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SHEPHERD-ST. MISSION ANNUAL MEETING

Happy atmosphere is first essential

"NOT without good reason we pride ourselves as a nation these days, on the improved physical standard and general health of our children.

Yet there are still those who lack the elementary but essential requirements of suitable food and sufficient hours of sleep." Mr. F. C. Messham, chairman, told the 81st annual meeting of Shepherd-street Mission, at Preston Town Hall, yesterday.

Mr. Messham, presenting the annual report, was able to record another year of progress and worthwhile achievement.

Both at the Children's Home, in Oxford-street, where they had maintained an average family of 25 children, and at the Mission Hall, in Shepherd-street, where their workers had continued to serve the community, facts and figures indicated that the mission had continued to live up to its reputation.

FAMILY OF FOUR

He pointed out that this year they had admitted an unusual proportion of children lacking the elementary requirements. A case in point was the acceptance of a family of four, each of whom was suffering from malnutrition. The youngest, a boy of five, weighed only 26lb.

In contrast, said Mr. Messham, a noticeable feature of their regular family was their obvious state of good health. How best to care for children was an eternal problem and it would be a wise man who could give an adequate answer, especially as this applied to other people's children.

"As we see it, the first essential is to provide a happy homely atmosphere around which other aspects of good family life can be built up."

With few exceptions their experience was that children quickly realised they had become members of a family in which each child had a place and where each was personally loved and cared for.

"Perhaps one of its most compensating features is to see the children take their places in the work-a-day world, fitted and equipped as useful and respected members of society," said the chairman.

OUTSIDE HELP

Mr. Messham outlined the activities of the home and the children and of the help given by outside organisations.

Financially and in other ways, they were indebted to many people and, in particular, they expressed gratitude to the "Lancashire Evening Post" for £1,645 received by the annual appeal.

This appeal had been made for over 50 years and it was largely due to this help that the mission had been able to carry out its beneficent work.

Mr. Messham said that whereas previously the mission was dull and drab they had now had a comfortable and attractive hall, well-equipped and in keeping with the ideals for which they stood.

Although the slum clearance scheme had resulted in many families being moved to housing estates out of town the work was as needful as ever . . . especially in this age of materialistic outlook

and its accompanying lowered standards of morality."

GOOD WORKERS

They were fortunate in having a good body of workers who were unsparing in their efforts and he paid tribute to their devotion and labour of love.

Presenting the financial report, the treasurer (Mr. H. W. Southworth) said total expenditure amounted to £6,902 compared with £6,815 last year—an increase of £87.

Receipts were £6,225 compared with £6,428 last year—a decrease of £203. The effect was an excess of payments over receipts of £677.

Mr. Southworth said they were again thankful to the public for their financial support. Expenditure showed no signs of diminishing. In fact the tendency was for it to increase year by year.

Once again the committee appealed to the public to continue their support and so enable the continuation of the work of providing a real home for these children.

The Rev. N. A. Priestley and the Rev. F. C. Morgan, who moved and seconded the report, paid tribute to the work of the mission and said they had heard of its activities before they came to Preston.

Mr. Arnold Horner thanked the speakers.

Honorary officials and the committee, with the addition of Mr. T. Finch, were re-elected.

Mrs. J. Clarkson, Clitheroe, dies

An inquest was to be held at Clitheroe, this afternoon on Mrs. Jane Clarkson, aged 88, of 54, Littlemoor-road, Clitheroe, who died in Clitheroe Hospital.

One of the oldest members of Clitheroe Labour Party, she was associated with Moor-lane Methodist Church. Her husband, Mr. Richard Clarkson, died 28 years ago.

Child's body found in River Eden

The body of eight-year-old Joyce Leighton, of Webster-crescent, Carlisle, missing since October 26th, was found in the River Eden, at Grinsdale, near Carlisle, yesterday.

Joyce and Mrs. Sarah Leighton, of the same address, who had adopted her, were reported missing together. Mrs. Leighton's body was found on October 27th, in the Solway Firth.