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The Australian Dictionary of Evangelical Biography

Brian Dickey (editor)

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ADEB contains 648 biographies, mostly less than six hundred words. The criteria for inclusion are that the subject was prominent, was more or less Evangelical in confession, is deceased, and someone offered the material to the editor. In the eighteenth century fifty-five were born. The average number from the next eleven decades is fifty-four, with the interesting feature that the Christian immigrant years, the 1850s and 1970s, produced sixty-two and seventy-six respectively.

Denominationally twenty-nine per cent were Anglican, thirteen per cent Presbyterian, twenty-two per cent Methodist, thirteen per cent Baptist, six per cent Congregationalist, four per cent Churches of Christ, three per cent Brethren and the remainder miscellaneous. The reviewer contributed half the twenty Brethren biographies. Apart from Rice Thomas Hopkins, the names would not be well known overseas. There are some notable omissions, such as Harrison Ord and John Hambleton. Inevitably some of the classification is rubbery, and the 'unspecified' list contains a few more Brethren.

Country of origin was thirty-six per cent England, thirty-two per cent Australia, thirteen per cent Scotland, seven per cent Ireland and twelve per cent other. As might be expected, the ecclesiastical politicians predominate. Division by vocation is approximately forty-four per cent church leaders, twenty-nine per cent missionaries, twenty-one per cent lay people and six per cent theological teachers. As also might be expected, the biographies are almost all of white Anglo-Saxon Protestants. Only eleven per cent-of the inclusions were women.

The contents are for every reader a wonderful testimony to the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in the lives who trusted Him and gave Him dedicated service in far Australia. The editor, Dr Brian Dickey, is Associate Professor of History at Flinders University (in Adelaide, South Australia), and Aussie evangelicals, at the very least, are in his debt.

Ian McDowell