

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

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No. 11



MR. S. M. WAREHAM.

MR. S. M. WAREHAM.

The accompanying photograph of Mr. S. M. Wareham features a member of our travelling staff at Woking Branch whose appearance in the position of honour will be received with great cordiality throughout the district, where he has become a well known figure, particularly in Godalming and environs.

Prior to joining our Staff in September, 1931, Mr. Wareham was Steward of the Godalming Ivy Leaf Club, from which he was compelled to resign owing to the illness of his wife, to the great regret of all concerned. His services to the Club, as well as those of Mrs. Wareham, will be long remembered. Although Mr. Wareham's service on the Firm has been of comparatively short duration, his staunch loyalty is exemplified in the enthusiasm displayed in his work, which has been constructive and highly successful in the Clubs over a large area. To know Mr. Wareham is to appreciate his strong character and to understand the reason for his success.

Mr. Wareham's earlier history includes several years' service in the West Sussex Constabulary which he joined in 1905, and upon promotion was Sergeant in charge of the Police Station at Worthing.

At the outbreak of the Great War he joined the Royal Sussex Regiment and attained the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major of the 11th Battalion. He was wounded at the Somme in 1916, where he sustained severe injuries and was in the Netley Hospital for 13 months, during which time he was visited by the late King George V. His wounds and the effect resulting therefrom precluded his return to the West Sussex Constabulary but he is very happy in his present employment with us and has made a large circle of friends in the Clubs of the district.

He is a keen bowls player and mainly spends his annual holiday in his favourite pastime of fishing just off the Sussex Coast, while he still dons uniform in his capacity of Quartermaster Sergeant of the Godalming group of the Legion of Frontiersmen.

Having many demands upon his time during evenings, he is obliged to indulge in his hobby of gardening in the early hours of the morning.

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

CHAT *from*



THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(By C. H. P.)

ILLNESS OF MRS. F. A. SIMONDS.

We were all very much concerned to hear that Mrs. Simonds, wife of our Chairman and Managing Director, had recently undergone a serious operation. We are gratified to know that she has stood the ordeal well and is making steady progress. It is our earnest hope and prayer that that progress will be more than maintained and that her recovery will soon be complete.

PRESENTED TO THE KING.

I notice that His Worship, the Mayor of Slough, Councillor Edward T. Bowyer, brother of our Home Trade Manager, has had the honour of being presented to His Majesty The King.

BEER IS BEST FOR GIRLS.

"It is part of our training methods to have a glass of beer if we feel like it. It is far better than many of the gassy, fizzy drinks, and it is certainly a strengthening medium."—*Miss A. V. K. Cyriax, a member of the English rowing crew which last autumn won the Australian four-oared championship.*

MODERATE DRINKERS LIVE LONGER.

"At every age from 30 to 100 inclusive, the persons in the 'all moderate' class of drinkers, whether males or females, have a somewhat higher expectation of life than the persons in the 'abstainer' class of the same age. The two life curves are not widely different, but what advantage there is lies with the moderate drinkers."—*Dr. Raymond Pearl, Professor of Biometry and Vital Statistics, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, writing in the "British Medical Journal."*

WHIP ROUND.

A problem going the rounds of the City is causing occasional amusement and scratching of heads, says Observer in the *Financial Times*. A golf club had 160 members. The secretary was about to retire and it was decided to make him a presentation. Half the male members subscribed, giving 10/- each, and two-thirds of the lady members, each giving 7/6. What was the amount collected? The problem, which is quite straightforward, is usually greeted with a request for more information. The answer will be found on page 542.

LEST WE FORGET.

We are by no means out of the wood yet, but I think that every thoughtful man and woman realises by now that but for the noble efforts of our Prime Minister in September last the world would, for months past, have been involved in the bloodiest war of history, and millions of men, women and children would have been done to death or maimed for life. For, as he so well said, "though we should not all be in the firing line, in case of war, we should all be in the line of fire." Then, and ever since, the burdens of State have been almost greater than any Prime Minister could bear. But he has shouldered them heroically and no man deserves better of his fellow men. Now that he is taking a little respite from his arduous labours, we wish him much happiness on his fishing holiday. May he have tight lines and the finest fish a river can hold!

ROMANCE ON THE RACECOURSE.

The following is not an engagement announcement, but it is the result of the 2.30 race on the second day of the Ascot meeting:

ROSE OF ENGLAND

ENGAGED

CONGRATULATIONS

"COMRADES."

Spiritually, the present crisis is doing the nation a heap of good. One example will point the moral, says *Our Empire*. All the youngsters who have just been called up to serve in the Militia will leave the badge of class behind them. All will be *comrades* in the service of their country—and even their "walking out" dress will be the same for the duke's son and the cook's—blue coat, grey trousers and drab shirt. The morale of the new army is being built on the right lines—and the same might be said of its material.

INFORMATION FOR THE MILITIA.

The War Office has issued a special memorandum, explaining the use of Army terms to the new recruit. It tells the young militia man that the word "grenade" comes from the Spanish for pomegranate and that "furlough" is derived from the Dutch "verlof," meaning for leave. Unfortunately, the leaflet leaves much unexplained; but we will do our best to fill in the gaps. Among the many new words which the rookie will hear are the following:

Hipe—A gadget for ser-loping, shouldering, presenting, etc.

Kraaar—Attention, you lop-eared whatsnames.

Goop—Meaning you, face!

f&x&xWx%/%—Jump to it, cripples.

Wallop—Beer.

So-and-so—See Goop.

Pig's ear—See Wallop.

BXXXXXXXXX—Pygmalion.

ZZXZBBXB—Don't listen to this one.

Should the new recruit hear any other words which he doesn't understand, he should send them to us for translation, enclosed in a fireproof envelope.—*F. W. Thomas*, in the London "*Star*."

TERRITORIALS IN TRAINING.

There are many Territorials on the Firm who have been, or who are in the near future being, embodied for a month's training, and in this connection it is interesting and pleasing to record that the new anti-aircraft batteries formed in Reading and Slough acquitted themselves well during their period of camp. At Watchet, No. 3 Section of the 250th A.A. Battery, R.A. (T.A.), were successful in shooting down the "sleeve," which is the target towed by a plane, and the Brewery was represented in this excellent bit of firing. On No. 1 gun of this section, Mr. P. James (Accountant's Office) is the loader and firer, whilst Mr. H. Oxley (Canvas Store) is an ammunition number. The Slough Battery were also successful as they brought down the "Queen Bee" whilst firing the latest type of 3.7 gun. I understand that the firing on the whole was very good and great credit is due to the Officers and Instructors for their tuition and to the other ranks for the whole-hearted spirit and team work in which they carried out their job!

Well did I know that Mr. James was away on a month's training. He usually renders me very great service in the production of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE and I missed his willing help very much indeed. Among other things, he assists me in the reading of the proofs at which he is becoming quite an expert, though the "printers' errors" are very few and far between. They are then all the more difficult to discover.

A PLACE OF REST.

Along the varying road of life,
 In calm content, in toil or strife,
 At morn or noon, by night or day,
 As time conducts him on his way,
 How oft doth man, by care oppressed,
 Find in an Inn a place of rest.

FROM ROAD TO RIVER.

Mr. N. H. Lipscombe of our Travelling Staff, who plays quite a big part in the rowing world, had a brief respite from his arduous work on the road, on Saturday, August 5th, and partook of still more strenuous exercise on the river. He rowed No. 4 in the Reading Rowing Club Junior Senior Eight which won a great race at Maidenhead Regatta.

WHO IS IT?

Under this heading I published a photograph, given to me by the owner, last month, and this guessing competition aroused great interest, for numerous guesses were sent in from home and abroad. Some of the readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE aimed very high. One said the photograph was that of Mr. F. A. Simonds, our Chairman and Managing Director, another thought it depicted our Prime Minister, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, while a Gibraltar reader was convinced that it was Mr. Anthony Eden. To come lower down the scale, your Editor also came under fire. Only one reader was right, and that was our Mr. S. Josey who saw in the picture Mr. S. Bird, late Manager of Maltings, in his younger days. And he it was.

TRUTHFUL TOM.

One night a car was run down at a level crossing which was not guarded by gates, and the driver received cuts and bruises. Consequently the old signalman in charge had to appear in court. After a gruelling cross-examination he was still unshaken. He said he waved his lantern frantically, but all to no avail. The following day the superintendent of the line called him into his office.

"You did wonderfully well yesterday, Tom," he said. "I was afraid at first you might waver."

"No, sir," replied Tom, "not so long as that lawyer didn't ask me whether my lantern was lit."

"THETIS" PRONUNCIATION.

In fairness to the B.B.C., the announcer originally referred to H.M.S. *Thetis* with a short "e," writes Commander Stuart D. Blair, R.N. (Retired). I spoke to him myself and explained that the submarine was christened "H.M.S. *Thetis*," with a long "e," and also nearly half a century ago the cruiser was christened "H.M.S. *Thetis*," with a long "e." I can imagine joining my first ship over 40 years ago and referring to H.M.S. *Thetis* with a short "e"—I should have been rudely introduced to the gun-room table for the customary corporal punishment.

INTERNATIONAL AMENITIES.

A few weeks ago some elderly Swiss reservists who had been called to the colours found themselves at a post on the Swiss-German frontier. Some young and smartly turned-out German troops were a few yards distant, and after making some rather uncomplimentary remarks about the Swiss soldiers with particular reference to their appearance the young Germans collected some road-sweepings, put them in a box and sent them across the frontier "with compliments." The Swiss secured a kilo of butter and sent it to the Germans with the message, "Each nation sends to the other of its best!"

DOMESTIC HELP BY THE ALLIGATOR.

In America they think of things which would never occur to our stolid English unimaginative commonsense. Even in the matter of clearing out the kitchen drain pipe—one of those common domestic incidents that worry every householder now and then—the involutions of the American grey matter triumph gloriously. A Washington gentleman, Fred Orsinger by name, encountered this familiar domestic snag, gave the situation one keen glance and solved it. He disconnected the pipe at the bottom and inserted his pet alligator at the top "knowing" (as the chronicler relates) "that an alligator never walks backward."

And yet, it seems doubtful whether, even with this example before her, the British housewife will be really interested in the market price of pet alligators for household purposes.

WORLD'S SWIFTEST BIRD.

Which is the swiftest bird on earth? According to recent figures issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, the swiftest bird is the Californian duck-hawk, whose speed is between 175 and 180 miles an hour. The eagle, on the other hand, is not so swift as was once thought, although the golden eagle can attain

a speed of 120 miles an hour. These new speed estimates, taken by modern scientific methods, are claimed to be the only accurate ones to-day. Most of the alleged bird speed records of the past are, it is claimed, fantastic and require taking again.

TREASON FELONY.

The quaint wording of a treason felony charge was read out in Belfast recently when a man who was arrested in London on a warrant issued in Belfast was brought before the stipendiary magistrate. He was William McAllister, who was remanded in custody. The charge against McAllister was that "on January 14th, 1937, and other dates, he did compass, imagine, invent, devise, and intend to deprive our lord the King, from the style, honour and Royal name of the Imperial Crown of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the seas; and, further, that on January 15th, 1937, and on divers other dates prior thereto, at Belfast, feloniously and wickedly, he did compass, imagine, invent, devise, and intend to levy war against our lord the King in Northern Ireland by force and constraint to compel him to change his measure and counsels contrary to the Treason Act, 1848."

TO THE YOUTH OF ENGLAND.

Give of your best. Give as much service as you can render, in whatever is entrusted to you and not as little as will pass muster for the return you receive.

Avoid the germs which come from a swollen head and remember that your seniors will be longer and wider experience and that your contemporaries may be as clever as you.

You will gain more advantage from listening than boasting; from learning than teaching—so you may prove yourself capable of higher service.

Live for family and country rather than self, so that when you pass to manhood you will be equipped to take responsibility when you reach the age of responsibility.

GLORIOUS GOODWOOD.

Goodwood made a great effort to live up to its reputation this year and the thrilling finishes which were witnessed contributed to the success of the Meeting.

The success, however, could not have been achieved except for the excellence of the catering which was carried out by Messrs. Bertram & Company, Ltd., who maintained their very high standard, which can only be described as perfect in every detail. There is no doubt that the actual enjoyment of these al fresco events largely depends upon the arrangements for providing the creature comforts of the multitude, but the public generally do not realize the enormous amount of detail which is necessary in catering for Meetings of this description.

The organizing abilities of our friends Messrs. Bertram & Company, Ltd., are not by any means taxed by such contracts, but they are again to be congratulated upon carrying out the catering with such marked proficiency.

Meyrick Good, writing in the *Sporting Life*, says:—

"I lunched yesterday with Mr. Eric Simonds, and he tells me that his firm have supplied the beer to Messrs. Bertram's, the Goodwood caterers, for 20 years."

During the whole of the 20 years, the supervision of stocking our beers in the bars has been carried out by our Mr. F. Gardiner, who was personally congratulated by Captain R. L. Jolliffe, Chairman and Managing Director of Messrs. Bertram & Co., Ltd., on the efficient manner in which he had executed his work at the Goodwood Meetings during the past two decades. Mr. Gardiner's happiness was complete when he was invited to join Captain Jolliffe in a glass of wine to mark the occasion, a compliment which he will long remember.



DON'T MARRY.

The man who is extravagant. One expects some pleasures during courtship, and some little gifts, but one also should expect and should see that there is some saving towards the future. If he can't save, warn him and give him another trial, but if he is incurably extravagant, unless he is heir to millions you will be in for a bad time as his wife.

The man who is mean. If he cannot willingly and cheerfully "fork out" sometimes for some luxury or extravagance, he will make your life a misery later on over a few pence difference in your housekeeping allowance. A man who is mean about money may have excellent characteristics otherwise, but that one thing may ruin your life, especially if you are of a free and easy disposition. Because he won't stop at not wanting you to spend money, he will even criticise your guests and advise you not to have the so-and-so's any more—they work out rather expensive. Meanness brought to a fine pitch may result in putting off the doctor for the sake of possibly wasting five shillings, and then living to regret it when you, he, or one of the children is very ill through the delay.

The man who always knows best. There are bound to be times in the rearing of a family for instance when you know best and do not think it right to give in. You will come a cropper with him over that, and again and again whenever you come to similar circumstances or whenever you won't give in. So beware!

The man who is a "mother's darling," for nothing will ever go right. He will always be telling you, Mother did it this way or that, or Mother always said such a thing was bad for me. Or Mother always waited up however late I was out, or Mother thinks the children are hardly quiet enough, until he nearly drives you dotty!

The man who thinks he knows everything about dress, for he will come out with, "Ought you to wear red, dear, with your complexion?" when you appear in your new evening dress and the all-high Lofties are present, and so on.

The man who thinks you are perfect, for he is bound to find out that you're not. Make him find out before marriage and not after!

Answer to problem on page 536 "Whip Round,"—£40.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Happiness is the natural life of man.

Sweet are the uses of adversity
Which like a toad ugly and venomous
Wears yet a precious jewel in its head.

Be as ready to appreciate as you are to grumble.

Don't magnify your troubles—they are big enough without.

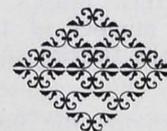
If you always demand your pound of flesh a time will come when hard circumstances will judge you.

A blow with a word strikes deeper than a blow with a sword.

Stern justice to others makes life a desert and your own heart an arid waste.

Before you insist on your rights, insist on your duties.

There is no knowledge that is not power.



A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

ROOKS HAVE MUSHROOMS FOR BREAKFAST.

A LITTLE FEATHERY FLOTILLA.

I was up on our Sports Ground early the other morning in the heavy rain and found a few mushrooms. But I was by no means the first visitor. A number of rooks were there and they were having mushrooms for breakfast, eating them with evident relish. The old birds were feeding their young, who are growing into quite big birds by now and should be able to fend for themselves. But with opened beaks and fluttering wings they eagerly awaited the arrival of their mothers with the appetising freshly-gathered fungi. I was sorry I did not think to bring them a few rashers to go with the mushrooms. However, they appeared to enjoy them immensely just as they were.

There is something very fascinating about going a-mushrooming and it is with a child-like joy that you come across one here, and another there, half-hidden in the grass. A few days ago a great friend and I searched a meadow for these familiar forms of fungi and though we are both approaching the "sere and yellow leaf" period, for that all too short hour we were just like boys together again, and certainly acted as such, one getting quite jealous of the other as the number of mushrooms he gathered exceeded the number plucked by his companion.

THE FASCINATION OF WILD FLOWERS.

All wild flowers have a great fascination for me. Even the thistles surrounding the pit by our Sports Ground have their own particular charm. They are now ripening unto the harvest—a harvest for the goldfinches, for they love thistle seeds and numbers of these gaily-coloured birds may now be seen there picking out the seeds with those sharp beaks, which are so well adapted for the purpose, and feeding to their heart's content. There are few prettier pictures than a number of these butterfly-like birds fluttering on and around the thistles and scattering the down in the doing.

It takes years to exhaust the botanical treasures of any considerable neighbourhood, unless one makes a dead set at it like a herbalist, as John Burroughs says. One likes to have his floral acquaintances come to him easily and naturally, like his other friends. Some pleasant occasion should bring you together. You

meet in a walk, or touch elbows on a picnic under a tree, or get acquainted on a fishing expedition. What comes to you in the way of birds and flowers while wooing only the large spirit of open-air nature seems like special good fortune. At any rate, one does not want to bolt his botany, but rather to prolong the course. One likes to have something in reserve, something to be on the look-out for in his walks.

TAME WILD DUCKS.

Though it seems rather a contradiction you may see wild ducks being fed by hand from punts on the Thames up Goring way. These aquatic birds are very shy as a rule. While fishing recently in a quiet secluded spot I was much interested in watching a mother duck taking out her little family of seven and introducing them to fruitful feeding grounds. While the little feathery flotilla carried out their search for food inside thick beds of rushes, mother duck remained outside keeping a keen look-out and warning them of any sign of danger. I approached stealthily to within a few yards of them just to see what the old bird would do. No sooner had she seen me than she uttered one or two anxious quacks, calling the little ones to her side. Then she dived, and they dived too. She re-appeared on the surface, some distance away, and her children re-appeared also. Then she dived again and they followed suit, and continued to do this until she considered they were all a safe distance away from me. Then they all recommenced to feed as though nothing untoward had happened. Nor had it—for I would not have hurt one of them for all the world.

THE APPROACH OF AUTUMN.

Time marches on and, with the passing of this so-called summer, we shall soon be seeing the lovely autumnal tints. We admire the peculiar beauties of autumn with feelings altogether different from those with which we watch the progress of spring. On the one, we look with a sense of lively pleasure and joyous sympathy, akin to that with which we gaze on a beautiful and lively child; while we regard the other with much the same feelings with which we look on the silvery hairs and enfeebled step of the hale old man, still noble in decay. His grey hairs are a crown of glory, and claim from us a reverence willingly rendered; and with like feelings we yield our admiration to the beautifully varied tints, which, towards the close of autumn, work so wondrous a change on our woods and groves, preparatory to the winter stage of nature's repose, which precedes and prepares for the annual resurrection.

A.R.P.

COMPLETION OF FIRST AID STATION AND HOSPITAL.

The chief item of news this month is what the local and London press have described as the completion of the first underground first aid post to be built in Reading. This underground hospital has been constructed between Fobney Street and the Stable Yard by Messrs. Collier & Catley Ltd. under the supervision of Capt. A. S. Drewe, Chief Surveyor to the Brewery and our A.R.P. Chief Warden.



Photo by]

[Reading Gazette.

Loading a stretcher case on one of the special steel frames provided in A.R.P. underground First Aid Post.

The building measures 34ft. x 21ft. and is constructed of reinforced concrete 9in. thick; the walls having the additional protection of a cavity and an 18in. thick brick wall.

The "beds" consist of 10 stretchers—5 upper and 5 lower—on steel structures, the stretchers running on wheels fitting into specially designed channels in the steel frames. There is also seating accommodation for 10 "sitting" cases.

The main entrance is a slope from the Stable Yard and there is an emergency exit into Fobney Street.

Special attention has been paid to lighting, which reflects upwards to avoid glare. The supply is from the Brewery's own power-house. As ample light would be required in an emergency and the Brewery lighting would be dimmed by special apparatus installed in the power-house by Mr. E. White, our chief electrician, a resistance panel has been fitted in the hospital which automatically keeps the lighting there at full power. A further system in case of breakdown has also been installed, the current in this case being supplied by batteries.



Photo by]

[Reading Gazette.

A.R.P. First Aid Party at Work.

Hot and cold water supplies are duplicated, emergency tanks and piping having been installed.

Heating is by an overhead steam pipe running all round the building.

The telephone is connected to the Brewery exchange and in an emergency would be in direct communication with S.4, the A.R.P. Headquarters.

The main supply store is situated in a large cupboard built inside the concrete structure and will be in the charge of Mr. A. Hopkins.

The walls have been sprayed with a patent paint of pale green tint and the floor with "White Line" paint.

Lavatory accommodation has also been embodied.

The hospital, under the joint control of Mr. T. Kent and Mr. Howells (Corporal and Sergeant in St. John's Ambulance Brigade respectively) is capable of dealing with practically any case except a major operation. Mr. Kent and Mr. Howells have the assistance of 20 men and 8 women, all trained in first aid duties.

With the exception of the actual building, the whole of the work has been carried out by the Brewery engineers, electricians, etc.

BREWERY GAS CHAMBER.

This is now in use and a number of the personnel have passed through and found their masks absolutely proficient.

I hope to arrange for everyone to take this test during August. Anyone wishing to test their own civilian mask are invited to do so if they will get in touch with me.

RECRUITS.

Owing to deaths and employees leaving I shall be glad to receive the names of a few more volunteers for training in A.R.P. duties.

C. G. LAWRENCE.



BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER).

The quarterly balancing was successfully accomplished by the General Office Staff and this time, owing to holidays, etc., it was a particularly strenuous period for those engaged in this duty.

Writing of holidays, it has not been all it should have been in the way of weather at the seaside, although perhaps the climatic conditions have not been so bad in some districts. However, those sun-bronzed faces have not been so frequently seen in the Offices this year. Possibly we are going to have a summer in August! Well, here's hoping, for yours truly will shortly be going.

So far the new Militia Act has not hit us very hard, for I believe very few of the Staff have gone, although I am given to understand there will be more later. Of course we have a lot of our employees who have joined the Territorials and August is going to be a testing time for a number of departments with so many away.

July marked an innovation as regards cricket, for after an advert. appeared in the *Reading Gazette*, many applications for matches were received and this entertaining game will be played on Sundays on our splendid Sports Ground till well in September. Let us hope the weather will be on its best behaviour and that the matches will be well supported by spectators from The Brewery.

After cricket, or whilst it is on, many have thoughts of football and that game will soon be with us once again. With three Brewery teams there will be a large number very interested in the play of Simonds' Athletic Club. As regards the Reading Football Club one wonders what sort of season they are going to have. I have very little doubt that they will be well up the league. Whether it will be promotion year is another matter. Nevertheless, if better support is afforded, maybe the Club will have a really good time financially. We shall see.

Trade throughout July has been good and all departments seem to be working at top pressure, which is very pleasing.

Glad to say Mr. M. F. Rickards has sufficiently recovered from his recent operation to start his duties once again and no doubt he will soon be his old self.

An air of sadness was very apparent when we heard of the death of Mr. J. E. Beasley ("Jim" to all who knew him). After a severe operation he never really rallied. I am sure Jim never did anyone any harm and in his department he is very much missed. He seemed always to be at his post of duty getting "on with it."

Every morning saw him at work at 8.30 and I believe Saturday mornings he started at 7 o'clock. He had completed just on 39 years of service with the Firm and in his quiet way was a most efficient worker and could always be relied on. He had a lot to do with the Reading Athletic Club. Naturally his boy being killed in such tragic circumstances early this year upset him terribly and he grieved very much afterwards. He was a member of our First Aid Party, so practically the whole of our squad attended his funeral. A very representative number from the Firm also went to the service at St. Mark's, including Mr. E. S. Phipps, Mr. W. Bowyer, Mr. F. C. Hawkes, Mr. F. Josey, etc. So many knew Jim, I feel I am voicing their sentiments when saying we all feel his death a real personal loss. To his wife and family we sincerely extend our deepest sympathy in their great misfortune.

Mr. Charles Pearce, late of the Cooperage Department, where he had been employed for 67 years, recently passed away. He had been pensioned off for two years but seemed to be one of those who never grew any older and on Fridays when he visited us appeared to be the same dapper little figure. He had been quite a good singer and was a member of the Singing Societies which used to flourish years ago in Reading. Naturally, in view of his length of service on the Firm, he was very well known.

Sympathy has been extended to Mr. W. G. Neville of the Delivery Office on the sad loss of his mother. After making good progress, following an operation, she suddenly passed away and naturally the blow is a heavy one for the family to bear.

The following transfers and changes have recently taken place and to all we wish every success:—

The Royal Oak, Ealing (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Miss A. L. Cockman.

The New Inn, Oxford (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. R. A. Stringer.

The Stag and Hounds, Binfield (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. F. T. Newport.

The Rose and Crown, Clapham, S.W. (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. G. A. Davis.

The Rising Sun, Wokingham (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. H. Brittain.

We much regret to record the following deaths and to all relatives we tender our sincere sympathy:—

Mr. Herbert Phillips of the Royal William, Ealing, who died on the 7th July and had been tenant of this House since October, 1937.

Mrs. L. B. Harvey, Roebuck Hotel, Oxford, who died July 7th, and who took over the tenancy in August, 1930. Mrs. Harvey was the daughter of Mrs. Webber, the previous tenant since 1913.

Mrs. S. Jennings, aged 82 years, who died June 6th last. Her husband, Mr. F. Jennings, took over the tenancy of the George and Dragon, Three Mile Cross, in 1898 and at his death in 1922 the licence was transferred to Mrs. Jennings who carried on the business until 1935 when her son-in-law, Mr. H. Lewendon, took over.

Mr. F. Bull who died on July 16th, was tenant of the Home Sweet Home, Roke, until June, 1936, where he had been for over 11 years. Mr. Bull whilst at the Home Sweet Home lost his wife and daughter within two months.

Mrs. Wheeler who died on July 22nd had been tenant of The Boot, Vernham Dean, since 1918, and was aged 83 years. Mrs. Wheeler went to live at The Boot 75 years ago (with grandparents) and remained there.

SIMONDS' LAWN TENNIS CLUB.

On July 1st we visited Abingdon in the Berkshire Inter-Club Championship and after some most interesting tennis lost by 7 rubbers to 5. The result was in doubt until the last game, and excitement was intense when Messrs. C. W. Miller and A. H. Turner were 1 set all and 4 games all, but the homesters won the two remaining games, and the match. This victory assured Abingdon of promotion, having won all their matches in the Inter-Club Championship.

Both our fixtures with the representatives of Messrs. Courage & Co. Ltd. were "washed out," but it is hoped to arrange a match with our friends at Alton in September.

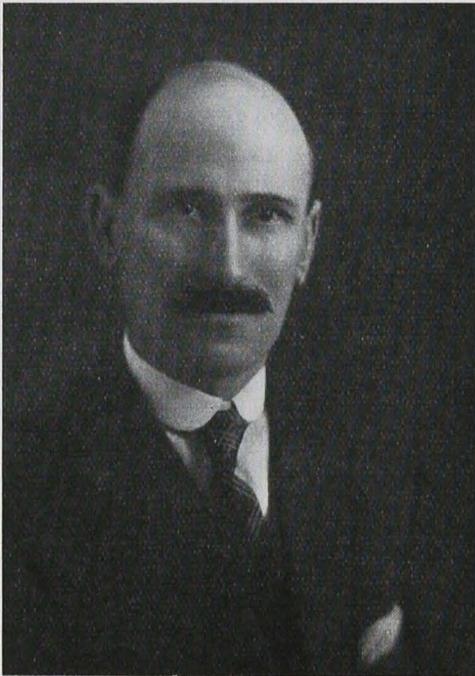
Lambourn L.T.C. visited the Sports Ground for a championship match on July 22nd and we were able to return to winning form after a most enjoyable afternoon's tennis. The foundations of a victory for us by 7 rubbers to 4, 16 sets to 9, were laid by Mr. C. W. Miller and Mrs. Smeed and Mr. P. James and Mrs. Huddy, who were in good form and won all their sets.

Congratulations must be extended to the Berkshire County men's team, which included Commander P. F. M. Dawson, on gaining promotion from Group 4 to Group 3 in the Inter-County Championship at the conclusion of the Tennis Week held at Felixstowe.

READING'S NEW ALDERMAN.

MR. G. W. COOK RECEIVES WELL-DESERVED HONOUR.

A Conservative wage earner in the person of Mr. G. W. Cook was elected an Alderman of the Borough at Tuesday's meeting, August 1st, says the *Berkshire Chronicle*. Mr. Cook well deserves the honour for his thirty-three years' public service in the interests of the community. Mr. Cook has done well to concentrate largely on one aspect of the town's work, that of public assistance. He was a member of the Reading Board of Guardians from 1906 till



Alderman G. W. Cook.

the dissolution, and became vice-chairman of the board. In 1926 he realised that the end of Boards of Guardians was in sight, and it was necessary for him to obtain a seat on the Town Council in order that, when the transfer came, he should be able to continue his work. A vacancy occurred in Castle Ward owing to the retirement of Councillor Sparks, and he was elected as the first vice-chairman of the newly-formed Public Assistance Committee, and on acceptance

of the Mayoralty by Alderman Farrer, he was chosen chairman, a position which he still holds. He has always stood for fair administration, not only for the recipient of relief but also for those who have to foot the bill. He is a J.P. for Reading and has been a Forester for 38 years.

Mr. Cook has worked for our Firm since 1917.

THE CLARENCE, STAINES, OUTING.

Thirty-two members of the "Clarence" Dart and Outing Club spent an enjoyable day at Brighton on Sunday, July 2nd. The trip was made by motor coach and Mr. T. Cook was "skipper" of the outing. On the outward journey a stop was made at Bramley for breakfast, and supper was partaken at Patcham on the return trip.

Below is a photograph shewing the happy party.



FORTHCOMING FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

to be held on

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26th.

The Annual Vegetable and Flower Show will be held on the SPORTS GROUND on SATURDAY, AUGUST 26th. The Committee are arranging additional attractions and the following are contemplated.

FOOTBALL MATCH

Simonds v. 1st XI Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth.

EXHIBITION OF BIRDS BY THE READING CAGE BIRD SOCIETY.

DARTS TOURNAMENT FOR EMPLOYEES ONLY.

CLUB SWINGING DISPLAY BY THE READING SEA SCOUTS.

Full particulars will be circulated later.

SCHEDULE OF PRIZES

for

SHOW OF VEGETABLES, FRUIT, CUT FLOWERS, PLANTS, Etc.

VEGETABLES.

	PRIZES.		
	1st s. d.	2nd s. d.	3rd s. d.
1. Collection of Vegetables—six distinct sorts	7 6	5 0	2 6
2. Six Potatoes—Kidney	4 0	3 0	2 0
3. Six Potatoes—Round	4 0	3 0	2 0
4. One Potato—Heaviest	2 0	—	—
5. Six Onions—six best	4 0	3 0	2 0
6. Celery—three sticks	3 0	2 0	1 0
7. Six Carrots—Intermediate or Long	3 0	1 6	1 0
8. Six Carrots—Short	3 0	1 6	1 0
9. One Carrot—Largest	2 0	—	—
10. Twelve Runner Beans	4 0	3 0	2 0
11. Twelve Pods of Peas	4 0	3 0	2 0

VEGETABLES—*contd.*

PRIZES.

	PRIZES.		
	1st s. d.	2nd s. d.	3rd s. d.
12. Three Cabbage	3 0	1 6	1 0
13. One Cabbage, Plain—Heaviest	2 0	—	—
14. Six Beet—Globe	3 0	1 6	1 0
15. Three Lettuce—Cabbage	3 0	1 6	1 0
16. Three Lettuce—Cos	3 0	1 6	1 0
17. Marrows, one pair—White or Green for table, maximum 12in.	3 0	1 6	1 0
18. One Marrow—Heaviest	4 0	—	—
19. Four Turnips	3 0	1 6	1 0
20. Twelve Shallots—grown from bulb	3 0	1 6	1 0
21. Three Parsnips	3 0	1 6	1 0

FRUIT AND CUT FLOWERS.

22. Twelve Plums	3 0	2 0	1 0
23. Six Apples—Culinary	3 0	2 0	1 0
24. Six Apples—Dessert	3 0	2 0	1 0
25. Six Asters	2 0	1 0	—
26. Six Dahlias	2 0	1 0	—
27. One Bunch Mixed Cut Flowers	2 6	1 6	1 0
28. Sweet Peas—Mixed, twelve spikes	3 0	2 0	1 0
29. Six Gladioli	3 0	2 0	1 0

PLANTS IN POTS.

30. One Specimen Foliage Plant	2 6	2 0	1 6
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EGG SECTION.

31. Six Eggs—New Laid, Brown	3 0	2 0	1 0
32. Six Eggs— „ White	3 0	2 0	1 0

LADIES' SECTION.

(Wife or Daughter of an Employee).

33. One Fruit Cake (approx. 2 lbs.)	3 0	2 0	1 0
34. One Dish of Boiled Potatoes	3 0	2 0	1 0
35. One Specimen of Needlework	3 0	2 0	1 0
36. Crochet Work	3 0	2 0	1 0
37. Hand-knitted Jumper or Pullover	3 0	2 0	1 0
38. Pot of Jam or Marmalade	3 0	2 0	1 0
39. Pot of Jelly	3 0	2 0	1 0

CHILDREN'S SECTION.

40. Bunch of Wild Flowers gathered by the Competitor who must be a child of a Member of the Club	2 6	1 6	1 0
41. Specimen of Needlework (under 14)	4 0	3 0	2 0

N.B.—Honorary Exhibits will be welcomed.

HIGH WYCOMBE BOROUGH DARTS LEAGUE.

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

The sixth annual presentation of trophies and medals took place on Wednesday evening, June 28th, when there was a large attendance of members and visitors in the Club Room at The Bull Inn, High Wycombe. The President (Mr. L. A. Simonds) was in the Chair, supported by Mr. R. J. Green (League Chairman), Mr. W. R. Youers (Secretary) and the following representatives of the Firm:—Messrs. C. Bennett, W. H. Davis, H. E. Marston and S. J. Moore.

In opening the meeting, Mr. R. J. Green expressed the great pleasure of all present in having with them that evening the League President. He also extended a hearty welcome to the visitors. He referred to the fact that the season 1938-39 had been a highly successful one and took the opportunity to congratulate the winners and runners-up of the three divisions. Mr. Green also proposed the toast of "Our President." He said it was always a joy to them when Mr. Simonds was able to attend, and referred to it as a pleasure which increased year by year. He hoped the President would be blessed with good health for very many years and that he would find time to join in their festivities each year. The toast was received with acclamation and accorded musical honours.

Mr. Louis thanked all present for joining in the gathering and for the way they had received the toast. He expressed his personal pleasure in being able to come to Wycombe for the presentation. He commended the game of darts as an excellent pastime, especially during the long winter evenings and referred to the fact that it appeared to be gaining in favour generally, but especially amongst the ladies. Mr. Louis added that the success achieved by the league reflected the greatest possible credit on the Chairman (Mr. R. J. Green) and their enthusiastic and hardworking Secretary (Mr. W. R. Youers). The latter had displayed much care and attention to the details connected with the league and he was delighted to be able to pay tribute where it was so richly deserved.

The President then presented the trophies and medals, as follows:—

DIVISION I.

Winners—Friend at Hand.*Runners-up*—The Bull.

DIVISION II.

Winners—The Rose.*Runners-up*—Papermakers' Arms.

DIVISION III.

Winners—Turner's S.C.*Runners-up*—H. Goodearl's S.C.

LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION.

Winner—N. Rolling (The Bull).*Runner-up*—A. T. Bannister (The Ship).

Every member of the winning teams received a medal suitably inscribed.

The toast of "The Donors of Trophies" was combined with that of "The Visitors" and was ably submitted and commended by Councillor E. Rolph, and a suitable reply was made by Mr. C. Bennett.

The final tables are:—

DIVISION I.				
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Friend at Hand	30	26	4	112
The Bull	30	23	7	108
Swan (West Wycombe)	30	22	8	93
Nags Head	30	24	6	91
Ship Inn	30	18	12	87
Belle Vue	30	19	11	83
Ye Exchange	30	16	14	81
Desborough Arms	30	15	15	75
Croxonian's S.C.	30	14	16	67
Red Lion (Marsh)	30	15	15	65
Swan (Paul's Row)	30	13	17	65
The Gate	30	10	20	62
Gordon Arms	30	7	23	57
Half Moon	30	9	21	54
The Antelope	30	4	26	51
Royal Oak	30	5	25	49
DIVISION II.				
	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
The Rose	30	25	5	105
Papermakers' Arms	30	20	10	98
Carrington Arms	30	23	7	95
Iron Duke	30	23	7	95
Hour Glass	30	20	10	85
Beech Tree	30	16	14	80
Saracen's Head	30	15	15	71
Van Inn	30	15	15	69
Golden Fleece	30	12	18	68
Beaconsfield Arms	30	11	19	67
Territorial Club	30	10	20	64
The Pheasant	30	13	17	63
Swan (Marsh)	30	8	22	62
Castle Inn	30	8	22	60
White Horse	30	12	18	59
The Roundabout	30	9	21	59

DIVISION III.

	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Turner's S.C.	30	25	5	94
Hy. Goodearl's S.C.	30	23	7	94
Hop Leaf	30	22	8	91
Rose and Crown	30	18	12	87
Black Boy	30	18	12	84
British Legion	30	19	11	77
The Bell	30	16	14	77
The Angel	30	14	16	77
Mason's Arms	30	14	16	72
White Hart	30	13	17	71
The Globe	30	14	16	70
New Inn	30	10	20	69
Castlefields Estate	30	9	21	65
White Lion	30	10	20	62
Harrison's S.C.	30	9	21	60
Electric Light S.C.	30	6	24	50

The musical programme was much enjoyed. Mr. Leslie Sharpe was at the piano and those contributing songs were Mr. George Mercer, Mr. George Fredericks, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Humphrey.

The President thanked the artistes and all who had helped to make the evening such a success. He also wished them a very happy, successful and enjoyable season for 1939-40 and congratulated Mr. J. E. Aldridge on his arrangements for the comfort and convenience of the party.

"MODERATION."

The following appeared on a board outside The Moderation, Caversham Road, many years ago:—

Let moderation be your guide
And never from its precepts slide.
Take the good things of life and use them
With thankful hearts and not abuse them.

Some men to vile excesses stray
Then sign the pledge to mend their way.
Be thou to keeping more inclined
Which humbly sought the humblest find.

Then water for your cleansing take
But liquor for your stomach's sake
And recommend to all the Nation
Your Temperance and Moderation.

WINE'S MEDICINAL VALUE.

(From *Harper's Gazette*.)

From the earliest times refreshing drinks have always been in use. The most uncivilised races have found means of obtaining beverages from fruits or grain. As long as there are men who think, there will be men who will drink fermented drinks too. History teaches us the truth: *Nil novi sub sole*.

To the kings of Persia wine was the best of remedies. Pythia advised the Athenians in time of epidemics: "Bacchus is the doctor you need." Wine, says Homer in the *Odyssey*, doubles the strength of tired persons. According to Pindar, the effect of the wine is to uplift the soul and Euripides declares that it has been given to man to calm his sorrows. Hippocrates, the father of medicine, said centuries ago: "Wine is a marvellous thing fit for man when, in good or bad health, administered at the right time and in the right measures, according to the constitution of the individual." Asclepiades another famous Greek doctor, asserted that wine, by its utility, has a power equal to the gods. According to Pliny, the Ancient, wine gives to man strength, blood and healthy complexion. About the same time Paul, the Apostle, wrote to his disciple Timothy: "Cease drinking nothing but water; take a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illnesses."

Aretee of Cappadocia, a celebrated Greek doctor, prescribed white wines, sweet and light, for cases of cephalitis and red wine for diabetes and lung troubles.

It was from the Romans that the Gauls learnt to cultivate the vine. Wines of Gaul were already appreciated in the times of the emperor Julian. In the fourth century Ausonius was able to offer to his friends the best vintages of his domain in his villa of St. Emilion near Libourne.

FOOD VALUE.

How can we admit that what was useful and good twenty centuries ago has suddenly become harmful? Confounding wine and alcohol is the greatest and most regrettable error. One of the most eminent of French doctors, Dr. Maurice Loeper, of the National Wine Committee, says in a remarkable report with J. Alquier: "One does not liken milk to butter or to casein or to lactose which are included in its composition. Wine must not be likened to alcohol."

An extract of wine represents in weight a quarter of the alcohol it contains, whilst an extract from any spirit is hardly the 20th part of the total alcohol it incorporates. These very simple statements prove with evidence why the nutritive value of wine is so important. By its organic acids and its tannic matter, it plays an important part in nourishing the body.

It has been shown for many centuries that wine taken moderately in quantities of half a litre to a litre a day, has only good effects. The most modern experiments have confirmed scientifically these statements.

Energy supplied by a litre of wine produces normally 730 calories of which 500 only proceed from the alcohol. Now, this calorific value is superior to that of one litre of milk or to that of a kilo of potatoes both of which only reach 690 calories and even to half a pound of bread which gives only 638 calories.

More recent experiments by Girey and Roos have proved that by adding wine in moderate proportions to the food of guinea-pigs, rabbits or horses, the strength, working power, and the weight of the animals increased. Wine, too, is a creator of energy and blood. It enables a better utilisation of other substances necessary to life.

We can assert, with Prof. Loeper, "Wine may be considered as a food, and as a sound one." To the teetotal formula "Alcohol kills" let us oppose this other: "A glass of good natural wine never hurt either the health or the purse."

TO STRUBE.

Soldier, Sailor, Politician,
 Mother Hubbard, and Magician,
 Snow-white in a role resplendent
 With the Seven Dwarfs attendant.
 Dukes, Dictators, Costers, Kings,
 Large events and common things
 —These are every one a part
 Of your more than potent art.
 When the news is at its worst
 To your page we turn the first
 And forget our cares awhile
 In a chuckle or a smile.
 All our daily history,
 All life's stress and mystery,
 You to humour can translate
 With those touches consummate.
 —You can praise and you can warn,
 You can wield the whip of scorn:
 You can curse the ruthless slayer,
 You can make the poor taxpayer
 By the blessing of your joke
 Lighter feel the Budget's stroke;
 And, within his mirror, scan
 Your immortal "Little Man."

S. E. COLLINS.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

They were the same age and both princesses. Agnes was one. The other was Elizabeth, the daughter of the King of Hungary. She was engaged since three years old to marry the brother of Agnes, whose father also was a great ruler.

The two girls, however, were as different in the things they liked as night and day. Agnes loved fancy dresses and parties, of which she never got enough; while Elizabeth, a most funny person in the eyes of Agnes and her mother, hated to wear the splendid court garments and felt not a bit happy when she had to put on jewellery. She preferred to talk and play with the working-girls and the poor children.

For this, Agnes often scolded her and warned her: "If you want to marry my brother, you will have to change your manners; he certainly will not have a wife that is more of a servant than a princess." Which was untrue, for Louis not only married her, but loved her till his death, just for those habits.

However, scolding would not stop her from practising what she thought was right. On Sundays she conveniently forgot her stylish gloves so as to be more like the poor girls that had none. When she entered church she took off her crown, placed it beside her, and only put it back on when the worship of God was over. Agnes' mother thought that was silly.

While Agnes could not play enough at parties, Elizabeth would go on the floor for one game, then say: "That is enough for this world. The other games I shall miss for love of God."

Which everybody thought was a silly idea.

Still, to-day, after 700 years, it is her statue that you see in multitudes of churches as a remembrance of her way of living, while Agnes is now forgotten except when set up in contrast to the girl she called foolish.



HIGH WYCOMBE SPORTS LEAGUE.

We publish herewith a photograph taken in the bar of the Carrington Arms, High Wycombe, shewing a magnificent display of cups and shields belonging to the High Wycombe Sports League. The photograph, too, includes Mr. and Mrs. W. G. McDermott, the popular "Mine Hosts," and Mr. G. Sturgess, Hon. Secretary of the Sports League.



Trophies for Competition at Headquarters "Carrington Arms," Oxford Road.

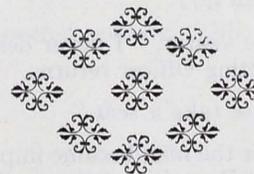
The League, although only having been in existence for just over two years, has a membership running into thousands and it is pleasing to record that, under the guidance of its capable officials, is still rapidly gaining new members and trophies. In this connection we should like to mention the wonderful and unceasing work of the Secretary, Mr. Sturgess, who has spared neither time nor effort to make the league a success.

Mr. and Mrs. McDermott are very proud of the fact that the Carrington Arms is the headquarters of the league and in this respect they are only too pleased to do all they possibly can to make the members comfortable when holding their many meetings.

We also publish a photograph of the first annual dinner of the Angling Section of the League, which was held at the Carrington Arms and which proved such a huge success.



First Annual Dinner of the Sports League Angling Section at the "Carrington Arms," 26th April, 1939.



THE LIGHTER SIDE.

"Mr. Bunting," said the doctor, after an examination, "I fear your wife's mind is gone."

"That doesn't surprise me," said the poor man, "she has been giving me bits of it every day for seven years."

* * * *

"No, thank you, I'll stay at home," said a man who had been invited to join a party visiting the Zoological Gardens. "My eldest daughter walks like a kangaroo, my second daughter talks like a parrot, my son laughs like a hyena, my wife watches me like a hawk, my cook's as cross as a bear, and my mother-in-law says I'm an old gorilla!

"When I go anywhere I want a change!"

* * * *

"But," protested the holiday-maker, "your advertisement states that the hotel is only five minutes from the station. It took me nearly an hour to reach here."

"Ah," said the boarding-house keeper, "you've been walking. We don't cater for pedestrians."

* * * *

The pompous stranger walked into the Recruiting Office and demanded to see the Recruiting Officer.

"I am sorry, but he is not here," replied the sergeant on duty. "Is there anything I can do?"

"No," snapped the visitor, "I never deal with underlings. I will wait till the Recruiting Officer returns."

"Right, sir. Please take a seat."

About an hour later the man became impatient. "How much longer do you think that Recruiting Officer will be?" he demanded.

"Nearly a fortnight," was the reply. "He's just gone on leave this morning!"

* * * *

The new farm labourer wanted to attend a dance, but he hadn't had a shave for a fortnight, he couldn't shave himself, and it was a barber's holiday.

"I'll give you a shave with my razor if you like," offered an old hand.

"Have you ever shaved anyone before?" the new hand asked.

"Not exactly!" was the reply. "But once I scraped all the hair off a pig without spoiling the bacon, so I reckon I ought to be able to fix you."

* * * *

RICH MAN: "There's no sense in teaching the boy to count over 100. He can hire accountants to do his bookkeeping."

TUTOR: "Yes, sir, but he'll want to play his own game of golf, won't he?"

* * * *

FOREMAN: "Everything here is run by electricity."

NEW HAND: "Yes, even the wages give me a shock."

* * * *

Fancy Brown getting married! I thought he was only flirting with the girl."

"So did he."

* * * *

"We have some nice oatmeal soap on sale to-day," suggested the young lady in the department store.

The customer answered politely, "No, thanks, we never wash our oatmeal."

* * * *

THE THREAT.

The sleight-of-hand performance was not going very well. "Can any lady or gentleman lend me an egg?" asked the conjuror, coming down to the footlights.

"If we'd 'ad one," shouted a man in the balcony, "you'd 'ave got it long ago!"

"Please, Mr. Ryan, I want a half-pound of butter and a penn'orth of cheese and mother says she'll send in a shilling when father comes home."

"All right," said the grocer, who, having his shop in a poor district, was used to this sort of request.

"But," continued the child, "mother wants the change, 'cause she's got to put a penny in the gas meter."

* * * *

The business man had died and gone to—well, not to Heaven. But hardly had he settled down for a smoke when he received a hearty hand-slap on the back and into his ear boomed the voice of a persistent salesman who had pestered him on earth.

"Well, Mr. Smith," chortled the salesman, "I'm here for the appointment."

"What appointment?"

"Why, don't you remember? Every time I came into your office you told me that you'd see me here!"

* * * *

FATHER (*admiring his recently born heir*): "That fellow will be a great statesman one of these days."

MOTHER: "Oh, Charles, dear, do you really think he will?"

FATHER: "Sure of it, old girl. Look how easily he wriggles out of everything."

* * * *

ARTIST (*hopefully*): "Do you like it?"

EDITOR: "Splendid! All you've got to do is just to re-draw it and stick on another joke!"

* * * *

WELSHER (*in dilapidated old car*): "They'll 'ave us, 'Arry. Some of 'em 'ave got push bikes!"

* * * *

"Father," said Jimmy, running into the drawing-room, "there's a big black cat in the dining-room."

"Never mind, Jimmy," said the father, drowsily, "black cats are lucky."

"This one is, he's had your dinner."

* * * *

MISTRESS: "In the time that it takes me to tell you how to do the work I could do it myself."

MATILDA JANE: "Yes'm. And in the time it takes me to listen to you, so could I."

* * * *

A militarist is just a man who is always ready to lay down your life for his country.

* * * *

The aviation instructor having delivered a lecture on parachute work, concluded:—

"And if it doesn't open—well, gentlemen, that's what is known as 'jumping to a conclusion'."

* * * *

The small boy was very interested in watching a bald-headed man scratch the fringe of hair around the side of his head. The man kept it up so long that the boy remarked, "Say, mister, you'll never catch him that way. Why don't you run him into the open?"

* * * *

"So Rose is going to get married at last? Who's the lucky man?"

"Her father."

* * * *

Two old chaps were discussing the weather. One said, "Lovely growing weather. It will make everything come up out of the earth."

The other said, "God forbid, for I have buried three wives."

* * * *

During the hearing of a case a man began clattering about at the back of the court-room, pushing over chairs and generally upsetting things.

"Young man," said the judge, who had a reputation for ironic wit, "you are making a great deal of noise."

"I have lost my overcoat, your Honour," said the agitated young man.

"Well, well," retorted the judge, "people often lose whole suits here without half as much disturbance."

* * * *

A police magistrate looked round the court and said to the constable: "Who is bringing this allegation?" And a little woman got up and said: "Please, sir, I'm the alligator."

* * * *

A Salvation Army meeting was being held at a street corner. The preacher said, "For 18 years I have served the devil."

A man in the audience asked: "Then why the devil didn't you serve a few more years and get a pension."

* * * *

A Scotsman went to Ascot races and backed a winner at 10 to 1.

When the bookie paid him out eleven shillings, the backer counted out each coin separately. The bookie said to him, "What are you looking for? Do you think they are not *good ones*?"

The backer replied: "I am looking to see if the *one* I gave you is amongst them!"

* * * *

A man was sitting in a tramcar with a bottle of "S.B." which he kept on sampling. He said to a clergyman sitting next to him, "Have a drink mate."

The clergyman said, "No thanks, I never drink."

The "S.B." man replied, "Go on, you are half screwed now. You've got your collar on the wrong way round."

* * * *

The following designation has been given of a Welshman, Scotsman, Irishman and Englishman:—

A Welshman is a man who prays on his knees on Sunday and on his friends for the rest of the week.

A Scotsman is a man who keeps the Sabbath and anything else he can get for nothing.

An Irishman is a man who doesn't know what he wants and is not happy until he gets it.

An Englishman is a man who says he is self-made and never ceases worshipping his Maker.

* * * *

The big game hunter was going to India. His friends told him that on no account must he fail to enjoy the tiger hunting.

"It's dead easy," they assured him. "You tie a bleating goat in a thicket at night. Its cries attract the tiger. Meanwhile you are in a tree near by. When the beast arrives, aim between his eyes shining in the darkness and fire—and it will fall."

On his return they asked how many tigers he had killed.

"None at all," he admitted. "They've become too clever. They now travel in pairs and each one closes the eye nearest to the other. So, of course . . ."

* * * *

Weddings had occupied the vicar's time all the morning, but at last the church was empty and he was preparing to go home more than ready for his meal.

Just then another couple arrived, the bride breathless and the bridegroom anxiously looking at his watch for they knew they were late.

But the vicar was not tolerant and told them they were too late and would have to come another day.

Both pleaded so hard to be married then, however, that at last he consented.

"Well, I'll marry you this time," he said, "but don't let it occur again."

* * * *

BRANCHES.

BRISTOL.

It is with a deep sense of loss that we record the death of Mr. F. C. Seddon, our tenant at the "White Hart," Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol, on July 16th, after a long period of ill-health. Mr. Seddon for the past eight years had shown that even in the midst of a slum clearance area it was possible, by service, still to hold trade. The great assistance of a loyal wife and son during those years, both from a business and domestic point of view, needs few words of ours, and we extend our sincerest sympathies to Mrs. Seddon and to her son in their bereavement.

NORTH OXFORD CONSERVATIVE CLUB.

"HOP LEAF" SECTION.



On Thursday, June 8th, the "Hop Leaf" Club met for their first annual outing. They were accompanied by their President, Mr. "Syd" Bowell, of the Oxford Branch of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. The members enjoyed a tour of the Cotswolds, returning by way of Watlington, where a halt was made at the

"White Hart," and a second stop on the return journey was made at the "New Inn," Postcombe, where Peter Rogers amused the house by his famous impersonation of the "Kidlington Fusiliers." The members arrived back at the Club at 9.45 p.m., where a supper was served in the skittle alley. The Chair was taken by the President. The toast of the "Hop Leaf" was proposed by Mr. C. B. Goldsworthy, the Club Secretary, who said that although the "Hop Leaf" section was small it had proved beyond all doubt that by the collection of the subscriptions, fines, etc., it was possible once a year for the members to get together and have a real enjoyable evening. Mr. R. A. Braggins responded and said that he would like to endorse everything the Secretary had said, and he hoped to see a big increase in the membership next year. A musical programme followed, with songs by Mr. George Rose, impersonations by Mr. Dick Rogers, Ron Burchell played the piano-accordion, and at the piano was Mr. Hugo Owen. The tables and chairs for the supper were kindly lent by Mr. Reg. Smith. The arrangements for the outing were carried out by Mr. C. S. Wallington and the Club Secretary.

WOKING.

Doubtless all readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE will have seen in the July issue the report in connection with Mr. A. Bennett's retirement through continued ill-health, and as may well be expected many are the enquiries we get as to the progress he is making, and the hope that he will, in time, be restored to good health and be able to get out amongst his numerous friends. Only those of us who have been in Woking for any length of time are capable of writing of the admiration and high esteem in which the name of "Bennett" is held throughout the whole of club life and the trade generally served by this Branch.

On Friday morning, 30th June, Mr. Bennett's day for retirement, Mr. T. Loughnane (Hon. Secretary of the Woking and District Club Stewards' Association, of which Mr. Bennett is President) and Mr. G. Holdforth (Woking Railway Athletic Club) called at this office to present to him on behalf of the Association a handsome heavily silver-plated tea set, together with a list of the Stewards who had subscribed to the gift. In making the presentation, Mr. Loughnane, in the absence of Mr. C. Austin (Chairman) through indisposition, commented on the way Mr. Bennett had always placed his services at their disposal. He had not only been a good President, but like a father to them all. If clubs were in

trouble or wanted advice, it was the general thing to say, "Just write or go and see Mr. Bennett at Woking: he will give us very sound advice."

In accepting the gift, Mr. Bennett said how much he appreciated the very kindly spirit which had always been extended to him by the Club Stewards, and the tea service would always remind both Mrs. Bennett and himself of the very cordial and friendly feeling which had always existed between them during the twelve years he had been at Woking.

Following the Club Stewards' presentation, the Staff assembled in Mr. Bennett's office, and Mr. E. Hockings, on behalf of the Woking Staff, both clerical and outside, presented him with a silver-mounted ebony walking stick and umbrella, with his initials engraved on each, together with a list of subscribers, which, needless to say, comprised the whole of the Woking Staff. In asking Mr. Bennett to accept the gift as a token of the high esteem in which he was held by all, Mr. Hockings said they hoped with a prolonged rest, it would not be long before he would be able to renew his many old friendships.

Replying, Mr. Bennett said he would still be living amongst them, and if at any time his advice or help were needed, he would be only too pleased to assist to the utmost of his ability. The welfare of the indoor and outdoor staff was always his first consideration, and he asked them to accept his thanks for the wonderful co-operation and support they had given him and which he was quite sure would be given to Mr. A. Wake.

Mr. Wake took up his duties officially on Saturday, 1st July. We were very pleased to see his photograph in the place of honour in last month's issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. We extend to him a hearty welcome, and can assure him that he will have the whole-hearted support of the staff in his new sphere. Already we have had from numerous customers assurances of the same loyalty to the Firm at Woking under Mr. Wake's managership as was given during Mr. Bennett's time.

NEW HAW CLUB AND INSTITUTE.

On Wednesday evening 5th July, the new and spacious premises of the new Haw Club and Institute, built on the site of the old Club, were officially opened, a large number of members and friends being present.

Mr. E. C. Doresa (President) presided, supported by Mr. J. H. Bennett (Secretary), Mr. R. H. Guildford (Hon. Treasurer), Messrs. W. White, W. Turner and S. Elliott (Trustees), Mr. H. R. Watson (the Builder), Messrs. A. E. Wake, E. E. Hockings and J. Holloway (representing H. & G. Simonds Ltd.).

Mr. Doresa said he was especially pleased to be asked to open the premises because his father instigated the original Club. The Club had progressed and their new building was a fine achievement, and he felt great credit was due not only to their Building Committee, but to all members who had supported the Club when it was not so prosperous. He felt that a club like this did a tremendous amount to promote good comradeship and friendship.

Mr. Guildford said he had been looking after the Club since it was started by the late Mr. Doresa in 1920, and he had been pleased to do what he could for them and would continue to do so.

On behalf of the members, Mr. Doresa then presented Mr. Guildford with a silver cigarette case.

After Mr. Wake had congratulated the Club on the splendid premises, the remainder of the evening took the form of a Smoking Concert. Refreshments were served, and music was provided by "Billy" Tregellis and his Band.

WOKING BRITISH LEGION CLUB.

Members of the Woking Branch of the British Legion held their Annual Outing on Sunday, 16th July, which took the form of a river trip from Chertsey to Maidenhead.

About 160 members, cheered by the welcome change in the weather, had a very pleasant time, and selections by the Chobham Brass Band considerably added to the feeling of harmony which prevailed throughout the trip. A halt was made at Windsor, when an hour's leave was granted, and a number of the members availed themselves of the opportunity of looking round the town and visiting the nearby hostleries where the "Hop Leaf" sign was in evidence.

Arrangements were carried out by the Outing Committee, who spared no effort to make the catering a success, as it undoubtedly was.

BRIDGEND.

WELLINGTON INN, MERTHYR.

The Licence of the above was recently transferred to Mr. E. Hamer, and we hope that his stay at Merthyr will be enjoyable and successful. Mr. Hamer has a wide circle of friends throughout the district.

THE LATE MRS. T. BRUNT, LLWYDCEOED.

It is with regret we have to report the demise of Mrs. Thomas Brunt, the wife of our tenant at The Corner House, Llwyrcoed.

Mrs. Brunt, who was 65 years of age, passed away after a very short illness. She was much esteemed throughout the district, and will be greatly missed by her husband and family. Our sincere sympathies are extended to them in their sad bereavement.

CRAIG-YR-EOS HOTEL, OGMORE-BY-SEA, GLAMORGAN.

Congratulations to Mr. A. J. Boyle on obtaining a Licence for his hotel at Ogmores-by-Sea. The name "Craig-yr-Eos" when translated from Welsh means "Rock of the Nightingale." Extensive alterations are being carried out and Mr. Boyle was hopeful that the "Hop Leaf" products would be on sale there by August Bank Holiday. Craig-yr-Eos Hotel was formerly a mansion owned and occupied by Sir William Cope, K.C.

Ogmores-by-Sea is becoming increasingly popular each year, and a tour of South Wales would be incomplete without a visit there, where summer pastimes such as bathing, golfing, etc., can be enjoyed amidst ideal surroundings.

We wish Mr. Boyle every success in his new venture.

PROCLAMATION OF THE 1940 NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD AT BRIDGEND.

The 1940 National Eisteddfod of Wales will be held at Bridgend and the usual Proclamation Ceremony was carried out a year beforehand at the Newbridge Fields, Bridgend, where thousands of people gathered to witness a very colourful and interesting ritual around the Gorsedd Stones which had been specially erected for the occasion. The Bards, Druids and Ovates made a vivid picture in their bright coloured robes as they occupied their places on the stones which were named after them, and as this was the first time Bridgendonians had witnessed such an affair, everyone was amazed at the pomp and the beauty of the proceedings.

The Deputy Archdruid, the Rev. Elvet Lewis, presided, and the ceremony opened with Lady Wyndham-Quin presenting the new Archdruid, "Crwys" (Rev. Crwys Williams) with the Corn Hirlas. Numerous Welsh songs were rendered by the company and, needless to say, these were perfect.

The Earl of Dunraven was present at the ceremony, as also was his daughter, Lady Wyndham-Quin, and both took an active part. The Earl is President of the 1940 Eisteddfod. Also present were the Mayors of Swansea, Brecon, Llanelli, Neath, Port Talbot, Cowbridge and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff.

The visitors were afterwards entertained at the Dunraven Hotel, and the Chairman of the Bridgend Urban District Council, Mr. O. Glyn Davies, in a very warm speech extended a hearty welcome to all the guests. He made special reference to the kindness of Sir William Jenkins, through whom they had been enabled to place at the disposal of the Eisteddfod Committee one of the finest natural parks in the country.

The Rev. Elvet Lewis, Deputy Archdruid, responded, and on behalf of the visitors expressed his thanks and delight for the excellent manner in which the Committee had completed their arrangement for the Gorsedd Ceremony.

In the evening two more important events connected with the Eisteddfod were held, namely, a Choral Concert at the Hermon Chapel, and a Drama at the Town Hall, both of course being entirely in Welsh.

PORTSMOUTH.

For his services as President of the Portsmouth, Gosport and District Licensed Victuallers Protection and Benevolent Society, Mr. J. O. Kille has been presented by his colleagues with a handsome clock suitably inscribed. The presentation was made at the half-yearly meeting of the Society, by the new President (Mr. A. G. Golding), who paid a high tribute to the enthusiasm and industry of the past President in the organization of the retail trade. Correspondence from the League revealed that negotiations were still going on with a view to securing Government action in connection with the re-assessment which is regarded by the trade as an extraordinary imposition. The Vice-Chairman (Mr. W. F. Nuttall), reported upon the annual conference at Scarborough and Mr. W. G. Curtis, Councillor for No. 8 District of the League, gave an address on current topics.

Those privileged to attend the Southsea Waverley Green on the occasion of the visit of the South African Bowlers this year, all agreed that in no place in the City could better arrangements have been made than those of the Waverley Committee and helpers. The club was truly *en fête* and never was there a more colourful scene than that made by the six rinks of bowlers and their wives, with visitors from various parts of the country. The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor F. J. Spickernell) who inaugurated the Guildhall Festival for the Open Tournament was there. Mr. A. J. Riceman arranged the matches for the South Africans in this

country. We congratulate the President of the Club (Mr. Brookman) and also the Secretary and Committee. The Southsea Bowls Tournament gets stronger each year; this year the complete list of entries is:—

			<i>Singles.</i>	<i>Pairs.</i>	<i>Triples.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Men ...	...	...	211	242	267	720
Women ...	...	...	70	74	—	144

H.M.S. *Renown*, which was paid off into dockyard control on September 2nd, 1936, has once more reappeared to the gaze of the public from Portsea Hard. The reconstruction work is nearly finished, and the ship is expected to commission in August. She was at her berth at the South Railway jetty, and despite her lack of paint and smartness, she looks the formidable battle cruiser that she undoubtedly is. For the last two-and-a-half years she has undergone extensive alterations in the dockyard. She was practically gutted and then rebuilt with the result that having undergone similar treatment to her sister ship, H.M.S. *Repulse*, with whom she undertook several exciting war-time cruises, the *Renown* has now emerged just as fast and even more powerful than ever before.

In accordance with the City Council's decision to increase the establishment in view of the emergency duties, the Portsmouth Watch Committee met and considered the appointment of an additional Police Superintendent. They decided to promote Inspector Baker, who had been carrying out the duties temporarily of Chief Air Raid Warden and has been taking a prominent part in the training of Air Wardens. He has worked hard and long to make the City's A.R.P. organization a success. At the start of A.R.P. he was chosen to undergo the latest training and did excellent work in recruiting. Upon the resignation of the Chief Air Warden, Inspector Baker was appointed temporarily in the vacancy.

SALISBURY.

In our last issue we erroneously referred to the Green Dragon, Alderbury, as "our" House. We tender our apologies for this inadvertence in description to the owner of the property, which is on the Longford Estate of the Earl of Radnor.