



# *Non-Conformist News*

## *Oaksey*

### **Primitive Methodist Synod at Cirencester**

The annual six-day synod of the Primitive Methodist Church for the Brinkworth and Swindon district is being held at Ashcroft Road Church, Cirencester, and opened on Thursday night, when the Rev R Cowie, GCD, of Witney, preached, and a sacramental service followed.

In a "foreword" to the handbook, from the Rev A Warcup, superintendant of the entertaining circuit, it is stated "the Primitive Methodists made a vigorous attempt to get a permanent footing (in Cirencester) in 1824, but did not then succeed. In 1845, the Cirencester Circuit was made with only one chapel, which was at Oaksey, seven miles away, all other preaching places being in rented rooms or the open-air. A settled dwelling-place was found for our people in 1851 by the erection of the sanctuary in Lewis-lane. Forty-five years afterwards a bold step was taken in the building of a minister's house, church and school in Ashcroft-road, an ideal situation at a cost of £1,864." The Connexion still retains its first chapel at Oaksey, having also properties in seven villages, and a rented mission-room is used.

The Synod meetings of the district were first held in Cirencester in 1898, and again in 1904, and hearty reception by the inhabitants is being repeated on the present occasion.

The present Circuit stewards are Messrs Wilfred C Maslin (Watermoor), and Mark Hall (Eastington); and the duties of society stewards are undertaken by Messrs R Rimes (Stratton), and R T Fiddler (Cirencester).

The Synod is being attended by nearly 40 ministers and delegates representing churches over a wide area, and there are candidates for the ministry, and many recognised "visitors."

Connexuional business on Friday was followed by an open-air service and temperance demonstration at the chapel.

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