

St. John's Church, Wellington



Sixty-Eighth
Annual Report

JULY 1st, 1920, TO
JUNE 30th, 1921

WELLINGTON
Printed by C. A. INNES, Printer and Stationer, Willis Street
1921

OFFICE BEARERS*Minister:*

REV. JAMES GIBB, D.D., The Manse, 328 The Terrace.
Telephone 22-249.

Missionary:

REV. GEORGE H. MCNEUR, Canton.

Session Clerk:

MR. M. D. MENELAUS, 43 Ellice Avenue.
Telephone 22-745.

Clerk of Management Committee:

MR. W. A. RAMSAY, Lyall Bay.

Joint Treasurers:

HON. J. G. W. AITKEN, M.L.C., 2 Levy Street.
MR. J. LEUCHARS, Freyberg Street, Lyall Bay.

Envelopes:

MESSRS M. FRASER, Secretary; A. M. ROSIE, Treasurer.

Joint Conveners of Church Extension Committee:

MESSRS. A. R. STONE and D. DOUGLAS.

Convener Seat-Letting Committee:

MR. WM. HOPKIRK.

Organist and Choirmaster:

MR. C. W. KERRY, Tirangi Road, Kilbirnie.

Church Officer:

MR. J. WHITEMAN, Willis Street. Telephone 2405.

MANAGERS' COMMITTEES

Property Committee:

MESSRS. BARY, CAMPBELL, GLOVER, KRAFT, A. P. SMITH, and
MENELAUS (Convener).

Seat Letting Committee:

MESSRS. ANDERSON, CRAWFORD, GILL, LESLIE, A. D. JOHNSTON,
RAMSAY, STONE, J. M. WILSON, WALLACE,
and HOPKIRK (Convener).

Finance Committee:

MESSRS. ALLAN, BRUCE, CORKILL, GILL, MACFARLANE, PETTI-
GREW, KIRKCALDIE,
LEUCHARS and AITKEN (Joint Conveners).

Church Extension Committee:

MESSRS. ANDREW, HOWITT, HORE, A. JOHNSTON, BLAKE,
CAPT. JOHNSON, MARTIN, G. S. TROUP,
DOUGLAS and STONE (Joint Conveners).

Choir Committee:

MESSRS. GREER, KERSLEY, ROBERTSON, SOUTH, A. M. WILSON,
and CRAWFORD (Convener).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

MEETS EVERY SUNDAY AT 2.30 P.M.

Superintendent:

MR. W. HOPKIRK.

Teachers:

MRS. MASSEY, MISSES. A. ALLAN, M. GORE, M. GRAY, E
WATT, H. BLAKE, M. CLACHAN, M.A., L. FINLAY, C. HUTTON,
E. HOPKIRK, J. MASSEY, E. MACKENZIE, J. MACKENZIE,
M.A., D. CHAPPEL, M. STILL, K. THOMPSON, R. GARDNER, L.
LESLIE, C. TAYLOR, M. HILL, E. WHITELAW, MESSRS. J. H.
KRAFT, A. G. HARPER, G. W. MORICE, M.A., A. D. JOHN-
STON, D. BLAKE.

Secretary:

MR. J. M. MORICE, B.Sc.

Treasurer:

MR. J. H. KRAFT.

Organist:

MISS M. CLACHAN, M.A.

Librarian:

MRS. WHITEMAN.

Assistant Librarian:

MISS GIFFORD.

Cradle Roll Superintendent:

MISS SIBYL HOPKIRK.

YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS AND INSTITUTE

MEETS IN THE WILLIS STREET CLASS-ROOM EVERY SABBATH,
AT 2.45 P.M.

President:

REV. JAMES GIBB, D.D.

Leader:

MR. A. MARTIN.

Secretary:

MR. J. S. MURRAY.

Treasurer:

MR. S. W. WEBBER.

YOUNG WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS

MEETS IN THE GIRLS' PARLOUR EVERY SABBATH AT 2.45 P.M.

President:

REV. JAMES GIBB, D.D.

Leader:

MR. J. BOAL.

Sub-Leader:

MISS M. CHAPPELL.

Secretary:

MISS W. MILLER.

Treasurer:

MISS P. KITCHING.

GIRLS' JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS

Leader:

MISS M. GORE.

Secretary:

MISS J. A. LESLIE.

Mission Treasurer:

MISS M. MACKENZIE.

Social Convener:

MISS E. BALLINGALL.

BOYS' JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS

Leader:

MR. G. W. MORICE, M.A.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

President:

MRS. GIBB.

Vice-Presidents:

MRS. ALLAN and MRS. GILL.

Secretary:

MRS. MOYES.

Treasurer—Missions:

MISS GIBB.

Treasurer—Dorcas:

MISS STEEL.

YOUNG WOMEN'S MISSIONARY GUILD

MEETS IN BASEMENT PARLOUR EVERY ALTERNATE MONDAY
AT 7.30 P.M.

President:

MISS ALLAN.

Vice-Presidents:

MRS. MASSEY and MISS BADDEN.

Secretary:

MISS DAVIDSON.

Treasurer:

MISS HEATH.

THE BOYS' INSTITUTE

Sunday Evening Service and Week-night Classes are now
conducted in the Institute Building, Tasman Street.

Hon. President:

REV. JAMES GIBB, D.D.

President:

MR. G. A. TROUP.

HOSTEL COMMITTEE

Chairman:

DR. GIBB.

Secretary:

MR. A. R. STONE.

CHOIR

Organist and Choirmaster:

MR. CH. W. KERRY.

Sopranos:

MESDAMES. ANDREW, BLAKE, KERRY, POPE, VERE, WILLIAMS,
 MISSES ALLEN, D. CHAPPELL, DRYDEN, M. JENNINGS, GEORGE,
 HOPKIRK, HEATH, MOWATT, NICHOLS.

Contraltos:

MRS. WHITEMAN, MISSES M. GIBB, DUNN, HOPKIRK, and
 SHEARER.

Tenors:

MESSRS. BOAL, CRAY, M. BEAN, and WILSON.

Basses:

MESSRS. CRAWFORD, GREER, F. S. POPE, ROBERTSON.

Hon. Secretary:

MR. R. J. CRAWFORD.

CONGREGATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

PUBLIC WORSHIP every Lord's Day, morning at 11, evening
 at 7.

SACRAMENTS: (1) Baptism in the Church as arranged for.
 (2) Lord's Supper on second Sunday of March, June,
 September, and December.

SUNDAY SCHOOL meets in the hall adjoining the Church on
 Sunday afternoons at 2.30.

BIBLE CLASS FOR YOUNG MEN meets in the class room, Willis
 Street, on Sunday afternoons at 2.45.

SOCIAL CLUB every Saturday evening in Willis Street class-
 room.

BIBLE CLASS FOR YOUNG WOMEN meets in the class-room ad-
 joining the Church, and in the Managers' Room, on
 Sunday afternoons at 2.45.

PRAYER MEETING every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.

THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION meets in the schoolroom, on the
 first and third Tuesday of every month at 2.30 p.m.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION, first Tuesday in the
 month.

MOTHERS' MEETING every alternate Thursday at 2.45
 p.m., in the Dixon Street Hall.

YOUNG WOMEN'S MISSIONARY GUILD meets from March to
 November, in Basement Room, at 7.30 p.m.

CHOIR PRACTICE, Thursday evenings at 8 p.m., in the Willis
 St. Classroom.

THE SESSION meets as arranged after the Prayer Meeting.

THE MANAGERS meet on the second Wednesday of each month
 at 8.30 p.m.

GYMNASTIC CLASSES meet in the Gymnasium during winter
 months.

COLLECTIONS, SEAT-LETTING, ETC.

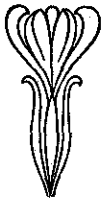
THE ORDINARY SUNDAY COLLECTIONS, together with the Seat Rents, etc., provide the funds for defraying the congregational expenses, the chief of which are the Minister's Stipend, and retiring allowance to the late Minister, salaries of the Church officials, etc.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: (1) As appointed by the General Assembly are made from time to time, including Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Assessments for Assembly Expenses, Maori Missions, etc. (2) As appointed by the office-bearers for Sunday School, relief of poor (once a quarter), and such other object as it may be deemed necessary to help.

The Church Extension Fund, which is wholly devoted to help in planting new charges and assisting weak ones throughout the bounds of the Church, is taken up by the envelope system. The envelopes are placed in the pews once a quarter.

FOREIGN MISSIONS: The regular contributions of the congregation to Missions are collected quarterly by the Women's Missionary Association.

The Seat-letting Committee is in attendance at the Church at the close of the prayer-meeting on Wednesday evenings to let sittings to new applicants.



REPORT

1920-1921

The year now ended has been one of chequered fortunes. Probably in no year of its history has the congregation suffered so much by the loss through death, by removal from Wellington, and by the serious illness of men of note in its fellowship. And yet by the help of God the work has gone on, not only steadily, but with no small measure of success. For the mercies we have received we are deeply thankful, and face the future with quiet confidence, and a steadfast purpose of devotion to the service of our King and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Early in October the ministry of the Rev. H. W. Burrige, who had during the nine months of Dr. Gibb's absence in Britain acted as *locum tenens*, came to an end. Mr. Burrige, heartily assisted by Mrs. Burrige, discharged the duties of his position with fidelity and acceptance, and gained the cordial goodwill and appreciation of the office-bearers and the congregation. It was, however, with great thankfulness that Dr. and Mrs. Gibb were welcomed home again early in October. The Doctor's mission to the Old Country in search of men for the work of the New Zealand Church had proved beyond expectation successful, and, though the task had been strenuous, the Minister returned to his work in St. John's in the best of health and vigour. His highly appreciated ministry grows steadily in spiritual power as the days pass. We rejoiced, also, in having Mrs. Gibb back again, and to see that she too had benefited by rest and change of scene.

At a meeting held shortly after the return of the Minister and Mrs. Gibb to welcome them, and to say farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Burrige, a presentation of pulpit robes was made to Dr. Gibb, and a substantial cheque to Mr. Burrige. The meeting was further signalised by the appreciation expressed for that beloved elder of the Church,

the Hon. J. G. W. Aitken, who had acted as Moderator of Session during the Minister's absence. A handsome easy chair was presented to him, and Dr. Gibb, in making the presentation, voiced the unanimous feeling of the congregation when he emphasised the affection and esteem in which he was held by all the people of St. John's. Mr. M. D. Menelaus, the Session Clerk, on whose always heavily laden shoulders a specially heavy burden had been laid by the Minister's absence, was also specially thanked. The meeting made it manifest that the congregation knows to the full the debt it owes to its wise and tirelessly energetic Session Clerk.

Prior to Dr. Gibb's departure on his mission to the Churches of the Homeland it had been for some time manifest that even he, with all his capacity, for work, was overburdened and required to be relieved, especially of the care of the Home Missions of the Church. He, therefore, wisely intimated to the General Assembly his resignation of the Convenership of the Home Mission Committee. There was a good deal of speculation whether he might not see it to be his duty to offer his services to the Assembly as Home Mission Superintendent, and when he finally withdrew his name from consideration by that body, the relief experienced found expression in the following resolution adopted by a large meeting of the office-bearers:

"The office-bearers of St. John's Church desire to place on record their appreciation of the fact that their beloved Minister, Dr. Gibb, has decided to remain as their pastor. While it was undecided as to whether he might be called to the position of Superintendent of Home Missions, the office-bearers could only view the situation with grave concern. Now that the matter is settled, it is with a sense of great relief and joy that they congratulate themselves on the decision he has arrived at, and would take this opportunity of anew expressing their appreciation of the faithful and untiring services rendered to the congregation by him. They are glad to observe that his health has been so much improved by his recent visit to the Homeland, and that notwithstanding the very arduous and exacting duties which he had to perform, and which he brought to so successful an issue.

"They trust that under the good providence of God he may be spared for many years to continue and extend the work of the congregation, and that he may have the joy and comfort of seeing the work of the

Lord prospering in his hands. They desire further to assure him of their continued interest in the work, and they ever pray that the Great Head of the Church may be pleased to continue to endow him with all needed wisdom and grace."

Shortly before the return of the Minister the congregation suffered the loss of Mr. S. Clarke Johnson, who passed away very suddenly. He had been for 18 years an elder, and had endeared himself to his fellow office-bearers as much by his unflinching geniality as by his willingness to serve the church to whose interests he was deeply devoted and to whose service he gave much of his time. His death was a heavy blow to St. John's and a peculiarly keen loss to the Minister, with whom Mr. Johnson had been very closely associated, especially in the conduct of the colleges—Scots and Queen Margaret. Another elder who, since his removal to Auckland, has passed away, is Mr. R. Pearson. He was in infirm health when he left Wellington, and it was hoped that the change of residence might be of physical advantage, but a few months later he died. Mr. Pearson was an active and zealous member, and office-bearer of the church, and a friend to every good cause. We parted from him with reluctance, and his own hope was that he might ere long be restored to the fellowship of the church he truly loved.

A change of residence involved the congregation in the loss of four well-known elders, Mr. A. D. Thomson, Mr. H. W. Kersley, Mr. W. Ramsay, and Mr. J. Mackay. Mr. Kersley, now living at the Hutt, has not "lifted his lines," but we are meanwhile deprived of his good help. Mr. Thomson was a source of strength in many ways with which we could ill dispense, and we congratulate the Hutt charge on his accession to the ranks of their effectives. Mr. Ramsay, since the close of the period under review, has returned to Wellington, and we hope his valuable services will be again secured. Mr. John Mackay, after a serious illness, found himself unable to come in from Island Bay, and we had to part with one who had for many years served the Church in the eldership.

By removal from the district the Committee of Management lost Messrs W. M. Gibson, one of the most diligent members, and W. Gendall, H. Lines and W. R. S. Allen.

Early in the year Mr. William Allan, an elder of 37 years' standing, was overtaken by severe illness, and though God has mercifully spared him, he has been wholly incapacitated from taking part either in business affairs or the work

of the Church. We all know what Mr. Allan has been to St. John's, and in the course of its history it has had no truer friend. His kindness of heart and unfailing generosity endeared him to every one not less than his untiring labours secured their high esteem.

Heaviest of all the losses suffered by the congregation has been the removal from its activities of Mr. Aitken through a sickness which has, to our great grief, been manifestly sapping his strength, and now practically confines him to the house if not to bed. What can we say of him save that he has been among us a living embodiment and illustration of the mind and heart of the Master? Few congregations in New Zealand or beyond it have been served with a devotion so wise, so tireless, so whole-hearted. His time and strength and means have ever been laid upon the altar of God, and though his career has been laborious beyond most in public service, the Church has ever had the first place in his heart. We commend both him and Mr. Allan to the grace of God and pray that in their illness and retirement they may be sustained by an abiding sense of His presence. Of both men we may with full hearts say: "Servant of God, well done."

It is very evident from the recital of these losses and impairments of our effective force how heavily the congregation has suffered during the year. And to this there falls to be added the always increasing movement of our people to the suburbs, a movement which steadily tends to make St. John's a "down town" church. More than once this has been referred to in the annual reports, and we would not dwell upon it now. One significant fact may, however, be mentioned. During the 18 years of Dr. Gibb's ministry, while the membership of the Church in full communion has nearly doubled, the adherents of children and young people under 16 years of age has diminished by leaps and bounds. Eighteen years ago there were several hundreds of young children connected with the Church; now there are only 70. People with young families for many reasons choose their residence in the suburbs, and it is impossible for them in most cases to maintain their connection with a church situated as ours is in the centre of the city.

In the face of these losses and difficulties peculiar to ourselves, and in the face of the prevalent religious indifference, the growing secularisation of the Lord's Day—in part an aftermath of the war—the record of the year's work is such as quickens in us a great thankfulness to Him from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift.

THE KIRK SESSION.

The Session has, as has been set forth, lost by death Messrs. S. Clarke Johnson and R. Pearson; by removal, A. D. Thompson, J. Mackay and W. Ramsay. Mr. Aitken and Mr. Allan are no longer fit for active duty. It became necessary to add several new members, and the following were elected by the congregation and duly ordained and inducted, viz., Messrs. W. Austin, M.A., T. R. Cresswell, M.A., Malcolm Fraser, P. H. Glover, J. H. Kraft, J. T. Pettigrew and H. C. South. The Session has now 33 members.

Dealing now with those matters of which the Session has the immediate supervision we report that the attendance at Church has been in the morning and with favourable weather distinctly good. The evening attendance has fluctuated, but on the whole the movement has been upward. The attendance at the Prayer Meeting was good in the early part of the year; latterly it has been less satisfactory.

The additions to the communion roll have been 111, of whom 80 joined by certificate and 31 by profession of faith. The removals by certificate have been much fewer than this, but as the roll is at present undergoing purgation it is possible to give only an approximate estimate of the total actual membership. The figure is certainly not less than 700.

The attendance at the quarterly communion has been very good—the highest in June, when 456 people participated.

The visitation of the congregation, especially of the sick, has been diligently carried out by the Minister, and the elders have been in evidence in their districts every quarter when the communion cards are distributed.

The service of praise has been well rendered. The Choir, which we are glad to note has been considerably strengthened of late, has, under Mr. Kerry's capable and earnest leadership, done excellent work.

THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

By election to the Session, and by removals, the Committee has lost the services of Messrs. W. R. S. Allan, P. M. Cameron, T. W. Gendall, H. Glover, W. W. Gibson, J. H. Kraft, H. Lines, and J. T. Pettigrew. An election of new members has recently taken place, and though falling within the new year the names of the new managers may, for convenience sake, be specified here. They are: Messrs A. D. Johnston, Kelburn; D. E. Leslie, Dixon St.; W. A. Ramsay, Lyall Bay; W. A. Robertson, Newtown; G. S. Troup, Kelburn; A. H. Wallace, Kelburn.

The finances of the Church, which are the care of the Committee, are dealt with in a subsequent paragraph. The condition of the manse property has called for the special attention of the Committee. Extensive repairs, repainting, etc., have become absolutely necessary. A special collection taken up in this behalf realised £166, but £400 at least are required. The work is now in hand and provision for its further prosecution must be made without delay.

Reference may be made here to the Church officer, Mr. J. Whiteman, who had to undergo a surgical operation some months ago. Happily he has made an excellent recovery, and will resume duty almost immediately. The sympathy of the office-bearers with his illness and their just appreciation of his faithful services found expression in their continuing Mr. Whiteman's salary and providing a substitute for the three months of his convalescence.

THE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

This Association has had a busy and successful year. The attendance at the weekly meetings, especially since resumption after the summer holidays, has been large, and a deepened interest in the work is manifest.

As a Dorcas Society many garments have been prepared for and donated to the Orphanage, and contributions of clothing have been made to the mothers' meeting and various needy cases. The Association has a number of regular pensioners to whom it ministers both in cash and kind. A sum of £60 has been expended in these and similar benefactions. The total income of this branch was £112, and the resources of the Society were further strengthened by contributions in kind from various good friends and from the Two Garment Society. To all of these donors the thanks of the Association are gratefully tendered.

As the congregational branch of the P.W.M.U. the Association has done this year exceedingly well. The interest in the cause of missions has been keen, and the items of news, etc., etc., from the fields, both home and foreign, have been eagerly discussed. The "Harvest Field"—the periodical of the P.W.M.U.—has a circulation of 65 among the members of the Society.

The annual sale of work in aid of the congregation's contribution to missions realised £120. In addition to this, two Jumble Sales and an American Tea were held, realising upwards of £32. The contributions of members of the Society collected at the monthly missionary meetings amounted to £6. The total collected for missions, etc., reached the satisfactory figure of £214.

Connected with the Association is

The Mothers' Meeting.

which has been held once a fortnight throughout the year. It has been well attended, and the mothers have benefited not only by kindly counsel, but by the sale at nominal prices and the free distribution of large quantities of clothing.

YOUNG WOMEN'S MISSIONARY GUILD.

The Guild reports a year of quiet, steady work. The attendances at the fortnightly meetings have been much the same as in former years. Out of the proceeds of last year's sale the Guild has made a contribution of £20 to the Maori Girls' School at Turakina, and they are now busily preparing for the sale which they propose to hold in a few weeks' time. The Guild desire it to be known that they will at any time gladly take orders for fancy work.

THE HOSTEL.

The Hostel is now well on in its second year. The building, which has accommodation for 36 boarders, cost with alterations almost £6,000, and a large part of this sum was obtained by mortgage of the property. The direct contribution of the congregation towards the purchase and for furnishing amounted to £1,630. The Hostel is directed by the Church Committee of Management through a sub-committee on which a number of ladies have a seat. In the capable hands of Mrs. Benn, the matron, and a competent staff, the Hostel has met an urgent need and provided excellent board and lodging at a modest cost to the inmates. The house is at present full. It pays its way, and there are indications that ere long it will be possible to set aside some percentage of the earnings for a debt reduction fund. It is a source of satisfaction that we are able to provide nearly 40 young men with board and lodging in a wholesome atmosphere and environment, and at a cost to them considerably lower than the usual rates.

QUEEN MARGARET COLLEGE.

The boarders and teachers of this College attend the services of our church, and a word of reference to the institution may not be amiss. In the singularly capable hands of Miss Haydon, M.A., the new Principal, the number of pupils is rapidly increasing, and the tone of the College is all that can be desired. The interest of the congregation in the College is evidenced not only by its representation on the Board of Governors, of which the Minister is chairman, but by the large sum of money donated to the College by the people of St. John's. Our interest in them is heartily reciprocated by the teachers and the boarders. Several of the latter became members of the Church by profession of faith at the March communion.

We rejoice also in the continued prosperity of Scots College, which, under its very able Principal, Mr. Uttley, grows steadily in usefulness and efficiency. It has greatly gladdened us to learn that quite a number of the boys, who for three years worshipped with us, and are now connected with the Seatoun congregation, have, under the guidance of Mr. Inglis, who is to all intents and purposes Chaplain to the College, taken their place at the Lord's Table.

THE BOYS' INSTITUTE.

Though the Institution is now a public concern, the congregation being represented on its Board only by certain *ex-officio* members, its prosperity lies very close to our hearts, not only because of the beneficent service it renders to a large number of boys, but also because it had its genesis in St. John's and for a long period was practically identified with our Men's Bible Class. The Institute has had a fine career, and is benefiting an ever-growing number of lads with influences making for a sturdy physique, integrity of life and the service of God and their fellows.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The Sunday School has, in the face of many difficulties, held its own as will be seen from the following tables. (The figures for the previous year are put in brackets):

Scholars.

Boys, 113 (94); girls, 114 (126); total, 227 (220). Average, 142 (155).

Of the total number, 66 (28 boys and 38 girls) are in the Primary Department; 133 (69 boys and 64 girls) are in the Intermediate; and 28 (16 boys and 12 girls) in the Junior Bible Classes.

The total roll is 7 higher than last year; the average attendance is 13 lower. On the average, the Superintendent comments, "average not satisfactory, but accounted for by heavy sickness last winter, and by the increasing prevalence of week-ending."

The Cradle Roll (not included in the above) numbers 68—35 boys and 33 girls.

Teachers and Officers.

Men, 7 (8); women, 23 (22); total, 30 (30); average, 25 (27).

The teachers have given themselves with praiseworthy zeal to their important task. Monthly meetings for the discussion of matters of common interest to the school have been revived, and the teachers of the primary department meet regularly for study.

A steady effort is made to induce the children to attend the morning service of the Church. The number had somewhat ebbed, but is again increasing. Unhappily, a large percentage of the parents of children attending the school have no church connection of any kind.

The Junior Bible Classes do not now take part in the opening exercises of the Sunday School. A separate paragraph relates to the work of these classes.

Four scholars, of whom three joined during the present year, are members in full communion with the Church.

The entrants for the Sunday School Examinations were rather higher than last year, though the number is still far from satisfactory. The results were good, almost all who entered securing passes.

Two winter socials were held very successfully, and the picnic at Belmont was attended by 157.

Youth of the Church Day was duly commemorated, and the Anniversary services postponed, through pressure of other arrangements, to May. The church was nicely decorated, and the singing of the children and their recitation of Scripture passages were much appreciated. These services were successful, the collection for the day in aid of the school funds amounting to £52 5s.

The Busy Bees have kept well together and done good work for missions.

The finances of the school are in a healthy condition. The income amounted to £136. Of this, over £25 have been contributed to missions, etc., £116 have been spent in the maintenance of the school and its organisations. The main items of income are: Anniversary collection, £52; scholars' collections, £48; donations to the income fund, £35.

The work of the Sunday School, thanks to the devotion of Superintendent and teachers, is sound. We are grateful to them for their self-denying and most profitable labours.

YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

The Class has a roll of 64 members, a decrease of five on last year's numbers. The average attendance has been 38. Of the Class members 42 are in full communion with the Church. The additions to Church membership during the year were, by profession of faith 10.

Bible study circles are held on Sunday mornings with an average attendance of 11. Short intercessory prayer meetings are held after the Class on Sunday afternoon; and once a month members of the Young Women's Class and Sunday School teachers join in these intercessions.

The activities of the Class embrace services in suburban churches, at the Ohio Home, on ships in port, and at the Boys' Institute.

The social and athletic departments have been well maintained. Social meetings, picnics, class teas have been of frequent occurrence. The Saturday Night Club, held every week during the winter months, obtained only a fair measure of support. The football, running, swimming and tennis clubs have been well patronised, and the Class has, in competition with other teams, more than held its own. Various cups and trophies were won during the season.

An increasing use of the library has been noted of late, and a number of new books were added to the shelves. Forty-five members subscribe to "Four-Square," the magazine of the Bible Class Union.

The income of the Class has been £250. Of this sum £50 have been spent in the maintenance of the Class (printing, socials, union fees, etc.); £46 have been donated to missions; £20 to the Assembly's travelling secretary; £5 10s. to the Boys' Institute and Home Missions; £95 to St. John's Hostel.

The contribution to missions, etc., is thus over £71, and including the contribution to the Hostel, the total expended, outside the direct maintenance of the Class, is over £166.

BOYS' JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS.

The statistics of this class are included in the figures given for the Sunday Schools, but the class meets separately, and is conducted in lines similar to the Senior Classes. With the large accession of Presbyterian boys to the Y.M.C.A. Hostel in Donbank, it was hoped that there would be a correspondingly large increase to the Boys' Class. Various efforts have been made to bring them in, but little has come of it. Three members of the class are in full communion with the Church, of whom two joined this year. The worth of the work done in the Boys' Class is in evidence year after year by additions to the membership of the Church.

GIRLS' JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS.

The roll has decreased since last year, and now contains 12 names. The contributions of the Class to missions go one-half through the Sunday School, the other to the Bible Class' Own Nurse Fund. The total amounts to £5.

YOUNG WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

This Class has 60 members, one more than last year. The average attendance has not been so large as it ought, but large enough to stimulate courage and quicken hope. The Scriptures have been earnestly studied, and the activities

of the Class have been diligently prosecuted. Special meetings for prayer have been held frequently by the class itself, and also in combination with the Young Men's Class. These meetings have been well attended, and have proved helpful. Bible study circles have also been of much use. Forty-eight members of the Class are members in full communion with the Church, and of these four joined during the year by profession of faith, and 11 by certificate. Three class members joined the Sunday School Teachers' staff.

The Class provides abundant facilities for social fellowship and healthful pastime; no effort is spared to help members to gain the healthy body as well as the healthy mind and cheerful heart. The various recreational and social clubs have all been put to a good use. The library has been strengthened by the addition of a number of new books.

The Class provides also opportunities of definite service, especially for the victims of misfortune, and the aged and infirm. In the Ohio Home and the Sailors' Friend Society a field of fruitful activity is provided, and much good work done. The Orphanage, too, benefits by the Class, which makes contribution to that institution, both in cash and kind, and also helps from time to time in entertaining the children. Parcels of clothing and of toys have been sent to Te Whaiti for distribution among the Maori children and others.

The income of the Class has amounted to upwards of £92, of which £21 have been carried forward to the new year. £12 have been spent in the work of the Class, and £53 donated to missions. We rejoice at these tokens of the liberality of the Class and their zeal for the extension of the Kingdom of our Lord.

FINANCE.

Contributions to Missions and Special Funds.

(Only the totals are given here. Details of sources will be found in the paragraphs relating to the different collecting organisations).

Missions to the Heathen: £340.

Maori Missions: £66.

Home Missions: £160.

Total contribution to Missions: £566.

A further sum of £44 9s. 4d. has since been contributed for Home Missions, in time for inclusion in the General Assembly's funds for the year.

Other contributions: Youth of the Church, £28; Theological Hall, £17; Starving Children of Europe, £115; Contribution to Assembly's Union Committee, £35; Orphanage, £30; St. John's Hostel, £420; Sunday School £52; Bursar-