

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

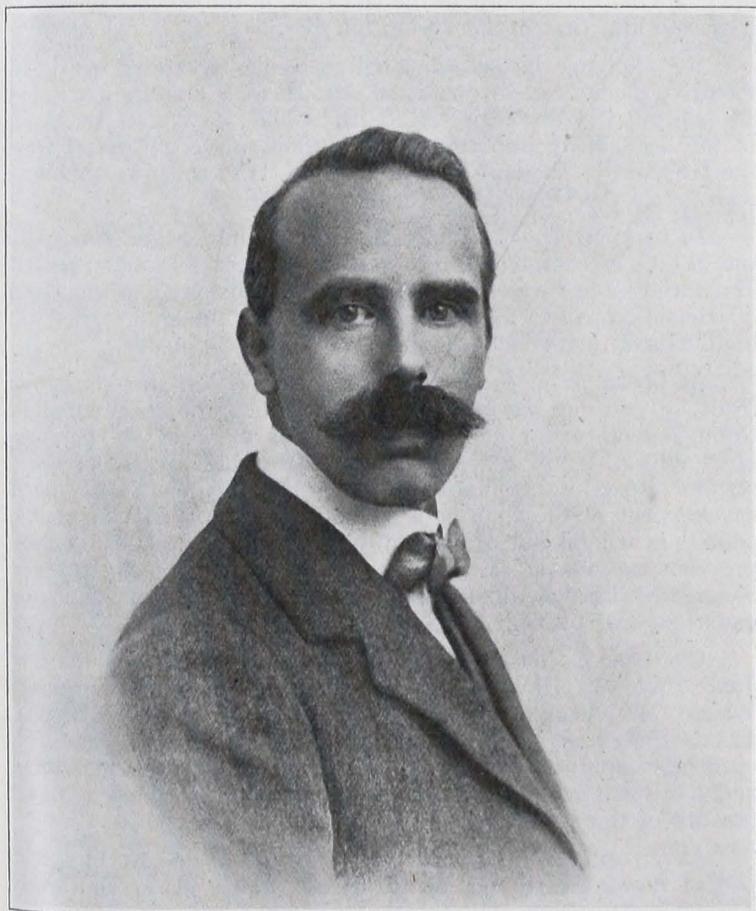
The Monthly Journal of H. & G. SIMONDS, Ltd.

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. III.

MARCH, 1929.

No. 6.



MR. FRANCIS C. HAWKES.

Mr. FRANCIS C. HAWKES.

The subject of our frontispiece this month is Mr. F. C. Hawkes, who joined the Staff of the Home Department of the Brewery, Reading, in the year 1900. A native of Reading, whose family have very old associations with the Town, Mr. Hawkes has spent the whole of his business career in this ancient Borough, where he is widely known and respected.

Mr. Hawkes' early work on the Firm revealed ability above the ordinary and it soon became evident that he was destined to hold high office, by reason of the fact that, in the absence of seniors, it was to him that matters were referred.

By applying himself devotedly to his work, in which his retentive memory greatly assisted, Mr. Hawkes gradually acquired an all-round knowledge of routine and data, so necessary to the head of an important and administrative office and when the late Mr. J. Suddaby retired in June, 1917, he was appointed manager of the Home Department.

In 1915, Mr. Hawkes joined the War Volunteers and eventually was N.C.O. in charge of the Earley detachment. Later, when the Territorial Cadets were organised, he was transferred to the Headquarters Company. He was appointed Captain and carried out his duties with distinction.

As Chairman of the Brewery Social Club, Mr. Hawkes is ever ready to give his services in the varied and numerous functions throughout the year and is very popular amongst all members. His habitual kindly and considerate nature has earned for him a certain respectful allegiance which has been a great factor in the development of the Club as a social institution. His manner of address is reminiscent of the old-world courtesy, which is none to prevalent nowadays. Mr. Hawkes is also Chairman of the Brewery Savings Association which has proved such a flourishing institution under the management of its able officers.

On the occasion of the Royal visit to the Club on the 25th June, 1926, Mr. Hawkes was presented to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. He has given the greatest encouragement to the Brewery Tennis Club and is himself a keen exponent of the game. In outdoor occupations, Mr. Hawkes also indulges in Golf and Motoring, and has spent many Summer holidays in touring the length and breadth of the country.

As an amateur gardener, he takes great delight in raising perfect flowers, rare and beautiful roses being his special study. Throughout the flowering seasons he is rarely without an excellent specimen of gardening craft in his buttonhole.

EDITORIAL.

MR. ERIC'S ILLNESS.

Our deep concern for the welfare of our Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds, who has been critically ill with influenza and pneumonia, has been alleviated by better news at the time of going to press. Mr. Eric, as he is affectionately known, has the sincerest wishes of all for a speedy return to good health and vigour. Our solicitude also goes out to Mrs. F. A. Simonds in the anxious days through which she has passed. In the struggle against the enervating effects of the illness, Mr. Eric may rest content in the knowledge that the direction of affairs at the Brewery is being maintained at the customary high level by the redoubled efforts of his co-Directors and heads of departments.

At the great Conservative meeting held in the Large Town Hall on February 22nd, a telegram was read from Mrs. Simonds stating that Mr. Eric was much better. No other statement throughout the meeting met with such heartfelt applause—it was a striking testimony to the wonderful popularity which Mr. Eric enjoys.

BARGES DELAYED BY ICE.

The spell of arctic weather experienced during the middle of the month was responsible for delays to the barges arriving from London Docks with empty casks from overseas and also held up exports owing to the canal and river being frozen. Power Barges which endeavoured to break through were unable to do so on account of the thickness of the ice and had to wait for a partial thaw before they could proceed.

!!!

Two cisterns and two tanks containing 160 gallons of water burst on Tuesday evening at Palmer Hall, West Street, Reading, the headquarters of the Reading Temperance Society!!!

MOTOR LAUNCH'S ATTRACTIVE NAME.

After fishing on Saturday afternoon I called at Keel's boat-houses and there I saw Mr. Rosum, who works at the Brewery, putting the finishing touches to his motor launch. The colours are in excellent taste and the little craft certainly has a very attractive appearance. Excellent *taste*, too, is shown in the name of the boat for it is christened "More S.B." It will create quite a sensation as it passes up and down the river in the thirsty summer weather. Still more people will be exclaiming "More S.B.!"

FREE—AND SOBER.

"Nothing," said Macaulay, "is so galling as a paternal or meddling Government which tells the nation what to eat—and drink." "Closing hours" are unknown abroad, and Macaulay is careful to note that "the natives of wine countries are invariably sober." "I would rather," said a famous archbishop, "see England free than sober." The nation is determined to be free—and sober.

POOR MAN'S DRINK.

The Rev. A. C. Schofield, vicar of Brent Knoll, Somerset, writing to Axbridge licensing justices in support of an application by a Brent Knoll beerhouse keeper for a licence to sell spirits, stated:—

The cause of genuine temperance is best served not by the restriction of reasonable liberty, but by the imposition of suitable penalties where such liberty is abused.

Justice suggests that the man who cannot afford to buy alcoholic refreshment in bulk should be placed in a position of equality with his wealthier neighbours and be able to enjoy his supper beer or tot of whisky at home.

The application was granted.

A GOOD IDEA.

A gentleman was being conducted through the cellars of some well known stores the other day and when he came to the port his guide said: "This bin of vintage port has just been ordered by a doctor. It will be laid down for his year-old son, to be claimed on his coming of age."

It is a nice, old-world way of celebrating an important event and others might do worse than follow the good doctor's example.

DYED FLOWERS.

A discussion concerning dyed flowers is taking place in the London Press. But who on earth wants natural flowers dyed? Who wants to see them grown in rows, or squares, or circles? Or in patterns? Or cut and arranged in a bowl as if they were Christmas paper decorations? There is beauty in a field of poppies, a copse of bluebells, or in that delightful medley we call an old English border. But flowers tamed, arranged, or patterned—it is as repulsive a sight as is a disciplined lion.

THE LATE MR. BAILEY.

"Upon every occasion be sure to make a conscience of what you do or say," wrote Thomas à Kempis. And that certainly is what our departed friend, Mr. Bailey, did. It was very gratifying to see so many of his colleagues at the Brewery present at the funeral to pay their last tributes of respect. It was pleasing, too, to see so many beautiful floral tributes—as fragrant as his memory. Mr. Bailey leaves behind a fine example of work well done, an example which we should all strive to emulate. He led an exemplary life and was a devoted husband and an ideal father and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the bereaved. By the way, Mr. Bailey was a great admirer of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE and quite recently he said to me "I doubt if anything could be finer"—and what Mr. Bailey said he sincerely meant.

WET AND WHIMSICAL.

A little boy was sliding on a pond not many miles from Reading. He ventured on some thin ice which gave way. The water was very shallow but he got very wet. He was advised by his elders to go home at once but seemed disinclined to do so. The reason was not far to seek when he exclaimed, "but you know I can't very well tell Dad and Mum that I've been caught in the rain—because it hasn't been raining!" He was, however, soon prevailed upon to go home and I am sure his parents were not too hard on him, knowing that boys will be boys.

A POPULAR FEATURE.

The photograph of the Reading Football Club's Cup-tie Team, published with last month's GAZETTE, proved a very popular feature. The photograph appears on the walls of many Clubs and other institutions. The issue was promptly sold out and many readers were again asking for more.

THE OLD MAN'S HOPE.

I went for a walk in the country on Sunday, February 17th, and enjoyed the wonderful sunshine, as I hope everybody else did. I got into conversation with an agricultural labourer. He was bent with age and was just recovering from an attack of the 'flu. I remarked upon the warmth of the sun and the old man replied, forgetting *his* need of it, "Yes, and won't our King be able to just 'bathe' in it. I only hope he will be spared to us for many a year yet."

He raised his hat as he spoke.

A little incident? Yes, but it means much.

NO HIGHER PRAISE.

A German writer of to-day describing a prominent Englishman says "he has always been true to himself." There can be no higher praise than that for anybody.

To be always sincere, always straightforward, not to "affect a virtue though we have it not," not to follow the crowd and accept conventional views, but to be ourselves under all circumstances—that is greatness.

"In all my works," said Goethe, "I have never shammed." He was proud of that, and he had the right to be.

He would not have said that in his life he had never shammed. How many of us could say that? How many of us are true to ourselves always?

Only the great—in their lives as well as in their works, in their hearts not less than in their brains.

COOT CALLS AT THE BREWERY.

Evidently getting tired of water a coot visited the Brewery on Sunday and, it is stated, said to Mr. Comley "coot you let me have a drink of XXXXX to keep the cold out?" Well, the bird wandered into Bridge Street, called at Mr. Shepherd's door but, getting no reply, went as far as the Bear Inn. Then it flew back to the Brewery and afterwards wandered up Fobney Street. Meanwhile, Mr. Comley had been chasing the coot which he at length captured. He took the bird home, placed it in a rabbit hutch and gave it "bushels of food," but he only received "pecks" in return, as the marks on his hand clearly indicate.

SUBJECT OF MUCH INTEREST.

The capture took place on Sunday, February 17th and on the following Thursday Mr. Comley brought the bird back to the Brewery and gave it its liberty. The coot swam across to the ice which covered the water near Mill Lane and here it was the subject of much interest to the passers-by. People gave it all sorts of names and I heard one young man declare, in all seriousness, that it was a cormorant! The coot is very similar to a moorhen, its chief characteristic being a naked white patch on the forehead. Coots are common on the Thames and a score or more can generally be seen at The Fisheries, between Caversham Bridge and Keel's boathouse.

THE BUSY BEE.

We are assured by historians that the making of an alcoholic drink from honey dates from very early times, says *The Licensing World*. This liquid was called *mead* by our Anglo-Saxon ancestors. Now we have it on the authority of indisputable scientific fact that the bee extracts alcoholic nectar from the flower to make honey—another example of Nature's working in cycles. Science abounds with such examples. Let us twang the lyre to the tune of Dr. Watts's famous hymn (1928 edition, revised and brought up to date):—

THE BUSY BEE.

How doth the little busy bee
Improve the shining hour?
By quaffing stimulation from
The alcoholic flower.

How skilfully he draws it up
Without the least instruction,
Because he likes it, and he has
Such splendid powers of suction.

A bona-fide traveller,
By no restrictions curst, he
Can always call and have a drink
Whenever he feels thirsty.

Oh, happy little busy bee,
How fortunate his fate is,
For—different from you and me—
He gets refreshment gratis.

HALF FOR THE REVENUE.

"It was said that 300 millions were spent in this country on alcoholic refreshment, but it had also to be borne in mind that half of that sum went to the Revenue in direct taxation," says Mr. Allan S. Belsher. He adds, "Considering that the 300 millions were spread over the entire population of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, the amount was small indeed, especially when it was known that beer was part of man's daily food. He would defy any teetotal speaker or writer to prove to him that the country would be any better, morally, socially, intellectually, or commercially, than now without the licensed Trade."

A GOOD CLOTHES LINE.

"Well-dressed gentlemen" should have twenty suits, eight overcoats, twelve hats, and twenty-four pairs of boots and shoes, according to the fashion experts of the National Association of Merchant Tailors, an American body.

And yet some of *us* manage on a little less, don't we!

Royal Warrant for H. & G. Simonds Ltd.

A memorable day in the firm's history was Thursday, February 21st, when the Royal Warrant appointing the firm Brewers to His Majesty the King arrived, signed by the Lord Chamberlain.

This signal honour conferred on the firm will be a treasured memory to the present Directorate, and the staff will also be proud of this eloquent testimony to the excellence of the firm's products.

We offer our congratulations to the Directors.

MRS. MORGAN MARRIED.

HAPPY PARTY AT THE DUKE'S HEAD.

There was a large attendance at St. Laurence's Church on the occasion of the wedding of Mrs. Morgan, widow of Mr. W. J. Morgan, of the Duke's Head, Broad Street, Reading, to Mr. W. Luxton, of Devon. Mrs. Morgan has made numerous friends in Reading and her husband is already also very popular. After the ceremony, many guests assembled at the Duke's Head where they were most hospitably entertained. After a bountiful "breakfast," the company repaired to the spacious room on the second floor which is capable of seating a hundred persons and which is an ideal resort for such occasions. Here there was dancing, music and refreshments, the celebrations being continued until a late hour, or rather until early in the morning. Mr. Constable, the present landlord of the Duke's Head, and his good wife, did everything in their power to make everyone happy and certainly succeeded in an eminent degree.

MESSRS. H. & G. SIMONDS LTD. RETAILERS' SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd. Retailers' Society was held at The Duke's Head Hotel, Broad Street, Reading, on Tuesday, February 5th.

Mr. C. B. Duguid (President), presiding, said he was pleased to welcome so many members of the Trade, and to inform them that the Society was still progressing satisfactorily. Owing to the activities of the committee a record membership had been enrolled. During the year the committee had dealt with several complaints from tenants, and through the Society's intervention these had been settled satisfactorily. They had also had interviews on very important matters with their Firm, on business, to the benefit of all concerned. It was with regret that a great loss to their Society had been sustained through the death of several of its valued members. In March and December, dances were held at Olympia, and were a pronounced success, but he was sorry to say that the annual general outing did not prove so satisfactory, and he urged the members present to make sure of the next one.

The company was then honoured by a visit from Mr. Shea-Simonds, Director of the Firm, who spoke in high terms of the Society and the work it was doing.

His special duty, however, was to present the retiring President (Mr. C. B. Duguid) with the first Jewel of the Society since it was founded in March, 1909.

After an elegant speech from Mr. Shea-Simonds, the presentation took place amid great applause.

Mr. C. B. Duguid, responding, thanked Mr. Shea-Simonds for his attendance and also his kind words and asked that a vote of thanks to him should be recorded in the Minutes.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—*President*, Mr. W. Pearce; *Vice-President*, Mr. A. Wheeler; *Treasurer*, Mr. F. Bargery; *Secretary*, Mr. J. T. Adams; *Assistant Secretary*, Mr. A. Froome; *Auditors*, Mr. W. H. Earles and Mr. A. Wells; *Committee*, Messrs. C. B. Duguid, T. Lawrence, H. Smart, R. Bryant, G. Warner, H. Hazell, H. T. Britton, G. H. Davies, L. Duguid, G. Lawrence, H. Tucker, E. Benger, H. Pennell, W. Constable, Blake, Perrin, Sweetman, Arlett, and Moorcock.

PUBLIC HOUSE HOURS.

READING MAGISTRATES REFUSE TO GRANT EXTENSION.

THE TOWN'S SOBRIETY.

At the Reading Brewster Sessions held in the Reading Police Court on February 7th, the magistrates refused to grant an application that public houses in Reading should be open until 10.30 p.m. each day. The application was brought on behalf of the Reading and District Licensed Trade Protection and Benevolent Association and was opposed by the Reading Temperance Society, Free Church representatives and other organisations.

Mr. F. A. Sarjeant was in the chair, and with him on the bench were the Mayor (Alderman J. Rabson) and other justices.

LESS DRUNKENNESS.

The Chief Constable's report showed there were 241 licensed houses in the town, 183 having "on" licences and 55 having "off" licences. There were 39 registered clubs, with a membership of 11,463, and as far as the police could ascertain these had been conducted satisfactorily. During the year one publican was proceeded against for three offences against the Closing Regulations. He was convicted and fined £2, and 21/- costs, in each of the three cases—£9 3s. od. in all. With this exception, the whole of the other licensed houses in the borough had been satisfactorily conducted. Thirty-one people, 27 males and four females, had been convicted of drunkenness. This was a decrease of 23 as compared with 1927. Reading stood third on the table amongst the sober towns. Of the 31 persons proceeded against, 16 were non-residents, and the figures were again extremely creditable to the residents and the trade. During the year, 1,366 visits had been made to licensed premises by the police, with a view to preventing drunkenness and other offences against the Licensing Acts. The whole of the premises licensed for music and dancing, apart from those which also held a justices' licence for the sale of intoxicating liquors, had been frequently visited, and, except for an occasional irregularity found and immediately dealt with, the conduct of the premises had been good.

THIRD SOBEREST TOWN.

The Chairman said the magistrates considered the report to be very satisfactory. From the viewpoint of sobriety, Reading stood third on the list of towns in the country—they had held that position for some years. That showed that the Reading licensees had done their duty and also that Reading people were

not given to the crime of drunkenness. It was satisfactory to note that of the 31 people convicted of drunkenness, 16 were non-residents. That had been the case practically every year—more than half the people convicted in the town were those who came in from outside.

DRINKS IN SUMMER TIME.

The application for the extension of hours was next dealt with.

Mr. R. Holt, for the Reading Licensed Trade Protection Association, said the hours in Reading were from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. His application was that the real needs of the district required that the hours in the evening should be extended until 10.30 p.m. The necessity for the application had been brought about by the introduction in recent years of summer time, which by artificial manipulation of the clock meant that ten o'clock in the summer was really nine o'clock. The day was not really over and people were not going home to bed because the clock registered ten p.m. while the sun said it was only nine. There were several courses open to the Bench. They could grant extension for the period of summer time only—as had been done in some districts within recent weeks—or they could alter the hours for the whole year. If they did not wish to increase the total drinking hours to 8½ hours a day they could counterbalance the extra half-hour in the evening by taking off a half-hour in the morning, so that the opening hour in the morning would be 10.30 instead of ten o'clock. That first half-hour was not largely required by the public.

THE THIRST OF ANGLERS.

During the summer months a large number of people came to Reading by river or road, and then many residents used the river for fishing. Keen anglers stayed on the river until as late as possible and were too late to get a drink when they went home to take a well-earned rest. Fishing was a tiring pursuit.

The Clerk: And apparently a thirsty pursuit. (Laughter).

Mr. Holt, continuing, said that allotment workers, too, were affected in the same way. They remained on the land as long as possible and had not time to get reasonable refreshment before going home. Sports people, too, stayed in the open as long as possible and wanted facilities for having a drink. He was speaking for 188 licensees who knew the reasonable requirements of their

customers. They were making the application as they felt there was a genuine need for it, whereas the opposition consisted of people who did not use or like public houses.

He put in a petition containing the names of 688 users of public houses.

Evidence in support of the application was given by Mr. H. Smith, assistant secretary of the Reading and District Licensed Trade Protection and Benevolent Association and licensee of the "Borough Arms," Kings Road, Reading, and Mr. C. B. Duguid, licensee of the "Three Tuns," Reading.

The Chief Constable said there was no objection from a police point of view.

"HOURS LONG ENOUGH."

Mr. H. D. Peacock opposed the application on behalf of the Reading Temperance Society. He submitted that no case had been made out for the application which had been brought forward by a licensed victuallers' association. No other body, such as employers of labour, had come forward to say that the alteration was required in the district. In his submission, the hours in the evening were long enough for anybody.

The Rev. Wm. Rushby spoke in opposition, on behalf of the Reading and District Free Church Ministers' Fraternal.

The Clerk said that opposition petitions had been received from a number of free churches, the Salvation Army, the Reading Sunday School Union and temperance organisations.

After retiring the Chairman said the magistrates would not grant the application.

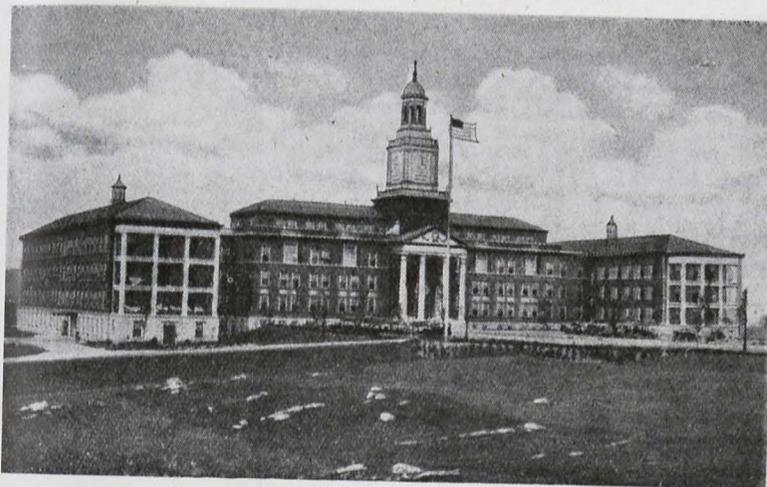
LICENCES REFERRED BACK.

Six licences, those of the Reindeer and the Lord Clyde, Southampton Street; the Coach and Horses, Silver Street; the Foresters' Arms, London Street; the Brewers' Arms, Bridge Street; and the Talfourd Arms, South Street, were referred back. The Chief Constable objected to the renewal of the licence of the Star, London Street, and this was referred back.

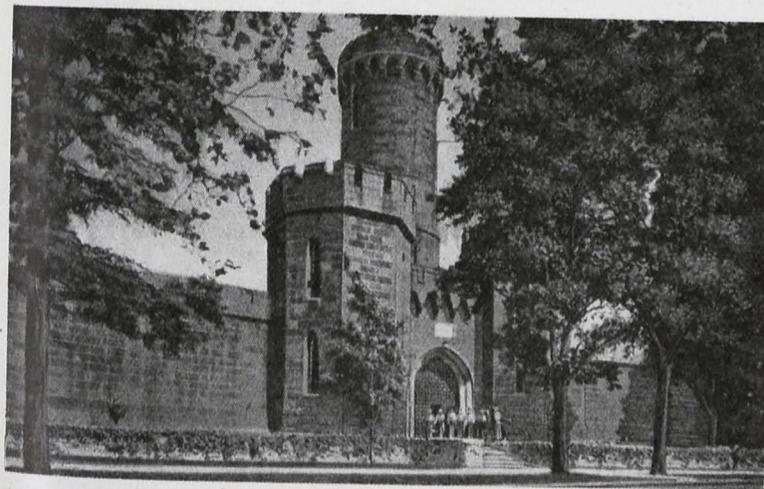
Subject to the condition that Ruby wine should not be sold on the premises, wine licences were granted to the Plasterers' Arms, Rupert Street, and the Brewery Tap, Broad Street.

PICTURES FROM READING, PENNSYLVANIA.

A friend has kindly lent us for publication the following pictures from Reading, Pennsylvania.



Reading Hospital, Reading, P.A.



Berks County Prison, Reading, P.A. Erected 1847. This building bears a striking likeness to our own gaol.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

The more subtle and delicately moulded a man or woman may be, the less is it possible to gauge the quality of his or her thoughts and motives.

Robert Browning realised that the world cannot appreciate men according to their spiritual value, and only so much of their life's work as can be "estimated" attains its meed of praise.

No one who is sensitive ever bares his soul, even to those who mean everything to him as far as human ties go. He will always remain beyond the ken of the crowd, but the general tenour of his life must, by a kind of radiation, make its beauty perceptible, and have some influence upon those who are brought into contact with it.

It is this influence which counts, and not the more assessable values which the world has fixed.

LICENSED TRADE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

READING AUXILIARY.

At the annual meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the Reading and District Licensed Trade Protection and Benevolent Association, held at the White Hart Hotel, Reading, the annual report stated that the membership continued to increase, the financial position was very sound, and interest in the work of the association had been maintained. The Committee placed on record their appreciation of the services rendered to the association by Mr. Fred Little (N.T.D.A.).

The following officers were elected:—*Chairman*, Mrs. Smart; *Vice-Chairman*, Mrs. Nunn; *Hon. Secretary*, Mrs. Moss; and *Hon. Treasurer*, Mrs. Constable.

SEVEN BRIDGES BURIAL CLUB.

A Committee Meeting was held of the above Club on February 5th, Mr. A. Grove presiding.

It was resolved to ask Mr. T. E. Stevens to be *Hon. Secretary pro tem.* in the place of the late Mr. E. Bailey.

Mr. Stevens kindly consented to act until the next general meeting.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The chemist was awakened long after midnight by the violent ringing of his bell. On looking out of the window he saw a girl in evening dress.

"What's the matter, miss?" he asked. "Anyone ill?"

"Oh, no," she replied in sweet tones; "but I'm at a dance close by, and I've mislaid my rouge."

"Is that so?" cried the chemist. "Well, I'm sorry, but I never keep enough rouge in stock to cover a cheek like yours."

* * * *

Mrs. JONES: "What! You're going to sell out and marry that 'ard-up lodger of yours? What on earth are you going to live on?"

Mrs. FLYNN: "Sure, we'll be all right. The poor fellow owes me enough to keep us in comfort for years."

* * * *

LADY OF THE HOUSE: "So you are the sole survivor of a shipwreck. Tell me how you came to be saved."

OLD SALT: "Well, you see, lady, I missed the boat."

* * * *

"What do you think of this De-rating business?"

"Same as I do of the B—income-tax."

* * * *

Dropping into his club the other day before lunch, a thirsty member ordered a bottle of beer, but before he could enjoy it he was called away to the telephone. In order to protect his property he seized the top card of a pack—it happened to be the three of diamonds—and, writing his name upon it, leaned it against the bottle and went to answer his call. When he returned his drink had gone. "I say," he complained loudly, "where's my drink?" "Oh, didn't you know?" chuckled the near-by denizen of an easy chair. "Young Fortescue came along with the ten of diamonds and took the trick."

* * * *

TEACHER: "Why is it wrong to say 'I have went'?"

PUPIL: "Because you ain't went yet."

* * * *

Still, the fellow who believes in predestination jumps just as far at the sound of a motor horn.

Overheard in the smoke room: "How did your bridge party go off last night, Jones?" "Top-hole, thanks, though Wilkinson didn't turn up." "But surely that was rather awkward. How did you get along without him?" "Oh, I togged up my butler in a spare suit of dress clothes and he played the part excellently." "That was jolly lucky." "It was. I won a month's wages off the blighter."

* * * *

The Aberdonian conducted his English friends into the local hostelry. An awkward pause followed. "Well, lads," he said at last, turning to them, "What are we going to have—rain or snow?"

* * * *

"Few housewives nowadays," says a contemporary, "can afford to waste even stale bread." The proof is in the pudding.

* * * *

"Jazz is intoxicating music," says a poet. This is quite probable when we remember that syncopation is just a quick movement from bar to bar.

* * * *

An old lady who was wintering in Egypt was being shown round the Pyramids. "Madam," said the guide impressively, as they halted opposite one of the mightiest specimens, "it took nearly two thousand years to build this." "I can quite believe it," rejoined the visitor vigorously; "our workmen at home are very nearly as bad."

* * * *

The music hall manager was listening to the efforts of an aspiring singer who sought a place on the bill. Concluding triumphantly with a note many kilometres beyond her compass, the singer said triumphantly, "That last note was B flat, sir."

"Yes," murmured the manager thoughtfully, "it certainly was."

* * * *

STERN FATHER (to son going back to boarding-school): "Don't let me hear any bad reports about you."

CAREFREE SON: "I'll try not to, dad, but you know these things will leak out."

* * * *

They were sitting together. She was English, he was French.

He drew her closer to him and whispered: "*Je t'adore.*"

"Not likely," she said, indignantly; "you shut it yourself!"

YOUNG WIFE: "I hope you'll like this pudding, darling. It's something new—an idea of my own!"

HUSBAND (after one mouthful): "Um! It certainly tastes a bit off the 'Beeton' track!"

* * * *

IRONMONGER (to customer buying complete gardening equipment): "You'll want one of these syringes for green fly."

ENTHUSIASTIC AMATEUR GARDENER: "Yes—er—I see. Now—er—can you tell me where I get the green fly?"

* * * *

Mr. RICHMAN: "How do you like this place? Shall we buy it?"

HIS WIFE: "Oh, it's perfectly lovely! The view from this balcony is so fine that it leaves me speechless."

"Then we'll buy it."

* * * *

JACK: "Have you noticed Ethel's aplomb?"

JOHN: "No, but her sister's a peach."

* * * *

SWEET YOUNG THING: "I want to buy a typewriter."

ASSISTANT: "What kind, madam?"

"One to match this ribbon, please."

* * * *

SHE: "There's Madge. I understand she bought that dress by instalments."

HE: "I suppose that's the first instalment she's wearing."

* * * *

The story of Sir Edward Carson's interrogation of a witness has been often told, but it is one of the few that will bear repetition if only as a reminder:

"Do you drink a good deal?" asked Counsel.

"That's my business," indignantly retorted the witness.

"And have you any other business?" continued Carson in his most suave and bland manner.

* * * *

PATRON OF EATING-HOUSE: "Here's a piece of rubber tyre in my hash!"

WAITER: "There's no doubt about it. The motor is displacing the horse everywhere."

A lady who particularly wished to attend an evening performance of a certain play arranged that a highly-recommended young woman should stay with the children. When the mother returned from the theatre she asked the girl if she had had any difficulty with the family. "Not exactly," replied the buxom lass, "but the eldest boy, the red-headed one, was a bit of a handful. I had to use force to get him into bed." "Red-headed one," shrieked the mother; "Good heavens! that's my husband."

* * * *

Two jolly young men who had been having a night out and who had lost the last train home, turned up at a hotel in the early hours of the morning. "I say," protested the excited manager, pointing dramatically to the less coherent of the twain, "you can't bring that man in here . . . he's intoxicated, and this is a temperance hotel." "S'all ri', ole man," said the other soothingly, "he's too far gone to notice that."

* * * *

A cautious Aberdeenshire farmer, who wished to investigate the alleged huge profits of the middleman, sold a consignment of eggs to a London firm in June. On one of the eggs he wrote, "I received three halfpence for this egg. How much did you pay?" Below he added his name and address. Shortly after Christmas he received a reply written upon the notepaper of a well-known London theatre. "Dear sir," it read, "I received your egg absolutely gratis."

* * * *

MAGISTRATE (to prisoner accused of being drunk): "Is that your full name?"

JOCK McHAGGIS: "It's ma name whether I'm fu' or sober."

* * * *

SHOPKEEPER: "Yes, my boy—what's for you?"

SMALL BOY: "Ha'porth of fruit drops, please, and a ha'penny change—and I'll bring the penny on Saturday."

* * * *

MAGISTRATE: "Prisoner, you are charged with habitual drunkenness. What excuse have you to offer?"

OFFENDER (brightly): "Habitual thirst, your worship."

* * * *

"The colour yellow," says a doctor, "acts as a mental stimulant." Especially when in a liquid form, with a little soda added.

THE BABY'S MOTHER: "You must exercise a little will-power with him, nurse."

NURSE: "I do try to, mum, but you don't know his won't power."

* * * *

"Grandma, can you help me with this sum?"

"I could dear, but I don't think it would be right."

"No, I don't suppose it would; but have a try at it and see."

* * * *

Mrs. BROWN: "She seems to have got over the death of her first husband."

Mr. BROWN: "Yes, but her second husband hasn't."

* * * *

The consumption of alcohol in the country has fallen off during the last two years, we read. We ought to try Prohibition like America to buck the trade up.—*Everybody's Weekly*.

* * * *

WORRIED FATHER: "Every time you are bad I get another grey hair."

SON: "Well, you must have been a corker. Look at grandpa."

* * * *

GIPSY GIRL: "I tella your fortune, mister."

SHABBY-LOOKING MAN: "How much?"

"One shilling."

"Correct."

* * * *

UNCLE HENPECK: "You boys of to-day want too much money. Do you know what I was getting when I married your aunt?"

NEPHEW: "No, and I'll bet you didn't either."

* * * *

"My wife is an inveterate smoker. Why, three times she's set the bed on fire with her cigarettes. Would you recommend a suit for divorce?"

"Either that or a suit of asbestos pyjamas."

* * * *

OLD GENTLEMAN: "I regret to say I've dropped a five-pound note out of my pocket-book somewhere in the park."

PARK-KEEPER (pointing at sign): "What! Haven't you read them notices about leaving paper lying about?"

The sermon had been about the Fall of Man. Two farmers met at the end of the service.

"Weel, Dauvit," asked Tammas, "and what did ye think o' the sermon?"

"Oh!" Dauvit replied, "the sermon was a' richt, but I was just thinkin' what a difference it wad hae made to the history o' the world if I'd been in Adam's place. Ye see, I dinna gie a hang for apples."

* * * *

A music hall star who had been touring the provinces found it necessary to stay at rather humble diggings in a town in the North of England. However, no matter how poor the apartments were, the landlady was a real gem, and she treated the actor with the greatest of kindness. Before he left he endeavoured to thank her, but the landlady waved aside his praise. "Bless yer 'eart, that's all right," said the good woman, "I allus try to be kind to theatricals, for I never know what my own children may come to yet."

* * * *

In the sweet silence of twilight they sat enraptured on the beach.

"Dearest," she murmured, "now that we are married I—I have a confession to make to you."

"What is it, sweetheart?" he asked softly.

"Can you ever forgive me for deceiving you?" she sobbed. "My—my left eye is made of glass."

"Never mind, lovebird," he whispered gently, "so is the diamond in your engagement ring."

PLUMBERS' FANCY DRESS.

A plumber and his mate after attending a burst water pipe at a big hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire, walked into the Royal Hall, where a fancy-dress ball was in progress. Prizes were to be given for the best costumes.

They were in their working clothes and carried their tools, so they wrote on a card, "Plumber and his mate," and entered the costume competition. To their surprise they won the first prize. It was not until later that it was learned that they were not guests at the ball.

A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

Hard weather such as we have experienced of late always brings with it much material for the observant naturalist to work upon. I have seen so much that, really, I hardly know where to begin. Shall I start at my estate at home? It consists of less than a thousand acres; it is in fact my back garden, where two small trees form the woods and a pan of water, from which the birds drink, the lake. But my woods and lake, small though they are, have provided me with rare sport. Numerous wild fowl in the form of sparrows, tits, robins, blackbirds, thrushes, starlings, chaffinches, greenfinches, wagtails, etc., have come there to quench their thirst and also to bathe. And Oh! how they have enjoyed their baths, even in the coldest weather. The "woods" too, have provided a good head of game, though the biggest birds found there were only a jackdaw and a missel-thrush.

ROTUND WITH RICH LIVING.

For the tits I provided cocoanuts and fat meat, for the finches seeds, and for the starlings, thrushes, etc., meat, chopped into little pieces. I have done this throughout the winter and my family of feathered friends appears to increase daily. Some of the regular visitors I have named and many of them are rotund with rich living.

SERIOUS COMPETITION.

But I have serious competitors in my love of birds. My next door neighbours' estate adjoins mine. When I break up one cocoanut and hang it in my "woods," they break up two. When I distribute half-a-pound of meat they distribute twice as much.

So the competition proceeded. There were pieces of cocoanut galore and pounds of meat on both estates and I thought I was easily holding my own in point of quantity, particularly in the meat line, until one morning I saw hanging on the adjoining property a whole aitch bone! I thought it time for the armistice to be signed and this war between us as to who should provide the most bountiful breakfast has been amicably settled. Neither of us is going to place on our estates more than fifty cocoanuts at a time, nor a piece of meat larger than a side of bacon.

They say that competition brings down the price of food. In this case it certainly sent up the quantity, and the birds undoubtedly benefited.

WHERE I HOPE TO SCORE.

In the agreement my neighbours and I drew up there is no mention of nesting boxes. I have several fixed, out of sight, and

I hope, in the Spring, to score off them there. But one never knows. Years ago I placed several such boxes in my garden and then a pair of tits which I had fed all the winter went and built their nest in my neighbour's letter box.

The ungrateful little wretches !

BIRD WITH WHITE COLLAR.

One of my visitors this year was a reed bunting, with its velvety black head and smart white collar. Many pied wagtails, and one grey wagtail came to see what food they could find. The grey wagtail has a good deal of yellow about it and may be easily mistaken for the yellow wagtail, a bird that migrates before the winter and is rarely, if ever, seen in England during such arctic weather as we have recently experienced.

Now wouldn't you like me to show you my estate ; take you through the " woods " and round the lake !

Many much bigger properties provide much less real enjoyment.

IF'S BY AN " OILCAN. "

- If you're feeling down and out
Try a Simonds " Milk Stout. "
- If you've got the bally pip
Have a Simonds " XXXXX Nip. "
- If your wife won't laugh or grin
Give her our " Best London Gin. "
- If your Old Man's got the gout
Drown his pain with " Oatmeal Stout. "
- If in winter the 'Flu you have caught
Your medicine Sir, " Douro Port. "
- If for your girl you wait in vain
Have an " S.B. " and wait again.
- If the party is " Bright and Merry "
You can blame " Dark Golden Sherry. "
- If you've got neuralgia and you are feeling glum
Here's a remedy—" Old Jamaica Rum. "
- If you've just crept out of jail
Start afresh with a " Martini Cocktail. "
- If you've lost your appetite and your hat won't fit
Don't get the wind up, have a " Gin and It. "
- If you're fishing and your float won't sink
Try a Simonds " Brown Ale " drink.
- If your ailments Dr. Simonds can't slay
Give up the ghost : you're in a bad way.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Great joy is only earned by great exertion.

Influence is to be measured not by the extent of surface covered, but by its kind.

Of all thieves, fools are the worst ; they rob you of time and temper.

To every deep there is a deeper still.

We ought not to seek too high joys. We may be bright without transfiguration.

Fortify yourself with moderation ; for this is an impregnable fortress.

To fill the hour, that is happiness.

Great fools have great bells.

Weave a kindly thought for the stranger
And a smile for the sometime guest.
But oft for our own the bitter tone
Though our own we love the best.

Use him (the frog or bait) as if you loved him.

To feel and respect a great personality, one must be something one's self.

" There is nothing better than to master anger. " This is a wise saying, for pain follows anger, as it does when one has been scorched with fire.

It is not moneys that are the sinews of fortune, but it is the sinews and steel of men's minds, wit, courage, audacity, resolution, temper, industry and the like.

Every noble life leaves the fibre of it interwoven for ever in the work of the world.

THE LATE MR. EDWARD BAILEY.

FUNERAL SERVICE AT ANDERSON BAPTIST CHURCH.

The funeral took place on Friday, the 1st February, of Mr. Edward Bailey, of 351, London Road, Reading, secretary of Anderson Baptist Church and secretary of the Sunday School. A service held at Anderson Church was attended by a very large congregation, which included many colleagues from Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd., where Mr. Bailey was manager of the export department. Six employees of Messrs. Simonds (Messrs. J. Champion, H. Clinch, J. Maxwell, J. Wright, W. Searle and J. House) acted as pall bearers. The Rev. C. W. King conducted the service at the church and at the interment in Reading Cemetery.

The chief mourners were: Mrs. Bailey (the widow), Mr. F. Bailey (son), Miss L. Bailey (daughter), Miss Soper, Mrs. Soper (sister-in-law), Mrs. Ennals, Mr. and Mrs. Coates (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. and Mrs. F. Pecover (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. Huggins, Mr. and Mrs. F. Wilson (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. F. Wilson (nephew).

Among the very large attendance at the church or cemetery were the following from The Brewery:—Messrs. C. E. Gough, C. Bennett, F. C. Hawkes, Major Kaye, C. H. Perrin, S. J. Moore, F. Kirby, F. G. Millard, J. H. Wairr, S. Paintin, F. Josey, A. R. Bradford, T. E. Stevens, V. Richards, H. Woolcott, A. H. Hopkins, H. L. Aust, — Grey, — Tigwell, A. G. Rider, H. C. Shepherd, H. James, J. Webb, J. Ford, F. Jefferies, J. Stone, W. Wheeler and N. Crocker.

GOOD-NIGHT! BUT NOT FAREWELL.

In the course of a moving address, the Rev. C. W. King said that in the death of Mr. Bailey they had an outstanding illustration of a man, whom they could ill afford to spare, being cut off in the prime of life, when apparently many years of useful service lay before him. He took an interest in politics but never devoted his life to them thinking his work lay among his own people, in the church of God. In his business life one outstanding feature was his thoroughness. He looked upon every task that fell to his lot as a sacred duty to his conscience, to his fellow men and to his God. Those who worked with Mr. Bailey would bear him out when he said, his was a white and blameless life. If he could crystallise in a sentence the motto which explained Mr. Bailey's attitude in business it would be: Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. And how sacred to him was his home life! His ideas of home were beautiful, so tender, so sensitive. His home was what all homes ought to be—a heaven on earth. To his widow they extended their heartfelt sympathy. Many of them had shared her joys and they would

now share her sorrows and help her to bear the burden she was so bravely bearing. As a father, Mr. Bailey was most solicitous for his children's welfare and planned and prayed for their success in life. Those who worked with him would take up the tasks allotted to them and press forward in the spirit of their departed friend.

Not farewell my beloved brother, only good-night; we shall meet again in the morning.

Till then, adieu!

Among the floral tributes were those from the Directors of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds Ltd.; Major F. J. Johnson and staff; Messrs. H. & G. Simonds' London branch; Mr. Shrimpton and members of the Ludgershall branch; Mr. Gough and staff; Branch Department; Departmental Foremen, Messrs. H. and G. Simonds; Petrol, Lorry and Steam Wagon Department; Transport and Loading Stage Department; Horse Transport and Timekeepers' Department; Stable Department; Cooperage and Scald Department; Workers in the Wine and Spirit and the Canvas Department; Brewing Room; Workmen's Union Room; Engineering Department; Bottled Beers Department; Brewing Department; Colleagues in the Home Department; Offices of the Brewery; Beer Cellars Department; Mr. and Mrs. T. Stevens; Mr. and Mrs. F. Kirby.



Mr. Bailey with members of the Anderson Institute Football Club, of which he was the President.

SOCIAL CLUB.

On Saturday, February 9th, we entertained a party of members from the Comrades Club, Sunninghill, and a Tournament of Games was played and enjoyed by all who attended.

Tuesday, February 12th.—The Annual General Meeting was held when the President (F. A. Simonds, Esq.) and the following Vice-Presidents were unanimously re-elected: G. Blackall-Simonds, F. Simonds, S. V. Shea-Simonds, H. D. Simonds, J. H. Simonds and C. W. Stocker, Esqrs. Mr. F. C. Hawkes was re-elected as Chairman, Mr. S. Bird as Treasurer, Mr. Walter Bradford as Hon. Secretary, while a change was made in the Vice-Chairman, Mr. F. H. Braisher succeeding Mr. G. W. Cook. We have two new members on the Committee in Messrs. G. Marsh and A. Weight, and look forward with confidence to their help and interest. Messrs. H. Osborne and G. V. Weait were re-elected Auditors for the ensuing year.

Thursday, February 14th.—We took a team for a Tournament of all Games to St. Anne's Club at Caversham when a very pleasant evening was spent. We are looking forward to the return match at our own Club.

On *Thursday, February 21st*, we had the return match at home with the Retailers' Society. The evening was quite successful socially, but owing to the prevalence of illness the teams were not so strongly represented, though all who were able to turn up thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Amongst the absentees through indisposition were S. V. Shea-Simonds, Esq., Mr. F. C. Hawkes and Mr. C. Bennett from whom apologies were received. We hope that we may be more fortunate on the next occasion. In the games the wheel of fortune certainly turned towards the visitors, as can be seen by the following results. The home team, however, was not disheartened, knowing that a heavy defeat, too often inflicted on a visiting team, is inclined to discourage the prospect of future tournaments! We are more than confident of victory when we meet again.

WHIST.

<i>Social Club.</i>		<i>Retailers' Society.</i>	
G. Kelly, Junr., and E. Taylor	o	J. W. Arlett and W. Pearce	... 1
J. Cannon and E. Champion	... o	A. Wheeler and A. Blake	... 1
F. C. Riden and E. Tate	... o	F. Bargery and J. Arlett	... 2
A. Lake and S. Bird	... 1	T. Lawrence and W. Pearce	... o
F. Josey and T. Osborne	... 1	H. Smart and W. H. Earles	... 2
	—		—
	2		6
	—		—

DOMINOES.

<i>Social Club.</i>		<i>Retailers' Society.</i>	
S. Bird and A. Lake	... o	W. Pearce and J. Arlett	... 2
	—		—
	o		2
	—		—

CRIB (DOUBLE).

<i>Social Club.</i>		<i>Retailers' Society.</i>	
F. Josey and T. Osborne	... 2	H. Smart and W. H. Earles	... o
J. Cannon and E. Champion	... 2	A. Wheeler and A. Blake	... o
W. Sparks and C. Weller	... o	J. T. Adams and E. Bengier	... 2
E. Tate and J. Benford	... 1	G. Warner and F. Bargery	... 2
A. Lake and S. Bird	... o	T. Lawrence and W. Pearce	... 2
E. Palmer and H. Shepherd	... 1	G. Lawrence and F. W. Titchener	... 2
	—		—
	6		8
	—		—

DARTS.

<i>Social Club.</i>		<i>Retailers' Society.</i>	
W. H. Wild	o	C. Edgington	1
C. Palmer	... o	A. F. Titchener	1
E. Tate	... 1	F. Bargery	... o
W. Sparks	... 1	E. Bengier	... o
C. Weller	... o	G. Warner	... 1
J. Cannon	... o	G. Warner	... 2
	—		—
	2		5
	—		—

BILLIARDS.

<i>Social Club.</i>		<i>Retailers' Society.</i>	
F. C. Riden	1	A. Smith	... o
G. Kelly, Jr.	1	J. T. Adams	... o
	—		—
	2		o
	—		—

SHOOTING.

<i>Social Club.</i>		<i>Retailers' Society.</i>	
E. Champion	1	A. Blake	... o
	—		—
	1		o
	—		—

SHOVE HALFPENNY.

<i>Social Club.</i>		<i>Retailers' Society.</i>	
G. Kelly, Jr.	o	F. Pilgrim	... 1
E. Taylor	... 1	R. C. Bryant	... o
A. Lake	... 1	J. T. Adams	... o
G. Kelly, Jr.	o	J. W. Arlett	... 2
H. Shepherd	1	G. Lawrence	... 2
	—		—
	3		5
	—		—

CRIP (SINGLE).

<i>Social Club.</i>		<i>Retailers' Society.</i>	
W. Sparks	... o	E. Bengier	... 2
A. Lake	... o	T. Lawrence	... 2
C. Weller	... o	G. Warner	... 2
J. Benford	... 1	H. Rex	... 2
J. Cannon	... 2	A. Wheeler	... 1
	—		—
	3		9
	—		—

SUMMARY OF GAMES PLAYED.

	SOCIAL CLUB.	RETAILERS' SOCIETY.
	Points.	Points.
Billiards	... 2	o
Dominoes	... o	2
Darts	... 2	5
Shove Halfpenny	... 3	5
Shooting	... 1	o
Whist	... 2	6
Crib (Single)	... 3	8
Crib (Double)	... 6	8
	—	—
	19	35
	—	—

DEPARTMENTAL TOURNAMENTS.

FRIDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 1929.

Games.	BUILDING.		THE REST.	
	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.
Billiards	C. Chapman	0	F. Braisher	1
"	A. Ayling	0	F. Cross	1
"	W. Hinton	0	E. Palmer	1
Crib	A. Lake	0	W. Newport	1
"	B. Smith	1	T. Osborne	0
"	A. Ayling	1	C. Thatcher	0
Darts	W. Miles	0	J. Cannon	1
"	B. Eymore	0	H. Gibson	1
"	T. Stacey	1	G. E. Shipton	0
Dominoes	W. Judd	1	J. Croft	0
"	N. L. Wells	1	L. C. Collins	0
"	E. Tate	0	H. Stanbrook	1
Shove Halfpenny	C. Chapman	1	T. Howells	0
"	C. Dobson	1	A. Bowsher	0
"	A. Lake	1	A. Nash	0
Shooting	H. Mitchell	1	J. Croft	0
"	A. Baldwin	1	H. Preater	0
"	W. Sewell	1	F. Jones	0
		11		7

FRIDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

Games.	TRANSPORT.		CELLARS.	
	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.
Billiards	A. Dalton	1	J. Rumens	0
"	J. Champion	0	G. Moss	1
"	E. Champion	0	W. Curtis	1
Crib	G. Marsh	1	W. Wheeler	0
"	F. Hamilton	1	A. Simpkins	0
"	D. Witts	1	J. Benford	0
Darts	H. Taylor	0	D. Rose...	1
"	T. Thame	1	S. Kirk ...	0
"	H. Price	1	A. Shiers	0
Dominoes	G. Marsh	1	J. Benford	0
"	J. Embling	1	W. Kirke	0
"	C. Gunn	1	W. Wheeler	0
Shove Halfpenny	H. Taylor	0	J. Gough	1
"	D. Witts	0	W. Kirke	1
"	F. Adey	1	W. Taylor	0
Shooting	A. Dalton	0	J. Hambling	1
"	E. Champion	1	A. Shiers	0
"	J. Champion	0	W. Kibble	1
		11		7

FRIDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

Games.	BUILDING.		OFFICES.	
	Name.	Points.	Name.	Points.
Billiards	A. Rice	0	R. Broad	1
"	C. E. Chapman	1	F. C. Riden	0
"	W. Hinton	0	H. Davis	1
Dominoes	P. G. Maynard	0	H. Davis	1
"	E. Tate	1	W. Bradford	0
"	A. Rice	1	C. Perrin	0
Crib	A. Lake	1	W. Parris	0
"	B. Smith	1	H. Shepherd	0
"	N. L. Wells	1	A. G. Rider	0
Shove Halfpenny	C. Chapman	1	C. B. Cox	0
"	C. Dobson	1	H. Shepherd	0
"	A. Lake	1	L. Browne	0
Darts	P. Miles	1	L. Browne	0
"	B. Eymore	1	W. Bradford	0
"	T. H. Stacey	1	R. Broad	0
Shooting	H. E. Mitchell	0	A. G. Rider	1
"	J. W. F. Sewell	½	H. Osborne	½
"	A. G. Baldwin	0	S. J. Moore	1
		12½		5½

BILLIARDS LEAGUE.

DIVISION I.

MONDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 1929.

H. & G. S. Social.		West Reading Liberal.	
A. Howard	107 v.	H. Snow...	150
R. Clement	127 v.	H. Webb	150
A. Dalton	150 v.	E. Ellis ...	112
F. Braisher	150 v.	A. Jones...	141
R. Griffiths	150 v.	G. Bedwell	84
J. Doe	150 v.	L. Mundell	141
		Handicap ...	25
			778
			803

Winning Team, H. & G. S. Social by 31 points.

MONDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

West Reading Liberal.		H. & G. S. Social.	
H. Snow	150 v.	A. Howard	144
H. Webb	98 v.	R. Clement	150
E. Ellis	144 v.	A. Dalton	150
A. Jones	150 v.	F. Braisher	112
G. Bedwell	130 v.	R. Griffiths	150
E. Taylor	72 v.	R. Broad	150
			744
		Handicap ...	25
			769
			856

Winning Team, H. & G. S. Social by 87 points.

MONDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

<i>H. & G. S. Social.</i>			<i>Pangbourne Constitutional Club.</i>		
A. Howard	...	150	v.	R. Nicholls	123
R. Clement	...	150	v.	J. Harper	141
A. Dalton	...	107	v.	F. Nicholls	150
G. Boddington	...	150	v.	E. H. Stone	64
F. Braisher	...	115	v.	E. Pym	150
R. Griffiths	...	147	v.	G. R. Stone	150
				Handicap	778
					50
					819
					828

Winning Team, Pangbourne Constitutional Club by 9 points.

DIVISION II.

MONDAY, 28TH JANUARY, 1929.

<i>Reading Tramways.</i>			<i>H. & G. S. Social.</i>		
H. B. Stock	...	100	v.	R. Broad	71
A. Goodall	...	100	v.	H. Davis	95
G. Dowler	...	100	v.	J. Doe	77
R. Shorter	...	100	v.	C. Weller	76
F. Lewington	...	100	v.	E. Palmer	94
S. Beale	...	88	v.	G. Poole	100
				Handicap	588
					25
					613
					512

Winning Team, Reading Tramways by 100 points.

MONDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

<i>H. & G. S. Social.</i>			<i>Reading Tramways.</i>		
R. Broad	...	100	v.	H. B. Stone	95
H. Davis	...	100	v.	R. Shorter	72
C. Weller	...	56	v.	G. Goodall	100
W. Sparks	...	63	v.	F. Lewington	100
E. Palmer	...	88	v.	C. Munday	100
G. Poole	...	77	v.	F. Povey	100
				Handicap	567
					25
					484
					592

Winning Team, Reading Tramways by 108 points.

MONDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

<i>H. & G. S. Social.</i>			<i>Tilehurst Conservative.</i>		
R. Broad	...	100	v.	W. Walters	71
J. Doe	...	100	v.	R. Matchwick	93
H. Davis	...	100	v.	G. Parr	52
E. Palmer	...	100	v.	J. Breakspear	87
C. Weller	...	45	v.	F. Montague	100
G. Poole	...	100	v.	S. Brown	96
				Handicap	499
					35
					545
					534

Winning Team, H. & G. S. Social by 11 points.

MONDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

<i>Tilehurst Conservative.</i>			<i>H. & G. S. Social.</i>		
W. Walters	...	94	v.	R. Broad	100
R. Matchwick	...	89	v.	J. Doe	100
G. Parr	...	76	v.	H. Davis	100
J. Breakspear	...	70	v.	E. Palmer	100
R. Brown	...	73	v.	C. Weller	100
F. Montague	...	54	v.	G. Poole	100
				Handicap	456
					35
					491
					600

Winning Team, H. & G. S. Social by 109 points.

AT THE CENOTAPH.

“Here are twelve roses. ‘Let me count them over,
 Before I lay them on the rock-washed stone. . . .
 One for my wounded batman, drowned off Dover,
 Who got me out of No Man’s Land alone;
 These three for Matthews, and his big twin brothers,
 Missing at Ypres . . . their names are on the Gate;
 And this for John . . . No, I’ll not name the others,
 They only shared the common, gallant fate.
 Let the names go; they let life go so lightly,
 Why drag them down with clumsy words let fall
 By one particular grief? An end so knightly
 Bids us keep silence. Unknown warriors all,
 They strove and passed, and these few scarlet roses
 Show that a new faith springs where dead hope closes.”

—Saturday Review.

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES.

No. 15.



Mr. W. H. EARLES.

(BY C.H.P.)

The subject of my thumbnail sketch this month is Mr. W. H. Earles the well known landlord of the Oatsheaf, Broad Street, Reading. Mr. Earles knows his job, for he has been in the Trade for the long period of 35 years. He held an off-licence in Caroline Street for five years and for 15½ years he was mine host at the Rainbow, Chain Street (now closed); he was 2½ years at The Bugle, Friar Street, and 11 years at the Oatsheaf.

Before he took to the business of selling the best of beverages, Mr. Earles was a plumber—he might have made a fortune in that capacity during the recent arctic weather!—and for ten years he worked on the Duke of Wellington's estate.

But to return to the Trade. Our good friend was the first to suggest the formation of H. & G. Simonds Tenants' Society and may therefore be looked upon as the founder of that institution whose motto is defence, not defiance. It was one of the happiest

moments of his life when he saw Mr. Shea-Simonds present Mr. Duguid with a gold medal in recognition of his services as President of that Society. The medal, quite rightly, takes the form of the "Hop Leaf."

Mr. Earles is greatly interested in most forms of healthy outdoor recreation. About forty years ago he and a few friends formed the West Reading Football Club which had a very successful career. At the same time he was a member of the old Abbey Football Club and also belonged to the Drum and Fife Band, familiar to so many in the days gone by.

At one time, Mr. Earles never thought of missing a match of the Reading Football Club. Owing to advancing years he does not see the Club play now, though his interest in it is as great as ever and he was bitterly disappointed when the home side were beaten by Aston Villa in the great Cup tie. He was so confident of Reading winning, after their recent splendid performances, that he backed them to the extent of 100 to 1—but the stakes were by no means heavy.

In his young days there were no picture palaces, music halls, etc., and they had to organize their own little amusements in the shape of boxing, football, running, fishing—"manly amusements" added Mr. Earles, "for which we were all the better."

Mr. Earles' long experience in the Trade serves him in good stead and he knows how to serve a glass of beer. He is only satisfied when his customers are supplied with the best brand of beer in the best possible condition—and at the Oatsheaf it is always that!

 WORDS OF WISDOM.

Who never wept knows laughter but a jest,
 Who never failed, no victory has sought.
 Who never suffered never lived his best;
 Who never doubted never really thought.
 Who never feared, real courage has not shown,
 Who never faltered lacks a real intent.
 Whose soul was never troubled has not known
 The sweetness and the peace of real content.

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER).

The close of January was sad for the Brewery as it marked the death of Mr. E. Bailey, a faithful servant of the Firm for so many years and who was universally liked for his many sterling qualities. I heard it said, with all sincerity, that he left behind a pleasant memory. How true! He was transparently honest and a real straightforward man. *R.I.P.*

Without a doubt our last number was a real treat and appreciation of the contents was heard on all sides; in fact a friend of the writer's (unconnected with the Brewery) went out of his way to emphasize the fact that it was a *splendid* HOP LEAF.

The end of January started the "Flu" ball rolling, for there were quite a number away, particularly in the General Office, and the 1st February (Bill-day) was got through with a "scratch crew." However, it was done, and reflects great credit on all concerned. Since that time there has been a fair amount of illness and quite a number have had to give up for short spells (this also includes the writer). Possibly the particularly severe weather is the reason although if one was to take to heart all the advertisements appearing in the Daily Press for the cure (and prevention) of "Flu" it would seem we have no right to have it at all.

To tabulate the invalids in date order would probably mean an extra page in THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, so I will not attempt it and content myself with saying no department has been immune, and wishing everyone a speedy recovery.

Football fever came with the advent of Aston Villa and as they defeated the Reading team well and truly perhaps we shall all settle down to the regularity of the league programme in the hope that Reading will soon make their position in the Second Division quite secure for another season.

Meeting the Editor the other Saturday—a wet one for weather—equipped for the patient art of fishing, on my remarking I should have thought he would have been better occupied watching Reading at Elm Park, he cheerfully replied "Football was too slow!" However to balance matters he never had a bite all the afternoon (raining all the time) and was unable to lure any fish to a "sticky end."

It was quite like old times to see our friend Mr. E. Thornbery (Chief Clerk at Ludgershall Branch) the other day at the Brewery. He said the last time he was in the Offices was the day when war broke out when he left for London Branch. It was a pity that time was so short for many wished to have a chat over old times in particular and many a "battle" would have been fought over again if time had permitted.

Two football stories from *Everybody's Weekly* :—

"An Englishman, Scotchman and Irishman went to see an International match between England and Scotland and having no money (I don't know if they were married) obtained a view of the match from the roof of a house nearby. England scored first. The Englishman said 'Hurrah! one for England.' Scotland equalised. The Scotchman said 'Hurrah! one for Scotland.' This upset the Irishman so he, pushing both the Englishman and Scotchman off the roof, said 'Hurrah! two for the Infirmary.'"

"A young and clever footballer having rather a big opinion of himself and having heard of the £10,000 transfer fee said to have been paid for a professional footballer, remarked airily to his colleagues 'Well, ten thousand wouldn't buy me.' One of the older members replied 'No, I don't suppose so. I would certainly be one of the ten thousand who wouldn't.'"

Worth recording. Reading is the second soberest town in England.

The several lakes around Reading provided good sport for skating, particularly at Bulmershe Court, Englemere and the large and small lakes in Whiteknights Park. Amongst nocturnal skaters on the latter who continued the sport after the thaw had set in was observed the Editor. Although a fine exponent of the art, unfortunately he suffered a crash by striking a flaw in the ice and sustained a few cuts and bruises. He was not the only one who came to grief through the same cause.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Let me enjoy the earth no less
Because the all-enacting Might
That fashioned forth its loveliness
Had other aims than my delight.

The only school for the study of human nature is the world. The only text-books are the works of men like Shakespeare, Hugo, Cervantes, Sterne, and other students who learned in that school.

The supreme virtue is sacrifice—to think, work, fight, suffer, where our lot lies, not for ourselves but others, for the victory of good over evil.

Difficulties strengthen the mind as labour does the body.

OUR LADIES' PAGE.

I trust that the Editor will overlook that I have again brought football into THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, but this time it is a different story we have to tell. Since I wrote my last article the Reading Football Team have been victorious over Sheffield Wednesday (who head the First Division League) and when it was known that their next opponents in the contest for the F.A. Cup were Aston Villa, the excitement was intense, and the demand for Stand Tickets far exceeded the number available. Numerous enquiries were made on the morning of the match as to whether the game would be played, a fall of snow on the previous afternoon having rendered weather conditions somewhat uncertain. However, fears were soon quieted by the assurance that everything was in readiness for play to proceed. Without a doubt, the intense cold weather prevented a record attendance being present, but the ground seemed well filled when the players came on to the field at 3 p.m. The Reading captain (Messer) won the toss and elected to play towards the Town goal and, after the singing of the National Anthem, play was soon in progress.

In spite of the condition of the ground good football was played by both teams and the game right from the commencement was good to watch. The first goal was claimed by the visitors, and to the spectators had all the appearance of being a "gift." Reading were not long in obtaining an equaliser, much to the delight of their followers, but it was Aston's turn to rejoice when they netted the ball for the second time with almost the last kick before the whistle sounded for the interval. On resumption of play, neither team slackened in their efforts, although it is perhaps to be regretted that the visitors adopted, rather early, the kicking of the ball out of play.

However, the excitement of the spectators, and especially of Aston's supporters, remained at a high pitch and when yet another goal was scored by the Villa their delight knew no bounds and some of them could hardly be persuaded to keep their seats.

In spite of these adverse conditions, Reading continued to fight gamely and I think that a margin of one goal would have been a fairer result of the game. Aston Villa were undoubtedly the better exponents of the game, but if the little bit of luck that fell to them had come Reading's way, we might now be looking forward to a visit from the popular team of Woolwich Arsenal.

M.P.

LICENSED TRADE "INJUSTICES."

"TAXATION CRIPPLING AN IMPORTANT INDUSTRY."

The annual meeting of the Reading and District Licensed Trades Protection and Benevolent Association was held at the Cheddar Cheese, Reading, on February 21st. Mr. A. Froome being in the chair.

The annual report stated that the committee regretted that the somewhat optimistic view of a probable revival of trade during the year had not been justified. The report continued:—

"We had the impression that some attempt would be made by the Government to accede to our appeals for Parliamentary consideration of admitted injustices. Nothing has been done. Our trade is still suffering seriously from the deep depression brought on by the war and it is still subjected to taxation far beyond the taxable capacity of the alcoholic liquors concerned, which has the inevitable effect of crippling an important industry and unwisely diminishing the State revenue from that source. The Government still perpetuates the flagrant injustice of demanding licence duty to the full amount fixed before the war—although only half the number of trading hours is permitted since the war—it deliberately ignores our plea for a substantial reduction, and it still rejects our attempts to restore the bona fide traveller privilege."

The report, which went on to enumerate the association's activities during the year, was adopted.

The following office-bearers were elected:—*President*, Mr. A. Wheeler; *Vice-President*, Mr. C. B. Duguid; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. A. S. Cooper; *Secretary*, Mr. G. Smith; *Assistant Secretary*, Mr. H. Smith; *Hon. Auditor*, Mr. A. E. Pickering. The committee was re-elected.

THE GREAT CUP TIE.

HOW ASTON VILLA WON.

THE GAME DESCRIBED.

Aston Villa beat Reading by three goals to one at Reading on February 16th.

The game was played on a ground covered with the snow, but the ball was easier to control than might have been expected; the main difficulty was that of turning quickly and pulling up short. Aston Villa did not deserve to win by two clear goals; indeed, for a considerable portion of the game, Reading looked

the more dangerous side, and Aston Villa owe a lot to some really fine work on the part of their backs, Mort and Smart. Their half-backs, too, were good, especially in defence, but their forwards seldom looked so clever as those of Reading. Waring is a robust player, but he is little else, and Beresford stood out as the prominent forward in a somewhat disappointing line. For Reading, Goodwin and McDonald were excellent, and, though Hunter was inclined to hold on to the ball a little too long, his dribbling and his ground-passes were beautiful examples of the Scottish tradition that animated the whole line.

The game varied surprisingly in interest. The first half was even and excellent to watch, but, after 20 minutes or so of the second half, the game sagged badly. Reading could not produce a last effort, and Aston Villa looked safe winners long before they scored their third goal with what was almost the last kick of the match.

The early play see-sawed up and down the ground, and both sides in turn set up strong attacks. Hunter, after dribbling cleverly through a crowd of players—the difficulty of making a sharp turn in defence gave the man with a ball an advantage—shot wide, and Duckworth did well to save a high shot of Waring's. McDonald, from the position of outside left, put in a good shot, and, at the other end, Beresford sent the ball wide after York had run well down the wing. After 20 minutes' play Aston Villa scored a curious and unexpected goal. Inglis, the Reading right back, put the ball back to Duckworth, but there was some misunderstanding between the back and the goalkeeper, and, before Duckworth could gather the ball properly he was charged over, and Dorrell had an empty net to shoot into. The first goal—especially if it is a lucky one—has considerable influence in a cup tie, but Reading fought back splendidly, and, after seven minutes, they equalized. Goodwin, whose combination with McDonald and Chandler had always looked dangerous for Aston Villa, beat his back splendidly and sent across an equally splendid centre, which Oswald, cutting in, drove past Olney at very close range.

The game was most exciting at this point, and, after a really fine movement among the Aston Villa forwards, Beresford shot wide. Reading had their share of the game, however, and they seemed certain to score when Goodwin, with the Aston Villa defence out of position, put the ball back from the goal line. No one was up, however, and a great opportunity was lost. Less than a minute before half-time came Aston Villa's second goal, Waring shooting into the corner of the net after a good pass of Walker's had sent Dorrell away.

Beresford very nearly went through a moment after the interval, but for a long time after that there was little virtue in the play. Reading did, perhaps, most of the attacking that there was, but their work was not so neat as it had been in the first half, and a goal never looked very likely. After 20 minutes or so they ceased even to press as much as they had been doing, and although Aston Villa, in the closing stages of the game, made the mistake of falling back and defending, the game seemed definitely over. If Aston Villa looked safe, however, they did not look likely to score, and it was a surprise when Waring got a goal with less than a minute to go. The moral credit for the goal must go to York, who sent in a hard shot which Duckworth saved but could not hold.

The teams were:—

READING.—Duckworth, goal; Inglis and Smith, backs; Chandler, Messer and Meads, half-backs; Goodwin, McDonald, Johnstone, Hunter and Oswald, forwards.

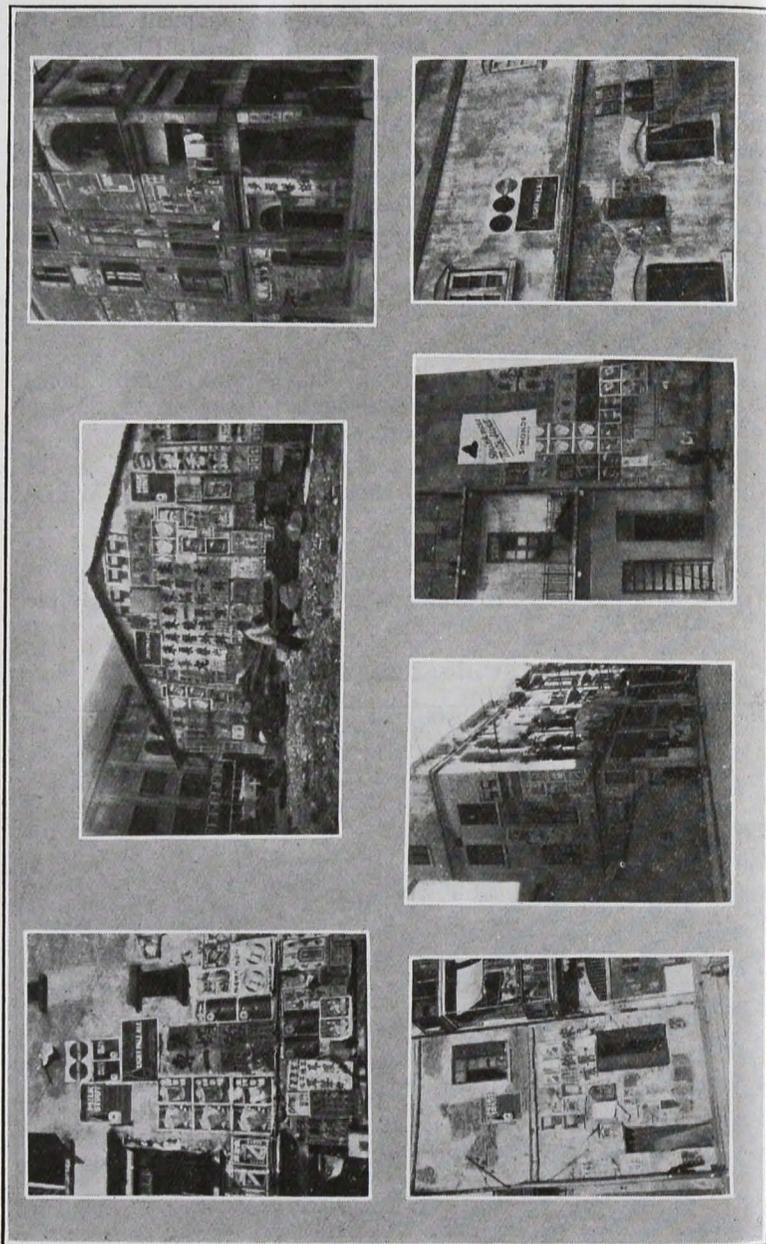
ASTON VILLA.—Olney, goal; Smart and Mort, backs; Kingdon, Talbot and Tate, half-backs; York, Beresford, Waring, Walker and Dorrell, forwards.

Mr. Small, the referee, made his headquarters the Bush Hotel, Wokingham, one of H. & Simonds' houses. No doubt he sampled a "small" S.B.

INTERESTING FOOTBALL GROUP.



Most of these players will be readily recognised. They showed great progress at the game in days long gone by.



Snaps taken in Hong Kong shewing Poster displays. This form of advertisement is very largely indulged in throughout China and the Far East generally.

BRANCHES.

WOKING.

FOX INN, BISLEY.

Considering the very inclement weather experienced on Saturday evening, February 9th, it was very gratifying to see such an excellent attendance of well-wishers, to the number of 150, who gathered together at the Fox Inn, Bisley, to celebrate the completion of the alterations and enlargements that have recently been carried out by Mr. B. B. Barnes, Builder, Bisley, under the supervision of Messrs. Friend & Lloyd, architects, Aldershot. Many friends came from a distance, including Weybridge, Chertsey, Ottershaw, Addlestone, Brookwood, Knaphill and Pirbright. A concert was arranged and was under the chairmanship of Mr. C. Bennett (Reading), supported by Mr. A. Bennett (Woking). Several old favourites were on the programme, including Percy Williams, and George Foster (vocalists), H. Sheuth (violin), Mr. Matthews (cornet), and Miss Waters (piano); all items were splendidly rendered and well received. Needless to say the new lounge and coffee room were packed to their utmost capacity.

During the interval, refreshments were supplied to the company by the Host and Hostess and were highly appreciated. Hearty thanks were voiced by Mr. Whitcombe (Pirbright) and good wishes were expressed for the future happiness of customers and the success of the enlarged business.

The rebuilding of this House recently became an urgent necessity as the pressure on the resources of the old building had become severe. The increased accommodation now available will enable Mr. and Mrs. Brown to offer excellent facilities to motorists, tourists and visitors. Mrs. Brown has had a large experience in catering, and the management of the Hotel side could not be in better hands, and all patrons can rely on her personal supervision of their needs. There should be a great future for the Fox Inn, Bisley, especially during the rifle shooting season. The old building was of considerable antiquity and had many historic associations, dating back, as it did, to the sixteenth century. It was therefore, closely connected with the development of the district as a military centre, and as a residential area. Bisley, being the home of the National Rifle Association, and the summer camp of the Army Rifle Association, is favoured with visitors from all over the British Empire, and every famous School in the Country sends representatives, while all the great rifle clubs of the English-speaking world have a club house or rendezvous within its boundaries.

SALISBURY.

At the time of writing, Salisbury and district, in common with most other places, is still in the grip of one of the coldest spells of weather experienced for many years. At one place in the city 28 degrees of frost was registered; the lowest on record for 35 years.

The snowfall was heavier than that which occurred at Xmas, 1927, but country districts did not suffer so severely as on the former occasion. A few roads were blocked by drifts which interfered with traffic and several motor buses and cars were stranded.

At a certain village in the district a donkey is used for delivering coal and coke. One evening last week it was sent to rest, perspiring from its exertions. The next morning the owner found the animal frozen completely over. A beautiful sight, no doubt, but rather uncomfortable for the donkey.

We congratulate the Reading Football Club on their very fine displays in the Association Football Cup competition, also upon the exceptional run of successes in the league. We were sorry to see them defeated by Aston Villa and so dispose of their Cup ambitions for another year. Better luck next time.

Amongst the many club dinners held in the city during the past few weeks those of Bemerton Conservative Club, St. Paul's Conservative Club, Fisherton Conservative Club, and Fisherton Working Men's Club and Institute deserve special mention. All of these were in every way very successful functions, and proved highly enjoyable to those of our staff who attended.

It was with the deepest regret that we heard of the death of Mr. E. Bailey, and the sad news came as a great shock to those of us here who knew him. May we add our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Bailey and family in their great loss.

We should also like to wish all those at the Brewery who have been absent from the office with the 'flu, &c., a speedy recovery to health and fitness.

LONDON.

The New Year has not started with the good trade generally hoped for, but we have had a fair share of the trade in this district.

By the time these notes are published, we shall be preparing for Easter and looking to the stocking-up of the various racecourses.

Greyhound racing at Wembley re-commences on March 1st. Our friends—Messrs. Letheby & Christopher, Ltd.—are again catering and we shall have the honour of supplying all beers. Notable amongst them will be our celebrated "S.B." Ale. No doubt the dog racing public, after two months close-season, will return to their favourite sport with renewed interest, and we are hoping for good business.

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Harry Fish, formerly of Woolwich Branch. Although we did not often meet him after his retirement, he was still remembered by many of the older members of the Staff here and we extend to his relatives our deepest sympathy in their sad loss.

It was with profound regret that we heard of the passing away of Mr. Bailey. Although but few at this Branch had met him, his excellent reputation and kindly ways were known to all.

The Deerfield & West Hendon Social Club, Ltd., held their 21st Annual Dinner on February 9th. Mr. J. Chamberlain—President of the Club—occupied the chair and above 250 members were present. Our Mr. N. Nulty attended. During the course of the evening, Mr. B. T. Hall—President of the Club & Institute Union—presented Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Penderill (Secretary) with a magnificent gold watch in commemoration of their splendid services to the Club. The dinner was greatly enjoyed by all, and a concert followed. This was attended by the members' wives and friends.

We met our friend, Mr. E. G. Steward—the popular host of The Crown & Anchor, Stonhouse Street—the other morning, off to the Licensing Sessions, with the hope of getting an alteration in the licensing hours on Sundays from 6—9 to 7—10 p.m. Optimism did not prevail as the Justices of the Wandsworth Division have year after year turned down the application, but this year after long deliberation, and to the satisfaction of the many licence holders, it was decided to grant the request—the new hours coming into force from February 17th. Wandsworth is the last Borough of the Metropolis to fall into line—after a fight lasting ten years.

The Londoners were delighted with the win of Millwall against Reading, but we are very disappointed at the cup-tie result against Aston Villa. We had great hopes of Reading visiting Wembley this year.

The North Lambeth Liberal & Radical Club, Ltd., held their twenty-seventh Anniversary Dinner and Concert on Saturday the 16th February, at the Club premises, 28a Wincott Street, Kennington, S.E.11. The President, Mr. A. E. Francis, occupied the chair and about 200 members and friends were present. Our Mr. J. Bowyer attended and was pleased to meet Mr. W. Hawkins from Woking Branch, who was also a visitor. The dinner was followed by an excellent concert and a very enjoyable and successful evening was spent.

HYPHE.

Hythe has a blot upon her reputation. We have been experiencing some wintry weather here, and old inhabitants say we have had nothing like it since 1895. Although nights have been cold, however, we have been getting an abnormal amount of sunshine during the day for the time of the year, which has brought us some consolation.

The inset copy of the photo of the Reading team in last month's issue was a happy thought on the part of the Editor, and was much appreciated by most of us at Hythe, where the doings of Reading are followed very closely. The sympathies of most Englishmen are always on the side of the weaker or less known side, and, for that reason alone, we all should like to have seen them win. It was not to be however, and when one of their most ardent and enthusiastic supporters caught a very bad chill and it was doubtful whether he would be able to attend the match we began to lose hope, but when his voice went we all knew in our hearts that it was fatal.

The Hythe Brewery team have been experiencing very in-and-out form since last we wrote, having lost two league games, chiefly through having a very disorganised team, due to illness. But they won the most important engagement, the semi-final of the Ashford Charity Cup with Willesborough by 4 goals to 1. We are now in the final which takes place on Good Friday at Ashford, and our opponents are, as we anticipated, Wye. If our boys can only reproduce the form displayed in the semi-final, the result should be a foregone conclusion.

The Willesborough team this year are a very strong combination and have been carrying all before them, and the fact that they beat us on our own ground by 2 to 1 made them very confident that they would accomplish the trick again at Willesborough.

It was a great game and real cup-tie football from beginning to end. Our boys started off with a great rush and quickly put on four goals, and we were leading by that number at the change over. In the second half they adopted defensive tactics, and Swan in goal and the two backs, Cooper and L. Blackman, put in some really good work. Chester at centre half, played a great game and fairly bottled up the opposing centre forward, who we believe is signed on and has played for Millwall this season. E. Rose and E. Blackman also did well in breaking up the attacks on our goal in this half. All of the forwards did extremely well in the first half but were somewhat ragged in the second. No doubt this was on account of the defensive game they were playing. Two charabanc loads of supporters went from the Brewery to cheer them to victory and we can see many more charabancs being required on Good Friday. We wish them all the luck but recommend them not to be over-confident.

THE ANNUAL PARTY.

The annual party given by the Directors to the wives and children of all employees took place on Friday, February 1st, and over 200 sat down to tea. There appeared to be more children present than ever this year. It was without doubt the jolliest party of the whole series. Of course we had the young ladies from Mr Andrews' department this year and the great competition amongst the young and the old boys to sit at their table was very noticeable. Mr. Williams, as usual, had all the luck and the yarn that he only went there to keep order is believed by no one but himself. There is no doubt that that table had the best service. Commander H. D. Simonds, who represented the Directors, moved about amongst the tables, chatting with various employees, and seemed to enjoy the proceedings thoroughly. After the tea, every child was given a present, the presentation being made by Commander H. D. Simonds in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. G. L. Mackeson, and after that the Brewery Optimists entertained us. They were all very smart in their new costumes, dressed as pierrots. As regards the entertainment, without doubt Mr. Wigg was the hit of the evening and proved what a great acquisition he is to the Optimists. His songs "Wait till I've finished my orange" and "Apple Dumplings" caused roars of laughter and he was encored again and again. In the second half of the entertainment they became Nigger Minstrels again for the benefit of the younger children. Middleton and Sherwood were their same old selves and

kept the fun going fast and furious, and Cooper, Rose and Standen each did their parts well. We must not forget the brilliant Peacock and must congratulate him on the excellence of the whole performance. The time he spends in rehearsing the different members and the perfection to which the troupe has attained is solely due, we understand, to his enthusiasm.

Billie Hoad, too, must not be forgotten. It was a brave act on his part to get up from a bed of sickness in order not to let the troupe down. It is a great pity there is not an understudy at the piano as it would have been a dire catastrophe if it had been impossible for him to turn up. That is a contingency that has always to be taken into account, as the gentleman at the piano is one who cannot be dispensed with.

"WET BOBS" SCORE A NOTABLE VICTORY.

COMPLETE DEFEAT OF THE "HYTHE NAVEE."

Following our note of last month regarding the rumpus between an officer of high degree in the "Hythe Navee" and the people who interrupt navigation in the Channel, the great battle took place on Tuesday the 22nd January, and resulted in the complete rout of those who seek to take away our ancient rights. As a result of this action we are now assured of free communication with the other side.

It was a strenuous fight all through, the battle ground laid between the Duke's Head, Hythe, and the Ship Hotel, Dymchurch, and with such a goal dangling before them, no wonder the walkers accomplished the feat they set out to do. The "Ship" was captured with four-and-a-half minutes to spare. The Hythe Reporter commenting on the different combatants after the contest, said "the third aspirant seemed to be carrying a load of anxiety but perhaps he thought trouble was brewing." Why they should say the third aspirant, considering he finished a long way in front and was the first to board the "Ship" we cannot imagine. They said they observed the scrap from the Chipper Field which was rather weak. We should have suggested the "Prince of Wales" kept by the old sea dog, Woodward. He could have given them professional advice as to how the fight was going.

The signing of Peace took place in the "Hall of Mirrors" at the Ship Hotel, and Peace and Harmony has reigned ever since. Long may it continue. These little wars are very expensive, especially if you lose.

In conversation with the genial host, Mr. Savage, after all formalities had been gone through it turned out that he had been some athlete in his youth, and he showed us the following paragraph taken from *The Sportsman*, April, 1901:

"Some very fine all-round athletic work has been shown at times, but it is very doubtful if anything finer than that shown by Mr. Thomas Savage of Wimbledon, yesterday, has ever been seen. This young athlete had bound himself to run, walk, row, swim, ride a bicycle, and on horseback, a quarter-of-a-mile for each turn, in the space of half-an-hour. The towpath in the vicinity of Kingston Bridge was utilised as a track for these events. Shortly after 7.30 the young athlete signified his readiness to begin his task. The walk came first, and the 440 yards was done in 2 mins. 45 secs. There was very little time lost in mounting the horse. The quarter-of-a-mile ride came next. This feat occupied 1 min. 4 secs. So far, 3 mins. 49 secs. had been used up. The swim came next, and this took the athlete 7 mins. 49 secs. to accomplish. So far, 11 min. 38 secs. had been used up. There was very little loss of time (1 min.) in the drying process which followed the swim. Mr. Savage then started on his quarter-mile run, and this took him 1 min. 41 secs., swelling the total time up to 14 min. 19 secs. The bicycle ride of 440 yards came next. It was thought that this would be the fastest event of the lot, but it occupied 1 min. 17 secs. The total time was 15 min. 36 secs. The quarter-of-a-mile row, which wound up the six feats was done in 2 mins. 57 2-5 secs., so that Savage won by 11 mins. 26 3-5 secs.

"E. Golding was the backer of time. Sam Fritty trained Mr. Savage. H. Wild and E. Bridger looked after the interests of Messrs. Golding and Savage respectively.

"The winner is a fine young fellow, standing 5ft. 9in. and weighing 12st. 6lb. He is just turned twenty-one years of age.

"Mr. Ed. Plummer (appointed by the *Sporting Life*) was the referee and timekeeper.

"The following table shows what each quarter-of-a-mile was done in:—

	Each Event.		Total Time.	
	M.	S.	M.	S.
Walking ...	2	45	2	45
Horse Riding ...	1	4	3	49
Swimming ...	7	49	11	38
Running ...	1	47	14	19
Cycling ...	1	17	15	36
Rowing ...	2	57 2-5	18	33 2-5 "

As a result of all this walking our third aspirant, who finished first, has asked us to add a note that he throws out a challenge to all and sundry, either from Headquarters or Branches, that he will walk more miles in an hour than anyone. Of course there is a catch in this as he added that the race was to take place at Wembley before Reading played off the Final. We shall not be seeing him until after these notes are posted, so we do not know if he wishes to qualify his challenge now in anyway after Saturday the 16th February. We imagine that it will take him some little time to recover from that blow.

The Annual Staff Dinner has been fixed for Thursday, the 28th February, and is taking place in the large Hall at the Railway terminus this year, and either Mr. Shea-Simonds or Commander H. D. Simonds, whichever can spare the time to come down, has kindly promised to take the chair.

We deeply regret to receive the sad news of the passing over of Mrs. H. Alden, the wife of our Architect, early on Monday morning, February 25th. The heartfelt sympathy of all at Hythe is with Mr. Alden in his bereavement. *Requiescat in pace.*

PORTSMOUTH.

THE LAUNCHING OF H.M.S. "DORSETSHIRE" AT PORTSMOUTH.

H.M.S. *Dorsetshire* was launched from the building slip in Portsmouth Dockyard on the 29th January, in the afternoon, to the accompaniment of the playing of "Rule Britannia" and the cheers of several thousands of spectators. The Countess of Shaftesbury, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of the County after which the new ship is named, performing the ceremony.

This was marked by fitting naval ceremonial and the time-honoured display. Ships in harbour were dressed overall and in the vicinity of the scene of the launch the gloom of dockyard sheds and workshops was brightened by many tons of bunting.

Some 4,000 ticket holders were piloted to their allotted places by the Metropolitan Police and Naval Ratings. There was also a steady stream of members of the general public into the Dockyard to see the ceremony. The Royal Marine Divisional Band and the Royal Naval Barracks Band were in attendance, playing inspiring nautical and patriotic tunes. The Countess of Shaftesbury was escorted by the Commander-in-Chief (Admiral Sir Osmond de B. Brock, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O.), and as they alighted at the foot of the steps leading to the launching platform, a guard of honour and band from the Royal Naval Barracks, which was mounted with a detachment of 60 ranks of the Dorsetshire Regiment

on its left, gave an Admiral's salute. The customary religious service was conducted by the Rev. T. F. Robinson (Dockyard Chaplain) and this completed, Lady Shaftesbury named the ship by breaking a bottle of wine across the bow, at the same time wishing success to the *Dorsetshire* and all who sailed in her. Final preparations were then made by the officials of the Construction Department, under Mr. G. E. Suter's directions, Mr. Suter being the manager of the department. Lady Shaftesbury severed a rope stretched across the bow and released the ship which glided down the ways into the harbour.

The name *Dorsetshire* is an ancient name restored; the earliest association of the name with the Royal Navy would appear to be the vessel built at Southampton in 1694, carrying 80 guns. In 1704 this vessel, which was then commanded by Captain Edward Whitaker assisted at the capture of Gibraltar on July 24th of that year. History records that during the night, Admiral of the Fleet George Rooke ordered Capt. Edward Whitaker of the *Dorsetshire* to man and arm boats and to destroy a French vessel that lay within the Old Mole.

The new *Dorsetshire* is the last of three cruisers authorized in the Navy Estimates of 1926, the *York* having been launched by the Duchess of York at Jarrow-on-Tyne on July 17th last year and the *Norfolk* having left the building slip of the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Govan, on December 12th, when the naming ceremony was performed by Lady Leicester, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire. The total cost of the *Dorsetshire* was about 2½ millions. An important advance in this group, as compared with earlier vessels of the class, is the adoption of Deisel engines for use at cruising speeds. The ships are 590 feet long between perpendiculars, or 633 feet overall, and will have a beam of 66 feet and a displacement of 10,000 tons without fuel and stores. The complement includes 679 officers and men, or 710 if, as in the case of the *Dorsetshire*, the vessel is fitted as a flagship.

ALTERATION IN LEADERSHIP OF THE PORTSMOUTH BRANCH BRITISH LEGION.

To the regret of all the members of the Portsmouth Branch of the British Legion, Brig.-General Sir R. A. W. Colleton, Bart., C.B., who has been chairman of the Branch for the last eight years, acting on medical advice has resigned. This is a distinct loss to the Branch but the members are fortunate in that the vacancy will be filled by Admiral R. B. Farquhar, C.B., and the fact that Sir Robert Colleton has accepted the office of Vice-President will ensure the retention by the Branch of his valuable assistance as

an experienced leader. During the past year a new scheme was entered upon by the Legion whereby a party of ex-naval men and families have been gathered at Chisildon, Wilts, for training in farm work for Canada. Portsmouth has sent two families. These will undergo training until about next May, when they will be sent to Canada. All expenses, during both the training and the outward journey, will be borne by the Legion. It is very gratifying to report an increase of over £300 in connection with the Poppy Day collection, thus establishing a new record, and a letter has been received from the Organizing Secretary of the Appeals Department acknowledging a cheque for £1,765 6s. 9d., and expressing the warm thanks of the Legion to the army of workers and the individual supporters. Ten permanent situations have been found for members of the Branch during the past twelve months in addition to 44 temporary situations, while 31 men were financially assisted by granting rail fares, and in other cases necessary tools have been provided.

H.M.S. "LONDON" COMMISSIONED AT PORTSMOUTH FOR DUTY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

The new 10,000 ton cruiser *London* was commissioned here by Capt. H. H. Rogers, M.V.O., O.B.E., and is proceeding to the Mediterranean where she will take over the duties of flagship to the fast cruiser squadron in the place of the *Frobisher*. The *London* is one of the four cruisers of the 1925 programme. She was laid down in February, 1926, and launched by Lady Blades on September 14th, 1927, and was the first ship of the class designed by Sir W. J. Berry after his appointment as Director of Naval Construction. These vessels are armed with eight 8-in., four 4-in. (A.A.) and 20 smaller guns. There are eight torpedo tubes in two quadruple deck mounts and the speed is placed at 32 knots.

The present ship is the eighth of the name and the plate she has inherited from the last *London* forms a very interesting collection and includes five separate gifts from the Lord Mayor (Sir J. Pound) and citizens of London, presented in 1906. The first gift was a model in silver of the White Tower in the Tower of London, together with a pair of handsome dishes in solid silver, bearing as the principal feature of the design the City Dragon, finely wrought. The second gift took the form of a Silver Challenge Shield, to be competed for annually at Big Gun Practice, the name of the best shooting crew on board to be inscribed on it each year. In addition, the Mercers' Company, the senior of the City Companies, presented three silver cups—copies of three loving cups in the possession of the Company.

SLOUGH.

Saturday, 12th January, was a Red Letter day in the history of the Slough British Legion Club, for it saw the laying of the two Foundation Stones of the new Club premises. Despite the inclemency of the weather a large number of members and their friends assembled in the afternoon to witness the event. The first Stone was laid by the Chairman of the Slough Urban Council (Mr. E. T. Bowyer). The second Stone was laid by Councillors N. H. Grove and F. R. Whiteman, the Chairman and Secretary of the Club. In the evening a concert was held in honour of the event and was thoroughly enjoyed by a gathering which rather strained the capacity of the existing premises. At this function gold watches were presented to three members who, by their promptitude on Boxing Day, saved the present premises from being destroyed by fire.

The Annual Dinner of the Hanwell Labour Hall Club was held on Saturday, 2nd February, in the Club's new premises, recently completed. The Chair was taken by the Club's Chairman who was supported by Capt. Beaumont, the prospective Labour Candidate for Hanwell Division, and others. After an excellent repast prepared by the lady members of the Club, an enjoyable concert was given by Club talent.

On 8th February, the Bear Hotel, Maidenhead, was the scene of another Dinner. On this occasion it was the Maidenhead British Legion Club who were celebrating a successful year passed. Sir Frederick Milner presided over this gathering and was supported by the M.P. for East Berks and a number of officers. During the evening a handsome silver casket was presented to Sir Frederick in appreciation of the help he had given to the Club during the number of years he had been its President. After the speeches, which were interspersed with variety items kindly arranged by the Rialto Cinema, an enjoyable dance was held until the early hours of the morning.

We are pleased to say that once again we have successfully passed the Brewster Sessions with a clean sheet, all licences being granted without comment. Several applications were made for new licences in the Slough and Farnham Royal areas, but these were all turned down, the Chairman of the Beaconsfield Bench remarking that the applications which came before his Bench were, in the opinion of the Magistrates, premature.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mr. James Moss, who for many years filled the office of Secretary to the

Southall Working Men's Club. He was a hard worker in the Club's interest and did a great deal for Club life in Southall. With the Club we mourn their great loss.

It was also with deep regret that we at Slough learned of the death of Mr. E. Bailey. Although to us only "a voice over the 'phone" he will be greatly missed, and we can sympathise in their loss with those who were brought into personal contact with him. Our business relations were always of a most cordial nature.

WOOLWICH.

"Roll on Summer" is, we think, the most popular phrase at the moment, although when one reads the headlines of the various papers—"London Getting Colder," etc.—it seems as though the warmer weather is still a long way off.

It is very touching when one reads the GAZETTE each month to hear of the passing of some of the Firm's oldest employees. We here regret to report the death of our late Chief Clerk, Mr. H. H. Fish, who passed away very suddenly on December 28th, 1928. Mr. Fish served the Firm for over 40 years at this Branch, retiring from duty on December 5th, 1920.

Mr. Fish used to pay us a visit regularly every week, and needless to say we miss him and his cheery words very much.

We all appreciated the photograph of the Reading Football Team, and if this is to be a regular feature, Mr. Editor, I have been asked if you will kindly place Charlton Athletic on your list. We feel sure our Portsmouth readers will agree they deserve this, after their display in the cup tie against their local team.

As usual at this time of the year, dances are in full swing and we have had the pleasure of supplying many of these, both military and civilian.

Ye Ancient Order of Froth Blowers held a very fine dance at the Town Hall, Woolwich, recently, in aid of the Woolwich War Memorial Hospital, and quite a good sum was handed over. We had the pleasure of supplying the bar, through one of the local licensees.

Some of our readers may be interested to know that the 1st and 2nd Training Brigades, R.A., Woolwich, have now separated

regarding Sergeants' Mess arrangements, each having their own Mess.

One of the many songs rendered on the occasion of the excellent smoking concert given at the opening of the 1st Training Brigade Sergeants' Mess, was as follows:—

Now I wish you good cheer all you folks who are here,
For I've heard that this Mess is selling good beer.
I'm really surprised at the thirst you acquire,
The back of your throat must be almost on fire.
And we're staying right here,
For the rest of the year,
Day after Day, Week after Week, Month after Month, and
Year after Year.

Now before you all came you were certain I know,
Mr. Plummer intended to give a good show,
And accordingly appointed a Mess President
Who quickly found out where the £ s. d. went.
Old Simonds provided the drink,
Which is putting us all in the pink,
And when homeward we go,
We shall roll to and fro,
Day after Day, Week after Week, Month after Month, and
Year after Year.

Now the hours they are strict, and we must not be late,
So beware all you people who've had one over the eight.
Your wives will be waiting for you at the door,
And if you're not careful you may hit the floor,
Your troubles will not have begun,
Until we have replaced the bung,
So drink all you can,
For we don't care a hang,
Day after Day, Week after Week, Month after Month, and
Year after Year.

R.Q.M.S. Warman is responsible for the composing of the song, which does not carry a copyright.

The opening of the Sergeants' Mess, 2nd Training Brigade, was in the form of a whist drive and concert; the Mess on this occasion was full to the "Bung," and all spent a very pleasant evening.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

May we, in the West, place on record our deep sense of loss at the passing hence of an old servant of the Firm, Mr. Edward Bailey. We, who worked with him at the Brewery, know the example he set during his many years of service. The principles he, and others we can remember, stood firm for, are not easy to live up to, and paradoxically though of life, outlive us all.

We thank you, Mr. Editor, for the kindly thought which prompted that valued reproduction of our old friend's likeness, and we, with all who were his comrades, will always have a kindly thought in our hearts when the name of Edward Bailey arises.

OUR SOCIAL CLUB.

The Annual Meeting of the above took place at the Club on January 23rd at 8.0 p.m. Mr. W. H. C. Mills (Chairman) presided over a fair attendance, despite the bad weather outside.

We are glad to say the atmospheric conditions did not overshadow the meeting; the keenest interest being taken throughout the proceedings.

The Balance Sheet showed a surplus of Assets over Liabilities to the value of £28 7s. 2d., despite the heavy calls of the now defunct Football Club.

One pleasing feature was the proposed list of 20 new members, which brings the membership up to about 60, and thus encouraged, the new Officers elected and Committee will go forward with renewed vigour.

The President (Mr. F. A. Simonds) and Vice-Presidents were unanimously re-elected, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed, in like manner, for their invaluable help in the past.

The Officers elected for the current year were as follows:—*Chairman*, Mr. R. Rymell; *Vice-Chairman*, Mr. F. Pierce; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. R. E. Wright; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. W. G. Sealey; *Committee*, Messrs. A. E. Ellis, R. Mills, W. H. C. Mills, S. Naish and G. Rogers; *Auditors*, Messrs. W. H. Davis and J. H. Law.

Some proposed additions to the Club for the comfort of its members were discussed and left in the hands of the Officers and Committee to arrange. After the presentation of the "Sealey" Billiards Cup, a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring Chairman and the meeting closed.

In passing, however, we must congratulate our Billiards team on defeating the 2nd Bn. Devonshire Regiment in the return game.

A bright augury for the future indeed! Class will tell!!

This appears almost to be the case of the Reading *v.* Aston Villa Cup tie, although, if true, it casts no reflection on the abilities of the Reading men.

To be beaten by such a team as the Villa, is no disgrace. We now read everywhere that they are the accepted favourites for "the bauble," thus we take it that what they accomplished at Reading made them so—a rare compliment to the Elm-Parkites.

By the way, we hear the men of Brum (see last month's notes) "fraternised" all right when the news reached Devonport. Certainly we didn't notice either Claret or Blues about, when the lads of the village were in full swing, and mine host was joining in the celebrations.

"'Tis an ill wind that blows nobody any good."

A WORD TO OXFORD.

Can your crew pull it off this time?

After giving us the other "blues" for several years, a change would indeed be welcomed.

(Hear, Hear!! from other Branches interested).

During the past month the greatest sporting event here was the tussle between the 1st Duke of Wellington's Regiment and the 5th Battalion Royal Tank Corps, to decide which unit should enter the semi-final of the Army Rugby Cup. Both were the potential winners. After a stirring encounter the "Iron Dukes" defeated their rivals by two tries (6 points) to nil.

The Tanks fought well, but met a sounder side, in the loose especially, who gave no quarter, even to that great half-back, Arthur Young, and for most of the game allowed no man to proceed far with the ball, but tackled like grizzly bears on almost every occasion. A great number of supporters came from Perham but had to admit that the best side had won. Their vocal support was almost deafening throughout the game, and it was through no fault of theirs that the Tanks retired beaten.

An old Devon player wrote: "It was real Rugby at its best, and was a ——— pleasure to witness."

Play up the Dukes!! We hope to see that Cup in Devonport ere long.

The 'flu epidemic, in common with other places, has made many temporary gaps in our ranks in every Department during the past few weeks, and to add to the total, one of our transport staff (E. Lilleyman) whilst on his motor cycle *en route* to the Brewery one early morning, alighted head first on one of those corrugated surfaces for which Cornish roads are notorious, and has been unable for some few weeks to carry on. We are pleased, however, that he, and all our temporary invalids, are progressing towards recovery, and hope to see them one and all back in harness in the near future.

BRIGHTON.

Just now we are in the grip of arctic weather, the temperature of the office not having risen above 45 degrees for some days, and Brighton generally, especially at night time, has been thoroughly nipped by the severest spell of weather since 1881.

The night of Thursday, February 14th, was the climax, when the thermometer in the town dropped to 14.3 degrees, and in the hilly outlying district 26 degrees of frost were registered. As some recompense, whilst snowstorms have been reported elsewhere, we have some days had six or seven hours of sunshine. Why go to the Riviera?

A charming sight on the sea front was the frozen fountain, which plays in the boating pool and forms part of the new ornamental gardens on the beach. A spray of water was still issuing from the top and, freezing as it fell, the ice mounted higher and higher. The coloured lights which illumine the fountain during the summer had been turned on and the effect through the masses of ice and myriads of icicles can better be imagined than described.

The frosts have not deterred some of Brighton's "All the Year Round" bathers from their daily dip, and our local press shows a photograph of five such spartans emerging from the sea on Saturday last, with snow on the beach. Included amongst these heroes was Mr. W. C. Hodgkinson, over 70 years of age, whose portrait we were pleased to print in the GAZETTE a year ago.

The wintry weather has brought inland a large number of seagulls, and flocks hover over the back gardens on the look-out for any stray food, and nothing seems to come amiss to them.

Sussex is honoured with the presence of His Majesty the King, whose sojourn at Craigweil house, near Bognor, will we hope restore to him health and strength.

News from some of the Branches has been missed of late; what has happened to the Special Correspondents at Slough, Farnborough, Woolwich and London? We shall be glad to hear from you.

OXFORD.

We were very sad indeed to hear of the passing of Mr. Edward Bailey. Those of us who have come into contact with him, even if only over the telephone, will endorse what others have said already. We shall all miss his kindly way, and the manner that was invariably the same, even during such periods as the Xmas rush.

We have also to place on record the demise of a very old friend in the person of Mr. G. F. Palmer of Abingdon. His death, after a very painful and protracted illness, severs a long period of cordial business relations with us. He was a highly esteemed customer for many years.

The Oxford crew has got a new boat and commenced training once more. We venture to hope that the Dark Blues will give the Cantabs a run (or a pull) for their money when this year's Putney to Mortlake race (we nearly said procession) is decided.

We thought that Cupid had done his worst with us when we had married off most of our lady clerks in the past two years, but "Dan" must have had a card up his sleeve all the time.

At any rate we have been informed by the victim (?) himself that Mr. J. V. Hasker is proposing to join the Benedicts somewhere in the vicinity of Easter next. We wish him the felicity he deserves.

We were very interested to read the article in last month's GAZETTE concerning our fellow Oxonian, Mr. F. L. Shrimpton, and we can thoroughly endorse all his chronicler has said. His name, even after the lapse of so many years, is often mentioned during conversation with his contemporaries in the rowing world.

We cull from the leaves of the weekly *Oxford Times* of February 8th a doggerel which appeared over the initials "P.V.", concerning

Witney. As the Blanket Town is in our district we must, in justice to our friends there, pass the lines on :—

“ DOGGEREL ON SHOWING A STRANGER ROUND WITNEY.”

Upon your left, the Butter Cross,
With Corn-Street on your right, of course.
And to cap the panorama,
That edifice, the home of drama.
Come, let us wander up the Green
And see what there is to be seen.
The Church—few finer in the nation
For christening or confirmation—
Is on your left, while on your right
Is the abode of law and might.
We hurry in between the two ;
The station bursts upon our view,
With penny-in-the-slot machine,
And ticket-office, neat and clean,
With everything so spick and span—
A triumph of the hand of man.
Oh, what a sight for startled eyes ;
I thought it would be a surprise !
Let us return, so, by and by
We come into the street called High.
This, my dear Sir, the business zone,
No place for laggard or for drone.
Of course, we candidly admit
That Wall Street, too, can do her bit,
But we all bet our Sunday pants
Upon this spot for keen finance.
Artisticness is not forgotten,
The Windrush flows across the bottom.
What's that you say ? The Rhine or Nile ?
Pray, Sir, excuse us while we smile !
This shop, with windows dressed so sprightly,
Is our equivalent to “ Whiteley.”
This town—and everyone should thank it—
Is where we make the famous Blanket.
See ! That's the factory over there.
Pure wool, for one pound five a pair.
We've bathing, dancing, all the sports,
Including well-kept tennis courts—
In fact, to quote the local farmers,
This town, Sir, is “ The Cat's Pyjamas !”

P.V.

OXFORD CENTRAL CONSERVATIVE CLUB : ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner of the above Club was held on Tuesday, February 12th, and proved a very interesting function. Mr. H. Mapleston very ably presided, and there were present Councillors Blackler and J. Rhodes, Messrs. R. Rippington, H. A. Pratley (Hon. Secretary), supported by a goodly array of members and friends.

After the repast, speeches were interspersed with songs, etc., and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

We noticed in a recent issue of that estimable publication the *Oxford Evening Times*, an item that may be of interest to the readers of the Ladies Section of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE ; it runs as follows :—

“ WOMAN'S PULPIT.”

“ No woman should marry a teetotalter or a man who does not smoke.”—R. L. Stevenson—*Virginibus*.

We say “ Bravo !” to the memory of R.L.S., and recommend our fair readers to bear in mind his excellent advice.

FARNBOROUGH.

All at Farnborough Branch were sorry to hear of the dismissal of Reading from the F.A. Cup, by Aston Villa. Reading's wonderful run of successes has been closely followed by all here and great disappointment was felt owing to the inability to obtain tickets for the Villa game. Although unsuccessful, we thank the gentleman at the Brewery who went to such trouble to obtain for us the necessary “ passes ” for this most popular visit of the Birmingham team.

During this season the members of Farnborough Branch Staff have been participating in all classes of football. E. Crutchley has twice played against professionals, once against Aldershot Town and on the second occasion against Fulham. In the second game he was assisting Woking in a friendly, and after the match was asked to sign on for the Isthmian League team, an offer which he declined. He has all the season been turning out for Godalming in the Surrey Senior League ; they are at present occupying top position in the league, with an excellent chance of winning the

championship. Other members of the staff are playing in intermediate football, assisting Frimley Green in the Surrey Intermediate League. Further Farnborough Branch workers are helping Frimley Green "A" team in the Ascot & District League, a junior competition, and finally, some of the staff have played for the Frimley Green 3rd XI. in the Surrey Minor Cup. Altogether we have had the most varied interests in football to entertain us. Whilst on this subject, mention must be also made that we employ Frimley Green's trainer, "Doctor" Kent.

During the severe weather we have been recently experiencing, skaters have had numerous opportunities to indulge in their favourite sport. There are several sheets of water in this district, chiefly: Fleet Pond, Mytchett Lake and Cove Reservoir, that have proved most popular. Fortunately, accidents have been very rare, but on January 20th, one of our labellers, A. Humm, was concerned in an incident which spoke well for his presence of mind. Several children, and in fact not a few grown-ups, were sliding on Cove "Lake" when the ice suddenly gave way and one small boy was precipitated into the water. Humm at once seeing the imminent danger he was in, crawled out on the ice and was successful in pulling the boy out. Humm is to be congratulated on his plucky action.

Mr. R. V. Goodall, George Hotel, Basingstoke, assisted by his brother-in-law, Mr. L. Coker, is again advertising the famous Hop Leaf Brands in a novel manner. In his shop window is placed a model, which is an exact replica of the house and surroundings. It is an evening scene, in the road a policeman is holding up the inevitable car to enable customers to cross the road to obtain their favourite beverage. In the miniature shop window is a varied display of goods, which is absorbing the interest of some would-be purchasers. No detail is missed, even the stationary car is lit up, the lamp over the shop and the yard lights have not been overlooked. The advert. is lighted by electric "blinkers," which, in their turn, light up the wording on the front of the model: "The Hole in the Wall, for the best." It has been neatly constructed and Mr. Coker is to be commended for the conception of this clever advert.

RAILWAY ARMS, FRIMLEY.

In Capt. J. J. Lauder, M.C., mine host of the above house, we have one of our most popular and entertaining tenants.

Mr. Lauder has now successfully run the business connected with the Railway Arms since January 26th, 1922, prior to that

date having served upwards of 20 years in the Army. He enlisted in the Royal Artillery in 1899 and throughout his army career served in the same regiment. Mr. Lauder's ambition in those early days was to follow his father's example and become a Riding Master. Although successfully passing his examinations for this particular duty he was not accepted on account of being too small. He then devoted his time to gunnery and although passing all the promotion examinations in this branch, he disembarked in France in 1914 as the Battery Rough Rider. He was the oldest member in his Battery "The Mushroom Troop," as it was called, and early in 1915 he received the King's Commission, still serving with the same unit. He was eventually sent as Instructor to an Officers' School, finding it very hard to leave the Battery with which he had served so many years. During the Great War he served on more than one front, the last being in Russia. He had the honour of being mentioned in despatches on several occasions and was decorated with the Military Cross.



Capt. J. J. Lauder, M.C.

His soldier's life finished, Capt. Lauder now came across the most difficult proposition of his whole career: to find a house and suitable employment. He was more fortunate than many others and within a few months was settled in the Railway Arms, Frimley, a home and employment combined. Mr. Lauder says that during the seven years he has occupied these premises he has had an experience which he has thoroughly enjoyed. He was quickly nick-named "Jock" and has become a well-known figure in the district; the copy below of an envelope he recently received is an eloquent testimony of his popularity:—

JOCK,
FRIMLEY,
SURREY.

All who visit the Railway Arms are assured of a good welcome, and can obtain a glass of the famous "Hop Leaf" brand in perfect condition, or should Whisky be preferred, a real good Scotch served by some real good Scotch, accompanied by a real good Scotch joke.

FARNBOROUGH MILITARY.

THE LATE CHAS. GEORGE MOSDELL.

We regret to record the death of Charles George Mosdell, another of our Military Dept. staff from North Camp, and which occurred on Wednesday, 14th February, aged 53.

Recently he had been a great, and silent sufferer and his death is a happy release. He leaves a widow and seven children to mourn his loss.

"Charlie," as he was known to his intimates, joined our service at Alexandra Road in September, 1915, but prior to that he had worked for us for about 15-16 years on a hired pair of horses from Mr. J. H. Ward.

His experience with the latter gentleman made him very valuable to us.

He was a quiet and thorough worker. We shall miss him very much from our midst.

NEWBURY.

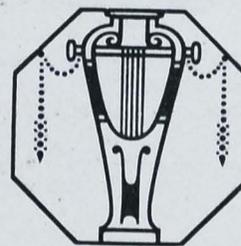
We regret to announce the death of Mr. Charles Frederick Kirkland after a long and painful illness. He had been on our Staff at Newbury as ledger clerk for the past fourteen years and was held in the highest esteem by all the staff and employees.

Mr. Kirkland was 56 years of age at the time of his death and was for the most part of his life a resident of Stockport where his father, mother and uncle were widely known and greatly respected.

He was a talented musician and was equally at home on the organ, piano or clarinet. He took a musical degree at the Manchester College of Music and was a pupil of the late Sir Charles Halle. At the early age of fourteen he was appointed organist at a Stockport Church and as a young man he toured the United States giving organ recitals in the larger towns.

For years he was connected with Showell's Brewery, Stockport, and later with the Rock Brewery, Brighton, from whence he came to Newbury in 1914. He took an active part in Masonry and was for some time Secretary of the Newbury Lodge of the R.A.O.B.

The funeral took place at the Old Cemetery, Newbury, on February 6th and was attended by some 30 or 40 members of the R.A.O.B. in Newbury and the surrounding district; our Company being represented by the Secretary. A wreath from the staff was also sent.



[LATEST].

HONOUR FOR MRS. F. A. SIMONDS.



In the New Year Honours List appears the name of Mrs. Amy Fitzgerald Simonds (wife of Mr. F. A. Simonds) who has had conferred upon her the O.B.E. for public and political services in Reading. No honour was ever more richly deserved and we offer Mrs. Simonds our warmest congratulations.