

NEW METHODIST CHURCH AT MARCH.

MEMORIAL WINDOW UNVEILED

The old wooden church at March, with which is associated the early history of Methodism in the little village, has been sold for removal to an adjacent orchard, where it will be converted into a packing-shed. Alongside the ancient place of worship has recently been erected a fine new brick edifice in keeping with the progress of the Methodist Church at March, which is one of the strongholds of that community in this district. The new church, which was officially opened on Sunday, is substantially constructed on approved lines, and will accommodate about 150 people. The contractor was Mr. W. Johnstone, who has done his work admirably and most expeditiously, whilst the plans are from Messrs. Conrock and Bates' office. The cost of the work is about £600, and only about £60 is required to free it of debt. The secretary to the project was Mr. Ben Griffith.

On Saturday afternoon the foundation-stone was set by the Rev. G. H. Holland in a position left for the purpose in the front of the building. The attendance was representative of the March-Clermont district. The Rev. G. H. Holland spoke of the pleasure such a duty as laying the foundation stone gave him, as it signified progress. He congratulated the members of his congregation on the commendable step they had taken in erecting a new and up-to-date building, which he trusted would be the means of extending the work of God in their midst.

The Revs. A. Stumms and J. Thomas also spoke, and then Mr. E. Griffith traced the history of the church at March. The National Anthem and Doxology were next sung, and tea followed.

The ceremony of unveiling a memorial window to commemorate the death of one of March's heroes—Corporal Gerald Griffith, killed at Messines on June 5th, 1917—took place on Sunday afternoon.

The Rev. G. H. Holland called on the Senior Circuit Steward, Mr. Stanley Hicks, to unlock the door of the building. After Mr. Hicks had complied he declared it open for the worship of God. The people then flocked in until it was crowded, amongst the number being Mr. and Mrs. W. Griffith, parents of the deceased soldier, and many relatives. Sir Neville Howse and Dr. Colvin, with a detachment of returned soldiers representing the Orange R.S.S. Club, occupied seats near the pulpit. Mr. Austin was organist.

Sir Neville Howse, who was invited to unveil the memorial window, said he had much pleasure in doing so on behalf of his brother diggers. He feelingly referred to the late soldier, and expressed his sympathy with the parents. The deceased was a good sport in field games, and was favorably known to all. He had obeyed the call, and was more unfortunate than some of them. On June 5th, in one of the most successful Australian battles, he had died, facing the enemy. There was no shirking there—they had followed their captains, as described in the hymn just sung. Sir Neville traced the early preparation of the Germans for

just sung. Sir Neville traced the early preparation of the Germans for a world-war and also of their frightfulness. They spoke of the Turks as practically heathens, but they were men they were glad to meet in war, because they treated the prisoners well. He condoled with the members of the deceased soldier's family, and reminded them that he had done what their Master had done before—given his life for the people.

The flag having been drawn from the window, Mr. J. Taylor sounded "The Last Post."

The Rev. G. H. Holland then delivered an address, in which he said there was deep yearning and longing to know something of the hereafter, and many would gladly tear down the veil to know something of the hereafter. There was a longing to be in touch with those who had gone to meet their Master, and that was why some had sought to gain knowledge from Sir Conan Doyle's spirit-untilled teachings. But the Bible taught them they would always be surrounded by mystery. God moved in a mysterious way, and their whole surroundings were wrapt in mystery. As they got nearer to the Saviour their hearts and their eyes were opened, and they could see that God's mystery was love. He hoped all would see the vision and hear the call to "come up hither."

The rev. speaker remarked that they had laid aside the old church, and ushered in the new. Some of those present had taken part in fashionaling the timber of the old building, and old associations were there. Some had been taken as children to be dedicated to God, and now they would take their own children to the new church. Longing the old and coming into the new was a step forward. He concluded by thanking the people for their generosity, especially those responsible for the memorial window and the large reading Bible.

This is the time of the year to cleanse the blood—clear the brain and gather renewed energy; place the system on a new basis—Nyn's Spring Sarsaparilla will do it—2/6 a bottle, Alleyne Farr, chemist, Orange.