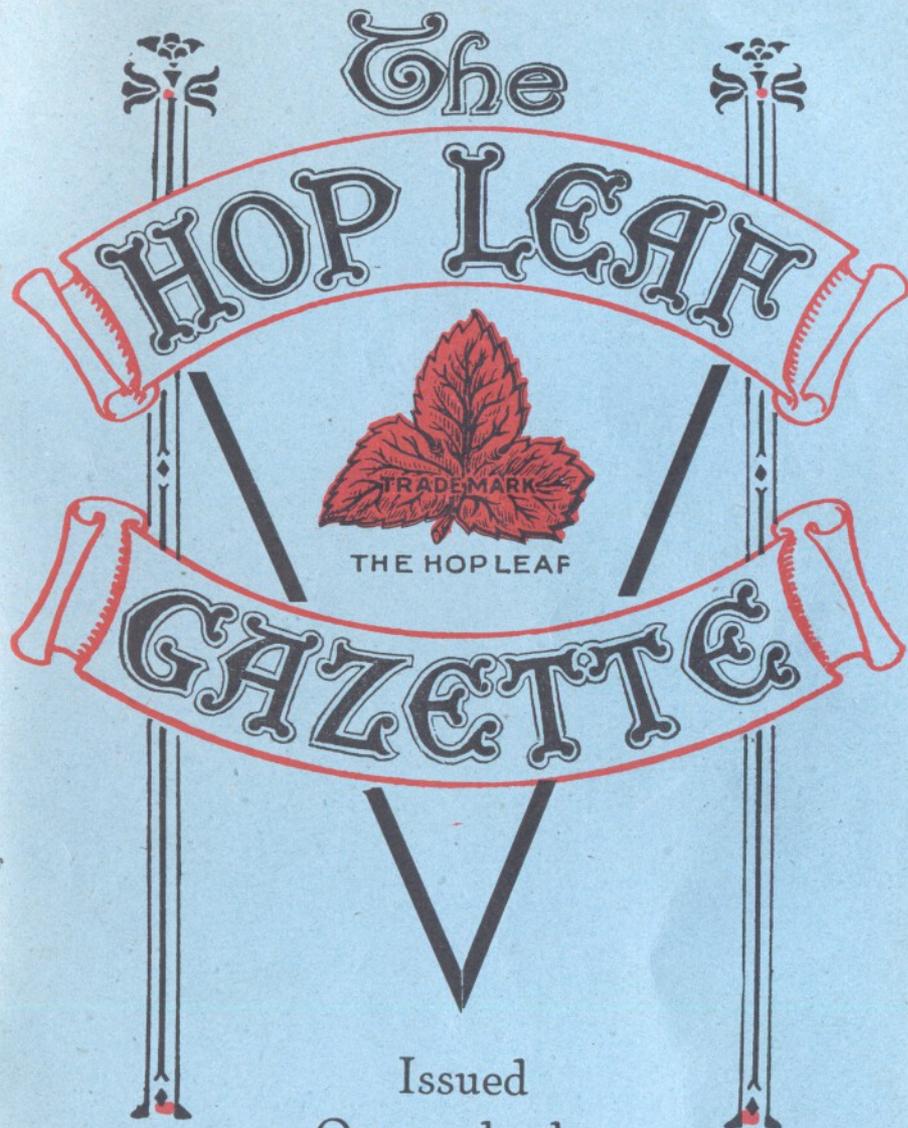


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MARCH, 1943.

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A RECORD OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE BREWERY.

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The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. XVII. MARCH, 1943. No. 2

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All communications should be addressed to—
The Editor, HOP LEAF GAZETTE, The Brewery, Reading.



MR. E. J. BROWN.

MR. E. J. BROWN.

Mr. E. J. Brown's photograph which appears in this issue will be received with much interest at Staines Branch, where he is the general foreman, a position he has very successfully filled since November, 1935.

He was engaged by Messrs. Ashby's Staines Brewery in September, 1929, as a checker, subsequently being transferred to the Loading Stage and from thence to the Cold Room of the Brewery. In 1933, when the new stillage room was built, Mr. Brown was placed in charge of the bottling of matured beers, and eventually the entire Bottling Department was placed in his care. With an aptitude for the work, he devoted himself wholeheartedly to turning out bottled beers in perfect condition, and his labours and enthusiasm have been greatly rewarded by the results which he has achieved.

The difficulties in maintaining output and distribution with a depleted staff at the present time, are faced by Mr. Brown in the best possible spirit. His cheery smile, patience and endurance have set a wonderful example to his colleagues and staff, and his day only finishes when the work is done.

Mr. Brown is a member of the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment (Home Guard). He holds a St. John's First Aid Certificate, and his training in this respect is a great asset at the present time. His leisure time, which is rare, is mainly spent in "digging for victory," and an occasional game of billiards or snooker, of which he is no mean exponent.



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.)



BREWERY EMPLOYEES HELP HOSPITAL.

The Secretary and House Governor, Royal Berkshire Hospital, writes as follows to Mr. F. C. Hawkes:—

Dear Sir,

The Treasurer has asked me to acknowledge with very many thanks the receipt of your cheque for £69 18s. 4d., being the result of an appeal to the employees of your Firm to support our Debt Reduction Appeal.

Will you please convey to all concerned an expression of my sincere gratitude on behalf of the Board of Management for this generous help which is warmly appreciated.

I have pleasure in sending an official receipt.

Yours very truly,

H. E. RYAN,

Secretary and House Governor.

SPORTS GROUND IMPROVEMENTS.

In my recent strolls round our Sports Ground I have been astonished at the marked improvement in the various playing areas. But for the moment let me be retrospective. It was in March, 1941, that serious steps were taken to bring about a much needed improvement. Constant complaints were being received from the various Sections regarding the playing surfaces of their respective areas and it was decided that steps must be taken to deal with the matter. Reg. Caryer, the well-known local sportsman, was engaged as part-time groundsman and he, in collaboration with our worthy Secretary, Mr. W. Bradford, set to work on a programme of surface improvement. Tennis courts were hand-weeded and fertilised, cricket table marled, football, hockey and netball pitches dressed and generally attended to: the subsequent result being (to quote the word of an independent critic) "marvellous." Mr. Bradford also turned his attention in the

direction of golf architecture and designed a very excellent putting green for Caryer to lay out. Not content with these general improvements, he had long been anxious to blot out the unsightliness of the gravel pits on the north side of the field, and after consultation with an expert, a row of standard flowering trees were planted in front of the Lombardy poplars; whilst, to carry the general improvement of the ground still further, hundreds of shrubs were arranged in the "rough" between the putting course. These, whilst not yet having reached maturity, will no doubt in time help to make our Sports Ground one of the most attractive in the district.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY.

It is not generally known that, apart from preparing cricket, football pitches, etc., to the satisfaction of the players, an up-to-date groundsman must have a certain amount of technical knowledge regarding turf. For instance, no fewer than 3,600 species of grass are known, of which rather more than 100 are natives of the British Isles. Very few of these particular grasses are adapted to the production of sports ground turf, but it is essential that a groundsman should know which of the few are really necessary and, in fact, able to distinguish them individually when growing as a compact turf. The groundsman's job, however, is generally considered to be a somewhat prosaic affair, but occasionally unrehearsed instances often afford flashes of humour, such as the following incident which actually took place on an important county cricket ground in the West of England during an inspection of the turf by the ground committee who interrogated the groundsman as to what grasses constituted the turf on the cricket square.

The groundsman, most anxious to impress the committee with his knowledge, assured them that five grasses only were included, and went on to quote their Latin names, viz. :—*Agrostis vulgaris*, *Festuca duriuscula*, *Festuca ovina*, *Festuca rubra* and *Poa pratensis*. The committee were naturally somewhat startled by this flow of technical knowledge, but one of them, decidedly a wag, commented, "But, George, surely you have forgotten two of the most important." Whereupon the groundsman expressed surprise, loftily enquiring which they were. "Ora pro nobis and Quo vadis" was the reply, resulting in the complete collapse of the groundsman!

In conclusion, let us hope none of our lady members will make the following mistake :—

Youthful golfer, on reaching green with his fair opponent who had never played golf before : "Why, it's a dead stymie!"

She : "I thought there was a nasty smell!"

LIST OF STANDARD FLOWERING TREES.

In front of the line of Lombardy poplars planted on the boundary to hide the gravel pits is a row of standard flowering trees comprising the following :—*Prunus Pissardii*, *P. Watereri*, *P. Blieriana*; *Cerasus Hisakura*, *C. Sargentii*, *C. Sieboldii*, *C. Subhirtella*; *Amygdalus Communis Amara*; *Persica*—Russell's Red (2), Clara Meyer; *Pyrus Malus*—Cheal's Scarlet, John Downie, Eleyi, *Purpurea*, *Floribunda* (2), Dartmouth (2), Aldenhamensis; *Crataegus Carrierei*, *C. Crus Galli*, *C. Plena Rosea*, *C. Coccinea* (2); *Laburnum Vossii*.

The following shrubs were planted in the long grass areas between the putting greens :—33 *Azalea Mollis* seedlings, 5 *Berberis Atropurpureum*, 5 *B. Wilsonae*, 4 *B. Darwinii*, 4 *B. Stenophylla*, 18 *Berberis* in six varieties, 10 *Caryopteris Mastacanthus*, 3 *Weigela Othello*, 3 *Deutzia Candidissima*, 5 *Olearia Haastii*, 5 *Hibiscus* mixed, 10 *Cistus* in variety, 6 *Cotoneaster Microphylla*, 5 *Escallonia Langleyensis*, 5 *Hpyericum Patulum Henryi*, 3 *Lonicera Nitida*, 5 *Pernettya Mucronata*, 3 *Perowskia Atriplicifolia*, 3 *Potentilla Fruticosa*, 3 *Rhus Cotinus*, 5 *Rosemary*, 5 *Senecio Greyii*, 5 *Spiraea Anthony Waterer*, 3 *Skimmia Japonica*, 3 *Philadelphus Lemoinei*, 5 *Veronica Autumn Glory*.

Regarding these important improvements, Messrs. Sutton and Sons, the famous seedsmen, have provided the necessary trees, etc., and greatly helped in the work by expert advice.

HIGHER GRAVITY!

A blow to Goering's vanity is the news, from N.A.A.F.I. headquarters, of a Heinkel III being used by the Middle East R.A.F. as a "flying brewer's dray"! While N.A.A.F.I. has been doing its best to supply beer to Middle East forces, the R.A.F. has been solving the problem of its transport. A Heinkel III transport plane, captured intact, has flown thousands of pints of beer to "settle the dust" in North Africa. Official comment : "N.A.A.F.I. has a tougher job getting the beer than the R.A.F. has getting the Heinkels."

Incidentally, in the Middle East recently, N.A.A.F.I. converted a captured Italian ambulance into a mobile canteen, opened another canteen in the fuselage of a damaged aircraft, and used aeroplane packing cases to build a N.A.A.F.I. shop.

THE STALAG ARMS.

Every one of the 27 prisoners' rooms in the Stalag 21D prisoners-of-war camp in Poland is named after an English "pub," says Pte. B. Ryder, of Norwich, in a letter to his father.

THE "OLD SCHOOL TIE."

About few subjects has more nonsense been written and spoken than concerning the "old school tie," and I was glad to see our worthy Bishop of Reading so admirably explaining the true meaning of the "old school tie" at the Abbey School prize distribution. The Right Reverend gentleman's views are set forth as follows in the *Berkshire Chronicle* :—

"I see that the Bishop of Reading has been expressing forceful views with regard to what he describes as the pernicious talk about the 'old school tie.' It is constantly being trotted out like 'vested interests'—which few could explain—as if it were a term of reproach. Why the old school tie and not the old school cap, such as most schools possess, always passes comprehension. The Bishop, speaking at the Abbey School prizegiving, said: 'I want all those at Abbey School to find a rightful place in their outlook on life for what is called the 'old school tie.' I want them to learn that sense of comradeship and common endeavour; of loyalty to something greater than themselves; that idea of working and of playing for the school as a whole which the term is meant to imply and afterwards to carry it out into their citizenship of this great town of Reading.' The Bishop spoke of the wider application of the principle, adding: 'That is my conception of the meaning of and what the old school tie stands for. Don't you dare to despise it.'"

FUN AND GAMES FOR NORTH AFRICA TROOPS.

Free sports goods and amenities to the value of £25,000 have already been provided by N.A.A.F.I. for British troops of the Expeditionary Forces in North Africa, it was announced from N.A.A.F.I. headquarters. Items in this free issue include novels, playing cards, writing paper and envelopes, dart boards, footballs, boxing gloves, deck tennis balls, gramophones and records, netball sets, chessmen, draughts and dominoes. In addition, the officer in charge of N.A.A.F.I. operations in North Africa has recently been given wide authority to incur expenditure in providing further amenities locally for the troops.

A message from N.A.A.F.I. headquarters in Cairo states that, although N.A.A.F.I.'s main task in the Middle East is to ensure that Tommy has ample canteens and stores provided, the lot of the officers serving in the areas has not been overlooked. In Egypt, Palestine, Syria and elsewhere, well appointed clubs are springing up for British and Imperial officers. Run by the R.A.S.C./E.F.I. (N.A.A.F.I. overseas), these clubs and hostels offer catering comfort at prices within reach of junior officers.

THE VERSATILE HOTEL MANAGER.

Below I quote a very entertaining epitome of what an American hotel manager has to be, as set out by Mr. Sinclair Lewis in his very amusing book, "Work of Art" :—

"An hotel manager has to be a combination of a house frau, a chef, a bar room bouncer, a doctor for emergencies, a wet nurse, a lawyer that knows more about the rights and wrongs of guests, and how far he dastgo in holding the baggage of skippers (i.e. bilkers) than Old Man Supreme Court himself—an upholsterer, a walking directory that knows right off without looking it up, just where the Hardshell Baptist Chapel is, what time the marriage licence bureau opens, what time the local train starts for Hick Junction; a certified public accountant, a professor of languages, a quick action laundryman, a plumber, a heating engineer, a carpenter, a swell speech-maker, an authority on the importance of every tin horn state Senator, or one might stand lecturer that blows in and expects to find the red carpet already hauled out for him; a fly cop that can tell from looking at the girl's ear whether she's sure enough married to the guy or not, a moneylender—only he doesn't get any interest or have any security; he must dress better than a 23rd Street actor even if he's only got a thin dime in his pocket; he's got to be able to tell just from hearing a cow's moo whether she'll make good steaks or not, he's got to know more about wine and cigars (American Catering) than the fellows that make them, and they can fool around with experiments, but he's got to sell them.

"And all the time he's got to be a diplomat that would make a low comedian on the spree look like a High Church Bishop.

"Finally he's got to set a table like a Vanderbilt and yet watch the pennies like a Jew Pedlar."

These are a few of the accomplishments needed, not only by the American manager, but by such English hotel managers as our Mr. H. C. Davis—and yet he always wears a smile!

OUR SPOTTERS AGAIN!

Once again our Spotters have distinguished themselves in the recent tests held by No. 53 Club of the National Association of Spotters Clubs. R. Ballard and J. Langley entered for the Senior Section and satisfied the examiners in this very exacting examination, both obtaining 1st Class Certificates.

In the 3rd Class Test, Misses J. Richards and J. Startup passed with distinction, and Miss M. Thomas with credit.

Congratulations to them all on their success, which is most meritorious as all are members of Home Guard, A.T.C. or First Aid Units in addition to their C.D. duties as Spotters.

NAAFI'S HEART-BALM SERVICE.

Uncle Sam's soldiers in Britain are discovering something which Tommy Atkins always knew—that if you are homesick or lvelorn, Miss Naffy is a patient listener, adviser and comforter. One "doughboy" is so impressed by the heart-balm service provided by the canteen girl that he has sent NAAFI these rhymes: "Early in the morning and sometimes late at night, some soldier has a sob-tale and she tries to put him right. Perhaps no news from mother, or the little mail he's had; that girl will do her darnedest to prevent his being sad. She will listen to his heartaches and share them every one; that girl is sure a heroine, although she is unsung."

CHURCH AND PUBLIC-HOUSE IN ONE.

The following is an extract from an interesting book entitled "Yorkshire Coast and Moorland Scenes," by Gordon Home, published in 1904, and which has recently come to light after being tucked away for many years:—

"Although Lastingham is not on the road to Helmsley, the few additional miles will scarcely be counted when we are on our way to a church which, besides being architecturally one of the most interesting in the county, is perhaps unique in having at one time answered the double purpose of a church and public-house in one. Although this will scarcely be believed, we have a most detailed account of the matter in a little book published in 1806.

"The clergyman, whose name was Carter, had to subsist on the slender salary of £20 a year and a few surplice fees. This would not have allowed any margin for luxuries in the case of a bachelor; but this poor man was married, and he had thirteen children. He was a keen fisherman, and his angling in the moorland streams produced a plentiful supply of fish—in fact, more than his family could consume. But this, even though he often exchanged part of his catches with neighbours, was not sufficient to keep the wolf from the door, and drastic measures had to be taken. The parish was large, and, as many of the people were obliged to come 'from ten to fifteen miles' to church, it seemed possible that some profit might be made by serving refreshments in the crypt beneath the church. Mrs. Carter superintended this department, and it seems that the meals between the services soon became popular. But the story of 'a public-house in a church' was soon conveyed to the Archdeacon of the diocese, who came down to Lastingham without delay to find out the truth of the matter. Mr. Carter explained the circumstances, and showed that, far from being a source of disorder, the refreshments were an

influence for good. "I take down my violin,' he continued, 'and play them a few tunes, which gives me an opportunity of seeing that they get no more liquor than necessary for refreshment; and if the young people propose a dance, I seldom answer in the negative; nevertheless, when I announce time for return, they are ever ready to obey my commands.' The Archdeacon seems to have been a broad-minded man, for he did not reprimand Mr. Carter at all; and as there seems to have been no mention of an increased stipend, the parson-publican must have continued this strange anomaly.

"It seems a little unfortunate that the most venerable of the churches of Yorkshire should have been singled out for proceedings of this nature, for this crypt where the parson fiddled and the people danced is an entirely untouched survival of Saxon times, having escaped destruction when the Danes seem to have demolished the church above."

GOOD WORK BY A.R.P. WORKERS AND SPOTTERS.

There was considerable excitement when A.R.P. Services were brought into action a short while ago in the Home Counties. At the time there was low cloud and visibility was very bad, but even so, the Spotters were very alert and gave the maximum amount of warning possible under the circumstances. The Board of Directors of a famous Brewery have sent Spotters J. Langley and R. Kury a letter conveying their congratulations on their spotting efficiency and prompt action. The First Aid Party of the same firm were able to give valuable assistance, both at their post and in the town. The firm was extremely fortunate to have escaped so miraculously with only superficial damage, which did not interfere with production, at a time when bombs, armour-piercing bullets and cannon shells were the order of the day.

CONTENTMENT.

"THERE never was such a disappointing life as mine," said the empty bucket as it approached the well. "I never come away from the well full, but what I return empty."

"There never was such a joyous life as mine," said the full bucket as it left the well. "I never come to the well empty, but what I go away full."

FOR WORTHY CAUSES.

The collections made in the different Departments for various causes of late, have proved quite satisfactory, and several charitable Institutions have benefited accordingly. From the commencement of the scheme, cheques for the undermentioned amounts have been sent off and very appreciative replies have been received.

	£	s.	d.
Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross Fund	202	11	3
St. Dunstan's Home for the Blind ...	52	18	6
British Sailors' Society	58	2	3
Reading Prisoner of War Fund ...	60	9	8
	£374	1	8

The last named amount was collected as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Beer Cellars	5	12	11½
Bottling Stores	2	5	2¼
Brewery	6	0	6½
Building	3	7	2¾
Catering		18	3
Club	6	7	5¼
Cooperage	1	12	6
Delivery Office	4	0	0¾
Engineers	5	8	11
Maltings	4	2	3¾
Offices (Ground Floor)	6	19	2
Offices (First and Second Floors)	4	12	11
Stables		13	10
Surveyors	3	7	6¾
Wheelwrights	2	0	9
Wine Stores	3	0	0½
	£60	9	8

The current collections are being made on behalf of Mrs. Churchill's Red Cross "Aid to Russia" Fund, and we feel confident that this will meet with a very generous support. It is hoped to raise between £50—£60 for this worthy object.

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER).

Christmas greetings by air mail from the Middle East were received by the writer from Engineer/Mechanic S. Brunson and he wished to be remembered to all friends at The Brewery; also a similar communication duly arrived at the Social Club from Sergt. H. S. Tigar (Tank Regt.) with all good wishes to everyone there and on the Firm.

L/A.C. J. Knight (Brewing Department), writing to Mr. S. Bird, gives some details of Ceylon. What he had already seen was most interesting. He had also been up to the Rest Camp, which is situated in the hills 4,500 feet up, right in the heart of the tea estates and from where you can see miles and miles of tea plants which (he says) look very much like privet hedges, being evergreen. Nevertheless, it was not easy to get a really *good* cup of tea up there, so he considers the water and altitude had something to do with it. There is a Brewery on the island. Although in the lowlands you perspired night and day, at the Rest Camp at night you sat round fires and had three blankets on top of you when sleeping. He was able to go in for swimming in salt or fresh water pools. Most of the beer out there was from Australia and he had discovered some from Scotland. He was receiving THE HOP LEAF GAZETTES and was very grateful for them. His mail was coming through well thanks to air mail letters and airgraphs. All things considered, he thought he was fortunate with no air raids, and occasionally they had "pictures," and there were cafes. All good wishes to everyone at H. & G. Simonds Ltd. were sent.

Private H. G. Sexton (late of Delivery Office), in a letter to Mr. W. Bowyer, says he is in a Special Company of Signals and undergoing Commando training. The squad he was in was causing quite a "stir" as every member was over six feet in height, the tallest being an ex-policeman from Windsor, who was 6ft. 8½in. Truly a *tall order*! THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE was reaching him regularly and appreciated by everyone more especially as many with him came from Reading. He has also recently been in to see us on his last leave.

Mr. P. Paice, in a letter from Canada to Mr. A. E. Smith, writes from a Flying Training School that he had done solo flying and aerobatics on his own. He was thoroughly enjoying himself over there and considers many of them would be paying visits to Canada after the war. The Rockies over which he had been flying looked grand with the sun shining on the snow-capped mountains. All the very best was sent to all friends here.

Corporal E. Venner, writing in ink from the Middle East in a letter to Mr. W. Bradford, says the light and dark hues must be excused as he was writing it with an Italian pen and it only let the ink flow now and again, which wasn't in accordance with the Italian national spirit of running; in fact, he considered the Italians were the finest lot of marathon runners in the world, although "Jerry" now had a few as well! To him it seemed a pity that there was no more Milk Stout being brewed. He had been able to buy a couple of bottles bearing the "Hop Leaf" label. With regard to the Reading Fund for Tanks he hoped it would be well supported, as if all could see the wonderful work the tanks were doing out there, no one would have any hesitation in dipping a little deeper in their pockets. If a Tank Fund were organised at The Brewery and well supported, what better sight could one see than a tank, with the "Hop Leaf" painted on its side, going into action. He also has sent an airgraph to the Social Club wishing all members the best for 1943, and in a P.S. writes, "Start brewing the VICTORY BEER"!

The undermentioned ladies passed their examination in Home Nursing:—Miss Levison, Miss Pollard, Miss Davis, Miss Richards and Miss Startup (all of the Delivery Office staff).

Miss E. Bricknell, of the Accounts Department, has passed her First Aid examination.

Sapper F. W. Bampton, in a letter to the Editor, says he receives THE HOP LEAF GAZETTES regularly, which he found very interesting and amusing. He passed them on to others when finished with and they were all very pleased with the magazine. He was very fit and well, and like the rest of his mates was itching to prove his worth when the time comes. All good wishes to everyone at Bridge Street.

Private W. J. Clay (R.A.S.C.) sent a most attractive Christmas card to the writer with the comment, "All good wishes to my friends at The Brewery." Since then he has called in on his leave and will soon be "somewhere up North."

In a letter to the Editor, Mrs. Priddy (daughter of the late Jesse Charlton, who worked at The Brewery for many years) says that her four sons all worked on the Firm. Three of them are now serving in the Forces, viz., Ronald Priddy (Union Room), Kenneth Priddy (Engineering Department) and Eric Priddy (Cask Office). The other son, Allan Priddy, is at present in the Cask Office. She asks, is this a record?

News of others has been received, and we learn that J. Bradford (Signals) has arrived safely in India; J. Britnell (Navy) was going in for a commission; W. Dewey (R.A.F.) was in India; Cpl. S. Treacher (R.A.O.C.) writes frequently from the Middle East to

his friend at The Brewery, H. Treadgold, and he is quite well; L/Cpl. C. Wade (Lancers) writes that he has had a spell in hospital with malaria, but had recovered and rejoined his unit; H. K. White (Signals) has arrived in North Africa.

2/Lieut. N. H. Lipscombe (R.A.O.C.), writing to the Editor from the Middle East, said he was keeping very fit and wished to be remembered to all at The Brewery. Owing to the rapid movement out there they had had a busy time and he was at an advanced post. He mentions that they were dry, only one tot of whisky for many months and as for beer—well, that seemed non-existent. He was expecting to see Treacher shortly, who was in the same unit.

Not so long ago L/A.C. E. E. Venner (son of the well-known "Bill" Venner) used to drive one of the Firm's lorries and his mate was A. Coleman. In due course they both joined up and naturally lost sight of one another as one went in the R.A.F. and the other in the Navy. After a short while in England, E. E. Venner was sent by boat to Canada to continue his training, and you can picture his astonishment when only one day from the land of the Maple Leaf he "bumped" into a sailor. It was his friend and mate, A. Coleman, who was serving on the ship.

Mr. C. G. Lawrence informs me that a number of letters have been received from serving colleagues previously in the Surveyor's and A.R.P. Departments. L/A.C. G. H. Beddow is in Canada, where he is taking a flying course. Cpl. A. H. Turner (R.A.F.) writes from South Africa and says that he has met Pilot Officer W. R. Brown out there. Miss O. P. Paterson, of the A.T.S., has been through a severe test and qualified as a despatch rider. Pte. A. Rice (R.A.O.C.) is "somewhere in Scotland" "roughing it," and G. W. Dewey has returned to an area where he sees plenty of aerial activity. Mr. H. Church, of Headquarters staff, has at last sufficiently recovered from his accident to leave Battle Hospital.

We have had visits from many of our employees, and below are the names of a number of them:—Gunner L. J. Martin, R. J. Lambourne (R.A.F.), Sergt. H. Weight (R.A.F.), who, I understand, has since gone overseas and had quite exciting experiences on the way, L/A.C. Bloomfield, A/C G. Poole (from Northern Ireland), M. Richards (Tanks), A/C S. Collins, J. W. Hillier (R.A.F. Regt.), L/A.C. L. F. Pitts, W. H. Philpott (Navy), A/C F. Pusey, J. R. Roynon (R.A.F. Regt.), L/Cpl. A. Howman (Signals), Bombdr. F. J. House, L/A.C. E. Crutchley, Sergt. W. H. Goatley (R.A.F.), A/C R. P. Huddy, L/A.C. S. R. Gray, A/C L. Twiney, L/A.C. R. J. Griffin, G. Harding (Fleet Air Arm), Sergt. E. Martin (R.A.O.C.).

Gunner E. L. Morgan (R.A.), in a letter to Capt. A. S. Drewe, says he has arrived safely in North Africa. He mentions that the

sea voyage was rough at times, but as he did not suffer at all from sea-sickness he was always able to eat his own rations and those of others who were ill and did not feel up to it. The weather out there was somewhat similar to that of an English spring as they had had rain, sunshine, and frost at night. Kind regards to all at The Brewery and particularly to all members of the Surveyor's staff.

Gunner J. P. Slade, who is a prisoner of war in Italy, writes Mr. J. H. Wadhams as follows :—

"Just a few lines to let you know I am fit and well. I have seen Jack Pickett, one of our drivers, and he is quite all right, and I believe some of our fellows are in this country as well. I hope everyone at the Brewery are keeping in good health."

Sergt. H. Weight, of the R.A.F., has written a long and most interesting letter to Mr. T. E. Stevens. In it he says he arrived "somewhere in North Africa" just before Christmas. The journey was made most of the way through stormy seas, but as he proved to be a good sailor he lived on the fat of the land (or sea) so to speak, for there were a number who could not tackle food of any sort, so there was more than enough to go round. Unfortunately, after getting into calmer waters, they met an enemy torpedo, so their temporary home became unfit for habitation. They managed to jump into a rescue boat, and then breathed some of the largest sighs of relief ever drawn by human beings. However, when they landed they were feeling like a million, even if unshaven and looking like tramps. They are paid in francs and can buy most popular brands of cigarettes in packets of ten, and although they cost five francs this works out at about fourpence. These they obtain in the N.A.A.F.I. canteens. They also have an "issue" free.

Out there, he says, you are reminded of the picture-books in early school days, as the buildings, streets, shops and population have all come to life. Provided you know a little French you can get on famously. They have plenty of oranges, tangerines and dates to eat, and they are all quite cheap. The wine out there is apt to bowl you over if you are not careful. The food situation is very good, and they also have white bread. He sees beer occasionally, but it is not the Hop Leaf brand, unfortunately, and what they get is likely to hit the ceiling once the stopper is removed. However, whisky is 8s. 6d. per bottle and obtainable. Eggs also can be bought at quite reasonable prices. Letters are by no means plentiful yet, and they are all longing for news of home; still he feels sure he will receive a pile one of these days. He has not met

anyone else from the Brewery yet. He sends best wishes to everyone at H. & G. S. who know him, and those who periodically glimpsed his face during odd spells of leave.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Edgar Reeve, of Staines, who passed away, aged 91. For over fifty years he had been chief cashier at Ashby's, Staines, retiring in 1930, when the business was taken over by H. & G. Simonds Ltd. He served Ashby's Brewery, Staines, for 65 years, and was one of the best-known men in the town of Staines. A wonderful record.

The following changes and transfers have taken place since our last issue in December, and to all we wish every success :—

The Lamb Hotel, Hungerford (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—
Mr. G. H. Bezan.

The Carnarvon Arms, Whitway (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—
Mr. P. Dale.

The Airman, Feltham (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. J.
Rushmore.

The Man of Kent, Clewer (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mrs. E. M.
Hutchins.

The Duke of Cambridge, Windsor (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—
Mrs. B. Hewitt.

The Craven Arms, Enborne (H. & G. Simonds Ltd.)—Mr. T.
Mansfield.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Thos. Hutchins, tenant of The Man of Kent, Clewer, which occurred on active service with the Royal Navy. Mr. Hutchins had spent all his life in the Royal Navy until a few years ago when he took the licence of the Beehive at Egham for nearly five years. In May, 1939, he took over The Man of Kent, Clewer, and quickly gained a wide circle of friends. When the present war broke out he was recalled to the Royal Navy and was serving as a Chief Petty Officer Stoker when he met his death in Northern waters.

We are sorry to learn that Mrs. J. Miles, of the Old Leather Bottle, Wokingham, has been killed by enemy action, her daughter and granddaughter, who were with her, both being seriously injured. Mrs. Miles went to this house in 1911 and on the death of her husband in 1923 took over the tenancy.

Mr. A. D. Wrixen, of the Armstrong Gun, Englefield Green, who died on 3rd January, 1943, had been tenant of this house since August, 1937, and we offer our sincere sympathy to all relatives.

A GREAT THOUGHT.

Every morning, early, through the misty air of spring, she walked over the fields (to St. Chad's). The path was familiar and beloved; past the mill, through flats of mare's-tail and king-cup steeped in moist, marshy odours. At this early hour the millpond lay tranced as in the quiet of evening. On its glassy flats the roach rose lazily with sucking dimples that spread to rings. Sometimes the burning blue of a kingfisher that haunted the willow roots passed with a flash that brought her heart into her mouth. Above the pool a field of cowslips. The low sun raked their pale clusters with a keener fire; their gusty vivous odour mounted to her brain. Then the edge of the larchwood, piercingly green, younger than anything on earth. Within its curved shadow dew lay late; the cropped turf was bloomed with it; and there, unconscious of her coming, crouched the little huddled shapes of rabbits nibbling against time. It was almost as if they could hear her smile. Suddenly the nibbling ceased, the warm bodies lay like scattered stones. One drummed his feet, and all vanished with a clumsy, unhurried reluctance. They did not seem very much afraid of her. She was sorry that they mistrusted her at all. Couldn't they see, the silly things, that she loved them.—FRANCIS BRETT YOUNG (from "Portrait of Clare.")

A LAMENT.

He seized me by my slender neck,
I could not shout or scream;
He dragged me to his dingy room
Where we could not be seen.

He tore aside my flimsy wrap
And gazed upon my form,
For I was cold and scared and damp,
And he was hot and warm.

His feverish lips he pressed to mine;
I gave of every drop.
He drained me of my very soul,
I could not make him stop.

He made me what I am to-day,
That's why you see me here—
A broken bottle thrown away
That once was full of Beer.

H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., ANNUAL MEETING.

PROFIT OF £193,285.

EFFECT OF INCREASED EXCISE DUTY.

The ultimate effect of the greatly increased excise duties, it was stated at the annual general meeting of H. & G. Simond's Ltd., could not yet be discerned owing to the high rates of wages now being enjoyed in most industrial centres, but there were signs already that consumers were not prepared to buy as much beer of the present low gravities imposed on brewers as was the case some months ago. The meeting was held at Reading recently, when Mr. F. A. Simonds (chairman and managing director) presided, being supported by Mr. J. H. Simonds (vice-chairman), Mr. A. J. Redman, Major G. S. M. Ashby, Major R. B. St. J. Quarry, and a large number of the shareholders.

The chairman announced apologies for absence from Mrs. Caversham Simonds, who was suffering from the results of a bad accident some weeks ago, and from Mr. L. A. Simonds and Mr. F. H. V. Keighley, both of whom are serving with His Majesty's Forces.

The notice convening the meeting, and the auditors' report, were read by Mr. E. S. Phipps, the secretary of the company.

The directors' report stated that after providing for interest on debenture stocks and making ample allowance for depreciation, repairs, and the various expenses of the business, including taxation, the net profit for the year amounted to £193,285 13s. 4d.

The chairman, in the course of his speech, said:—

"Four of our co-directors are still on active service, as also an ever-increasing number of the staff and employees, and may I repeat the fervent hope that they will soon be with us again, physically and mentally equipped, to renew their employment with the company. Those of us who are still carrying the burden of the business are doing our utmost to maintain the best traditions of the firm in their absence.

OVERWHELMING DEMANDS.

"The output from our breweries has been well maintained, but we fear that we have been, and are still, quite unable to cope in their entirety with the overwhelming demands made upon us, owing to the shortage of materials and labour, particularly in the bottling department, but we believe that both our tenants and free customers have appreciated our difficulties, and we are grateful

to them for their tolerance. We have endeavoured to apportion our output with the utmost fairness and consistent with the demand in areas affected by the inrush of population, Service and civilian.

"The profit and loss account discloses a net profit diminished by some £5,000 as compared with the previous year. You will also observe that the trading profit has declined by some £57,000. This has been largely caused by the enormous advance in the cost of materials, particularly of barley, due to the grave shortage consequent upon the bad harvest of the summer of 1941, which resulted in barley prices reaching a fantastic level. The Government have fixed a controlled maximum price for barleys of the 1942 and 1943 crops, which, though extravagant in the light of pre-war values, should provide satisfaction to agricultural interests. The ultimate effect of the greatly increased excise duties on malt liquors cannot yet be discerned owing to the high rate of wages now being enjoyed in most industrial centres, but there are signs already that consumers are not prepared to buy as much beer of the present low gravities at which we are compelled to brew, as was the case some months ago. We have always striven to allocate to His Majesty's Forces, at home and abroad, through the N.A.A.F.I. and their messes and other channels, a high proportion of our output, as we feel that we are bound by moral as also contractual obligation to meet their requirements; this portion of our business, however, does not carry the same rate of profit as other sections.

"Our associated brewery in Malta, Messrs. Simonds-Farsons, Ltd., have once again produced wonderful results despite the conditions under which they are operating. Two of the directors, Mr. Lewis Farrugia and Mr. R. Wingrave Tench, have had their services to the island community recognised by the award of the O.B.E. May we take this opportunity, once again, of extending our warmest thanks and congratulations to our colleagues and all the staff and employees of that brewery. The sustained gallantry and stubborn resistance of the inhabitants of Malta continue to be a source of admiration to the whole of the civilised world, and will provide a page in history. Our subsidiary company, The Cirencester Brewery, Ltd., has had a successful trading year, and, as in the past, its affairs have been ably administered by the members of the Cripps family, the original proprietors of that concern.

THE IMPORT OF WINES.

"The increasingly acute shortage of wines and spirits continues to cause anxiety; an almost negligible quantity of wines has been permitted to enter this country, and it is earnestly to be

hoped that no opportunity will be missed by H.M. Government to import more wines as circumstances allow.

"We are carefully watching all schemes in connection with town planning and reconstruction which are being tentatively put forward in areas where we have licensed properties; the Brewers' Society has able representatives on the Home Office Committee appointed to deal with the subject of reconstruction and licensed premises.

"We have been somewhat hampered in effecting normal repairs to our properties owing to the rigid restrictions on the issue of building licences, but we have created appropriate reserves which should be adequate to deal with those that have been deferred.

"Our hotels and catering department has again shown an excellent return and, despite groaning under the burden of some 3,500 control orders and regulations, and lack of competent staff, has rendered satisfactory service to the travelling public.

"In conformity with the national effort to restrict the transportation of goods to narrow limits we have negotiated exchanges of barrelage with a number of breweries whose licensed houses we now supply, and vice versa, thereby effecting much saving in road or rail haulage, and we are also purchasing beer for our distant branches from other breweries in their respective localities.

"In conclusion, may I, on behalf of you all, offer our warmest thanks to Mr. P. F. Knapp, our head brewer, who has continued to produce under great handicaps beers in perfect condition, as also to Mr. A. G. Richardson, our chief accountant and chairman of our efficient advisory council, members of the staff and employees, for their loyalty during a year in which we have all laboured under most exacting conditions and, may I include our hard-working tenants, many of whom have perforce had to hand over their houses to their wives owing to the call of military duties. I pray with you that by the time we meet again we may be happy in the knowledge that victory for our arms is in sight, and the day be not far distant when we and our families may be re-united and normally restored to our business."

The chairman then moved the following resolution:—"That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended September 30th, 1942, be received and adopted, and that, having already paid a dividend on £1,200,000 5% cumulative preference stock less income tax for the year ended September 30th, 1942, and an interim dividend of 3½% less income tax on £800,000 ordinary

stock, the directors now recommend that the balance of £257,489 1s. od. be appropriated as follows: To service of debenture redemption, £10,923; to pay a final dividend on £800,000 ordinary stock at the rate of 14½% less income tax (making 18% for the year), £58,000; to add to pensions reserve (making a total of £135,000), £5,235; to add to property improvement account (making a total of £170,000), £23,884 15s. od.; to add to general reserve (making a total of £510,000), £9,829 17s. 9d.; to add to contingencies reserve (making a total of £200,000), £43,000; to carry forward to next year, £106,616 8s. 3d."

VERY DESIRABLE.

Mr. J. H. Simonds, in seconding the resolution, stated that they might appear to be putting rather a lot of money to reserve, but it was very desirable that this should be done in times like the present.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. A. J. Redman and Mr. F. H. V. Keighley were re-elected directors of the company, on the proposition of Major G. S. M. Ashby, seconded by Major R. B. St. J. Quarry. Mr. Redman briefly responded.

Turquand, Youngs, McAuliffe and Company, of Coleman Street, E.C.2, were re-elected auditors, on the proposition of Major M. H. Simonds, seconded by Mrs. F. A. Simonds. Mr. L. J. Osmond returned thanks, congratulating the company on the strength of their balance sheet.

Capt. E. T. Cripps moved a vote of thanks to Mr. F. A. Simonds for presiding at that meeting, and also for the admirable report and statement of accounts which he had been able to put before them. They were all deeply grateful, he said, that they had had a man like Mr. Simonds at the helm to steer them through another year of exceptional difficulty and complications. He had had to cope with all sorts of Government regulations which beset every business, but the brewing trade in particular. Whenever the subsidiary companies had applied to the parent company for advice and help they always received the very best from their managing director, and they were most grateful to him for the help which he gave.

Mr. G. W. Smith, who seconded the resolution, said they all admired their chairman and the way in which he conducted the business.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

MOST DIFFICULT YEAR.

Mr. F. A. Simonds, in response, said it certainly had been a difficult year. Each year became the most difficult year in his recollection, and the work got no easier. Thanks to the loyal support of his colleagues—Major Ashby in particular—and to the co-operation of the senior members of the staff and the loyal work of all ranks, they had managed to put up a very good show. He was sensible of the fact that he had not that personal contact with the employees that he would desire, but it was inevitable, with their ranks so reduced, that he should have to issue instructions to the heads of departments, with which instructions the employees most loyally abided. Sometimes those instructions were his own inspiration, sometimes they emanated from the Brewers' Society, which allowed him to take such an active part in its administration. He only hoped that he might have the same good fortune next year in being able to present such a good report. But one could not see a day ahead, much less a year ahead, in these difficult times. He thanked the subsidiary companies, who were most responsive to any suggestions which might come from headquarters. In conclusion, the chairman wished those present as happy a Christmas as present conditions would permit, and hoped that the next year would bring them victory and peace.

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR WILFRED LINDSELL, K.C.B.

"Q" CHIEF OF THE EIGHTH ARMY.

A recent paragraph which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* and which is reprinted below is of unusual interest to members of this Firm, in view of the General's grandfather having been a former proprietor of Messrs. Wells & Winch Ltd., The Brewery, Biggleswade, of which Mr. A. J. Redman (a Director of H. & G. Simonds Ltd.) is Chairman:—

"Bedfordshire has been taking a particular pride in the achievements of the Eighth Army. This is because Lieut.-Gen. Sir Wilfred Lindsell, K.C.B., whose administrative genius has made its phenomenal march possible, belongs to an old Bedfordshire family.

"His father, the late Colonel Robert Lindsell, commanded the 2nd Batt. The Gloucestershire Regiment during the South African War. When he was stationed abroad, his son used to live with his aunt, Mrs. Glynn Taddy, of Caldecote Lodge, near Biggleswade, who is now over 80.

"General Lindsell in subsequent years has frequently revisited this second home of his boyhood. Whenever he came he used to accompany his aunt to the beautiful old parish church at Northill, near Caldecote, where his uncle was formerly rector. Occasionally he read the lesson on Sunday mornings.

FLIGHT-LIEUT. H. M. P. ASHBY, R.A.F.V.R.



The following notice appeared in *The Times* of Thursday, December 31st, 1942 :—

MARRIAGES.

ASHBY : NOBLE.—On November 25th, 1942, at Beverley, Yorks, Flight-Lieut. H. M. P. Ashby, R.A.F.V.R., eldest son of Major and Mrs. Ashby, Hermitage, Newbury, to Miss Mary (Jayne) Raby Noble, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Raby Noble, of Assam.

The wedding was quietly celebrated prior to Flight-Lieut. Ashby's departure for service with the Royal Air Force " somewhere in Africa."

Flight-Lieut. Ashby, who is a great grandson of the late Mr. Henry John Simonds of Caversham, was educated at Ashampstead School, Seaford and Bradfield College, where he was a resident. After spending some time on the continent as a Brewer in the Brasserie Webel at Tours, he joined the Brewing Department of this Company in 1936 and devoted himself to the production side of the industry. He was a fully trained Service Pilot in the Volunteer Air Force as long ago as 1938.

At the time of their marriage, Mrs. H. M. P. Ashby was an Assistant Section Officer in the W.A.A.F., in which branch of the Service she is still serving. It is interesting to learn that she is fond of riding, swimming, tennis, reading, good music and country life. For over half of her life she has travelled abroad with her mother.

NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

CLOSE OF THE COARSE FISHING SEASON.

A KINGFISHER'S GOOD CATCH.

The coarse fishing season closes on March 14th and reopens on June 16th. It has been a very varied sort of winter, with heavy rains, cold winds, interspersed with patches of very mild weather for the time of year. And the fishing results have been as varied as the weather. The going was good when the high turbulent waters began to subside and some fine catches of roach, perch and pike have been recorded. When the flood water begins to recede you almost always are sure of a good catch ; when it is rising, well, you may as well stay at home for the fish will *not* bite.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE

I had a pleasant surprise while fishing the Thames one very cold day. I threw out a fairly big piece of bread paste and let it lie on the bottom. Suddenly the top joint of my rod showed great agitation and I struck quickly, but gently, for I was fishing with 4×gut. The bite did not seem like that of a roach and no sooner had I hooked the fish than I knew by his behaviour that I was into something different. He made very determined dashes for liberty and I thought he would get the better of my frail tackle. But I played him very carefully, and eventually got him to the surface. I saw that it was a pike. Well, he fought gamely for his liberty, but after about ten minutes I coaxed him to the net and lifted him on to the bank. He weighed well over 3 lbs. I was not so fortunate with another fish which I hooked under similar conditions. He was evidently a big one. I held on to him for some time, but he kept boring into the bottom of the river, and I failed to make any impression on him. Round and round he travelled, but always near the bottom of the river. Eventually he smashed me up. I should say the fish was a bream for he behaved like one—and I have caught a good many in my time. Quite a number of bream have been taken from the Thames lately, some

turning the scale at 4 lbs. and 5 lbs. This fish is as much at home in rivers as in lakes. They are to be seen in Norfolk Broads in greater numbers than elsewhere in England.

KINGFISHER FISHING.

When the river is full, almost to overflowing, the kingfishers and little grebes, whose chief form of food is fish, have rather a lean time. I was greatly interested in one kingfisher on the opposite side of the river. In spite of the adverse conditions he did not go short of a good square meal. He perched on the wooden fencing that shuts off the opening to a boathouse, and from this coign of vantage he frequently dived down into the shallow water inside the boathouse, and more often than not returned to his perch with a little fish in his beak. I saw him gulp down five he had caught in this manner. Then he sped upstream, a shaft of azure blue, settled on a willow bough and preened his gay feathers, evidently more than satisfied with his dinner. Then a dabchick worked his way up the river close to the bank, came to the shallow eddy where I was fishing and set to work right under my nose. He soon disposed of four fish not much smaller than my little finger. I was sitting motionless, but all of a sudden his sharp eyes discovered me and he made off under water like lightning. The water in the centre of the river was running very strongly and carried the little feathered submarine a long way down before he reached the other bank. He reappeared on the surface three times during the crossing.

A PRETTY SIGHT.

Our Naturalist Managing Director tells me he has had a charm of goldfinches visiting his garden. What a delightful sight! And the cheery chatter of these butterfly-like birds is as gay as their colours. Goldfinches may frequently be seen in and around our sports ground, also meadow pipits, and linnets by the dozen. Last year, in or near the ground, I found four blackbirds' nests, three chaffinches', three linnets', four hedgesparrows', two white-throats' and one lesser whitethroat's. A pair of partridges generally have their nest here, and I notice there is a pair there again this

year, often near a certain spot where they are almost sure to have their nest—and I shall find it!

ROOKS BUSY BUILDING.

Just over the way, in Coley Park, the rooks were busy building on February 21st, and on that date I heard the lusty crow of the cock pheasant, followed by the drum-beat of his wings—courtship has begun in the woods! Mr. Collins, whose verses have been a pleasing feature of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE has, I learn through Mr. Hawkes, seen a comma butterfly in Reading. It appeared on February 15th, a very early date. Among the birds singing in February were the missel thrush, blackbird, thrush, lark, chaffinch, robin, hedgesparrow and wren. The last-named bird sang with such gusto that I almost feared his little body would burst. What a wonderful effect the warm rays of the sun have upon us all, don't they! About the middle of March we shall see the little migrant from Africa, the chiff-chaff, and many birds will be building, including the long-tailed tit. Day by day the bird choir will increase in numbers to cheer the heart of man, new flowers will open to delight the eye, and doubtless many of us will visit those

Beloved scenes! enough for me

Through each wild copse and tangled dell to roam,
Amid your forest paths to wander free,

And find where'er I go a sheltering home.
Earth has no gentler voice to men to give

Than "Come to Nature's arms, and learn of her to live."

JOCK TO HIS MASTER:

Master, I'm getting very old. Somehow I know
That soon I'll have to leave you. When I go
Will you feel sad to find that Jock's not there
Waiting, till you come down, beside your chair?
Our walks, and those long evenings by the fire,
Just you and me—what more could I desire?
But soon I'll have to leave you. Don't forget—
After a while—another dog—and yet—
I wonder if you understand just what I mean,
Some other dog, but, *not* an Aberdeen.

" IF "

(With apologies to Rudyard Kipling).

By Mr. H. TREADGOLD.

Sketches by Miss B. WELSH.

If you can smile whilst waiting for a bus,
And, having waited half an hour, not swear or cuss,
If you can keep your temper when in a queue,
And discover after waiting that there's nothing left for you.

If you can pay your Income Tax and think it rather fine,
That you can't obtain some Whisky or Rum or Ruby Wine,
If you have still got coupons to buy yourself some clothes,
Then you're a perfect marvel, no worry and no woes.



When the rations are cut, will you think it rather funny,
When Income Tax is raised and you're left with still less money,
Does the Purchase Tax amuse you when you buy yourself a suit,
And you find there are no "turn-ups" for a man of great repute.



If the war news makes you laugh and you treat it as a joke,
If you think it's rather cute when you can't obtain a smoke,
When you're called up for the Army and think it's rather swell,
You'd better see a Doctor, you can't be feeling well.



If Cyril Cox annoys you and makes you feel depressed,
 Because here, at The Brewery, he's one of the men well dressed,
 If all his suits bewilder you, but his hat gives you the jitters,
 Just bear in mind this learned phrase, "All is not gold that glitters,"



If queueing for the pictures, the attendant shouts "No Room."
 You give a little chuckle at the others filled with gloom,
 If after firewatching you feel so bright and happy,
 You'd better visit Moultsford, you must be blinking dappy.



If, when the war is over, you'll feel so very glum,
 Without an inclination to sing and cheer and hum,
 If the Income Tax refund fills you with despair,
 You'd better find a partner and then there'll be a pair.



THE LIGHTER SIDE.

"Ow is it that Mrs. 'Arris's lad 'asn't been taken away to the Army, Mrs. 'iggins?"

"Oh, 'e's one of those jammy chaps that have been preserved."

* * * *

COLONEL (*muttering*): "Same to you."

GENERAL: "Why do you always say that?"

COLONEL: "I was once a private myself, and I know what they're thinking."

* * * *

The portly amateur soprano wanted a job in non-stop variety. She went to interview an agent and showed him a list of the "numbers" she could sing. The agent glanced through it and then looked at the girl.

"You've got a pretty big repertoire, haven't you?" he said.

"Well," replied the singer, with a slight blush, "it's the singing that develops one, you know."

THE POLICE "V.C."

FOR FOUR STAINES CONSTABLES.

Of six King's Police Medals—the policeman's Victoria Cross—awarded to members of the Metropolitan Police in the New Year's Honours list, four have been awarded to police constables attached to Staines Police Station.

The awards are made in recognition of their courage and efficiency in dealing with an armed soldier, who, after exploits at his camp, stole a lorry and made a get-away, breaking through two police cordons, before being stopped by the four Staines officers at Staines Bridge where he was disarmed and arrested.

The officers are ex-P.C. Charles Lindsell, now of "The Feathers" public-house, Laleham; P.C. Percy Henry Salter, of 181, Staines Road, Laleham; P.C. George Sidney Grant, of 3, Clifford Grove, Ashford; and P.C. War Reserve Reginald Carpenter, of 32a, Penton Avenue, Staines.

The story of their bravery is as follows: At 3.15 a.m. on May 21st, Lce.-Cpl. Farris, of the Canadian Army, stole a fully loaded Thomson sub-machine gun and a fully loaded revolver from the armoury at his Depot. He was apparently quite sober, and engaged the picket, consisting of two soldiers, in conversation. He suddenly pointed the machine gun at the soldiers and told them to throw down their arms, which they did. He then removed the magazines from the soldiers' revolvers and threw the revolvers into the bushes. He ordered one of them to get into a motor lorry in the Vehicle Car Park. Farris then started up the vehicle, and covering his passenger with the revolver drove the lorry away at a high speed in the direction of London. After driving for about five miles he stopped the lorry, ordered the soldier to alight, and drove on alone. The soldier immediately communicated with his Depot by telephone and reported what had happened. Local police were informed, and they in turn informed all the surrounding stations in the area. Twice the suspected lorry was seen and the driver signalled to stop, but he increased speed and drove straight at the cordon, the officers being compelled to jump out of the way. Information was received at Staines Police Station, where a police car manned by P.C.'s Lindsell (driver) and Salter (wireless operator) were in readiness. They were deputed to intercept Farris at Staines Bridge, and they took with them War Reserve Carpenter and P.C. Grant joined them at Staines Bridge, where he was on duty. The four officers were fully aware of the danger of their task, having been informed that the man was fully armed with a machine gun and a revolver fully loaded. They decided that the best means

of stopping Farris was to place their car in such a position so as to enable them to switch their fog light on to Farris so as to dazzle him, and then take him by surprise. The car was placed on the incline facing the bridge, and three officers concealed themselves on the side of the road, P.C. Lindsell remaining in the car. As the lorry approached P.C. Lindsell waited until he thought the vehicle had reached the right position for him to switch on the light which he did at the crucial moment, succeeding in shining the light right into Farris's face. This caused him to brake violently and skid into the kerb, and as he did this P.C. Carpenter jumped on to the lorry on the off-side and saw the revolver protruding from the front of Farris's battle-dress. He immediately seized the weapon. The lorry was fitted with an off-side drive, and P.C. Grant jumped on to the near side and saw the sub-machine gun lying on the seat beside the drive. Farris having been disarmed of his revolver by Carpenter endeavoured to seize the machine gun, but Grant was too quick for him. P.C. Salter, who had been joined by Lindsell seized Farris and dragged him from his seat out of the vehicle, and soon had him overpowered. Farris was taken to Staines Police Station, where he was detained and the military authorities informed. He was later taken into custody by them. It was discovered that the revolver was fully loaded with six rounds of ammunition, and the machine gun contained twenty rounds of ball ammunition. Both weapons were ready for immediate use and in the cocked position. They were rendered safe by P.C. Lindsell who removed the magazines. Six spare magazines, each containing twenty rounds of ball ammunition were found in Farris's possession. It was a determined attempt on his part to get to London at all costs, and he seemed to develop the idea that if he could only reach London he could get back to Canada by some means.

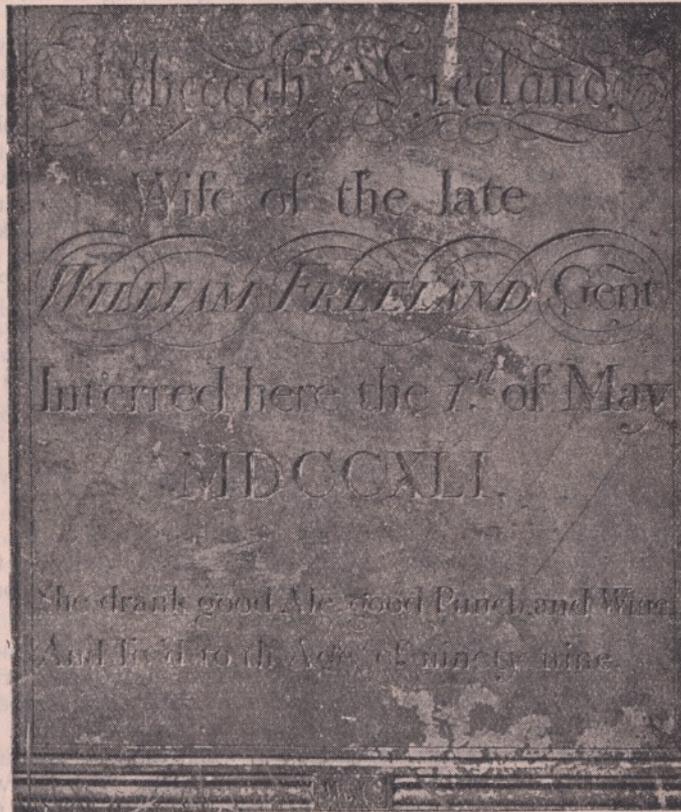
He was later brought before a Court Martial, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

Appreciation was expressed by the military authorities at the smart way in which the Staines officers acted, and also the splendid way in which they gave their evidence at the Court Martial.

There is little doubt that the officers undertook an extremely dangerous task when they stopped the soldier, and they carried out their work with great courage and efficiency. P.C. Lindsell actually took the risk of being run down by the lorry when he flashed his light into the driver's face, and when the lorry came to a standstill he took the risk of being shot at a time when he was undefended. Since the event, P.C. Lindsell has retired from the Force on account of his health, and he has taken over the licence of "The Feathers" public-house.

On September 7th, at Bow Street Police Court, Mr. H. McKenna, the magistrate, presented each of the officers with a cheque for £10 in recognition of their brave act. He remarked, "This is one of the most outstanding deeds of bravery, and ranks very high even in the annals of this Court. That is why the award has been suitably increased." The awards to police officers usually amount to £5. Each of the men have also received a personal letter of congratulation from Sir Philip Game, the Commissioner.

It is expected that the four police officers will receive their medals from H.M. The King at Buckingham Palace.



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RECIPE FOR LONGEVITY.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

FACE THE SUN.

Don't hunt after trouble, but look for success,
You'll find what you look for ; don't look for distress ;
If you see but your shadow, remember, I pray,
That the sun is still shining, but you're in the way,
Don't grumble, don't bluster, don't dream and don't shirk,
Don't think of your worries, but think of your work,
The worries will vanish, the work will be done,
No man sees his shadow who faces the sun.

A laugh is just like sunshine—
It freshens all the day,
It tips the peaks of life with light
And drives the clouds away ;
The soul grows glad that hears it
And feels its courage strong,
A laugh is just like sunshine
For cheering folks along.

A laugh is just like music—
It lingers in the heart,
And where its melody is heard
The ills of life depart ;
And happy thoughts come crowding
Its joyful notes to greet,
A laugh is just like music
For making living sweet.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness till all our strivings
cease ;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy Peace.

J. G. WHITTIER.

Though still so early, one may spy,
And mark spring's footsteps every hour ;
The daisy, with its golden eye,
And primrose bursting into flower.

No man to greatness true can come,
Who to this truth himself is blind ;
God sets him here that he may be
A blessing to his kith and kind.

Let us make earth a garden wherein the deeds of the valiant shall blossom and bear fruit.

At every moment of our lives we should be trying to find out not in what we differ from other people, but in what we agree with them.

Half the world is on the wrong scent in the pursuit of happiness. They think it consists of having and getting, and being served by others. It consists in giving, and in serving others.

Look not mournfully into the past; it comes not back again,
Wisely improve the present—it is thine.

High over all the world is God, and His mercy is no mockery.

Every man's work, whether it is literature, or music, or pictures, or architecture, or anything else, is always a portrait of himself.

Go to your work and be strong, halting not in your ways,
Baulking the end half-won for an instant dole of praise.
Stand to your work and be wise—certain of sword and pen,
Who are neither children nor gods, but men in a world of men.

E'en now their vanguard gathers,
E'en now we face the fray—
As Thou didst help our fathers,
Help Thou our host to-day!
Fulfilled of signs and wonders,
In life, in death, made clear—
Jehovah of the Thunders,
Lord God of battles, hear.

—KIPLING.

Politics and the pulpit are terms that have little agreement. No voice ought to be heard in the pulpit but the healing voice of Christian charity. Those who quit their proper character to assume what does not belong to them are for the most part ignorant both of the character they leave and of the character they assume. Wholly unacquainted with the world in which they are so fond of meddling, and inexperienced in all its affairs, on which they pronounce with so much confidence, they have nothing of politics but the passions they excite.—EDMUND BURKE.

MESSRS. H. & G. SIMONDS, SEVEN BRIDGES, BREWERY.

(Taken from the *Great Western Railway Guide of 1861.*)

No lover of the invigorating juice of the hop should pass out of Reading without visiting that extensive establishment called THE SEVEN BRIDGES BREWERY, and belonging to Messrs. H. and G. SIMONDS. Added to the justly-acquired fame which Mr. Adolphus Simonds, one of the firm, has gained as a brewer of first-rate beer, this gentleman has the distinction of being Mayor of Reading at the present time. Mr. Henry Simonds, the head of the firm, is a director of the Great Western Railway, and the much respected leader of the Conservative party in this town. The premises are situated on the river Kennet, although the water used is from the Thames, being taken from a spring which rises and falls with that river. In consequence of the increased demand for pale ale, the manufacture of which is no longer confined to Burton, new and large cellars have just been constructed for storing this famous beverage, it having been found from experiment that the water supplied from the springs in Messrs. Simonds' yard is almost identical in its chemical constituents with that from which the Burton ale is made. The two tun-rooms are very large. In the brew-house one large mash-tub holds thirty-five quarters; while we also see Barlow's new patent mash-tub, a marvellous improvement on those which are still used in many other establishments. One hundred and thirty barrels in a day are frequently sent out by this enterprising firm, and the premises in their occupation are capable of malting 6,000 quarters. The new machines used in the brewery are of twenty horse-power. There is a double range of malthouses.

There are two sets of machinery upon the premises, each complete in itself, the one worked upon the ordinary system, and the other a recent erection worked by steam throughout.

In brewing the various kinds of beer, as ale, porter, and table ale, two kinds of malt are employed, the pale and the brown. The first is used for ales, and for the finer qualities the malt is dried very pale indeed: the brown malt is used for porters and stouts.

Those who consider health should be very careful of the source from whence they derive their ale, for it is only by going to a respectable and well-known firm that they can insure a really invigorating, wholesome, innoxious, and not deleterious beverage. The world knows very little of the adulterations to which beer is often subjected. Quassia, gentian, wormwood, broom-top, to impart bitterness; capsicum, ginger, coriander, orange-peel, carraway, to give pungency; opium, coculus-indicus, nux-vomica,

tobacco, poppy, henbane, to intoxicate; sulphuric acid, alum, vitriol, salt, to impart various properties—all are suspected, and more than suspected, of playing a part in the manufacture of some of those beverages which occasionally go by the name of beer. The Excise have battled hard against these difficulties, but with only partial success.

With such enemies against the constitution to grapple with, the ale-drinker should, we repeat, be especially careful of the source whence he derives the beverage which should administer to his comfort and health. We can safely assert that the high character of Messrs. Simonds, and the great estimation in which the public hold their brewery, are guarantees for the purity and the excellence of their productions. The firm supply the camp at Aldershot, and the testimony of the officers there, who may be considered first-rate judges, is to the effect that "Simonds' porter is far superior to anything made in London," and similar assurances are given on all sides that "Simonds' ale" is unrivalled; one of their peculiar excellences being a combination of delicate flavour with remarkable cleanness on the palate.

An outline of the various processes employed in brewing would be beyond our limits. The reader who has not seen a brewery in full exercise, would do well to request the permission of Messrs. Simonds to inspect their extensive works. There will be no difficulty in conceiving that the mechanism and the details of the processes must vary greatly, although the chemical principles may remain the same. This consists in extracting a saccharine solution from grain, and in converting that solution into a spirituous and fermented beverage. This art, although a perfectly chemical one in nearly all its stages, has not, until recent times, been indebted to chemistry for any of the improvements which have been made in its details.

HUN HELPING HAND.

Nah ta-day, friends, ahm gooin' ta tell yer
Some news 'at ah've learnt from mi spy.
'Ee lives reight in't midst o' them Nazis—
Yer'll 'ear moor of 'im by an' by.

Ee'd been makin' a medal for t'Marshal,
An' 'ad just been ta measure 'is chest,
When as 'ee wor comin' away, like—
'Ee saw Musso, all dressed in 'is best.

Nah mi spy knew that something was brewing
For Goorin' an' Musso ta meet;
So 'ee mags for a panel in t'passage
That 'ee used at such times as ta-neet.

"Nah, what does ta want?" sez owd Goorin',
"Ah can't waste much time, lad, wi' thee;
"Ther's a waar on tha knows, so look slippy,
"Ah've an important date after thee."

For a second owd Musso looked angry,
Then rememb'rin' 'ee wasn't at 'ome,
'Ee sez: "Waar on? By gum, don't ah know it;—
"An that's why ahm 'ere, not in Rome.

"Ah've cum for sum 'elp, let me tell tha,
"An' if ah don't get it reight quick
"There'll be wun partner less in the Axis—
"Cos ah can't stand above wun moor kick,

"Cos what 'ave ah got but a hidin' ?
"An' yer said ah should 'ave fun an games;
"But all 'at ah've got for me trouble—
"Is most of mi cities in flames.

"An ahm tellin' tha nah, yer've ta 'elp ma,
"Cos ahm sure ah don't know wheer ta turn;
"Yerve got ta do something a' wunce, pal—
"Or else ther'll be nowt left ta burn!"

Says Goorin': "Tha's touched me ta t'marrer"—
An' hastily wrote out a slip,
Which 'ee placed in an envelope—sealed it,
An' sez ta owd Musso: "Here nip!"

"Just tak this to our 'eadquarters,
"We'll gi thee the best in the land;
"Look sharp an' get crackin' at wunce, lad,
"An' remember—tha's complete command!"

Owd Musso left t'room in a 'urry,
Well mi spy had ta know moor of this;
So 'ee slipped from the panel, an' outside—
An' nubbdy knew owt wor amiss.

Then, as 'ee wor turnin' a corner,
Mi spy—actin' t'fool—came around
An' bumped wi' a bang into Musso—
Thus knockin' the letter ta t'ground.

Ma spy picked it up in a jiffy,
Then 'ee tells ma 'ee did feel a chump;
'Cos owd Gorrin' 'ad nobbut ge' Musso—
A coupon for *one stirrup pump!*

C. BRAMWELL
in the "Empire News."

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The Vicar went to see a new family who'd come to live in his parish. He was shown into the drawing-room by the maid, and a little later Mrs. Browne came in. The Vicar started off the conversation by pointing to three decanters on the sideboard and saying, "Madam, you should avoid even the appearance of evil. I do not say you drink, but—"

"Oh, Vicar," she said, "you mustn't think anything like that. They're only filled with floor stain and furniture polish. It's the decanters I like, because they look so pretty."

"I know," he said. "I just helped myself to a drink from the middle one."

* * * *

The wife came in to find her husband and a stranger—afterwards ascertained to be a lawyer—engaged in some mysterious business over the dining-room table, upon which were spread several sheets of paper.

"What are you doing with all that paper, Henry?" demanded his wife.

"I am making a wish," said the husband, meekly.

"A wish?"

"Yes, my dear. In your presence I shall not presume to call it a will."

* * * *

While a city mother was visiting her evacuated son, who was billeted in a luxurious mansion, the lady of the house said grandly: "Your Tommy will be able to enjoy himself next week. We are giving a party for my daughter's coming-out."

"Oh!" exclaimed the mother suspiciously, "wot's she bin in for?"

* * * *

Having an early train to catch, MacGregor was rather worried that he wouldn't wake up in time. Several ideas came to him, but they all had one drawback; they meant spending money.

"Then came the dawn"—in other words, he had a brain wave. He addressed a letter to himself and posted it without a stamp. Next morning there was a thunderous knocking at the door. MacGregor leaned out of his bedroom window.

"Letter for ye," said the postman, "and there's fivepence to pay."

"Tak' it back," replied MacGregor virtuously. "Carelessness like that shouldna' be encouraged."

"I get wonderful recipes over the radio," gushed the bride who was entertaining her family for the first time. "I got one for Egyptian stew and one for a never-fail stain remover this morning."

"Which is this?" asked little Willie, tasting the stew with which he had just been served.

* * * *

Two billeted soldiers arrived at the home of a dear old lady. She greeted them with a smile, showed them to their room, and watched them dump their belongings—tin helmets, respirators, packs, kitbags and what not. Then a worried look came into her faded eyes as she asked: "Boys, are you sure you came by all these things honestly?"

* * * *

A young candidate for the Navy was being examined by a Board of Admirals. One of the questions fired at him was: "What kind of animals eat grass?"

No reply.

"Surely you can answer a simple question like that," snapped one of the admirals. "Now then, what kind of animals eat grass?"

"Oh, animals," said the candidate, in obvious relief. "I thought you said 'admirals.'"

* * * *

"Doctor," said the young lady. "There's something wrong with our baby's diet. He doesn't gain as he should. What do you suggest?"

"Is he bottle-fed?" asked the doctor.

"N-no."

"Well, we'd better make a thorough examination," said the doctor cheerfully . . . (pause) . . . "There, does that hurt?"

"No. . . . I guess it feels all right," said the patient uncertainly. "But, doctor—I'm just the baby's aunt."

* * * *

A young lady went into the drug store.

"Have you any Lifebuoy?" she asked.

"Set the pace, lady," said the young drug clerk—"Set the pace!"

FLAT RACING STARTS ON APRIL 10TH.

Flat racing is to start again at Windsor on April 10th. Race-courses in use this season will be the same as last year with the addition of Ascot—Pontefract and Stockton in the North, Newmarket, Ascot, Salisbury and Windsor in the South. Ascot will have the Bank Holiday meeting in the South on Whit-Monday and Windsor on Easter Monday.

THE FIXTURES.

April 10th (Saturday), Windsor; 17 (Saturday), Salisbury, Stockton; 20th (Tuesday) and 21st, Newmarket; 26th (Easter Monday), Windsor, Pontefract.

May 1st (Saturday), Salisbury, Stockton; 4th (Tuesday) and 5th, Newmarket; 8th (Saturday), Pontefract, Windsor; 15th (Saturday), Ascot, Stockton; 18th (Tuesday) and 19th, Newmarket; 22nd (Saturday), Salisbury, Pontefract; 29th (Saturday), Ascot, Stockton.

June 1st (Tuesday) and 2nd, Newmarket; 5th (Saturday), Windsor, Pontefract; 14th (Whit-Monday), Ascot, Pontefract; 18th (Friday) and 19th, Newmarket; 26th (Saturday), Ascot, Stockton.

July 3rd (Saturday), Salisbury; 7th (Wednesday), Newmarket; 10th (Saturday), Ascot, Stockton; 17th (Saturday), Windsor; 21st (Wednesday), Newmarket; 24th (Saturday), Salisbury, Pontefract.

ANNUAL MEETING OF LICENSEES.

ASSOCIATION'S SATISFACTORY POSITION.

A very satisfactory state of affairs was disclosed at the annual meeting of the Reading and District Licensed Trades' Protection and Benevolent Association held at The Wheatsheaf Hotel, Reading, recently.

The Chairman (Mr. J. Healey, Caversham) reported that during the last year valuable assistance had been rendered to the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation through their dart teams and collections, and to the Royal Berkshire Hospital Appeal. He mentioned with regret the resignation of Mr. E. Palmer (Assistant Secretary) through ill-health.

The adoption of the 58th annual report of the Association, which stated that the membership had increased to 301, was proposed by Mr. J. Johnson, seconded by Mr. W. Cleeveley (Newbury) and carried.

The Treasurer's report, presented by Mr. F. C. Riden, described the position as very satisfactory.

The election of officers resulted: Chairman, Mr. H. Tucker, Knowl Hill (who was invested with the collar of office by the

retiring Chairman); Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Oxlade, Shinfield; Hon. Treasurer (for 33rd year), Mr. F. C. Riden; Secretary, Mr. H. S. Smith; Hon. Auditor, Mr. Talfourd Cook; Solicitors, Messrs. Blandy and Blandy; Assistant Secretary, Mr. H. F. Woodrooffe; Trustees, Messrs. F. C. Riden and J. Healey. The Committee were re-elected *en bloc*.

An appeal by Mr. S. F. Digby, of the Ministry of Supply, for licensees to allow their houses to be used as depots for the salvage books drive was favourably received; as was also an address by Mr. F. J. Smith, representing the Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers, and a Governor of the Licensed Victuallers' School, Slough, whose upkeep costs £12,500 per annum.

SPORT.

We are now nearing the end of the winter games on the Sports Ground. Many very enjoyable hockey matches have been played off—some "All-Ladies" teams, others "Ladies and Gents Mixed."

Permission has been granted to the Services and various other football and hockey teams to use the ground. Many grateful letters of appreciation have been received for the privilege.

With the approach of the spring and summer we shall now turn our thoughts to cricket and tennis. The grass courts are beginning to take on their summery appearance, and the cricket middle shows great promise for the coming season.

The Committee hope that employees will patronise the ground even more than in the past. It is indeed an ideal place in which to spend an enjoyable hour or two. The surroundings are extremely pleasant and the air is perhaps some of the most invigorating in the district.

HOCKEY.

Appended are the results of the hockey matches:—

1942.									
September	26th	Gascoignes	...	...	...	...	...	Won	4-3
October	3rd	Sutton Old Girls'	...	...	...	...	...	Won	5-2
"	10th	Smallbone's	...	...	...	...	...	Won	8-1
"	17th	Insurance Ladies	...	...	...	...	...	Won	6-2
"	24th	Earley Rangers	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	0-3
"	31st	St. Mark's	...	...	...	...	...	Won	8-1
November	7th	Royal Corps of Signals	...	...	...	...	...	Drawn	2-2
"	14th	Royal Corps of Signals	...	...	...	...	...	Drawn	1-1
"	21st	Post Office Telephones	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	4-8
"	28th	King's Road Fellowship	...	...	...	...	...	Drawn	3-3
December	5th	Post Office Sports and Social	...	...	...	...	...	Scratched	
"	12th	Post Office	...	...	...	...	...	Drawn	3-3
1943.									
January	9th	Sutton Old Girls'	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	2-4
"	16th	Smallbone's	...	...	...	...	...	Won	6-3
"	23rd	Gascoignes	...	...	...	...	...	Won	7-4
"	30th	Insurance Ladies	...	...	...	...	...	Scratched	
February	6th	King's Road Fellowship	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	1-6
"	13th	Post Office Telephones	...	...	...	...	...	Lost	1-6
"	20th	Earley Rangers	...	...	...	...	...	Won	6-1
"	27th	St. Mark's	...	...	...	...	...	Won	8-0

BRANCHES.

PORTSMOUTH.

NEW YEAR HONOURS.

Events have been happening in Portsmouth since the December number of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE was published. The New Year Honours List included recognition of the distinguished services of two prominent men intimately connected with the life of the city, and never were honours more richly deserved. Firstly, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes, popular M.P. for the Northern Division of the City since 1934, was created a Baron, and his elevation to the House of Lords means the severance of an association with the First Naval Port of the Empire that has existed practically throughout his long and distinguished service in the Royal Navy. Both before and after he entered Parliament he was a loyal and devoted friend of the officers and men of the Navy and their families, and nowhere is his departure from Portsmouth regretted more sincerely than in the homes of our sailors and marines. The gallant Admiral finished his long and meritorious Service career as Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, and for ten years he held the rank of Hon. Colonel of the Portsmouth Division of the Royal Marines, in which service he was every bit as popular as he was in the Senior Service.

Another recipient of a New Year's Honour was Mr. F. J. Sparks upon whom a knighthood was conferred. Mr. Sparks (now Sir Frederick Sparks) has been Town Clerk of Portsmouth for 22 years and previously he was Deputy to Sir George Etherton for 10 years.

Very sincerely we extend our congratulations to Sir Frederick and Lady Sparks upon the honour they have received. In the capacity of Town Clerk, Mr. Sparks piloted the city through its various stages of development with conspicuous ability and success. Among his multifarious duties during the past three years of war he has been responsible for co-ordinating the many branches of A.R.P., and the value of the Civil Defence work initiated and controlled personally by him was best expressed by the Queen when on a visit to Portsmouth she said: "You must feel proud of the way in which the people have responded." The work of the A.R.P. organisations during heavy enemy attacks must have saved many lives which would otherwise have been lost. Especially noteworthy was the way in which Sir Frederick directed the work during the heavy blitz of January 10th, 1941, when the Guildhall, in which main control was established, was burnt out.

FEWER LICENCES.

Interesting details concerning the progress of the Trade in Portsmouth since the Licensing Act came into operation are

contained in the annual report of the clerk to the local licensing magistrates. In the first place it is shown that there are actually 300 fewer licences in force now than there were in 1905, which is the more remarkable when the tremendous growth of the city is taken into consideration. In the last 40 years or so populous areas have been cleared of what were considered redundant licences, and compensation totalling £270,949 has been paid in respect of 218 premises to which licences have been refused, approximately £1,242 for each redundant licence. There are now in force 526 "on" and 169 "off" licences, as against 778 and 217 respectively in 1905, giving one licence to every 388 of the population now, compared with one to every 189 thirty-eight years ago. Of the licences now in existence, in no fewer than 84 cases the premises have been totally destroyed and in 63 closed as the result of enemy action. Since 1905 monopoly value in respect of 25 houses (including re-grants) have been fixed at £92,940, this sum being payable to the Inland Revenue. Notable figures, these!

NO MANAGERS.

Another effort was made at the annual meeting of the Portsmouth and District Licensed Victuallers' Wine and Beer Retailers' Association to make managers eligible for membership. The question was raised by Mr. S. Kemp (Vice-President) after the Secretary (Mr. Harry Denham) had reported a substantial decrease in membership due to the blitzing of licensed premises. Mr. Kemp maintained that it would be an advantage to admit managers to membership, but the contrary view was expressed by Mr. H. E. Parfitt, who pointed out that for fifty years theirs had been a tenants' association, and in his judgment it should remain so. He had the support of a majority of the members present and the proposal was negated.

Mr. A. C. Wells, who had already served as President for 18 months, was re-elected for another year, and Mr. H. C. Denham and Mr. J. C. R. Master are to continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Another appointment was that of Mr. G. Cooper as Collector.

GOOD GOING!

Sir Harold Pink, Chairman of the Portsmouth National Savings Committee, has warmly congratulated local licensed victuallers on their successful effort to form district savings groups. There are now 60 licensed houses in the city with groups and the movement is growing. It was reported recently that £1,000 had been saved in six months, which is pretty good going, and the highest individual total for that period was that of the Granada Hotel, Southsea, with £178 1s. 6d. Several other houses topped the £100 mark during the year, and of these groups formed since July, the Electric Arms, Fratton, was easily first with over £100 to its credit. The enthusiasm and hard work of the L.V.'s is greatly appreciated.

STAINES.

We regret to publish the death of Mr. John McEvoy at Woking Hospital on Saturday, February 13th, after a prolonged illness, at the age of 49 years.

Joining the Surveyor's Department of Messrs. Ashby's Staines Brewery in 1921, "Mac" will be better remembered as being in charge of the old Thornycroft 66 for many years.

The funeral service took place on Thursday, February 18th, at St. Paul's Church, Egham Hythe, the interment at Englefield Green Cemetery. Those present were Mrs. McEvoy (widow), the Misses W. and G. McEvoy (daughters), Mr. J. McEvoy (son), Mrs. F. Graimes, Mrs. G. Connell, Mrs. C. Rice, Mrs. T. Owen, and Messrs. W. F. Mercer, F. J. Jones, A. E. Beach, E. Brown, V. Brown and F. Whiting (of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.).

To Mrs. McEvoy and family we extend our deepest sympathy in their great loss.

We regret to record the passing of Mr. Edgar Reeve at his home, 44, Rosefield Road, Staines.

This gentleman, having been bedridden for many years, had attained the age of 91, and was a member of the staff of Messrs. Ashby's for some sixty years.

To Mr. Frank Reeve and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

DEVONPORT.

We were delighted to receive a most interesting letter from Lieut. C. R. Holman, R.N.R., who is now serving with the Fleet Air Arm, and of his voyage to Gibraltar. He writes in very happy mood of his experiences and of the very fine air crews he has under his command. Before joining the Royal Navy, Lieut. Holman was one of our outdoor representatives, and always took a very keen interest in motoring and flying. A very happy note was struck when he told us that Leading Aircraftman H. Smith of the Royal Air Force Operational Staff surprised him by a visit after one of his "sky high" actions. L/A.C. Smith was employed by us as stocktaker prior to his joining up.

The following changes have been made in our licensed houses since the last issue of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE:—

Elmfield Hotel, Exeter—A. L. Cross to L. H. Trim;

Victoria Hotel, Dartmouth—E. H. Gearing to A. J. Geach;

East Cornwall Stores, Torpoint—S. Jones to J. W. N. Bruce;

and we wish the best of luck to our new tenants.

Mr. S. Jones, of the East Cornwall W. and S. Stores, has been our tenant for 18 years, and has retired through ill-health which we hope is only temporary. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been overworked during the war period, and we would not be surprised to see them in harness again after a brief rest. The East Cornwall was always a credit to them and the Firm.

Mr. Bruce who has taken over the tenancy was our tenant at the Barley Sheaf, Devonport, and was blitzed out. He is at present serving in the Royal Navy, but Mrs. Bruce will "answer" for him whilst he is away, and we are sure they will do well in this house.



The above is a photograph of Christopher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Steel, the popular proprietor and proprietress of the Brentor Hotel, Brentor. At the early age of 10 months, Christopher chose an excellent means of accommodation, and is here seen in comfort (in an old cask as a play-pen) admiring the beauty of the delightful spot to which both Mr. and Mrs. Steel have contributed by their excellent catering and "pleasing ways" which are enjoyed by all who know them and have had the pleasure of their company. The Brentor Hotel is situated in a most healthy position close to

Tavistock, and the beauty of the surrounding country is a great attraction. Visitors to Brentor will find the church of St. Michael de Rupe of great historical interest, the interior measuring only 37 ft. by 14½ ft., and consists of chancel, nave, north porch and a low, embattled western tower of Early English date. It stands almost on the edge of a precipitous rock, 1,130 feet above the sea level, which is said to have been the first spot of land seen by a merchant from Plymouth Sound, who, during a storm at sea, vowed to build a church thereon if he was safely landed. The register dates from the year 1720.

We much regret we have to record the death of James Clough, after a short illness, at the early age of 29 years. He joined the Firm fourteen years ago, and was employed in the Case Makers' Shop, and afterwards as a lorry driver. He was a popular and loyal servant of the Firm. His late father was a lorry driver with us.

People in the West country, as in some other parts, have the reputation of being clannish, and even those of a neighbouring county have at times been referred to as "furriners." In a Devonshire County Court recently an Advocate stated the witness was a stranger. The "stranger" objected on the grounds that he had lived in the district for eleven years. The solicitor, however, responded with the remark, "I know it has been a very short time." His Honour was therefore forced to comment that he also must be a stranger as he had lived there for a lesser period than the witness. The solicitor then explained that in the district a person would probably be regarded as a stranger unless he had been there for thirty years.

It is stated that at one time in the town referred to, a man had to live there twenty-five years before he became known, unless he married a local woman, when his probation was reduced to twenty years. Even then he was usually "Mr. So-and-so, who married So-and-so's daughter."

We have had recent visits from our employees who are serving in H.M. Forces, and they are looking very fit indeed, and we occasionally receive letters from those serving overseas.

Congratulations to F. Treleaven, a member of our Transport staff, on the birth of a daughter. Mrs. Treleaven and child are doing well.

Until the commencement of hostilities we had not employed any female labour at the Tamar Brewery, but we must confess that we have been surprised at their efficiency and the excellent manner in which they have carried out their duties.

OXFORD.

Number One, Volume Seventeen of our still popular and eagerly sought for HOP LEAF GAZETTE is an imposing publication, and our esteemed Editor and his contributors are to be congratulated on the very interesting "matter" contained within its pages.

We take great pride in the fine list of the names of those of the Directorate and Staff of the Firm who are serving their country in the various branches of the Services. Since this list was compiled further members of the Staff at Oxford Branch have been called up for service:—Mr. P. J. Oliver (Clerical Staff), Army; Mr. C. A. C. Spyer (Transport), Royal Navy. We wish them a speedy and safe return.

May we be allowed through the medium of these pages to add our meed to the congratulations and good wishes tendered to Mr. F. C. Hawkes on his completion of 25 years as Manager of the General Office, and also to our very old friend and fellow Oxonian, Mr. F. L. Shrimpton, on his attainment of 25 years as a Branch Manager. Our intercourse with these two gentlemen in business matters and in other directions over a great number of years leaves nothing but very pleasant memories and we cannot do less than sincerely endorse the very nice things already said on their behalf.

A/Cz A. Siggery called at the office on Saturday, 30th January, at the commencement of his first leave. He looks very fit and well, and appears to be thoroughly enjoying his sojourn with the R.A.F.

"BELL INN," GROVE.

We regret to have to record the death, on January 1st, of Mr. F. R. Busby, our tenant of the above, at the age of 71.

Mr. Busby commenced his career as a baker and then entered the grocery trade. Following a tenancy of the "Royal Oak," Beedon, he took over the "Bell Inn," Grove, in 1915.

Mr. Busby was an ideal tenant, taking great pride in his garden and apiary. He will be sadly missed.



The airgraph has been turned to good account by a member of the Royal Air Force serving with the Forces in Persia, as the accompanying sketch, received by Mr. C. H. Purvey at our Oxford Stores, will show.

With the attractions to be found on the beach, service in Iraq would not seem to be unbearable.

BRISTOL.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of two of our most esteemed tenants whose houses, for many years, have been the centres of social service in their respective corners of greater Bristol.

Mrs. Laura Purnell, aged 84, of The Greyhound, Fishponds, had been there since 1901, and took over the licence in 1912 on the death of her husband. Some years ago The Greyhound was modernised, which considerably enhanced its opportunities for catering in every respect for both old and new patrons, who, in local sporting circles, have proved very redoubtable opponents in Bristol's skittles, whist and bagatelle leagues, whilst The Greyhound has a more than local reputation as the official headquarters of many pigeon enthusiasts along the Causeway, and in the surrounding area.

Its Thrift and Sick Benefit Club contributions aggregate well over a thousand pounds per annum, and to all these social activities, Mrs. Purnell, with the help of her family, gave her ungrudging and unselfish co-operation. Among the most loyal supporters from the first "Hop Leaf" days, the name of Purnell is one to which we are pleased to pay a well deserved tribute in our GAZETTE pages.

For several years past our old tenant, owing to advancing age, had been unable personally to look after the welfare of her customers, which devolved upon her son, Mr. Albert Leonard Purnell, who has now taken over the tenancy and, by the way, a wife also, during the month of January.

We wish them both happiness, and success in their new dual responsibilities at Fishponds.

The passing of Mrs. Lilian Hurford, our highly esteemed hostess and tenant of the "Cumberland" Hotel, Totterdown, at the comparatively early age of 54, was a tragic happening indeed, and it is our sad privilege, alas, to pay a tribute to the memory of one who, for over 25 years, had radiated her quiet charm there over all who had the pleasure of meeting her. Her courage and rare fortitude against overwhelming odds for some months gave hope that she might yet be spared to those dear to her, who knew and valued her singularly helpful and unselfish nature. But it was not to be, and she was laid to rest on February 17th, mourned by all, far and wide, to whom the "Cumberland" and Mrs. Hurford had become inseparable.

Loyalty, selflessness and cheerful service were embodied to the full in Mrs. Hurford, and she will be badly missed, not only in Totterdown, but among the wider circle of "Hop Leaf" friends, who knew her and her husband as two of our most loyal supporters.

May the knowledge that so many share their sorrow be of some consolation to Mr. W. Hurford, and the members of both families, in the present days of grief, and also in the years to come.

On January 15th, the presentation of a suitably inscribed electric clock was made to Miss Doris Gilpin, our senior invoice clerk, who, for the past twelve years, by efficient endeavour has contributed in her own quiet way towards any success which the Jacob Street Brewery has achieved during that time. Her colleagues took the opportunity given them by her approaching marriage to say just a few of the nice things which they thought about her, to her embarrassment, of course, because unexpected, but none the less deserved.

Mr. J. H. Law made the presentation in the presence of all members of the staff, and thanked the recipient for the excellent example which she had set, and expressed the Firm's pleasure in the knowledge that "although you are changing your name, you are not changing your commercial address. If you make half as good a job of housekeeping as you have of book-keeping, your husband-to-be will be a very fortunate man."

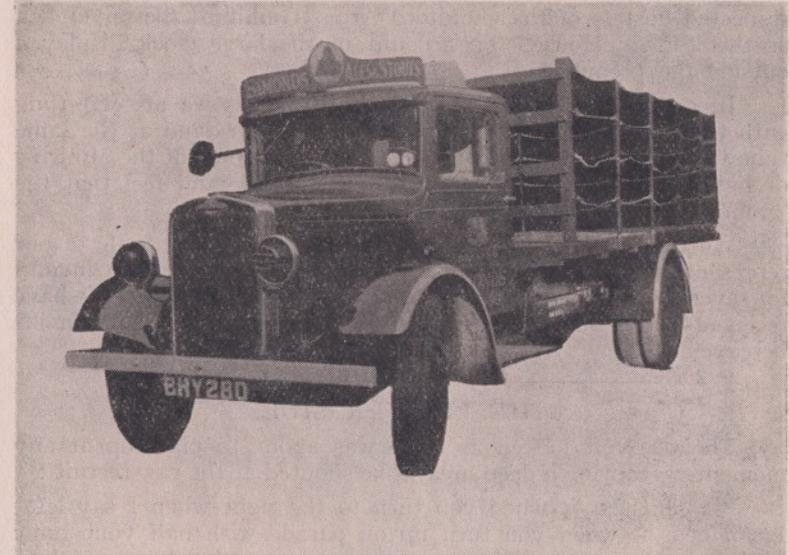
Mr. F. W. Gleed paid tribute to Miss Gilpin, who, he said, "came to them with first-class references, and her case was the rare one of every qualification and promise being more than fulfilled." Mr. H. C. Hillman also spoke of the high standard of consistency in Miss Gilpin's department, especially during the Christmas season, and how transport arrangements were facilitated thereby. Miss Gilpin expressed her sincerest thanks for the gift, which would always be a reminder of those associated with it, and would be greatly valued.

On Wednesday, January 20th, the happy event duly took place, and we take this opportunity of wishing Mr. and Mrs. Head every happiness and the very best of luck for many years to come.

We much regret to record the death on Thursday, February 25th, at 28, Berkeley Road, Bishopston, Bristol, of Mr. F. H. Wood, who, between April and August, 1935, represented Hop Leaf interests amongst a section of our tied house trade in this area, and who retired on pension in the latter month.

Mr. Wood entered the services of Messrs. W. J. Rogers, Ltd., in October, 1921, when the freehold and leasehold properties of the Anglo-Brewing Co., Shepton Mallet (Bristol area) were acquired by them. Mr. Wood had been the Bristol and District Manager for the Anglo-Brewing Co. for a number of years previously. In 1922 he also undertook the supervision of additional tied houses

which were leased to us by Messrs. J. & T. Usher, Ltd., of the New City Brewery, Bristol. He was a well-known trade figure for many years in this area, and we extend our sympathies to the members of his family in their bereavement.



"BHY 280."

In February, 1942, the above vehicle "ran away" from control in negotiating an acute bend on a narrow country road, and ended up in a deep ditch with the front axle assembly and steering smashed to bits, chassis frame completely out of shape, cabin crushed, springs twisted, and all electric wiring completely burnt out. For a year, our foreman mechanic, Mr. D. Waterman, has almost alone during that time, completely dismantled, renewed, repaired and assembled the whole chassis, cabin and body, whilst servicing other units of our fleet meanwhile, without loss of man hours on either, until the day when, for the first time for nearly a year, we were able to include it in our "list of starters" again. A tribute to patience and "engine-uity" indeed; BHY 280 has been well vetted, and the verdict is "As good as new!" That's good work!

WOKING.

We have had a visit from our latest recruit from the clerical staff, to His Majesty's Forces, in the person of Mr. L. A. Wilson. He is in the Anti-Aircraft, R.A., and looks very fit. He is enjoying the new life and highly praises the food.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Lillie Portsmouth, at the age of 65 years. For a great many years this lady was the respected hostess of the Guildford Arms, Guildford (better known as the "Clock House" on account of the large clock displayed outside the premises).

In common with the rest of our Branches we are wrestling with the problem of satisfying our old customers and at the same time trying to comply with the increasing demands of the Ministry of Labour. However, we enjoy doing our bit, and feel that the "Sun is beginning to Shine."

We regret to record the death of Mrs. Wareham, wife of our representative, Mr. S. Wareham. This lady has been an invalid for several years, but the end came rather unexpectedly. We have received many messages of sympathy with Mr. Wareham in his bereavement.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The sergeant looked as if he was about to blow up at any moment. Drawing a deep breath, he shouted at the raw recruit :

"I can bear it when you turn to the right when I say left ; I can bear it when you turn up on parade with half your tunic buttons undone ; I don't even mind very much when you drop your rifle, but——"

He glared for a moment at the cowering culprit, and added :

"But, for the love of Mike, will you please stop saying : 'Sorry, my dear.'"

The little man who was the meek escort of the big woman in the ramble through the shopping establishment had fainted.

"Is he subject to this sort of thing?" asked the shopwalker, as he rendered first-aid and motioned the crowd to stand back.

"Not exactly," replied the woman. "He's a little nervous sometimes. I tried to buy it without him seeing me, but he heard me give the order."

"Buy what?" asked the shopwalker, somewhat suspiciously.

"A rolling-pin," said the woman.

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