

BRITISH ADVENT

# MESSENGER

## Maturing Plans for the Future

By H. W. LOWE

FOR a long time it has been felt by many that we should explore the possibilities of obtaining a more modern College home than was afforded by a Queen Anne mansion some 200 years old. It was not that anyone felt that the estate in Warwickshire did not have its advantages, and since we went there in 1931 it has certainly served its purpose. It removed our College family away from the cramped quarters we had at Watford, and it was altogether healthy to develop our College as a separate and growing unit in the Advent family of institutions.

After ten years we became more and more conscious of the limitations imposed upon us, from a disciplinary and health point of view, by an old mansion. It was not designed on a modern dormitory basis, and it was low lying and both difficult and expensive to heat.

When the property was requisitioned we were compelled to occupy a smaller and very inconvenient property which has taxed our College staff in many ways. Our enrolment dropped during this period due to national service laws, so things might have been worse than they were. However, all these events conspired to revive the desire—always strong among the College faculty, to find a new and more modern habitation. It should be stated here, that there is no sign that we could return to Newbold either now or for the next school year.

Some few talked in the terms of

building from the ground up, but in the light of present conditions, anyone can see that such a suggestion is twenty years too late. If we attempted that, we should have no College for from five to ten years.

When we came to finding a better place we really undertook a tedious and trying job. Some eighty places have been viewed during the past year or so, but not once did we find a place having all the facilities we need. If we found a modern building, then teachers' cottages, or a chapel, or a farm were lacking, etc.

We were therefore driven to selecting a proposition which offered us the best possible minimum requirements, leaving us to add the other facilities as a future development programme. About this time we had a good offer for our old College property, and negotiations for the sale are proceeding.

Almost at once we came upon two small properties some miles from Reading, only 300 yards apart and at one point separated only by a small field. The one would make an ideal men's, and the other a ladies' dormitory. Both are modern, with good heating, mains services, and adequate hot and cold water in practically every room. Everybody felt that culturally, this was the end from which to begin, particularly as these

buildings would take, without decoration or alteration, sixty more students than we have at present. The district is accessible to shopping areas (1½ miles to nearest town) and canvassing territories, but sufficiently remote for our purposes.

The limitations will be in teachers' cottages, farm land, and administration building. It is hoped, however, that money will be in hand, when present negotiations are over, for the erection of a modern administrative unit including assembly hall, class and music rooms, laboratory, and offices, and that will be something we have never had before. The question of additional land we hope to solve soon, and teachers' homes must be settled as soon as possible.

We realize that some time must elapse before our programme is finished, but, all in all, this looks to all concerned as the best thing possible, and we are going ahead to finalize on these lines.

There will be some reorganization involving staff, faculty, and student body, and for these reasons, and also because negotiations are not quite complete, we do not wish anyone to visit the new properties; hence we withhold the address for the time being.

What we need in this Union now is a stronger programme of evangelism, linked with a stronger educational work, and it looks as though God is leading us in this direction. There comes a limit to the educational work which a con-

stituency of six thousand members can support. It is from that angle also, that evangelism becomes the vital part of our vision for the immediate future, and plans for larger evangelism will come along shortly.

In a few months our Sanitarium is to resume its denominational identity, and plans are afoot to rehabilitate our health work. At the same time we hope to move our secondary school at Watford from its present quarters to the old Stanborough College building. This school will later offer some boarding facilities for academy students, thus bridging the gap between our church school and College more effectively.

The present home of the secondary school (Sheepcote Villa) is to become a maternity home under the care of the Sanitarium.

This is a hopeful, if difficult, period. It will be desirable to accomplish the major part of these changes early in 1946, before the Union Session in the summer. It should be a period of prayerful co-operation, and we should all be energetically grateful to God, who has cared for His cause through days of darkness, and who will finish His work at the hands of a loyal people.

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## South England Conference

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## Bristol Day of Fellowship

INTO the worship-inspiring Arley Baptist chapel on Sabbath morning, October 20th, flocked Adventist pilgrims from Cornwall, Devon, Wales, Somerset, and Gloucestershire. It was an expectant throng, animate with obvious spiritual fervour, the product of many earnest prayers for a real high-day of spiritual refreshment. And as they waited for the services to begin the quiet melodies from the great organ, yea, and the very atmosphere of the chapel, seemed to breathe a benediction as heads bowed in prayer and meditation.

Promptly at 10 a.m. the Sabbath-school began under the direction of Pastor E. R. Warland. Both opening hymn and prayer furthered the entreaty that God would graciously meet with and bless His people. As school proceeded, still more worshippers arrived in time to enjoy the review by Brother J. H. Parkin and the lesson study conducted by Pastor J. M. Howard. The speaker observed that the apostle Paul faced bitter opposition and heart-rending discouragements; yet from apparently hopeless material was forged, by the help of God's Spirit, what Paul esteemed as his crown of rejoicing. He urged us all to qualify for our crowns by patient, persistent effort for our fellows.

Conveyed in thought by Dr. H. E. Hargreaves to far-away Persia, we attended a morning clinic at his ophthalmic surgery. In fancy we saw a throng of picturesquely garbed natives of all classes and beliefs seeking relief from fearful eye diseases. We learned of the physically and spiritually blind receiving sight, and all hearts responded to the doctor's earnest appeal for funds to increase the scope of his labours in that needy field. A good offering was received.

There followed the morning devotional hour. A solo, "O Love that will not let me go," was beautifully rendered by Sister Gammon and fittingly introduced the theme of the address, John 14:18: "I will not leave you orphans." The speaker was the College principal, Pastor W. G. C. Murdoch. His searching message was an eloquent answer to Pastor O. M. Dorland's appeal that God's Spirit would visit His people in that hour. We felt the presence of the Lord in our midst, and when Pastor G. D. King led in prayerful appeal for reconsecration, the entire congregation rose to confess its need of a revived vision and a new Spirit-filled heart.

The lunch period followed and all visitors gratefully testify to the generous efficiency of Bristol's stewards and stewardesses. Hot drinks (sweetened, too!) there were, in abundance.

Thereafter followed a Bible

study address conducted by our president, Pastor King. The service commenced with a real Adventist battle song, "Onward Christian Soldiers." A beautiful quartette rendering of the anthem, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength," was given, to which invitation was added the admonition of the speaker's key text, Deuteronomy 31:7: "Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people." Said the speaker: "The way out of any depression is to open our eyes to the wonders of our message." This he did by portraying the wonderful way God had led this people whom He had "brought out that He might bring in." Our hearts thrilled as when the message first came to us as the speaker reviewed "those five great fundamental truths which made us Seventh-Day Adventists and which, if cherished, will keep us Seventh-Day Adventists." Inwardly we felt that ours was indeed a message which can inspire a "love of the truth."

While this service was in progress the young people held a combined Investiture and missionary service in the hall adjoining the chapel. Enthusiasm for the Progressive Courses was high. During this youth session Dr. Hargreaves drew more word-pictures of his work and life in Persia. It was a fitting close to the special services conducted throughout the day for the juniors and young folk.

In the closing service of the day, Pastor Howard spoke on the theme of "the more abundant life." John 10:9, 10. Outlining the cunning opposition both youth and aged face to-day he portrayed the "armoury of the Word," whereby the onslaughts of "the shatterer" can and will be defeated. The speaker illustrated his address with incidents from his contacts with the serving American brethren. In very trying and difficult experiences many of these young men successfully lived according to the tenets of the "more abundant life." We honour them for this as for their generous sincerity as they so-journed awhile in our midst.

With the singing of our last  
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hymn, "On our way rejoicing," a day of good things, long to be remembered, came to a close. Fer- vently we all endorsed the presi- dent's hope that the coming again of larger conferences would not mean the end of such district fel- lowship meetings.

R. H. SMITH.

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## North England Conference

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### Fellowship Sabbath in the Midlands

"WE thank Thee from the bottom of our hearts that Jesus is coming again."

That sentence in the opening prayer of the ordination service held in Birmingham on Sabbath, October 20th, surely touched the real reason for the success of the series of Fellowship meetings conducted this autumn in the North England Conference. For the hope and certainty of the second coming are the very life-blood of this Advent people. "Come, Lord Jesus," is indeed the inborn cry of every heart.

Large and appreciative congregations characterized all the four Regional gatherings which, together, catered as much as possible for the whole of our conference membership. The MESSENGER family will doubtless have read with interest the reports of the earlier assemblies held in Manchester, Newcastle, and Leeds.

The choice of the Birmingham meeting place, the Digbeth Institute, not far from the city centre, was certainly a happy one. Although the gathering was larger than a year ago, the spacious central hall with the minor hall and other rooms, accommodated all the worshippers in comfort. It was good to see so many children pressing their way into their own separate meetings, where they were in the capable hands of Pastor B. E. Sparrow and his associ- ate teachers.

"What do, we want to-day?" Pastor R. S. Joyce asked this

practical question as he spoke to us in the nine o'clock devotional service.

"Some will come who are as yet unconverted; some needing power over besetting sins; others, strength to finish their course. We should bring the needed help to these by our prayers this morning."

The many fervent responses to the appeal helped to make this first meeting of the day a source of strength.

How busy we were greeting the old friends from far and near! Young friends, too, in a steady stream—mostly from Packwood. It did our hearts good as we watched them crowding into the already well-filled main hall for the opening exercises of the Sab- bath-school.

The College was also well pre- sented on the platform. We greatly appreciated the ministry of Brethren A. J. Raitt, N. H. Knight, and Pastor G. W. Baird as they respectively conducted the missions appeal, the review, and the day's lesson.

From these thoughtful studies the congregation, still increasing, entered into the special purpose of the morning service—the ordination of Brother K. A. Elias, whose ministry has been signally blessed.

Our Union president, Pastor H. W. Lowe, brought us face to face with challenging ideals of righteous yet joyful living as he coupled well loved words from the psalms with related New Testa- ment admonitions. Dwelling on God's high standards of holiness for the Aaronic priesthood he impressed the point that these Old Testament ideals were passed on to the New Testament church.

"Is righteousness the 'pole star' of our lives? Are we willing to do only that which is right more than all else?" His vital questions penetrated still deeper as he re- minded us of the very little time left to get ready to meet the Lord Jesus, and that in dedicat- ing a man to the Gospel ministry we are also dedicating ourselves to God.

How simple and impressive is our scriptural practice of the lay- ing on of hands. Immediately following the sacred rite, Pastor

Elias, in a personal testimony, traced the many providences through his life to this great moment. The best wishes of us all go with him in his solemn responsibility of winning men and women to Christ wherever he ministers.

After the lunch interval two meetings convened simultaneously for the brethren and the sisters. Although the fine afternoon beckoned us outside for a "breather," the urge for the still higher good could not be resisted, judging by the full attendances and keen interest taken in the mes- sages of Pastors H. W. Lowe and W. T. Bartlett.

The editor of our British pub- lishing house, Pastor W. L. Emerson, was the speaker at the closing service. His forceful presentation of fulfilling prophecy in our day compelled the closest attention of the large congrega- tion.

"A short work will the Lord make upon the earth." "The final movements will be rapid ones." This inspired couplet from Romans 9:28 and the *Testi- monies* formed the basis of his most convincing study.

"We have entered the rapids of the closing days of human history and the last surge which carries the church into the kingdom of heaven is surely just ahead." As the Spirit of God spoke through this stirring climax, the convic- tion struck deep that Jesus is indeed coming soon for His wait- ing people.

So we must "hasten" to be ready and to get others ready. Only so will our happy days of fellowship have accomplished their appointed purpose.

B. BELTON.

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### Acknowledgment

THE North England Conference trea- surer acknowledges with thanks the re- ceipt of the Lord's tithe £2, from "Anonymous."

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### Advertisements

PRINTING.—C. Russell, Newton Street, Macclesfield.

REQUIRED by London Adventist firm, typist with knowledge of book-keeping and general office routine. Write, stat- ing age, experience, and salary required, to: "J.C.C.," The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

PIANO-ACCORDION (25 base) for sale. Reasonable price. Write: S. Riches, 109 Belvedere Road, Ipswich

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## Scottish Mission

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### Superintendent's Notes

At the moment of writing, our evangelists are engaged in efforts for the extension of the kingdom. In the far north, Pastor H. T. Johnson is running meetings both in Aberdeen and Banchory. Quite a good interest has been manifested in this latter place, and fruitage is expected in the near future. Pastor D. Morrison is holding the fort in Dundee, and is labouring faithfully to proclaim the message there. In Portobello, Pastor L. G. Hardinge launched an effort in the Town Hall. A good interest has developed. Unfortunately, Brother Hardinge has been taken ill, so Brother A. Watson and the writer are caring for the meetings in the meantime. Our members will pray that God's servant may be restored speedily to active service again. Down in Greenock, Brother Watson is conducting a Sunday afternoon meeting with a good attendance. Here in Glasgow, we have a good interest following our meetings in the Cosmo and Masonic Halls. Our workers are not finding evidence of a general hungering for truth, but are of good courage as they present God's message to the public. Please remember them in your supplications at the throne of grace.

### FINANCES

OUR tithe for the three quarters of the year has reached the sum of £1,887. 10s. 0d. We thank all whose faithfulness has made this figure possible. However, we are still showing a deficit of £170. 15s. 6d. as compared with the three quarters of last year. We trust that this will be more than recovered before the close of the year. Let us all manifest our fidelity to the cause while probation lingers. We are glad to report an increase of £97. 17s. 3d. in the Sabbath-school offerings for the three quarters. The Big

Week offering for Missions Extension is also up by £73. If you have not yet forwarded your contribution to the combined Week of Sacrifice and Annual offering, may I appeal to you to consider the needs of the work, and make a generous response to the missions appeal.

### CONGRATULATIONS

THE members of the mission will gladly join with us in congratulating John Stewart in the successful passing of his final dental examination. Most of our members know Sister Stewart, who has witnessed for the message in Rothesay for so many years.

### SYMPATHY

MRS. H. T. JOHNSON has been in hospital in Aberdeen for the past fortnight. Shall we remember our dear sister before the Lord, who healeth all our diseases?



WEST.—We regret to announce the death of Mrs. West, wife of Brother J. P. West, who passed away at the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oram, at Reigate, on Wednesday, August 22, 1945. Mrs. West had suffered much and for a long time but without complaint or murmur. She had been most carefully and tenderly nursed by her mother, but all that skill and medical science could do was of no avail. Early in life she had given her heart to the Lord and had hoped to be united with her husband in God's work, but as she was taken ill shortly after her marriage she was unable to realize her desires. Our sympathy goes out to her parents and relatives and especially to her sorrowing mother and husband at the loss of an only daughter and a bright and amiable wife. The funeral was from her parents' home to Redstone Cemetery, Redhill, on Monday, August 27th. There were many beautiful floral tributes. A short service was held in the home when words of comfort and exhortation were spoken by the writer.

R. WHITESIDE.

PARKER.—On August 28, 1945, Sister Mary Ann Parker fell asleep in Jesus. She was laid to rest in Hove Cemetery on September 3rd, Pastor A. J. Mustard officiating in the absence of Pastor Bell. Sister Parker was transferred from the Croydon church in 1932. She was a very faithful and true Adventist. Her last three and a half years were spent in hospital where she always bore a good testimony at every opportunity. For the past two and a half years she was blind. She was always ready to sing the chorus, "That will be glory for me, when by His grace I shall look on His face, that will be glory for me." To visit her was an inspiration. She was patiently awaiting the coming of her dear Lord. So we

Let us continually remember in prayer the afflicted, the distressed, and all who stand in special need of the grace of God.  
J. A. McMILLAN.

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## Welsh Mission

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### A Correction

IN the last "Welsh Notes" referring to the Aberdare church presentations, one of the recipients was stated to be Miss Grace Lewis. The name should have been Miss Grace Thomas.

Also the name of Mrs. Evans, of the Swansea church, was omitted when reference was made to those who contributed to the programme. Mrs. Evans was one of the soloists. S. G. HYDE.

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have lost our oldest member, but we have the assurance of meeting her on the great resurrection morning if we prove faithful until the end.

A. M. BROCKWAY, Church Clerk.

ROBERTS.—We regret to announce the passing of Sister Eliza Florence Roberts, a very faithful member of the Cambridge church. She came into the Advent church about twelve years ago through reading *Present Truth*, and was baptized by Pastor S. G. Joyce. She never let an opportunity go by to speak of her Master and His soon coming, and of the Sabbath truth. She will be greatly missed by her husband and family. She was a good Ingatherer, and always collected her goal. She was never absent from service, except for ill health. She had been suffering for about seven months before being completely confined to bed. She was willing to go to sleep, if it was God's will, and was looking forward to seeing her Saviour at the resurrection. We pray that her husband and family may be prepared to meet her with her Lord, when He comes.

JOAN D. VINING, Church Clerk.

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### SUNSET CALENDAR

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Dec. 7th 3.52 3.49 4.05 3.40 3.59  
Dec. 14th 3.51 3.48 4.03 3.38 3.58

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### BRITISH ADVENT MESSENGER

Published fortnightly on Friday for the British Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists by the Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

Copy for next issue—December 5th  
EDITOR: W. L. EMMERSON

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Vol. 50. No. 24. November 30, 1945