

THE CHURCH SCHOOLS.

IT is unnecessary to recall here events of the past which have led to the present position of our Schools. During last year, 1936, I understand the Board of Education called attention to serious defects in the premises of the Caistor Methodist School. This apparently required some action by the Local Education Authority, who then communicated with the Managers of the Church of England School. In the Autumn of 1930 the question of the closure of the Methodist School was raised, and the Managers of the Church of England School sent a deputation to the Board of Education, and offered to make such extensions and improvements to the Church school as would enable it to accommodate conveniently all the Juniors and Infants of Caistor. In view of this assurance, the Board declined to approve the Local Education Authority's proposal at that time that a new Council School should be provided to take the Juniors and Infants from the Methodist School.

At the end of last year our Managers were asked to give careful consideration to the matter and state whether they were in a position to renew the offer which they made to the Board of Education in 1930, and if they could see their way to enlarge the Church School so as to make it suitable for about 140 Juniors and Infants. To this the Managers said they would wholeheartedly deal with the problem of enlargement to accommodate the additional children, and would meet all the requirements of the Education Authority. In addition to this, I, as Vicar, undertook to give facilities for children, other than Church of England children, to have their own religious instruction if they so wished. We also asked for information as to what *might* be required to make our School suitable to meet the requirements of the L.E.A. The County Architect visited the School and formulated an outline scheme for providing the suggested accommodation, and also to make the building and playgrounds capable of meeting the requirements of the Education Authority.

Our willingness to carry out this scheme was submitted by the L.E.A. to the Managers of the Methodist School, who stated that they were opposed to the transfer of the Juniors and Infants attending their School, to the Church of England School, for three reasons. It is not possible to set out here these reasons as they are somewhat involved, but they were such that the Church School Managers could not, under any circumstances, accept them as reasons why our scheme should not be acceptable.

The Education Committee then enquired whether our Church School Managers would be prepared to transfer our School to the County Council, in order that it might be made suitable as a Council School for the accommodation

