UNION CONFERENCE BULLETIN. --- I



### OPENING SERVICE OF THE 1954 UNION SESSION

## FOUR MORE YEARS!

#### By W. L. Emmerson

As the great Exposition Auditorium in San Francisco has become the rendezvous for the world conferences of Seventh-Day Adventists, the Watford Town Hall seems to have been accepted as the venue for the quadrennial sessions of the church in these Isles. There was, therefore, a sense of "belonging" about the crowds which thronged the foyer and streamed into the beautiful hall as the time for the opening of the 1954 session drew near on Thursday evening, July 29th. Fervent indeed were the greetings exchanged as brethren and sisters from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales met again, in some cases, for the first time for four long years. For it is at conference time that the far-flung church meets for mutual fellowship and inspiration.

In the weeks prior to these conferences there is always keen anticipation as to who the special visitors will be, and it was a joy to all when the news went out that we were to be ministered to by

## **Our General Conference Visitors**



F. L. Peterson General Conference Associate Secretary



**W. R. Beach** General Conference Secretary



**G. W. Chambers** Secretary, National Service Organization



LEFT.—**G. E. Vandeman,** Associate Secretary, Ministerial Association.

RIGHT.—A. F. Tarr, President, Northern European Division.



When the appointed hour for the opening meeting arrived the main floor of the hall was almost full and there was an overflow into the gallery. A sea of eager faces scanned the platform party as they filed onto the flower-bedecked rostrum, flanked by the flags of the United Kingdom and Eire and backed by a striking chart depicting three angels descending upon the British Isles around which was woven the challenging motto: "Mighty Through God in Time's Last Hour."

"With cheerful voice" and to the tune of "The Old Hundredth" we told forth the praise of the Lord which was in our hearts, and Pastor Beach commended the great congregation and all its needs to God in sincere prayer.

As the lovely song, "There shall be showers of blessing" was beautifully rendered by the King's Heralds quartette it seemed to be an assurance from the Lord Himself of an outpouring of the Spirit which was to come upon all who were ready to receive it.

Then there were welcomes—to our overseas and Division visitors, to the 220 official delegates, and the great assemblage of members from every part of the field.

In their first brief words of reply to the welcome extended to them, the General Conference brethren revealed the great burdens of their hearts



Pastor Beach, coming back to the land of his ancestry—the Beaches left England three hundred and twenty-five years ago!—expressed the fervent hope that in the days to come Britain might make an even greater contribution to the world work than it had done in the past. Pastor Peterson bore his clear testimony, "I'd rather be a Seventh-Day Adventist than anything else in the world," while Pastor Chambers expressed himself as impressed with the consecration of the British ministry which he believed augured well for the future of the work in these Isles.

It was a source of especial gratitude to God that we were called upon to receive the newly-organized church of Portadown in Northern Ireland into the sisterhood of churches at this session. Two years ago there were just four faithful souls meeting together Sabbath by Sabbath in a rented room there. Today, through the blessing of God on the ministry of Pastor W. H. Frazer, there is a fine church of thirty-six believers and more are preparing for baptism.

The conference being now formally organized, we were able to turn to the first spiritual feast of the conference as the Union president, Pastor W. W. Armstrong, arose to address us.

Certainly he could have chosen no more appropriate message for the beginning of our session than the striking words of Hebrews 10:35: "Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward."

In our day the confidence of the world has been badly shaken. The scientists, who have been looked upon by many as the architects of modern civilization, have released in this atomic age powers which they cannot measure, nor yet control, and only a miracle can save the world from limitless destruction.

> (Continued on page 31.) BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

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T. J. Bradley Ministerial Assoc. Secretary, Northern European Division



E. B. Rudge Secretary, Northern European Division

British Union Conference

President's Report 1950 - 1953 By W. W. Armstrong

"BLESS the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name."

One cannot help but join with the Psalmist in this note of exultant praise when considering what the Lord has done through His people during the four years under review.

My mind goes back to the climax of the General-Conference in 1950, when Elder Branson called for a complete consecration to the finishing of the work, and the doubling of our membership as a world goal for the ensuing four years. It was a moving moment as fully ten thousand people stood to their feet in acceptance of the appeal. When this matter was considered by our own Union Committee at a later date, is was realized that only a miracle could bring about the realization of this goal in Great Britain. Nevertheless a strong programme of evangelism was accepted, embracing the three following features:

1. The releasing of more money for evangelism so that bigger and better-equipped campaigns could be conducted, especially in our large cities.

2. The conducting of shorter and more intensive campaigns in conjunction with the Voice Prophecy School.

3. The making of our public ministry more Christcentred, as the result of the workers themselves becoming more personally acquainted with Christ.

This programme was augmented two years later by the timely gift made to this Union by the General Conference which enabled us to purchase the splendid cinema on Regent Street, known as the New Gallery, and an adjoining unit. We wish to place on record at this time our deep appreciation to the General Conference for the financial help which has



E. W. Pedersen H.M. Secretary, Northern European Division

been such a stimulus to evangelism in these isles. We also thank our God for the many overruling providences during the negotiations which finally placed this building in our hands, one of the finest in London, centrally situated, and on one of the most dignified streets.

We would gratefully record also the coming of Pastor and Mrs. G. E. Vandeman. The ministry of our brother has been outstanding in many directions. First, we must mention his powerful presentation of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ in all his doctrinal discourses which has helped considerably to remove the misconception and prejudice against us on this fundamental point. As a consequence, the name of Seventh-Day Adventist is beginning to assume the honoured position it should hold in the minds of thinking men and women. Secondly, a larger vision and added stimulus to evangelism have come to many of our ministers and Bible instructors, and also added confidence in the message to workers and members alike.

We would also like to mention our appreciation of the services of Pastor Ben Glanzer and Dr. W. McFarland in connection with the London campaign.

It is not my purpose in this report to tell in detail of what has been accomplished in the past four years. The presidents, departmental secretaries, and institutional managers will present the facts, each recording progress. What I am anxious to report is the splendid co-operation and unity of purpose which has actuated all the various phases of our work. Books, foods, treatments, cash, etc., will necessarily take a prominent part in our reports, but behind the constant activities of promotion and business is the one great common purpose of winning souls for the kingdom. All have linked arms to reach this grand objective.

A very satisfactory and encouraging picture will be presented regarding the tithes and offerings received in the past four years, and a wonderful report of what has been done in the Ingathering campaigns for the cause of missions. No words could overstate our gratitude to God and to our faithful people for what has been accomplished in this direction.

Outstanding progress will also be seen when a

review of the literature ministry is made, and when the work of the Radio and Voice of Prophecy School is presented. If similar success is not quite so apparent in other branches of our work, it does not imply that there has been lack of vision or leadership. Certain reports will bring to our attention the fact that we are living in an age when problems seem to accumulate and intensify as the days pass. It is an evidence that we are living in the end of time. As evil hastens to the ripening, these perplexities will increase, calling forth from us all, deeper faith and courage in the Lord.

During this present quadrennium an important change has been effected in our educational work. Our denominational leaders have realized that today we are living in a very critical world and that there is an intense searching into every aspect of life. Even the average man today is well informed—though sometimes misinformed—on vital matters. The probings and discoveries of science are tremendous, and many false and clever theories are being propounded everywhere and accepted by the masses.

Our wonderful message meets this modern situation perfectly. It must necessarily do so because it is centred in Him who is the Truth, and "the fulness of the Godhead." But it calls forth from us as members, and more especially as workers, the need to comprehend more fully the "length, breadth, and height" of the truth. A deeper probing is necessary so that we may be fully equipped to meet successfully the subtleties of this modern age. We must be specialists of the truth so that our utterances may make an intelligent appeal.

To meet this need we must first be baptized by the Spirit. Secondly, we must be greater students of the Word in all its many ramifications. Our sons and daughters must obtain a deeper degree of true intellectual preparation than hitherto. We have had to raise the standard of our training in every direction.

For this reason it was decided to raise the status of Newbold from that of a junior college to a senior college, also that it might meet the needs of our Division rather than just this Union. Consequently Newbold has become a Division college, and is now directed by a board representing all the Unions in this Division. We shall be hearing, during this session, what has actually been accomplished since the transfer was made, and what the plans are for the immediate development of the College.

We take this opportunity of congratulating the College upon the splendid graduations which have taken place in the past four years. I believe a record number of young men and women have been prepared for the Lord's service.

Perhaps this is an appropriate place in our report to consider what the result of our intensive evangelistic programme has been. The actual figures will be presented in the next report. Suffice it to say at this juncture that the total number received into fellowship by baptism and vote during this quadrennium is the largest in the history of this Union, and the net gain in our membership is easily a record for any four-year period. This brings deep joy to us, and we give thanks to Almighty God for what He has done for His people. For some time the membership of the British Union has been almost static, and it has been spoken of in reports at previous conference sessions as a serious and perplexing problem. Again our deep thanks are to God for a changed position today. The British membership is numerically on the upgrade. Not only is the number added to our membership a record one, but the serious apostasy figure of past years has been somewhat checked. We are glad to say that apostasies are 31 per cent less than during the previous quadrennium.

Whereas the London campaign has produced some splendid baptisms, for which we are profoundly grateful, we would not have it thought that this good figure we present is largely the result of this great effort. All through the Union, and not least, in the missions, a splendid record of evangelism is presented. In fact, of the net gain recorded, 13 per cent comes from London, and the remaining 87 per cent from the rest of the Union. Our membership has increased 11.8 per cent during the present quadrennium. This is a small increase compared with the great mission fields of the world, but we find a nearer parallel when we look at the increase in the North American Division, which is represented by 12.7 per cent. While we are very grateful for what we can report, we are neither content nor satisfied. There are fifty-two million people to evangelize in our island home, and 7,257 members to do it. That means an average responsibility of 7,165 persons for each member. It is a tremendous task!

At each conference session it is our sad duty to record the passing of good and experienced workers. Their memory is precious to us, and our spirits are refreshed and stimulated to greater service for the Lord as by naming them we recall their faithfulness. May I request that the whole delegation and friends present stand now as the names of these beloved workers are read:

Pastor W. H. Meredith
Pastor F. A. Spearing
Pastor J. E. Bell
Pastor D. E. Morrison
Pastor E. E. Craven
Pastor H. T. Johnson
Brother A. H. Thompson
Brother R. H. Munro
Brother D. Davies
Brother H. W. Walklett
Brother C. Jackson
Sister A. Middleton
Sister J. Durbin

Although not working in this Union at the time of decease, we would affectionately recall the names also of Brother J. C. Craven and Pastor W. G. Till. May the losses we have sustained be but a challenge to us who remain to continue faithfully the work they have laid down, until the Lord shall appear.

We express our gratitude to God for all His wonderful blessings to us during the past four years. A new period is now before us. What those days may bring, no-one knows. Statesmen and scientists predict possible doom. We know from the prophetic Word that these days will become increasingly perilous before the end. Time is short. Yet Almighty

#### BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

God and the hosts of heaven stand ready to bless the church with Pentecostal power. Is it not the duty of the church of God to arouse from slumber, and laying aside every sin and encumbrance, to fully equip herself by the Spirit's might for the completion of the task given to her?

> He draweth near, He standeth by, He fills our eyes, our ears: 'Come, King of Grace,' Thy people cry, 'And bring the glorious years.'

British Union Conference

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report 1950 - 1953

## By N. H. Knight

WHEN Pastor G. D. King opened his secretary's report four years ago, he quoted Paul's familiar statement, "Whatsoever things are of good report, think on these things." He then proceeded to recount many very encouraging items concerning the progress of the work in the British Union Conference during the quadrennium 1946-1949.

The treasurer's report, presented by A. Carey, was also full of "good things," and it is a pleasure for me to render a combined report today which I believe will give us ample cause to express our gratitude to the Lord, for it is under His divine blessing and providence that we are able to meet here again after another four years.

As we look back over the past quadrennium, there have been a number of changes. On the retirement of A. Carey, A. H. Thompson was elected as secretary-treasurer, and carried this responsibility until his severe sickness in September, 1952, which proved fatal. This was most regrettable, and his loss was felt very severely.

Pastor Armstrong, in his presidential report, has already referred to those who have fallen asleep in Jesus since we last met here in Session four years ago. I would, however, pause here for another moment to pay tribute to the late Brother Thompson and respect to his widow. Brother Thompson and I were closely associated during the years, having occupied similar positions in the College, the Sanitarium, as secretary-treasurer of the missions and also of the North and South England Conferences. In the emergency occasioned by his premature death, at the request of the Union Committee, A. Carey, who served the Union so ably for many years, was asked to take temporary responsibility until a successor to A. H. Thompson should be appointed.

The Union is greatly indebted to Brother Carey for so willingly stepping into the office again and shouldering the responsibilities of secretary-treasurer. For some time after my appointment to the office,

he rendered me very valuable help, and I wish to record here my grateful appreciation to Brother Carey for his assistance then and for his continued willingness at all times to give me the benefit of his years of experience in counselling concerning the administration of this Union.

In this report I wish first of all to deal in a general way with certain new features which have come under our care during the past four years. The year 1953 was perhaps the most outstanding. It was Coronation year, and we would here express again our respect and homage to our Gracious Queen and Her Consort. Coronation year was a notable time also for this Union. Due to the generosity of the General Conference, it was possible to secure the New Gallery Cinema in Regent Street, which as you all know, is now a flourishing evangelistic centre. For a time this new institution was directly under the control of the British Union, but more recently the responsibility for operating the centre has come under the South England Conference, in whose territory London is located. A committee comprising Division, Union, and local conference officers and three others, under the chairmanship of the local conference president, is responsible for the general oversight and management of the New Gallery Centre. The evangelistic activities are under the control of the local conference committee, as are all other campaigns. Other reports will detail the good work which has been accomplished by the grace of God through Pastor G. E. Vandeman and his corps of energetic helpers. For the information of delegates I would record, however, that this venture is not being carried without considerable expense to the Union, as well as to the local field. We are grateful for the splendid generosity of the membership in contributing of their means toward the initial cost of establishing the centre.

The year 1953 saw the birth of another new institution. For many years there has been a demand for a place where our elderly members might be cared for on their retirement. Resulting from the generosity of a member in East Anglia, a Rest Home for elderly people was established in Oulton Broad, near Lowestoft, and has been operating since June, 1953, with a measure of financial success, and most certainly with great success in caring for a number of our elderly brethren and sisters. Again we would thank those of our people who have donated so generously, many agreeing to make annual donations for the support of this worthy cause. You will be interested to know that the residents themselves are delighted with the facilities and amenities available, and the Public Welfare Officer of the district has highly complimented us regarding the Home, its moral standing, the furnishings, and particularly regarding the local management. We certainly were most fortunate in securing the capable services of Nurse W. O. Bradley, who incidentally received part of her nursing experience in our own Stanborough Park sanitarium.

Financially, with the help received from various Public Welfare Officers, as well as the donations from our members, the institution is practically paying its way. It is our earnest hope and expectation that with added experience in running the Home, we shall not only be able to come out even, but possibly be in a position to give some additional relief to residents by way of reducing the charges.

The Home is able to accommodate sixteen persons, there being six men and nine ladies in residence at the present time.

There has been placed in the hands of the delegates a compilation of statistics relative to membership and other data. It is not my intention to read all the facts contained therein, but it is hoped that all delegates will carefully preserve the document and study it at their leisure. May I, however, direct your attention to some salient features.

#### MEMBERSHIP

At the commencement of this quadrennium, the total membership in the British Union Conference was 6,493. It is encouraging to report that 1,777 were added by baptism and vote. How wonderful if I could report a membership to date of 8,270! But unfortunately the losses must be taken into the calculation, and you will observe that the net loss by letter and transfer was 15, whereas the apostasies, though lower than the figure 647 reported for the previous four years, indicate that the names of 448 members were erased from the records. I wonder how many of these were young people! I suppose our MV Department secretary could tell us. This is a feature of soul-saving and soul-winning which surely demands our careful and prayerful study. No effort should be spared, first in saving our youth already in the church, and then in seeking to win back those who have drifted out of our churches. We need the youth today to help finish the task before us. The membership reported at the end of this quadrennium is 7,257, a net gain of 764. While we rejoice in these accessions, we trust that the forthcoming period will see far greater achievements.

"Heavenly intelligences are waiting to co-operate with human instrumentalities, that they may reveal to the world what human beings may become, and what, through their influence they may accomplish for the saving of souls... He who is truly converted will be so filled with the love of God that he will long to impart to others the joy that he himself possesses."—Testimonies, Vol. 9, page 30.

According to medical statistics the expectancy of life is lengthening, in which case our losses by death should be decreasing. Our records, however, indicate that whereas 549 deaths were reported during the previous four years, this number increased by one to 550 deaths during the past quadrennium.

At the recent General Conference it was reported that many fields had reached the goal set four years ago of doubling their membership before the next session. This was again set before the workers at the General Conference as a goal for the next four-year period.

In Elder Figuhr's closing message at the General Conference session, he made this statement regarding Elder Branson's sermon on the opening Sabbath at the Cow Palace in San Francisco:

"I'm glad that Elder Branson at the Cow Palace

asked us if we did not think we could undertake to double what we did in the preceding quadrennial period, and you stood up and said, Yes. Now, brethren, let's go out and do it! Let's plan and pray for greater results. Then we shall see greater results by the blessing of God."

#### CONFERENCE WORKERS

The number of workers employed in the Union on December 31, 1953, was 183 comprising 67 ordained ministers, 52 licensed ministers, 30 Bible instructors, 9 Voice of Prophecy workers, and 25 teachers and office workers. You will observe that the worker force has increased during the quadrennium, but I am sure each field leader would urge that there is still a shortage of workers for the tremendous task facing this Union.

In addition to those who have been mentioned in the president's report as having ceased from their labours, I think this is an opportune moment to pause again to recount some of those who have left this field and are carrying important responsibilities of leadership and usefulness in many countries outside Great Britain. This fact impressed me most forcibly while attending the General Conference session recently, when it was our privilege to greet once again so many of our former colleagues from this Union. To mention only a few, there was A. S. Maxwell, editor of the Signs of the Times; W. E., Read, General Conference field secretary; H. W. Lowe, General Conference Sabbath School Department Secretary; Dr. W. G. C. Murdoch of the Bible Department of the Washington Seminary; S. G. Maxwell, a Union president in South Africa; Francis Clifford, newly-appointed president of the Australasian Division; E.E. White, Principal of the Australasian Missionary College; A. J. Raitt, Registrar of Helderberg College; F. H. Thomas, formerly business manager at Helderberg and now appointed to a mission presidency; B. E. Sparrow, Dean of Helderberg College, and numerous others in the Northern European Division territory as well as in other Divisions. This country has made a great contribution to the world work, and there is yet much to be done at home. May our workers here be inspired and enthused by the success and achievements of those who trod the paths before them.

#### FINANCES

In addition to the statistics supplied to the delegates regarding membership, etc., they have also been given information concerning the finances of the Union during the past quadrennium, and at this juncture I wish to refer to some of the facts given.

The report gives in detail the tithe and mission offerings for the whole field as compared with previous quadrenniums. As I watch the funds come in from month to month and observe with interest the gradual increase in the tithe, I am sure the Lord rejoices with us at the faithfulness of so many of His people throughout the Union. Four years ago Brother Carey reported an increase in tithe over the previous quadrennium of more than £66,000, where-

as it is my pleasure to inform you that the increase over the past quadrennium is £80,000, an additional increase over the previous splendid gain of almost  $\pounds 14,000$ .

The percentage of tithe-payers in this Union is very high indeed. If one hundred per cent of our members were faithful in this respect, then every member in the Union could share in the promises made to those who return to the Lord His own. The British Union Conference was organized in 1902. The first records available are for 1903, when a membership of 1,160 returned a tithe of £3,080, representing a per capita of £2. 13s. In December, 1953, the membership was 7,257 and the tithe income for the year amounted to £103,730, an increase in per capita to £14. 5s. 9d. I think it is correct to state that the pound sterling was not seven times as valuable then as it is today, so there is cause for rejoicing in the increased faithfulness in our membership.

#### MISSION OFFERINGS

The foregoing information regarding tithe receipts is only an introduction to the financial report. A glance through the various offerings received as a result of the willing sacrifice of our membership is an evidence of their sincere desire to assist in obeying the Lord's injunction to carry the Gospel to every nation. The total sum of general mission offerings received into the treasury during the past quadrennium (excluding Ingathering) was £66,766, as compared with £64,450 for the previous quadrennium, or an increase of £2,316. There would have been a much better showing, but for the decrease in the Week of Sacrifice and Missions Extension Offerings. All other regular mission offerings showed substantial increases. Now please look at the Ingathering figures. During the past quadrennium the wonderful sum of £151,731 was collected by our people in this Union, an increase of nearly £30,000 as compared with £122,901 during the four years, 1946-1949.

COMPARATIVE REPORT OF TIT	HES AND OFFERINGS	FOR QUADRENNIU	, ms 1946 <b>-194</b> 9 and	<b>195</b> 0- <b>19</b> 53
Tithes	Quadrennium 1946 - <b>1949</b>	Quadrennium 1950 - 1953	Increase	Decrease
South England	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d. 46055 17 4	£ s. d.
South England North England	$ \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	207144 5 9 104052 3 11	21667 12 4	
Welsh Mission	17011 0 5	22472 11 0	5461 10 7	
Scottish Mission Irish Mission	11898 3 10 10528 3 3	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	6747 19 6 1300 14 11	
Union Specials	6224 2 6	4487 1 0		1737 1 6
Union Totals	289134 10 0	368631 3 2	81233 14 8	1737 1 6
Net Increase	······································		79496 13 2	
Sabbath-School Offering	27227 0 4	20001 0 0	4774 D 11 F	
South England North England	27237 9 4 14022 16 0	$32006  0  9 \\ 14732  17  3$	4768 11 5 710 1 3	
Welsh Mission	<b>3310</b> 0 <b>1</b> 0.	3644 4 10	<b>33</b> 4 <b>4</b> 0	
Scottish Mission	2518 1 9	2719 0 9	200 19 0	
Irish Mission Union Specials	$ \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	$   \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	317 16 8	195 16 5
Union Totals	· 4 <b>8</b> 941 0 <b>6</b>	55076 16 5	6331 12 4	<b>195</b> 16 5
Net Increase			6135 15 11	
Week of Sacrifice and Annual Of		1010 2 0		383 14 6
South England North England	5302 18 3 1601 12 3	$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$		383 14 6 97 3 9
Welsh Mission	328 19 5	$266 \ 3 \ 7$		62 15 10
Scottish Mission	392 2 9	387 8 10		4 13 11
Irish Mission	254 14 4	421 10 4	<b>166 16</b> 0	
Union Specials		4 <b>9</b> 10 0	4 <b>9</b> 10 <b>0</b>	
Union Totals	7880 7 0	7548 5 0	216 6 0	548 8 0
Net Decrease				332 2 0
Missionary Volunteer Offering				
South England	968 13 7	$ \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	<b>82</b> 14 <b>7</b>	85 15 9
North England Welsh Mission	480 18 6 87 12 1	$   \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	·	270
Scottish Mission	58 8 3	13 11 8		44 16 <b>7</b>
Irish Mission	58 1 6.	84 18 10	26 17 4	0.10.0
Union Specials	<b>9 13</b> 0			9 1 <b>3 0</b>
Union Totals	1663 6 11	1631 2 3	109 11 11	142 12 4
Net Decrease				33 0 5

AUGUST 4, 1954

Missions Extension Offering South England North England Welsh Mission Scottish Mission Irish Mission Union Specials	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	5 4 6 44 10 11	554 4 1 47 18 7 43 16 1 2474 0 5
Union Totals Net Decrease	5580 8 11	2510 5 2	49 15 5	3119 19 2 3070 3 9
Miscellaneous Offerings for Missi South England North England Welsh Mission Scottish Mission Irish Mission Union Specials	ons 374 0 0  10 18 2	1 0 0	100	374 0 0 10 18 2
Union Totals Net Decrease	384 18 2	1 0 0	100	384 18 2 383 18 2
Ingathering South England North England Welsh Mission Scottish Mission Irish Mission Union Specials	60279 5 4 43513 14 5 9337 18 2 5213 10 10 4441 9 3 115 4 6	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	11957 5 4 10093 1 6 2318 4 9 3349 19 2 1111 11 10 2 11	
Union Totals Net Increase	122901 2 6	151731 8 0	<b>2</b> 88 <b>3</b> 0 <b>5 6</b> <b>2</b> 8830 <b>5 6</b>	
Total Offerings (including Ingathe       South England         North England       Welsh Mission         Scottish Mission       Scottish Mission         Irish Mission       Union Specials         Union Totals       Net Increase	ering) 96055 18 7 60303 14 7 13294 13 4 8344 19 1 6403 13 11 2948 4 6 187351 4 0	111552 11 4 70875 19 3 15838 3 2 11851 11 3 8071 6 8 307 9 5 218497 1 1	15496 12 9 10572 4 8 2543 9 10 3506 12 2 1667 12 9 33786 12 2 31145 17 1	2640 15 1 2640 15 1

The total sum of general mission offerings, including Ingathering, for the past quadrennium was  $\pounds 218,497$ , an increase of  $\pounds 33,786$  over the previous quadrennium.

The total of tithe and offerings during the past four years was £587,128 which represents an increase of over £110,000.

#### APPROPRIATIONS

Thanks to the generosity of the General Confer-

ence, during the past quadrennium the following conferences, missions, church schools, and other organizations throughout the Union have benefited by the following sums:

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CHURCHES AND HALLS IN			HOUSES IN THE B		
	Number	Value		Number	Value
South England Conference	34	76978	South England Conference	43	74496
North England Conference	22	34704	North England Conference	12	24922
Welsh Mission	7	20240	Welsh Mission	5	7065
Scottish Mission	4	9 <b>7</b> 15		1 Carav	an <b>420</b>
Irish Mission	2	1198	Scottish Mission	8	<b>147</b> 05
			Irish Mission	3 .	6021
		·			·
Totals	69	142835	Totals	· 72 ·	127629
	·				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Voice of Prophecy Newbold College Secondary and Church Schools	28,546 ( 20,505 ( 5,224 (	0	0	
Total Appropriation	199,465	0	0	

In addition to the foregoing, the British Union treasury during the past four years has made very substantial appropriations toward the purchase or erection of new church buildings, as well as a number of houses to accommodate workers throughout the Union. Whereas the housing situation is easing somewhat, it is still a great problem when it comes to the transfer of workers, and the ownership of certain houses by the denomination has proved to be extremely beneficial. If funds permitted, it would materially help in the progress and stabilization of the work if additional properties could be secured.

The delegates have been supplied with sheets giving details of churches and halls purchased or erected during the past quadrennium as well as information regarding the acquiring of housing accommodation, etc.

As I conclude my report, I wish to express my appreciation to all those with whom I have been associated since taking my duties in the Union office. Brother Colin Wilson and I were closely related in our work together formerly, and it has been a pleasure to renew our association. Similar remarks apply, of course, to the rest of my colleagues, and I wish to thank them all for their friendship and help. Above all I would thank the Lord for His guiding hand. There have been many changes and problems during the past four years. Much has been accomplished under the guidance and blessing of God, and there is much yet to be done. At the closing meeting of the General Conference session, the new president, Elder R. R. Figuhr, asked Pastor A. F. Tarr, our Division leader, what he would like the

MEMBERS	HIP	RE	PORT	OF	THE
BRITISH	UNI	ON	CONF	EREN	<b>ICE</b>

Baptism & Vote Gain by Letter Apostasies	1942-1945 1399  495	1946-1949 1376  647	1950-1953 1777  448
Deaths	470	549	550
Loss by Letter	17	59	15
Net Gain Membership.	417	121	764
January 1, 1942, Membership at end of each	5955	-	
Quadrennium Evangelistic	6372	6493	7257
		£47768	£65882
Ordained Minister	rs 45	54	67
Licensed Minister	rs 4 <b>2</b>	49	52
Bible Instructors	40	36	30
Voice of Prophec	у	10	9
Other Workers	12	13	25
TOTAL	139	162	183

people assembled to pray for most. Pastor Tarr's reply was: "Please pray that all our activities in all of the departments might be directed to the one great purpose of soul-winning, and that God will give us power in that service."

May this be the keynote of this session, and may the Lord abundantly bless this Union as we go forward in faith to greater achievements and the ultimate finishing of God's work in the earth.

#### CHURCHES AND HALLS PURCHASED OR BUILT 1950-53

			Total	Raised	Gifts	from
Church	Year	Seating	Cost	By Church		ner Sources
Watford Estate Hall	. 1950	450	6500		1250	5 <b>250</b>
Croscombe		85	350	100	250	
Wembley		50	2000	1000	1000	******
Cardiff		500	<b>93</b> 00	1215	5919	. 2166
Stroud		50	1790	210	1100	480
Coventry		150	4270	1510	2700	60
Derby		200	4760	165 <b>0</b>	2800	310
Newcastle		120	6310	1710	4500	- 100
York		150	2370	870	1500	
Rhyl		75	4815	643	1220	2952
Newport Youth Hall		100	2914	1314	<b>1</b> 600	
Dundee		120	2600	800	1000	800
Gillingham		40	945	206	500	239
Erdington		60	350	•••••		350
Bristol		150	5600	15 <b>3</b> 5	<b>3</b> 565	· 500
Swindon		100	1500	462	600	438
Chiswick Youth Hall		100	1200	600	600	• • • • • •
Rochdale	. 1953	50	500	•••••	500	
Porth	. 1953	•••••	1500	<b>40</b> 0	1000	100
Dunfermline	. 1953	70	1750	325	1100	325

AUGUST 4, 1954

## **MEMBERSHIP OF CONFERENCES AND MISSIONS, 1950-1953**

SOUTH	ENGLAND	CONFERENC	Ð
1	942-1 <b>9</b> 45	1946-1949	1950-1953
Baptism & Vote	603	697	912
Gain by Letter	5	124*	25
Apostasies	215	279	<b>2</b> 24
Deaths	219	258	282
Loss by Letter	•••••		
Net Gain	174	284	431
Membership	× ·		/
January 1, 1942,	<b>3</b> 089		
Membership at			
end of each	7		
Quadrennium	3263	3547	3978
Evangelistic			
	213021	£22148	£28701
Appropriations			
Received from			
Union	£5061	£8448	£17561
Workers at end o	f '		
each Quadrenniun	1: ·		
Ordained Minister	s 18	21	27
Licensed Minister	s 17	19	15
Bible Instructors	18	- 11	12
Other Workers	3	5	8
TOTAL	56	56	62

\*Transfer of Newbold College, January 1, 1946, from North England Conference accounted for approximately 120 names

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Baptism & Vote	654	454	528
Gain by Letter			
Apostasies	198	262	174
Deaths	160	194	199
Loss by Letter	1	175*	37
Net Gain	295		118
Net Loss		177	
Membership.			
January 1, 1942	1866		
Membership at	1000		
end of each			
Quadrennium	2161	1984	2102
Evangelistic		1701	2102
Expenditure	£10061	£13461	<b>£2</b> 0873
Appropriations			<b>w</b> =0070
	£17171	£39432	£59034
Workers at end		ac).c=	207001
each Quadrenniur			1
Ordained Minister		19	19
Licensed Minister		13	14
Bible Instructors		14	12
Other Workers	3	4	5
Outer WOLKERS	0	т	
TOTAL	47	50	50

\*Transfer of Newbold College, January 1, 1946, to South England Conference accounted for approximately 120 names.

WELSH MISSION						
	1942-1945	<b>1946-1</b> 94	9 195	0-1953	;	
Baptism & Vote	61	94	1	115		
Gain by Letter	•••••	3				
Apostasies	, 34	36		22		
Deaths	39	44		34		
Loss by Letter	3.	· ·····		23		
Net Gain		17		36		
Net Loss	15					
Membership,						
January 1, 1942,	467					
Membership at e						
each Quadrenniu	m 452	,469		505		
Evangelistic						
Expenditure	£2417	£3233	£54	180		
Appropriations						
Received from	00000	011100	620			
Union	£3989	£11188	£204	<del>1</del> 23		
Workers at end						
each Quadrenniu	-	2-1	D T *			
Ordained Ministe Licensed Ministe	ers Z	3+1	P.T.*	4 7		
Bible Instructors	rs J		P.T.*	1		
Other Workers	rs 2 rs 5 s 2 1	1,3	T.T.,	1		
Other WOLKETS		1		T		
TOTAL	10	8+4	P.T.*	13	'	

#### \*P.T. = Part-time.

SCOTTISH MISSION						
Baptism & Vote	48	82	160			
Gain by Letter		4	16			
Apostasies	31	40	19			
Deaths	34	30	19			
Loss by Letter	8		•••••			
Net Gain		16	138			
Net Loss	25					
Membership,		•				
Janúary 1, 1942,	328		1			
Membership at						
end of each						
Quadrennium	303	319	457			
Evangelistic						
Expenditure	£2408	£5292	£7478			
Appropriations		4				
Received from						
Union	£4954	£15713	£21069			
Workers at end o	f					
each Quadrenniu	n :					
Ordained Ministe	rs 4	4	4			
Licensed Minister	's 1	4	4			
Bible Instructors	s 1 4	3 .	4 2			
Other Workers	1	4 4 3 1	•••••			
TOTAL	10	12	10			

•	IRISH MI	SSION	
Baptism & Vote	33	49	62
Gain by Letter:			4
Apostasies 🦳	17	30	9
	BRITI	SH ADVENT	MESSENGER

D <b>e</b> aths Loss by Letter	18 10	23 15	16
Net Gain		•••••	41
Net Loss	12	19	
Membership, January 1, 1942, Membership at end of each	205		
Quadrennium :	193	174	215
Evangelistic Expenditure Appropriations Received from	£1828	<b>£363</b> 4	£3350
		£27446	<b>£</b> 27103
Ordained Ministe		2	3
Licensed Minister	rs 2 s 4 1	2 4 3 3	3 3 3 3 3
Bible Instructors	1	3	3
Other Workers	1	3	3
TOTAL	8	12	12

British Union Conference

## Home Missionary Department Report

#### 1950 - 1953

By E. R. Warland

NNNN

"SOMEONE must fulfil the commission of Christ," said the messenger of the Lord. "Someone must carry on the work which He began to do on earth; and the church has been given this privilege. For this purpose it has been organized."—Testimonies, Vol. 6, page 294.

This duty presents a mighty challenge to the 7,000 Adventists among over 50 million people living in these British Isles. It means that there are over, 7,000 people for whom each churchmember can labour and pray. Surely "the work of God on this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership, rally to the work and unit their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."—Gospel Workers, page 352.

To the praise of God and for the encouragement of our faithful membership, we are happy to bring to this conference the following report of some of the witnessing and soul-winning activities of the churches. Unfortunately only thirty-one per cent of our 7,257 members report, so that the following figures may probably represent only about one-

AUGUST 4, 1954

third of home missionary work of the churches in the British Union during the past four years.

Missionary Letters 6,867
Cottage Meetings 5,368
Bible Readings 19.668
Missionary Visits 71,073
Persons Helped 97,619
Treatments Given 15,343
Clothing Given
Hours of Christian Help Work 116,438
Literature Distributed 3,301,717
Handbills Distributed 1,036,500

These figures, which are about the same as for the previous quadrennium, include the work of our Dorcas Welfare societies.

A few years ago the annual Tract Campaign offer was associated with annual subscriptions for *Our Times* instead of with one special issue of this periodical. The increasing help which our members give to the steady circulation of this evangelical literature by this means is evidenced by the following figures:

	Our Times
Year	Subscriptions
1949	<b>3</b> ,392
1950	4,315
1951	6,154
1952	6,986
1953	, 7 <b>,93</b> 5
	·

Increase in four years 4,543

Subscriptions more than doubled in four years! This has not only supplied our members with over 2,600,000 copies of *Our Times* for personal reading and distribution, but also a large quantity of free tracts—about 1,150,000 in the past four years, including last year's illustrated pamphlet, *What Is a Seventh-Day Adventist?* Many of these periodicals and tracts have been taken to the homes on special "Visitation" days, when contact has been made with people living in the vicinity of our churches, some of whom have thereby become attenders at the services.

Every evangelist knows and appreciates the unstinted service our members give in the distribution of campaign handbills and Voice of Prophecy enrolment cards. Illustrative of the latter we would mention the distribution of no less than half a million special Voice of Prophecy cards in London during March, 1952, preparatory to the evangelistic campaign which opened in the Coliseum in the autumn. This work exemplified the value of "combined operations" between the Union and conference departments, the ministry, church officers, and laymen. Special mention should be made of the area leadership given by Pastors C. R. Bonney, R. A. Vince, A. C. Vine, and the late Pastor H. T. Johnson, whose passing in January, 1953, was indeed a sad loss to us.

The interest of our London membership in this special pre-campaign work was maintained, in part, by weekly reports of its progress, as in an Ingathering Campaign. The results were gratifying. No less than 3,573 applications were made for the Bible Course. Many studied faithfully throughout the summer months. Of these no less than 2,000 reserved seats for Pastor G. E. Vandeman's opening meeting. Thus the lay members did their part in launching the great campaign. Nor did they then forsake it. By the distribution of hundreds of thousands of handbills, and by regular personal attendance, by prayer and sacrificial offerings, our members rendered invaluable help. They had, therefore, good reason to rejoice when in due course members were added to their respective churches, in whose salvation they personally had a part. The same can be said of campaigns in other cities, some of which are only now being brought to fruition.

Through the medium of the Church Officers' Leader and by direct Home Missionary conventions and rallies, inspiration and guidance has been given to the officers and membership. In March and April, 1953, two special lay workers' conventions were held with the objective of strengthening the witness of the church through pulpit evangelism, neighbourhood evangelism, and welfare evangelism. For three days seventy delegates from Scotland, Ireland, and North England, lived, prayed, and studied together at Cromford Court, Matlock Bath. Over the Easter week-end, 100 representatives of the churches in Wales and South England were together at Stanborough Park. At these conventions much appreciated counsel was given by leaders from the Division, Union, and local conferences and missions. The benefit of these meetings has been seen in the enlarged vision and improved service of our officers and members.

Particular mention should be made of the renewed interest in Dorcas Welfare work which these meetings engendered. Our obligation to help the needy and afflicted, both within and without the church, has been given encouraging recognition in a number of churches, though many others have, unfortunately, not yet caught the vision of the value of this service. Our first Dorcas Federation was organized in London, in which work Sister A. F. Tarr is giving much appreciated leadership.

"Let us not be weary in well doing," says Paul. And again, "Let us do good to all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:9, 10. So we are particularly happy to record, as one of the outstanding events of the quadrennium, the establishment of our first Rest Home for aged members of the church at Oulton Broad, near Lowestoft.

No report of Home Missionary activities would be complete without mention of our annual houseto-house collection in the interest of *foreign* missions. In fact, the Ingathering Campaign is the best organized and best supported endeavour of the year. We wish the same careful planning, enthusiastic church leadership, and self-sacrificing service by the members, were evidenced in soul-winning endeavours which would bring forth fruitage in the homeland. Let us pray and plan to that end.

#### INGATHERING TOTALS 1950-1953

	Total	Per Capita
1950	£34,793	£5. 7s. 0d.
1951	£35,848	£5. 8s. 7d.
1952	£39,080	£5.16s. 5d.
1953	<b>£</b> 41,940	£6. 1s. 0d.
1950-53	£151,661	
1750-50	av101,001	

This represents a gain of £28,830 over the previous four years. It is a truly wonderful achievement for which we praise God. To be associated with our people in this service we count as one of our highest privileges. It has been a source of continual inspiration to see the loyalty and self-sacrifice of young and old, many devoting their entire time for three, four, or five weeks to collecting!

In this connection it is interesting to look back over the years and notice the steady growth of Ingathering. Some of us are pleased to recall we took part in the campaign just forty years ago. That year, 1915, our Union total was £168. From that small beginning it grew to £7,691 in 1925; to £10,-508 in 1935; to £26,325 in 1945; to nearly £42,000 in 1953. The achievement of 1954, for which we are particularly indebted to the virile leadership of Pastors A. C. Vine and E. H. Foster during our absence at the General Conference, is even more encouraging. A total of £44,500 has been reported, and we fully expect that when all the cash is received it will be over £45,000 or £6. 10s. per member.

This means that in forty years, our membership have collected from the public over £606,000. What that has meant in the relief of human suffering through our hospitals and dispensaries, in enlightenment of the mind through our mission schools, of comfort and hope of the Gospel through many evangelical agencies, only eternity will reveal.

We take this opportunity once again of thanking all who have helped to make such wonderful results possible. One of the casualties of the wartime blitz on London was the destruction of the stamping dies which made our familiar and favourite flat-type collecting box. Post-war restrictions have obstructed our many endeavours to replace this loss. At last we are happy to announce the production of a new and very attractive flat-type box, supplies of which will be dispatched to the churches needing them before the close of the year.

We praise God for all He has done for and through His people, and face the future confident in His promised help to all who consecrate their service to Him. "God will do the work if we will furnish Him with the instruments."—*Testimonies*, Vol. 9, page 107.

"Whatever is to be done at His command, may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings."—*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 333. British Union Conference

Sabbath-School Department Report

1950 - 1953

By E. R. Warland

THE Sabbath school, which celebrated its centenary in 1952, is the one department of the church which accepts a responsibility both for the youngest child and the oldest grandparent. It is generally recognized as the most essential Sabbath service and the greatest means of establishing people in the Advent message. It should also be "one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual in bringing souls to Christ." (Counsels on Sabbath School Work, page 10.) We are therefore glad to report a growing realization of its potentialities in soul-winning by ministry and laity, particularly in the field of child-evangelism.

#### SABBATH-SCHOOL ENROLMENT

We have in the British Union 146 organized schools and 17 smaller "family" schools—a total of 163 centres in which groups of people totalling 5,540 gather around the Word of God every Sabbath. In addition there are 972 members in the Extension (or Home) Division, people who, because of age, infirmity, distance, or other handicaps, are prevented from enjoying the blessing of personal fellowship with others on the Sabbath. They are, nevertheless, united with the schools in spirit and study, and are, in most cases, faithful supporters of mission work abroad through their Sabbath-school offerings. These bring the total Sabbath-school membership in the British Isles at the close of 1953 to 6,512.

This number includes 439 juniors, 370 children in the primary classes, 227 in the kindergarten, and 108 on the cradle roll—a total of 1,144 in the lower divisions. This leaves 5,368 in the senior, youth, and extension divisions. As our total church membership at the close of 1953 was 7,257, and many of our youth are not yet churchmembers, there must be at least 2,000 churchmembers who are not enrolled in the Sabbath school. Think of it, brethren and sisters, two out of every seven Adventists in Britain are regularly missing the blessing and spiritual help which the Sabbath school can bring to them! Surely such a situation presents a challenge, not only to Sabbath-school officers, but to ministers and conference administrators.

Among the subjects studied in our senior and youth classes during the past four years are such interesting topics as: Our Lord's Prayer Christian Stewardship The Victorious Life Proverbs and Ecclesiastes Last-Day Events The Finishing of the Work Creation and Redemption The Apostle Peter and His Epistles The Holy Spirit Lessons from the Experiences of Israel Lessons from the Patriarchs The Power of the Blood of Jesus Unity in Christ.

Surely study and meditation upon these themes brings spiritual strength which no Adventist can afford to miss.

#### DAILY LESSON STUDY

Particular blessing comes through the habit of daily lesson study, which should be encouraged in all schools. While Perfect Record Cards are no longer given to adult Sabbath-school members, they are still issued for children up to fourteen years of age. We ask superintendents and teachers to make a note of this and to encourage the children in the good habit by keeping a record of their daily study on the register card. Not only are there Perfect Record Cards for the quarter, but also for the year. In fact we have just had some attractive badges made to give to children obtaining four quarterly cards.

#### SABBATH-SCHOOL TEACHERS

We are glad to report a growing realization of the importance of efficient teaching. This is evidenced by the increase in the subscriptions for The Sabbath School Worker. This has risen steadily, reaching 360 subscriptions by the end of 1953. We would here like to record our appreciation of the special reduction in price recently made to overseas subscribers-whereby, in clubs of three or more copies to one address, our teachers may obtain this excellent paper for only one shilling per month! This has encouraged a number of new subscribers during 1954, so that the present circulation in this field is around 500 copies per issue. This nearly equals the total number of Sabbath-school teachers in our schools, 550. We commend this monthly journal, not only to every officer and teacher but to all who are interested in the welfare of the Sabbath school and in a deeper appreciation of its Bible lessons.

While recognizing the difficulties which exist in some places, we believe that the number of schools holding teachers' meetings is disappointingly low. During the first three years of this quadrennial period only fifteen or sixteen schools reported such gatherings. We are glad this rose to twenty-seven during 1953, but we are convinced that many more of our 146 organized schools could arrange such meetings, and that their schools would benefit thereby.

We would also like to see more taking the Sabbath School Teachers' Training Course—a series of twelve lessons based on that excellent book, *Teach*ing *Teachers to Teach*. A few ministers, realizing the value such studies can be to teachers, have conducted or arranged for the lessons to be conducted in their churches. We recommend this plan to all conference workers who desire to enlarge the vision and teaching abilities of their Sabbath-school helpers. The present textbook is particularly good for those who teach the children, and the General Conference Sabbath School Department is now preparing one for those who teach adult classes. Announcement of its publication will be made in due course, when we hope every district leader will ensure that its helpful counsel reaches all teachers in the schools under his care.

'The true teacher," says Sister White, "constantly seeks higher attainments and better methods. His life is one of continual growth. . . . He who discerns the opportunities and privileges of his work will allow nothing to stand in the way of earnest endeavour for self-improvement. He will spare no pains to reach the highest standard of excellence."-Counsels on Sabbath School Work, pages 103, 104.

#### CHILDREN IN THE SABBATH SCHOOL

We are much encouraged by the growing interest in the children and their Sabbath school needs which is manifest in every section of the British Union. It is now the exception to find a primary or kindergarten class which is not equipped with a sand-tray or flannelgraph. Through the help of gift packages of used picture rolls from overseas, we have during recent years built up a most useful lending library of rolls. Both in the North and South England Conferences and in the Union for the missions, we have from six to twenty rolls on each quarter's lessons. These we are glad to lend to Sabbath schools or Sunday schools without charge, requiring only that the roll be returned in good condition immediately at the close of the quarter. It is then kept in careful storage until its pictures are again needed to illustrate the children's lessons. Pastors Vine and Foster will be glad to give particulars of available rolls to any teachers in their conference, as we shall be to teachers in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

A number of schools, small as well as large, have very wisely invested in the splendid new sand-tray cut-outs prepared by the General Conference Sabbath School Department. These cover almost every lesson in the three-year cycle of Old and New Testament stories.

Many of the junior classes now use the "Exercises," a new aid to good teaching, which to lessen expense to our schools we are duplicating in this country and selling at a third the cost of purchasing overseas. Most children attending our Sabbath schools-and many also in our Sunday schoolsregularly receive one or more of the following:

Our Little Friend"	"My Bible Story"
"Memory Verse Card"	"The Home Colour Set."

These are provided by the Sabbath School Expense Fund of the local church, without any encroachment on the mission offerings which, of course, should always be sent in full to the conference office for the work overseas.

#### BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOLS AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Perhaps the most significant expression of the evangelistic objective of the Sabbath school is found in branch Sabbath schools and Sunday schools. Unfortunately, we have only been operating four or five branch Sabbath schools, with an average attendance of about twenty people. Should not every Sabbath school have one or more branch Sabbath schools where, some time during the Sabbath hours, those not of our faith are gathered together for the study of the Sabbath-school lessons? In other lands strong and vigorous churches have often had their beginnings in such study groups. Why could it not be so in Britain?

The increased interest in Sunday-school evangelism, which was a significant feature of our church life at the beginning of the quadrennium has been well maintained. In a few places schools have closed but others have been opened so that some 500 non-Adventist children are regularly in attendance in our twenty Sunday schools.

This work, calling for considerable sacrifice of time and effort on the part of those who engage in it, gives encouraging results. It enhances the standing of the church in its locality; it instructs the children in the basic truths of the Christian faith: it takes the witness of the Advent message into the homes from which the children come; it often results in the parents attending the church services; it encourages many children to come to Sabbath school and Junior MV meetings. Best of all, it results in baptisms. Naturally, any work for children must be inspired by a vision of a divine purpose, and based on a long-term policy. But a steady, if yet small, stream of child baptisms is resulting from the faithful and appreciated labours of our Sunday-school officers and teachers, for which we are most grateful. But even where baptisms do not materialize at present, we believe that the seeds of God's Word sown in these young lives will surely bear fruit for the kingdom of God. Only eternity will reveal the results of this branch of Sabbath-school evangelism.

#### MISSION OFFERINGS

The Sabbath school, through its mission offerings, is one of our greatest agencies for world evangelism. Inspired by the weekly mission readings, and encouraged by good goal charts, the interest of our members in the needs of the various world divisions has been maintained. The following regular and Thirteenth Sabbath offerings have been given by our Sabbath-school members during the past four years.

12	Sabbath Offerings	13th Sabbath Offerings
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1950	9186 17 4	3259 2 0
1951	9871 5 9	3449 0 4
1952	10261 14 10	3251 2 7
<b>1953</b>	10961 13 5	3096 11 8
4 Years	40281 11 4	13055 16 7
in over pre-	vious	

Gain over p 4360 11 4

four years

BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

371 16 7

A number of our schools—we wish we could say all of them—have considerably augmented these offerings by encouraging the members to make a special gift on their birthday, or as a thank offering for some particular blessing or answer to prayer. These Birthday-Thank Offerings are reported separately as they are devoted to the establishment of *new* work in mission lands. Our contribution through this means has been as follows:

·	Birthday-Th	ank	Offering
×	£		
1950	241	17	3
1951	269	12	3
1952	265	8	9
1953	283	14	10
	1,060	13	1

Gain over previous four years 154 13 1

In some of our schools—particularly in the South England Conference—there has been strong promotion of the Investment plan. By needlework, knitting, carpentry, gardening, sale of Adventist literature, and other means, very substantial sums have come into the Sabbath-school mission offering.

	Inv 1950 1951 1952 1953	£ 187 172 142	s. 19 2 15	5 3 2	
		679	5	5	
mar	previous four veors	367	14	7	

Loss over previous four years 367 14 7

Our total mission offerings have, we are glad to say, shown an increase during the four years under review. However, when this increase is considered in relationship to an increased church membership and to the rising earning capacity of the members as indicated by the tithe, we notice an unfortunate tendency to reduce our support for foreign work.

Tot	al S. S. Offerings	Per Year Per Member	Percentage of Tithe
1950 1951 1952 1953 Total four	£ s. d. 12875 16 0 13762 0 7 13920 11 4 14518 8 6	£ s. d. 1 18 8 2 0 6 2 0 2 2 0 0	15.4% <b>15.8%</b> 14.8% 14. <b>0%</b>
years	55076 16 5		
<u> </u>	-		

Gain over previous

four years 6471 16 5

Let us ever keep in mind the following truth relative to the importance to the *home* field of our interest and work for the regions beyond. "To show a liberal, self-denying spirit for the success of foreign missions is a sure way to advance home missionary work; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off."— Counsels on Sabbath School Work, page 136.

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However, we believe that the greatest contribution the Sabbath school makes to missions is not its offerings. It is in providing enthusiasm for missions in the hearts of our children and youth, for from their ranks must be found the missionaries, without which the offerings, however great, would be of no avail. And this inspiration the Sabbath schools of the British Union will, we trust, continue to give its young people.

In closing this report we record our sincere appreciation of the leadership given by Pastors A. C. Vine and the late H. T. Johnson in South England by Pastors A. W. Howard and E. H. Foster in the North England, and by the conference presidents who, during a period of restricted finances, cared for the Sabbath-school interests in addition to their administrative responsibilities. We have been pleased to have associated with them in a number of Sabbath-school conventions in various parts of the field, at which Sabbath-school officers and teachers have pooled their experience for the mutual benefit of all attending the meetings. Special mention should be made of three-day conventions held in the Springfield Court, in the Isle of Wight, and at Cromford Court, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire in 1951.

With an army of consecrated Sabbath-school officers and teachers, devoting their services to the churches throughout these islands, and confident of the continued blessing of the Lord upon our united endeavours, we look to the future with confidence. May God bless our Sabbath schools!

British Union Conference

### Missionary Volunteer Department Report 1950 - 1953

#### 1750 - 1755

#### By R. A. Vince

UNILL recently, there stood at the bottom of one of our gardens at Stanborough Park, a great oak tree, with huge trunk and spreading branches, a monument to many years of growth and beauty. Quite suddenly it was seen to wither and die, to become a lifeless encumbrance and the prey of every destroying pest. Finally, it was cut down and removed. All this took place because someone cut a deep channel into the sapwood, clear round the periphery until its flow of life was stopped. From that day, there was no more growth—no beauty, no leaf, no fruit.

A writer declared recently that "the church is never more than a generation away from extinction." He was, of course, stating the vital importance of the youth in the church. The growing edge of the church is its youth. The beauty, leaf, and fruit

of tomorrow are in our youth. If inadequate care be given to our youth, the enemy will be quick to "cut a channel" which would drain the life of the church, and the perpetuation of her institutions and the fulfilling of her task would be impossible. Fortunately, youth likes to lead, to be climbing heights, to share the burdens, and be built into the fabric of the church as an integral and important part.

Our enlightened leaders of the past have seen the need to believe in and invest in our young people, and they have laid a foundation and built an organization of which we may be proud. I am grateful to have the privilege for the past three-anda-half years, of belonging to the Advent youth of Britain and of helping in the maintenance and care of its growing society and church interests. I am convinced that our 1,648 members in 70 Senior and 13 Junior Societies constitute a growing edge in which we may place our confidence. They respond with appreciation to each appeal for service and every investment for their welfare. We may sometimes enlarge too much on the failures among our youth and forget to rejoice in the fortitude and quality of the vast majority, whose victories go unsung and who "Share their Faith" with a clear testimony from week to week, and who are consolidating year by year into the oaken structure of the remnant church in Britain.

#### SPIRITUAL HEALTH

"When you save an old person you save a unit, but when you save a youth, you save a whole multiplication table." In the past four years we saw 167 young people from our societies baptized and enter into church membership. Though it is a comparatively small figure, statistically, its spiritual computation is beyond our reckoning. Though it is only one in ten of our membership, we must remember that our ranks are constantly being filled with unbaptized juniors, while the baptized seniors pass out of our special care to build up the hard core of the church.

An indication of the spiritual health of our youth was afforded us, when we challenged the rank and file in the beginning of 1953 to covenant themselves as members of the Legion of Honour, which had recently been introduced from General Conference. headquarters. One thousand two hundred of our young people signed the covenant cards, with the solemn promise to honour Christ in their choice of associates, and in the things they choose to see and hear and the places they choose to go. Its practical inferences were obvious and their gratifying response indicated to me that our young people are in earnest in their struggle for spiritual progress, and are conscious that they are called to represent high standards of life and character which are largely despised today.

At the same time they were called to recognize their greatest need of a personal relationship with God in regular devotional habits of prayer and Bible study. The Loughborough League was launched in 1953 with a very heartening response from our MV societies. True, this was just a new approach to the well-established devotional features of the Morning Watch, Bible Year, and Character Classics, which throughout the quadrennium have been observed by a strong section of our most earnest young men and women. Following the inspiration of J. N. Loughborough's Bible reading habits, of reading the Bible once each year for seventy-one years, the number of youth observing the Morning Watch has nearly doubled, from one in eight to one in four, of those reporting. On the third quarter, 1953, for instance, the number of Bible Year and Character Classics Certificates issued rose to four times any previous figure of the four-year period. The total number of these certificates issued through the period was 357.

Of course, we shall never be satisfied that our devotional habits are as strong and widespread as they should be, but we can be thankful for these evidences of quiet resolve in the lives of so many.

#### CONGRESSES AND CONVENTIONS

All trees from time to time, if they are to keep up a healthy and vigorous growth, need special fertilizers to stimulate them. Therefore considerable investment has been made from 1950-53 to stimulate and inspire the young wood of the church tree.

The Paris Congress of July, 1951, holds very special memories in the minds of the delegates we sent from Britain. This was the largest venture of its kind ever conducted for Adventist youth in Europe. From the North, South, and Central Divisions they came till nearly 6,000 were together in session. Five hundred and twenty-one went from Britain to the cost of little more than £1 per person to the British Union treasury. Many new visions of the "Share Your Faith" motto were caught, and a refreshing reminder of the international and indestructible unity of the Missionary Volunteer movement impressed on us all, so soon after the dividing influences of the second World War.

In 1952 when the winds of international mistrust were blowing again, it was considered necessary to conduct a quite new kind of convention, which would help our young men to appreciate more clearly their spiritual obligations to God and their country. At Newbold College, therefore, fortyfive young men facing national service responsibilities met together to study the theme of loyalty and duty to God and Cæsar. Many statements of appreciation declared that personal problems and questions had been solved. You may be interested to know that from a census taken in 1953, it was found that we had thirty-six young men of international service age doing work of national importance in a civilian capacity; nineteen were in the forces (thirteen of whom were non-combatants), and another fourteen were expecting to register that vear.

Perhaps the conventions of most practical value in stimulating healthy growth and development in our society calls around the country, have been those conducted for MV officers. The late Pastor H. T. Johnson introduced the scheme of gathering officers together in a guest house for a week-end, and this has proved a most successful feature in the

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co-ordination of organizational and spiritual plans. In March, 1951, fifty-five youth leaders assembled in the Springfield Court Guest House in the Isle of Wight. The following week-end about thirty officers met in the Kenwood Hotel in Sheffield. So great was their success that your conference and missions committees readily budgeted for other such conventions in Bristol, Stanborough Park, and Matlock, during the early part of 1954. These were recently held, and a quite remarkable advance in various phases of our youth work has been seen in the beginning of this new quadrennium.

#### CAMPS

Of all the evangelistic agencies we employ to win our youth to Christ and to hold them together, I believe that our camps rank the highest. The church is rightly interested in the physical aspects of camping, and recognizes that youth loves fun and must grow up in the church with their conceptions of the pleasures of life and society well balanced with the spiritual separateness enjoined on them in the Scriptures. Camp does this for the boys and girls and creates a fellowship which is built on deeply spiritual and delightfully happy associations. Each year there have been senior and junior camps in North and South England (except in 1951 when the Paris Congress was held). In a normal camping year at the beginning of the quadrennium, we had over 300 young men and women, boys and girls in four camping periods, covering the whole month of August.

Since 1952 we have added a further camping period for the special benefit of Scottish and Irish youth who cannot so easily obtain their holidays in August. This was a successful venture from the start. In 1952 and 1953 camps were conducted in Youth Hostels in Scotland with enrolments of forty and sixty. We have just concluded also the first camp ever held in Ireland with an enrolment of sixty, enjoying the excellent facilities of an army encampment very close to Rostrevor, where once we had a sanitarium. The same features characterize all our camps in whatever conference or mission. Spiritual messages are brought by chosen men which challenge the youth to holy living. Lessons of social etiquette and discipline are learned the easy way. Every year we witness scenes of consecration and earnest decision which it would thrill all to see. I estimate that at least twenty-five decisions for baptisms are made between the five camps. One might say, "Never was so much good done to so many youth in so little time."

It is a growing conviction with many of us that the time is ripe for a fresh investigation into the possibilities of erecting a permanent camp site for our British youth. The Irish camp this year showed the wonderful possibilities. The British weather shows each year the awful necessity!

#### MV COURSES

Now we have spoken a good deal of what you are investing in your youth. What are they doing for themselves?

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They are studying and consolidating their ranks into a well-knit organization for service. The MV courses, covering spiritual, mental, and physical self-development, are being followed with an enthusiasm that is encouraging. Beginning with the Busy Bee Course, our Juniors commence a course of study which takes them into realms of Scripture, nature, and good physical habits, until, having passed through the Helper, Friend, Companion, and Guide stages, they are after sixteen years of age, entitled to qualify as Master Guides in youth leadership. Many are the testimonies we receive from non-Adventist observers to their respect for our youth training courses. During 1950-53 nearly 2,000 vocational honours were obtained out of over 100 subjects. A total of 883 investitures, including eighty-seven as Master Guides were recorded in the same period. The growth of this cultural side of our youth work is building most valuable wood into the church tree, and producing characters of a fibre that is both long-lasting and serviceable.

The British Youth Handbook has become inadequate to the needs of the field, owing to alterations and improvements which have become necessary over the past four years. A work of revision has been going on and a new and revised Handbook will be off the press very shortly. This will introduce a better plan for unbroken study by offering more vocational honours for juniors and pre-juniors. For the latter a completely new set of honours devised for their special needs, has already proved very popular.

#### UNIFORMS

Coupled closely with these developments is the introduction of a complete British uniform for our Missionary Volunteers. It conforms closely to the American pattern, but is offered at less than half the price. Our youth organization is growing to the point where it merits its own uniform. Since its introduction almost 100 have been supplied.

In these latter developments especial help has been given by Mr. K. H. Gammon, the South England Conference MV Secretary, whose scouting experience has been invaluable to us.

#### READING COURSES

Our own MV Book Club is an important feature in the MV course of study. It is always important to assist our young people in their choice of reading matter. The MV secretaries select three sets each year comprising about twelve books in Primary, Junior, and Senior groups. They are offered to the societies at a subsidized rate to enable all to purchase them. We always select some of our own denominational books which we believe to be the best, but their cost requires our subsidy of 25 to 40 per cent. Each year an average of seventy-four sets are sent to our societies. In the four years under review 735 reading Course Certificates were issued to those who had completed reading the current year's set of books.

From America have come two new periodicals for our youth. One is the Junior Guide, of which as yet only seventy-six are ordered in Great Britain. The other is *MV Kit*, an excellent quarterly, packed with programme material and good advice for MV leaders. Only thirty-five copies are being used so far, but its value will be its own recommendation for the future. Altogether 144 copies of the Youth's Instructor go into our homes. This is such an excellent periodical that it is a great pity that the exchange rate prevents many from purchasing. As parents and church leaders we should nevertheless be prepared to encourage the use of these magazines for their value is not to be reckoned in money.

The Light Bearer helps to offset this lack by promoting MV society ideals and interests within the Union. During the latter part of 1950, it ceased to be a subscription magazine costing 3d. and increased its circulation and influence many times, as a free insertion in the Messenger. We are grateful to the church for making this available to all our young people, though of course we are doing our best to contribute to its cost by special offerings from the societies.

#### ADVENTIST STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Our university group numbering about thirty up and down the country have shown their earnestness to meet the challenge that comes to youthful thinking today. They meet regularly in London each month and discuss with the help of chosen speakers, the special issues which confront modern young Adventists, and enjoy the contributions of research which various students are pursuing. The Adventist Student Association is an independent growth, but a healthy one, which is making a useful contribution to the soundness of the future structure of the church. We can be very proud of the faithful witness many of our students have been giving in their universities despite very great pressure, in some cases, from the authorities.

#### AVENUES OF SERVICE

And now, what are British youth doing for the church? Do they respond to the call to service? Briefly, I can affirm that, like the new wood in the tree, they bring life to every branch, taking their share of responsibility in each department of church activity.

For the past four years their offerings to the conference projects amounted to £1,541. This year, 1954, they collected £6,804 for missions during the Ingathering, which was £804 over their chosen goal. In Sunday schools they take a prominent part as leaders and teachers. Some MV societies, like Glasgow, Birmingham, and Swansea have conducted public evangelistic campaigns. In Holloway, threequarters of the Auxiliary Colporteur Band numbering forty-two are young people, and their total sales for six months amounted to £951. We have seen them in faithful service as choir members and stewards, etc., in the Central London Campaign, and in evangelistic efforts throughout the country.

They have reported the following items of missionary work, although we know this is by no means the full picture of their activities: Given the encouragement and help all young people need, they will render a service for the church which will yet astound us and the world around us. Your confidence in them will always be well repaid.

Let us endeavour to provide them with more facilities for their special and varied programme. Let us make sure that every new church has a youth hall, and that where possible, youth halls be built where our older churches stand—as for instance has been done during this quadrennium at Newport and Chiswick.

Ours are privileged youth today in many ways, but it is in the Lord's devising and blessing. If we shall be asked to contribute to their Congress planned in Sweden for 1955, let us do it. If we shall be asked to send our sons and daughters to College to train for mission service, let us be willing to make the sacrifices involved. Whether for our good or theirs we must invest in them—for our youth are still the greatest heritage of the church.

British youth are found the world around, as missionaries, doctors, teachers, evangelists, because others trusted them and encouraged them in the early days. British youth will yet strike greater blows for God and His truth as the promised Spirit of God fills their hearts with the vision of a finished task. The tree of the church will thrill with new life and growth and fruit will be borne for the kingdom of heaven.

May I here pay a special tribute of appreciation to my predecessors, Pastor E. L. Minchin and Pastor E. H. Foster who did such excellent work in the early part of the quadrennium. Also I would respectfully remember the valuable counsel and cooperation of the late Pastor H. T. Johnson, who passed to rest after twenty-three years of service to the British Advent youth, in February, 1953, during the MV Week of Prayer. He has left an impress on the youth work in Britain that time will not erase. Today, Brethren K. Gammon and C. D. Watson are proving their ability and consecration in youth evangelism, and I pray that God's richest blessing may rest on them as they foster the work among their young companions.

British Union Conference

## Voice of Prophecy Report 1950 - 1953

## By C. R. Bonney

It is with great pleasure and true thankfulness that I bring this good report to you. Although the BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Voice Prophecy is almost the youngest branch of our work here in the British Union, it is nevertheless making itself known in no uncertain way in the vast scope of its influence, as well as in the definite results of hundreds of souls won for the kingdom of God.

As this department was not organized until the year 1947 it is not possible to compare two full four-year periods. So in order to have a picture of the rapid growth of the interest, and the work entailed in the Voice of Prophecy Bible School, I am going to compare the first two-year period of the quadrennium under review with the second twoyear period.

The figure which matters most is the number of students who have been baptized. The total of 581 shows very clearly that this Voice of Prophecy combination of the Radio and Bible Correspondence School is a mighty force in winning souls, and has contributed a great part of the good gain shown by the British Union during the four-year period.

We recognize, of course, that such a good number of baptisms would not have been possible without the co-operation of our ministers and Bible instructors in the field who have helped so much in visiting and getting decisions. Nevertheless, it does show what can be done when public evangelism and personal visitation are united with the organization of the Voice of Prophecy.

In addition to the number of 581, at least 108 students have been baptized who were connected with campaign work, especially in London,

The three outstanding campaigns in London, Biringham, and Sheffield co-opted the special branch of the Bible school, which has been created to connect in a direct way with public campaigns in order to enlarge the audience and to help the interested to study the Bible for themselves. This co-operation, which has proved to be so successful, can be recommended to all who are in campaign work.

Another interesting phase of the work is in our connection with The Stanborough Press Ltd. All their subscription books and most of their periodicals contain a leaflet or advertisement bringing to the readers' notice the Bible School and the weekly broadcast. From this source, during the four years under review, we received 2,184 applications for our Bible Course and know of 70 of these who were baptized. The value of the Bible Correspondence School is clearly shown here as it fosters and brings to fruition the interests aroused by the colporteur or the literature. I think it is safe to say that very few of these would have been baptized without the work the Bible School was able to do.

We greatly appreciate the valuable work our membership has done by the distribution of hundreds of thousands of Voice of Prophecy application cards. From these, 29,243 have been returned and 300 students have been baptized. The Home Missionary department has been responsible for a good proportion of the work entailed in distributing such a large number of cards.

OUR RADIO WORK

We are confident that all the foregoing figures, AUGUST 4, 1954 including those on the chart, would not have been possible without the growing influence of our radio work throughout our Union territory. We would not have had nearly the number of cards returned or applications from the sale of our literature without the added incentive of the weekly broadcast. There is every reason to believe that God is using our radio work to take the everlasting Gospel to many thousands with whom we would have no other means of contact. We wish we could give an accurate record of what is being accomplished by this modern method, but this is impossible. Its influence is so penetrating and extensive that only eternity will be able to give a correct evaluation.

Our ever-increasing post indicates that through our broadcasts thousands are gaining a true conception of Seventh-Day Adventists and what we believé, so that prejudice is being broken down everywhere. Many ministers of other denominations have written and expressed their appreciation of our programmes. We know that our listening audience is growing and that our programmes are well received. The following figures will emphasize this fact: In the whole of 1950 we received only 333 letters from 104 fifteen-minute programmes, whereas in the first six months of 1954 we have received 1,289 letters from 26 thirty-minute programmes. There is no doubt that the thirty-minute programme once a week is far better than the two fifteenminute broadcasts. As many listeners have intimated, it is worth while staying up for a half-an-hour programme, whereas a fifteen-minute broadcast was not a great incentive for one to lose an hour or so of sleep.

From our first two monthly health talks in May and June we received 556 inquiries for our health course. Scores of letters of appreciation have shown that we must have a larger audience than was anticipated.

I am convinced that our radio work in the British Union is a mighty power in

1. Preaching the everlasting Gospel to the thousands we cannot otherwise contact,

2. Breaking down prejudice,

3. Preparing the way for greater public evangelism.



#### KING'S HERALDS

In connection with this work I would like to mention the King's Heralds of London. They have done a grand work in the weekly broadcasts, and many are the letters we have received praising them for the inspiration and blessing they have been to the unseen audience. Their willingness and consecration to the work have been seen in the many appointments they have kept during the past twelve months. Almost every Sunday during the autumn and winter campaign season they were singing the message of the Gospel in one of the public campaigns in England, Scotland, or Wales.

The evangelists have been greatly helped by their consecrated singing. We have been glad to associate with many evangelists in conducting spearhead campaign meetings, which we believe have proved a great blessing.

#### MOBILE UNIT

The mobile evangelistic unit, which this year comes under the supervision of the Voice of Prophecy, is doing good work along the east coast of Scotland. It is manned by Brethren E. Bell and K. Smith who have been distributing Voice of Prophecy application cards, and running open-air meetings with the help of the film projector apparatus which is part of the unit.

#### GRAMOPHONE RECORDS

Our new venture with the making of gramophone records has proved a success. Already 2,400 have been sold. They have been sent to all parts of the world, including 400 to New Zealand and 250 to South Africa. Such a distribution of these records, made by the Voice of Prophecy singers, has an advertising value as well as helping financially. We are sure that there is a good market open to us as we enlarge our catalogue of records.

#### VOICE OF PROPHECY NEWS MAGAZINE

At the beginning of 1953 we produced the first number of our periodical, the Voice of Prophecy News Magazine. This publication is sent to all our students as a means of keeping them in touch with the great work that is being done. On top of this number we have just on 800 annual subscriptions. Many of our members are delighted to read this bi-monthly magazine and so keep in touch with the many providential experiences which come through our radio work and Bible School.

In closing this brief report I would like to mention the enthusiasm and co-operation of our staff. We all recognize this work as being a God-appointed, soul-saving endeavour, and would like to say that for any progress that has been revealed in our report today we must thank God who has made it possible.

As we look into the future we pray that He will continue to use our humble efforts to extend His kingdom in the British Union. We believe that this branch of the Lord's work will become increasingly important as a mighty power in finishing the preaching of the Gospel, and bringing to fruition the endeavours of every branch of God's church. We commend this work to the prayers and practical interest of all our members.

British Union Conference

### Publishing Department Report 1950 - 1953

#### By A. W. Cook

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THE colporteur ministry in the British Union continues to go forward with increasing success. God has been leading the British bookmen to greater achievements during the past quadrennial period of 1950-1953. Our colporteur-evangelists of the British Union are a noble and happy band of workers. They are all of good courage because God is using them in a wonderful way in placing our message-filled books and magazines in the homes of the people.

Their faithful witness is being greatly blessed of God. Every one has dedicated his strength and energy to the finishing of God's work and to the carrying forward of God's last message to every soul within the borders of the British Union territory. The challenge of warning the 52,000,000 people of the British Isles is ever before them.

In all parts of the field interested people are springing up as a direct result of the literature that has been circulated. Thousands upon thousands of our subscription books and magazines have been sold. Day by day the colporteur-evangelists continue their ministry. You can find them working in our great cities and towns, in the countryside, in the highways and byways; in fact, wherever man has chosen to live, there you can find the trail of the colporteur-evangelist. Thank God for such an army of workers.

#### COLPORTEUR SALES

It is most encouraging to note the upward trend in our colporteur sales. Every year reveals a steady and solid increase on the previous twelve months. These figures go to prove that a very high standard of sales and business efficiency has been maintained during the past quadrennial period. Let us observe the following book and paper sales which have been reported entirely by the colporteurs themselves:

1950 1951 1952 1953	50,409 55,389	6 5 19	4 6 3	
	211,647	6	7	

These remarkable and heart-warming figures reveal an excellent gain of £49,356. 7s. 11d. over the previous four-year period, when the total sales figures reached £162,290. 18s. 8d., or a twenty-three per cent increase.

#### FULL AND PART TIME COLPORTEURS

In spite of the fact that some of our leading and higher sales colporteurs left for Canada, the United States, and Australia during the quadrennial period under review, the force of our colporteur-evangelists has been maintained and gradually built up each year. This gallant army of workers knows no defeat, and day by day they have been greatly blessed of God. In all kinds of weather and ofttimes under most trying conditions they have gone forward in their divinely appointed task, accomplishing the seemingly impossible. Often meeting rebuff and forbidding circumstances, yet by prayer and faith they have stood the test and come forth triumphant. We are proud of our British bookmen and believe their achievements are second to none in the world field. Note the steady increase of colporteurs since the year 1949:

Year	Full-time	Part-time	Total
1950	82	20	102
1951	84	22	106
1952	87	28	115
1953	88	31	119

In 1949 there were eighty-two full-time and twenty part-time colporteurs, bringing the total to 102; thus making almost a twenty per cent increase in our working force during the past four years. This encouraging feature of our colporteur ministry has been largely made possible by the splendid teamwork and hearty co-operation of our local Publishing Department secretaries. As a direct result of their united effort and service, and under God's leading, colporteur-evangelists are found in all parts of the British Union territory today.

#### STUDENT-COLPORTEURS

In addition to the work of our regular and parttime colporteurs, a large number of student-colporteurs have entered the field to sell our message-filled literature. During the past four years 111 studentcolporteurs have qualified for the scholarship bonus under the special Scholarship Plan. Not only have the young men and young women sold many books and magazines, but they have gained a wonderful and invaluable experience which cannot be supplied within the four walls of the College. Thus the time spent in the field persuading men and women to buy our publications does provide for a balanced

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and thorough preparation for greater soul-winning endeavour. The following table indicates the splendid success and progress of our student-colporteurs:

		Total	Sal	es
	•	£	s.	d.
1950		6,194	4	6
1953	••••••	8,178	8	0
	· .	31,855	5	7

During the past four year period, 1946-1949, the students' sales were £23,094 and 131 students were able to claim a scholarship bonus. The £8,761. 5s.-7d. gain on the students' sales for the present quadrennial period is a remarkable and a glorious achievement.

Many of our young people have been out and done exploits with our literature on the Scholarship Plan. Last year, one young lady won two full scholarships selling our large subscription book, The Bible Speaks, among the firms and businessmen of Stoke and nearby territory in the Midlands. We believe this is a record for an English young lady student-colporteur in the British Union. This young lady canvassed 462 hours to reach this excellent achievement.

Another young lady in Northern Ireland sold The Bible Speaks to the value of £353 after 374 hours of canvassing, thus making her fourth full scholarship in four consecutive years canvassing among the Catholics and Protestants of Northern Ireland.

A young man from Germany sold small literature in the historic city of Edinburgh and gained a full scholarship in eight weeks. In Liverpool another young student gained a full scholarship in ten weeks selling God's Answers. In the city of Glasgow a young man from West Africa won a full scholarship in six weeks.

In the previous year a young man and his wife witnessed two precious souls being baptized as a result of their summer's work, apart from both qualifying for a scholarship bonus.

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS

A number of new and attractive publications have been printed by our publishing house during the period under review, thus supplying the tools for our colporteurs and also helping to meet the need in the field.

In 1950 a large subscription book entitled God's Good News, by W. L. Emmerson, was launched; two years later God's Answers to Your Questions, by R. D. Vine, was published. Then in 1953 Bible Stories, Volume 2, by A. S. Maxwell was ready for the field.

Apart from our large and medium-price subscription books, a new volume of Bedtime Stories, by A. S. Maxwell, was printed each year. In addition to the above, several editions of the eightpenny magazines such as, Good News, Health and Happiness, and Youth Calling were published and widely circulated. A special coronation number of Good News reached a record sale of 150,000 copies in 1953.

#### SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS

It is interesting to note that seven large and medium-price subscription books were sold by the colporteurs, namely, The Bible Speaks, by W. L. Emmerson, 25,041 copies; God's Good News, by W. L. Emmerson, 8,815 copies; God's Answers, by R. D. Vine, 13,201 copies; Bible Stories, Volume 1, by A. S. Maxwell, 69,067; Bible Stories, Volume 2, by A. S. Maxwell, 3,258 copies; God's Way Out, by Arthur Warren, 10,056 copies; and These Days of Destiny, by J. A. McMillan, 11,353 copies; Steps to Christ, How to Keep Well, and other publications reached a grand total of 581,318 copies. In the previous quadrennial period 536,559 subscription books were sold, thus revealing a marvellous gain of 44,759 copies. Truly a wonderful achievement under the blessing of God!

#### SETS OF BOOKS

Last year one of our publishing secretaries put forward the idea of trying out the possibility of selling a set of books in the British Union. Together with the publishing secretaries, one or two colporteurs were selected to try out the plan of selling these volumes as a set. The books chosen were, *Bible Stories*, Volumes 1 and 2, by A. S. Maxwell, and *God's Answers*, by R. D. Vine.

The Stanborough Press prepared the set of three volumes in a special case with the name or title stamped in gold. The set of books were offered at a special discount price, thus making the proposition more appealing and attractive to the prospect. From the very beginning the idea has proved most successful, and soon other colporteurs were asking to adopt the plan. Within a short time it was decided to offer another set of books, this time a set of two volumes, *Bible Stories*, Volumes 1 and 2, at a special price in a handsome box. These sets of two or three volumes are being sold in two special styles of bindings and colour, black or red, and are proving very popular with the colporteur and the prospect in the field.

This idea of selling a set of books has come to stay, and since launching the plan our sales figure has broken all previous records. In one week recently one colporteur reached £70 in sales for the set of three volumes, whereas another colporteur passed the £80 mark in five days. Other colporteurs are enjoying similar experiences.

#### COLPORTEUR COUNCILS

The annual British Union Colporteurs' Council is the most important event of the year on the colporteurs' calendar. These special occasions of fellowship and devotion act as a special refresher course to the progressive and God-fearing colporteur. Each year the colporteur family have met in the beautiful Stanborough Park church. The special help from the Division and General Conference visitors has been greatly appreciated by the British bookmen. The eight days of study and general instruction on the technique of Gospel salesmanship is certainly reflected in the efficient soul-winning activities of these warriors of the printed page.

Student-Colporteur Institutes have also been held each year at Newbold Missionary College. Usually the school is closed down for three days, thus giving the publishing secretaries an opportunity of promoting the Scholarship Plan among the students. Every student is expected to spend the minimum of two summers in the colporteur ministry before graduating.

#### AUXILIARY COLPORTEUR MINISTRY

Another very important phase of the colporteur ministry is the Auxiliary Colporteur ministry. The following figures indicate the onward progress of this section of the work in the British Union.

	То	tal Lite	eratu	ıre	Sales
		£	s.	d.	
1950	·····	4,359	14	7	
1951		4,460	3	3	
1952		4,850	16	0	
1953		6,321	17	4	

There are almost 300 auxiliary colporteurs in the British Union territory. Our aim is to organize a band of literature workers in all our large churches. All auxiliary colporteurs receive a monthly report and a fortnightly letter from the Union Publishing Department Secretary. Experiences are exchanged and from this excellent source new recruits are found for full-time colporteur ministry.

The North London Auxiliary Band has set a wonderful example of missionary enterprise and practical endeavour. Today, there are 47 members in the band, and during 1953 they canvassed nearly 10,000 hours and sold literature to the grand value of over £1,845. In one week this band sold over 2,000 magazines. Study carefully the following figures of this outstanding auxiliary colporteur band:

	' To	tal	Re	tail	Sal	es
		£		s.	d.	
1950		1,20	00	0	0	
1951		1,4	49	0	0	
1952		1,5	34	19	5	
1953		1,8	44	6	7	

The leader of the North London Auxiliary Band is none other than full-time Colporteur H. G. Cruttwell, and God has surely blessed his efforts with unusual success. If members are interested in the auxiliary colporteur ministry then ask for the Auxiliary Colporteur's Handbook.

#### CHURCH LITERATURE CONVENTIONS

Week-end literature rallies or literature conventions have been held in all our large churches throughout the British Union Conference territory. Such special occasions provide the opportunities of

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promoting our colporteur ministry, and help to keep the importance of full-time and part-time colporteur work ever before the members of the church.

Apart from the devotional periods and time spent in Gospel salesmanship, special sound films are available, and then on Sundays the members are taken from home to home selling our message-filled literature. These special meetings bring handsome returns and we thank God for our far-flung army of auxiliary colporteurs in the British Isles.

#### FREE BIBLE AND HEALTH CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

Every colporteur-evangelist carries with him the Voice of Prophecy enrolment cards. Then again, almost every book and magazine that leaves our British publishing house carries a slip of paper offering the free Bible or Health Correspondence Course to the reader. During the quadrennial period the Voice of Prophecy have recorded nearly 2,500 enrolments from books and magazines sold by our energetic colporteur-evangelists.

When introducing our health literature our colporteurs can now enrol the people who are interested in the free Health Correspondence Course. Quite a number are taking this special health course. In this way the "right arm" of our message is brought to the attention of the public. Thus the colporteur ministry and the Voice of Prophecy Department are linked together in whole-hearted cooperation and unselfish service for others. Undoubtedly this united ministry will become a mighty factor in the closing scenes of the work in the British Union.

#### COLPORTEUR INTEREST INFORMATION CARD

Apart from the above-mentioned free Correspondence Courses, the colporteurs are using a special Colporteurs' Interest Information Card which is filled in by the colporteur, giving advance information on the interested people he meets day by day. These cards are then passed on to the evangelist, Bible instructor, or local minister. These interested people can then be followed up as prospective candidates for Bible studies and ultimately for baptism.

#### NEW RECRUITS AND COLPORTEUR EFFICIENCY COURSE

A special Gospel Salesmanship Correspondence Course is available for all those who are desirous of doing full-time colporteur ministry. The complete course is based on the excellent text book, *Gospel Sales Manual*. Many of the colporteurs have given up good jobs and positions in the world in order to respond to the call of colporteur evangelism. Every encouragement is given by the local publishing secretary, including practical help in the field. May the challenge still continue to ring throughout our churches and companies that the response may quickly come, "Here am I; send me." Isa. 6:8.

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#### RESIDENTIAL COLPORTEURS

One of the most encouraging features of the colporteur ministry is the fact that a number of our men and women have stood by the literature ministry for many years. Some have over forty years of continuous service to their credit; othersthirty-five years; some thirty years; and quite a large number over twenty years of faithful witness with the printed page. Owing to the extreme difficulty in obtaining suitable accommodation, some of our colporteurs have been working the same territory for the past thirty to forty years. Many people have built up an Adventist library during these years, buying new books regularly as they are published.

#### EXPERIENCES IN SOUL-WINNING

The real motive of our colporteur-evangelist is to reach and win precious souls for the coming kingdom. Some of our colporteurs have won anywhere from two to fifty souls during the years. There is no greater joy for the consecrated colporteur than to see his prospects accept the glorious Advent message.

Our books are pioneering their way among all classes of people. May I relate just two experiences:

"Brother Olliver, canvassing in Scotland, tells of his visit to a lovely large home in the heart of the mountains, that involved a seven-mile walk, and where royalty are frequent visitors. Brother Olliver had difficulty in getting by three servants. Then still refusing to divulge his business, his passage was nearly wrecked by the secretary. But he got through eventually. Her ladyship now has a copy of God'sGood News. She is the sister of the Queen Mother. The interview was all over and the book paid for in about five minutes."

#### LIGHT IN DARK PLACES

"Appearances are not always what they seem," writes another colporteur, F. J. Kinman. "It is true one cannot always find sunshine in a military camp. Oft-times there are plenty that need the light of God's glory. Here is a Baptist. He is a retired setgeant of the Royal Artillery and has now set up a boot-repairing business for himself. When I approached him he told me that another religious worker had forewarned him of my presence in the camp, and had advised him to turn me out of his shop should I dare to call. This worker, however, did not live long enough to see the end from the beginning.

"The ex-army sergeant was glad to read the message brought to him in our message-filled books, for he bought several of them. He read them and I believe he has re-read them. He accepted the truth. That is not all, we were able to find him a good Seventh-Day Adventist wife. Both are happy in the message, and besides having recently collected over £60 for the Ingathering campaign, they are both auxiliary colporteurs."

#### FUTURE PROSPECTS

With the prospect of new and more attractive publications coming from our publishing house, the steady line of recruits, full- and part-time, joining the force, and with the hearty co-operation of the local publishing department secretaries, the future of our colporteur ministry in the British Union is indeed bright and promising. Truly the finest and greatest hour of our literature ministry is just before us.

The "sets of books" idea is gaining ground every day. A new health book under the title of *Radiant Health* is almost ready for the field. More auxiliary colporteur bands are being organized throughout the field, and, generally speaking, our entire church membership seems more literature minded and willing to scatter the precious Gospel seed.

Most of all, more people are keeping the Sabbath throughout our land because of the influence of our literature. Revised policies and more efficient ideas will no doubt lead us into the on-rushing climax of the swelling of the loud cry. Must you stay on the farm, in the workshop, or in the office?

Why not link up with our grand colporteur army which continues to go forward with increasing success? May God richly bless your whole-hearted response in this great and supreme hour of opportunity for service.

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Religious Liberty Department Report 1950 - 1953

## By W. L. Emmerson

THE fact that oversight of the religious liberty department in the British Union is a minor responsibility added on to another major office, is in itself a significant testimony of liberty, civil and religious, which is enjoyed by the people of these Isles.

While with a certain truth the United States has been called "the land of religious liberty" yet it can be remembered with pride that the principles upon which that great nation was established, stemmed largely from enlightened exponents of liberty in Britain of the seventeenth and earlier centuries.

As Lord Acton, actually himself an English Roman Catholic, has stated in his History of Freedom:

"That great political idea, sanctifying freedom and consecrating it to God, teaching men to treasure the liberties of others as their own and to defend them for the love of justice and charity more than as a claim of right, has been the soul of what is great and good in the progress of the last two hundred years."—Page 52.

At the outset of this report, therefore, I would like to pay tribute to the British conception of liberty and its practical outworking, and to our worthy forebears who secured it for us. Our task as a religious liberty department during the past quadrennium has been more the acquainting of our membership with the privileges which are theirs than that of striving for the acquirement of liberties which we do not possess.

Fine work has been done by my predecessors in this office in securing clauses in the Factory Acts and the Sunday Trading Acts which have removed from Adventists in industry and in the retail trades most of the handicaps associated with the observance of the seventh rather than the first day of the week.

Our colporteurs are free to pursue their sacred calling without any hindrances like the Green River Ordinances in the United States or the active persecution which some of their brethren are nobly facing in Catholic lands.

In coming days, of course, prejudices may harden into legal proscriptions, but at present we are happy to record that the simple permit of the publishing house is the colporteurs' sufficient authority everywhere except in one or two regions where a readily obtained local authority is required.

The provisions for Independent Schools in the Education Act give entire freedom for the development of our educational work along denominational lines, and many commendations have been received from local authorities respecting our College, Secondary School, and local church schools.

#### EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

Some difficulties have been experienced by our young people taking advanced courses of study in outside training colleges and universities, not so much by reason of any religious discrimination, but because of the problems of adjusting very crowded curricula to meet the needs of a small minority. Yet even so, many remarkable stories could be related of solutions being found by tactful approaches.

One young lady taking an arts course was at first told that it was quite impossible to get an important examination period changed from Sabbath to some other day, but as a result of her quiet persistance it was revealed that adjustments could be made and she successfully took her examination at another time.

At a certain university a particular class in the medical course was invariably conducted on Sabbath and three Adventist medical students found themselves in difficulties. Approaches were made by Pastor G. D. King, the Division Religious Liberty Secretary, and myself, on behalf of the young people, and a class was actually conducted on Sunday morning for a number of weeks to accommodate them.

Generous consideration has also been given to Adventist young people taking teachers' and nurses' training courses.

At the same time it must be said that some of our young people have not been able to secure the concessions which they desired, and have had to make considerable sacrifices for conscience sake. It is a tribute to these young people that they have stood firm under trial, even surrendering cherished ambitions rather than violate their principles.

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#### NATIONAL SERVICE

National service in these troublous times continues to loom large in the lives of the young people, but here again we can be grateful for the provisions respecting genuine conscientious conviction in the Military Training Act, and for the consideration which is shown to our young people appearing before the tribunals. In the London region, in particular, where a very large number of Adventist young people have been called to give evidence of their convictions respecting military service and Sabbath observance, our position is accepted without question, and invariably permission is given to the young people to discharge their national service in a civilian capacity where the Sabbath is more easily negotiable.

There are some tribunals elsewhere where the difficulty of Sabbath observance has not been fully recognized, with the result that some young people in the provinces have been required to do this national service in non-combatant units in the Army. The attitude of these tribunals, however, is changing, and some of the latest decisions indicate an acceptance of the view that Seventh-Day Adventists can render the most useful national service in a civilian capacity.

As the secretary of the young people's department has mentioned in his report, a census last year revealed the fact that about two-thirds of our young people of service age were doing civilian national service as against one-third in the forces.

As might be expected, some problems of Sabbath observance have been experienced where Adventist young people have been required to enter the Forces, but when the individuals have deported themselves well, generous treatment has generally been accorded to them.

Perhaps here it is appropriate to register our regret that the medical services of the British Forces are not open to non-combatants. If these services were prepared to admit them, as they do in a number of other countries, the majority of Adventist young people would be entirely willing, in peace or in war, to serve their fellow men in such capacity.

A special problem arises in the case of young people in the combatant forces of the Crown accepting the Advent message and meeting difficulties with reference to their changed convictions. In this connection a visit by Pastor King and myself to the Second Sea Lord at the Admiralty resulted in a generous promise to arrange for the transfer of naval personnel becoming bona fide Seventh-Day Adventists to the sick bay or cooking services for the balance of their naval service.

#### CALENDAR REFORM

The remaining concern of the Religious Liberty Department and of our membership in general during the quadrennium has been the repeatedly recurring activity of the Calendar reformers.

In 1949, the last year of the preceding quadrennium, the Panama delegation secured the placing of the subject of Calendar Reform on the Provisional Agenda of the autumn meeting of the United Nations Assembly. We immediately got in touch with the Home Office and received the fullest statement we have ever had on the attitude of the United Kingdom to Calendar Reform. It stated:

"Mr. Ede is fully aware of the difficulties which any interference with the hebdomadal cycle would occasion to the members of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Great Britian—and indeed to other religious bodies—and it is unlikely that His Majesty's government would consider the adoption of the suggested World Calendar unless and until there was a substantial demand, both national and international, therefor.

"His Majesty's Government is not aware of such a demand at present, and the United Kingdom delegation at the General Assembly will doubtless do no more than express the Government's willingness to consider the matter if and when such a demand arises."

We were happy for this clear statement and happier still when the Panama resolution was deleted from the U.N. Agenda.

Undaunted, however, the Calendar reformers drew up a new six year plan to secure the adoption of Calendar Reform by the nations in time to go into operation on January 1, 1956.

In 1950 when it was reported that the Calendar reformers were agitating for a discussion at the September session of the United Nations Assembly we again inquired as to the attitude of H.M. Government and received the entirely satisfactory word "that the position remains as stated in the third paragraph of the Home Office letter addressed to you on the 13th September last."

Following the replacement of the Labour government by the present Conservative one it was stated in an article in the December, 1951, issue of the *Journal of Calender Reform*, entitled "Revival of Interest in England":

"Advocates of Calendar Reform in England are again becoming vocal. They are hoping that the new government, under Winston Churchill, will have something constructive to say about this subject."

The attention of the Home Office was drawn to this statement to which the Home Secretary replied that "the position regarding Calendar Reform remains unchanged."

What promised to be the most serious move yet on the part of the Calendar reformers developed a few months ago when India announced its intention of asking for Calendar Reform to be discussed by ~ the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations at its mid-year session.

When the subject was placed upon the Provisional Agenda earlier in the year the General Conference Religious Liberty Department went into action supported by the corresponding organizations in local fields all over the world.

We communicated with the Home Office once again relative to the position of the British Government and were gratified to be informed that there was still "no change" in their attitude on this matter.

During Elder Rulkoetter's visit to this country in April we renewed very friendly contacts with our

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Jewish friends who, in all lands where they are well represented, are urging official opposition to any Calendar change involving the breaking of the continuity of the historic week.

Later, similar contacts were made with the secretary of the Lord's Day Observance Society with whom, while we differ on some fundamental matters, we are entirely at one on the Calendar issue.

When the ECOSOC session began in Geneva at the end of May, Dr. Rulkoetter and Dr. Nussbaum contacted many of the national delegations there and received assurances of the opposition of a number of important states. We have not yet heard whether the matter has come up for discussion, but it seems likely that the most the Calendar reformers can expect is that the matter be referred to a technical subcommittee for further study.

#### VIGILANCE THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

We are indeed thankful for all God's providences through which we have continued to enjoy the blessings of freedom in these Isles during the past quadrennium. At the same time we dedicate ourselves to continued vigilance, recognizing that in the last days the liberties of the people of God are to be increasingly imperilled and believing that now as ever "vigilance is the price of freedom."

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## Public Relations Department Report 1950 - 1953

#### By R. D. Vine

THE youngest member among the various departments of the church here in Britain is the Public Relations Department. It has just survived its first quadrennium, from which it emerges not as a departmental weakling, sickly and moribund; not meriting such a testimony as the Sardian church, "Thou hast a name that thou livest and art dead" it emerges rather in the full vigour of promising youth, with much to learn, much to do, much progress to make, but with much preliminary success to give it stimulation and satisfaction.

Its main effort is directed toward obtaining publicity for Adventist news as often as possible and in as many as possible of the fifteen hundred daily and weekly newspapers which serve the British public.

It is recognized that our movement, its phenomenal growth, its aims and philosophy of life, its youth work which has been recognized by more than one outsider as "the best on earth," its radio work, its welfare ministry, its unshakable convictions and confidence in its clear-cut message—to mention our church's major aspects—has much that is really newsworthy to offer to newspaper publishers.

We must confess to being somewhat dubious when our American brethren first urged upon us the idea of feeding the secular press with church news items. The big reason was that, unlike the voluminous American papers, British papers had to content themselves with a mere three or four sheets, from whose limited and therefore very valuable space, any Adventist church news item could be fairly sure of exclusion. This idea is, of course, erroneous, as we have proved.

Equally erroneous was the thought that newspaper editors were so prejudiced against Adventists that any favourable news item could be sure, not of publicity, but of the waste paper basket. From personal contact with scores of editors, we know that they are glad to obtain real news of any kind, including Adventist news. One editor of a widely circulated paper recently said: "I appreciate the help you give us in getting details about your church and its activities. With other churches we have greatest difficulty in obtaining newsworthy details." He was not, of course, an Adventist, but he was interested to know what Adventists are doing and the progress they are making; and as such, is typical of the hundreds of editors up and down the country. Not that he has published all the information we have sent him, nor that he has failed to perform much editorial surgery on many of the items that he has published; but the fact is, he has been grateful, not resentful, for the reports we have painstakingly typed out and sent along.

First a word of praise for enthusiastic associates —Brother K. Gammon of South England, Pastor C. Watson of the North, and Pastor B. Kinman of Scotland. All three are heavily loaded with pressing duties, yet they have given an excellent lead to the press work in their respective fields.

Part of the departmental goal is to have a press secretary in every church and company. We have not yet achieved this, but we have nineteen in the South, thirty-two in the North, five in Scotland, and two in each of Wales and Ireland. A total of fiftyfive.

Some have been outstandingly successful in having church news items published. Dr. Howard Ebdon of Wales qualifies for first place this year. He has had fifty-eight separate news items published by the outside press, as well as several pictures.

Unfortunately, we cannot give a complete picture of what has been done, for so many secretaries have modestly failed to let us know of their successes; and the agency which 'sends us Adventist cuttings misses a majority of the provincial papers. But the number if items in outside papers since the London campaign began, is well over 400, occupying at least 1,000 column inches. Accompanying these have been forty-one pictures.

This figure could be greatly increased, however, if reports of sermons were included; and increased still further by the addition of items and articles which just make incidental reference to Adventists and their work.

For instance, Pastor L. Shaw had excellent sermon

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publicity in a succession of Lincolnshire papers. For actual paper space utilized this last few months, the laurels go overwhelmingly to Pastor W. H. Frazer and Brother John Bodell in the Portadown area of Northern Ireland. These two brethren alone, by their sermon reporting and contributions to the "Readers' Letters" sections of their local papers, have been responsible for filling 1,500 column inches with church news. Such publicity as this is undoubtedly of inestimable worth, especially in a land of such religious fervour and fierce prejudices. And think of it-all free! Whereas the space for advertising the sermon is dearly bought out of precious evangelistic funds, space for printing a report of the sermon is given free, provided the report is well written.

The most recent items to come through were an illustrated report from the Glasgow *Evening Citizen* about the "Evangelist who doubled roll of Glasgow sect" (Pastor I. MacGougan), and one from the Portsmouth *Evening News* telling of our mission work and the local Ingathering success. Press secretary John Welch who sent the latter item, expressed gratification that all he had written was published word for word, together with a picture of Pastor A. W. Howard.

What things do we report? Everything of interest: reports of special meetings, visitors, college students, Ingathering, missionary movements, Dorcas work, youth rallies, weddings, deaths, anniversaries, socials, concerts, as well as special feature articles.

Every national paper, including even the communist Daily Worker has carried Adventist news items during the past two years. Notable was a fine article in Tit-bits (circulation 1,000,000), which gave a very fair portrayal of our church. Publicity in the national press was, of course, occasioned by the Coliseum campaign and the purchasing of the New Gallery Centre. The showing of the film, "I Beheld His Glory," applauded by most, mildly frowned on by some, brought us very widespread publicity, worth, as one paper-man put it, many thousands of pounds, in every national paper from the Times to the Daily Herald and Daily Mirror. Likewise the majority of bigger provincial papers gave publicity. As a result of all this publicity, few people can now say they have never heard of Adventists.

Two prominent Anglican papers in several issues gave liberal space to letters which were written in defence of the faith. Bitter things were published against us in letter form, but the editor of the *Church of England Newspaper* clearly showed where his sympathy lay by the space he let us use, and by a very fine editorial note which he wrote.

Three Press Relations instruction sessions have been held this year in the North England Conference, which were attended by a majority of the North England secretaries. These were convened by Pastor Watson, in Manchester, York, and Birmingham. We had a profitable time together in each of these places. We plan to hold similar workshops in South England in the near future.

The main purpose of this department is not to indoctrinate or to raise money, but to break down prejudice by informing publishers and public of the true facts concerning our church work, beliefs, aims, plans, and accomplishments. Editors want information. We endeavour to give it.

The secular press is a mighty moulder of public opinion. So often in the past our only publicity has been mainly garbled and unfair. Our secretaries are seeking to correct this by supplying proper information and regular reports, and by doing their best to encourage a relationship with the outside press of cordiality and friendship.

British Union Conference

## Educational Department Report 1950 - 1953

By W. R. A. Madgwick, B.A., B.D.

OUR ministerial training college was first opened in London in 1901 and our first church school for primary education was established in Kettering, Northamptonshire, in 1904. Now fifty years after these early beginnings we have one college, one

secondary school, and five primary schools only. In the Leeds school, recently established in the North England Conference, we have an enrolment of 31, Newbold church school 25, Plymouth 39, Walthamstow 43, and Wimbledon 30—a total enrolment of 168 children. This number consists of 52 Adventist children and 116 non-Adventist. The ten teachers employed in these schools are giving faithful and consecrated service.

We cannot speak too highly of the work done at the Stanboroughs Secondary and Preparatory School by the headmaster, Pastor A. J. Woodfield, and his staff. Under the blessing of God this school has given increasingly acceptable service. It now has an enrolment of 296 pupils—107 seniors and 189 juniors. Mr. Woodfield himself will give a detailed report of this school.

Newbold Missionary College has no difficulty in filling to capacity its dormitory space. Our enrolment last year was 110—77 from Britain and 33 from abroad. In 1953 Newbold's status was raised to that of a senior denominational college. Although Newbold in this capacity will serve the wider interests of the Northern European Division, including the British Union Conference, we must never forget that 75 per cent of its academic programme will be almost exclusively for the young people of Britain. It is from Newbold that our new British workers will continue to come.

During the past four years 75 students have graduated from Newbold—33 ministers, 32 Bible instructors and 10 teachers. And may I add that during the seven years of my principalship 129 have graduated—65 ministers, 48 Bible instructors, and 16 teachers. Those of this number now employed in the British Union Conference represent 38 per cent of the evangelistic working force.

It is our earnest hope that more and more of our boys and girls, young men and young women, will be educated and trained by our own teachers from the primary schools to the College.

We must always remember that the success and spread of the Advent message throughout the world has been in direct proportion to the heeding of the counsel which has been divinely given to us as a denomination.

In 1880 our first denominational primary school and first training college were established. Ten years later the denomination had sixteen schools. God's people soon realized the great importance and value of Adventist education for our young people. Our sixteen schools and colleges of 1890 grew to 245 by 1900, to over 600 by 1910, and to over 1,000 by 1920. The latest available figures for Seventh-Day Adventist education in the world field show a total of 229,014 students enrolled, led by 9,599 teachers in 4,751 schools.

How has this education programme affected our working force? In 1880 we had 260 evangelistic workers, only four of them outside North America, By 1890 this number had increased by only a little more than half. But during the next decade, when the great advance in Seventh-Day Adventist schools was made, the original number of workers was multiplied by six. By 1910 there were sixteen times as many, and by 1920 there were twenty-six times as many evangelistic labourers as in 1880, and over 4,000 of these were outside North America. By 1952 we had 17,774 evangelistic workers, 13,525 of whom laboured outside North America.

This phenomenal increase of workers, following the increase in Adventist schools and colleges, had a direct bearing on our membership. Between 1890 and 1940 our world membership doubled on the average every twelve years, or five times over in the sixty years. Between 1940 and 1952 our membership increased from 504,752 to 856,463. More schools means more workers and more workers means more members. This has been God's appointed method for the spreading of His last-day message.

For the speedy finishing of the work here in Britain we need therefore an enlargement of our educational programme. In order to give our hoys and girls a sound Christian education we must increase the number of Adventist primary schools and improve the facilities of those already established. We must widen the scope and better the efficiency of our Stanboroughs Secondary School and of Newbold Missionary College. While striving for the highest levels in spiritual attainment we must keep abreast with the rising educational standards of the day. With increasing numbers of well-educated and Spirit-filled young men and young women coming from our schools and College, God's work here in Britain can maker rapid progress. Let us inspire our talented and consecrated young people to gain an Adventist education and devote their lives to the spreading of God's last message for the world.



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THE four-year period just concluded could fairly be described as one of grievous assault by the enemy, stoically endured and survived by the school, and now turned into a victory that not only provides a breathing space, but also the promise of still greater achievement to follow. Last Union Session our report ended on a note of apprehension: the district around was filling up with new schools constituting a strong challenge and at that stage causing the beginnings of a slight fall-off in the enrolment. Since then another new school has opened opposite Stanborough Park, the Roman Catholic school is on the way to completion, as well as another secondary school in the Woodside district. However, we are not discouraged; public confidence and above all the confidence of our members is higher than ever, and the enrolment after the threatened decline of four years ago has now begun to grow again. Here are some interesting figures:

The enrolment in July, 1950, the figure reported at the last session, was:

	Adventists	Non-Adventists	Total
July, 1950	88	207	295
July, 1951	82	195	277
July, 1952	71	199	270
July, 1953	88	206	294
July, 1954	9 <b>2</b>	204	296

Thus we are actually just above the enrolment that we had in 1950. The applications for next term still flood in and we have to refuse admission to some classes through lack of accommodation.

Viewed in the light of some of the difficulties and crises that seemed more doggedly and repeatedly than ever to beset us, and that most convincingly reminded us that we were the object of one of the adversary's specially persistent attacks, this recovery in the enrolment is most remarkable and can only be accounted for by the fact that God's blessing is on this His appointed school, and that those whom He has called to service there have given of their best. One of the most vexing and perplexing problems we have had has been that of maintaining our teaching staff at full strength. The detailed catalogue of goings and comings over the past four years is a somewhat depressing document.

Altogether there have been twelve movements of staff during the past four years, and worse than that, every change has entailed untold work in reforming the time-table and in searching out someone who is willing and competent to come in and

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fill in the breach. Of those thus involved during the quadrennium, one left through ill-health, one was smitten down with polio, another, still with us fortunately, was put out of service for several months as a result of a road accident, three left the district or country, two more went to the mission fields of Africa, our stenographer has now just joined them, while four left for personal reasons. This loss of staff necessitated our having to resort to temporary teachers on five occasions and you will readily appreciate that this has meant many problems in ensuring the continuity of the teaching and the maintenance of discipline. Many of our staffing difficulties would disappear if only we could welcome to our school some of the many with the necessary qualifications, who would look on service at our school as missionary endeavour of the highest order, as indeed it is.

The challenge of the 200 children from non-Adventist homes is surely one that every one of us should take seriously on our heart. It is not only a challenge but a heaven-sent opportunity. What we need is a waiting list of consecrated and qualified young people from whom we can draw to make good the losses which to a limited degree are inevitable.

In spite of the dislocation of our work through often unexpected and sudden changes in our teaching personnel, our pupils have continued to make good progress with their studies and to gain good General Certificates of Education. Boys and girls can be prepared for the ordinary level in Scripture, English Language, Literature, French, Latin, History, Science, and Mathematics, and in the immediate future we plan to add Woodwork and Cookery to this list. In 1951, 9 of our pupils gained certificates; in 1952, 11; in 1953, 9, including one at the Advanced level in English. This year we have entered 11. When it is remembered that some of our pupils find academic study more than ordinarily hard, and failed to gain admission to a grammar school on that score, this achievement, which is well up in the number of passes gained, is all the more signicant of the hard, conscientious work of our teaching staff. I cannot refrain from adding here that one of our own Adventist girls went on after she had finished here to the Watford Grammar School for girls for advanced work, and was told in front of her new class that her results were higher than any in that school. Our people can be assured that the staff at their Union secondary school is both well qualified and earnestly devoted to their work. Every one has been trained, either in our own College or at some other teacher training establishment. Three are honours graduates, one other has just sat for his B.Sc degree, three others have government qualifications, and three have both government and our own College diplomas. We want, every one of us, to make this school one that the British Union can be justly proud of, and under God I believe this has already been done.

During the past four years, school visits to the continent have come and are very popular. In 1951 Miss Belton and Mr. and Mrs. C. Roe took a party of children from the school at Easter to visit Paris. They stayed at our Paris church and thoroughly enjoyed the French capital. Next year, 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Roe took a party to Interlaken, Switzerland, and last year again at Easter, Mr. and Mrs. Margerison and Mrs. Swift took another party back to Interlaken. This year the same leaders are taking a party to Interlaken and Lugano, Italy. May 1 emphasize that these teachers go at their own expense during the school vacations, and on these occasions at any rate do not have a holiday! We do appreciate all the hard work they do on these journeys and the long, patient preparation they put into the organization of the trips. A Continental journey with a large group of excited children to see safely on and off boats and trains and to shepherd through foreign cities is no mean undertaking.

Every year we at the school take part in the Ingathering Campaign as an independent unit. There are, of course, few among the pupils who can actively collect because of the age restrictions, but nevertheless they do take part in unofficial ways and certainly enjoy the visits of our special speakers during the Ingathering period. Some classes raise as much as  $\pounds 5$ , and together with the work of the teaching staff good sums have been gathered. One of our beginners in the fourth Form got a  $\pounds 1$  note on her first morning out this year, and she and her companion bid fair to become first-rate collectors. Our Ingathering achievements during the quadrennium were:

	£
1951	. 152
1952	
1953	. 189
1954	. 186

This is a good record for the few who collected and shows a good improvement on the 1950 figure, which was £98.

This school would fail in its prime purpose if it did not actively engage in seeking under the Lord's help to bear witness to His truth. Imagine the incalculable good that is being done day after day in the classrooms by our consecrated Adventist teachers in their work with not only our own children but also the many others from the neighbourhood.

Every year our children from the school are being baptized into the church after instruction in the school Bible classes and in special baptismal classes conducted by the pastor of the Stanborough Park church and myself. In 1951 there were five pupils baptized (one from a non-Adventist home); one, also from a non-Adventist home, in 1952; six in 1953; and so far this year another eight, with about six or seven still receiving instruction. At the MV Week of Prayer appeal for consecration madeby Pastor E. L. Minchin, all but two of the large group of some twenty who responded, and who joined subsequently some baptismal class, were, or had at some time been, pupils at the school. In the world field during the last quadrennium one in every six baptisms was of pupils or students in our schools, and in North America alone there were enough pupils baptized from our elementary and secondary schools to form eighty-six new churches each with a membership of 100. We, in this district, have likewise proved what a spiritual blessing to a church its own school can be. This last year we have tried the experiment of putting all the religious instruction into the hands of one teacher for the whole of the secondary school. He is Brother C. E. Roe, and I have listened to his classes at times unknown to him, and can tell you that all the children in this school are receiving good, sound, and stimulating instruction in the fundamentals of this people.

Not only are the teachers sharing our faith, but our own boys and girls often catch the inspiration in a very definite way. I cannot get accurate figures for you, but I know many of them are bringing their friends to JMV, to Sabbath school, and other youth activities. At the opening service of the autumn Week of Prayer there were five senior non-Adventist pupils present and all enjoyed it. One told Mr. Roe, who has done a lot of the encouraging, that she would like to be an Adventist.

I would like you to hear a little prayer composed by one of our ten-year-old girls in Mr. Brookes' class:

> Dear Jesus, You are the Giver Good, Please therefore give to me, An honest heart, An upright self, And best, a love for Thee. Amen.

And perhaps you would like to share with me some parts of this letter sent to me by one of my old boys then serving in the Royal Air Force:

"Dear sir,

"14.11.1953

"I was deeply touched when I realized that although I was a student at your school for so short a period, that you had time to remember me. I have been to your church several times, but each time you were absent.

"I brought a friend one Sabbath morning to hear Mr. Vandeman. My mother also went to hear him, and we will all go to London at the first opportunity. We were greatly impressed by his sincerity and humility of spirit.

"As you will see I am still in the Royal Air Force stationed at Middle Wallop. I am a clerk in the Education section.

"It is marvellous the way God has led me and His love has been revealed to me so many times. When I see the complete failure of some of the young men I think, There am I, but for the grace of God. With kind remembrances and many thanks.

> "Yours very sincerely" "J.E."

Apart from the straight teaching of the Word, our everyday routine and the conscientious work done here is not slowly, but swiftly, breaking down the suspicion and prejudice with which Seventh-Day Adventists have long been regarded in the Watford district.

Our relations with the local authorities seem also to be very cordial. Pupils have been recommended to this school by the headmaster of the Watford Grammar School for Boys, and I have several cordial letters of congratulation from the Town Hall on the good success of our pupils in the Road Safety Proficiency Tests. This Whitsun each school taking part was allowed to enter six pupils, and five of our six gained prizes, four of the highest at 7s. 6d. each and one of the 5s. prizes. You will have to attend, if you can get in for the throng, one of our presentation day programmes to hear the long lists of the various successes gained by our pupils.

Our greatest moment came this summer when at the opening of our new departments we were unable to get everybody into the Estate Hall; many had to stay outside, and parents were still cordially chatting with our teachers till about eleven o'clock that night. The Mayor and Mayoress of Watford were present with us, the Mayor graciously performing the opening ceremony. They stayed watching the various displays until 9.40 that evening. Next day I received a most warm and appreciative note from the Mayor to thank me for the happy evening he and the Mayoress had spent with us. Who can measure the good influence this school is having among local authorities for our work?

Now I must press on with an enumeration of the remaining high-lights of the quadrennium. On June 27-28, 1951, the school was inspected by H.M. Inspectors. It was an ordeal which it turned out we had no need to dread, for very gratifying and in some instances congratulatory was the verdict. Incidentally, the chief inspector was most intrigued and interested in making the acquaintance of this people, especially after he had heard a little of our vast and enlightened educational work around the world.

In June, 1951, as a result of much study and prayer, the Board initiated a scholarship scheme, the object of which is to encourage by a generous reduction of fees awarded on the results of an examination, the parents of the more able Adventist children to keep them at our own secondary grammar school instead of sending them to a state grammar school. Included in this scheme was a reorganization of the plan whereby Adventist parents may get help in the event of their finding the Adventist rates too high for them. This progressive policy is an honest attempt to ensure that no child of Adventist parents in this vicinity should be denied his undoubted right to a Christian education.

In August, 1952, a long-standing state of dilapidation was cleared up when the lower corridor was cleared of the remains of an old dividing door, and when the corridor, stairs, and entrances were redecorated throughout.

In 1953 came the Coronation, and the Board generously made possible the presentation of a pocket New Testament in a special Coronation edition to each pupil. In the July of that year our growing needs influenced the brethren to meet them by putting the Estate Hall under the control of the school.

In 1953 also the school again entered choirs in the Watford and District Music Festival, and the junior choir and the percussion band performed with obvious and recognized distinction. This was due

to the ability and enthusiasm of Mrs. Swift who first really set to work to put the school onto the musical map. This year more choirs were entered, made possible by the generous help of Brother Owen who gives his time not only freely but also unstintedly to choral work with the pupils, and again their evident competence was recognized and praised. We are genuinely proud of our percussion bands and our junior and senior choirs.

Finally our greatest and latest achievement has been the launching through the wisdom and generosity of the British Union brethren of our new departments of woodwork, domestic science, and the gymnasium. These were officially opened this summer, though their inauguration started last September. Thus, the school fears comparison with none now as far as physical equipment is concerned in a school of its size, and we have the assurance that we are now more nearly approaching our own ideals of Christian education.

Now a word about our hopes for the future. We still need more facilities, particularly a girls' changing room, lockers in which pupils may keep sports clothing, and our fine hall needs proper toilet facilities. But these are minor beside what I believe our Board feels is the greatest need of this school, and indeed of the British Union. This is a Union secondary school, and our real objective is to grow to the place where it supplies a stream of welleducated young people to our Division College for a genuine college education. If all our young people could get their secondary training during the critical conversion years of adolescence at an Adventist secondary school how many more would turn their eyes to the needs of the work of God rather than to some career outside the church. And how many more would be spared those agonizing doubts and the bewilderment and all too often the pain of losing their way spiritually consequent on their being indoctrinated in the theories of evolution and other heretical philosophies so freely taught in our schools today, and sadly enough to the most intelligent of our children.

We sincerely hope that this situation may soon be met by the opening of this school to the whole field in a much more realistic way than ever before by the provision of boarding facilities. We rely now on local members opening their homes to children from a distance and have ten boarding in homes nearby now. But I cannot find places for all who are applying. Pray that God will make possible the opening of a boarding department in the immediate future. As far back as 1944 Pastor G. D. King wrote to the staff: "A boarding and day school of at least 300 pupils is surely within the realm of possibility." He further added: "Above all we must ever remember that the school is part of our work of soul-saving evangelism and the special care of the young pupils is a first charge on the teachers' time and interest." We do need also one teacher who has the personality and training to care particularly for this work of soul-saving. Children come to the threshold of the kingdom and then go back because we have no-one to pull them in or to visit their parents, or even to bring in the parents. Many a

home is ready for our evangelist to go in and teach them the truth because they are attracted to Adventists through what the Adventist school is doing for their children. This very year, one mother told Mr. Brookes she wants to be an Adventist and another couple want their son to be brought up in our faith too. The doors are opening fast round here and we need someone whose special mission it is to go in with our truth to those who are ready for it.

#### Four More Years

#### (Continued from page 2.)

"The world," Sir Winston Churchill has admitted, "is in a mess," and the statesmen of the nations have lost confidence in their capacity to rescue it.

But while the world and its leaders have been reduced to impotence and confusion by the tragic turn of events, God's people may be assured and confident, recognizing that these very events declare in clamant tones that the day of the Lord "is near, and hasteth greatly."

While the houses of men, built upon the shifting sands of earthly wisdom, are tottering to their fall, the church of God stands four-square and steadfast, because it is built on the Rock, Christ Jesus.

In such an hour, however, the people of God need to be sure that their feet slip not from the sure foundation of God.

We must not, like the pilgrim in Bunyan's famous masterpiece, allow ourselves to be enticed from the King's highway into the "enchanted ground" of the evil one.

We must put on the whole armour of God lest the enemy of souls come upon us unawares.

We must lift high and uncompromisingly the standard of truth in a world which has cast truth to the ground.

There is need today of a generation of Elijahs who, in Elijah's power, will declare the word of deliverance to a perishing world.

Yet sad to say, when God is expecting so much of His church, its power is not commensurate with the challenge. We need to search our hearts to discover the reason for this lack of power and we need to seek it above all things else.

Pointing to the chart which towered above the rostrum, Pastor Armstrong told how its challenge had come mightily upon him at a recent convention in the north of England, and he had become convinced that this was the supreme need of the church in the British Isles, and indeed in all the world.

"Mighty Through God in Time's Last Hour." Yes, that is what we want to be. That was why we had come together. That was what we must seek for during these days together. Then we would be able to rise and finish the work among the fifty-two waiting millions of the British Isles.

On this stirring note the first meeting of the Union session closed. It had set the tone for the days to come. God, we knew, would not disappoint His people, and by His grace we would not disappoint Him.

#### Till the Day Dawn

BROOKS.—Sister Ada Brooks of the Stanborough Park church passed to her rest on Sabbath morning, May 22, 1954, at the age of seventy-seven years. Sister Brooks accepted the message through the faithful labours of Mr. C. Dyer, a colporteur in Chatham in the year 1890. Our sister was a very faithful and loyal member of the church, and was one of the first to be in her seat each week at the Sabbath school. A week before her leath, she attended Sabbath school and church service. She leaves a son, two sisters, three grandchildren, and many friends to revere her memory. The service was conducted by the writer, and our sister was laid to rest in the North Watford Cemetery to await the resurrecion morning. A. K. ARMSTRONG.

MELLOR.—It is with deep sorrow that the Stretford church records the peaceful passing of our dear sister, Emily Ellen Mellor, on June 2, 1954, the eve of her eighty-fifth birthday. She accepted the truth during the ministry of Pastor S. G. Hyde in the year 1935, and was a very faithful attender at church until her health failed some time ago. She was laid to rest in the Stretford Cemetery on June 5th, there to await the glorious day when the trumpet shall sound, and the dead in Christ will be raised. To her dear son and daughters, we extend our sympathy in their great loss. MRS. E. A. BALCAR.

HENFRY.—Miss Edith Henfry passed to her rest on Wednesday, March 3, 1954. She accepted the Advent message many years ago under the ministry of Pastor J. C. French. Although crippled with arthritis, she worked hard for the Bradford church, where she was a member. In latter years, when she was confined to her home, her great joy was in deeper Bible study, taking several of the courses offered by Newbold Correspondence School. We extend heartfelt sympathy to her sister who rejoices in the same faith, and also to her brother. D. R. Lowe.

#### Wedding Bells

COOPER-PONDER.-On June 1954, in the Dublin church, among many friends of both the bride and bridegroom, the marriage ot Brother Arthur Cooper and Sister Elizabeth Ponder was solemnized. The bride, who was given away by her father, a very highly respected member of the Dublin church, was dressed in white and attended by her sister Rita. Brother Peter Cooper, brother of the groom, was the best man. Following the ceremony the guests were entertained to a tastefully prepared reception in the Protestant Hall. The happy couple later left for a honeymoon "by Killarney's lakes a n d fells." Brother Cooper is engaged in the work of evangelism with Pastor D. A. Conroy in Brighton, and his wife has had experience as a Bible instructor in England, Ire-lund, and Scotland. We are sure that our members, as they read this notice, will breathe a prayer for this young minister and his wife that God will enrich their love and deepen their happiness as they set up their home which will be dedicated to the greatest of all tasks-evangelism.

W. G. NICHOLSON.

#### **Advertisements**

WANTED, from October 5th, Adventist housekeeper for two ladies. Help given. Comfortable home. Good wages. Write: Mrs. A. W. Sellox, 413 Unthank Road, Norwich, Norfolk.

THE Stanboroughs is needing urgently a consecrated, intelligent, and willing young lady for duty in the Reception Department. The work includes telephone duties and a certain amount of typing, in addition to receiving inquiries, etc., at the reception desk. Write, with personal particulars, to the Manager, Stanboroughs Hydro, Garston, Watford.

DUTCH S.D.A. parents would welcome English girl to spend the holidays with them and daughter (13 years old) who has passed secondary examination. They would request similar hospitality for their daughter next year. Write: Pastor W. W. Armstrong, B.U.C. Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

#### SUNSET CALENDAR

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Aug.					8.37	
Aug.	20th	8.14	8.26	8.40	8.22	8.47

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