

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

*The Monthly Journal of
H. & G. SIMONDS, Ltd.*

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

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FEBRUARY

1927.



Commander H. D. SIMONDS, R.N.,

one of our Directors, who played a worthy part in the Great War as Lt.-Commander on H.M.S. "Formidable"; he was a prominent participant in a thrilling story of the sea. After the loss of H.M.S. "Formidable" in the North Sea, Lt.-Commander Simonds was appointed to H.M.S. "Warspite," a sister ship to H.M.S. "Queen Elizabeth." In private life he is a clever amateur actor and as a humorist has achieved great success on the stage.

EDITORIAL CHAT.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS.

Hearty congratulations will be extended to Mr. F. A. Simonds, our esteemed Managing Director, on having just completed a quarter-of-a-century in the service of the firm. And he will receive those congratulations not only from all connected with The Brewery, but from many others in almost every walk of life. His rare business acumen and wonderful capacity for getting things done admirably fit him for the office he holds. Few men are more widely known than Mr. Eric and none is more widely respected. His presence is eagerly sought in numerous directions. There is no more popular figure on the field of sport, at social functions, or one the political platform. Even on the latter, his political opponents admire him for his manly conduct of the meetings, his fairness and courtesy to all, and the geniality of his disposition. It is said that the busiest men find the most time to spare. One often wonders how Mr. Simonds fulfils so many engagements. There can be no eight-hours day for him. In any case we wish him the best of health in which to carry out his many and arduous duties, long life and all happiness.

BEER THE ANTIDOTE.

"I don't drink beer because 'it would do me good,' but merely because I like it," writes the Rev. C. Bradburn Pimblett, Vicar of St. Luke's, Barrow, in his parish magazine.

"The average British working man," he adds, "does an honest day's work and is entitled to an honest glass of beer if he wants it. I don't believe a word about evil effects.

"A good glass is the best antidote to revolutionary poison which underpaid and over-taxed working people are being driven to swallow.

"How glad I was to read of our Prince going into an East End public house and having his glass of beer and treating East End ladies and hob-nobbing with the dockers and draymen.

"I consider that an excellent gesture. One who can do that sort of thing need have no fear about his throne. God bless the Prince of Wales!"

THE SOCIAL CLUB.

What ever should we do without the Social Club? Since the kindly thought and generous assistance of the Directors made this institute an accomplished fact it has played a great part in

the social life of The Brewery, and the various tournaments, whist drives, dances, etc., are a never-ceasing source of pleasure. To organize all these things must entail a vast amount of work, and Mr. W. Bradford, the Hon. Secretary, deserves the highest praise for the ability he displays and time he spends in this direction. He is well backed up by Mr. S. Bird, the Hon. Treasurer, not forgetting the keen and active interest which Mr. F. C. Hawkes, the Chairman, always shows in all that is taking place. A word of thanks is also due to Mr. King, the Steward, and his wife, who work hard and can always be relied upon to make preparations for the various events arranged by the Committee. With everybody thus pulling together any institute is bound to be an unqualified success.

REAL PLUCK.

The average Briton admires pluck, and if ever this was exemplified, it was on the occasion of the Reading v. Manchester United match at Elm Park in the great Cup Tie on January 8th. Reading, with ten men, scored, and then reduced to nine, for twenty minutes they fought like lions to maintain their lead, every man doing his utmost; and they almost succeeded. No one could wax enthusiastic over the goal that Manchester scored, their opponents being so terribly handicapped. Eggo, our worthy Captain, hurt his arm badly, but played on heroically in spite of the pain. The Reading football team have many staunch supporters at The Brewery, and we raise our hats to them for not only playing fine football, but for giving such a magnificent display of pluck. Bravo!

At Manchester and Birmingham Reading again covered themselves with glory, but the Elm Park effort is the one that will linger longest in our memories.

It will doubtless interest many to know that Major H. Kaye, who is in charge of our Veterinary and Horse Transport Department, played for the Aston Villa football team, as an amateur, during the 1904-1905 season.

HOSPITAL CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME.

The Brewery Branch of the Royal Berkshire Hospital Contributory Scheme is a very active and efficient organization, thanks in a large measure to the splendid work of its Hon. Secretary, Mr. Bailey. A detailed report of the proceedings of the Branch appears in another page, and we advise all to peruse it for it forms very interesting and enlightening reading. The organization is a fine concern finely managed.

COUNT TEN.

Most of us have said a word in haste and regretted it afterwards. A friend of the writer's had a tendency to err in this direction and was given some very sound advice by a gentleman in authority. "If I were you," he said, "and you think someone has given you cause for grievance count ten before you say anything, however annoyed you may feel at the time." "I took the advice to heart," says the man in question, "and you cannot think what a help it has been, on more than one occasion saving serious trouble." Count ten—it is advice that most of us would do well to follow.

LITTLE COURTESIES.

While the writer was in the Post Office one day last week, a young fellow of good address came in with a parcel. The postage was 9d., but he only had 8d. in his pocket. "That will be all right," said the gentleman behind the counter, "I will put on the extra stamp. Pay when you come in again." The next day the young man called and paid the penny, giving the clerk a small packet of cigarettes for his courtesy. It is not exactly a stirring story, but such little courtesies make life worth living. It was kind and thoughtful of the clerk to so readily oblige and thoughtful of the visitor to acknowledge it in the way he did.

OUR FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS.

The photographs of our Directors which we are giving each month on the front page of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE are proving of very great interest. The picture of Mr. Shea-Simonds which appeared last month aroused a great deal of interest among sportsmen, who recalled many great games with him on the football and cricket field. It reminded others, who had not seen him for years, of his fine performances as an accomplished violinist.

This month we give the photograph of Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N., who, during the war, was a leading actor in one of the most thrilling stories of the sea. In peaceful times, Commander Simonds has achieved noted success as a humorist on the stage. Sculpture, yachting, figure skating and fine horsemanship are among the many accomplishments of other members of our versatile Directorate.

THE SPILL CLUB.

We have all heard of the old-fashioned paper "spill" or pipe-lighter once so popular, but now not so often seen in use. Until a few days ago we were unaware that there was a club bearing that name in the town and that it had been flourishing for some

years. A short time ago, the writer paid a visit to one of the firm's well-known houses and while in conversation with "mine host" his attention was drawn to a letter pinned up in the bar, thanking the members of "The Spill Club" for a very handsome donation to the funds of the Queen Victoria Nursing Home. On making a few enquiries, it appears that one of the customers, known as the "Chairman," is an expert spillmaker and keeps the room supplied with them, all members making use of these having to pay a subscription to the Spill Club, and at the one and only meeting held during the year, on Boxing Day morning, the subscriptions and donations for the year are allocated to various charities. This year, the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Save the Children Fund, and the Queen Victoria Nursing Home have benefited. For years this little club has quietly done its bit to help some worthy cause and good luck to the members who amongst their pleasures find time to think of and help others. That well-known angler, Mr. G. Pocock, is the first and only Chairman of the Club, and may he live long to keep up the good work.

NOTICE.

The Directors offer a prize of £10 to any member of the Staffs of the Combined Breweries, for suggestions for new "Milk Stout" and "S.B." posters which may be adjudged suitable for practical use as the Companies' posters. The prize will be awarded for each suggestion selected, whether for "Milk Stout" or "S.B."

Suggestions and, if possible, designs, to be forwarded to the Advertising Department, Reading, not later than March 31st. It must be understood that no outside professional assistance is to be obtained by competitors.

MR. BLACKALL-SIMONDS' TRIP ABROAD.

Our esteemed Chairman, Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds, upon the recommendation of his doctor, is taking a holiday in a warmer and more equable climate, to escape the trying weather that is usually experienced in this country during the next two months. He sailed for Cairo on January 15th and we trust that he will have had a pleasant passage, also that he will benefit from the visit and that in due course, on his return, we all hope to have the pleasure of welcoming him back again in the best of health.

A NATURE NOTE.

A miniature lake in a meadow, formed by the heavy rains, was the spot to which I set out, one day last spring, to resume my studies of wild nature's ways, writes our Nature Correspondent. Rivers, ditches and pools, far removed from the madding crowd always provide a wealth of information to the observant naturalist, and all I saw in this one little spot would provide material for pages rather than one short paragraph. Therefore I must leave the lapwings, the wild duck, the snipe, etc., and content myself with the doings of two dabchicks.

From a distance I had been watching the birds, but when I approached within twenty yards of the water they were nowhere to be seen! I well knew their little game, however, and searching the water's surface, I eventually espied, among some weeds, the head of one of the birds. She had submerged her body and only her head was visible, and that she had taken the precaution to raise close to some projecting rushes by way of camouflage. She was, in truth, a living submarine, with only the periscope showing. Her mate was doing exactly the same thing near by, and only the closest observation revealed their whereabouts.

Approaching within a few yards of the birds they both dived, and a very slight ripple on the water enabled me to trace them in another part of the lake. Then I left the birds and, mounting my bicycle, rode off. It was now my turn to play the game of camouflage. Having gone some distance I dismounted and, creeping along behind a hedge, approached close to the birds again. At first I was only able to discern their heads by means of my glasses. But gradually these feathery submarines reappeared above water. I was evidently the subject of their conversation, and after a while, having satisfied themselves that the coast was quite clear, the birds began to play, little thinking that I, peering through a holly bush, was watching their every movement.

They were a most amorous couple, but as I don't think it sporting to watch too closely courting couples, particularly through field glasses, I withdrew as quietly as I came, leaving them to their birdly bliss.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

FIRST YOUNGSTER: Give us a bit of your apple.

SECOND YOUNGSTER: Shan't!

Then give us a bit of the core.

There ain't going to be no core.

And there wasn't!

A GREAT THOUGHT.

A tall bearded man, looking severe and worried, sat at his desk in his study, working anxiously. The law of his house was that he must not be disturbed during the time set apart for his labours. But as he sat so engaged the door opened quietly, and the chubby face of a four-year-old boy peeped solemnly in. Gravely addressing the tall man, his father, the little boy said, "*If you'll tum out and play wiz us I'll give you sispence.*"

The big stern man got up from his desk, stole out on tiptoe, went and played with his tempter, and did no more work that morning.

He was one the greatest thinkers the world has ever known. His name was Charles Darwin.

THE EMPTY NEST.

Part the leaves : how simple life is—

Thistles and green blades of grass.

Curtains where no pain nor strife is,

Letting rills of sunlight pass.

Here, where blue eggs held their treasure

Warm beneath dear watchful eyes,

Frail, unwonted wings now measure

Unaccustomed skies.

Part the leaves : the broken houses

Lie like flakes of fallen blue ;

God in this small heaven rouses

Souls that are more glad than you.

Ev'ry hedge a singing city,

Sun-wrought and miraculous,

Whose enchanted hearts must pity

Ours, and surely us.

Close the little leafy heaven ;

Narrow is the nest, but there

Lay the love that God has given

To a World for two made fair.

Now the tiny wings have risen,

Summer breezes they defy ;

Man, too, in his earthly prison

Knows that Heaven is nigh !

LOOKING BACKWARD.

REFERENCE TO REMARKABLE RAVENS.

With regard to the interesting article by W.G.W. entitled "Looking Backward," which appeared last month, we have received the following equally interesting details :—

There were two ravens at the Brewery and at that time, 1866-67, two high poplar trees were standing, one on each side of the entrance gateway. The birds sometimes made use of the trees and perhaps roosted there. Their wings were periodically slightly clipped so that they could not fly very far, although they seemed to have no inclination to leave The Brewery. Woe betide any dog which came on to the premises. When children came for small quantities of grains or yeast (the Yeast House then was where the present Time-keeper's office stands) the birds would fly after them and peck at their shoes or legs, much to the consternation of the youngsters. The ravens had also been known to follow people some distance up the street and were fed with biscuits. I do not remember what became of the birds, but I am under the impression that they were eventually sent to the Zoological Gardens, London.

Harry Payne, celebrated as a cricketer, who was yard foreman and at one time host of the old "Queen's Head," Christchurch Road, used to delight, in his spare time, in playing with the birds by throwing to them small pebbles, pieces of chalk or pencil. These missiles the birds would cleverly catch.

The writer met, not very long ago, a lady living some distance from Reading. Discussing old times, she said she recollected the "two eagles" at The Brewery.

H.F.L.

THE LATE MR. M. H. DICKER.

Quite a gloom was cast over the whole Brewery on the morning of January 8th, when M. H. Dicker was taken suddenly ill with a heart seizure whilst at work in the beer cellars, and although everything possible for his relief was done by his fellow workers he passed away before the doctor arrived.

Dicker had been employed by the Firm for about five years and his death is felt very keenly by his colleagues, who extend their sincere sympathy to his widow.

REINDEER SLATE CLUB.

We have received a copy of the balance sheet of this Club. The chief items are :—

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
55 Members Slate Club	93	9 9	Sick Pay	8	15 0
40 Members Thrift Club	123	11 0	Withdrawals	24	15 9
			Slate Club Surplus ...	14	12 3
			Pay to Thrift Members	96	5 3
			52 Members at £1 5s. 1d.	65	4 4

WORDS OF WISDOM.

It is only when it is bent that the bow shows its strength.

It is not the greatness of a man's means that makes him independent, so much as the smallness of his wants.

Nature glories in death more than in life. The month of departure is more beautiful than the month of coming. Every green thing loves to die in bright colours.

There is poetry and beauty in the common lives about us, if we look at them with imaginative and sympathetic eye.

There is only one true religion, but there may be many forms of belief.

SCHOOLBOY "HOWLERS."

Guy's Hospital was built to commemorate the Gunpowder Plot.

Joan of Arc was canonized by Bernard Shaw.

Lipton is the capital of Ceylon.

William III., on his way to Hampton Court, stumbled over a mole and broke his collar-stud—which was fatal to a man of his constituency.

Michal Angelo painted the selling of the cistern chapel.

A prospectus is a man who finds gold.

Fallacy is another name for suicide.

A pollygon is a dead parrot.

A triangle with equal sides is called equatorial.

Festina lente.—The festival of Lent.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

If people would only do what they do do, they would not have to do half so much as they do do.

An old countryman had been about Vancouver for some time without work, but finally got a job cutting the slabs into stove lengths. The hazy circle at the outer edge of the circular saw had a tremendous fascination for him and at last he put his finger over it just to see what it was. His finger came off. As he stood gazing at the bleeding finger stump, the foreman came along. "Well, what's the matter here?" he asked. "Blime if I know," was the reply, "You see I just put my finger over the saw like this . . . My Gawd, there's another one gone!"

MACDONALD: And how's the world treating you lately?

MACDOUGALL: Verra seldom, Mac; verra seldom.

Does a golfer ever tell the truth?

Certainly. He often calls another a liar.

A Kansas man has discovered how to find a needle in a haystack. He sat on one!

BERKS HOSPITAL CONTRIBUTORY SCHEME.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BREWERY BRANCH.

The Annual Meeting of the Brewery Branch of the Royal Berks Hospital Contributory Scheme was held at The Brewery on January 7th. Mr. S. Bird presided over a well-attended and representative gathering. Mr. E. Bailey, the Hon. Secretary, reported that the contributions for 1926 amounted to £356 1s. 2d., an increase of £8 1s. 3d. on the previous year. The members numbered 548, an increase of 29. The number of contributors treated at the Hospital amounted to 97 (13 in-patients and 84 out-patients).

Mr. E. Bailey, to whom all our thanks are due for the good work he puts in for the Scheme, was again elected Secretary amid warm applause.

The election of three Governors, by ballot, to represent the members at the Annual Court held at the Hospital, was then proceeded with, and resulted in Messrs. A. Jacobs (Delivery Department), J. Maxwell (Loading Stage) and J. Penn (Cellars) being elected.

The Secretary thanked the collectors for their support, and said that his duties were considerably lightened by the prompt way in which the contributions were brought in. Major R. Wrey wished him to thank the members and to heartily congratulate them on the success achieved by the Seven Bridges Brewery Branch. He (the Hon. Secretary) also wished to thank, on their behalf, Mr. A. S. Rider for kindly auditing the accounts.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman, Mr. S. Bird, for presiding at the meeting.

Mr. Bailey has prepared an interesting summary (herewith), which shows in a lucid manner the amount of money, and the number of patients from the various Departments of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

DEPARTMENTAL SUMMARY.

Department.	Amount contributed.			No. of Members.	Cases treated.
	£	s.	d.		
Bottle Beer Stores	11	5	1	40	6
Beer Cellars	55	10	2	80	22
Brewery	27	6	2	36	5
Building	33	19	2	46	6
Canvas Store	6	1	4	12	1
Cooperage	9	13	3	17	2
Engineers	25	10	11	35	8
Loading Stage and Horse Transport	28	9	2	44	9
Maltings	16	18	8	22	4
Mechanical Transport	37	13	10	48	11
Scalds	31	14	10	45	10
Stables	14	3	4	19	3
Wheelwrights	10	13	0	14	3
Wine Stores	11	14	3	21	5
Offices	35	8	0	69	2
	£356	1	2	548	97

It is pleasing to know that the Contributory Scheme has had the effect of helping this great Hospital, where skilful and devoted doctors, assisted by tender nurses, are untiring in their efforts to bring back health and strength to sick and suffering humanity.

F.K.

LICENSED TRADE PROTECTION.

READING ASSOCIATION'S FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER.

The Fifth Annual Dinner of the Reading and District Licensed Trades Protection and Benevolent Association was held at the Palm Lodge, West Street, Reading, on Thursday, January 13th, and was a great success. The President (Mr. J. Healey) was in the Chair.

Mr. W. H. RUTTER proposed "Reading and District Licensed Victuallers' Protection and Benevolent Association." He mentioned that that was the 43rd year of the existence of the Society, and he trusted that the majority present would attend to celebrate the jubilee of that magnificent Society. (Applause.)

Mr. G. SMITH, who responded, said that during his short membership of the Committee he gained a good idea of the great amount of valuable work that Committee carried through. All who were not members of that Association should lose no time in joining.

Mr. E. T. HATT, the Association's Solicitor, proposed "Kindred Societies." He said that they missed Mr. Hastings, their Secretary, very much. He had been indisposed and they all hoped he would speedily be restored to health. He warned them that there would be a good deal of opposition to the Trade. But they were not going to have the liquor trade done away with in that country. They were strong enough to fight it and would fight it successfully so long as the kindred societies hung together. He had been Solicitor to the Association for well over half a century and he knew how well the brewers and the tenants worked together. He included in the toast the Berks Brewers' Association, and coupled with it the name of Mr. E. T. Norman.

Mr. E. T. NORMAN, Assistant Agent Western District of the National Trade Defence Association, said that with regard to the Bishop of Liverpool's Bill, though there was no chance of its going through the House of Lords, they must not take things too easily. The Bill, as it affected the Trade, was like a burglar entering your house to rob you of your savings.

At this stage Mr. F. A. Simonds called upon Mr. P. T. Crisp to present a President's Jewel to Mr. J. Healey.

Mr. CRISP expressed the great pleasure it gave him to hand the jewel to Mr. Healey, mentioning that when he (Mr. Crisp) received a similar gift last year it was one of the pleasantest moments of his life. Mr. Healey had during his year of office rendered noble service to the Association and on behalf of the members he thanked him warmly for his work. (Applause.)

Mr. HEALEY, who was very cordially received, said how proud he felt to be the recipient of the jewel. If his services had been of benefit to the Association he was amply repaid.

Mr. A. WHEELER proposed "The Visitors" and mentioned that among those present were Town Councillors and Justices of the Peace. They also had with them Mr. F. A. Simonds, and there was no finer gentleman in the town. (Applause.) He coupled Mr. Simonds' name with the toast.

NO WISH FOR FURTHER LEGISLATION.

In acknowledgment, Mr. SIMONDS thanked Mr. Wheeler for his kind words. Mr. Rutter had alluded to what he called a laxity on the part of the Government in not having done more during their tenure of office. He was not giving away secrets when he said he thought it was the policy of the leaders of the Trade to discourage any further legislation affecting the trade at the present time. They were already encumbered by all manner of legislation. Those responsible for carrying on the Trade did not wish for any further legislation. Rather, they believed in letting sleeping dogs lie. They did not desire to give more work to their lawyers or to further embarrass their most efficient police forces. He was striking a personal note when he said that that week he was completing twenty-five years' service with his firm, and during most of that time he had been a licence holder himself. It had been his privilege to meet a vast number of licence holders. Mr. Wheeler had made kind remarks about him (Mr. Simonds). These the company readily endorsed, and it was very gratifying to him to think that he had earned the praise of so many. (Applause.) He had difficult tasks to perform sometimes in holding the balance between the retail and the wholesale trade. As managing the affairs of the largest brewery in the town he must look to the interests of his shareholders; the interests of retailers he also had very near at heart. If he could by diplomacy, and any ability that he might possess, earn the praise of the retailers and shareholders—"You have, Sir"—he would be a happy man. He once again thanked them for the manner in which the visitors had been entertained, and he hoped to have the privilege of being invited again. (Applause.)

Mr. H. G. HAWKINS, J.P., in a very humorous speech, proposed the "Ladies and members of the Reading Women's Licensed Trade Defence Association." Many a woman, he said, by her fine moral and social qualities was the making of a house. (Applause.)

WOMEN AND THE TRADE.

Mrs. PHYLLIS MOSS, whose name was coupled with the toast, replied in a very neat little speech. She said she was not going to speak of prohibition; they all knew the disastrous effect of that law in America. But she would emphasise the importance of the women in the Trade being organized. (Applause.) Women now enjoyed the franchise, and as there were 700,000 women workers in the Temperance Party it showed how necessary it was that women in the Trade should be prepared. About two years ago it was decided to launch a Women's League and they had been steadily progressing since. Financially they were quite sound and had well over a hundred members. They had the nucleus of a very fine association. At the end of last year they organized a dance, which was a huge success. Not only did they thus raise funds for their League, for in addition they were able to hand over a substantial sum to charities. (Applause.) In conclusion, she appealed for new members. She hoped that as many as possible would come to their meetings. They would then be stimulating their intelligence and furthering the cause they all had so much at heart. (Applause.)

In proposing the "President and Officials," Mr. A. S. COOPER mentioned that he had been an official for the past forty years. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT made brief reply, mentioning that of the meetings he had attended during the year over 90 per cent. of the members had attended. (Hear, hear.)

The President presented Mrs. Moss with a handsome pot of flowers.

During the evening a telegram was received from Mr. Hastings, the hard working Secretary of the Association, regretting his absence owing to indisposition.

Mr. P. T. Crisp was in charge of the bar arrangements and generously handed over all profits to the Association. The catering was carried out by Mr. Parslow.

Mr. George Smith arranged a high class musical programme which delighted all.

FATHER (*over the 'phone*): Mabel is not at home. Can I take a message?

YOUNG MALE VOICE (*nervously*): Er—yes. Just say—er—Toodle—oo—sweety—eetums—from Cyril.

THE SOCIAL CLUB.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREAT.

We all know that the events held at the Social Club are various, but it is doubtful if one can be found to equal such genuine delight and hearty enthusiasm as are seen on the occasion of the Christmas Treat given to the children of the Club members. If anyone, who has the slightest interest in children—and who has not?—had taken a peep in the Concert Room, on Saturday, January 8th, between 3 o'clock and 6 o'clock p.m., they would have been more than compensated by witnessing the spectacle before them. There one would have seen about 150 children, with faces all aglow with merriment, as the Concert was in progress. Then as the time advanced, they were all invited to join in the choruses of many of the well-known songs. Certainly the noise at times was nearly as much as the adult helpers could bear, but it was proof positive of the children's happy state of mind. The appearance of Messrs. J. Maxwell and J. Champion, in their very amusing costumes and make-up, added still more fun. Master Eric Curtis's Jazz Band was much appreciated, and anyone requiring a band of this description would be well advised to apply at 96, Oxford Road for terms. Miss Gladys Taylor very ably officiated at the piano, and the other artistes who assisted with the programme were the Misses Stephanie and Thelma Stevens, Rosina Whiting, Doris and Bubbles Taylor, Elizabeth Champion, and Marjorie and Muriel Gray, also some very clever dancing by Miss Vera Gray.

After the Concert, an attack, in massed formation, was made on the cakes, the doughnuts suffering the main shock of the attack; also several gallons of good tea were disposed of. After all the cakes and tea had vanished, and the cups, etc., cleared away, Father Christmas was seen to appear in the doorway, and make his way towards the artistically decorated trees which were heavily laden with splendid presents. Each present bore a number, which corresponded with the numbers on the tickets of admission issued to each child. The numbers were called out, and the children came forward to claim his or her present from the hands of Father Christmas, who was again ably impersonated by Mr. Charles Lailey. The delighted children on their departure were each the recipients of two oranges, a large bon-bon, also a banana, the latter being the generous gift of Mr. T. W. Vanderpump. The Concert Room was prettily decorated with festoons and lanterns, which gave the electric lighting a very attractive effect. These were kindly lent by Messrs. A. H. Bull, Ltd., who contracted for the presents. The Committee's thanks are due to the ladies, who, each year, devote much time for the children's welfare.

The Hon. Secretary has much pleasure in acknowledging the following amounts, which were collected by Club members:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. J. Maslen	1	13	8
Mr. J. Webb	1	18	0
Mr. W. Sparks		17	0
Mr. W. Bradford		16	6
Transport Workers' Union		10	0
Collecting Box in the Club	2	1	1

Subscription List which was also in the Club:—

Mr. C. W. Stocker	1	0	0
Mr. C. E. Gough		10	0
Mr. F. Hawkes		5	0
Mr. S. Murton		2	6
Mr. T. Lawrence		2	0
Mr. W. Sewell		2	0
Mr. C. G. Absolom		2	0
Mr. G. King (Steward)		5	6
Mr. A. T. Walsh	1		6

The Honorary Secretary of the Club (Mr. Walter Bradford), who again had charge of the arrangements, once more displayed his organizing abilities, by the smooth and perfect plans employed, everything going off without a hitch.

FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER.

The Fifth Annual Dinner of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., Social Club was held on Monday, January 24th and proved a highly enjoyable function. There was a record attendance. Mr. F. A. Simonds (the President) was in the Chair, and others included Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds, Mr. J. H. Simonds, Canon F. J. C. Gillmor, Mr. F. C. Hawkes (Chairman), Mr. H. L. Chaplin, Major Kaye, Mr. G. W. Cook and Mr. W. Bradford (the indefatigable Hon. Secretary). Apologies for absence were read from the revered Chairman of the Firm (Mr. G. Blackall-Simonds), who is in the land of the Sphinx, Mr. Fred Simonds, Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N., Mr. C. W. Stocker, Mr. C. E. Gough (who is abroad), Mr. S. Bird and Mr. A. Froome. A telegram was also received from Hythe, Mr. Mullins and Mr. Chapman wishing the company the best of luck.

In proposing the toast of "The King, Queen and Royal Family," the President made happy allusion to the visit of the Prince of Wales. He said that that was the first visit H.R.H.

had ever paid to a brewery. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and was keenly interested in all he saw.

The toast was very loyally honoured.

TOAST OF "THE PRESIDENT."

Mr. F. C. Hawkes proposed the toast of "The President," and mentioned that on that occasion it was, if possible, more popular than ever because that annual dinner followed closely on the completion by Mr. Simonds of twenty-five years' service with the Firm. (Loud applause.) They were all very proud of Mr. Simonds' record, for during the past quarter-of-a-century the Firm had made wonderful progress. (Applause.) The Club still fulfilled its purpose made possible through the generosity of the Firm, who so kindly provided it. The financial year had just closed and the Club continued in a sound financial condition. Mr. Hawkes alluded to the high ideals which actuated every Director in carrying out their many and often very difficult duties. In drinking that toast he knew they would wish Mr. Simonds the best of health and strength to carry on his important duties with as much success in the future as in the past.

The toast was received with the utmost enthusiasm and musical honours.

MR. SIMONDS' REPLY.

In acknowledgment Mr. F. A. Simonds warmly thanked Mr. Hawkes for his kind words and the company for the very enthusiastic manner in which they had drunk the toast. Mr. Simonds made reference to the work he did in different departments before having a seat on the Board of Directors. During the past twenty-five years he had made hosts of friends on the Firm and amongst the licensed victuallers and tenants so well represented that night. Mr. Hawkes made allusion to his prowess as a cricketer. He gave up the game over twenty years ago when he stumped Ford off a slow ball. He played at Hythe last year and the fact that he scored more runs than Mr. Chapman seemed to amuse the crowd.

Mr. G. W. Cook proposed "The Vice-Presidents," and said it was a great gratification to those responsible for the management of the Club to know that every Director was a Vice-President. He coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Shea-Simonds and spoke of his great and active interest in the Club where they were always delighted to see him. (Applause.)

The toast was accorded musical honours.

Mr. Shea-Simonds, who took the Chair, Mr. F. A. Simonds having to leave early to catch a train on business, assured the company that the Vice-Presidents did take a real interest in the

Social Club. He claimed credit for having had something to do with its inception, and had taken the keenest interest in it since. (Applause.) Mr. Shea-Simonds' statement that this year he hoped to play cricket for The Brewery Club was very cordially received. In conclusion, he assured them all of the Directors' continued support of the Social Club, which was a great asset to The Brewery and all associated with the business, forming as it did one of the best bonds of good fellowship they could possibly have. (Applause.)

Mr. J. H. Simonds proposed "The Chairman of the Club." He said all members of the Club realised what a great deal of the success of the Club was due to the work of the Committee as directed by Mr. Hawkes. It gave the Directors great pleasure to see such a good company that night and he congratulated Mr. Hawkes, Mr. Bradford and the officials on the excellent arrangements made that evening. They had a red-letter day when the Prince of Wales visited the Club and signed the Visitors' Book.

The toast was well received, and Mr. Hawkes, in reply, said they endeavoured to carry on the Club as a happy family. The Prince of Wales' visit was an auspicious event and one they would never forget. It was chiefly due to the diplomacy of their President that H.R.H. paid that memorable visit.

Canon F. G. C. Gillmor proposed "Success of the Club." Since he came to Reading the Firm of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., had always been very kind to him by giving him financial help in his poor parish. It was also through the Firm's generosity that they now had at Elm Park one of the finest grand stands in the country. (Applause.)

Mr. W. Bradford acknowledged the toast.

Mr. H. L. Chaplin proposed "Officials and Committee." Their hardworking and genial Hon. Secretary had supplied him with some particulars of the Club's working during the past year. They had a membership of over 300. He congratulated Mr. Cook, the Vice-Chairman, on being returned to the Town Council. For five consecutive years Mr. Bird had acted as the Club's Treasurer, while words failed him to tell them all that Mr. Bradford did for the Club as Hon. Secretary. Mr. King, their Steward, and his wife had carried out their duties to the entire satisfaction of all.

Mr. G. W. Cook replied.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Mr. A. Wheeler, and Mr. Shea-Simonds replied.

There was an excellent musical programme, the community singing being a feature. Miss Vera Bradford and Mr. C. G. D. Lawrence proved efficient accompanists. Those contributing to the programme were Teddy Pare, George Smith, J. Taylor, H. Damerel, S. Hinton, J. Champion, J. Maxwell.

BILLIARDS LEAGUE.

Below is given the results of matches played in the Billiards League since our last issue:—

DIVISION I.

DECEMBER 20TH, 1926.

DIVISION I.—H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL *v.* WOKINGHAM (home).

<i>H. & G. Simonds' Social.</i>			<i>Wokingham.</i>		
A. Howard	...	150	<i>v.</i>	T. Symonds	69
R. Clement	...	150	<i>v.</i>	G. Ballard	89
A. Dalton	...	150	<i>v.</i>	F. S. Perkins	119
R. Broad	...	150	<i>v.</i>	W. Martin	73
R. Griffiths	...	150	<i>v.</i>	R. Giles	138
F. Braisher	...	150	<i>v.</i>	W. C. Martin	116
					604
Handicap	...	150		Handicap	175
					779

SIMONDS' SOCIAL winning by 271 points.

JANUARY 3RD, 1927.

DIVISION I.—H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL *v.* SALISBURY CLUB (home).

<i>H. & G. Simonds' Social.</i>			<i>Salisbury.</i>		
A. Howard	...	150	<i>v.</i>	E. Rider	127
R. Clement	...	150	<i>v.</i>	A. Batten	64
A. Dalton	...	147	<i>v.</i>	A. J. Foster	150
R. Broad	...	150	<i>v.</i>	W. Bignall	115
R. Griffiths	...	129	<i>v.</i>	A. Beeson	150
F. Braisher	...	150	<i>v.</i>	W. P. Jones	66
					672
Handicap	...	150		Handicap	200
					872

H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL winning by 164 points.

JANUARY 10TH.

DIVISION I.—H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL *v.* SALISBURY CLUB (away).

<i>H. & G. Simonds' Social.</i>			<i>Salisbury.</i>		
A. Howard	...	87	<i>v.</i>	E. Rider	150
R. Clement	...	127	<i>v.</i>	A. Batten	150
A. Dalton	...	150	<i>v.</i>	A. Foster	122
R. Broad	...	150	<i>v.</i>	A. Beeson	85
F. Braisher	...	150	<i>v.</i>	C. Tanton	111
R. Griffiths	...	150	<i>v.</i>	W. P. Jones	141
					759
Handicap	...	150		Handicap	200
					959

H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL winning by 5 points.

JANUARY 17TH.

DIVISION I.—H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL v. TRADES UNION (home).

<i>H. & G. Simonds' Social.</i>				<i>Trades Union.</i>			
A. Howard	...	...	110	<i>v.</i>	R. Hardemont	...	150
R. Clement	...	...	150	<i>v.</i>	G. Hancock	...	125
A. Dalton	...	...	150	<i>v.</i>	A. Knight	...	106
R. Broad	...	...	121	<i>v.</i>	G. H. Paintin	...	150
F. Braisher	...	...	150	<i>v.</i>	E. J. Snelgrove	...	114
R. Griffiths	...	...	150	<i>v.</i>	R. French	...	147
			831				792
Handicap	...	...	150	Handicap			150
			981				942

H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL winning by 39 points.

(This is the first time the Trades Union Club has been beaten to date.)

DIVISION II.

DECEMBER 20TH, 1926.

DIVISION II.—H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL v. ST. ANNE'S, CAVERSHAM (away).

<i>H. & G. Simonds' Social.</i>				<i>St. Anne's, Caversham.</i>			
H. Davis	...	...	100	<i>v.</i>	J. Birkett	...	84
A. Jacobs	...	...	100	<i>v.</i>	W. Barnsey	...	88
C. Weller	...	...	100	<i>v.</i>	A. L. Norris	...	99
W. Sparks	...	...	100	<i>v.</i>	C. Mansfield	...	76
G. Benford	...	...	100	<i>v.</i>	D. Duthie	...	94
A. Croome	...	...	100	<i>v.</i>	E. Draper	...	75
			<hr/>				
			600				516
Handicap	...	...	170				200
			<hr/>				<hr/>
			770				716

H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL winning by 54 points.

JANUARY 3RD, 1927.—No match.

JANUARY 10TH.

DIVISION II.—H. & G. SIMONDS' SOCIAL v. CENTRAL LIBERAL.

<i>H. & G. Simonds' Social.</i>				<i>Central Liberal.</i>		
H. Davis	...	89	<i>v.</i>	E. C. Taylor	...	100
A. Jacobs	...	50	<i>v.</i>	R. Booth	...	100
J. Rumens	...	95	<i>v.</i>	S. G. Dowse	...	100
C. Weller	...	40	<i>v.</i>	J. Bright	...	100
W. Sparks	...	52	<i>v.</i>	W. Theobald	...	100
G. Benford	...	100	<i>v.</i>	C. H. Caws	...	97
<hr/>				<hr/>		
		426				597
Handicap	...	170		Scratch	...	—
<hr/>				<hr/>		
		596				597

CENTRAL LIBERAL winning by 1 point.

DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

DECEMBER 31ST, 1926. COOPERS v. SCALDS.

This contest has been postponed until February 23rd, 1927.

JANUARY 7TH, 1927. TRANSPORT v. THE REST.

TRANSPORT.			THE REST.		
<i>Games.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Points.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Points.</i>	
Billiards	... T. Stevens	... 0	A. Dalton	...	1
"	... A. Gilbey	... 0	F. Braisher	...	1
"	... H. Bell	... 0	G. Benford	...	1
Dominoes	... E. Hopkins	... 1	J. Kirk	...	0
"	... J. Embling	... 1	H. Stanbrook	...	0
"	... C. Gunn	... 0	A. Comley	...	1
Crib	... G. Marsh	... 0	C. Thatcher	...	1
"	... W. Curran	... 1	T. Osborne	...	0
"	... A. Grove	... 0	F. Edwards	...	1
Shove Halfpenny	D. Witts	... 1	A. J. Nash	...	0
"	... T. Hutchins	... 0	G. Humphries	...	1
"	... H. Hinxman	... 1	A. Franklin	...	0
Darts	... A. Hiscock	... 0	T. Weedon	...	1
"	... T. Thame	... 0	A. J. Nash	...	1
"	... F. Adey	... 1	E. Palmer	...	0
Shooting	... A. Whiting	... 1	J. Croft	...	0
"	... J. Champion	... 1	H. Prater	...	0
"	... A. Taylor	... 1	F. Jones	...	0
9			9		

It may be mentioned that "The Rest" lost each game of their Shoot by one point.

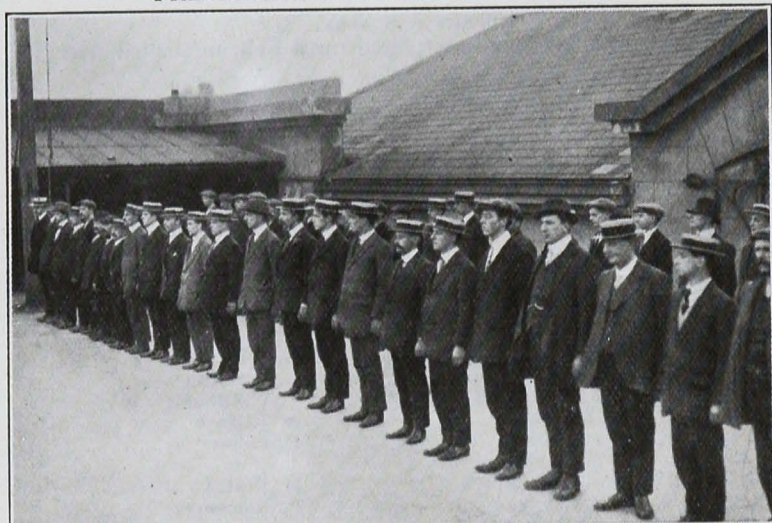
JANUARY 14TH. OFFICES v. BUILDING.

OFFICES.			BUILDING.		
<i>Games.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Points.</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Points.</i>	
Billiards	... R. Broad	... 1	W. Hinton	...	0
"	... H. Davis	... 1	A. Ayling	...	0
"	... C. Cox	... 1	G. W. Cook, Junr.	...	0
Dominoes	... W. Wild	... 1	E. Tate	...	0
"	... W. Bradford	... 1	C. Dobson	...	0
"	... C. Perrin	... 0	W. Judd	...	1
Crib	... H. Davis	... 0	W. Seward	...	1
"	... A. Rider	... 0	W. Wells	...	1
"	... H. Osborne	... 1	W. Bunting	...	0
Shove Halfpenny	W. Wild	... 0	C. Dobson	...	1
"	... C. Cox	... 0	W. Seward	...	1
"	... W. Bradford	... 0	T. Stacey	...	1
Darts	... R. Broad	... 0	A. Mills	...	1
"	... H. Shepherd	... 0	B. Eymore	...	1
"	... P. James	... 0	W. Sewell	...	1
Shooting	... H. Shepherd	... 1	W. Sewell	...	0
"	... H. Osborne	... 0	A. Baldwin	...	1
"	... A. Rider	... 0	H. Mitchell	...	1
7			11		

The position to date is:—

The Rest	...	4 games	...	39 points.
Building	...	4	...	31
Transport	...	3	...	32
Offices	...	3	...	22
Cellars	...	2	...	19½
Coopers...	...	2	...	19

PREPARING FOR THE GREAT WAR.



Familiar faces will here be seen of many at the Brewery who volunteered for the Great War.

MEN OF THE OLD BRIGADE.



Of these five travellers for the firm, only Mr. Lock is still on active service. They are, left to right (back row), Mr. A. Lock, the late Mr. Westmacot, the late Mr. R. Attenbrow, Mr. F. Josey, and the late Mr. E. Hobbs.

FOOTBALL PLAYERS AND INCIDENTS OF OTHER DAYS.

GREAT AND GLORIOUS FIGHTS.

The followers of the Reading Football Club have witnessed some great and glorious fights during the career of this famous Club, both at Elm Park and on the old Caversham ground.

One recalls a great fight between Reading and Luton some thirty years ago, when the referee was mobbed. It was a Southern League match and the crowd and players alike got very excited. Tubby Evans, of the Royal Engineers—a player of the stamp of Wedlock, of Bristol City, only a trifle heavier—was at centre-half-back for Reading, and he and Galbraith, the Luton centre forward, were at loggerheads very quickly. The referee, Mr. C. D. Crisp, of London, afterwards a prominent official of the Football Association, did not appear to favour Reading, and during the second half he gave two penalties against the Reading player for some obscure reason. For the rest of the game he was vigorously hooted, and at the end the crowd swarmed on to the ground to mob him, but protected by the players, he was at length got into the pavilion. A yelling crowd waited outside and although Johnny George, who was very popular, and other members of the team advised them to go away quietly, they still remained.

“THERE HE IS!”

A hansom cab was seen to leave the back of the pavilion and drive quickly towards the entrance gates. “There he is,” cried the crowd; and they at once gave chase. As they swarmed out on to the public road the officials banged the gates on them, leaving only a few stragglers in the field. When the crowd caught up the hansom cab, they discovered not the referee, but Mr. H. E. Walker, an official of the Club and afterwards a well-known referee himself, seated inside. They had to smile at the clever ruse. Darkness had fallen when the unfortunate Mr. Crisp was escorted by the officials to the riverside, where a boat was requisitioned to take him to the Reading shore. He entered the back gates of his hotel, “The Wheatsheaf,” and before long had shaken the dust, or rather mud that day, of ungrateful Reading from off his feet.

Reading's team about that time had quite a military flavour. There were Mick Cannon, late of the Scots Guards, who kept goal—Cannon afterwards was employed on Messrs. H. & G. Simonds' loading stage—McQuade and Inglis, of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Evans, of the Royal Engineers, Dickenson Kelsey, and Fletcher, of the Worcestershire Regiment. Marshall, of the Scots Greys, a fine forward, also played for the Reading team; he was given a sum of money by the Club to

buy himself out of the Army, but forgot to return and disappeared. Other great players one remembers, who have appeared on the Caversham enclosure, are Major Shea-Simonds, a brilliant back; Mr. Frank Deane, who at one time captained the team, a cool and delightful player at half-back; Bill Knight, who afterwards was Messrs. Simonds' tenant at "The Fox"; Jack Manners, a fine goalkeeper; Jimmy Stewart, a glutton for goals; Johnny George, the flying forward, who had numerous offers from professional clubs; Joey Warburton, a clever and scientific forward, who rarely misses a match at Elm Park; Charlie White, of Theale, a fine half-back; and we must not forget Stan Justins, one of the best amateur backs of his time, who afterwards took up refereeing.

MORE RECENT TIMES.

Coming to more recent times, one recalls Geordie Reid, who played for Reading in their early professional days. Reid was employed on Messrs. Simonds' loading stage, and afterwards played centre for West Bromwich Albion. Another great player, H. Clinch, who came from Sheffield United, and partnered Herbert Smith at back for Reading, also worked on the loading stage.

Reading have had some great players on their books, but none greater perhaps than Johnny Holt, the possessor of many International caps. Mr. John Hansom, who was head of the delivery department of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., was intensely proud of the fact that he signed the great little player for Reading at Liverpool. No matter how tall the player opposed to him, Johnny invariably was successful in heading the ball, to the intense astonishment of his opponent. How he managed it is a secret, but perhaps Johnny, who is now in business in Reading, will enlighten you. Then we had Herbert Smith, the amateur from Witney, a great back, and one of the speediest players ever seen on Elm Park. He had the great honour, whilst playing for Reading, of being selected for the English team. His brother, W. Smith, a fine half, also appeared for Reading. Then there was Ernie Watts, of the Berkshire Regiment, who, fresh from local football, soon won golden opinions for his great half-back play. Phil Bach, a fine footballer, also figured at back for Reading. He is now chairman of the Middlesboro' Club,

ALWAYS WELL SERVED.

Reading have always been well served in goal: Bullimer, Walt Whittaker, Rae, Cotton, Dr. Burnham, O'Donnell, now, I believe, an officer in the Army, are great players one recalls.

Yes, Reading have had some great players in days gone by, but I am confident that the team they now possess is the best which has ever represented our old town, and on their day would defeat any team in England.

Duckworth, the goalkeeper, whose daring dives have saved many a goal; his anticipation is uncanny, and his rushes from goal are timed to a fraction of a second. Eggo, right back, cool and resourceful, a great player who knows how to position himself, and is partnered by the Irish International, McConnell, the finest left back playing. Inglis, right half, who is earning golden opinions for his fine play; Messer, a great centre-half—well-known judges of football say that he cannot be long kept out of the English team; he is the despair of every centre forward he opposes—Evans, Welsh International, left half, a cool and scientific player. Davey, a great centre forward, a deadly shot, and an Irish International. Johnstone is also a fine centre, clever with his head and a fine shot. Richardson, the "Penalty King," is ever on the alert: he is a wholehearted player, always at work. Braithwaite, of the twinkling feet, is a clever dribbler, and a helper of the defence. Robson, a strong winger and powerful shot; and McDonald, a young Scotsman, who will make his name, is good in front of goal.

Gentlemen on and off the field, the Reading citizens wish them luck. By their splendid play they are spreading the fame of Reading, and bringing considerable trade to the town. The tram and bus services benefit largely by the immense crowds that journey to Elm Park.

Finally, the thanks of the supporters are due to Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., who came to the assistance of the Club, and made it possible for the magnificent stand to be erected at the ground.

MARRIAGE OF MR. G. LOTT, OF THE CANVAS DEPARTMENT.

The above event was celebrated on the 27th December, after we had gone to press for the January edition of this journal. The occasion provided an opportunity for one of those informal little presentations so greatly treasured by the principal figure concerned. A subscription was raised in the Canvas Department and Branch Department to provide a memento of the event, when a handsome clock was presented to Mr. Lott. In making the presentation, Mr. A. R. Bradford said:—

"Mr. Lott, you are taking a serious step in your life, as, of course, you fully realize. Your friends in the Canvas Department and the Staff of the Branch Department wish you every happiness in your wedded life which we hope will be long and accompanied by the best of health. We hope that you and the future Mrs. Lott will always look forward to a grand old age together. It is a wise policy always to look forward and never to look backward.

You will recollect a certain lady mentioned in the Bible, whose name was similar to your own, and who looked back and was turned to a pillar of salt! We trust that such a fate will not happen to your future wife.

"On behalf of all the subscribers, I now ask your acceptance of this clock as a token of our kindly feeling for your welfare and as a memento of the occasion you are about to celebrate."

Mr. Lott replied: "I thank you and all those who have presented me with this splendid clock. I am not a speech maker and I can only repeat I thank you all very much."



Wm. TOWNSEND

who was for many years caretaker of the old offices and in charge of the bar; his wife was housekeeper.

BRANCHES.

FARNBOROUGH MILITARY BRANCH.

The members of the above staff wish all Stations a Happy and Prosperous New Year and trust that 1927 will be a bumper year for the Firm generally.

Our friends the 10th Field Artillery Brigade have arrived at Deepcut from Newcastle and Sheffield.

News at the moment is at a premium. The majority of the troops were given leave for Christmas and the New Year, but those who remained in barracks were well catered for and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

With the end of the furlough season now approaching more strenuous times for the Military Staff are to be expected.

At this season of the year several Balls have taken place in barracks, in addition to the usual Whist Drives and Dances.



A local rendezvous of Froth Blowers.

We have ten serving members on the Farnborough Street Branch with over 30 completed years' service :—

Mr. J. Beck	...	...	54 years.
Mr. A. Goodall	...	...	49 ditto.
Mr. J. D. Hammond	...	...	48 ditto.
Mr. F. J. Russell	...	...	45 ditto.
Mr. G. Laney	...	...	41 ditto.
Mr. T. Vickery	...	...	36 ditto.
Mr. W. H. Wigley	...	...	35 ditto.
Mr. J. M. Hammond	...	...	31 ditto.
Mr. G. E. Davis	...	...	31 ditto.
Mr. J. V. Evans	...	...	30 ditto.

FARNBOROUGH.

The Farnborough Branch cricketers are keenly interested in the progress being made with the North Farnborough Recreation Ground.

If the ground is ready for the coming summer it will be used by them for their home matches, being quite near the Stores, and, therefore, much more convenient than the Osborne Road Recreation Ground, which was used last summer. In a recent chat with the groundsman, our Secretary was told five pitches are being prepared, and there is every hope it will be ready for the 1927 season.

We again hope to entertain the Seven Bridges Brewery Cricket Club; it will be their fourth visit to Farnborough and it will also be the fourth ground in Farnborough on which they have played (and perhaps their fourth consecutive good hiding).

Farnborough Branch Cricket Club always look upon their games with Headquarters as the season's "Test Matches," and they will be all out to equal last season's performances, namely, to win both games, so look out Mr. Perrin & Co.

P.S.—We shall not be alarmed if Mr. Chapman is included in the Brewery Eleven.

Farnborough Branch was in full force at Elm Park for the Reading v. Manchester United Cup Tie.

Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the community singing and also the game. It was agreed on all sides that the "Biscuiteers" were decidedly unlucky not to have won.

Reading have several staunch supporters at Farnborough Branch, who, whether Reading win or lose, do not, like our friends at Woolwich Stores, "change their minds every week."

All old friends at Farnborough Branch send their kind regards to Mr. Fosbery at Malta.

SALISBURY.

The aftermath of the Festive Season is reflected in this City of Old Sarum, with a dull period. Markets are dead, and all traders are suffering from their annual complaint—difficulty of finding trade. Much seeking and less finding is the rule.

The dawn of each New Year holds a curious fascination for the optimist, however, and so, Micawber-like, they keep hoping for the turn.

An enjoyable feast and "free and easy" took place at the "Green Dragon" Inn, Alderbury, during the closing hours of 1926.

"Come, Landlord, fill the flowing bowl," was the order of the day, and guests and attendants vied with each other in its interpretation. (This community singing is really as catching as the 'flu). But, methinks had not the "Little brown jug" helped things along, many singers would in truth have been dry.

Mine host had as usual made excellent arrangements, and helped the merry party along. City "boys" and country "lads" spent a joyful evening together, and it was an eventful ending to a rather doleful year; but if to try and forget the past is not a very good way to end any old year, what is?

It may be of interest to record a word or two about this famous fourteenth century Inn, which has been the scene of many historical and gallant episodes, with which the locality abounds.

Much that is good and bad in life has taken place around its walls. Not many yards away stand the remains of the old Clarendon House, where Kings and their makers gathered in the bad old days, and the "Green Dragon" has for centuries been the rendezvous of travellers on the King's highway. Dickens and many other famous writers have named it in their pages, and, to-day, "Simond's Ales" help to further its good name.

All "Hop Leaf" brands are in circulation there, and can be sampled any time, circumstances, etc., permitting. Mr. W. H. Baker, the host, has a high opinion of Berkshire brews; he stocks no other; and he can offer to the traveller who tarries, a rare choice of nut brown ales, the gift of the gods! He has many interests in the locality, being an old retainer of the Earl of Radnor, upon whose estate the Inn stands, and is ever pleased to give the modern knight of the road an interesting hour where the fragrance of the old romantic days still lingers, and knights and their ladies still alight—from the modern coach.

WOKING.

On Tuesday, the 4th January, we were honoured by a visit from our esteemed Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds, for the purpose of inspecting our new buildings, which are now rapidly nearing completion. His greetings to many members of the staff were very cheering.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.—On hearing of the enlargement of brewery premises in various districts, one immediately calls to mind the increasing popularity and production of "S.B.," and going back into history we find in the pages of *The Reading Standard* of December 14th, 1912, the following:—

"When the taste for a lighter kind of ale set in, Messrs. Simonds applied themselves to the task of producing a beer of much lower specific gravity, using a large quantity of the finest hops, and hopping down with dry hops introduced into the casks. To this beer they gave the name of 'S.B.,' and so pronounced was its success that the demand for it soon necessitated the reconstruction and enlargement of their Brewery."

Apparently the experiment at Reading years ago is being repeated in 1927, as far as "S.B." is concerned.

The foregoing will enlighten many of the Firm's patrons who are under the impression that this famous brew is a new article.

We have a welcome addition to our clerical staff in Mr. S. C. Saunders. The name of Saunders is by no means new to the Firm of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., both Mr. Saunders' grandfather and uncle having been employed by them years ago. It was as far back as 1871 when the former entered the service of Mr. Blackhall Simonds, remaining with him for a quarter of a century as Head Coachman. His son followed in his footsteps, and on leaving school was employed by Mr. Arthur Simonds, and, after that gentleman's death in 1916, by Major Shea-Simonds. There are, no doubt, many on the firm to-day who will remember the above old employees.

Mr. Saunders' father, who is very popular in Woking, is Head Master of Maybury School, and has for many years been Secretary to Woking Football Club.

As the Channel swimmers said as they went up the beach, "We must now approach our close" (clothes).

SLOUGH.

Mr. Percy A. Davies, late Sergt.-Major and 1st Class Warrant Officer of the Royal Air Force Depot, Uxbridge, and also of the 11th Hussars, has recently joined the Slough staff as traveller. Among other duties he calls on the R.A.F., Halton Camp, Uxbridge, Nottholt, Ruislip, West Drayton, etc. He is well known at all these centres of the Air Force and also others, and we wish him success in his new duties.

PORTSMOUTH.

The most notable event at this Port since the last issue of *THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE* was of course the departure of their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of York on H.M.S. *Renown*.

The great Battle Cruiser clad in silver grey formed a wonderful sight moored alongside the South Railway Jetty, where it was estimated some 2,000 persons were accommodated to witness the send-off. The promenade at Southsea was thronged with sightseers, and many took up their positions along the water's edge. The outward cruise to Australasia will be made through the Panama Canal and the return journey via Suez.

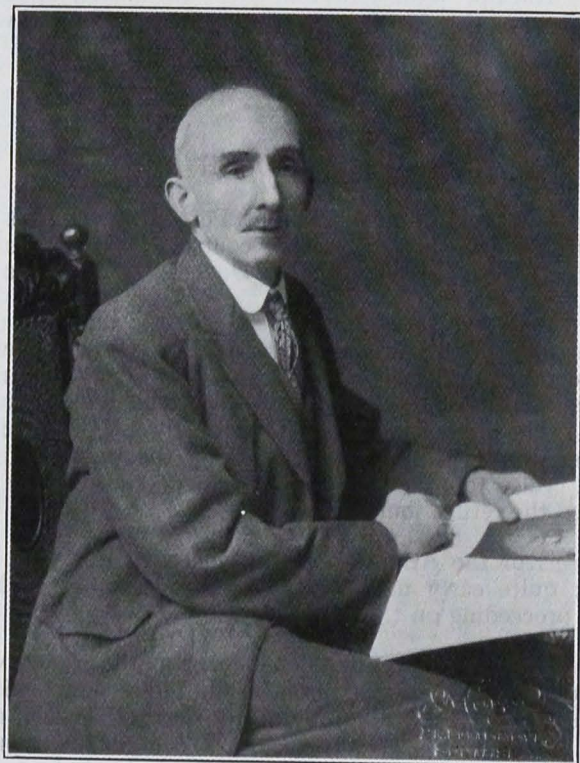
Vessels of the Atlantic Fllet attached to this Port also left Harbour quite early in January for the assembly at Portland, prior to proceeding on the Spring cruise.

No summary of events at the Portsmouth Branch would be complete without a mention of one of our old servants, with nearly 50 years' service, the ubiquitous Mr. Perryer, locally styled as H.M.S. *Irrepressible*. It would take a complete edition of this *GAZETTE* to chronicle all his experiences, particularly in the camping world, such as bringing home a marquee on the top of a hansom cab, or loading same on the Gosport Ferry much to the consternation of the skipper, especially with the reassuring remark, "Just one more item, skipper," which proved to be an eighteen feet bearing pole. Mr. Perryer has promised to give us some of his "canvas" experiences in detail, so we hope to have some interesting matter for a later edition.

At the time of preparing these notes we are anxiously waiting the result of the Reading Cup Tie with Manchester United, the more so as Pompey has been drawn against the victors, and we

are hoping to witness a struggle at Elm Park. In any case we should like to commend the Reading Club on their great achievement at Manchester on Wednesday, 12th January.

[As all the world now knows, Reading beat Manchester in the replay and meet Pompey at Elm Park on January 29th.—*Ed.*]



Mr. Perryer.

Mr. Perryer, who was first employed at Portsmouth Branch October 10th, 1879.

WOOLWICH.

Nothing startling to report except that everybody here is merry and bright, and hope all members of the Firm, also other readers, are the same.

We are glad to report business during the Christmas period was up to expectations, taking into account the very trying times that have been experienced recently.

The Annual Ball on Old Year's Night at Royal Military Academy was very successful, as in previous years, dancing commencing at 9 p.m. and ending at 4 a.m.

At midnight all those present linked hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne," also the "Froth Blowers'" Anthem. This was very appropriate as most of those present had blown the froth many times before midnight.

Our beers were on sale at the bars and gave the usual satisfaction.

We, like other Branches of the Old Firm, can boast of an old servant in Mr. H. H. Fish, who was Chief Clerk here for many years.

Mr. Fish is still hale and hearty, and is enjoying well earned retirement with the aid of "S.B." He left at Christmas, 1920, after over 45 years' service, joining the Firm in March, 1875.

Mr. Fish sends best wishes to all who know him.

"SMILE AWHILE."

A Scotsman in a Penny Arcade came across a punching-bag machine with a notice on it to the effect that if one hit the bag hard enough the penny would be returned.

Friends found him two hours later, lying under the machine, unconscious, with both arms broken.

A certain clerk so enraptured with his work used to get into bed twice, so as to make sure he made a double entry.

Alcohol, we understand, is splendid for preserving things—except secrets.

OBITUARY.

We regret to report the sudden death on January 4th of Mrs. Stafford, wife of Mr. J. J. Stafford, who was tenant under the Firm at the "Railway Hotel," Twyford, for some considerable time. Mr. Stafford was also a prominent member of the Reading Licensed Victuallers' Society.

Mr. Stafford's present address is the "Red Lion" Hotel, Rectory Place, Woolwich, S.E.18.

S.H.S.

SWANSEA.

We are very pleased to state that since the termination of the Coal Strike everyone is looking forward to brighter and happier times. It is, unfortunately, a very slow process getting the various works restarted owing to stocks of every description being entirely exhausted.

It is pleasing to note that almost every week further works are being re-opened, and the opinion throughout South Wales is that by about March next, business will have returned to normal.

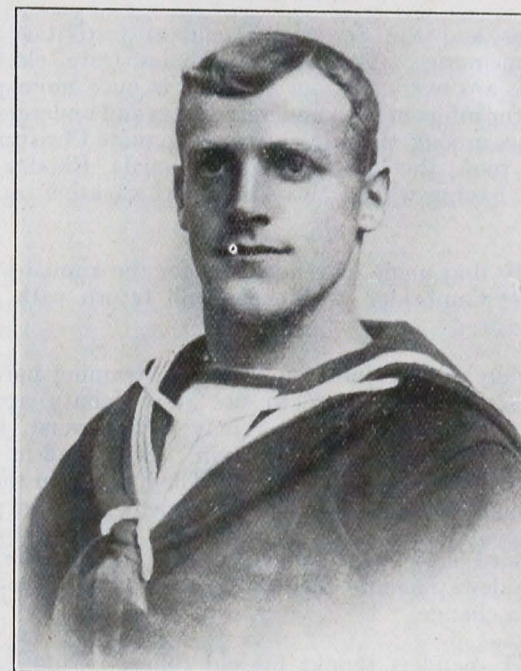
We are very pleased to record that the British Legion Club, Gorseinon, near Swansea, held a very successful function on Saturday, December 18th, 1926, being the occasion of their annual dinner, to which our Mr. H. W. Colson and Mr. W. H. Reed were kindly invited, when a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Over 160 members sat down to a splendid repast, and, after observing 30 seconds' silence in memory of the Glorious Dead, partook of the menu in right good style. Appropriate speeches were made by the Vice-President, Major D. H. Thomas, R.E., M.E. (Manager of the Mountain Colliery, Gorseinon), who also presided, Major M. Williams, Captain A. Lidgely, Mr. G. H. Jordan (Chairman), Mr. George E. Soanes, D.C.M. (General Secretary), Mr. E. H. Wilmot (Treasurer), and Mr. H. W. Colson, Swansea.

There was a capital Concert, in which several of the finest artists in South Wales participated, many of them being Eisteddfod winners. Nevertheless, the tit-bit of the evening was the rendering of solos by our own popular Manager (Mr. H. W. Colson), who gave encores, amidst cries of "Good Old Simonds," which drew the remark from the Chairman that "Simonds not only have jolly good beer, but a jolly fine singer also."

During the evening an enlarged photograph was unveiled and presented to the Club by Major D. H. Thomas of Chief Petty Officer George Prowse, V.C., D.C.M., who was granted these honours for conspicuous bravery during the Great War. His valorous exploits are described in a pendant to the portrait.

Chief Petty Officer Prowse, who was a Gorseinon man, and the only V.C. in this district, unfortunately did not live to receive these honours, having succumbed to wounds before same were conferred. Lieutenant Eddie Jenkins, an Officer in the late V.C.'s Battalion, spoke ardently of the dead hero's qualities whilst on active service, and Mr. Noah Davies, Under-Manager of the Mountain Colliery (from which Petty Officer Prowse joined the forces) spoke laudably of his merits as a workman.



Chief Petty Officer George Prowse, V.C., D.C.M.,
served 1915-18.

Whilst we are pleased to state the "Swans" won their Cup match with Bury in good style, we are also very glad that the Reading team are still to have a say in the Cup this year. It was a splendid performance to draw with the Manchester team at Reading after the bad luck experienced, but better still was their performance in the re-plays at Manchester and Birmingham.

We take this opportunity of complimenting the Editor on the continued interesting items which go such a long way in making our GAZETTE so eagerly looked forward to. Amongst others, the article from our Gibraltar Branch was most enlightening and thoroughly enjoyed by all here; also, the "wanderings" of a copy of THE GAZETTE in Egypt reminded several members of the Firm here of their own wanderings in this Ancient Land during the Great War.

OXFORD.

Christmas and the Season's attendant festivities are once more only memories. The College Parties (rare old-fashioned social events) are over, and our old city is once more preparing for term and the influx of both undergraduates and undergraduettes; the lucky ones among them fresh from one more Christmas under the parental roof; the less fortunate Colonials, Rhodes scholars, and the like, having whiled away the short vacation on the spot or up in town.

The party that made its rendezvous for the annual ice hockey match against Cambridge at Wengen will return with a tale of defeat this year.

The rowing men are now on the river, training hard for the Torpid Races, or "Toggers," to use the 'Varsity appellation. It may snow or hail and Boreas may do his worst, but these Spartan oarsmen will be "out for a spin" daily, clad in the usual rowing garb, which is next to nothing. They thrive on the healthy exercise combined with the XXXXX treatment which we prescribe.

The Oxford crew has commenced its training for the big race on the tideway against Cambridge and perhaps we may win this year for a change.

Mr. W. T. Sanders thanks his old colleague and "townee," Mr. V. W. Mundy of Slough Branch, for his good wishes and congratulations, and sends him his kind regards.

Messrs. Sanders, White and Mercer are looking forward to some cricket in the coming season, but the chances of forming a Branch Eleven are at present remote. They, therefore, hope to throw in their lot with one of the many local clubs.

Mrs. Harry Organ, of the "New Inn," St. Aldate's Street, is to be heartily congratulated upon the success of her effort in aid of the fund for the benefit of the crippled children at the Wingfield Orthopædic Hospital at Christmas. A bon-bon of large size was provided, in which was placed an article of domestic use, which became the prize of the person who correctly described it. The result was most gratifying, Mrs. Organ being able to hand over to the hospital management the substantial sum of £14, an amount nearly double that of last year.

The arrival of the January issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, or as we proudly consider it, our news medium, struck a note of

New Year cheer and cordiality. As each number is issued, more and more is realized the genius and thanks due to its originator. "Home" news is ever welcome, whereas the appreciation of overseas items, as supplied by our friends at Gibraltar, is unlimited. Comparisons are odious, more on recalling the healthy play of "Jack and the Garrison," and the Spanish sport over the near-by border. Mentioning sport, Oxford is quiet, the men are "down." Their return, and bright weather will be welcomed with renewed zest.

The Reading Football Club's splendid performance at Elm Park, Manchester and Birmingham, in the Cup Tie competition with Manchester United, must have delighted their numerous supporters.

THAME.

The Christmas Holidays passed off very quietly and pleasantly in Thame. There was a fair influx of visitors, and from all appearances and reports trade all round was above the average.

The sharing-out of the Slate Club took place on Thursday before Christmas, and a convivial and musical evening was afterwards spent under the Chairmanship of Mr. Ted Adams.

The town lacked nothing in the shape of amusement, chief amongst which was a fancy dress ball arranged by Mr. James Newitt in his spacious ballroom, at which there were nearly 500 guests.

The annual Christmas entertainment to the schoolchildren, held under the auspices of the War Memorial Club, arranged chiefly by Mr. J. Webster (Chairman of the Urban District Council) and Mr. Charles Blood (the former landlord of the "Birdcage"), was a great success, over 300 children being present.

The New Year's dinner at the "Birdcage" was well attended and a most pleasant evening was afterwards spent.

The annual meeting of the Licensed Victuallers' Association was held here on January 20th.

BRIGHTON.

After a few busy weeks preparatory to Christmas, and a little stir by the numerous entertainments to the old folk, and children, which follows the festive season, Brighton has settled down to a quiet time, though there is always a sprinkling of visitors who appreciate the bracing air at all seasons of the year. After influenza, the revivifying effects of the sea air are a splendid tonic, in fact some say it is worth having influenza to have a turn at Brighton, but others doubt it.

The Annual Boxing Tournament arranged by Councillor Harry Preston took place during December in the Brighton Dome, which, by the way, was King George IV.'s Riding School. In previous years Mr. Preston has been able to enlist such stars of the boxing world as Dempsey and Carpentier to shine in the programmes, but this year although such notabilities were unable to come, a fine programme was arranged, and an enjoyable evening was spent. By this means, and with the help of donations, Mr. Preston was able to hand the Royal Sussex County Hospital over £4,000.

Of this magnificent sum, £1,000 was given by our worthy townsman, Mr. Bernhard Baron, a gentleman who respects no creed or race in distributing the large sums he does to help suffering humanity.

Would that there were more "tobacco kings" like him.

Congratulations to Reading Football Club on their fine performances against such a team as Manchester United. Brighton and Hove Albion went out of the Cup with a rush, being very much outclassed by the "Wednesday."

Now we must get down to League football and go all out for promotion.

GIBRALTAR.

As promised in our last attempt to continue giving the readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE an unbiassed insight of our living conditions on the Rock, we are boldly setting forth the second chapter sincerely hoping that these little "write-ups" will prove interesting.

Perhaps it would be better to start off by stating a few facts about the natives of Gibraltar, known as Gibraltarians. A Gibraltarian means a person born of native parents in Gibraltar, and who has all the privileges of a native, viz., residence without a permit and right of entry without molestation from Spain or elsewhere, whereas aliens (which include English people residing in Gibraltar on permit) are liable to be pulled up and asked questions. This, however, does not apply to Britishers in the employ of the Government Service.

A Gibraltarian is very proud of his birthright, and also of the fact that he is also a British subject, and it must be said that he acts up to it in every way. Of course the language question is to a certain extent a drawback to the lower class native, but his may be eliminated in time, for now there are Government schools giving free and compulsory education in the English language; but those who have attained the age of maturity did not have the same advantage as regards education, so it is understandable that the percentage of English spoken amongst the poorer class is not great. A knowledge of Spanish is also quite necessary in Gibraltar, taking into consideration that most of the produce of the edible variety is brought in daily from Spain by Spaniards.

Then, again, vendors of all necessities are Spaniards, including about 99 per cent. of the female servants employed in the Garrison, which shews that a knowledge of Spanish is necessary even for bare existence.

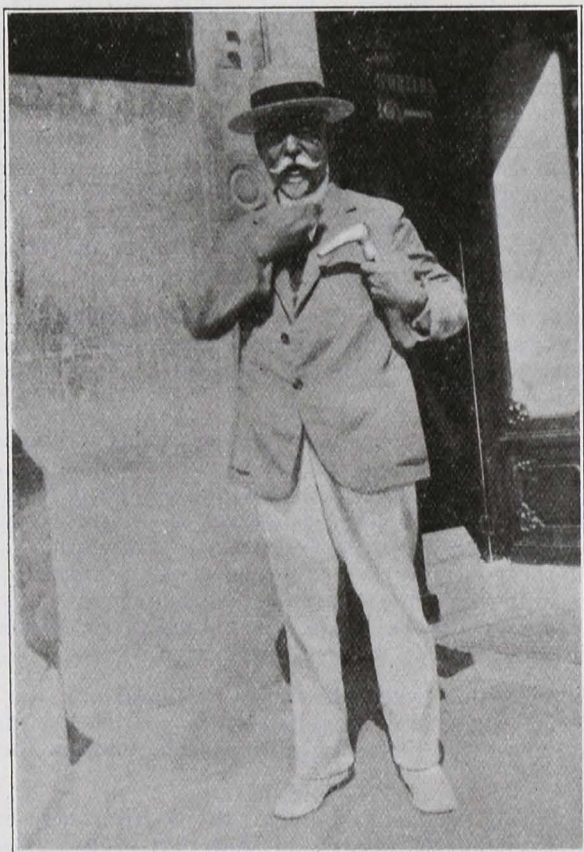
Even now in most upper class families Spanish is the language for home purposes, although English would be just as natural and spoken quite as fluently; but, as customs are hard to die, so it remains the fact that Spanish is spoken in nearly every native home. This must not be taken to mean that English is objected to, for on the contrary they are very clever as regards foreign languages, and the writer must say, with a good many years' experience on the Rock, that when English is spoken it is grammatical and correct, without any foreign accent.

Considering that when the Rock was taken by the British over 200 years ago it was inhabited by Spaniards, it is not hard to understand why so little English is spoken amongst the native element.

Since writing our last instalment, the Garrison here has been further depleted by the loss of the 2nd Batt. Suffolk Regiment, who have been sent to Hong Kong, but there would appear to be better days in store, for, with the arrival of the Atlantic Fleet and the Devonshire Regiment, things should take a turn for the better.

We also regret that Major C. W. J. Orr, C.M.G., late Colonial Secretary, has left Gibraltar. He was Colonial Secretary for seven years, during which time he endeared himself to all classes in Gibraltar. Major Orr was a prominent Freemason, holding the post of D.G.M., E.C., for this District for four years. He has now been appointed Governor of the Bahamas and we sincerely congratulate him on his appointment.

MALTA.



"OFF TO LUNCH."

Our Chief Clerk, Mr. H. Harding, who completes 42 years service next June.



THE MALTA TRAMWAY.

A tram with our advertisement placard. This advertisement is regarded as the best existing one in Malta.

LUDGERSHALL.

We regret, Mr. Editor, we cannot give you a lengthy report of happenings during the past month.

Our Billiard Team has not been out since they were at Enham Village Centre, and we are afraid that when we do make a start again, our opponents will find us "a bit short of a gallop."

Bottling Foreman Flemington was duly married on December 17th, and he has our best wishes for future happiness. Unfortunately, he always did look on the serious side of life, but the additional responsibilities of a wife appear to have bucked him up.

The wireless epidemic is very bad with several members of the staff at the present time. Mr. Jack Roynon is our "star" turn, but we trust he gets better results than he does from his old "bus."

We are looking forward to meeting our old friends the Somerset Light Infantry. The 2nd Battalion is due at Tidworth on January 18th.

The 1st Medium Brigade R.A. have arrived at Larkhill from Shoeburyness to replace the 5th Medium Brigade R.A.

LONDON NOTES.

We note that it is impossible this season to arrange a cricket fixture with the Royal Household or Royal Air Force Club. Perhaps the following season an opportunity will occur and both these teams will then be pleased to fix a date with the Reading Club.

Several members of our staff had the pleasure of visiting Reading on January 8th, the occasion being the Cup Tie between Reading and Manchester United, and also the Children's New Year Party. All thoroughly enjoyed the match, but were rather disappointed that Reading did not win outright, as they deserved. Afterwards they all adjourned to the Club where a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Enquiry from Mr. Payne—one of our Party. Mr. C. Thatcher, in a game of Crib, had a hand comprising 2 sevens and 2 aces (the turn-up being seven). This was counted as 26, but, in spite of many calculations and much thought and discussion, Mr. Payne can make it no more than 20. Perhaps Mr. Thatcher can explain the 26 score.

One of the most brilliant pantomimes running outside of London is at the Croydon Grand Theatre, where they have been playing to crowded houses. For some time we have had the pleasure of sole supply to the bars of this theatre, and were pleased to see such satisfactory business doing when we looked in a few evenings ago.

We saw in an evening paper that a certain M.P. had stated that "Beer is liquid bread, and bread is solid beer." We wondered why it was that we heard of so many apparently making a Wholemeal of it.

Re The Brewery's Boxing Note. Tommy Benham's Boxing Squad are not crying off. Just a 16-oz. shoe in a boxing glove does not matter. They have been training with these in their gloves since our last note, and it has but little effect. We think that Reading had better call in the Tent Pitchers.

Congratulations to the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, W., on the publication of its Staff Journal, No. 1 of which we have perused, and we wish it every success.

Additional to those mentioned in the two previous issues of THE GAZETTE in the excellent articles on the Inns of Old England, we should like to add to those one which is a little off the main track, situated as it is between the Law Courts and the Temple.

We refer to the "Devereux," in Devereux Court. The proprietor is Mr. Charles Salmon, who procured this establishment almost twenty years ago, and has spent much money on restoring and improving the premises.

The "Devereux" was established as a coffee house about 1652, and was then known as the "Grecian." Before the coffee house was transformed into a tavern, Sir Isaac Newton, Goldsmith, Foote, Steele, Addison and other men of literature used it as one of their meeting places.

Dr. King relates how two young men quarrelled one evening at the "Grecian" upon the appropriate subject of the accent of some Greek word. Unable to adjust the matter amicably they stepped out into the Court and settled it with their swords, one, (Dr. King thinks his name was Fitzgerald) falling by the other's hand.

The "Grecian" ceased to be a coffee house or tavern about the year 1842. Over the front of the house is a bust of the Earl of Essex, said to be the production of Cains Gabriel Cibber.

Mr. C. Salmon recently added further improvements to the house by the addition of a fine saloon and lounge, and everything is provided for the comfort of his numerous patrons.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

Since going to press for the January issue of THE GAZETTE our Football Team have played matches as below. From the scores it will be seen that for the short time the Club has been in existence the results of the matches are very creditable:—

		Goals.		Goals.	
1926.					
Dec. 18th	Simonds' A.F.C. ...	7	v. Tamerton...	...	1
" 27th	Simonds' A.F.C. ...	9	v. Details, Somerset L.I.	...	5
1927.					
Jan. 1st	Details, Somerset L.I.	5	v. Simonds' A.F.C.	...	3
" 8th	Simonds' A.F.C. ...	4	v. Casuals ...	...	4
" 15th	Bittaford A.F.C. ...	2	v. Simonds' A.F.C.	...	2

In passing we might mention that the Casuals have no connection with the local Poor Law Institution. The Brewery goalkeeper on that occasion (W. E. Loynes) was rather out of his element, his "breast stroke" being hardly strong enough to get him across the goalmouth quick enough. However, he just managed to keep his head above water.

The Carnival Dance, held at the Exmouth Hall, Devonport, on January 7th, proved a very enjoyable evening, a good number of the staff and friends being present.

On Saturday, January 8th, a team from The Brewery played a ring match at the "Tamar Inn" against a team from that House, which resulted in the Brewery winning by one point.

We have to congratulate Mr. J. Hanley on being selected to play in the English forward line against Wales at Twickenham. Mr. Hanley is the brother of the licensee of one of our Houses, "The Morice Town Wine and Spirit Vaults," Devonport, and is well known in the local Rugby circles.

Plymouth readers wish Reading to remember them to South Shields on their next visit. We came away in such a hurry that we had no time to say good-bye.

Bravo, Reading! Third time lucky. How do Manchester United feel now? We should like to have been at The Brewery on the morning of January 18th to hear the views of the "11 o'clock Debating Society." We imagine the Chief Wrangler had something to say on the subject.

RANDOM BREWERY REFLECTIONS.

'PHONE AND PHONETICS.

The letter read: "If still disengaged please call at The Brewery." I wasn't disengaged, nevertheless I called and the late Mr. J. Suddaby engaged me after I had satisfactorily passed a test.

His words I shall always remember: "If you suit (I was on a month's trial) and look after yourself you've a job for life," was what Mr. J. Suddaby told me.

This is over twenty-one years ago now and I've never regretted working for H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., since. There were two of us in the Office where I worked and on the Wednesday it was my colleague's half-day (in those days The Brewery was open every day till 6 o'clock except Sunday, so half-holidays were taken on different days of the week.)

This particular Wednesday I can easily recall, for a certain hotel proprietor used to 'phone his orders. I answered the telephone, the order came along and I took it down phonetically (no pun intended). I know it took two other members of the staff quite an hour to put the *order* in order. (We used to have some rather ticklish names in our Price Lists then—more so than now I think.) One wine I remember I spelt as "Margo," but of course this was easy to decipher.

The order must have been sent right for we heard nothing more about it.

Bill day came along very soon afterwards, a very big affair believe me. The bills (or quarterly accounts) were always sent out on the last day of the month in which they fell due. The Branch Department staff helped us downstairs, putting the bills away, addressing envelopes, etc.

Bill day was one of the days of the year for us all, and a big sack full was conveyed to the postal sorting office by a drayman in a van.

At the end of the day imagine someone coming into "our" Office saying, "So-and-so's paid his bill, stop it," and then having to wade through that sack in order to retrieve the envelope containing his account. Ye gods and little fishes! However we did it.

We used to start at 7 a.m. and breakfast at 8.30 a.m. (always consisting of ham and eggs) was partaken in the caretaker's quarters. We had any amount of fun and plenty of "grub," afterwards, a good morning's work, then dinner at 1.30 p.m. On one table there was always a roast joint of beef and on the other roast mutton. Mr. C. E. Gough used generally to carve on one table and Mr. R. Biggs on the other.

Many of us can recall with joyful memories the times we used to have. There were talks, frequently of a political nature, and naturally some leg-pulling. Many practical jokes were played.

(To be continued.)

W.D.

THOSE QUARTERLY BALANCES!



CALCULATION



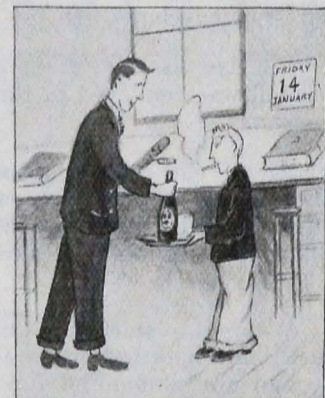
D-MNATION



INSPIRATION



REALIZATION



CELEBRATION



RECREATION

Above, our clever artist, Mr. Giddy, has pictorially portrayed scenes the like of which may be seen at the Brewery when the clerical staff at the end of each quarter are battling with the accounts.

RESURRECTION PIE.

This letter was sent a short time ago to a school teacher by an anxious parent: "Sir,—Will you in the future give my boy easier sums to do at nites? This is what he's brought hoam two or three nites back. If four gallons of bere will fill thirty-two pint bottles, how many pints and a half bottles will nine gallons of bere fill? Well, we tried, and could make nothing of it at all, and my boy cried and laughed, and sed he didn't dare to go back in the morning without doing it. So I had to go and buy a nine-gallon keg of bere, which I could ill afford to do, and then he went and borrowed a lot of wine and brandy-bottles. We filled them, and my boy put the number down for an answer. I don't know whether it is right or not, as we spilt some while doing it.

P.S.—Please let the next some be in water, as I am not able to buy more bere."

There was an old Owl who lived in an Oak,
The more he heard, the less he spoke,
The less he spoke, the more he heard,
Why can't we be like that old bird?

HIS COMPLAINT.

The new lodger had an idea that the bottle in the far corner of the cupboard was suffering from sly visits.

"Mrs. Brown," he said, "my late landlady was a most dependable woman. You see that bottle?"

"I 'ope you don't 'int that I'd stoop to touch it," said the irate lady. "I come from honest English parents, I do, and——"

"Excuse me," answered the lodger, suavely, "I am not grumbling at your English parents; it is your Scotch extraction that I complain of."

A regiment of soldiers was recently drawn up one Sunday for church parade, but the church was being repaired, and could only hold half of them.

"Sergeant-Major," shouted the Colonel, "tell all the men who don't want to go to church to fall out on the reverse flank."

A large number availed themselves of the privilege.

"Now, Sergeant-Major," said the Colonel, "dismiss all the men who did not fall out, and march the others to church—they need it most."

OFFICER (to recruit who is learning trench digging) : ' You're getting on slowly with that trench, aren't you ?

RECRUIT : Ground as 'ard as iron, sir."

OFFICER : Why don't you try blasting it ?

RECRUIT : Been doing nothin' else all the morning, sir !

RECRUITS' SAYINGS.

INSTRUCTOR : Now then just tell me whereabouts those cartridges are in your rifle.

RECRUIT : Four in tin box, one up tunnel !

Old gentleman, to small boy : " Can you tell me the quickest way to the hospital ? "

" Yes, sir ; you jist stand still where you are and shout, ' Three cheers for the Kaiser,' and you'll be there in no time."

SENTRY : ' Halt ! Who goes there ?

VOICE (from the darkness) : Chaplain.

SENTRY : Pass, Charlie ; all's well.

XXIII PSALM.

I. The Ford is my Car.

II. I shall not want another.

III. It maketh me to run down in wet places.

IV. It leadeth me into paths of ridicule, for its name's sake.

V. It soileth my soul.

VI. It leadeth me into deep waters.

VII. It prepareth a breakdown for me in the presence of mine enemies.

VIII. Yea, tho I run down the valleys, I am towed up the hills. I fear evil whilst it is with me, its rods and its engines discomfort me.

IX. It anointeth my face with oil, and its tank runneth over.

X. Surely to goodness the damned thing won't follow me all the days of my life, or I shall dwell in the house of the insane for ever.