

METHODIST MEMORIAL KINDERGARTEN HALL.

OPENED ON SUNDAY.

The new Methodist Kindergarten Memorial Hall was officially opened on Sunday afternoon by the President of the Methodist Conference (Rev. W. A. Langsford). The building of the hall was the outcome of a meeting that time, had done nothing as regards the erection of a memorial to the fallen soldiers connected with it, and the superintendent of the Sunday school called a meeting for the purpose of discussing a proposal that had formulated itself within him. Being of the opinion that the hall in which the children received their first religious tuition was too small, he placed before the teachers his scheme—the erection of a suitable building for a dual purpose—a fitting memorial to old scholars who paid the supreme sacrifice at the war, and a convenient hall in which to teach the young. After thoroughly discussing the matter the teachers unanimously agreed to Mr. Pope's suggestion, and decided to put the matter before the trustees of the church. At the same time they guaranteed to the trustees to raise £500 of the necessary money. The trustees gave their consent, and work was commenced, and by means of fairs, &c., the £500 was secured, but only by hard work and loyalty on the part of teachers and scholars. Tenders were let to Messrs. Webber and Lemar, and on June 21, the foundation stone was laid in the presence of a very big crowd by Mrs. John Dunn, sen.

Perfect weather favored the officials on Sunday afternoon, and as a result there was a very big crowd to witness the ceremony. The scholars were marched from the old building to the new, and the opening service was sung, after which the Rev. C. Doley (minister in charge of the Mount Barker circuit) introduced the President of the Conference. To

many he said it was unnecessary to introduce Mr. Langsford, for 16 years ago he was stationed at Mount Barker, but the boys and girls of the Sunday school did not know him. The Rev. Langsford was very fond of children, and it was always a source of pleasure to serve them, and all extended him a very hearty welcome. All were glad that the new hall had come into being, and it would stand for a long time as a memorial to the

fallen boys who formerly attended the Sunday school. He had much pleasure in asking Mr. Langsford to officially open the hall.

The Rev. Langsford, in opening, said that he had been present at the laying of the foundation stone of the building, and he was very glad to be present and to take part in the opening. During the past year he had been present at many openings of churches, and laying of stones, but he did not think he had seen a better constructed or more suitable building than the one he was to open that day. He congratulated the superintendent of the school and the children on having such a fine memorial hall; he complimented the builders on the excellence of their work, and he considered the trustees very fortunate at having such a handsome structure added to their property. He said the idea of a fine large hall for the children was an excellent one. The various corporations and district councils were nearly all setting aside a piece of land as a playground for the children of the respective towns, for the purpose of physical benefit. Medical men were doing their best to teach parents to bring up their children in a healthy manner, and the church was attending to the spiritual needs by erecting halls similar to the one to be opened for the purpose of giving the little ones their first spiritual training. In years to come the kiddies of to-day would be very proud of the hall, and he hoped that they would never forget what they learned inside in their early days. He had very much pleasure in turning the key and opening the hall.

The children and the public all moved inside the building, where a memorial window was to be unveiled. This was presented by Miss Hay Thomas, who at one time was a scholar and teacher in the Sunday school. The window is of a beautiful design, depicting Christ laying His hands on the children, and illustrating the text, "Suffer the little children to come to Me, and forbid them not." The school is very grateful to Miss Thomas for her window.

After reading a letter from the rector of Christ Church (Rev. A. H. Reynolds, M.A.) wishing the hall every success and enclosing a donation, the Rev. Doley asked Dr. R. D. Bartram, who is a returned soldier, to unveil the window.

Dr. Bartram said it was a great pleasure to him to perform the little task, and thanked them all for the honor conferred on him by asking

ask, and thanked them as for the honor conferred on him by asking him to do so. Miss Thomas had represented the window as a memorial to former scholars who had fallen in the great war. Later on boys and girls might ask what the window was for and they would be told, and he hoped they would never forget what they were told of the sacrifices made by scholars who had in times past attended the same school. The window had other meanings, but primarily it was donated as a memorial to the old scholars. He had very great pleasure in unveiling the window.

The assembly stood with bowed heads out of respect to the fallen, after which Mr. F. W. Ellis ably moved a vote of thanks to all concerned, and this was seconded by Miss Myra Pope, superintendent of the kindergarten.

The hall, which is a well-constructed stone building, is ready for use now. The room itself is a very large one, measuring 42 ft. x 24 ft., and the porch is 17 ft. x 7 ft. The ceiling is constructed of white fibrous plaster, panelled with dark oak, and is prettily designed. The cost of the building was £1,100, of which £700 has been raised (over £500 by the Sunday school). The plan was drawn by the Rev. Dilles White, and the design is a very handsome one. The work of furnishing can be got on with at once now, for by means of the recent fair, £106 gross was taken. This amount will allow of the purchase of the piano and the necessary equipment, and in future scholars will be able to study under the most congenial of surroundings.