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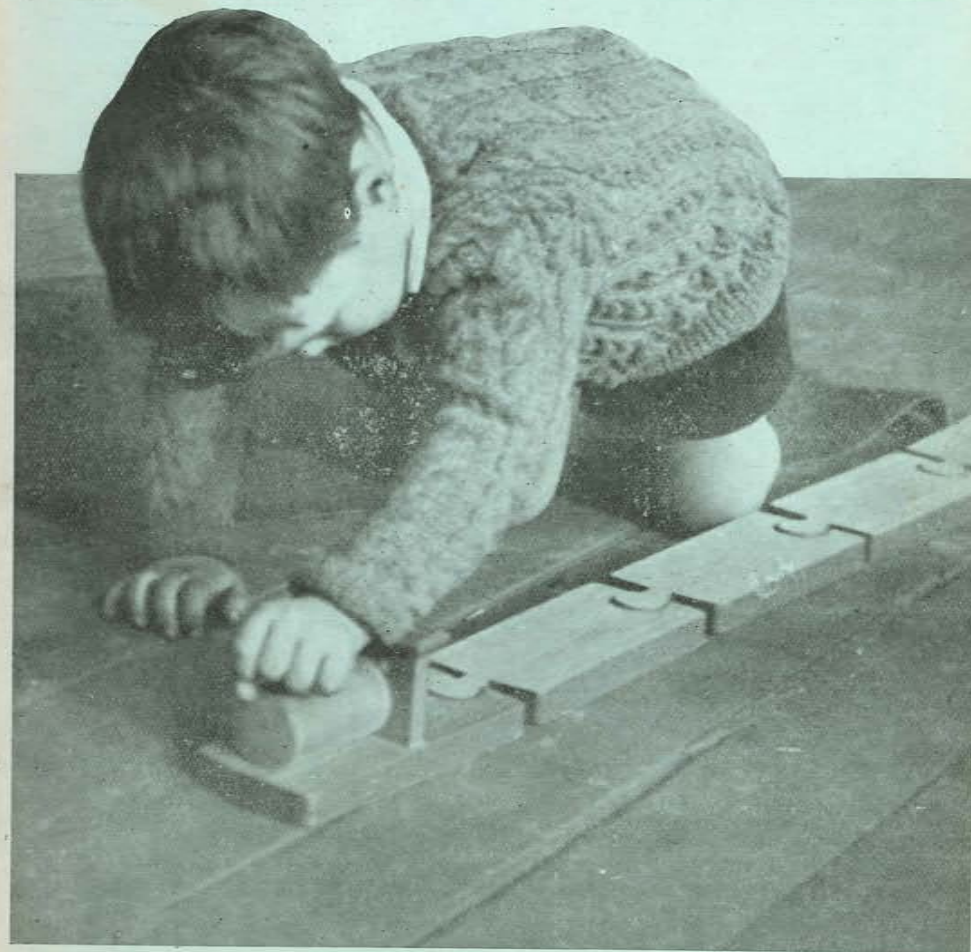
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Canterbury Westland
Kindergarten Assn. (Inc.)
P.O. Box 13672



Christchurch KINDERGARTEN CHRONICLE

VOLUME III. 1940 PRICE THREEPENCE



PATRONESSES:

Mesdames THACKER, HADFIELD, and Miss HULL.

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TO ANGUS.

Scotch eyes peering
 Through brindled hair,
 Black nose sniffing the piney air,
 Short legs steering
 Through windy grass,
 These I'll remember
 Though ages pass.

SOAPY SONG.

Oh, my little soap is pink,
 And my little towel is green,
 And I rub and I scrub
 And I rub till I'm clean!
 Every day I jump
 Into my little tub,
 And I rub and I scrub
 And I rub, rub, rub.

—J.S.

BOOKS FOR THE TODDLERS.

Mittens: Clare Turley Newberry.
 Angus Lost, and Angus and the
 Ducks: Marjorie Flack.
 A Child's Garden of Verses: Robert
 Louis Stevenson.
 Milo Winter Picture Books.
 Recommended for Parents and
 Teachers—
 "Plays and Toys in Nursery Years"
 —Elgar.

SPEECH TRAINING.

Some thoughts from our discussions
 of children's fears:—

"Up to eighteen we fight with fears,
 And deal with problems grave and
 weighty;
 And smile our smiles and weep our
 tears,
 Just as we do in after years
 From eighteen up to eighty."

THE DARK.

The dark is kind and cosy,
 The dark is soft and deep,
 The dark will pat my pillow,
 And love me while I sleep.
 God made the dark so daytime
 Could close its tired eyes;
 And rest awhile in comfort,
 Beneath the starry skies.

* * *

Mother to crying child: "If you
 don't stop that noise I won't let you
 go to school to-morrow!"—One up to
 the modern educationalists!

* * *

Worried Child: "I thought you
 weren't allowed to kill kiwis?"

Mother: No, neither you are."

Child: "Well, they sell kiwi bacon
 along at the shop!"

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 mor-
 tality 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 be-
 coming 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."

UNITED DAIRIES LTD. deliver in Every street in Ch'ch.

Christchurch KINDERGARTEN CHRONICLE

VOLUME III.

PRICE THREEPENCE

THE KINDERGARTEN AND THE FUTURE.

1940—and a world again at war!

As we present this third issue of our little "Chronicle,"
 we think of the Kindergarten as it exists to-day, and, as we
 trust, it will develop and extend in the future.

In discouragement and in hope, as we continue with our
 work among all these trusting little pre-school children, we
 ask ourselves this question—"What does the future hold
 for them?"

Sometimes we tend to become submerged in detail, and
 harassed by the necessity for constant money-raising, but
 contact with these happy little people is in itself a joy and
 inspiration—and the work goes on.

The very urgency of war efforts all around us make us
 aware that these are times of challenge and opportunity.
 Though the world is wracked with suffering "every day is
 a new day" and the babies who are now being born in air-
 raid shelters and in quiet New Zealand homes will have to
 inherit the world of the future and make what they can of it.

In homes and in Kindergartens and schools their habits
 and attitudes will be formed. We who know the importance
 of these early formative years—who know that co-opera-
 tion, sharing, and all we call "social development" must
 begin long before school age, need courage and faith in the
 future of our work.

In his article on "Singlemindedness" Charles Morgan
 writes:—

"Many are persuaded by despair that against the weak-
 nesses of the modern world there is no remedy but to escape
 or to destroy. But there IS another remedy within the reach
 of all . . . of a woman at her cradle, of a man of science at
 his instruments, of a seaman at his wheel, or a ploughman
 at his furrow . . . the remedy of a single mind, active, pas-

sionate and steadfast, which has upheld the spirit of man through many tyrannies and shall uphold it still."

The young child needs a secure, sane and loving background for his life's experiences, and for this very reason parents and teachers above all people must remain steadfast—faithfully "carrying on."

In Kindergarten work of recent years there has been much to encourage us—while a stray jingoistic "patriot" is affronted by the German name of our movement, there are countless evidences of a growing appreciation and understanding by the general public The N.Z. Health Department's recent decision to concentrate more on the pre-school child is a big step forward, for prevention of health defects is of course infinitely better than cure. The increase in dental facilities, and the appreciative attitude of progressive infant teachers for the developmental value of Kindergarten play are significant advances.

In emphasising these trends we feel it will be of interest to all parents, teachers and friends, to quote extracts from a recent report by the New Zealand Council for Educational Research on the "Health and Education of the Pre-school Child."

On page 6 of this report we read:—

"Kindergartens make every effort to provide a well-planned session for each child. This includes opportunity for constructive play, rest, mid-morning lunch, and attention to health habits.

"A variety of life experiences of all kinds, including excursions, native contacts, music and domestic activities, is provided. And in addition vicarious experiences in the form of stories, picture talks and games.

"At all hours, whether the children be resting, eating or playing, the Kindergarten undertakes to provide constant supervision."

On page 8:—

"The Need for Extended Facilities: We are unanimous in believing that a considerable extension of facilities for physical care and education during the pre-school period is urgently necessary.

"During the past quarter century or so, workers in many fields—medicine, physiology, psychology, mental hygiene, education, etc.—have emphasised the crucial importance of correct treatment during the early years of life, and have shown in what profound and hitherto unsuspected ways the experiences of these early years influence the whole of subsequent development.

"The period is one of extraordinary rapid growth, during which susceptibility to environmental influences is very

great, and the effects of mistakes and deprivations correspondingly far-reaching. There can be no doubt, that large numbers of children are not, at the moment, receiving anything approaching optimum conditions for development, and that this is resulting in much remedial physical defect and mental and emotional maladjustment."

Page 9:—

"To say that the home is an indispensable educational institution is not, however, to imply that it can usually cater for ALL the educational needs of young children . . . even where home conditions are above the average. In particular the two to five-year-old needs (i) a variety of constructive interests; (ii) companionship with other children about the same age.

"These two needs can be met and are being met by Kindergarten and nursery schools and we are convinced that there are very few children in the towns and cities at all events, who would not benefit from Kindergarten attendance."

Page 10:—

"For reasons outlined in the preceding section we urge that State assistance to free Kindergartens should be greatly increased to provide: (a) For a rapid extension of the Kindergarten movement, with the ultimate object of providing, in suitable and adequately equipped buildings, for the two to five-year-old children of all town and city parents who desire to avail themselves of such facilities. (b) For the payment of adequate salaries and superannuation to Kindergarten teachers. (c) For a system of bursaries for Kindergarten trainees who are compelled to live away from home."

Page 12:—

"We therefore recommend that Kindergartens should be used in connection with the training of (a) all public health nurses (Plunket, Karitane, district and dental); (b) Primary school teachers, especially those taking up infant work.

"In conclusion we would express the conviction that expenditure of public money on the health and education of young children is more likely to give an ample return in health, happiness and social well-being, than expenditure in almost any other direction it is possible to imagine."

It means much to know that this attitude is held by research workers in education in our country, and though at present we must continue to "cut our coat according to our limited cloth," who can tell what is "just around the corner"?

RENE WILKIE.

CHRISTCHURCH KINDERGARTEN CHRONICLE

DAILY WORK AND PLAY IN THE KINDERGARTEN.

"Plodding and prodding is not the teacher's work. It is inspiration, on-leading, the flashing of enthusiasms."

—D. Jordon.

"He who wanders widest lifts no more of beauty's jealous veils than he who from his doorway sees the miracle of flowers and trees."

—J. Jordon.

SUNBEAM.

(Cornwall Street, St. Albans.)

At Sunbeam we have just celebrated our 29th Birthday. What a joyful day it was . . . everyone was smiling and happy, enjoying the games and music and lovely birthday cake. Our Mothers had each brought a Surprise Packet for Daffodil Day, which was such a success this year.

During the Winter term, little fingers were kept busy building an "Upstorey" house with blocks—and then furnishing and decorating the interior. Now that Spring has come the children are very busy turning their sand tray into a garden, with a lawn and trees gay with blossom round a little house.

Gardening outside has also kept us busy—our new trough for water play is greatly appreciated now the weather is so warm and we enjoy playing on our fresh green lawn.

We are very pleased to record the fact that the health of the children has been good and attendances have kept up so well throughout the year.

HAZEL GORRIE, Director.

MURIEL GORMAN,

JANET BIRDLING, Assistants.

PHILLIPSTOWN.

(St. Asaph Street.)

1940 has proved a very happy year for Phillipstown children, staff and committees. A picnic at Summer in February for the children, parents, and teachers was our first social activity, and since then we have held several "Open Mornings," which, linked as they are with the talks given at Club afternoons, make for valuable Parent-Teacher co-operation.

We are glad our children's health is being supervised by Dr. Needham and Nurse Hungerford of the Health Department, and pleased that their reports are so favourable.

Warmer days give opportunity for a greater variety of outdoor activities—dollies' washing, sailing boats, blowing bubbles, and sand play being particular favourites.

Our spacious lawns and gardens give the children wonderful scope for vigorous games and chasing and climbing and digging, as well as opportunity to observe the wonders of waking plant life.

Among our visitors this year have been Students from the Christchurch Training College and Secondary Schools, Karitane Nurses and Primary school teachers. We greatly appreciate the contact with our fellow-workers in the field of Education.

Miss Dolton from the Phillipstown Dental clinic and Miss Macalister, Government Advisor to Infant Schools and Kindergartens, have also been very welcome visitors.

Generous donors through the year have made our Kindergarten a happy, well equipped environment for the sixty children who attend it. By the time this goes to print we shall have celebrated our 29th anniversary birthday party.

EDNA PEARCE, Director.

MARGARET QUARTLEY, Assistant.

SYDENHAM.

(Queen Street.)

The round of the year has passed quickly and happily for us. Our 70 little folk have been healthy, happy and active—and there has been a fortunate lack of measles and all other infections which seem to fall to the lot of the little child.

The sparkling sunny days which followed on winter frosts this year were acclaimed with delight, and every opportunity was taken to ensure the children getting the maximum of sunshine during the morning. Glowing health and glorious weather undoubtedly accounted for our splendid attendances throughout the year.

The seasons—Autumn, Winter and Spring—the Postman, Policeman and Fireman and engine driver have all received their share of attention, the children visiting the Post Office, Police, Fire and Railway stations on excursions. From these interests some have evolved some absorbing sand-tray projects and poster work.

This year we compromised between our "Harvest Festival" and the "Birth-

CHRISTCHURCH KINDERGARTEN CHRONICLE

day," and decided to keep to hand-work, rhythm and games so that Mothers might see what their children do every day in Kindergarten instead of a specially prepared "party" programme.

The interest of one of our fathers has been shown in a very practical way, as he has mended and undertaken to keep mended all our broken equipment. We realise our good fortune as the "wear and tear" on our toys is considerable.

JOY BARTRAM, Director.

JANET WILLS, Assistant.

ENID MOORE, Assistant.

SELWYN.

(Addington.)

Selwyn Street Kindergarten has attained the age of wisdom and our twenty-one years fill us with importance. A realistic doll birthday cake was the centre of a happy children's party, and we are completing our celebrations with a Birthday Reception when we can review the past and honour those who have given so generously of their services for Selwyn Street.

With the children of the district the Kindergarten is as popular as ever, and we only wish we could open our arms wider to care for all who wish to come—perhaps, who knows? we may have an extra classroom and another teacher one of these days!

We rejoice that the same staff has remained at Selwyn Street throughout the year. At times Karitane nurses, Secondary schoolgirls, relieving assistants and other visitors have joined our happy family. (Perhaps we should include amongst these a tadpole, a new "budgie," and various stray dogs!)

Teeth, nurses and dental chair has figured largely in our minds, and many a courageous infant has spent hours a week visiting the Clinic.

Additions to equipment are small, but of infinite value by their usefulness. Amongst them are "Shoe Houses," picture name plates, a rocking horse, a teaset, waterproof aprons and a heater for the staff room.

Various excursions add zest to our usual busy life of painting, digging or carpentry. The cobbler gave a vivid demonstration of his craft. The mys-

tery of the post office, traffic at the station, lambs and spring trees in Hagley, fluffy new chickens and the great saws at the joiners are some of our experiences.

We thank the Committee, Parents and the children for their part in a happy year, and look forward to all our future activities, and the joy of little everyday experiences of Kindergarten life.

ELLA M. SCOTTER, Director.

FREDA FISHER, Assistant.

RICHMOND

(North Avon Road.)

Each year the word "Kindergarten" seems to gain more interest and appreciation from the public. The close cooperation between parents and teachers of these young children does much to foster the growth of this interest.

At Richmond this year a happy band of forty-five children has been attending regularly, and our afternoon rest group has certainly proved popular—available space (and cots) being taxed to capacity. Our new green curtains make all the difference between glare and a restful soothing atmosphere, and the difference in the children's serenity is correspondingly noticeable.

The addition of two telephones has proved a delightful incentive to speech training—many amusing conversations taking place "over the wire" between the "big room" and the "story room."

The gift of two "budgies" has helped to stimulate the children's natural love and interest in bird life.

Additions to our percussion band instruments have been greatly appreciated, and this period is now gratifyingly musical.

NOELINE STURGESS, Director.

MARIE KELTIE, Assistant.

LINWOOD.

(Rochester Street.)

The time has passed quickly since the printing of our last magazine and many changes have taken place during the year.

Wedding bells pealed in December for Linwood's assistant, Constance Cordery, but we were fortunate in retaining her services until June, when another bride of a few months, Mrs.

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Tracey (nee Roma Bailey) accepted the assistant's position and will be remaining with us until the end of the year.

Father Xmas honoured us with a visit at the Break-up Party and helped the children to present the gifts they had made all by themselves for their Mothers.

The new years brought many new faces as well as renewed keenness in our work. Linwood Park, so safe and conveniently near the Kindergarten, was the scene of our annual picnic in March, and in April the eleventh birthday of the Kindergarten was celebrated. How happy the children looked and how they enjoyed their paper hats and balloons.

At present our garden is bright with flowers planted by the children throughout the year—and now hoes, rakes and trowels are busy again as they plant their vegetable garden. It is indeed a happy day when they can take home a vegetable grown in their own particular plot.

Throughout the year we have enjoyed the visits of the Secondary schoolgirls and Karitane nurses, who have shown keen interest in Kindergarten work.

MARJORIE SUCKLING, Director.
ROMA TRACEY, Assistant.

NUFFIELD KINDERGARTEN.

(Sea View Road, New Brighton.)

An interesting year has been spent with our family of sixty. We are delighted that the Kindergarten has been able to retain the slide, the fun-boat and all the valuable manipulative equipment made by Miss Godfrey during her Directorship there. We wish here much happiness in married life.

On sunny days we spend most of our time on the verandahs and lawns, and the whole Kindergarten has enjoyed walks to the beach, the domain and to the river banks to watch the boats. Increasing numbers of children are coming by bus from South Beach—indeed, it almost seems as if the bus drive for these 25 children is as big a thrill as the Kindergarten!

On the whole the children's health has been good, influenza being the only real epidemic. The children have recently been medically examined by Dr. Helen Field, and parents and teachers greatly appreciate her practical advice.

It is always encouraging to us to note how the children develop in their spontaneous play activities with others, and we are pleased to see some very shy little ones becoming quite lively, full of initiative and responsiveness.

NITA PILKINGTON, Director.
RONA MOULD, Assistant.

WOOLSTON.

(Aldwins Road.)

This year Woolston has advanced very much in experience of Kindergarten delights and problems and can no longer be called the "Baby Kindergarten."

Indeed, we have been called the "Sure to Rise" Kindergarten... and hope this title will prove apt not only because of our proximity to Edmonds' Baking Powder Factory!

Our forty-five children have attended well throughout the year, and Dr. Needham has commented favourably on their general health. Groups of Karitane nurses and secondary schoolgirls who visited us have shown a keen interest in all the children's activities.

Woolston mothers and fathers are working busily for the Interclub Handwork display... and we hope it will be as successful as it was last year.

We are sorry that Miss Hughes, Co-Director of this Kindergarten, is at present in hospital, and wish her a speedy recovery.

BETTY ANDREWS, Co-Director.
MONICA STRACK, Assistant.
JANET Warburton, Assistant.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH FREE KINDERGARTEN.

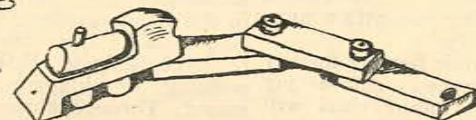
(Antigua Street.)

We esteem it a privilege to be associated with the interests of the eight Free Kindergartens in the city, and on this occasion to be asked to contribute a line to the "Chronicle."

St. Andrew's offers heartiest congratulations to the principal and staff on the efficient working of the Association Kindergartens. From our corner of the city we have observed the increasing interest in the training of the pre-school child.

Forty children, who live in or near the South Hagley district, attend St.

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CHRISTCHURCH KINDERGARTEN CHRONICLE

been made attractive in the typical Kindergarten manner; with painted furniture and bright pictures. There was a cloakroom, a storeroom (for rest cots, etc.), a main room with dollies' corner on a small stage, and a kitchen also used for the tinies.

There was a roll number of thirty children cared for by a director and her assistant.

At 9.25 the children left their free play and came indoors to their respective groups for talks. As the top group had recently been an excursion to the wharves boats were the topic of conversation.

Soon the children were busy with handwork. In the kitchen, the three-year-olds were absorbed with manipulative material.

The main room was a hive of industry. A group of children were busy fitting jigsaw puzzles, others were modelling in clay, and two little girls had scissors and paste. Several children were enjoying dramatic plays. One boy who was being "father" in the dolls' corner was heard to remark that he wanted sausages for his breakfast, and another boy was sent off to an imaginary butcher's shop to purchase the desired delicacy. In a corner a little girl was unconcernedly bathing her baby doll.

Two boys on individual mats were playing with large hollow blocks and presently one of them said:

"I'm building the Church of England." "Oh," said the second lad, "I'm building the whole of New Zealand—and anyway you shouldn't be talking to me, 'cause you're in England and I am in New Zealand."

The remainder of the morning was devoted to rhythm, toilet, milk and apples, and rest.

During the rest period, provision was made for the visiting delegates to have a short discussion with the director. Ideas were interchanged and we found the discussion most helpful.

Most Kindergarten teachers have tasted the discomforts of a rented hall and we sympathised with these teachers in their difficulties. Wherever there is hardship, however, there is always a bright ray of hope in the future. We had not been talking to these girls long before we realised that their "bright hope" was a lovely

new building for which they and their committees were working hard.

When the time came for us to make our way down the hill to the station, we were reluctant to leave this little Kindergarten with its happy atmosphere, and sincerely hoped that the day would not be far distant when the lovely "dream Kindergarten" would become reality!

NOELINE STURGESS.

WELLINGTON SOUTH KINDERGARTEN

This is a beautiful open-air Kindergarten built well above the residential area, and so placed that the play space received all the sunshine available.

We spent a happy and interesting morning here. Orange, blue, and green tonings made an attractive colour-scheme for this model Kindergarten. Teachers in smocks to tone quietly supervised the children at their various activities, and we enjoyed watching the rhythm groups and hand work.

Two very interesting features were the well-equipped carpenter's shed at the back of the section. At the long bench the children were hammering and sawing to their heart's content. Also in the playground was a miniature playhouse, with two rooms just the right height for the children to stand in and move about with ease. Sweeping, making beds, and cooking were a few of the delights we noticed here.

After using a washroom which boasted the latest spray taps and zinc tubs, and after a rest in darkened rooms, at the close of the morning these children were ready to go home refreshed from an enjoyable morning spent in harmonious contentment.

NITA PILKINGTON.

THE EXHIBITION MODEL KINDERGARTEN

Our first glimpse was of a cream painted building, with the words "Free Kindergarten" in vivid red across the frontage. Set among the green lawns and bright flowers of the spacious exhibition grounds, the building made a striking picture in the afternoon sunshine.

In front of the building was a verandah, and the main door was on the right.

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As we stepped inside and stood still looking round, it seemed to us that the word "Kindergarten," meaning "child's garden," was indeed used to its full value.

There were two main rooms divided by sliding doors; walls were cream and on the walls were attractive fret-saw pictures cut in the shape of animals, aeroplanes, boats, and trains.

Equipment was set out attractively on coconut matting. A brightly painted train and signals, a block trolley and blocks, and also jigsaw puzzles, were, we noticed, as fascinating to adults as they are to children!

On the right-hand side of the main room were two doors, the first leading into a small brightly painted teachers' room, which could also be used as a classroom. The second door led into a spotless kitchen, with so many cupboards that we felt envious—until someone remembered spring cleaning!

A long sun room running parallel with the main room was to be used as a rest room. At one end of this was a work room, where the fretsaw was kept.

The housekeeping corner was a special delight. When we saw it we wished we were Kindergarten age again! Tiny tables and chairs, attractively covered beds, a small gas stove, and a little dresser with cups hanging on hooks; an ironing board and little electric iron; a bucket and a scrubbing brush—all stood ready for children to acquire the art of housework at an early age.

As we came away we thought that visitors to whom the word "Kindergarten" was a stranger would come from the model Kindergarten enlightened and impressed—eager to see more of this work among the little children of New Zealand.

MARIE M. KELTIE.

UNITED PARENTS' CLUB.

The United Parents' Club has been functioning quietly but effectively in this, the second year of its life.

In July, an evening was arranged at Linwood Kindergarten, and the varied programme provided entertainment worthy of the distance many had come. Our Kindergarten film and travel films were kindly shown by Mr. Loder; items were given by two clubs, and several talks on the Kinder-

garten refresher course by members of the staff.

We deeply regret that in the departure of Mrs. Hailey-Ostler from Christchurch the United Parents' Club has lost its gracious president. Our loss, however, will be Napier's gain!

Already our new president, Mrs. J. Dick, of Sunbeam Kindergarten Club, has shown her capabilities by the charming manner in which she presided at the opening of our Inter-Club Handwork Display on Saturday, Nov. 2nd. This was truly a red-letter day for our club. The display of lovely exhibits in Phillipstown Kindergarten, the stalls, the side-shows, and afternoon tea on the tree-shaded lawns, gave pleasure to the great number who attended the exhibition.

The hard work of the clubs and staff in preparation was justified by the fine display—and there were many complimentary remarks from the judges and visitors.

Mrs. H. T. J. Thacker declared the exhibition open, and Mrs. Dick presented the prizes.

The rose bowl trophy for the highest number of points, 59, was won by Woolston Kindergarten, with Richmond second and Phillipstown third.

Phillipstown gained the rocking horse trophy for the highest number of entries (200), with Richmond second and Woolston third.

Altogether there were 700 entries displayed.

As a special war-time effort the club was able to hand in £20 to the Kindergarten Association from the proceeds of this exhibition. We thank all who gave so liberally of their time and work.

Prize-winners were as follows:—

Knitting (judged by Miss Burrows)—Infant's outfit: Mrs. McLaughlan (Woolston) 1, Mrs. Auld 2, Mrs. Strong 3. Socks: Mrs. Buckley 1, Mrs. Keys 2, Miss Hungerford 3. Adult's Cardigan: Miss Ussher 1, Miss L. Jones 2, Mrs. B. Andrews 3. Bedjacket: Mrs. V. Whitcombe 1, Mrs. Burke 2, Miss M. Timms 3. Child's Cardigan: Mrs. Alves 1, Mrs. Phelan 2, Mrs. Hay 3.

Embroidery (judge, Mrs. L. Harding)—Tapestry: Miss E. Pearce 1, Miss Larcomb 2, Mrs. Dawson 3. Richelieu work: Mrs. McLaughlan 1,

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Mrs. Faher 2, Mrs. Stevens 3. Plain Embroidery: Mrs. Pilgrim 1, Mrs. Clutterbuck 2, Mrs. Ussher 3. Embroidered Cushion: Mrs. Estall 1, Miss Jessop 2, Mrs. Larcomb 3.

Sewing (judge, Mrs. L. Harding)—Child's Washing Set—Mrs. V. Butcher 1, Mrs. Burke 2, Mrs. Wilkinson 3. Smocked Garment: Mrs. Henderson 1, Mrs. Fairbrass 2, Mrs. Swarbrick 3.

Child Study Photograph (judge, Mr. R. Evans): Mrs. Auld 1, Mr. Harris 2, Mrs. Falkingham 3. Flower Bowl (judge, Mrs. Hewitt)—Miss M. Quartley 1, Miss Lane 2, Mrs. W. Dixon 3. Waste Material Article (judge, Miss R. Macalister)—Mrs. Rodda 1, Miss Windus 2, Mrs. J. Williams 3. Home-made Toy (judge, Miss Macalister)—Mrs. Kennington 1, Mrs. Burke 2, Mrs. McMullan and Mrs. Burke (equal) 3.

Cooking Section (judge, Miss Mildred Trent)—Plain Scones: Mrs. Hutcheson 1, Mrs. le Cren 2. Plain Sponge: Mrs. Rodda. Fancy Sponge: Mrs. Brunsden. Fruit Cake: Mrs. Bowick. Fancy Bread: Mrs. Popenhagen. Biscuits: Mrs. Cairns. Small Cakes: Mrs. Andrews. School Lunch: Mrs. L. Robinson.

The strength of the United Club lies in the life and enthusiasm of the individual clubs, and the following brief reports will show how these are progressing in social activities and in the understanding of children, which springs from parent-teacher co-operation in our monthly and fortnightly meetings.

ELLA M. SCOTTER, Hon. Secretary.

OUR MOTHERS' CLUBS.

SUNBEAM.

Our Club has had a very busy year, which has not only been enjoyable but very successful financially.

The arts and crafts classes have proved very popular; also the bridge afternoons and evenings. At these some of the mothers have acquired the art of bridge playing for the first time.

Interesting talks and discussions led by Mrs. McCaskill and Miss Gorrie have been enjoyed at our social afternoons. We should like to thank the staff for their co-operation.

MRS. J. DICK, Convener.
MRS. L. E. SMITH, Hon. Secretary.

PHILLIPSTOWN.

During the year pleasant functions have been held by the Mothers' Club. After each committee meeting a club afternoon has been arranged, and at these Miss Pearce has led some interesting discussions on "Kindergarten Equipment," "Kindergarten Music," and "Children's Fears."

Two open mornings have been held and were well attended by the mothers.

A social evening held in September proved very popular, and we were well represented at the United Parents' social evening held at Linwood. We thank our M.C., Mr. Stretch, and Mrs. Stretch, our pianist.

Now we are busy preparing for the November handwork display to be held in our Kindergarten with its spacious grounds.

MRS. NEALE, Convener.

SYDENHAM.

This year has been highly successful, particularly in regard to membership, which has greatly increased. At our fortnightly social afternoons interesting talks on children's activities and on "How to Keep Fit" have been given by Miss Bartram and Mrs. Hall and an afternoon spent with Selwyn mothers as our guests was enjoyed.

A fancy dress party held during the first term was both a social and financial success.

Our Mothers' Club was responsible for a stall and collection in Colombo Street, Sydenham, for Daffodil Day, the response from the public being very good indeed.

MRS. GREIG, Convener.

MRS. DUCKMANTON, Hon. Sec.
SELWYN.

On February 29th the Club committee was elected—with nine members and the Director.

Many successful money-raising functions have been arranged, as well as our monthly club meetings.

Talks have been given on the following subjects, "Kindergarten Children and Their Needs," by Miss R. Wilkie, "Behaviour Problems of Kindergarten Children," by Miss E. Scotter, "Health and Diet," by Nurse Garland, and "Care of the Teeth" by Nurse Rogers.

Mrs. Hall gave a most interesting address and demonstration of posture, walking, and "keep fit" exercises, and we had an exciting evening endeavouring to carry out these instructive exercises.

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Our Club is hopeful of forming a "keep fit" class in the near future.

Our dances also have proved successful. During one of these Misses M. and B. Barrett entertained us with an exhibition of folk-dancing.

The Kindergartens 21st Birthday party was appreciated by all—especially the little people!

Our Club has spent a very happy and successful year for 1940.

MRS. M. COOKE, Convener.

MRS. A. S. MILNE, Hon. Sec.

RICHMOND.

Our activities this year have been varied. We have had several social afternoons.

Mrs. Williams gave us an interesting talk on life in Malaya, and Mesdames Ransley and Murgatroyd, who are interested in Red Cross work, kindly gave a demonstration of bed-making (with a "patient" in bed to make this more realistic!)

An open discussion on "Fears of Childhood" proved most instructive, and we hope to develop the study branch of our Club by having more of these discussions in the future.

"Beetle" evenings have again proved popular, and at our final evening for the year we were fortunate in having a visiting drama club and musician.

Proceeds from our various functions have enabled us to obtain curtains to shade the windows during rest time. We consider the children's rest period very essential and are pleased to be able to do this to help conditions. Our next object in view is more rest cots.

MRS. MURGATROYD, Convener.

MRS. WHITCOMBE, Hon. Sec.

LINWOOD.

A very happy year has been enjoyed by us all at Linwood. Successful social evenings for which we thank Mrs. Peters, pianiste, and St. Ann's Harmonica Band, conducted by Mr. Courtney; and open mornings have been held.

The committee held a sewing bee and smocked children's aprons which sold readily at our "Daffodil Day" stall. It is our intention to make a little smocked apron for each child

at Kindergarten, in different colour schemes for each class.

The children's sleeping bags have been dyed and the mothers enjoyed working their own child's appliqued animal in them.

The Club has also taken a pride in the Kindergarten garden, which is looking very gay with all its new plants.

MRS. STEVENS, Convener.

MRS. SAFEY, Hon. Secretary.

NUFFIELD.

Nuffield Kindergarten has spent a happy and successful year.

Our Jumble Sale and Fair (in collaboration with the local committee) proved a great success.

The Club suffered a loss in the resignation of its efficient Secretary, Mrs. Walker, but fortunately we were able to retain her on the committee.

We have been knitting peggy squares for a quilt like the one which proved so popular last year. These knitting evenings spent at the homes of our President and Secretary proved a success from a social point of view. Though we talked so much the knitting did not suffer!

In July we organised a kitchen evening at Mrs. Carr's home in honour of Miss Godfrey, who left us to be married. We shall long remember her splendid work for Nuffield Kindergarten.

Friend Cupid has been busy again here—Miss Mould, this time. Miss Pilkington—beware!!

Here's hoping for many more happy days.

MRS. W. DIXON, Convener.

MRS. PAT. GALLAGHER, Hon. Sec.

WOOLSTON.

Although our Mothers' Club is still in its infancy we have shown definite progress during the year. We have had some very pleasant addresses and discussions and an interesting travel talk. The mothers show great interest in everything connected with the Club.

We are at present working hard for our Fair. During the year we had a very successful competition which resulted in the mothers being able to pay half the cost of the new heater installed for the younger children. We are sorry to say goodbye to Miss Pilkington, but welcome

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Misses Andrews and Hughes as Co-Directors of Woolston.

MRS. OLSEN, Convener.

MRS. SYLVESTER, Hon. Sec.

STAFF NEWS.

Wedding bells have been pealing briskly this year—

Constance Cordery we now know as Mrs. Ivan Young.

Roma Bailey became Roma Tracey. Joyce Godfrey deserted her responsibilities as a director to become Joyce McLaughlin.

And now we must no longer speak of Rona Mould but of Mrs. Alister McIntosh!

We are glad that Mesdames Tracey and McIntosh are willing to remain with us on the staff, and trust that no one else will feel an urge to depart on a honeymoon at least until the break-up parties are safely over!!

We congratulate Noeline Sturgess on her recent musical honours, and Betty Andrews and Gray Hughes on their promotion to the Co-Directorship of Woolston Kindergarten.

We sympathise with Miss Hughes in her illness and wish her a speedy recovery.

STUDENTS' NOTES.

The Students' roll at present includes Betty Barrett, Margaret Butler, Hazel Donald, Kathleen Jessop, Yvonne Lock, and Chisne Robinson (seniors), and Jean Macalister, Margaret Gardner Miller, and Helen Parsons (juniors). We were sorry to lose Mona Telford, who resigned early in the year.

At an informal afternoon Miss Wilkie introduced us to Mrs. Tracey, our art teacher, and mapped out the time-table of lectures, which have proved most interesting.

Our next meeting was a picnic at Sumner, when we met the staffs of all the Kindergartens.

During the year we visited Sacred Heart College, where Montessori methods are used, and we were interested to note much in common with Kindergarten methods.

Our lectures on nutrition at Karitane Hospital were much appreciated.

The Museum also received our attention. There we studied skulls and skeletons in connection with our lectures.

Miss Kassie Turner gave a very interesting talk, to which the students were invited, on her experiences while visiting Kindergartens abroad.

The Principal of the Dunedin Kindergarten Association, Miss Duthie, called at the office one afternoon and talked with us. Another visitor was Miss Macalister, who gave us many helpful hints on speech training.

Visits were paid to primary schools by the senior students, and the New Education Fellowship held an interesting series of lectures which some of us attended. (As this was during Labour Day week-end it was not very well timed for those living out of town!)

Mr. Coburn's woodwork class has been regularly attended, and under his efficient guidance useful toys and apparatus have been made.

Miss Hay's weekly lectures have shown us many things about eurythmics which we hope to put into practice.

Our new lecture room with its library and other equipment is much appreciated.

We have very pleasant memories of the past year and wish to thank the staff and lecturers for their patience and help.

OUR STREET COLLECTION.

Daffodil Day was a great success this year and we include without comment from a staff collector:—

DAFFODIL DAY.

Alone at Armagh Street I stood,

One cold October day,

Hoping results would be quite good—

Fearing what folks might say.

"'Tis for the bairns," I bravely said,

And waved aloft my box . . .

A haughty glance, and quickened tread

Were HELPFUL little knocks.

"Don't give to begging in the street,"

One dear old lady said . . .

"My pence are spent on things to eat"

Just so, she looked well-fed.

Sweet home at last, a blazing fire;

Say, did I dream a dream?

Of holding boxes, who would tire?

Four hundred pounds—we beam!

—M.M.K.

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THE NEW EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

(Some Notes on.)

The New Education Conference held last October was of special interest to kindergartners and teachers of small children, the general theme being "Developmental Aspects of the Young Child."

The first speaker was Miss Dolton, who gave an excellent general introduction. Then followed Miss Baster: Play—Introduction, Miss Wilkie, Play—Kindergarten; Miss Hay, Normal Play; Mr. A. T. Campbell, Remedial Play; Mr. A. E. Campbell, School Entrance Age; Miss R. Macalister, Reading of the Normal Child; Mr. A. T. Donnelly, Reading Difficulties; Dr. R. Lawson, Freud; Miss Saunders, Speech Difficulties; Mr. Pickering, Speech Difficulties; Mr. E. Jenner, Tonal Qualities in Speech and Singing.

All the lectures delivered were by experts in their particular subjects, and were most interesting and informative. Space, however, will not permit of each lecture being dealt with separately. I shall therefore confine myself to a few remarks on the subject of play.

The value and importance of play has been increasingly recognised during recent years, and quite revolutionary changes have taken place in school methods and curricula.

Benefits received through play have been not only for the healthy normal child but also for those suffering from chronic diseases, such as asthma and epilepsy.

As a result of research by psychologists, a Play Therapy Clinic has been set up at Guy's Hospital specially for treating these maladjusted children.

Play gives opportunity for self-expression, muscular exercise, speech development, social balance, and an outlet for originality and unsuspected talents.

For the over-repressed child play gives an outlet for pent up emotions, and for the child whose home conditions are bad it gives scope for working out fears and expressing unconscious anxieties.

For those who have been interested in the Kindergarten aspect of education this conference was of particular

interest because of the realisation shown by primary school teachers of the importance of free expressive play.

BETTY BARRETT, Senior Student.

HAPPINESS.

"Happiness is not to be found by deliberate search. It is a by-product, and comes when life is being lived harmoniously with heart and mind and action all in agreement.

According to what is natural, women ought to fulfil themselves best when they are married; but how many women do? The number of discontented wives is quite equal to the number of discontented spinsters, even when those wives have husbands of whom they are passionately fond. What her lot is, has little to do with it. A woman's discontent goes deeper than that. It is due to herself and her own outlook on life and can be remedied only from within.

A woman is happy when she sees the blue sky and hears a bird sing, not because of the sky or the bird, but because she is able to appreciate them with her whole being.

"The Kingdom of Heaven is within you."

Love has much—possibly everything—to do with it.

Love bubbling up from within, unhindered and going forth like the waters of a fountain . . . creative love, which gives life and health and delight to those who exercise it . . . this is the secret of happiness.

A woman with no man to love can yet love a child, a friend, an animal or all the world, and be as content and creative as the happiest wife.

All that matters is that the fountain shall keep playing. Let the outpouring of affection and interest stop, and life becomes routine at once—dull, flat, and deathlike. Let it spring forth, and whether she is married or unmarried, rich or poor, washing dishes or writing poems, a woman will be contented and live her life as she was meant to, in fulfilment and joy."

—ROSE LANE.

* * *

Teacher: "How do you think the little birds keep warm at night?"

Tommy, with a twinkle: "Oh, they all have hot water bottles!"

PLAY-WAYS IN SPEECH DEVELOPMENT.

In those vital years from one to four the child is perfecting his technique in the art of speech as well as in other important activities.

The faculty of coherent speech, in complete sentences of five or six words, should be fully developed in the four-year-old. If the child does not attain to this standard he may need some special help. This should not be postponed till he is of school age.

Incoherent speech is a great handicap, and making adjustments to school and school conditions are enough for any five-year-old without this major problem.

Blanton and Blanton in "Child Guidance," put the matter in a nutshell thus:

"Nervous speech difficulties are not out-grown. Occasionally the recovery is made without out-side help, but the child should not be subjected to the waste of energy and the strain involved in such an unaided return to the normal."

To guard against unnecessary lag in speech development:

"Play is enormously important.

"It implies freedom for practice and experiment: freedom from fears and anxieties. It is not just pleasurable but educational as well."

Play not only provides opportunity to talk, but is a definite incentive to express wishes and feelings.

The period which is devoted to play between parent and child is one of the most precious in the child's day. It is one of the most pleasurable and satisfying times in his experience. He feels thoroughly secure, and happy in being loved. He is free to unfold his natural capacities. He is ready to respond.

Some of the most useful play activities for this stage are found in the traditional finger and toe plays, voice inflections in hiding games, repetition of nursery rhymes, jingles and songs, and imitation games using animal sounds, birds, bees, trains, engines, aeroplanes, wind, sea, and other familiar sounds.

One word of caution. Care must be

taken not to over-excite the young child.

... ..

Mothers!

Remember the play-hour.

Remember to retain the play-faculty and your sense of humour.

Guard your tone of voice.

Never condemn or ridicule the child's efforts.

Ignore failures, and give judicious praise for small successes.

Don't allow the child to have things for which he merely signs. He must make some attempt to ask for and acknowledge them.

Make a game of learning and play at it with him.

Be cheerful and re-assuring.

Remember that co-operation and companionship lead to co-ordination, skill and success.

—MARION E. SAUNDERS.

IN MEMORIAM.

FRANCES L. COOPER.
Secretary F.K.A., 1939.

APPRECIATION.

We thank all those workers who have remained loyal to the cause of the little child in spite of so many wartime demands on their time and sympathy.

We appreciate the interest and encouragement of all our visitors, Karitane nurses, schoolgirls, Health Department officials, as well as parents, and our new subscribers, "The Friends of the Kindergarten." We have again enjoyed our contact with our Government adviser, Miss Macalister.

We acknowledge with gratitude the time and skill given to us by Miss Baster and Miss James in students' examinations, and also the hospitality of the following infant mistresses—Misses Sapsford, Johnston, Watson, Wilson, Gillespie, Garmsen, and Sisters Donnatel and Phocus of Sacred Heart College. In conclusion, we thank all committee members for their unflinching sympathy and practical support through a happy, busy, and forward-looking year.

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