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OCCASIONAL NOTES No. 3 DECEMBER 1946.
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ROODEPOORT.

C O N C E R N I N G

Ezenzeleni & Itireleng Blind Institutions
The Palmer Hostel for the Care of the Eyes
Kutlwanong Deaf - Dumb School.

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This Number will come out early in December (as our name implies we have no regular time of appearance, we appear when those responsible for us are stirred to make an effort), so it is our last 1946 bow. In many ways it has been a strenuous year, but not without some encouraging signs. When we show ourselves again in 1947 there may be GREATER NEWS, and real hope that the builders will get busy again so that we may have room for all who need the help our various institutions can give.

The number of welcoming letters received has cheered us a lot, Rotarians, Municipal authorities, and scores of lesser personalities (but none the less of equal importance) have asked for copies and given us names of friends. TO THEM ALL WE SAY:

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A REALLY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

And what about this for an idea:

You want to give a novel present to a friend. You send us 2/6, 5/- or whatever you like to enroll that friend as a subscriber to Ezenzeleni or Kutlwanong or both. When we send the receipt TO YOUR FRIEND we will convey your greetings, and you will have helped us start our

1947 Campaign for
AT LEAST 1000 NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

.... So in the words of little Tim

"GOD BLESS US ALL".

14,3,1,1

2.
KUTLWANONG

After the great meeting there were several things to finish off in the buildings, but all is now completed and they are ready for the move as soon as the problem of furnishing is overcome. It has been a great disappointment not to be able to take in those who are waiting - we now have the space but must collect the money for beds, kitchen and dining room equipment and so on.

The chief thing is that the buildings are paid for except the small retaining balance of £82. This is a great achievement for which we have largely to thank our many African friends in all parts of the country. Completed pages for the Founders Book continue to come in, and a few new pages have been asked for - watch the columns of the Bantu World for the next list. One very notable effort calls for a full report, here it is as received from our 'special correspondent'.

HOTSPURS SPLENDID EFFORT

A fine match between Hotspurs Football Club and Bloemfontein was played on the Callies Ground at Germiston on October 6th in which the home team proved to be the winners resulted in a very pleasant ceremony taking place last week at Kutlwanong. The match and its Curtain Raisers were arranged by the Hotspurs Committee with the kindly co-operation of the Germiston Callies, who loaned their ground for the occasion.

The result was that the splendid sum of £20 was handed by Mr. Mapanga, "Father" of the Club, to Mr. N.D. Keen, member of the School Board of Management who deputized for the Chairman in his unavoidable absence.

Mr. Mapanga was supported by the following Hotspur Committee members - Mr. W. Mabunga (Chairman), Mr. P. Mofokeng, (Captain) Mr. S.G. Mzizi (Secretary) who made a speech explaining how the money had been raised, Mr. J. Motsopi (Treasurer), Mr. E. Moabi, (Recording Secretary), and Mr. J. Makue, (Member of the Executive). The founder of the Club, Mr. S. Maseko was unavoidably absent.

After speeches of thanks by Mr. Keen and Mrs. Coyne, Principal of the School, the Hotspurs' page was added to the Kutlwanong Founders' Book, which records the gifts of Africans from all over the Union, which now total over £300. Tea was served in the new school, the visitors inspected the buildings and grounds, and then they were entertained to demonstrations of the work by the pupils.

Among those present at the ceremony were Mrs. A.W. Blaxall, wife of the Chairman of the School Board of Management, Mr. N.D. Keen Mr. Patrick Coyne, Scoutmaster of the Deaf Pathfinder Troop, Mr. Alfred Boshomane, Welfare Officer, Mr. and Mrs. J. Jolobe and Mr. P.S. Mokhudi, staff member and the pupils of the School.

It is hoped that other clubs and societies will take a leaf out of the Hotspurs book and another leaf out of the Kutlwanong Founders' Book and be inspired to do likewise.

SCHOOL NOTES: Tests begin December 2nd, The school closes December the 13th, the Christmas Party will be at the B.M.S.C. Sunday afternoon, December 15th.

EZENZELENI

The workshops will assume an atmosphere of an examination room on the 2nd of December when tests begin. The training centre will close Friday evening the 13th, the annual Christmas Party (arranged by the Ezenzelele Club) will be held Monday evening the 16th and the following day begin the long journeys to various homes.

During the past few weeks it has been unfortunately necessary to discharge three blind men for serious bad behaviour. It is inevitable that from time to time some men fail to use the opportunities offered for useful life but never before has it been necessary to discharge three in a short time. In two cases re-admission may be considered next year but the third man has been given two previous opportunities and now must make his own way in life. These cases are carefully considered by the Welfare Committee.

Turning to happier matters we have several good friends to thank for gifts of various kinds. Mr. Jack Feitelberg bought five mouth organs the other day and as he previously presented us with a gramophone and a portable organ we may say he has done much to enliven Ezenzelele as well as cheer those blind people with a musical strain. Our indefatigable Hon. Treasurer is nearing the target he has set himself - to secure £100 in new subscribers - up to date he has raised £98. The Garment Workers Union, No. 2 Branch have sent us a cheque for £100 which they say comes from a levy voluntarily agreed to among the members after they heard an inspiring talk from Mr. Walter Cohen. To all of these "THANKS A MILLION".

ST. DUNSTANS COTTAGE in which our blinded soldiers live. Heartiest congratulations to David Cebisa (he gave his eyes for his country at Tobruk) who was married at Lichtenberg on the 9th of October. Like a sensible man he only took a few days for the ceremony and has now returned for his final test in basket making. If he passes this successfully he will be transferred to Itireleng as soon as St. Dunstans Society can build a cottage for him and his wife. Our other soldier Sekoele Khiba is already feeling nervous at the prospect of being the only soldier living in St. Dunstans Cottage, but more of this next year.

PALMER HOSTEL

Since the 1st of October new patients have been admitted; 8 from Johannesburg, 17 from Hamanskraal, 1 from Rustenburg, 2 from Potgietersrust, 1 from Vryburg, 1 fromf Sekukuniland and 1 from Venterspost.

Mr. R.W. Bowen, M.P. Chairman of the National Council for the Blind, during a brief visit to Johannesburg came out to visit the Hostel on the 16th of November. He was accompanied by Miss I. Gillies. These distinguished visitors were greatly impressed by what they saw and Mr. Bowen said he was proud to be the Chairman of the Council which had helped our Society to establish this pioneer unit in preventive work. On leaving he gave Sister Babele 25/- to buy sweets for the inmates. On the 20th of November the Manager of the Odin Theatre Sophiatown invited the children of the Palmer Hostel to a matinee. It was an exciting afternoon; a ride in the train, all the wonders of this grand new theatre, and then the sweets and ice-cream purchased with Mr. Bowen's money.

Christmas is coming and our children are already beginning to wonder what it will bring them.

PROPAGANDA TOURS have begun in a small scale. A long week-end spent in Witbank brought us several new friends. Alas! we also saw several children in Witbank Location some deaf, some blind, some paralysed and mentally defective. It is really a national disgrace that there is no home to which such children can be sent. On the 16th of November a demonstration was given to the staff and students at Milnerton Institution. Our party consisted of four blind men from Itireleng, a deaf and dumb man from Kutlwanong, and Radcliffe from Ezenzeleni. Everything went well and we greatly enjoyed the refreshments after the show. Just before 11.0 all were packed into the van, the Superintendent took the wheel, switched on the engine and pulled out the stop for the light - but nothing happened, the darkness remained as intense as ever. To add to our joys a heavy rain was falling so the Governor of Milnerton generously suggested we should cut our loss and spend the night under their roof. This we did and are very grateful. It seems possible that real fruit may come from this visit as one of the students writes to say he is inspired to think about taking up training for work of this nature.

* * *

From time to time the Superintendent receives a letter which is really cheering such as one from a former sighted kitchen-boy who is now studying at Adams College, writing to ask if he can spend his Christmas holidays at Ezenzeleni.

"I am now really sick for the love to walk upon dear grounds of Ezenzeleni once more".

ITIRELENGWEDDING BELLS:

Saturday November 9th - Moses Tlaka happily concluded all the arrangements connected with an African marriage. The bride's home was at Middelberg but as she had friends at ROODEPOORT the wedding was conducted in the Lutheran Church there, followed by a very happy party in the Hostel Hall at Ezenzeleni. The happy couple returned to Hamanskraal on Monday the 11th to stay with other friends until a cottage can be built at Itireleng. Moses took a week unpaid leave before the wedding (so many are the details of preparation) so that he was ready to begin work again as soon as they reached Hamanskraal.

JOHANNES SEDUMEDI has twice visited Rustenberg in connection with arrangements for his wedding. Saturday November 23rd he took his 3 weeks annual holiday pay and went off for the final event. He says he will not return to work until the middle of January, and then will leave his wife with her relatives until a cottage is available at Itireleng.

PETROS KOLOANE of Heuningspruit in the Orange Free State appears less excited about his preparations. Having done most of the planning by correspondence he asked the Superintendent to withdraw the lobola money from his Savings and send it to his parents, he himself intending to be married during the Christmas holidays.

We wish all these young people every blessing in the years which are ahead, and we promise them to do all in our power to raise the money needed to build their cottages at an early date.

Having so much to do with these arrangements

for

for African weddings the Superintendent could not refrain recently from telling our men how great is the difference between marriage among English working folk, and African working people. The chief differences seem to be:-

1. An African marriage costs the bridegroom much more than his English mate. In African life it appears that the parents of the girl consider they are favouring the young man by allowing him to marry their daughter, and so they demand 'lobola' to ensure she is well cared for: in English life the parents of the girl are so glad to find a new home for her which relieves them of the task of keeping her that they give her a dowry to take with her (actually this custom has largely fallen into disuse, especially with poorer people).

2. In spite of all the expense attached to getting married the African workman invariably takes a lot of time off from work which means loss of pay. The English working man usually gets married on a Saturday afternoon, or on a Bank holiday, to avoid losing a single day's pay.

Ah well, whichever way it is, marriage is a great event in life, and a happy, God-fearing family, the foundation of a stable community.

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