

Ourselves.

The publication of the first number of a new Federal Church Paper seems to call for some Statement of Policy from those who are responsible for it. During the past few months we have received letters from correspondents asking information about the "Church Record," what it stands for, and why it is started? Such questions are reasonable, and we shall endeavour in this short article to supply satisfactory answers.

1. The "Church Record" is a Church of England Paper.

It will record, week by week, what our Church is doing both in Australasia and in other parts of the world. It will tell of the faithful labours, and successful achievements, of all members of the Church, quite irrespective of the School of Thought to which they belong. Especially, so far as Australasia is concerned, will the "Church Record" try to maintain a wide outlook, so that the narrow vision which sees only one Parish, Diocese, or State, may be broadened to see the Church in Australasia as a whole.

2. The Policy of the "Church Record" is Evangelical.

The Church of England is a comprehensive Church, containing within its fold several different "Schools of Thought" which all have their rights within the Church, provided they are loyal to its principles, as set forth in the Prayer Book, and the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion.

One of these historic "Schools of Thought" is known as "Evangelical." Dr. Denton Thompson (the Bishop of Sodor and Man) has in his book, "Central Churchmanship," thus defined the principles of Evangelical Churchmen:—

(1) "The Bible is the final and ultimate authority on all questions of faith and life."

(2) "The centrality of the death of Jesus Christ."

(3) "The necessity for the work of the Holy Ghost, first in Regeneration, and then in Sanctification."

(4) "The liberty of man's access to God through Jesus Christ."

The Policy of the "Church Record" will be "Evangelical" from the constructive side. Our primary aim will be to build up, rather than to destroy; to teach the truth of God, as we have received it; maintaining the spiritual principles of the Church of England as expressed in the Book of Common Prayer.

While our Policy is mainly constructive, we, of course, reserve our right to speak plainly, and to express frankest criticism, when we deem it to

be necessary. But we shall endeavour to avoid all bitterness, or want of charity, in our dealings with those from whose convictions we may strongly differ.

There is no other Federal Church Paper in Australia which stands for a Constructive Evangelical Policy, and we believe that the "Church Record" will meet a great need, and that many Church people will welcome its publication.

3. The Plans of the "Church Record."

We hope to publish in our pages each week, Notes on Current Topics, Church News, and Leading Articles on important questions. A strong and representative Advisory Board will assist the Editor, and in addition, help will be given by leading Churchmen throughout Australia.

The Missionary Enterprise will not be forgotten. It will be dealt with from the widest point of view, and, our readers, while being provided with detailed information of our own Australian Missionary Organisations, will also be kept well informed of the great world movements which are such a marked feature of the present day.

The Young People will have a special corner to themselves, and are invited to enter for competitions on Scripture subjects, based on the Church Catechism, and prizes will be given each quarter to successful competitors.

Future developments of the "Church Record" will depend on a very practical matter; the number of our subscribers. We have received already a good deal of encouragement in this direction, and publish our first number with much reason for hopefulness. We trust that many who are not yet subscribers will, at the earliest possible moment, enrol themselves on our list, and thus give their practical assistance to our enterprise.

Current Topics.

Everybody knows that January 1st is New Year's Day. We have all been wishing each other a Happy New Year; we have doubtless felt some responsibility in turning over a new page of our

life's story; possibly we have made some good resolutions as to what we shall write on that page. But how many people realise that, in the Church Calendar, January 1st is the Festival of "The Circumcision of Christ." On that Day we remember that, "when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the Child, His Name was called Jesus." Thus the Name of Jesus stands as a Head Line at the commencement of every year. The