

ANOTHER YEAR OF GOOD WORK

THE 69th annual meeting of the Shepherd-street Mission and Children's Home, was held at the Town Hall, Preston, yesterday. The report showed a continuance of loyal support from the townspeople.

The Mayor (Councillor J. E. Gee) presiding, congratulated the officers and staff on the work they had done throughout the difficult days of war.

Mr. W. A. Margerison, chairman, presenting the annual report, said looking back over the past six years of war, they were pleased to state that it had been possible to maintain an ever-open door for children deprived of proper home conditions. They had cared for a considerable number of Service men's children, and others whose mothers had been temporarily laid aside through sickness.

VICTIMS OF PARENTS

"The war years brought many distressing cases in which young people have become luckless victims of parental vice, infidelity and neglect. The past year has seen eight more children placed in our care, in addition to 16 admitted temporarily who have since returned to their homes," said Mr. Margerison.

The average family during the year had been 50. One girl had gained a borough scholarship and another had passed parts one and two of her preliminary nursing examination. Two more boys had joined the Army and another the Navy.

Many kind friends had continued to give their support and he wished to thank the editor and proprietors of "The Lancashire Daily Post" for their annual Christmas appeal which had brought the record sum of £515, a magnificent achievement. It was a channel which never ran dry. The joint flag day had yielded £368, which had been placed to the building reserve account.

Extensions would be necessary owing to the raising of the school-leaving age. Suitable quarters would have to be provided for older children and in due course they proposed to launch an appeal. The unflinching support of an ever-widening circle of friends had made it possible for them never to say "No" to a deserving case on account of lack of public backing.

1,500 HELPED

Proposing the election of officers, and the adoption of the report and financial statement (presented by the hon. treasurer, Mr. F. C. Messham), the Rev. B. S. Bonsall said the spiritual principles of Shepherd-street were based on the conviction of the absolute worth of the individual. Because of their belief in the value of personality, members of the Mission had felt constrained to come to the help of 1,500 otherwise uncared for children.

Seconding, the Rev. H. S. Dunderdale wondered whether the growing State interference and control over children was not upsetting and lowering the standards of happy home life. Such things were hacking away at the foundations of such a life and, perhaps unconsciously, the nation was taking something away from the family.

The vote of thanks to the Mayor and speakers was proposed by Mr. Arnold Horner, seconded by Mr. A. C. M. Lillie.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HOW TEACHERS' PAY MAY AFFECT PARENTS

SIR,—Mr. Houghton, in his reply to my letter says that after 14 years' service the secondary schoolmaster has earned £420 more than the elementary teacher. He omits to mention that after 14 years' service the secondary teacher is 36, whereas the elementary one is only 34. This omission gives me my whole case, for in saying that a man of 36 has earned only £420 more than a man of 34, Mr. Houghton merely proves that the elementary teacher is comparatively better off. By the time the latter is 36 he will have earned £1,035 more (£510 plus £325), and so, at the age of 36, the elementary teacher has earned £615 more than the secondary teacher (£1,035 minus £420 equals £615).

However, let us consider the problem from the point of view of the parents of a boy of 18. The father calculates what salary his son will earn—first if he goes to a training college and commences elementary school teaching at 20; secondly if he goes to a university and commences secondary school teaching at 22. He finds that by the time his son is 36 he will have made £615 more (Mr. Houghton's own figure!) by being an elementary school teacher. On top of this there is the vastly greater expenses at a university (four years at Cambridge, Oxford or London in peace time costs £800). What would most parents do under such circumstances? Obviously they will go for elementary education every time, and more so in the case of a daughter.

The new scales will have disastrous effects on the supply of secondary school teachers, the standard of secondary education will fall as a consequence, and the good work we have done over the last 40 years in supplying industry, the Civil Service and the universities with skilled men and women is going to be undermined.

It is nonsense for the N.U.T. to pretend that it requires the same qualifications to teach arithmetic to a boy of eight as it does to teach university scholarship mathematics to a boy of 18.—Yours, etc.,

B. L. WILKINSON.

4. Balmoral-road,
Chorley.

RECORD SUM

SIR,—The Committee of Shepherd-street Mission and Children's

Home at their monthly meeting on January 10th wish to express to you and the proprietors of "The Lancashire Daily Post" their deepest expression of thanks for the eloquent appeal made on behalf of our work, and through you to thank the generous public who have subscribed a record sum of £515, breaking the previous record of last year.

For 40 years "The Lancashire Daily Post" has stood by us in our work of caring for the neglected, homeless and unwanted child, and but for that help our work would necessarily have been curtailed.

For many years it has been our proud boast that no case has been turned down for lack of funds. We approach the post-war problems with the knowledge that we have the support and goodwill of a generous public and sympathetic and helpful Press.—Yours, etc.

W. A. MARGERISON
(chairman),
FRED C. MESSHAM,
(hon. treasurer).

Shepherd-street Mission
and Children's Home.

THE ANSWER

SIR,—Thank you for your leading article on Friday, 5th instant. You have rendered a real service in reminding us of the obvious answer which seemed to elude the Brains Trust. The answer to all our problems, as you suggest, lies in the practical application of Christ's principles to the details of our daily lives.

What we need is a change of heart, and this change can come to every one of us, if we really want it.

Changed men, changed nations, will give us a changed world—and then we shall no longer have the threat of recurrent war.—Yours, etc.,

K. HARRISON.

11, Queensway,
Penwortham, Preston.

HOLIDAY PAY TAX

SIR,—In regard to "Taxation of Holiday Pay," "J.T.'s" effusion on the merits of clerical staffs in cotton mills is not germane.

The points I raised were: (1), "The inconvenience caused by the present method of taxation of holiday pay is avoidable, as there are two alternative systems, either

L.D.P. PUBLIC NOTICES
SHEPHERD STREET MISSION, PRESTON.
69th ANNUAL MEETING will be held at the TOWN HALL, 3 p.m., THURSDAY NEXT, October 25th.
The Right Worshipful the MAYOR OF PRESTON (Councillor J. E. GEE) will preside.
Speakers: Rev. B. S. BONSALE, M.A., B.D., D. Lt. Rev. H. S. DUNDERDALE, A.L.C.D.