

YARRABAH'S 25th BIRTHDAY.

SAINT ALBAN'S DAY was fittingly observed at Yarrabah by a solemn procession from the Church, and a service at the wooden cross situated on the beach at the spot where the pioneer missionary landed. The procession was headed by Luke, the Sacristan, followed by the brass band, then the boys and girls and men and women, hymns being sung on the way. At the cross a hollow square was formed for the Anniversary Service, at which the Chaplain (Rev. J. T. Perry) gave an address. Unfortunately a strong, cool wind was blowing, which somewhat hindered the proceedings. Special intercessions for the Mission and thanksgivings were offered, all the people kneeling on the grass.

On the previous day (Saturday) the heats of several races were run off, *viz.*, the 100 yards, the hurdles, the Mission Championship, and the 220 yards. Few of the natives of the Mission were absent from the sports held on Monday, 18th June, the day following S. Alban's Day. The finals of the chief events produced some splendid running, whilst the obstacle race and the boys' bun-eating contest produced peals of laughter, the buns being liberally smeared with golden syrup. The long and high jumps and the pole-vaulting were excellent. Great interest was displayed in the throwing of merrows, spears, and boomerangs, and in the pipe-lighting race, the means of ignition being native fire-sticks. There were a few aquatic events in the way of "flatty" races.

The programme was being carried out until after sundown, so that the prizes could not be distributed until darkness had fallen. They were handed to the winners by Mrs. Samuel Lyon (the wife of the Superintendent) from the verandah of the Mission House. The prize fund was raised entirely amongst the people themselves, some of whom gave their subscriptions in the shape of bananas, which were bought at the Mission stores.

It was hard to believe that the Australian aborigines are a decadent people when one

witnessed the jumping and running, much of which would compare favourably with most outside amateur sports.

At the time of writing there is one boy who is having vivid memories of the Mission's 25th Birthday Sports. He was the fortunate winner of three prizes of (alas!) an edible nature, a loaf of bread, half a good sized cake, and a large bun. Unfortunately for himself he is inclined to be selfish and consumed the whole at one sitting.

H.G.S.



PROCESSION AT YARRABAH, S. ALBAN'S DAY, 1917.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS for the Missions must be sent to the Central Office as follows:—

For New Guinea, early in October.
For Forrest River, early in September.
For Mitchell River, early in October.
For Torres Straits, end of October.
For Yarrabah, end of October.

Melanesia—

Solomon Islands, early in October.
Norfolk Island, middle of October.
New Hebrides, early in October.
Banks Islands, early in October.

Japan, early in September.

Shantung (China).—Gifts for Shantung (China) should be sent to the A.B.M. Central Office, 242 Pitt Street, Sydney; A.M.S. Office, Cathedral Buildings, Swanston Street, Melbourne, or Miss Holloway, "Woodstock," Denham Street, Hawthorn, Victoria, on or before the 16th September, 1917.