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- Guides, Brownies, Teenies
- Scouts, Cubs
- Clothing Department
- Youth Choir
- Camps and Outings
- Sound Cinema
- Handicrafts
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- Hospital and Prison Visitation
- British Women's Total  
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- Social and Moral Welfare Work

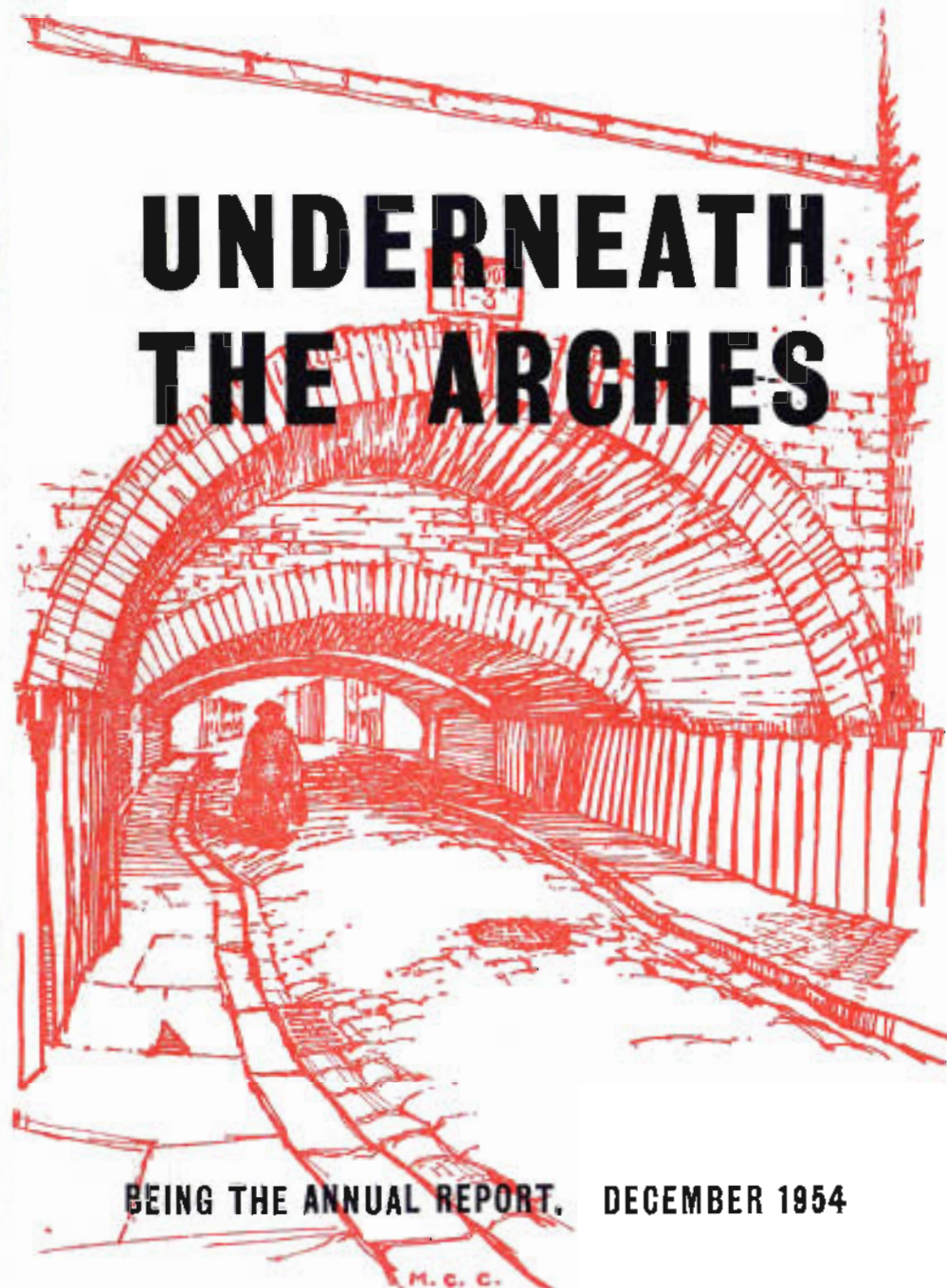
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**REV. A. E. D. CLIPSON, WORKING LADS' INSTITUTE**

**279 Whitechapel Road  
London E.1**

**THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION. FOUNDED BY REV. THOMAS JACKSON, 1886**

# UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES



**BEING THE ANNUAL REPORT. DECEMBER 1954**

M. C. C.

## THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

FOUNDED 1896

### Centres of Christian Activity

*Church:* Brunswick Hall, 210 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

*Working Lads' Institute:* Youth Centre, 279 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

*Holiday and Rest Home:* Southend-on-Sea. Tel.: 68206.

*Windyridge Farm Home:* Horkesley Park, Nayland, Nr. Colchester. Tel.: Nayland 332.

*Whitechapel House Hostel:* 153 Tulse Hill, S.W.2. Tel.: TULSE Hill 1391.

*"Bethany" Eventide Home:* Thorpe Bay, Essex. Tel.: Thorpe Bay 64073.

### The General Office is at 279 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED

*Superintendent:* Rev. A. E. D. Clipson. Tel.: BISHopsgate 8280.

*Superintendent's Secretary:* Mrs. G. Wilson.

*Clerk (Hon.):* Mrs. Walker.

*Deaconess:* Sister Molly Fishwick, BSc.

*Student-Pastor:* Malcolm F. Trew.

*Social Worker:* Miss M. E. Field.

*Solicitors:* Messrs. Butt & Bowyer, 14 National House, Moorgate, E.C.2.

*Auditors:* Newport Nelson & Co., 79 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

*Bankers:* Barclays Bank Ltd., Mile End Branch, 234 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

### Executive Committee for Whitechapel Mission and Working Lad's Institute and Homes

Revs. Percy D. Beckwith, Reuben F. Skinner, James E. Thorp, George Kendall, *obit.*, William Upright, C. Leonard Tudor, John Mainwaring, *obit.*, Dr. Irvonwy Morgan, MA, George E. Wiles, Lt.-Cmdr. Horace Denton, JP, *obit.*, Messrs. Ernest Rutter, John Lloyd, *obit.*, Henry H. Bowyer, John P. Everitt, Alexander McBain, Mesdames N. Doreen Clipson, Alice Harding, Alice Pruce and Dora Buck.

*Hon. Treasurers:* Messrs. Fred C. Yelland, FACCA, and Leonard G. Freeman, ARICS. *Superintendent and Secretary:* Rev. A. E. D. Clipson.

### Windyridge Farm and Home Management Committee

Messrs. Alexander McBain, Thomas England, S. W. Newman, M. Brunt, F. C. Yelland, FACCA, Rev. J. R. S. Hutchinson, Dr. W. A. Bullough, *obit.*, MSc, MB, ChB, DPH, Mrs. F. C. Yelland, Mrs. A. E. D. Clipson, Rev. L. S. Shutter. *Chairman:* Lt.-Cmdr. Horace Denton, JP, *obit.* *Secretary:* Rev. A. E. D. Clipson. *Medical Attendant:* Dr. R. H. Berry.

### Whitechapel House Hostel Management Committee

Messrs. J. C. Erskine Hill, DSc, BA, F. R. Bradshaw, F. C. Yelland, FACCA, H. J. Bolton, FACCA, John Lloyd, *obit.* Mesdames F. C. Yelland and A. E. D. Clipson. *Chairman:* Mr. Leonard G. Freeman, ARICS. *Secretary:* Rev. A. E. D. Clipson. *Medical Attendant:* Dr. Crosbie Walsh.

## UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES

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It is now many years since I sat in school entranced by the beauty of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Evangeline", but I recall with gratitude the impression made, particularly by the lines beginning—

"Thus on a Sabbath morn, through the streets, deserted and silent  
Wending her quiet way, she entered the door of the almshouse.

Distant and soft on her ear fell the chimes from the belfry of  
Christ Church,

While intermingled with these, across the meadows were wafted  
Sounds of psalms, that were sung by the Swedes in their church  
at Wicaco.

Soft as descending wings fell the calm of the hour on her spirit:  
Something within her said. — 'At length thy trials are ended'."

All the sheer loveliness of a peaceful Sunday morning, with the mellow resonance of distant bells trembling in the sunlit air is conjured up by these lines. Again I see the soberly-clad figures of old friends and neighbours, hymnbook in hand, making their way to the house of God through the brightness, the blue and gold and green of a summer day.

The sun shines in Whitechapel sometimes. The Whitechapel Road is lined with plane trees, so we have our bit of green; but off the road lie the streets, miles and miles of streets, narrow and grey—no blue, no gold, no green. And across the crowded houses, straddling noisily above the roofs, just a little north of the Road, lies the railway, carried on squat unlovely arches over Vallance Road, Brady Street, Cambridge Heath Road, — — .

Many of our friends here at the Mission have spent their whole lives in this neighbourhood, and some we count as amongst our most precious live under the very shadow of the damp and ugly brickwork which carries the railway. When a newcomer appears at a service and welcome is offered and enquiry made as to what address we shall write in the attendance book, like as not the first answer will be,

"Underneath the Arches", indicating that their abode is on the far side of the railway. And often, of course, we must make our way thitherward, away from the wide road with its lofty, graceful modern flats (economically as likely to be available for our people as Buckingham Palace), away from the tree-lined pavement, and in among the towering cliffs of old buildings, or the narrow streets with their monotonous rows of little grey cottages.

And here we have found some of the choicest of souls. As I write, I remember a woman, advanced in the eighties, lying in her one little room at the very top of an ancient building, reached by an incredible journey up a high stone staircase through many different but all equally unattractive smells. We missed her one Sunday, and when we called to find her suffering from a seizure, there was the pathetic little bunch of flowers which through the kindness of some friend in the country we had been able to give her when she came to her Class Meeting on the previous Thursday. That and a text of Scripture which was obviously highly prized were the two bright spots in that room. Not a word of complaint! She was sweetness itself. And the woman across the landing, of another country and another faith, was serving her with love and graciousness in her time of need. She had actually taken down and washed her own curtains and brought them in, also her own bed cover, to brighten up her neigh-

#### Blackwall Buildings

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN FINE



#### "ROOM UNDER THE ARMS!"

(The Clothing  
Cupboard)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN FINE

bour's room when we called again. If I could but have brought all my friends into that little room and let them share the beauty of that brief visit it might have counted for far more than many sermons, addresses and appeals.

Or another, in the seventies, brought back from hospital, having been treated for a broken leg, was taken upstairs to her room, which was cleaned up, and a fire lighted and a simple meal prepared in honour of her home-coming. "Never since I left home as a girl," she said, "never has anyone ever made me a cup of tea, or gone to the shop for me." And she pressed hard for payment to be accepted for those simple services, offering what I had good reason to believe was her all at that time.

Nor will I forget calling on the grandmother of a lad who was committed to our care, to find her, a victim of rheumatoid arthritis sitting by the side of the fireplace poker in hand, waiting to have a crack at the rats as they ran. Not all the dwellings that we visit are like that — by any means. — but many people there are, old and almost helpless, who have long since given up any hope they once might have had of deliverance from such unhappy environment.

#### "THE VERY THING"

(The Clothing  
Cupboard)



**CONCENTRATION**  
(The Youth Club)



**OUT OF MISCHIEF**  
(The Youth Club)

Children, too, come to us from "Underneath the Arches". — To Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Teenies, Youth Club, Sunday School, Lantern Services and Young People's Fellowship! Some with loving parents, anxious at all times to set before them the best, escorting them to our meetings and fetching them home again; others are less favoured. A young doctor from the London Hospital who gives valuable help in the Sunday School remarked the other day on the general good behaviour and clean and happy appearance of our scholars, and indeed most of them are loveable, and we have hope of retaining them so long as they remain within reach of the Mission. Unhappily, in a sense, the young folk tend to move out of the area at the first opportunity and we have to be satisfied to know that we serve as a "nursery" for other churches in more salubrious neighbour-

Music!  
Music!!  
MUSIC!!!  
!

(The Youth Club)



Time for a "Cuppa"  
at the Youth Club



**THIS IS HOW  
YOU START IT!**  
(The Handicrafts  
Class)



**THERE YOU ARE—  
FINE!**

**(The Handicrafts  
Class)**

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EISEL

hoods. To make some of our friends who live at a distance, and under very different conditions understand this is often difficult; nevertheless it is true.

The men who come to the Men's Meeting, and some of whom attend regularly on Sundays, have among them some whose smile and handshake tell of warmth and genuine appreciation of such little services as we are able to offer. On Good Friday, after our service one who comes consistently spoke to me, almost apologetically, outside. Had I seen the leading article in 'The Times' of Thursday? We take 'The Times', but I had not seen the article in question. When I turned it up it set me thinking about the one who had called my attention to it! That one who is denied so much should make his way to the warmth and shelter and free reading of the library is easily understood, but that he should seek out 'The Times', and read its leading articles and commend them to me is another matter, and gives one to wonder about his past life—too delicate a situation for

**Tuesday Morning Callers. Who is next?**

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN EISEL



**PART OF THE "MONDAY MEETING"**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN EISEL

**PART OF THE "WEDNESDAY MEETING"**



WHERE DO WE  
GO FROM HERE?

(The Handicrafts  
Class)



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LINE

probing as yet. It must suffice that he is in his place with the utmost regularity and a "good listener" at all times.

"Underneath the Arches" we have plodded, carrying our home-made street pulpit for open-air meetings, and on every such occasion our own people have stood with us, bearing their steadfast witness among their neighbours, often enough within sight and sound of their own dwellings.

Among these friends we live, we are in daily and almost hourly contact with them. They are dear to us. We feel that to withdraw from this part and deprive them of what this Mission has been offering for fifty-eight years would be unkind. Many changes have come with the passing years, but nothing has been introduced which can pretend to take the place of the Gospel. Whilst our work in all its branches is developing as you may see from reading this report.



Ruth — Our 1954 May  
Queen with Iris and  
Joyce in attendance

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LINE

"Teenies"  
Play-Hour



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN LINE

here at Whitechapel where it was begun, where we have our church and our many activities in the Institute, where the administrative work is largely done, where the teeming crowds pass by on the wide pavement outside, we stand to offer Christ, and in our work we are supported and encouraged by our brothers and sisters who share in our ministrations, into whose homes we have ready access, and in whose prayers we are constantly remembered — our friends from UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES.

*A. E. D. Clipston*

### THE GARDEN PARTY

In connection with the Home Missions' Anniversary I paid a visit to Branksome Methodist Church, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. The countryside was under snow and the roads were ice-bound, but all was warm within and we felt the Presence with us. In June it was my privilege to go again in very different circumstances, and with Mrs. Clipston. Our young friends had organised a Garden Party on the Saturday afternoon, as a result of which the Mission benefited to the extent of forty pounds. We are indeed grateful for their generous help, and for the happy memories we have of Parkstone. Now it is their turn to visit us!



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN FINE.

#### SOME OF OUR STAFF, OCTOBER 18th 1954

*Back Row:* Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Carter, Mr. Hetherington  
*Second Row:* Mrs. Beere, Mrs. Maskery, Mr. Maskery, Mrs. Clemants, Mrs. Mackender, Mrs. Hetherington, Nurse Mansfield (Honorary), Mrs. Pierce (Honorary), Mr. Hopwood, Mrs. Hopwood, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Walker (Honorary), Mrs. Tomlinson, Miss Shinn, Mr. Mackender.  
*Front Row:* Mrs. Wilson, Rev. A. E. D. Clipson, Mrs. Clipson, Sister Molly.  
*Absent:* Miss A. Simpson, Miss M. E. Field, Pastor Malcolm Trew.

## THE NEW "WINDYRIDGE"

By W. A. Bullough, Esq., C.B.E., M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.Ph.

In the 1953 Annual Report of the Whitechapel Mission, an account was given of the early stages of acquiring Great Horkesley Park, Nayland on the border of Essex and Suffolk, about six miles north of Colchester. This Probation Home is being transformed and equipped and organised to train thirty boys aged 17 to 21. These lads have been before the Courts and sent by Probation Officers all over the country for a maximum period of twelve months. Mr. Alistair Macdonald is the Architect and his final plans have been approved by the Home Office. Certain modifications were deemed necessary on the score of expense but the Home Committee are satisfied that when completed we shall have a very fine Home for the training and reclamation of these boys

#### Breaking Fresh Ground at Windyridge



About ten boys have been accommodated during the past twelve months and it is hoped that the alterations and additions will be completed in the early months of 1955. Endeavours are being made to have the official opening before Whitsuntide by a prominent public person.

The Management Committee of this Probation Home consists of the Chairman, Lt. Commander H. Denton, R.N.(Retd.), J.P., O.B.E., Rev. A. E. D. Clipson, Secretary, Mrs. Clipson, Dr. W. A. Bullough, CBE. Treasurer, Mr. M. Brunt, Mr. T. England, Rev. J. R. S. Hutchinson, Mr. A. McBain (our farm expert). Mr. S. A. Newman, Rev. L. S. Shutter and Mr. & Mrs. Yelland. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hetherington are the Warden and Matron respectively. The Assistant Warden, Mr. A. S. Maskery trains the boys in the Workshop, consisting of maintenance repairs and servicing of the farm tractor and other farm machinery. Mr. Carter, a Yorkshire Methodist, supervises the work on the farm including pig-breeding, poultry, and fruit and vegetables. Mrs. Maskery is the Assistant Matron and Mrs. E. Clement is the seamstress. Educational classes are given by Mrs. M. A. Cherry, M.A., of Colchester and this has proved most beneficial as many of the boys cannot read or write on admission.

Rev. J. R. S. Hutchinson, Superintendent Minister of the Colchester Methodist Circuit is the Chaplain and shares the spiritual work with his colleagues who come out and spend one afternoon each week with the boys and staff.

#### Part of Poultry Run— Windyridge



The progress of the boys is reviewed by the Lexden and Winstree Magistrates, who receive reports from the liaison Probation Officer, Mr. Norman Weston, who worked at the old Windyridge.

There are 25 acres of land including 3 acres of woodland, beautiful lawns and a one-acre walled-in garden. It is hoped to keep a herd of pedigree attested Friesian cows so that we shall be almost self-supporting. A pool has been cleared out and has been greatly enjoyed for open-air swimming. The view on the north side is one of the finest in this renowned Constable countryside and is bound to have an ennobling influence on these lads at their most impressionable age. Dr. Ralph Bates, of the Royal Eastern Counties Institution is the visiting Psychiatrist, whilst Dr. R. H. Berry is the Medical Officer.

THE NEW WINDYRIDGE was opened on December 4th, 1953, and up to September 30th, 1954 there had been nineteen admissions, boys coming to us from Cardiff, Blackpool, Chiswick, Coventry, Bolton, Waltham Cross, Reading, Southampton, Wandsworth, Cambridge, Mitcham, Maidenhead, Southend, Enfield and Derby. Of these nine have left, one returning to his own home, two into lodgings, one into the Army, one into the Navy, and one into the Royal Air Force, two to Borstal and one into a mental institution.

A.E.D.C.

## Whitechapel House

OUR Probation Hostel on Tulse Hill continues the excellent work begun in 1948, and on August 25th this year some recognition was given to it by the appearance of an illustrated article in the News Chronicle. In the year ending September 30th, twenty boys were admitted (there being a full complement of fifteen residents to begin with). During the twelve months eight were discharged to their own



Whitechapel House

home, six into lodgings, one into the Army and one into hospital, sixteen therefore being regarded as satisfactory. There were three who absconded and did not return to the Hostel, and on October 1st, 1954, we had sixteen on our books, one of whom was in hospital as the result of an accident, but happily back at the Hostel as this is written.

A bald factual statement such as this cannot possibly convey anything of the background from which the lads come, nor anything of the warm and homely atmosphere into which they are brought. It is tragic indeed when a lad breaks down during a period at such a place, for everything possible is done to inspire confidence and to give practical help. During this year we have had our disappointments, but we have seen a few lads go out having really made good; we shall miss their helpful influence and their happy fellowship.

## The Holiday and Rest Home

OVER six hundred people have enjoyed the benefits of the old Home at Southend during the year. We have had a large number of letters of thanks, and appreciation has been expressed by some of the local authorities who have sent elderly and convalescent people to us. What is to happen to this property is not yet known. Real efforts have been made in recent months to clear up the whole situation down at Southend, but for lack of capital we have not yet arrived at a solution, and opportunities have been missed. We shall still endeavour to keep the Home going and fulfil its purpose, but with a little backing we could do much more and with greater effect. All the renovation and expansion throughout the Mission in the past seven years has been justified, and everything is on a sound basis so far as we have gone. There is much more to be done, and it can

Holiday and Rest  
Home, Southend





equally be justified, but bills have to be met, and in this modern age finds an organisation like the Whitechapel Mission fighting to keep a foothold among big business houses, stream-lined industrial concerns and highly paid professional people, many of whom, however friendly they may be, have simply no conception of the aims and ideals of the Mission nor any idea how its work is maintained. If ever we are compelled to withdraw from any part of the field it will be a sad occasion and many will suffer. We continue in hope.

## Bethany

Our Report would indeed be incomplete without some reference to the Eventide Home, Thorpe Bay. Of all the many thousands of ageing women for whom no place to live in peace and comfort can be found there are eight living at "Bethany" who are happy and cared for. We have had many problems to face since we took over this property, and we have been put to considerable expense beyond our anticipation, but all doubts and worries vanish when one walks into that lovely little place and joins the family. Our aim is to make "Bethany" a home in the real sense of the word, placing as little restriction as possible upon any resident and encouraging their various modes of self-expression. As in other branches of the Mission staffing is a serious matter. We cannot afford high remuneration, and have to rely upon those who have a real sense of vocation and a love of the old folk. Miss Alice Simpson, a friend of some twenty years standing, is now in charge of the Home, and we expect ere this Report appears in print that she will have been joined by Mrs. Witham. We are very grateful to all who have sent their gifts for "Bethany" during the year.

## Planning Ahead

The disposal of all the Mission's properties at Southend-on-Sea and the bringing together of the Holiday and Rest Home and the Eventide Home under one roof and with one staff would be a tremendous



Enjoying the peace of  
Eventide (one absent)



THE FAMILY AT 279

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOAN FINE

Barry (left), Michael (right), Gerda and Christopher all join with us in extending warmest good wishes to all our friends. Doubtless many in former Circuits will be astonished to see how the "bairns" have grown, and will begin to work out how long since we lived among them. The record is easily recalled: Kirbymoorside (Pickering Circuit) 1931-1934, Shipley 1934-1940, Edgworth (Bolton Wesley Circuit) 1940-1943, Bradford Central Hall 1943-1947, Whitechapel Mission 1947. The four probationary years, 1927-1931, were spent at Highley (Kidderminster Circuit). The writing of this brief paragraph has evoked many happy memories of choice friendships which have stood the test of time. We are deeply grateful for them. Greetings and thanks to all

We are indebted to Michael for our cover design.

improvement. The Holiday Home has served a good purpose through many years, but it is getting beyond repair. It stands on a site which should have good value. The Eventide Home should sell well at any time. There is no thought of dropping the work of either of these branches, but we have long since realised how much better they could be worked in one large block. It is our aim to find such premises, and to seek ultimately the merging of the two homes on a sound and economical basis.

Whether we can hope to do all that is outlined above and then go on to deal with the situation at Whitechapel is debatable! Nevertheless it is clear that something should be done before many more years pass. The Working Lads' Institute in which this is written, and where we live, has served a great purpose over a period of nigh on sixty years. Most of our weekday meetings and activities are held in the building. For the work of a Mission in these days it is badly planned—indeed, it is not planned at all, but is haphazard. There are VERY many steps to be negotiated by young and old. (We live up sixty-nine). Lighting and heating are of necessity heavy charges. It is a very sound, good building standing on a most valuable site, but it cannot be adapted really to suit our purposes except at prohibitive cost. Ultimately the sale of the building will have to be contemplated.

The times and the nature of the Mission's work demand an up-to-date block, well-lit, warm and ventilated, all under one roof, and with all rooms easily accessible without a lot of dangerous climbing. It would, of course, cost a lot of money, but when our assets in the present buildings are considered (as at Southend) it would not cost too much. We are held up in all our planning by the lack of capital. With a few thousand pounds we could not only bring all this about, but we could soon have established sound economies. After a committee meeting the other day a friend said to me, "I do not know what Thomas Jackson would have said of the figures that were mentioned today, nor what he would have said if he could have addressed the meeting". Neither do I. I often think of that good man and his mighty faith. This I know. If he were with us today, his alert mind would be leaping ahead, he would be alive to all the possibilities of the situation, he would be moving not only with the times, but ahead of most of his brethren, as he was in the days of his flesh. The best way of honouring his memory is by carrying forward his great work. Will you help us to do this? Thank you!

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN FINE

THE OPEN  
DOOR OF 279



## HOW YOU CAN HELP US

1. **PRAY FOR OUR WORK AND WORKERS.**
2. **SEND A DONATION NOW.**
3. **HAVE A COLLECTING BOX** in your home.
4. **BECOME A COVENANTED SUBSCRIBER** which method of giving nearly doubles the value of your gift. We will gladly send you particulars.
5. **MAKE A LEGACY IN YOUR WILL.**  
(See form of bequest below).
6. Arrange in your Church :  
(1) **A GIFT AND TOY SERVICE.**  
(2) **A CAROL PARTY.**
7. **SEND PARCELS** of Clothing and Shoes.
8. **ASK FOR A MISSION SPEAKER** for one of your meetings.

### Form of Bequest by Will

For the guidance of friends who may desire to make bequests for the general work of the Whitechapel Mission, we append the following form of bequest.

I Give and Bequeath to the Superintendent, for the time being, of the Whitechapel Methodist Mission, 279 Whitechapel Road, London, E.1., for the use of the said Mission, the legacy or sum of £ (free of duty), and direct the said last mentioned legacy or sum to be paid within twelve months after my decease from the proceeds of my real and personal estate, but primarily out of my personal estate, and the receipt of the Superintendent shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

**NOTE** The Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1891, enables Testators to give by Will for the benefit of any charitable use not only pecuniary Legacies, but also tenements and hereditaments of any tenure.

The Will must be signed by the Testator at the foot or end thereof in the presence of two independent witnesses, who must sign their names, addresses, and occupations, at the same time, in his presence and the presence of each other.

If you have already made your Will, kindly add a Codicil directing a Legacy to the Whitechapel Mission.