, and certainly as regards work amongst the adult deaf, and on this occasion Mr. Mercy not only showed himself to be fully cognisant of our " Aims " but he put our case in a nut shell - clear and concise. He also revealed in no uncertain way his acquaintance with the distinctive work of each of the deaf members of the Committee of whose services he spoke in appreciation, Mr.M.L.Miller, Asst. Hon Treas: Mr.F.Frewin, Church Sec: Mr.Luff, Bank Manager: Mr.Johnson, of the Men's Guild and Mrs. Frewin Sec. of Workers Club.

Mr.Michel Brown who recently left Melbourne for America has written from Honolulu. He says he has had a very pleasant voyage so far and sends best wishes to all.

Mr.&Mrs.Riddell (of Sydney) have written to Mr.Frewin (Hon Sec. to Deaf Committee) words of appreciation and thanks from the N.S.W. Deaf to the Victorian Deaf for the hearty welcome extended to them on their recent visit, also to Mr.Abraham for his kindness to them.

The Principal, Deaf Committee and Congregation recently sent Mrs. Martin (Miss Doris Davis) now of Adelaide a wedding gift. And in acknowledging receipt of same, Mrs. Martin Says, " Please accept my hearty thanks for the lovely present. I will always appreciate it highly and it will bring me sweet memories of my good times with you all. Though I am making new friends here, the happy faces of my old dear friends will always linger in my inner sight. Please give my hearty congratulations to the boys for their cricket victory. I am already taking a great interest in the welfare of the S.A. deaf. We wish you all a Happy New Year."

The American deaf are erecting a Memorial Statue to DeL'Epee and have already subscribed £75 toward this object.

The next Convention of the American National Association of the Deaf is to be held in 1920 and the Detroit Deaf are claimants for the honour of hosthood.

Mr. E.Burke has sent us a beautifully illustrated booklet of " Wild Flowers of N.Z."

A photographer who recently " took " Helen Keller said " when she entered the studio she looked like a beautiful statue of a goddess that had been awakened and had stepped down from her pedestal to earth with a message of love".

Very interesting letter from Munitions Worker William Crush. He is still constructing Aeroplanes at Hendon - England. Whilst passing through London in September a piece of a bomb dropped by a german raider penetrated his hat. He has sent us a snap shot of this kindly attention on the part of the Germans and it goes to show that an inch was the difference between William Crush dead and William living.

Lieutenant J.S.Shaw, son of Headmaster Shaw of Preston (England) School for the Deaf, has received promotion from Flying Officer to Flight Commander with temporary rank of Captain.

We Germans " says the Taubstummen-Zeitschrift" have no hatred against other peoples ". And this german newspaper for the deaf adds that the German deaf admire the French and English deaf for their love of Country and willingness to serve it.

The children of the Margate School for the Deaf have subscribed £400 to the War Savings Provident Fund. The annual prizes were distributed by H.R.H. Princess Alice.

Recently the Melbourne Deaf Congregation was asked to vote for one of four forms of Service, there was an overwhelming majority in favour of the present form - Lessons by Lay Reader and prayers and sermon by the Minister.

The Matron of the Blackburn Home desires to acknowledge with grateful thanks gifts of washing machine, jam jars, carving knives and sundry other useful articles from Miss and Miss Bella Foster of Footscray, also a bath from Mr.Hugh Munro of Blackburn, fowls from Mr. and Mrs.Ernest Smith of Malvern and a very acceptable parcel of clothing from Mr. Corry of East Melbourne.

OUR DEAF VISITORS.

Another Festive Season has passed over to the majority, the pleasure and excitement of entertaining brother deaf from other States has come and gone and we are once more back in the old groove of routine. It was only a week certainly, andeven that went by like a flash of lightning so full was it with enjoyable events. Nevertheless, it was not altogether a time of eating and making merry, we did do some business. Then there was the gratification of meeting old friends and making new ones. And now to report events.

THE SERVICES.

" A Cricketers Sermon " was delivered by the Chaplain of the Church for the Deaf (Mr.Abraham) on the morning of Dec.23rd. "Most of you young men" he said " have come to Victoria to devote your holidays to that most manly of all games - Cricket, it is therefore my intention to compare the duties of life with the rules of our national game." His text was "Put on the whole Armour". Cricket was more symbolical than any other game of the spiritual, moral and intellectual side of man. It was a clean sport, in every sense chivalrous and manly. It taught discipline, control forbearance and above all, to do others as you wished to be done by. You had to prepare, to be watchful, to have faith to be steady - no blind hits and there was joy in carrying your spiritual bat as well as the material one.
In the evening Mr.Paul (The Missioner) preached from the text " For unto us a child is born . .The Prince of Peace". He spoke of the shame, oppression, cruelty and bloodshed which every generation in history had suffered from through selfish pride, ambition and greed and how the lack of simple honour,trust and sincere brotherhood amongst men had created a great world unrest which caused grave fears for the future in the minds of the World's truly great men.

PUBLIC WELCOME

There was a large attendance of Melbourne deaf at the Deaf Centre to welcome the visitors. Our Principal (Mr.Abraham) presided and in the course of his remarks said it was always a great happiness to the Victorian deaf to bid the deaf of other States welcome to this State and they would do everything possible to make the stay a pleasant one. He looked upon cricket as the best of all sports and would always do what he could to encourage the deaf to love this manly sport. More than one Deaf & Dumb Society owed its origin to cricket. Long before the Melbourne Deaf Mission was founded, there was a very strong cricket team in this City and it was these same young men who really laid the foundation stone of the present Society. It was his intention to offer an Interstate Challenge Shield.

Mr. H.L.Miller (President of Deaf Athletic Club) said that although the primary object of the visit was Cricket beneficial results would accrue. Such intercourse could not help but widen the mind and strengthen the bonds of comradeship between the deaf of the different States.

Mr. Frewin (Hon.Sec. to Deaf Committee) said he had pleasant remembrances of many similar unions of the Deaf and of mutual kindnesses. The visitors would find a very hearty welcome awaiting them here.

Mr. Phillips speaking on behalf of the N.S.W. Deaf thanked the Speakers and the Victorian Deaf for their very hearty welcome and was glad of the opportunity to acknowledge on behalf of the N.S.W. Deaf the magnificent services rendered by Mr.Abraham in assisting them to establish an Independent Society, which after struggling through many difficulties was now on the road to success. He hoped that the advice of the Chairman " To play the game " would be followed and he expected N.S.W. to show themselves to be " true sports".

Mr. Rankine (S.A.) appreciated the kind words of welcome. Such games promoted good fellowship and mutual appreciation when played in sportsmen like way for sports sake.

Supper brought a speechifying evening where everyone was full of enthusiasm and good spirits to a pleasant end.

THE INTERSTATE CRICKET MATCHES.

For six days running dating from December 24th to 29th 1917 , the Deaf of New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria engaged in a series of trianguiar matches. Each match occupying two days. South Australia and Victoria met on the first two days and the result was in favour of the home team by an Inning and 46 runs. The scores were 1st. Innings - Victoria 339 Runs. Edwards caught Hindes B.Crouch 69 Burgess C.Hindes B.Lehmann 27.Peters C.Abbott B.Spencer 31. Robertson B. Langley 136. T. Collins C.Hindes B. Simons 26. Ryan C.Simons B.Rankine 9. A.Collins B. Langley 1. Harding L.B.W. Langley 22. Martin B.Abbott 9. Beattie not out 2. Lynas L.B.W. Abbott 0 Sundries 7. South Australia 1st. Innings - 99 Runs. Lehmann C. Martin B.Edwards 19. Crouch C.Edwards B.Lynas 7. Parnell St. Robertson B.Lynas 8. Abbott C.Harding B.Lynas 2. Hann B. Edwards 1. Spencer St. Robertson B.Edwards 0. Rankine B.Lynas 22. Langley C.Edwards B.Lynas 15. Simons B.Edwards 3 Hindes not out 0. Simpson absent 0 Sundries 22. 2nd Innings - 194 Runs. Abbott C & B.Peters F.Lehmann C Lynas B.Martin 10. Rankine B. Martin 12. Parnell L.B.W. Edwards 46. Hann B.Beattie 14. Langley C.Peters B.Burgess 0. Spencer B. Martin 57. Hindes C.Edwards B.Martin 13. Crouch Run out 9. Simons not out 4. Simpson absent. Sundries 22.

S. Aus. Bowling Analysis Langley 3 for 30. Abbott 2 for 1. Rankine 1 for 25. Spencer & Simons 1 for 34 each. Lehmann 1 for 64 and Crouch 1 for 88 Parnell 0 for 31, Hindes 0 for 25.

Victoria for both Innings . Edwards 5 for 53. Lynas 5 for 64. Martin 4 for 40. Burgess 1 for 6. Peters 1 for 28. Beattie 1 for 36. T.Collins 0 for 22.
New South Wales met South Australia in the second match which resulted in N.S.Wales favour by an inning and 90 runs. Scores - N.S.W. First Innings 300 Runs. Bridgen C.Simons B.Langley 110. O.Callaghan C.Mann B.Crouch 70. Phillips C.Abbott B.Langley 5. Riddell B.Crouch 0. Smith B.Crouch 18. Beswick not out 25. Barrington runout 4. Arthur C.Spencer B.Crouch 1. McNevin C.Brodie B.Langley 0. Sundries 3. South Aus. 1st Innings - Lehmann B.O'callaghan 39. Langley B.Emersonl. Parnell B.Bridgen 18. Crouch C.Smith B.O'callaghan 35. Mann C.Beswick B.Bridgen F.Rankine C & B. O' Callaghan 0. Simons B.O'Callaghan 4. Hindes not out 5. Brodie B.Emerson 8. Sundries 15 total 139. Second Innings - Langley B.O'Callaghan 9. Spencer B.O'Callaghan 13. Mann B.Emerson 6. Rankine run out 23. Crouch st Phillips B.Emerson 0. Brodie run out 0. Abbott not out 11. Hindes B.Emerson 1. Simons B.Emerson 0. Sundries 5 total 72. No Bowling analysis.
The Final Test Match was between the two winners over S.Australia, Victoria and N.S.Wales. After a close and exciting finish Victoria won by a wicket and 4 runs. The following scores - N.S.Wales 1st Innings. Bridgen B. Lynas 18. Briscoe B.Edwards 5. Phillips B.Edwards 25. Emerson C.Robertson B.Lynas 42. O'Callaghan not out.75. Beswick B.Lynas 4. 4. Smith C. Martin B.Burgess 3. Riddell B.Burgess 7. Barrington C.Edwards B.Martin 5. Arthur B.Burgess 0. McNiven C7B.Edwards 25. Sundries 5 Total 214. Second Innings - O'Callaghan B.Martin 5. Emerson not out 124. Briscoe C.Robertson B.Martin 1. Phillips LBW Martin 11. Bridgen B.Burgess 28. Smith B.Martin 3. Beswick B.Burgess 0. McNiven C.Edwards B.Burgess 4. Riddell B.Ryan 54. Arthur B.Ryan 0. Barrington C.Martin B.T.Collins 8. Sundries 23. Total 281. Victoria First Innings - Edwards L.B.W. Emerson 58. Peters B.Bridgen 20. Ryan L.B.W. Bridgen 23. Robertson B.Emerson 45. Burgess C.Briscoe B. Emerson T.T.Collins C.O'Callaghan B.Emerson 4. Harding B.Emerson 2. Vivian Run out 4. Martin C7B. Emerson 44. Beattie not out 31. Lynas B. Bridgen 0 Sundries 20. Total 258. Second Innings - Edwards St.Smith B.Emerson 60. Peters run out 8. Ryan St Phillips B.Emerson 22. Robertson C Emerson B Phillips 54. Burgess B Emerson 6. Martin C Beswick B Phillips 9. Beattie C Riddell B. Emerson 6. Collins B.Emerson 4. Harding not out 27. Vivian run out 6. Lynas not out 8. Sundries 11. Total 9 wickets for 221 Runs. N.S.Wales Bowling Analysis for both Innings - Emerson 11 for 219. Bridgen 3 for 84. Phillips 2 for 38. Riddell 0 for 18. O'Callaghan 0 for 89. Victoria for two Innings - Burgess 6 for 95. Martin 5 for 86. Lynas 3 for 55. Edwards 3 for 120. Ryan 2 for 11. Collins 1 for 6. Peters 0 for 8 Robertson 0 for 30. Beattie 0 for 36.

NOTES ON THE GAMES.

A most pleasant and enjoyable week of Interstate Cricket. Spectators witnessed largest scores ever made in deaf mute interstate cricket.

There was some fine individual play and scoring. C.Robertson (Vic) made 136 and Emerson (N.S.W.) 104 and 110. Scores of 69,60,71,75,57,54,and 44 were also made by other players.

The Match between Vic. and N.S.W. was the best and most exciting of all the Matches. Neither side knew until the very last which would win. N.S.W. would have won but for a bad mistake by a player who let a ball get past him when he had a chance of " running out "the Vic. man, it was the hit that followed this incident that gave the match to Victoria.

Both the "not out" men were rushed and carried in shoulder high.

Just the right kind of weather prevailed throughout the whole of the matches. Rain held off as if by a miracle until the final, then down it came.
Mrs. W.A.Paterson, Mrs.J.Boortz, Miss Essie Snowell, Misses K and M.Dow I.Kennedy, K.Peters, D.Hickey and E.Hair attended to the requirements of the inner man, ably assisted by Messrs.J.M.Johnston,G.Oakley,W.A.Paterson, and M.L.Miller, the latter gentleman was observed carrying two roles also " stoking " at the Hot water apparatus.

THE RALLY.

We just wanted to talk to our friends from the Mother and Sister State, so performances and speeches were dispensed with at the Rally of 27th Dec. Mr.M.L.Miller, President of the Deaf Athletic Club presided and after extending a cordial welcome to the Visitors, Mr.Frewin (HonSec.to Deaf Committee) also spoke a few words of welcome remarking that this was our 50th Rally, the rest of the evening was spent in conversation, games and the putting away of refreshments of an enticing and varied kind. There were 140 persons present.

VIC. BRANCH A.D.& D.A.

A Meeting of the above Association was called for the 28th Dec with the object of bringing together for mutual consultation the deaf of the various States over for the cricket matches with the view of encouraging definite action on the part of the deaf of all the States of the Commonwealth. Mr.M.L.Miller, President of the Victorian Branch was in the chair and there were many speakers. The attendance was good.
Mr.Miller said the speeches made at the Welcome Night gathering had breathed a sentiment of unity and agreement amongst the deaf of the various States, he therefore, desired to take advantage of these happy conditions to emphasise the importance of the continuance of this unity which could not be better maintained than by having and upholding permanent branches of the A.D.&D.A. in every State. The A.D.&D.A. represented the deaf of Australia. It was late in the day to talk of its need. Its need had long since been emphasised by the magnificent work accomplished, work that had it not been done by the A.D.&D.A. would never have been done at all. Adult Societies and Missions were doing great and good work as were the Schools, and every deaf person should join up to his local Adult Society and do his utmost for it, but the sphere of such Societies was limited. The work was distinctly local, and the Directors rightly refrained from acting outside their own State. An Association that covered the needs of the Deaf of the Commonwealth was therefore essential to the well being of the Deaf. Such an organisation, could, would and did do work that was not and could not be done by the Adult Societies.
Mr.Abraham (President of the A.D.& D.A.) said these were days of Combinations. Unity was strength, with it everything was possible, without it little or nothing. If the deaf desired progress they must unite. There should be a branch of the A.D.& D.A. in every State, not"a paper " branch but a body bubbling over with activity and enthusiasm. It was only by unity that the Deaf could become a power and influence. Governments and the Powers that be would listen to the organised deaf of the Commonwealth and treat their petitions with respect and consideration. The Deaf of Great Britain, America and France had their national organisations and he would not rest until the deaf of Australia were also joined up.
Mr.Frewin (Hon Sec) who announced that he had 106 members on the Victorian roll said, he was proud to be of Victoria which had pioneered practically

all Works that had been established for the welfare of the Deaf of this Country. As an illustration of what an Association like the A.D & D.A. could do, he referred to the securing of a pension from the Victorian Government for Mr. F.J. Rose, Founder of the School for the Deaf.
Mr. Paul said Britain was passing through a time of stress yet the B.D.& D.A were spreading branches of their Association everywhere. They were more vigorous than ever. We too, must grasp every opportunity that led to progress. In reply to questions of delegates as to what work had been done by the A.D.& D.A. which was outside the jurisdiction of local Adult Deaf Societies, Mr. Abraham said, the removal of the clause which classed the Deaf & Dumb with paupers and undesirables from the Marine Act, and for years had prevented the deaf from travelling from State to State, the introduction of Free and Compulsory Education, the helping of New South Wales Deaf to establish an independent Adult Society. The securing of a Government Pension for Mr. F.J. Rose and the education of the public as to the capabilities of the Deaf by pamphlets and articles and letters to the Press.
Mr. Phillips (N.S.W.) said after watching all that had been said, he felt like taking up the matter with enthusiasm. He wished he had known of the work before that evening so that he could have got the N.S.W. to join up at once, but he would do his best on his return to Sydney to bring about the establishment of a branch there and he felt confident he would have the support of the N.S.W. Deaf.
Mr. Hann (S.A.) said he had not realised before how much the A.D.&D.A. meant to the Deaf, but it had been made plain to them that evening and given them much to think over. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Luff also spoke, the latter making special reference to the efforts made on behalf of Mr. Rose.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 15th of Jan. the members held a meeting in the form of a pound night and impromptu speeches. The Chairman, Mr. Mortimer, on behalf of the Men's Guild welcomed Mr. Simons of Adelaide to the meeting. The members of the Women's Guild were invited to refreshments and the two Guilds had a very happy time. The Men's Guild picnic was held at Frankston on A.N.A. Day, Jan. 28th.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

At the meeting of the Deaf Women's Guild held on Jan. 15th, Miss D. Hickey gave a paper on " Etiquette for every girl ". At the next guild meeting Mrs. Wilson will conduct her usual Bible Reading.

STRAY NOTES.

Mr. A.W. Sutherland returned to Melbourne on the 15th Jan, after a long holiday at Olinda. A good number of members went away for the Christmas Holidays and all have now returned except Mrs. C. Reynolds who is still at Ararat. Some kind members decided to remain in Melbourne instead of going on holiday, for the sake of helping and entertaining the visitors from other States, this was a kindly sacrifice on their part.

Mr. R.J. Miller of Ballarat came down to see the Interstate cricket matches. It is rumoured that he lost his return ticket. How did he get back ?

Mr. & Mrs. T. Collins and son, Mr. & Mrs. A. Collins of Moorim South, Messrs. F. Lynas and J. Burgess. Miss E. Rettallick and several other deaf mutes visited Melbourne during the Carnival. All have returned home after having enjoyed pleasant holidays.

Notwithstanding the successfulness of the Christmas holiday functions and the willingness with which everyone did his and her part to ensure happiness for our Visitors, there was something missing all the time and for the life of us we could not think what it was, until it hit us like a cart load of bricks - The old familiar towering snowy head was not there. The presence of Mr.J.E.Muir was necessary to complete our happiness. Yes, we missed him and Mrs. Muir very much.

Acknowledgments for Our Monthly Letter Fund and Vic. Branch A.D.& D.A, and other monies received will be published in March issue.

The Queensland Government has taken over the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institution of that State. It seems as if Queensland is about to take the lead in Educational matters. Here have we been fighting for years to secure Government Control of the Elementary Education of the Deaf, yet Queensland gets in first . True, we have " free and compulsory education" here but this is not Government Control.

The newly erected Institute for the Adult Deaf of Brisbane is to be opened the first week in March.

The Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution has been closed down for three months because of scarlet fever.

The French Ministry of Munitions has sanctioned the employment of the Deaf in all Munitions Works in France.

We congratulate Mr.Jim.Johnston upon his very successful debut as an Organiser. His programme was well made up and equally well carried through. He gave attention to the most minute detail, looking to the need of all, and to his thoroughgoing efforts and forethought success was largely due.

Sir Frederick Milner, who has been more or less deaf for the past twenty years, following the magnificent example of Sir Arthur Pearson, (himself blind) who is devoting himself to the welfare of blind soldiers, has decided to take up the cause of soldiers and sailors deafened at the War. A scheme has been initiated for the establishing of Hostels for the Deaf and a meeting in aid of this object is to be held in the Mansion House, London.

Dr.W.R.Roe of the Derby (England) Institution for the Deaf has just published a Volume which he has called " Snapshots of the Deaf ". It is a book of three hundred pages, containing two hundred illustrations.

Will deaf readers having relatives in the A.I.F. please communicate particulars in full to Mr.F.E.Frewin. It seems that almost every deaf family has one relative at least doing his bit for the honour of Australia and we are anxious to publish a complete list.

Miss A.Graham is spending three months at Koolamurt.

Accounts of Banquet, Garden Party, Hampton Picnic, Trophy Committee, Women's Guild Picnic,held over for want of space.

We are sure our readers will learn with pleasure that although a part of the Institution for the Deaf at Halifax, Nova Scotia, was destroyed in the recent appalling catastrophe not one of the Staff or pupils was injured.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. MARCH 1918. No. 7

FAIRY LAND in the BUILDING.

Did the Fairies say Hey, Presto : and Fairyland was ? I do not know. Indeed and indeed I hope not. But it is only after many a bitter experience that I am able to say " I hope not". There was a time when I, weak mortal that I am, wisned and wished that I might say Hey, Presto: and see my Fairyland like Alladin's Palace " all there and ready". But unlike Alladin, I have no wonderful lamp, for which after all, I am very thankful. And the nearer you get to Nature's heart and the Why and Wherefore, the less you will like such power as was the gift of the wondrous lamp. You however, will still love the Fairies and Fairyland. Somehow, I am glad that there are imps too, and Hobgoblins andGnomes and things with tails from a tropical climate and " friendly " uncles who place all kinds of obstacles in your way. For were I able to say Hey, Presto: and find my dearest wish at once come true, I very much fear my interest and enthusiasm would soon ooze out. So after all it is good for one's soul to have to put on armour and fight the Imps, Hobgoblins and things with tails sometimes. And Uncles are not always bad.

Perpetual sunshine and uninterrupted success are not good for the soul of man. It means loss of will power, loss of enthusiasm, of interest and may I say it? " ginger ". The initiative goes dead. Our Heavenly Father has willed that we all become minor Creators. Do we appreciate this mighty gift ? If we but persevere we will ourselves become Creators more or less great. Our very failures in reality are the foundations of our successes, the very obstacles become the skeleton of the building. And we would realise this if we would only look a little beyond that little obstinate nose of ours.

We have had a visit from our Fairy Grandmother and in recognition of our industry and efforts to help ourselves she has given us £900. But we may not do what we like with the treasure. We were told to buy an engine and pump and pipes so that we might cover our fairyland with fairy fountains that all the beautiful bloom, instead of withering away in the summer months might grow strong and healthy and in more abundance.
The name of the FairyGrandmother is the Victorian Government. Years ago she gave us £2.000 and later £500 and now if only another Good Fairy would come along and make us a further gift of £2.000 we could complete all our buildings on Fairyland and make complete provision for the training of deaf girls as domestic servants, young men as agriculturists and horticulturists and a home for aged and mentally deficient deaf women in addition to the men.

The growth of our farm is truly a fairy tale if ever there was one. A little over nine years ago it was all bush land and today it is a garden of flowers, but we needed water sadly. True there is a great lake in the centre of our Eden but how to get it up to the thirsty flowers in sufficient quantity was our difficulty, until the Government came to the rescue with the money to cover the cost of this work.
And so for months deaf men from the City who had never been used to hard work in the broiling sun and others who had, went dig, dig, digging of trenches, hacking away at the hard clay soil with pick and mattock and throwing it out with spade and shovel, the while becoming tanned and horny handed. Gleefully they worked, not minding the blistered paws and begrimed appearance. Were they not helping bit by bit to create " Deaf and Dumb Fairy Land". It was a gladsome sight. Then came men with great lengths of wooden pipes, laying and fixing them with skill and rapidity, followed by plumbers who unearthed the existing iron pipes, adding a net work of sub-supplies for the reticulation scheme. Then a fifteen H.P. Motor Engine and pump were fixed and the Shire Council workmen brought the power wires miles so now we are a network of wires above. And the result ? Well, Fairyland ! Fifty fairy like sprinklers go twirling all at once and the Home itself is lit up with Electric Light.

Meanwhile on the south side of the lake men have been grubbing down trees, clearing the land, cutting and stacking wood, ploughning and harrowing and making ready for the seasons that are yet to be.

No news of the Farm for many months in " The Monthly " yet many great happenings '. Well, first there has been a great demand upon our space, second we have been too full of disappointments to want to write, and third we didn't want to make you feel disappointed too. " The Monthly " was created to smile not grumble. So when we feel that way inclined over any particular happening, we just " leave it out ".
Nevertheless, we do not mind admitting that we have had a most disappointing year at the farm - the very worst since its inception. Infact, the " only worst ". Hitherto, we have had nothing serious to complain of but during the past year everything went wrong. We were at greater expense and had extra skilled labour, yet our returns have dropped considerably. Our bulb bloom - daffodils, narcissi etc - were an absolute failure, we had to buy extensively to keep a hold upon our customers and so it has been with practically every plantation throughout the year. We have purchased more seeds than in any previous three years with no beneficial results. For the first time since we launched out we have had little or no vegetables, altogether we are from £300 to £500 worse off than we ought to be. But we intend to make up for it this coming year. Are we down hearted ? Well, not very much. Go back to the opening chapter and you will get a very fair idea as to where we are and what we think and feel.

CRICKET CLUB DINNER.

By the kind invitation of Mr.M.L.Miller, President of the Melbourne Athletic Club, the visit of the N.S.W and S.A. Cricketing teams was celebrated by a dinner at Sargents, to which the competing teams together with a number of other visitors and friends were also invited. Full justice was done to the appetising menu by the merry crowd of men. After the toast of the King, Mr. Emerson proposed " The Victors", he said they were true sports and deserved the victory they had fought for. He congratulated the Victorians. Toasts to " The Runners up " (N.S.W.) and " The Triers " were also quaffed with applause. Messrs. Phillips, W.A.Paterson and Rankine's speeches coming in for a large share of appreciative clapping.

Mr.Abraham proposed the health of their Host, Mr.M.L.Miller. He said Mr Miller was an Institution in himself. The whole of the Deaf throughout the Commonwealth value the services rendered to the Cause of the Deaf by Mr.Miller. He was " the only one ". The one outsyanding light in the Australian Deaf Mute World, and his hope was that time would give the deaf many Matt. Millers - they needed them and whilst they had such men they should honour them. In speaking to the Toast, Mr.Abbott (S.A.) said Victorians were fortunate in having a man like Mr.Miller in their midst. He hoped many would come under his influence and follow his example. Mr.M.L.Miller in a brief address thanked the speakers for their kind words. He was not conscious of having done anything extraordinary. If his love for his fellow deaf had enabled him to be of service to them, he was as happy as they in the knowledge thereof.

GIFT of CRICKET TROPHY.

At the close of the Interstate Matches last December Mr.Abraham offered to donate a " Melbourne Cup " to be competed for at agreed upon intervals by representative teams of Australian States. Before leaving for home, delegates from the different States met in Our Principal's room to consider the offer. The offer was unanimously accepted and Mr.Abraham thanked for his generosity. The whole question was then exhaustively discussed and it was ultimately decided, with the consent of the donor, to have a Shield instead of a Cup, and although Our Principal preferred and voted that it be called the Melbourne Challenge Shield, the representatives unanimously adopted the title of the " Ernest J.D.Abraham Shield ". A " Shield Committee " was then appointed as follows : - N.S.W. Messrs. S.Phillips (Hon Sec) A.Beswick and H.Emerson. Vic. - M.L.Miller, W.A.Paterson and J.M.Johnston. S.A. - J.R.Rankine, G.Simpson and D.Newell.

DEPARTURE of OUR MISSIONER .

Mr. J.M.Paul who was engaged by the Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, about three and a half years ago, as Missioner to the Deaf of Melbourne, will leave for Scotland in a few days. We all regret the reason that has made his departure necessary. His Father who is Missioner to the Deaf of Ayrshire, Scotland, has been ill for some time and recently had a serious relapse which partially incapacitated him, the Committee of the Ayrshire Mission thereat cabled Mr.J.M.Paul to return at once. In tendering his resignation Mr.Paul said " my regret at leaving this Society is tempered by the remembrance of the unfailing courtesy, consideration and kindness which I have received ".
At the Meeting of the General Board Held Monday Feb. 11th, the Chairman Mr.G.G.Morey J.P. said the Committee regretted the necessity of Mr.Paul's withdrawal from the work of the Society. He understood that he was not leaving because of the illness of his father alone, but was going home to take up his work. The committee appreciated the services of Mr.Paul as Missioner and thanked him for the work he had done. They hoped he would find his father in improved health and wished him success. Mr.Paul said he felt there were no thanks due to him. All the thanks should come from him. When he arrived he found everything that could be done, already done. The Deaf of Melbourne were farther advanced and their standard toward excellence higher than that of the members of an Adult Deaf Societies he knew of. He felt that he had been the one blessed with privileges. No one regretted more than he did having to leave Australia.
A Farewell Meeting was held at Our Centre on Monday Feb.18th. Mr.Ernest J. D.Abraham, Principal, presided and there was a large attendance of members. The Chairman said they had met to formally say " goodbye" to their Missioner and he was sure they were all sorry to learn that circumstances made it necessary for Mr.Paul to leave them. The circumstance was one that he

deeply regretted. He had known Mr.Paul's Father for many years, he was one of the old pioneers of Mission work amongst the Deaf and had accomplished much. The Deaf of Ayrshire could ill spare such a man. Mr.Paul Junr. he thought, was a very fortunate man. He had had his passage paid to Australia had had three years holiday in the Sunny Country and was now to have his passage padi back to Scotland. He had left the Old World,a Teacher of the Blind, and he was now to return to it, after three years tuition under one of the best organised and richest Adult Deaf Societies in the World, a fully fledged, well groomed and capable Missioner; able to hold his own with the men of experience at Home. He wisned him a safe journey to Kilmarnock and success in his work when he got there.

Mr.F.Frewin,HonSec to Deaf Committee, said he was sorry Mr.Paul was to leave them. He had been of considerable assistance to him (Mr.Frewin) in his post of Secretary. He had been ever ready and willing to do anything the officers or deaf members asked him to do, and he had been much relieved when Mr.Paul undertook to make up all the notices and syllabus for the notice boards. He had spoken upon a variety of subjects at the Educational Class and Bible Class and had always enjoyed being present.

Mr.W.A.Paterson (Church Treas.) who is himself a Scotsman and from Glasgow, a former Secretary of the Deaf Teetotal Society there, said when he first heard that Mr.Paul was going away he felt as if someone had hit him on the head with a cricket ball. He too, had been a regular and interested member of his Educational Class, also bible class. Mr.Paul was agood teacher and by his teaching he had learned many things that he had not known before. They were all able to understand him. He was a worthy son of his Father.

Mr.M.L.Miller, Hon.Treas. of the Society, said he too regretted the coming departure of Mr.Paul. He had been " a good boy " whilst in Australia, ever willing and obliging, doing his best to fall in with the wishes of the deaf, and assist them where help was needed. If there was one thing more than another that took his notice, during Mr.Paul's Missionership, was that he was a true disciple of their Principal so far as the broadmindedness of his teaching was concerned, and this absence of bigotry and narrowmindedness had had not a little to do with his success as a Missioner. He wished Mr.Paul a safe voyage to the Old World. Mr.Abraham then, in the name of the Deaf of Melbourne and amidst much applause presented Mr.Paul with a handsome Camera as a memento of his sojourn in their midst. Mr.Abraham said that perhaps in the darkness of the developing room, as he twirled the plates around he would see the faces of those of the deaf he had left in far away Australia and think of them. There was no place like " dark room " for thought and this camera would be the connecting link, the inspirator that would send the wave of thought across the seas.

Mr.Paul in responding thanked the deaf heartily for their gift and still more for their kind words. Mr.Abraham, he said, says "I am fortunate". I am, and for many other reasons than those mentioned by him. He was fortunate for having lived amongst them and had their friendship. To have been honoured in being associated with such a work as that of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria. In Scotland, in the winter time you might see the farmer out in the biting cold laboriously ploughing the frozen soil, in spring you could again see him sowing his seed and in summer caring for his crops. Then came the autumn when the harvest was gathered and the fruit picked. On coming to Victoria he found that the soil had been ploughed, the seed sown and the harvest time was at hand, the crops were ready for the gathering and the ripe fruit hanging within reach of the picker. He felt he had come here when the labour was over and all he had to do was to put forth his hand, pluck and enjoy the fruit. He felt himself to be their debtor. He had gained much. Their friendliness, their courtesy, their chivalry had made his indebtedness to them beyond his power of payment. They had said they were sorry he was going, but he was more sorry. He would try in some measure, to show his appreciation of what he had received at their hands by endeavouring to introduce the same spirit at Home amongst the deaf, that he had met with here.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. APRIL 1918. No. 8

When March came in she found us ready. Quite ready for the long session of work. The summer season of go-as-you-please having run its course and left us somewhat refresned we are again ready and willing to do what we can for the Commonweal. And so it is that yet another year finds our busy team in full swing. We have no " compulsion " Act, the whole business is run by volunteers. But why is it the old boys, The boys of the Old Brigade ____always carry the burden ? Where are the youngsters? They are to be found at the Men's Guild and at Lacrosse 'tis true. Nevertheless, tney are awful slow in coming forward in the big events. Johnston is doing tne pace fine, so is Sutherland - the " babies " of the General Board and the Deaf Committee respectively, but where are the others? Some four or thereabout years ago, several lights began to shine with great promise then suddenly dimmed, we wont say went out, because we are going to use the old battery upon them and anticipate regeneration with great hope. So walk up and offer your services. You will find Secretary Frewin ever on the alert to fix you up with a job in accord with your tastes.

_____...._____

So much news has been ' left over' from previous months that it has become necessary to hash up stale material in this dish. The various items most certainly must have a place, under normal conditions they would have been considered tasty morsels, but with the continuous display of luxuries there's nothing for itbut to stew the stuff, and as this is a favourite plate of the Chief we will use the ingredients in tune with him first. Then W.A.P. wont mind if he too, only gets a corner and as to M.L.M. why if you left him out altogether, even at meal times, he would only smile.

_____...._____

So here goes for curtailment. When the Sydney and Adelaide deaf were in Melbourne last Xmas, Our Chief entertained them right royally at a Garden Party, at Lake Park, Blackburn, to which the Melbourne Deaf were also invited and attended en masse. They had a most enjoyable time, and did not forget to compliment the hostess (Mrs. Abraham) on the excellence of her feeding arrangements. (under normal conditions that bit of news would have one page.

_____...._____

Also an impromptu pic-nic to Hampton by the sea, was gotten up for New Year's Day by Mr. and Mrs. W.A.Paterson and Mrs. Boortz. Arrangements were hurriedly, nevertheless, most happily arranged, and the outing was, without doubt one of the most pleasing features and an appropriate conclusion to the Christmas Festivities ___ material here for anotner page, heartbreaking to a budding journalist.

Those of our readers who have found it necessary to do a bit of grumbling over the non or late arrival of " Our Letter " during the past few months are informed that " Our distribution department is under entire new management " and that back numbers may be had on application. On examination of our stock we found that very few of the special February number could have been sent out. If you did not get a copy we shall be pleased to make good the deficit.

———...———

The employees and inmates of the Blackburn Home, together with many City deaf friends who joined the party with the " good intent " of being of service from the entertaining point of view, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Evans of the Bay Steamers Pty Ld. had their Annual trip down the Bay on February 1st. It was a day of days for such a trip, and the fifty or sixty who partook of it enjoyed it to the full. The luncheon on board was a credit to the Purser and his staff. We have long known that the Officers and staff on the Bay boats have a kindly leaning toward " our crowd " and when we are on board they do their very best to make it " The Day " for us. Tea also was partaken of on board and consisted of all kinds of substantial and tasty bits made up by the matron of the Home and brought along by our stronger boys. All who participated in the day s outing joined in the vote of thanks to The Bay Steamers Pty Ld for the free bay passage and to the following ladies and gentlemen, - Mesdames V.M.Christian, C. Kitchen Miss A. Grimwade and messrs. Geo. Doery, McPherson MacRobertson, H. Giles Turner, Jas Dyer, W.M.M'Pherson and Dr. G.A.Syme, for the dinner and tea which added so much to the Day's enjoyment.

———...———

There was only a small muster at the Women's Guild Annual Picnic on the 19th of Jan. Blackrock was the spot favoured which was reached by train to Sandringham from Melbourne and then by motor to Blackrock. Some of our girls spent best part of the afternoon and evening in the sea, one in particular attracting a little crowd of hearing spectators by her acrobatic antics in the water. The Chief left Melbourne with the party but disappeared at Sandringham. It is said he was spirited away by a piratical motor car filled with ladies, but no one is willing to vouch for the statement. Anyhow, he got well and truly away for all the afternoon a search party did their best to find him, but no luck, till 10pm when he appeared on the Flinders St. Station, all smiles and apparently, having thoroughly enjoyed his " picnic ".

———...———

ADULT DEAF CRICKET CLUB.

We paid a return match against the Union Memorial C.C. at Royal Park on Jan. 12th and the day's decision was for us. The Union Memorial C.C. scored 55 runs. Beattie captured 7 wickets for 7 runs. Martin 3 for 22. Our boys made 6 wickets for 108 runs. T.Peters 43 and J.Johnston 22 were the principal contributors to the scores.

On 16th Jan. witnessed the collapse of our team against the Court of Robin Hood . The opposing team made a total of 56 runs and while we could only compile 24 runs. Quantock 9 was the highest scorer.

The Deaf team made another visit to Hampton and played the local team on Feb. 9th and won comfortably this time. The Locals made 53. Beattie 5 for 27, Martin 4 for 24. We made 76 runs for the loss of 7 wickets. Harding 23. Martin 16, Rettallick 14 not out, made good stands.

On Feb.16th we met the Erratics and lost. We scored 52 runs and the opposing team made 76. Beattie 5 for 24 was the best bowler for the day.

On 9th March, Our Boys again failed against Maples C.C. when we only managed to score 30 runs. Johnston 10 runs was the highest.. Maples made 59 runs. Beattie took all the wickets (9) for 18 runs.

The Annual Meeting of the Men's Guild was held at the Centre on the 26th of February. The muster of members was a great improvement upon that of last year. The President (Mr.M.G.B.Mortimer) welcomed Messrs. Brooks and Tonkin (both of the Country) on behalf of the Guild and afterwards submitted the report and balance sheet, the latter showing a balance of £3. Both were adopted. The President congratulated the members upon the excellence of the papers read during the year and hoped the new year would give birth to as good, if not better, talent and in conclusion urged the members to continue their interest in the Guild as it was to their own benefit.
The following office bearers for the ensuing year were elected : - President, Mr.J.M.Johnston; Vice-Pres.Mr.J.Cariss; Hon.Sec.Mr.A.W. Sutherland; Hon.Treas. Mr.N.Amos; Committee - Messrs.M.L.Miller, R.Luff G.Mortimer and J.Leber. Mr.Johnston, on behalf of the newly elected board, thanked the meeting for electing them and said they would try to do their best.
On the 12th of March, at the first ordinary meeting of the above Guild, the newly elected President, Mr.Johnston, delivered an address on " Wake up young men ". At the termination of the evening he entertained them to light refreshments.

On Feb.12th Mrs.Wilson conducted her usual Bible reading, her subject being " Our Duty to the Lords Day " which was very interesting.
On March 5th. Miss R.Dow read a paper on " Dick Whittington " which the members enjoyed very much. The rest of the evening was spent in the form of word-making supervised by the President (Miss R. Dow).

A small party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. S. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Damman and Mr. M. Mortimer had a very interesting trip to Mount Buffalo. They went in a four horse coach which covered the 16 miles from Porepunkah in 5 hours. The road is made on the slope of the mountains and in some places runs zig-zag. The scenery all along they describe as magnificent and the hnaging rocks as wonderful. After crossing the Eurobin Creek and seeing the Ladies Bath Falls, they finally reached the Government Chalet which is a very handsome building. Near by is the lovely lake Catani which covers 60 acres. In winter the ice on it is 20 feet deep and affords much pleasure to tourists for skating. They also climbed up the peak called " The Hump ", which is 5221 ft above sea level and had a good view of the surrounding Country. After boiling the billy at the foot of the " Cathedral Rock", a start was made for home, all agreeing that it had been a very enjoyable outing and considering themselves very luck to have had such an interesting trip. During the day many nice snap shots were taken.

By invitation of the committees of the Queensland and the New South Wales Deaf and Dumb Societies Our Principal, (Mr.Abraham) visited both these States in Feb-March. He conducted a special Service for the Deaf in Sydney on the 24th of Feb when there was a very large congregation, he also was present at several meetings including a reception held in his honour at the Newtown Town Hall. In Brisbane, Mr. Abraham conducted the evening Opening Service at the New Institute for the Deaf, interpreted at the Morning Service, made a rousing speech at the Public Meeting on the Monday (March 4th) on the Wednesday afternoon attended a special Committee Meeting at which he had been invited to speak on matters appertaining to adult deaf work, in the evening attended and spoke at the Chaplain's (Mr. Showell) social and at 8 am on Thursday was on his way back to Melbourne arriving at 1 pm Saturday. Sunday found him officiating once more at his own Church. Mr.Abraham speaks enthusiastically of the kindness he received at the hands of the N.S.W. and Queensland Deaf.

For upwards of twenty seven years the Rev. H.W.H.Adeney was a member of the Committee of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society and is hailed as one of the oldest living friends of the deaf. On the day prior to his 84th birthday (March 21st) a very interesting little ceremony took place in Our Principal's room. It was the unveiling , by Miss Graham, of an enlarged portrait of Mr. Adeney which is to take a place with our gallery of Benefactors. Mr. M.L.Miller who presided referred to the long years of service and kindly sympathy of Mr. Adeney and how much he was missed by the deaf who served with him on the Committee. Mr. Adeney in responding told how much he regretted not being able to continue on the Board of Directors, there was no other reason but that of age, he was still interested in them and watched their progress with pleasure. He valued the honour they were doing him that evening. The Principal acted as interpreter. Mr. Frewin also spoke.

The departure of the ex-Missioner has made necessary the resumption of old duties by our Principal, Mr. Abraham, and when he appeared in Church on Sunday March 10th to officiate there was no doubting his pleasure at seeing a large congregation there to welcome him, and the attendance has increased every Sunday since. There 32 present at his first Bible Class. The collection on Sunday March 24th was £5.6.6.

After being for over three weeks in the Melbourne Hospital suffering from appendicitis, Mrs. E. Johnson has benefited very much in health by a fortnight's stay at the Clayton Convalescent Home. We were all pleased to welcome her when she attended the Centre the other evening. Mrs. Johnson speaks highly of the kindness and attention at both hospital and convalescent home.

About ninety deaf friends attended the Garden Party at Lake Park, Blackburn given by Mr. and Mrs. Abraham on the 16th of March last and spent a very enjoyable day.

Miss Graham has returned to Melbourne after 3 months holiday in Koolamert.

Misses Amy and Lily Williams have returned home after 2 months in Melbourne. They enjoyed their stay immensely.

Mr. Tonkin of Bendigo is in Melbourne for a few weeks.

Miss Gibbinson of Adelaide spent a month's holiday in Melbourne.

Mrs. Lawson of Adelaide and her two daughters were in Melbourne for a few days. They spent most of their time with relatives in Gippsland.

Mrs. J.E.Muir spent a week in Melbourne recently.

Miss Fletcher who has been ill for sometime , we are pleased to say is now back with us.

Mrs. Williamson's health is improving and she will stay in Brisbane till after the winter. She wishes to be remembered to all friends.

Mrs. Hartley's two sons are wounded in France and expected to arrive home soon.

Mrs. Caughey and Mrs. Cunningham who lost their sister Miss Mary O'Brien who passed away after an operation on Feb 10th at St.Vincents Hospital have written to thank the members of the Women's Guild and the deaf generally for sympathy.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. MAY No. 9 1918.

CARRY ON.

We have every reason to be profoundly grateful. A little less than four years ago, the General Board were faced with a debt to the Building and Furnishing Fund of £480; borrowed for maintenance, and with possibilities of further encroachment upon this Fund. A powerful deputation to the Premier with a requisition for a grant of £500 met with sympathy but no financial assistance. At this time Our Principal reluctantly admitted his inability to cope with the ever increasing work without assistance, but volunteered, given expert help, to hold himself responsible for the raising of the necessary £200 to cover the salary of a Missioner. A Missioner was engaged and our Principal concentrated an extra share of his energies in a hunt for funds. Being faced with the many patriotic appeals, which all agree must have first consideration, he was debarred from making any great public demonstration, a means of raising money in which he not only excels but glories, so had to set to work on a quiet, plodding system. In fact, no one was aware that an extraordinary effort was in motion, until but recently when the fact was revealed that our Maintenance Fund had advanced by £700, covering not only the salary of the Missioner, the wage of an expert nurseryman at the farm and allowing for many improvements at the latter, but leaving a substantial balance in hand. Also the Government was persuaded to investigate the original and successful methods at the Blackburn Farm, with the result that a grant of £700 was made toward an improved reticulation scheme. It is somewhere said in Psalms that " the Lord loveth a cheerful giver " and there is plenty of evidence in Holy Scripture to show that the Lord helpeth a cheerful worker. We have, certainly every reason to be profoundly thankful to God and sincerely grateful to man. Carry on.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING.

The Annual Congregational meeting was held in our Church on Thursday April 18th. There was an encouraging attendance and our Principal - Chaplain was in the chair. The report, read by the hon. Secretary (Mr. F.E.Frewin) whilst fully representing the efforts of every branch of work carried on at the Centre during the past twelve months was, at the same time concise and to the point. The labours of the gentlemen of the Board of Management are acknowledged with grateful appreciation by the deaf. A falling off in the attendance of Morning Service is noted and a hope expressed that the coming year will show an increase. The Evening attendance was good and that of the Bible Class fair. Harvest Thanks-

giving and Communion Services were held at which Mr. Abraham officiated, he also took the services on the first Sunday of each month. The Missioner (Mr.Paul) conducting all other services and bible classes. Messrs. Frewin and Paterson were the most regular at Committee meetings, but none of the elected members attended less than 14 times. There were socials to the Rev. H.W.H.Adeney and Mr. and Mrs. J.E.Muir and a farewell to Mr. Paul. Miss Hickey, Hon Sec of Women's Guild reports very satisfactory progress, the President being away in another State, the Vice-President Miss Rose Dow, took the lead and has pleased everybody by her tactful and pleasing ways of managing. Mr. N. Amos, Hon Sec of the Men's Guild states that this Guild is in a flourishing condition. The Annual Cup Day Picnic was held at Mordialloc and the attendance was fair. The Quarterly Rallies more than maintain their popularity, although there has been an absence of originality of late in the get up of the programmes. The Deaf Workers Club (hon sec Mrs. F.E.Frewin) which was founded by Mrs. J.E.Muir is still going strong - very strong indeed, it has a membership of 95. Very many articles were made and forwarded to the Red Cross Depot during the year, also articles for the Blackburn Home. Mr. M.G.B.Mortimer (Hon Librarian) keeps the library popular. He was ably assisted by Messrs. Robertson, J.Cariss and J.Leber. Many gifts of books and magazines have been received. The Bank perhaps, was the " top-notcher " of the year and its Manager, Mr. Luff is to be congratulated. In encouraging thrift it is doing a very good part of the work of ourSociety. The sum brought forward was £ 140.16.10 and amount deposited during the year £201.11.11 making a total of £342.8.9. of this £145.18.9 was withdrawn leaving a balance of £196.10.0 to carry forward. In future no depositor is to be allowed to accumulate more than £10, he is to be advised to lodge his money in the State Savings Bank when his deposit reaches that figure. The Bank will, in future, be under the management of the Deaf Committee of which the Principal (Mr. Abraham) is Chairman. The " Saturday Nights " are easily next to the Rallies in popularity. Its a go-as-you-please and do-as-you-like evening and certainly very homely, therefore attractive. The Lacrosse Club are satisfied that they did very well and the Cricket Club report having come out winners of the triangular Interstate Matches, also of the promise of a shield by Mr. Abraham for Interstate Competition. The local matches would have given more pleasure had the scoring been more in our favour but there was nothing to be downhearted about, altogether the President (Mr. M.L.Miller) the Hon Sec (Mr. J.M.Johnston) and the officers in charge of the sports believe they have much to be thankful for and to congratulate themselves over. The Rambling Club is still going strong and many were the pleasant outings arranged by the popular young Hon Secretary, Miss Mabel Dow. The Hon Treasurer, (Mr. W.A.Paterson) in submitting the balance sheet said that he was able to record a substantial balance in spite of war conditions, the demands of the Red Cross Funds and the numerous appeals to the Congregation for donations to presentations of almost every conceivable kind from wedding gifts to farewell " remembrances ". The Church collections also showed a very healthy condition of affairs. The whole of the retiring officers were re-elected with the exception of Mr. W.F.Muir who was replaced by Mr. E. Johnson. The Chairman, in the course of his address, referred in the most complimentary terms to the work of the Deaf Committee. He knew of no body of men who were to be found so regularly in their seats at business meetings. They were in every way zealous for the welfare of the deaf and earnest in all their undertakings. Everyone entered the Board Room with a smile, left it with a smile and smiled continuously throughout the proceedings. These gatherings were most harmonious and it was always a delight to preside at them. He complimented the Hon. Sec (Mr.Frewin) and the Hon. Treas. (Mr. Paterson) upon the excellence of the reports they were able to

submit, and congratulated the congregation upon their judgment in selecting such good officers. He regretted that Mr. W.P.Muir had lost his seat upon the committee and hoped to see him back next year. Mr.Muir was one of the original promoters of mission work among the Adult Deaf and had for upwards of 30 years been prominent in almost every movement.
Mr. M.G.B.Mortimer distributed the prizes won at the Easter Rally. Mr.O. Tyzzer moved and Mr.T.Martin seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring officers.

———..———

DEAF COMMITTEE.

The first meeting of the newly elected Deaf Committee was held in the Principal's Room on Tuesday April 23rd. Mr. Abraham presided and in opening the proceedings welcomed the only new member (Mr.Johnson) to its deliberations. Mr.Johnson briefly thanked his fellow Committee men for the welcome accorded him. The retiring representatives to the General Board (Messrs.M.L.Miller, F.E.Frewin, R.H.Luff and J.M.Johnston) were unanimously re-elected. Mr.Frewin (Hon Sec) Mr.Paterson (Hon Treas) Mr. Mortimer (Hon Librarian) Mr.R.H.Luff (Hon Bank Manager) were also returned to their old offices and thanked for their valuable past services. The next quarterly Rally was fixed for June 3rd. (King's Birthday) The Committee officially took over the management of the Outing Fund and Bank.

DEAF RAMBLERS.

On April 13th, the Ramblers had a very pleasant outing at Point Ormond. It was a glorious day and everyone after having walked about a mile and a half from the tram terminus contented herself by sitting down on the slope of Point Ormond which commands a fine view of the Bay. The members decided to have a gipsy tea on the beach, but this intention was abandoned when Mrs. Boortz hospitably invited them to take tea with her at her home. They were very glad to accept her invitation, more so when a thunder storm came on, followed by heavy rain. It was a jolly tea party and Mrs. Boortz was heartily thanked for her share in the pleasure of the Ramblers.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

On March 26th, Our Principal read Miss Empson's paper on " Modesty "which was much appreciated. If the truth were known he would, we are sure, confess to having enlarged upon it. Anyway, there was no mistaking the intention of the writer and also the " interpreter ". It was something to take home and think about. Miss V. Crawford read a paper on " The keeping of the bridge " which was very interesting.
On April 16th, Our Principal opened the meeting with prayer. Mrs. A.Wilson conducted her usual Bible Reading, the subject being " Heralds of the Kings Miss Mabel Dow read a paper on " The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem ". Both papers were enjoyed.

MEN'S GUILD.

At the meeting of the Men's Guild held on the 26th of March, Mr.A.Sutherland gave a paper on Shakespeare's play " Cymbeline ". He succeeded in holding the interest of the members throughout.His delivery, always pleasing, improves with every effort. Mr.R.H.Luff added interesting incidents of the story omitted by the lecturer. Mr.Abraham also spoke to the subject. On the 16th of April, Mr.Mortimer gave a paper on " His trip to Buffalo", which was made interesting by views of Mount Buffalo made possible through the recent kind gift of Mr. Geo.Vial of a Postcard Projector.

ADULT DEAF LACROSSE CLUB.

The Annual Meeting of the above club was held at the Centre on the afternoon of Saturday April 13th. There was a good attendance. The seventh annual report was unanimously adopted. The Chairman gave a short address and spoke on the needs of a Gymnasium at the Deaf Centre where the players could go in for exercise to keep themselves fit. Mr. E.J.D.Abraham also spoke and said that he is quite ready to start for a Gymnasium on condition that those present are ready to help him. Mr. G. Edwards announced his intention of paying the whole cost of the boat hire and dressing room rent for this season, for which he was very heartily thanked. An effort will be made to get Mr.Ernest Abraham Junr. to act as our Delegate to the Vic. Lacrosse Association. Mr. G.Edwards was elected Captain with Mr.W.B. Anderson as Vice-Captain for the ensuing year. At the termination of the meeting, the Chairman, on behalf of the Club, presented Mr.J.Elwin,who was married some time ago with a beautiful clock as a wedding present and he in a few appropriate words thanked the members for the gift. Tea was served in the next room and the members sprang a surprise on Mr.J.M. Johnston (Hon Sec)by presenting him with a birthday cake, it being his birthday. Every member partook of a slice and mentally wished the Hon.Sec. all kinds of good fortune.

EASTER RALLY.

There were ninety present at the Rally held on the 4th of April. The Principal delivered a short address and the Hon Sec (Mr.Frewin) gave a summary of the " family doings " for the quarter. There were several competitions including Impersonation of Charlie Chaplin. The result was as follows : - Butterfly race, Mrs.E.R.W.Smith and Mr.O.Quinton. Potato and spoon - Miss E.Rettallick and Mr.O.Quinton. Blindfold driving - Miss E.Rettallick and Mr.T.Martin. Impersonation - 1st. Mr.Donellan, 2nd.Mr.T. Martin. Conversation and supper followed. The arrangements were in the hands of the Amusement Committee - Messrs. W.A.Paterson, F.E.Frewin and M.C.B.Mortimer.

DEAF WORKERS CLUB.

After Service (on the 21st ult.) Mrs. F.E.Frewin and members of the Committee collected 15/6 to purchase Red Cross Window Badges for the Centre. Two were bought and placed on the library windows, the balance of the money was put to the general fund. Mr. Williamson has donated £2.2.0 to be divided between the Red Cross and the Deaf Belgian Refugees Fund.

ADULT DEAF and DUMB SOCIETY of VICTORIA.

PRESIDENT . Mr. W. G. Mc.Beath J.P.

The ANNUAL MEETING of Subscribers and Friends will be held in the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, 32.34.Flinders Street E, Melbourne on

TUESDAY MAY 28th. at 7.45 pm

THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR WILL PRESIDE.

Our President (Who is at present engaged in most important National Work) will also endeavour to attend and speak.

INVITATION

TO OUR FRIENDS.—The accommodation of our Hall is very limited. We, therefore, request you kindly to come early and be seated by time of opening. The meeting being advertised as open to the public.

::: ADMIT :::
TWO ADULTS

The "Age".
August 10th 1918.

MISSIONER, by the ADULT DEAF and DUMB SOCIETY of VICTORIA, knowledge of the Finger and Sign Language NOT Essential.
Full Particulars may be obtained from the PRINCIPAL,
32-34 Flinders-street, Melbourne.

The "Age".
August 15th 1918.

MINISTER WANTED, by the CHURCH for DEAF MUTES.
Knowledge of the finger and sign language not essential.
Particulars from THE PRINCIPAL, Adult Deaf and Dumb Society, 32 Flinders-street, Melbourne.

The "Age"
October 2nd 1918

COUNTRY Collector wanted, for Adult Deaf and Dumb Society. In writing, to R. J. Orbr, hon. sec., 70 William-st., from whom particulars may be obtained

The "Herald"
October 3rd 1918.

Mr John M. Paul has been appointed missionary in succession to his father, the late Mr James Paul, by the directors of the Ayrshire (Scotland) Mission to the Deaf and Dumb. Mr Paul was for a number of years assistant missionary to the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria, and left Melbourne last year to visit his father, who was very ill.

The "Age"
May 1918.

Deaf and Dumb Demonstration.

The annual meeting and demonstration of the Deaf and Dumb Society of Victoria was held last night in the institute, Flinders-street. The Lord Mayor (Cr. F. Stapley) presided. A unique programme was presented in gesture by deaf and dumb performers, the principal, Mr. F. J. D. Abraham, interpreting their words and actions. The Lord Mayor congratulated the principal, staff and members on their efficiency, and the fact that they had conquered the limitations set upon them. They, like the rest of mankind, had aspirations, and had shown their pride in independence. Mr. M'Beath, J.P. (president), and Mr. F. J. D. Abraham also briefly addressed the crowded assemblage, the latter reminding them of the desire of the deaf mutes to extend their buildings in order to build gymnasium and workshops, and thus render themselves more self-supporting than at present. The reports and balance sheet were adopted and all office bearers re-elected.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. JUNE 1918. No. 10

OUR ANNUAL MEETING.

Why do you not hold your Meeting in the Town Hall as on former occasions? That was the question put to us time and again on Tuesday night, May 28th, by some of our friends who had had to stand three deep round the hall. They were not complaining on their own account, but regretted that so many friends of the Society could not get in at all. All being well, we will do so next year. We have thought it wise to be content with our own little hall and to withhold big efforts during the War. That we are delighted to know we have so many enthusiastic friends, goes without saying, and we recognise that it is only our duty to provide them with comfortable accommodation when they pay us their annual visit. And right here we wish to put in a word of appreciation of their kindly patience. Is there another audience anywhere except that of the Deaf Centre friends who would cheerfully stand for two hours and then be the most generous in their applause ?

———...———

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Frank Stapley) presided, and the President (Mr. W.G.McBeath J.P.) and the Principal (Mr.Ernest J.D.Abraham) addressed the Meeting. Amongst the prominent friends of the Society present, we noticed the Rev. A.Macaulay Caldwell, Messrs.H.Sumner Martin B.A,L.L.B; G.G.Mercy J.P, Geo. Vial, H.Bickford, G.Brown, M.L.Miller, H.L.Walters and R.J.Oehr F.I.A.V. The Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Frank Stapley) Mesdames. Mercy, Walters and Abraham.

It was acknowledged on all sides that the entertainment was one of the best we have had for many years past. The opening hymn was gracefully rendered in the language of Gesture by Miss Doris Hickey, with chorus by Misses Rose Dow and Connie Ball (a new artiste) and vocally by Miss Marjorie Walters. The hymn "Lead Kindly Light" was " staged " orally, in Gesture, and by Living Statuary. The Misses T.Fletcher, V.Crawford, I.Boortz, N. Adams, I.Cole, C.Ball, D.Hickey and R.Dow posing beautifully. The manner in which they changed the pose for each verse was most charmingly and becomingly executed. We were fortunate in having Miss Walters to render the hymn vocally for her enunciation is clear and distinct and her voice very sweet. The rendering in Gesture by Miss Mabel Dow demands a paragraph to itself. When our clever and sweetly graceful Prima Donna married and migrated to another State, our Principal was asked " well, what will you do now"? His reply was "wait and see". We " guessed " almost every deaf lady in town, with one exception - the little lady who stepped into the light on the 28th as a new Prima Donna. Who would have thought that Madcap Mabel Dow could stir an audience with such lithesome posing and soulful gesture; the play of her hands and arms made one think of a

the flight of a swallow and her facial expression was in complete harmony with the inspiring words of that beautiful hymn.
" Aladdin's Lamp " was prettily rendered by Miss Tottie Fletcher, and by the applause she received is as popular as ever with our audience.
Mr. W.A.Paterson is like the Jester in the " Yeoman of the Guard" who only had to say " pass the mustard " when the epople roared, but he deserves every bit of the applause he gets. " A Silly Old Man " is a difficult piece to render, yet he made it bring an encore, then, as usual, he kept his audience convulsed with laughter for ten minutes with the " Whimsical Ways of Women ". The impersonation of Charlie Chaplin by Mr. W. Donnellan was good. It was his first attempt. We shall look for something out of the common from Mr.Donnellan in the near future.
The Seasons. Spring - Summer - Autumn and Winter by the same ladies who posed for the hymn made very pretty scenes, and rightly deserved the appreciation they received. " OUR BOYS " gymnastic exercises was a fitting conclusion to the share of the entertainment given by the Deaf. They quite captivated the audience and carried off a very big lump of the applause of the evening. Mr. J.Johnston and Mr. Cliff. Robertson the Manager and Instructor of the boys show are to be congratulated.
" The Middies " items were a most welcome addition to the programme. Every item being well received. Miss Yvonne Devine sang " God send you back to me ". Miss Madge Cohen recited " If England dies tonight ". Miss Silvester and Miss Whitelaw also contributed songs that pleased the audience.

———...———

Mr. R.J.Oehr F.I.A.V, (Hon.Sec) read the Annual Report and Mr. H.L.Walters (Hon Treas.) read the Balance Sheet, the latter gentleman also made an appeal on behalf of the funds of the Society. The Lord Mayor congratulated the Principal, Staff, Members of the Committee on their efficiency and the fact that the deaf members had conquered the limitations set upon them. They, like the rest of mankind, had aspirations and it was good to know that they were animated by a spirit of pride and independence.

Mr. McBeath (President) regretted that he had not been able to take the practical interest in the work that was his desire as President. (Mr. McBeath has for some time been engaged in very important work for the State) but so soon as possible he would make himself acquainted with the work of the Centre. He had visited the Blackburn Home and Farm and as a business man he, naturally, went with critical eyes and looked around for defects. He did not know who was responsible for what had been and was being done there, but, he could say everything was certainly carried out on strictly business lines and the farm was a credit to the Management.

The Principal (Mr. Abraham) said (at the same time interpreting his own remarks) that the Members of the Society wished to say how pleased they were to have the Lord Mayor with them, and to welcome their new President (Mr. McBeath) to the Centre. They hoped it would be the first of very many visits. (applause). He also said, that whilst it was true that the income for the current year had been more than sufficient to cover the expenditure on maintenance, they had to bear in mind that £ 480. was still owing to the Building Fund, which had been borrowed in former years for Maintenance and that the Centre was only half complete and extensions at the Blackburn Home still needed. The boys had to use the Church for gymnastic exercises. A gymnasium, workshop and accommodation for Country deaf serving apprenticeships in Melbourne should receive first consideration of friends interested in the welfare of the Adult Deaf.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT.

In issuing the 34th Annual Report, the Committee are animated with a three-fold pleasure. First, in the knowledge that they have the confidence of the public, which is demonstrated year by year by the ever increasing support accorded to the Society; then in having been able, notwithstanding the numerous calls for patriotic objects, to add to the usefulness of the Society, and lastly, in the satisfaction that in every instance their efforts have been fully justified.

THE AIM that the Committee have chiefly in view is the making of desirable citizens of the doubly afflicted community committed to their charge. The extent of the success achieved is to be found in the fact that practically the whole of the normal deaf are earning their own livelihood, and it is very seldom that the Society's officers are called upon for monetary relief.

The only section of our charge for whose maintenance we are responsible, and who are permanently under our constant care, are the aged, infirm, blind and mentally deficient deaf mutes, and even the latter are contributing toward their support.

The deaf, as a class, are very proud of their " standing" with the hearing community, and there are no better guardians of the status of the deaf, than the deaf mutes themselves. This admirable spirit is encouraged in every way, and it is not surprising that in consequence there is a growing demand for the services of good deaf mechanics and factory hands, their desire to " excel" in their particular line being its own recommendation. Their bank deposits illustrate their thrift. During the past year, £201. passed into the Savings Bank established by them. Evidence of their loyalty to their Society, and their desire to help themselves is not lacking. They contributed upwards of £50 towards the Church expenses and over £60 to other objects, mostly of a patriotic nature, but including £15. toward a pension for their aged schoolmaster. There is absolutely no reason for any deaf mute to appeal directly to the public for assistance, such may safely be looked upon as imposters. If the public have any doubt, the Committee and the deaf mute community will appreciate the service if they will ring up Central 5223, for the case is genuine the Society will give the necessary assistance, and if it is a case of imposition, they will be rendering a service to the deaf as well as to the whole community. For besides undertaking to apprentice or procure employment for all able and willing to work, provision is made for that section unable to maintain themselves. The greater part of the work at the Centre is entrusted to a Committee of deaf men under the supervision of the Principal, and every reasonable requisition from this body is approved of by the Committee, and when considered necessary, special efforts are made to meet the needs of exceptional cases.

_____..._____

Success means work, and we have yet to learn of work being accomplished without workers, and in most instances the best work is done by those quiet individuals who are content to work behind the scenes, satisfied by the reflection of the glory upon the friends directly under the limelight. But on this occasion, those under the limelight persist in demanding recognition of the friends behind the scenes, the deaf lads and lasses who so pleased the audience by their dainty performances wish to thank Miss Empson for her dainty suppers so thoughtfully provided for them at the rehearsals. Dresses, properties and all things necessary for the successful production of the performance were always on hand on rehearsal nights and for all this thoughtful kindness, the successful " limelighters" wish to thank her.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 30th of April, the ordinary meeting of the above Guild was held when Mr. M.L.Miller gave a paper on " Some remarkable things " which again illustrated the thoughtful care of Mr.Miller in his interminable efforts to gather informative and instructive items for our entertainment and enlightenment. His pleasing delivery is more than half the attraction of all his papers, his smile in itself is persuasive and catching.
On May 14th, Mr.J.M.Johnston gave a paper on stories short and interesting which proved to be very pleasing.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

The last ordinary meeting of the Women's Guild was held on April 30th. Two papers were prepared and read by Mrs. Robertson and Miss Hickey. " War and the Rumour of Wars" and " Meetings and Greetings " were the titles. Miss Ruby Peters rendered a recitation entitled " The Blessedness of Books" These ladies made up a pleasant evening.

PERSONAL PARS.

Miss A.Foster has returned from Port Campbell looking the picture of health. We always miss her when away, because she is one of the most regular at Morning Service. Miss Graham and Miss Foster are always to be found in their seats at Church every Sunday morning and evening when in Melbourne.

The question has been asked if the deaf have purchased the Cathedral at the corner of Swanston and Flinders Sts, as on certain evenings of the week large numbers of deaf men are to be seen in that neighbourhood.

May was without doubt the busiest month we have had for years. It was a " re-organising " and a " preparatory" month. There were meetings almost every night, rehearsals twice a week, in the Principal's room, in the Church and in the office; and the boys practising their gymnastic turn fairly made the Building ring with laughter. When we said " goodnight" to our Principal at 10 pm and 11 pm, we wonder how many of us remembered he had 12 miles to go by train and a mile to walk and could not possibly turn in until the first hour of the morning.

Mr. M.L.Miller has received a cable from Mr.Paul reporting his safe arrival in Scotland.
A company of New South Wales deaf ladies have sent our Principal a group photograph of themselves as a memento of his recent visit to Sydney.

Mrs. Crockford has returned to Melbourne after an enjoyable trip to Sydney.

Mr. G.Oakley who has been ill, we are pleased to say is back at the Centre.

Mr. and Mrs. S.Ferguson and child of Bowmans Forest motored to Warburton then to Melbourne last month. They attended several gatherings at the Centre. Mr. R.Stewart after spending a very pleasant holiday in Melbourne has returned to Bolinda.

See next month's issue for account of Lacrosse doings.

KING'S BIRTHDAY RALLY - MONDAY JUNE 3rd - at ADULT DEAF MUTE CENTRE.

All Deaf Friends invited. Particulars from Hon. Sec. Mr.F.E.Frewin.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to **Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne,** to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for **1s.**, and to deaf and hearing in other States for **1s.6d. per annum post free.** Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. JULY 1918. No. 11

WE CANNOT HEAR

We cannot hear
Sweet Mother's voice
The song of bird
The spoken word.
' Tis true.
But we can admire
and thus inspire
thoughts of love -
The plumage rare
of the birds of the air
And watch them fly
in the sky
Gliding through
the canopy blue.
The soft green sward
That gift of God
So common to the eye
That man forgets to question why
that God's so good.
We may walk, in friendly talk
And watch the swaying -
of the smiling trees
And enjoy the glory of the
balmy breeze.
' Tis true, ' tis true
We deaf may enjoy
as well as you.
We cannot hear
But we can read
And make dear friends of the
ancient great
And in our thoughts
Ourselves create fairy lands
and palaces,
Noble princes too,
And wish, and wish -
like you,
That some fair day
Our sweetest dreams will all
come true

We can read of giants, dwarfs and elves
And in our daydreams
be of them, ourselves.
Of elephants and ships, of storms at sea
Of wars and history long past
And things to be.
We Cannot hear
But hearing is not all
Compared with what we see
Our loss looms very small.
We have our sight
And we can feel those finer semses all
That heart and soul do thrill.
The precious fruits
In all their varied forms,
and tastes
Giving pleasure to the palate
and the eye
Making one feel sure
that God is nigh.
We cannot hear
But flowers dear
Are all our very own.
The sweet perfume they give
Their beauty and their charm
Seem to say
both night and day
' Tis joy, 'tis joy to live.
Flowers !
The emblem of all things good and true
The symbol of love and friendship
appreciation too.
Tokens, when we plight our troth
tokens o'er the dead
of those, who have fought for us
suffered and bled.
Speech and hearing are dead to us 'Tis
true
But the beauties of life belong to us
As much as they do to you.

There is yet another emblem
dear to all
A simple piece of bunting
which can call
English speaking men from every
clime
To unite in one great host
And stand in line
Ready to fight and die for all
that life holds dear.
And when we see it
We are drawn to cheer and cheer
and cheer again
For, our very life's entwined
within its folds
More precious to us all
than wealth untold.
Then flag and flower shall be
our guiding star
Uniting us o'er lands afar
Then take this bloom, symbol
of all that's dear
And may it bring to every heart
thoughts that cheer.

ALADDIN'S LAMP.

A wonderful genii, so I'm told
Sought to help the brave and
bold
In the days of fairies.
In old story books I read
- And it nearly turned my head -
Of a wondrous lamp,
When you give this lamp a rub
Just a kindly, gentle scrub
Things of earth and sky so blue,
And every power, all come to you.

If I only had that lamp !
With a heart right glad I'd go
Just everywhere, here and there,
to and fro.
Picking up the sad and glum,
All the blind and deaf and dumb,
All the sick and all the poor.
They should suffer - never - more.
The broken hearted - worried too
All joy I'd give them - and for you
I'd bring that precious gift of love
The pearl of all gifts from above.
Oh ! what happy things I'd see
If that lamp belonged to me.
I am wishing night and day,
For that lamp to come my way.
To the battle front I'd fly,
Every weeping eye make dry.
And I'd give my lamp a rub
Such an energetic scrub.
Thus I'd scatter all the Huns
Spike or capture all their guns.
Then our boys so brave and true
I'd lead safely back to you
Yes, you'd hear their homeward
tramp
If I only had that lamp.

In compliance with a request repeatedly put to us by both hearing and deaf readers of the "Monthly" we have inserted in this issue "We Cannot Hear" and "Aladdin's Lamp" two recitations specially written for and recited in the sign language at two of our Annual Meetings.

DEAF LACROSSE CLUB.

The Lacrosse season started on the 11th of May. This season the club put in two teams for Competition, No.1 in the Senior and No.2 in the Junior and at the opening of the game there was every reason for believing that the No.2 team would achieve success and get high up toward the premiership season like their brother team No.1.
11th May, No.1 team met Coburg on our ground and had no difficulty in defeating their opponents. The scores were No.1 team, 16 goals to Coburg 1. J. Retallick 5, W.Anderson, A.Tyzzer 4 each, E.Martin 2, V.Tyzzer 1, were the goal throwers.
No.2 team met the High School team at the Amateur Sports Ground and like their brother team won the match by scoring 6 goals to 1. W.Vivian 4, N.Amos 1, R.Ryan 1, were the goal throwers.
May 18th, a hard and most strenuously fought game was witmessed between the No.1 team against Hawthorn No.1 at St.James Park, Hawthorn. Both sides sent in their picked men and the decision of the game was not known till about 5 minutes before time when the Adult Deaf put on a spurt and rattled up 3 goals in quick succession, thus gained the day winning by

2 goals. The final scores were Adult Deaf 13, Hawthorn 11. A.Tyzzer 4, J.Retallick 3, W.Anderson 3, V.Tyzzer 2, N.Hughes 1, were the goal throwers.
No.2 Team had a Bye and most of the players witnessed the above match.

The match on the 25th May was between Malvern 1.(last year's Premiers) and our boys. A close contest was expected, but the Adult Deaf team upset all calculations by outplaying the Malvern representatives in every phase of the game and emerged victorious by 10 goals to 2. J.Retallick 4, A.Tyzzer 2, V.Tyzzer W. Donnellan, W.Anderson and F. Rees were the goal throwers.
June 1st, the players from the No.1 and No.2 Teams held a practice match against South Yarra on Fawkner Park and we came out winners by 12 to 5. No.1 Team gained an easy win over Hawthorn No.2 Team scoring 17 goals to 3. On June 8th, J.Retallick 5, A.Tyzzer 4, W.Anderson 4, V.Tyzzer 2, N. Hughes 1 and G.Edwards 1 were the scorers.
No.2 Team suffered their first defeat by Williamstown. The scores stood at 9 to 3 in the Seasider's favour. W.Vivian scored all the goals for the deaf team.
On the 15th June, No.1 Team completely outplayed Malvern No.2 scoring 23 goals to nil. W.Donnellan, W.Anderson, and J.Retallick 5 each, A. and V. Tyzzer 3 each, G.Edwards 2 were the goal throwers. No.2 Team did not meet with any luck against South Yarra, who scored 11 goals to their 4. On 22nd. June, No.1 Team suffered a defeat at the hands of Malvern 1, by one goal. The final scores were 7 goals to 6. W.Anderson 2, W.Donnellan A.Tyzzer, G.Edwards and N.Hughes scored for the deaf. No.2 Team had no difficulty in winning the match against the Deaf School, although hard pressed in the first three quarters. We were playing 2 men short. Final scores were No.2 Team 14 goals, Deaf School 7. Goal throwers for the winners were W.Vivian 6, R.Ryan 4, McMillen 3, Johnston 1.

RALLY.

King's Birthday Rally was held on June 3rd at the Centre, 108 Deaf members attended besides hearing friends. I. Abraham (The Principal) presided. Only 2 ladies and 4 gentlemen took part in the Character Competitions (Washerwoman and Swagman). Mrs. F.S.Frewin and Messrs. M.L.Miller and J.M.Johnston acted as judges, and awarded prizes as follows : - Washerwoman, Mrs. J.Pierce 1st, and Mrs. Crockford 2nd. Swagman, Mr.T.Nelson 1st and Mr. Turnley 2nd. The "get up " of Messrs. M.G.B.Mortimer and N.Webb was also excellent, so good indeed that Mr.Miller kindly furnished two extra prizes. The admission prize - a handsome little clock (which was drawn for by a little girl) fell to Mrs. McKenzie. The oak stand of the clock was made and given by Mr. W.A Paterson. The prizes were distributed to the Winners by the Chairman. Conversation and games then followed. The sale of tea tickets realised £2.19.0 and supper 5/. making a total of £3.4.0. Expenses including prizes £2.16.0, leaving a balance of 8/. The Deaf Workers Club assisted by Mrs. W.A.Paterson ably supervised the arrangements for tea and supper The Amusements Committee are thanked for a very enjoyable evening.

THE RAMBLERS.

A party of enthusiastic ramblers spent the afternoon of May 11th, walking along to the river Yarra, where they also had the pleasure of witnessing the Public Schools boat race.
On June 8th, the Caulfield Military Hospital was visited. On the advice of a kindly wounded soldier, the members walked about the different wards and distributed sweets, fruit and cigarettes to the men.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

On Tuesday May 21st, the Deaf Women's Guild held its Annual Meeting which was in every respect most successful. There was a good attendance. Acting President, Miss Rose Dow was in the Chair. The Hon.Sec.(Miss D. Hickey) read the annual report which showed continued success. The number of members on the roll being 31. A series of lectures, bible and other readings, educational lessons, papers and recitations given by the members had been much appreciated, and the addresses by the Principal were always good. It was hoped that a still greater and intelligent interest would be taken by more of the younger members in the Guild during the present year. Both the report and balance sheet. the latter showing a surplus of £2.5.7, were adopted. The Acting-President gave a short address, congratulating the members upon the harmony and comradeship that prevailed at all meetings. She thanked them all for the help and encouragement they had given her to do her part as President. Mrs. Williamson the President, having spent a whole year in Queensland for her health's sake, sent her resignation, which was accepted with regret. The election of office bearers resulted as follows :- President, Miss R.Dow; Vice-President,Miss Empson; Hon. Treasurer, Miss T.Fletcher; Hon. Secretary, Miss D.Hickey; the last two being returned unopposed. Committee :- Mesdames A.Wilson, H.Gladman, E.R.Smith, C.Robertson, and Miss Graham. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the retiring office bearer, the Auditor,(Mr. Miller) and the Scrutineers, Messrs. W. Anderson and F.Rees. Afterwards, there was supper. To those of our younger girls who are not members, we would say, come along and join now. Every meeting is a pleasant evening. The Guild will close during the months of June and July on account of damp weather.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 11th of June, the ordinary meeting of the above Guild was held when Mr.J.Cariss gave a paper on " A Visit to Pentridge Prison " which was very interesting and instructive.

F.J.ROSE PENSION FUND.

Mr. F.E.Frewin, Hon Sec. of the Vic. Branch of A.D.& D.A. acknowledges with thanks receipt of the following donations, for the above fund. Mr. and Mrs. W.A.Paterson £2.2.0, Miss A.Graham and Mr.M.L.Miller £1.each Mrs. Williamson 10/6, Mr.E.J.D.Abraham, Mr.& Mrs. J.E.Muir, Messrs. M.G. Mortimer and T.Nelsen 10/. each, Misses Rose and Mabel Dow, and A.Foster, Miss R.and Mr.T.Peters, Messrs. J.M.Johnston, A.W.Sutherland, J.Cariss W.Hindell and A. Wilson 5/. each, Mrs. D.Lawson of Adelaide, Miss Doris Hickey, Messrs. G.Oakley, N.Hughes, J.D.Brook, W.P.Muir,N.Amos, V.Harding, W.Anderson, J.Marks, E.R.W.Smith, and "Eulamee" 2/6 each, Messrs. W.J. Anderson and O.Tyzzer 2/. each, Mr. J.Leber 1/. and Mrs.C. and Mr.B.B.B. Phillips 1/. each.
The balance from last year £5.19.6 was added, making the total £15.9.6. The Hon. Treasurer of the above Association (Mr. W.A.Paterson) handed £15. to the Asst. Hon. Treas of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society (Mr.Miller) leaving a balance of 9/6 to carry forward.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER FUND.

Mr. F.E.Frewin, Hon Sec. to Deaf Committee, wishes to draw the attention of Readers to cost of production of "Our Monthly Letter", which last year was £23. Subscriptions toward the cost of printing will be welcomed. Please send same to Mr.F.E.Frewin, Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St, Melb. Those in hand will be acknowledged in the next issue.

OUR MONTHLY LETTER.

THE ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF & DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no Charge is made If you do not receive it regularly, or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F. E. FREWIN, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E., Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s.6d. per annum post free. Donations towards the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 14. AUGUST 1918. No. 12

This is our 168th number and the last of Vol. 14. Next issue we propose to introduce one or two new features, but must, for the present, that is until there is a substantial reduction in the price of paper, be content with four pages instead of eight.

DEAF GIRLS.

" Sympathy " in a letter to the " Argus " asks for the interest of the readers of that paper on behalf of " refined, fairly educated deaf young women, for whom, apparently, no congenial regular employment can be found". So do we. " Sympathy " further said that whilst parents and friends are kind to them " they get used to their shyness and reserve, and so the sad sight can often be seen of a deaf girl sitting apart while her sisters and friends are having a good time ". This is only too true, and will remain true until this particular section of parents realise that their deaf daughters are just ordinary girls whose souls cry out for the pleasures and sweetness associated with girlhood and womanhood. Parents who " barracade " them in, or hide them away, are their worst enemies. There is absolutely no necessity for " shyness and reserve ". Where this exists it is the fault of the parents and friends who doom their deaf girl relatives to a life of social ostracism which more frequently than not ends in mental breakdown. If the deaf are to be kept mentally and physically normal they must be permitted to associate frequently with other deaf people. Half a century's experience teaches that the adult deaf who have been permitted to assemble together for Worship, intellectual advancement and social intercourse are mentally and morally stronger than those who, through mistaken kindness and over care have been deprived of most that makes life worth living to the deaf.

UNEDUCATED DEAF CHILDREN.

At the Annual Meeting of the Victorian Deaf & Dumb Institution (School for Deaf Children) the Superintendent spoke in favour of an amendment of the Education Act sufficiently powerful to compel parents to send their deaf children to school. Mr.F.Tate, Director of Education claims that the existing Act is adequate to the case. Be this as it may, it is nevertheless a fact, that many deaf children are growing up without education because parents will not send them to the special school. If the present Act is inadequate, the question that naturally arises to one's mind is, why is it not enforced ?

CONSPICUOUS SERVICES.

Yet another of " our Family " has been honoured by the King for conspicuous services. The following is from the"London Gazette " - "His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Military Medal for bravery in the field to No. 2062 Lance Corporal J. E.Hartley." - Lance Corporal Hartley's Mother is deaf and has for many years been a member of our Society.

WORKERS CLUB.

The acting Hon. Sec. (Mrs. F.E.Frewin) of the above club has received the following communication from Mademoiselle Yvonne Petrois of France :- " Dear Friends. I wish to thank you all heartily for your bill of 177 francs 50, which I have safely received for my Deaf Refugees'Fund. How pleased I am to have again this token of sympathy and brotherly love from you all, and to distribute it in your name to my poor people, that are suffering so much of this terrible war. In a few weeks, I shall send to you a copy of my little paper acknowledging receipt of your gift, and giving some more details about my war sufferers. I hope that some one will translate them to you, and that you all will be interested, and happy to have relieved a little these great miseries. May God bless you all, dear Friends across the Seas. Your loving French sister, Yvonne Petrois. Many thanks to you, dear Mr. Frewin, for your trouble. "
The Hon. Sec. reports that not near so much has been done this year as last but that members still have the opportunity of bringing this year's record up to that of last year by sending in goods and donations.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mrs. Walters, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Williamson, which occured on the 8th of July. From childhood until her marriage Daisy was a frequent visitor to Our Centre, and was very popular amongst the Adult deaf. Being of a cheerful disposition and exceptionally fluent at conversation upon her fingers she was always surrounded by a merry little crowd. Mrs. Williamson who has been ill for many months past necessitating a lengthy stay in the warmer State of Queensland, returned in time to bid the sad farewell to her beloved daughter. The sympathy of the whole of the deaf goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Williamson in their sad loss.

Our Bible and Educational Classes were never more popular. The attendance on one occasion was forty and the average is nearly thirty. Needless to say, Our Principal is more than usually pleased. His subjects are very varied and interesting. Health, the heart, Omar Khyam, Rasputin, The German officer, and The Soul and Mind were some of his recent subjects.

THE VIC. BRANCH A. D. & D. A.

Mr. F.E.Frewin, the Hon. Sec. desires to remind the subscribers of the Victorian Branch of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association that their annual subscriptions are due and should be paid before 31st of Oct. next.

MEN'S GUILD.

At the meeting of the Men's Guild held on the 25th of June, Mr. O.Tyzzer delivered a paper on " A day in a Ship yard " which was well appreciated by the members, many of whom also spoke on the subject.
On July.16th, Mr.C.Robertson also gave a paper on " Wars and rumours of Wars " which proved to be very interesting and was much appreciated.

DEAF AVIATORS.

One must admire our American deaf cousins for their enthusiasm and determination to do " their bit " on every conceivable occasion. Deafness seems to be little or no bar to them. The latest is an effort on the part of Judson P.Radcliffe to get a Deaf Aviation Corps formed. One Sunday recently, Major Lewis invited a party of deaf men to the Aviation field at Mineola with the object of testing their availability. Marcus H.Marks, Mendel Berman, William Krieger, Charles Schatzkin, Henry Hester, Keith Watt Morris, and Merrit Klopsch (all deaf) went up in turn with Lieutenant Mc Hugh to a height of one thousand eight hundred feet. Before ascending they were given typewritten instructions which embodied a series of tests as to the ability of each to sense the direction of the aeroplane with the eyes closed - that is, to tell when the plane was turned tothe right, to the left, up or down, to a spiral or a volplane. When the course of the aeroplane was altered, the pilot would tap them on the back and they would reply by gestures of the arms, as arranged previous to the ascent. So far as could be learned from an interview with the young men, who, made the flight, the results were good enough to justify another invitation to make further tests while in the air. They describe the sensation as grand, and none of them were aware of the deafening noise that is said to come from the propeller or motor. Each of the deaf-mutes was in the air twenty five minutes, and all of them are eager to go again.

THE FARM.

We are " grafting " at the Farm to make up for lost opportunities, and in preparation for the planting out. We have had rain in abundance, and the sodden state of the soil stayed the doing of many things we were anxious to get on with. We are now ploughing and scarifying and making up " lands". Considerable alteration is being made in this year's plantations. Towards the end of May we ran right out of bloom and have had nothing to speak of since except Wattle. Jonquils and Daffodils are just beginning to show themselves but do not look very promising. The Violets are a failure and we shall have but few carnations. But - well, there's a good time coming. We are looking forward to the next twelve months for we intend to beat all records.

The American deaf have subscribed £60.000 to the United States Liberty Loan

There is at least one deaf gunner fighting on the side of the Allies. He is a Frenchman named Charles Santarelli and his battery took part in the bombardment of Saint - Quentin and the Conquest of Chemin des Dames.

A DEAF " MOVIE " ACTOR.

Mr. Granville Redmond who is deaf and well known in the United States as a landscape painter is now a member of the Charles Chaplin Moving Picture Company and at present may be seen on the screen in the role of Keeper of the Green Lantern dancing hall in the new play " A Dog's Life". Mr. Redmond is the only deaf man who has, so far, succeeded in getting into the Movies.

DEAFENED SOLDIERS of FRANCE.

The Orleans Hospital (France) for deafened soldiers has been closed down on account of the small number of patients remaining. They have been removed to another hospital where their education is conducted by a single Instructor. Fifty-eight deafened soldiers were admitted to the Orleans, 41 being restored to active service and 17 to the auxiliary service.

GOODYEAR RUBBER COY. and the DEAF.

The following is a copy of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Akron. Ohio, advertisement at present appearing in American papers :- " We are offering steady and summer employment to deaf mutes over 18 years for Government work, and regular lines. This work is especially desirable for deaf mutes. We are now employing about four hundred. Our factory operates six days per week, on three eight-hour shifts. While learning operations we pay you 1/5½ per hour plus 10% bonus on all wages for steady attendance computed in weekly periods. After learning the work, which takes from one to six weeks, you are able to earn from 12/6 to 25/. per day and better.

PERSONAL PARS.

Congratulations from the Adult Deaf to Mr. R.J.Oehr, F.I.A.V., A.C.I.S.; - Hon Sec of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria, upon his attainment of the position of President of the Incorporated Institute of Accountants of Victoria.

Mr. John Anderson spent a few weeks holiday in Melbourne last month.

Alex. Hull (Melbourne) and Ethel Retallick (Ballarat) were quietly married in June last.

George Newnham (of Ringwood) was present at our last Rally - It was good to see his cheery face amongst us again.

Our Principal attended the funeral and interpreted at the grave side of Mrs. Walters (nee Miss Daisy Williamson).

The other Sunday Miss Rose Dow and Miss Doris Hickey paid a flying visit to Warburton to see our old friends Mr. and Mrs. John Muir. They had a very happy day.

From Mr. Alister Clark of Glenara, Bulla, Our Principal has received a large parcel of cuttings of choice roses.

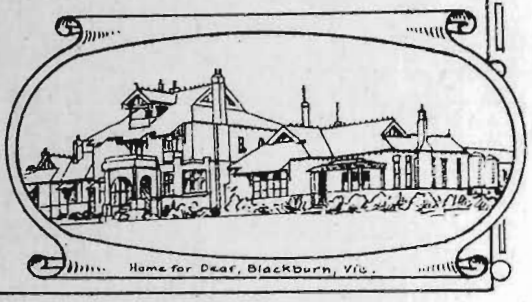
BOARD BUSINESS.

The Farm & Finance Committee and the General Board of our Society now meet on the evening of the fourth Monday of each month instead of in the afternoon as formerly. The Meeting held at Our Centre on the 24th. June lasted from 6.pm to 10.30pm. the Agenda being an exceptionally lengthy one. Mr.G. G.Mercy J.P. presided. Rev.A.Macaulay Caldwell, Messrs.H.Sumner Martin B.A., L.L.B, R.J.Oehr(Hon Sec) H.L.Walters(Hon.Treas) H.Bickford, G.Vial,C.Brown, M.L.Miller,W.A.Dickens,F.E.Frewin,R.H.Luff and E.J.D.Abraham(Principal) attended. Mr. Walters opening with prayer. Business dealt with included passing of accounts, installation of electric power at Blackburn Home, purchase of a horse, Society's financial position, farm receipts for past three months, purchase of trees and plants, replacements for the Home, the overhauling of electric lighting at the Centre, lino for Office, Renumeration of Lay Helpers, Principal's vacation, stipend of Assistant at Blackburn., engagement of Missioner. The matters of improved electric lighting of the whole Centre and covering of office were left in hands of Mr.G.G.Mercy (Chairman) with power to act, and that of Missioner, to the Principal who was instructed to draw up suitable advertisement and insert same in Australian papers. Messrs. Brown, Bickford and Vial of the Farm Committee visited the Blackburn Home on the 13th of July.



OUR MONTHLY LETTER

ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA



Home for Deaf, Blackburn, Vic.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr F.E. Frewin, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E. Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s. 6d. per annum post free. Donations toward the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 15. SEPTEMBER OCTOBER Nos 1 & 2

It has always been our custom, in carrying out the aims of our Society, to give priority to matters where the conditions called for immediate action. Such as in the case of sickness or critical happenings in the lives of those who look to us with all confidence to befriend them in their times of distress and difficulty. The month of August proved to be the most remarkable in all our experience for such happenings, culminating in the breakdown of our Principal. August and the early part of September brought much sorrow into our little World. Death claimed several dear ones and sickness very many. One sorrow followed so rapidly upon the other that there was no time for minor affairs and routine work, nor the little " luxuries " that add so much to the joy of the Deaf Mute World, so amongst many other things, there being no time to make other arrangements, when Our Principal had to reluctantly confine his attention to sheets and blankets, with strict orders not to talk, read or think, we had perforce to let the month of September pass on without the usual " Letter ". This month we are able to present our readers with a " Double Number " and we hope you will like the little improvements we have been able to introduce.

THE LATE Mr. ALEX. WILLIAMSON - With the deepest regret we record the death of Mr. Alexander Williamson, our Senior Country Collector. He died on the morning of Thursday Sept. 5th, at the age of 59, and was buried at Kew. In our last issue we had, with sorrow to report the death of his only daughter, Daisy - beloved by all deaf frequenters of our Centre. We feel that it is only necessary to make known to our readers this double calamity that has befallen Mrs. Williamson to enlist your heartwhole sympathy and prayers for spiritual strength in her trying position. Mr. Williamson was of a quiet, retiring disposition and although he did more than his ordinary share in the work of advancing the interests of the deaf generally, he never voluntarily took office of any kind. He served on the Boards of the Victorian Branch of the Australasian Deaf and Dumb Association and the " Gesture " and then only because his fellow deaf placed him in these positions because they needed his ripe experience. He was our pioneer Country Collector, andalmost the whole of the funds that purchased the land upon which our Centre in Flinders St. is built was



THE LATE Mr ALEX. WILLIAMSON.

collected by him, also much toward the structure itself. He served our Society faithfully and loyally for upwards of 26 years. There are no words that can adequately express the appreciation and honour due to the pioneer, the great and grand grafter who bears the burden and heat of the day and makes conditions smooth and easy for those of us who follow on. Mr. Williamson was a pioneer in every sense of the word, and his patient and persistent labours have made possible many advantages that in the early days our first Committees would not even have dreamt of. At their last meeting, the General Board made it one of their first duties to honour him by reverently standing with bowed heads, and a resolution in appreciation of his services was passed which will prove of considerable assistance to his widow. Our Principal was with Mr. Williamson on the morning and evening of the day before his death.

ooo

Speaking generally, we have, as a Community enjoyed such glorious good health for so many years past that the present epidemic of sickness has come as a shock to all of us. It is a rule just now instead of the exception. Our Principal, Mrs. Abraham and Miss Empson are among the many who have had to " go under ". But they, unlike the average member, have of necessity " somehow " to put in an appearance and attend to the needs of those of us who look and long for comforting words and consolation. Since our last " Monthly " appeared, Nora Kennedy and her Father have both gone Home, and there is not a member of our Centre who will not miss that sweet good natured, joyous little angel. We had the good fortune to visit her a day or so before she died and had the exquisite joy of her sweet appreciation of the flowers we took her. In our quiet moments of meditation our thoughts persist in journeying to her home where her self-sacrificing Mother had nursed her Father through many years of illness, and Nora for the past twelve months going from one to the other ever cheering and attending to their needs night and day. It is well that we still have angels like Mrs. Kennedy with us, although the world, just now, seems very dark to most of us.
Ida Kennedy (who is also deaf) was love itself where her sister Nora was concerned. She sacrificed every pleasure that the young heart naturally longs for, to devote herself exclusively to the sister who was so very dear to her.

ooo

Madcap Mabel Dow is in the Homeopathic Hospital where she underwent an operation. We visited her today, almost immediately after the painful event and found her " just herself ", as full of life and good spirits as when enjoying the best of health. Need we say that she at once became quite a favourite with doctors and nurses alike and that we feel, well, just a little bit jealous that they have Our Mab all to themselves. Joe Leber is also an inmate of the Homeopathic, having undergone an operation for appendicitis, but no one visiting him would believe it, for when we visited him he was absolutely bubbling over with fun and seemed to take the serious operation as a huge joke.

ooo

Mr. Alex. Wilson has lost his brother and sister, Connie Ball her Mother and Mr. Paul, ex-Missioner his Father. The sympathy and loving consolation of our little world is with them.

It is with regret we learn that a nephew (Lieut. Ernest Milton Martin) of Mr. H. Sumner Martin B.A;L.L.B. also a brother of Mr. G.Vial were recently killed at the front.

ABOUT PEOPLE and EVENTS.

Our new title is the work of Mr. Ernest R.Smith and the sketch of the late Mr. Alex.Williamson and the Challenge Shield design by Mr. M.L. Miller to whom we tender our best thanks for these gifts.

ooo

Mr. R.J.Oehr, our Honorary Secretary, and Mrs. Oehr were entertained by the Choir of Cairns Memorial Church, East Melbourne, at a Complimentary Social on Sat. Sept.14th, when Mr. Oehr was presented with a blackwood rolltop desk in recognition of 19 years service as honorary Choirmaster. A brass jardiniere and stand was the gift of the Choir to Mrs. Oehr.

ooo

The Herald of Sept. 21st contained a portrait of Mr. G.Brown, member of the General Board of our Society, and a lengthy, descriptive article on the public parks and gardens of which Mr. Brown is Curator.

ooo

Mr. W.H.Crush, who is still doing War Work at home, in a letter to our Principal says, he gets little time for correspondence, it being almost bed time when he gets home after ceasing work. "Our Monthly" (although sent) has not reached him for several months. He is well and doing well, but longs to get settled once more in civilian life. He is glad to learn that the Queensland deaf have,at last, got an Institute of their own and wants to know when N.S.W. intend making a move in this direction.

ooo

The Members of the Royal Association in aid of the Deaf and Dumb, London, have presented the Rev. F.W.G.Gilby (ex-Chaplain-Superintendent) with a cheque for £200 in recognition of his faithful services to the deaf of London.

ooo

Mr. Jas. Paul, Father of our ex-Assistant Missioner, died on Saturday, Junelst.last. The Kilmarnock Standard of June 8th contained a good likeness of Mr. Paul together with a lengthy tribute to his work amongst the deaf of Ayrshire. Mr.Paul was originally a bookbinder by trade. He became Missioner to the Ayshire Mission in 1881 and held the position, until his death. Mr. John M.Paul was recently appointed by the Committee of the Mission to succeed his Father.

ooo

We extend our earnest sympathy to Mr. John M. Paul upon his loss, and congratulate him upon being chosen to continue the work of his Father.

ooo

Amongst the country visitors to the Show, and incidentally,to Our Centre, we noticed Mr. J.E.Muir, Mr.Gus. Damman, Mr. Bob Hamilton, Mr.Veale of Lake Bolac and Mr. J.Hunt of Ouyen. Mrs. Damman has also been on a visit to Melbourne and had a most pleasant time. Once upon a time she was one of the most popular and regular frequenters of the Centre, and the " deaf of those days " were right glad to see her pleasant face again.

ooo

Word has come from Adelaide that Mrs. Martin (nee Doris Davis) has a son. Sincere and hearty congratulations from all of us.

The Deaf Ladies of Sydney have presented Our Principal with a handsome wallet.

Mrs. Riddell and Miss Mansfield of Sydney have just returned to their own State after a month's stay in Melbourne. They had a good time. There is a rumour that one, at least, of these ladies may in the not distant future, return to Melbourne for " keeps ".

ooo

Mrs. W.A.Paterson recently had a short holiday trip to Kilcunda.

ooo

Mr. Tom. Nelson spent the first week of Sept. at Mount Buffalo. He had a most enjoyable time. He says it was all so new to him. He had never seen snow before and the snow balling and tobogganning and ski-ing were glorious and exhilarating fun. He won first prize at a fancy dress Ball personating a washerwoman. He is to give a paper on his trip at a meeting of the Men's Guild to be held on 29th of Oct.

ooo

Miss G.W.Burke who has had a month's holiday in Ballarat has just returned to Melbourne, having had a pleasant time.

ooo

FIVE SOLDIER SONS.

Yet another of Mrs. Hartley's sons has joined the A.I.F, making five in all. One has returned wounded and with honours, one was killed in France and his comrades subscribed for a handsome monumental stone for his resting place (the Australian Y.M.C.A. kindly sent photographs of same to Mrs. Hartley) two are still fighting and one is on his way to the front. Mr. Bob. Hamilton has one brother fighting in Palestine and thirteen cousins in France, two other brothers volunteered but were rejected. Miss Rose Dow has two brothers stll at the front(one will return with the " Anzacs " very soon) and one other returned wounded and was discharged some time ago. Miss Doris Hickey also has a brother in the A.I.F. Some months ago, we asked our deaf readers to send along particulars of their relatives serving in the A.I. F. and although we are aware that the number is far greater than the average from " normal " families, Miss Graham was the only one to reply. Will deaf readers having brothers, cousins or other relatives at the Front, or returned, or on their way there, let Mr. Frewin know all about them ? Our readers, generally, are very interested in what our little World is doing in the great War.

A GHOST NIGHT.

Many of us who belong to the nervous section of our Utopia were very much alarmed and not a little unnerved on seeing, in bold type, upon our Notice Board, that " Ghosts " were to " have a night " on the 29th of Aug. at our Centre. It was a night, thought we, to stay away, but more courageous freinds linked arms with us and brought us along. We found the hall prettily decorated with Japanese lanterns and flags and there was quite a large number of " Workers " and their friends, for the " Ghosts " were to walk for the Workers Club, and to furnish the wherewithal to purchase Christmas parcels for our soldier boys. Our Principal presided and made an appeal on behalf of the Workers Fund. He spoke in the most appreciative terms of the work done by the Workers Club, firstly, under the direction of its founder, Mrs. J.E.Muir, and latterly under the enthusiastic guidance of Mrs. F.E.Frewin. He said, the officers and members were ever ready to work for the Red Cross and all patriotic movements. He reminded the audience that they had with them two Sydney deaf ladies who had come over to gather knowledge of the various educational, social and

recreative organisations being carried on under the auspices of our Society, and on behalf of the members, gave them a most hearty welcome. The " ghosts " were a most happy crowd although they were shrouded in white sheets with skeleton eye holes for faces. And the most timorous were soon found taking part in the guessing competition of who was who. The 1st prize for guessing most names of ghosts was won by Mr.T.Peters with 11 guesses. Messrs. W. Anderson and A. Tyzzer were second with 10 guesses each. Mrs. C. Robertson, Miss Iris Boortz and Messrs. N.Hughes and O.Quinton, third with 9 guesses each. The second and third prizes necessitated a ballot to decide who should get them. Mr. W. Anderson won the 2nd and Miss I.Boortz the 3rd prize. A goodly sum was realised by the Social and the ladies who introduced the innovation are to be congratulated upon the success of the event. Mrs. F.E.Frewin deserves special mention for certainly the greater part of the preparations fell to her share.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

The Women's Guild was re-opened on 27th Aug. The attendance was large. Owing to the absence of the President, Miss M. Dow, who was not well, Mrs. A. Wilson took the chair. The Principal opened the meeting with prayer, and a very hearty welcome was tendered to Mrs. Riddell and Miss Mansfield of Sydney who were on a visit to Melbourne. They, having no Guild or Club for deaf ladies in Sydney were very much interested in the procedure of our Guild. Miss Mab. Dow rendered the hymn " Lead Kindly Light " and Miss Ruby Peters also gave a recitation. Stories given by several members were much enjoyed and the pleasant evening was brought to a close with supper, partaken of jointly with the members of the Men's Guild.
On Setp. 17, Miss Minnie Aram gave a recitation " My Dugout" and Miss Doris Hickey rendered the hymn entitled " Nearer, My God to Thee " and afterwards gave two papers on " Busy little people " and " Boat life in Amsterdam".

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 30th of July, the ordinary meeting of the above Guild was held, and Mr. W.Bladier gave a paper on " Wonders of the Submarine ". Mr. T. Peters paper on Aug.13th was humourously titled " Motor Bike ". His explanation of its mechanism, powers and possibilities was both instructive and entertaining. On the 27th of August, Mr. O.Tyzzer read a paper on " The Australian Commonwealth ". All the papers were greatly appreciated. On the 10th of Sept. the third Annual Amalgamated Guilds' Social was held in the Upper Hall. There was a good muster. Fortyfive members being present and indulged in games and conversation. An enjoyable evening was spent.

THE RAMBLERS.

The Ramblers anxious to do honour to deaf lady friends expected from Sydney arranged for a visit to the Fire Station on the 17th of August, and Our Principal made ready to entertain them to tea in his room. Unfortunately, word did not arrive of the postponement of the visit until it was too late to make alterations, so it was decided to keep the appointment. Most of the members were at the Centre to time and the Fire Station was visited. Everyone noticed the absence of horses, the rapid manner in which they " got ready " used to be the great feature of the fireman's show, now the honour is shared between the visit to the look-out tower and the marvels of the signalling or " call " system. The firemen were very patient with us and let us see everything of interest and that is a big order. Our Principal and Miss Empson acted as

interpreters. Having thanked our kind hosts, we returned to the Centre where, in the Principal's room, Miss Empson had prepared quite a sumptuous feast for us. Altogether we had a great time.. The Ramblers visited the Botanical Gardens on the 7th of Sept. and afterwards returned to the Centre for tea. The " fixture " was for Blackburn but owing to the illness of the Chief. it was decided to postpone the Blackburn visit.

DEAF WORKERS CLUB.

The fifth annual report of the above club was submitted at the Annual Meeting held at the Centre on the 14th of Sept. Regret was expressed that ill health had prevented Mrs. Williamson from attending their meetings during the past year, also at her resignation of the position of Hon. Sec. She had been a most enthusiastic worker. The sympathy of the whole club went out to her in her great and irretrievable loss. Her husband would be missed very much, he had been a generous donor and was popular with the deaf community. Mrs. Williamson had not severed her connection with the club, her withdrawal from active work was due to ill health alone. Gifts for soldiers, also for the Blackburn Home for the Deaf, were displayed upon a table during the meeting. The election of officers resulted as follows : - President, Mrs. F.E.Frewin; Vice-Pres. Mrs. E. Johnson; Hon. Sec. Miss R. Dow; Hon. Treas. Miss T.Fletcher. Committee - Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Gladman, Misses Graham, Hickey, Crawford, M.Dow and A. Foster. The financial side of the club will be shown in the next issue of our " Letter ".

ADULT DEAF ATHLETIC CLUB.

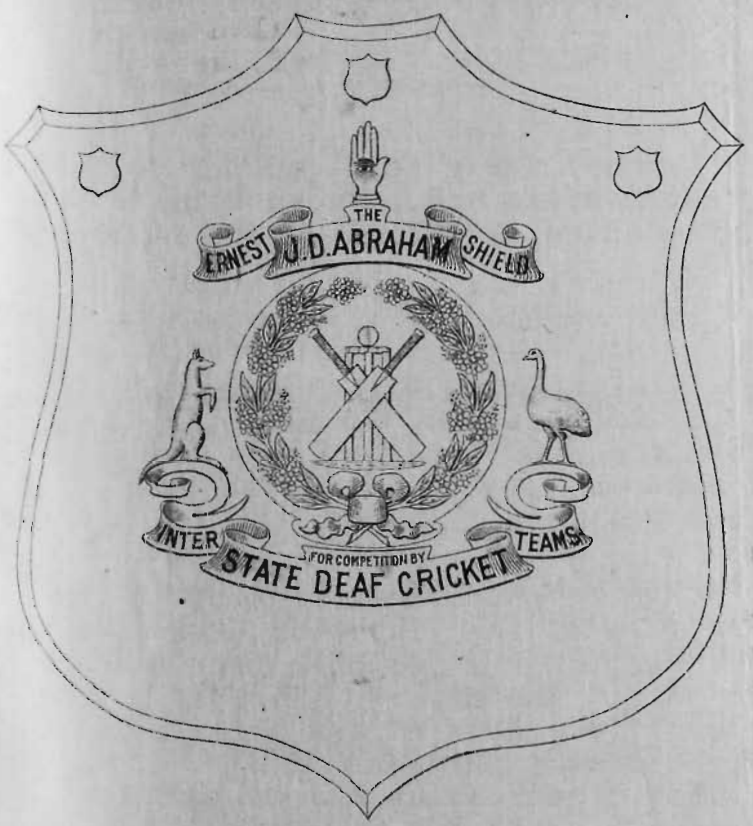
The annual meeting of this club was held at the Centre on the afternoon of 21st September, with Mr. M.L.Miller, the President in the Chair. Most of the members were present and the gathering was a most enthusiastic one. After the reading of the annual report and balance sheet, which were adopted, the President addressed the meeting, his remarks were of a congratulatory nature and he referred more especially to the Victorians Victory at the Triangular Interstate Matches. On rising he was received with prolonged applause and his address was frequently punctuated with bursts of clapping. Mr. J.E.Muir, now of Warburton, a past President spoke a few words of encouragement, and by the hearty reception he received it was evident that he ia as popular as ever amongst our young men. Mr. Abraham, who had promised a prize of £1.1.0 each for the best batting and bowling averages, was invited to present his trophies to the respective winners, Messrs. T.J.Peters and R.Beattie. Reference was also made to the Interstate Challenge Shield presented by Mr. Abraham, (an illustration of which appears in this issue of'Our Monthly'). In presenting the prizes Mr. Abraham spoke a few words of encouragement. Mr. W.A.Paterson also addressed the meeting.The Office Bearers for the following year are : - President, Mr. M.L.Miller; Vice-Presidents Messrs. W.A.Paterson, F.E.Frewin and J.M.Johnston; Hon. Tres. Mr. J.Cariss; Hon. Sec. Mr. A.Sutherland; Committee. - Messrs. C.Robertson, T.Peters, W.Anderson, and M.G.Mortimer. All present were treated to a sumptuous tea given by the President for which he was heartily thanked.

GENERAL BAGRD. BOARD.

The Farm and Finance Committee and the General Board of our Society met on the evening of Sept. 23rd at our Centre. Mr. G.G.MercyJ.P. presided and Messrs. H.Sumner Martin B.A, L.L.B, M.L.Miller, G.Vial, H.Bickford, W. A.Dickens, F.E.Frewin, H.Luff, J.Johnston, R.J.Oehr (Hon. Sec.) and E.J.D. Abraham (Principal) were present. Minutes were confirmed, accounts

passed for payment and Principal's report read and received. The chief business was the appointment of a Missioner and a Country Collector. Although certain action was agreed to with regard to the Missioner no appointment was made and it was decided to advertise for a Collector. The Principal submitted a re-arranged plan of routes for Country Collectors which was approved. Regret was expressed by the Chairman and other members of the Committee at the loss of so loyal a servant of the Society as Mr. Alex. Williamson and sympathy with Mrs. Williamson. After standing as a token of grief and respect the Committee adopted a resolution showing in a most tangible manner their appreciation of Mr. Williamson's 26 years of service and which it was felt would be best welcomed by Mrs. Williamson. Mention was also made of the faithful services of Mr. A. McLellan at the farm who has just passed his tenth year of service. It was resolved that Mr. McLellan be made the recipient of an appreciative memento of the occasion.

ooo



LACROSSE CLUB.

The Season ended in favour of Malvern No.1. with Hawthorn No.1 close for second place. The Adult Deaf No1. came in 3rd. The grounds of our failure to keep ourselves in the forefront were due no doubt to three causes. Firstly, the retirement of Mr. G.Edwards from the game early in the season through an injury, secondly, through a number of our players receiving injuries which of course lowered their form of play and thirdly, through lack of combination system of play. As to No.2 team, it suffered a serious set back in important matches by putting themselves in the field short-handed, nevertheless, they gained the third place of honour. This is not a bad one for a new team who only started its existence at the beginning of the lacrosse season. We have high hopes of seeing them in better position next season. Summary of play : - 29th June, the climatic conditions could not have been worse. Adult Deaf No 1 and Hawthorn No 1. Scores - Hawthorn 9 goals to out team's 6. No.2 Team also suffered defeat at the hands of Williamstown who scored 10 goals to our 3. 6th July at Yarra Park Adult Deaf No 1 as the result of effective team work beat Coburg whose play lacked combination. Scores 15 goals to 5. The No.2 Team played a man short but easily won from South Yarra No 2. Scores 17 goals to 2. Early in the third term W.Vivian received a nasty blow on his left eyebrow which necessitated him being treated at the Alfred Hospital. July 13th, owing to the Brighton Grammar School ground being under water , match postponed indefinitely. No.2 Team caused a surprise by overcoming the unbeaten High School by 16 to 5. July 20th. No.1 had a bye. Brighton Presbyterian No 2 sprang a surprise on our No 2 team by defeating us by 13 to 5. During the game C.Robertson received an injury to his shoulder making it out of the question for him to take the field again during the season. - Concluding scores next month.

VIC. BRANCH A. D. & D. A.

Mr. F.E.Frewin (Hon. Sec) desires to remind subscribers that annual subscriptions are now due and should be paid on or before the 31st Oct. Please address to Adult Deaf Centre, Flinders St. Melbourne.

THE EDITOR of the MONTHLY -

Desires to remind his readers that he can only insert news when he receives it. If the secretaries of the various organisations for the Adult Deaf will send in their reports promptly to Mr. Frewin, they will render the Editor a helpful service. News to appear in the next issue should be sent in on or before the 18th of each month. Both City and Country friends are invited to forward personal and interesting paragraphs about the adult deaf. If after reading the ' Monthly' you find some special bit of news has not appeared, you may safely conclude that the Editor has no knowledge of the event and that he looks to you to see that the necessary particulars are sent on to him.

COUNTRY COLLECTOR - WANTED.

The Adult Deaf and Dumb Society has a vacancy for a deaf country Collector. Applicants should enclose copies of testimonials and address same to the Hon. Sec. Mr. R.J.Oehr, Adult Deaf Mute Centre, 32 Flinders St, Melbourne, from whom particulars can be obtained.

DEAF HOUSEMAID - WANTED

A deaf mute housemaid is required at the Deaf Mutes Home, Blackburn. Good wages and comfortable quarters. Apply by letter to - Matron, Deaf Mutes Home, Blackburn. Victoria.

WAR BONDS.

A Co-operative movement has been initiated to encourage the deaf to buy War Certificates. It is under the auspices of the Victorian Branch of the A.D.& D.A. with Mr. F.E.Frewin as Hon. Sec, and is in three sections any of which our deaf members are invited to join. The £1. certificates may be obtained by 35 weekly payments of 6d or 17 payments of one shilling with a final 6d, and the £5. certificates by 35 weekly payments of 2/6. Or you can put the whole sum down in one payment. So roll up and do your bit.

ooo

Mr. O.Quinton one of our Lacrosse champions found himself famous the other day with his portrait in the "Herald " with appreciative comment upon his play.

ooo

Messrs. Luff and Frewin officiated at the Sunday evening services alternately during the illness of Mr. Abraham.

ooo

We regret to learn that Mr. Gretton ex- hallkeeper, has been wounded and hope he will soon be restored to good health.

ooo

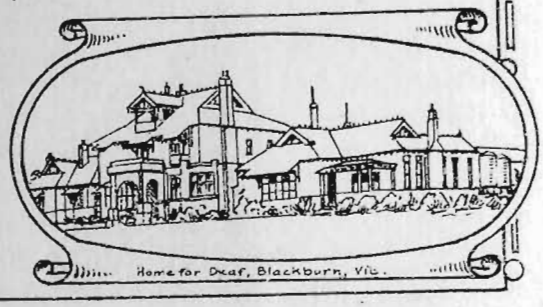
NEXT RALLY.

The Quarertly Rally is to be held on the 10th of Oct. and is to celebrate the 17th Anniversary of the Arrival in Melbourne of Our Principal Mr. Abraham, and his wife, the Matron of the Blackburn Home. There will be amongst other attractions, a Variety Entertainment. A great muster of the Adult Deaf is expected. WATCH THE NOTICE BOARD.



OUR MONTHLY LETTER

ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.



Home for Deaf, Blackburn, Vic.

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F.E. Frewin, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E. Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1s., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1s. 6d. per annum post free. Donations toward the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

VOL. 15. NOVEMBER 1918. No. 3

OUR SOLDIER RELATIVES.

Mr. R.J.Hamilton says in a letter to the Hon.Sec. that three of his cousins have returned invalided from France, one has been killed, and two wounded but still in France. His brother is now a Corporal and still in France. He sends kind regards to all deaf friends.

The Hon. Sec. also received a letter from Mr.J.Kenworthy of Bairnsdale. His brother is still in France and has been there for four years. He has now joined the Aerial Corps. He wishes that his brother had stuck to the Light Horse instead of joining the Aerial Corps. He sends kind regards to all deaf friends.

The brother of Mr. and Miss Mortimer returned sick from the firing line last year and got his discharge from the Caulfield Military Hospital. He had quite a lot of narrow escapes but very few scratches. He was [illegible] presented with a gold medal and certificate by the Traralgon Shire Council.

Mr. Blackmore passed through Melbourne on the 29th of Oct. on his way from Sydney to Adelaide, having received news of the death of his brother at the Front.

Miss Tottis Fletcher's brother has also been killed. Our sympathy is with them both.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY - £ 9. 2. 3.

Last year, Our Principal asked for a record collection and we gave it to him. This year he called for yet another record and the Congregation responded most generously, contributing £1.2.3. more than the previous year, including £1.5.0. from the Blackburn Home - an increase of 5/. on the 1917 offertory. This, we think, will prove to be our top score. It is the largest collection we know of from a congregation composed of deaf only. In the morning, Mr. Abraham spoke on " Medicine of the Past" and in the evening, his subject was " Surgery of the Future ", speaking from the words " Trouble me not, the door is closed " and " Take care of him ".

OUR FARM.

We were never so short of labour as at present, and never had a larger area of land under cultivation, nevertheless, we are getting along splendidly. By careful "nursing" and manuring we managed to get a large number of Gladioli into bloom toward the end of Sept. and Watsonia throughout Oct, by special pruning we secured a fine supply of roses in Sept. and Oct, which enabled us to meet the demands of all our regular customers.

WE ENTERTAIN OUR CHIEF.

The Deaf of Melbourne commemorated the coming to Victoria of Our Principal at the Centre on Thursday Oct.10th. It was the seventeenth Anniversary and Mr. and Mrs. E.J.D.Abraham, Mr.Douglas and Miss Elsie Abraham were the guests.of the evening. About 120 members and friends attended and Mr. M.L. Miller presided. In a very happy speech the Chairman congratulated Our Principal upon his achievements, and the deaf upon the benefits they enjoyed mainly through the enthusiastic labours of Mr. Abraham. They were surrounded by evidences of the success of his efforts. Mr. Abraham said, he could scarcely realise that he had been with them 17 years. He gloried in their confidence, loyalty and friendly spirit toward him and hoped this happy harmony would ever continue.

On behalf of the General Board, Mr. Abraham presented Mr. McLellan, the overseer at the Blackburn Farm with an overmantle and vases in recognition of his 10 years continuous service at the Farm. In making the presentation Mr. Abraham said they were not recognising in this special way the fact that Mr. McLellan had done his work, or even that he had done it well. That was his duty and everybody's duty but because he took an interest in the scheme being developed. Mr. McLellan had been with him since the inception of the movement and in the early days had joyfully given practically the whole of his time to the movement. It was no infrequent thing, a few years back, to see McLellan and one or two others " limeing" or watering throughout the night, and he was ever ready at any moment to give a helping hand wherever special service was needed. Mr. McLellan said he was at a loss for words to express his thanks. He would always treasure the gift and it was encouraging to know that one's efforts were appreciated and so generously recognised. He said he could write volumes about the starting of the farm. They were hard times at the beginning. Reminiscences crowded into his mind. He called to mind the occasion when the Chief was grubbing and the axe slipped and cut his leg instead, and the day he pulled Tom Nelson out of the lake and when he swam to the rescue of Mr. Abraham's nephew. He remembered too, "moving" from Brighton and Tommy Tonkins Herculean effort to carry Mrs. Abraham's wardrobe and the smashing thereof; the temporary home at Box Hill, the new waggon and the start to the farm with tools to begin the grubbing of the land. He felt very grateful to the Committee and hoped by further effort to show in a practical way his real appreciation. Mr. A.W.Sutherland recited " What I am and what I Do " and for encore, gave a humorous piece called " A Story of a Scarecrow ". Both were well rendered.

" Is Marriage a Failure " was the title of a serio-comic sketch played by Mr. W.A.Paterson, Mrs. Cove and little Sadie Reynolds. Of course Mr. W. A.Paterson was the Star, indeed the piece was most " all star ". When W.A.P. has the boards no one desires to notice anyone else, as a matter of fact if you did desire otherwise it would make no difference, because It's impossible to keep your eyes away from him and his antics. He studies his parts well and plays each individual character to perfection and his humour is always refined. When W.A.P. is before the Curtain, if his audience is not smiling it is laughing and when not laughing, just roaring. He certainly made marriage a huge success in this instance and was ably assisted by Mrs. Cove and little Sadie.

An Auction Sale of back numbers of magazines realised £1.16.7. The door collection was £1.4.1. The Deaf Workers Club ably supervised the supper arrangements. The programme was in the hands of the Amusements Committee.

ooo

Mr. M.L.Miller has received from friends and wellwishers 15/. to purchase books for the Library.

INTERSTATE RECEPTION REPORT.

A Meeting of the Reception Committee of the Adult Deaf Athletic Club was held in the Men's Club room on the 6th.Aug. Mr. M.L.Miller, the President occupied the Chair. The Hon. Sec.(Mr.F.E.Frewin) submitted a report in connection with the visit to Melbourne of our fellow deaf from New South Wales and South Australia during Christmas week and the arrangements made for their reception and entertainment by the Reception Committee which was composed of representatives from the Deaf Committee, the Adult Deaf Athletic Club, The Victorian Branch of the A.D.& D.A. and the Deaf Workers Club. It was with pleasure that he reported everything had passed off in a most satisfactory manner, nothing of an unpleasant nature occured to mar the harmony of all the proceedings.
A thoroughly pleasant and enjoyable week of Interstate Cricket matches was passed under pleasant surroundings in the Albert Cricket Ground, kindly lent by the Melbourne Cricket Club Authorities. The cricket matches were contested in a most friendly spirit and it is pleasing to note that in the cricket contests, our boys proved to be the Victors. N.S.W. were very close runners up and S.A. good triers. The luncheon and other arrangements during the cricket matches, meetings, gatherings and functions connected with them, which went to make up the programme arranged by the Reception Committee were carried out in a very satisfactory manner and were well looked after by bands of willing workers whose efforts contributed in a great measure to their success and to whom hearty thanks are due. The receipts from various sources towards a fund to defray the cost of the whole series of functions totalled £31.14.6 and the Expenditure £26.15.8. The Visitors expressed having spent a very enjoyable time and there is no doubt, they carried away with them pleasant recollections of their visit to Melbourne. Mr. W.A.Paterson, the Hon. Treasurer submitted the Balance Sheet showing a surplus of £4.18.10. Both report and balance sheet were adopted. The President of the Adult Deaf Athletic Club and the Hon. Secretary of the Deaf Committee were appointed Interstate Function Trusts and took charge of the balance of £4.18.10.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 24th of Sept. the ordinary meeting of the above guild was held and Mr. C. Robertson gave his second paper on " The Money Question " which proved to be interesting. On 15th Oct. Mr. F.Cummins gave his maiden paper on " The Beginning of the War " which was much appreciated. He rendered it in good style and was congratulated by the members. Several members spoke on both subjects which increased the enjoyment of the evening.

" OUR MONTHLY LETTER FUND".

Mr. F.E.Frewin, the Hon Sec of the Deaf Committee, acknowledges with best thanks the following subscriptions and donations:- Mr. R.Stewart of ~~Bolinda-10/.-Mr.W.Cann-5/.-Mrs.-of-Heyfield-1/.~~
Bolinda 10/. Messrs. W.Cann, N.Rankin, Hugh Smith of Myall, and F.Lynas of Wooroonooki 5/. each. Mrs. Billingham, Messrs. J.M.Johnston, B.B.B.Phillips of S.A. Mrs. A.Frewin of Chelsea and Miss Pansy Elliott of Mildura 2/6 ea. Mr. & Mrs. G.Damman of Warburton, Messrs. A.Kidd of Glenferrie, J.Cardwell of Lorne , J.Hunt of Ouyen and J.Kenworthy of Bairnsdale 2/. each. Miss G. Caldwell of Ballarat, Messrs.F.Briscoe of Sydney, G.Battersby of St.Arnaud and Mr. and Mrs. Mills of Waaia 1/6 each. Mrs. Crockford, Miss N.Adams, Messrs. J.Anderson of Yinnar, W.J.Anderson, T.Nelson, R.Stewart of Bolinda Mrs. Mills of Heyfield, Misses A.Foster and M.Gibson 1/. each. Mr. W.Mills 4/. Mr. Hodgson of Adelaide 15/6 (per subscriptions).

LACROSSE. Continued from the OCT."LETTER".

On the 27th of July, contrary to expectations No1. team did not put up as good a game as usual being beaten by Malvern 13 to 6. At this match the Adult Deaf lost their chance of premiership honours.
A good game was witnessed between the No2 team and the Deaf School, the Adults won by 17 goals to 12. On the 3rd. August,Adult Deaf on this occasion played one of the closest and best contested games of the season. The match being against Hawthorn and resulted in a tie - 12 goals each. The spectators were treated to a fine and fast exhibition of Lacrosse . The No2 team were outplayed by Williamstown who scored 9 goals to our 4. Aug.10th, both of our teams had easy wins. No1 team beating Coburg by 18 to 6 while No2 team beat South Yarra by 17 to 2. On 17th. August, No1 team again accounted for Brighton Presbyterians by 13 to 6, while No2. team had the misfortune to take field with a man short and the result was our defeat by High School 9 goals to 4. The Lacrosse season ended on the 24th of August and the premiership results placed both of our teams 3rd on the list in their respective sections. No1 team on A. section and No2 team in C. section. Special praise must be bestowed on the No2 team for its fine effort, considering its frequent handicap through shortage of players, in gaining 3rd. position.

OLD NEWSPAPERS and FRUIT CASES.

Readers possessing old newspapers and fruit cases for which they have no use are asked kindly to donate same to our Blackburn Farm. We are continually running short of wrapping paper and cases, used for packing flowers in. Both articles may be left at the Adult Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. or sent direct to the Farm.

F.F.ROSE PENSION FUND.

Mr. F.Frewin, Hon Sec. begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations :- Mr. and Mrs. J.Cardwell of Lorne 5/. Miss M.Gibson 2/6, Miss Gibbinson of Adelaide 2/6 and Mr.J.Hunt of Ouyen 2/.

PERSONAL PARS.

The Misses B. and A. Graham have presented several volumes of views of European cities to the Centre and a number of framed pictures to the Blackburn Home.

Our Principal gave a farewell spread to our Sydney Visitors, Mrs. Riddell and Miss Mansfield, in his room at the Centre on Wednesday, Sept.18th." The Ramblers" and a few friends of the special guests made up a happy company.

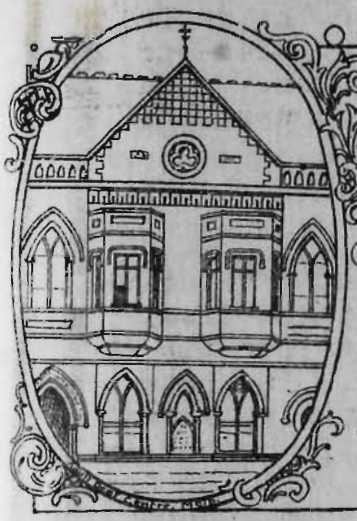
Mr. S.Ferguson of Bowmans Forest was down for the Melbourne Show and paid a visit to Warburton. He is very popular amongst us at the Centre.

Mrs. J.E.Muir of Warburton is now on a visit to Melbourne.

C U P D A Y P I C N I C

The Annual Picnic will be held at MORDIALLOC on CUP DAY NOV. 5th

FOR PARTICULARS SEE NOTICE BOARD.

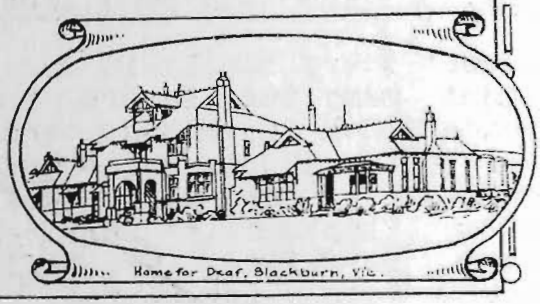


OUR MONTHLY LETTER

ORGAN OF THE ADULT DEAF AND DUMB SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

"OUR LETTER" is posted to all Deaf Mutes in Victoria and no charge is made. If you do not receive it regularly or know of any deaf person to whom it is not sent kindly send word to Mr. F.E. Frewin, Deaf Mute Centre, Flinders St. E. Melbourne, to whom all communications should be addressed.

"OUR LETTER" will be posted to hearing friends in Victoria for 1S., and to deaf and hearing in other States for 1S. 6d. per annum post free. Donations toward the cost of production will be gratefully received and acknowledged.



Home for Deaf, Blackburn, Vic.

VOL. 15. DECEMBER 1918. No. 4

GREETINGS TO ALL.

A merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers. Yes, we feel that we may now give full expression to that glorious old time wish. For four years the whole World has laboured in agony, sorrow and grief and it has not been in the heart of any of us to be merry, but today the heart is full of gladness and the mind revolves with song. Once again after an interval of two thousand years we sense the voice of the Angels of God. " Behold I bring the glad tidings of great joy - to all peoples .. Glory to God in the Highest. On earth, Peace, Goodwill toward men. May the Holy Spirit of Good be with you, the Lamp of Knowledge illuminate your eyes, and the Hope of joys to come strengthen you to march under the Banner of Faith - the implicit belief in Our Father of Love. For all things work together for good to those who love good.

Whilst our young people are merry at this Festive Season, and God forbid that we should wish it otherwise, many of we older people will be looking at vacant chairs with tear stained eyes, but with hearts aglow with pride, for our heroes who gave their all. The brave boys, " flesh of our flesh" who, by their holy sacrifice - their crucifiction for the World's peace - has made possible the consummation of the great ideal of the World's Saviour, the Prince of Peace. The erection of the Cornice Stone of the Palace, the foundation stone of which was laid at Calvary - Peace and Goodwill. The realisation, the recognition of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of Man.

HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE.

Mr. S.W.Showell, Missioner to the Deaf of Queensland is expected in Melbourne early in January and will officiate at one or more of the Sunday Services at our Church. Watch the Notice Board.

Mrs. Williamson has been on a visit to Warburton.

Miss M.Cole has returned from a six weeks holiday at Waitcha.

Mr. W.H.Duncan of Cranbourne recently spent a few days in Melbourne.

COMING EVENTS - Special Congregational Meeting in the Centre Hall, Thursday Dec 5th. 7.45pm. Business - " Asst. Missioner. 8.45-(or thereabouts) Annual Meeting of Victorian Branch of the A.D.& D.A. Xmas Rally Dec. 19th . Extraordinary Programme. Keep your optics upon the Notice Board.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES for PEACE.

Almost every family in our little World has its representative at the Front, many two, several three and in more than one instance five. What wonder then if we have been depressed and little inclined for the old time boisterous happiness so much associated with our Centre. In these circumstances there is no need to emphasise the sincerity and spiritual joy of our Thanksgiving Services which were held in our little church on Sunday Nov. 17th. Mr. Luff preached in the morning and held the Congregation deeply interested. In the evening, Miss Doris Hickey opened the Service with "Peace, Perfect Peace", and Mr. W.A.Paterson signed a psalm of praise. Mr.J.Johnston read the lesson and our Principal - Chaplain offered up prayer and preached the sermon. His text was " I bring you good tidings of great joy - to all peoples ". He said," these were great times. The mind of man could scarcely grasp what had happened, what was happening. The World would never again witness such events. Old things were becoming new. The World would be a cleaner World, a purer World, and a kinder World. The terrible catastrophe, the awful shock, the heartrending grief had caused the whole of mankind to wake up to its responsibility. Man knows now that he is his brother's keeper. But for the moment one could only chant the Anthem of the Angels of old, Glory to God in the highest, on earth Peace, Goodwill towards men.

PICNIC.

The weather was somewhat cold on Cup day, nevertheless, those of us who spent the holiday at Mordialloc with Our Picnic party had a most enjoyable time. There were seventy four persons present. The day was given to rambles, rowing and games. Our Principal was present during the afternoon and spent his time with the children.

ARMISTICE NIGHT.

A special meeting of the Congregation was called for the 14th of Nov. with the object of obtaining their views on the matter of the appointment of an Assistant Missioner. There was a good attendance, and our Principal was in the Chair. He explained the object for which the meeting was called and then suggested postponement of the discussion and that the evening be made a Patriotic one, a night of Thanksgiving and rejoicing. A motion to this effect was put and carried unanimously. The Chairman said that the members should bring into existence something that would permanently commemorate the declaration of peace, thyy should be ready with their memorial by the time peace is declared. He thought the Words " Glory to God in the Highest on earth Peace, Goodwill to Men " painted on the wall at the back of the platform would be the best way to mark this great event. After some discussion the matter was referred to the Deaf Committee together with arrangements for Thanksgiving Services and a Peace Celebration Party. Mr. M. L.Miller moved and Mr. W.A.Paterson seconded - " That we, the Deaf members of the Community express our loyalty to the throne and Empire and fervent joy at the termination of the terrible world war with its great devastation and that the outcome has been a great Victory for the Arms of the Allies representing Liberty, Freedom and Equal Justice. Whose stern resolve towards that and evoke our warmest admiration and who under the guidance of an

over ruling Providence have brought about the triumph of Right over wrong, and that we rejoice that a glorious and enduring peace is about to dawn for the future of Mankind ". The resolution was carried unanimously with three cheers. Mr. J.M.Johnston proposed and Mr.M.G.B.Mortimer seconded that the General Board of the Adult Deaf Society be asked to have a flag pole installed at the Centre. The motion was carried unanimously. The question of whether Thanksgiving Service offering should be devoted to the Melbourne Hospital Fund as suggested by Mr. Paterson , was deferred to the Deaf Committee.

OUR HEROES.

Sergeant Charles Robert Cariss, second youngest son of Mrs. Amelia Cariss and brother to John Cariss was killed in action on the 30th Sept. He was 25 years old. A nephew (William) was killed on 2nd of May and another (Albert) was killed on Oct. 12th.1917.
Lieutenant C.B.Berglund, cousin of Tom Nelson, died of influenza in a Hospital in France on the 5th.Nov.
A cousin of Miss M.Gibson is a prisoner of War in northern Germany, having been captured by the raider "Wolf" last year while on his way to New Guinea on the " Matunga". He says he is receiving fair treatment from the Huns, but has to work hard wheeling turf over marshy country for 10 hours a day at the handsome wage of sevenpence halfpenny per day.

MEN'S GUILD.

On the 29th of Oct. Mr. T.Nelson gave a paper on " A trip to Mount Buffalo which was well enjoyed by all especially his humorous way of telling of the various incidents of the visit.
On Nov.12th, the President, Mr.J.M.Johnston gave an address which took the form of congratulations to the Victorious Allied Armies.The members gave three cheers for the Allies and also for Marshal Foch.

WOMEN'S GUILD.

On Oct.1st, Mrs. Wilson conducted her usual Bible Reading and gave an excellent lesson on " The Influence of Young Women ".
On Oct. 22nd, Miss Aram gave a recitation " The Silver Lining". Mrs. J. E.Muir of Warburton, who was on a visit to Melbourne, was accorded a hearty welcome. The President, Miss R.Dow, gave a paper on " The Kitchen and its Maxims" which was very interesting and instructive.

RAMBLERS.

On the 12th of October, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, a fair muster of Ramblers including gentlemen friends spent the afternoon at Queens Park, Moonee Ponds. After every nook and corner had been explored. and watching with much interest the cadets practising, we turned our steps in the direction of Mrs. Gladman's house where a tea table laden with all kinds of dainties awaited our hungry selves. It was a jolly tea party and wound up with games and conversation. Mrs. Gladman was accorded thanks for adding so much to the pleasure of the outing.
On the 23rd. of Nov, by kind invitation of Mr.A.Sutherland, Hon.Sec.of Cricket Club, a bevy of girl ramblers went to Royal Park to witness the cricket match between the Deaf and North Melbourne cricket teams. Happily for us all, the match resulted in a win for our boys. The North Melb. ladies very kindly entertained us to afternoon tea. After cheers had been given for the winning team, we proceeded to town where the ramblers were invited to tea at Sargents Cafe. The rest of the evening was spent in the library at the Centre, where reading and conversation were indulged in. It was altogether a very pleasant outing.