

16/11/50

Shepherd-street Mission**GREAT WORK
FOR NEEDY
CHILDREN**

"IN these days of challenge and change, it is our intention—with the continued support of those who believe in the voluntary principle—to continue to provide for the unfortunate and unwanted child, and, as a Christian organisation, to carry out our responsibility where legislation does not operate." Thus said Mr. F. C. Messham, vice-chairman, presenting the 74th annual report of the Shepherd-street Mission Children's Home at the annual meeting at Preston, yesterday.

He said the question of the care of deprived children was being taken up by the Children's Branch of the Home Office.

It might shortly be necessary for all children's homes to be staffed by workers who had not only a natural aptitude for such a calling, but who were specially trained for the work.

"This has been a long-felt need and we have indicated our willingness to co-operate by accepting Home Office trainees," remarked Mr. Messham.

EXTENSIONS

Referring to the extensions and alterations at the Home, which were recommended by the Home Office, he said the work had now been completed.

For some of the committee, the completion of the scheme marked the culmination of an effort covering many years, and gave a deep sense of satisfaction.

Although they had had official backing, the entire cost, totalling £5,692, had had to be met from their own funds, with the result that after realising investments to the extent of £4,019 and appropriating legacies received this year, there is now a bank overdraft of £1,673.

"But as our needs are made known," added Mr. Messham, "we are confident that this deficit will be met by the unfailing generosity of those who love little children."

Speaking in appreciation of the financial help Shepherd-street Mission had received during the year, and to all who had assisted in other ways, Mr. Messham had a special word for last year's "Post" appeal which raised £1,177. "The 'Post' is noted for its good works and we record our deep indebtedness for this continued help, without which we should find it difficult to carry on," he said.

MAYOR'S TRIBUTE

The Mayor of Preston (Ald. M. Williamson) warmly commended the work of the organisation. Movements which had as their object the interests of children had his blessing and had had a good deal of his energy from time to time.

Presenting the accounts, the hon. treasurer, Mr. S. T. Maxwell, reported a deficiency of £780 on the general account compared with a surplus of £58 last year. This adverse result, the first for many years, was due to reduced income and heavy expenditure on decorations, etc., which had to be undertaken during the year.

The Christmas Breakfast account, which last year again provided breakfast and toys for more than 1,000 poor children, showed a deficit of £32. "But I am sure," he added "that everyone who has visited our Mission Hall on that morning will agree our effort is worth very much more than can be related to a figure of pounds, shillings and pence."

Appealing to the public to see that the Home's income was maintained, Mr. Maxwell said, "I am sure I have not asked in vain and I am confident that the public will see that our income is maintained in order to continue the work of giving these needy children a home and loving care."

After speeches by the Rev. F. W. Lines, of Leyland Congregational Church and the Rev. T. J. Stretch, vicar of St. Jude's, Preston, a vote of thanks was moved by Mr. A. C. M. Lillie and seconded by Mr. J. Rhodes.

The chairman, Mr. W. Margerison, sent a letter regretting that indisposition prevented his attendance at what would otherwise have been his 29th consecutive annual meeting.