

2.11.51

Preston mission**Shepherd-st.-
Personal
service "oasis"**

ONE of the things which shocks us is the neglect and brutal cruelty to children. This wave of barbaric cruelty to little children is one of the most horrid," said the Rev. H. Crawford Walters, chairman of North Lancashire Methodist District, at the 75th annual meeting of the Shepherd-street Mission Children's Home, in the Town Hall, Preston, yesterday.

He attributed the cause to the two violent wars of the last half century, saying "Once you let violence loose you cannot chain it up again at once," and to a decline in religious faith.

PERSONAL SERVICE

Referring to the Shepherd-street Mission and Home, he said "In a world of regimentation, it is an oasis of personal and voluntary service. It would be a sad day if all the things requiring personal service were lost."

The Home was prompted by a Christian spirit and conducted on Christian principles. Because of that, it was meeting a great need.

He was most impressed by letters received from children formerly at the home. "In spite of the fact that they have been brought up in an institution," he said "they are human beings with a sense of humour, personal loyalties and affection—a tribute to the Home."

Rev. K. W. Coates, vicar of All Saints', Preston, said he had been round the Home and had been impressed by the homeliness, happiness, helpfulness and holiness—the inward health of the children.

TRIBUTE TO "POST"

The Mayor (Councillor J. W. Taylor), who was accompanied by the Mayor (Mrs. Taylor), said children were sent to the home if conditions became difficult for them, either through financial, domestic or accidental circumstances.

He referred to the absence through illness of the chairman, Mr. W. A. Margerison, to whom a message of sympathy was sent, and said the committee and trustees were grateful for the financial help which came to the home from the people of Preston and district, particularly through the "Post."

In his annual report, the vice-chairman, Mr. F. C. Messham, referred to the "Post's" annual appeal which last time reached an all-time record of £1,760, bringing a total amount subscribed to well over 15,000.

The "Post" Fund has been the Mission's main source of income and we wish to record our sincere appreciation of all that it has accomplished on our behalf, he said.