

3

and urged the people to present the most precious gift in their possession, viz.: Life, to God. He dwelt upon the fact that gold, precious as it was, needed purifying, and pressed home the truth that God could purify a sinner's life. Another Cadet spoke of the second gift, *Frankincense*, taking it as typical of the offering to God of prayer. The song, No. 709, "When the Wise Men came seeking," made an appropriate variation in the programme, which was followed by a capital talk on *Myrrh*—"bitter-sweet"—typical of the offering of that which was painful. This point—the necessity of cross-bearing—opened

up the way to the penitent-form. One sinner, under deep conviction, yielded to God.

Among other topics which have proved effective in securing fresh people at these "slack" meetings of the week have been "Rags, Bones and Bottles"; "Plantation Ditties"; "A Week with the Staff Bands in Holland," by a member of the Staff Bands, now in Training; and "Houses to Let—Rent Free." The enterprise and ability displayed by some of the Cadets in the conduct of these meetings give promise of a very successful career in the Field.

## Salvation Sieges in the Scotch Province.

SCOTLAND is again taking the lead in the adaptation of old-time Salvation Army tactics to present-day needs. Major Cloud's band of "Salvation Siegers" have in this way achieved really notable results in the East Glasgow Division. Considering the sizes of the populations of the various places attacked, the number of souls saved have been remarkable. At Strathaven, with a population of only 600, 45 sinners were converted in five days. At Stonehouse, a town of 4,000 inhabitants, 69 were captured in the same time. Craigneuk, with a population of 7,000, yielded 118 seekers for salvation. The most encouraging feature and the best evidence of the value of the work done, is that 60 per cent. of the converts have already become Soldiers.

The idea of the Siege Band is, in principle, that of the Boom March—a desperate, concentrated effort for the salvation of souls carried out by a party of selected Officers. In the present

case the Siegers were thirteen in number, and comprised the Divisional Officer and his wife, the Divisional Secretary and his wife, two Adjutants, one Captain, and five Lieutenants. The Divisional Staff, including Corps-Cadet Eva Hodder (daughter of the Provincial Commander), formed a Brass Band of five players; they also manipulated concertinas, flutinas, and violins indoors.

Towns of rather small size were selected, in order that the interest aroused might not be so easily dissipated. Tactics were adapted to the peculiarities of each place, though, in broad outline, the methods were the same. Six weeks ahead, each town was placarded with posters containing the bare announcement: "The Salvation Siegers are Coming. See small bills." "This was sufficient," in the words of the D.O., "to create questionings in the minds of the people, and prepared the way for the Officers to make the object of the Siegers known. We

became the talk of the town long before we put in an appearance."

Special preparatory prayer-meetings were held, and a personal letter from the D.O. was sent to each of the Soldiers, asking them to co-operate in the efforts to bring about a revival.

The Campaign in each case lasted five days. The first night was spent in infusing the Soldiers with the spirit of the Campaign, and teaching them four or five special Siege songs. Song-sheets were circulated freely at the Open-Air and indoor meetings, until practically everyone in the town was familiar with the Siege songs, and children could everywhere be heard singing them in the streets.

Mornings were spent by the Siegers in bombarding the streets. While the little Band played, the women-Officers visited the people from door to door, and personally invited them to the meetings. Each individual was at the same time presented with a copy of The General's pamphlet, "How to be Saved." The programme for the remainder of the day was as follows:—

- 2 p.m. Open-Air meeting.
- 3 p.m. Inside Salvation meeting.
- 5 p.m. Children's service.
- 6 p.m. Red-hot prayer-meeting for the salvation of sinners.
- 7 p.m. Open-Air bombardment.
- 8 p.m. Inside Salvation battle.

The night meeting was in every case fought through as long as people remained to be dealt with. On at least one occasion this meeting was not closed until a few minutes before midnight. To this holy persistency and faith must be attributed, in very large part, the success which rewarded the Siegers' efforts. Plenty of life, music and singing characterised the meetings, and no heavy preaching or long talks were allowed, yet in every item of the programme the immediate conviction

and conversion of souls was directly aimed at. The Officers knew beforehand exactly what part they would have to take in each meeting, and, consequently, each was prepared, in mind and heart, for their particular responsibility. The outcome was shoals of sinners crying for God's mercy, where before hardness and spiritual death had prevailed.

The difficulty of carrying on the clerical work of the Divisional Headquarters was met by the D.O. and D.S. each in turn spending a day at the office, hurrying back by train in time to join the Siegers in their night meeting. In the two or three instances where Corps were, for the time being, deprived of their Commanding Officers, a visit from a former Officer tided them over the temporary loss. In the place of the Lieutenants who were taken from their Corps, Envoys were sent to assist their Captains, so that very slight, if any, dislocation of the normal arrangements of the Corps took place.

The cost of travelling and other incidental expenses of the Siege were more than met by the improved collections resulting from the great increase of congregations. On this point, Major Cloud says: "If there had been any doubt of this matter, I should have expected the Officers and Soldiers to collect beforehand what would be probably required—that is, if they really desired a revival. There must be no strain for money during the Siege. Everyone, from first to last, must be consumed with one object only—Souls! souls! souls!"

The success of the Sieges up to the present have been the more striking from the fact that they have been conducted during the summer months. A sweeping success, surely, may be expected from the prosecution of the same measures during the coming winter.