

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. M. F. BELL.

EIGHT YEARS WORK AS VICAR OF
WHEATLEY. (1919 - 1927)

A presentation to Rev. M. F. Bell, Vicar of Wheatley, who is shortly leaving Wheatley to take up work as Warden of Newland, Worcestershire, was made on Monday evening at the "Merry Bells." In the absence of the Rev. W. R. Fox, through illness, the meeting was presided over by Mr. A. W. Williamson. A letter was read by Mrs. Fox from her husband, in which he paid very high tribute to the earnest work of the Vicar, by whose departure Mr. Fox felt he was losing a very real friend.

Brig.-General A. D. Miller, who was present with Mrs. Miller, added his testimony, saying the Vicar could be assured that there would always be many warm hearts thinking of him, and he hoped that in the future they might meet again.

Mr. W. Sheldon, the people's churchwarden, in making the presentation, expressed the heartfelt thanks of all those present to the Vicar and Mrs. Bell for all they had done in the church and parish, both spiritually and socially. Mr. Sheldon then handed the Vicar a cheque, together with a book containing the names of the 128 persons who had contributed to the gift, and wishing him and Mrs. Bell all happiness in their new sphere of work.

The Rev. M. F. Bell, in replying, expressed his thanks for the gift, which was a token of their continued kindness towards him. Briefly reviewing the eight years he had spent amongst them, he regretted many short-comings on his part, but said that in connection with his work there were many causes for thankfulness. To mention one instance—during the first year of his vicariate the church had contributed £16 for work of the church overseas, whereas in 1926 it had amounted to £116. In other directions church offerings had also expanded, and £500 had passed through the churchwardens' hands during the past year.

To show their appreciation of Mrs. Bell, the members of the local branch of the Mothers' Union (of which Mrs. Bell was Enrolling Member) presented her with a leather suit-case, and Mrs. E. C. Sheldon (hon. secretary of the M.U.), in handing

over the gift, said how very sorry they all were at losing Mrs. Bell, whose work for the Mothers' Union had been invaluable.

Mrs. Bell, in returning thanks, said how happy she had been in her-work amongst them and appealed to them to continue their support to the new Enrolling Member and to the new Vicar's ■wife when she came.

. Between the speeches musical items were given by Miss Antrobus, Mrs. and Miss Fox, Miss Ellison, and Messrs. A. East, E. Sheldon, W. Sheldon, A. Sheldon and J. White. The meeting, which was preceded by a supper, terminated with rousing cheers for the Vicar and Mrs. Bell. ;

On Monday morning, the Headmaster, Mr. Key, on behalf of the teachers and scholars of the Church Schools and Catechism Class, presented the Vicar, who is an accomplished musician and has organised many concerts in the village, with a volume containing the miniature scores of Beethoven's 17 String Quartettes. A clock was given to Mrs. Bell.

The Rev. Sidney John Selbv Groves, until _recently curate of St. Mark's, Wellington, New Zealand, has been Appointed to the living, and, with his wife, will take up residence towards the end of the month.