

New Methodist Church at Eastwood

On Saturday, 17th inst., the new Methodist Church at Eastwood was opened and dedicated by the President, Rev. W. N. Lock, M.A., B.D., in the presence of a densely crowded and overflowing congregation. In declaring the church open the President said that the enterprise of the Eastwood people in deciding to build in spite of the war conditions was most commendable. It showed a firm faith in God and the future worthy of imitation by all. Having been presented with the key of the building by the architect, the President, accompanied by the minister, Rev. Wm. C. Fullerton, the trustees, and a large number of

visiting ministers, entered the church, and the dedication service was proceeded with. The opening prayer was offered by the Rev. T. M. Taylor, B.A., Chairman of the District, and the Scripture was read by Rev. H. W. Woodhouse, Secretary of the Conference. The occasional sermon was preached by Ex-President R. H. Campbell, basing his remarks on Psalm cxvi.:6: "Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." He said that the instinct of worship was universal. Every country had shrines, temples, or cathedrals, buildings of rare beauty and immense cost, designed by architects and erected by builders with a sense of a divine commission. The universe is the presence chamber of God, glorious with the majesty and beauty of mountain and of sea. The temple of Solomon was a wonderful example of strength and beauty. Ruskin wrote that every city might have a somewhat similar building by combined and persevering saving.

Strength and beauty should be the dominant notes of the Christian character, and our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the supreme example.

The choir, under Mr. A. Osborne, rendered suitable music. Mr. S. Lowry contributed a fine solo, "Open the gates of the Temple," and Mr. E. Roulston ably presided at the organ.

After the dedication ceremony, an adjournment was made to the schoolroom, where the Ladies' Church Aid and the several organisations of the Church had provided a sumptuous tea. Between four and five hundred sat down, and all remained

four and five hundred sat down, and all remained to a short but excellent concert, the visiting artists being Misses Daphne White, Frith, and Rogers, Mr. Ritchie, and the Fivedock Quartette Party.

The beautiful church was made more beautiful by many gifts. Stained glass windows were given by Miss Whitfield (in memory of her father, George Newton Whitfield); by Mr. and Mrs. Betts (in memory of their daughter, Winice Gledhill); by Mr. and Mrs. Meredith (in memory of their daughter Nancy); and by Mr. and Mrs. Shave (in memory of their father, Arthur Somerville Buchanan). The communion table is the gift of the

Davidson family (in memory of their sister, Mrs. M. A. Crapp). The communion rail in the church is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Irwin (in memory of their son, Bruce Hamilton Irwin); and the communion table in the chapel is the gift of the Order of Knights. The Senior Order of Knights gave the collection plates. The hymn board is from Mrs. Crosby (in memory of her husband, Rev. E. E. Crosby, B.A.) The lectern in the chapel is a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Howlett (a thankoffering for the safe world journey of their daughter, Muriel Grace Howlett). The Honour Roll is from Mr. and Mrs. Barnwell and family.

The vases in the chapel are from Mrs. Boyd. The beautiful and complete outfit of carpets is the gift of the Ladies' Church Aid, and the men of the church are donating a bell, as soon as it is available. A large proportion of the cost of the modern lighting fittings is a gift of Latham and Sons, Bathurst Street, Sydney.

HISTORICAL NOTES

About thirty years ago most of the Eastwood district was in possession of three families. But since then the growth of the district and of the number of Methodist residents has been such that the new church is the third erected on the same site.

The first Methodist service in Eastwood was conducted in 1913 in the School of Arts by Rev. E. E. Crosby, B.A., of Ryde, at the request of Messrs. Allardice, Carter, Badman and Frost. In 1914, under the superintendency of Rev. B. Lane,

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a fine site was secured. Messrs. T. Olds, F. P. Badman, R. Dunstan, and A. Jarman were appointed trustees, Messrs. G. N. Whitfield, E. F. Lawson, E. Lymer, G. A. Winter, W. E. Witheford, and C. S. Allars being added at a later date. Vacancies on the trust have been filled by the appointment of Messrs. E. A. Best (secretary), M. R. F. Vickery and J. W. Taylor (treasurers), J. Armour, W. J. Shave, R. C. Watson, O. F. Osborne, C. W. Slater, C. S. Kentwell, P. Williams, V. M. Dibley, Spencer Jones, G. Clarkson, and H. W. Barnwell.

In 1917 Rev. W. H. Howard was appointed to Ryde Circuit, and steps were taken to erect a small church. A larger church followed in 1923, under the leadership of Rev. Wm Brown. In 1924

Eastwood attained the dignity of a separate circuit, the Rev. P. O. Davis being the first minister. He has been followed by Revs. T. M. Taylor, B.A., F. Walkden Brown, W. M. Robson, and the present minister, Rev. Wm. C. Fullerton.

THE BUILDING

The photograph of the interior gives a general impression, though it is not possible to give any impression of the breadth of the building in a photograph. The start of the choir, which has accommodation for 60 singers, can be seen on the right. To the right of the choir (but not in the picture) is a prayer chapel, which is fitted with turn-over seats, so that it can be used as part of the general church seating.

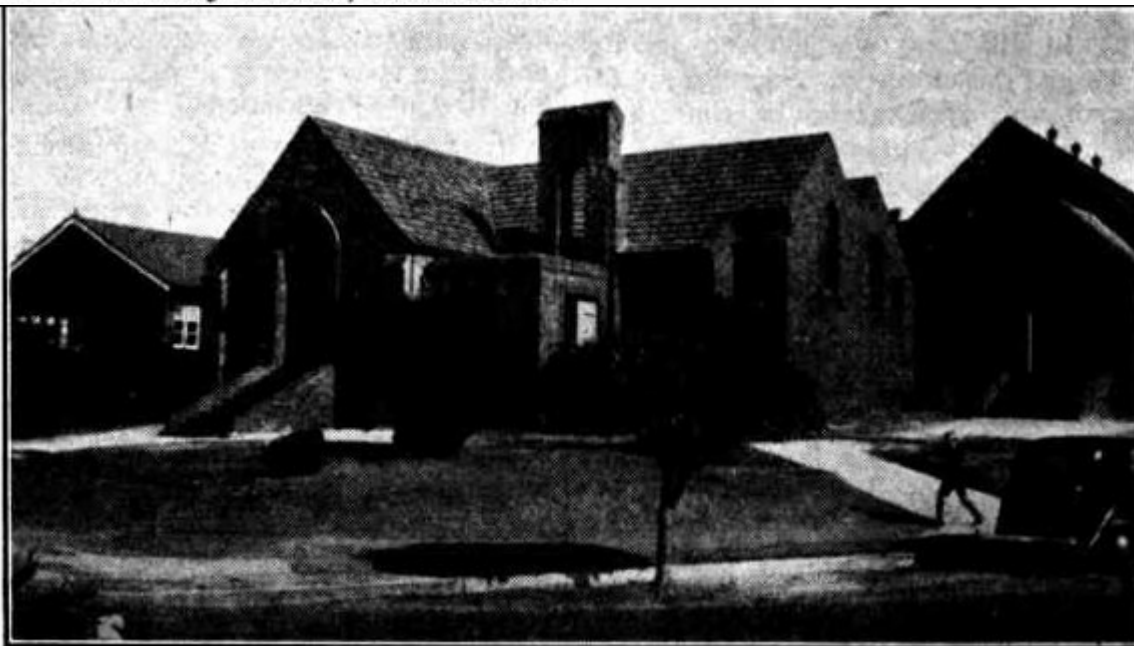
The picture shows a structural method of roofing a space 52 feet wide by 70 feet long, by means of short-span trusses giving an interesting and massive architectural effect, and avoiding the sprawling result of a low-pitched, wide-span roof. Three hundred people are accommodated in permanent comfortable seats, while there is ample floor space for another hundred. There were 500 people in the building at its dedication.

The walls are of cream-toned "Punchbowl" face bricks; the roof timbers of heavy natural Cypress pine; the panelling, joinery, seating and furniture of Australian silky oak, and the floor of tallow-wood. Columns and beams are structural steel encased in oak.

The photograph of the exterior shows the general "build up" of the building.

The photograph of the exterior shows the general "build-up." The main porch door is the centre of the picture, with the belfry rising above it, in which a large bell is to be hung next week. The ceremonial door, for festivals, weddings, etc., is on the left of the picture. The building on the right is the large hall, which has been extended and given a new front. The bricks are local brown face bricks.

The architect was N. W. McPherson, of 350 George Street, Sydney, and the builder W. G. Wilson, of 49 Stanley Street, Bankstown.



NEW CHURCH AT EASTWOOD.





INTERIOR OF NEW CHURCH.