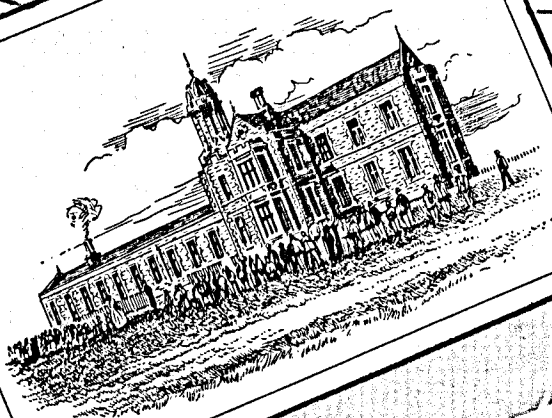
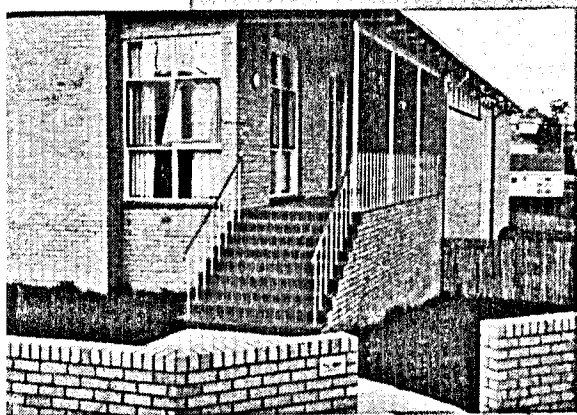


1851



*The First*  
**100**  
**YEARS**  
*and the Next Decade*



**THE STORY OF  
THE MELBOURNE  
ORPHANAGE**



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(1961)

1961

Phone:  
560-0122

MELBOURNE FAMILY CARE ORGANIZATION  
FERNTREE GULLY ROAD,  
(near Springvale Road)  
GLEN WAVERLEY  
P.O. Box No. 3.

THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS AND THE NEXT DECADE.

This booklet tells our story from 1851 to 1961. Since it was written a great number of changes have taken place and it is hoped that the story will again be brought up to date in 1971.

It is worth noting, however, at this time, that the old buildings at Brighton have been completely demolished to be replaced by the new Headquarters at Glen Waverley and Family Group Homes in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

In addition our preventive services have been developed to a very great extent and our work in this field now involves some hundreds of children each year.

Our name was officially changed on the 18th August, 1965, to Melbourne Family Care Organization.

J. C. JANICKE,  
Secretary & Superintendent.

# **THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS**

being

**A BRIEF HISTORY**

of the

**MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE**

from

**1851 to 1951**

**Compiled by J. C. Butler, J.P., Secretary and  
Superintendent of the Orphanage.**

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**THE NEXT DECADE**

**Compiled by J. C. Janicke, B.A., Dip.Ed.**

First printed 1951; reprinted 1959; reprinted with The Next Decade in 1961.

# MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE

Dendy Street, Brighton, S.5, Victoria

## OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

at the Centenary of the Orphanage

### PRESIDENT:

Brigadier The Hon. R. W. TOVELL, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., M.L.A. — 1950

### Vice-President:

Mr. A. Robertson Gordon — 1940

### Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. D. R. McLean — 1941

### Members:

Mr. Chas. S. Booth . . . . .	1946	Mrs. M. D. Battle . . . . .	1945
Cr. R. T. Breen . . . . .	1949	Mrs. A. Mackenzie Brown . .	1946
Mr. F. Bruce Kemp . . . . .	1950	Mrs. A. G. Bignell . . . . .	1949
Mr. W. H. Moule . . . . .	1941	Mrs. P. J. Kent . . . . .	1928
Rev. N. Pfeiffer . . . . .	1951	Mrs. H. Norman . . . . .	1949
Rev. J. D. Sansom . . . . .	1951	Mrs. G. Sutherland . . . . .	1928
Cr. John E. Stamp . . . . .	1945	Mrs. Trigellis-Smith . . . .	1948
Mr. Howard Wright . . . . .	1951	Mrs. A. O. Vary . . . . .	1923

### Secretary and Superintendent:

J. C. Butler, J.P. — 1922

### Hon. Medical Officers:

Dr. W. McClelland — 1912

Dr. Alan R. Tate — 1940

### Hon. Dentists:

Dr. Russell G. Shannon, L.D.S., D.D.Sc. (Chicago) — 1941

Mr. Hartley Gibson, B.D.Sc., L.D.S. — 1938

### Matron:

Miss Jean McCubbin — 1949

### Accountant:

Mr. L. G. B. Steele — 1934

### Auditors:

Messrs. G. Marquand and Son, Chartered Accountants (Aust.) — 1905

# MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE

Dendy Street, Brighton, S.5, Victoria

## OFFICE-BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1959

### PRESIDENT:

Brigadier The Hon. R. W. TOVELL, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D. — 1950

### Vice-Presidents:

Mr. R. T. Breen . . . . . 1949

Mr. Howard Wright . . . . . 1951

Mrs. B. Trigellis-Smith . . . . . 1948

### Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. Howard Wright — 1951

### Members:

Mr. T. D. Boyce . . . . .	1954	Rev. K. Roberts . . . . .	1955
Dr. T. W. Farrell . . . . .	1955	Mr. T. Thornton Ward . . . . .	1959
Mr. F. Bruce Kemp . . . . .	1950	Mrs. M. D. Battle . . . . .	1945
Mr. Kenneth Keown . . . . .	1952	Mrs. A. Mackenzie Brown . . . . .	1946
Mr. W. H. Moule . . . . .	1941	Mrs. F. Gamble . . . . .	1956
Mr. A. R. Partridge . . . . .	1957	Dr. P. J. Gladwell . . . . .	1956
Rev. N. Pfeiffer . . . . .	1951	Mrs. F. A. Hope . . . . .	1952
Mr. C. J. Pollock . . . . .	1952	Mrs. H. Norman . . . . .	1949
Mrs. E. Sutherland . . . . .		1928	

### Secretary and Superintendent:

Mr. J. C. Janicke, B.A., Dip.Ed. — 1957

### Matron:

Mrs. I. Stockman — 1958

### Accountant:

Mr. H. L. Wishart, A.A.S.A. — 1956

### Auditors:

Messrs. G. Marquand and Son, Chartered Accountants (Aust.) — 1905

# FOREWORD

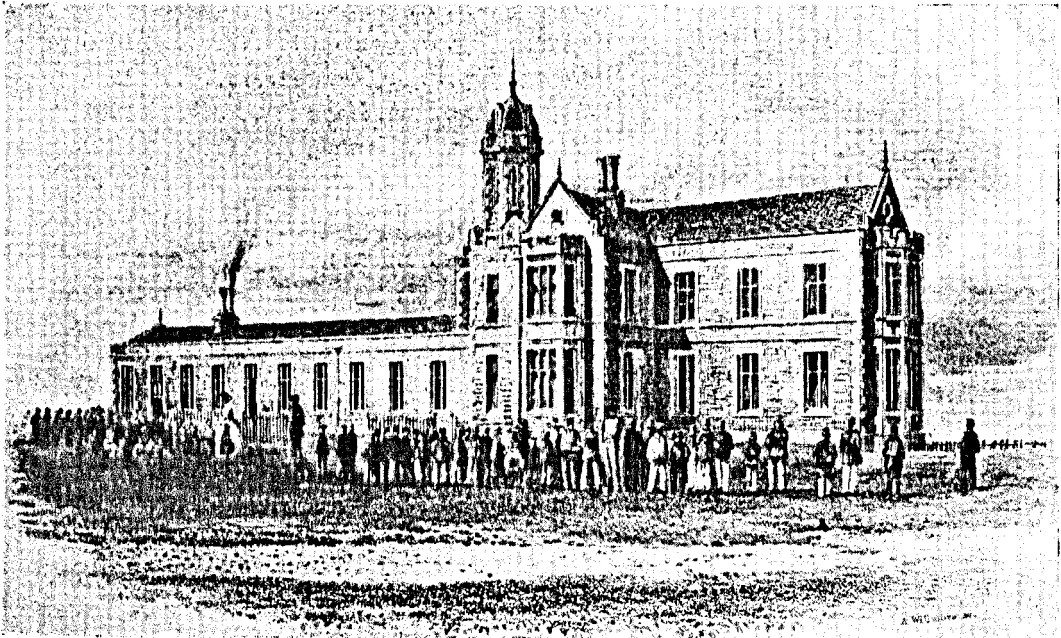
**T**HIS year the Melbourne Orphanage reaches the age of 100 years, and is modestly proud of its long record of service to the community.

It is, in spirit, still the same organisation that set out to help little children in those far-off days when Melbourne was in its infancy, for the Charter of those early days still stands.

It says: "The Institution shall be conducted on the principles of the Christian religion as held by the various branches of the Protestant Church. Its objects shall be to assist destitute children without reference to the creed or country of their parents."

This Charter, designed to meet the needs of destitute orphans in a pioneer town but 17 years old, amended only to include in its scope, children other than orphans, is, after 100 years, still broad enough for an Institution serving the under-privileged children of a metropolis with a population of over a million.

May the work in the future be carried on with a vision and an imagination equal to that of its founders, that a future equally constructive, and worthy of the community's confidence, may be assured.



Main Building of the original Asylum at Emerald Hill.

# THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

*being the story of*

## THE MELBOURNE ORPHANAGE

*from*

1851 to 1951

**1843.** Although it was in the year 1851 that the Melbourne Orphan Asylum received its name and was officially established, its genesis actually dates back to 1842-43 when a little band of women associated with St. James' Church of England in Melbourne, formed a Dorcas Society, with the Rev. A. C. Thomson as Chairman, for the purpose of visiting the sick poor of the parish.

They carried on this good work for some years, and during that period, established a small Home for destitute aged people.

**1849.** In 1849, Mr. J. T. Smith, one of the early Mayors of Melbourne, suggested to Mrs. Germain Nicholson, who was at that time Honorary Treasurer of the Dorcas Society, that the Society might extend its activities by taking charge of the children of a woman who had been killed by her husband.

The committee agreed to do so, and the children were placed in the Home which was already sheltering the old folk. Later on, the Mayor sent two more orphans to the Society, and later still, three more were added to the number. It was then that the Society decided to provide a shelter for children only. The old folk were removed to the Benevolent Asylum in North Melbourne; the children were placed in a rented cottage in Little Collins Street, under the care of a widow with children of her own.

At this time the name of the Society was changed from "Dorcas" to "St. James' Orphan and Visiting Society."

Within two months, the cottage having become overcrowded, larger premises were obtained at Flagstaff Hill, and the ladies began to direct their attention to raising funds for the erection of a still larger building.

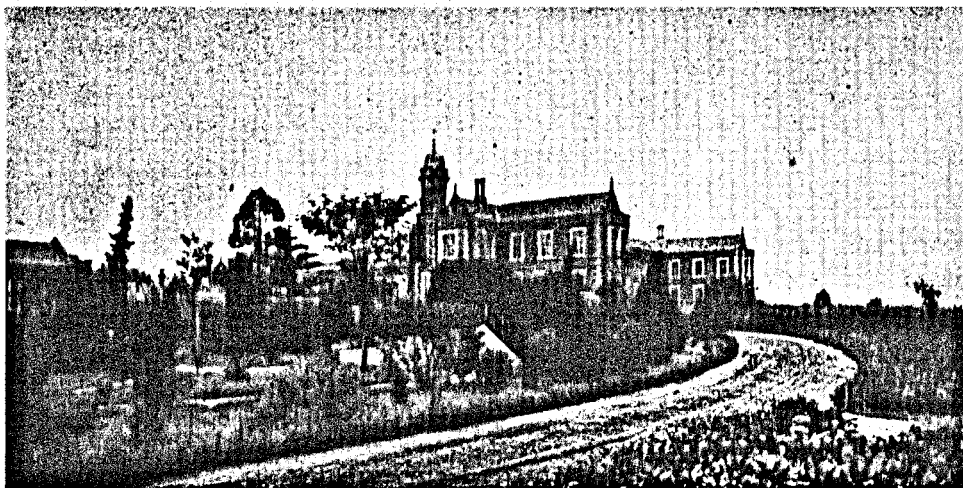
**1851.** By 1851 they had succeeded to the extent of securing finance for the erection of a wooden building at the corner of Bourke and King Streets, Melbourne, and the children were subsequently removed to this new Home. This was first named "St. James' Orphan Asylum" and later, in 1854, the Melbourne Orphan Asylum.

**1854.** In 1854, the site of the Asylum having proved unhealthy owing to the swampy nature of the ground, the children, most of whom were in ill health, were removed to tents, loaned by the Government, and erected on land adjoining the residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Simpson at Kew. They remained there for some time, and in the records special mention is made of the keen personal interest Mr. and Mrs. Simpson took in the children's welfare.

### EMERALD HILL

About this time, application was made to the Government for a grant of land on which to build an Asylum which would more nearly meet the needs of the rapidly growing community. A Mrs. Badcock, who was then Honorary Secretary of the Ladies' Committee, took a prominent part in making the representations, and eventually permission was obtained for the Committee to make use of a piece of land, ten acres in extent, situated at Emerald Hill (South Melbourne). This grant was accompanied by a gift from the Government of £4,500 for building purposes.

When matters had reached this stage, the ladies decided that a number of gentlemen



Front view of Main Building of the original Asylum at Emerald Hill, 1856-1877. This building faced Park Street. The drive entrance was in Cecil Street.

should be added to the Committee as, according to the Minutes—

“it was manifestly impossible for ladies to deal effectively with matters of contract which require habits of business acquired only in the activities of commercial life.”

Accordingly six clergymen and six laymen were added to the Committee who then elected the Lord Bishop of Melbourne as President. The new Committee immediately set about planning for the new Asylum.

The Annual Report of 1854 says—

“It is hoped that an institution will hereafter be raised equal to any erected for a similar purpose in the Mother Country.”

Competitive designs were invited, with a first prize of £100 and the successful architect was Mr. Chas. Webb. The plans submitted provided for 300 children living in a barrack-type of building, the Main Building being an imposing structure with a tower.

Provision was made for the education of the children in a school which was to be part of the Asylum buildings. Trade classes were provided for, as well as a gymnasium and a hospital. Extensive cultivation of the land was also contemplated, in order that vegetables and milk might be provided.

Despite great financial difficulties the whole of this splendid scheme was eventually carried out, but the Committee had perforce to move

slowly, and it was some years before the whole of the buildings could be erected, and thus permit of the full realisation of their ambitions.

**1855.** On the Sixth of September, 1855, the Foundation Stone of the Main Building was laid by His Excellency Sir Charles Hotham, Governor of Victoria. The event was made the occasion of an official Municipal welcome. The streets were decorated, and an Address of Welcome presented to His Excellency by the Mayor.

**1856.** By March, 1856, the building was deemed sufficiently advanced for the children to enter into residence, although it would appear that there could only have been the barest necessities available.

**1857.** It was recorded in 1857 that —

“The Committee have not yet been able to carry out a satisfactory system of management by reason of the small accommodation afforded by the building in its present state, as compared with the number of inmates.”

However, with the aid of a further Government grant of £3,000 for extensions to buildings, we find that by 1859 the West Wing was completed and the school room built. A still further grant of £1,500 then made possible the building of the hospital. There were now 149 children in residence.



## APPRENTICES

**1858.** During 1858 the idea was conceived of apprenticing girls and boys to employers, partly to find homes for children of an age to leave the Asylum, and partly to make possible the admission of children for whom there would otherwise have been no room.

This plan was most successful, and all through the years to the present day, the Orphanage has continued to find suitable positions for many hundreds of children. It is interesting to note that employers were required to donate £5 to the funds of the Asylum before they were permitted to have an apprentice. The children were paid for their services at the following rates: Boys — First year, 1/- per week; second year, 2/- per week; third year, 3/- per week. Girls — First year, 6d. per week; second year, 1/- per week; third year, 2/6 per week. Little wonder that the plan was a success.

At this time all girls over eleven, and all boys over twelve were taken from school during one half of each day, and engaged in some useful work in the Asylum, their education being supplemented by attendance at Night School.

The number of children in residence at the end of this year was 308. There were seven deaths during the year, and the cost of maintenance was £21/2/6 per child per annum.

The large number of children being cared for, may be attributed to the fact that there were, at this time, no other institutions to which children could be sent and also that the rules of the Asylum provided no age limit. Children were admitted when a few months old, and, as the records show, some of them were in a very sick condition on admission. This would account for the comparatively high death rate per annum.

## Mr. EDWIN EXON

**1859.** In 1859, Mr. Edwin Exon, who was destined to play such an important part in the affairs of the Orphanage, was appointed Secretary, and Superintendent.

For 50 years he guided and directed its affairs, and it is in no small degree due to his wise and efficient management that the Institution owes its great success. Because of this, Mr. Exon is deserving of more than passing mention. He was a man of high ideals and strong purpose. He was a good disciplinarian and organiser, a shrewd business man, a born leader, and a man of high Christian principles.

Withal he was truly a "father to the fatherless" and took a deep personal interest in the welfare of the children committed to his care. Mrs. Exon, who was at the same time appointed Matron, proved in her sphere to be a worthy helpmeet to her husband. She, too, was an outstanding personality, with a deep and abiding love for children, and she left her mark on the institution during her 34 years of service.



Rear view of Emerald Hill Asylum with entrance from Dorcas Street.

## RELIGIOUS TRAINING

The Institution having been inaugurated by the Church, it was to be expected that the religious training of the children should be given an important place in its programme, and that, in drawing up its Constitution, the first clause should set out that "The Asylum shall be conducted on the principles of the Christian religion as held by the various branches of the Protestant Church."

Practical Christian training was given to the children as part of their daily life. Each day commenced and closed with devotional exercises, and on several afternoons weekly, ministers of the various denominations attended and gave scriptural instruction to the children.

## A PROCLAMATION!

**1863.** It must be remembered that all this time, since 1854, the land on which the Asylum was built was held only by permissive occupancy, but, on the 20th January, 1863, by proclamation in the "Government Gazette," the site at Emerald Hill was declared *permanently reserved from sale* for use as an Orphan Asylum.

**1864-5.** The years 1864-5 found the Committee still contending with financial difficulties. It was only as more funds were acquired that more buildings could be added and more accommodation made available for the children. In 1865 special efforts were made in this direction. An appeal to the Government resulted in a special grant of £3,000 being made for building purposes, and by means of a bazaar organised by the Ladies' Committee, another £2,700 was raised. The Committee was thus enabled to build a new wing which provided for three more dormitories and a school room for 100 additional children. Provision was also made for building workshops, and a baker's oven, and to supply the laundry and kitchen with steam heat and power.

**1869-71.** The records of these years make repeated reference to the crowded state of the Asylum, there being at one time 335 children in accommodation suitable only for 320.

Two matters dealt with in the minutes of April, 1871, permit of an interesting comparison with similar matters today. The tender of Mr.

John Kerr, butcher, of 39 Queen Street, Melbourne (a site now occupied by a Life Assurance Co.) was accepted for the supply of beef and mutton for a term of six months at 1½ pence per lb., and the lowest tender for milk was 2½d. per quart. Coal was 37/6 per ton and firewood 10/- per ton of 40 cubic feet.

About the same time the question of supplying the children with butter for breakfast and tea instead of dry bread and occasional treacle "as a possible remedy for sore eyes and other cutaneous diseases" was discussed. It was resolved that "in view of the present financial prospects the matter be postponed for three months, and in the meantime the advice of the two medical officers be obtained."

The reports, when submitted, could not have helped the Committee very much, as Dr. Clavey said "The use of butter as an article of diet, together with treacle on alternate days, would in my opinion, be a proper system of dietary for the children," while Dr. Ford said "The children without butter have hitherto enjoyed such excellent health that I think it better to 'leave well alone' and do without such an expensive article of diet. As to its use preventing sore eyes and skin affections, it is simply absurd, besides which we comparatively have had no sore eyes or skin affections. If once butter is generally used, it will be difficult to discontinue it."

**1872.** In February, 1872, however, it was resolved "that butter be allowed on Sunday evenings and one other meal in each week at the rate of 3 lb. per meal for each 100 children."

The cost of maintenance for these years averaged £18/2/2 per child per annum, and the daily average of inmates was 325.

## SALE OF LAND AT EMERALD HILL

**1875.** In 1875 a most important step was taken. The Asylum Committee was growing concerned by the fact that the area surrounding their property had become thickly populated, and the site was no longer suitable for its original purpose. Their financial troubles, too, had been serious, and they were anxious to secure a permanent endowment and a larger and more suitable site for the Asylum. Both of these objectives could be achieved if permission were obtained for the sale of at least a portion of the existing site.

From the Town Council's standpoint, the occupation of so large a block of valuable ground for charitable purposes in the rapidly growing municipality was becoming a serious public inconvenience. The Main Building of the Asylum bisected Bank Street, and was in the exact spot required by the Council for the erection of a new Town Hall.

With both sides willing, not to say anxious, negotiations were entered into. These finally resulted in the South Melbourne Council agreeing to pay to the Asylum the sum of £20,000 for the Main Asylum Building, the land on which it stood, and 70 feet on two sides of the block.

This sum was agreed upon after consultations between the architects of both parties, as being "sufficient to remove the Asylum to another site and provide in all respect accommodation equal to that now enjoyed."

Payment for the land was to be made in such instalments as would meet the convenience of the Committee in paying for the building of a new Asylum. It was agreed that the frontages to Clarendon, Dorcas, Cecil, Bank, Park and Church Streets should remain the property of the Asylum for the purpose of establishing a permanent endowment.

These frontages were later subdivided into building lots, and let on 30 and 40 year building leases.

The lessees paid a nominal ground rent, and the property was to revert to the Asylum at the expiry of the lease.

The revenue received from this source, however, was only a few hundred pounds per year, and although the Government made annual grants of up to £4,000, the institution passed through many years of financial stress, until the freehold rents of the properties began to assure the Committee of an income, which, while not making the Asylum entirely self-supporting, relieved the financial strain to a very great extent.

In the published "History of South Melbourne" this story is told from a different, but interesting angle, which is worth quoting:—

"For many years it had been recognised that the grant of the central block for occupation by the Orphan Asylum had been a

mistake. On several occasions it had been suggested that the Asylum should be removed to some country place with open spaces and healthier environment. The proposal had been refused by the Government, but was again put forward with the object of leaving available the central area as a site suitable in every way for the erection of a new Town Hall in accord with the dignity of the town. Since 1856, when the Council had first made the suggestion for removal, and the Orphanage had refused to comply with the Council's request to construct a right-of-way or thoroughfare between the east and west of Bank Street, mutual relations had not been cordial. When the Council, in 1877, again asked for the removal of the Orphanage, as the outcome of a great public demand, its supporters held indignation meetings denouncing the proposal and making strong protests to the Council against removal. They urged the erection of a Town Hall on the national school site. However, in spite of opposition, after some time the Council's request was granted. An act of Parliament was passed, which enabled the Council to acquire the land upon which the Town Hall now stands, the adjoining area in the block being devoted to building purposes. The Orphanage was transferred to a new site at Brighton and received £90,000 (this should, of course, be £20,000) in compensation. The area within Clarendon, Dorcas, Cecil and Park Streets, exclusive of the Town Hall, Post Office and Police Station sites, still remains as the property of the Orphanage, which receives a substantial income from the area let on leasehold."

## INCORPORATION

In the course of negotiations for the sale of the land the desirability of incorporating the Asylum became apparent. In due course incorporation was effected and was duly gazetted on the 5th March, 1875, under Act 27, Victoria, No. 220.

As a special Act of Parliament was necessary to authorise the sale of the land to the Council, a Bill containing the necessary provisions was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by the Hon. George Higinbotham and subsequently became law on 18th October, 1875.

## BOARDING OUT

The Committee had for some time been giving consideration to the idea of Boarding Out children in approved homes. It was well aware that while an institution had much to offer a child in the way of security as well as mental, moral and physical training, family life, when possible, was the normal life for every child, and fathers and mothers, even though they were foster parents, could give something even more important to the child in love and affection and individual care. The idea did not by any means meet with general approval, and there were some stormy Committee meetings. Dr. Ford, who, for 20 years, was Honorary Medical Officer, felt so strongly about the matter, that he resigned his position and severed his connection with the Asylum. He considered that "the decision changes the whole character of the institution. Under the old regime the children had not been treated like 'charity children' but the Asylum had been to them a true Home."

The Committee's intention was to place the children with strangers, the idea of boarding them out to their own mothers being, for some reason, not at all acceptable. At a meeting held in November, 1876, The Rev. R. B. Dickinson moved "That the Committee entertain applica-

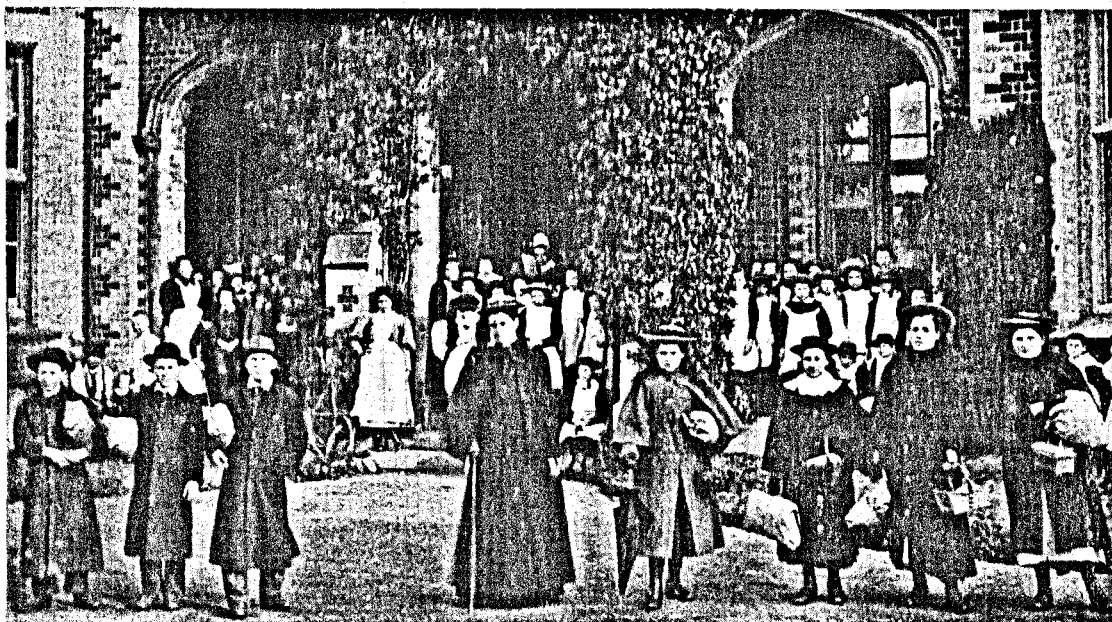
tions from mothers of children now in the Asylum, for aid towards the maintenance of such children at home."

The motion was strongly opposed, and lost by ten votes to five.

As a contrast, years later, it was decided that the practice of Boarding Out children to foster parents should be discontinued and children should be placed only with their widowed mothers.

Another factor influencing the Committee was the realisation that something must be done to relieve the growing congestion in the existing building, and that this would be achieved if a sufficient number of children could be placed in Foster Homes. Indeed, if the plan could be sufficiently developed, it might even mean that accommodation need be provided for only a much smaller number of children in the proposed new Asylum.

**1876.** When, therefore, it was decided to move from Emerald Hill, the momentous decision was made at a meeting held on 28th August, 1876, "that Government permission should be obtained for the funds of the Asylum to be used for the purpose of Boarding Out



Girl and Boy Apprentices in the "eighties" ready to go out to situations.

children, in addition to caring for them in the Asylum." A deputation to the Chief Secretary, Mr. McPherson, secured the desired permission, the Constitution was suitably amended, and the plan which was to play such an important part in the institution's future was inaugurated.

Rules based on those of the Government Industrial Schools were drawn up and Ladies' Visiting Committees (no less than 36) were appointed in country towns and suburbs to receive applications and furnish reports on the homes and the foster parents.

It was soon discovered that there would be no difficulty in securing homes for a large number of children.

During the first six months, 90 children were Boarded Out, and before the change over to Brighton was made—about 12 months—this number had increased to 151. The amounts paid to Foster Parents were as follows:—

Children 1 year and younger, 12/- per week; up to 7 years, 7/-; up to 10 years, 6/-; up to 12 years, 5/-; up to 14 years, 3/-. The number of people who were willing to take the children into their homes was remarkable, and the figures grew from 115 in 1878 to 382 in 1893—the peak year—when no less than £4,440 was paid to Foster Parents.

From then onward, however, gradually, as times and conditions changed, the number began to diminish—220 in 1910; 135 in 1936; then a sharp drop as the combined effects were felt of the Committee's decision to limit their Boarding Out activities to widowed mothers, and the payment of subsidies by the Child Welfare Department to widows whose children were boarded out by the department. Later, as Widows Pensions, Child Endowment, and other Social Amenities were introduced, the figures fell steadily, until today the Boarding Out department of the institution has ceased to exist.

During the 73 years in which this activity functioned, nearly £200,000 was paid out to provide homes for homeless children, surely a wonderful piece of Social Service.

## REMOVAL TO BRIGHTON

**1877.** It was hoped that the Government might have made land available for the new site, and the South Melbourne Council agreed that, should it not do so, an additional

£500 would be made available towards the cost of buying land. The Committee's wishes were not, however, realised as the only sites the Government was prepared to make available were:—

1. Portion of the Government Model Farm.
2. Land at Royal Park, formerly occupied by the Powder Magazine.
3. Five acres at Kew (Old Police Horse paddock, now Kew Asylum).
4. Survey paddock at Richmond.
5. Hawthorn Public Gardens.
6. Old Yarra Bend.

All of these were deemed unsuitable, and a sub-committee was appointed to search for more likely sites. Thirty-nine properties were submitted and this number was eventually reduced to eight. One at Kew, one at Essendon, two at Moonee Ponds, and four at Brighton.

The sites available at Brighton were:—

1. Twelve acres in Dendy Street at £100 per acre.
2. Thirty-two acres in Hampton Street at £65 per acre.
3. Fourteen acres in South Road at £120 per acre.
4. Fifteen acres in South Road for £1,800.

Finally the Dendy Street site was chosen, the deciding factors being:—

- a. Its size. (It was two acres larger than the Emerald Hill property and there was land adjoining, available for extension.)
- b. Its healthy situation.
- c. Its nearness to the Middle Brighton Railway Station (permitting easy access by the Committee).
- d. Its proximity to the sea.

At this time Brighton was a comparatively settled area. The railway line from Melbourne had reached Middle Brighton in 1859, and by 1861 had been extended to Brighton Beach. Many large houses had been built along the water front with smaller ones scattered throughout the district, which was largely devoted to market gardens. The 12 acre block purchased for the new Orphanage was a large paddock owned by a Mr. Chevasse. It was part of the original Dendy Estate and had a frontage to Dendy Street. The purchase price was £1,150.

This land was bought in May, 1876, and immediate possession must have been taken, as

we find that in December of the same year it was resolved "that the twelve acre crop at Brighton be cut and stacked by a man and boys from the Asylum with the assistance of one hired labourer."

Three years later, in January, 1879, a five acre block adjoining, with a frontage to Dendy Street, and with Whyte Street as its eastern boundary, was offered to the Committee by Mr. Thos. Bent, and was subsequently purchased from him for £550. These two purchases gave the Committee frontages to Dendy Street and Whyte Street each of approximately 1,000 feet. In subsequent years frontages to Windermere Crescent were purchased and the property now comprises over 20 acres.

### BARRACKS v. COTTAGE

It was originally intended that the new Asylum should be of the barrack type, similar to the Emerald Hill building, and early in May, 1876, competitive designs were invited from architects. The conditions provided for a three-storied building to accommodate 300 children. It was to be constructed of brick with white facings and the cost was not to exceed £15,000.

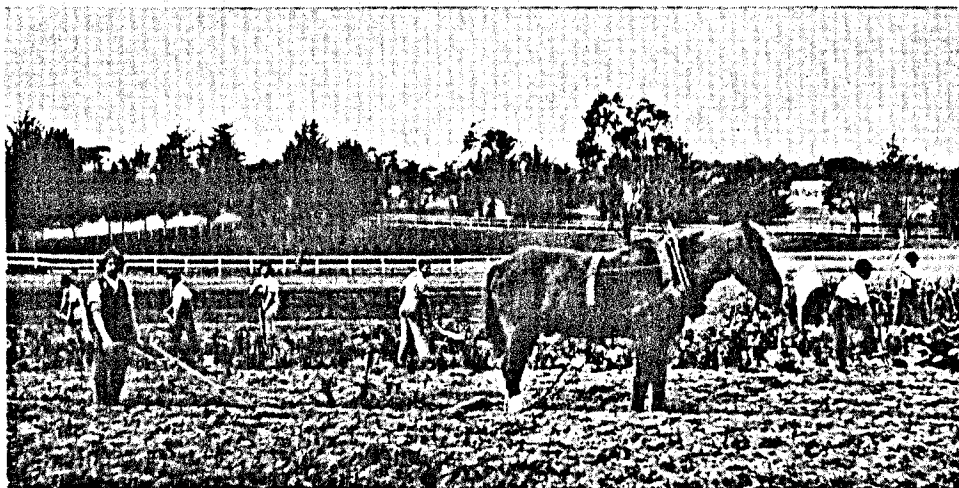
Eight designs were submitted, and the sub-committee of three experts, Messrs. William Ireland, Robert Swan and David Mitchell, appointed as judges, estimated that prices would range from £16,627 to £26,277. The design chosen as winner of the competition was estimated to cost £20,728/4/4.

The matter of Boarding Out was still being hotly debated at this time, and at a meeting of contributors held in September, 1876, it was realised that should the new system prove a success, it would not be necessary to erect such a large building. It was therefore resolved that until this matter was settled, no further action should be taken regarding the new building.

As already related the Boarding Out system *WAS* introduced; it proved a great success and, in December, 1876, a sub-committee recommended "that the new building be at once commenced but that, in view, of the number of children who would probably be boarded out, accommodation be provided for 150 children instead of 300. The building to be so designed as to be capable of extension."

Before any action was taken, however, someone (history saith not who) "threw a spanner into the works" by suggesting that if it was not too late, consideration should be given to the idea of adopting the Cottage System at Brighton "with the idea of introducing more of the family element into the children's lives."

The Superintendent was requested to obtain as much information as possible with respect to the cost of building and management under this new system. His report was submitted in January, 1877, and, although it was realised that costs of building and administration would certainly be higher, it was felt that the benefits accruing under the new system would so far out-



Dendy Street, Brighton, frontage under cultivation in the early "nineties" with Mr. Burrows and his farm boys.

weigh financial considerations, that, even though a plan for the barracks building had been accepted, it would be wise to abandon the scheme and adopt the Cottage System.

At a special meeting of subscribers held on the 18th January, 1877, this course was adopted on the motion of Mr. F. G. Moule and the Rev. R. B. Dickinson. Thus, a new era of Orphanage life in Australia was inaugurated.

The architect, Mr. Chas. Webb, was instructed to at once prepare plans, making provision for 150 children, to be accommodated in five cottages each holding 30 children, and each to be under the care of a Cottage Father and Cottage Mother. Provision was also to be made for administrative and such other buildings as were necessary.

That public interest was aroused, is shown by the following extract from an Editorial in the "Argus" of Saturday, 20th January, 1877.

"The discussion caused by the proposal put forward by the Committee of the Melbourne Orphan Asylum to erect another 'Barrack' at Brighton has been productive of the happiest results. Boarding Out is to be tried on an extensive scale, and instead of one huge building, a number of cottages are to be erected, each capable of containing 30 inmates and attendants. The reasons given are—

1. Greater freedom from danger of contagious disease.
2. More natural and home-like life for the children, and better facilities for their proper classification.
3. Industrial life of a character more suited to after life."

## COTTAGE HOMES

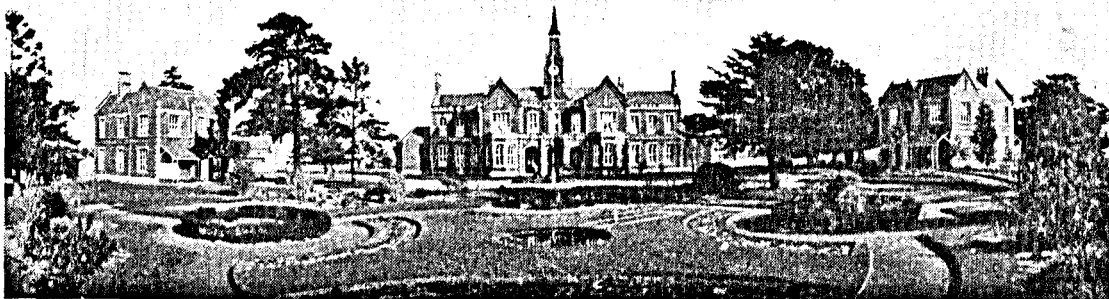
Although it was now planned to provide for 150 children, tenders were at first invited for buildings to accommodate 90. Nineteen tenders were received, ranging from £9,082/10/- to £11,864 and, in April, 1877, Thomas Newton's price of £9,082/10/- for this first portion was accepted. Three months later, on the 6th July, further tenders by Newton were accepted for building two additional cottages at a cost of £3,050; a school, £600; and a hospital, £1,080; while, in August of the same year, a tender of £40 for building the underground tank (which is still in use) was accepted. Later in the year the laundry was built at a cost of £1,340.

On the 22nd July, 1877, at 3 p.m., the Foundation Stone of the Main Building was laid by the President, Bishop Perry. It was quite a gala occasion. Members of Parliament and the Mayor and Councillors were present; the Blind Institute Band was engaged, and the Orphan children were permitted to attend and were afterwards given a tea party. The Bishop was presented with a Silver Trowel.

**1878.** Nine months from the laying of the Foundation Stone, there being no strikes or stop work meetings, and no delays in securing material, the buildings were sufficiently advanced for occupation, and on the 4th April, 1878, the children, amidst great excitement, were removed from Emerald Hill into their new homes at Brighton, horse-drawn vans, we are told, being provided for children, staff and furniture alike.

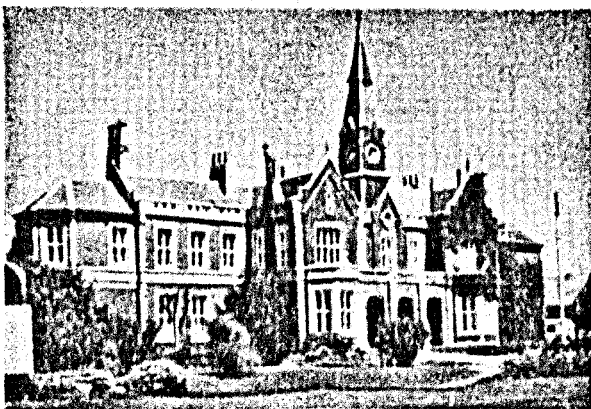
## AN INTERESTING NOTE

During the building operations, the Melbourne and Hobsons Bay Railway Company generously



This picture shows the Main Administration Block; the Junior Girls' and Junior Boys' Cottages, and portion of the beautiful grounds of the Orphanage at Brighton.





THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

This building was erected in 1878 when the Orphanage was removed from South Melbourne to Brighton.

granted free tickets as follows: 160 day return tickets annually for the Committee and Honorary Officers visiting the Asylum.

Season tickets each for the Secretary and Superintendent, Matron, Visiting Agent, and Clerk of Works; the grant to extend over eleven years.

### STANDARDS AND PROGRESS

**1878-82.** The story of the Orphanage after its removal to Brighton continued to be one of steady if somewhat slow development. The change over to the Cottage system whilst being an important step forward, did not halt the management in its endeavours to improve the conditions under which the children lived. All through the years we find a constant desire to keep the Institution abreast of the times.

It must be borne in mind that in the year 1878 the mental attitude of people toward the institutional child was very different from that of today. Certainly it had improved vastly since the days of *Oliver Twist*, and there was undoubtedly a real feeling of sympathy for the "poor unfortunate orphan." It was still considered quite correct, however, that children in an Orphan Asylum should, for instance, have their hair cropped close, wear drab, uninteresting clothes and accept domestic service and farm work as their normal lot in life.

Viewed thus, it is not remarkable that for some years after the removal to Brighton, whilst

every effort was made, and with a good deal of success to "train the children in the way they should go," there were few radical changes in the children's mode of living.

### FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

It must also be remembered that in those early years the work was carried on under severe financial handicaps.

The Government and the public both seemed to have had the idea that the Asylum now being a large property owner, could get along with much less assistance than had hitherto been available.

At a time when the Committee were paying out £3,500 per annum in Boarding Out allowances, and had 111 children living in the Cottage Homes, the Government Grant was reduced from £4,000 to £2,500. Paid collectors were employed, but found it so difficult to obtain subscriptions from private citizens that the Committee were compelled to resort to all kinds of expedients to raise funds. Collection boxes were placed on hotel bars and bank counters; collection by churches, Sunday schools and State and private schools were organised, and penny collection cards were issued to all who would accept them.

The Committee protested to the Government against the reduced grant, pointing out that it was reduced by a much larger amount than the revenue received from the leaseholders occupying the properties.

At the same time an official statement was issued to the effect that "for the time being — in fact, for some years to come — the leasehold properties would only be bringing in a nominal income as the lessees were merely paying a ground rent."

The position became so difficult that the following notice was sent to all Foster Parents to whom children had been Boarded Out.

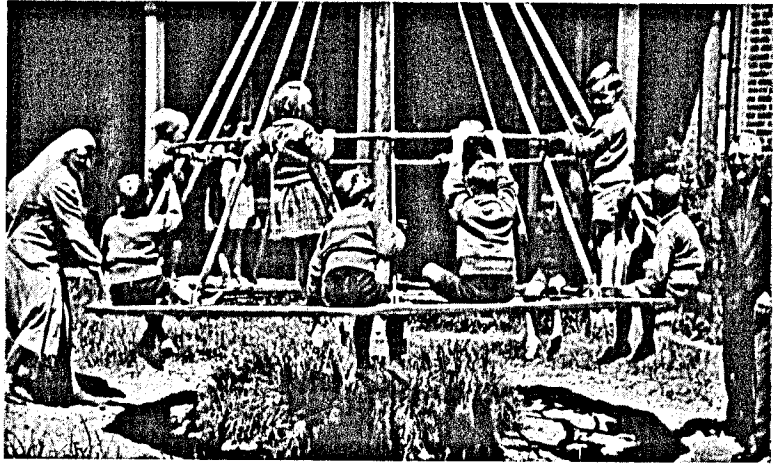
"Will you please note that after 8th April Boarding Out allowances will be reduced to 10/- per week for children under 12 months; 5/- under 12 years; and 3/- up to 14 years. It is impossible for us, even with the strictest economy, to meet our engagements at present rates."



## LIFE AT BRIGHTON

Looking back to that period from the present day, it is difficult to imagine the inconveniences which the staff and children must have experienced in settling into their new home. At Emerald Hill, few, if any, of the conveniences of today existed — electric light, sewerage, water service, refrigerators, etc.—and they would certainly not be found in Brighton, but at least they had been living in an established home, whereas now they had to make a home and settle into buildings erected in the centre of a ten-acre paddock, the only cultivation of which had been the crop of oats already mentioned. The ground had to be cleared, roads and footpaths made, gardens and lawns laid out and planted, playgrounds prepared. Fortunately a vein of good ironstone gravel was discovered running through the grounds, and it was not many months before good, clean yards were provided for the cottages, a driveway made from the front gate in Dendy Street to the Main Building, and paths built from cottage to cottage.

Weeks before, when the buildings were approaching completion, married couples had been selected as Cottage Mothers and Fathers from 49 applicants for the positions, and these were in the Cottages ready to receive the children on their arrival from Emerald Hill.



Matron and Superintendent lend a hand at the "Ocean Wave."

One can imagine the excitement on that first night in the new home. What an adventure! "No talking after lights out" would have been a rule, hard indeed, to enforce on that wonderful occasion.

Morning came, however, with its daily routine of chores to be done, and stories are still told at the Annual Reunions, of board floors bare of linoleum, which seemed to need constant scrubbing; of kerosene lamps that always seemed to be needing attention, and which, at times, filled the dormitories with smoke and strange smells, and of the continual pumping of water from the underground tank in the quadrangle at the rear of the Main Building.



The Orphanage children attend the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches. Sunday School is conducted in the Orphanage Hall.



Sport of all kinds is encouraged. The "team spirit" is recognised and a "sound mind in a healthy body" is our goal.

### SCHOOL

**1879.** It must have been soon after the Asylum was established at Brighton that an arrangement was made with the Education Department, whereby children living in the neighbourhood could attend the new school, for the 1879 Annual Report records "the children attend a State School situated within the grounds, but common to all the children of the district." This excellent practice has continued throughout the years, and has been most valuable from the Institution's standpoint, as it has provided for the children an outside contact, which is most desirable.

In the case of girls over 12 and boys over 11, schooling was still on the half-time system, the afternoons being devoted to work of various kinds around the Asylum.

### PROPERTY MATTERS

At this time there was in existence a sub-committee with the strange title of "Utilisation Committee." Their duty was to decide how much material from the old home could be used in the new, and then plan for its removal at the most convenient time. Their task was doubtless a very difficult one during the transition period, but they must have done a good job, for during the first year in the new Cottage Homes, their duties were extended, and they were given, not only the control of all property matters at Brighton, but also the big leasehold property at Emerald Hill, which was now beginning to demand a good deal of attention. The name of the sub-committee was changed and they became the first of a long succession of "Building and Property" sub-committees.

### SYDNEY SMITH

**1882.** During this year, Mr. Sydney Smith who, for some time, had been the Institution's Surveyor at Emerald Hill, was appointed Architect in suc-

cession to Mr. Charles Webb who had planned and built the Emerald Hill and Brighton Asylums, and was for 22 years Architect to the Institution. Mr. Smith was eventually responsible for planning many of the shops and dwellings in the South Melbourne leasehold area, and most of the buildings which were later on erected on vacant blocks in suburban areas bequeathed to the Asylum by Mr. W. J. Ellis, after his death in 1882.

The firm of Sydney Smith, Ogg and Serpell remained as the Institution's Architects until 1938.

### THE ELLIS ESTATE

The financial position was greatly helped in 1882 by a munificent bequest by Mr. W. J. Ellis, an architect of Melbourne.

It consisted of over £7,000 invested in Government Stock, and a large number of blocks of vacant land. He directed that the stock remain invested, and the interest only, used for maintenance purposes, and that none of the land should ever be sold.

With the passing of the years this estate has increased greatly in value. Most of the land has been built on, and the property has become, next to South Melbourne, one of the Institution's most valuable sources of income.



Happy, normal youngsters having a good time around the Cottage gramophone.

At this time the paddocks along the Dendy Street frontage were planted with crops of various kinds; potatoes and other vegetables for the children and staff, and oats to provide fodder for the cows. As the general slope of the land was from Windermere Crescent to Dendy Street, an elaborate system of brick surface drains was devised to irrigate the crops and prevent the water escaping into Dendy Street. Many of these drains are still in use.

### "JEFF"

**1886.** Detailed reference to people prominent in the work of the Orphanage has been purposely omitted from the body of this record, and will be found in the appendices, but an exception must be made in the case of Harry Jeffries.

Brief mention is made of him in old records as a boy working in the Boot Shop at Emerald Hill, but in 1886, "Jeff," as he was affectionately known by all, was appointed a member of the staff and given charge of the Bootmaking Shop, a position which he held until he resigned in 1934 at the age of 65, when he went to live with relatives whom he had discovered in Too-woomba, Queensland.

"Jeff" was a "character" and, in many ways a genius. He was brought to the Orphanage at the age of 5 years and spent practically the whole of his life within its walls. He was an artist of considerable merit (as he grew older he studied under Julian Ashton), and his room and the walls of his shop were covered with excellent pictures framed in unique frames, all of which he made from the most unusual materials. He was an ardent naturalist, a skilled taxidermist, and he did the most beautiful inlay work on tabletops. But above all, he was guide, philosopher and friend to generations of boys. The Boot Shop was always a centre of attraction where the boys could depend on getting helpful advice, an interesting talk on botany, or natural history or a "wiggling" for not having brought their boots in for repair earlier in the day. "Jeff" was gruff in his manner, he was eccentric, but he was loved by all, and was a wonderful influence for good amongst the young folk.

Many of the old boys never forgot "Jeff" and years after they had left the Asylum (and some were prosperous business men) they continued to visit him on Saturdays and Sundays to have a chat with their old friend.

### MR. EXON VISITS EUROPE

**1887.** In 1887, Mr. Exon, the Superintendent, paid a twelve months visit to England, Scotland, America and Europe. On his return, he submitted a report to the Committee, which, even in these days, makes interesting reading.

It referred to the trend towards smaller cottage homes for children; to the increase in secondary education amongst institutional children in England, and to the establishment of kindergarten classes in Orphanages. He claimed, too, that in its administration, methods of work and treatment of the children "the Melbourne Orphanage compared most favourably with the best of Dr. Barnardo's Homes."

### ORMOND ESTATE

During Mr. Exon's absence a very welcome financial windfall was received in the form of a bequest of £5,000 from the estate of Francis Ormond (founder of the Working Men's College, now the Melbourne Technical College).

### EARLY MELBOURNE

**1888.** One of the blocks of land on the Ellis estate was situated in St. Kilda Road, close to where the Synagogue now stands.

It is today a very valuable property with five houses built thereon, but it is interesting to note that in 1888 the Committee received an offer to pay 1/7 per week for permission to graze horses on the land. The application was granted on condition that the tenant kept the fences in good condition.

**1892.** It having been brought under the notice of the Committee that the complete enclosure of the Orphanage grounds was causing considerable inconvenience to the public by blocking "through" traffic, in 1892 sufficient land at the Lynch Street end of the property was given to the Brighton Council to enable it to make a right-of-way from Lynch Street to Windermere Crescent.

### PEAK PERIOD

**1893.** In 1893 we find that the Asylum was dealing with the largest number of children on record, the number maintained being 453. Of these, 382 were Boarded Out, and 71 were living in the Cottage Homes.

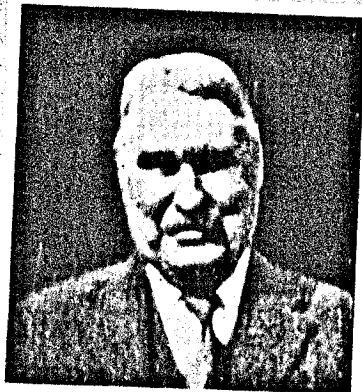
## FIVE PRESIDENTS



Dr. J. P. WILSON,  
1902-32.



R. W. B. MACKENZIE, Esq.,  
1932-36.



A. G. HARSTON, Esq.,  
1936-40.  
Committee Member for 46 years.



ROBT. MATHIESON, Esq.,  
1940-50.  
Committee Member for 40 years..



Brig. R. W. TOVELL, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., M.L.A.,  
1950—Still in office.

An additional 55 were apprenticed to employers — 29 boys to farm work, 12 girls as domestics, and the remaining 16 to various trades. £4,440 was paid this year to Foster Parents, on a rate which had again been reduced, this time to 9/- for children under one year, 4/6 per week for children under 12 years and 2/6 for children from 12 to 14 years.

**1896.** In November, 1896, Mr. Malcolm Nicholson, who was destined to remain with the Asylum for many years in various capacities, was appointed Resident Night School Master, as the children over 12 were still only attending school in the morning. He was, successively, Night School Master, Rent Collector, Accountant and Property Manager, and he served the institution faithfully for 38 years. He died in Queensland whilst on sick leave.

#### THOMPSON ESTATE

This same year, Mr. William Thompson died, leaving the Asylum £6,000 with the proviso that the money be invested, and the income only used for the maintenance of the Institution.

#### PRESIDENTIAL POLICY

**1902.** In 1902, a step was taken which marked a change in the Institution's policy, namely, the appointment of a layman as president. Ever since 1854 the Bishop of Melbourne, for the time being, had held this position, with the result that an impression existed that the Asylum was controlled by the Church of England. As the Committee considered that it had reached the status of a national institution, they desired to remove this impression, and at the Annual Meeting of Contributors in 1902, Dr. J. P. Wilson, who had been a committee member for 10 years, was elected President, an office which he continued to hold without a break for 30 years.

For many years it had been the practice to send girls out to domestic service at the age of 14 years, and it was during this year — 1902 — that the age was raised to 15 years.

Amongst the improvements made during this year, was the building of a large double Bathing Box on the beach at the end of Kinane Street, an innovation which provided years of pleasure and comfort to the children in the summer months, as the beach was only a few minutes walk from the Asylum. It was removed in 1934,

when the Council, having built new dressing rooms kindly handed over the old one for use by the Orphanage children.

The dairy was also built in this year, and in connection therewith, an interesting story is told. The Committee desired to have the walls tiled, but the cost was prohibitive. An "old boy," Mr. E. E. Walker, hearing of the difficulty, came forward and generously defrayed the whole cost as an expression of gratitude for what the Asylum had done for him.

**1904.** In 1904 further additions to the buildings were made. A new gymnasium was built at the western end of the school, replacing one built in 1884. A small swimming pool was provided adjoining the gymnasium, and additions were also made to the hospital block.

#### AUDITORS

**1905.** Prior to 1905 there was a change of Auditors every few years, those holding office for the longest periods being Mr. J. J. Blundell, 29 years; Mr. Thos. Rooke, 13 years. In 1905, Messrs. G. Marquand and Son were appointed, and have held office ever since.

#### GOVERNMENT GRANT

**1909.** In 1909 a dispute arose between the Government and the Asylum Committee regarding the method of applying the Institution's Funds. Mr. William Watt was Premier at the time and Mr. Thomas Meek was Inspector of Charities. The Committee had, for many years, been crediting legacies, bequests, and life governorship donations (£20 or more) to the Endowment Account, on the ground that the investment of this money produced the equivalent of an annual subscription of 25/-. The Government insisted that these moneys should be used for maintenance purposes, and threatened that no further grants would be made until all these amounts had been transferred from the Endowment Account and expended in the ordinary course of maintenance. The Committee in a series of deputations, and in correspondence extending over six months, defended its action as being good business practice, but Mr. Watt remained adamant. The grant for 1910 was withheld and no further grants have since been received by the Orphanage.

Fortunately, by this time (as Mr. Watt doubtless knew) the income from South Melbourne

rents had reached a satisfactory figure, and no great hardship was inflicted by the withdrawal of the grant.

### MR. EXON'S RETIREMENT

In 1909 Mr. Exon resigned as Superintendent owing to advancing years. His resignation was accepted with sincere regret as, for 50 years, he had served the Asylum faithfully and well. Within twelve months of his retirement, Mr. Exon died, and the Old Girls and Boys placed a marble memorial tablet in the entrance hall of the Asylum to mark their appreciation of his great work. At the same time a Miss Thomas was commissioned to paint a portrait in oils of their old friend, and this, too, was subsequently hung in the front hall.

Mr. J. Russell Crowther was appointed to the vacant position, and, as an ex-schoolteacher, he came with a good working knowledge of children. Mr. Crowther was responsible for many progressive moves, particularly along educational lines.

### SALE OF LAND

During this year, as the South Melbourne Council was desirous of establishing a Civic Centre in the vicinity of the Town Hall, the Committee sold to the Government the land at the eastern corner of Bank and Perrins Streets as a site for the South Melbourne Post Office; the land was valued at £15 per foot.

### SEWERING AT BRIGHTON

At the Asylum the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works carried out the important work of sewerage the property at a cost of £1,780.

### NEW EDUCATION ACT

**1911.** In 1911 a new Education Act was passed, making it compulsory for children to attend school every day. An application was made by the Asylum Committee for exemption in the case of Asylum children, of one day weekly for boys and girls between thirteen and fourteen years of age on the ground that the new rule would greatly hamper the work of the Asylum. The Department refused to grant the application, and the children of the Institution have enjoyed the benefits of full-time attendance ever since.

This same year, external escape stairs were erected at all cottages at a cost of £330.

### COOKERY CENTRE

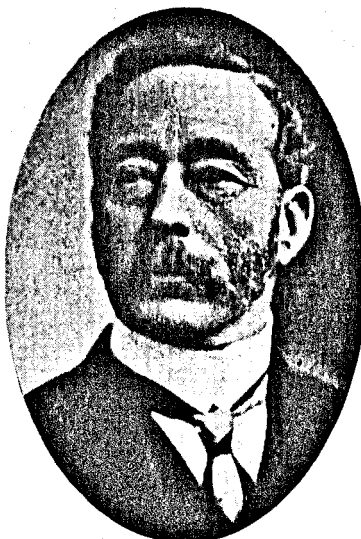
**1912.** At the suggestion of the Committee, who were anxious that the Asylum girls should receive instruction in cooking, the Education Department agreed to establish a cookery centre in connection with the school. The Committee undertook to provide a site within the grounds and contribute £250 towards the cost of the building. There was a good deal of departmental delay, but the centre was eventually established and opened in 1914 by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Arthur Stanley.

Up to this time the State School had been considered as an adjunct to the Wilson Street, North Brighton School. The Education Department now decided to remodel, enlarge, and make it a separate school. Thus, in 1914, it became Brighton Beach State School No. 2048.



The Orphanage School in 1914 with old Gymnasium and small bathing Pool at rear. Cookery centre on left.





THREE SUPERINTENDENTS IN 91 YEARS

Mr. Edwin Exon — 1859-1909.

Mr. J. R. Crowther — 1909-1921.

Mr. J. C. Butler — 1922-Still in office.

**1915.** The year 1915 saw a major domestic improvement which brought joy to the hearts of the children and satisfaction to the staff. The bare floors, throughout the Institution were covered with linoleum at a cost of nearly £300 and scrubbing became largely a thing of the past.

**1917.** Electric light was installed in 1917, a new wing was added to the senior boys' cottage at a cost of £1,500 and, in 1918, several wartime hospital buildings, which had been erected in St. Kilda Road, about where the Police Hospital now stands, were purchased from the Defence Department to improve and increase the accommodation at the hospital block.

**1922.** In 1922, Mr. Russell Crowther died, after nearly 13 years of service, leaving a record of useful work accomplished.

The same year, Mr. J. C. Butler, who, for 13 years previously, had been manager of the Try Boys' Society at South Yarra, was appointed to succeed Mr. Crowther.

**1923.** To further an extension of the Civic Centre in South Melbourne, the Committee sold the land on the western corner of Bank and Perrins Streets to the Government as a site for the South Melbourne Police Station and Court House. The price paid was £3,250.

On 28th November, 1923, the Asylum and its Manager were registered under Section 61, Part VIII of the Neglected Children's Act, as an Institution and a person respectively to whose care neglected children be committed.

### SCRIPTURE PRIZES

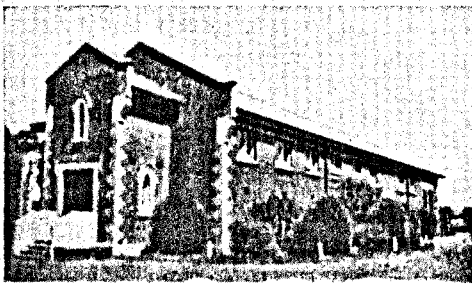
**1924.** It was during this year that Mr. E. P. Brooks generously placed the sum of £100 in the hands of the Vicar and Vestry of St. Peter's Anglican Church "in recognition of the excellent behaviour of the children in Church, and to encourage Scripture study."

The money was to be invested and the income devoted to the purchase of prizes for Scripture examinations. These are still held regularly every year.

### IMPROVEMENTS

During this same year a number of improvements, many of seemingly little importance, but in the aggregate, psychologically extremely valuable, were introduced. In an endeavour to get nearer the home life atmosphere, which was desired, bedside chairs were provided in the dormitories; small tables, each to seat six or eight children, took the place of the long, narrow table in the dining room of each cottage, and dining-room chairs replaced forms without backs. Crockery took the place of enamel

plates, and cups superseded enamel mugs. Serviettes were introduced; boys were provided with pyjamas in place of cotton night-shirts, and were permitted to have their hair cut in the normal manner, instead of being close cropped all over. Shoes took the place of boots for Sunday wear for the girls; mirrors were placed in all bath and dressing rooms with a special full-length glass for the senior girls to enable them to see that their dresses hung properly. The girls were encouraged to do fancy work, and a teacher was provided to instruct them, Church collection money was supplied to each child on Sundays. All these somewhat revolutionary ideas had a wonderful effect on the morale of the children, and have paid wonderful dividends in bright and happy lives ever since.



This Hall built in 1925, is used as a Gymnasium, Sunday School, Concert Hall and Cinema, and as an Assembly Hall for meetings of all kinds.

**1925.** In the succeeding two years, many important additions and improvements were made. The Committee decided that it would be better for the Superintendent and his family to live in a cottage within the grounds, rather than in "quarters" in the main building, as had hitherto been the case. Plans were prepared for a comfortable dwelling which was completed later in the same year.

At this time all laundry work was being done by hand by the senior girls. To lighten their labour, modern machinery, comprising a washing machine, hydro extractor, and rotary gas iron, was installed at a cost of £750. Coke-burning, hot water services were also installed in each of the cottages and the kitchen was remodelled and modernised at a cost of £700.

To meet the growing needs of the district, the Education Department proposed to extend the school on the east side of the existing building.

The Asylum Committee objected on the ground that this would bring the school buildings too close to the Asylum buildings. It was therefore decided to remove the gymnasium and the swimming pool from the western end, and extend in that direction. Several new class rooms were then added.

The purchase at this time for £1,200 of a property in Windermere Crescent adjoining the schoolground made a useful addition to the playground. The dwelling was removed on a jinker to a position further along the Crescent and has been revenue producing ever since.

**1925-6.** To replace the demolished gymnasium, a large brick hall was built at a cost of £2,000 in a new position adjoining the bungalow, and this building has ever since served as gymnasium, concert hall, Sunday School, etc.

About the same time the carpentry class was removed from its position in the schoolground to a new site close to the newly erected hall.

In 1926, the name of the Institution was changed from Melbourne Orphan Asylum to Melbourne Orphanage. As this change necessitated an alteration of the By-laws, and could be effected only by authority of Parliament, advantage was taken of the opportunity to further amend the By-laws to conform with the new Hospitals and Charities Act of 1922.

By this time radio had more or less come into its own, and £100 was spent in equipping the cottages for its reception. A Master Set was installed in the boys' cottage, and this supplied programmes by means of loud speakers in each of the other cottages. This plan worked admirably, but it had one disadvantage: if the girls did not like the programme approved by the boys, and they often did not, well — that was just there bad luck.

**1927-30.** During the next few years more important building additions were made. Extensive structural alterations gave the junior girls' and boys' cottages new dressing rooms and bathrooms, and the junior girls a new sitting room.

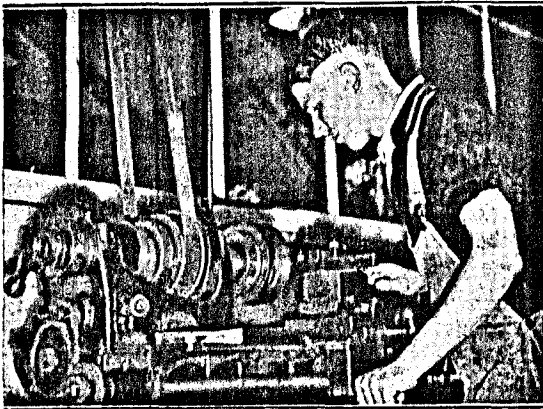
A new and larger swimming pool was built, a strong-room was built next to the office, and a sick room and staff room were added at the west end of the main building.



A cinematograph was installed and, for many years, provided the children with picture shows of the silent type, until sound films came and rendered the equipment obsolete.

### MR. A. H. HIGGS

During 1930 a Mr. A. H. Higgs began to take an active interest in the religious life of the children. He commenced by conducting musical services in the Hall on Sunday evenings, teaching the children new hymns and gospel choruses. Later a change was made to afternoon meetings, and Mr. Higgs became a leader in the Sunday School. At his suggestion Sunday School Anniversary Services were instituted, and the singing of the children became quite a feature.



Here is a lad at the turning lathe in the Engineering Shop.

After ten years of active interest, Mr. Higgs was compelled, through ill health, to give up this work, but he thoughtfully managed for his mantle to fall on the shoulders of Mr. Geo. Haisley, who has since carried on the good work.

Miss Greta Haisley for some years (until her marriage) assisted her brother as pianist in the Sunday School. Incidentally, Mr. Higgs has successfully filled the role of Father Christmas for many years.

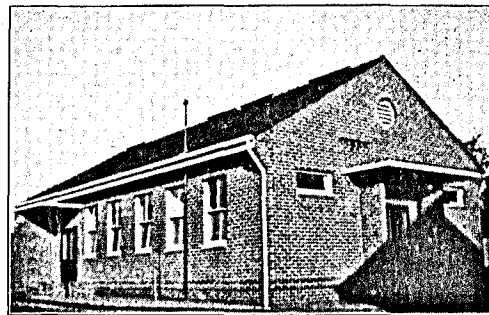
**1932.** In 1932, Mr. J. M. Joshua, then Managing Director of Bryant and Mays, by a gift of motor driven lathes, drills and other machinery, made the establishment of an engineering class possible. The machines were installed in the carpentry class room, and the new class was most popular. Seven years

later this room was demolished and a fine brick technical school erected in its place. The machinery was then transferred to this building. Many lads have found the training received in this school to be of the utmost value, and have either become apprentices or have found positions in engineering work shops which would otherwise not have been open to them.

**1933.** In 1933 a most gratifying expression of appreciation was received in the shape of a bequest of £1,800 from an old boy, William Loosemore, who, years before, had been sent to a home in the country and had been successful by hard work, and thrift, in securing a farm of his own.

### SECONDARY EDUCATION

**1934-5.** At this time secondary education began to receive more attention than hitherto. Most of the boys in the Orphanage were city bred and were not at all attracted by the prospect of life on a farm as their future. Many of those who were sent to the country, returned to the city as soon as their term was ended. Many of the girls, too, desired to fit themselves for some career other than domestic service. In 1934, therefore, it was decided that boys and girls showing special ability at school should be given the opportunity of continuing their education at either a Technical or High School according to their ambition. The first group consisted of three girls and six boys. They all attended Brighton Technical School, and the experiment proved sufficiently successful for it to become established practice. Every year since, boys and girls have attended either Brighton Technical School, Hampton High School, or one of the Business Training Colleges.



In this building, boys are given evening instruction in engineering and carpentry.

Some have passed on to senior Technical Schools, MacRobertson's High School and the Teachers Training College. They have become successful as engineers, school teachers, nurses and in city business life.

At the time of writing — 1951 — one girl is doing second year Psychology at Melbourne University, and a boy has commenced a Five Year Diploma Course at a Senior Technical School.

The experiment was well worth while.

Training children for business careers brought its problems, however, but these were satisfactorily solved. Trade apprentices could not earn sufficient to keep themselves, and a plan was evolved whereby their earnings were subsidised up to a living wage. Where there were no relatives, and board and lodging could not be provided by the employer, arrangements were made with private families or hostels with quite satisfactory results.

The year 1935 saw more important changes which affected three cottages. The new wing which had been added to the senior boys' cottage in 1917, provided accommodation for an additional 30 boys, but experience showed that this was not wise, if the idea of "cottage and home life" was to be retained.

The Annual Report of that year said:—

"We are anxious that our children should have nothing but the best, and have for some time recognised that conditions in the boys' cottage were not as satisfactory as they might be. There are too many boys living in the cottage, and the disparity in ages (7 to 15) is too great to permit of the best results being obtained."

It was decided, therefore, that the small boys — 7 to 12 — should be transferred to the infants' cottage, and the infants should be housed in a new cottage to be built especially to suit their requirements.

The senior boys' cottage was remodelled and more completely equipped to meet the needs of boys from 12 to 16 years.

### **TODDLERS' COTTAGE**

The new Toddlers' Cottage was planned on the most modern lines. As it was to be used by children from 3 to 7, it was single-storied, and was equipped with sun-room, sand pit, play

area, built-up baths, dormitory, floor lights, and everything that ingenuity and experience could suggest. As a matter of fact it has served as a model for a number of toddlers' cottages which have since been built elsewhere.

### **MEDICAL AND DENTAL CLINIC**

**1936.** In 1936 a plan for the annual medical examination for every child was inaugurated. A medical card system was introduced which showed not only the improvement made by the child each successive year, but contained his complete medical history, always available for reference. The plan has proved of the utmost value.

At the same time a dental card was introduced, which, with the regular and systematic examination and treatment of children's teeth, has been most helpful.

### **SUPERANNUATION**

**1937.** This year saw the introduction of a staff superannuation scheme. It was established on a basis whereby the Institution and the staff members each contribute fifty per cent. of premium payments. It ensures staff members the payment of an amount equivalent to one year's salary at the time of retirement; men at 65; women at 60.

The assistance of the Charity Organisation Society was this year enlisted to investigate all applications made either for admission, boarding out, or adoption. This service still continues, and the reports prove most helpful to the Committee in its deliberations.

### **INFANTILE PARALYSIS**

None of the Orphanage children was affected by the infantile paralysis epidemic which spread throughout Victoria this year, but it was a period of anxiety. Every precaution was taken against infection. Visitors were prohibited, and the children, for some months, were not permitted to go outside the grounds.

Arrangements were made whereby the school teachers conducted classes in the Orphanage for the higher grades, and set homework for the lower grades, which was done in the cottages and corrected at school. Some months of schooling, however, were definitely lost.

The mending of boots for 150 children, when each child has at least three pairs, is a major job, and, in 1937, a change was made from hand

to power finishing, by the installation of an electrically driven finishing machine.

### BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

**1939.** This year an additional room was added to the laundry block. The senior girls' bathroom in the Main Building, which had become hopelessly outdated, was remodelled at a cost of £200, and balconies were built at the junior girls' and junior boys' cottages, in order that the dormitories might be sub-divided, and thus permit of a better age group classification.

### AIR RAIDS

**1940.** The year 1940 and succeeding years were periods of anxiety and uncertainty because of war conditions. The responsibility of guarding the lives of 150 children pressed heavily on those in charge, and much careful thought was given to evolving plans for their security. It is interesting to note some of the precautions that were taken at this time against air raids.

(1) The Superintendent attended a course of A.R.P. lectures, and was appointed House Warden for the Orphanage.

(2) A direct automatic fire alarm to the local fire station was installed.

(3) The whole of the Institution was "blackened out."

(4) Five sets of trenches (one for each cottage) were dug, sufficient to hold 170 people. These were timbered, roofed, floored and seated.

(5) Inside, sheltered rooms on the ground floor of each cottage were prepared against night raids. All glass was shatter-proofed, and tables and mats arranged to act as protection for the sleeping children.

(6) Day and night air raid drills were prepared, and well rehearsed by staff and children until everyone knew just where to go and what to do.

(7) A plan of signals and alarms between the cottages was arranged, and typed lists detailing every person's position, during both day and night raids were issued to all members of the staff. In the event of an

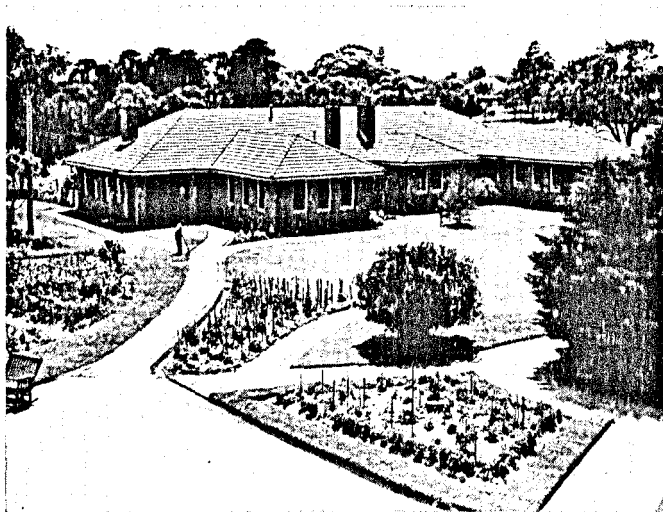
air raid, the children, each wearing a warm coat, and equipped with rubber mouth protector, cotton wool pads for their ears, and carrying water bottles and bundles of reading matter, could, in a very few minutes, be in their appointed places in the trenches or prepared rooms, accompanied by Staff members carrying First Aid equipment and emergency rations. The children were drilled at night as well as during the day, being awakened from sleep for practise drills, so that they might become familiar with the procedure.

(8) Provision was made for the removal of the children to adjacent buildings within the grounds in the event of damage to the main buildings.

(9) Every cottage was equipped with shovels, hoes, sand and water buckets, lanterns, sand mats, and soda acid extinguishers.

(10) A 20-bed self-contained emergency hospital, blacked out and shatter-proofed, was prepared, complete with dressing trolleys, splints, bandages, sterile dressings, etc.

(11) The concrete swimming pool, which holds 12,000 gallons, was kept filled to provide water in case of burst pipes, and an underground tank, containing 10,000 gallons, was also available in case of fire.



INFANTS' COTTAGE

This "homely" looking Cottage was erected in 1936 and houses 30 children between the ages of 3 and 7 years.



A typical group of today's girls and boys.

(12) Each cottage was equipped with a first aid outfit, and every cottage mother attended a course of first aid lectures.

Although a tremendous amount of work was involved, everyone was delighted when it all proved to be quite unnecessary.

### CHANGING TIMES — CHANGING POLICY

**1941.** In looking back over the years and noting the changes which have taken place in almost every aspect of institutional life, one feature is particularly noticeable — the change in the type of child dealt with.

The Asylum set out originally to help destitute Orphans, and, for many years, confined its activities strictly to this particular type of child. Gradually, however, the need grew for the admission of other children — neglected, deserted, ill-treated — who were not orphans, but who were desperately in need of help. Sympathetic Committees felt that the rules could and should surely be strained a little to assist them. Then, about the end of the Second World War, another

phase developed — the deserted wife, left with a family and no means of supporting it; or the husband deserted by his wife (while he was away at the war) and with no way of looking after his children. Again the rules were strained in the interests of these children. As the years have passed so these changes in the type of children being helped, have steadily developed until today it is safe to say that at least 80% of the applications for admission are the result of broken homes — divorces, desertions, neglect — rather than the death of parents. This state of affairs is reflected in the children themselves. Whereas in days gone by, children entered an Orphanage as a haven of refuge, today they come in, feeling hurt and resentful. They feel that they have been let down by their parents.

For at least a year or two prior to entering the Orphanage they have lived in and been influenced by an environment which has been wholly disturbing and unwholesome — emotionally and morally — an environment which has meant lack of restraint of any kind, and which

has rendered the transition to the orderly, disciplined routine of an Institution extremely difficult, both for the children and those who have to care for them.

With all this in mind, the Committee decided in 1941 to apply to Parliament for authority to alter the Constitution in order that these changing conditions might be legally covered.

Its application set out the following reasons:

1. In the course of its work the Committee finds itself hampered by the restrictive clause in its Constitution which permits of aid being given to Orphans only.
2. The Committee is continually receiving applications for the admittance of children who are neglected or deserted but are not Orphans, and it desires to obtain the authority necessary to enable it to assist these children by admitting them to the Orphanage.

The necessary authority was duly obtained, and the additional powers enabled the Orphanage to open its doors to many children who, under the old laws, could not have been assisted.

### CHILD ENDOWMENT

In 1941 the Child Endowment Act was passed, granting every child under 16 years of age in a

family, with the exception of the first, a weekly allowance of 5/-. It was during war time, and, as a gesture, the Committee decided that, for the time being, they would not avail themselves of the Government's generosity.

Nine years later, in 1950, this decision was altered and the grant was accepted. It has helped substantially in meeting the sharp rise in costs which had by then taken place.

### DIETARY

**1942.** In an attempt to improve an already high dietary standard, Miss Betty Wilmott, B.Sc., Dip. Diet, Melbourne University, was requested to submit a report on all matters pertaining to this subject. As a result of her recommendations, oranges, cheese, and a slightly increased butter ration, were added to the children's menu. Otherwise she expressed her entire satisfaction with the food supplied.

### PRE-SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN

The appointment of a pre-school kindergarten teacher was another step forward in the educational programme. Owing to the Education Department's decision to raise the school admission age to 5½ years, there are always from 6 to 12 children of pre-school age in the Toddlers' Cottage. The training given them is most valuable and enables them, in many



Girls and boys in 1951 ready to leave the Orphanage and take their place in the business world.

instances, to skip the first grade when they first attend school.

This year £400 was spent in the erection of a recreation room for the senior girls.

In the dental surgery, a complete modern set of equipment — chair, shadowless operating lamp, spotlight, fan and air compressor — was installed at a cost of £200.



The Orphanage has its own dairy herd—tuberculin tested. Here are some of the boys feeding calves reared on the Orphanage farm.

## REUNION OF OLD GIRLS AND BOYS

One of the happiest of ideas was the decision to invite old girls and boys to come back and spend an afternoon at the Orphanage once a year. In view of the difficulty of tracing many of them, the response has been most gratifying. At the first meeting there were over 150 present, some of whom had lived at Emerald Hill. On the second Saturday in February every year, for eight years now, about 150 old girls and boys, with their husbands, wives and children, have met to talk over old times and have a "cuppa."

## LEAVING AGE

**1943.** In 1943, after careful consideration, and following what had become the established practice of institutions in Great Britain, the age at which children left the Orphanage was increased from 14 to 16 years. The reason for this was, that, during those two years, a child's mental attitude and outlook undergo the most important changes. It gains a much better appreciation of mental and moral values than during school years, and is infinitely better equipped to take its place in the outside world.

## J. R. HARTLEY

This year, Mr. J. R. Hartley, an old boy, died. In his will, whilst leaving large sums to various Institutions, he stressed that special consideration be given to the Melbourne Orphanage, and that provision should be made for some memorial to be erected in his memory and paid for out of his estate. By agreement with his trustees, a Chapel, to be known as the J. R. Hartley Memorial Chapel, is some day to be built in the Orphanage grounds. The war and other attendant obstacles have so far prevented any definite steps being taken in the matter. "J. R." was one of the old boys who used to come and visit "Jeff" on Saturday afternoons.

**1944.** In 1944, another £1,000 was spent in improvements to the kitchen, and still another room was added to the laundry. The reason for these improvements was that, whilst the population of the Orphanage, perforce, remained practically stationary at 140-150, the standards of living were constantly improving. The children were not eating more food, but menus were more varied, necessitating more care and time in preparation. This, in turn, warranted more modern conveniences and equipment. The same applied to the laundry. For example, the boys in summer exchanged tweed suits for khaki shorts and shirts, and the girls were dressed in colourful washing frocks, all of which meant more washing and more ironing — hence, more room.

In keeping with this spirit of progress, the Annual Report for this year records that "every cottage now contains a wireless set, a piano and a library of books suitable for its age group."

## THE FARM

**1945.** From the beginning, the farm has been an important factor in the Orphanage scheme of things.

It has always provided a generous supply of milk and vegetables. The names of Burrows and Williams, two men who, between them, covered a period of nearly 50 years service, will recall memories to many old boys. In the early days the Dendy Street paddocks were nearly all cultivated, but when full-time attendance at school was made compulsory, and boy labour consequently became scarcer, the area was greatly reduced.

In 1945, Mr. Matthew Cathcart was appointed Farm Manager, and he was responsible for re-planting much of the long disused ground. In addition, he made poultry and egg production an important adjunct.

This year — 1951 — the farm produced milk valued at £1,062; eggs, £399, and vegetables, £488. Pigs sold realised £250.

### TOWER CLOCK

When the Orphanage was built, provision was made in the tower for a four-faced clock, and, in 1878, the minutes record that "Mr. F. H. Moule moved that a clock be placed in the tower." Nothing seems to have been done in the matter, however, but in 1944, 66 years later, Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Vary generously donated an electrically controlled clock and had it installed in the tower. At that time Mrs. Vary had been on the committee for twenty-one years, and, in 1951, is still a member.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**1947.** In 1947, through the interest and energy of Mr. George Haisley, an important alteration was made in Sunday School methods. Prior to this date it had been conducted as a children's church service, but with the assistance of a number of ladies and gentlemen as teachers, separate classes in the orthodox graded Sunday School manner were formed, and regular Scripture instruction given.

### STAFF QUARTERS

**1948.** This year, the cottage which had been under construction since 1946 for use as domestic staff quarters, was completed and occupied. Provision was made in this cottage for a spare room which could be made available for any old girl or boy from the country who might be visiting the city and in need of accommodation.

### SENIOR GIRLS' ROOM

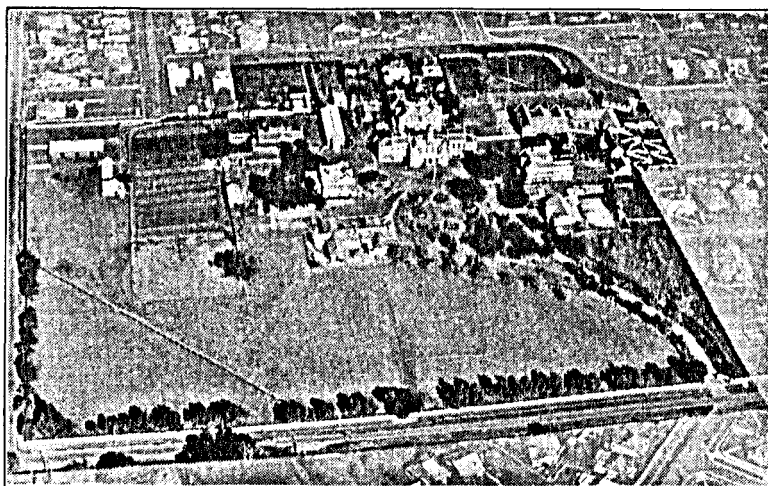
For very many years the senior girls at the Main Building had gone to the

junior girls' cottage for meals. It had long been hoped that some day separate provision might be made for them, and this year the wish came true. Two fine rooms were added to the Main Building, giving the girls their own dining and recreation rooms.

**1950.** In 1950, a number of improvements were made in the laundry and an electric drying tumbler installed, thereby lightening the work of laundresses considerably, and making them largely independent of weather conditions.

### MORE FINANCE

**1951.** It will be noted that no mention has been made of financial difficulties since the little trouble with Mr. Watt in 1909, and, whilst, during the intervening years, the Orphanage did occasionally experience a few lean periods, it was more or less free from financial worry. South Melbourne leases expired with gratifying regularity from 1910 to 1936, and, as the properties reverted to the Orphanage, so the rent roll grew. For some years the Orphanage was in the happy position of showing a credit balance at the end of each financial year, until the early forties when running costs suddenly took an upward turn. The credit balance became smaller and smaller until it finally vanished, and a deficit took its place. In the middle and late forties the tempo of rising costs grew faster and faster, and, during the last four years, whilst the Institution's



Aerial view of Orphanage grounds.



income, derived mainly from rents which were "pegged," remained practically stationary, expenditure increased from £15,245 to £22,191.

Two major steps were taken to remedy the position; firstly, application was made to the Fair Rents Board for an increase in rents; and secondly, it was decided to accept Child Endowment payments from the Government. The first step resulted in an annual increase of about £2,000 and the second of £2,900. In spite of this, the Institution's deficit, which grew from £1,934 in 1938 to £5,427 in 1951, seems destined to increase still further, unless, in some way, income can be increased, or the cost of living be substantially reduced.

It is a matter for regret that a review such as this should end on a depressing financial note, but we feel sure that, in the future, as in the past, a way will open up for this great work to be carried on for still another century.

### CONCLUSION

**1951.** So we come to the final year—1951.

Taking stock of the Orphanage as it is today, we find that it presents a pleasing picture: five groups of children living a happy family life under almost ideal conditions; every phase of their life catered for in a most complete manner—moral, social, physical, intellectual. They go to the pictures, their friends and relatives visit them and spend happy afternoons with them picnicking in the lovely gardens that surround the Orphanage; they have parties and picnics, they play games and sports, they are well fed and well clothed. In fact, they live their lives in much the same manner as the average child in an average good type Australian home, with the additional advantages of community life.

They are cared for by a staff of men and women who have their interests sincerely at heart, and are ever prepared to go out of their way to bring additional happiness into the lives of their charges. All this is the result of one hundred years experience.

During that period, over 7,000 children have been helped. Such work has been made possible, only by the efforts of men and women who, with a love of children in their hearts, were prepared to make sacrifices—to give of their time and talents in no unstinted measure, because they deemed it work that was well worth while. Those responsible for the management

have, in addition to the service rendered by a loyal and conscientious staff, availed themselves of the services of doctors and dentists, psychiatrists, and psychologists, skilled technical instructors, trained social workers, physical culture experts, trained kindergartners and spiritual advisers and guides. All have filled important places in the great plan of body, mind and character building.

Today, there are men and women in all stations in life, and in all parts of Australia, who have reason to thank God for the helping hand stretched out to them by the Melbourne Orphanage in their time of need.

The Orphanage has won for itself a place among the best of its kind throughout the Commonwealth. It has all the essential factors for carrying on its good work for another century—well-equipped buildings set in beautiful surroundings on an ideal site—a committee of men and women, officers and staff, imbued with the same ideals as their predecessors, believing that "mankind owes to the child the best that it has to give" and determined that it shall be given.

The Institution which simply confined its inmates for stated periods, and has no other interest in them than to see that they obey the rules, and comply with daily routine, is very far from effecting its real purpose.

On the other hand, the Institution that sets itself out to win the child's love and confidence, to see that it is surrounded with influence and atmosphere that will stay with it all its life, is a factor for good in the community whose value cannot be over-estimated.

### A PEEP INTO THE FUTURE

This story is mainly retrospective, but it would not be complete without some mention of the future.

As the aerial picture on page 29 shows, there are still dreams to be fulfilled—the J. R. Hartley Chapel to be built; a sports oval with cricket pitches, football ground, tennis courts, and a pavilion; a big play and hobby room adjoining the senior boys' cottage, and a new cottage for temporary cases where children can be accommodated for a few weeks "while mother is sick."

Dreams at present, but we feel sure that their realisation will not be very far off.



# **OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE, 1961**

## **PRESIDENT:**

Brigadier The Hon. R. W. TOVELL, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

## **Vice-Presidents:**

Mr. R. T. Breen  
Mr. Howard Wright  
Mrs. Mackenzie Brown

## **Treasurer:**

Mr. Howard Wright

## **Committee:**

Mr. F. Bruce Kemp	Mrs. A. G. Bignell
Mr. A. R. Partridge	Mrs. E. J. Borthwick
Rev. Norman Pfeiffer	Mrs. F. A. Hope
Mr. C. J. Pollock	Mrs. B. Trigellis-Smith
Rev. Frederick Porter	Mrs. E. Sutherland
Mr. T. Thornton Ward	Mrs. R. Whitelaw

## **Secretary and Superintendent:**

Mr. J. C. Janicke, B.A., Dip.Ed.

## **Assistant Secretary and Superintendent:**

Mr. R. J. Jenkins, B.A., Dip.Ed.

## **Matron:**

Mrs. I. Stockman

## **Assistant Matron:**

Miss V. B. Mills

# FOREWORD

**T**HE Publication "The First Hundred Years" in 1951 provided a very good outline of a century of service by the Melbourne Orphanage to the Community of Victoria. Now that another ten years have passed, the Committee believes that it is appropriate to reprint the "First Hundred Years," and to bring the story up to date.

It is felt that a great deal has been achieved in this decade, and that development has been so rapid, particularly towards the end of the period, that it is desirable to have this progress recorded now rather than to wait for many years to pass.

# THE NEXT DECADE

## *Being the Story of the Melbourne Orphanage from 1951-1961*

### TRENDS

It is interesting, perhaps, to note some of the trends that have become clear over these ten years. We find that in the Annual Report of 1951 the Superintendent at the time, Mr. J. C. Butler, commented on the fact that it cost £160 per annum to maintain a child at the Orphanage. He compared this figure with that of £19 per child per year in the period 1861-1871.

In 1961 we find that the cost of maintaining one child for a year is closer to £500 per annum.

We might also refer to the fact that in 1951 thirty-two of the children at the Melbourne Orphanage were State Wards. Today we find that approximately 75% of our children come into this category.

We note, also, that at the close of "The First Hundred Years" reference is made to the deteriorating financial situation. This trend continued until the financial year 1956-1957 when a considerable number of securities had to be sold in order to meet running costs.

However, since that time there has been a consistent improvement in our financial situation, and at the close of the decade we feel that the Orphanage is in a position where it can face the future with great confidence as far as finance is concerned.

Many steps have been taken in order to bring about this improvement in the financial position of the organization, and these will be dealt with as they occur in the details concerning our ten years of development.

Some words written in the One Hundred and First Annual Report could perhaps be quoted here—

"And so we fare forth into our second hundred years. Looking into the future of Child Welfare is not like surveying a fair country from a hilltop, rather it is like peering up a high mountain through a dense forest, and trying to catch glimpses

of the top to which we are so laboriously climbing. It is not easy to see the solution of some of the hard problems that will surely present themselves . . ."

It would surely not have been possible in 1951 to foresee just what methods would be used in order to solve the problems that face those running an organization such as ours, but it is quite certain that these steps have grown out of the first hundred years of development, and that the experience gained in that period, the efforts made and the success achieved have been major factors in determining the policy of the future.

**1951.** In 1951, on the 6th October, the hundredth birthday party of the Melbourne Orphanage was held. This was attended by past and present Committee members, past and present staff members, old girls and boys (with their husbands, wives and children), Members of Parliament, Mayors and Councillors, subscribers and local residents, and, of course, the children then at the Orphanage.

An interesting programme was arranged, and the Cottages were open for inspection. The children took part in the various displays shown to the assemblage of about five hundred people. The bronze Commemorative Tablet was unveiled by Lieutenant General Sir Stanley Savige, the founder of the Legacy Club.

**1952.** It is interesting to note that in 1952 there were eighty-two boys and forty-six girls in residence at the Orphanage, while in recent years the number of girls and boys has been much the same for each sex.

Mr. C. A. Rowell left the Brighton Beach State School as Head Teacher during this year. He was succeeded by Mr. T. D. Boyce, who also became a member of the Orphanage Committee, which position he occupied for many years. In 1956 he was followed by Mr. J. Spencer as Head Teacher, and the present Head Teacher is Mr. F. W. Glover. The relationships between the

Melbourne Orphanage and the Brighton Beach State School have always been particularly happy, and we have been very grateful for the considerable help they have been able to give us.

During 1952, also, the Victorian Council of Social Services began a system of staff training for young men and women in service in Children's Institutions. This scheme still operates, and many of our staff have received very valuable assistance from the lectures and guidance that have been provided in this way. It is to be hoped that in the not too distant future some more comprehensive system of staff training for workers in Child Care Institutions will be available in the State of Victoria.

**1953.** The Annual Report of this year states—

"A feeling of unrest has been very evident. A feeling that even though much good work has been accomplished it might have been better, and whilst we have endeavoured to move with the times, and have been ready to adopt fresh ideas if it were thought that they would improve our service to the children, perhaps we have not moved quite as fast as we should, or even as fast as we thought we had, and something should be done about it."



In the Rumpus Room at Bales Street.

In this Report the fact that we had at the Orphanage a number of big Cottages which did not lend themselves easily to the modern trend towards family group homes was discussed. Efforts had been made to adapt the big Cottages to home life, as near as possible, but the results were not considered to be adequate.

In this Report, also, the need for re-establishing and rehabilitating broken homes was discussed at some length, and it was obvious that the Committee was well aware that this sort of work must take a high priority in the work of any organization such as ours.

It was evident in this year that a number of children were going on to Secondary education, and that the aims and aspirations of the children generally were higher than they had been some ten or fifteen years before. This is a trend that has increased over the years, and we find now that the children generally realize that there is no position or profession in the Community which they can not achieve, providing they have the necessary ability and are prepared to carry out whatever work is entailed in reaching it.

**1954.** During 1954 a Social Worker was appointed to the staff, and it was claimed at the time that the Melbourne Orphanage was the first Children's institution to make such an appointment. It was during this year that the children began attending the Sunday Schools at St. Peter's and St. Leonard's Churches. Previously Sunday School had been conducted within the Orphanage grounds, but this move for them to attend outside Sunday Schools was indicative of the attitude that the children should take part in Community affairs as much as possible. It was also intended that they should participate in the various social activities connected with the Churches.

During 1954 Matron McCubbin resigned after fourteen years of service to the Melbourne Orphanage—nine as Cottage Mother and five as Matron.

**1955.** On the 26th of February of this year Mr. J. C. Butler officially retired as Secretary and Superintendent. He had given over thirty years of his life to this work, and it was with very sincere regret that he was farewelled by a large number of men and women prominent in Child Welfare in Victoria.

He was succeeded by Mr. L. M. Halliwell, formerly in charge of the Education Department Psychology Branch at Ballarat.

At this time the title "Windermere" was adopted as an alternative name for the Melbourne Orphanage, as the name Orphanage no longer correctly indicated the work that was being done.

It was in this year that a maintenance grant was first received from the Hospitals and Charities Commission, and this over the succeeding years has helped greatly with our finances.

The necessity for large scale repairs and replacements was felt very strongly at this time, as many had been delayed for a great number of years owing to financial difficulties.

The year 1955 also saw a large increase in the number of children attending Secondary Schools.

**1956.** This year saw some important changes, particularly with regard to the physical comforts enjoyed by the children. A large amount of money was spent on furnishings and amenities with the purpose of improving living conditions in the Cottages. To meet these costs it was necessary to sell certain assets in order to meet overdrafts, as had been the case over a number of years at this period.

Mr. L. G. Steel, who was Property Manager and Accountant for over twenty-one years resigned in May, 1956.

During this year, also, the Melbourne Orphanage Association was formed. This was an Association of old boys and girls, and of other interested persons, with the object of assisting young people during their first years after leaving "Windermere." The group remained active for a few years, but it was found that old boys and girls were scattered far and wide over the State of Victoria, and as they were absorbed in their own communities, their opportunities for meeting together were not as great as had been anticipated. However, the group still remains in existence, and if the need should arise, it is ready to become active once more.

It was at the close of this year that the system of holiday hosts reached its full development.

For some years the practice of accepting the hospitality of "holiday hosts" had been growing as a means of providing holidays for our children in the homes of private families throughout the State. The arrangements for 1956-57 school vacation were the best that had ever been made. All of the children were able to go away for a holiday in a private home.

This was of very great value to the children, enabling them to live for a short period at least in an ordinary family situation. Such arrangements involved a tremendous amount of work and organization, but the benefit to the children was felt to be so great that it justified the effort and expense. This system of holiday billeting has continued ever since on a large scale, with children spending school holidays, weekends, etc. with their holiday hosts.

Many of these have developed regular contacts, and in some cases when children have left "Windermere," in order to go out into the world to work, they have gone to live with their former holiday hosts.

During August of this year the death occurred of Mr. J. C. Butler, who had been in retirement for only a comparatively short period. His passing was greatly regretted by all associated with "Windermere," and the memory of his services will be an inspiration for many years to come.



Richards Street — in the Lounge.

In August of 1956 Mr. L. M. Halliwell resigned as Superintendent, and his position was taken by Mr. E. Bright, a former Head Teacher with the Victorian Education Department. Mr. Bright continued in the position of Acting Superintendent until 1st January, 1957. His wide experience and considerable organizing ability were of great value to the Melbourne Orphanage, and he has continued as an Assistant to the Superintendent until the present time.

**1957.** On the 1st of January, 1957, Mr. J. C. Janicke, formerly a teacher with the Education Department of Victoria, was appointed Secretary and Superintendent.

On the 8th of June, Lady Herring graciously performed the Opening Ceremony for the new modern cottage recently completed for the use of our Senior Girls. This was only the second major construction since the Orphanage was established at Brighton, so many years ago.

Towards the end of this year a very important decision was made by the Committee. It was decided that the old Institution would ultimately go, and that it would be replaced by a number of houses built in ordinary streets in the Waverley area. These would function as almost independent units, the children living in family groups of mixed age and sex in a situation as similar as possible to that of an ordinary child in his own home. This decision was reached after a great deal of discussion and investigation, and it was felt that the time had arrived for this important step to be taken. The Committee realized, of course, that there were many difficulties to be overcome, and that a great deal of additional thought and planning would be necessary before the scheme could be fully implemented.

**1958-9.** The years 1958-9 were perhaps the most exciting and stimulating period in the history of the Melbourne Orphanage.

A lively feeling of progressive achievement pervaded all activities and a bright new era dawned.

Firstly a determined attack was made on the hitherto unsatisfactory state of the financial situation. Under the enthusiastic and inspired guidance of the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Howard Wright, all sources of income and expenditure were closely examined and suitable adjustments made. These efforts, aided by a long overdue increase in rents on property, and the sale of the school site to the Education Department, enabled the Treasurer to show a Credit Balance for 1958-59.

The second forward move was the purchase of fourteen allotments in the Mount Waverley, Glen Waverley, Syndal and Oakleigh districts, in addition to a larger block at Notting Hill for future Headquarters. At the same time negotia-

tions were opened successfully with the Hospitals and Charities Commission to obtain subsidies towards the cost of erecting the proposed new Cottages.

In June, 1958, the Committee decided "to establish on an experimental basis a number of family group cottages." Following this, the work of drawing up plans for the first three Cottages proceeded with great care. The Architect, the Hospitals and Charities Commission and the Children's Welfare Advisory Council all made their contributions to the fine work being done by the Orphanage Sub-Committee appointed for this task.

Inevitably this planning took considerable time, but early in 1960 the building of the three Cottages commenced. By this time, also, the Committee was so satisfied with the soundness of the scheme that what had previously been regarded as experimental was henceforth to be regarded as a fully approved commitment. Naturally, consideration had to be given to the means of financing the new development, and it was decided to dispose of the very valuable land facing Dendy Street and Whyte Street, which had previously been used as farmland. The area was sub-divided; new roads, Butler Street and Lynch Crescent, were constructed, and very satisfactory sales of building allotments were made in 1958 and 1959. These land sales, together with others to come, will help greatly to meet the huge costs of the new development.

Other events of note which occurred during this period were that in 1958 Mrs. Stockman, who had been on the staff for many years, was appointed as Matron, a very popular choice.

Also, the growing ambitions and interest in education of our senior children, referred to previously, were manifested in the fact that in 1959 no less than thirty-eight of the boys and girls were attending High or Technical Schools, where they were generally gaining marked success, and were highly regarded by the school authorities.

**1960.** At the beginning of 1960, for the first time, a full-time Assistant Superintendent was appointed. Mr. R. J. Jenkins, a former Secondary Teacher with the Victorian Education Department, was chosen for this position, and very soon after his appointment was given the added responsibility of being Acting Superintendent during the absence of Mr. Janicke.

In April of this year, Mr. Janicke left for a six months study tour overseas, visiting countries in the Middle East, Europe and North America, in order to study modern methods of Child Care. The benefits of this tour to the Melbourne Orphanage were very great indeed, but it is anticipated that the full effect will not be felt for some years to come, because a great deal of the information which Mr. Janicke was able to obtain was in the nature of administrative detail concerning the new scheme in the Waverley district.

The end of 1960 saw three new houses almost completed, and ready for occupation early in 1961.

These houses are designed to accommodate ten children with the necessary staff to care for them. They are magnificent buildings, planned to be used as homes, designed to minimise house work and maintenance generally, and calculated to give our children the best possible living conditions.

**1961.** This year sees the beginning of the move from Brighton to Waverley becoming a fact. Thirty children are now living in three different houses scattered about the new residential area in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

Although it may be quite some years before the final move is made from Middle Brighton, we feel that this year marks a tremendous step forward in our efforts to provide the best care possible for our children.

A long felt need was fulfilled this year by the appointment of a Field Officer, whose main efforts are applied towards the rehabilitation of broken homes, so that children can be returned to their own parents under suitable conditions, and in other cases to prevent the breakdown of family life when possible. Closer contact with ex-inmates, foster homes, and holiday hosts is now possible.

## ELLIS ESTATE

It will be remembered that a very valuable Estate was left to the Melbourne Orphanage in 1882. Several of these properties were returning very low incomes, considering their capital value. In 1959 permission was obtained to sell some of these properties in order to re-invest the money in more profitable investments. This was done, and certain properties in St. Kilda Road, Carlton and Keilor were sold, and the monies obtained therefrom invested so as to return a more reasonable income.

## FINANCE

As we come to the end of this decade, we see the finance of the Melbourne Orphanage in a very healthy position. Of course, in our work of caring for children, we can spend an unlimited amount of money. There is so much that can be done. There are so many things we are not doing now that we intend to do in the future, that we can never say we have sufficient money for our purposes, but it is gratifying to note that the financial position has been stabilized, and that this organization is preparing for the decade ahead with great confidence. It seems rather obvious that the past ten years have marked a wonderful period of achievement and that, while in the ten years ahead progress may be more spectacular in the number of new buildings constructed, etc., it is on the basis of the past decade, and in fact on the past one hundred and ten years, that this progress will be built.

## APPENDIX No. 1

## PRESIDENTS

1856-1902 The Bishops of Melbourne for the time being:—

1856-1877 — Bishop Charles Perry  
1877-1886 — Bishop James Moorhouse  
1886-1901 — Bishop Field Flowers Goe

1902-1932 DR. J. P. WILSON

Dr. Wilson was a member of the Committee for ten years prior to his election as President, and thus served for 40 years. He died nine days after his resignation had been accepted by the Committee.

1932-1936 MR. R. W. B. MACKENZIE

Mr. Mackenzie joined the Committee in 1905; was Honorary Treasurer from 1910 to 1912; Vice-President from 1912 to 1932. He died in 1936.

1936-1940 MR. A. G. HARSTON

Mr. Harston was elected to the Committee in 1894; was Vice-President from 1933 to 1936, when he was elected President. He resigned, owing to ill health, in 1940, and died in 1943.

1940-1950 MR. ROBT MATHIESON

Mr. Mathieson was a Committee member for 30 years before he became President. He was Honorary Treasurer from 1930 to 1935; Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer from 1936 to 1939, and President for ten years before his retirement in 1950.  
1950-1951

BRIGADIER THE HONORABLE R. W. TOVELL,  
C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., M.L.A.

Brigadier Tovell was elected in 1950 and still holds office.

## APPENDIX No. 2

## HONORARY TREASURERS

This important and responsible office was held by one woman and eight men in 108 years, Mr. Charles Rennie holding the record with 42 years' service.

1853-1854	Mrs. Germain Nicholson	1 year	1930-1940	Mr. Robt. Mathieson	10 years
1854-1858	Mr. Badcock	4 years	1940-1947	Mr. H. P. Virtue	7 "
1858-1883	Mr. Germain Nicholson	25 "	1947-1952	Mr. D. R. McLean	5 "
1883-1888	Mr. Samuel Mullen	5 "	1952-1961	*Mr. Howard Wright	"
1888-1930	Mr. Charles Rennie	42 "			

\*Still in office.

## APPENDIX No. 3

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED FOR 20 YEARS AND OVER

As one peruses the records of the past century, an outstanding feature is the devoted service given in a voluntary capacity by men and women who served as committee members.

It is impossible to mention all but we can at least record those who served for 20 years and over, some to over 40 years.

## MEN

1857-1884	Mr. John Browning	27 years
1857-1887	Hon. T. T. a'Beckett, M.L.C.	30 "
1857-1881	Rev. R. B. Dickinson	23 "
1858-1888	Rev. D. MacDonald	30 "
1864-1888	Mr. Samuel Mullen	24 "
1872-1902	Mr. W. Small	30 "
1875-1909	Rev. S. C. Kent	34 "
1875-1906	Mr. W. B. Shaw	31 "
1886-1930	Mr. Chas. Rennie	44 "
1892-1932	Dr. J. P. Wilson	40 "
1891-1941	Mr. F. A. Moule	50 "
1894-1940	Mr. A. G. Harston	46 "
1905-1925	Mr. Donald McArthur	20 "
1905-1936	Mr. R. W. B. Mackenzie	31 "
1910-1950	Mr. Robt. Mathieson	40 "
1913-1941	Mr. H. E. Hall	28 "
1918-1951	Rev. B. C. A. Eva	33 "

## WOMEN

1853-1884	Mrs. Germain Nicholson	31 years
1853-1873	Mrs. McCartney	20 "
1853-1873	Mrs. Perry	20 "
1853-1885	Mrs. J. T. Smith	32 "
1854-1888	Mrs. Cairns	34 "
1857-1886	Mrs. Dickinson	29 "
1864-1889	Mrs. Dunn	25 "
1865-1891	Mrs. T. V. Foote	26 "
1866-1898	Mrs. F. G. Moule	32 "
1890-1919	Mrs. J. P. Wilson	29 "
1893-1928	Mrs. Howard Berry	35 "
1893-1928	Mrs. W. Macansh	35 "
1894-1923	Mrs. J. W. Groves	29 "
1895-1932	Mrs. J. Peacock	37 "
1898-1923	Mrs. Lee Archer	25 "
1899-1920	Mrs. F. Peyton	21 "
1900-1927	Mrs. J. Parker	27 "
1906-1936	Mrs. F. A. Down	30 "
1912-1935	Mrs. W. Hull	23 "
1923-1952	Mrs. M. Vary	29 "
1928-	*Mrs. G. Sutherland	"
1928-1956	Mrs. P. J. Kent	28 "
1928-1948	Mrs. G. L. Lukin	20 "

\*Still in office.



## APPENDIX No. 4

## HONORARY MEDICAL OFFICERS

Medical officers play a most important part in the success of an Orphanage. The health of the children is of paramount importance and the Doctors for their skilful and self-sacrificing work certainly deserve a place in this record.

1857-1877	Dr. F. T. W. Ford	20 years	1910-1919	Dr. A. S. Aitchison	9 years
1857-1860	Dr. Fletcher	3 "	1919-1934	Dr. Rod Aitchison	15 "
1860-1886	Dr. W. R. Clavey	26 "	1912-1956	Dr. W. McClelland	44 "
1877-1886	Dr. C. J. Tovell	9 "	1937-1947	Dr. E. E. Webster	10 "
1886-1896	Dr. C. N. Simons	10 "	1940-1961	*Dr. Alan Tate	"
1887-1911	Dr. W. Macansh	24 "			
1896-1911	Dr. Lionel Praagst	15 "			

\*Still in office.

Since 1954 a panel of local Doctors has attended the Medical needs of the children. It is not possible to list the names of all concerned, because many have been associated with Medical Clinics. Great assistance has also been given by the Medical Officers at the Alfred Hospital and the Royal Children's Hospital.

## APPENDIX No. 5

## HONORARY DENTISTS

1875-1889	Mr. Jas. Cummings	14 years	1931-1938	} Dr. J. Russell Shannon	11 years
1889-1919	Mr. F. A. Down	30 "	1948-1952		
1919-1923	Mr. J. E. Down	4 "	1933-1944	Mr. R. A. Campbell	11 "
1924-1933	Mr. F. A. Breidahl	9 "	1938-1953	Mr. Hartley Gibson	15 "
1924-1930	Mr. N. G. Wallace	6 "			

From 1953 to 1955 various local Dentists attended to the Dental needs of the children at the Orphanage. Since 1955 the Health Department has provided the services of the School Dental Service. Here again it is not possible to list the names of all concerned.

## APPENDIX No. 6

## SUPERINTENDENTS

Prior to the appointment of a Superintendent to direct the affairs of the Asylum, the Matron acted as the executive officer. In 1858, a Mr. Thompson was appointed. He appears to have held office for only twelve months, until the appointment of Mr. Edwin Exon in 1859.

1859-1909	Mr. Edwin Exon	50 years	1956-1957	Mr. E. Bright (Acting Superintendent).
1909-1921	Mr. J. Russell Crowther	12 "		
1922-1955	Mr. J. C. Butler	33 "	1957-	*Mr. S. C. Janicke
1955-1956	Mr. L. M. Halliwell	1 year		*Still in office.

## APPENDIX No. 7

## MATRONS

Up to the time that Mrs. Exon was appointed Matron in 1859, no record appears to have been kept of women who held that position. From then onward, however, a complete list can be compiled.

The important part that a Matron plays in the management of an institution cannot be overestimated. She has to carry responsibility cheerfully and efficiently; to wisely control a large staff of women; to economically manage the domestic affairs of an institution, and to exercise a firm but kindly discipline.

Her personality counts tremendously in her dealings with the children, and her influence is almost incalculable. She can be a very potent force in the little community over which she presides.

The Melbourne Orphanage has been uniformly fortunate in its choice of Matrons and owes much of its success to their skill and influence.

There have been thirteen in 100 years, and five of them covered 74 years.

1859-1892	Mrs. Exon	34 years
1892-1898	Miss K. Alma Wootten	6 "
1898-1908	Mrs. G. E. Mullen	10 "
1908-1911	Miss Esdaile Winter	3 "
1911-1912	Miss Florence Burke	1 year
1913-1916	Miss Louisa Butler	3 years
1916-1918	Miss E. M. Berridge	2 "
1918-1933	Miss M. E. Thompson	15 "
1933-1938	Miss Hilda Davies	5 "
1938-1939	Miss D. McNair	1 year
1939-1948	Miss E. V. Bamford	9 years
1948-1949	Mrs. I. Matheson	1 year
1949-1954	Miss Jean McCubbin	5 years
1954-1955	Miss Van Bergen	1 year
1955-1957	Mrs. E. J. Rogers	2 years
1958-	*Mrs. I. Stockman	

\*Still in office.

## APPENDIX No. 8

## ACTS OF PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NOTICES

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|---|--|
| <p>1863 January 20th.—Gazette Notice proclaiming the site of Emerald Hill as reserved for an Orphan Asylum.</p> <p>1875 March 1st.—Gazette Notice of the Incorporation of the Asylum.</p> <p>October 19th.—An Act to enable the Melbourne Orphan Asylum to sell and otherwise deal with land at Emerald Hill.</p> <p>December 3rd.—Gazette Notice of first By-laws of the Asylum.</p> <p>1900 August 10th.—Gazette Notice re Life Governors.</p> <p>1914 May 14th.—Gazette Notice amending By-laws.</p> <p>1923 February 28th.—Gazette Notice. Registration of Melbourne Orphan Asylum under Section 61, Part 8, of the Neglected Children's Act, approv-</p> | <p>ing the Asylum as an Institution to whose care neglected children may be committed.</p> <p>1925 August 26th.—Gazette Notice changing the name of the Melbourne Orphan Asylum to the Melbourne Orphanage, and amending By-laws.</p> <p>1928 July 25th.—Gazette Notice of amendment to By-laws re Life Governors and temporary appointments to committee.</p> <p>1940 September 30th.—An Act to extend the objects of the Melbourne Orphanage to the maintenance of destitute and needy children other than Orphans.</p> <p>1960 April 5th.—Gazette Notice authorizing the sale of land by the Melbourne Orphanage. (Certain land in the Ellis Estate.)</p> |
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