

# New Central Hall at Leith.

## OPENING SERVICES IN A RAINSTORM.

THE long drought in Scotland broke on Wednesday of last week, and the rain poured down in torrents at the time scheduled for the opening of the new Methodist Central Hall in Leith. Despite the rain, nearly a thousand people gathered in queues, lined up thus by the police, for the new Hall is not only situated in the main thoroughfare, but adjoins the Central Fire Station, and the police rightly insisted on a pathway being preserved in case the brigade had a sudden call.

Lord Runciman was unfortunately called to important meetings in London, but his niece, Miss Mary Richardson, ably deputised. Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Mines Department, presided. Owing to the weather and traffic necessities, the ceremony outside was of the briefest possible. The Lord Dean of Guild, Mr. T. Forbes Maclean, F.R.I.B.A., the architect, presented the golden key, and, after opening the door, Miss Richardson led the procession into the main hall, which was soon full to overflowing. Mr. Brown, in his speech, gave a short account of the history of Methodism in Leith, and heartily congratulated the friends on the opportunity which now presented itself to them. Miss Richardson charmed the



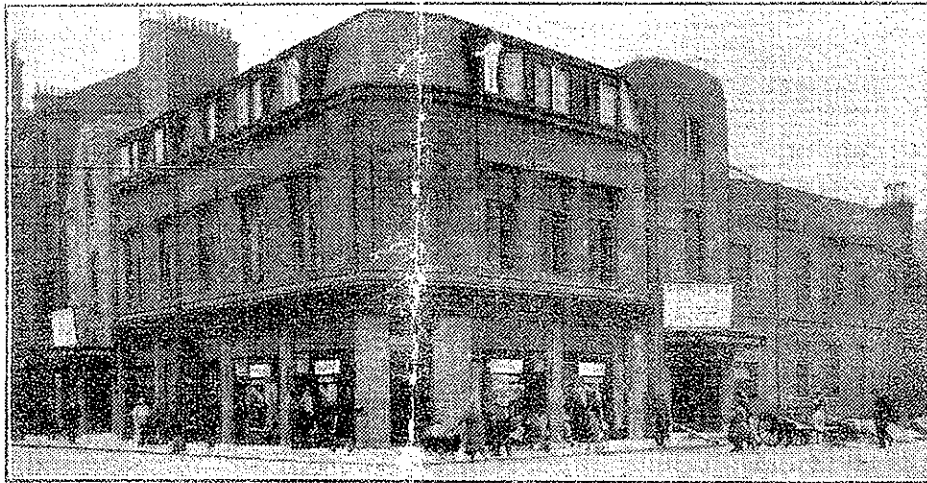
Rev. Walter A. Headey.

Stevenson was introduced to Methodism in his youth. The Edinburgh Central Hall choir, under the gifted leadership of Mr. Cooper-Witcox, augmented our own, and Mr. C. L. Brown, the sweetest tenor in Scotland, sang "Bless this House" and "I will arise." It was a wonderful meeting. Dr. Young was as youthful and as vigorous as ever. The Chairman of the District, too, was greatly enjoyed by the audience, though it seemed apparent that most people missed the full force of his reference to "take heed how ye hear," or they would not have laughed so readily. The Rev. Joseph Gray, former minister of the neighbouring Church of Scotland, held his audience as few can. His shafts of pleasantry and humour carried barbs of truth that bit deep, and no one can readily forget the point to which he led his hearers. The Rev. Donald Standfast, of the Regnal League, deputised for the General Chapel Secretary, who was unable to be present, and filled a difficult place very well.

The Rev. Walter A. Headey announced the day's takings in collections as £370, and the first day in the new building closed with the singing of Jackson's "Te Deum." A debt of about £2,000 remains, and an anonymous donor has promised £20 for every £100 raised. WALTER A. HEADEY.

### MANCHESTER MIDDAY SERVICE.

THE Rev. W. E. Sangster was the preacher at the Central Hall, Manchester, on Tuesday last, and took as his text Ephesians iv. 14. He began by saying that a scientist recently appealed for "the closed mind," closed not by prejudice or unreasoning principle, but by wise conservatism. Usually it is



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delightful address. She was a ray of sunshine on a dull day, and the people accorded to her long and loud applause. The dedicatory service was then con-



At the Opening.

ducted by Dr. Dinsdale T. Young, and his message will long be remembered.

In the evening, Mr. J. Bea Riley, a Methodist of Halifax, presided over a full house. The senior Circuit steward, Mr. Allan Stevenson, introduced the chairman, for it was through the chairman that Mr.