

IN THE CHURCHES

Challenge of Indecent Literature

IT is an offence against the Christian heritage that men and money are being wasted in the production, not only of Communist, but also of indecent and pernicious literature.

Archdeacon J. A. Schofield said this at St. Paul's Cathedral.

He was commenting on a statement by the bishops of the Province of Victoria that in India and South-East Asia bookstalls were full of Communist propaganda, but empty of Christian literature.

"From my own experience, there were formerly Christian printing presses busy in India publishing, not only Bibles and devotional books, but magazines, tracts and other literature setting forth Christian truths and principles," the Archdeacon said.

"It appears that these are now silent."

The Archdeacon said whether or not this was one of the results of the withdrawal of British influence, it called for a remedy.

Australia must find men and money to enable the Christian forces to accept the challenge and use every means to bring to the people of the East the knowledge of the only way of life that could bring true liberty, he said.

Abiding Values

FORMER members of Scots Church, Heidelberg, were in the congregation at the 110th anniversary services yesterday.

Rev. J. W. P. Gillan, recalled that the "people of Unwin's Special Survey" called Rev. Peter Gunn to this charge on December 5, 1843, and Heidelberg, or Warringal, as it was then called, was included in his

Warringal, as it was then called, was included in his pastoral charge.

"Who now speaks of 'Unwin's Special Survey,' and the name 'Warringal' applies almost only to the park and the cemetery," he said.

"What changes have taken place in this district, and the whole world in the past century and more.

"Yet through all change the Word of God abides and lives on. Only the

mind of Christ in His Church will ensure the proclamation of the Word."

Gift Customs

THE giving of gifts at Christmas came partly from the example of St. Nicholas, who gave dowries to poor people at the time of their marriage, Rev. J. McLaren said in an address to Young Christian Workers at St. Patrick's Cathedral yesterday.

Many false ideas were prevalent regarding Christmas.

Much had been achieved through a campaign on indecent literature. The public conscience had been awakened in all States. The workers' movement strove to lead young workers to Christ, and loyalty and obedience to Him and to its methods and technique were its keynotes. It aimed at community of purpose and a desire to oppose all evil forces threatening youth.

Members were missionaries in their daily lives.

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Christmas Spirit

IN England, during the war, two women were looking at a Nativity scene which a shopkeeper at Christmas time had used to fill a window because of the lack, then, of fancy goods.

Said one to the other: "Well, what do you think, they're bringing religion into Christmas now!"

Rev. S. J. Henshall, telling this story at Independent Church yesterday, said this was typical of the idea of a great many that religion was something quite apart from life.

"On the one side we put scientific discovery, modern achievements in every realm, and the normal, everyday happenings of life. On the other we put religion. And they don't meet," he said.

"We live as though God had nothing to do with the life of those He has created and with the world He has given us to live in."

Loyalty

THERE were basic reasons why the British subject should be loyal, not merely as a duty, but as a happy privilege, Pastor A. I. Mitchell said at a Seventh Day Adventist service at Dandenong on Saturday.

"The British Crown today stands for a very desirable standard of justice, freedom and civil and religious liberty," he said.

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Loyalty to the reigning monarch and those in authority was so commanded in the Scriptures.

A further reason that made loyalty a pleasure was that for a long time the British Empire had

been blessed with monarchs who, as worshippers of God, had developed those noble qualities of character which enabled them to reign with a spirit of love that bound them to their subjects in a definite way.

"By inheritance and training, our Queen Elizabeth has taken the sceptre, and reigns with the same truly great spirit," he said.

Youth Work

REV. Wesley Bligh, preaching at the anniversary service of the 1st Melbourne company of the Boys' Brigade, at Armadale Baptist church, said it was not enough for youth organisations to provide programmes for physical and mental development.

It was evident today that where no Christian teaching was given, the highest morality had small chance of coming to birth, but secular movements could be a danger to democracy.

"Impressionable youth will give loyalty to an adventurous leader.

"We need wise Christian training and education to give the conception of Christ as leader and guide," he said.