

PERSONAL

During the year we have had the great pleasure of welcoming among us, as a visitor, on several occasions, Mrs. H. Jennings, a foundation member and the first president of this Council.

We learn with regret that Mrs. H. S. Bowden, a foundation member and ex-president of this Council is obliged to resign from her position as one of the representatives of the Methodist Church. Mrs. Bowden took an active and helpful part in practically every meeting of the Council at which she was present.

We regret, also, that ill-health has compelled Mrs. Rush, one of the Churches of Christ representatives, to resign from our Council.

We shall miss these members from our meetings, but we know we shall not lack their prayers and sympathy.

Shortly before last year's Annual Rally, death claimed our Assistant Secretary, Mrs. G. W. Sellars. We were officially represented at her funeral service, and at our meeting in December we placed on record our sincere appreciation of her as a Christian woman and a faithful helper.

Mrs. P. D. McCallum, vice-president and ex-president, suffered the loss by death of a beloved husband. We sincerely sympathise with her in this loss.

MEETING ROOM

We desire to express our gratitude to the British and Foreign Bible Society for the use of a comfortable and convenient room in which to hold our meetings.

CONCLUSION

Though conscious of our weakness and inefficiency we cheerfully enter upon our new year of endeavour knowing whence we can draw power that will enable us to do our part in bringing about that glorious time when "the kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ."

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Secretary.

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Women's Inter-Church Council of N.S.W.

ANNUAL REPORT

August 1943 to August, 1944

During the year the Executive has met three times and one special and three regular meetings of the Council have been held. The average attendance at Council Meetings has been thirteen out of a membership of twenty.

ANNUAL RALLY

The Annual Rally was held in St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, on 26th November, 1943. The soloist was Mrs. A. Fuller, and the organist Miss R. McDiarmid. Dr. Helen I. Wilkie, M.A., Dip. Ed., Camb. T.C., delivered a thought-provoking address on "The Responsibility of Christian Women to the young people of today."

The Council wishes to place on record its gratitude to these three friends for their services on this occasion.

On taking over the office, Mrs. M. E. Clouston, incoming President, gave a vigorous address on "Christian Unity" and emphasised the need for united Christian action at the present time. The Council expresses its sincere thanks to Rev. Alan P. Tory, M.A., for the use of the Church Building for the Rally and to Miss C. A. Morrison for acting as secretary to the Rally Sub-Committee.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Since last Annual Meeting we were able, by courtesy of several clergymen, to conduct a test with a view to ascertaining what knowledge of the Bible is possessed by the average secondary school pupil. Results indicated that approximately one-third of the pupils attending secondary schools are totally ignorant of the New Testament Scriptures. Our Executive has conferred about this matter with a delegate appointed by the Council of Churches.

Further action is pending.

We are indebted to Miss G. A. Roseby, B.A., for setting and marking the examination papers used in connection with the abovementioned test.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Two Social gatherings were held during the year. At the first of these, held in May, an address was delivered by Miss Varley, a missionary from China, who gave us a vivid and impressive word picture of the experiences of a Christian Missionary in China during the wars.

In July Rev. J. W. Burton, M.A., addressed us on "Brown and White in the South Pacific". Mr. Burton's address made us realise that every Australian who has the responsibility of exercising the franchise, should study the question of a post-war fair deal for the natives of New Guinea and Papua, to whom we are so deeply indebted for assistance during the war years.

At the first social Mrs. A. Fuller was the soloist and at the second, Miss Edwards. We cordially thank the abovenamed speakers and musicians for their services.

THE DRINK EVIL

This year, as in former years, several letters dealing with the Liquor Laws and their administration have been written to the appropriate authorities. A lengthy reply to one letter was received from the Premier (Hon. W. J. McKell). In his letter Mr. McKell recounted in detail the efforts made by his Government to curb excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Formal replies only were received to other letters.

One of our members, Mrs H. S. Bowden, represented us at a deputation to the Minister for Justice arranged by the W.C.T.W. Members of this deputation placed before the Minister several suggestions for the control of the traffic in intoxicants.

PRISON REFORM

By invitation of Rev. Ralph Sutton, two delegates from our Council attended a meeting to hear first-hand reports on conditions in some of our gaols.

The report of our delegates convinces us that reform of our penal institutions is urgently needed.

We purpose continuing our interest in this matter.

AFFILIATIONS

We have continued to be affiliated with both the National Council of Women and the League of Nations Union.

Mesdames Chapman and Bowden have represented us on the former, and Mrs. McCallum on the latter organisation, and have duly reported to the Council on the activities of these bodies.

RYDE-HORNSBY BRANCH

This branch reports having held three meetings during the year, at which interesting addresses on current topics were delivered. It was responsible also, for organising "Women's Day of Prayer" for the district.

REQUEST FOR PRAYER

Our belief in the efficacy of prayer and the knowledge that we continually need renewed faith and courage, led us to send out a request for prayer on our behalf to the bodies affiliated with us and to other Women's Church Organisations. We are well pleased with the responses so far received to our request.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

By request, we sent representatives to the Golden Jubilee Conference of the Churches of Christ Women's Auxiliary, the Congregational Women's Day and the Annual Gathering of the Presbyterian Women's Federation.

In each case our representatives reported that these gatherings were helpful and inspiring.

We were represented, also, at a Conference on "Adult Education" which was arranged by the Workers' Educational Associations.

REPRESENTATION AT FUNCTIONS

We were officially represented at the Women's Welcome to Dr. Edith Summerskill, an English M.P., at the Women's Farewell to Lady Gowrie and at functions held in honour of Mrs. Grenfell of the Y.W.C.A.

MISCELLANEOUS

We sent a message of welcome to Mrs. Roosevelt, wife of the President of the United States, on the occasion of her visit to Australia. Our President sent a letter, on our behalf, to the Mayor of North Sydney (Alderman Tonkin) expressing our appreciation of the fact that the North Sydney Municipal Council had decided that their Oval was not to be made available for organised sport on Sundays.

A request that simple devotional exercises, such as sometimes find a place in their broadcast programmes, should be made regular features, was sent to the "Kindergarten of the Air" Committee