

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. X.

JULY, 1936.

No. 10



MR. V. N. DIPLOCK.

MR. V. N. DIPLOCK.

At this season of the year, when thoughts turn to the subject of holidays, either completed or to come, it seems fitting that our frontispiece should be devoted to a prominent member of our Brighton Branch, and accordingly we publish the portrait of Mr. V. N. Diplock. But there are other reasons for his appearance in the position of honour and what better could be given than that Mr. Diplock has earned a high place amongst our clientele by the extreme courtesy and attention which he bestows upon customers and visitors who call at 4 Castle Square. His manner and bearing are those of the "perfect salesman" and could well be emulated in other directions. He also has 23 years' service at Brighton Branch to his credit, with previous office experience at other local breweries.

In 1915 Mr. Diplock enlisted as a gunner in the Royal Sussex (Territorial Force), Royal Garrison Artillery, and was drafted to Dover, where he trained as a gun-layer with the Langdon and Eastern Arm Batteries. He served in France and Belgium with a Siege Battery and subsequently returned to England with impaired health, being demobilized in 1919.

Mr. Diplock takes a great interest in the "Brighton and Hove Parliament," which is conducted upon Westminster lines and meets weekly during the winter months in the Royal Pavilion, Brighton. He has taken part in debates with other local parliaments, as far apart as Bristol and Hastings. At the present time he holds the position of Deputy Speaker in the Brighton and Hove Parliament.

The International Friendship League also claims Mr. Diplock's attention and active interest. The ideal of that body is to foster goodwill between the youth of all nations. His outlook upon life generally is from the angle of the universalist whose main desire is to "help lame dogs over the stile"—surely a very worthy and laudable object.

As a Sussex man, Mr. Diplock follows the fortunes of the County Cricket Club and the Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club very closely. With these pastimes available, and with ample scope for swimming and healthful walks over the Sussex Downs, he is able to indulge to the full in his favourite forms of recreation.

*Take a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine
oft infirmities—The Bible.*

EDITORIAL.

MR. F. A. SIMONDS PRESENTED TO THE KING.

Our Managing Director had the honour of taking tea with the King and being presented to him on July 7th. It was the occasion of the £50,000 house built at Burhill, Surrey, by the Royal Warrant Holders' Association as a jubilee present to King George being given to His Majesty. Mr. Simonds is Vice-President of the above Association. Further details of this very interesting event appear in another page.

MEETING OF 6% REDEEMABLE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.

At a meeting of the 6% Redeemable Debenture Stockholders of H. & G. Simonds Ltd., held on Monday, the 6th day of July, at 19 Bridge Street, Reading, an Extraordinary Resolution was duly passed whereby the 6% Redeemable Debenture Stock was made repayable by the Company at £125 per cent. on the 7th August, 1936, with interest to that date. The Company now affords the 6% Redeemable Debenture Stockholders registered on the 6th July, 1936, the opportunity of converting into a new issue of 3½% Redeemable Debenture Stock by taking up Stock of the new issue at the price of £98 per cent. to a nominal amount equal to the principal and premium payable to them on repayment of their existing holding of 6% Stock. The Company also has given notice of its intention to redeem the 4% First Mortgage Debenture Stock on the 8th January, 1937, at a premium of 10 per cent. in accordance with powers reserved to the Company by the Trust Deed. At the same time the Company offers the 4% Debenture Stockholders the opportunity of converting forthwith into the new issue of 3½% Redeemable Debenture Stock by taking up Stock of the new issue at the price of £98 per cent. to a nominal amount equal to the principal and premium payable to them on redemption of their existing holding of 4% Stock.

"PLAYING THE GAME."

The great improvement shown by our tennis players is more than maintained. Though we were soundly beaten by Courages, at Alton, we more than made up for this by gaining well deserved victories over Huntley & Palmers (for the second time this season)

and the Queen's Bays, Aldershot. With regard to the last-named match a special report appears in another page. In our "away" matches our Mr. R. Paice and Mr. S. Hinton are ever at our service, and though they do not play, they willingly drive us to and from our destinations. They are both very busy all the week and for them to give up so much of their spare time in our interests is indeed "playing the game" in a far greater sense than merely knocking balls about. Reg. and Sid, we tennis players are extremely grateful to you for your fine "services"—better than the best to be seen on the tennis courts; for your services are indeed faultless!

MODERN PROVERBS.

Here are some modern proverbs, the author being the late Lord Dewar:—

The door to success is always labelled "push."
The more we are together the less there is to drink.
To be a popular talker let the other man do it all.
Everything comes to him who lets the other chap do the waiting.
To tell if a man is two faced look at the one he is wearing.
The outcome of income is tax.

OUR PRIME MINISTER.

A lot has been said and more written concerning our Prime Minister of late. But this is what Mr. Stanley Baldwin, that great statesman and gentleman, and one of the most trusted and respected men in the world says:—

"I would say only this: That the first moment that I feel myself to be incapable of sustaining the burden which now rests upon me, I shall be prepared to pass it to other hands, and I shall be no light judge of what the requirements of that position are.

"But, as I say, it is for me to decide, and for no one to dictate to me.

"Abraham Lincoln once observed—for he was subject in his lifetime to no less criticism than I am, and he minded just about as much—'I do the very best I can, and I mean to keep on doing it until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything, and if the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.'"

THE BLONDE EXPLAINS.

A motorist was stopped by a constable. "What's the matter, constable?" he said as he pulled up. "Matter!" said the constable, "you're on the wrong side of the road for one thing." "Oh, I never bother about that" said the motorist. "Don't yer! and what about them lights you passed?" said the policeman pulling out his note-book. "Lights?" queried the motorist, "what lights?" "The traffic lights back there," almost bellowed the policeman. "Oh, those things" replied the motorist, "I never take any notice of those." "Oh, don't yer?" said the constable as he started to write, "I had better see your licence." "Licence! What licence?" again queried the motorist, "I've got a dog licence and a wireless licence, but I don't see they've anything to do with this." "Driving licence is what I'm asking for, please Sir!" said the policeman. "Never heard of it," said the motorist. The constable was now writing hard, "Wrong side of the road; passed traffic lights; no licence—what about 3rd party risks then?" "I'm not an Insurance Agent" said the motorist, as he indignantly disclaimed all knowledge of the necessary certificate. "No insurance" wrote down the constable becoming more and more bewildered. "And," said he, "do you know you were exceeding the 30 mile speed limit? I reckon you were going at least 40 miles an hour." "Forty!" laughed the motorist, "that's a good one—I was going more like 50, this 'bus doesn't cruise comfortably under that." At this moment signs of interest in the proceedings were taken by the peroxide blonde who was seated by our motorist's side. "Don't take any notice of him, constable," she said, "He always does this sort of thing when he's drunk!"

LINNET SONG.

Out in the acacia-tree,
 A crimson-breasted linnnet;
 I let my work fall in my lap
 Just for a minute,
 And listened to his tender tune;
 All the loveliness of June
 Seems to be in it.
 Hushed is all my troubled thought
 Just for a minute,
 He lifts me to another world
 That little singing linnnet.

ELIZABETH F. ALDEN, in "The Animal World."

TWELVE BOTTLES OF WHISKEY!

"I had 12 bottles of whiskey in my cellar, and my wife told me to empty the contents of each and every bottle down the sink, or else . . . So I said I would, and proceeded with the unpleasant task. I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink, with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I extracted the cork from the second bottle and did likewise, with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I then withdrew the cork from the third bottle and emptied the whiskey down the sink with the exception of one glass, which I drank. I pulled the cork from the fourth sink and poured the bottle down the glass, which I drank. I pulled the bottle from the cork of the next and drank one sink out of it and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the next glass and poured the cork down the bottle and drank the glass. I pulled the next cork from my throat and poured the sink down the bottle. Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink, and drank the pour. When I had everything emptied, I steadied the house with one hand and counted the bottles, corks, and glasses and sinks with the other, which were 29. To be sure, I counted them again, and when they came by I had 74, and as the house came by, I counted them again, and finally had all the houses and bottles and corks and glasses and sinks counted, except one house and one bottle, which I drank."—("Tit-Bits.")

THUNDERSTORMS.

We have had some wonderful thunderstorms of late. I don't think I have ever seen so much lightning as lit up the skies for miles around on one or two evenings of late. It was a magnificent pyrotechnic display. This is how Dr. W. J. S. Lockyer, the eminent astronomer, describes a thunderstorm in Messrs. Cassell's *Nature Book*.

First, over the blue sky gradually spreads a layer of film of thin cloud. This cloud-layer comes in advance of the storm, and may be as much as from ten to fifty miles in front of it. Presently, beneath this layer may be seen dense clouds of dark grey and violet, and later even lower clouds of grey, or chestnut hue. Now we may expect to see the main storm-clouds approaching. These are billowy, and travel at a low altitude. The wind blows strongly, and its direction changes. Soon it develops into a squall, usually of short duration. Next, heavy rain descends. In the distance lightning has been faintly visible for some time, and the rumbling of thunder has been heard.

The storm breaks overhead. The lightning flashes are dazzlingly bright, and the thunder claps are of almost deafening

loudness. Rain falls heavily for a varying period of time. At length the horizon behind the storm-clouds grows lighter. Clouds break away, and ere long the sky is blue again. As the last of the storm-clouds sail slowly away, the rain ceases. The storm is ended!

The sun shines. Birds sing. Butterflies reappear. The air feels wondrously buoyant. We do not need a thermometer to tell us that the temperature has risen again. "How sweet the calm that follows after storm!"

GOOD QUEEN ANNE.

One more Ascot is over, and once again Simonds was the great favourite, everybody backing him each way—on draught or in bottle—and in every case the backers "did themselves a bit of good," as the saying goes. "The best of Ascot is this," a well-known sporting man once remarked, "that though it is one of the biggest social functions of the year the racing is the highest class in the world." If Ascot were a social event alone it would soon lose its lure. We are still a great sporting nation, and should get out of patience quickly with a sport event that was second rate. Yes, the whole sporting fraternity—visiting Ascot—owes a very great debt to the happy inspiration in 1711 of Queen Anne!

THE UNIVERSAL CLUB IS THE PUB.

"The lonely person," writes Miss Norah C. James in the *True Temperance Quarterly*, "is easy to deal with in a public-house where the club atmosphere is kept in the foreground. Who can be lonely when they know that at certain hours they can be sure of finding the same faces and the same cheery welcome? They may never know the home life or conditions of some acquaintance they see again and again, that does not matter. It is just because of the impersonal character of these friendly encounters that they are pleasant. Such casual meetings are effortless and they make no emotional demands upon a human being. So long as the member does not break the rule of the club, which is that no member shall drink enough to make a nuisance of himself, then he is a welcome and honoured member there. And in this public-house where our lonely member goes, he is not expected necessarily to drink alcohol. He will be served with a ginger beer and a sandwich with just as much courtesy as with a double gin. Thus in pleasant conversation and moderate drinking, the golden hours slip away and the lonely find solace."

RARITIES OUT OF SIGHT.

Aviation contributes some valuable and illuminating data to the annals of ornithology. One of its most striking revelations is the fact that, not seldom, birds generally considered extremely rare within our shores pass over the British Archipelago more or less regularly year after year. These species travel at so great a height that they are quite invisible to the unaided eye of an observer on *terra firma*. Ornithologically minded airmen, however, have collected some extremely interesting information upon the subject. Amongst the birds that travel out of sight so far as the unaided vision of most of us is concerned are cranes. In years gone by the common crane, still met with as a nesting species in some parts of the mainland of Europe, was a regular visitor to England, particularly to the Eastern Counties. To-day it is a rarity. None the less, flocks of cranes pass over this country far more frequently than, before man flew, was suspected; but for the most part their passage is uninterrupted, very few of the birds descending to earth. The golden eagle is another bird which frequently travels at a very great height. One aviator mentions having seen a bird of this species which, invisible from the ground, was flying at a speed of between seventy and eighty miles an hour, over a populous city. During the war, airmen in Belgium and in France often met with eagles and other large raptors, some of which eyed their machines with mingled curiosity and hostility. Apparently they objected to man's invasion of their realm.

NOT YET!

Witness at Wood Green: "I paused outside a public house to ask a man the time. The man consulted his watch, then said: 'Not for another hour and a half, mate.'"

A RACING STORY.

Mrs. Mindy's daughter was in love with a jockey, and had prevailed upon her mother to see her fiancée ride at Epsom. The mother took up her position at Tattenham Corner, and when the horses had flashed past and disappeared she snapped her mouth like a clamp. "That does it," she said acidly. "You ought not to marry that bad-mannered fellow. I told him to look out for me at Tattenham Corner, and he never even raised his cap."

SPORTSMANSHIP—AND LIBERTY.

Almost unconsciously the true sportsman cultivates a spirit of tolerance towards his fellows, a capacity for seeing the other man's point of view, a generous recognition of prowess that is greater than

his own, and, above all, a passion for fair play, says *Our Empire*. Tolerance, fair play, "playing the game"—they are the children of liberty and, at need, they will fight for her. Broadly speaking, those qualities are active in every phase of the nation's life and that is why, "on a Saturday afternoon—or any other afternoon—you will never have a revolution in England." Therein, also, may be found the Englishman's detestation of dictatorship which lacks the very elements of sportsmanship. A sportsman of the British type draws a wide distinction between "playing" a game at the orders of a sergeant-major and playing the game for its own sake. It is the difference between serfdom and liberty.

THE COMPANIONSHIP OF DOGS.

In this strenuous age of mechanical invention and artificiality, it is notable that the most—perhaps the only really—placid people are those countryfolk who carry on in much the same way as did their forebears. The gamekeeper, the shepherd, the farm labourer—each finds contentment in the care of birds and beasts and the study of Nature in all her moods. And it is much the same with genuine dog-lovers, for, although we cannot all divorce ourselves from the hustle of the busy world, it is in the companionship of our dogs that we find our relaxation.

Dogs keep us human; they restore our balance and our sense of humour when everyday affairs get out of gear. You have only to study your favourite dog's expression to realise that he is in even closer sympathy with you than he could probably express had he the gift of speech. Dogs do talk in very truth in many subtle ways, for in the art of living with a rich enjoyment of every moment they have us humans beaten to a standstill. What film star ever screened can register the emotional expression of a dog which, ears cocked, head a little to one side and tail slowly moving, awaits his master's pleasure, content to do his bidding whatever it may be?—*Peter Payne*, in "Our Empire."

THEY ALL FAILED!

It was an examination in Scriptural knowledge for young men at a training college. One of the questions was, "Would you rather be with the wise virgins in the light, or with the foolish ones in the dark?" All the men failed!

THE BEAUTY OF ENGLAND.

There is a beauty of Switzerland, and it is repeated in glaciers and snowy ranges in many parts of the earth : there is a beauty of the fjord, and it is repeated in New Zealand and Alaska : there is a beauty in Hawaii, and it is repeated in the thousand islands of the Southern Seas : there is a beauty of the prairie and the plain, and it is repeated here and there in the earth. Each is perfect in its way, yet holds no monopoly of its beauty . . . But the beauty that is England's is alone—it has no duplicate. It is made up of very simple details—just grass, and trees, and shrubs, and roads, and hedges, and gardens, and houses, and vines, and churches, and castles, and here and there a ruin—and over it all a mellow dream-haze of history. Its beauty is incomparable, and all its own.

—MARK TWAIN.



H. & G. SIMONDS LTD.

RE-ORGANISATION OF CAPITAL STRUCTURE.

PART OF COMPREHENSIVE SCHEME.

At a series of meetings of the shareholders, which was held at 19 Bridge Street, Reading, on June 22nd, resolutions were unanimously adopted which involve the consolidation of the preference share capital, an increase in the ordinary share capital, the re-arrangement of the loan capital, and the absorption of two of the subsidiary companies. Meetings of each class of shareholder passed resolutions to carry these proposals into effect.

Major S. V. Shea-Simonds, chairman of the Board, presided at the meetings, and other directors present were Mr. J. H. Simonds (vice-chairman), Mr. F. A. Simonds (managing director), Commander H. D. Simonds, Major G. S. M. Ashby and Mr. A. J. Redman. There were also in attendance Mr. E. S. Phipps (Secretary) and Mr. A. G. Richardson, A.C.A. (Chief Accountant).

At an extraordinary general meeting which followed the meetings of the various classes of shareholders, the chairman explained the various proposals. He stated :

“ I should like to explain broadly why your directors have thought fit to embark upon the scheme for the re-organisation of the capital structure of the company which has been brought to your notice and which, I hope, will be given your full support at this meeting. Details of these reasons have already been set forth in a circular letter, and I will, therefore, merely refer to one item, namely, the installation of thoroughly up-to-date power plant and machinery at our breweries. This item alone involves very considerable capital expenditure, which your directors are confident will be amply justified.

“ You are already aware that in the past the efforts of the Board have been employed to a great extent in the expansion of the company's business and, moving in accordance with modern requirements, we have acquired control of various small companies, which has considerably enlarged our sphere of activities and—what is important—has been the means of greatly increasing the output from the Breweries at Reading and Devonport, and during the year 1935 we have succeeded in establishing a chain of trading interests from London to Penzance. You will doubtless have observed that the proposals put forward in the circular letter dated May 28th constitute only one part of a comprehensive scheme and that in addition to the re-arrangement of the share capital of H. and G. Simonds Ltd., it is also proposed—if such re-arrangement is agreed

upon—to put forward further proposals in due course dealing with the loan capital of the parent company and with the subsequent absorption of the assets of two of the subsidiary companies—in other words, the whole scheme is divided into three stages which are quite distinct.

“ In the case of our two subsidiary companies, Ashby’s Staines Brewery, Ltd., and South Berks Brewery Company, Ltd., it is considered desirable that we should completely absorb the assets of these companies in order that the full benefits of the amalgamation may be reaped ; by so doing, very material savings should be effected by the avoidance of the administrative complications and expenses involved in the existence of several distinct legal entities. I should also add that, apart from such direct benefits, the absorption of the subsidiaries—to which these present proposals are a prelude—should result in a more efficient use of the assets of the group as a whole. Such a course, however, would scarcely be practicable unless an exchange into the debenture stocks and preference shares of the parent company could be offered to the stockholders and preference shareholders of the subsidiaries. You will bear in mind that no further issue of the existing H. and G. Simonds Ltd. 5 per cent. (first) preference shares can be made for this purpose without the consent of the holders of the 6½ per cent. (second) preference shares—a consent obviously not obtainable without some inducement—and that an issue of further 6½ per cent. preference shares entails the same difficulty, in addition to being in itself undesirable. If, therefore, our shareholders were to reap the full benefits of the absorption of the subsidiary companies, we were faced with the alternative of issuing a third preference share or of so re-arranging the existing preference issues as to constitute one consolidated issue. It seemed clear to the Board that not only could a consolidated preference issue be made on materially better terms than a third preference issue and that a consequent reduction in the cost of absorbing the subsidiaries could be effected, but also that such future issue of preference capital as might become desirable (in connection with the absorption of further subsidiaries or the expansion of the business generally) could be made on much more advantageous terms to your company by the consolidation now proposed.

THE AUTHORISED CAPITAL.

“ After careful deliberation, therefore, it was considered that by increasing the authorised share capital to £2,500,000—divided into £1,500,000 five per cent. cumulative preference shares, and £1,000,000 ordinary shares—our immediate requirement would be provided for, whilst there would also be an ample margin to cope with any expansion in the near future. The distribution of the sum

of £128,410 of undivided profits amongst the preference shareholders is considered necessary in order to effect the consolidation of priority capital referred to above, and thus pave the way for the subsequent liquidation of the subsidiary companies mentioned.

“ I now propose to explain the resolution which deals with the alteration of the company’s articles. You will have observed from the circular that the company proposes to reserve the right to create further preference shares ranking *pari passu* with the 1,500,000 5 per cent. preference shares, subject to the restriction that the proportion between the total amount of the authorised preference shares and the amount of the ordinary or other share capital for the time being issued must not exceed three pounds of preference capital to two pounds of ordinary or other junior capital. This means, in short, that the capital structure of the company will always in the future be maintained in what is thought to be a desirable ratio as between preference and ordinary capital. Article 52 of the Articles requires to be amended accordingly.

“ Article No. 57 simply sets out the details of the capital of the company and requires to be brought up to date to define clearly the proposed new capital of £2,500,000. The suggested alteration to Article 58 will in future dispense with the necessity of an agreement having to be drawn up between the company and any member of a particular class should a modification of the rights or privileges attached to such class of shares be required. It is thought that such an arrangement, as at present obtains, is obsolete, and that the sanction of an extraordinary resolution of the particular class affected is sufficient for the purpose.

“ Under the present Article 77 the existing 5 per cent. preference shares do not confer any right to vote at a general meeting. The suggested alteration confers upon the holders of preference shares the right to vote in certain circumstances, viz. : (a) If the dividend on the preference shares is six months in arrear ; or (b) if the business of the general meeting convened includes the consideration of a resolution for winding up the company, or reducing the capital, or any resolution directly affecting the rights of the preference shareholders as a separate class. It is considered only proper that such voting rights be now conferred.

PREMIUM OF 30/- PER SHARE.

“ Article 117 requires modification in order to provide that the new issue of ordinary shares shall rank for dividend as from a particular date, viz., 1st October, 1936. It will have been observed that the new ordinary shares (including the premium of 30/- per share) are to become payable as follows :—On acceptance—16th

July, 1936, 10/- per share ; on 30th September, 1936, £1 per share ; on 6th November, 1936, £1 per share, a total of £2 10s. per share. In other words, the company receive 10/- per share 10 weeks in advance of 30th September (the balance sheet date) and the final 20/- per share five weeks after that date, thus maintaining an equilibrium. Under this method, the question of apportionment of interest does not arise, and the shareholders, having the privilege of subscribing in instalments, are not inconvenienced thereby, and are, in fact, fairly treated.

“ You will have observed from the circular letter that it is also proposed to re-arrange the loan capital of the company. It will be clear to you that the terms upon which the debenture stocks of this company and the subsidiaries, Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd., and South Berks Brewery Company Ltd., were issued, involve in interest and sinking fund service a sum largely in excess of that which would be required if full advantage could be taken of the company's financial credit and of existing market conditions. I shall not, at this juncture, disclose the proposals which the Board have in mind regarding this part of the scheme, which will follow at a very early date—indeed, it would be quite improper on my part to do so—but I might mention that such proposals have for their object not merely a material reduction of the annual service on your company's loan capital, but also a simplification of such loan capital and an increase in its authorised amount. This simplification and this increase will, in the opinion of your Board, enable them to frame their offer to the debenture holders of the subsidiaries—an offer to which I have referred earlier—on lines which should prove more attractive both to those stockholders and to your company.

“ Before concluding, there is one other point I should like to mention, and it is this. It is proposed, as you will have seen, to convert into stock all the preference and ordinary shares at present in issue and those now to be created as and when they become fully paid. This means that the distinctive numbers will disappear and an enormous amount of work and expense will thereby be saved. This procedure is, of course, in keeping with modern developments. I trust that these brief explanations of mine will have given you an adequate conception of what has been described as ‘ a somewhat novel scheme,’ and I assure you that your board of directors have given this matter very careful thought and consideration from every point of view and are unanimously of opinion that the result will be of benefit to the members of the company.”

BENEFIT TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS.

Mr. H. C. Arnold-Forster, who seconded the necessary resolutions, congratulated the chairman on the most lucid way in

which he had placed the proposals before the meeting. He thought he should admit in the first instance that he was not only a shareholder, but that he had been taken in some measure into the counsels of the company in regard to these proposals. That should not debar him, however, from speaking on the resolutions as a shareholder. He asked the meeting to support the proposals on the grounds that in themselves, quite apart from any other proposals to which they might lead, they were beneficial. It was quite clear that all the preference shareholders would benefit by the proposals, but it might be asked : What are the ordinary shareholders going to get out of it? It might be suggested that reserves were being given away, but he said they were not. They were being invested to the best interests of the company, and would put the company in a position to re-arrange the prior charges of the parent company and of subsidiaries in a manner beneficial to the ordinary shareholders. The distribution of these reserves was merely a paper transaction. They were obviously, in his opinion, going to have a capital structure which would be a model for a brewery company. They would receive the cash required for very necessary improvements, and—more important still—they would put the company in a position to deal with subsidiaries in a manner which would be impossible unless the proposals went through. He asked the meeting to trust the board and accept the fact that if the proposals went through *in toto* the ordinary shareholders would derive a very great measure of benefit. He congratulated the board on having the courage to tackle this problem boldly ; it had meant a large amount of work for them, and he believed they and the shareholders of the company would feel very proud of what had been achieved.

The resolutions were then unanimously approved.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.



ASHBY'S STAINES BREWERY LTD.

VISIT OF MILITARY POLICE OF WOOLWICH.

On Thursday, May 28th, we were greatly pleased to receive a party of our old friends the Military Police of Woolwich garrison, who repeated their visit of last year whilst en route for Aldershot to take part in their annual sports.

It was a very cheerful party that arrived to partake of the light refreshments provided, and we were pleased to recognize the familiar face of Sgt. Stewart.

Unfortunately, pressure of time and the dinner-hour break prevented our guests from seeing actual bottling operations, but those who wished were able to view the plant before resuming their journey.

On their return journey from Aldershot in the evening the party again called a halt at Staines and on this occasion they paid a call upon ever-popular Mr. Musgrave at the Phoenix Inn; Mr. T. W. A. Jackson also being there to welcome them.

It now remains for us to express our hope that our friends thoroughly enjoyed their outing and we shall look forward to seeing them next year.

[Unfortunately the photograph sent with this report was not clear enough for reproduction.—ED.]

HIGH WYCOMBE BOROUGH DARTS LEAGUE.

(President: L. A. Simonds, Esq.).

In the June issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE we published the final league table for the 1935-36 season, and we are now pleased to record the third annual presentation of trophies and medals which took place on Wednesday, July 1st, in the Club Room at the Bull Inn, High Wycombe, when there was a good attendance of members and visitors. Mr. R. J. Green (chairman of the league) presided, and he was ably supported by Alderman W. R. Butler, J.P., Mr. Jack Castle, and the following representatives of the Firm:—Messrs. W. H. Davis, H. E. Marston and C. Bennett.

In his opening remarks Mr. Green expressed the regret of all present that the League President (Mr. L. A. Simonds) had been prevented from attending that evening owing to important business engagements in another part of the country. He also extended a hearty welcome to the visitors.

The Secretary's report was read by Mr. W. R. Youers, and this record gave interesting details of the successful season which the league has enjoyed. In 1934 they had 21 clubs and the following year the number had advanced to 31, and last season the total was 34. The playing members in the three years were 500, 750 and 860 respectively. In view of the fact that other Houses were forming teams and were seeking admission to the league, it is felt that additional divisions must be formed next season, and the report advised that application from new teams should be made in good time in order that the annual general meeting, to be held on August 27th, shall be in possession of all the information necessary to make decisions as to the number of divisions to be formed next winter. All teams fulfilled their engagements, and this fact was considered to be highly creditable, especially to those at the bottom of the divisional tables. Regarding finance, it was hoped to be able to finish the year's accounts with a balance on the right side and this happy state of affairs was very encouraging.

The toast of "Our President" was submitted by the chairman, who remarked that every organisation must have a leader, and they were particularly fortunate, as in Mr. Louis Simonds they had a gentleman who takes an interest in the league, and in all kinds of sport generally. He referred to the President's activities as recorded in THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE from month to month, and specially mentioned the "Simonds" Darts League in Reading with whom Mr. Louis was endeavouring to fix up a contest for the winners of the High Wycombe League. Reference was also made to Simonds' Fete, of which Mr. Louis is chairman.

In the absence of the President, the toast was suitably acknowledged by Mr. C. Bennett, who then presented the trophies and medals to the winners, as follows:—

Simonds' Cup—League champions and winners "E" division (The Bull Inn.)

Mann & Crossman's Cup—Winners "W" division (The Friend at Hand.)

Adams Ltd. Cup—Runners-up "W" division (The Swan, West Wycombe.)

Thames Valley Shield—Runners-up "E" division (The Morning Star.)

Every member of the four teams received a medal.

The toast of "The League" was in the capable hands of Alderman W. R. Butler, who referred to the keenness of the competitions and the extremely close finishing. He said he was convinced that the league met a definite need in the town and was, therefore, to be encouraged. He commented on the sportsmanship

displayed by the teams generally, and particularly by those who had no hope of winning trophies but who carried on and loyally completed their programme without loss of heart and with the best possible spirit, and for those teams he hoped next season would bring better fortune.

Mr. J. Castle supported and said he always took the greatest possible interest in the recreation of the workers of the town. Such a league was a necessary institution and the workers were better for their association with its activities. He wished the league prosperity and much happiness in the future.

The chairman replied, saying that the success of the league depended on the individual players, and it spoke volumes for the conduct of the members when he stated that of the 64 matches played, not a single protest had been received by the committee. He predicted the possibility of four divisions next year, for which the present four trophies could be used, although the runners-up in each case would be excluded from the presentations. The expense of additional trophies would thus be avoided. He pleaded for a full attendance at the annual general meeting. Also, he specially complimented the Bull team on winning the Eastern division in three successive years.

"The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. E. Burnett and acknowledged by Mr. W. H. Davis.

"The Officers of the League" was submitted by Mr. C. Bennett and a reply was made by Mr. J. A. Luff (vice-chairman).

The musical programme was much enjoyed, and contributions were made by Messrs. Wilson, Brown, J. Alson, Terry, R. Smith and Selwym, and the last-named replied to the vote of thanks to "The Artistes," ably proposed by Mr. W. R. Youers—this ended a very happy and successful evening.

C.B.



FISH MOUNTING.

Course fishing opened on the 16th June, and with it visions of three-pound roach, and pike like alligators.

We all know the story of the big one that got away, but sooner or later most anglers creel a specimen fish worthy of a glass case.

To have a fish set up is an expensive item, so I am going to suggest that enthusiastic anglers mount their specimens themselves.

It is not so difficult as it looks, the chief secrets to success are patience and commonsense. The method that I am going to give is not the best, but excellent results can be obtained by amateurs.

Having caught the fish you intend setting up, wrap it in clean cloth, being careful not to dislodge any scales or damage the fins. The tools needed are two pairs of scissors, one large, one small, two very sharp knives, one pointed and one with a round end, a piece of plywood about six inches longer and wider than the fish, a piece of muslin big enough to wrap the fish in, and some cotton wool.

First of all take measurements of the fish, such as girth and thickness at various parts of the body, then lay it on the plywood, spread all fins and tail and trace its outline on the board. Make the fins pliable with a little glycerine and shut them all up. If the fish has still got its natural slime on, wrap it up in the muslin; but if it is dry give it a coat of good paste first. The object of this is that the muslin keeps the scales in and protects the fins. Put the fish away to dry.

While the fish is drying, cut two holes in the board where the pectoral and ventral fins come.

The fish has now got to be skinned; this is the most difficult job and if you make a mess of it the fish is ruined. You will want the best side of the fish showing, so on the other side cut with the sharp strong scissors just under the skin from the gills along the lateral line to the tail. Very gently start skinning the fish; make very small cuts and keep the edge of the knife pointing away from the skin. Keep mopping up the blood and moisture with cotton wool. Try to keep the work dry. Sever the backbone as near inside the gills as possible and about half an inch from the tail; as you come to the fins snip off the bones with the small scissors.

The fish should now be just skin and head with quite a lot of flesh in the head and odd pieces by the fins and tail. Scrape and cut every piece of flesh away; a lot of patience is needed to clear the head, but it must be done. Remove eyes and clear sockets. Now put the hollow fish in a weak solution of glacial carbolic acid and water. By the time you have got this far you will probably have got tired of the job, and the smell, so leave it to soak for 24 hours.

The skin has now got to be preserved. Several chemicals would do this: arsenic being about the best, but as this is very dangerous to use and difficult to obtain, you can rule this out. A mixture of saltpetre and alum is quite good and cheap, so by equal quantities of this use enough to fill the skin tight.

The muslin will now have soaked off; dry the fish inside and out and give the inside a dab all over with strong glacial carbolic solution to which has been added a little tannin. Let it dry again. Rub some of the chemicals into the inside of skin and head, pack the eye sockets, mouth and head, and fill the skin tight. Sew up the skin, leaving space in the middle to add or take out the chemicals.

Lay the fish on the plyboard: at this stage it will not look much like the beauty that you creeled, so it must be moulded and patted into shape, using the tracing and measurements as your guide. If the belly was thin when you caught the fish just add to nature and give it a prosperous well-fed look. Mould the fish about an eighth of an inch bigger all over to allow for shrinkage. The pectoral and ventral fins must be carefully spread, using pieces of cotton tied at various angles on the board. One each of these pair of fins must be passed through the holes in the board and spread. All the other fins can be easily spread and kept in place with fine pins. Be careful that you set the fins and mouth at a natural angle. Wipe the fish clean and put in a cool, airy place to dry for 6 to 8 weeks.

Whilst it is drying make the case.

When the fish is thoroughly dry, cut the stitches and shake out every bit of chemical. The fish should now be just a hollow shell and as stiff as a board. Make a false backbone so that the fish can be pegged or screwed to the back of the case. Buy an eye and set it in putty; if the eye is difficult to obtain, make it yourself—get a flash lamp bulb, cut it in half and paint inside with water-colours.

It will be found that the cheeks and lips have shrunk, so remodel with putty; also the fish will have lost most of its original colour, so buy a few tubes of oil colours and touch it up.

However careful you have been you will have split some of the fins. These can be repaired with thin transparent paper stuck over the whole of the fin and cut to shape.

Give three coats of clear varnish, seal it in the case, and hang it in the most honoured position in the house. (If you are married it will probably have to go in the coal house.)

Just one word of advice. If you intend setting up your next specimen, I suggest that you experiment first with a perch, as this fish has a thick skin and the scales are set in tight.

Tight lines,
R.F.G.

THE R.A.F. IN INDIA.



Members of the progressive Karachi Branch of the Royal Air Force, Old Boys' Association, Sind, India, at their seaside holiday camp last Easter week-end—about 20 miles out, viz., 14 by road and 6 by water. No shops, water, etc. available. Everything necessary had to be taken including their cooks, bearers, etc., which required a good deal of organization. They did not forget to include Simonds Light Beer, a pleasant reminder to the Hon. Secretary, Leading Aircraftsman F. G. W. Hoile, who is a native of Reading and is shown fifth from the left in the second row.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

WHITEWASHING.

A young lawyer attended the funeral of a millionaire financier. A friend arrived at the funeral a little late, took a seat beside the lawyer, and whispered, "How far has the service gone?" The lawyer nodded towards the clergyman in the pulpit, and whispered back tersely, "Just opened for the defence."

* * * * *

FIVE GUINEA ALE.

A large Sergeants' Mess, not a 1,000 miles from Aldershot, had an outing to Ascot on Wednesday, 17th June, and backed the double:—

"Five Guinea Ale" and "Guinea Gap."
The day was a great success!

THE "HOP LEAF" BADGE.

The issue of the bronze Hop Leaf tokens has led to the formation of many clubs. One of the best organized was recently inaugurated by the Sergeants' Mess of The Queen's Bays, who have established a definite object for the formation of the club, the accumulated funds of which will contribute towards an annual outing or other form of entertainment, as may be decided by the committee.

A copy of the rules is reprinted below. For the privilege of adopting the rules by other bodies, a donation of 1/- is required by the Treasurer of the above-mentioned club.

RULES.

1. Membership will be confined to the members of the Sergeants' Mess The Queen's Bays and their friends.
2. On joining, members will be issued with a "Hop Leaf" badge on payment of threepence.
3. A weekly subscription of one penny will be paid on Friday of each week.
4. A fine of one penny will be charged against members each Friday they fail to pay their subscriptions.
5. A fine of one penny will be charged against members each time they fail to produce their badges when asked to do so by another member who must also produce his badge at the time of asking (*see rule 6*).
6. Badges must be kept loose in the pocket and not attached to any other article. Members will at all times be in possession of their badges by keeping them on their persons in one or other of the pockets of the clothes they are wearing.
7. If a member loses his badge a new badge will be supplied on payment of threepence.
8. No member will be in possession of more than one badge and that badge must bear his registered number.
9. A member cannot be fined more than threepence in any one day.
10. A member failing to pay his weekly subscriptions for a period of nine weeks will cease to become a member. The first person on the waiting list may take his place provided that he pays all arrears due by the member whose place he filled.
11. The total membership will be limited to 40 members.
12. All fines incurred will be paid to the Treasurer not later than Friday each week.
13. A fine of one penny will be charged against members each time they fail to comply with the above rules.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

SMILING AT FAILURE.

Can you fail and still smile? That is the test which proves your mettle.

If you can get up every time you are knocked down, with more fight in you than when you went down, there is no fear about your future; but if you wilt when you meet rebuffs; if failures dishearten you; if you let go of your determination to win; if you don't fight harder than ever every time you strike a snag, you are not made of successful material.

The grit to fail and start all over again; the grit to lose all and not lose faith; the grit to lose one's friends; the grit to endure when one is misunderstood, criticized and blamed, even by those nearest and dearest to him, that is the grit that moves the world. If you have that sort of grit; if you keep your temper and smile no matter what happens to you, you will win.

IMPERISHABLE.

There are three things a man can give
To others more and more,
Of which the while God lets him live
He has an endless store.
And one is courtesy to all,
Which kindly hearts possess;
The second's love for great and small,
And the third is friendliness.

One cannot give these three away,
However hard he try,
For should he drain his heart to-day
He'd gain a new supply.
Who scatters smiles and words of cheer,
And poorer men befriends,
And loves all living creatures here,
Has wealth that never ends.

Though gold through fingers often slips
And fame may quickly fade,
Who walks with kind words on his lips
Will keep the friendships made,
And who has courtesy to give
To all who come and go
Will never find while he may live
Such riches running low.

CRICKET.

The month of June has not brought much success to the "A" team, but the "B" team have had quite a fair share and their unbeaten record was not lost until the last game of the month and then they *did* crash.

As will be seen towards the end of this synopsis the Inter-Departmental League is half way through its course.

Briefly the games so far played are as follows, commencing with the "A" team :—

June 6th. CAMBERLEY W.M.C. 125 for 5 v. "A" TEAM 27 for 4.

Played at Camberley, the home team having first knock and it was a merry one for them. Our bowlers could not find the right spots. The score went from 19 for 2 to 95 for 3. J. Cull (28) and F. Maunders (also well known to footer fans) with 46, collared the bowling and no changes made either there or in the field could force a separation. The declaration was made at tea time.

Our wickets were tumbling and the rain falling steadily, although for a time lightly. However, when the score stood at 27 for 4, an adjournment had to be made, and brought later a definite end to the game. We were not beaten but that is all that could be said for it.

13th June.

It was not Friday the Thirteenth, but just about as unlucky. Heavy rain fell nearly all night and continued up to about noon.

We were to have played Commander H. D. Simonds XI at Eversley, but after Mr. Harry had been over to inspect the ground, he phoned in to say that the conditions were impossible, so one of our "special" matches went by the board.

June 20th. "A" TEAM 37 v. WARGRAVE "B" 45.

This match well illustrates the old saying that a game is never lost until it is won. We thought at one time we were on velvet, but we were sitting on the wrong side of the pile.

Wargrave batted first and success soon came our way. We got 5 wickets for 10. Then came the tea interval (we had to make a very late start). F. Hatton, thinking there was nothing to lose, used the long handle and made 17. Wargrave were only playing ten men and their total score only amounted to 45. Tigar had the splendid figures of 3 for 8, Crutchley got two, Hedgington three and E. Greenaway one.

Our batting! Well only Josey can look back on that match with any satisfaction. He got 12. For the rest, the least said soonest mended. Only another 25, of which Mr. Extras claimed 8, between ten men.

F. Hatton followed up his batting by getting 5 for 16, and E. Plested came on to secure 4 for 4.

June 27th. "A" TEAM 73 v. WOKINGHAM LONDON ROAD 27.

A small shout for this match, for we won it. 'Tis true the score looks well in our favour, but when one looks in the book and finds that we lost the first 6 wickets with only 10 runs registered, it does not do to be too optimistic about winning bats for individual centuries. Had it not been for B. Busby, playing his first match for the "A" team and who made 27, we should have been in a sorry plight. Then the last wicket (E. Greenaway 13 and S. Collins 8 not out) added 21, and we finished up with a fairly respectable score. Wokingham tried seven bowlers during our innings, Barkley being the best with 5 for 12.

Our bowlers had a day on. In 8½ overs Tigar took 5 for 10, Crutchley had six overs and 3 for 12, and then Hedgington had a couple of overs and captured 2 wickets in his first over and this a maiden. His second only cost two runs.

That ends the story of the "A" team for the "Flaming" month of June.

The "B" team won three matches out of four, and that is pretty good going, especially as on two occasions they had to fight against long odds and pulled the games right round.

June 6th. "B" TEAM 106 for 4 v. PANGBOURNE AND TIDMARSH 2ND XI. 99.

Played on Prospect Park, Pangbourne batting first. The first wicket fell at 6, the next added 37 and from thence the runs came steadily, and the wickets fell regularly, until 99 was the total. C. Cox made 28, Edinboro and Supt. Wiggins each got 15.

That was a fairly hefty score to face, but our men went about the task manfully. The fall of wickets is not available, but the individual scores speak for themselves—A. Carter 24, H. Mileham 34, G. Gigg 12, A. Hedgington 23 not out and H. Tozer 10 not out.

June 13th. "B" TEAM 95 for 5 v. OXFORD STORES 83 for 8 (declared).

Although the weather was very inclement, our Oxford Staff were anxious to pay Reading a visit and try their strength against the Headquarters. The afternoon was showery and Oxford decided

to bat first and made a good start. W. T. Saunders (10) and C. Saunders (12) and later, Tedley (23) helped the score along. When the total reached 83 the skipper declared. Our bowlers shared the wickets, Hedgington (3 for 32), Tozer (2 for 15) and Osborn (2 for 19).

Here again we had a score to face, but after a rather poor start, 3 down for 19, Hedgington, who made 54, and Tozer, 22 not out, put a different complexion on the game and the book then read 93 for 4. Another wicket fell for the addition of two runs and then the match ended.

The Oxford team later spent a happy time in the Club and so ended a day that looked too bad for any sport at all.

June 20th. "B" TEAM 78 v. BARNDALE 45.

King's Meadows was the venue of this match and our boys had the first go with the willow. As a contemporary of ours put it one evening, "Seven Bridges find a 'star.'" B. Farmer, playing his first game for us, made 15 and then went on to take 6 wickets for 8 runs. Something like a good "star." May he continue to wax on our behalf.

To resume with the batting story. The start was none too auspicious—5 down for 22. Then B. Busby (19) and Farmer (15) became associated and their partnership added 26. B. Nicholls (15) then came in and a further 25 runs were added. Mr. Extras also reached double figures.

Barndale were soon after the runs and 30 was on the board when the first wicket fell. After that our bowlers took possession and the rest of the team only added 15. Tozer took the other four wickets for 22.

June 27th. "B" TEAM 43 v. TRINITY HALL (HENLEY) 158.

After a series of good wins we crashed in this match. What a fall! Still things will and do happen and prevent teams from getting a too big opinion of themselves.

Trinity Hall was a new team to us and a number of good scores were made by various players. F. Bond (33), H. Reeves (43 not out), H. Feast (24) and S. Tristam and J. Rumble also reached double figures. Naturally our bowlers figures suffered, E. Chandler having the best analysis with 3 for 29.

The score proved far too heavy for us to reach and our team were unable to make any headway against the bowling of

Wheeler, in particular. He took 5 for 14. Two men were run out and only G. Kelly managed to get double figures.

Thus ends the month of June as far as the Saturday teams are concerned, so let us have a look at the evening games.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL LEAGUE.

The month has seen five matches played in this tourney and, at the moment, the Surveyors and Building Department and the Wine and Spirit Department head the table with 8 points each. Several surprises have occurred, which make the games all the more interesting.

Starting on the 4th June, the Surveyors, etc. played the Rest and won by 41. The Surveyors batted first and made 79 for 6. E. L. Morgan (33 not out), F. Chandler (19) and G. Gigg (16 not out) were the chief instruments of torture, so far as the Rest were concerned. The latter rather failed in the batting line; G. Kelly and W. Benham were top scorers with 8 each. It should be noted, however, that they were handicapped by being two short. F. Chandler took 5 for 16. Unfortunately the bowling figures were not taken of the Surveyors' innings. This will upset the figures at the end of the season.

June 9th. DELIVERY OFFICE 17 v. OFFICES 95.

This was the first surprise of the season. The Delivery had quite a good team out, but against the bowling of A. Hedgington (5 for 7) and R. Broad (4 for 6) failed lamentably.

The Offices just passed their total for the loss of the first wicket and then went on to collect as many runs as possible. C. Josey (22), J. Doe (19) and P. Hammond (14) were the chief scorers. H. Tigar and E. Crutchley each took 3 wickets, whilst W. Benham finished off the innings with one for no runs.

June 16th. W. & S. STORES 77 for 6 v. Rest of Brewery 54.

In this affair Busby was the hero of his side, making 41 not out in real good style. C. Main with 17 helped the score along from 26 for 4 to 64 for 5. E. Chandler did the most damage with the ball for his side, taking 4 for 36.

The Rest did better than on their last match, having a full eleven out. A. Tugwell used the long handle to good effect, making 22. For the W. & S. the bowling honours went to A. Mulcock, with 3 for 5, but H. Tozer and S. Treacher had a fairly long spell. The former took 3 wickets in his first three overs at the cost of one run, but then had no further success.

June 23rd. OFFICES 53 for 9 v. SURVEYORS, ETC. 81.

The Offices had first knock and had a bad start, losing the first two wickets for 7 runs; then the runs came steadily, also the wickets did the same, until time was called. No double figures were registered by the Offices.

The Surveyors started well, knocking up 18 for the loss of the first wicket, then the pendulum swung over and the next 5 fell for an additional 19. The next added 11 and then when things became critical a catch was dropped and E. Morgan took advantage of it and hit out; later he was joined by F. Hawkins and were together when time was called. A. Hedgington took 5 for 36, but the other bowlers were out of luck.

June 25th. OFFICES 55 v. W. & S. DEPARTMENT 56 for 8.

The Wine Stores had the first go with the bat and thanks to H. Tozer (18) and A. Mulcock (13) carried the score along nicely until it reached 56 for 8. A. Hedgington and R. Broad bore the brunt of the bowling, the former taking 4 for 15, but later on P. Hammond took 2 for 5; this was in the two overs he bowled.

The first Office wicket fell for 8, but the next put on 29. J. Doe was batting well, but could not get anyone to stay with him; 4 for 49, then 6 for 49 and then the next four could only scrape together another 6 and the Offices fell short by one run. The only extenuation that can be offered for their downfall was the sudden failing of the light, which made the flight of the ball difficult to follow against the dark background. H. Tozer had 6 for 17, A. Mulcock 2 for 19 and 2 run out were the figures for the W. & S.

The match between the Delivery Department and the W. & S. Stores arranged for the last Tuesday in June had to be postponed owing to the former being unable to raise a team.

The table at the end of the month was as follows:—

	Played.	Won.	Lost.	For	Against	Points.
Surveyors and Building Department ...	2	2	0	161	91	8
W. & S. Departments	2	2	0	133	109	8
Offices ...	3	1	2	203	154	4
Delivery Department	1	0	1	17	95	0
Rest of Brewery ...	2	0	2	92	156	0

J.W.J.



THE KING'S HOUSE.

WARRANT HOLDERS' JUBILEE GIFT.

MR. F. A. SIMONDS PRESENTED TO HIS MAJESTY.

The £50,000 house built at Burhill, Surrey, by the Royal Warrant Holders' Association as a Jubilee present to King George was given to King Edward on July 7th.

"The King's House," as it will be known, stands in its own grounds overlooking the Surrey hills with a distant view of Sussex.

Motoring to Burhill accompanied by Major Sir John Aird, the King was received by Lord Herbert Scott, president of the association. Lord Herbert Scott handed the King a key, surmounted



The King unlocking the door of the King's House at Burhill, Surrey, after the formal handing over of the Royal Warrant Holders' gift. Mr. F. A. Simonds is seen on the left of the picture—the last figure but one.

[Photo by Messrs Bassano, 38, Dover Street, London.]

with the inscription "G.R.V." and a crown in rubies and diamonds. His Majesty opened the front door with the key, which is a master key unlocking all the doors in the house. In the study, panelled with Canadian silkwood, the King made the first signature in the visitors' book, and was presented with an album containing the names of the thousand members of the Royal Warrant Holders'

Association who subscribed towards the house and an illuminated address.

"We have sought," the address ran, "by the choice of a site in the midst of England's sylvan beauty, and of a dignified architectural design, and by faithful building and furnishing to make it a home worthy of its intended purpose. Throughout, British skill has worked with zealous care to attain the highest degree of craftsmanship. Nothing has entered into its construction, equipment or furnishing which is not a product of your Majesty's Empire and the gift of some member of the Royal Warrant Holders' Association. We trust that 'The King's House' will have your Majesty's gracious approval; and that it will long endure as a testimony of the loyal gratitude which we, in common with all your Majesty's subjects, cherish for the great monarch whose faithful and dutiful wisdom safely guided his people through many trials during 25 fateful years."

By the King's desire the whole proceedings were kept entirely informal, and there were no speeches. Lord Herbert Scott presented to the King Mr. F. A. Simonds, vice-president; Mr. Charles F. Glenny, treasurer; Major H. Brookhouse, secretary; Sir Duncan Watson, president of the association in the Jubilee year and chairman of the House Sub-Committee; and Lieutenant-Gen. Sir Travers Clarke and Mr. Charles Newbegin, members of the committee. Mr. Beresford Marshall, the architect, Mr. Percy Cane, the landscape architect, Colonel Frank Faulkner, the quantity surveyor, and Mr. George Burt, representing the builders, were also presented.

FEATURES OF THE HOUSE.

After admiring a panel by Mr. Frank Brangwyn in the study, and being shown a hidden cocktail cabinet in the wall, the King was conducted over the remainder of the house by Sir Duncan Watson and Lord Herbert Scott. His Majesty remarked on the fact that every room in the house had an electric clock, and nearly every room its own loud-speaker hidden in the wall. He went into the kitchen, the walls and ceiling of which are made from stainless steel, and he examined the big gas cooking stove fitted with a self-lighting electrical device. Upstairs the King went into the principal bedroom, the principal guest room, and the second guest room, which is called the "Margaret Rose" room, because it is decorated in a shade of rose pink, called after the King's niece.

The King admired the principal bathroom walled in amber glass, and examined the dressing-room which has an electrical device which opens the wardrobe automatically at the touch of a switch. From the servants' quarters the King went down into the cellars to see the little laundry room, and then up into the garage, which is lined entirely in special polished coloured concrete tiles which have never been used before. He admired the glass garage

portico, fitted with electric light, which enables a car to be washed no matter what the weather, and looked up at the solid silver weather vane which is a replica of King George's racing yacht *Britannia*.

Sir Duncan Watson told the King that all the materials used in the house—many of them put to uses never tried before—came from within the Empire. He said that every room was "insulated" with asbestos packing between the floor and ceiling to render it sound-proof, while every beam rests on asbestos packing to avoid vibration. The whole of the basement, including the wine cellar and the laundry, is surrounded by a "box" of bitumen, rendering it damp-proof.

With the house is an endowment fund for future expenses, and the house is to be given by the King to whom ever he may think is a worthy recipient because of services to his country.

GEORGIAN STYLE.

The house is approached by a newly-constructed road which turns off the private road leading to Burhill golf course. The grounds are about two acres in extent and are laid out in lawns and flower beds. The style of architecture is of the Georgian period, with red brick walls and red tiled roof.

SIMONDS' LAWN TENNIS CLUB.

DEFEAT OF THE QUEEN'S BAYS.

PRESENTATION OF UNIQUE TROPHY.

Saturday, July 11th, will ever remain a red letter day in the minds of members of H. & G. Simonds Tennis Club, for on that occasion they met a team representing the famous Queen's Bays, at Aldershot and, after some exciting play, achieved a memorable victory.

After the match we returned to the Sergeants' Mess where we were graciously received by R.Q.M.S. Rycroft and right royally entertained. Here we spent a delightful hour or two in the presence of these fine sportsmen. The climax came when there was brought into the room with rare pomp and ceremony a huge cup to be presented to the winners as a memento of the historic occasion. It was the artistic work of Staff Sergt. Jarrett, the Bay's noted Silversmith, and for years to come it will be looked upon as one of the great treasures of the Brewery.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TROPHY.

The cup is composed of a cavalry food tin with a support for the bottom of a cavalry mess tin. The handles consist of two horse shoes with a base support of a euphonium. The Hop Leaf is engraved out of shell cases and on either side is an inscription which reads as follows:—

TENNIS MATCH.

The Queen's Bays v. The Simonds L.T.C.

Won by the S's. L.T.C.

P(O)INTS: THE S's L.T.C.	...	100,000,000
THE Q. B's.	...	11,111

(*Bays Badge*
is here.)

(*Hop Leaf*
here.)

The cup was handed to Mr. Perrin, captain of the Simonds team, amid deafening applause, and in acknowledgment Mr. Perrin thanked the Queen's Bays side for their extraordinary kindness. There might be better tennis players, he said, but there could not be better sportsmen (loud applause). He hoped that a return match would be arranged when he was sure Simonds would give the Queen's Bays a great welcome to Reading. Incidentally, he added, they were all looking forward to Simonds Fete at Reading, on August 22nd, when he was sure the performance by the Queen's Bays would prove an outstanding attraction.

The cup was then filled and we drank each other's healths right heartily.

Our chief military representative, Mr. W. H. Wigley, accompanied the team to Aldershot and his popularity with all concerned seemed unbounded.

The Simonds team was composed as under:—

C. H. Perrin and P. James; C. L. Langton and H. J. Scott;
W. A. Harvie and R. Huddy.

They would like to thank very sincerely Regimental Sergt.-Major Godbold and all concerned for the wonderful hospitality they received. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the visit to the Queen's Bays will ever live with them a happy memory.

A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

CHAMPION CLAY PIGEON SHOT.

MOTHER DUCK'S SOLICITUDE FOR YOUNG.

THREE NESTS ON ONE RAKE.

During my recent holiday in Devon I had the pleasure of renewing my acquaintance with a famous clay pigeon shot. Out of curiosity I attended one of these shoots and was amazed at his accuracy. He also does a lot of partridge and pheasant shooting and with such comparatively big targets the birds can have little chance of escaping his unerring aim. I asked him what "lead" he would give to a partridge crossing at, say, forty yards range. He replied about 8 feet. A pheasant flying similarly would require a 6ft. lead. From the waist upwards, he said, all motion should swing round in unison with the gun when shooting. The mistake made by most guns is that they fire low and behind.

MOTHER DUCK.

By a meandering stream the other day I came across a mother duck with a feathery flotilla of a dozen young. The children were nearly fully grown and as I approached all but one swam rapidly down stream and were soon out of sight. The other one was either a weakling or was injured and his progress was painfully slow. But what interested and impressed me was that, in spite of the fact that I approached within a few yards of this duckling his mother would not leave him and I was touched by her solicitude for her child. She did not think of her own safety, and as I could see she was terribly anxious about that of her bairn I did not worry her further but moved quietly away leaving them both in peace.

HE CAME AGAIN!

When you hook a trout and he finally becomes unattached and gets away, how long is it before he recovers from his experience and starts to rise again? I had a very favourable experience in this connection recently. I spotted a good fish rising. He was right away under the branches of an alder tree while all around were other trees above and masses of reeds and rushes below. However, by dint of perseverance, I got a fly right over his nose. The trout was up and at it. For a while I played him but he at length got the better of the argument and gained his liberty. About an hour and a half later I tried him again. The casting was difficult in the extreme. I had succeeded in placing my fly in the right spot half

a dozen times without the slightest response. I thought I would have just one more shot. It was a perfect cast and my lure had not travelled many inches before it was seized. I struck, and a rare struggle ensued, for I was fishing with the finest of tackle. Eventually I succeeded in lifting the fish from the water and when I put him on the scales he weighed exactly 1 lb. 10 oz. I am quite convinced it was the same fish I had hooked an hour or so previously.

CAT *v.* FOX—ROBINS *v.* MAN.

The fact that a fox was crossing the lawn near Park Hospital did not meet with the approval of the cat who promptly went for Reynard and scratched the intruder in the ear. The fox soon made off shaking his head as if in considerable pain.

A pair of robins built their nest in a tool shed belonging to Mr. V. Tilley of Kidmore Road, Caversham, and for a time seemed quite friendly with the kindly owner of the building in which they had placed their nest. But there was a remarkable alteration in the attitude of the birds directly their young were hatched. Then both mother and father flew at him and he stood considerable risk of receiving a nasty peck in the face. No, robins are by no means always the gentle little birds that they are supposed to be. Not infrequently the parent robins and their children, when grown up, will fight to a finish.

HOUSING SHORTAGE ?

I do not know whether there is a housing shortage concerning birds on Manor Farm. But it would appear so from the following incidents. In the corner of a shed there stood a rake. On this useful implement a blackbird built its nest and reared a family, on the blackbird's nest a house sparrow built and reared a family. Then on this bird's nest another house sparrow made its home and succeeded in rearing a family of five.

What strange happenings constantly occur in the realm of Nature !



WORDS OF WISDOM.

Subtlety may deceive you ; integrity never.—*Oliver Cromwell.*

We should not complain about things which can be remedied, or which cannot be remedied.

Wise is the man who knows what NOT to say—and doesn't say it.

The world may sound no trumpets
Ring no bells.
The papers ne'er record it
No newsboy yells.
Still in the book of life
The shining record tells.

Try again. It's very often the last key of the bunch that opens the lock.

Silence is often the wisest answer.

'Tis sweet to muse upon His skill displayed,
(Infinite skill) in all that He has made,
To trace in Nature's most minute design
The signature and stamp of power divine.

DARTS.

FOUR DIVISIONS FOR SIMONDS' LEAGUE.

GROWING POPULARITY OF THE GAME IN READING DISTRICT.

The growing popularity of darts in Reading and district has called for re-organisation in the H. & G. Simonds' Darts League, and many improvements for next season were decided upon at a general meeting held at the Bell Inn, Tilehurst, on June 11th, says the *Evening Gazette*.

Foremost among these was a decision to increase the strength of the leagues to four divisions and to allow any house to run two teams if it is strong enough to do so. Any house running two teams must run them separately, however, and they will each be governed by the present rules. No house, therefore, will be able to interchange players from the "A" and "B" teams.

STRONGER RULES.

Several of the rules were also strengthened, and the penalty for playing ineligible players in future will be a fine of 2s. 6d., and the loss of both points.

In past years it has been the custom to allow teams to continue signing players until a few days before the finals, but this year there will be no signing after January 31st, 1937.

The chairman of the meeting, Mr. W. Constable, expressed his regret at receiving the resignation of Mr. W. C. Breakspear from the position of secretary. It was decided to make him a present of £1 is. for his services in the past year.

Mr. T. Blake, of the Bell Inn, was elected secretary and it was decided that, in view of the extra work which the secretary will now have to do, his fees should be increased to 2s. per team.

The entry list is now open and Mr. Blake would like to receive entries as soon as possible.



The Jolly Brewers darts team and other guests at the celebration supper.

THE JOLLY BREWERS CELEBRATE.

Jolly Brewers proved themselves worthy champions of the H. & G. Simonds' Darts League, and on June 11th Mr. and Mrs. G. Bishop, mine host and hostess at the house, entertained the players in a manner worthy of champions.

It was a cheery little dinner party which was held at the "Brewers," and afterwards the members of the team showed themselves to be as capable entertainers as they are darts throwers.

Mr. H. Tucker, a member of the league committee, presided, and amongst those present, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Bishop, were Mr. W. A. Constable, chairman of the committee, Mr. T. Blake, the new hon. secretary of the league, Mrs. Smart, Mrs. Moore, Mr. T. Lawrence, Mr. J. Arlett, Mr. R. Burkett, Mr. E. Steel, hon. secretary of the team, Mr. C. Grainger, captain, and others.

The health of the host and hostess was drunk, with musical honours, on the call of Mr. Constable, and that of the players on the proposition of Mrs. Smart.



The Jolly Brewers Team.

Mr. E. Steel, replying to the latter toast, said that with two exceptions, necessitated by illness, the same team had played throughout the season.

Those who did not get a game did not complain, and they were a united band, taking their lead from their host, Mr. Bishop, a good sportsman friend to them.

"As this is a gathering of darts players," he added, "I should like to pay tribute to the *Evening Gazette* for all that it has done to foster interest in our game, not only by publishing our results and notes on our league but for organising the team championship.

"This is only typical of the manner in which they have assisted all branches of sport and I think we all regard our own evening paper as a boon to Reading in general and to sportsmen in particular."

H. & G. SIMONDS ANNUAL OUTING.

ENJOYABLE TRIP TO LEIGHTON BUZZARD.

On Saturday, June 27th, members of the staff of H. & G. Simonds had their annual outing. Leaving Caversham Bridge soon after 10 a.m. the party journeyed by the steam launch *River*

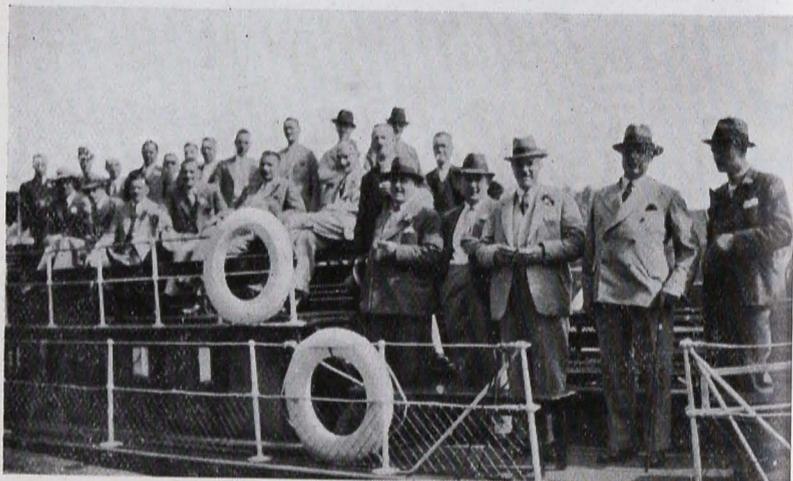
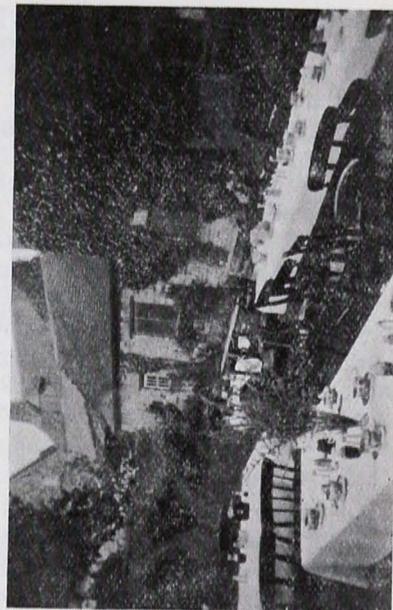


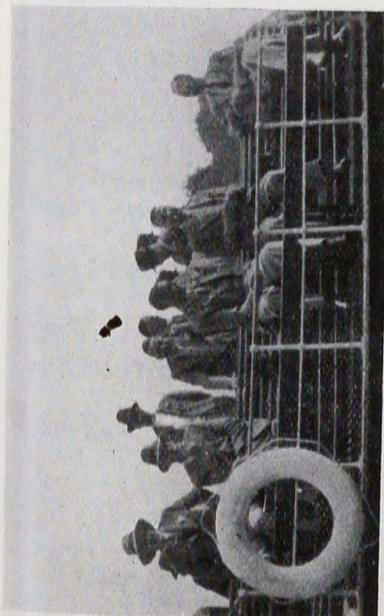
Photo by] The party on the "River Queen" at Caversham. [Mr. Freeman.



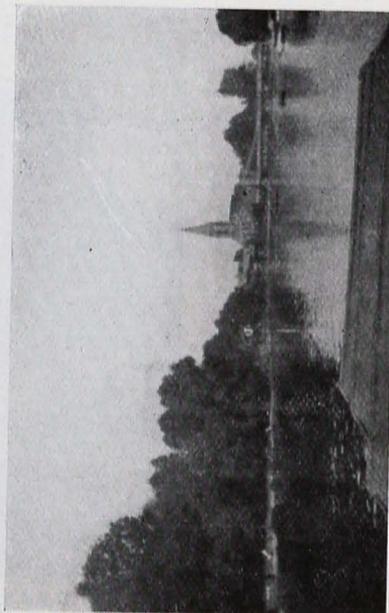
In Sunning Lock.



On the Lawn of Ye King's Head, Ivinghoe.



Some of the company assembling, ready for the start.



Marlow Suspension Bridge.

[Photos by T. W. Kent.]

Queen to Marlow. Then they went by charrs-a-banc to Leighton Buzzard and at Ye King's Head Hotel, Ivinghoe, a sumptuous meal awaited them. The food was excellent, and the service left nothing to be desired.

We enjoyed our meal as much as those who waited upon us appeared to enjoy our company. Our worthy friend "Chub" left a deep impression—the legs of his chair sank into the lawn about six inches!

We returned by road to Henley where we again boarded the *River Queen* and proceeded home.

On the return journey there was much mirth and music. Some excellent songs were rendered and I noticed, as we passed through Sonning late at night, that a sedge warbler joined vociferously in the chorus while a grasshopper warbler reeled out his own peculiar song—if such it may be called.

Mr. Reid rendered valuable service at the piano, Mr. Weaitt also taking an occasional turn.

There was appetising food to eat both on the outward and homeward journey and Simonds to drink. Our best thanks are due to those who so courteously saw to our wants on the boat.

The arrangements, as usual, were in the capable hands of Mr. W. Bradford.



Temple Island, Henley, near starting point of the river races.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The after-dinner speaker had been talking a long time, and the guests were heartily tired.

"Gentlemen," he said at length, "did you ever stop to think? I ask you again, did you ever stop to think?"

A weary listener could bear it no longer.

"Did you ever think to stop?" he inquired.

* * * *

"There!" exclaimed the wife in disgust. "I knew that friend of yours wasn't to be trusted. I've just counted the towels, and one of them is missing."

"Was it a good one?"

"It was the best we had. It was the one with 'Grand Palace Hotel' on it!"

"Well, he is the manager there!"

* * * *

She had called up his club to enquire if her husband was there. Without a moment's delay and without any attempt to make enquiries the telephone operator replied that he was not.

"But I haven't told you my husband's name," retorted the indignant wife.

"It's all right, Madam," was the reply. "Nobody's husband is ever at the club."

* * * *

A determined sailor walked into an animal store the other day. "I want to buy 5,000 big juicy cockroaches," he told the proprietor.

The proprietor was amazed at the order. "I'm sorry, but I can't supply your wants; what do you want them for?"

"Well, I'm moving and the landlord says I must leave the place exactly as I found it."

* * * *

"That's a nice bit of fish, ma'am," said the salesman persuasively. "Best 'ome cured!"

The thin-lipped female sniffed contemptuously. "Is it, hindeed?" she said. "Then just take it away and give me one that ain't been ill."

* * * *

GRIGGS: "I should say the two keys to success are luck and pluck."

BRIGGS: "You mean luck in finding some one to pluck!"

CANVASSER : " Madam, I am taking data for a new political directory. What party does your husband belong to? "

MRS. PECK : " Take a good look, Mister—I'm the party! "

* * * *

Overheard at the annual show of an allotments society :

" I'll give you ninepence for the marrow you took first prize with."

" Not enough, Bill. I gave a bob for it myself."

* * * *

" Where are you taking that lot? " said a depressed looking man to the driver of a char-a-banc that was full of women.

" To Burnham," replied the driver.

" Good man! Wait a minute, and you can take the wife."

* * * *

Little boy to his father, who is busy killing flies : " Papa, why didn't Noah swat both those flies when he had the chance? "

* * * *

TEACHER : " Tommy, can you define nonsense? "

TOMMY : " Yes, teacher—an elephant hanging over a cliff with his tail tied to a daisy."

* * * *

CUSTOMER (*suspiciously*) : " How is the hash made here? "

WAITER : " Made, sir? 'Ash ain't made; it accumulates."

* * * *

EXAMINER : " What would you do if you saw the woman driving a car in front of you put out her hand? "

CANDIDATE FOR DRIVING TEST : " Slam on the brakes."

* * * *

" My husband tells me the other men at the club consider Mr. Browne quite a raconteur."

" Rubbish! He doesn't drink any more than the rest of them."

* * * *

" Look here, Jane," said the master of the house. " How many more times have I to tell you about these cobwebs? I've just had to sweep one off the bedrail and throw it in the fire myself."

" Good gracious, sir," exclaimed the maid, " that's the missus's fancy dress for to-night's ball."

The golfer was much annoyed by a mother and her brood of children who were crossing the fairway just as he was preparing to drive. " Come away, my good woman," he bellowed, " you must take your children away at once. A golf course is no place for them."

" Don't you worry yourself, mister," advised the lady placidly, " you can't teach my kids nothing new. Their father's a bargee."

* * * *

An American who was over in Scotland on business met a friendly native called McGregor, and very soon the conversation turned to golf. " I'd like very much if we could fix a game up," said the American with a sigh, " but I'm a very bad player . . . I can't manage any course under a hundred and twenty, I'm afraid." " Och!" said McGregor, " O'm worse than you. Verra often I take a hunder an' fifty for the coorse." " Is that so? " remarked the Yank with new interest. " Well, now, as we're so evenly matched let's have a game with a dollar on every hole." And so it was arranged.

Months later, when the New York gentleman had returned home, he was narrating the story to some friends. " And would you believe it, boys," he wound up, " that lying Scot went round in seventy-one, and took a dollar off me! "

* * * *

An elderly Londoner goes to Carnoustie each summer for a golfing holiday. On his last visit, being lucky enough to secure the services of the caddie who had assisted him on a previous holiday, the golfer said to him at the end of the first round : " Well, Jimmie, do you notice any improvement since last year? "

" Aye, Sir," replied the boy, " I see ye've had yer clubs cleaned."

* * * *

The golfing " rabbit " struggled to the tenth tee, and stood and mopped his brow. " What couldn't I do to a bottle of lager? " he exclaimed.

" 'It it wiv' a golf club," retorted his disgusted caddie.

* * * *

BILL : " I never could make out Pharaoh's dream—how could seven lean kine swallow seven fat kine and not show any result? "

BOB : " I couldn't understand that until I married. My wife had one thin housekeeping book and I had several fat business books—but at the end of the year the little housekeeping book had swallowed up the business books and nothing was to be seen in their place."

OLD LADY (*witnessing tug-of-war for the first time*): "Wouldn't it be simpler to cut the rope?"

* * * *

Two bookmakers on their way to the races suddenly found themselves outside a lunatic asylum.

"I say, Alf," said one, "this is the place where they took old George when 'e went off 'is rocker a couple of years ago. What about payin' a call to see 'ow 'e's gettin' on?"

The other agreed.

"Well, George, what's it like 'ere?" they asked when they saw their old colleague.

"Oh, not too bad!" said George. "Good plain food, no worries, and I've built up a nice little business. Nearly all the blokes 'ere likes to 'ave their daily flutter. Which reminds me, Alf—you was always pretty good at workin' out odds, so I wonder if you can 'elp me? Yesterday a bloke in my ward—'Enery the Eighth—'ad two fags, a slice of fruit cake, and 'alf 'is breakfast sausage on a horse that dead-heated at eleven to four. What do I 'ave to pay 'im?"

* * * *

The young reporter was sent out to write up a Society wedding for the local paper. He returned an hour or so later empty-handed, and the indignant editor demanded explanations as to why he hadn't written his "copy."

"Oh, that's all right!" said the young man. "The bridegroom didn't turn up at the church, and the bride tried to kill herself, so they had to cancel the ceremony and there's nothing to report."

* * * *

A couple of bookmakers last month were discussing affairs in general over a glass of beer when one of them remarked:

"I see Mussolini's got Addis Ababa."

"Darn good job, too," replied the other. "There's no reason why the Aga Khan should have *all* the good two-year-olds."

* * * *

A very thin man met a very fat man in the hotel corridor.

"From the look of you," said the latter, "there might have been a famine."

"Yes," was the reply, "and from the look of you, you might have caused it."

BRANCHES.

PORTSMOUTH.

The 1st Battn. The Rifle Brigade had a very successful day when they were "at home" to the general public at New Barracks, Gosport, this summer. In a four hours' programme these representatives of one of the famous regiments of the British Army revealed how a modern soldier is trained and showed the conditions under which he lives. Well over a thousand people took the opportunity of visiting the barracks. They saw a smart display of physical training, applauded the skilful exhibition of bayonet fighting and noted the rapidity with which the machine-gun platoon brought their guns into action. They also saw all that there was to see in two of the barracks rooms that were laid open for inspection, the cook house, the dining hall, the bath house and the anti-gas store, while they were given the chance of testing the efficiency of the modern gas mask in the gas chamber. The Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. G. Ford), together with members of the Borough Council and their wives, were guests of honour during the afternoon and they were also entertained to tea in the Regimental Institute. In the absence of the Officer Commanding, Lieut.-Col. O. C. Downes, D.S.O., M.C., the second-in-command, Lieut.-Col. D. E. Prideaux-Brune, D.S.O., said they had tried to give miniature glimpses of the life of a soldier. The programme commenced with a concert by the Battalion band, and it closed with a display by the buglers with the silver bugles.

The ten miles race for the Hampshire County Championship was this year won by H. F. Dixon of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines A.C. The course was from Pitt Street via Royal Naval Barracks, Lion Terrace, H.M.S. *Vernon*, High Street, Pembroke Road, Clarence Pier, along Southsea Front to Eastney and back over the same route. Commodore L. E. Holland started the nine competitors and the other officials were:—*Judges*: Mr. C. Weedy (H.C.A.A.) and Mr. F. Courteney (Portsmouth A.C. and H.C.A.A.) *Timekeepers*: Mr. S. Burbidge (H.C.A.A.) and Lieut. Noble, R.N. The runners finished as follows:—

					<i>Mins.</i>	<i>Secs.</i>
1st	H. F. Dixon (R.N. & R.M.)	...	...	...	57	18½
2nd	R. H. Bryan (Eastleigh A.C.), Holder	...	...	...	58	29
3rd	S. W. Tarrant (R.N. & R.M.)	...	...	...	58	38
4th	E. Newton (Portsmouth A.C.)	...	...	...	59	25
5th	W. J. Wright (Portsmouth A.C.)	...	...	...	61	36
6th	H. R. Burt (Eastleigh A.C.)	...	...	...	62	19
7th	L. W. Downer (R.N. & R.M.)	...	...	...	62	54
8th	B. F. Misslebrook (Eastleigh A.C.)	...	...	...	64	20
9th	H. L. Randall (Portsmouth A.C.)	...	...	...	67	35

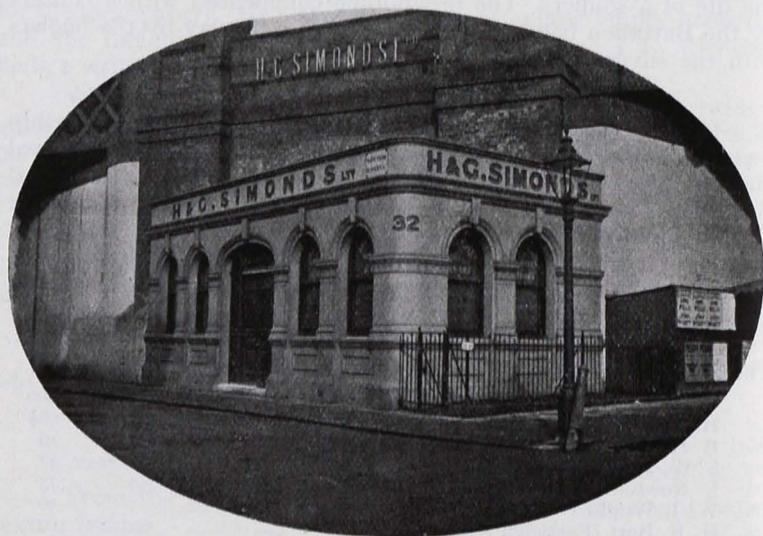
Dixon finished strongly and was the first to commiserate with the beaten champion who, through an unfortunate mistake, took a wrong turning, and this mistake cost him his title. Dixon this year won in about a minute less than Bryan's time last year when the conditions were not so good. Lieut. I. F. M. Newnham, R.N., was clerk of the course and carried out the arrangements for the race and Commodore Holland presented the awards at the close.

The Home Office having sanctioned the alteration of the establishment of the Portsmouth Police Force, so as to provide for three Superintendents instead of three Chief Inspectors, we congratulate the undermentioned three officers on their promotion to Superintendent:—Mr. C. H. Stanley, Mr. F. Fuggle and Mr. J. H. W. Turner (C.I.D.).

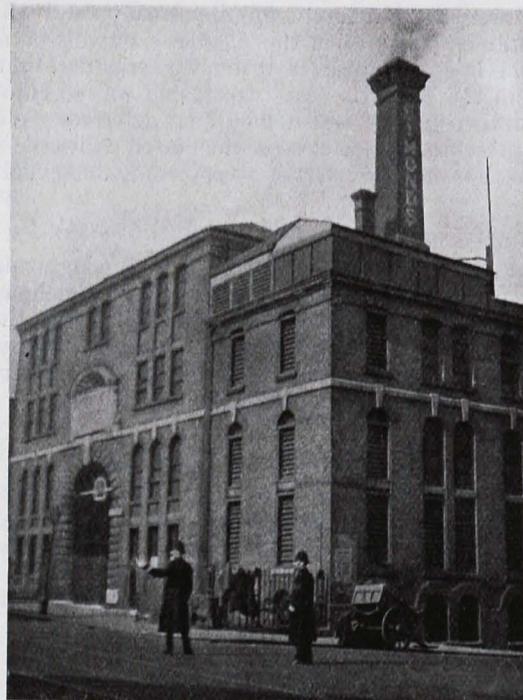
The additional establishment now approved provides for one Inspector, one Sergeant and ten Constables.

LONDON.

There once was a pussyfoot blitre,
Whose friends pushed him into the mitre,
He boosted the sales
Of Simonds Old Ales,
And his outlook on life became britre.



Old offices at 32, York Road, Lambeth, S.E., which extended underneath the railway arches.



Present premises,
The Plough Brewery, Wandsworth.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

“S.B.” v. “O.B.”

A very interesting cricket match was played in Central Park on Thursday evening, June 11th, between the Octagon Brewery and ourselves.

After winning the toss we decided to bat first, and by steady batting we compiled the useful total of 84 runs in 1½ hours. Our opponents then “wielded the willow,” and, after a precarious start were eventually all out for 75, we just managing to win the match by 9 runs.

There was quite a big "gate" to watch the representatives of the two breweries "battling" for supremacy, and although we were fortunate enough to win the "Ashes" on this occasion there was "nothing in it." However, it must be recorded that the game was played in the "beer is best" spirit and was so enjoyable that we trust a return fixture will not be long deferred. We hope the "medals" presented at the close of the match will serve as a happy reminder, to those taking part, of a very enjoyable evening's sport.

Through these columns we would like to congratulate Mr. F. Richardson, our tenant of the Bridge Inn, Stonehouse, on his plucky rescue of a boy, aged six, who had fallen into the water at Stonehouse Bridge. Mr. Richardson, although fully clothed, jumped in and rescued the boy. Well done, Mr. Richardson!

At last the beautiful bathing pool which the Plymouth Corporation have built at our "Lido" (Tinside) has come into its own. With the advent of the recent warm spell many hundreds of people have taken the "plunge" and forgotten the dreary winter months through which they have passed waiting to take advantage of the Corporation's endeavours to make this city of ours a resort comparable with the best in the country.

Those who have not visited Plymouth for some time will surely have a pleasant surprise on their next visit. The foreshore has been improved beyond recognition, the transformation of rugged cliffs into terraces, where one may sit and bask in the sunshine, with a magnificent view of Plymouth Sound, together with the new swimming pool, is a worthy effort on the part of our Hoe and Parks Committee.

OXFORD.

WAR DEPARTMENT CONSTABULARY CANTEEN, DIDCOT.

OBITUARY.

It is with very great regret that we have to announce the death of Ethel, beloved wife of P. Sgt. R. B. Withey, on the 14th June, 1936. All who knew her are united in offering their deepest sympathy to the husband. Her cheery spirit during her long illness was an example of patient suffering seldom equalled.

The interment took place at All Saints' Church, Didcot, on the 19th June, and floral tributes were received from the husband, P.S. R. Withey, Roy and Ethel, children, Albert, George, Horace, Lennie and Harry, brothers, Mrs. Withey, mother-in-law, Mrs. Alice Withey, auntie, Members W.D.C., Didcot, Members A.M.W., Milton, Ladies W.D.C., Didcot, Children W.D.C., Didcot, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Belcher, Mr. and Mrs. Capron, Mr. and Mrs. Piper, Mrs. Peachey, Mr. and Mrs. Grant, Agnes Poynter, Mrs. Hewitt and Mrs. Savage.

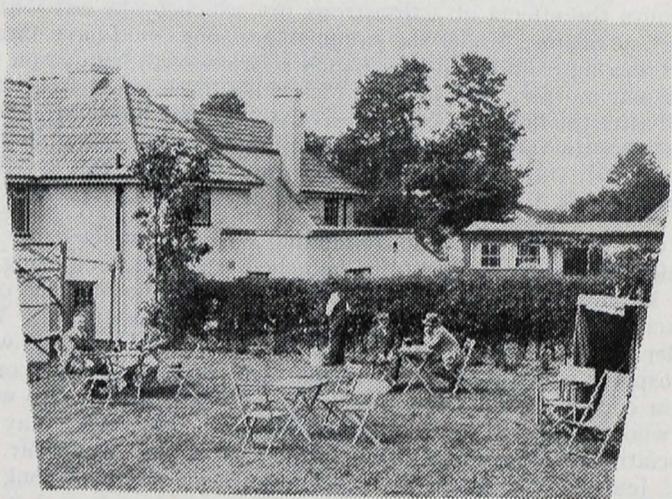
"Years of suffering dimmed not the brilliance
Of that brave spirit now at rest,
Yet brighter still she bequeaths the radiance
Of a memory that is ever blest!"

BRISTOL.

THE SHIP INN, OLDBURY-ON-SEVERN.

On the morning of June 25th last year, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Jenkins arrived at Oldbury to take over the tenancy of the above house on our behalf. Their feelings may be better imagined than described upon beholding their future home in the hands of the Thornbury Fire Brigade, who were gallantly endeavouring to minimise the effects of a disastrous fire which broke out "amidships" at 8 a.m. Under the circumstances one could have excused them retiring from the scene at such a stroke of ill fortune on that particular morning, but no such idea—they took over as best they could after the fire had been effectively "damped down" (and only those who saw the "ship-wreck" really know what an unholy mess it presented), and for many weary months "roughed it" in a wooden shack, like the hardy pioneers they both are.

On Whit-Monday the rebuilding being completed, a new "Ship" was very successfully launched, the architect being our own Mr. A. W. Bold, and very proud they and he must be of its capacity, its equipment and its promise for the future. With gardens, lawn, skittle alley, spacious bars and the old-world atmosphere which is all a part of this particularly beautiful portion of our county, it should be a real "Good Ship," and one to which all who go abroad will often return with pleasure. May her associations be particularly happy ones from now on for Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, who have shown such fortitude during a long and trying period. As for ourselves, we cannot but feel that this "Hop Leaf rendezvous" erected at Oldbury will bring us into touch with many new friends. (Put the name in your holiday notebook—it will also bring you pleasure).



Interior and exterior views of the Ship Inn.

During the past few weeks several changes have taken place among the tenants of our licensed properties. With the name of "Simonds" now well to the fore throughout the area, we have no doubt that these "recruits" will find the Firm's products growing in favour every day, with consequent benefit to everyone concerned. We wish them all every success :—

The Hope & Anchor, Redcliff Hill, Bristol—Mr. Gilbert Griffith, Walton-on-Naze.

White & Co., 34 Stokes Croft, Bristol—Mr. H. J. Banks, Bournemouth.

Talbot Hotel, Bath—Mr. C. J. Hodges, Bristol.

Masons Arms, Combe Down, Bath—Lieut. E. E. Berry, Portsmouth (R.N. ret.).

Swan Hotel, Stokes Croft, Bristol—Mr. B. J. Henrey, late of Palmerston Hotel, Boscombe.

Off Licence, 144 Stapleton Road, Bristol—Mr. A. T. Williams, Swindon.

Golden Bowl, Jacob Street, Bristol—Mrs. D. M. Masters, late of The Old Crown, Bristol.

Portland House, St. Paul's, Bristol—Mr. E. Hunt, late of Stroud.

Queen's Head, Bedminster, Bristol—Mrs. A. E. Jones, Bristol.

Also, since our last month's GAZETTE issue, we have taken over the Shoe Inn, North Wraxall, on the Chippenham-Bristol road, while only a short time ago we added the Bridge Inn, Yatton, on the Bristol-Weston-Clevedon road to our list of acquisitions. In both places modern road houses will soon take the place of the old structures, to add further solid links to the ever-lengthening "Simonds' chain" in the South-West.

WINTER GAMES.

On Monday, June 15th, the Seventh Annual Supper and Presentation of Prizes in connection with the above competitions took place at the Swan Hotel, Stokes Croft, where a most successful evening was enjoyed by all.

A company of over a hundred players and friends attended. Mr. J. H. Law (as chairman) represented the Firm and distributed the many trophies and prizes at the end of the "spread." Mr. R. F. Bayntun supported him.

The new Double Cribbage League Shield and Challenge Cup were greatly admired, and on all sides expressions of sincere gratitude were evinced to the Directors for their generosity in providing such worthy trophies for competition.

Before the presentations took place, the Hon. Secretaries of both sections (Mr. H. G. Crotty—table skittles, and Mr. S. Britton—cribbage) voiced the general feelings of members, and also asked for still further support during the coming season.

The Chairman congratulated the many prize winners, and also expressed the wish that "more Hop Leaf houses in the Bristol area would endeavour to follow in the winners' footsteps. All Licensees," he added, "should nowadays very seriously consider that ever-growing side of our national character which delights in a contest of any kind, and only those who realize that fact and encourage healthy competitions such as these in their houses, can hope to successfully cater for the public needs. As far as the Firm are concerned," he ended, "you can always count on the utmost consideration and encouragement being given to this most essential feature of modern trade development by their Directors. Their aim is to make every Simonds' house the local centre for healthy recreation and social service."

We fervently express the hope that by the time this issue of the Gazette appears, both leagues will have received many new entries for the 1936-37 season. A meeting of all Bristol tenants is to be called, and any suggestions for strengthening the existing leagues, or even adding to them, will receive every consideration. (Ah! if only we had a few more Easton Roads!!)

J.H.L.

