

AYRES, HENRY C.

O B I T U A R Y
Rev. Henry Clay Ayres

Henry Clay Ayres, Methodist Missionary to the Belgian Congo for almost twenty-five years passed away on July 22, 1948, in Emory Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A. after many weeks of illness. He was laid to rest in West Point, Georgia, which he had long considered his home in the States. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ethel Shuler Ayres and a daughter Rosemary Shuler Bassett Ayres four years old and four brothers and four sisters.

Mr. Ayres was educated at Emory-at Oxford, Young Harris College, Hartford Seminary and Cornell University. His work in Africa had been primarily in the ministerial, architectural and agricultural realms of mission activity.

"Pepe" (Peppy) was a warm friend of the native people and loved to work and visit with them. Having grown up in the Deep South, he seemed to understand the African psychology better than the average of us, and so many of them felt that they had a true and understanding and sympathetic friend in him. His untimely death has brought a sense of grief and loss to African friends as well as to his fellow-workers among the missionaries.

Of our comparatively few permanent buildings up to the present time, some of the very best stand as a monument to his devotion and skill. But, his most lasting work after all, has been his influence in the development of Christian character in the lives of the Africans associated with him through the years.

needed in Congo as now, but God who sends forth His workers knows when their work is finished. She leaves three brothers and a host of friends to remember her fragrant life.

Mrs. R. L. Jennings

News of the passing of Mrs. Jennings was received in Léopoldville on December 8th, 1948, and brought sorrow mingled with gratitude for countless sacred memories to many a home in Congo.

Mrs. Jennings, the widow of the Rev. R. L. Jennings, née Hilda Elenora Hindorff, was born on 18th December, 1871. She was of Swedish parents and received her education and preparation for missionary service in her native land.

Her missionary career began in 1900 when, under the auspices of the Svenska Missions-Forbundet, she was appointed to the Lower Congo. Here she met Mr. Jennings; they were married in 1904 and proceeded to Wathen. For ten years at Wathen and twenty-two at Thysville, Mrs. Jennings gave herself wholeheartedly to the service of the people in the name of her Lord. Skilled in nursing and midwifery and with a good knowledge of medicine she made contacts with thousands of the people and played a worthy part in building up the medical work in the district. She was privileged to lead many to the Saviour. Her special joy was to see the women and girls she had helped become

versions that have been started at one time or another: in Kingwana, Otetela, Kilega, Tshiluba, Kikwango, and Kikongo. *ZIKU DIA TIYA*, the Kikongo edition published by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, has had a very favorable reception. The first three numbers were mimeographed in the same style as the English version. The fourth number had to be printed because by then subscriptions had come in from five missions totalling 2500. LECO made it a very attractive and easy to read four-page paper. We hope to hear more news about the other papers. A few sample copies would tell us a lot. We hope that all of these papers and especially those used by new literates will soon be printed in large readable type. It would be advantageous if all the vernacular versions of *THE CONGO HEARTH* were printed at one central place for then it would be possible to include illustrations that do so much to enliven a story. To do this, we might have to find some way to subsidize them so as to keep the subscription price within the range that the women are willing to pay.

The editor is most grateful for the encouragement and backing that has come from the C. P. C. Women's Committee and their past and present secretaries: Mrs. Coxill, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Ohrneman. We also appreciate the cooperation of the women who have been appointed correspondents for *THE CONGO HEARTH* by their Missions. The A.B.F.M.S., A.M.B.M., B.A.M.S., C.&M.A. and M.M.C.M. have named theirs. We are hoping that other Missions will follow their example. (A correspondent is responsible for seeing that materials for publication, information, suggestions and reports from the stations of her mission are

of helping our women become more literate and provide them with a variety of profitable reading matter. In the March 1948 number we introduced the women to a piece of supplementary material, ("Is it necessary for a woman to be educated?" by Viola Smith) by telling them how they might secure a copy. A whole range of services could be opened up for our women by which they could obtain other helps too long to be included in the periodical and for which they would pay a small fee, such as is done by women's periodicals elsewhere. By pooling what we have already done we would probably find some very fine material prepared especially for women and girls which should be shared with others than those of our own mission,—such things as series of Bible studies; devotional messages; programs for women's meetings; special lessons for girls and women on home-making and child care; leaflets on tobacco, alcohol, directions for craft work, food preparation, games, stories of various kinds, etc.

THE CONGO HEARTH will live only as long as we keep its fires fed with the material that our Congo women and girls want and need, and fanned with good constructive criticism. Missions old and young, large and small have kept it going so far, but not until all of us help will it become truly *THE CONGO HEARTH*. We need material from the pens of evangelists, teachers, doctors, nurses, cooks, gardeners, craftsmen, storytellers, musicians, etc. Will the person who can joke in the native idiom please come out of hiding! Tell us what your women and girls are doing. Also encourage them to write.

It is our prayer that *THE CONGO HEARTH* may be used o
by the women and girls of the missions established

formed with first-hand knowledge of the situation in Japan through letters and articles in the parish paper.

"This arrangement on the part of our church in releasing one of our ministers for special service abroad will set a precedent, it is hoped, for other Methodist churches across the nation."



*Retired Missionary
to Brazil Dies*

☞ Mrs. ADA STEWART PARKER, 77, pioneer educator and retired missionary to Brazil, died recently at Jacksonville, Florida.

Under the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions of the M. E. Church, South, she sailed for Brazil in 1901 and began a lifetime career as a missionary teacher. On her first furlough she married Rev. G. D. Parker of New Orleans, also a missionary to Brazil. They returned to the field together in 1908.

A native of Crandall, Florida, Mrs. Parker was a graduate of Scarritt Bible School in Kansas City, Mo. Before going to Brazil, she taught school in Florida.

She is survived by her husband.



*Industrial Missionary
to Africa Dies*

REV. HENRY C. Ayres, who was beginning his twenty-fifth year as an industrial missionary to the Belgian Congo, Africa, died recently in Atlanta, Georgia, after months of illness.



The late Dr. Ayres

Wherever Mr. Ayres was stationed in Africa, native homes of homemade brick stand as a memorial to his ingenuity. He showed the natives how to make brick from clay at hand and how to build substantial homes out of it to replace the straw huts that are easily devoured by ants. In addition he taught farming, carpentry and cabinet making and did evangelistic work among the jungle young people.

A native of La Grange, Georgia, he was educated at Young Harris College, the University of Georgia, Hartford Seminary and Cornell University. In 1942 he was married to Mrs. Ethel Shuler Smith, a trained nurse, who had been a missionary in Africa since 1931. He is survived by his widow and their four-year-old daughter, Rosemary, as well as by four brothers, four sisters and two aunts.

W. W. Reid
Board of Missions and Church Extension
of the Methodist Church
150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N.Y.

DEC 1933

Personals

Word has been received by the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the safe arrival in Alaska of the Rev. and Mrs. Linwood E. Blaudin, newly-appointed missionaries of the Methodist Church. They expect to go from Anchorage to their appointment by Bishop John H. Springov.

A cablegram gives the information that the Rev. and Mrs. Henry C. [Name] missionaries of the Methodist Church at Tunda Station, Polkwa [Name] Alaska.

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File Copy

INFORMATION ABOUT MISSIONARIES GOING TO THE FIELD.

1. Full name and date of birth..... *Henry Clay Ayres, Jan. 14, 1897.*
2. Nationality..... *American.*
3. Date of formal application..... *Oct. 26, 1923.*
4. Date of first departure from home to engage in our work..... *June 18, 1924.*
5. Date of first arrival on the mission field..... *Sailing Aug. 28, 1924.*
6. Date recognized as a missionary if appointed on the field.....
7. Testimonials from..... *Rev. J. A. Sharp, Young Harris, Ga.*
Rev. J. P. Hoelzer, West Point, Ga. Rev. W. H. Carroll,
Couyers, Ga. Rev. Wallace Rodgers, P. E. La. Grange, West
La Grange, Ga.
8. Conference relation..... *Local Preacher, La Grange Dist.*
North Ga. Conference.
9. Medical Certificate approved by Board's Physician on..... *June 18, 1924.*
(Date)
10. Preference of field..... *Africa.*
11. Application presented to Committee by..... *Rev. W. C. Gounau.*
12. Date application was accepted by Committee..... *March 23, 1924.*
13. Date appointed by Bishop..... *March 23, 1924.*
14. Date of Marriage..... *May 15, 1928.*
15. Wife's full name..... *Emma Michaux Miller Ayres*
16. Wife's present address.....
17. Date of Wife's birth.....

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.....
.....
18. Children's full names and date of birth respectively (and date of death, if any have died),.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

19. Names and addresses of persons who are your representatives in the United States in family or business matters of yourself and wife:

(1) Family.....

Parents.....^(Self) *Thos. K. Ayres*.....^(Wife) *Susiana J. Ayres*.....

.....*Gabbettville, Ga.*.....

Bro: *John K. Ayres*.....*Gabbettville, Ga.*.....

sister: *Mrs. Thomas R. Ayres*.....*Gabbettville, Ga.*.....

sister: *Mrs. D. H. Beatty*.....*Gabbettville, Ga.*.....

brother-in-law and sister-in-law: *Mr. & Mrs. Warren G. Cutler*.....*Manchester, Ga.*.....

(2) Business.....

.....^(Self) *Henry C. Ayres*.....^(Wife).....

.....*The First National Bank of West Point, Ga.*.....

.....*Henry Hart West Point, Ga.*.....

.....*Trade Sales Co. West Point, Ga.*.....

.....*with insurance*.....
20. Photograph of self and wife. *with insurance*.....

HENRY CLAY AYERS,
Agriculturist.

Address-----Gabbettville, Georgia.
Birth-----January 14, 1899.
Denomination-----Methodist Episcopal Church, South.
Health-----Good.
Education-----High School Graduate. Attended three terms Normal School,
University Georgia, Athens, Ga. One year at Young-Harris
College.
Experience-----Practical experience farming. Most of life spent on a
farm. Preparing for the ministry.
Single.
Desire for missionary work. "To lead others to Christ and to serve humanity".

WHAT OTHERS SAY

"Brother Ayers took a great deal of interest in the Church and responded to any call that I gave. He was very earnest in his prayers at Church, and was always anxious to see a revival. His Christian character is above the ordinary. His mind is upon the Christian life constantly. For I have found that he desired to talk about those things more than any other. There is nothing erratic about him. He has shown a great deal of common sense in all matters that I have had anything to do with. He is an earnest teacher and worker".

"Brother Ayers is above the average in Christian character. Most dependable. A good student".

Tunda in the Central Congo, arrived at Leopoldville before the Ridgways but the latter reached their station first. The Akerbergs stayed to take a month's internship with the Government doctors. That past he has received the government certificate of approval and acceptance and reached the interior and was introduced to Tunda on February 5 by Dr. Hughlett of Minga, who has been carrying alone the responsibility for three hospitals.

Dr. and Mrs. Alton Ridgway went right on to Kapanga in Southern Congo. He will have his short internship later at Elisabethville. Both doctors have completed a full year of study in Belgium. When the Ridgways drove up before the new house built for them by Jim Pottenger they were realizing the dream of years. The war with army service had come between their acceptance as missionaries and this arrival on January 22nd. They join the pioneers, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Piper, in the development of new buildings made possible by the Crusade for Christ.

Dr. and Mrs. John F. Sheldon have waited for months for passage to Africa. But now they are at Nyadiri, in Southern Rhodesia, propelled by the support of folks in their home Church in Pasadena, California and by friends in Long Beach, Bakersfield, San Jose, and other sunny cities. Since the death of Dr. Guernev long years ago, Washburn Hospital has had a doctor for only a short interval, so it is easy to imagine the enthusiastic reception this trained couple received.

They were called a quartet, but it would be hard to get together for a rehearsal or a medical consultation. Nearly six hundred miles of Congo roads separate the Akerbergs and the Ridgways even though they are in the same colony. From Kapanga to Nyadiri takes at least five days of travel for more than 1400 miles. Dr. Punentel is the farthest South at least 600 miles from the Sheldons.

These four will help meet the program outlined by the Board of Medical Activities of the Central Conference. But who will fill the empty posts to work with the new doctors and the other four on the field to serve the twenty-nine districts of Methodism in Africa?

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Our comparatively few permanent buildings up to the present time, some of the very best stand as a monument to his devotion and skill. But his most lasting work after all, has been his influence in the development of Christian character in the lives of the Africans associated with him through the years.

—oOo—

CONTRACT WORKERS IN ACTION

Sometimes European teachers are found ready to help in the mission work and are hired locally. This is especially true in Southern Rhodesia. Many of these workers have been valuable and sympathetic helpers. If you look at the directory of African Missionaries, you will find that Mr. and Mrs. Fuller are the only missionaries listed for Mrewa, although it is hoped that Mr. and Mrs. Gates will soon return from furlough and be with them. The work of the church, school, dispensary (Mrs. Fuller is a nurse) and district has been a heavy load for this couple, but would have been far heavier without the help of three contract workers, Mr. and Mrs. Dugmore and Miss Martin.

Mr. Fuller has written recently:

"Miss Martin has not only signed up to remain with us, but this week told me she would like to give a present to the mission, a much needed tractor. That will take 2/3 of her salary. Mrs. Dugmore has just pledged half of her income to pay some of our evangelists who were dropped from teaching lists."

Mr and Mrs. Everett Jones and son, Everett Jr., left Elisabethville on February 3 for their trip home to America. Mr. Jones is a contractor

from Maryland who was interested in giving a period of time to some much needed building on a mission field. When he heard of Eville, he offered his services. At that time it was difficult to find transportation, but Mr. Jones worked his and his truck's way out. The ship's destination was a port in Somaliland, so the hardest part of his trip was before him when he landed in Africa. But he made it to Elisabethville where he has put in two and a half years (which was more than he had planned) in building a school and social center.

He was joined by his wife and son for the last year of his stay. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been a valuable addition to the Elisabethville staff of workers and everyone is sorry to see them go.

Miss Doris Cary, now on furlough from Central Congo, is spending some time in Belgium taking courses in French and tropical medicine.

—oOo—

Central Conference Babies

They met at Central Conference at Old Umtali in Southern Rhodesia—these three missionary babies, all under two, and it is difficult to imagine any other means to have got them together, so far apart do they live. Shirley Culver might be called the hostess, for she felt almost at home on the mission where Grandpa Murphree lives and besides, Shirley lives near by in the town of Umtali and visits often at Old Umtali. The day before conference began, Shirley and her parents drove the eleven miles to Grandma's house and were on hand to welcome Lorene Bartlett and Peggy Jean Dodge.

Lorene arrived first. She had come by train all the way from Mulungwishi in the Belgian Congo. Lorene, her daddy and mummy and some other grown-ups got on the train Friday morning, Oct. 1st, in Mulungwishi (where her daddy heads a large training center) and rode to Elisabethville. They slept Friday night in that city and boarded another train Saturday morning. That train brought them to Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, on Monday morning, after having crossed all of Northern Rhodesia and part of Southern. They had all day Monday to spend looking around Bulawayo and that evening boarded another train. This train brought them to Umtali Tuesday afternoon and they reached Umtali in plenty of time for the first conference meal that evening.

Peggy Jean Dodge arrived when the meal was nearly over, and Peggy was so tired and sleepy that she didn't much care. She had come

the long, long way from Luanda, Angola, on the west coast of Africa, with her family in their big Chevrolet Carryall. (But they call it their "Dodge Bus"!)

Peggy had been on the way for three weeks, had slept in many strange places and had travelled over many roads—indifferent ones, bad ones, and finally good ones. She had been in four countries and had been shown sights which made older people exclaim in delight—but which Peggy Jean took very calmly. (She even slept in Uncle Ed's arms while the rest viewed the world-famous Victoria Falls!) She had travelled nearly 4000 miles to attend this conference.

While Daddies Culver, Bartlett, and Dodge labored over the re-writing of the *Discipline* and Mummies Verna, Doris, and Eunice did their share of committee work, too. Shirley, Lorene, and Peggy Jean played happily on

CENTRAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The State of the Church:
 Annemay White, *Chairman*;
 Marguerite Deyo, *Secretary*.
 Conferences: Omar Hartzler, *Chairman*,
 Sarah King, *Secretary*.
 The Ministry: Elwood Bartlett, *Chairman*;
 Eva Hartzler, *Secretary*.
 Judicial Administration: Ralph Dodge,
Chairman; Jessie Platt, *Secretary*.
 Central Conference Administration:
 Mabel Michel, *Chairman*;
 Elisabeth Dalby, *Secretary*.
 Journals: Charles Fuller, *Chairman*;
 Maurice Persons, *Secretary*.

the campus. Shirley had her Negro nurse to help care for her, and Peggy Jean had her older brothers and sister. Judy Fuller, who is eight—was very helpful in caring for Lorene. At any rate, Lorene, Peggy, and Shirley all got together with their daddies and mummies at mealtimes in the huge new boys' dining room where all delegates—black and white, adults, and children, ate. As there was only one high chair, which belonged to Shirley, the three babies took turns sitting on typewriter cases so they could reach the tables.

Now the conference is over and Lorene has gone back with her daddy and mummy to Mulungwishi, but Shirley and Peggy are taking advantage of the Dodge midterm furlough to form even closer bonds of friendship.

—Eunice Davis Dodge

children, two of whom are already in Christian boarding homes of the mission. Six others of Piano's grandchildren are also preparing for Christian leadership in Mission Schools. Ngombe's husband died at the mission hospital with meningitis. On his death bed he begged his wife not to return to his people, for native custom makes the wife the property of her husband's relatives. She is merely a chattel to be sold to the highest bidder, regardless of the fact that he may be in his dotage with many wives in his harem. Ngombe, with three fatherless children to support, was now a widow in Israel indeed and became another Ruth. She repudiated publicly the heinous marriage customs of her husband's people, and when certain dapper youths arrived to carry her off into a heathen marriage, she refused to listen to their proposal. Other ambassadors were sent demanding her as their rightful possession, but she took refuge at the mission and under the law of the Colonial government, which protects a Christian woman against a forced heathen marriage. Ngombe preferred to be a doorkeeper in the house of her God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. She is now the happy and efficient matron of the Christian boarding school for girls on Bibanga station, watching and guarding the doors into their hearts. She is a wise guide, a faithful teacher, a tender mother, and a great Christian. Her own children and the ones whom she has adopted within her "fence" will rise up and call her blessed. "Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord (be she black, or brown, red, yellow, or white) she shall be praised..her own works praise her in the gates."

Births

MANY missionary homes have been gladdened by the arrival of little ones in the past few months, and we send our congratulations to the happy parents and our loving greetings to the little new-comers.

To Rev. and Mrs. William A. Deans, Immanuel Mission, Nyangkundi, a daughter, Patricia Ann, on May 18th.
To Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Russell, B.M.S. Léopoldville, a daughter, Gillian Anne, on May 28th.
To Rev. and Mrs. Loren J. Landrith, A.I.M. Dungu, a daughter, Mary Ellen, on May 29th.
To Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Jackson of A.P.C.M. Luebo, at

Richmond, Virginia, a son, Cecil Marriner, on June 8th.
To Rev. and Mrs. Angus Brower, C.G.M. Tshene, a son, John Anton, on June 10th.
To Rev. and Mrs. Cyril H. Chilvers, C.B.M. Mompono, a son, Christopher John, on June 16th.
To Rev. and Mrs. Harry Miller, A.I.M. Rethi, a son, Russell James, on June 19th.
To Rev. and Mrs. J. Cullan Wilson, C.B.M. Baringa, a son, Robert Howard, on June 22nd.
To Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Lambourne, B.M.S. Kibokolo, a daughter, Winifred Margaret, on July 3rd.

Obituary

Verna Miller Ayres.

THE Methodist Episcopal Congo Mission suffers a great loss in the Home-going of Mrs. Henry C. Ayres, our treasurer, on June the fifth. Mrs. Ayres was getting into the station truck to ride to the hospital. Mr. Ayres was putting his shot gun in the seat of the truck not knowing that there were shells in it. The gun accidentally discharged and Mrs. Ayres was shot in her side. She survived only about thirty minutes. Part of that time she was conscious, though suffering intensely. Her last words were, "Father, take me," and in His great mercy God released her from the pain she was suffering and took her to Himself.

Mrs. Ayres, née Verna Miller, came to Africa in 1924 under contract with our Mission Board as Treasurer. After a term of three years she returned to America for furlough. Mr. Ayres was also home on furlough and in 1928 they were married at her home in Richmond, Va. Coming back as a wife did not lessen her usefulness. She came to Tunda station and endeared herself to all. She was always ready to help both white and black

On her return from another furlough in 1937 Mrs. Ayres was again asked to serve as Treasurer to the Mission, and remained in this work until her death. To see her office with everything in order, when she left it so suddenly, shows her efficiency. The memory of her consecrated diligence shall ever remain with us.

Mrs. Ayres loved little children. Never having any of her own, she took the little black children to her heart, and loved the nursery work. The tribute which her black friends paid her by coming to her funeral in great numbers from surrounding villages was beautiful.

We miss Mrs. Ayres at Tunda. To her goes much of the credit for the beauty of our Compound. She loved to walk among the flowers and give us who knew less than she did suggestions about landscaping. She lies beside five little infant graves in the quiet shade on the Compound, yet not she, for her spirit is enjoying the beauty of God's Heavenly flowers above.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to Mr. Ayres in his great grief and to her aged mother and two brothers in the homeland, and we trust our heavenly Father to comfort them.

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ABOUT BOOKS

"Grammaire et Dictionnaire de Lingala." by Malcolm Guthrie, B.Sc.
W. Heffer & Sons, Ltd. 4/- or Frs 30 belge.

FOUR years after the appearance of its "Lingala Grammar and Dictionary," the Conseil Protestant du Congo has published a new work on this Language by the same author. Let it at once be noted that the "*Grammaire et Dictionnaire de Lingala*" is not a translation of the earlier book, but that it is an entirely new presentation of this interesting "lingua franca." As the author mentions in the "avant propos," the chief characteristic of this latest work is that Lingala, as here presented, is the resultant of the study of it from the most recent view-points of Grammar and Phonetics in relation to Bantu Languages. It is claimed, therefore, that the later book is more scientific than the earlier one. Another new feature is the stress which is laid upon the importance of the system of "Tones" which the author finds in Lingala.

At the present time, when a much increased attention is being given to the subject of "tones" by those concerned with research work in Bantu forms of speech, it is interesting to study what the author has written concerning this characteristic which Lingala has in common with the other languages belonging to this group. It is emphasised that many words in Lingala which are spelt in identically the same way differ greatly in meaning according to the "tone" employed by the speaker—"normal" or "high" as the case may be.

Another innovation is the use of two new phonetic characters to indicate the open sounds of "e" and "o" respectively. The value or otherwise of this innovation will be differently estimated by users of the book according to their particular views on orthography. The author claims that their use will be found of real advantage in learning the language.

This work is divided into three parts: the first, which consists of sixteen chapters dealing with accidence and syntax, forms the "Grammaire." Actually syntax is mainly introduced in the chapters which deal with the various parts of speech; but the student will not overlook the final chapter of this part, in which some quite important notes are included. Clearness and conciseness mark the treatment of the parts of speech. The importance of chapter 5, which deals with the Verb, will be immediately appreciated. The different Tenses and Moods are stated with exactitude, useful examples of usage being given. The various verb forms: reciprocal, reflexive, reversion, inverted, derived, applied, causative, reduplicated.—all these have valuable notes given upon them. Here also there are useful illustrations of actual use.

The second part of the work is the "Dictionnaire," with its "Français—Lingala" and "Lingala—Français" sections. The vocabulary in each is sufficiently full for the needs of the average student. Naturally the "Français—Lingala" section is the larger of the two. It has

well over three thousand terms. The "Lingala—Français" part, however, has only a few hundreds less. In both, the terms selected are those which any who purpose acquiring the language will find generally useful.

The third part consists of a "*Manuel de Conversation*." In this the author has followed a path different from that taken by those who concern themselves with the production of such manuals. The sentences really do form part of conversations; hence much that is cumbrous and unnecessary in the average phrase-book is avoided. The needs of the new-comers to the Colony, who will be using Lingala, are specially considered. Such subjects as they are likely to want to speak about at once form the greater part of this "*Manuel de Conversation*." But the aim of the author is not so much to put sentences into the mouth of those learning Lingala, as to show the way in which such sentences can be correctly constructed. Many of the more difficult idioms are introduced into the "Conversations." In this way, those who use them will readily become familiar with these forms of expression, and so will use them naturally as need arises.

The scope of the "Manuel" will be clear if some of the subjects dealt with are mentioned: Useful phrases; the house; daily routine; kitchen; meals; market; laundry; garden; poultry; journeys—by steamer, automobile, canoe, and on foot; arrival at destination; maladies and their treatment; school; trading; employment, etc.

In twenty-four pages of French phrases with their Lingala equivalents a great deal is comprised. The author has done well to give Lingala equivalents: not word for word translations. In many instances this would have been impossible, and certainly misleading.

The three parts of the "*Grammaire et Dictionnaire de Lingala*" together form a handy volume of some 189 pages. The work is obtainable at the price of Frs. 30.00 (Congo Belge). The "Dictionnaire" and the "*Manuel de Conversation*" are also published together at the price of Frs. 10.00 (Congo Belge). The C.P.C. is fortunate in its publishers: Messrs W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd. of Cambridge, England. The clearness of the type, the arrangement of matter, and the whole format are in line with the high standard of excellence which marks the publications of this firm.

The author is to be congratulated upon this, his second, book on Lingala. It may, we suppose, be taken as an earnest of the study and presentation of some of the other forms of Bantu speech which are in use in Congo Belge. Meanwhile, those who study the "*Grammaire et Dictionnaire de Lingala*" will be awaiting with eagerness the publication under the auspices of the C.P.C. of the Lingala New Testament, upon the translation of which the author is, it is understood, now engaged.

One puts down the "*Grammaire et Dictionnaire de Lingala*" wondering whether there ever could have been

(See foot of page II)

Editorials

A Prayer For Our Conference

The South Carolina Annual Conference will be in session when most of our readers receive this edition.

In the morning, in the afternoon, and in the evening will you not pause for a few sentences of prayer? Pray for our Bishop, our Conference officers, every pastor, every lay member, every board and commission charged with responsible duties. NOW, you know the name of your pastor, or lay delegate—pray for them in particular. End the prayer in praise for God's wonderful leadership in your own life—and with a renewed determination to do the Master's will in every phase of living.

South Carolina Methodist Advocate

Dr. William Capers was editor of the **Wesleyan Journal**, the first official Methodist publication in America; at that time he was pastor in Charleston. After this editorship came to a close in 1826, the **Wesleyan Journal** was merged with the **Christian Advocate**, which was at that time published in New York City. The name of this composite journal was then designated "**Christian Advocate and Journal**." It was not until May of 1836 that the General Conference authorized a weekly publication, which was to be printed in Charleston. This paper was named "**The Southern Christian Advocate**" and its first issue was dated June 24, 1837. In this sense, according to a study made by Mason Crum, the **Advocate** is "a continuation of the oldest official Methodist weekly in the United States, 'WESLEYAN JOURNAL,' 1825. This connection is through William Capers who actually edited **The Wesleyan Journal**."

The first foreman of the printing plant of the **Advocate**, Benjamin Jenkins, a Charlestonian, was so impressed with the urgency of the call to China, in an editorial written by Dr. Wightman, that he ventured his services for this great work. He, along with Charles Taylor, who was also a South Carolinian, thus became the first missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to foreign countries.

(Editorial by John L. Sandlin in the **S. C. Methodist Advocate** of October 20, 1949.)

Methodist Voice

The Methodist Church does not have a national weekly publication comparable to the **Christian Advocate**, which was discontinued about two years ago. It does have a wonderful new magazine which comes monthly, but with more of a popular appeal through pictures and feature stories than through articles and debates. **Together** is its name. During the year South Carolina families have been increasing in their support of the magazine. Preachers and a few officials now receive the **New Christian Advocate**, a monthly which has become largely a trade journal, and a good one. More and more our Church will have to depend on its local conference papers to supply some of the accent now missing from a national voice.

Every family should have some inspiring and promotional literature coming into its midst every week. **Every preacher** needs help in reaching his people with the story of the Gospel and the program of his Church. A new day in South Carolina Methodism will come sooner if every minister does his best to lead the Official Board to place the **S. C. Methodist Advocate** in every home.

Our Church plans can and will be presented. Current activities will be featured and topics of interest will be debated. "A chain is as strong as its weakest link." Over 40 churches followed the "every family" plan last year. Which District will be the first to have every family receiving the **Advocate**?

Reaching the basic quota is commendable, but reaching every family is the more excellent way.

Bishop Cyrus B. Dawsey

South Carolina Methodism is proud of her native son who gave his heart to Christ early in life and then invested that life in Brazil. Honored by the Brazilian Methodist Church, he has brought honor to his native state. It becomes a high honor for the South Carolina Conference to have the name of Cyrus B. Dawsey referred to it by resolution that he be listed as an honorary member.

His children are: Mrs. Albert W. Ream of Columbia; Miss Sarah Margaret, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Mrs. William F. Rogers Jr., of Brazil; Rev. Cyrus Jr., of Brazil; Miss Mary Ellyn of Nashville, Tennessee.

Bishop and Mrs. Dawsey are making their home at 1205 Gladden Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

NINE YEARS LATER

Former Missionary-Nurse Teaching at Ferrum Junior College



In the issue of June 2, 1949, of the S. C. Methodist Advocate, the two persons shown on the right as they are today, were pictured with Mr. Ayres, as they appeared shortly after returning from the Belgian Congo on what proved to be their last furlough.



MRS. ETHEL SHULER AYRES AND
DAUGHTER, ROSEMARY

Mrs. Ethel Shuler Ayres and her daughter, Rosemary, have now completed a year's stay at Ferrum Junior College, Ferrum, Virginia. Their plans are to return to Ferrum next year, where again Mrs. Ayres will teach Bible and Art. Rosemary will enter the tenth grade at Franklin County High School in Rocky Mount, Virginia.

Dr. C. Ralph Arthur, President of the College, in commenting on Mrs. Ayres' work, said, "It has been a privilege to have Mrs. Ayres on our faculty. Her contribution to the life of the college is evident in many areas. We look forward to her return next fall."

Prior to Mrs. Ayres' joining the Ferrum College faculty, she taught elementary school for six years.

Mrs. Ayres received her B. A. in 1929 and her M. A. in 1930 from Starratt College in Nashville, Tennessee. From 1931 to 1935 she did educational work at the Methodist Mission in Lusambo, Belgian Congo. She returned to the States in 1935 on furlough. During her furlough she entered nurse's training at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1939, she received her R. N. from the State of Maryland.

Then, from 1939-1941, Mrs. Ayres was head nurse, East 2 Ward, psychiatric clinic, at Johns Hopkins Hospital. In 1941, she married the Rev. Henry Clay Ayres, a missionary-architect to the Belgian Congo.

While her husband studied at Cornell University, Mrs. Ayres taught home nursing for the American Red Cross. This she did until June of 1942, when she and Mr. Ayres returned to the Tunda Station of the Methodist Mission in the Belgian Congo.

Rosemary was born in 1943 while her parents worked at the mission. In 1947 they began their furlough. The Ayres family returned to Emory University, where the Rev. Mr. Ayres was to do more study. On July 22, 1948, Mr. Ayres died at the Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Ayres has brought to Ferrum Junior College the experience and spiritual values of her life.

Mrs. Ayres was born in the Providence Community of Orangeburg County, South Carolina, but lived in Williamsburg County immediately prior to the move to Virginia.

Churches Organized, Reopened; Lots Purchased 1955-1958

As a result of the efforts of the District and Conference Boards of Church Extension, the following activity has been recorded.

Churches Organized

Anderson District: Belton Mills, John Wesley.

Charleston District: Dorchester Avenue, St. John's, St. Mark.

Columbia District: Trenholm Road, St. Paul, Virginia Wingard, Asbury Memorial (1958).

Greenwood District: Belvedere, Lupo Memorial, 6 Point (Charles Wesley)

Greenville District: St. Matthews, Lee Road (1958), Augusta Road (1958).

Lake City District: Wayne, Hebland Park.

Marion District: Conway (1958).

Orangeburg District: St. Andrews.

Rock Hill: Epworth (Trinity).

Spartanburg District: St. James, Trinity (Gaffney), Otway (Mission) (1958), St. Luke (1958).

Sumter District: Aidersgate, St. Luke (Hartsville).

Churches Reopened

Anderson District: Rock Springs.

Spartanburg District: Cherokee Spgs., Loree, Jackson Grove, Gilliam Ch.

Lots Secured for New Organizations

Charleston District: 1 Across the Ashley, 1 in Bush Park.

Columbia District: 1 in West Columbia.

Greenwood District: 1 in Laurens.

Greenville District: 1 Lee Road (1958).

Lake City: 1 in Georgetown (1958).

Spartanburg District: 1 (Fawnwood) (1958).

Rock Hill District: 1 By-Pass (Celestine).

REHABILITATION OF JAPANESE PROSTITUTES

Now that prostitution has been outlawed in Japan (as of April 15), the United Church of Christ of which Methodism is a part is spearheading a drive to make the law effective and to aid the rehabilitation of prostitutes. A home for 20 girls is being built in Tokyo. Ten Japanese deaconesses and two from Germany will give vocational training there to former brothel residents. In an atmosphere of Christian love, the workers hope to guide girls into a new way of life.

The end of life is to be like God, and the soul following God will be like Him.
— Socrates

Full Copy

INFORMATION ABOUT MISSIONARIES GOING TO THE FIELD.

1. Full name and date of birth..... *Mrs. Henry C. Ayres -
Helen Mathews Miller, May 2,
1899,*
2. Nationality..... *American*
3. Date of formal application..... *Sept. 4, 1923*
4. Date of first departure from home to engage in our work..... *Feb. 13, 1924*
5. Date of first arrival on the mission field..... *About May 1, 1924
April 8, 1924*
6. Date recognized as a missionary if appointed on the field.....
7. Testimonials from..... *see application blank*
8. Conference relation..... *Field Secretary of Virginia Conference
Episcopal League*
9. Medical Certificate approved by Board's Physician on..... (Date)
10. Preference of field..... *Cyprus*
11. Application presented to Committee by..... *Bishop Cannon*
12. Date application was accepted by Committee..... *Dec. 11, 1923*
13. Date appointed by Bishop..... *Dec. 7, 1923*
14. Date of Marriage..... *not married* *Henry C. Ayres
May 15, 1928*
15. Wife's full name.....
16. Wife's present address.....
17. Date of Wife's birth.....

18. Children's full names and date of birth respectively (and date of death, if any have died).....

19. Names and addresses of persons who are your representatives in the United States in family or business matters of yourself ~~and wife~~

(1) Family.....
(Self) (Wife)

*Mrs. E. H. Miller, 2216 E. Marshall Street,
Richmond, Va.*

(2) Business.....
(Self) (Wife)

20. Photograph of self and wife.

Yes, two pictures, color.

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lege Park; three nephews, W. H., R. W., and J. E. Fitzpatrick, of Atlanta; two half nieces, Mrs. T. C. Law, Atlanta, Mrs. J. B. Overton, Decatur; two half nephews, John J. Paschal, Walnut Grove, Miss., and Will Paschal, Bessemer, Ala.; three first cousins, Mrs. J. C. Wright, Roanoke, Ala., Mrs. Dalia Jones, Mystic, and Mrs. Mattie Johnson, Sparta; one brother-in-law, Albert Smith, White Plains. She was a faithful member of the Methodist Church from early girlhood. Although she never married, she helped to rear several nieces and nephews, including her grand-nephew, Harris Gillespie, and grand-niece Margaret Gillespie, and pointed with justifiable pride to this accomplishment as her life's work. Funeral services were conducted in the Marshallville Church with Rev. Silas Johnson, Macon, and Rev. J. W. Hitch, Montezuma, officiating. Interment was in the family lot in Thomson.

VERNA MILLER AYRES A TRIBUTE

Verna Miller Ayres left her Congo home for her Heavenly Home on the fifth of June, 1939. Her death was the result of a wound received when a shotgun was accidentally discharged. She lived less than one hour after the accident. Her death terminated fifteen years of service in the Methodist Episcopal Congo Mission. They were years of fruitful, untiring, loving service to the Mission and to the natives.

I first met Mrs. Ayres in Brussels, Belgium in August of 1928 when she was returning, for her second term of service as the bride of Rev. H. C. Ayres. At that time we were enroute to the Congo for our first term. We completed the journey to the Congo as members of the same party. Upon our arrival on the Mission Mr. and Mrs. Ayres and my husband and I were all appointed to Tunda Station. We worked there together, except for furlough periods, until September 1937 when we were moved to another station.

During our time of association together, I saw her from time to time, busy in nearly every form of mission work. In Sunday School work she was a splendid organizer. She was very efficient in day school and woman's school work. She was always busy in the woman's Missionary Society. She took her turn with other missionaries and native pastor in delivering the Sunday morning messages. But the work which was nearest her heart, perhaps, was taking care of the babies of our village while their mothers were away in their gardens. The day on which she did she laid away a plan, which she had just completed, for a new building for her nursery.

Besides her activity in various forms of mission work with the natives, she was, during her first term, and again since the fall of '36, the treasurer of our Mission.

But after all, I think that her greatest work was her personal ministry to the needy. Like her Master she went about doing good. She kept in close touch with the people of the village, knew their needs, and ministered to them. The new born babies were wrapped in blankets that she made. If little children died they were often buried in boxes which she helped the parents to provide. She ministered to the poor and needy without discrimination.

How well I remember when she found one poor old woman who was sick and almost blind. Since she could get about only by crawling, her fingers as well as her toes were almost eaten off by sand fleas. Mrs. Ayres enlisted the help of a native woman and set about to clean up the old soul and care for her sores. She persuaded the local Woman's Missionary Society to buy her a new house, since she was living, or rather staying, in a house not fit to be inhabited. It was very difficult sometimes to get help because of the illth, and yet Mrs. Ayres never hesitated. This is just one example of her many acts of mercy. We know that she has heard her Master say, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these . . ."

Just a few months before her death she painted on the wall of her living room above the fireplace a map of Africa. On the day of her funeral, I was privileged

to sit by her coffin with a few faithful natives who were a guard of honor. Outside were many who sat or stood refusing to go away. I looked up at her map and thought how fitting it was that her body should lie there before it, for it had indeed been engraven on her heart. I looked through the open door into her office and saw the picture of Bishop Lambuth hanging on the wall. I thought how truly she had caught his vision and gave her life—her all for darkest Africa.

The Lord is wonderfully sustaining her husband. The memory of her life and zeal help him to have courage to carry on. She has gone to be with the Master but she lives here in the hearts of both black and white who loved her.

Laura Neel Wheeler,
M. E. C. M., Lusambo
Congo Belge.

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tured skin is
Relieved eased by soothing
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for Run-Down Folk

Have you lost strength and health due to hard work or worry? Have failing appetite and poor digestion caused you to lose weight and energy? If your trouble is functional, you may "come back" by taking non-alcoholic B-L Tonic. You at least owe it to yourself to try it, because your money will be gladly refunded if you are not delighted after using the first bottle.

Non-alcoholic B-L Tonic works in this way: First, it makes your appetite keen. Second, it improves your digestion. Third, it relieves you of bloating and gas. Fourth, it keeps accumulated waste from congesting your system. Soon you are craving three hearty meals a day. Your digestive system becomes more efficient in converting your food into rich, red blood and flesh. Your nerves become steadier, your looks improve, your disposition becomes more sunny. And remember, this "pick-up" is not due to alcoholic stimulation.

Get non-alcoholic B-L Tonic from your druggist today. Should he not be able to supply you, send \$1.25 direct to B-L Company, Atlanta, Ga., for liberal-size bottle. Money back if you are not delighted.

B-L TONIC

Mrs. J. M. Glenn Dies In Atlanta; Indian Springs Trustees Funeral Escort

Mrs. Theodosia Wales Glenn, 55, wife of Dr. J. M. Glenn, superannuate preacher of the South Georgia Conference, died in an Atlanta hospital Tuesday night, September 13. Funeral services were conducted Thursday morning from Springhill Chapel, Atlanta, with burial in Crest Lawn cemetery in that city. Rev. Leonard H. Cochran, Savannah, and Dr. Edward G. Mackey, Atlanta, officiated. Trustees of the Indian Springs campground formed an honorary escort.

Mrs. Glenn served for some time as a missionary to China following her graduation from Vassar. She also served as a traveling YWCA secretary. In 1920 she married Dr. Glenn.

Mrs. Glenn had been an officer of the Woman's Missionary Society of the South Georgia Conference and for several years was an officer of the state Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Conferences Asked to Give \$4,441.06 For Expenses Jurisdictional Conference

Askings totaling \$4,441.06 of the two Georgia Conferences next year for expenses of the first Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference will be passed to the various districts. Announcement by B. A. Whitmore, Nashville, treasurer of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference Expense Fund, stated that the amounts requested are the same as requested for the meeting of the General Conference next April 24 at Atlantic City, N. J. North Georgia's portion was set at \$2,510.00 and South Georgia's at \$1,931.06. The total asking is \$30,519.59.

The collections should be in the hands of Bro. Whitmore not later than next March 15, clearance being made through the respective annual conference treasurers.

The distribution to the churches should be on the "two-fold basis of church membership and pastors' salaries," the committee suggests.

DISCIPLINE

(Continued from Page 9)
that we have seen. It states that

baptized children are to be regarded and enrolled as PREPARATORY MEMBERS, "under the special care and supervision of the Church." I hope that that classification of the children will become a well known and much used term in our Methodism — PREPARATORY MEMBERS. Paragraph 141 provides that the minister shall keep as accurate a roll of these members as of those received into full connection, and shall pass this roll along to his successor. Paragraphs 142 and 143 provide for the proper and continuous training of this group until they are ready for full membership.

Section III, Paragraph 144 provides for Affiliated Members. These are people who reside away from their permanent homes for a time, and who do not wish to move their membership, but wish to be under the care of a church. Proper handling of this will save us from the loss of many a member. It is a fact that there are enough lost Methodists in Savannah right now to organize a church the size of any that we have in the city at the present time.

Section IV, paragraphs 145 to 148 deal with the matter of resident and non-resident members. A non-resident member is classed as one who has lived in another community than the one in which he holds his membership, and has manifested no interest in his church membership being continued. Proper provision is made for the separate report of these two types of members, and for the minister to try to keep the pastor of the community in which the non-resident member resides, in touch with that member.

Section V, paragraphs 149-151, deals with the matter of the transfer of membership, and follows the rules which we have used for some years.

Section VI, paragraphs 152-156, provides for the laws regarding the termination of membership. This puts an effective end to "trunk membership," by providing in 152 that "Membership in the Church can be terminated only by withdrawal, expulsion, or death." Paragraph 153 provides that a pastor may issue a certificate of withdrawal to one who desires it, while 154 provides that a member who unites with another church without asking for the transfer shall be listed as "withdrawn." Paragraph

155 provides member v. for a period be marked out certified that such instated pastor.

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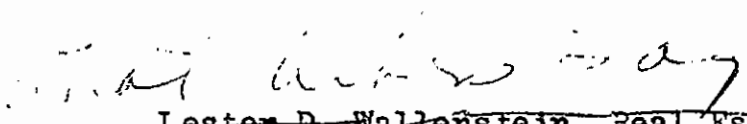
Born Richmond, Virginia May 2, 1899. Parents members of Union Station
M. E. Church, South, Richmond, Va. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller,
2216 E. Marshall Street, Converted at 13 years of age. United with
church 1912.

Confidential Summary for
Miss Verna Michaux Miller,
Candidate for work in Africa.

Address -----2216 E. Marshall Street, Richmond, Va.
Age -----Twenty-four years of age.
Health -----Good.
Education -----One half a year's work at High School and a business course.
Experience -----Eight years in business positions.

Field Secretary for the Virginia Conference Epworth League.
Desire for Missionary Service ----- Have entertained a desire for missionary service about eight years. "To live my life where I can be of the highest and largest usefulness to God and my fellowmen." I have considered long and well the difficulties I must face and I am willing to endure hardships as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Testimonials:


~~Lester D. Wallenstein, Real Estate, Richmond, Va.~~

"I hold Miss Miller in highest esteem. She is most capable, not afraid of responsibility and I have always found her able to measure up to everything that I have entrusted to her. She is a diligent worker, most accurate and very dependable. I was Export Manager for the Dunlop Mills about two years ago, and Miss Miller was associated with me as my secretary. While with the above concern I had occasion to take a six months trip to Brazil and I left her in full charge of my desk during this period. Upon my return I found that she had executed all transactions with the utmost ability, and had handled some very difficult matters successfully."

~~Rev. R. H. Petts, Pastor, Lynchburg, Va.~~

"I take pleasure in recommending Miss Verna Miller to the Mission Board. She has made good in business and in the Church. I was her pastor for years and have observed her closely. She is diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.* As a business woman in our Belgian Congo Mission she would be a success."

~~M. S. Colonna, D.D., Pastor, Portsmouth, Va.~~

"I served her church as pastor and later as presiding elder and happen to know she is an unusually fine character - one of the sweetest and finest girls I know in our church in Virginia. She is thoroughly consecrated and her natural ability and experience in business no doubt will qualify her for the position she seeks."

~~Rev. R. Bayard Proctor, Pastor, Lynchburg, Va.~~

"About two years ago it was decided to employ a Field Secretary in the Virginia Conference Epworth League. After considering carefully the names of several promising young people the position was offered to Miss Verna Miller. Miss Miller accepted and began her duties the first of February, 1922.

The choice proved a success. She has been a most efficient worker. Miss Miller has given her time consistently and worked faithfully to achieve results. As a result of this the work moves forward with increased interest and steady gains. We feel safe in saying that the work of the Field Secretary has been in every way worth the investment that it required. I feel sure that if Miss

Miller is accepted for work in Africa she will render valuable service. I can heartily recommend her for the position indicated."

~~J. M. Rowland, Editor, Richmond Christian Advocate~~

"I have known Miss Miller for sometime and have the highest regard for her. She has had wonderful success in her work and has won the love and confidence and admiration of the folks where she has gone. She is a red blooded girl full of sunshine, devout, energetic and filled with vim and push. She knows how to lead folks to try their best and is always in a good humor about it all. We work here on the same floor in offices close together and she has been a help and inspiration to me. As to her character, her standing, her good traits and her consecrated toil there can be no question."

~~Mr. J. J. Bush, Missionary to Africa~~

"Miss Miller has been a volunteer for about nine years; she has had stenography experience for six years with a firm that does a large world business, I am told. She has been Virginia Conference Epworth League full time secretary for a year or more."

~~Mr. E. P. Buxton, Auditor for the Dunlop Mills, Richmond, Va.~~

"For a number of years Miss Miller was in the employ of the Dunlop Mills of this city, during which time she rose from a position as stenographer to that of Assistant Export Manager, which position she was filling at the time she voluntarily left our company to enter the denominational work of her Church.

Miss Miller's work was always of a high order, and her capacity for work, together with her executive ability was really pronounced. I know of no young woman who is better qualified, both by natural endowment and by business training of the most exacting kind, for executive duties of the sort that would be required of one in the office for which she has applied".

~~The Dunlop Mills, Warner Moore & Co. proprietors, Richmond, Va.~~

"Miss Miller came to our office a young girl, started as an assistant stenographer and through close attention to business, natural ability and conscientious work after ten years had reached the position as assistant Export Manager. We do not hesitate to recommend highly her abilities to handle ~~your~~ to your satisfaction any position that she applies for."

Issue March 1925

COKESBURY PI

EPWORTH LEAGUE HEAD

Miss Verna Miller

VERNA belongs to us--that is to say, to the Virginia Conference Epworth League, *in toto*. For the past



two years hers has been the guiding hand in the League activities that have radiated from the little room off in the corner of the Publishing House known as "Conference Epworth League Headquarters." Now she has gone to take a bigger job and is a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Africa. Yet her influence is still felt, and

she still belongs to the Virginia Conference Leaguers. It is unnecessary to add that we are proud of her; and, in fact, that word does not begin to express our admiration for her.

In the early part of 1922 she took hold of the newly created post of Field Secretary and at once began to discharge her duties in a most creditable manner. She possesses a most engaging frankness that has stood her in good stead, for it has bespoken absolute sincerity and good faith. Her words have been the words of one who has known what she was talking about, and they have not failed to have their effect, as is testified by the number of Leagues that owe their organization directly or indirectly to her.

The number of testimonials of love and encouragement that came in when it was known that she was going attested the place she had made for herself in the hearts of the Leaguers. They have, almost without exception, regarded her, each one, as a particular, personal friend.

Nor has her popularity been confined to the Leaguers, for a large division of her admirers have been the preachers. She performed the seemingly impossible feat of arresting the attention of the Virginia Annual Conference for five minutes within a half hour of the time the appointments were to be read and, to top it off, won a quarter of a minute's applause afterwards.

As a summary of her work and personality a certain bishop once referred to her as "the flower of Leaguedom." We think he was right.

TOR OF THE RICHMOND ADVOCATE

raised on goat's milk, and during that time he had the German measles, which went in on him. This explains many things. He has a kindly disposition, and this is fortunate, for with his looks—if he had a bad disposition, it would be awful. At first bald-headed, he later became red-headed, and now he is sometimes called black-headed. He does not play golf—says he prefers to put what walking he does in going somewhere. His favorite exercise is trying to make both ends meet.

He is not a higher critic, but prefers the highest berth on ocean travel, because it is the safest place when the folks are seasick. He is married. His wife says she did not marry him for his looks, his money, or his brains, but because she was sorry for him. Later she was sorry for herself.

His favorite quotation from literature is the words of a famous bishop: "Inclosed please find check for my subscription to the *Advocate*."

OUR RICHMOND HOUSE

Bishop Collins Denny

To Richmond our Publishing House is a center of uplift and helpfulness, and this is true beyond the circle of Methodism. But the influence of this Richmond House is by no means limited to Richmond. All the surrounding territory is aided, and the circulation of literature is widespread. The marks left on us, the mold of character for good or ill made by a book is too subtle and too great fully to be estimated.

Wesley knew the influence of the printed page and probably used the influence for good more than any of his predecessors. Our fathers followed in his footsteps. The preachers carried the books, and the people bought them and read them. Here is one of the causes of the success of Methodism.

Through this Richmond House, particularly at the Conferences, opportunity is given to make some examination of books. A man can get at least some knowledge of the book he is buying before he makes the purchase. What this means any student can tell.

Some people may think the number increase are constantly intellectually and spiritually hungry. To put in sight the food that gives promise to help sharpen the appetite and calls the hungry to the table. The *Review of books* holds us all. Even to

COPY OF CABLEGRAM RECEIVED JUNE 11, 1939

at MISSION BOARD HEADQUARTERS

Verna died accident June fifth. Notify Ginter Park Church, Richmond.
Ask Young Ayres, West Point, Ga., notify Ayres relatives. Don't
notify Verna's mother. Am advising her through friend.

Ayres.

News received by cable on June 11, at

From
Board of Missions
Dept. of Education & Promotion
H.P. Myers, Secretary

News has been received by cable on June 11, at
at Mission Board headquarters, Nashville, of the death by
in Africa
accident/ on June 5 of Mrs. Verna Miller Ayres, wife of the
of Georgia,
Rev. Henry Clay Ayres, missionary to the Congo.

As Miss Verna Miller, Mrs. Ayres went to the Congo
as missionary in 1924. Prior to that time she had filled the
office of Field Secretary of the Virginia Conference Epworth
League with marked success. On her first furlough in 1926 she
was married to Mr. Ayres at her home in Richmond, Va., and
returned with her husband to the mission field. At the time of
her death Mrs. Ayres was filling the office of Treasurer of the
Congo Mission, which office she had held for some time.

In addition to her husband, Mrs. Ayres is survived
by her mother, Mr. E. H. Miller, of Richmond, Va.

REV. HENRY C. AYRES

Born in Georgia and educated at Young Harris College and the University of Georgia, Rev. Henry C. Ayres went to Africa/in 1924 to follow up the work done by that pioneer industrial missionary worker, Rev. J.A. Stockwell, who went to the Congo with Bishop W.R. Lambuth when he ~~left~~ established the Mission in 1914/. Never has there been a field where the need for industrial workers was so great as in the Congo, and Mr. Ayres has been most successful in carrying on and developing the ~~industrial~~ work begun by Mr. Stockwell.

As an industrial worker on a mission station, Mr. Ayres not only supervises the/building and repairing of homes and mission buildings, but he must be able to teach the natives carpentry, brick making, cabinet making and other similar things so that they can go forward with construction work on their own initiative. This is one of the chief ^{works} of the industrial worker and right well has Mr. Ayres succeeded in this undertaking. He also pioneered in the work of road building, but this work has now been taken over by the Belgian government.

In addition to teaching the natives building and construction work, Mr. Ayres has served the Congo people by teaching better farming methods, by helping them to locate brick clay and showing them how to make and burn brick for permanent homes to take the place of the mud and straw structures that are so easily devoured by white ants. . He also assists in evangelistic work and in the work among the boarding school boys. He is stationed at Tunda station.

MR AND MRS. HENRY C. AYRES

Mr. Henry C. Ayres is a native of Georgia. He was born Jan. 14, 1894, and was educated at Young Harris College in Georgia. He went to Africa in 1924 as an industrial missionary to follow up the work of the first industrial missionary, who went out with Bishop Lambuth when the Mission was founded in 1914. That was the Rev. J. A. Stockwell.

Ever since Mr. Ayres went to Africa he has been doing a very fine work for there has never been a mission field in so great need of industrial workers as the Congo Mission. Not only does an industrial missionary on a mission station take charge of the building work and the repairing of homes and mission buildings, but he must be a carpenter, a brick mason, a cabinet maker, and an architect and he must be able to teach these things to the native helpers in the industrial department as well as to spread this information among the many other natives all over the field. Another important work done by Mr. Ayres has been the helping to build roads and to make bridges so that missionaries might itinerate among the outlying villages. The road building work, however, has been taken over by the Belgian Government but it was the missionaries who made the start along this line and to them should go the credit for being the pioneer road builders of the Belgian Congo.

Mr. Ayres has also been serving by teaching the natives better farming methods and helping them to locate brick clay and showing them how to mould and burn the brick for permanent homes to take the place of the mud walls and grass roof homes that is the regular native style of architecture and which is all too soon devoured in by the white ants.

Mr. Ayres, who returned to the Congo after a year's furlough in the States in 1936, is now in charge of all building work at Bembe Nyana station, he is at the head of the agricultural training work, has charge of manual training, and of industrial work. He is also assisting in the work that is being done among the boarding school boys at the mission station, commonly called "Mission Boys."

Mrs. Verna Miller Ayres is from Virginia and was widely known for her work as Field Secretary of the Virginia Conference Epworth League. Many of the Leagues in the Virginia Conference owed their organization to her zeal and ability. She went to the mission field (as Miss Verna Miller) in 1924 and served for one term as assistant in the business department of the Mission. She accompanied Mr. Ayres in 1928 and has since done work as a missionary's wife, active in many lines of endeavor. She is now Treasurer of the Mission and helping in the school work and in the Sunday school.

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
please contact
research@gcah.org