

SYDENHAM KINDERGARTEN



Twenty-first Birthday

—1933—

Tuesday,	Wednesday,	Thursday,
March 28,	March 29,	March 30

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Foreword.

The aim of the Association is to open Kindergartens where children, between the ages of 3 and 5, may be taught by teachers and students specially trained in Child physiology and Child Hygiene. In Kindergarten, in the most receptive years of his life, a child quickly learns to be self reliant, observant, thoughtful and able to co-operate with their fellows. By means of play, and play materials, he acquires a liking for manual occupations, thereby strengthening his mental, physical and moral powers. By the teacher who thoroughly understands his requirements he is taught to love truth and those qualities that later stand for Civic harmony.

It is the hope of our Association that we may be able to bring every child within the beneficial influence of Kindergarten Training.

*(Sgd.) Monica A. Thacker,
President.*

Kindergarten Schools in New Zealand.

Dunedin was the first town in the Dominion to recognise the needs of the pre-school child. About forty-three years ago, the late Rev. Dr. Waddell, in his walks through the Dunedin streets, noticed a large number of little children playing aimlessly about and after talking about these with his friends—Mrs. W. H. Reynolds and Mr. Mark Cohen—a correspondence was set up with Mrs. Sarah Cooper, of San Francisco. A further impulse was supplied by the interest with which Bishop Suter took the matter up. In an address he pointed out the advantages of Kindergarten training, describing what he had seen in the Nursery Schools of San Francisco.



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SYDENHAM KINDERGARTEN

21st Birthday

The first Free Kindergarten was opened in a small Mission Hall in Dunedin, at 10 a.m. on June 10th, 1889, with 14 children in attendance. This formed the foundation stone to what has now become a child welfare organisation in its highest sense.

For nearly 16 years Dunedin alone provided for the little ones. In 1905 Wellington, under the guidance of Miss Mary Richmond, opened its first Free Kindergarten. Auckland, with already two fine private Kindergartens, proving effectively their value to the small child, then set to work to establish Free Kindergartens in the poorer parts of the city. Christchurch followed in 1911, with Mrs. T. E. Taylor as first President. Invercargill, now with three schools, began its work in 1919. A band of women canvassed so successfully, that funds to the amount of £1,600 were raised. This money was used to build a kindergarten on a plan to accommodate the children, and also to provide a residence for the Director, as well as a caretaker. A second building was, in 1924, opened free of debt. The third school is in a rented hall. There is no training centre there. Here, as elsewhere, the Kindergartens are managed by a Council of Women, who are responsible for the upkeep of the schools. There is also a Men's Advisory Committee whose members are prominent citizens and are interested in the movement. Blenheim enjoyed for a short time existence of a Free Kindergarten but, with the withdrawal of Government capitation, the necessary support was not available.

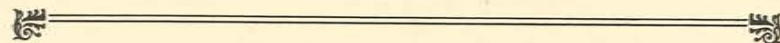
In the earlier days of our history, the value of our work was so far recognised by the Education Department, that a regular grant of £2/10/- was provided for our use, based upon the average attendance, but contingent upon our raising, by our own effort, a sum equal to that granted by the Department. With the advancement of the work this sum was increased, on two occasions, first to £3/5/- and later to £4. In 1931, owing to lack of the necessary capital, these amounts were entirely withdrawn. This was a great blow to us, but as an act of economy and retrenchment on the part of the Government it was a considerable saving. At the end of 1931 the following substantial sums were received as capitation:—

	£	s.	d.
Auckland	1473	3	4
Blenheim	120	18	8
Christchurch	1074	4	0
Dunedin	963	5	4
Hastings	86	18	8
Invercargill	355	4	0
Lower Hutt	237	14	8
Wellington	1286	12	0

Making a total of ... £5598 0 8

The average cost per child per annum seems to be much the same over the whole Dominion, and in 1931 our estimate stood at approximately £8/10/-, showing that, even with the assistance of the Department, we raised more than half of the whole amount required.

As showing the extent to which the training of the pre-school child has grown and developed, Dunedin now provides for over 400 little ones. Three large, beautiful buildings belong to this Association. The "Rachel Reynolds" is named after its foundress; the "Kelsey-Yarella" after Miss Kelsey, one of Dunedin's most enthusiastic supporters; and the "Richard Hudson" Memorial Kindergarten, built and presented by the Hudson family. The latter was opened in 1926. The remaining schools are conducted mostly in rented buildings.



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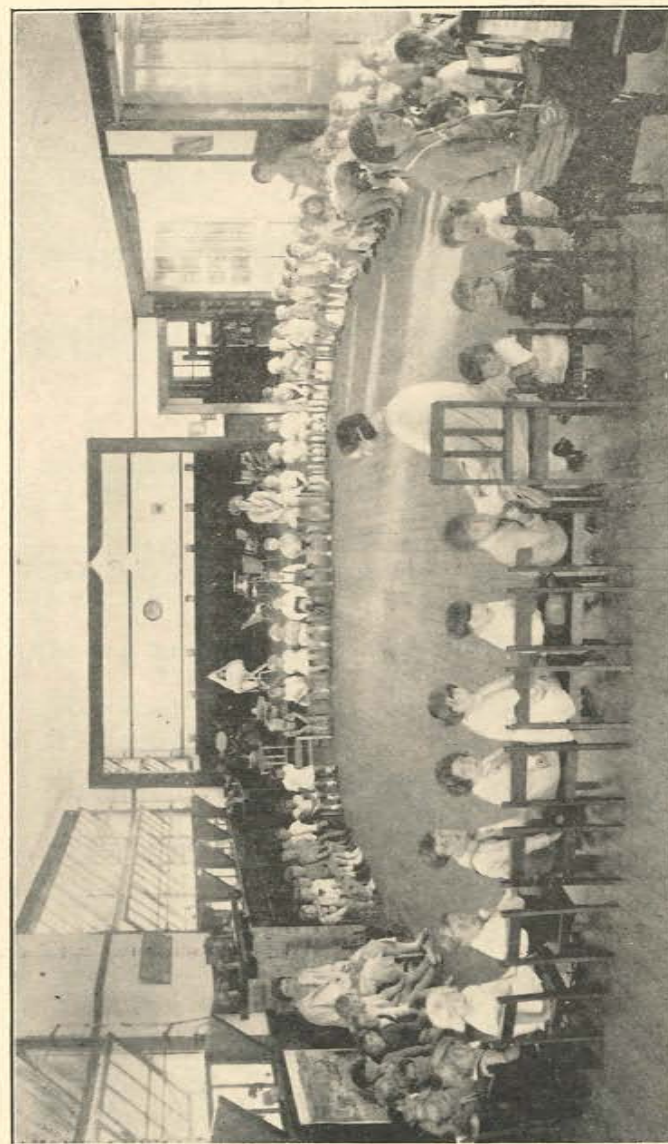
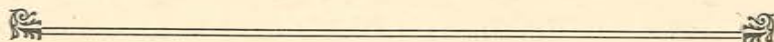
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SYDENHAM KINDERGARTEN

21st Birthday

Miss Dutton, Principal of the Dunedin Kindergartens, was appointed in 1922, and is a popular and able teacher and trainer.

Wellington was the second town in New Zealand to establish Free Kindergartens. In 1905 Miss Richmond founded the first school for the care and instruction of Wellington's baby citizens. Here Miss Enid Wilson is Principal, and has under her supervision seven schools with over 300 children and the necessary teachers and students.

Auckland, with eight schools, has been specially fortunate inasmuch that her prominent citizens have presented to their little children several splendid buildings. The Meyers Kindergarten, built and equipped in a slum area, has changed the spot into a children's paradise. Miss Colegrove, educated in New Zealand, is Principal here, and as in the other larger centres, the Principal trains the students and supervises all the Free Kindergartens in her town.

It was soon realised that much advantage would result from some form of union between the various Associations now firmly established throughout the Dominion. In 1912 Dunedin held a Conference to further this scheme. In 1913 a meeting took place in Wellington with the same object in view. It was not until 1926 that the union actually materialised. This then became an accomplished fact, and Lady Sidey was elected first President. She has most ably justified her appointment. Mrs. J. A. Hanan, of Dunedin, is her Secretary. Sir Thomas Sidey is Hon. Solicitor to the Union. Already we have received much spiritual as well as material benefit from the Union. Our aims are identical, we conduct our schools on the same lines and yet each, by means of discussion, can learn much from one another.

Christchurch Affairs.

Coming now to Christchurch, we conduct seven schools with over four hundred children in attendance. School age is really three to five years but, since the school age has been raised to six years, we try to take as many five-year-old children as we possibly can. We attribute the success of our Kindergartens in Christchurch mainly to the ability, personality, and high integrity of our Miss Hull, who has been with us through the 21 years of our existence, and during the whole period no undertaking has been too great nor any function too small. We have always been able to depend upon her whole-hearted co-operation. As a trainer of students her name is respected throughout New Zealand. Her pupils are to be found even as far off as Australia, where they hold responsible positions. Parents hold her in affectionate esteem, and every tiny face lights up when they see her. In Christchurch we have never received a large legacy. £100 came to "Sunbeam" and of the amount left to our Association by the late Miss D'Oyley no portion has yet come to hand. Four of our schools are conducted in buildings belonging to us, the last built after much patient industry on the part of the local committee, while the remaining three are carried on in rented halls, in some cases rentals being merely nominal. In New Brighton we use premises generously lent free by Mr. J. Shaw of that township. Our first school, "Sunbeam," in Cornwall Street, St. Albans, had been built for a private kindergarten. It was offered to us and purchased at a reasonable price by the newly-formed Association, under the presidency of Mrs. T. E. Taylor. For some years it was carried on with Mrs. C.



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Chilton as convener to the local committee. Later, Mrs. J. R. Evans, also a foundation member, took over the management, where she is still convener. "Sunbeam" was fortunate in having received a small legacy, already referred to, of £100 from Mrs. Ensom, a member of the first small band in charge of "Sunbeam." This school has now been altered and improved out of all recognition.

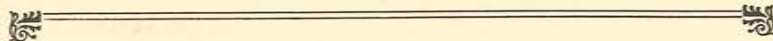
Phillipstown, opened shortly after, was conducted with much discomfort, first in one rented hall, then in another. After seven years, sometimes with seventy children on the roll, the Association determined to build. The local committee was, for the time, merged into the Association, and members of the three local committees all strove to raise the necessary funds. A fine section of land, already planted with shelter trees, was purchased. In 1919 the new school was opened. Mr. Geo. M. Penlington, architect to the Christchurch Board of Education, rendered great assistance in preparing plans and supervising the building during construction. The school flourishes under a good committee. We possess also a beautiful school in Selwyn Street.

After her retirement from the presidentship, Mrs. T. E. Taylor acted here as convener, leaving only a short time ago. Phillipstown will always stand as a memorial to Mrs. Taylor's practical interest in the little ones. Mrs. A. Peppler was elected second president to the Association. Our third president is Mrs. H. T. J. Thacker, who has occupied the position now for ten years.



THE COMMITTEE FOR 1933.

From Left, Standing.—Mr. and Mrs. N. HARPER, Mr. A. JAMES (Chairman). Sitting.—Mesdames A. LESTER (Convener), W. RODDA (Hon. Treasurer), G. AITKEN (Hon. Secretary), and A. JAMES. Absent.—Mesdames McCLURE and McCracken.



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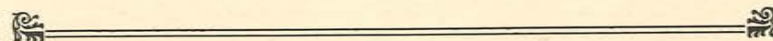
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SYDENHAM KINDERGARTEN

21st Birthday

Formation of Sydenham Kindergarten.

At a public meeting held in Sydenham at the end of 1911, the first Sydenham Free Kindergarten Committee was formed. Many of those who became members still take an interest in Sydenham. It would be difficult to name them all. Mr. and Mrs. Black, Mesdames E. G. Wilson, Millar, Scotter, Kier, McCracken and Burgoyne, and Misses A. Adams, Cocks and Pepler were among our first members of committee.

In March, 21 years ago, Sydenham opened its first school in the Hastings Street hall. As was the case with Phillipstown, we suffered much discomfort in not having our own school, and after a few years we moved to the larger hall in Queen Street. The building of Sydenham Free Kindergarten was a notable achievement, showing how great oaks may from little acorns grow. It required eight years



Now Verging on Civic Responsibilities—The Children of 1917.

of unremitting effort to raise, in small sums, the amount required with which to build. The inspiration came at a time when the Association was very short of funds. The new children's playground, at the corner of Queen and Wordsworth Streets, had just been finished and, through the efforts of the Sydenham Public School Committee, equipped, a small band of Kindergarten parents assisting. This small number offered to conduct a fair in the playground to assist the funds of the Association. They were so pleased with the result that, under the chairmanship of Mr. Hobbs, they decided to work together

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SYDENHAM KINDERGARTEN

21st Birthday

to build a school of their own. Small sales of work, of produce, small card parties, with sometimes the larger event of a fair, formed the principal means by which the £1,000 was raised. It is worthy of note that, up to the time when the committee had £850 in hand, no cash donation of more than 5/- had been received. It would not be possible to mention the names of all who have helped us.

Our records show that, at an evening party tendered by Mrs. Pepler to the Building Committee at her home, at Cashmere, those present were:—Mr. and Mrs. Rodda, Mr. and Mrs. Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. Harper, Mr. and Mrs. James, Mr. H. Brown, Mesdames McCracken, Wilson, Lester, Griffiths, McClure, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, and Mr. Leatham. After six years of service Mr. Hobbs retired. By this time a considerable amount had been passed over to the Association's treasurer, Mrs. K. Hadfield. Mrs. G. Aitken was appointed secretary to the building as well as to the local committee; this position she still holds with only the difference that while formerly she was both honorary treasurer and secretary, she is now secretary. Mrs. Rodda is honorary treasurer. Of the original building committee several are still on the local management committee. Mrs. Lester, with thirteen years of loyal service to her credit, is now convener. Mrs. Rodda runs her in the matter of time very closely, while all those mentioned are either on the local committee or are still taking a keen interest in the welfare of Sydenham.

Almost without exception our best friends are the parents of children who have enjoyed the benefit of Kindergarten training.

Two thousand two hundred (2200) children have passed through the Sydenham Free Kindergarten. The school was opened four years ago, entirely free of debt. The architects to the Board of Education, Messrs. Geo. Penlington and Hutton, prepared the plans and specifications, and also supervised the work in course of erection. The school was, fortunately, built before the department ceased to make grants to us. We received £1,000 from the Treasury, this being £ for £ on the amount raised by the building committee.

The names of teachers over the period of 21 years are:—Miss Bull, 1912 to 1914; Miss Russell, 1914 to 1916; Miss England, 1916 to 1917; Miss Scott, 1917 to 1921. Miss Lockwood was with us doing splendid work for a period of ten years. She was followed in 1931 by the present Director, Miss Orange.

All Kindergarten Councils train their own teachers, with the exception of Invercargill, with three fine schools, and Hastings, with one flourishing one. Students come to us from the secondary schools.

Parents testify to the value of their training. It develops the schoolgirl into a capable, self-reliant woman, able to handle young children wisely and, when married, rule happy homes. Two years' training is necessary to gain the local diploma, or the elementary Kindergarten certificate, gained through the Education Department.

Although the loss of the Government subsidy was a great blow to us, its effects have been much mitigated by the splendid co-operation on the part of teachers and parents. Teachers with much reduced salaries and parents on their side realise that this important work must not lapse for want of funds. They know that "*In the child's small hand lies the fate of our land.*"

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