

A NIGHT WITH THE "B.B."

The Boys' Brigade in Victoria is as yet in its infancy, but it is a vigorous infant! At least, that was our impression as we watched the annual demonstration staged by the five Melbourne Companies in the Hawthorn Town Hall on Tuesday, September 28th. Nearly 100 boys took part in a well arranged programme, which took the form of a pageant portraying the 60 years of B.B. history. The producer was Mr. L. J. Sutton, of 3rd Melbourne Co., E. Camberwell. The commentator was Rev. P. E. Evans. The massed companies opened with the hymn, "Forth rode the Knights of old," prayer was offered, and the chairman made some introductory remarks.

In 23 scenes the history of the movement was deftly and convincingly displayed, from the first, which depicted the problem and Mr., afterwards Sir William Smith's, inspired solution, in 1883, down to the last scene, when the boys gathered for a brief Bible class session. The adoption of uniforms, the formation of Bible classes, the institution of camps, the outgrowth of the Scout movement in 1908; the part taken by members in the war, 1914-18; the reaching of the 100,000 mark in 1931; the Jubilee in 1933, all came into the story. The exhibitions of drill, physical training—including tumbling, pyramids, and parallel bars—and games, were all smartly done. A touching item was the one showing how the boys have risen to the occasion in the "blitz" in England—"B.B.'s" in A.R.P. costume giving realistic attention to a bomb victim. A very effective part was a description of B.B. in Singapore, China, Africa, N.Z., and Australia, but the Bible class scene at the finish was one of the best. The reverent attention of the boys, the real force in the message, and the hearty singing of the hymns, finishing with the "B.B. Vesper," concluded the evening on a very fine note.

Mr. R. B. Fraser, in his secretarial remarks, summed up the movement very neatly when he declared that the "B.B. was the first organisation for boys, and the best." The leaders are to be congratulated on the progress of the movement in general, and the success of their 1943 display in particular.—H.A.H.

"Witness"
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