MR. S. J. MOORE.

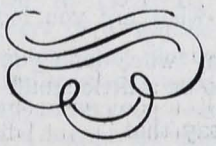
It is no easy thing to extract the real history of those silent heroes in our midst, particularly those whose military career is of more than ordinary interest. Methods amounting to a third degree occasionally have to be adopted and even then the inquisition leaves much to be gleaned. These difficulties which beset a biographer are well known and of themselves constitute an apology for the incompleteness of the present epitome.

Before commencing his commercial life with this Firm Mr. S. J. Moore was connected with a well-known firm of timber merchants in Reading, whom he joined in March, 1895. He served with them until the outbreak of the South African War, when he obtained leave to volunteer for active service, and resumed his employment again in 1902. The following year Mr. Moore left Reading to take up an appointment in London in the same trade. He remained in the Metropolis until 1914 and after three years' service in the Great War returned to Reading and managed the original firm of timber merchants until 1925. In November of that year Mr. Moore joined the Home Travelling Staff at the Brewery and by his affability, candour and sociability immediately established himself in that atmosphere of brotherhood which animates the Staff in all spheres. In the course of his duties Mr. Moore covers Reading and district and attends as our representative to supervise supplies to Ascot and Newbury race meetings, where he is a well-known figure. He also supervises many of the licensed houses in High Wycombe and environs, for the subsidiary Company of Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Limited. Since 1930 he has attended the Royal Counties Agricultural Society's Shows at various centres and displayed Hunt's Glorious Devon Cider at our Floral Show stand, which he designed and managed on those occasions. In these and all other matters his genius as an organiser has earned high commendation.

As a very keen and active Volunteer in the 1st V.B. Royal Berks Regiment (afterwards reconstituted the 4th Battalion Territorials) since 1897, Mr. Moore served in " A " Company under the late Captain A. S. Cooper and later transferred to the Mounted Infantry Company until their disbandment in 1902, when he was again attached to " A " Company. In 1903 he joined one of the famous London corps, viz., " C " Company of the 1st Middlesex (Victoria and St. George's) V.R.C., later reconstituted the Queen Victoria's Rifles, which Company was commanded by Captain S. V. Shea. He served in this Company until discharged as unfit in 1917. In the course of this service he was on duty at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, King George V's Coronation, and never missed an annual camp. He was the Company " shot " in each Company in which he served.

Mr. Moore served as a Trooper in the 48th Squadron (North Somerset) Yeomanry in the South African War, when he was severely wounded in the right leg. He was mobilized in August, 1914, for the Great War and proceeded to France shortly afterwards with the rank of Sergeant and was again badly wounded in the left leg. As one of the few representatives of his regiment, he was selected and sent down from the line to attend the " Farewell " procession to St. Omer Town Hall on the passing of Lord Roberts, who died in France in the early months of the war. The event preceded the passage " home " of the Field-Marshal for burial. The survivors of Lord Roberts' beloved Gurkhas were also present. Mr. Moore recalls that the buglers of the Queen Victoria's Rifles sounded the " Last Post." It is a coincidence that the 48th Squadron of the North Somerset Yeomanry acted for a time as Lord Roberts' bodyguard in the South African campaign. Mr. Moore is the holder of the Queen's South African Medal and 4 bars, the 1914 Star, General Service Medal, Victory Medal and Territorial Long Service Medal.

Mr. Moore has won numerous prizes in rifle shooting, a pastime of which he is very fond. He is well known at the Bisley ranges and attended the meetings regularly for many years. He has captained Berkshire in the Lucas Cup competition and has shot in the final of the " King's." He has been a member of the National Rifle Association since 1899 and was also a member of the English Twenty Club, North London Rifle Club, Middlesex Rifle Association and " Our Club," the latter being a very old shooting club in connection with the Queen Victoria's Rifles. His success as a marksman was evidently inherited from his late father, who was also a well-known international rifle shot and won over £2,000 in prizes during his sporting career. Other favourite pastimes of Mr. Moore are golf, swimming and gardening. He also plays a useful game of billiards.



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

EDITORIAL.

NOT PROVEN.

"I know of no experiment scientifically conducted which proves that the consumption of alcohol in moderation is injurious to health."—*Lord Horder* (*the eminent physician*).

WHEN AND WHAT TO DRINK?

It is necessary to emphasise that :—combinations of food and drink to be rigorously avoided are spirits or red wine with oysters or fish generally ; and sweet wines with the early courses of a meal.

The following is an authentic Table of Wines suitable to serve with the different courses in a formal menu :—

Caviar or Hors D'oeuvres	...	Wodka : green or white, or Hock.
Oysters	...	Chablis, dry Champagne, dry Graves, Moselle or Stout.
Soup	...	Dry Pale Sherry, or dry Madeira.
Fish ...	...	Dry Champagne, Graves, Chablis, Hock or Moselle.
Entrees, Roast or Bird	...	Claret or Burgundy.
Sweets	...	Sauternes or Champagne.
Cheese	...	Burgundy, Port or Brown Sherry.
Dessert	...	Old Port, Sweet Madeira, or Brown Sherry.
Coffee	...	Liqueur.

NOT MARQUEES!

"Hello, old man, what are you looking so fierce about?"

"Well, you know my wife, don't you? And you've probably noticed she's inclined to be a little stout."

"Oh, I wouldn't say that."

"Well, at any rate, our washer-woman is ill, and so we have had to send some clothes to the laundry. Among them was my wife's nightdress, which they have had the impudence to send back stating that they do not wash marquees."

IMPROPERLY DRESSED.

At a fancy dress dance in a certain hill station in India, everyone wore appropriate costume with the exception of one officer who was wearing "tails." On being asked by the senior officer present why he was not in fancy dress, he replied, "But I am, General." "What the devil do you mean? 'Tails' aren't fancy dress." The reply was : "I represent a properly cared-for rifle—clean and slightly oiled!"

FLIES IN THE—BEER.

Flies, it is said, have a strong liking for beer, and a tendency to drown themselves therein, which has provided an ingenious observer with an illustration of national characteristics, as displayed by folk who find a fly in their drink. The Englishman, seeing a fly in his beer, it is asserted, will show his extravagance by ordering another glass. The Frenchman, no less particular but thriftier, will demand a fresh glass at the landlord's expense. The Scot will remove the fly, drink up, then demand another glass by way of compensation. The German will ignore the fly and drink contentedly. The Chinaman will pay no heed to the beer until he has eaten the fly.

BOTTLED BEER.

Beer is being canned at Llanelly, so perhaps it is appropriate to recall that the virtue of bottling beer was discovered by an Elizabethan cleric. He was Dean Nowill, of Old St. Paul's, a Lancashire man, who was educated at Middleton Grammar School. He was an ardent angler, and one day while fishing hid a bottle of ale in the grass, but forgot about it. Several days later he returned to the river and stumbled across the bottle. Pouring out the beer, he saw that it had become effervescent with a creamy froth. And so, by accident, was born the beer-bottling industry.

SMOKING DURING SERMONS.

The Bishop of St. Asaph's doubts about the propriety of smoking while listening-in to broadcast services would have astonished some churchgoers of a bygone generation. In some English country churches smoking during the service was so common that pipe-racks and spittoons were provided, and in some parts of Wales as recently as seventy years ago the start of the sermon was regarded as a signal for the male portion of the congregation to light up. Readers of Scott will remember an important personage in "The Heart of Midlothian," who smoked through the whole of a long sermon, "tobacco borrowed from other worshippers."

PLACED.

As an athlete Smithers was more enthusiastic than efficient. On every possible occasion he entered a sports meeting, and with monotonous regularity finished amongst the "also rans." At last he found himself one of only three starters in a race for which three prizes were offered. He finished a bad third, and, without changing, dashed to the nearest post office and wired to his wife, "Clear the sideboard. I've started!"

UP IN THE AIR.

Here is the newest funny story of aviation. A young R.A.F. officer, stationed somewhere in Egypt, was flying near the Great Pyramid, carrying out exercises in navigation, and discovering his geographical position with a sextant. After a series of involved calculations he suddenly turned to his pilot and said, "Take your hat off."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because, according to my calculations, we are now inside St. Paul's Cathedral."

WAIT FOR THE WHEELBARROW!

He was a keen golfer. What worried him, however, was that he found himself dropping into strong language when things went badly. A friend suggested that in order to check the habit he should pick up a stone and pocket it every time he let slip a bad word. Returning to the club house after his next game, he met his friend, who said:

"Well, Jack, I see you're reforming. Your pockets are not very heavy."

"No," said the golfer gloomily, "but wait till you see the wheelbarrow the caddie's got!"

WHAT THE OTHER £300 WAS FOR.

"I understand you have been having your family tree looked up?"

"Yes, and it cost me £500."

"Quite expensive, wasn't it?"

"Yes, but it cost only £200 to have it looked up. The other £300 was what I paid to have it hushed up."

THE WRONG NUMBER!

She rushed into a local chemist's shop. "I've been trying for hours to telephone you, to get you to send up another bottle of my medicine, and you never answered," she complained. "I know I have one of these dial 'phones, and I sometimes get it wrong, but I couldn't be wrong all the time. I tried dozens of times and couldn't get anybody." The chemist was aggrieved, but was Madame sure she had dialled the right number. "Why, of course I am," she replied. "I took it from one of your own bottles—EST. 1843."

GIMME A PENNY.

At the Children's Hospital Johnny was the terror of the ward. One day a visitor, who knew his character, said to him: "Johnny, if you are good for a week, I'll give you sixpence when I come again."

A week later she stood before Johnny's bed again. "Well," she said, "I'm not going to ask the nurses if you've behaved. You must tell me yourself. Do you deserve the sixpence?"

There was a moment's silence. Then from among the sheets a small voice said: "Gimme a penny."

THE LIARS.

They were sitting round the fire, swapping lies. "When I was in Montana," said one of them, "I saw a mountain lion come right up to the camp one day. It was a fierce beast, but, with great presence of mind, I threw a bucket of water in his face and it slunk away."

"Boys," said a man sitting in a corner, "I can vouch for the truth of that story. A few minutes after that happened I was coming down the side of the hill. I met this lion, and, as is my habit, stopped to stroke its whiskers. Boys, those whiskers were wet!"

BLACKFRIARS.

Seven Blackfriars sitting back to back
Fished from a bridge for a pike or a jack:
The first caught a tiddler, the second caught a crab,
The third caught a winkle, the fourth caught a dab.
The fifth caught a tadpole, the sixth caught an eel,
The seventh one caught an old cartwheel.

(From *Punch*).

THE TYPOGRAPHIC ERROR.

The typographic error is a slippery thing and sly ;
You can hunt till you are dizzy, but it somehow will get by.

Till the formes are off the presses, it is strange how still it keeps ;
It shrinks down in a corner, and it never stirs or peeps.

That typographic error, too small for human eyes,
Till the ink is on the paper, when it grows to mountain size.

The boss, he stares with horror, then he grabs his hair and groans ;
The copy reader drops his head upon his hands and moans.

The remainder of the issue may be clean as clean can be—
But that typographic error is the only thing you see.

THE KNIGHTLY WINE TASTERS.

An oath-bound secret order, duly equipped with exotic uniforms, passwords, high signs and solemn conclaves has been organised in Burgundy. It aspires to be an Order of Knighthood, and is known as the " Chevaliers due Tastevin," which can roughly be translated as " Knights of the Wine-Taster." Its emblem is a " wine-taster," that is, a tiny glass tube, resembling a pipette, which professional wine-tasters use when determining the respective qualities of wine.

This confraternity, which meets only in wine cellars, and which makes water-drinking a misdemeanour, has a grand master and a grand lodge ; and its solemn conclaves, amid flickering candles, resemble a scene from the pages of a Walter Scott novel.

THE MISSIONARY'S SHARE.

A minister, addressing a women's missionary meeting, said that " thousands of gallons of rum go into Africa for every brother who is sent there," whereupon one of the sisters whispered to her neighbour, " Rather a large allowance for them missionaries."

OOT O' THE BOTTLE.

" What a lovely view ! " exclaimed the English tourist to his Scots guide when they reached the top of the mountain. Suddenly his face fell. " Bother ! " he cried. " I've forgotten to bring the glasses." The guide shrugged his shoulders. " Never ye mind, mon," he said, with an artful twinkle in his eye. " There's naebody aboot—we'll just drink it oot o' the bottle."

ONE ON COUNSEL.

A story of Mr. Justice Avory's advocate days is told by Mr. Bernard O'Donnell in " The Trials of Mr. Justice Avory," recently published. He was cross-examining a real old-timer who had " put his character in," and young Avory could not resist the opportunity.

" You have been previously convicted ? " he asked.

" Yes," was the frank reply, " but that was due to the stupidity of my counsel."

" It always is, and you have my sympathy," was the dry response of the future judge. But the laugh went the other way, for, quick as thought, came the rejoinder : " And I deserve it, seeing that you were my counsel."

SAFEST DRINK THE WORLD OVER.

Britain is drinking more beer to-day than ever before, according to statistics produced at the Brewers' Exhibition. In the North is preferred a strong, fully-flavoured ale ; Southerners demand a lighter and sweet beer, while the Midlanders, brought up on home brew, drink a mellow " betwixt and between " beer. " Draught beer is most popular on the whole," said an expert at the exhibition, " but in London bottled beer is in greatest demand because there is no room for a barrel in popular flats." The Brewers' Exhibition is the only occasion of the year when British beers are brought together for comparison, and entries have also been received from Canada. Researches into brewing ingredients, conducted by Dr. T. Kennedy Walker, of the Manchester College of Technology, have revealed that " beer is the safest drink the world over."

SO THAT'S THAT !

Traveller : " You have a wonderful crop of peaches this year. What do you do with those you can't use ? "

Hotel Manager : " The peaches we can't use we can."

Traveller : " We adopt the same principle with our orders. What we can't sell we cancel."

STEAK AND KIDNEY.

Priest about to baptise twins : " And what are you going to call them ? "

Nervous Father : " Steak and Kidney."

Godmother : " Don't take no notice of him, Father, he's excited. He means Kate and Sydney.

THE SWELL GUY.

Messenger (*to newsboy*) : " Who's the swell guy you was talkin' to, Jimmy ? "

Newsboy : " Aw, him and me's worked together for years. He's the editor of one o' my papers ! "

GOES TO CHURCH MORE OFTEN.

A threepenny piece is not supposed to be as good as a florin, but it goes to church more often.

COMPLIMENTARY.

These are from THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, whose " Lighter Side " contains so many amusing tales, says the *Imperial Club Magazine*. This fine publication then goes on to quote a number of the jokes published in the H.L.G.

BRITAIN'S IDEAL SAILOR.

According to the code laid down in the training ship *Worcester*, the qualifications expected in the perfect sailor are : Cheerful submission to superiors ; self-respect and independence of character ; kindness and protection of the weak ; readiness to forgive offence ; desire to conciliate the differences of others ; and, above all, fearless devotion to duty and unflinching truthfulness. These qualities were disclosed last month at the Annual Presentation of Prizes aboard the ship by Sir Bolton Eyres-Monsell, First Lord of the Admiralty. The First Lord, in his speech to the Cadets, pleaded for a closer liaison between the Royal Navy and the Merchant Service. Comradeship between the two Services, he said, was all-important, and vital to both Services. " Personally, I feel," he added, " that every person trained for the sea is an additional assurance for the preservation of this country and our Empire. They always have to come back to sailors—the seamen—in time of trouble."

QUEEN VICTORIA ON BEER.

In Maurois's *King Edward and His Times* is an interesting story of Queen Victoria's sound common sense. It occurs in a letter to Mr. W. E. Gladstone in which she gives her views on beer as the natural drink of the working classes.

" The Queen thanks Mr. Gladstone for his full reports and for his two long letters—on his financial proposals. . . . She regrets

the additional income-tax as it presses heavily on people with small incomes, salaries, etc., and at this time will be a serious loss to the number of people whose rents have not been paid. The tax on beer she also regrets as the poor never drink wine, and the loss of beer will be deeply felt by them. The richer classes, who drink wine and who are not in any way restrained in their indulgences, can well afford to pay for wine. But the poor can ill afford any additional tax on what in many cases is about their only beverage."

NEW NAMES FOR INNS.

A suggestion has been put forward by a reader of the *Daily Mail*, not altogether original, but nevertheless commending itself to many of us. He says : " Along the highways of Britain stand many inns that commemorate the days when the coach was the king of the road—' The Coach and Horses,' ' The Three Jolly Postboys,' and so on.

" Now that 90 per cent. of road traffic is propelled by the internal combustion engine, surely houses of call should move with the times in their nomenclature ?

" One could imagine a comfortable night spent at the ' Big End and Battery,' a pint of bitter at ' The Courteous Chauffeur,' or a cut off the joint at the ' Clutch and Handbrake '—not to mention ' The Endorsed Licence ' and ' The Twenty Shillings and Costs ' ! "

HIGH PRAISE FOR BEER.

" Without doubt, beer represents the best substitute for beef extract, since most of the active substances are common to both. In the case of beer, the presence of alcohol, with its indirect effect upon the brain, must be taken into account, and for this reason beer is even superior to meat extract in several ways.

" Undoubtedly the potassium sulphate in beer represents a salt which plays an important part in the nerve stimulating reactions which beer produces when the consumer is in a state of exhaustion."

Professor Ranke, the eminent Physiologist (as quoted by Dr. Carl Rach), 1933.

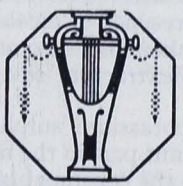
A FALLACY REFUTED.

"Teetotal lecturers try sometimes to make out that alcohol hardens the inside, just as it hardens egg-white when dropped into it. But this is not true for our digestive juices are secreted so as to water down and bring into harmless concentration the substances we eat and drink . . . . Alcohol has a high food value."—

Sir Leonard Hill, M.D., etc., in the *Sunday Dispatch*, 1935.

CHRISTMAS EXTENSIONS.

The Reading and District Licensed Trades' Protection & Benevolent Association were very active in the matter of Christmas extensions. Applications were made at the following Police Courts :—Reading Borough, Wokingham Borough, Newbury Borough, and the following Petty Sessional Divisions of Berks : Reading, Newbury, Wokingham, and Henley and Caversham Petty Sessional Divisions of Oxon. Application was made on behalf of 201 licensees and each was granted. It is worthy of note that this is the first occasion on which the privilege of a Christmas extension of hours has been allowed in the following areas :—Henley and Caversham Petty Sessional Divisions of Oxon, and Newbury Petty Sessional Division of Berks. A request in each of the Wokingham Courts for a reduction of the fee from 10/- to 5/- was successful. Mr. H. S. Smith is the able and energetic Secretary of the Association.



H. & G. SIMONDS, LIMITED.

COMPANY'S JUBILEE YEAR.

RECORD PROFITS.

MR. S. V. SHEA-SIMONDS' ADDRESS.

The annual general meeting of H. & G. Simonds Ltd. was held on December 9th at 19 Bridge Street, Reading.

Mr. S. V. Shea-Simonds, chairman of the company, presided, being supported by the following directors : 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. Among the shareholders present were Major M. H. Simonds, Mrs. F. A. Simonds, Mr. L. A. Simonds, Colonel Beach, Mr. G. W. Smith, Mr. C. Bennett, Mr. C. E. Gough, Mrs. M. A. Murfield, Miss A. M. Prosser, Messrs. H. Poynder, V. H. Smith, W. D. Swann, H. Callas, T. O. Foster, A. S. Drewe, J. T. Flook, J. Ford, W. H. Burton, etc. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. H. Caversham Simonds and Mr. Gavin T. Simonds, K.C.

The Secretary (Mr. E. S. Phipps) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said :—Ladies and gentlemen,—The report of the directors and the balance-sheet and accounts for the past financial year which ended on September 30, 1935, have been in your possession for several days, and you have doubtless scrutinized them very carefully. I would therefore ask you to allow me to take them as read.

You will have noticed that we have, this year, sent out the report in a different form, and I hope you appreciate the larger type in which we have set forth the various figures for the year. We have also afforded even greater information than in the past.

I will preface my remarks by reminding you that this year we celebrate the jubilee of our existence as a limited liability company. It was in the year 1885 that our farseeing and progressive predecessors decided to convert the firm into a private limited liability company. We have with us on the firm to-day at least one gentleman in the person of Mr. C. E. Gough, our general branch manager, who well remembers the day when, as a boy, he was forcibly reminded that the word "Limited" should be affixed to the already well-known title of H. & G. Simonds.

IMPROVED INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS AND LARGER PROFITS.

It is fitting that on this occasion we should be able to present figures to you which constitute a record in the history of the company. The earned profits for the year amounted to £162,443 19s. 7d., which show an advance of £24,832 5s. 10d. on those of last year. This has been due largely to improved industrial conditions both at home and abroad in the many areas served by us, and also to the policy of concentration of output and bottling into fewer centres. In this connexion, once again, I am pleased to give you the figures for the output of bottled beer, as turned out by the parent company, its subsidiaries and associated companies, which amounted to 47,213,186 bottles.

Our subsidiary companies have again contributed handsomely to the profits of the parent company, and our associated company in Malta, Messrs. Simonds-Farsons, Limited, have again had a successful year. The chairman of that company, our kinsman, Brigadier-General H. Simonds de Brett, is home on leave in this country, and reports that the progress made in past years has been well maintained despite fierce competition which, in our experience, for selfishness and indifference to the commercial interests of the whole of the trading community, is unique.

ACQUISITION IN BRISTOL.

We have, during the year, purchased the whole of the share capital of Messrs. W. J. Rogers, Limited, Bristol, which firm, owing to severe depression in South Wales and other areas served by it, has suffered somewhat for the past few years, but we have every hope, now that it is linked up with our organization, it may shortly bear its own part in contributing towards the profits of the company. We are now brewing our well-known " Hop Leaf " brands in Bristol, and they are daily becoming more and more popular in that area. The acquisition of the many properties in Gloucestershire and Somersetshire will help us to achieve our ambition in establishing a chain of licensed houses, carrying our ever-popular Hop Leaf sign, from London to Cornwall.

As forecast in my last speech we have disposed of our interest in the cider factory of Messrs. N. P. Hunt and Son, Crabbs Park, Paignton, to Messrs. Whiteways Cyder Company, Limited, but we are still concerned in introducing and furthering the sale of their products.

COMPANY'S USE OF HOME-GROWN BARLEY.

Chairmen of brewery companies are from day to day referring to the question of the consumption of home-grown barley. I can only repeat what I stated last year, viz., that my company have religiously adhered to the gentleman's agreement made with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in April, 1933, and are brewing their beers from an increasingly high proportion of home-grown barleys, and in this manner are helping the British farmers, but we will continue strenuously to oppose any legislation designed to impose upon us any restriction which will interfere with our liberty to brew from any material, home-grown or imported, which, in our opinion, is best suited to make beers acceptable to the palate of our customers. Moreover, I do not think it is sufficiently realized that owing to the vagaries of this uncertain climate, the quality of home-grown barley, in some seasons, falls far short of the requirements of the brewing industry.

ADVISORY CATERING DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED.

We have, during the year, organized a new department under a trained manager to supervise the catering throughout our licensed houses and to advise our tenants on all matters of interest which affect the catering side of their business, and we are sure this will be to the benefit of our customers as a whole.

During the Army trainings which took place in August and September, we were entrusted with several important contracts for supplies to a large number of canteens and messes which, thanks to the energy and efficiency of our military department, were carried out with as conspicuous a success as the elements permitted. Unfortunately, as you will recollect, the worst storms within memory for the time of year occurred during that period and caused irreparable damage to scores of our marquees and other plant, involving considerable and unforeseen losses.

Our wine and spirit department is well organized under capable management and continues to expand, showing steady and satisfactory increases in turnover. The same applies to our mineral water factory at Staines.

We have expended a sum of approximately £140,000 in building new houses, and in re-building or repairing others. We hope, therefore, that we may in years to come be rewarded for our boldness in spending so liberally.

I am glad to record that our tenants, generally, have, as ever, loyally maintained the prestige of the firm as also the whole of the licensed trade, and have enjoyed the benefit of their share in the increased trade.

QUALITY OF THE COMPANY'S BEERS.

Our beers have been uniformly good, and our staff, from the highest to the lowest, have supported us right loyally, and subject to there being no unfavourable turn in world conditions during the current year, I have no reason to fear that we may not continue on the path of peace, progress, and prosperity.

I now beg to move the following resolution :—" That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year ended September 30, 1935, be received and adopted ; and that, having already paid or provided for the full year's dividend on the Five per Cent. and Six-and-a-Half per Cent. Preference shares, less tax, and an interim dividend of 4 per cent., less tax, on the Ordinary shares, the directors now recommend that the balance of £219,444 9s. 6d. be appropriated as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
To add to Debenture Redemption Reserve ...	8,445	0	0
To pay a final dividend on 540,240 Ordinary shares of £1 each at the rate of 14 per cent., less income tax (making 18 per cent. for the year)	58,616	0	9
To add to Pensions Reserve (making a total of £100,000)	5,050	0	0
To add to Property Improvement Account (making a total of £108,000)	20,228	9	9
To add to Investment Reserve (making a total of £156,000)	26,000	0	0
To carry forward to next year	101,104	19	0
	£219,444	9	6

Mr. J. H. Simonds (vice-chairman) seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

RE-ELECTION OF A DIRECTOR.

Mr. F. A. Simonds moved the re-election of Major G. S. M. Ashby as a director of the company. He said that ever since Major Ashby had been associated with the firm he had given of his very best, and had shown great ability and efficiency. He had been particularly engaged in the re-organisation of their power plant, a

matter on which he had specialised knowledge and experience. He hoped, and he believed it would be the case, that the new power plant would be a great success.

Commander H. D. Simonds, in seconding, said Major Ashby's knowledge of engineering had been the greatest possible asset to the company. He was grounded in engineering in the great firm of Thornycroft's, and he had had a very wide experience of every sort ever since. In these days a knowledge of engineering was essential in at least one director. " Until Major Ashby came along," added Commander Simonds, " I was the only one with pretensions to engineering, and they were only pretensions."

The election was unanimously approved, and Major Ashby briefly responded.

The auditors, Messrs. Collins, Tootell and Company, were re-elected, on the proposition of Mr. G. W. Smith, seconded by Mrs. F. A. Simonds.

Mr. A. J. Redman, proposing a vote of thanks to the chairman, said that by his ability, geniality and good humour, Major Shea-Simonds had endeared himself to everyone with whom he worked, and with whom he came into contact.

Mr. L. A. Simonds seconded, and the vote of thanks was accorded with acclamation.

PORTRAIT FOR MR. F. A. SIMONDS.

The chairman said he had a very pleasant task to perform. They would recollect that last year the shareholders voted with acclamation that a portrait in oils should be painted and presented to their managing director, Mr. F. A. Simonds, and that a replica, which would remain the property of the company, should be placed in a suitable position in the head office. They had several precedents for making such a presentation. High officials of companies had often had their portraits painted after very distinguished service. Mr. Eric Simonds was born in the dark ages, and subsequently he acquired some smattering of education at two rather obscure schools—Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford. (Laughter.) He served his country in the South African War, and joined the firm in 1902. He became a member of the board in 1905, and out of his 30 years on that body he had been managing director for the last 19 years. In addition to that he was managing director of all their subsidiary companies. He was chairman of the Brewers' Society during the very critical year, 1932-33, when most

delicate negotiations were carried on with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In addition to what he had done for the company, he had been High Sheriff of Berkshire. For 16 years he was chairman of the Reading Conservative Association, and was now its president. "If these are not sufficient reasons for giving him a portrait," concluded the chairman, "I do not know what are."

The portrait was then unveiled by Mrs. F. A. Simonds. It was painted by Captain Oswald Birley, M.C., R.O.I., who did both the original and the replica.

A GREAT EDIFICE OF ENTERPRISE.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, in acknowledging the gift, said he must within his limited powers express his very deep appreciation of the gift they had given him. He could assure them that sitting for a portrait constituted one of the most difficult tasks he had ever undertaken during his 33 years' association with the company. Possibly he would have enjoyed more sitting under Captain Drewe and his painters' department. (Laughter.) Every picture was criticised, but for his own self he did feel that this one represented what he saw to lather every morning in the looking-glass. It possibly also presented the appearance of their managing director when he was interrupted at his work, or when he was very thoughtful and wondering what was coming next. He could assure them that the portrait would be treasured from generation to generation. He trusted that those who came after, when they looked at the picture, would say : "The old buffer did perhaps put on a few storeys to that great edifice of enterprise in Bridge Street in the post-war period from 1916 onwards." He hoped, too, that possibly the citizens of this no mean city would in years to come not be ungrateful for his efforts to promote commercial enterprise and success for the workers of this town. After all, the more business they could bring into Reading the better it was for the inhabitants. He had worked most energetically to achieve that result, and he did not think it could be denied that Reading as a whole was better off for having the brewery in its centre, employing as it did a great number of hands, both in the actual brewing, in the bottling department, and in the transport department which his brother so ably supervised.

Addressing his son, Mr. Simonds said : "I am sure you, Louis, and all the boys will appreciate this treasure. I hope it will always be before you to remind you that we, in our generation, have done our best."

H. & G. SIMONDS LTD. ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Dinner will be held in the Large Town Hall on Saturday, January 18th, 1936, at 7 o'clock p.m. Those wishing to attend should apply to any Member of the Committee not later than Wednesday, January 15th ; applications cannot be accepted after that date.

All tickets are lettered and holders should take a seat at the table corresponding with their ticket letter. Non-observance of this arrangement will cause much confusion. Doors will be opened at 6.30 p.m. and all seats should be taken by 6.50 p.m. Music will be provided from 6.30 p.m. till 7 p.m.

A special appeal is made to all attending to help preserve order and quietness, especially during the speeches. Microphones will be installed and every effort made to ensure the speakers being heard all over the hall.

We are looking forward to meeting many of the Firm's employees from the Branches and Subsidiary Companies and a warm welcome awaits them.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEAT EARLY.

TELLING THE TALE—a la Western Brothers
(Mr. R. Kelly and Mr. G. Smith)

BRITISH LEGION.

The annual dinner of the Stokenchurch District Branch of the British Legion was held at the Red Lion Hotel on November 22nd. Lieut.-Col. Hugh Young, D.S.O. (Branch President) was in the chair, and he was supported by Mr. Scott-Evans (Bucks County Secretary), Col. Steele (Branch Secretary), Dr. E. L. Elliott (Chairman) and Mr. F. Britnell (Vice-Chairman).

After an excellent meal had been served by Mr. and Mrs. Drewett to about fifty members and friends, the usual loyal toasts were proposed by Col. Young, who then introduced Mr. Scott-Evans for the purpose of proposing the health of "The British Legion, the Branch, and its President." Referring to the phrase, the health of the Legion, he said that it would appear that he was asking those who were members to drink to their own good health, but he pointed out that the whole organisation could only be healthy by having good sound branches, and the branches in their turn must have good members, so he appealed to all present to do their utmost in carrying out the objects named in the Royal Charter, viz., to secure comfort and help for the widows, orphans and disabled and to carry on working to promote the peace of the world. He was pleased to be able to announce that Poppy Day receipts had, according to all estimates, again reached a record figure, and so far he had only heard of one branch in Bucks where there was a decrease on former years and there, special local circumstances were a contributory cause. He said that these yearly increases show that the public look to the Legion as trustees of their duty to those who served, and explained that it was very necessary that there should be increases, because the British Legion Relief Fund had had to take over a lot of responsibilities formerly borne by the United Services Fund. With regard to the branch, he remarked upon the loss of a good secretary in Mr. J. W. Barney and congratulated it upon having secured Col. Steele to act in his stead; he thereupon expressed the hope that continued prosperity would attend the efforts of the members.

Replying to the toast, Col. Young referred to the loss the Legion had sustained by the death of its vice-patron, Earl Jellicoe, and asked those present to make it known to ex-service men generally that the Legion was not for people to join with the idea of getting something out of it, but to put something into it as the slogan "Service not Self" signified.

Other toasts were those of "The Visitors," proposed by Dr. Elliott and replied to by Rev. Booth (Watlington); "The Artistes," proposed by Mr. F. Britnell and replied to by Mr. File; "Host and Hostess," proposed by Mr. S. W. Painter and replied to by Mr. Drewett.

An excellent musical programme was provided by Messrs. File, Gronow, Baldwin, G. Bates, Croxford, Anstead, Grant and Lee.

THE BLACK HORSE, EMMER GREEN.

Above is a photograph of The Black Horse, Emmer Green, the property of our subsidiary company, the South Berks Brewery Co. Ltd. The present tenant and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hutchings, took over in June, 1933, and patrons may be assured of a friendly welcome, and the various Hop Leaf brands served in their excellent condition.

THE TALE-BEARER.

The devil, as we are often told, and can readily believe, has many agents to do his work; but, as a laborious, diligent, and successful agent of Satan, one who looks after the devil's business most thoroughly, who performs the devil's work with delight to himself and satisfaction to his master, the tale-bearer ranks nearly supreme.

What, indeed, can be imagined more infamous and execrable than the stirring up of bad blood, thus introducing the demons of discord and strife into households where the angels of peace and harmony are dwelling!

What language is strong enough to qualify the truly diabolical malice that changes confiding friendship into bitter enmity, that substitutes angry war for smiling peace.

BRISTOL TENANTS GUESTS OF MESSRS. H. & G. SIMONDS.

LUNCHEON FOLLOWS BREWERY MERGER.

Tenants of the houses of Messrs. W. J. Rogers, Ltd., brewers, of Bristol, were entertained to luncheon by the directors of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd., brewers, of Reading, at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, on Tuesday, December 3rd.

There were between 70 and 80 tenants from Bristol and Bath present, and Commander H. D. Simonds (a director of Messrs. Simonds) presided, supported by Mr. F. A. Simonds (managing director), Mr. L. A. Simonds, Mr. H. W. Griffin (directors), Mr. J. H. Law and Mr. F. W. Gleed.

Commander Simonds, proposing "The Health and Prosperity of the Tenants," said it was with the deepest sincerity that the directors wished the tenants the greatest prosperity. It was a genuine wish. He fully realised, as he was sure they all did, that in their prosperity was bound up the prosperity of the company. "We all sink or swim together," he said.

When they first took over the Rogers's brewery there was a certain number of people who thought that they were perhaps rather audacious in taking over that firm and "shoving their noses into Bristol" at a time when, owing to the depression in Wales, things were looking rather gloomy.

BRISTOL ENTERPRISE.

The history of Bristol had always shown that enterprise in commerce conducted with proper wisdom and foresight would earn its own reward. The City of Bristol had built up many great enterprises and he sincerely hoped that with the assistance of the people they would build up another one. They were largely in their hands and relied upon their loyal support and encouragement. He was sure that they would get it.

"We are out to help you and I feel sure that you are out to help us," said Commander Simonds.

He concluded by saying that he hoped they would be members of one large family and that they would prosper.

Mr. L. A. Simonds, a director of the firm, said he had made the acquaintance of practically all the tenants and he was immensely pleased with the happy note struck amongst those he had met.

He said that renovations had already taken place in some of the houses, and he explained how the tenants could take advantage

of the experience and organisation extended to them from the firm. They did their best for their tenants—they had a reputation for that.

PUTTING NAME ON THE MAP.

The name of Simonds was perhaps a fresh name in Bristol, but it was becoming more prominent and he asked the tenants to help in putting the name more on the map. He wished the tenants of Rogers's houses the very best of prosperity and happy times under the aegis of Simonds.

A tenant replied and said how his trade and conditions had improved.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, the managing director, proposed the health of Mr. H. W. Griffen, and thanked the staff of Messrs. Rogers for helping to make the merger the success it was. It was going to be a greater success in the future. He added that they had a good man in Mr. Griffen as a local director in Bristol.

It was inevitable that in the course of time some of the smaller breweries would be absorbed into the larger ones. He hoped that the knowledge introduced into brewing matters at Jacob Street might prove a great success in Bristol and enable them to maintain the high standard of brewing in Bristol. They had managed to complete the "Hop Leaf" corridor from London to Cornwall. They were brewing Hop Leaf beers in Bristol and it was their intention to supply them wherever possible in future and make them predominant, but Rogers's beers would be brewed for the customers who desired them.

MOTTO "SERVICE."

Mr. H. W. Griffen, responding, said he thought that they ought to congratulate themselves on belonging to one of the biggest brewers in England. They might regret the passing of an old firm, but the time came when they had to change with the times, and they were fortunate in being linked up with such a firm as Simonds. He asked the tenants to support them in the new venture because the future was in their hands. They had already done much to provide better and brighter houses in Bristol.

The public house was the club of the working man and the more that feeling was fostered the better it would be for them. They would then not have clubs springing up around them. Their motto should be "Service."

The health of the chairman, together with all the directors of Messrs. Simonds was honoured, after it had been proposed by a number of tenants.

A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

ROBIN ROBS MOLE.

AN EXCITING CHASE.

THE IMPUDENCE OF A FOX.

Early the other morning I was strolling through a meadow when a robin, busy at a mole "hill" attracted my attention. I approached to within a few yards of him and then I noticed that he was seizing little worms as they came to the surface in rapid succession. Then I saw the earth heaving, heaving, heaving, and knew that a mole was at work. This naughty robin was robbing the mole of the food that he had worked so hard to find. Thinking that something was wrong, the mole poked his powerful little snout out of the earth, saw what was happening and quickly gave chase. He ran with extraordinary rapidity, considering the length of his forelegs, and I began to wonder whether he would not succeed in catching the thief, when the robin took wing. The distance covered by the mole was about half a dozen yards and I only wish I had had a camera to take what would have been, I should think, an unique picture. Well, the robin came and sat, unconcernedly, on the fence quite close to me and the mole returned to earth and was soon busy tunnelling again. No sooner had he started making another mole "hill" than more worms appeared, and no sooner had they done so than master robin descended and helped himself liberally to them. Once again the mole's head appeared above the surface. He saw the feathered thief at it again and made an angry rush at the robin. The bird was only just in time and flew away, leaving the mole in peace.

MORE MOLES—AND SHREWS.

During the floods I waded through about a hundred yards of water to the Thames-side. Here the promenade was under water but there was still a stretch of grass as yet un-submerged, and here I came across another extraordinary experience concerning moles. On a patch of grass, a little higher than the rest, I noticed a mole at work, and approaching near to the spot I should think I saw a dozen more. The water was gradually surrounding them on every side and they were doubtless wondering where to go for safety. I opened one of the runs to the extent of about a foot, threw a clod of earth away beyond it, and in a few seconds several moles came hurrying and scurrying along. I could see the earth tremble as they did so and when they passed the opening that I had made I had a wonderful view of their progress. I was amazed at their speed.

Here too I saw several little shrews, charming creatures, exhibiting the same anxiety as the moles concerning the rapidly rising river. To and fro, to and fro they ran uttering their thin, small high-pitched squeal. I feared for their safety too and was sad to think that such little wonders of creation should be thus done to death. I tried to catch one in order to take him to a place of safety, but what with heavy Wellington boots and a mackintosh, and my numerous grabs at the shrew, the perspiration soon ran down my face and I was only too glad to give up the chase. I have read about the "Taming of the Shrew," but in this case I must admit defeat with ignominy.

The floods have risen considerably since then and I fear these moles and their wee companions must have passed on to the great Beyond. How I wished I could have saved them!

KINGFISHER SITS ON MY ROD.

I have often read of kingfishers sitting on the rods of fishermen and recently one did me the honour of perching on my roach pole. The water was really too thick for successful angling and with that curiosity concerning wild life, for which I believe I am noted, I left my rod in the rests, and strolled up-river some little way, to watch some redpolls feeding. I had not proceeded many yards when a kingfisher flew across from the other side of the Thames, perched on my rod, and after about a minute, dived down into the water and returned to the rod with a good-sized bleak. I was so close that I could see distinctly that the fish was a bleak. The feathered fisherman swallowed the fish whole and head first and then flew off. How he spotted the bleak in the muddy water I do not know. But I believe I heard him say before he departed, "That's the way to catch 'em guv'nor!"

And, talking of kingfishers, Commander Simonds tells me that two visit his grounds and are anything but shy. But Commander Simonds has a little lake and in that little lake are little fish. I wonder if those kingfishers know!

These birds of such brilliant plumage "bore" a hole in the bank in which to build their nests and these are composed, for the most part, of disgorged fish bones. The entrance to the nest is often "smelly" in the extreme.

THE HEIGHT OF IMPUDENCE.

A "Whip" connected with a Hunt not far away, by way of variety, had a day's shooting. He was in one of the coverts through which he is accustomed to send hounds when the beaters disturbed a fox. Reynard leisurely beat a retreat but before leaving the covert made his way straight to the "Whip," sat right in front of him for a few seconds, and then slowly and unconcernedly made off to other quarters. The "Whip" exclaimed: "What a sauce!"

I have purposely left out the adjective.

GIVE YOUR CHILD COLOUR!

Have you ever seen a rather guilty looking schoolboy or girl smuggling back into capacious pocket a crumpled pink or green or multi-coloured "comic"? And perhaps rounded on him or her, as I have done, for not being above such things, and telling them there are plenty of good books to be read if they want to read?

That smuggled "comic" is a sign of the times; it shows that your child yearns for colour and life; that the ordinary everyday, with a dearth of "comics," is boring and dull. It is up to you to alter things! Enter into the spirit of the child's desires! Make small mysteries of daily happenings—make opportunities for doing something in a different fashion. Spin fairy tales during dull tasks done together, if you can, and if you can't, then think of something different to talk about whilst he or she helps you clean shoes, or windows.

Encourage your child to love colour and to have colours about him. Help him to make his or her room or cubby hole a colourful place.

Let your daughter have a length of paisley patterned cotton to recover her old quilt, or to make covers for dressing table and chests. The colourings are lovely and enticing, and you will kill the proverbial two birds at once: teach her to love colours and beautiful things, and to use her fingers to express her personality.

You know how it is yourself. You often crave for something different to see or use or do or be. . . . help your child's expanding soul. You may be conservative, but that is no reason why you should impose your views on him. You may like to have the same table in the same place, and the same chair, the same colour week in week out because you always have done so, but your child may have seen other people's houses and have ideas. Cultivate those ideas—go with the tide, and not against it.

AS I GO ON MY WAY.

My life shall touch a dozen lives before this day is done—
Leave countless marks for good or ill ere sets this evening's sun.
Shall fair or foul its imprint prove, on those my life shall hail?
Shall benison my impress be, or shall a blight prevail?

Does love through every handclasp flow in sympathy's caress?
Do those that I have greeted know a new-born hopefulness?
Are tolerance and charity the keynote of my song
As I go plodding onward with earth's eager, anxious throng?

My life must touch a million lives in some way ere I go
From this dear world of struggle to the land I do not know.
So this the wish I always wish, the prayer I ever pray;
Let my life help the other lives it touches by the way!

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Pipe cleaners cost a penny a bundle at tobacconists, and are useful in so many ways. If your tea-pot drips, twist one round the spout. It can be removed without trouble when soiled, and will save your tablecloth from tea-stains.

* * * *

Twist another round the sauce bottle—horrid, sticky things they usually are—and save a lot of smeared fingers and cloths. They are useful, too, to clean the spouts of tea and coffee pots.

* * * *

Glass and mirrors can be most effectively cleaned with a soft cloth moistened with alcohol. It stops them being cloudy and smeary.

* * * *

Tea will go further and have a better flavour if the dry leaves are allowed to steam first before wetting in the usual way. This can be achieved by scalding the teapot with hot water, adding your tea, and standing the teapot over the gas for a few minutes whilst the kettle is boiling. This is an economy, as experts say the true flavour of the tea cannot escape until the tightly rolled particles of leaf have expanded with the wet warmth.

* * * *

Bathroom mirrors will not steam or fog with moisture if lightly rubbed with soap first, and then polished with a soft dry duster.

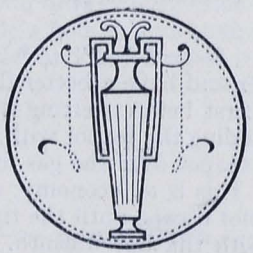
* * * *

A GREAT THOUGHT.

I have come on something by the roadside which has reminded me that I am not in Loamshire : an image of a great agony—the agony of the Cross. It has stood perhaps by the clustering apple-blossoms, or in the broad sunshine by the cornfield, or at a turning by the wood where a clear brook was gurgling below ; and surely, if there came a traveller to this world who knew nothing of the story of man's life upon it, this image would seem to him strangely out of place in the midst of this joyous nature. He would not know that hidden behind the apple-blossoms, or among the golden corn, or under the shrouding boughs of the wood there might be a human heart beating heavily with anguish ; perhaps a young, blooming girl not knowing where to turn for refuge from swift-advancing shame ; understanding no more of this life of ours than a foolish lost lamb wandering farther and farther in the nightfall on the lonely heath, yet tasting the bitterest of life's bitterness.

Such things are sometimes hidden among the sunny fields and behind the blossoming orchards ; and the sound of the gurgling brook, if you came close to one spot behind a small bush, would be mingled for your ear with a despairing human sob. No wonder man's religion has much sorrow in it : no wonder he needs a suffering God . . .—

George Eliot in " Adam Bede."



BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER.)

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our readers.

MR. A. G. RIDER.

Our frontispiece last month was the above well-known member of our staff at Bridge Street, although actually of the South Berks Brewery Co. Possibly I am the only one of our staff who worked with Mr. Rider at Messrs. Sutton and Sons over 30 years ago. I should think that Mr. " Chub " Rider is one of the very best known men in Reading and district. Although I have heard him called " Albert," I believe practically everyone calls him " Chub," and to my boys he is always " Uncle Chub." He is in so many things it would be hard to mention them all here, but undoubtedly his work in connection with the Royal Berkshire Hospital Contributory Scheme is an outstanding achievement. Well here's hoping his shadow will not grow less—and this seems safe to me, at any rate, at the moment.

CHRISTMAS.

As usual we were very busy before the holidays, and for that matter have been since. From enquiries made, everyone seems to have had a particularly good Christmas. At this time of the year we hear of many family gatherings—family ties so to speak—and in consequence the Offices have been gladdened by many ties of various colours, presented, one presumes, by members of the various families.

TRANSPORT.

Transport arrangements during the week before Christmas were carried out under very trying conditions on icy roads and through thick fog. However, no serious casualties were reported and it reflects the greatest credit on all the transport workers of our Firm who carried out their arduous duties so satisfactorily.

FOOTBALL.

Of course, at the moment, the cup tie with Manchester United on the 11th January is the football topic—that and trying to get Stand tickets. Unfortunately Reading are not occupying the proud position that they have been doing most of the season and naturally promotion does not seem so certain as it did. However, in spite of this there is some way to go yet before the final reckoning takes place, and it must be borne in mind that Reading

have a lot of home matches to play and at Elm Park they are almost invincible. The extraordinary fact emerges that Reading have not yet, this season, drawn a league match. Nevertheless, Luton are setting a very hot pace and their recovery since the early days of the season has been the outstanding football event.

The Brewery football first team have been doing ever so well and it is quite a long time since they suffered defeat. They have some difficult hurdles to surmount during the next month or so. However, they have so many successes to their credit that they fear no (football) foe.

CHANGES OF TENANTS.

The following changes have taken place since our last record and to all tenants we wish every success in their new undertakings :—

The Prince of Wales, Acton Lane, Chiswick, W.4 (Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. H. Stopps.

The Rising Sun, Blacknest (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mrs. I. M. Lemon.

The Red Lion, Bracknell (South Berks Brewery Co. Ltd.)—Mr. H. T. Holloway.

The Pipemakers Arms, Uxbridge (Ashby's Staines Brewery Ltd.)—Mr. C. E. Henry.

MARRIAGE.

Our congratulations are hereby extended to Mr. E. Dennis, of the Pin and Bowl Inn, Wokingham, on his marriage to Mrs. Cousal at All Saints' Church, Wokingham, on Wednesday, 11th December, 1935.

DEATH.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. H. W. A. Ralph, of The Plough, Colnbrook, who died on the 20th December, 1935, as the result of a motor car accident. Mr. Ralph had been a tenant of the above house only since 3rd April, 1935, but during that time had proved himself a good tenant, improved the business considerably, and was held in high regard. This is a particularly sad loss and we extend our sincere sympathies to all relatives.

CATERING DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES.

A highly successful Cabaret Night was arranged at the Grosvenor House, Caversham, on November 6th, when the Arcadians, the popular concert party, gave items from their repertoire. Over three hundred experienced an enjoyable evening.

Charley Evans's band plays in the Large Hall every Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, when dancing is free. This is an innovation which is meeting with increasing favour, and it is hoped to arrange a series of Cabaret Nights in future.

On November 27th the Wokingham Bowling Club held their annual dinner at the Bush Hotel, Wokingham, when the Mayor and many of the leading local citizens were present. Mr. Kelly, Toni Cordini, Gordon Smith and Guy Graham provided musical numbers and sketches, which were cordially received.

On November 7th, at the Crown Hotel, Cirencester, a most successful evening was enjoyed by many. Mr. Kelly again was responsible for musical items and sketches.

Our Tenants are freely invited to take advantage of the facilities which are offered by the newly formed Catering Department, which is under the control of Mr. H. C. Davis, who has had extensive experience in catering for the public in every shape and form. No matter if you are organising a banquet at the Town Hall, considering the introduction of snacks or a luncheon service, or in anticipation of being suddenly called upon to cater for coach parties, and there is any doubt in your mind concerning technical details, do not hesitate to call upon Mr. H. C. Davis for assistance which will be given entirely without obligation.

CHALVEY WORKING MEN'S SOCIAL CLUB, SLOUGH.

NEW PREMISES.

The opening took place on 30th November, 1935, by Mr. R. S. Chapman, Secretary of the Club and Institute Union. In opening the club he congratulated the members upon their work, all done voluntarily. Mr. W. H. Pendrill supported him. Messrs. H. & G. Simonds were represented by Mr. H. W. Colson, who the Secretary referred to as a great friend of the club. In a short speech Mr. Chapman congratulated the club on the spirit of co-operation and loyalty among the members that had made the new premises possible. A presentation was made to two older members for work done in the club, and the evening ended with harmony.

LONGEVITY RECORD.

I see that Mrs. Caroline Merriott, who is believed to be the oldest woman in this country, celebrated her one hundred and tenth birthday this week. The old lady has a pint of beer every day.

ELIXIR.

Michael Ferguson, 106 year old veteran of Cunnahaggan, Co. Mayo, who claims to be Ireland's oldest inhabitant, attributes his longevity, in part, to a regular glass of whisky. His only vice is an aversion to tobacco.

KING'S CHRISTMAS PUDDING.

I see it reported that the recipe for the Empire Christmas pudding which appeared on the Royal table at Sandringham, on Christmas day included a gill of Cyprus brandy, a gill of Jamaica rum, and two quarts of old ale.

CORKAGE QUOTATIONS.

I was interested to receive a printed price list issued by a gentleman describing himself as a dealer in used champagne, wine and brandy corks. The champagne list is extensive, and a maximum corkage is quoted in connection with one of the lesser known brand, 75s. being offered for a dozen double-magnums. Six-and-threepence for one cork, even if it is a double-magnum, is no mean offer. Most amusing is the "Confidential Market Report" enclosed with the list. Corks for one brand are "no longer taken." In the case of another, the agent says he is unable to express an opinion, while another brand name carries the note "position is improving."

From Harper's Wine & Spirit Gazette.

MESSRS. H. & G. SIMONDS LTD. DARTS LEAGUE.

JOLLY BREWERS AND TANNERS ARMS STILL LEAD.

Jolly Brewers, though they had no match last week, and Tanners Arms still continue to rule the roost in the H. & G. Simonds Ltd. Darts League.

In Division A, Horse and Jockey, tieing with Merry Maidens while the Upside Down lost to Little Crown, regained their place as runners-up.

DIVISION "A."—Waggon and Horses (Twyford), 5, Bugle 3; Victoria Arms (Wokingham) 3, Anglers' Arms 5; Horncastle 7, Shades 1; World Turned Upside Down 3, Little Crown 5; Fisherman's Cottage 7, Blue Lion 1; Merry Maidens 4, Horse and Jockey 4; Jolly Brewers *v.* New Inn, not played.

DIVISION "B."—London Tavern 8, Station Hotel (Twyford) 0; Sailors' Home 4, Brewery Tap 4; Bell 5, Hop Leaf 3; Leopold Arms 0, Tanners Arms 8; Star 3, Crown 5; Bedford Arms 4, Victoria Arms (Binfield) 4; Brunswick Arms 2, Fox and Hounds (Tilehurst), 6.

DIVISION "A."

	P.	W.	D.	L.	P.
Jolly Brewers	11	10	1	0	21
Horse and Jockey	12	7	3	2	17
World Turned Upside Down ...	12	8	0	4	16
Merry Maidens	12	6	3	3	15
Blue Lion	12	6	2	4	14
Anglers' Arms	12	6	2	4	14
Victoria Arms, Wokingham ...	12	6	1	5	13
Little Crown	12	6	1	5	13
Three Brewers, Wokingham ...	11	6	0	5	12
Fisherman's Cottage	12	5	2	5	12
Waggon and Horses	12	5	2	5	12
Shades	12	4	2	6	10
Bugle	12	2	3	7	7
Horncastle	11	3	1	7	7
New Inn, Knowl Hill	10	1	1	8	3
Black Horse	11	0	0	11	0

The match Jolly Brewers *v.* New Inn is postponed. Result of Black Horse *v.* Three Brewers not to hand, so omitted from tables.

DIVISION "B."

	P.	W.	D.	L.	P.
Tanners Arms	12	11	1	0	23
Fox and Hounds, Tilehurst ...	12	9	2	1	20
London Tavern	12	8	2	2	18
Bell	12	7	2	3	16
Bedford Arms	12	6	2	4	14
Wynford Arms	11	6	1	4	13
Sailors' Home	12	5	3	4	13
Hop Leaf	12	5	1	6	11
Leopold Arms	12	4	2	6	10
Brewery Tap	12	2	5	5	9
Brunswick Arms	12	3	2	7	8
Star	12	3	2	7	8
Station Hotel	12	3	2	7	8
Victoria Arms, Binfield	12	3	2	7	8
Crown	12	2	2	8	6
Rising Sun, Wokingham	11	0	5	6	5

Result of Rising Sun *v.* Wynford Arms not to hand. Club Secretaries should note Rule 10.

SOCIAL CLUB.

H. & G. SIMONDS DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

Below we give the results of the Departmental Tournaments played up to Christmas. The games are still being contested with the usual keen interest, but team captains would welcome more players in their teams. These tournaments provide a very pleasant evening's entertainment.

DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

	Transport.			*Building Dept.*
Billiards	Nimmo, J.	1	*v.*	Ayling, A. 0
	Knott, J.	1	*v.*	Whitmore, W. 0
Dominoes	Hiscock, L.	1	*v.*	Maynard, P. 0
	Stacey, T.	1	*v.*	Tate, E. 0
Crib	Marsh, G.	0	*v.*	Ayling, A. 1
	Simpkins, A.	1	*v.*	Wells, N. 0
Shove Halfpenny	Stacey, T.	0	*v.*	Dobson, C. 1
	Simpkins, A.	1	*v.*	Maynard, P. 0
Darts	Pusey, A.	1	*v.*	Tate, E. 0
	Cannings, G.	0	*v.*	Sewell, W. 1
Shooting	Dainton, W.	1	*v.*	Chard, J. 0
	Wells, W.	0	*v.*	Sewell, W. 1
	8			4

	Maltings I.			*Maltings II.*
Billiards	Nunn, G.	1	*v.*	Henderson, M. 0
	Bird, S.	0	*v.*	Everett, J. 1
Dominoes	Bird, S.	1	*v.*	Vockins, B. 0
	Parker, E.	1	*v.*	Everett, A. J. 0
Crib	Streams, B.	0	*v.*	Henderson, M. 1
	Gilkerson, W.	0	*v.*	Everett, A. J. 1
Shove Halfpenny	Hodder, F.	0	*v.*	Vockins, B. 1
	Latham, C.	0	*v.*	Taylor, F. 1
Darts	Streams, J.	1	*v.*	Boyles, G. J. 0
	Gibson, H.	0	*v.*	Everett, J. 1
Shooting	Hodder, F.	1	*v.*	Lailey, G. 0
	Streams, B.	0	*v.*	Boyles, G. (junr.) 1
	5			7

	Cooperage and Scalds.			*Offices.*
Billiards	Griffiths, R.	1	*v.*	Moore, S. 0
	Weller, C.	0	*v.*	Broad, R. 1
Dominoes	Plank, H.	0	*v.*	Treacher, S. 1
	Howland, J.	0	*v.*	Davis, H. 1
Crib	Sparks, W.	1	*v.*	Shepherd, H. 0
	Stanton, A.	0	*v.*	Davis, H. 1
Shove Halfpenny	Kelly, G. (junr.)	0	*v.*	Clay, J. 1
	Cholwill, R.	1	*v.*	Cox, C. B. 0
Darts	Weight, A.	0	*v.*	Kent, T. 1
	Shipton, F.	1	*v.*	Saunders, V. 0
Shooting	Holmes, T.	1	*v.*	Osborne, H. 0
	Kelly, G. (junr.)	0	*v.*	Moore, S. 1
	5			7

	Maltings I.			*Rest.*
Billiards	Bird, S.	0	*v.*	Dalton, A. 1
	Nunn, G.	0	*v.*	Benford, L. 1
Dominoes	Bird, S.	0	*v.*	Comley, A. 1
	Gilkerson, W.	0	*v.*	Colman, F. 1
Crib	Streams, B.	0	*v.*	Clark, S. 1
	Gilkerson, W.	0	*v.*	Osborne, T. 1
Shove Halfpenny	Hodder, F.	1	*v.*	Comley, A. 0
	Heath, R.	1	*v.*	Lott, G. 0
Darts	Streams, J.	1	*v.*	Cross, F. 0
	Gibson, H.	0	*v.*	Andrews, C. 1
Shooting	Hodder, F.	1	*v.*	Prater, H. 0
	Streams, B.	0	*v.*	Dalton, A. 1
	4			8

	Maltings II.			*Transport.*
Billiards	Everett, J.	1	*v.*	Nimmo, J. 0
	Henderson, F.	0	*v.*	Knott, T. 1
Dominoes	Everett, A. J.	0	*v.*	Stacey, T. 1
	Day, T.	1	*v.*	Adey, F. 0
Crib	Everett, A. J.	0	*v.*	Cannings, G. 1
	Henderson, F.	0	*v.*	Gardner, F. 1
Shove Halfpenny	Taylor, F.	1	*v.*	Simpkins, W. 0
	Vockins, G.	1	*v.*	Stacey, T. 0
Darts	Everett, J.	0	*v.*	Pusey, A. 1
	Boyles, G.	0	*v.*	Cannings, G. 1
Shooting	Boyles, G.	½	*v.*	Rosum, C. ½
	Lailey, G.	0	*v.*	Dainton, W. 1
	4½			7½

	Cooperage and Scalds.			*Building Dept.*
Billiards	Griffiths, B.	1	*v.*	Chard, J. 0
	Weller, C.	1	*v.*	Whitmore, W. 0
Dominoes	Howland, J.	0	*v.*	Dobson, C. 1
	Cholwill, R.	0	*v.*	Mitchell, H. 1
Crib	Sparks, W.	1	*v.*	Wells, N. 0
	Stanton, A.	1	*v.*	Tate, E. 0
Shove Halfpenny	Cholwill, R.	1	*v.*	Dobson, C. 0
	Kelly, G. (junr.)	1	*v.*	Whitmore, W. 0
Darts	Weight, A.	1	*v.*	Sewell, W. 0
	Holmes, T.	0	*v.*	Tate, E. 1
Shooting	Holmes, T.	0	*v.*	Sewell, W. 1
	Kelly, G. (junr.)	0	*v.*	Chard, J. 1
	7			5

	Officers.			*Rest.*	
Billiards	Broad, R. ...	... 0 *v.*	Dalton, A.	... 1	
	Paice, R. ...	... 1 *v.*	Benford, L.	... 0	
Dominoes	Treacher, S.	... 0 *v.*	Osborne, T.	... 1	
	Bradford, W.	... 1 *v.*	Benford, J.	... 0	
Crib	Davis, H. ...	... 0 *v.*	Clark, S. ...	... 1	
	Treadgold, H.	... 0 *v.*	Lott, G. ...	... 1	
Shove Halfpenny ...	Cox, C. B. ...	... 0 *v.*	Pike, H. ...	... 1	
	Clay, J. ...	... 1 *v.*	Coleman, S.	... 0	
Darts	Saunders, V.	... 1 *v.*	Curtis, G. ...	... 0	
	Kent, T. ...	... 0 *v.*	Mileham, H.	... 1	
Shooting	Osborne, H.	... 1 *v.*	Croft, J. ...	... 0	
	Moore, S. ...	... 1 *v.*	Prater, H....	... 0	
		6		6	

PRESENT POSITION OF TEAMS.

	Played.	*Won.*	*Lost.*	*Drawn.*	*Points.*
Transport	24	15	8	1	15½
Rest	24	14	10	—	14
Offices	24	13	11	—	13
Cooperage	24	12	12	—	12
Maltings II	24	11	12	1	11½
Building	24	9	15	—	9
Maltings I	24	9	15	—	9

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREAT.

The treat given annually to the children of H. & G. Simonds Social Club members was held on Saturday, January 4th, at the Social Club, and went off with the usual gusto. About 150 children attended. Arriving at 3 p.m. they were provided with an excellent concert.

Mr. J. Maxwell was, as usual, in attendance and in his inimitable way kept the children continually amused. It is wonderful the way he has of handling this large family and he never appears to tire. Mr. Maxwell was supported by Mr. Pidgeon (both being amusingly attired), also Mr. Mann and Partner, who rendered some very clever items on their piano accordions; the two brothers Flatman, Messrs. Pugh, Cannings, Higgs and Reid also contributed to the programme. Mr. Charley Lailey once again undertook the duties of Father Christmas. Mrs. Fullbrook was the pianist and with many chorus songs and musical chairs a very pleasant afternoon was spent. The children then proceeded to do ample justice to a good tea until such times that not a corner was left for more.

During the afternoon sweets (kindly provided by Mr. C. Bennett) were handed round and after each child had received a gift from Father Christmas they were given an apple (the gift of Mr. F. C. Hawkes) also an orange (sent by Mr. A. W. C. Bowyer).

A splendid band of volunteers was present to give any assistance required, for which very many thanks are due.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

"Let's see," said the chatty man, "your brother went abroad on a fellowship, didn't he?"

"No," was the reply, "it was a cattle-ship."

* * * *

It was only a slip of the tongue, but it put an end to a lifelong friendship. She was asking after the health of the children and lisped: "How are the little pests?"

* * * *

A writer declares that photography is a good career. It is a business that develops quickly.

* * * *

"How sweet of you to back that horse in the 3.30 race because it had the same name as mine."

"It had the same habits, too. It got there half an hour late!"

* * * *

HE: "Did you know that we have a family skeleton?"

SHE: "Goodness, yes! The whole world has known since it first saw you in a bathing suit."

* * * *

"How long is it since you have been in a police court?"

"Twenty years, your worship."

"And where have you been since then?"

"In prison."

* * * *

A naturalist says the polar bear has nature's best winter coat. And the moths have many others.

* * * *

FROZEN!

"Was your husband cool when you told him there was a burglar in the house?" asked Mrs. Darnley.

"Cool!" replied Mrs. Cowley, "I should say he was cool! Why, his teeth chattered."

* * * *

GUARD: "Sorry, madam, but we have learned that the station where you intend to get off has been burned to the ground."

LADY: "That's all right; they'll probably have it rebuilt by the time this train gets there."

* * * *

The nationalist theory of some European governments is to promote increase in population to be slaughtered in a war to find room for the surplus population.

* * * *

"Our candidate," said the chairman, "is perfectly familiar with all the questions of the day."

"Maybe," declared an opponent, "but he doesn't know the answers."

* * * *

A very dignified and correct lady came upon some little boys bathing in a pond in their birthday suits. She was horrified.

"Little boys," she called, "isn't it against the law to bathe here without suits on?"

"Yes," replied a freckled urchin, "but Johnny's father's a policeman, so you can come in."

* * * *

When he sneaked in at three
With guilt in his eyes,
She asked him no questions—
She knew all the lies.

* * * *

ANGRY PATRON (leaving cinema): "I've never seen a worse picture in my life!"

COMMISSIONAIRE (overhearing the remark): "Ever 'ad yer photo taken?"

* * * *

JUDGE: "How do you know defendant was drunk?"

CONSTABLE: "Well, when they asked him to open the flower show, he asked if anyone had a corkscrew, and tried to get the show between his knees."

* * * *

The fellow with simple musical tastes said to his dinner partner: "I like that Turkish patrol, don't you?"

She replied: "We faind our car runs much bettaw on the English kaind."

* * * *

FRIEND (meeting Alf): "What are you going to call the new baby, Alf?"

ALF: "Hazel."

FRIEND: "What! You've got the whole calendar of saints and you're going to call her after a blinking nut!"

PRIEST (performing the marriage service): "Wilt thou take Mary Bingle here present for thy lawful wife?"

BRIDEGROOM: "I suppose I shall have to, but I'd rather have had her sister."

* * * *

TOMMY: "O, mother, our teacher is a saint. She is always praying."

MOTHER: "How do you mean?"

TOMMY: "Well, when she corrects my sums she keeps looking up to heaven and saying 'Holy Moses!'"

* * * *

Father X was examining the class in Bible history. "Can anyone tell me," he asked, "something very remarkable that Moses did?"

One bright young thing put up her hand. "Please, Father, he broke all the ten commandments at one go."

* * * *

HE (melodramatic): "If you do not forgive me, my love, I shall go immediately—never to return."

SHE: "All right. On your way out will you tell the cook that you will not be in for dinner?"

* * * *

HE (between the acts): "Just going out for a little fresh air, dear."

SHE: "A little draught you mean, I suppose."

* * * *

"Are you still engaged to that homely Smith girl?" said the inquisitive one.

"No, I'm not!"

"Good for you, old man. How did you ever get out of it?"

"Married her!"

* * * *

DINER: "Waiter, let me see, I ordered a tender loin steak here yesterday, didn't I?"

WAITER: "Yes, sir, you did. Will you have the same again to-day, sir?"

DINER: "Well, if nobody else is using it, I may as well."

* * * *

NEIGHBOUR: "Where's your brother Freddie?"

BOY: "He's in the house playing a duet. I finished first."

Pamela had been rather naughty, and when she went to bed her mother said : " When you say your prayers, be sure to ask God to make you a good girl to-morrow."

With an enquiring glance up into her mother's face, she asked : " Why, what's on to-morrow ? "

* * * *

Dorothy had been to hear the missionary telling of some of his experiences in Africa. " He said that the poor heathens were often hungry," she told them at home, " and when they beat on their tum-tums it could be heard for miles."

* * * *

HORRIFIED COLONEL (surprising burglar at his sideboard) : " Good heavens, man, you're drinking that port out of a claret glass ! "

* * * *

TRAGEDIAN : " I think it within my right to ask for real wine in the banqueting scene."

STAGE MANAGER : " Right, old man. And perhaps you'd like real poison in the death scene ? "

* * * *

An Englishman on a visit to Pekin dropped into a Chinese restaurant, and as he did not understand a word of Chinese ordered his meal by pointing to items on the menu. One dish pleased him very much, and he took it to be some very tastily prepared duck. When the waiter came along, the Englishman pointed to his plate and, elevating his eyebrows, said : " Quack, quack ? "

" Oh, no, sir," replied the waiter in very good English, " what you have just partaken of was puss, puss."

* * * *

A visitor called at a doctor's house. " Is your father at home, dear ? " he asked the doctor's small daughter.

" No, he's out giving an anaesthetic."

" An anaesthetic ! That's a big word. What does it mean ? "

" Three guineas," was the reply.

* * * *

HEAD CLERK : " I am sorry to hear of your partner's death. Would you like me to take his place ? "

SENIOR PARTNER : " Very much, if we can get the undertaker to arrange it."

* * * *

WAITRESS (to customer) : " An egg, sir ? Yes, sir. How would you like it ? "

CUSTOMER : " Well, if it is no bigger than the one I had yesterday, I'd like it as a tie pin ! "

* * * *

PROFIT AND LOSS.

" So you loved and lost, eh, old chap ? "

" On the contrary, I came out a winner."

" How was that ? "

" She returned my presents and accidentally put in some of another fellow's."

* * * *

" Would you—er—advise me to marry a beautiful girl or a sensible girl ? "

" I'm afraid you'll never be able to marry either, old man."

" Why not ? "

" Well, a beautiful girl could do better, and a sensible girl would know better."

* * * *

" I say, Jimmy, what do you think of a man who deliberately makes a girl blush ? "

" I think he's a genius ! "

* * * *

" I was so gratified, Miss Jones," said the young playwright, " to see that my work moved you to tears last night."

" Oh, Mr. Branson," said the young woman, with a sigh, " I was so sorry for you."

* * * *

WAITER : " These are the best eggs we've had for years."

CUSTOMER : " Well, bring me some you haven't had so long."

* * * *

" I expect you are getting a good fee, doctor, for attending young Archie Brown ? His father's very rich."

" Well, what about it ? "

" Well, I hope you won't forget that it was my boy, Sammy, who threw the brick at him."

* * * *

A little boy was balancing himself on his head. An old lady who knew him came by.

"Aren't you too young to do that? You are only six," she said.

"It's all right, missis," replied the boy, "I'm nine while I'm upside down."

* * * *

Bill Muffet said
His car couldn't skid;
This monument shows
That it could, and did.

* * * *

"Have you discovered a way to get money out of your husband?"

"Oh, yes. I threaten to go back to mother, and without a word he hands me the railway fare."

* * * *

COCKNEY CARETAKER (to tourist): "This 'ere 'ouse, sir, is where the famous Catherine of Harragon is said to 'ave been bitten by a mad dog."

TOURIST (admiring the architecture): "Tudor?"

COCKNEY CARETAKER: "Yes, sir, chewed 'er something 'orrible."

* * * *

The bank manager rang up Mr. Eikstein, and called his attention to the fact that he had overdrawn his account to the extent of £40.

"Vell, vot about it?" inquired Mr. Eikstein. "Vill you tell me vot my account vos at this time last year? Tell me that!"

The bank manager said he would enquire, and, after a short absence, returned to the phone and said: "I find that this time last year you had a balance in your favour of £400."

"Vell," replied Eikstein, "did I ring you up?"

* * * *

A dismal and slightly battered figure emerged from the police court.

"'Allo, Bill," said a bystander. "You look fed up."

"No wonder," responded Bill. "Life ain't 'arf 'ard, it ain't!"

"Wod yer mean?"

"Well, think o' this. The 'eavyweight champion of the world gets two 'undred thousand quid fer a fight, and I'm fined thirty bob fer doing the same thing."

"I want to be excused," said a worried-looking juryman, addressing the judge. "I owe a man ten pounds, and he is leaving to-day for a post abroad, to be gone some years. I want to catch him before he leaves home, and pay the ten pounds. It may be my last chance."

"You are excused," returned the judge, in icy tones. "I don't want anybody on the jury who can lie like that."

* * * *

VISITOR (at the surgery): "Doctor, if there is anything the matter with me, don't frighten me to death by giving it a long scientific name. Just tell me what it is in plain English."

DOCTOR: "Well, to be frank, you are lazy."

VISITOR: "Thank you, doctor. Now tell me the Latin or scientific name for it. I've got to report to the missus."

* * * *

A beggar called and I gave him twopence and a plate of soup."

"Did he eat the soup?"

"Yes."

"Then he earned the twopence."

* * * *

"In time of trial," inquired the speaker, "what brings us the greatest comfort?"

"An acquittal!" interrupted a man at the back of the hall.

* * * *

"Is Robinson's new dog a setter or a pointer?" asked Mrs. Jones.

"He's neither," replied her neighbour. "He's an upsetter and a disappointer."

* * * *

Once upon a time there were two Scotch pickpockets who always worked together. They invariably held each other's hands.

* * * *

He was being discharged after serving his full seven years and didn't care what happened.

"Now, my man," snarled the sergeant-major haughtily, "answer my questions smartly. What did you do for a living before you joined the army?"

"I was a clerk in an office," replied the private.

"Washing out the inkpots, I s'pose?" sneered the autocrat

"No, sir, we employed a retired sergeant-major for that job," replied the private sweetly.

CHIEF CLERK (to typist) : " Miss Fairwon, I would suggest that you do not write letters to your young man during office hours. Smith, Jones and Co. write to me that they have received notice of a shipment of love and kisses instead of the tar and axle grease they ordered."

* * * *

" My last maid was too fond of policemen. I hope I shan't have the same trouble with you."

" Oh, don't you worry, ma'am. I 'ates 'em. My young man's a burglar."

* * * *

The Ruri-decanal Conference was at lunch, and a discussion had arisen as to the duties of the laity in country parishes.

" The activities of the laywoman," said an authoritative voice, " must be definitely organised."

" What is a laywoman, precisely ? " someone asked.

The question was answered by the Rural Dean's sixteen-year-old daughter, who, breaking a long and brilliant silence, remarked : " A hen ! "

* * * *

BOOK AGENT (to Farmer) : " You ought to buy an encyclopedia now your boy is going to school."

FARMER : " Not on your life ! Let him walk, the same as I did ! "

* * * *

Two navvies, visiting a museum for the first time, pulled up in front of a statue of a Roman gladiator.

One of the arms of the statue was broken, the helmet was battered, and there were several scars on the face.

Underneath the statue was a brass plate with the word " Victory " inscribed on it.

" I say, Jack," said one of the navvies to the other, " if that chap won, I'd like to see the fellow who lost."

* * * *

A close-fisted farmer served a local house with three dozen eggs every week. One week he found that he had inadvertently sent one extra. Determined not to lose on the deal he went to the house. The husband admitted him.

The farmer stated his errand. The householder was amused, but the farmer was adamant.

" Surely we're not going to quarrel over a matter like that ? " said the householder. " Let's have a drink to settle it. What will you have ? "

" Egg and milk," said the farmer.

" What makes you think she doesn't like you ? "

" She told me she thought there was a fool in every family."

" Well, what of that ? "

" I had told her a few moments before that I was an only child."

* * * *

BEGGAR : " Kind lady, I was not always like this."

LADY : " No ! Last week it was your other arm that was missing."

* * * *

Taking an examination for entrance into the army, a young man was asked to define " military strategy."

Here is his answer : " Military strategy is when you don't let the enemy discover that you are out of ammunition, but just keep on firing."

* * * *

Nellie was saying her prayers. She surprised her mother with the ending sentence : " And please, God, make Rome the capital of Turkey."

" Why do you say that ? " asked her mother.

" Because that's what I put on my examination paper," answered Nellie.

WAR DEPARTMENT CONSTABULARY, BRAMLEY CAMP, BRAMLEY, HANTS.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL.

On 31st December, 1935, by kind permission of Lieut.-Colonel J. P. Earp, M.C., R.A.O.C., Chief Ordnance Officer, Bramley, Hants, the Bramley detachment of the War Department Constabulary gave a New Year's Eve Ball in the Garrison Theatre, Bramley Camp. The affair was well attended by a very representative company of some 250 guests, amongst whom were, to mention a few, Lieut.-Colonel, Mrs. and the Misses Earp, Lieut.-Colonel F. J. Powell, O.B.E., Major and Mrs. Shillington, the Rev. and Mrs. Greenstreet, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts (Civil Service), and all Officers and their wives of the Central Ordnance Depot, Bramley ; also we were glad to welcome amongst us once again ex-S.P.S. and Mrs. Bright. The Theatre was brilliantly decorated by the Committee, the W.D.C. cap badge and a scroll of all W.D.C. detachments being given prominence. Although the order was " dress optional " a large percentage attended in fancy dress, which contributed greatly to the carnival atmosphere.

An appropriate programme of dance music was splendidly played by the Band of the Royal Artillery, Aldershot (Mounted Section).

Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Scully and Mrs. Roberts kindly undertook the judging for the fancy dress prizes (ladies), and Lieut.-Colonel J. P. Earp, M.C., Lieut.-Colonel F. J. Powell, O.B.E., and Mr. Trevor Roberts (Civil Service) (gents), and after a most unenviable task, as quite a number of the dresses were wonderful, chose the following :—Best dressed lady, Mrs. Clark ; most original, Mrs. Peters ; best dressed gent, S.Q.M.S. Holyman ; most original, S.Q.M.S. Pollard, R.A.O.C. The verdict was enthusiastically received by the company, and Mrs. Earp kindly consented to present the prizes.

After a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Earp and the judges, the interval was taken for refreshments to be served, coffee, rolls, cakes, etc.

The second half of the programme commenced with the Grand March and Lancers, and it was good to see that the large hall was taxed to accommodate all who wished to dance this old-timer.

At 11.55 p.m. a special 1935 waltz was danced, and on the stroke of 12 midnight the M.C. (P.C. Clark), on behalf of Chief Inspector Handley and Officers of the War Department Constabulary, wished all a bright and prosperous New Year, followed immediately by all joining hands and singing " Auld Lang Syne." Dancing continued, ices and mince pies being served at intervals until 3 a.m., when the ball was brought to an end by all singing " God Save the King."

Chief Inspector Handley, Mrs. Handley and the Committee were simply smothered with congratulations and thanks for, as one and all seemed to vote the ball, " the best night ever in Bramley." Great credit must be given to the Committee for their admirable decorations, the M.C.'s for their programme and their conducting of the ball, the Bar Committee for their untiring work in the bars, and last but by no means least, the Ladies Committee for their catering. All the members of the above combined so well together that success seemed sure from the outset.

The guests all seemed to have one common object—to get as much life and happiness out of what was left of 1935 as it was possible ; and with the aid of the War Department Constabulary, Bramley, they succeeded.

Committee : S.P.S. Harvey (President), P.C. Clark (M.C.), P.C. Neill, P.C. Wringe, P.C. Smith, Firemen Finnie and Claridge ; (Ladies) : Mrs. Handley, Mrs. Harvey.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Friendships are the flowers of joy that grow unbidden in the pathway of our lives.

We must win, not woo our crowns.

Gazing at oneself in a mirror is not an indication of vanity, declares a professor. With some people it might be a penance.

Just as your own eyes watch others, so others are watching you.

It is difficult to say who is the guiltier, he who retails scandal or he who listens to it.

We must make environment instead of letting environment make us.

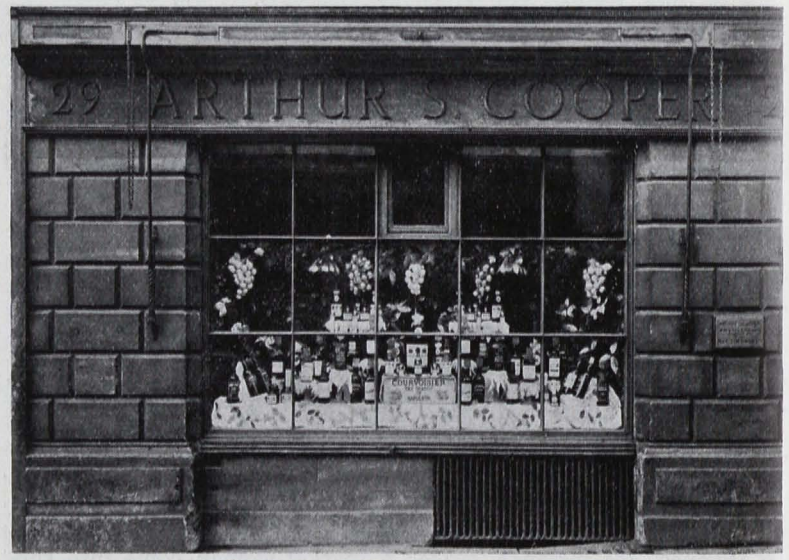
Nothing is so easy and inviting as the retort of abuse and sarcasm ; but it is a paltry and an unprofitable contest. It is the alternative of a morbid mind, fretted into petulance, rather than warmed into indignation.—*Washington Irving.*

You will find, on fairly thinking of it, that it is his restraint which is honourable in man, not his liberty ; and, what is more, it is restraint which is honourable even in the lower animals. A butterfly is much more free than a bee ; but you honour the bee more, just because it is subject to certain laws which fit it for orderly function in bee society . . . The sun has no liberty ; a dead leaf has much. The dust of which you are formed has no liberty. Its liberty will come—with its corruption.—*Ruskin, "Two Paths."*

We English have many false ideas about reverence : we should be shocked, for instance, to see a market-woman come into the church with a basket of eggs on her arm : we think it more reverent to lock her out till Sunday, and to surround the church with respectability of iron railings and defend it with pacing inhabitation of beadles. I believe this to be *ir*reverence ; and that it is more

truly reverent when the market-woman, hot and hurried at six in the morning, her head much confused with calculations of the probable price of eggs, can nevertheless get within the church porch, and church aisle, and church chancel, lay the basket down on the very steps of the altar, and receive thereat so much help and hope as may serve her for the day's work.—*Ruskin.*

'Tis cheap and easy to destroy. There is not a joyful boy or an innocent girl buoyant with fine purposes of duty, in all the street full of eager and rosy faces, but a cynic can chill and dishearten with a single word. Yes, this is easy; but to help the young soul, add energy, inspire hope and blow the coals into a useful flame, to redeem defeat by new thought, by firm action, that is not easy, that is the work of divine men.—*Emerson.*



Special Window Display at Messrs. A. S. Cooper, 29, Market Place, Reading, featuring Courvoisier's Brandy.

BRANCHES.

BRIGHTON.

We have been pleased to welcome at Preston Barracks the 32nd Field Brigade, R.A., from Deepcut, and to make the acquaintance of R.S.M. J. Shields, D.C.M. and the senior N.C.O.'s. The Brigade have not been long in making friends, and have already entered into the sporting events of the town.

This is the season of club dinners, and on the 9th December the Goring-by-Sea Conservative Club held their annual dinner, when over 200 members and their friends attended. Mr. G. Moulson, the President, was in the chair, and was supported by Vice-Presidents Alderman Brackley and Mr. Seymour. Mr. Penlerick was present representing the Firm. Mr. Moulson spoke of the wonderful progress the club had made during the past year, and with the enormous increase of the population of outer Worthing (reaching nearly 55,000) intimated that the committee were contemplating extending the club's accommodation, which had been rendered insufficient owing to their increased membership, though the club had only been in existence since 1927.

A most enjoyable entertainment was given by the "Old Contemptibles," a war time concert party. All the fair sex parts were taken by men, and very fine "girls" they made; in fact we hear that one popular member lost a 10/- bet on "When is a lady not a lady?" We should like also to hear how a prominent member fared when he sent his card up to the "lady" pianist, asking for an appointment after the show.

Congratulations are due to Mr. Punter (Secretary) and Mrs. Palmer (Stewardess) for the excellent way the catering arrangements were carried out.

On Wednesday, the 11th December, the members of the West Tarring Working Men's Club congregated at the club premises for their first dinner. Nearly 300 assembled, and the tables in the billiards room were taken down to provide accommodation, and even then the diners had to be catered for in two parties. Mr. E. W. Sparks, the Club President, was in the chair and was strongly supported. Mr. Penlerick proposed the toast of the Club, observing that it started in a cottage in 1907, and by the gradual acquisition of adjoining properties, the club has increased to its present very satisfactory condition, which has not been attained without hard work by a succession of business-like chairmen and interested committee men, and the present chairman must feel proud of the present position.

In reply, Mr. Sparks, who mentioned that he had been a member since 1908, said how much he appreciated the honour of being their President, and paid a deserved tribute to the present Secretary, Mr. A. J. Stone. Incidentally, the Firm have had the pleasure of supplying the club since its inception.

THE WOKINGHAM CARNIVAL DART TOURNAMENT.

The above dart tournament was held at The Drill Hall, Wokingham, on Wednesday, December 4th, when 32 teams, each composed of 7 players, competed for a handsome challenge cup presented by Alderman A. E. Priest.

After very keen and sporting games, one of the teams entered by The Victoria Arms, a house of the Hop Leaf Firm, won their way to the final and were successful in winning the cup, which was presented to the Captain (Mr. J. Withers) by the donor. A replica, to be retained by the house, was also presented, together with gold-centred medals to each member of the team. A happy after function was held at The Victoria Arms the following Monday evening when, at the invitation of the landlord and his good lady, Mr. and Mrs. Hiscock, the teams competing from the house, together with many friends, celebrated the victory. During a pause in the evening, the Carnival Hon. Secretary (Councillor David Goddard) extended to the winners the hearty congratulations of the Carnival Committee, and the best wishes of all present to the host and hostess, through whose guidance the team had prepared for the event. The toast thus proposed was received with acclamation.

In reply, Mr. Hiscock thanked the company for their hearty acceptance of the toast and wished the tournament every success in the future.

This is the fourth tournament held, and the first time that a house of Messrs. Simonds had been successful. The sum of £60 has been handed to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and other charities from these events.

The management of Messrs. Simonds kindly forwarded substantial refreshments for those participating in these celebrations and were accordingly thanked by those enjoying the same.

Winning Team—(standing) G. Brant, J. Gale, N. Clark, G. Reevil, (sitting) D. Bacon, J. Withers (capt), A. Cox.

PORTSMOUTH.

At the annual dinner of the Petersfield and District Licensed Victuallers Association, held this year at Grayshott, Hindhead, one of the speakers exclaimed : " It puzzles me that to get a licensed house you have to have references which would get you into Heaven itself." Mr. H. Twine was in the chair and mentioned the fine services of Mr. F. De Carte, who had been their Secretary since the inception of the Association until last year. He also welcomed Mr. Lever, their representative of the trade in London.

A new order states that except in emergency, R.A.F. aircraft are not to use Eastleigh aerodrome (Southampton airport) without obtaining previous permission from the Officer Commanding the Station. This restriction does not apply to Fleet Air Arm Squadrons based there. All pilots are to observe the civil flying regulations in force at airports. Eastleigh became an R.A.F. station in addition to its civil use in October, when accommodation was made available there for four Fleet Air Arm Squadrons.

The annual cross-country run of the 1st Bn. the Rifle Brigade was this year held over the four and a half miles course. Lieut.-Col. O. C. Downes, the Commanding Officer, dispatched the runners, each of the five companies being represented by 15, of which 12 were to count in the team contest. Lieut. P. Pearson of "A" Company was first home in 19 mins. 52 secs., closely followed by Bandsman Crookes (H.Q.) and the others followed in rapid succession as follows:—*3rd*, Rifleman Barry (H.Q.); *4th*, Boy Newcombe (H.Q.); *5th*, Rifleman Smith ("C" Coy.); *6th*, Rifleman Smith (H.Q.); *7th*, Rifleman Fackley ("A" Coy.); *8th*, Rifleman Findleper ("I"); *9th*, Rifleman Warner (H.Q.); *10th*, Rifleman Loxton (H.Q.); *11th*, Bugler Brookes (H.Q.); *12th*, A/Cpl. Clarke (H.Q.). The team contest was won by H.Q. with 123 points, "I" Company being second with 333 points. The general arrangements were by Lieut. The Hon. H. D. G. Prittic, and the R.S.M., Mr. G. Denyer, directed the affairs at the finishing post. "C," "B" and "A" Companies with 467, 493 and 519 points respectively followed in that order. The event was brought to a close with cheers for the Commanding Officer, R.S.M. Denyer giving the lead.

The following story is from the "Church News" in the *St. Vincent Magazine*, and is to the effect that a verger was given the task of delivering notes to every house in the parish, and in doing so "Partook not wisely but too well." In this condition he was questioned by the vicar, and he pleaded that at every house he called at he was given a drink. "But surely" queried the vicar, "everyone doesn't give you a drink, are there no teetotalers in the parish." "Yes," replied the verger sagely wagging his head, "plenty of them, but I sent theirs by post."

At the annual branch dinner of the British Legion at Emsworth, Mr. W. Corfield, in proposing the toast of the British Legion, said that four years ago the local branch was in a very bad state, but Capt. Kimm then took the matter in hand, with the result that it had never been more financially sound than it was at present, thanks to Capt. Kimm, officers and secretaries and the committees. The branch could hold its head up as it owed no man a penny. Councillor J. L. Homer (President of the Branch) presided, and amongst others present was Brig.-Gen. Hare (President Southbourne Branch). Mr. P. C. Catton submitted the toast of "The President." This was the third year of Colonel Homer's occupation of the presidential chair and during those years he had shown that interest in the affairs of the branch which was characteristic of his interest in all the amenities of the town with which he was associated. Of his tact as an administrator, ample proof had been given during the past year. It was with great pleasure that he (Mr. Catton) asked them to drink to the health of the President. This was endorsed with musical honours. Colonel Homer's response concluded the evening and a very happy party.

Colonel E. D. H. Tollemache, D.S.O., M.C. has been appointed Commander of the 128th Hampshire Infantry Brigade Territorial Army, with effect from March 1st, 1936. He succeeds Colonel H. G. F. Frisby and is the General Staff Officer with the 1st Division at Aldershot, and commanded the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. He served on the Western Front, at the Dardanelles, and on the War Office and Sandhurst Staffs. He was wounded, mentioned in dispatches and decorated.

BRISTOL.

The Jacob Street Brewery, which is now a nine-months-old addition to the Hop Leaf family is, thanks to sound parental control and careful nursing, getting over its teething period very well, and with the introduction of a progressive hygienic and dietetic system, should ere long be showing those sturdy symptoms of returning health which are characteristic of the name it now bears.

The year just closed was perhaps for us the most difficult in our time, but from its teachings we are hopeful of building up a permanent edifice which in course of time will justify the great responsibilities entrusted to our care.

The City of Bristol in recent years can have had few more interesting or pleasing commercial gatherings than that which took place at the Grand Hotel, Broad Street, on Tuesday, December 3rd, when eighty of our Bristol and Bath tenants responded to the gracious invitation of the Company's Directors to lunch with them.

With Commander H. D. Simonds (Chairman) soon putting everyone at their ease, and Mr. F. A. Simonds and Mr. L. A. Simonds moving freely among their guests during the short friendly preliminary, the company were soon a happy family and took their places at table as such. Mr. H. W. Griffin supported his Co-Directors, and we were favoured with the presence of Mr. Chas. Bennett (Estate Dept.) and Mr. A. G. Richardson (Chief Accountant) from Reading.

Members of the Bristol staff present were Mr. F. W. Gleed (Secretary), Mr. H. H. Robertson, Mr. A. W. Bold, Mr. F. Wilkinson, Mr. A. G. Strading, Mr. E. G. Grimes and Mr. J. H. Law.

We missed Major Ashby's cheery presence, and trust he has by now fully recovered from his recent ill-health.

An excellent luncheon was served to which all proceeded to do justice, as well as to those Simonds' beverages which have now become so popular a feature throughout Gloucester and Somerset.

After the loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the Chairman proposed the health of "Our Tenants," and in the course of an eventful speech which will not soon be forgotten, said "The history of Bristol has always shown that enterprise in commerce, conducted with proper wisdom and foresight, would earn its own reward. The tenants of the Company by loyalty and energy could help them to build up another one," and he felt quite sure that "everyone would endeavour to do their utmost." His "We are out to help you, and I know you all fully realise that in your prosperity is bound up the prosperity of the Company," was a fitting conclusion to this most cordially given toast, the sincerity of which was appreciated by all concerned.

Mr. L. A. Simonds, by reason of his already frequent calls at Bristol and Bath houses and who, therefore, had the advantage of knowing many of the tenants personally, said he "was immensely pleased with the happy note struck amongst them," and went on to explain how "every tenant would benefit by the experience and organisation of the parent Company. The reputation of Simonds is a great one," he added, "and one which was jealously guarded. As yet, perhaps, it was only a fresh name in Bristol, but it had come to stay." And he ended, "It is up to each one of you to help in putting it still more on the map."

Mr. W. T. Hurford and Mr. A. L. Purnell suitably responded on behalf of the tenants and paid tribute to the quality of Hop Leaf beers, and the enhanced trade it had brought to their houses. They tendered the sincere thanks of all for the opportunity of attending so helpful and enjoyable a function, and for the kindly thought of the Directors which made it possible.

The local Director's (Mr. H. W. Griffin) health was proposed by Mr. F. A. Simonds (Managing Director), who also spoke in appreciative terms of the staff co-operation of the old Company, and how it was helping to make the merger the full success it was going to be. With Mr. Griffin's guidance he felt "its progress was

assured." Also the knowledge introduced into the production of Hop Leaf beverages at the Jacob Street Brewery would prove of lasting success, and enable them to fully maintain the high standard of local brewing products.

The Simonds "Corridor" which now extended from London to Cornwall afforded him "the greatest satisfaction, and although it was inevitable, in the course of time, that smaller breweries would be absorbed into the larger ones—in the case of Bristol—both Simonds and Rogers beers would be available for customers who required them." He felt "that nothing but success could result from the fusion of the two interests."

Mr. H. W. Griffin, in reply, said "We all ought to really congratulate ourselves on now belonging to one of the oldest and biggest brewers in England." The passing of the old Firm they might regret, but times change, and in being linked up with Simonds they were very fortunate. He asked all tenants to support the newly constituted Company to the full. Their motto should be "Loyalty and Service." Musical honours were accorded him by all present, and the health of the Board toasted from every corner of the room, and a happy and helpful gathering was brought to an end.

HOP LEAF TABLE SKITTLE LEAGUE.

This competition is producing a keen fight this year, as can be seen by the following league table :—

	P.	*W.*	*L.*	*Pts.*
Globe and Foresters ...	7	5	2	10
Lord Chancellor	7	5	2	10
Paxton Arms	7	5	2	10
Wheatsheaf	7	4	3	8
Botany Tavern	7	3	4	6
George and Dragon ...	7	3	4	6
Prince of Wales	7	3	4	6
Black Horse	6	2	4	4
Punch Bowl	6	2	4	4
Hit or Miss	7	2	5	4

With the knock-out cup-ties also on the move, the game in Bristol houses is shewing distinct signs of a new lease of life. A neck and neck struggle is taking place for league honours, and with many old campaigners in each team, the issue is likely to be in doubt until the final games. If a dead heat does happen, one can visualise the "House Full" notice being displayed when the decider is due to take place, especially if the Easton Road brigade are interested.

SIMONDS BEER

is

SUPER B

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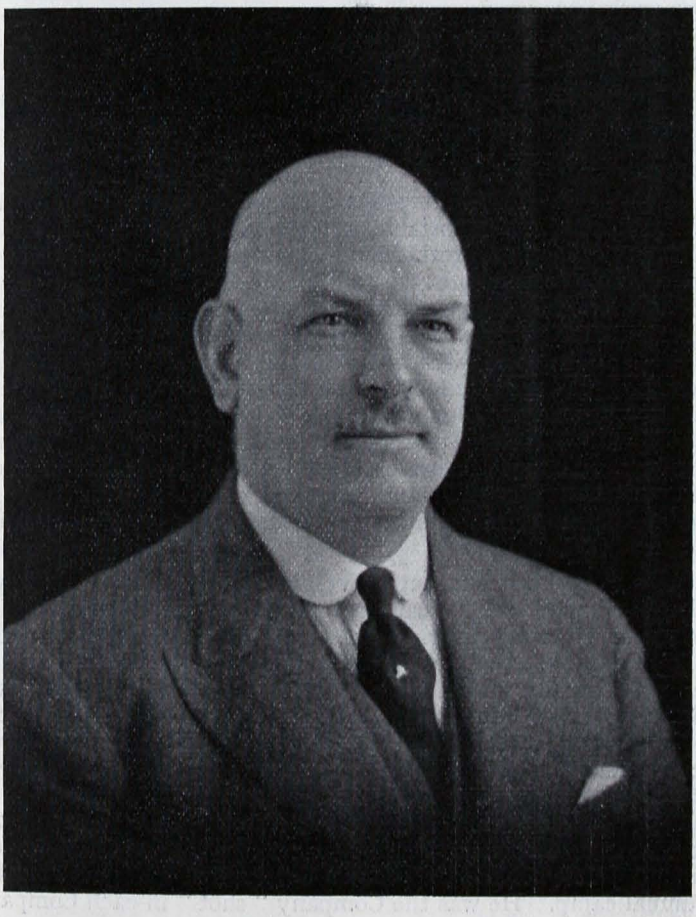

MR. S. J. MOORE.