

something like 9,000 members with approximately fifty-four pastors either fully ordained ministers, theological students, or accepted supply ministers.

Bishop Armando Rodriguez presided at the conference sessions July 27-29, 1969, this marking the first annual conference of the autonomous church. International visitors included Miss Joyce Hill, a United Methodist Board of Missions staff member, and Bishop FRANZ SCHAEFER of United Methodism's Geneva Area. He represented the COUNCIL OF BISHOPS of The United Methodist Church, and his presence opened official contact between the Cuban church and the United Methodists over the world. The conference decided that its main thrust in the immediate future was to be in Christian education and evangelism.

The first General Conference of the autonomous church was held March 2-7, 1971 in Havana. At that time Bishop Armando Rodriguez was reelected for a four-year term. Emphasis on social action and lay participation as responsible Christians was made in the planning for the next quadrennium. Bishop RAYMOND VALENZUELA from CHILE and Miss Joyce Hill from the United States were international guests at the conference.

**Agricultural and Industrial School**, Mayari, Cuba (1945-1961), an agricultural and industrial school built at Play Manteca between the towns of Preston and Mayari, Oriente, Cuba, on 300 acres of land donated by the United Fruit Sugar Company. Its first director was the Rev. John E. Stroud. Also connected with this institution were Richard G. Milk and Edgar Nessman as director and vice director. The school trained an average of sixty Cuban young people each year for leadership in a rural environment. All students worked half the time and studied the other half. No one of the students knew who were the scholarship students. It had the highest percentage of conversions among its students of all Protestant schools in Cuba. Its graduates—young men as well as young women—learned improved methods of agricultural and minor industrial trades. Many of them became supply pastors in the Cuba Conference.

It had its beginning in 1921 in the heart of L. H. Robinson and Ezequiel Suarez, who were convinced that the church should provide schools for rural children. Up to this time all church related schools of all denominations were located in cities and served families in the upper economic brackets, while fifty percent of the population was rural and illiterate.

The Methodist Mission officials were indifferent to any plan for rural training, as were the Cuban pastors located in the cities, until in 1940 Dr. Ralph Felton, noted rural sociologist from DREW UNIVERSITY, spent a month in Cuba making a thorough study of rural needs and practical methods of improvement. About the same time, Merle Davis, a former Congregational missionary to the PHILIPPINES, published a sociological survey of Cuba, *Cuba in a Sugar Economy*.

These reports aroused considerable interest and soon plans were drawn up for an industrial school but two years' negotiation ensued before final approval was secured from the General BOARD OF MISSIONS and at Conference level, although the Cuban government lent its support from the beginning.

The Agricultural and Industrial School was the first Methodist school in Cuba to have a Board of Directors having active overall supervision. Preference was given to students lacking in financial support. Also, almost all

work done on the farm, dairy, kitchen and laundry was done by the students themselves. Previously, all boarding schools were hesitant to accept work-scholarship students, since they frequently developed an inferiority complex on account of their economic difference from the other students. But at the Agricultural-Industrial school everyone worked, including the teachers.

J. Cannon, *Southern Methodist Missions*. 1926.

Barbara Lewis, *Methodist Overseas Missions*. 1960.

S. A. Neblett, *Methodism in Cuba*. 1966.

Hugh Thomas, *Cuba, the Pursuit of Freedom*. N.d.

JUSTO L. GONZALEZ  
JOYCE HILL  
GARFIELD EVANS

**CUBITT, GEORGE** (1791-1850), British preacher and writer, was born at Norwich, Norfolk, and became a Wesleyan Methodist itinerant in 1813. He went out as a missionary to Newfoundland in 1816, but his very successful ministry there was cut short by ill health, and he returned home in 1819. He was appointed CONNEXIONAL EDITOR in 1842, a post which he held until his death. Of his numerous writings, biographical, historical and doctrinal, none has left any permanent impression. He died in London on Oct. 13, 1850.

F. Cumbers, *Book Room*. 1956.

Findlay and Holdsworth, *Wesleyan Meth. Miss. Soc.* 1921.

*Minutes of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference*, 1851.

G. ERNEST LONG

**CULLOM, JEREMIAH WALKER** (1828-1915), pastor, Confederate chaplain, and PRESIDING ELDER, was born Dec. 20, 1828, in Davidson County, Tenn., the son of Gaius F. and Cynthia (Hooper) Cullom. His formal education was limited to the three-month rural schools of the day. Converted at twenty, he was soon licensed to exhort and then to preach. After teaching school briefly, he was admitted to the TENNESSEE CONFERENCE (MES) in 1851 and served on a number of circuits and stations. Throughout his ministry he was known for short sermons and much pastoral visiting. His work was effective, often resulting in 200 conversions per year. Though not rated a great preacher, his marked acceptability was attested by the fact that during his career he was appointed a second time for two- to four-year pastorates in four charges he had previously served. He had a four-year term on the Sparta District. Cullom did not retire until eighty years of age, and then against the expressed wish of his presiding elder. He enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private in 1861 because most of the young men on his charge were going, and because their parents said they would feel better if he went with them. Soon elected chaplain, he served two years, and then resigned and farmed and preached at Decatur, Ala. (then in the Tennessee Conference) until the war was over. In 1866 he resumed his place in the itinerant ranks and served for forty-two years. Cullom married Mary B. Isom, Oct. 13, 1857, and they had three sons and three daughters. She died in 1888, and after a few years he married Mattie Hyde, who died in 1914. Cullom started keeping a daily journal in 1854, continued the practice for fifty-eight years, and rewrote the work in 1912. A valuable historical record, the journal throws light on life in TENNESSEE during the period it covers, including the doings of the KENTUCKY and Tennessee "night riders" at the turn of the