

day. Alderman Wilson
L.D.P. 3/13/46

Shepherd Street Home Has a "Clean Bill"

"SO far as our children's home is concerned, the Home Office keep in close touch with us, and are very helpful. They gave us an A1 bill of health," said Mr. W. A. Margerison, chairman, at the 70th annual meeting of the Shepherd-street Mission and Children's Home, at the Town Hall, Preston, yesterday. He was referring to the Curtis Report on the Care of Children.

Mr. Margerison said that since its inception in 1875, the Mission had been the means of helping over 494,000 poor people in time of need, 265,000 of them being children.

Down the years, 1,500 children had passed through the Home. Many of them had been removed from harmful influences, and others had come as extreme cases of neglect. All had been in need of parental care and affection.

The annual report also showed that throughout its long history, the Mission has assisted in rescuing children, whose circumstances were leading them in the wrong direction. Its purpose was to see that each child in its care was fitted to take its place in life.

"We have worked on the Christian principle, that the foundation of a well-ordered community is the quality of its home life, and it is a source of satisfaction to know our efforts have been well worth while," said Mr. Margerison.

In undertaking the work on behalf of the unwanted and unfortunate child, they had always had the sympathy and backing of the general public. Practical interest had been expressed in many and various ways.

"POST" RAISES £9,250.

It would be noted from the financial statement, continued the chairman, that "The Lancashire Daily Post," annual appeal resulted in their receiving £650 6s. 6d. This marvellous response exceeded the previous year's record by £135, and brought the total raised by the "Post" through the Christmas appeal, to the magnificent sum of £9,250.

"I should like, in this, the diamond jubilee year of the 'Post,' to acknowledge with grateful thanks the part which editors and proprietors of the paper throughout the whole period of its existence, have played in aiding good causes, and particularly this children's home," added Mr. Margerison.

EXTENSION NEEDED

Pointing out that the necessity for extending the Home had become more acute, as the Home Office had informed them that they were overcrowded, the chairman said they were building up a fund to meet the cost, which would be fairly considerable. They felt assured the money would be forthcoming.

Explaining that they now had a family of 46, he reported that 13 children had been admitted during the year. Some had been returned to parents and suitable homes, and one girl of 17 had taken a post as nursery attendant with one of our National Children's Homes.

The Mayor (Alderman H. E. Rhodes), who was accompanied by the Mayoress, presided, and said how greatly he had been impressed by the work of the Mission and Home.

Preston owed them a debt of gratitude for their work, in helping nearly half a million people. People caring for children were really God's gardeners.

Mr. F. C. Messham, hon. treasurer, presented the statement of accounts. Adoption of the report and election of officers were moved by the Rev. T. G. Beer, Vicar of St. Jude's, seconded by the Rev. I. J. Rees (Cannon-street Congregational Church), both of whom contrasted the poor conditions of children in foreign countries with the lives of children here.

A comprehensive vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Arnold Horner, seconded by Mr. A. C. M. Lillie.

All the speakers paid tribute to the work of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. A. Slater, superintendent and matron of the children's home.

"Post's" Appeal
11-12-45

Give These Children a Merry Christmas

"HEAVEN lies about us in our infancy," was Wordsworth's impression of childhood. What better description could there be of the season of Christmas in the lives of most children?

Months of anticipation, letters to Father Christmas, the reluctant to-bed on Christmas Eve, and the excited awakening on Christmas morning. And behind it all the watchful care of parents joining their offspring in the best of all seasons.

You will note we said "most" children. That, unfortunately, is the point of our story.

There are children in Preston who will not know the joy of a home of their own, or parents of their own. In a Preston side street, some of those children will be found in Shepherd-street Mission Home, where, for the 71st year, the staff will be working all out to give the youngsters a merry Christmas.

RESCUED CHILDREN

Nine out of ten children who find their way to the home were unwanted or neglected. At the Mission, they have been given another chance in life.

Take the family of six (ages five to 12), whose mother abandoned them while the father was in the Army. Their condition was so bad that they needed hospital treatment. Now, they are six lovely, happy children at the Shepherd-street Mission.

Then there was three-year-old Dennis, who swore like a trooper. He has stopped swearing, and is now a normal little boy. Ten-year-old John was abandoned by his father in a common lodging-house, and was in a state of terror for 12 months.

Expenses of this magnificent work are high, and the war threw extra burdens on the Mission, so that once more the "Lancashire Daily Post" makes its annual appeal to the generous-hearted people of Preston and district to help in the way they have responded in the past.

Everyone can do something for this really good cause. The individual, the workshop, business house, clubs and hotels. How simple it would be to have a small container on your desk or counter to take donations.

After the Titchner case, many people wondered how they could assist similar unfortunate little girls and boys. Here is your opportunity. Why not a big donation for the Shepherd-street Mission which is doing sterling work in the care of children who might have become Titchners?

EXTENSIONS NEEDED

Over 1,500 children have passed through the home; nearly half a million people have been helped by the Mission; over 1,000 breakfasts will be provided for children on Christmas Day; and there are 43 children in the home. So great is the work that extensions are needed.

It now rests with the people of Preston and district to help as only they know how to help.

Last year's "Post" appeal raised £650 6s. 6d.—a record. See if you can beat it.

Please send your donations to the Editor of the "Lancashire Daily Post," 127, Fishergate, Preston. All donations will be acknowledged in these columns.

L.D.P. 11.1.46

RECORD SUM RAISED

SIR,—On behalf of the committee of Shepherd-street Mission and Children's Home we wish to thank you, Mr. Editor, and the proprietors of "The Lancashire Daily Post" for your practical help in our work, and through you, the public of Preston, who have so generously responded to your eloquent appeal.

The total of £650 6s. 6d. has broken all records, and we as a committee are heartened and encouraged by the expression of approval of the work which we are carrying out, viz.: to keep an ever-open door for the unfortunate, neglected and unwanted child. We are, on behalf of the committee.—Yours, etc.,

W. A. MARGERISON,
Chairman.
F. C. MESSHAM,
Hon. Treasurer.

Children's Home,
Oxford-street, Preston.

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SHEPHERD ST. MISSION FUND

In order to increase "The Lancashire Daily Post's" fund for Shepherd-street Mission "to top £650," an anonymous donor has sent us a further £2.

The final total is £650 6s. 6d., and the fund is now definitely closed.

OUR SHEPHERD STREET MISSION FUND

A Blackpool friend has forwarded to "The Lancashire Daily Post" a donation of £1 4s 6d. for our Shepherd Street Mission Fund, sent by Mr. John Subat, of Hazlehurst, Mississippi, U.S.A.

Also an anonymous subscription of £2 2s. has been received.

This brings the final total to £648 6s. 6d.