

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

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No. 9



MR. S. M. PENLERICK.

MR. S. M. PENLERICK.

Returning to our London Branch, the Plough Brewery, Wandsworth, for our frontispiece this month, we publish the portrait of Mr. S. M. Penlerick, Assistant Manager for the Metropolitan area.

Born at Boksburg, South Africa in 1903, Mr. Penlerick came to England at an early age to be educated and commenced his studies at Southey Hall Preparatory School, Worthing, and from there to Haileybury College.

The son of a mining engineer, who managed the East Rand Proprietary Mines Ltd., Mr. Penlerick, who was anxious to emulate his father's successes in the mining industry, entered upon a practical course of coal mining at Lord Waldegrave's Collieries, Radstock. After completing the course he returned to South Africa and was appointed to the Village Deep Gold Mine at Johannesburg. There he studied gold mining from the beginning, working in the Crushing Station through the final processes of reduction and recovery and final turning in of gold bars for shipment.

Work in the South African Gold Mines being very strenuous and the conditions injurious to health, Mr. Penlerick unfortunately had a break-down and was compelled to return to England to recuperate. Owing to the death of his father, he decided to remain in England and having become accustomed to an active and open-air life, which naturally appealed to him, Mr. Penlerick decided to try to obtain a position as an outside representative. He applied for and was successful in obtaining an engagement as traveller in March, 1933, at our Brighton Branch. Devoting himself assiduously to the business and succeeding in building up a good connection in the face of keen competition and by sheer perseverance, his efforts were brought to the notice of the Directors and in April, 1937, he was appointed Assistant Manager at the London Branch, under Major F. J. Johnson.

Although his earlier business life was of a totally different character, there is no doubt that his experience has led to the broad outlook and calm manner in which he now faces the problems of salesmanship. He has settled down to London life and has proved a great acquisition to the Branch.

Rugby football and cricket were his favourite games at college and during his stay in South Africa. He now plays badminton, squash and tennis.

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

CHAT *from*

THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

(By C. H. P.)



LEAVE WELL ALONE.

"I stick to honest alcoholic beverages. What suits one person does not suit another. I do not prescribe for prohibitionists, and I see no reason why they should prescribe for me."—*Professor J. B. S. Haldane, of London University, the well-known biologist.*

DEATH OF MR. H. WOOLCOTT.

We all learnt with very great regret of the death of Mr. H. Woolcott, which took place on the 11th May after a short illness. Mr. Woolcott, who was 57 years of age, had for the past 35 years been a member of our Brewing Staff. He was a very able analytical chemist and, in this capacity, played a valuable part in maintaining the high standard of our products. He was well known on the cricket field, in which sport he took a very keen interest, and for a long time played for the Brewery team. He was also a member of the Reading Cricket Club. Mr. Woolcott, during the Great War, had a wide experience in the uses of poisonous gases and up to quite recently had given a series of lectures on this difficult subject to the Company's A.R.P. Volunteers. Although of a very retiring disposition, he was well liked by all with whom he came into contact and our deepest sympathy is extended to his family in their, and also our, sad loss.

LIEUT.-COLONEL VERNON KEIGHLEY.

We regret to report the death, on May 8th, of Lieut.-Colonel Vernon Keighley, late 19th King George V Lancers, I.A., and we extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. F. H. V. Keighley, a member of our Board of Directors, on the sad loss of his much-esteemed father.

PATERNOSTER.

You express in one of your admirable "Nature Notes" a doubt as to the origin of the name of that particular fishing appliance known as a "Paternoster," which, as all fishermen know, consists of three hooks bound on to one trace, writes a reader. This name is believed to have originated in the days when monks were adepts with rod and line, and naturally gave names to unnamed objects after the things in use in their daily life, the rosary being the most familiar. A rosary, as most people are aware, is made of beads, each bead or group of beads indicating a certain prayer or passage to be recited. On an ordinary rosary a large bead is an indication that a "Paternoster" (Our Father) is to be said. Some rosaries are more elaborate than this, however, and it is quite possible that some had, instead of a large bead for the "Paternoster," three beads, either in a line, or in a triangular formation. This probably gave an enthusiast the idea of naming his three-way hook after this part of his rosary. This must naturally be conjecture, but is quite a feasible explanation of the origin of such a curious name.

"TO SPLICE THE MAINBRACE."

There are many different explanations concerning the origin of this expression, but it is generally considered that this operation was one of such rarity that it deserved the serving of an extra tot, Commander Dawson informs me. The mainbrace, being one of the heaviest pieces of running rigging in the ship, was probably seldom spliced, but presumably renewed instead. In 1917, H.M.S. *Sir Thomas Picton* and H.M.S. *Earl of Peterborough* (monitors) were lent to the Italians to carry out a bombardment and were supplied with a large carboy of wine by the Italian Commander-in-Chief. The mainbrace was duly spliced following the bombardment. This was, perhaps, a unique occasion, as it is extremely doubtful if this custom has ever been carried out before with liquor supplied by a foreign government.

"NE'ER CAST A CLOUT—"

For the British, May had the message—"Ne'er cast a clout till May be out." There is wisdom in the caution which distrusts the treacherous, fleeting warmth of April and prefers the passing discomfort of winter clothing to the temporary ease of summer garb—plus the chance of pneumonia. This year the ancient proverb carries a double warning. If we are lucky we may hope eventually to shed some of the heavy protection we now carry against the threat of the political storm clouds, but we should be most foolhardy to jettison any of it "till May be out."

IS GERMANY GOING "DRY"?

According to reports from Germany, Herr Hitler has taken the first measures toward the fulfilment of one of his greatest dreams: to make Germany "dry." Orders have been issued to manufacturers of liqueurs and other highly alcoholic spirits to cease further production. Wholesalers' and retailers' stocks of these commodities may be disposed of, but supplies must not be renewed. Even the manufacture of liqueur-filled chocolates is forbidden.

It is stated that those officials whose duty it is to measure the reactions of the German people have been instructed to make their reports. It is suggested that if those reactions be not too violently expressed, that Herr Hitler's ban will gradually be extended to cover other beverages—even beer. So far as the German army is concerned, Marshal Goering has issued orders forbidding all ranks to drink alcohol between meals while on service. Incidentally, smoking between marches or exercises is also forbidden, as it is in barracks; canteens which supply alcohol are, it is said, to be abolished. Adolf Hitler himself neither drinks nor smokes, but we think this has little to do with the matter. In our view, what is behind it all is the cutting down of all "luxury" spending. The Germans may, in fact, be confronted with a new slogan, "Guns, not Bitter!"—*The Brewers' Journal*.

WARMONGERS.

We are convinced that these prudent yet spectacular precautions in Great Britain provide the best guarantee of peace and, correctly viewed, supply the answer to those who preach the inevitability of war, says *Our Empire*. In this matter some sections of the Press are not guiltless. In a democratic country the chief value of the Press is its power to give the real facts concerning international affairs, and none who are not cowards would ask for the truth to be bowdlerised or suppressed. But lately we fear there has been a tendency to exaggerate rumour, to think in headlines rather than in sober fact, and thus to create among the people a war mentality that must seriously handicap the peacemakers.

The "popular Press" with its millions of readers carries a heavy responsibility. Too many of our people believe that if they see a thing in print it must be true; only the minority have the power to analyse and appraise. War is not inevitable, and the Press would perform a real service if it stressed the factors which make for peace, rather than the more sensational "stories" which may make a better headline but are more likely to make a bitter world.

"THE PUBLICANS' DERBY."

Not everyone knows that the Great Metropolitan, run at Epsom and won by Lilibullero, owes its foundation to the sporting spirit of London's publicans and working men in the Ludgate Hill district of about a century ago, writes C.E.R.B. in *Our Empire*.

Epsom races were not flourishing financially at that time, and Mr. Dorling, Clerk of the Course, took advantage of a suggestion made to him by his friend, Mr. Samuel Beeton, landlord of the Dolphin Tavern in Milk Street, Cheapside—a man related to Mrs. Beeton of cookery book fame. Mr. Beeton's idea was that a new long distance race should be founded and the prize money found by means of subscription lists put up in the Dolphin and other public houses in the Ludgate Hill area and also in the many betting shops in the district. So the Great Metropolitan was launched, and this explains why it is known as the "Publicans' Derby." And it costs only £16 to run a horse in the "Met."

HIS HOLIDAY.

A middle-aged Norfolk labourer celebrated the first holiday of his life with whisky, champagne and brandy. A policeman later found him lying in the road.

Fining the man five shillings at Hunstanton (Norfolk), General E. P. Strickland advised him: "Never drink anything you don't know about, which means that beer is best and probably safest."

SIMONDS' DARTS LEAGUE.

The championship finals in this league (of which Mr. L. A. Simonds is the President) were decided at Palm Lodge on April 25th when some very close and keen play was witnessed. There was a magnificent array of prizes in the form of cups and shields and these were distributed by Mr. W. Bowyer, our Home Trade Manager, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. L. A. Simonds. Mr. Bowyer proved a popular deputy as evidenced by the great cordiality with which a vote of thanks to him was passed.

A MAGNIFICENT CARNATION.

Many members of our staff take great pride in their gardens and the blooms, of infinite variety, which they bring to the Brewery and show with pride certainly make a very creditable display. And talking of fine flowers I don't think I have ever seen a more magnificent specimen than that Mr. F. A. Simonds produced the other morning. It was a carnation and measured six inches in diameter!

CLUBS' BILLIARDS LEAGUE DINNER.

The 19th annual dinner of the Reading and District Clubs' Billiards League at Palm Lodge on May 9th was a great success. In the absence of the President (Mr. F. A. Simonds) Mr. L. A. Simonds took the chair and proved a very able substitute for his beloved father. In a happy little speech he replied to the toast of the President and Vice-Presidents and in more ways than one contributed so much to the enjoyment of the evening that he was accorded musical honours when toasted by Mr. P. Breach. Mr. W. Bowyer, our Home Trade Manager, and other representatives of the Firm were also in attendance.

HOTEL USERS DON'T LIKE THESE THINGS.

Things that irritate in hotels, as given by Sir Harry Brittain at the conference of the Incorporated Sales Managers' Association at Torquay:

Bedroom light switches that cannot be reached;

Haughty women receptionists;

Cooking in which good food is spoiled. ("Don't ape Continental fashions.")

He said that in a dining-car recently the food was so tasteless that he lunched on cheese and beer.

CHIVALRY STILL LAW IN SERVICES.

The "unwritten" laws of the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force are written now. The author of the collection says: "Every officer is expected to obey unwritten laws . . . if the advice given in these pages is of assistance to any, the writing will not have been entirely wasted." The officer will read in the book how not to become a club bore. "However tempted you may be," says the text, "do not dwell too much on your own doings; others are not likely to be equally interested and will look upon you as that pest of all bachelor gatherings, the club bore." The traditional "Don't" about women is given its place. Never listen to or indulge in loose gossip concerning women in Mess. The chivalry of officers through the ages has forbidden this; do not let it be said that officers of to-day are less chivalrous than those of the past.

NEVER TO RIGHT.

One paragraph is a perfect subject for a Bateman cartoon, "The officer who passed the port to the right." Says the author: "Towards the end of dinner, one or more decanters are placed in front of the president; having removed the stoppers he passes the

decanter to his left, and in turn each officer after helping himself, passes the port to the left, until eventually it returns to where it started from. Not at any time or for any purpose may an officer pass the port to his right."

When the Sergeants' Mess give a dance and you are invited, "Do not immediately look round for the prettiest girl and gain the everlasting dislike of some non-commissioned officer by paying undue attention to his guest." The 72 laws of what may and what may not be done are discussed in 48 pages. "Accept them without question. Many generations of those holding his Majesty's commission inaugurated them. More experienced men than you have observed them through the ages," says the author.

The book is "Customs of the Service," by A. H. S. (Gale and Polden, 2s. 6d. net).

THE WAY THE PORT GOES.

I recall an officer of the R.A.M.C. who was ordered to Salonica and gave a farewell dinner to his nursing staff, says A.A. in the *Daily Mail*. When the port came on the table, he started to pass it to the *right*. I protested that the wine must go the way of the sun. The sister on my left said: "Why must the wine go the way of the sun?" My answer was: "They both go down." And I have not since found a better reason for the custom.

OUR NEW SPORTS GROUND.

Though there was considerable rain, our spirits were by no means damped at the official opening of our fine new Sports Ground by our Chairman and Managing Director (Mr. F. A. Simonds). As he aptly remarked, you could not have a christening without water. The proceedings passed off with great eclat and though the splendidly organized programme had to be curtailed, owing to the inclement weather, all present spent a very happy afternoon. Mr. A. P. F. Chapman was among the company and spoke in the highest terms of praise concerning the manner in which these playing fields were laid out. As to the weather he told me he recently attended the opening of the sports ground provided by another great firm up north. It rained all that day and on the two succeeding days! Though cricket could not be played there was football, tug-of-war, etc., while the tennis match, in which our Directors met members of the Tennis Club, proved a great attraction. Though defeated the Directors put up a great fight and some sparkling tennis was witnessed with, at times, very hard hitting. Commander Simonds, I thought, was in particularly good form. He played an attractive all-round game, followed up his service and was very effective at the net.

THE ERRING ETONIAN.

Eton holds its Fourth of June celebrations, for George III's birthday, to-day, says the *Evening Standard* of that date. Forty-one years ago 400 Old Etonians met in London for another celebration, to mark the simultaneous appointment of Lord Curzon as Viceroy of India, Lord Minto as Governor-General of Canada, and Dr. Welldon as Bishop of Calcutta. Lord Salisbury, the Prime Minister, was invited, and Lord Middleton, his Under-Secretary at the time, was deputed by the Committee to induce him to accept.

OUT OF PLACE.

His reply was characteristic: "I should like to do honour to the guests, but I never liked Eton, and I should be out of place at such a glorification of the School!" Lord Rosebery, chairman of the dinner, was one of the few who knew nothing of this reaction. He was a trifle surprised, therefore, at the uproarious applause which greeted one sentence of his speech. It was:—

"In all my life I have met only one Old Etonian who did not like Eton, and he speedily went to the devil."



MR. R. ST. J. QUARRY.

We have much pleasure in announcing the engagement between Richard Bridges St. John, only son of the late Major St. J. S. Quarry and Mrs. W. W. Myers, and Diana Elizabeth, only daughter of Lieut.-Colonel H. Lloyd, D.S.O., and Mrs. Lloyd, of Ferne, Highclere, near Newbury.

We are sure that all Mr. Quarry's many friends among the readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE will join us in offering him their warmest congratulations and heartiest wishes for a long and happy married life.

The Children's Treat

will be held on

SATURDAY, JUNE 24th,

on the

SPORTS GROUND,

BERKELEY AVENUE,

commencing at 3 o'clock p.m.

All Members of the Social Club are invited to send their children who are between the ages of 5 and 12 years inclusive.

Forms are available in the Social Club and must be completed and handed in by TUESDAY, JUNE 13th.

It is hoped to arrange Boys' and Girls' Races and prizes will be awarded the Winners.

Tea will be provided for all children. There will also be a TEA BUFFET where parents can obtain tea, etc., at moderate charges.

Every child will receive a small gift during the afternoon.

A NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

TROUTING ON THE TEIGN AND TAW.

SALMON CREATES GREAT COMMOTION.

The sylvan scenery surrounding the River Teign, in Devon, is indeed delightful. And the river itself contains much that fascinates the fisherman. There are big salmon in it, peal and brown trout too. On one occasion the landing of a salmon, weighing 15 lbs., created a great commotion. It was hooked by an experienced angler who evidently knew how to handle a fish. Away went the salmon at a great pace, taking out about 80 yards of line. Then he circled round a rock and could not be dislodged. The angler asked a gentleman on the other side of the river to come to his aid. In order to do so this friend in need had to cross Fingle Bridge and as he did so he informed the holiday crowd that "a man has got a big salmon on up the river and cannot land him." The curious crowd naturally followed in the wake of the gentleman as he hurried to the aid of the angler, who was holding on grimly to the salmon. With gaff in hand the friend waded on to the rock in midstream and standing on its summit soon espied the fish which had succeeded in winding around the rock, several times, the line that held him. The gaff was lowered into the water and under the fish. The man who had come to the angler's aid, drew the weapon sharply towards himself and embedded it in the fish, near the tail. The salmon gave a mighty leap which upset the balance of the man on the rock, who let go the gaff and toppled head-first into 10 feet of water. There was the salmon also dashing about frantically with the handle of the gaff showing above the water. The crowd, gathered on the footway which runs along the high rocks overlooking the spot, became wildly excited. An old lady who sat on the edge of the precipitous rocks, with legs dangling over, added considerably to the general commotion. Until an owl suddenly emerged from under her clothing she did not realise that she was sitting just over the bird's nest. She uttered a loud scream, nearly fainted with fright, rolled some way down the rocks, and luckily came to rest against the trunk of a small oak tree. With great difficulty she was rescued from her perilous position. Two younger fellows leaning against the stump of a tree on a ledge near the foot of the rocks became so excited that their weight proved too great for the stump, which snapped and caused them to go sprawling into the mud, the gentleman in the startling lavender suit presenting a particularly sorry picture as he regained his equilibrium.

Meanwhile the hooked salmon was dashing about among the rocks with the gaff sticking out from his body like a periscope. But

there were signs that the fish was beginning to tire. The angler, with great skill, succeeded in drawing the fish closer and closer to him and then, reaching out, seized the handle of the gaff and lifted the fish from the water—as fine a salmon as you could wish to see.

The excited crowd cheered wildly as the successful angler carted the salmon triumphantly down the path to the bridge, where he placed his prize in safe keeping.

DIPPERS BY THE DOZEN.

The Teign abounds in dippers, or water ouzels. Their note, "chit chit," or soft sibilant song, which is very pleasing to the ear, soon denotes the whereabouts of these fascinating little birds, about the size of a blackbird, with short tails and snowy white chins and breasts. The dipper's movements are very much like that of the wren, and he also wades and swims and dives.

Wagtails, too, both pied and grey, were much in evidence, as also were the wood wrens which were calling all day long, their song, "twee, twee, twee, chea, chea," being unmistakable. The wood wren, or wood warbler, is very similar to the willow warbler but it has longer wings and a broader band of yellow over the eye. I have never heard or seen elsewhere so many wood warblers as are to be heard and seen by the banks of the River Teign. And there were almost as many willow warblers.

Hearing a plaintive "me-e-i-o-o," not unlike the voice of a cat, high overhead, I soon located a pair of big powerful birds, with soft plumage and mode of flight like that of the owl's. They were soaring with elegant ease in circles, examining the surrounding country for carrion, rabbits and reptiles, any of which figure on the buzzard's menu card.

And, while fishing the Taw, I was fortunate to find a buzzard's nest. It was not artistically constructed, being a big bundle of sticks lined with hay and wool and leaves, and situated on an oak tree whose branches overhung the river.

It was by the banks of the Teign that I saw a redstart. He was indeed a fine fellow, dressed in bluish-grey with a bright rusty-red rump and black and white head. His wife had built her nest amid the rocks and there were in it six pale, bluish-green, unspotted eggs.

FLIES THAT KILL.

The trout on the Teign provided great fun. They did not run very big, a half-pounder being considered quite a good fish, but they were full of fight and needed careful handling on your XXXX gut. The absence of rain made the water low and it was gin clear, so that

you had to stalk your fish, keeping well out of sight. I found the hackle blue upright a good killer, while the coch-y-Bondhu, pheasant tail, and a little alder also proved attractive to the trout. I discovered that where the water raced away and broke itself up against a rock in the stickles, forming a little eddy behind the great stones, was where the fish lay, and where your fly, accurately placed, frequently met with a ready response.

EVER-CHANGING SCENERY.

We spent some particularly delightful hours on the moors fishing the River Taw. This river is smaller than the Teign and the water flows much faster. But there were innumerable pools and every one seemed to contain fish, for we had rises by the score and landed a lot of little trout, the great majority of which we returned to the water. Though small they were in splendid condition, speckled and of a rich golden-green colour—a delight to behold. A gentle breeze tempered the heat of the sun and as we pursued our rocky way, fishing, fishing, we came upon ever-changing scenery.

MIGHT AND MAJESTY.

While sitting quietly on a rock and admiring the wonders of these wilds I was more than pleased to see a little brown bird with a particularly long tail. It was the Dartford warbler and he seemed to say "pit-et-choo-cha-chat" by way of greeting or, more than likely, as a scolding to me for trespassing on his preserves. And then in the distance appeared about 18 inches of might and majesty in the shape of a peregrin falcon. We had a magnificent view of him as, folding his powerful wings, he alighted on a rock where he remained for some minutes in full view.

AT BREAK OF DAY.

One morning we were up at dawn and fishing by five o'clock. There was a thick mist at the time, through which we could only just discern the sun, which soon afterwards shone forth in all his golden glory. The fish were very lively and we enjoyed good sport. But I think I prefer the evening rise. On one such occasion I was on the look-out for any movement that might occur in the water, when suddenly I had a big surprise. It was as though a great wave was coming towards me and then I noticed, in the shallow water, a huge salmon approaching. He must have been from 16 to 20 lbs. I was just wondering how much further he could proceed in water that was not more than a foot deep when he suddenly saw me, turned round and shot downstream, lashing the water with his powerful tail as he went. Such a commotion did he create that several sightseers rushed to the waterside to see what all the fuss was about.

In the clear water we noticed many a salmon hiding behind the rocks, while wriggling eels seemed here, there and everywhere insinuating themselves among the stones in the river bed.

Though it was late in May primroses were still blooming in profusion. There was a great wealth of other pretty blooms, including masses of blue- and white-bells, champions and stitchwort, while bank upon bank was covered with the whortleberry plants, giving promise of a dainty addition to the dinner table in days to come.

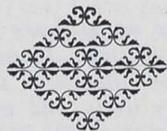
RARE FIGHTERS.

It was amid such scenes that we spent these delightful days, often rounding them off by fishing for peal or sea-trout until dark. These fish are rare fighters and you have to use a strong cast to hold them. A four- or six-pounder is often the order of the day, or rather night, and when you are intent on playing such a fish you frequently strike your shins and knees against the rocks, which bear unmistakable marks of the fray the next morning.

It is, however, well worth while.

But the hour for "cease fishing" has struck and the keeper comes along, so I must reluctantly reel in.

Good-night!



MR. AND MRS. "BERT" HALES, OF FELTHAM.

A POPULAR HOST AND HOSTESS.

Mr. and Mrs. "Bert" Hales, host and hostess of The Railway Tavern, Feltham, were accorded a hearty "send-off" at a supper and concert held in the Tavern Clubroom recently. Mr. and Mrs. Hales gave up the licence of the Tavern and, after a short holiday, will take over Messrs. Simonds' new hotel at Laleham, under the sign of The Lucan Arms.

Mr. George Greenfield presided over a gathering numbering well over fifty, and the organisers, Messrs. J. James and Bob Wolfe, have the satisfaction of knowing that the little party they originally planned became a much bigger event and proved a huge success. Mr. G. Breem was a capable M.C. and the proceedings went right merrily.

The toast of the evening was "Our Host and Hostess" and several friends spoke in support of it. Mr. Breem said he had known Mr. and Mrs. Hales for the past ten years and had worked with them very amicably in connection with various matters. He hoped that these relations would continue. All knew them as ideal in their capacity of host and hostess. There was another sphere in which Mr. Hales did good work and he received admiration and respect wherever he went. A man might be popular but it did not always mean that he was respected, but Mr. Hales was as well respected as he was popular and was a keen and efficient worker in all that he undertook. All would join with him in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Hales God speed, health, happiness and prosperity in their new life at Laleham.

Mr. S. W. Richardson (Hearts of Oak, Ashford), said he knew Mr. Hales before he entered the licensed trade. His association with him went back to their days at the Regent Street Polytechnic and the association was a very happy one. His first meeting with Mr. Hales in connection with the licensed trade was at Feltham Police Court when he attended there to take over the licence of The Three Tuns, at Staines. After some years there he left with the full respect of the townspeople to become the landlord of The Railway Tavern at Feltham. During the years that he had been at the Tavern he had assisted all the clubs and organisations which met in that clubroom and made them a social success and all his friends wished both Mr. and Mrs. Hales all the best in their new house.

Mr. James Street (The Airman, Feltham) added his tribute and good wishes and Mr. W. Jones (Vice-Chairman of the Feltham Trades Council, Chairman of the Thames Valley Railway Orphanage Committee and a former Chairman of the Feltham Branch National Union of Railwaymen) spoke on behalf of these organisations and voiced wholehearted thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hales for their help

on all occasions. Whenever any of the organisations with which he was associated had held a function in that Clubroom, Mr. and Mrs. Hales had never let them lose. Mr. Hales was an old Trades Unionist and was still a member of his society, the Amalgamated Engineering Union, and his father, aged 85, was still a member of the N.U.R. On behalf of the Trades Unions he thanked them for all that they had done for the movement and for the members individually. When the movement became active in the Feltham neighbourhood it was Mr. Hales who came to their aid with clubroom accommodation and he and all his colleagues in the Trades Union movement and affiliated bodies wished Mr. and Mrs. Hales God speed in their new venture.

The Chairman spoke of early friendship with their host and hostess and related how they had developed the Tavern. All regretted their departure but wished them every success in their new venture. On behalf of the customers of the Tavern he asked them to accept a mantel clock in token of the esteem and respect in which they were held.

The toast "The Host and Hostess" was then submitted and was accorded musical honours.

Mr. Hales thanked all concerned for the gift and said he could not find words to express his appreciation of this demonstration of the good feelings of his customers who were also his friends. He thanked the organisers, the Chairman and all who had come along that night for the "send off." Mrs. Hales added her thanks.

Mr. W. Bardell, a member of Feltham Council, spoke of the sociability, good comradeship and good sportsmanship experienced in their association with Mr. Hales and the Railway Tavern and commented that the landlord had backed up his customers during slump periods. He was always their friend and ever courteous.

Mr. James said neither his colleague nor he wanted thanks for arranging that evening's function. They did it out of respect for a worthy host and hostess. He added good wishes for health and prosperity in their new home.

During the evening the musical programme was contributed to by Mrs. Rance, Mrs. Hobbs and Messrs. S. W. Richardson, J. Street, R. Murray, F. Appleton, J. James, C. Bales and R. Wolfe (songs) and Morley (illusionist). Miss Marjorie Bailey was at the piano.

Other presentations recently made to Mr. and Mrs. Hales include a silver cigarette case inscribed with Mr. Hales's initials together with a rose bowl for Mrs. Hales, from the Brethren of the Old Fraternity Lodge, R.A.O.B., and a large framed photograph of the children at the Railway Orphanage, Woking, from the Thames Valley Committee.

A RECORD TROUT.

In a recent issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE we were pleased to publish a photograph, together with relevant details of an unusually fine trout that was taken from the Kennet hard by the Brewery but, unfortunately, from the opposite bank.

I was recounting the story of this fish, with truly commendable accuracy and hands held in perfect juxtaposition be it noted, to a fisherman friend of mine, who, a few days later very kindly sent the following extract from a grand book, of interest to all fishermen, entitled "Some Fish Records," by Jock Scott.

The account taken from this book runs briefly as follows :—

"In 1880 a certain Mr. Wicks, a professional fisherman, caught a trout in the Kennet near Simonds Brewery weighing 16 lbs. 15 oz." It goes on to say that "Wicks had a client who knew all about this fish, and had in fact tried for it on many occasions. On the fateful day, Wicks had received notice of his client's arrival; time passed and the client did not arrive but the fish began to feed. The temptation was irresistible, Wicks made a cast or two, the fish was hooked and finally killed. Great was the wrath of the client and it is hardly necessary to add that thereafter he engaged the services of another fisherman. Wicks had thus achieved fame at the expense of his pocket."

L.A.S.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Better be ignorant of a matter than half know it.

"If thou wishest to be wise
Keep six things before thine eyes :
What thou sayest and how beware
Of whom, to whom, when and where."

Things that are hard to bear are sweet to remember.

No mind is thoroughly well organised that is deficient in a sense of humour.

THE MODERN SUBURB.

Devon County Show week again!

I wonder if those thousands who visited us when the Show was held at Three Beaches would credit the extraordinary transformation that has taken place around the Show site.

That pastoral scene has now become quite a modern—and distinctive—suburb. A very creditable example, if one may say so, of intelligent town planning.

Even the layman can perceive the architectural relationship that binds the church of St. George, the Waterside Hotel and the block of shops with the somewhat unusual lay-out and design of the Three Beaches Estate.

REFRESHING NAME.

The Waterside Hotel—what a delightfully refreshing name for a licensed house—has, bye the bye, given added distinction to the district with something outstanding in decorative inn signs.

And the blaze of colourful flower beds in the hotel forecourt combine with the flowering trees opposite to make the business end of Three Beaches one of Paignton's brightest spots.—*The Paignton News.*

TO E. J. DETMOLD.

These were the subjects singled out by you.
—The scattered models that you sought to paint—
A hare, a mouse, a bird of palest blue
With yellow cheeks, in colours fair and faint.
And sprays of tawny bramble tipped by gold
Or tiny toadstools, pushing thro' the mould.

A snail you chose to picture, or a snake :
An owl, like carven image on a tree :
A vine with growing grapelets all a-shake
In promise of the purple bunch-to-be :
Or nightshade-berries in a crimson rope
About a hedge ; or pebbles smooth as soap.

And when you turned attention to the great
—The eagle and the hart ; the bull, the ox ;—
Or when, again, you wished to imitate
(On canvas, with your brush) the jagged rocks,
You won an equal measure of success :
For—small or large—your aim was perfectness.

S. E. COLLINS.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

The discreet man does not look at a problem as it affects him in the present moment. He looks ahead to the future and scans the possibilities which may arise. He has foresight and good judgment. He looks at life without magnifying or minimizing its importance. He acts with consistency according to his belief, and resists advantages and opportunities presented to him which are out of tune with the noble principle of honour.

He does not lose sight of the purpose of his creation. He is making ready for another life, which is eternal. Is this not sufficient to prompt discretion in his actions, in his speech and in his entire life ?

ASCOT CAGE BIRDS' SOCIETY.



[Photo by Geo. Spearman, 8a, Peascod Street, Windsor.]

The First Annual Dinner of the above Society was held on 25th March, at the Rising Sun Hotel, Blacknest, Ascot, and proved a highly enjoyable function.

A.R.P. NOTES.

Lectures and bomb practices have been proceeding steadily during the past month and the theoretical training is now practically completed.

Two new foam pumps have been received and an Auxiliary Fire Party of six formed to operate these.

Owing to certain members of the A.R.P. personnel having joined the Territorials certain changes have been necessary, but the vacant posts will all be filled by trained reserves.

The First Aid Post is rapidly nearing completion and will shortly be fitted with the necessary equipment for dealing with all types of casualties.

On the night of May 6th-7th, an A.R.P. exercise was held at the Brewery in conjunction with the Aldershot Command and the Town Authorities.

One hundred and twenty of the Firm's A.R.P. personnel were issued with full equipment and assembled at the Social Club at 11 o'clock p.m. Those on duty included First Aid, Decontamination, Rescue and Demolition, Fire Brigade, Auxiliary Fire Services, four Fire Parties, Horse Area, Gate and Telephone Wardens, Messengers and Headquarters Staff.

There were two raids, and about 20 "incidents" were staged. For the purposes of the exercise the Brewery was divided into areas with a Warden and Umpire to each, the Umpire staging the "incident" and reporting on the treatment.

These "incidents" included incendiary fires, petrol fires and large fires, gas bombs, high explosives and numerous casualties, including cases buried under wreckage.

All parties carried out their duties in an efficient manner, especially taking into consideration the pitch black conditions, the only lighting allowed being blue torches.

On this occasion the new Auxiliary Fire Services with the foam pumps for extinguishing petrol fires were brought into action.

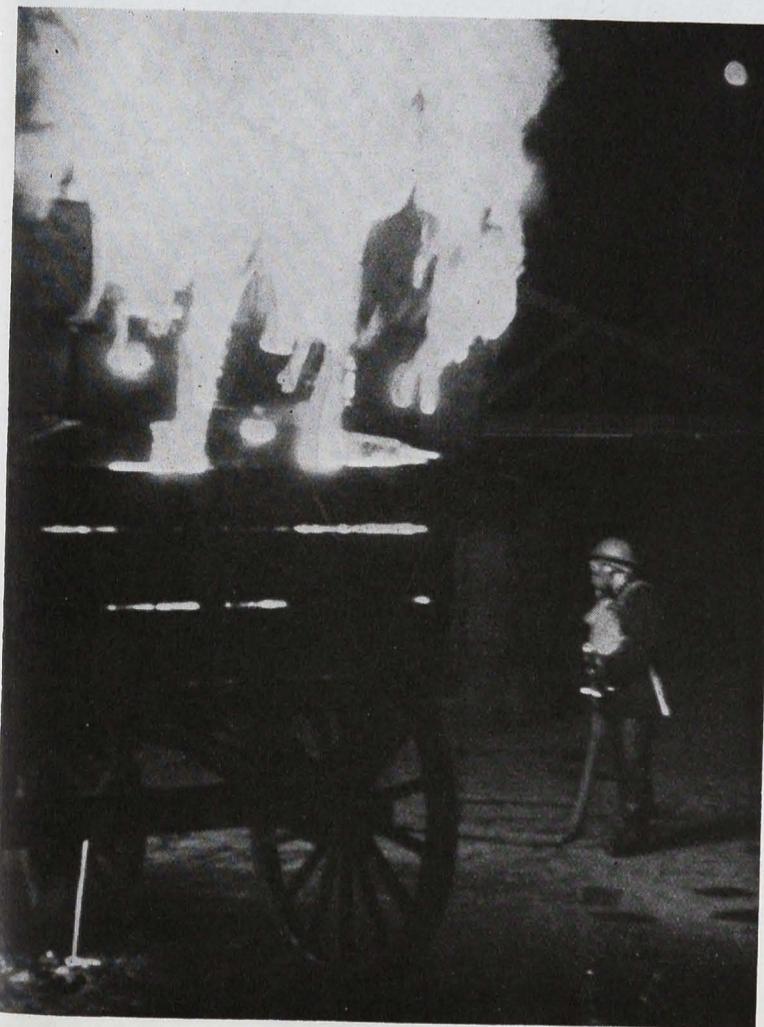
Generally, the exercise was a success, although mistakes were made, but these served to show our weaknesses and can be remedied in the future.

All services returned to the Social Club at 2 a.m., where coffee and snacks were served by the Steward and Stewardess, assisted by the Ladies Section of the First Aid Party.

Amongst those who watched the exercise were Commander H. D. Simonds, Mr. R. S. J. Quarry and Mr. Duncan Simonds.

C. G. LAWRENCE.

A.R.P. BLACK-OUT.



A blazing lorry at H. & G. Simonds fired by a bomb.



First aid for casualties.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The Territorial unit had taken on a large number of new recruits and some of them were a little raw. During the first rifle inspection, the officer approached one of the men, had a look at his rifle, and then called to the N.C.O. in charge.

"Look at this man's rifle!" he announced.

The sergeant looked down the barrel, swung the rifle round to the recruit, and barked: "Take a look at that rifle, you!"

The recruit peered carefully down the barrel, then muttered in a surprised tone: "Cor! Got an 'ole right frew it!"

* * * *

An American travelling through Scotland was impressed by an imposing statue. "Who is that," he asked an old Scot.

"That," said the loyal Caledonian, drawing himself up proudly, "is a monument to the memory of Wallace."

"Ah," said the Yank. "Good old Edgar!"

MEDIEVAL "CHURCH ALES."

(From *The Morning Advertiser*.)

The expedient of raising money for church expenses by means of bazaars, sales of work, fetes, and so forth would in all probability have been thought very curious by the Christian people of medieval England. They had to face the same problem as Church people of to-day have to face—the problem of how to maintain large churches—in most cases very much larger than the resident population warranted, for in those days churches were not designed to seat a congregation of a specified number. Moreover, the maintenance of the church fabric was of the utmost importance to everybody, since the building itself was used for all kinds of purposes, some distinctly odd as judged by modern standards, and not for exclusively religious purposes. As we have said, expedients for raising money for church expenses and special objects in those days were not in the nature of bazaars, sales of work, and so forth. The most popular method of raising funds in medieval times was by way of what were called "Church Ales."

It is because Whitsuntide was one of the recognised seasons for holding these "Ales" that a few notes on the subject may be appropriate at this time. First of all, it should be explained that many parishes possessed what was called a "Church house," which could be used for parish merry-making, and could be let to private persons on occasion, in very much the same way as a "Parish room" can be used to-day. In the church-house were often stored the necessary implements and vessels for brewing the church ale, which, as can be ascertained by a perusal of the churchwardens' accounts of the time, were often hired to other parishes not possessed of the required plant. When the ale was brewed by the churchwardens, the people of the place and the vicinity assembled together for a jollification, and the profits of each "Ale" went to the church.

What exactly was the nature of the concoction which was drunk at these Ales? As far as those antiquaries who have made a study of the subject can ascertain, the drink was a sweet beverage which was made with hops or bitter herbs. It was not the same as the later drink which came to be known by the name of beer; and it is supposed to have been less heavy and certainly not more intoxicating than modern ale. In some cases, however, it can be inferred by the churchwardens' accounts that the ale was not brewed on the spot. For instance, Dr. J. C. Cox, the well-known antiquary, from an examination of the accounts of St. Edmund's, Salisbury, comes to the conclusion that the ale was bought, and then resold at a profit; in fact, he quotes the names of the actual sellers of the ale in some instances.

In these days, no doubt, this curious mingling of matters sacred and profane will appear to a certain extent incongruous, but it must be remembered that in the Middle Ages Christian life was a much simpler organisation than it became after the reign of Henry VIII. Before that period religion was a part of the people's daily life, and its influence overflowed into all the social amusements, all the usual occupations, of the people. The authority of the Church settled most of the minor difficulties, disputes, and quarrels of the nation without the assistance of the State. Its vitality was everywhere visible. Justices of the peace and police magistrates were then entirely unknown; the manor court, and the parson in his Sunday pulpit, settled everything. So, too, the Ales were under the protection of the Church, and took place with its distinct encouragement.

Church Ales were primarily held for the purpose of money-making; but they can be said to have been the counterpart of the modern "parish socials," as a most important function of these gatherings was to afford an occasion for social intercourse. No doubt a collection was always an integral part of the proceedings, but the amount collected could on many occasions have been hardly sufficient to pay expenses, even when the altered value of money has been taken into consideration. Thus, while the Whitsuntide Church Ales at Ashburton, Devon, in 1482-83 produced the figure of £5 13s. 4d., and in 1558-59 £6, that held in Tintinhull, Somerset, in 1443 only realised 2/-.

Church Ales persisted until well after the Reformation, since it was an appreciable time before the ideas of the Puritans were able to gain universal acceptance. As late as 1592 a very sumptuous Ale was held at Seal, Surrey, when 40/- was paid for nine barrels of beer, 20/- for the "musitions" for five days' play, 8/4 for "meatt and beere for the musitions and other helpers," 2/- for the "drumer," and 4/- for "gune powder" (presumably for fireworks); in addition, there was expenditure on veal and lamb, spice and fruit, butter, cream, and milk, and 2/3 for "more butter and creame." In the accounts for another Ale held at Seal, 5/- was paid to "the Vice, otherwise the Footle," and 12/- for "silke points and laces."

We have stated that these Ales were not only encouraged by the Church authorities, but they were also organised by them. We could have put it more strongly, since in 1506 the churchwardens' accounts of the parish of St. Laurence, Reading, contain entries which show that on that occasion and at that church at least, the Ale was held within the church building itself. The exact entry reads: "To Macrell for makygn dene of the Church agaynst the day of drynking in the seid Church . . . iiij d." And, after the

first surprise at reading this entry has subsided, we ask, "Why not?" It was indeed a sorry day when the Church in this country lost touch with the common life of the people. We can be quite sure that the merry-making at the Whitsuntide Ales was none the less whole-hearted and free from objectionable elements because it was conducted under the supervision of the parish priest. We can be also quite sure that the people were not any the worse behaved at them just because in those days it was not necessary to take out an occasional licence when they were held.

MR. F. A. DORLING, THE FORESTERS ARMS, CIRENCESTER.



The above is a photograph of Mr. Dorling (with family of 11). Mr. Dorling has been our popular host at the Foresters Arms since 1920, and this lengthy tenure has only served to increase the reputation of the "Foresters" as one of Cirencester's most popular houses.

It is not only his success on the business side, however, that he has reason for satisfaction, for this fine group is sufficient testimony to Mr. Dorling's success in the family way—a handsome, happy group indeed!

CRICKET.

It seems but yesterday when the chief topic of the day was the doings and misdoings of Reading and other football teams. The days pass by into weeks, and the weeks have brought us into the season where it is, or should be, more pleasant to watch other people play games.

Before dealing with the matches that have been played by the Brewery teams, let us turn back to the General Meeting of the Club.

The proceedings of the meeting were changed, as the chairman's first duty was to welcome L. A. Simonds, Esq., to the gathering. He informed the members that as Mr. Louis had come there at a certain amount of inconvenience to himself and had another engagement to fulfil, he would ask him to be kind enough to present the cup he had given to the club for the best batting average during the season to Mr. E. G. Crutchley, who had achieved that distinction, also the inter-departmental cup to Mr. J. B. Doe, as the captain of the Offices team who had won the league last season.

Mr. Louis confirmed the inconvenience, as he had been called up from downstairs from an interesting occupation. Having had little cricketing experience since 1918-1924, he thought his brother, Mr. Duncan, who did know the game, would have been a more proper personage for the event.

Mr. Louis then presented the cups and expressed the hope that they would be in circulation for many years to come.

Mr. Cardwell then expressed the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Louis for making the presentations and added that in the course of his many duties similar expressions were made, but there would be none more sincere than those now offered by the Cricket Club.

After hearing the state of affairs of the club, Mr. Louis made his departure amidst the applause of the members present.

The voting on the various executive positions of the club was very keen, a ballot having to be taken on most of them. The following were elected:—

<i>Captain, "A" Team</i>	Mr. E. G. Crutchley.
<i>Vice-Captain, "A" Team</i>	Mr. C. R. Josey.
<i>Captain, "B" Team</i>	Mr. B. Farmer.
<i>Vice-Captain, "B" Team</i>	Mr. W. Whitmore.

Messrs. W. Sparks and J. Brown will don the white coats and Messrs. J. Cholwill and R. Kemp will wield the pencils and let us know which sides get the most runs.

The new committee will consist of Messrs. H. M. P. Ashby, J. J. Cardwell, J. B. Doe, G. Kelly, W. Neville, A. G. Rider, W. Sparks and H. S. Tigar, and Messrs. E. C. Greenaway and E. Barrett will look after the interests of the "B" team.

Mr. J. W. Jelley and Mr. W. J. Greenaway will again look after the secretarial side of the work.

Inter-Departmental League.

It was decided to carry on with the same four departmental sides as last season.

Mr. Tigar kindly offered to act as coach and would make arrangements to be present on the Sports Ground on Monday evenings for this purpose.

It was decided to purchase a stock of blue caps and red Hop Leaf badges, in response to a number of enquiries for these. The caps are now on sale at the cost value of 2/8 each. This charge includes the provision of a badge by the club.

Now for the playing part of this report.

May 6th.

Wanted a word or words! Something that would adequately express one's feelings and yet pass the eagle eye of the Editor.

No doubt in this issue there will be a full report of the official opening of our new Sports Ground by more competent reporters than the writer of this narrative, so let the present deal mainly from the cricketer's point of view.

We, as a club, were doubly disappointed. Firstly, it had been hoped to get Mr. A. P. F. Chapman to bring down a team of well-known amateurs to show us the right way to play the game, but through various reasons that scheme, like those of mice and men, went astray.

Then Mr. E. S. Phipps got together a team comprised of old playing members of the club and others of a more recent vintage. Capt. E. S. de Brett, R.E., a relative of Mr. Eric's offered his services and all was set for a real test of strength.

Just when it was time for the march past of the athletes to commence, down came the rain and that particular shower lasted over an hour. The pitch was subsequently inspected and it was decided that this downpour, following a whole day's deluge on Friday, would do irreparable harm to the pitch. We had no option but to agree to the voice of the experts and call the match off.

It had been arranged for Mr. Chapman, who was amongst those present, to don the umpire's coat and take the first few overs, thus officially opening the match and the season.

May 13th.

No it was not Friday, but a certain amount of ill-luck attended this match. After a lengthy discussion the previous Saturday, it had been decided to try to get the same teams, or as close as possible, to see if the old hands had completely lost their cunning. There were certain changes on both sides; Capt. de Brett was unable to leave his duties and Mr. C. H. Perrin went back to his other love—the Tennis Club having a league fixture to fulfil at Wokingham.

The Brewery captain won the toss and put Mr. Phipps' side in to bat. The Skipper and Mr. Duncan Simonds opened the innings and the latter had the honour of making the first run, the first boundary and, unfortunately lost the first wicket; that fell with 5 runs only on the board.

Mr. Phipps went on batting most confidently, aided by Harry Osborne. Hedgington eventually got through the defences of the Skipper after he had made 24. A little later Mr. Cardwell had a great time. In fact, it looked as though he would carry his bat, being the last man out, robbing Mr. Richardson of the chance to break his duck. Until No. 9 went in no "blobs" had been recorded. Mr. Extras did not assist much, thanks to the excellent keeping of W. Neville.

Anno Domini took a hand against the "Old Timers," for both Mr. Phipps and Mr. Osborne pulled a leg muscle when batting. The latter could not raise a trot, let alone a canter or a gallop.

All told, 93 runs were put on the book and Messrs. Crutchley (3 for 30) and Tigar (4 for 37) were pleased with their work. E. C. Greenaway (1 for 3), H. Tozer (1 for 5) and A. V. Hedgington (1 for 12) were responsible for the other wickets.

When Josey and Tigar opened the innings for the present generation, both had "lives." The latter gave a chance behind the stumps which, a few seasons back, Mr. Wadhams would have revelled in. The writer put a dolly from Josey on the carpet. These were expensive mistakes, for these two put on 50 runs before being parted, their scores being 30 and 22 respectively.

Further bad luck befell the fielders, for Mr. Richardson pulled a muscle in his leg during his first over and had to leave the field, taking no further part in the game.

A. Tozer had the misfortune to put his leg in front of a straight one from Mr. Phipps before he had scored, but A. Hedgington came along and played nice cricket. He had made 19 not out when time was called, Skipper Crutchley having helped him to carry the score just that far as to claim the victory before he was caught in the deep.

So ended a very enjoyable afternoon's cricket, with both teams pleased with their efforts except the unfortunates who could not accept the gifts the gods held out.

May 20th. "A" TEAM 76 for 8 v. Reading University 2nd XI 70.

We welcomed a new set of friends to the club on our Sports ground and celebrated the occasion by winning the match. There was not much in it, as the scores above will show.

The 'Varsity batted first and put on 19 before a wicket fell, three more went for the addition of 10 runs and the average of the team, giving them the benefit of a couple of byes, was 7.

Tigar and Crutchley bore the brunt of the bowling, the former taking 5 for 35 and the latter 4 for 25. Hedgington got the remaining wicket at a cost of 3 runs.

Our batting did not open too conspicuously, for we lost Josey and Tozer with only 10 runs recorded. Tigar and Hedgington made a stand and later Neville (17 not out) helped the score along and when time had elapsed we were 6 runs to the good and two wickets in hand.

The "Seconds" have played two games so far. The first was against Wokingham London Road. This game should have been on the Sports Ground, but as that was required for the one recorded above, we have to thank our opponents for generously offering to play on their ground.

The scores were "B" team 28 v. London Road 44. It will be seen that this was a bowlers paradise. London Road batted first but found Farmer (4 for 4) and Iremonger (3 for 21) on top of their form. The fielders were also on their toes for the remaining three wickets fell to "run outs." Gough was the mainstay of the Wokingham bats, making 21, nearly half of the total runs.

This small score proved beyond the abilities of our young bats. The only man—a veteran in the team—George Kelly, contributed 16 and need more be said.

May 20th. "B" TEAM 32 v. READING P.O. TELEPHONES 81.

Played on Prospect Park and, as will be seen, we were not strong enough in batting. D. W. Argent took 5 for 8 and F. A. Menhana 3 for 10. The highest score on our side was Mr. Extras 14, followed by E. Barrett 6.

For our bowlers, T. Iremonger took 7 for 19, which is a very creditable performance. Until R. H. Osmond (No. 5) came in we were doing pretty well, but he stopped and made 23 before being caught. D. W. Argent scored 20 and carried his bat.

The Inter-Departmental matches are on their way, but reports will follow in next month's issue.

J.W.J.

CRICKET IN BY-GONE DAYS.



The above is a photograph of the Brewery Cricket Team taken a good many years ago.

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER.)

Congratulations to Mr. J. Hillier, whose photograph took pride of place in our last issue. Owing to his many athletic activities, naturally he is particularly well known to a good many at The Brewery. Sport is an excellent introduction in so many ways and in this respect he can well claim to have done his bit. If he was small in stature, like, say Peter Pan, when he started at The Brewery, he at any rate knew the way to grow up and he is a well-liked member of the staff.

During May we welcomed back to duty Mr. S. Collins of the General Office Staff, he having made a really splendid recovery after an operation for appendicitis. He assures me he is going on really well and certainly looks it. For a while he must watch his step before taking on any strenuous activities at sport, of which he is very fond.

Mr. J. E. Beasley, the well-known member of the Cask Office Staff, has been having a rather alarming time in the Royal Berkshire Hospital and accounts, at one time, were rather disturbing. However, he is now making excellent progress and hopes to be discharged very soon, and we all trust he will soon be back with us once again.

The death of Mr. H. Woolcott came to all of us as a great shock and the deepest sympathy of everyone is extended to his relatives.

It was a pity that the official opening of our Sports Ground was marred by heavy rain. Nevertheless, this did not damp the enthusiasm of those present. The cricket match had to be called off and was played a week later when a fine sporting game took place. Everyone remarked what a wonderful ground it was and no doubt many happy times will be spent there in the future.

You probably hear many different expressions in a public house for drinks. For some unknown reason, to me at any rate, "Wallop" means a pint of beer. However, when a few nights ago I heard someone call for "a glass and a jar," I was intrigued and found what the customer meant was a half pint of beer in a glass mug (with handle) and a glass of beer. So now you know.

A short while ago I heard from a friend of mine in Toronto, viz., Mr. Harry Swain who wrote as follows:—

“Thanks for THE HOP LEAF GAZETTES, which ‘go the rounds’ after I am through with them.

“Everyone here is worked up over the Royal visit, which will certainly be a big event in history out here. The King and Queen are spending a day in Toronto on May 22nd. Hope the weather continues as it is now, very bright and sunny, blue skies and the glass almost at 80°.

“Please give my kind regards to any of my old friends round the Brewery.”

I have endeavoured to carry out the latter part of Mr. Swain's letter, but if this should meet the eye of anyone whom I haven't seen will they please take note.

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

The Red House, Highclere (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mrs. E. H. Keep.

The Prince of Wales, Windsor (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. E. R. Moody.

The Anchor, Yateley (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. Ernest Lancaster.

The Beehive, Egham (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. W. A. Davies.

The Man of Kent, Clewer (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. T. Hutchins.

The Swan, Wycombe Marsh (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—Mr. S. T. Taylor.

The Crown, Knaphill (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. F. J. Waterman.

The Greyhound, Wargrave (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. P. W. B. Musitano.

The Shears, Sunbury (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. T. D. Briars.

Off Licence, 238 London Road, Headington (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. H. W. Hollyoake.

The Railway Tavern, Feltham—Mr. R. F. Newton.

The Cunning Man, Burghfield (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. C. H. Gibbins.

The Brewery Tap, Broad Street, Reading (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. M. C. Lawrence.

The King's Head, Thatcham (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. F. J. Harding.

We regret to record the following deaths and to all relatives we hereby express our deepest sympathy.

Mr. A. N. Jolliffe of the Cricketers, Feltham, who died on the 28th April, where he had been since February, 1936. Previously to this Mr. Jolliffe had been tenant of the Royal Tar, Brentford, for nearly four years.

Mr. G. Hodges of the Crown, Knaphill, Woking, died on the 30th April, where he had been tenant for over 21 years.

Mr. F. H. Dancey of the White Hart, Sherfield, who died on the 5th May, had been tenant of this House for just over two years.

Mr. B. Cockman of the Royal Oak, Ealing, who died on the 9th May, had been tenant of this House since June, 1913.

Mr. G. W. Hull, of the Langton Arms, Tarrant Monkton, Dorset, who died on the 30th May, had been tenant of this House for 16 years and previously he had been employed at Marsh's Brewery, Blandford, for 28 years.



SIMONDS' SPORTS CLUB.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SPORTS GROUND

by

F. A. SIMONDS, Esq.

(Chairman and Managing Director).

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

Saturday, May 6th, 1939, will ever remain a Red Letter day in the history of our great Firm, for on that occasion our Chairman and Managing Director (F. A. Simonds, Esq.) officially opened the magnificent new Sports Ground in Berkeley Avenue, Reading. Other Directors present were Commander H. D. Simonds, Major J. H. Simonds, C.B., D.L., J.P., Major G. S. M. Ashby, L. A. Simonds, Esq., R. St. J. Quarry, Esq. and F. H. V. Keighley, Esq. Also in attendance were Commander P. F. M. Dawson, Mr. A. P. F. Chapman, Capt. E. S. de Brett and many others.

The ground, with a fine pavilion, extends over 14 acres, and was undertaken by the Directors for the use of the Sports Club. There is an excellent cricket table, two football pitches, two hard and three grass tennis courts. The ground is most attractively laid out, there being lawns adorned by flowers and shrubs leading to the pavilion, while surrounding the greater part of the grounds are chestnut, beech and other attractive looking trees.

Mr. F. A. Simonds paid a tribute to those who had helped in providing the ground in so short a time and in doing so he mentioned Mr. L. A. Simonds, Mr. R. St. J. Quarry (Directors), Mr. Walter Bradford (general secretary of the Sports Club), Commander P. F. M. Dawson (Chairman of the Sports Committee and Social Organizer), and Mr. L. Povey (the Groundsman), to whom he presented a personal gift.

"For a long time we have felt that we should do as other great firms have done in providing a ground for our Sports Club," he said, "and I hope that it will be the rallying point of the employees' social activities for many generations." He added that he thought that if other countries in the world were as sporting minded as people in England then many of the present troubles would be ended. "If we could read 'Hitler, bowled Chamberlain,' or 'Mussolini, caught Bradford,'" he said, "I am sure that would be a great stride towards better times." (Laughter.)

Mr. Simonds then broke the flag at the mast and kicked off at the football match. A cricket match, the first ball of

which was to have been bowled by Mr. A. P. F. Chapman, the famous English cricketer (formerly on the staff of the Brewery at Reading), who was present, had to be postponed owing to rain, but Major J. H. Simonds C.B., D.L., J.P., "took the strain" in a tug-of-war. Later in the afternoon the hard tennis courts were used in a match between the Directors and the Tennis Club.

TENNIS MATCH.

THE DIRECTORS *v.* THE TENNIS CLUB.

The Tennis Club won by 5 matches to 0, 13 sets to 3, and 93 games to 47. Three matches were unfinished. Scores:—

P. James and C. Langton *beat* Comdr. Simonds and Mr. Keighley 6—0, 6—3. *Beat* Mr. L. A. Simonds and Mr. Quarry 6—3, 6—3. *Beat* Major Ashby and Mr. H. Ashby 6—4, 6—3.

J. Hillier and L. Farrance *drew* with Comdr. Simonds and Mr. Keighley 6—8, 6—4. *Beat* Mr. L. A. Simonds and Mr. Quarry 6—1, 6—4.

R. Huddy and H. M. Randall *drew* with Comdr. Simonds and Mr. Keighley 3—6, 6—4. *Drew* with Mr. L. A. Simonds and Mr. Quarry 6—2, 6—7. *Beat* Major Ashby and Mr. H. Ashby 6—2, 6—3.

Those taking part in the Sports Programme were:—

FOOTBALL.

1st Eleven.

W. T. Lamb
R. Clark
D. Jacobs
R. Braisher
R. C. Pitts
G. H. Kerry
J. Jeffcoat
P. E. Curtis
G. Sayers
A. J. G. Tuttle
L. Drew

Trainer—D. Spence

Referee—F. Pusey. Linesmen—S. A. Goatley and R. Kemp.

2nd Eleven.

N. L. Tott
H. Ward
W. A. Philpotts
M. V. Lott
L. Knight
C. Bartlett
H. Thompson
S. V. Allen
J. Strudley
C. W. Pidgeon
J. P. Slade

Trainer—A. E. Franklin

TENNIS.

Directors.

Commander H. D. Simonds
Major G. S. M. Ashby
Mr. L. A. Simonds
Mr. R. St. J. Quarry
Mr. F. H. V. Keighley
Mr. H. M. P. Ashby

Tennis Club.

L. Farrance
J. Hillier
R. P. Huddy
P. James
C. L. Langton
H. M. Randall

Non-playing Captain—Comdr. P. F. M. Dawson.

TUG-OF-WAR.

1st Team.

A. Allen
 J. Allen
 A. Blake
 G. Cannings
 E. Chandler
 W. Dainton
 T. Fisher
 J. Smith
 W. Venner (*Coach*)

2nd Team.

F. Clinch
 H. Cooke
 S. Copelin
 S. Flockton
 A. Gardner
 W. Mortimer
 C. T. Rosom
 J. Silmeen
 C. Palmer (*Coach*)

CRICKET.

Mr. E. S. Phipps' XI.

E. S. Phipps (*captain*)
 E. D. Simonds
 J. H. Wadhams
 A. G. Richardson
 F. L. B. Abbott
 Capt. A. S. Drewe
 J. J. Cardwell
 H. Osborne
 C. H. Perrin
 Capt. S. de Brett
 J. W. Jelley

Mr. E. G. Crutchley's XI.

E. G. Crutchley (*captain*)
 C. R. Josey
 H. S. Tigar
 A. V. Hedgington
 H. Tozer
 W. Busby
 W. Neville
 B. Farmer
 W. Greenaway
 W. R. Brown
 E. C. Greenaway

FIRE BRIGADE.

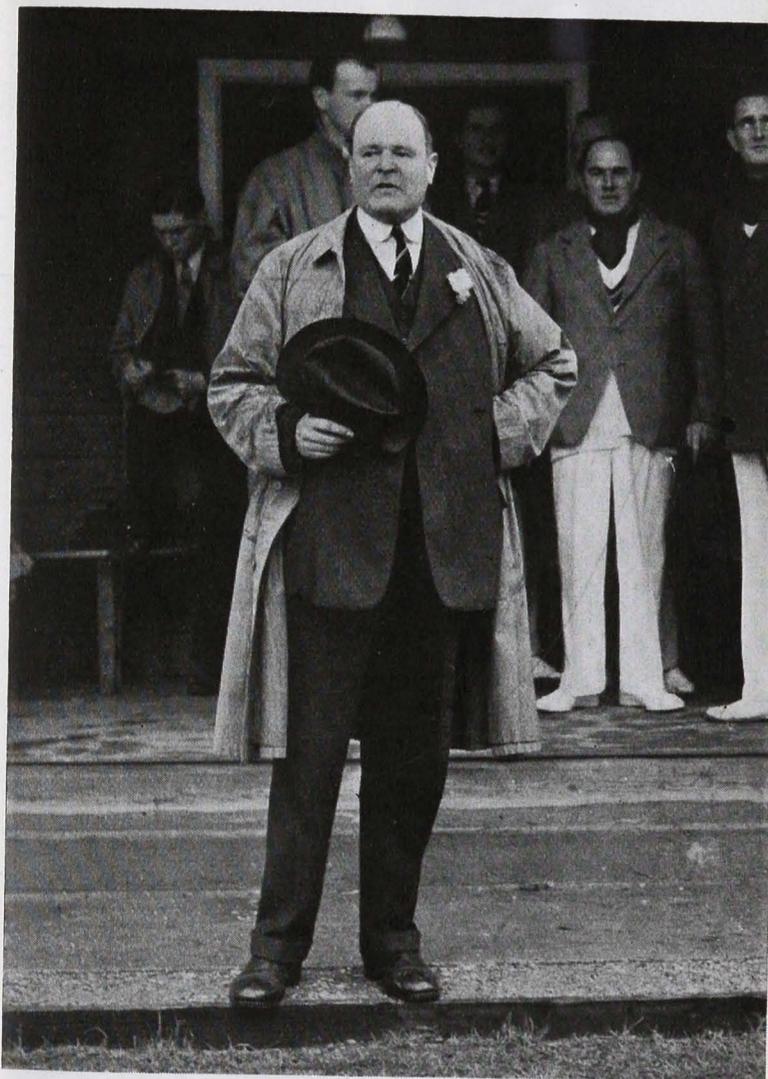
G. F. Andrews (*Chief Officer*)
 H. Aust (*2nd Officer*)
 L. Smith
 J. Lovejoy
 T. Howells
 W. Kirke
 R. West

E. Tigwell
 G. Kingston
 F. Mansbridge
 W. Whitmore
 F. Fisher
 D. Jones
 L. Clark

BAND.

Bandmaster - W. Hooper.

Saxophone	-	-	-	-	-	H. M. P. Ashby
1st Violins	-	-	-	-	-	D. Reed and N. S. Elder
Cornets	-	-	-	-	-	F. J. Benham, G. Thompson and Smith
Euphonium	-	-	-	-	-	W. Jones
Trombone	-	-	-	-	-	J. Chard
Bass	-	-	-	-	-	T. Smith
Piano	-	-	-	-	-	H. S. Evans
Drums	-	-	-	-	-	H. Holder



Mr. F. A. Simonds, Chairman and Managing Director, declaring the Grounds opened.



A further view of the Opening Ceremony.



Mr. F. A. Simonds breaking the Sports Flag.



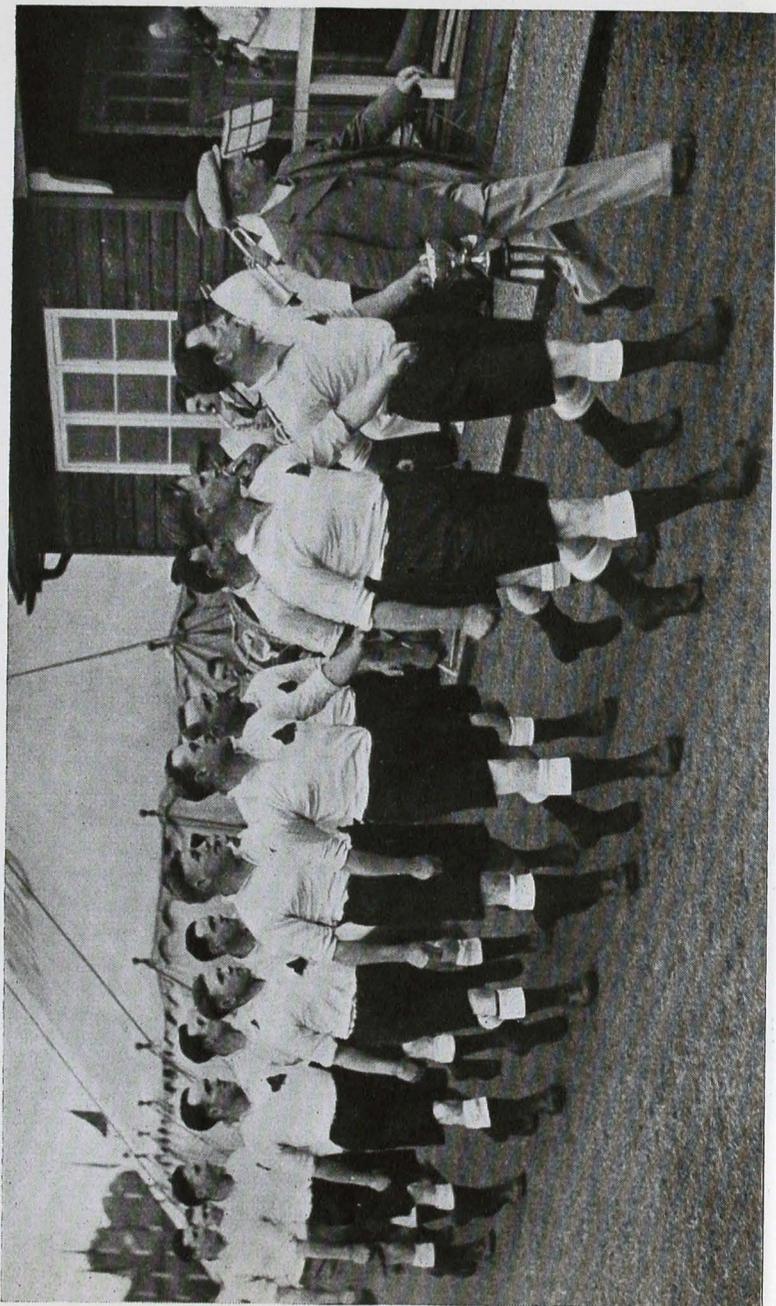
Support from the Board of Directors.

Left to right—Major G. S. M. Ashby, Mr. F. H. V. Keighley, Mr. R. St. J. Quarry, Mr. L. A. Simonds, Mr. F. A. Simonds, Major J. H. Simonds, C.B., D.L., J.P., Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N. (Retd.).

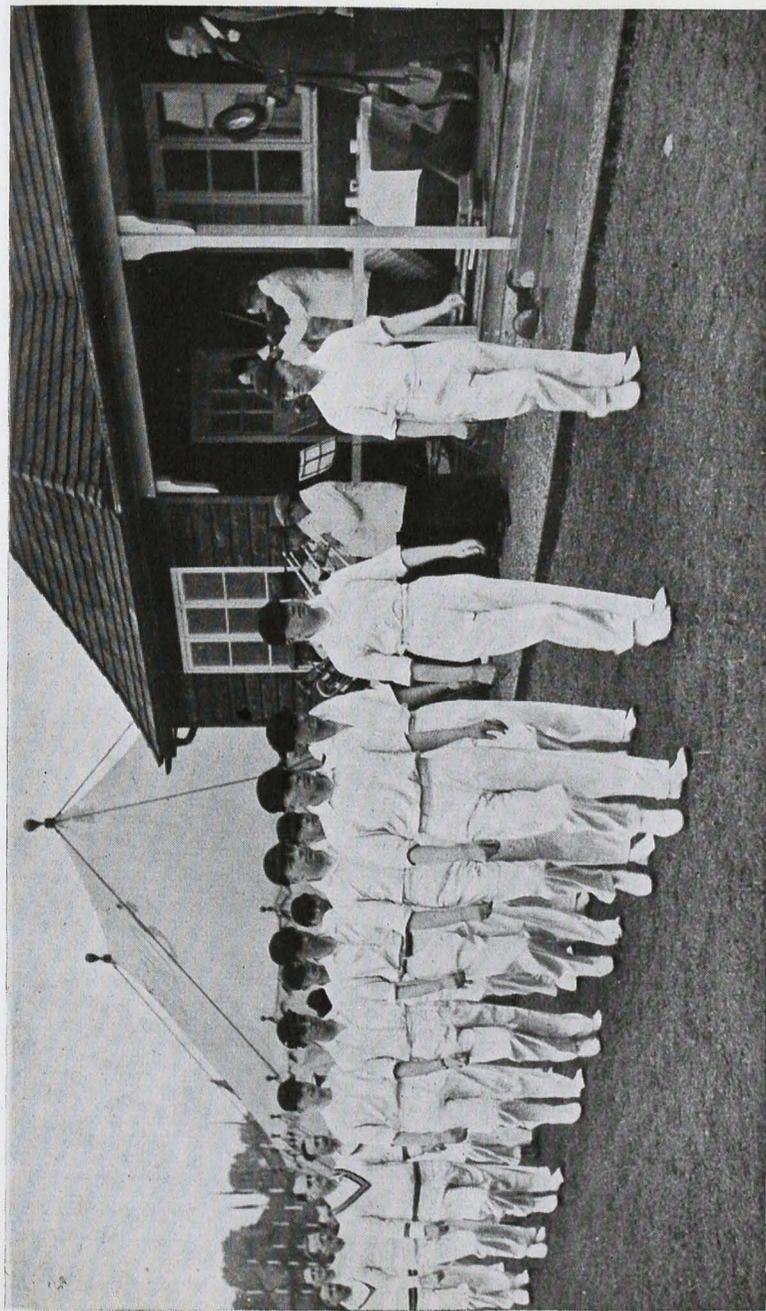


A group outside the Pavilion, shewing Mr. F. A. Simonds talking to his son, Mr. E. D. Simonds.

THE MARCH PAST.



The Tug-of-War Teams.



The Cricket Teams.

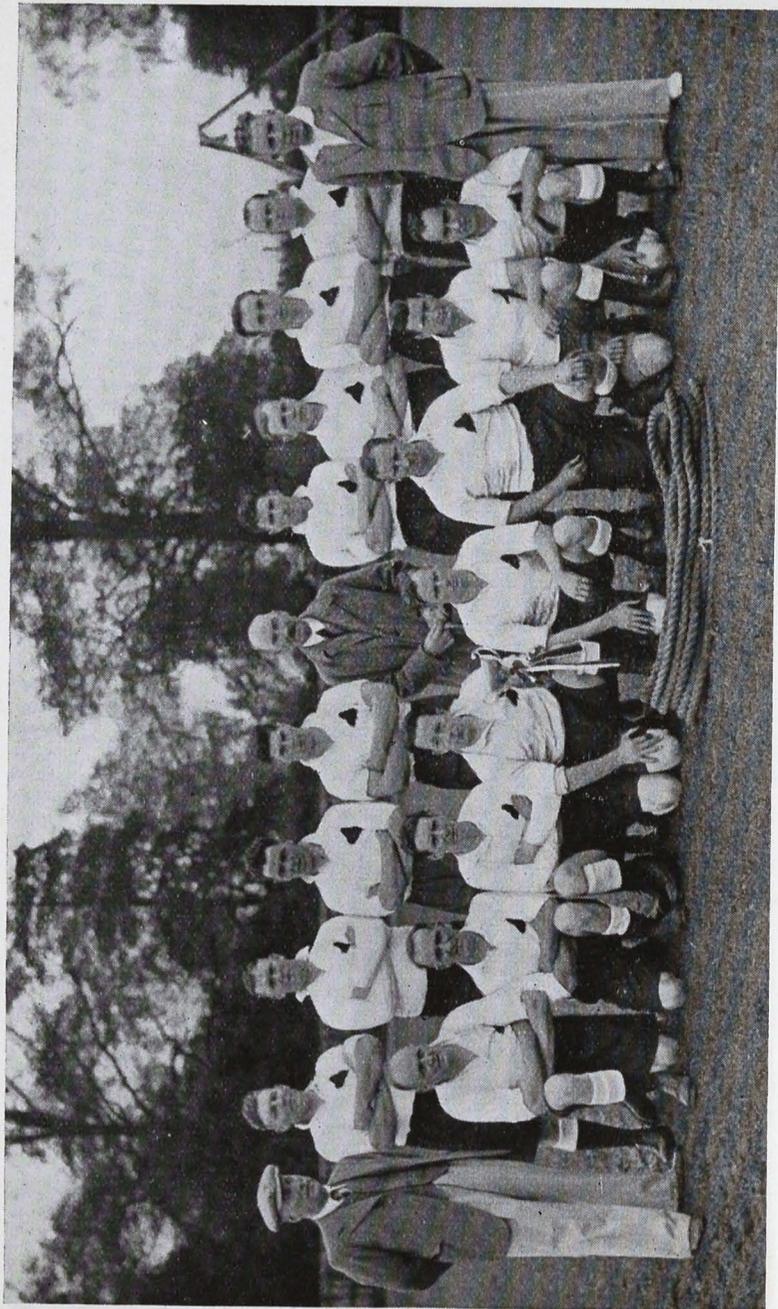
THE MARCH PAST.



The Fire Brigade.



Footballers March Past.



The Tug-of-War Teams with Major J. H. Simonds, C.B., D.L., J.P., in the centre.



The Football Teams.



Our Editor, Mr. C. H. P., having a "yarn" with Mr. A. P. F. Chapman.

MR. A. G. OXLADE.



Above is a photograph of Mr. A. G. Oxlade, of The Merry Maidens, wearing his chain of office on the day he took over the chairmanship of the Reading and District Licensed Victuallers Trade Protection and Benevolent Association. He was on the committee of the association 14 years before taking over the

chairmanship. He is also chairman of the British Legion South Reading Branch, and a keen member of the Reading Bowling Club, being runner-up in the club's pairs last season. A one-time army gymnastic instructor, Mr. Oxlade is a native of Wokingham and kept the "Crispin" there for eight years before removing to Reading.



Group of those present at the Fancy Dress Dinner and Dance organised by Mr. Oxlade's Bar Billiards Social Club at the Merry Maidens. The occasion proved a great success.



THE LIGHTER SIDE.

On a card in the front window of a suburban home appeared the following notice :—

" A piano for Sale."

In the window next door another card appeared with just one word :—

" Hurrah."

* * * *

The Colonel, touring Europe, did not believe in forgetting those he had left behind.

To his son in college he wrote : " I am now standing on the cliff from which the Spartans used to throw their defective children. Wish you were here."

* * * *

The office boy was a smart lad, and one day, after a particularly bright action, he was summoned before the head of the firm.

" You have done a good service, my boy," said the boss. " I am therefore increasing your wages by five shillings weekly."

" Thank you, Sir," said the bright fellow. " I will do my best to be worth it, and to be a good servant to you and the firm."

This reply amazed the chief as much as it pleased him.

" That's the right spirit," he said. " In all the years I have been in business, no employee has ever thanked me as nicely as that. I will make the increase ten shillings. Now what do you say to that? "

The boy hesitated a moment : " Well, Sir," he said at last, " would you mind if I said it again? "

* * * *

A doctor was called to a house to attend a confinement. When he had been upstairs a few minutes he came down and said to the husband : " Have you got a corkscrew? "

He was given one and went upstairs. A few minutes later he came down again and said : " Have you got a screwdriver? "

He was given one and went upstairs. A few minutes later he came down a third time and asked for a chisel and a mallet. At this the worried husband said : " Good gracious, doctor, is it a boy or a girl? "

" I don't know yet," the doctor answered, " I can't get my infernal bag open."

Johnny was staying with his uncle and was telling him about how his school put on *Hamlet* and the mothers and fathers came along to see it.

"A lot of them had seen it before," he said, "but they laughed just the same."

* * * *

The piccolo player in the band was a habitual grumbler, and always complained of his bad luck. One day the band was playing before a rich Eastern potentate who was so pleased with the performance that he commanded that all the instruments should be filled with gold coins.

"There you are," sighed the piccolo player, "that's a typical example of my luck. Mine is the smallest instrument in the band."

The bandmen spent the money in a wild spree—with the result that the next performance was (to put it mildly) not so good.

The great man was furious, and ordered his servants to ram their instruments down their throats.

The piccolo player turned to his colleagues. "My bad luck again," he said. "Mine is the only one that will go down."

* * * *

A young officer returning from leave abroad was about to take his place in an air-liner when a girl ran up and asked the passengers if any one of them would be kind enough to sell her his seat as her mother was dangerously ill and the liner was full up.

The young officer gave up his seat and wired his C.O. : "Given berth to girl. Returning by next 'plane."

The reply he received ran : "Congratulations. Your next confinement will be in barracks."

* * * *

A married soldier was had up at the Orderly Room for making a false statement to the Commanding Officer.

"You asked for leave to go to your mother-in-law's funeral and I am told she is perfectly well. What have you got to say?" "Beg pardon, Sir. I didn't say there was anything wrong with my mother-in-law. I simply said that I would like to go to her funeral."

Case dismissed.

The master instructed his toolmaker to try his hand at making a very difficult tool.

The man returned to the office a few hours afterwards, and said, "Gaffer, I've done me best, but there ay any mon livin' as can mak' a tool like that. Yo'll 'ave to buy one after all."

* * * *

A young and enthusiastic Cockney recruit had just been given his initial lesson in saluting, so when he found himself left to his own resources, he sallied out in the hope that he might meet an officer on whom he could practise his new accomplishment. He was in luck. Just ahead were the Commanding Officer and Adjutant of the Depot in deep conversation.

The youngster's right hand shot up with military precision, but the officers apparently did not notice his beautiful salute. This would never do. He retraced his steps and passed them again, repeating the salute, at the same time giving a shrill whistle to attract their attention. Then, using his left hand to indicate the salute, he called out : "Oi! What about it?"

* * * *

The taunt that the British soldier—especially the professional Regular soldier—is a "mercenary" because he receives a far higher rate of pay than the Continental conscript is a very old one.

There is a story told of a pompous and ill-mannered officer of a certain European army who was expounding on this theme at a dinner party where a British officer was present. "We fight for honour and glory—the British Army fights for money!" said the foreigner with an air of conscious superiority.

"Quite right, old boy!" replied the British officer, with that smile of amused tolerance which so often puzzles other nations, "each of us fights for what we haven't got!"

* * * *

The battalion doctor was awakened in his quarters by the phone jangling at 3 a.m.

"What is it?" he asked testily and sleepily.

"Well, you see, doctor, we have been having a big party in the Mess, and I am terribly worried about Major Twuggle," came from the other end of the wire.

"Why bother me? Is he seeing elephants or something?" the doctor asked, very annoyed.

"That is the trouble, Sir," was the reply, "the room is full of them and he can't see a single one."

An ostrich went out for a stroll in the desert and thought he'd call at his favourite oasis in the hope of running across a few of his pals.

When he got there he found six other ostriches standing with their heads buried in the sand.

"Just my luck!" he said. "Not a soul about."

* * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Newlywed were silent as the train bore them homewards after their honeymoon. Mr. Newlywed was hard up. He had spent every penny on the honeymoon and his next pay-day was a fortnight off.

As they neared home the young wife gave a merry laugh. "I'm going to tell you a secret that will cheer you up, Billy," she said. "Before we went away I hid ten pounds in the larder."

"Yes," said her husband. "I know. I found it."

* * * *

The identity of the young woman is withheld, but the memory of her answer lingers on with the examiner conducting a science course at a local high school.

One of the requirements in the written exam. was: "Define a bolt and nut and explain the difference, if any."

The girl wrote: "A bolt is a thing like a stick of hard metal, such as iron, with a square bunch on one end and a lot of scratching wound around the other end. A nut is similar to the bolt only just the opposite, being a hole in a little chunk of iron sawed off short, with wrinkles around the inside of the hole."

* * * *

Mrs. Up-to-Date's baby was out of sorts, so she sent for the doctor, who inquired about its teeth, etc.

"Well, the best thing you can do for baby is to give her a good dose of castor oil," said the doctor.

"But, doctor," said Mrs. Up-to-Date, "castor oil is so old-fashioned."

"Well, Madam," was the reply, "so are babies."

* * * *

A customer in an Irish draper's shop wished to buy a shroud, but the price she was asked seemed exorbitant.

"I could buy it for half the price in Dublin," she complained.

"Yes," replied the draper, "and the corpse would have his knees through it in a week."

BRANCHES.

BRIGHTON.

We have pleasure in giving a report from the *Sussex Daily News* of the informal visit of Earl Winterton, M.P., to the West Tarring Working Men's Club, Worthing, on the 28th April:—

Earl Winterton, M.P., paid an informal visit to the West Tarring Working Men's Club, Worthing, yesterday evening. He was welcomed on behalf of the Members by Mr. E. W. Sparkes (the President), who said that his Lordship was one of those who recognised that social clubs such as theirs did good.

Lord Winterton congratulated the members on the way the Club premises had been improved. Working men's clubs, he said, were legitimate institutions, and it was for the country to see they had reasonable facilities and fair play. While not intending to make a political speech, he said, in regard to the international situation, we must hope for the best and be united on external policy and be proud of this old country.

Lord Winterton recalled that he used to be a member of the Club, and said he should be pleased to be re-elected.

The Mayor (Alderman E. A. Brackley, J.P.) and Alderman H. T. Duffield (the Club's first President) were present to meet his Lordship.

Later in the evening prizes won in recent tournaments were presented.

OXFORD.

OXFORD AND DISTRICT SNOOKER FINAL.

(SIMONDS' TROPHY.)

The final of the above-mentioned competition was held at the Headington Conservative Club on 14th April, 1939.

This match was in the nature of a "local derby," Morris Motors opposing Pressed Steel, the latter starting favourites with such experienced players as Lew James (Oxfordshire billiards champion), Lew Williams, E. Locke, J. Clowney and last, but not least on this occasion, Alec Wanless.

Morris Motors were finalists last season and were all out to lift the coveted trophy, being represented by A. Pocock, R. Dollin, T. Long, H. Simms and again last but by no means least, K. Northover.

The competition attracted forty entries, which no doubt will be greatly increased next year. At the conclusion of the game the cup and prizes were presented by Mr. H. J. Timms, Oxford Branch Manager, who congratulated the winner and commiserated with the loser in a speech appropriate to the occasion.



Mr. H. Parker, winner of the "Simonds" Challenge Cup for Billiards.

LONDON.

RUISLIP LIDO.

BATHING IN IDEAL CONDITIONS.

Few of the seasons which are devoted in this country to open air sports and recreations begin with suitable weather conditions, and the present season has so far been no exception to the rule. But the proprietors of open air swimming pools have to be prepared to cater for patrons according to the calendar. Thus the Grand Union Canal Company have made arrangements to provide swimming and bathing facilities for the new season at their Ruislip Lido which opened to the public on Monday, the 1st May.

Those who have enjoyed the amenities of the Lido in past seasons will need no encouragement to visit this delightfully situated swimming pool, but for the information of others it should be stated that the Lido is surrounded with unspoiled country and woodland and is undoubtedly one of the finest examples of an open air swimming centre to be found in this country. There is an excellent railway service to Ruislip and buses now run right to the door of the Lido. For those who prefer to make the journey by car, free parking is provided at the Lido.

The Lido itself is of modern design and is built on the shore of a 75-acre lake. Bathing in perfect safety is ensured, a part of the lake having been made into a swimming pool whose depth is graduated from 1 foot to 10 feet, and there are diving boards of international standard. Adequate dressing accommodation ensures that even on days when there is a rush of bathers there is no irksome wait before being able to enter the water. For those who wish to indulge in sunbathing, ample accommodation is provided on the lawns which are about 1 acre in extent.

In the Lido building light refreshments or meals are obtainable, and there is also a fully licensed lounge bar on the first floor which is provided with table tennis equipment and darts boards for the use of visitors. Additional attractions associated with the Lido are facilities for boating and fishing, and a popular feature which will appeal to visitors is that specially reduced and inclusive rates may be obtained by parties of not fewer than 10 persons. A new ticket is also available for admission to the Lido only, at 5/- for the season. The management of the Lido are always pleased to receive applications from anyone desiring information or wishing to inspect the amenities of the Lido. Such applications should either be made in writing or by telephone.

We have been entrusted with the supply of beers, wines and spirits, etc.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

Our congratulations and best wishes for their future happiness are extended to Mr. and Mrs. H. J. H. Smith, who were married at St. Michael's Church, Devonport, on the 26th April.

Mr. Smith, who is a member of our clerical staff at the Tamar Brewery, was presented, on behalf of his colleagues, with an English Westminster chimes grandmother clock.

After the reception Mr. Smith and his bride (*nee* Miss D. Baskerville) left for London.

We also would like to convey our best wishes to Mr. H. G. H. Cook, our tenant at the Brown Bear Inn, Devonport, on his marriage, at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Plymouth, to Miss B. D. Trevan. The honeymoon was spent at Lynton and Lynmouth.

Mr. Cook is the nephew of Mr. and Mrs. G. Pearce, the tenants of the Steambridge Inn, Devonport.

Mr. C. E. Gough's friends at Reading and Branches will be pleased to know that he is looking wonderfully well after his recent severe illness. H.M.S. *Gleaner* was lying off Brixham and one of the officers invited Mr. and Mrs. Gough to tea aboard. They enjoyed their visit to the warship and the trip by the ship's motorboat, although there was a fairly stiff sea running.

We were very sorry to have to say "au revoir" to so many friends when the 2nd Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment left Raglan Barracks, Devonport, for Belfast. The Battalion was popular in this district and left behind many happy memories.

Their place has now been taken by details of the 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and it is a novel sight for some of the younger generation to see kilted soldiers, as the last Highland regiment to be stationed here was the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders, who left in August, 1914.

Plymouth Argyle, we are glad to say, will still be in the Second Division of the Football League next season—but only just. The past season has been their worst since promotion from the Third Division in the season 1930-31. We are sorry to see that Reading did not gain promotion, although theirs was a very creditable performance. It would seem as if the "Pilgrims" are determined to hang on in the Second Division until they are joined by the "Biscuit" men.

We are pleased to record that the medals which were recently awarded Coxswain Mogridge and the crew of the Torbay lifeboat by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution were presented by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

It is to be hoped that the present spell of fine weather is the forerunner of things to come and that it will not be spoilt by the clouds that are at present hanging over Europe.

The King's Arms, Tamerton Foliot, has now been transferred from Mr. F. Tweed to Mrs. A. V. Johns, and we wish Mrs. Johns every success. We feel sure she will prove a very popular hostess.

The Union Hotel, Bovey Tracey, has been taken over from Mr. L. Wakeham by Mr. H. J. Clayton, who has had considerable experience as a licensee. We would like to welcome Mr. Clayton to the happy band of "Hop Leaf" landlords and are confident that the Union Hotel, under his control, will continue to be a popular "house of call."

Mr. L. Wakeham has moved to the seaside and taken over the tenancy of our White Hart Inn at Plainmoor, Torquay. We hope many of our Reading friends will call in to see Mr. Wakeham when they journey down next season to see Reading play Torquay, as the White Hart Inn is quite close to Torquay United's ground at Plainmoor.

Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to Mr. and Mrs. R. Stevens, of the Julian Arms, Cadleigh Park, Ivybridge, on the gift of a daughter to Mrs. Stevens at the Woodside Nursing Home on the 8th May.

The Millbrook Darts League first season was closed down at the Unionist Hall, Millbrook, recently, when about 80 sat down to a supper and enjoyed a smoking concert organised by the Committee.

Mr. E. Honey presided, supported by Capt. F. McClure Williams, Messrs. A. Brittain, W. Newcombe, N. Edwards and E. Potter.

Captain Williams presented the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe Cup to Mr. A. Bastyan, captain of the Mark of Friendship Inn team, and medals (the gift of Mr. Crawford) to the team, namely:—Messrs. A. Bastyan, W. and T. Pomeroy, C. and J. Elliott, F. Spurrell, E. Thompson, M. Bersey, W. Jackett and F. Ackland; the runners-up cup (the gift of Messrs. F. J. Skinner & Son) to Mr. J. Huggins, captain of the Commercial Hotel team, and medals (the gift of the Licensees of the Hotels competing) to Messrs.

J. Huggins, H. Perrin, N. Edwards, L. Shilston, A. Rowe, A. Rogers, G. Rayson, G. Blatchford, T. Bath and F. Pill; a watch (the gift of Messrs. Driscoll Bros.) to Mr. L. Shilston (Commercial Hotel), for the highest score (140); and a watch (the gift of the competing Clubs) to Mr. E. Thompson (Mark of Friendship), for winning most games.

As this is the first season the Millbrook Darts League has been running and both the Commercial Hotel and the Mark of Friendship are Simonds' Houses, it is an excellent recommendation as to the training qualities of the ever-popular "S.B."—a Sustaining Beverage.

No doubt many of our older readers, particularly at Reading, will be interested to see the photograph, which is reproduced below, of an outing of the Union Room staff which took place about thirty years ago.



Union Room Outing about 30 years ago.

Left front row: The late Mr. W. Prater and Mr. Crocker.

A very pleasant time was enjoyed in Central Park, Plymouth, on the 18th May, when a team representing the Firm played our very good friends and business rivals, the Octagon Brewery—"O.B." v. "S.B."

Batting first the Octagon Brewery were very cautious and thanks to the bowling of R. S. Luff and N. T. Jenkins, also the

masterly wicket-keeping of L. T. Gruitt (stumped three), they were eventually dismissed for 16. Our opening batsmen passed this score before the first wicket fell, the team finally being all out for 68. The discovery in the team is undoubtedly R. S. Luff, who, opening the innings, finally "carried his bat" for the top score of the evening—29 not out. Besides being quite a good batsman, he is a good bowler and a very useful fielder.

Despite the difference in the score everyone enjoyed a very sporting and friendly match and as someone remarked afterwards, "Even if the umpire did not know much about cricket he looked very nice in his white coat!"

For the benefit of those interested the full details of our team's performance are as follows:—N. T. Jenkins, caught, 15; R. S. Luff, not out, 29; L. T. Gruitt, caught, 1; H. E. Bevan, played on, 0; R. E. Wright, caught, 2; W. G. E. Luddington, caught, 0; R. Smith, bowled, 2; J. Marshall, played on, 0; R. Fripp, bowled, 0; C. R. Wyatt, lbw., 6; R. E. Ford, run out, 13.

Encouraged by our success and having a keen side, we are now seeking other friendly fixtures and although we may not always be so victorious we feel sure we will have an agreeable time.

Plymouth was honoured recently by a two-days' visit from Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent. Her visit had been eagerly looked forward to by all Plymouthians and when the Duchess arrived at North Road Station she received a vociferous welcome. The Lord Lieutenant of Devon, The Right Hon. Earl Fortescue, presented the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs. G. Scoble), the Commander-in-Chief Admiral Sir M. E. Dunbar-Nasmith, V.C., K.C.B., and Lady Dunbar-Nasmith, the Town Clerk, Mr. Colin Campbell, the Chief Constable, Mr. G. S. Lowe, and many other civic and local dignitaries. Viscountess Astor, the Member of Parliament for the Sutton Division of the City, presented the Duchess with a bouquet of lilies of the valley. The Duchess was then driven from North Road Station to Admiralty House, Mount Wise, where she was the guest of Admiral and Lady Dunbar-Nasmith.

The following morning she visited the Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport, and H.M. Dockyard, being escorted on her tour by the Commander-in-Chief, the Admiral Superintendent of the Dockyard, Rear-Admiral A. N. Dowding, C.B., the Commodore of the Royal Naval Barracks, Rear-Admiral A. T. B. Curteis, and other senior naval officers. After the tour of the various establishments Her Royal Highness inspected the Royal Guard of Honour drawn up on the parade ground of the Royal Naval

Barracks, and then took the salute at the march past. The Duchess afterwards visited the Margaret McMillan Nursery, where she displayed a very great interest in the children.

After lunch Her Royal Highness proceeded to the City Hospital, Greenbank, where she laid the foundation stone of the extensions to the hospital. After this ceremony she was driven to High Street, Stonehouse, where she opened and inspected the new Corporation flats.

In the evening she attended the Lord Mayor's Ball on behalf of the Plymouth Voluntary Hospitals, which, judging by results, must have been the most successful charitable event held in Plymouth.

The evening was very colourful and Her Royal Highness was, quite naturally, the centre of attraction in the first Royal Ball to be held in Plymouth.

It has now been published that £500 has been passed to the Plymouth Voluntary Hospitals and £38 to the Plymouth Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade as a result of the Ball.

Her Royal Highness left behind in Plymouth many thousands of people who are now her ardent admirers, and it is to be hoped that the Duchess will further honour Plymouth with another visit in the future.

LIQUOR LENGTHENS LIFE.

The Horse and Mule live thirty years
And nothing know of Wines and Beers ;
And Sheep and Goats at twenty die
And never taste of Scotch and Rye.

The Cows drink water by the ton,
And at eighteen are mostly done ;
The Dog at fifteen cashes in,
Without the aid of Beer or Gin.

The Cat in Milk and Water soaks,
And in about twelve years it croaks ;
The modest, sober, bone dry Hen
Lays eggs for days, then dies at ten.

All animals are strictly Dry,
They sinless live and swiftly die ;
But sinful, ginful, rum-soaked Men
Survive for three score years and ten.

PORTSMOUTH.

We congratulate Regimental Sergeant-Major J. J. Bicknell of Southampton, who has been granted a commission as Lieut.-Quartermaster of the 130th (Wessex) Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C., the Headquarters of which are at Portsmouth. He has had a notable record of service in the Territorial Army. He joined the Territorials on January 31st, 1911, and has served continuously ever since. For the past fifteen years he has been R.S.M. of the 7th (Southern) Hygiene Company, for the formation of which he was primarily responsible in 1922, following the disbandment of the 3rd (Wessex) Field Ambulance, to which unit under its new title he now returns as an officer.

At the 56th Portsmouth United Services Rifle Meeting crack shots of the Southern Command, many of them Bisley marksmen, found themselves helpless against the new convertible landscape target when the shooting began. With chagrin they found themselves returning phenomenally low scores when firing at this target. It is camouflaged with landscape colouring and has no bull. The object of the target, which is being used at Tipnor for the first time, is to provide greater realism and to make competition more difficult. Judged on these grounds it was a great success. Entry for this meeting is open to all ranks and ratings of forces serving in the Southern Command, and competitors have come from H.M.S. *Excellent*, *Iron Duke* and *Coventry*, R.A.O.C., Hilsea, Royal Marines, Eastney, Royal Marines afloat, Middlesex Regiment, and R.A.F., Gosport. A smaller entry than last year can be attributed to Service exigencies.

Navy Week at Portsmouth this year is being opened by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Chatfield, Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence, who will speak from H.M.S. *Victory*. It is expected to be a better Navy Week than ever this year.

H.M.S. *Suffolk*, the 10,000-ton cruiser which has seen over two years' service with the Fifth Cruiser Squadron on the China Station, arrived back at Portsmouth in May. She has been commanded during the latter part of her commission by Captain C. S. Sanford, O.B.E., R.N., and her arrival was cheered by crowds on Southsea Front and at the Point, also at Fountain Lake Jetty, where relatives and friends were allowed to assemble.

BRISTOL.

It is with the deepest regret and sympathy that we record the death of Mrs. E. K. Weston, the wife of Mr. A. C. Weston of the Swan Hotel, Stokes Croft, Bristol, on the 1st May.

Mrs. Weston came to Bristol with her husband to take over the Swan only just over a year ago, and their immediate success quickly proved how fitted they were for such a difficult task. From the first day Mrs. Weston was an ideal hostess, and her part in putting this house on the map was a very valuable contribution indeed. Unfortunately an old trouble prevented the full use of her physical powers, and despite a very brave fight against odds, for some few months past she was unable to help in the business to which she had so successfully and unselfishly given so much of herself.

She was only "of us" for a few months, but we in Bristol shall not soon forget her spontaneous charm, or the ready help which she so ungrudgingly gave to all who knew her, both in her own family circle and in the wider sphere of her many friendships in Bristol and elsewhere; and a great many will miss her ever-ready cheery word at the Swan—as we shall.

BRISTOL WHIST CHAMPIONS.

The Windsor Castle, Bedminster, for many years past has set a high example to all whist players (of which there are all too few in these skittling and darting days) by winning the William James Memorial Cup, the Bartlett & Hobbs Cup, and just missing the League championship by the narrowest of margins—nearly the 1,000 to 1 treble!—in the season just ended. Their past achievements as League champions in 1934-35-36 justly entitle them to be considered worthy representatives of the "Hop Leaf" in Bristol—as a matter of fact this is the only Simonds' house in the League—and we offer them our warmest congratulations and best wishes for further successes ahead.

Mr. W. C. Evans is very proud of his men, and with "Captain" W. Crafer to lead such a team, no wonder they are held in such high regard by all opponents. Team spirit and a willingness to play the game for the game's sake has brought the Windsor Castle team its successes, and Bristol South have every reason to be proud of them.

By the way, their dart team won their way into the last eight of the "Evening World" West of England Championship, too! A very gallant effort on the part of our tenant, Mr. Evans, and his fellow players against such a galaxy of entries. Better luck next year!

THE "HOP LEAF" SKITTLE LEAGUE.

The first annual supper of the Skittle League was held at the Co-operative Hall, Bristol, on Wednesday, 17th May, when over 170 members were present during a very successful evening.

Mr. H. W. Griffin presided, and at the end presented the new championship shield, given by the Firm's Directors, and individual prizes to the captain and playing members of the winning team, the Greyhound Inn "B" Team, Fishponds. Mr. F. Holt, the team's captain, proudly accepted the splendid trophy, which we know will not be given up next year without a great effort. As a first-class sporting side, no one can begrudge these "Greyhounds" their success. Whether winning or losing they were always the same cheerful "boys," and set a high example for others to follow.

THE "HOP LEAF" SKITTLE LEAGUE.



[Reproduced by kind permission of the Bristol Evening Post.]

Presentation of the new Championship Shield.

The knock-out cup was won by another first-class sporting side, the Bell Hotel, St. George, and this handsome new trophy (also provided by the Directors) will find a worthy place for its first public exhibition.

We congratulate both Mr. Purnell and Mr. Foreman on the successes which have resulted from their first year's efforts in this newly-formed league which was launched "so well and truly" on what we hope will be a long and honourable voyage.

The Paxton Arms, Easton Road, only just missed the league championship, and each player received a valuable memento for the honour of being runners-up.

Mr. Griffin spoke of "the increasing interest being taken in the Bristol area in skittles, and of the great part which many 'Hop Leaf' houses were playing in encouraging other associations outside the league to use their alleys. During the past year both the 'Evening World' and the 'Evening Post' open competitions had booked up vital games on 'Hop Leaf' alleys—a proof of their excellence in every way; and other teams were now anxious to reserve them for their fixtures."

He also paid tribute to Mr. A. W. Bold (Chairman) and Mr. E. J. Hughes (Secretary) for the hard work they had put in during the season.

The evening concluded with a musical programme and the members' thanks to Mr. C. F. Summerell, our tenant at the Old Crown, who was responsible for the excellent bar arrangements.

THE "HOP LEAF" DART LEAGUE.

Once again the quality of the Three Horse Shoes experts has defied the united efforts of all comers, and, as winners of the league championship shield and also of the knock-out cup, we have to pay tribute to a team that at present is almost in "a class of its own." For three years in succession they have won the league almost without serious challenge, and deserve the special medals which the Directors have awarded them in recognition of such an outstanding performance.

The shield has now been made a perpetual trophy, which may change the luck of the Horse and Groom or the Black Horse—curious how these Horses, Grooms, and Shoes turn out the best dartists in this league—quite apart from the fact that principal dart expert of the thrice-champions, Mr. K. O. Marsh, has within the past month exchanged his tenancy of the Horse Shoes for that

of the Newbridge Inn, Bath, where we hope he will initiate and develop the same *esprit de corps* among his "boys" there as he did in Bristol. (I hope you mean "S.B." de corps!—*Editor.*)

No doubt the Old Market team will miss his help, but our new tenant, Mr. E. Jefferies, is an old experienced campaigner and will train his men in the same successful way when the 1939-40 season comes along. We wish him and them continued success.

EVENTS OF 1939.

With the advance of Spring and the longer days we are now well set in the season of out-of-door contracts, and all we need is a real spell of warm sunny weather to cheer us all up. So far this year most of these events have received very unfavourable conditions, which make us look forward, with undimmed hope, to a "far, far better time" in the months ahead.

So far we have been favoured with supplies for most of the Bristol area functions, and the ever-increasing number of contracts is at least some evidence of the favour with which the "Hop Leaf" label is received by caterers and public alike in this part of the West Country:—

- The Siddington Point-to-Point ;
- The Duke of Beaufort Point-to-Point ;
- The Sherston Chases ;
- The Berkeley Hunt Point-to-Point ;
- The National Hunt Meeting, Cheltenham ;
- Chepstow Spring Meeting ;
- Bath Spring Meeting ;
- The Devon County Show ;
- The Bath and West Show ;
- The Imperial Tobacco Co. Sports ;
- The Ideal Homes Exhibition, Bristol ;
- The Radio Exhibition, Bristol ;
- Filton Aerodrome Empire Air-day Pageant ;
- Whitchurch Airport Empire Air-day Pageant ;
- The Somerset British Legion Annual Rally ;
- The Bristol Hospital Carnival ;
- The Marshfield Show ;
- Keynsham Show ;
- The Berkeley Show ;
- The Bristol and West of England Industries Exhibition ;

and many more still in an "embryo" stage—to come along later as the season advances—to add still further prestige to the Firm's products.

BRIDGEND.

Below we reproduce a photograph of the Prince of Wales, Porthcawl, darts team, who we regret to report were bottom of the league for the season just terminated. However, as they rightly think, if they had been anywhere else in the league excepting the first and second positions they would have got nothing, whereas now they are the proud possessors of the "wooden spoon."



Reproduced by kind permission of [Imperial Studios 41 Water Street, Aberavon, Port Talbot.]

The Prince of Wales, Porthcawl, Darts Team.

The members of the team considered that at the presentation of the "wooden spoon" it was only right and proper that they should be suitably attired for such an auspicious occasion, so our readers will note from the accompanying photograph the correct dress according to Prince of Wales-ites. Other "wooden-spoonists" please copy!

Although the record of the Prince of Wales team is not one to be envied, we must say that they have been a very popular side and have received a hearty welcome wherever they have played. Throughout the season they have won six matches, so you will gather that they have their moments of playing well. Unfortunately these moments are few and far between. We suggest a course of Milk Stout and XXXXX throughout the summer, then, perhaps, they will win the championship next season. If they do we wonder what dress they will consider appropriate on that occasion.

May Day, 1939, in mid-Glamorgan was celebrated at Bridgend, when thousands of people invaded the town from the surrounding valleys and villages for the greatest demonstration in the history of the district. It was May Day in the rain, but the fervour and enthusiasm displayed by the seemingly endless procession of workers and their families were not dampened in the least, and had King Sol favoured the day with more suitable weather, no doubt the crowd which eventually congregated at the Brewery Field would have been doubled or even trebled.

Chief interest was centred around the carnival procession, which included several silver bands from the surrounding districts, May Queens and their attendants from Maesteg, Bridgend, the Ogmore and Garw Valleys, Aberkenfig and Kenfig Hill, and many varied tableaux. Some of the tableaux were particularly clever, depicting generally both pleasant and serious subjects impressing the urgent need for better conditions for the unfortunate workless in the mining towns and villages. One striking example was a tableau of a party of colliers bearing on a stretcher their comrade being brought up dead from the mine. This was labelled "The Price of Coal."

On arrival at the Brewery Field the large crowd settled down to the adjudication of the carnival characters, and exceptionally fluent speeches in support of Trade Unionism and the Labour Movement were made by the following members of the South Wales Miners' Federation No. 3 Area:—Mr. Alf Davies, Executive Member; Mr. Jack Roberts, Llangenor; Mr. Henry Pollitt; and Mr. Ted Williams, J.P., M.P. for Ogmore Division.

Miss Phyllis Williams, of Blaengarw, was chosen as the May Queen, and this adjudication received full support from the large crowd present.

The Male Voice Choir attached to the Maesteg Central Unemployment Club rendered several musical items under the baton of Mr. Danny Jenkins, and were warmly applauded for their efforts.

Great credit is due to the organisers, Mr. Richard Bennetta (Secretary of No. 3 Area, South Wales Miners' Federation) and Mr. Fred Williams (Chairman). Also to the local police, who are to be congratulated for the efficient manner in which they controlled the traffic and allowed the carnival procession to proceed along the narrow streets of Bridgend without interference.

