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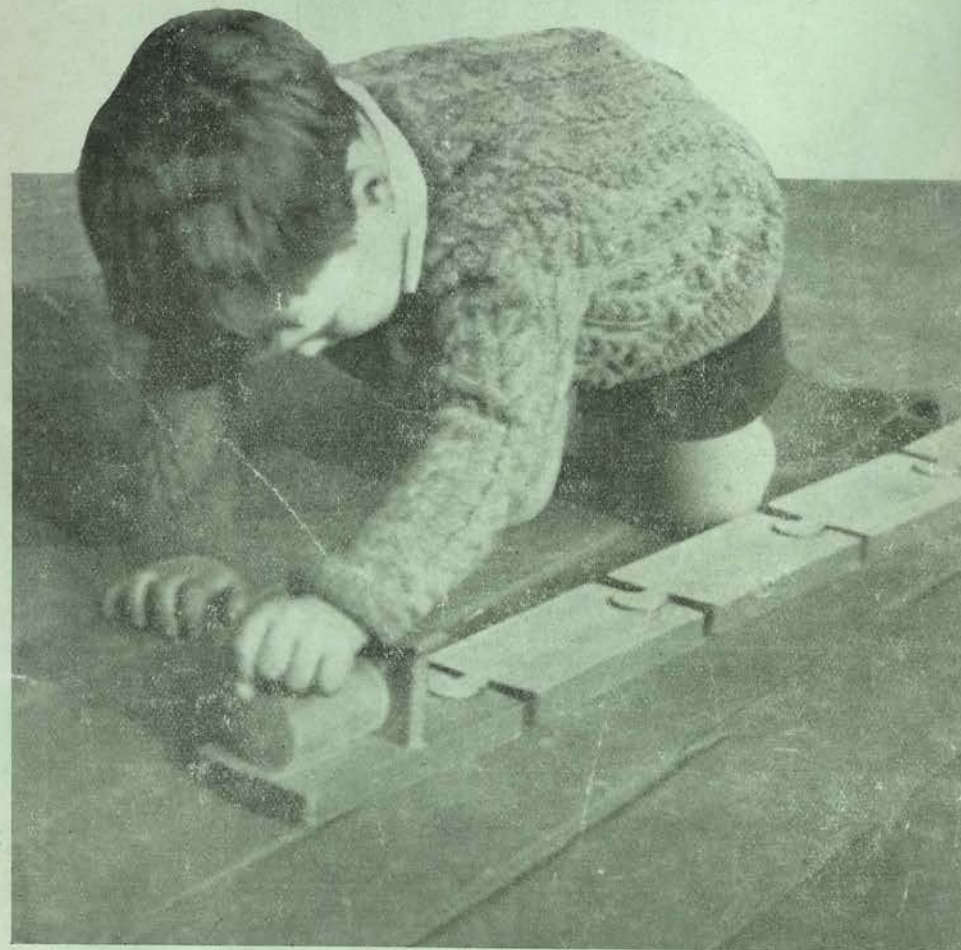
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*Bartam.*

# Christchurch Kindergarten Chronicle 1939

VOLUME II.

PRICE THREEPENCE.



PATRONESSES:

Mesdames THACKER, HADFIELD, and Miss HULL.



OUR KING.

## CONTENTS.

FOREWORD—Rene Wilkie (Principal of Christchurch F.K.A.).  
 DAILY WORK IN THE KINDERGARTENS.  
 PLAY MATERIALS (Joyce Godfrey).  
 "THE GREEN THINGS GROWING . . . . ."  
 "EDUCATIONAL TRENDS" (Misses Jamieson and Baster).  
 "THE ELUSIVE VITAMIN" (Nurse Dick).  
 PARENTS' CLUB NEWS.  
 "THE TODDLER TALKS": "MILK TIME."  
 STAFF NEWS AND STUDENTS' COMMENT.  
 "OUR VISITORS."  
 THANKS.  
 KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES' CLUB.

IN a recent issue of "*Parents' Magazine*," a doctor has written an article on "How Baby Care has Changed." One paragraph reads: "The 'second' summer was another critical period because that was the time when babies were expected to have summer complaint . . . The first summer was not feared because most babies were breast fed; and epidemics of diarrhoea or dysentery seldom occurred in the winter. The second summer was the child's first experience with warm raw milk . . . No one suspected that the high infant mortality could have any relation to the good-natured milkman who went from door to door . . . Nor was it anybody's business that his cows were kept in unsanitary barns, or that his milk was directly exposed to the sun for many hours . . . Pasteurised milk was a long time becoming popular . . . As time went on, mothers began to have less trouble with their babies during the hot weather until now PASTEURISED MILK IS DEMANDED by most intelligent people."

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1939

# Christchurch Kindergarten Chronicle

## FOREWORD.

As the Kindergartens and roll numbers increase, it becomes more and more difficult to maintain the same measure of personal contact with children and parents. Therefore I welcome the opportunity which this little chronicle gives me of congratulating our Christchurch Kindergarten Parents and Teachers on 400 happy, well-behaved children with whom it is such a joy to associate.

In these days of wars and misunderstandings, we think sadly of the "breakdown" of so much that was constructive and beautiful in Europe and the East; and we know that the seeming conquest of greed and materialism makes it only more urgent to promote goodwill and friendliness in the new generation

As one educationalist has put it: "In these troublous times Education is racing against catastrophe for the salvaging of civilisation."

Our tiny share here in Christchurch (insignificant as it may seem when we think of Education with a capital E), cannot, however, be negligible when we are dealing with such unpredictable forces as human personalities. Some little Kindergarten child here may yet find the cure for cancer, or startle the world with a cure for war!

If children can "get on" with each other at the age of four or five, willingly sharing their toys and gradually, very gradually, being inspired with some sense of social responsibility, there is hope that as adults, justice, freedom and tolerance will not be mere abstractions to them, but vital necessities, not only for themselves, but for their brothers and sisters in the human family.

Kindergartens, founded as they are on international and undenominational lines, have throughout the world a responsibility in this matter. Dr. Findlay, in his introduction to Terman's book on mental testing, makes the following

statement, which may well encourage us in our daily problems of child study and child guidance:—"We can examine ourselves and our children without fear; a higher consciousness, a finer understanding of behaviour will in the long run only strengthen the rising generation to enter on untrodden fields with surer footing. Never since the dawn of history was there a time when intellectual courage was in greater demand; when men felt more urgently called upon to scale the peaks of understanding."

We hope to make this little magazine a link between the various Kindergartens and a common meeting ground where problems and needs can be discussed. Please do not wait until the end of the year to send in your "news" or your toddler's funny remark; we need all the time we can have to make full use of them. Who knows? The way you managed to get Margaret to eat her spinach, might be the very answer to Mrs. Brown's biggest problem with Joan, so—contributions please! . . . plenty of them for use in our club meetings, staff meetings and, of course, in the Christchurch Kindergarten Chronicle!

RENE WILKIE.



### SUNBEAM.

(Cornwall Street, St. Albans)

Another happy year has passed at Sunbeam, and we have just celebrated our 28th Birthday with a very joyful party.

During the year, through the busy efforts of our Mothers' Committee, we have been able to get new playground equipment—a sandpit, swings, a fun boat, and a large engine. These are proving so popular with the children,

that their old favourite the rocking horse, stands still looking on reproachfully!

The older children have enjoyed making blossoms and birds for their Spring project, and are very interested in watching the growth and flowering of the plants they had planted in their room during the winter.

Great happiness was experienced lately when they spent a morning in the garden with forks and trowels

planting a border of pinks and other flowers, and great was the excitement when they chanced to find some worms!

During the year we have enjoyed having the secondary schoolgirls visit the Kindergarten for a consecutive fortnight, instead of a week as was the case last year.

HAZEL GORRIE, Director.

MURIEL GORMAN, Assistant.

### PHILLIPSTOWN.

(St. Asaph Street)

The year has been a happy one for us all; the interest shown in our activities being helpful and inspiring.

We commenced our social functions in March, when children, Parents and Teachers enjoyed a picnic to Summer. The day was simply ideal, and thanks to two Fathers who conveyed the milk by car, the children were able to enjoy their usual morning's milk.

In April we held an "open morning" when the centre of interest was Harvest; and now the children are busy developing Spring posters and friezes.

Our walks have included a visit to Edmonds' factory garden, and to a bootmaker's shop.

In August we had great fun building a snowman.

We were glad to welcome Nurses Hungerford and Worger from the Health Department. They weighed the children and examined their teeth.

Our Kindergarten has been painted during the holidays, and the children say "it look just like new all over."

EDNA PEARCE, Director.

MARGARET QUARTLEY,

Assistant.

YVONNE LOCK,

CHISNE ROBINSON,

Junior Students

### SYDENHAM.

(Queen Street)

Truly time passes quickly in the Kindergarten world! No sooner does the year begin with new little faces in the nursery and teachers overflowing with enthusiasm and new ideas, than Autumn and Winter with their accompanying activities have sped past—Spring days lengthen into Summer ones, and Christmas is upon us once more with "break-up" and good-

byes to the "nearly fives."

But a quickly passing year means a busy and a happy one, and such has been our lot.

With the children bright and healthy and the fortunate absence of epidemics, attendances have been splendid.

The popularity of excursions is assured. Armed with thick coats, strong shoes and bottles of milk, sixteen of the older children, accompanied by two teachers, travelled to St. Martins to visit a farm. Excitement ran high—lambs, sheep, horses, cows, dogs, fowls, not to mention the woolshed and sheep dip, received equal attention and interest. Thirty-two tired little feet wended their way homeward at 12 o'clock, but it was a weariness born of health and happiness.

The other groups have not been left out; two groups have been to the Park to fly kites, and the whole Kindergarten visited Mrs. Rodda's to see some day-old chickens.

The morning drink of milk has now become an institution. Little encouragement is needed to ensure the draining of bottles to the very last drop!

Good reports of the children's physique and "independence" have been received from Dr. Druiker and Nurse Spring.

We are sure our little magazine proved its worth last year, and we welcome its appearance once again.

JOY BARTRAM, Director.

MONICA STRACK,

JANET WILLS, Assistants.

BETTY BARRETT,

Junior Student

### SELWYN.

(Selwyn Street, Spreydon)

For Selwyn Street Kindergarten this year has been one of change.

Miss Martin and Miss Furge have been farewelled. They are missed, and we are glad that they are still interested in our Kindergarten.

Certainly the children have had to adapt themselves quickly to new people, with all the changes of staff this year. Even the parents have been "bamboozled" as to the names of the staff!

All have welcomed Miss Fisher back again, and staff, parents and Commit-

tee are working most happily together. Even our building has had a small but acceptable alteration.

The lusty activity of the children, their imaginative and happy play show good physical and mental health.

Making a snowman, and playing in snow in our big gumboots have been new experiences for us.

Now our interest is digging, fishing from our boat boxes or caring for our new dolls.

The railway station was the most exciting of our excursions. A three-year-old remarked, "My daddy smokes. Why does the train smoke?"

Lately we had a happy Birthday Party and the fun of having our photo in the paper.

We enjoyed the visits of the Secondary schoolgirls and Karitane nurses, who have shown keen interest in their Kindergarten experience.

ELLA SCOTTER, Director.

FREDA FISHER, Assistant.

ETHEL COOPER,

Relieving Assistant.

### RICHMOND.

(North Avon Road)

The third term of the year finds our happy family in good health, and enjoying the varied activities of Kindergarten life.

The winter snowfall proved a delight to the children and teachers alike—and interested neighbours joined with us in building snowmen!

This year we have formed a dolls' corner, and it is interesting to observe the hosts and hostesses entertaining their guests. We are also making use of part of the shed as a handwork corner to accommodate our increasing numbers of children.

A "Fun Boat" has been added to our outdoor equipment and is greatly in demand.

Advantage has been taken of bright sunny days and we have been for several excursions. On one of these a parrot proved the source of interest, but, unfortunately, it was not in a talking mood.

NOELINE STURGESS, Director.

RONA MOULD, Assistant.

MARGARET BUTLER and

KATHLEEN JESSOP,

Junior Students.

### LINWOOD.

(Rochester Street)

We are glad to report Linwood activities in our magazine. With a roll of 45 children, all of whom attend well, our jungle gym., swings, sandpit and the new playhouse (kindly built for us by Mr. Cordery), are in almost constant use!

At our "open mornings," parents have been intrigued by the children's domestic activities, the rolling of dough and washing of dolls' clothes being especially popular.

One of our Fathers has encouraged the latter occupation by presenting us with a clothes line complete with props and little red posts.

Our new milk trolley is a great convenience. We no longer have to carry the heavy crates up from the gate; the trolley runs so smoothly that the children themselves can easily push it.

The change-over from the short daily afternoon rest to the longer one on Fridays only, is already proving its worth. Visitors who happen to come on Friday afternoons enjoy seeing the rest cots grouped under the pear trees, and the children cosily tucked up in their little sleeping bags. The rest group is much larger, and we have had to send in a request for more cots.

We have happy memories of our Kindergarten picnic in February, when mothers, children and teachers enjoyed a merry time at Linwood Park.

MARJORIE SUCKLING, Director.

GRAY HUGHES and

CONSTANCE CORDERY,

Assistants.

### NUFFIELD KINDERGARTEN.

(Sea View Road, New Brighton)

The year has been full of interest and activity. Our Kindergarten, you will notice, has now a new name—"The Nuffield Kindergarten," in appreciation of the financial interest Lord Nuffield has taken in us. His photograph is to be hung in the Kindergarten at the Birthday Party on October 19th.

This year Kindergarten has not been open during the afternoon, except on Friday, when it is open until 4 p.m. We find this a great success in every way and the parents appreciate being free for the day. The rest

period is greatly enhanced by our new rest cots with their detachable canvasses.

At the end of last year Mr. Malley made a partition to screen off the dolls' corner. This partition is complete with door and windows and gives endless pleasure to the children who feel they have a real house to care for.

Last holidays our local Committee had a new dividing fence built, and this makes the section look much wider and tidier.

During the summer months the children spent many happy mornings at the beach—a delight of which they never tire.

We now have 60 children on the roll—17 of them from South Brighton arrive each morning in a brand new scarlet bus under the escort of Mr. McGregor. The arrival and departure of "our bus" is quite an event in the borough!

JOYCE GODFREY, Director.

BETTY ANDREWS, Assistant.

MARIE KETIE and Senior

HAZEL DONALD, Students

### WOOLSTON.

(Aldwin's Road)

On the 27th February, 1939, 19 children, looking very shy, and three teachers, feeling very strange, met together and made friends, with the result that by the middle of March, a Kindergarten of 45 children was established and running smoothly.

It has been a busy year and a very happy one. Numerous gifts from interested friends have helped to make the Kindergarten attractive and habitable.

Until these last holidays, our grounds have been unsuitable for use and our only outdoor equipment was a fine sandpit. It was a thrill to come back this term and find the grounds laid out in lawns, flower beds and shrubs by Mr. Barnett and the Council men.

The children have been busy planting flowers and vegetables and keeping them well watered, and it will not be long now before we can use the lawns for play.

Pictures of the activities at Woolston have been added to the Kindergarten. Dr. Brownlee has examined the children. A Mothers' Club has been formed—news of which may be

found in another part of this magazine. We now feel that the "Baby Kindergarten" is able to hold its own in the Christchurch Kindergarten family!

NITA PILKINGTON, Director.

ROMA BAILEY, Assistant.

JANET BIRDLING,

Senior Student.

### ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH FREE KINDERGARTEN.

St. Andrew's Free Kindergarten, which is situated behind the Church Hall in Tuam Street, and financed by the Church of its name, is perhaps one of the lesser known Kindergartens in the city, but it has been working happily for the past 16 years.

The open-air type of building has accommodated over 700 children during those years, so we feel that the Kindergarten has made its presence felt, if not heard, in this district! Many of the little folk come from Riccarton and the city area.

Situated as we are, our choice of "excursions" is delightfully varied. We visit the pastoral scenes in Hagley Park; we feed the ducks on the Avon; and we enjoy going to the Botanic Gardens to observe the changing seasons.

The Museum (referred to as the "New Zealand" by not a few of the children!) and the timber yards and sawmills are always a source of interest to us.

St. Andrew's assistants have always been trained by the Free Kindergarten Association, and enjoy their contact with the other students.

May we here show our appreciation of the interest shown in us by Miss Wilkie and the teaching staff. We wish the "Chronicle" every success.

IRIS ORANGE, Director.

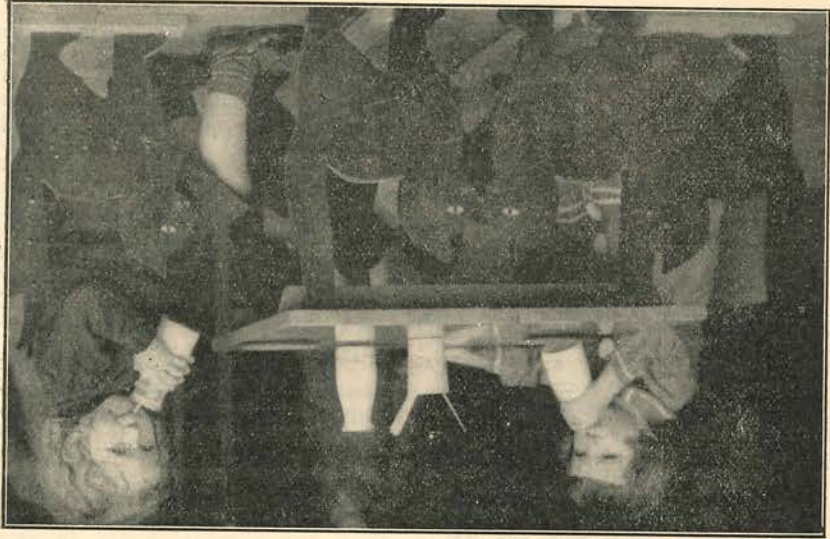
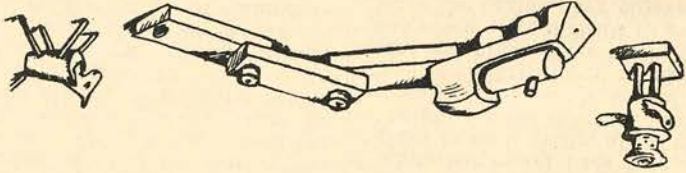
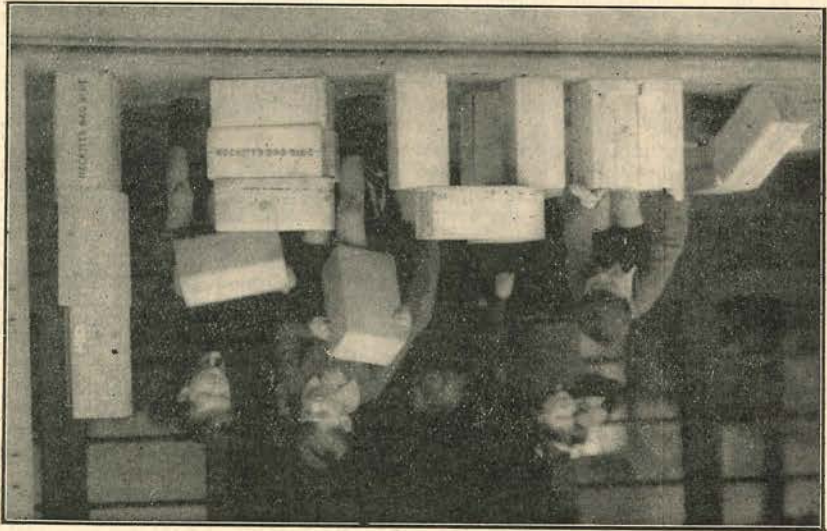
MONA TELFORD,

Junior Student.

### APPRECIATIVE NOTE.

FROM ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF  
TO ALL LOCAL AND PARENTS'  
COMMITTEES.

We are deeply aware of how much we depend on your sympathetic support for maintenance of the work, and offer sincere thanks for the co-operation which has made this year so happy and progressive.



## KINDERGARTEN TERMS,

**1940.**  
**FIRST TERM:** February 6th to May 3rd.  
**SECOND TERM:** May 21st to August 16th.  
**THIRD TERM:** September 3rd to December 19th.

## PLAY MATERIALS.

Parents visiting Kindergarten are often surprised at the amount of play material we have for the children's use, and because some of it looks complicated, few of them realise that much of it can easily be made at home from waste material.

True educational toys are those which give the child something to do. Expensive, mechanical toys may be entertaining for a short time, but are not nearly so satisfying as simple blocks, beads, trains (the "hookon" or peg type), and the various "creative" materials like sand, clay, paints and large crayons. These give real scope for development.

All types of wooden boxes make excellent "hollow blocks," as they are light and easy to handle. Larger boxes can have holes cut in the ends for handles (wooden or rope) so that children may lift or drag them.

Fainted reels make excellent beads, to be threaded with bootlaces, leather thonging or wire.

"Pegboards" are made with holes, the right side to fit the top 2 in. of clothes pegs, bored in them. Boards and pegs should be painted in bright colours for "colour matching."

Simple puzzles can be made by pasting or painting a suitable picture on to 3-ply wood, and cutting it into different shaped pieces with a fretsaw. Odd scraps of 3-ply may be cut into mosaics with a small hole bored in the centre of each. Children love to hammer these on to a piece of plaster board, using shoe brads and a small hammer.

Wise parents will keep a few samples of these manipulative materials at home for the day when Tommy has a cold and cannot come to Kindergarten. Indeed, we should not be surprised if mother and father, too, are not tempted to "try their hands" at the jigsaws and pattern making after Tommy has reluctantly departed to bed!

JOYCE GODFREY.

## "THE GREEN THINGS

## GROWING....."

**TREASURE.**  
 The vaults of earth we fill and fill,  
 With things that keys can bar;  
 But what can hold a daffodil  
 Or snare a single star?  
 —H.T.M.

## A FAVOURITE KINDERGARTEN

## SONG.

Dig with shovels, rakes and hoes,  
 Plant the seeds in nice straight rows;  
 Water the garden every day . . .  
 Green is the garden where we play!

## ENVIRONMENT.

Who never in the grass lies down,  
 To feel the sod against his cheek,  
 Upon whose eye the close-pressed  
 town  
 Is photographed week after week.  
 For whom no windflower lifts its face,  
 Materials like sand, clay, paints and  
 large crayons. These give real scope  
 for development.

All types of wooden boxes make excellent "hollow blocks," as they are light and easy to handle. Larger boxes can have holes cut in the ends for handles (wooden or rope) so that children may lift or drag them.

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## HANDY HINTS.

One teaspoon sugar mixed with a small quantity of olive oil and rubbed well into the hands, is an excellent bleach and softener.

Ordinary alum melted in an iron vessel forms a good strong cement for joining glass, china and metal.

A satisfactory mop can be made from an old short-haired fur collar.

On slopes of tusssocked hillsides, With skylarks high above,  
 I found the quiet of Nature,  
 And learned its peace to love.  
 —R.H.M.

## HOLIDAYS.

I left the tired city,  
 I left its heat and glare;  
 I went into the country,  
 And found contentment there.

—Maurine Halliburton.

**"EDUCATIONAL TRENDS IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND."**

By two members of our Education Committee, whom we welcome home to Christchurch—Miss I. M. Jamieson and Miss D. Baster.

During 1938 and 1939 I visited several nursery schools in the Homeland. One, in Edinburgh, was housed in a very old building in a slum area. Its shining windows, bright brass door knobs and letter-box made my discovery of its whereabouts easy. In the dreariest surroundings the nursery school or Kindergarten stands for neatness, order and cleanliness and so is a living example to the community of what ought to be.

Inside I found a well kept little school with all the brightness that fresh paint, cleanliness, good pictures and flowers can bring. I did not see much of the work being done, as there was an outbreak of whooping cough at the time, but I admired a beautiful little garden, of which the teacher was justly proud. This nursery school has been maintained for many years by the subscriptions of primary school teachers of the district.

Another nursery school, almost within a stone's throw of the above, caters for a different set of children—children who are brought from a distance by older brothers and sisters and remain all day. A very liberal midday meal cooked by the Home Science section of the upper school, is served to them by the teachers. The building in this case was modern in all respects, beautifully lit and ventilated with ample sanitary arrangements and outdoor playing space.

Here also was adequate provision for rest—camp beds and warm blankets for each child.

Another very modern school was the nursery school at Kensal rise, London. A most attractive modern building, built to get the maximum of air and light, it caters for children living mostly in a fine new block of workers' flats. The fathers of many of these children are unemployed or seldom in employment. The mothers go out to work and so are very glad to be able to leave their little ones in the good care of the nursery school staff.

The children begin to arrive about 8.30 a.m. and remain at school until 5 or 5.30 p.m. The nursery school provides everything necessary for the children's well-being during these hours.

The classrooms are large and airy—furnished much as Kindergartens in N.Z. are, with low cupboards, pretty chairs and tables, toys and pictures. Out-of-doors there is a sand-pit and a paddling pool (for use in warm weather).

The building includes a kitchen where the children's and teachers' hot lunches are prepared; a laundry where children's overalls, towels, etc., are washed; a staff room, an office, and a room for the nurse who visits daily. In this room there is all the necessary equipment for the medical examination of the children; a first-aid cupboard and a bed where a sick child may rest until he can be taken home.

The most interesting room of all was the wash room. There were rows of white basins set back to back—six or eight in each group, all of the proper height for the children. From the taps only warm water flowed (never hot). The children loved to wash their hands, and brush their teeth. Indeed it was often quite difficult to get them to leave the basins, they enjoyed it so. In this room, too, were racks and hooks for individual towels, tooth-brushes, combs and mugs, each bearing a label—a different picture for each child. Mirrors were provided, too—cleanliness, care of personal and community property are everyday lessons in the nursery school.

In the corridor was a row of lockers, without doors, for the children's coats, hats and shoes, each with the child's individual animal, bird or toy label above it.

There were about 100 children in this school, and the staff included the principal teachers, visiting students, a cook, a laundress who came three times a week, and the nurse who visited daily.

Part of the cost of running the school was borne by the Gas Light & Coke Co., to whom the flats belong.

The parents help where they can; mending toys, making overalls, etc.

The cost of the meals is 1/6 per week and is nearly always paid by the parents.

In summer some of the children are taken to the country for a month. For one month the nursery school is closed so that the staff may have a well-earned holiday.

I. M. JAMIESON.

**SOME MODERN TRENDS IN ENGLISH EDUCATION.**

During my English visit last year I noticed greatly improved conditions for the physical and psychological development of children in English nursery schools and kindergartens.

Buildings were of a better type, staffs were larger, and nurses visited daily to oversee the children's health. If necessary special treatment was given, and records were being faithfully kept.

Balanced meals with ample supplies of milk and in some cases malt extract, were supplied for the pre-school children. Comfortable sleeping equipment, with individual cots, pillows, towels, etc., seemed to be the general rule.

In the best type of English nursery school, full scope was given for free play with educational toys and sense training apparatus, and with such satisfying creative materials as sand, clay, paint, and water.

Many schools had special facilities for the joys of water play, and it was fascinating to watch the children of three to six years romping in the paddling pool, and manipulating hoses and buckets of water. In one school a special room was set aside for water play, and the children there, well-protected by sou'-westers and gumboots, were having a riotous time!

The psychology of free play and expression work is also commanding the attention of modern infant-school teachers, and in several schools the flexible timetable allows all infants, up to about 6½ years, full opportunity for free "phantasy" play, e.g., "houses, shops, hospitals, trains," from 9—10 or 10.15 every morning.

A particularly interesting experience was my visit to Dr. Margaret Lowenfeld's children's centre in the Institute of Child Psychology, London. There unhappy mal-adjusted (but de-

finitely not mentally-deficient) children from rich and poor homes alike are helped to regain their poise and joy of living by means of "treatment." This consists entirely of Free Play therapy carried out in specially equipped play-rooms under the supervision of specially trained helpers. Thanks to the influence of Dr. Susan Isaacs and many others working in her field of child psychology, more enlightened methods of child guidance are evident in the Homeland, and children are growing up in happier and less restricted circumstances—learning gradually to adjust to the world around them, and face the future unafraid.

D. BASTER.

**"THE ELUSIVE VITAMIN."**

"Folks are always talking of these here vitamins! Well, I've been in the fruit business for forty years and have never seen one of the critters yet!"

So spoke Fred the Fruitman, but mothers to-day don't need the evidence of their eyes to know the importance of vitamins in daily diet! They can hear the happy voices of their healthy children, and know how worth while it is to go to that extra trouble to supply the "sunshine" and "mineral" foods which mean vitality.

We fortunate New Zealanders have milk, butter and eggs, which actually contain the sunlight stored in the green grass. Our equable (though occasionally exasperating) climate protects us from the need which other countries have of stall feeding animals for a great part of the year, and our gardens can produce leaf vegetables almost the whole year round.

As far as possible, fruits and vegetables should be eaten raw, and green vegetables cooked (steamed) rapidly in as little water as possible. Rapid slashing of spinach and cabbage helps the rate of cooking, and spinach and Brussels' sprouts need hardly more than the water left on them after washing. Three minutes' cooking for spinach, 8 minutes for Brussels' sprouts, and 10 for fresh cabbage is usually enough, and soda should be avoided.

The water from steamed vegetables should never be thrown away. Even the water from boiled old potatoes

(not new ones) and from swede turnips may on occasion be used in soups.

Carrots, parsnips, cauliflower and celery water, as well as that from green vegetables, add much to the flavour and food value of a dinner. These juices make a flavoursome gravy, stew or soup. Children love vegetables when they are properly prepared and served. Combinations of colour add to the attractiveness of a dish, and after a plate of carrots, cauliflower and spinach few children will need to satisfy a gnawing void with indulgence in sweet biscuits or cake!

It is not "mere coincidence" that some children seem to "catch everything that is going." At the age of three and four years the resistance to disease which they had at birth, is weakened unless they are wisely fed on the "protective" and "energising foods." In these days of mounting prices the use of vegetable juices is a valuable form of health insurance; not only for lively youngsters but for busy mother, too!

NURSE DICK.

### IN MEMORIAM.

Dr. H. T. J. Thacker.  
May, 1939.

### UNITED PARENTS' CLUB.

At a very pleasant afternoon gathering in May, representatives of the eight Kindergarten Mothers' Clubs met to form a United Mothers' Club. Mrs. H. Ostler, of Richmond Kindergarten, was elected President, and Miss E. M. Scotter, of Selwyn Street Kindergarten, Secretary.

The Club had a promising and well-attended opening at Phillipstown Kindergarten on July 20th, when the Kindergarten film and items from three of the Clubs were enthusiastically applauded.

After this meeting, the name of our Club was unanimously amended to the "United Parents' Club," and we hope the fathers will continue to attend our meetings in force!

Our October meeting is planned with a talk by Mrs. J. Johnston, and items from five Clubs. We intend to make these items a club feature, for they foster talent and are a pleasure to all.

The Committee has arranged a United Parents' Club Handwork Display on November 30th at Linwood Kindergarten. This is an imposing title, and will be an impressive display of toys, knitting, sewing and cooking, when Clubs will strive for points for the trophy, and individual members for prizes. We look forward with interest to seeing the "ideal Kindergarten lunch," and the photographic studies of children, as well as the work sections.

The United Club can do much towards linking the various branches of Kindergarten work in happy co-operation, and we feel sure it will prove a source of benefit and happiness to us all.

E. M. SCOTTER,

Hon. Secretary.

### TO MOTHER AT CHRISTMAS.

Within the doorway of your room to-night

I stood and saw your little treasures, all

Set out beneath the yellow candle-light . . .

While silver chimes haunted the evenfall;

Here was the robin, very round and bright,

Painted by one of us with fingers small,

And childish presents bought with grave delight

From many an ancient Christmas festival.

And while I stood, dear mother, I thought of those

Great dreams that men have dreamed . . . music like flame,

The lovely works of many a deathless name;

Poetry blooming like a fragrant rose . . .

And knew God kept them in His house above

As you our gifts, from the greatness of His love.

—Mary Webb.

### MOTHERS' CLUB NOTES. SUNBEAM.

Our Mothers' Club has had several social afternoons during the year. Misses R. Wilkie and H. Gorrie have given very interesting addresses, and Mrs. Richards a talk and display of handwork, including marquetry and hand-painted china.

Our Bridge Afternoons are also proving very successful. We feel very proud of our extended play-area and also the outdoor equipment recently purchased for the little ones.

We were sorry to lose our former convener, Mrs. Goldsmith, but extend a welcome to Mrs. J. Dick, who has taken her place, and to the energetic new members who have joined our Club this year.

Convener: Mrs. J. DICK.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. L. E. SMITH.

### PHILLIPSTOWN.

This year has been a very happy one for the members of our Parents' Club. Everyone, including the three fathers connected with our Club, have given of their very best in service and attendances at all our gatherings.

The year's activities started with a very successful community-sing, and social afternoons and evenings followed, at which games, competitions, etc., were enjoyed by all.

The United Parents' Club held a function at Phillipstown in July, when the main room was packed to overflowing with a very appreciative audience. Everyone enjoyed the Kindergarten film and the various items contributed by selected Parents' Clubs.

A Fancy Dress Carnival, held in September, was a great success, and the financial returns very pleasing. It was with much regret that resignations were received from Mesdames Brown and Kneale during the year.

Convener: Mrs. T. BELTON.

Hon. Secty.: Mrs. CHRISTIANSEN.  
SYDENHAM.

Steadily increasing interest has been maintained throughout the year at the Sydenham Mothers' Club. Social afternoons are held every month when we gather together in a friendly atmosphere for discussions or talks.

During the winter months a study-

group was formed, when discussions centred round problems of child-life. These proved very popular. The Club was fortunate in having Miss R. Wilkie one afternoon to give a travel-talk. This was illustrated by photographs and curios. Another talk of topical interest was given by Mrs. Wallis, who spoke about "First Aid in the Home." Members then proceeded to bandage each other, more or less correctly!

The Mothers' Club Library provides another source of enjoyment, and many new books have been added during the year. A Children's Fancy Dress Party and Baby Show, held during the first term, was highly successful, both socially and financially. We are ever on the look-out for new ideas, and welcome new members.

Convener: Mrs. D. ARMSTRONG.  
Hon. Secty.: Mrs. G. GROWCOTT.

### SELWYN.

Selwyn Kindergarten is a scene of activity on every alternate Thursday when the Parents' Evening is held. Interesting talks are given and games played.

At present all members are very interested in making wicker trays under the able guidance of our enthusiastic new director, Miss Scotter. Four of us had an amusing time preparing our playette for the United Club's evening at Phillipstown.

Our social and dance evenings have been very enjoyable and our thanks are due to the musicians who have given their services so generously. Altogether the year has been a very happy and successful one.

Convener: Mrs. TALBOT.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. POWELL.

### RICHMOND.

Social functions, talks and "beetle" evenings comprise our activities for the year. Mrs. H. S. Wallis gave a very interesting talk on Home Nursing, from which the parents derived much useful information.

The proceeds of a "beetle" evening provided funds for the purchasing of wood for more rest-cots, and a word of praise is due to the willing band of fathers who spent a very busy evening assembling them.

Our greatest ambition is to replace

the gravel round the Kindergarten with concrete.

Convener: Mrs. HARLEY OSTLER.  
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. ANDREWS.

#### LINWOOD.

Every month our Mothers' Club holds a social afternoon, always a most enjoyable and successful function.

Mrs. Inwood (a Club member) spoke one afternoon on the work of Fay Inchfawn, and on another occasion Mrs. H. S. Cordery gave an interesting "travel" talk. We are now looking forward to meeting Nurse Worger who has promised to speak at one of the social afternoons towards the end of the year.

A friendly and informal evening was held in August. Owing to the wintry weather the attendance was not large, but an enjoyable evening was spent at games and competitions around the fireside. Later in the month a successful Flag 500 party was arranged by Mrs. Gill and held at her residence.

The Club Library has acquired many interesting and good books, and the number is still increasing. The books look very attractive and gay in their fresh covers—the result of a "working bee" which the Club held recently.

Convener: Mrs. RUTLAND.  
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. GILL.

#### NEW BRIGHTON.

The Mothers' Club of the Nuffield Kindergarten have had quite a successful year.

At the Annual Meeting it was pleasing to see so many mothers present, and also to welcome new members to the Committee.

Some very happy evenings have been spent, mostly in the homes of Committee members. The last of these was at the home of Mrs. W. Dixon, where everyone had a very jolly time; a special novelty being the hot save-loy supper.

The first evening held by the Combined Parents' Club, at the Phillipstown Kindergarten, was well attended by our Club, and everyone voted it a most enjoyable function.

Convener: Mrs. M. W. DIXON.  
Hon. Secretary: Mrs. WALKER.

#### WOOLSTON.

Our Mothers' Club is pleased to make its appearance in print in this year's magazine. Although the Club was formed only in July, all members are very interested and enthusiastic.

So far we have held several very pleasant afternoons, when talks, varied by discussions and competitions, have been enjoyed.

Members of the Club undertook a "Bring and Buy" Sale in September, which proved very successful. We are hoping to hold social evenings in the near future.

Convener: Mrs. C. SMYTHE.  
Hon. Sec.: Mrs. HICKENBOTHAM.

#### MISS HULL.

All friends, parents and teachers have been concerned to hear of Miss Hull's serious illness. Now we are so glad to report that she is well on the road to recovery of her health and strength. We are looking forward to the time when she will be among us again enjoying parties and social functions once more.

#### "OUR STAFF."

Now, I'm an impartial observer,  
So beg of you—please do not laugh.  
It may SEEM unbelievable, QUITE unbelievable,

Yet they are ALL on "our staff"!  
The teacher so calm and efficient,  
Who in a professional way,  
Can "tumble" and skip, with never a trip,

No matter HOW hectic the day!  
And the one whose devotion to duty,  
Is "painful"—but charming to see...  
With neighbours in need, and a rabbit to feed,

She rarely gets home for her tea!  
The one who plays Brahms and Beethoven,  
With diffidence cloaking her skill,  
And the one who can sing almost any old thing,

In a voice that's a positive thrill!  
Musicians, and artists and sculptors,  
And all of them PRACTICAL, too!

For there's always a voice, and a dear little voice,  
Saying, "Please, I can't fasten my shoe!"

## THE TODDLER TALKS



#### RATIONALISATION.

Child (who has been fighting): "I can't tell you who began it! I'm all out of puff!"

\* \* \*

#### ONCE BITTEN!

Child to Dentist: "That's my throat down here! You can't get 'dat up!"

\* \* \*

#### UNIMPRESSED.

First Child: "I came to Kindergarten with my teacher in the tram to-day."

Second Child (calmly): "Did she pay for you?"

\* \* \*

#### BIRTHDAY CAKE.

Teacher (admiring silver cachous on child's cake): "You can't eat them, can you?"

Child: "Course you can! You didn't think they were ball-bearings did you?"

\* \* \*

Frank: "I seen him at the corner."  
Teacher (helpfully): "I saw him, Frank."

Frank (very pleased): "Did yer?"

#### A BOLD GUESS.

The word "breezes" came into a new song, so Miss L. asked "Do you know what it means?"

"'Breezes' is what we breezes wiv' our noses!" came the bright reply.

#### "MILK-TIME."

I swallow and swallow and never stop  
Till I've dranked right down to the weeniest drop;  
And I'm NOT really trying to grow very tall  
Or big and strong like my Daddy and all...

I just want to get to the bottomest bit  
'Cos I make the luvliest noises wiv' it!

If I suck up hard fru' my straw, I've found,  
I can make a beautiful guggly sound.  
My teacher says when she wants to annoy,

"That's just like a calf—not a nice little boy";  
But it isn't a bit like a wee baby calf,  
It's just like the plug-hole in our big barf!

E.J.D.

## STAFF NEWS.

### SPOTLIGHT ON . . . .

Misses ROMA BAILEY and CONSTANCE CORDERY who arrived at their respective Kindergartens one morning with dazzling new rings!

Misses MOIRA MARTIN and EDNA FURZE, who are now shining in new spheres—to wit Training College and Karitane.

Misses NITA PILKINGTON and ELLA SCOTTER, new Directors from their own Kindergartens in Hastings and St. Albans, and Miss NOELINE STURGEON from the comparative obscurity of an assistantship at Phillips-town!

CONGRATULATIONS to those staff members who dare to practise the gentle art of public speaking at N.E.F.—Misses Pearce, Scotter, Hughes and Furze, and at Toc H—Misses Bartram, Wills and Strack!

To the following graduates who run successful private Kindergartens—Miss Hilary Robertson, "Royston," Strowan Road, Papanui; Miss Mabel McGee, Thames Street, St. Albans; Miss Lorna Martin, Grafton Street, Sumner.

BEST WISHES to "our musicians" in approaching examinations!

### STUDENTS' COMMENT.

"Question well, and learn and labour, Till you goal be won!"

—Apologies to A. L. Gordon.

Such is the motto of 1939's two senior students, Janet Birdling and Marie Keltie. At the beginning of the year we welcomed the following juniors—Betty Barrett, Margaret Butler, Hazel Donald, Kathleen Jessop, Yvonne Lock, Chisne Robinson, and Mona Telford. We hope they will live up to our noble motto, too!

We first met one another at the picnic at New Brighton, when a treasure hunt and swimming were the order of the day. Kindergarten life soon showed its more serious side, and working at lectures, and at our handwork for the Centennial Exhibition, kept our minds from frivolous pursuits!

This year we have been fortunate in receiving a course of nutrition lec-

tures at Karitane Hospital. When we hear mothers complain about their children's food problems we smile with a superior air, and say to ourselves "Just let us have the care of him for a month and then you will hardly recognise him!" We have a suspicion that the Directors and assistants who accompanied us to Karitane feel the same, but modestly retain their accustomed calm!

Recently we visited the Montessori School at Sacred Heart College, and spent a very enjoyable morning watching the children at their activities. We appreciated the thoroughness of their training, and particularly enjoyed the unaccompanied singing and the clever puppet show. We thank the Sisters for their hospitality.

For the past few weeks we have been trying our skill at teaching eurythmics at the Normal School under Miss Hay's efficient guidance. We are happy in our new lecture room, and as examinations approach we hope for the best, and gaze without flinching at our motto!

\* \* \*

### FROM STAFF MEMBERS TO STUDENTS.

"Keep smiling! Examinations will soon be over, and then your troubles will REALLY begin."

## OUR BOOK CORNER.

Children simply love those little ten-penny photograph books—e.g., Happy Homes, Happy Days, Dy-Dee Dolls' Days, Patsy Ann, The Button Book, Barnyard Babies, and Betty and Dolly.

Other favourites are:—

"The Story of Ferdinand" (Munro Leaf), "Angus and the Ducks" (Marjorie Flack), "Buttons," "Danny and Fanny and Spot."

### RECOMMENDED FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

"Psycho-Analysis for Normal People" (Geraldine Coster), "Caring for the Runabout Child" (Bachmeister), "The Nursery Years" (Dr. Susan Isaacs), Home and School Magazine, Parents' Magazine.

## OUR VISITORS.

We have pleasant memories of the visits of the girls from St. Margaret's College, Girls' High School, Sacred Heart College, West Christchurch High School, Technical College, and the Rangiora High School. The girls have entered into our Kindergarten activities with wonderful adaptability, and we hope their Kindergarten experience has been as beneficial to them as it has been to us. This year has also seen the inception of our interchange of lectures between the Plunket Society and Kindergarten Association—a group of Kindergarten directors and senior students visiting Karitane Hospital for nutrition lectures and demonstrations, and Karitane trainees coming to us for Child Study lectures and observations in the Kindergarten. We wish this scheme continued success.

In addition to these "official visitors" we have had many interested members of the general public in our Kindergartens. Impressed by the happy atmosphere of the Nuffield Kindergarten, a photographer and journalist descended upon it one fine morning to take pictures for the Free Lance.

At Richmond, a visitor, who before her marriage had been a Kindergarten teacher, found herself pressed into service to play the "quiet music" for resting time!

At twelve o'clock, asked for her impressions, she candidly remarked "These modern methods are undoubtedly better for the children's health and development, but the old way of a "set programme" was perhaps more entertaining to the uninitiated visitor! To-day, we must seek out individual children to watch their various occupations instead of sitting in one spot to watch a panorama spread out for our benefit. But," was her whimsical conclusion, "if the children are learning so much perhaps it is 'up to' the visitors to learn something too!"

We hasten to remark that we have no complaints to make about our visitors; only very occasionally has it been necessary to suggest that a schoolgirl does not "fuss over" a child—and though they enjoy the children's questions and unconscious humour, our visitors realise that the children's play is serious and absorbing to them and not "an act" for the exclusive benefit of visitors!

Incidentally, many mothers have remarked that an "open morning" when a few mothers come to see the ordinary morning's routine of handwork, gardening, washing, "cleaning up," and resting, etc., is infinitely more interesting than a "break-up" party where, because of lack of space, the children's activities are limited chiefly to singing, games, and eating!

At the beginning of this term we had a welcome visit from our Government advisor, Miss R. Macalister, who kindly remarked on the fresh, bright appearance of the Kindergartens. Appreciative visitors such as these are an encouragement and delight to us all. We hope they will come again.

## THANKS.

We are grateful to Mrs. R. Winterbourn, and Miss Reeve, for generous voluntary help at Sydenham and Richmond Kindergartens. Through them we feel associated with the Melbourne Kindergarten Training College and Canterbury College.

We thank Miss N. Hitchcock, M.A., for her careful research into the "secondary school observers' scheme," now in its second successful year. We appreciate Miss Baster's untiring work as an examiner of students, and her leadership of the N.E.F. study group which offers us such a splendid opportunity for fellowship with teachers and parents of older children.

In conclusion we thank all contributors to this second issue of our little magazine. Soon it, too, will be "grown-up" enough to attend Kindergarten!



### KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES' CLUB.

The year opened with the Annual Meeting, and a games evening at "Sunbeam." We welcomed several new members and enjoyed such frivolities as blackboard drawing, escalado and ping-pong. Other meetings have been a "picture party," teas at St. Andrew's, and Sumner and a competi-

tion evening one stormy night in the Association's new club room. This is very attractive and central and we have been glad to provide an electric heater for use when the central heating is "off" after 4 p.m. We appreciate the opportunity to meet in the club-room and enjoy a quiet (?) chat!

N. L. McKECHNIE,  
Hon. Secretary.

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