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8.12.44.

Shepherd Street Mission

CHRISTMAS
APPEAL FOR
THE CHILDREN

WITH Christmas fast approaching, "The Lancashire Daily Post" makes its annual appeal to old and new generous friends on behalf of the Shepherd-street Mission, Preston.

In the past 40 years, £8,084 has been raised by these appeals. Last year, the total, £434, was a record, and represented almost a quarter of the £2,000 or so required yearly to keep the charitable doors of the Mission open.

As victory draws near, it is not inappropriate to suggest that efforts to beat the 1943 figure—to raise at least £500—should be stimulated by thoughts of the contribution "Shepherd - street" has made to the solving of acute wartime domestic problems.

DISTRESSING CASES

In many cases, temporary accommodation has been provided for the children of Service men when their mothers have had to go to hospital. It would have been a bleak outlook for the children if this service had not been available.

Also—and more poignantly—there are those distressing cases in which young children become the luckless, involuntary victims of parental vice and neglect. War has brought many domestic tragedies and the Mission has been there to succour the little ones.

LARGER NEEDS

Always the champion of the helpless and forlorn, never has the value of the Mission been more apparent than in the last five years of social dislocation, with the natural, decent, domestic loyalties so often strained and broken.

The force of the appeal to give freely this Christmastide to this great, 68-year-old voluntary charity rests not solely on past good works, but on increased post-war responsibilities which loom ahead.

The raising of the school-leaving age makes more accommodation imperative. Though no hard estimate has yet been made, it is possible that £3,000 may be needed for this purpose.

Shepherd-street, with its average "family" of 50 growing children, needs all the help it can get. Your Christmas will be happier if you have done your bit towards this worthy cause.

27.10.44.

Higher School Age

PRESTON HOME'S
EXTENSION
SCHEME

AN extension of the Shepherd-street Children's Home and Mission, Preston, to give full facilities for education consequent on the raising of the school-leaving age, was foreshadowed at the annual meeting in Preston Town Hall yesterday.

Presenting the 68th annual report, the chairman, Mr. W. A. Margerison, said that, assuming there was the same need after the war for admission of children, it meant an increase of at least 20 per cent. on the present accommodation, and they could not mix youths and girls of 14-16 years of age with the four-eights.

To meet those requirements, the committee had considered plans whereby they could have separate accommodation for older children.

Mr. Margerison also stated that in providing and caring for homeless and unfortunate children, nearly 1,500 of whom had passed through their hands, the work of the Mission gave convincing and practical demonstration of its underlying spiritual principle, and, with few exceptions, the young people had developed into useful citizens, and shown a pride in the Home which looked after their early well-being.

RECORD RESPONSE

Mr. Margerison expressed his indebtedness to the editor and proprietors of "The Lancashire Daily Post," who by their annual Christmas appeal, raised the record sum of £434. This help had been extended to the Mission for 40 years and he (Mr. Margerison) wished to say again that were it not for this appeal their activities would have been considerably restricted.

During the year a record number of 43 children had been admitted and at times accommodation had been taxed to capacity, the report continued.

Mr. Margerison read several cheery messages from former boys and girls of the Home now in the Services, to Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Slater, the superintendent and matron.

One of the boys spoke of having tasted French frog. "It is not too bad," he wrote, "but I would rather have our own food."

The report concluded with a tribute to Mr. A. E. Nixon (the missionary) and his helpers at the Mission Hall.

SPLENDID WORK

In his opening remarks the president, the Mayor (Ald. W. Gordon), who was accompanied by the Mayoress, said the splendid work which the Mission was doing deserved the admiration and commendation of all citizens.

The financial statement, presented by the acting hon. treasurer, Mr. F. C. Messham, showed a balance in the bank of £89, with a balance in the building fund of £1,000, which had been invested in savings bonds.

Moving the re-election of the committee, the Rev. A. S. Picton, vicar of Holy Trinity, Preston, said the Mission appealed to him as a distinctively Christian contribution to social life. Seconding, the Rev. S. G. Janney, of Marsh-lane Methodist Church, appealed for increased support for "a really live work."

Mr. Arnold Horner proposed an omnibus vote of thanks, and Mr. H. Spencer seconded.

L.S.P.

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