

NEWSLETTER



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. State Unit)

NO. 16

MAY, 1979

THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

The general assembly of the United Nations has declared 1979 the Year of the Child. The objectives include - to provide a framework - for enhancing the awareness of the special needs of children - for sustained activities for their benefit - and for lasting improvements for their well being, with special attention to the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged groups.

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child (U.N. 1959) sets out the aims for the world's children to obtain the best conditions for emotional, social, physical, mental and spiritual development.

Most of the world's children live in the underdeveloped countries often hungry, suffering from infections and lacking adequate education facilities. The problems of the children of the developed countries are emotional and social, stemming from family breakdown, drug addiction and exploitation. Protecting children from abuse and abandonment is best achieved by strengthening the family.

As church women we emphasize the need for children to hear that we believe life has meaning. The I.Y.C. logo displays beautifully that adults give to children when they are in need, and these deeds symbolize the eternal giving of our Loving Creator.

The Holy Spirit works through us as we endeavour to pass on the faith to groups or individuals, through our love for them, as we tell them the Good News. On how well we do this, by the Grace of God depends the future of the world, which needs leaders guided by faith - so that the real values in society will be known, ignorance and oppression will be overcome and will be replaced by reconciling influences.



Mrs Marie Mc Cann receives
the President's Bible from
retiring President Mrs. Lt.
Col. E. Baker, at Our Lady
of Dolours Church Chatswood.

"Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven" - children display trust, justice, innocence, fun and simplicity. The Kingdom on Earth no doubt will be granted when all men act with the virtues of the child, and ask the Holy Spirit to work through them.

MARIE McCANN - PRESIDENT

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ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 1978-APRIL 1979

Following our Annual Meeting in April two new office bearers took their place on the Executive, Brig. Ward as Membership Secretary, and Mrs. Evelyn Ridley as Publicity Officer, also Miss Evelyn Blackwell representing the Presbyterian ladies. During the year Mrs. Ridley found home involvement too pressing, and Brig. Ward ably acted in that role, too. This year's meetings have been held at the Uniting Church's offices, Castlereagh St. meeting rooms, and we find this suits our need admirably.

An inspiring Installation Service was held on 29th May at Our Lady of Dolours Roman Catholic Church, Chatswood, with an estimated 300 present. This marked the end of a term for one President, and the handing over of the Bible and the responsibility to Mrs. Marie McCann. Executive members representing the seven participating denominations in our State Unit took part and the Lane Cove-Longueville Inter-Church Choir added greatly to the wonderful atmosphere. The new President was ably supported by her own church members who provided refreshments. We were also greatly honoured to have the National President, Mrs. Win Dougherty and the Winifred Kiek Scholar, Sister Barkat Dass from Pakistan, to speak to us at the luncheon.

An outstanding occasion was the reception on 22nd May for members of the Asian Church Women's Conference Executive, who had held their meeting in Adelaide, and were travelling home. The State Unit assisted the National Working Committee entertain the eight members.

Our meetings included a talk by Miss Dinah Burnett, with a display of goods from developing countries, sale of which would assist the people who made them. A Greek Social Worker, Miss Vivi Koutsounadis, from South Sydney Community Aid informed one meeting of the difficulties facing migrants from other cultures. Deaconess Andrews showed slides and spoke of the International Conference in Zambia, which she attended as National Liaison for the Women's World Day of Prayer. Another informative talk was given by Mrs. Win Dougherty who attended the Asian Church Women's Conference in Japan in October with four

other Australian delegates.

Representatives to affiliated organizations reported, and good reports were received of city and country branches holding services for Fellowship and World Community Day and increased offerings will benefit our projects, the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund and the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The report on the discussion group on "Simpler Lifestyle" was distributed and a copy forwarded to the National Committee as part of our programme to study a "Theme" set by the National Committee Meetings. Several ladies have taken advantage of attending Seminars of various types, also overseas conferences. Six members of our organization took part in the Day of Prayer and Recollection organized by the Roman Catholic Commission for Ecumenism. The President, Secretary and other representatives attended when invitations were received from many other organizations. The President had opportunity to speak about A.C.W. at two gatherings of Roman Catholic ladies.

One of our plans to hold Women's Forums was successfully carried out in November when our organization, previously known as the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, celebrated its 40 years of activities with a Buffet Tea, and Forum on 'Australian Church Women.' A booklet entitled "Highlights of the Story of A.C.W.N.S.W. Unit" was prepared by the Secretary, assisted by Mrs. Margaret Ralph, a previous Secretary and present member of the Working Committee, to mark this auspicious occasion. About sixty ladies attended, including eight who had served as President, and the earliest of this group, Mrs. E. Manefield, cut the Anniversary Cake. The Devotional thoughts were brought to us by Mrs. L. King.

Publicity and photos of all our activities help to make the organization known in denominational and secular press. A Newsletter was printed in May, and a new promotion leaflet produced. N.S.W. news items appeared in the National Committee's paper "Women at Work". One highlight of the year was a television half hour presentation produced by the Catholic Communications Centre, and shown on Channel 7. This featured Mrs. Win Dougherty, Deaconess Mary Andrews, Mrs. Marie McCann and Sister Barkat Dass. This tape was also shown at one of our meetings and proved educational in our work.

It was pleasing that the Y.W.C.A. saw fit in their new concept for their city hostel to name it "Wybalena House". This perpetuates the name and serves as a reminder of the hard work members of our organization did in years gone by with the girls' hostel.

We rejoiced with Mrs. Stolz in celebrating 50 years of marriage and service to her church. We regretted the passing of much esteemed Life Member Mrs. G. Knight. We felt grieved when Mrs. Dougherty fell and broke her arm on her return from the Asian Church Women's Conference.

We pray for Mrs. Dougherty and her committee as they carry through the arduous task they have ahead preparing for the National Committee Meetings and Consultation with American and New Zealand ladies in September, at Wahroonga.

State Unit Council Members were well represented when the National Committee entertained Miss Dorothy Wagner from Church Women United in the U.S.A., and Executive of the International Women's World Day of Prayer. The Reception was attended by a representative gathering of women from many organizations, who were extremely interested in Miss Wagner's address.

On 28th May 1979 our Annual Service will take the form of a Prayer Rally in Wesley Chapel at 11 a.m. when all interested ladies are invited. This will be followed by luncheon in the Uniting Church Offices Meeting Room and a Forum with three speakers from Child Caring Organizations will focus on the International Year of the Child.

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DOROTHY WOODHOUSE - SECRETARY

REPORT "FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN" IN N.S.W.

As Convenor for the "Fellowship of the Least Coin" in N.S.W. I present this annual report, but it is always with a very deep awareness that this is not really my report of a year's activities, but a recognition of the loving involvement of women all over the State of N.S.W. in "The Fellowship of the Least Coin".

Without this sharing I would not have needed to write the 80 odd letters of thanks but of course I gladly did so. One very gratifying indication of the growth of interest in this project has been the greater number of requests for relevant literature and volumes of "Circle of Prayer" some from quite new areas and we do hope and pray this trend continues. I would like also to indicate

my willingness to come to your group at any time to promote "Fellowship of the Least Coin" . . . so far no-one has availed themselves of this opportunity.

It is pleasing to note that applications for grants from F.L.C. submitted by A.C.W. to Australia were agreed to. The first will enable us to include churchwomen from the United States and New Zealand among the participants at our National Committee Meeting and Consultation to be held in Sydney in September next; the second to be administered by the Resettlement Department of the Australian Council of Churches will provide funds for training migrant women as social welfare workers among their own ethnic groups. The amounts of \$2,000 were allocated in each instance.

GLADYS M. BENT - CONVENOR

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REPORT WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP, 1978-79

In 1978 N.S.W. had the privilege of having the Winifred Kiek Scholar, Sister Barkat Dass, from Karachi, Pakistan.

Barkat applied herself wholeheartedly to updating her midwifery at Penrith Hospital and benefited from observation visits to other homes and hospitals. She was delighted when the opportunity was given to her to lecture nurses at the Warringah Hospital at Wahroonga.

Because of her late arrival in Australia she undertook theological studies through Moore College by correspondence, and succeeded in gaining two passes, two credits and two distinctions in examinations. She plans to continue the Certificate of Theology course.

To Mrs. E. Boiva, the Scholarship holder for 1979, we extend a warm welcome and trust that her studies at the Salvation Army Training College will be a blessing to her. Mrs. Captain Boiva comes from the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

It is always exciting to receive news from Winifred Kiek Scholars such as Mrs. Violet Brendt (nee Sampa) who, with an interesting letter, sent a cheque towards the W.K.S. Fund.

1978 World Community Day Offerings are to be sent to Miss Kalpana Airen whose Family Education Centre for children and their mothers from disadvantaged homes is increasingly attracting the attention of Government and voluntary organizations for emulation.

The Christmas greetings which came from Miss Airen in Satara,

India, contained the following thought: *"Jesus came that love may grow"*. Let us praise God for the Winifred Kiek Scholars who in their different spheres are being used to manifest the love of Christ. May we continue to pray for them, too, that they may in all things give the Lord Jesus the pre-eminence.

MARY M. ANDREWS - CONVENOR

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PROMOTIONS REPORT

I am pleased to report on Promotions for 1978. In doing so I wish to express on behalf of the Committee our appreciation for the wholehearted co-operation and interest of all Branches who arranged services on Fellowship and World Community Days. These would not have been so successful without the constant work of Branch Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers. Our appreciation is extended, also, to all Speakers who prepared addresses on the themes "The Way Ahead" and "The Third World Among Us". Reports from both country and suburban branches show that Fellowship Day Services were held in twenty-four centres, with an approximate attendance of fourteen hundred. Twenty services were held on World Community Day, and the attendance was approximately one thousand.

A branch formed at YOUNG held a successful World Community Day Service which was attended by one hundred women.

At GUNNING a group of Churchwomen ventured a small beginning, by using the service "The Way Ahead" on a Sunday morning at a small country church.

At ARMIDALE the interest in World Community Day was expressed in a most practical manner by following the service with a luncheon, which was attended by business people, and the proceeds given to a community project.

BOURKE Branch deserves congratulations for holding services both morning and evening on the two Special Days.

It is encouraging to note that enquiries for information material have come from new country groups. We appeal to all our Churchwomen to alert us of possible contacts.

Appreciation is being expressed for the revised leaflet made available by the National Committee of A.C.W. Copies will be forwarded on request.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

N.S.W. UNIT

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS - 1ST MARCH 1978 - 28TH FEBRUARY 1979

<u>1st March 1978 - Credit Balance</u>			168.38
<u>ADD RECEIPTS</u>			
Organisation A/c:			
Affiliation fees	71.00		
Sales of Literature	57.50		
Collections & Donations	212.30		
Bank Interest	130.34		
40th Anniversary Function	206.00		
Sundries	<u>5.40</u>	682.54	
Special Funds:			
Fellowship of Least Coin	2266.12		
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	48.93		
Fellowship Day	1271.04		
World Community Day	<u>1383.07</u>	4969.16	
Overseas Travel Fund		257.92	
By Transfer from Special Funds		<u>648.48</u>	6558.10
			6726.48

LESS PAYMENTS

Organisation A/c:			
Printing, stationery, postage, telephone	226.54		
Meeting Room	50.00		
President's Honorarium	25.00		
Purchase of literature	112.50		
Subscriptions to other organisations	17.50		
40th Anniversary Function	192.27		
Sundries	17.99		
By transfer to Overseas Tr. Fund	49.48	691.28	
Special Funds:			
To National Committee	3785.00		
Exp. printing & postage	535.68		
Transferred to Organisation A/c	648.48	4969.16	
National Committee Travel Fund		285.00	
Savings Investment A/c		500.00	6445.44
<u>28th February 1979 - Credit Balance</u>			<u>\$ 281.04</u>
Savings Investment Account			
<u>BALANCES:</u>	Organisation Account	\$2071.10	
	Overseas Travel Fund	209.94	
		<u>\$2281.04</u>	

(Sgd.) DORIS M. MITCHELL
Hon. Treasurer

This is to certify that I have examined the books, records and financial statements of the N.S.W. Unit of Australian Church Women for the year ended February 28, 1979 and in my opinion such show a true and correct record of the financial position as at that date.

(Sgd.) HEATHER STEVENS
April 18, 1979

Two cassettes are being used as promotion aids. One is of an interview with our former Winifred Kiek Scholar, Sister Barkat Dass, members of the National Committee and State Unit, by courtesy of Catholic Television. The second cassette was recorded at the Fortieth Anniversary Celebrations of our State Unit, by our Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse. Our speakers on this important occasion, made us aware of the development and growth during forty years, urged us to examine our present commitment, and presented the challenge of furthering our aims in the future.

By God's Grace and with His guidance, may each seek new opportunities to promote Christian fellowship.

OLWEN LEAN - CONVENOR

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PUBLICITY REPORT

Publicity in 1978 was ably handled by Mrs. McCann, then Mrs. Ridley was elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Installation Service of the President received excellent coverage from various papers e.g. Australian Church Record, North Shore Times, The Australian Baptist and the Catholic Weekly. These papers also included a photo of the official group.

The Fellowship Day Services were well advertised in the Catholic Weekly and were reported in other papers as well. During the visit of the Winifred Kiek Scholar, Sister Barkat Kishan Dass, ample publicity was given to this charming and capable young woman. An article was written for the War Cry, official organ of The Salvation Army by Brigadier Ward, which appeared in the issue of 3rd February, giving an account of the 40th Anniversary of the Australian Church Women N.S.W. Unit. A report on Mrs. Dougherty's talk to the Council about the Sixth Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference which was held in Tozanso, Gotemba, Japan, from 10th-15th October, 1978 was sent to the various church papers. This report has been arranged in the form of a meeting and will appear in the Home League Digest.

A notice regarding the coming Prayer Rally to be held in Wesley Chapel, Castlereagh St. has been sent to Miss Ferrier of the National Council of Women for inclusion in the paper of that organization. Other notices will be sent to Stations 2CH and 2SM.

MABEL WARD - CONVENOR

REPORT OF FORUM HELD IN ASSOCIATION WITH AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NEW SOUTH WALES STATE UNIT'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - 6TH
NOVEMBER 1978

The theme of the topic for the Forum was decided upon so we could take a look at ourselves - "Where have we come from", "Where are we now" and "Where are we going?"

Mrs. Marjorie Verco, a Past President in the early 1960s, brought the past to life. The Women's Inter-Church Council was very active in the early days in the important project, Wybalena Hostel, which was begun after the war years. In 1962 came a turning point, a need arose for greater co-operation for Christians at the local, state and national levels. An invitation had come through the Australian Council of Churches from the Asian Church Women's Conference for a delegate to attend their conference. A National Consultation was organized, and the Interim Committee was established with projects getting off the ground, the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, and at the same time a grant was received in Australia from the Fellowship of the Least Coin, and Australia became aware of its existence. The first National Committee Meetings were held in 1965, with delegates from other states. Mrs. Verco later became Promotion Officer, and travelled round speaking at various places, till Council formed a Committee to expand the work. She finished by saying that we need to remember Jesus' prayer *"That they all may be one, as Thou Father art in Me and I in Thee, and that they may be one in us that the world might believe that Thou hast sent me."* "Let us strive in every way we can to continue to fulfil this prayer."

Speaking on the present, Mrs. Lt. Col. Edna Baker said "We salute the past, and the pioneers in the field, and we give thanks to Almighty God for all the ways He has led us. For forty years the Women's Inter-Church Council has been the means to provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together. Whilst we have enjoyed looking back tonight we don't want to live in the past, we are living in the present, and looking forward to the future. We must continue to 'break down the walls' and have greater understanding, and we must give praise for the results." She commented that the Perth National Meetings had given us some challenges, and recommendations for action in study and leadership training courses, that we might equip ourselves better. At our services it is the love and prayer behind the gifts that make it worthwhile. It had been a joy to entertain our sisters from Asia this year, and we are making history with our first Roman Catholic President. She finished, "As we turn our faces toward the summit

climb we look with faith and confidence in God, that he will guide us in the future days, and direct our steps."

Looking to the future Deaconess Mary Andrews commented "Who knows where we are going? Without vision the people perish, and this organization will flourish if we are women of vision. We are under the obligation to share the good news of salvation with people wherever they may be." The question was asked what should we do in the future? We need to influence the mass media more than we have done. We should outreach to women in the outback, and encourage migrants to join our fellowship. We need to think of 'the third world among us' - refugees in our country. We were reminded we have a responsibility and privilege of seeking to contact these sisters. We have to depend upon God's Holy Spirit to meet the needs of our frightening world today. She concluded "We must commit ourselves more and more to a ministry of prayer, in small groups as well as larger. We must seek God's intervention, the greatest power we need in the world today is 'prayer power'. We should pray for good government, so the gospel message might be proclaimed, and people built up in their faith. We are to be women of vision, venture and vitality."

Interesting comments followed, resulting in action, and much food for thought. While we pay tribute to the past - and our heritage - and take stock of our present involvement - we need to look to the future in a changing world.

DOROTHY WOODHOUSE

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) is an ecumenical organization including in its membership churchwomen of Asia, Australia and New Zealand. It maintains close working relationship with the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and fraternal relations with other regional ecumenical women's organizations and women's groups of World Confessional bodies.

The first Assembly of the ACWC was held in Hong Kong in 1958, at the second Assembly, held in 1962 in Thailand, it was decided to take up the Fellowship of the Least Coin as the main continuing project of ACWC. The third Assembly celebrated the tenth anniversary of FLC in Tokyo, Japan in 1966. This Assembly also marked the inclusion of

Australia and New Zealand in the membership of ACWC.

In 1970, during the fourth Assembly held in Indonesia, a regular Constitution was adopted and a full-time Executive Secretary was appointed, Mrs. Shanti Solomon, well known to many Australians. The fifth Assembly took place in Bangkok in 1974 and the sixth in Gotemba, Japan, in October 1978. The theme of this Assembly was "Called to change, committed to serve". The National President of Australian Church Women, Mrs. R.H. Dougherty, a Life Member of our N.S.W. Unit, was one of the Australian delegates and has given us much information about the Assembly meetings and the many outstanding women who were present.

The Assembly Statement, issued following the meetings, recommends a number of issues for consideration and action in the member countries. These include emphasis on the right of children "to have a happy childhood and a bright future", the need for adequate nutrition and equal opportunities for education to develop their potential, and a wholesome physical, moral and spiritual environment.

The programme of ACWC during the current quadrennium - 1978-82 - will emphasise leadership training at national and local level, consultations of theologically trained women and dissemination of results, development of rural women, responsible care of exploited women, involvement of elderly persons in community projects and many others. One matter of great interest will be the observance of the Silver Jubilee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin in 1980-81.

D. M. MITCHELL

CAN YOU ASSIST, PLEASE?

Further details have come to light in our browsing through the records as an addition to the 'highlights of our Story' printed in November for our 40th Anniversary Celebration. Then we printed the names of Presidents taken from the President's Bible. If you can assist in informing us of early Secretaries, Treasurers, or Life Members omitted here, please let us know.

SECRETARIES we noted were:-

38-39 Mrs. E.F. Bond
43-44 Miss R. Swan
45-49 Mrs. W.N. Lock
49-50 Mrs. M. Chapman

54-55 Miss G.M. Roseby
57-59 Mrs. E.D. Briggs
59-60 Mrs. Lt.Col. Hutchison
61-62 Mrs. Brig. Edna Baker
63-65 Mrs. Lorna Lilley
65-67 Mrs. Margaret Ralph
67-70 Mrs. Win Dougherty
70-71 Mrs. Audrey Bell
72-75 Mrs. Dorothy Martin
75-77 Miss Doris Mitchell
77- Mrs. Dorothy Woodhouse

TREASURERS. We don't have the record, but Mrs. Linda Perriam broke all records with many years service in this capacity - some 14 or so! Miss D. Mitchell has been Treasurer since 1977.

LIFE MEMBERS who have passed away are Miss Roseby, Mrs. A.E. Walker and Col. Hazel Cross, and this year Mrs. G. Knight.

Any further information in this regard to the Secretary, please.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

COUNCIL MEETINGS

JUNE 25 An "At Home" when members talk and show slides of church related activities and conferences.
AUGUST 20 Council Meeting.
SEPTEMBER 17 Open Day. Branch and affiliated organizations reports.
NOVEMBER 19 Reports of National Committee Meeting.

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12.
All meetings are held at 139 Castlereagh Street, Sydney (1st floor) and commence at 10.30 a.m.

SPECIAL DAYS 1979

July - Fellowship Day - Theme "The Community Plans for its Children". Various Centres. Offering for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund.

October - World Community Day - Theme "The Family, its Faith and its Future". Offerings for Special Project - Fellowship of the Least Coin offerings.

Fellowship Day Services so far known:

Chatswood/Willoughby at Uniting Church, Willoughby, 10.30 a.m. 27th July. Speaker - Capt. Elizabeth Johnson.

Bankstown at Baptist Church, 10.30 a.m. 27th July.

Lane Cove/Longueville at St. Aidans Anglican Church, Longueville. 10.30 a.m. 27th July. Speaker - Mrs. Fewchuk.

Parramatta at The Salvation Army, Friday 20th July.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING of Australian Church Women will be held from 10th-14th September 1979 at Caritas Christi Conference Centre, Wahroonga.

Thirty overseas visitors - churchwomen from U.S.A. and New Zealand - will attend the meeting and Consultation. Sydney people are asked to help entertain and provide accommodation for some participants.

Two delegates and two observers from our State Unit do not have large fares, but we are required to assist the Travel Pool for all States. Donations for the National Travel Fund would be gratefully received by our Treasurer, from individuals, or denominational and affiliated groups.

AN OPEN MEETING will be held on SUNDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER in Scots Church, Margaret Street, Sydney at 2.30 p.m. when opportunity is offered to meet the overseas visitors. *Keep the date free to attend, and share in afternoon tea.*

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(N.S.W. STATE UNIT)

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1979-80

President

Mrs. M. McCann, 14 Daymar Place, Castle Cove 2069.....406 4044

Past President

Mrs. Lt. Colonel E. Baker, 26 Grand Avenue, Westmead 2145..635 0596

Hon. Secretary

Mrs. D. Woodhouse, 86 Fullers Road, Chatswood 2067..... 41 6772

Membership Secretary

Miss E. Blackwell, 14 Callicoma Road, Seaforth 2092..... 94 4705

Hon. Treasurer

Miss D. Mitchell, 33/250 Jersey Road, Woollahra 2025.....328 7119

CONVENORS

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Mrs. G. Bent, 45 Kitchener Street, Caringbah 2229.....524 9086

Winifred Kiek Scholarship

Deaconess M. Andrews, L8/250 Jersey Rd. Woollahra 2025..... 32 2023

Promotion

Mrs. O. Lean, 14 Dunois Street, Longueville 2066..... 42 6310

Publicity Officer

Brigadier M. Ward, Flat 10, 3 Weeroona Village,
Robertson Road, Bass Hill 2197.....644 9472

LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. G.H. Briggs, Mrs. R.H. Dougherty, Mrs. A. Hall, Mrs. M. Millar,
Mrs. J.B. Montgomerie, Mrs. E.G. Pearson, Mrs. C. Perriam,
Mrs. C.W. Stolz, Mrs. W. Wyper.