

THE WHITECHAPEL HERALD

April, **A Light in Darkness.** 1924.

Whitechapel Primitive Methodist Mission.

CENTRES: 1.—Brunswick Hall. 2.—Working Lads' Institute & Home. 3.—Homes of Rest, Southend-on-Sea.

Superintendent—REV. THOMAS JACKSON, 279, Whitechapel Road, London, E. 1.

Assistant—REV. J. E. THORP, 279, Whitechapel Road, London, E. 1.

Whitechapel Mission's Debtless Freehold Property.



Institute and Home for
Friendless and Orphan
Lads.



Brunswick Hall is the Mission's Chief
Centre for Evangelistic & Social Work,
including Free Night Shelter, Soup
Kitchen, Penny Dinners, &c.



Belper House was presented to
the Mission by the late
Mrs. Jackson and her husband
as a Thank-Offering



Home of Rest,
Marine Parade, Southend-on-Sea.

We sincerely thank all
friends who have help-
ed us in the past, and
shall greatly appreciate
your continued kind
interest and support.



Holiday & Convalescent Home, No. 2,
Pleasant Road, Southend-on-Sea.

The Whole of the Cost was raised without
assistance from any Connexional Fund. . .

Superintendent's Notes.*Thomas Jackson.*

The experience of the past few months has been to me remarkably touching and gratifying. It has revealed the appreciation and admiration of a wide circle of friends in Primitive Methodism and outside our Church for the devoted and self-denying life and service in the East End of London of my dear wife, that has been a pleasurable surprise. It has been no easy exercise for me to reply to the hundreds of letters conveying expressions of warmest sympathy, and enclosing contributions in aid of our work, **"In memory of Mrs. Jackson."** Such a memorial is more precious to me than any costly monument in marble or bronze could be. Two dear friends, who have generously assisted our work for years, and who remember us from our earliest days in London, as an expression of their esteem for Mrs. Jackson sent me a cheque for £100. Truly our labour is not in vain for the Lord in Whitechapel, and there are many holding the ropes by prayer and sympathy, while I and my worthy and devoted colleagues are going down into the depths of slum poverty, crime, and sin. I wish my words could better express the deep gratitude I feel for all the kind sympathy and appreciation of my many friends. The Lord richly bless one and all for the kindness shown.

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Fears Dispersed.

At the beginning of last December we found our funds were several hundred pounds in debt, and the outlook was far from cheering for us. We feared many of our subscribers, owing to unemployment, bad trade, and other

unfavourable conditions, would be unable to renew their usual contributions. Then we thought of hundreds who were suffering privation, who are connected with our Mission, and those whom we reach in the slums by our several agencies. What should we do at Christmas to ease the pressure of want and depression for these needy ones, with an empty exchequer. Our need was made known to our Heavenly Father in prayer, and we remembered what He had done for us in years past, and therefore raised our *"Ebenezer."* The Annual Report was sent out to subscribers and the visit of the postman soon made it clear to us that prayer was being answered. An old-age pensioner sent his first week's pension; a widow sent us the few shillings she had found in her late husband's coat pocket; another donor had abstained from smoking tobacco for a week and sent us the money he otherwise would have spent; a little girl had her money box opened in which were her savings for Christmas, and instead of spending them upon herself asked her mother to send all to us; a friend sent five guineas in memory of the late Rev. R. S. Blair, five guineas in memory of Sir W. P. Hartley, and five guineas in memory of Mrs. Jackson. It was a means of grace to us to read the letters accompanying the gifts sent. Our fears vanished, preparations were promptly undertaken, and the hearts of all our workers were gladdened in knowing that the needed help was forthcoming.

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First Things First.

What gives us the chief satisfaction in our Mission is the evidence of the Holy Spirit working with us and the signs following. Our members and adherents, with few exceptions, come from the slums and lodging houses of the neighbourhood. As in the time of our Saviour, the common people hear

the word gladly. We can say of those attending our Sunday services and week-day means of grace, they enter heartily and with spiritual fervour into the worship and fellowship. I have met with instances in Primitive Methodism where Societies and Circuits have no class meetings. When I renewed the tickets to one of our Brunswick Hall classes in February last there were sixty-five members present to receive their quarterly tickets. Of the twenty members of that class who were absent, twelve were ill, so could not attend. If character rather than cash is considered, if attendance at the means of grace is accepted as a reliable indication of a relish for spiritual exercises and solicitude to live the Christian life, then we have abundant reasons to thank God and take courage.

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The Clothing Department.

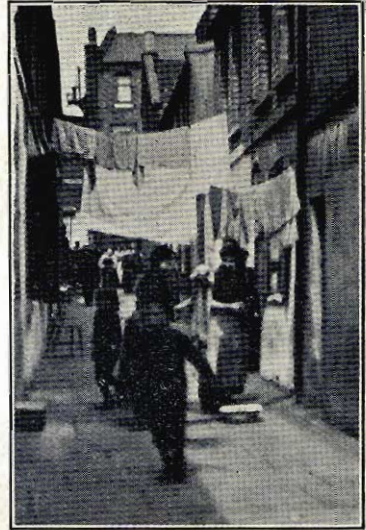


Sister Ruth.

The contents of many wardrobes reached us in time for Christmas distribution and were most welcome to us. Mrs. Thorp and the Sisters had a busy time. They were not subject to the eight hours day restriction. We do not follow literally the instruction of the

Lord Jesus, "Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away." We keep in mind Psalm cxii. verse 5, "A good man showeth favour and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion." By care and discrimination any increase in the business of the pawn shop and public house is avoided. The modern successors of Sister Dorcas on Whitechapel Mission have plenty of mental exercise when planning the work of distribution. If we were to listen to their conversation in the clothing department, we

should hear some interesting particulars: "This blouse will suit Mrs. —, who wants one badly; this dress skirt is just the thing Mrs. — is needing; this flannel petticoat will be a boon to old Mrs. — for she has hardly anything



Whitechapel Slum.

to keep her warm this cold weather; this jacket will about fit Mrs. — who is coming out of hospital in a few days; this knicker-suit and overcoat will just be the thing for little Teddy, who is so delicate and poorly clad." So the talking, planning, and parcel-making go on until the day for *broadcasting* arrives, and the result is, that the clothing gets into families greatly needing it, and who will make a proper use of it. Much time, thought, and labour have been bestowed in the distribution of these gifts our friends have sent us by Mrs. Thorp and the Sisters, and all concerned, donors and distributors, have the satisfaction of knowing that the clothing has been put to good use and has been a real help to the needy. We hope all our helpers, when they have finished their *Spring Cleaning* and stock-taking of their wardrobes, will kindly oblige by sending all useful surplus to 279, Whitechapel Road, London, E. 1.



Sister Frances.

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*One of our Day-in-the-Country Parties.
Will you help to send us from Whitechapel to the Forest this coming Summer?*

Christmas Cheer.

Of Christmas activities on the Whitechapel Mission we cannot quite adopt the words of Keble :

*"The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we ought to ask."*

Sending to several hundred families parcels of clothing, groceries, and vegetables; to 80 widows and old-age pensioners a sack of coal each; providing a treat for 1,000 poor children; a Christmas dinner for 200 homeless men; a meat tea for 180 women, a free night shelter for 60 to 70 homeless men each night; entertainment for 40 lads connected with the Home; catering for 70 visitors at the Southend Homes; dealing with a large correspondence, etc., etc., made Christmas, 1923, no *trivial round*. We could have asked for larger means and resources, whether we ought or not, if we had helped all we might or wished to assist. We were, however, deeply grateful to our friends for the means they supplied us with by their gifts, so enabling us to afford such extensive cheer and comfort to the poor and needy.

Generous Village Friends. - - -

Well done, Purton Primitives! Whether in town or village, when we come in contact with genuine Primitive Methodism we admire and enjoy it. Brinkworth Circuit has twenty village chapels on its plan, and it has been my pleasure to visit most of them. Camp meetings, prayer and testimony meetings, remind you of good old times, when we used to say and sing :

*"My willing soul would stay,
In such a frame as this."*

For some years past the friends at Purton and Purton Stoke have sent us special gifts of vegetables at Christmas, and this year a dozen well-filled sacks reached us. Some hundreds of families had their Christmas dinner improved by the contributions of our Purton friends. May their crops ever be good; their barns filled with plenty and overflow to Whitechapel.

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An Old-time Anecdote.

When calling upon a city gentleman, who has for years been a generous helper, he said, "Well, Mr. Jackson, what can I do for you." I replied, "Before I state the particular object of my visit, permit me to quote an incident recorded of Sir Walter Raleigh. On an occasion when visiting Queen Elizabeth, and asking a special favour, the Queen is reported to have said, 'Sir Walter, when are you going to cease asking favours of me.' The reply was, 'Please, your Majesty, when you cease granting them.'" "I see," said the gentleman, "You need say no more, I shall have pleasure in repeating my contribution of

previous years." He further remarked, "If at any time you should be in want of a situation, my firm will engage you as one of its travellers." So now I can be comforted by the prospect of becoming a commercial traveller, when I am of no further service as a Primitive Methodist Minister.

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An Enthusiastic Helper.

The little village of Cadnam, nestling in a lovely part of the New Forest, Hampshire, has its small Primitive Methodist Chapel. One good sister is the mainstay of our feeble cause and bravely keeps the flag of Primitive Methodism flying in the community. For years past she has provided an annual concert and sent the proceeds to us. This season Mrs. Snook has sent £9 for providing a tea and treat for 300 Whitechapel waifs and cripples, and a most welcome supplement to our Christmas specials the young people had through her generous help and that of the Cadnam friends. Several of the Cadnam girls had collecting cards and walked long distances in soliciting contributions. One girl walked two miles in rain and mud and was rewarded with a penny for her toil. Such devotion excites our gratitude and admiration.

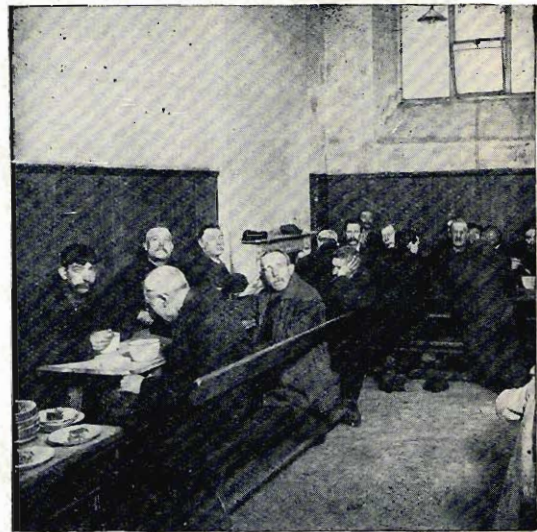
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Lest we Forget.

At the Conference held last June, in Liverpool, when speaking to the Report of the Whitechapel Institute and Home, I stated that what was being done for necessitous and friendless lads and first offenders the Connexion owed to Whitechapel Mission. An official of the Conference questioned this, and named Brudenell Road, Leeds. What are the facts? Let the following extract from the Whitechapel Herald of March, 1914, answer:

"A New Departure.

"The Trustees of the Walmsley Orphan Home have offered the freehold premises to



The Free Night Shelter. Homeless Men at Supper.

the Primitive Methodist General Missionary Committee. As the Alresford and Harrogate Homes are capable of meeting the present demands for the orphans of our Church, our opinion was invited as to the most practical use we, as a Church, could make of the premises if transferred to us. After ascertaining the opinions of Leeds Magistrates and the Probation Officer for that city respecting a proposal to open a Home for necessitous and friendless lads, we found that no such Home exists in the district, but that there was an urgent need for one. We accordingly reported favourably to the G.M.C. on the proposal to take over the property.

"The Alternative.

"The vital condition the G.M.C. laid down in deciding to accept the property was that we make the Home a Branch of the Whitechapel Mission. After carefully and prayerfully considering the question with Mrs. Jackson, we decided to accept the additional responsibility. Our need in consequence of this step is greater than ever. To meet it we bespeak the prayers, sympathy and generous support of our friends."



Homeless Men waiting for Brunswick Hall Free Night Shelter to open. During the past winter a total of 6,013 men were admitted.

Touching Bottom.

We don't like to call the man who is destitute and homeless "the bottom dog," "one of the submerged tenth," and the like. A man, who is starving, homeless, and in rags, is still "a man for all that." He was made in the image of God, and the Lord Jesus came into the world to seek and to save him. A man may be a successor of the *Prodigal Son*, but the Divine Father still owns him and wills his return in penitence to the home he had forsaken. Our message to the hundreds who have found a free night shelter in Brunswick Hall has been :

*"None need perish, none need perish,
All may live, for Christ hath died."*

The total record since Whitechapel Mission opened the first free night shelter for the homeless in Primitive Methodism is upwards of 21,000 attendances. The following items

relating to the past season's shelter work are given by my colleague, Mr. Thorp:—

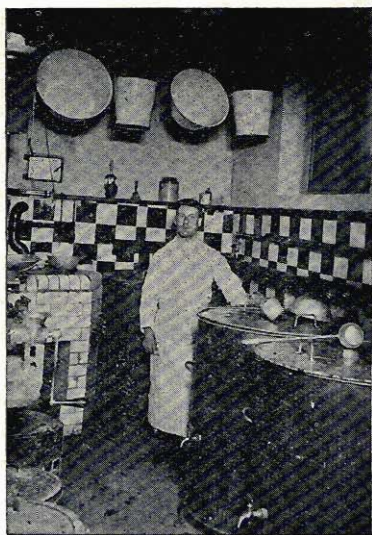
"A Refuge for the Homeless.

"A police census of homeless people in London has been taken recently. The number found sheltering in railway arches and sleeping on the Embankment showed a decided falling-off from pre-war days. This they attribute to the increased number of night shelters provided. This is undoubtedly the reason, for the distress of the past two winters has been acute to a degree unparalleled in the last generation.

"Among the night shelters, that at Brunswick Hall claims to be one of the best, and this winter has ministered to



Rev. J. E. Thorp.



Where the Soup is prepared for Penny Dinners.

a pressing need. The number who have found a refuge with us from the cold street has been 6,013, an average of 63 each night for three months, and this number could have been greatly increased, if our accommodation would have afforded it.

"A register has been carefully kept, and by following up some of its particulars a number of men have been rescued from chronic out-of-workness. A supper and breakfast have been given free to every man; the total of free meals being 13,636.

"During supper an opportunity was always taken for a heart-to-heart talk with the men; friends have dropped in to entertain with vocal and other items, and even the wireless has been turned on.

"Provision has been made for haircutting and mending clothes. Nearly 200 pairs of boots have been distributed free: for after all a man can stand better, both morally and physically, with boots on his feet, which don't drink. One of our workers has given first aid, so bad feet and old war wounds have received beneficial treatment.

"Hundreds of articles of clothing have been given out, and thus men have gone forth from Brunswick Hall looking better, feeling better, and in every way better fitted to face the struggle of the day.

"We secured work for nearly 100 men as sandwich-board carriers, setting the scale of pay ourselves: 5/- per day with meals and travelling expenses; not a sweated wage in these days.

"This work has been carried out extra to our usual duties, and has not only made big demands upon our time, but also upon our physical vitality. It has kept us working almost regularly till towards the midnight hour, and our working week in the White-chapel Mission is seven days.

"Needless to say it has ruined our exchequer, but as we look back upon the work and reflect upon its results, we know it has been worth while. Our object continues to be, to help "the least of these My brethren." We believe they are still in His tender regard and we do it all "In His Name."

J. E. THORP."

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A Penny Novelty.

A lady of title, when she heard of our Penny Dinners, was inclined to be doubtful as to their genuineness, and said with a rather severe expression of countenance, "And what can you give for a penny?" My reply was that we actually gave a hungry boy or girl a first course of good soup and bread, and a second course of jam roly-poly. Another lady of the same company asked, "How do you do it?" My answer was in the words of Philip to



I am having a good dinner for a Penny at Brunswick Hall.

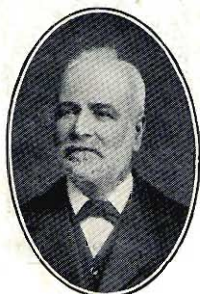


We do like our Penny Dinner.

Nathaniel, "Come and see." She came, saw, and tasted, and relieved her surprise by giving half-a-crown for what she had of our menu. From seven to eight hundred dinners have been supplied weekly and have been a great boon to the hungry. A gentleman, having seen the guests at one of the dinners, and after examining the food supplied, said, **"This is what I call practical christianity."** Well, if it was not in harmony with our conception of christianity, it would not be associated with our work. While politicians and a certain type of social reformers talk, talk, talk, and wax eloquent in saying what needs to be done, and what ought to be done, we seek to be practical and assist the needy, feed the hungry, and relieve the distressed to the fullest extent of our powers, remembering the words of the Apostle John: "*But whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him.*"

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That Bad Boy.



*Our Probation Officer,
Mr. H. E. Kinchin.*

If anyone had asked me sixty years ago and more if I was a *bad boy*, I should have said emphatically, no! Yet some people thought I was not a good boy, and I got occasionally into trouble by doing what others thought I ought not to do. Boys were boys then, and so they are to-day. It has

been our privilege for eight and twenty years past to give special attention to bad boys, so called, those who have lost parents and become homeless, those who have committed offences and got into the police courts, and those who have been

friendless and become destitute. The causes which have occasioned three thousand lads to seek shelter and a home with us are various. Heredity, environment, drink, vice, improvidence, and crime, are in the list of causes. In our Home we have mainly to deal with the effects of such causes. We have received lads, first offenders placed on probation from nearly every police court in the Metropolis, and from police courts in various parts of the country.

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Our Police Court Missionary.

Our assistant, Mr. Kinchin, devotes the whole of his time to rescue work. The extent of his labours during the past year may be judged by the following particulars:

Visits to Police Courts	500
Court Cases assisted, including those admitted to the Home	120
Visits to Prisons	30
Discharged Prisoners assisted	18
Borstal Cases assisted	12



We were Orphans and without a Home when Whitechapel Home befriended us.



We were sent to Whitechapel Home instead of Prison.

Visits to Employers re Situations for Lads ...	200
Visits to Parents and Guardians in respect to lads seeking Admission to the Home ...	60

These figures represent much of the work of our assistant, but there is also much that cannot be represented by statistics. The moral and spiritual elude the multiplication table.

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What we do with and for the Lads.

- Of the 103 Lads admitted to the Home during 1923:**
- 17 were in Residence on December 31st.**
- 8 had been returned to their Homes.**
- 12 sent to Situations in Yorkshire.**
- 5 sent to Country Farms.**
- 5 have entered the Mercantile Marine.**
- 4 joined the Army.**
- 1 sent to Australia.**
- 27 secured Employment and Private Lodgings.**
- 12 were returned in consequence of Physical and Mental Defects.**

9 returned to the Courts owing to unsatisfactory conduct.
3 Absconded and not since been heard of.

Our Efforts appreciated.

From many persons not connected with our Church, as well as from many Primitive Methodists, we receive expressions of commendation and appreciation for what has been done for this needy and unfortunate class of the community. *Our Annual Meeting* will be held on May 12th in the Institute at 3 p.m., when the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, the City Sheriffs, the Mayor and Mayoress of Stepney, the Ex-Mayor and Mayoress; Sir Stuart M. Samuel, Bart., Rev. J. T. Barkby, Alderman W. C. Johnson, L.C.C., Mr. J. D. Kiley, J.P., Mr. W. Tyler, J.P., and other friends have promised to be with us. It would delight us to see some of our Provincial as well as London subscribers present at this meeting. The financial aid of our supporters is greatly needed, and we are hoping that the subscription list for the Annual Meeting will be an inspiring one.

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Our Holiday Homes.

The Thirtieth Anniversary of the establishment of our Holiday Home work and the Twenty-second Anniversary of the opening of the Home of Rest, Marine Parade, Southend-on-Sea, will be held on Easter Monday. We expect a good meeting and shall have an excellent report of the past year's work to submit. The Anniversary of the opening of Holiday Home, No. 2, is held on Whit-Monday. These Homes are in all respects Con-



Mrs. Tyler, Matron.



Corner of Drawing Room, Home of Rest, No. 1.

nexional and are being used by Primitive Methodists from all parts of the country as well as from London. Needy cases are admitted and entertained at reduced charges, and, when necessary, free of all charges. Possibly the explanation of these Homes having received little notice in some Connexional quarters is because we have not a larger display of red-tape. Still the absence of this ecclesiastical adornment has not deterred upwards of one thousand adults from sharing the hospitality of the Homes during the past year. We trust none of our subscribers will hesitate to consult us in any suitable and needy case that we can assist. The Homes are open all the year round, and our Matron and her assistants strive to make all visitors *at home away from home*. We have accommodation for eighty-two adults.

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The Postmaster General's

Explanation. - - -

We have had to complain to the Postmaster General respecting several contributions sent by our subscribers not reaching us,

thus causing loss, anxiety, and misunderstanding. Under date Feb. 22nd we received the following letter from the Postmaster General :

" Sir,—With reference to your application at the Eastern District Post Office on the 14th December concerning the loss of remittances stated to have been sent to you, I am directed by the Postmaster General to inform you that, as a result of the enquiries which have been made, there is reason to fear that an officer of the Post Office, who is now awaiting trial on a charge of theft from the post, may have been responsible for the losses of which you have complained.

" The Postmaster General much regrets any loss, which you may have sustained. But, I am to explain that he is not empowered to accept any liability in respect of the loss of money (in which term postal orders and currency notes are included) in the post, unless one of the registered letter envelopes sold by the Post Office has been used for the enclosure of the money, and unless the letter has been tendered at a Post Office for transmission as registered (see pages 27 to 29 of the Post Office Guide)."



Dining Room of Holiday Home, No. 2, Southend-on-Sea.

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Important to Contributors.

In sending donations in future will our friends *cross all Cheques, Money Orders, and Postal Orders*, thus :—

BARCLAYS BANK,
MILE END BRANCH.

For safety, please send Treasury Notes in registered letter. If our friends will kindly observe the above, it may avoid loss and disappointment.

* * *

Eagerly Looking Forward.

"One day's holiday a year, and I am thankful for that," said one of our Whitechapel widows. The day's excursion to Southend-on-Sea, when one hundred and twenty of our poor women had a few hours freedom from toil and their drab slum surroundings, was to them a great treat, and furnished them with a topic for admiration and conversation for many days after. It seems but a crumb of comfort and pleasure these poor folk have, one day in three hundred and sixty-five, to get away from Whitechapel to breathe the sea air and to be charmed with lovely scenery, yet this is only possible by means of the help we can render them. We have not any misgivings about our friends not sympathising with our future efforts to give our needy and worthy neighbours a treat during the coming summer. The young people will, of course, not be forgotten. The Forest for boys and girls will be our objective for the day in the country excursion, and Foot's Cray, Kent, will be the centre for the Summer Camp, sleeping under canvas, bathing in the fast flowing Cray, romping in the meadow, assisting in the camp cooking, living the simple life, with sacred song, prayer, and addresses, making the spiritual profitably blend with the material, will afford good to body and soul, and several scores of Whitechapel lads will have what they term "*the time of their lives.*"

* * *

An Awkward Question.

One of the men, who had listened to the addresses my colleague and I had given in the



We like this change from Whitechapel.

Free Night Shelter at Brunswick Hall, and had been interested in what we had said respecting the late Dr. Jowett, met me in Whitechapel Road a few days ago, and said he would like to ask me a question. When told he could, he remarked, "Do parsons practise what they preach, Mr. Jackson?" "Why do you ask that question," I replied. "Well," he responded, "You told us 'a many fine thing' about that Dr. Jowett and the splendid sermons he preached, I suppose he would preach a fine sermon from that text, 'Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,' and look here (taking a soiled portion of a newspaper out of his pocket), his will has been proved, and he has left a bloomin' twenty thousand pounds." I urged him not to bother himself about Doctors of Divinity as we were not troubled with them in Whitechapel and the East End.

Not a few of the men, who had become so reduced in circumstances as to be grateful for the hospitality of our Shelter, were well educated, and when we pleaded with them to accept the *Sinners' Friend*, who was so poor when on earth as not to have a place of His own where to lay His head, would be capable of making comparisons with modern preachers and draw their own inferences. One night we found a man reading a book, and when



This is what we do to keep us fit and get strong.

asked what he had interesting, we were surprised to find it was a copy of "Virgil," in Latin.

* * *

Omit Verse 5.

It was my experience, when conducting service in a Church where many fashionably dressed persons were in the congregation, to displease one of the officials by requesting the worshippers to omit the verse of one of the hymns, viz. :—

*"We lose what on ourselves we spend;
We have as treasure without end
Whatever, Lord, to Thee we lend,
Who givest all."*

When in the vestry at the close of the service I was asked by the official referred to in a rather tart manner, "Why did you leave out verse 5 in that beautiful hymn this morning?" I replied, "Because, when I saw the offertory plates placed on the Communion table and noticed their contents, I concluded there were few in the congregation who honestly believed what that verse stated, and I was wishful to prevent them repeating what would be unreal and insincere." Our endeavour should be to lose as little as possible by spending on self, so that there can be more to lend to the Lord. We are "to bring all

the tithes into the storehouse." "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase." When this becomes the universal rule practised by worshippers, then verse 5 will not need to be omitted.

* * *

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 24, 25.

*Yours faithfully
Thomas Jackson*