

## DANEBANK SCHOOL.

The children of Danebank Church of England Preparatory School, Hurstville, entertained their parents and friends at the annual Christmas Tree in the Masonic Hall, Hurstville, on Friday, 9th December. Miss Grace Overy, principal of the Meriden Church of England Grammar School for Girls, Strathfield, presented the prizes, which were given to the children for qualities of character suggested by themselves. Miss Zoe Benjamin, late Vice-Principal of Sydney Kindergarten and Preparatory Teachers' College, and lecturer in Child Psychology, Department of Tutorial Classes, Sydney University, gave a thoughtful and helpful address.

The Principal, speaking of the quality of education desirable in the school of to-day, said that world problems had led people to realise more urgently the need for a type of education which would safeguard democracy. As a nation the influence to the civilisation of the future depended wholly on the quality of education received by the children. Mere rote learning did not fit the child for a life of responsibility or community service. He had his own needs and nature and must attack problems which affect him directly or indirectly. The duty of the teacher to-day was not merely to send home from term to term a formal report of progress made in lessons, but rather to discuss from time to time observations made of the child's personality and development, both at home and at school. The progress of the child also should be measured not in terms of cleverness, but in terms of character.

At a meeting held at the school by a representative number of persons, it was desired that Danebank be a Church of England school. Later it was decided to form an auxiliary school committee, who would share the responsibilities of the school and interest themselves in the work, progress, and needs of the children. Mr. A. Hope, Chairman of Meriden Church of England Grammar School for Girls, Strathfield, gave his services as advisor. An annual scholarship of £12 a year for children of 13 years of age and under, has also been offered by the Principal and Council of Meriden to the school. The following received prizes: Patricia Webb, Olive Brown, Rosemary Crakanthorp, Yvonne Thorp, Moya Rau, Barbara Thorp, Shirley Jarman, Valda Stewart, Rosemary Simmons, Joyce Shepherd, Clement Cowan, Richard Rowe, Barry Middleton, John Middleton, Alan Day, Evan Hatch.

Richard Rowe, Barry Middleton, John Middleton, Alan Day, Evan Hatch, Alan Hislop. The function concluded by the children gathering round a huge Christmas tree, each receiving presents.