

Y.M.C.A. War Work

The Appeal

The Y.M.C.A. appeal for funds is meeting with a very generous response. Up to date the total received is nearly £7,000 and many of the sources both in the metropolitan and country areas have not yet completed their returns. Moreover some of the large country centres have postponed their efforts to suit local conditions. The support given by the Churches and many of the Returned Soldiers Branches has been very gratifying and it is hoped that the objective of £12,000 will ultimately be reached.

On Friday afternoon last in the presence of 1,400 children of the Hills District Schools from Strathalbyn in the South, Eden Hills in the West and Birdwood in the Nth. the S.P.F. Badge was unveiled in the Y.M.C.A. Hut. This Hut was erected and furnished at a cost of £2,000 and the money was provided by the Schools' Patriotic Fund. The Children were brought by train, lorries and motor car to the entrance gates then marched with their school bands. They formed into a square in front of the Hut and were surrounded on all sides by soldiers of the camp.

Cpl. J. R. Kearnan, representing Brig. H. C. Bundock, addressed the gathering and expressed his pleasure that the children representing the schools of the State had been brought to Woodside to see for themselves the Y.M. Hut which they had provided. Mr. W. T. Martin, Superintendent of Primary Education outlined the work of the Schools' Patriotic Fund and commended the enthusiasm of the scholars, teachers and organisers. The badge was unveiled by Ruth Clisby, a pupil of the Woodside

Clisby, a pupil of the Woodside School and Gloria Grasby of the Oakbank School in a neat little speech said that the gift was accompanied by the love and good wishes of the children to the soldiers. Lt. Col. T. R. Mellor, briefly outlined the work of the Y.M.C.A. Military Service and asked the children at the close of the ceremony to inspect the Hut and see for themselves the work being done.

A cheque for an additional £500 was presented to the Secretary towards the Y.M.C.A. Australian Forces Welfare Appeal, by Lloyd Cranwell of the Woodside School and a further presentation, from the S.P.F. by the girls of the Mt. Barker High School, of £50 worth of books was made to the Camp Commandant, Major A. W. Lott, who suitably acknowledged them and said that they would be appreciated. A very interesting and happy ceremony closed with the inspection of the Y.M.C.A. Hut facilities.

Gifts of Books.

Mr. H. L. Hawkins, Y.M.C.A. Representative from the Middle East recently toured South Australia and Broken Hill. Amongst other camp necessities for the Y.M.C.A. he emphasised the need for good literature. His appeal has brought a most encouraging response and we are receiving parcels daily from all parts of the State. The gift of a gramophone and 150 records has been received from the widow of the late Major W. J. Hutchinson. This has been placed with Flying Officer John Horner in the Mallala Flying School and is much appreciated.

Letters From Abroad

Headquarters are receiving letters from the front lines expressing appreciation of the Y.M. Services and asking for more and more home

PROVISION OF THE Y.M.C.A. SERVICES and asking for more and more home news, Sgt. A. A. Mitchell of the 2—2nd Pioneer Battalion writes:-

"Both in Palestine and Syria the Y.M.C.A. has done a grand job. One chap who contacts our Battalion regularly has a truck and turns up at different companies each night and serves out cocoa. He has a wireless whereby the boys listen in to the 9 p.m. news. It is a great piece of service and we hold the Y. in high regard."