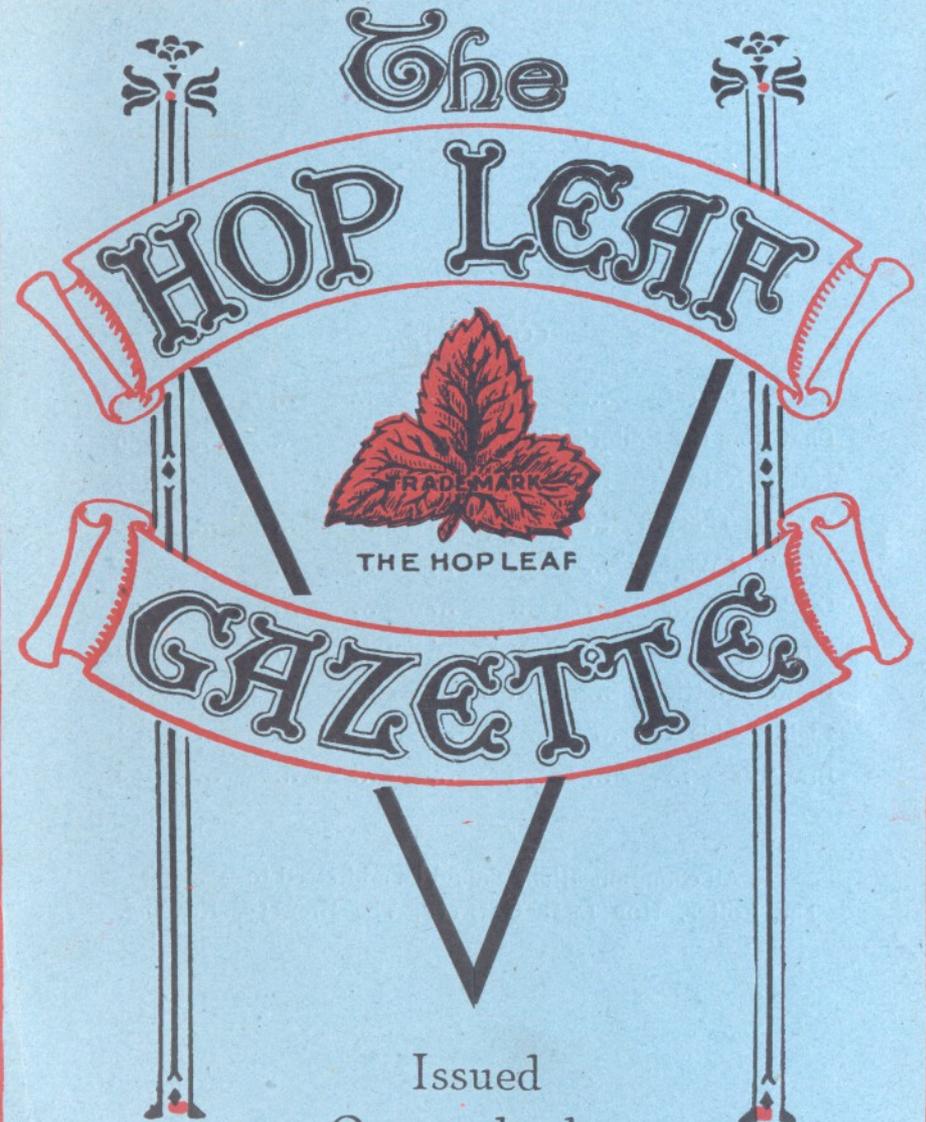


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THE HOP LEAF

GAZETTE

Issued
Quarterly by

H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD., READING.

A RECORD OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AT THE BREWERY.

The Hop Leaf Gazette.

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

Edited by CHARLES H. PERRIN.

Vol. XVII.

SEPTEMBER, 1943.

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Mr. A. G. Terry	Frontispiece
Chat from the Editor's Chair	159
Nature Note	167
A Great Thought	170
Words of Wisdom	171
Cricket	173
Mr. J. M. Hammond : Fifty Years' Service	178
Brewery Jottings	181
Lighter Side	192
Branches	196

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



MR. A. G. TERRY.

MR. A. G. TERRY.

Mr. Terry shares the distinction enjoyed by few other senior employees of the Firm in having worked in the same Department during the whole of his service, which commenced in the Wine and Spirit Warehouse in 1915. During his 28 years in that Department he has witnessed three changes in the management, large extensions in the floor space and, prior to the war, a vast increase in that section of the business.

He has successfully carried out the various duties of the Department and is now Customs and Excise Bond Clerk, controlling everything that takes place in the Bonded Warehouse and, until imports were curtailed, as a result of the war, he handled the colossal stocks which passed through the Bonded Warehouse. His work comprises the reducing operations and blending in bond, as well as the issuing and signing of Clearance Warrants and stock-taking at the Bonded Store, which is a very meticulous job, particularly in regard to stock records and using stocks in rotation and strictly complying with Customs regulations. In addition, Mr. Terry carries out clerical work and gauging and reducing operations in the Duty Paid cellars at the Brewery. He is thoroughly versed in the manifold regulations attaching to his work and is very efficient.

To have served over a quarter of a century in an atmosphere redolent of the warm and comforting aroma of choice wines and often charged with the pungent fumes of spirits, complete self-discipline is necessary. Mr. Terry has never failed to observe this golden rule.

Mr. Terry is a member of the 7th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Home Guard, and for many years has practised cycling with the Bath Road Club and the Cyclists' Touring Club, of which he still retains membership. In the course of his numerous tours he has passed over the threshold of some thousand or so wayside inns, hotels, and other places of call, inseparable from cycle touring. This hobby was, therefore, one which went well with his work as he was able to observe the retail of wines and spirits which he had probably handled in bond. He still hopes to accomplish, during summer holidays, the tour which "Bath Roaders" venture to essay in the course of their cycling career, viz., Land's End to John O'Groats and back to Reading.



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.)

THEIR GREATEST SERVICE.

Travelling with the King, the Queen has seen more than any other woman of the service that women are giving in factory and shipyard, on the railways and the land, in the fire service and the hospitals, in nurseries, canteens, and all three Services. Yet our women's greatest service has yet to come—in the rebuilding of the nation's homes. They alone can do it. The Government can find the bricks and mortar for the *houses*—and would be wise to take the women's advice as to how those houses should be built. But only the women can make the *homes*. Analyse the motives which drove our men to war and you come down to that one word. They are fighting for home—a home free from the fear that to-day grips most of the homes in Europe, a home free from want, a better home than many of them have known in the past, a home that shall be the centre and the inspiration of a new life, a home fashioned by a woman's hands—and heart.

VALUED HELP!

It is a truism that the busiest men find the most spare time—for helping others. And the following paragraph, which I came across in the Christ Church Magazine, well illustrates the point:—

“Of the many services rendered by parishioners to the Church in Whitley there is one which is mentioned at the Annual General Church Meeting, and then only. I should like it to be realised by a greater number of people than are aware of the fact at the moment, that year by year when the Churchwardens' Financial Report is being licked into shape for publication, our good friend Mr. A. G. Richardson, a worshipper at Christ Church, goes all through those accounts with a fine comb and, as Honorary Auditor, declares them to be in order. When an expression of thanks is passed every year for this good service it is liable to become a

formality, and so on behalf of the Council and all parishioners, let me say how much we value his help. And to his daughter Joan, whose wedding takes place to-morrow, we wish every happiness and blessing."

N.A.A.F.I. IN NORTH AFRICA.

Figures issued by N.A.A.F.I. recently show how the well being of our victorious troops in North Africa is being looked after. Recent cables revealed that N.A.A.F.I. was operating eight permanent garrison canteens for large troop concentrations, twenty-five bulk-issue stores from which units draw canteen supplies in bulk, and seventeen mobile canteens, soon to be increased to twenty-seven. N.A.A.F.I. has acquired a part of what is claimed to be the best hotel in North Africa and opened it as a club, complete with restaurant, snack bar and American bar, for the use of officers of all the allied nations. Nearly 1,000 English Sunday newspapers and 1,000 periodicals are being issued free to the troops every week, while another gift from N.A.A.F.I. to the North African forces was £20,000 worth of sports goods and games. The Officer Commanding Expeditionary Force Institutes, North Africa, has organised a number of concert parties from local talent, including French artistes. These concert parties, often comprising as many as sixteen performers, have provided regular free shows to troops in Morocco and Tunisia at a cost of several thousands of pounds. Several N.A.A.F.I.-E.N.S.A. parties have visited North Africa, from Gibraltar and the Middle East, and twenty-four mobile cinema units will soon be operating in the area.

These wide scale amenities have been steadily organised since N.A.A.F.I.'s "advance guard" reached North Africa only a few days after the first successful assaults by our fighting men.

LIVING UP-TO-DATE.

We are very busy living the lives which make up the present chapter of history. All our lives are altered, but we have become accustomed to the change. Fighting, to the man in battle, is now as much his daily job as was his job in an office. The housewife queues up patiently, and the fire guards yawn by night in the places where they work by day, and the old luxuries are gone as though they had never been; but life goes on, and we can even jest now and then, for we are now used to the noise of the world being shaped by giants' hammers on the anvil of war.

No doubt the historians will write of us as a bold and hardy people. But we have little time to meditate on those things now. We can only hope, in the few moments we have for thought, that we shall have done something to bring mankind towards an age in which all the stories are tranquil and kind.

THE LAST LAP.

"As I have been married 30 years I think I deserve a few drinks," said a man at a North London court.

CRITICISM DISARMED.

A preacher had on his desk a special book labelled "Complaints of members against one another." When one of his people called to tell him the faults of another he would say, "Well, here's my complaint book. I'll write down what you say and you can sign it. Then when I have to take up the matter officially I shall know what I may expect you to testify to." The sight of the open book and the ready pen had its effect. "Oh, no, I couldn't sign anything like that!" and no entry was made. The preacher said he kept the book for forty years, opened it probably a thousand times, and never wrote a line in it.

TO THE GIRLS IN WHITE.

Every serving man knows the blue uniform of the N.A.A.F.I. canteen girl—but what of the "backroom canteen girl," the girl in white. An airman on a Scottish R.A.F. station has written a poem about her. Done in water colours, it hangs on the canteen wall as a tribute to the white-overalled girls working unseen in N.A.A.F.I. canteen kitchens.

"Don't forget the girls in white who work behind the door—
To make your cakes and suppers, and tea for evermore;
They never see the limelight, but their work is never done—
And they're every bit important if you want your tea and bun."

OVER-THE-BOUNDARY CATCH IS LEGAL.

Not all the members of the M.C.C. know the rules of cricket. Some of them joined in the protests at Lord's when Leslie Compton caught Leary Constantine with one hand stretched back behind the pavilion rails.

M.C.C.'s instructions to umpires say:—

"A fieldsman may lean against the boundary to catch or field a ball. If a fieldsman standing within the playing ground, even though he be touching the boundary, catch a ball outside the boundary, the batsman should be given out."

Pat Hendren was once so caught in a Test against Australia at Lord's. McCabe was the catcher.

TALKING PINTS.

Systematic visits to public houses have revealed that the chief topic of conversation is food restriction, with religion second.—*The Bishop of Rochester (Dr. C. M. Chavasse), in his Diocesan Magazine.*

“ANGEL’S DRINK” IN TUNIS.

The manageress of a N.A.A.F.I. canteen in Hampshire has received a letter from her husband, R.S.M. of a Tank Regiment in North Africa, in which, writing a day before Tunis fell, he says :

“We had a grand surprise to-day. That grand firm, the N.A.A.F.I., supplied us with a bottle of beer—ye gods, angel’s drink! I must say the N.A.A.F.I. is doing its stuff as regards fags, etc., and they are quickly in the vicinity when we rest.”

IN HIDING!

The A.T.S private had gone for a walk in the country near her camp. It was a hot day, so when she came to a pool a little off the road and surrounded by trees, she decided to have a dip.

She folded her clothes on the bank and jumped in, swam around for a little while, and then scrambled out.

As she did so she saw an Army officer approaching and hid behind one of the trees. He came nearer and nearer, and suddenly called out : “Camouflage platoon, dismiss!”

Whereupon all the trees walked away!

JOAD ON LICENSING LAWS.

I was interested to see that Dr. C. E. M. Joad, of Brains Trust fame, was writing in a Sunday newspaper the other day on the best way of encouraging tourists to come to Britain after the war, writes E. Cox Price in *The Caterer and Hotel Keeper*. First and foremost, he recommends the reform of the licensing laws and the removal of the absurd restrictions which so often annoy our foreign guests. His other suggestion includes open-air cafes, providing food and hard and soft drinks; Sunday theatres and cinemas; licensed casinos; better cooking; and more tolerance and less superiority towards foreigners in general.

Not at all a bad prescription!

“HOWLERS” IN CHURCH.

Children perpetrate “howlers” in church services because of the mishearing of certain words.

Church House reported that a ten-year-old girl who was heard to give this rendering of the Third Collect at Evensong : “. . . by Thy great mercy defend us from all parents and dangers of this night,” because she had not properly heard the word “perils.”

An evacuee from London who went to Devon had this version of the Lord’s Prayer, “Thy will be done in earth as it is in Devon.”

And one little girl’s definition of a sentence in the Creed was none other than this : “Edith sended into Hell!”

CATERING NOWADAYS.

The following verses, recited to the Californian Northern Hotel Association by Mr. Maschal, of Harris, Kerr, Forster & Co., were reproduced in our American contemporary, *Hotel World Review*. They are so equally appropriate to the British catering industry that we believe our readers will think them interesting :—

The chef is in the shipyards, welding cargo ships ;
The waiter’s on the briny, instead of counting tips ;
The maitre is a captain ; the bus boy steers a jeep ;

The changes in the hotel’s staff would make the devil weep.

The new cook burns the entree and complains he works too long.
The waitress blithely spills the soup ; then adds the check up wrong.
But they’ll quit and join the others if you dare to lift your voice—
And those willing to replace them aren’t likely to be your choice.

There is no butter ; there are no eggs.

Bacon has vanished, too.

Cream is a memory—beef a dream.

Gone is the savoury stew.

Well, what the hell’s the answer? That’s what we want to know.
It looks like better planning ; readjustments down the row.

Your aides do double duty—and you’ll do double that

If you mean to solve the problem before your roll’s quite flat.

Serve beer instead of coffee. Give the guest one dish—not two.

Remove the frills from service—it’s the proper thing to do.

Simplicity’s the keynote—(the best people are in jeans)—

Till Uncle Sam allows us something more than navy beans.

TO KEEP THEM AT IT.

“Men must make war, but women must make beer to keep them at it,” says a hop-picker now busy in Kent.

INTENSIVE CULTURE.

My garden is less than 100 acres, but in spite of its limitations, so far as space is concerned, I get the maximum of interest out of it. I obtained a twopenny packet of tomato-seed and planted about one-third of these in the early spring. I carefully placed twenty-four seeds in three flower-pots and kept them indoors until they were about three inches high. Then I gave them more breathing space and placed them in my conservatory which, by the way, consists of a few cloches. Each of the two dozen seedlings

thrived. I removed the cloches at the proper time and now I have twenty-four sturdy plants each containing from thirty to forty fine tomatoes. I tended them with the greatest care, but I have been more than repaid for my trouble. I generally grow a few sunflowers for the tits in winter. One plant is over 9 feet high and another, which I carefully disbudded, had a monster bloom which has now given place to many seeds—roughly 1,500. Not a bad result from one tiny seed!

BEER—DESPITE HOP WILT.

Beer production is not likely to be appreciably affected by the appearance of the hop wilt disease on farms in mid-Kent.

The disease, which is believed to come from potatoes, has so far been confined to small areas, and as the season is nearly over this year's crops cannot be seriously attacked.

A FINE RUNNER.

Major R. St. J. Quarry, one of our Directors, has been proving his prowess as an athlete in the army. He is a very fine runner with a most attractive style which greatly impresses those who have been privileged to see him do the mile.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

Mr. F. Drury recently learned that his son, Pte. Harold Drury, R.A.O.C., of the Accounts Department, is a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. Pte. Drury, who is 24, was in the Territorials, and has been serving in the R.A.O.C. since the outbreak of the war. He was at Dunkirk and came through safely. He was a member of the Reading Rowing Club.

Corporal Edward Chandler, R.A.S.C., son of Mr. Chandler, one of our well-known drayman, is also a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. He, too, was at Dunkirk.

OLD AND TRUE.

I see a beautiful city and a brilliant people rising from this abyss, and in their struggles to be truly free, in their triumphs and defeats, through long years to come, I see the evil of this time and of the previous time of which this is the natural birth, gradually making expiation for itself and wearing out.—CHARLES DICKENS.

KINGSTON ON THAMES.

Our Mr. Kingston is not only an expert in dealing with figures, for he knows full well how to handle fish. Angling from the

Promenade recently, he got into a pike weighing about 4 lbs. Though he had jack tackle out this fresh water shark did not take the little roach he had as a bait, but preferred the little piece of bread with which Mr. Kingston was trying for roach. He was fishing with very fine tackle, and the fact that he succeeded in banking this good fish proves his prowess as a piscator.

BRISTOL.

We are pleased to record that our Head Brewer at Bristol, Mr. H. H. Robertson, was awarded a Pass in Part II of the Institute of Brewing Examinations in June, 1943.

His success is very praiseworthy, particularly as the examination is highly technical, and includes numerous scientific questions, as well as Malting, Brewing, Bottling, etc.

Exactly how he managed to find time to take the examination amongst all the difficulties which confront a Head Brewer at the present time, with very little leisure, only Mr. Robertson can say, but it is a wonderful achievement. Our congratulations, Mr. Robertson!

WEDDING OF PAYMASTER-LIEUT. J. D. RICHARDSON AND MISS J. M. RICHARDSON.

On July 24th the wedding between Paymaster-Lieut. J. D. Richardson, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Richardson, of "Keldholme," Ravenscroft Avenue, Wembley, and Miss Joan M. Richardson, the elder daughter of our Chief Accountant and Mrs. Richardson, of "Ben Rhydding," Shinfield Road, Reading, took place at Christ Church Reading.

The bridesmaids were Miss Christine Richardson, sister of the bride, and Miss Monica Sykes, cousin of the bride.

Among the guests present was our Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. F. A. Simonds.

Officers and friends in the Admiralty showed their appreciation by contributing to a silver cigarette box with the signatures of the donors engraved. It is a beautiful present (and, incidentally, a wonderful war souvenir), and contains signatures of many notable personages in the Royal Navy such as Admiral Sir Frederic C. Dreyer, G.B.E., K.C.B., Vice-Admiral Sir Henry R. Moore, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., Vice-Admiral Sir Neveille Syfret, K.C.B., to whom the bridegroom is assistant secretary, and Rear-Admiral Dennis W. Boyd, C.B.E., D.S.C.

Flight-Lieut. E. Hardcastle, D.F.C., R.A.F., was the best man.



Bride and bridegroom leaving the church.

NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

DAVID AND GOLIATH: A UNIQUE INCIDENT.

A FAMILY OF GOLDEN-CRESTED WRENS.

THE SWIFTS DEPART.

In the spring I wrote that there was a pair of partridges on our Sports Ground, that I thought they would have their nest there, and that if they did I would find it. Well, they did have their nest—and I found it. The birds just scratched away a little earth and in the shallow bowl thus made placed bits of dried grass and a few leaves—that was the nest. In it there soon appeared the eggs, one by one, until there were sixteen. Then the hen commenced to sit and in twenty-four days fourteen little chicks appeared. At the time of hatching the male partridge is invariably to be found close to the nest and as the babes appear he takes charge of them and “dries them off”—a very charming sight. Partridges invariably have their young, in this district at any rate, between June 16th and 23rd. The earliest hatching in my experience was on June 6th. In Norfolk, I believe, they hatch earlier. When the eggs of the partridge are hatched under the domestic hen the keeper will take them with him accompanied by a pointer. This intelligent dog will soon tell him when there are other young partridges in a wild state. Among these the keeper will place those partridges he has brought with him and leave them, knowing full well that they will all get along together splendidly. The male partridge is a wonderful father and will look after the youngsters with devoted care.

THE RUSE OF PARENT PARTRIDGES.

It was with the greatest interest that I kept close observation on the young partridges on our Sports Ground from their youth up and in exactly three weeks after birth they were quite strong on the wing. The parent partridges objected to my intrusion on their preserves and endeavoured to entice me away from where their young were by pretending that they had broken wings or,

at any rate, could not fly. They bobbed up and down only a few feet from me, and struggled and crawled along the ground. Then I let them have their way and followed them until they thought I was a safe distance from their children and then, all of a sudden, up they would fly and wing their way back to their bairns.

DAVID AND GOLIATH!

And talking of partridges, Captain L. A. Simonds, one of our respected Directors, tells me of an extraordinary and, I should think, unique occurrence. Nearby a little stream, which contains some nice trout, out Mortimer way, he noticed an old heron which doubtless was on the look-out for trout for dinner. Close at hand was a pair of partridges with their young ones. A heron which will readily eat water rats would probably be not averse to young partridges for food. The partridges evidently thought the heron a dangerous kind of fellow and while the mother bird quickly led her family away from him, father partridge fiercely attacked the heron. One would have thought that it would have been ten to one in favour of the heron had he shown fight, but the concentrated fury of the little brown bird had its effect and, quite cowed, the winged monster slunk away and left the partridges in peace.

We have read of David and Goliath, and here we have the meaning of the story illustrated in a marked degree.

Bravo, little pater partridge, we raise our hats to you!

A LITTER OF LEVERETS.

About the beginning of March I noticed a couple of old hares courting. Their antics were amusing in the extreme. In fact their behaviour can truly be described as "mad as March hares." I kept them under close observation and later on, as I was sauntering about quietly among the uncut grass, I noticed a slight movement near my feet and there, sure enough, was a baby hare—one, two, three, four of them. Directly they noticed me they remained motionless, squatting low on the ground in a way that is known as "freezing." But for that slight movement of one I doubt if even my keen eyes would have noticed them, so perfectly did their

colouring harmonize with the surroundings. There were two here and two there, about four feet apart from the others. And they were crouching close together, head to tail. I just stroked one and thought, what a charming pet he would make, though I do not like keeping any wild creature in captivity. As a rule mother hare places each baby in a separate place, not in twos, to lessen the risks they run when discovered by their enemies—and they are many. While rabbits are naked and blind when born, hares come into the world with their eyes wide open and are fully clad with fur.

GREEN WOODPECKERS' DINING TABLE.

There are many ant-hills in that part of the Sports Ground to which I am referring and birds are frequently very busy eating the eggs. Green woodpeckers are often there and their unusually long tongues are admirably adapted to reach and pull up these morsels to their mouths. The tip of this long tongue is barbed with small filaments like the teeth of a rake and by its aid the woodpecker easily rakes in its insect food.

GOLDEN-CRESTED WRENS.

The observant eye of our Chairman and Managing Director (Mr. F. A. Simonds) is ever discerning something of interest in wild nature's ways and recently, he tells me, he came across a family of golden-crested wrens. To see them being fed is always a charming sight. I wonder what was the total weight of this wee family. Five full-grown gold-crests weigh less than an ounce!

I, too, have had the pleasing experience of watching these tiny birds feeding their tinier children. There is a nest in a fir tree near the approach to the Bluecoat School, Reading. It is close to the pavement in the Bath Road and there for everyone to see. I saw the wee birds building their globe-like nest, suspended from a branch of the tree, and have been making notes of their habits ever since. The call-note of these birds is very thin and wiry, and similar to the cry of the shrew.

THE SWIFTS DEPART.

Towards the middle of August the number of swifts grew less and less and by the 24th they had practically all winged their way to South Africa. Swifts do not like cold weather. They are among the last of the migrants to arrive in this country and among the first to depart.

Bon voyage!

A MAGPIE'S ANTICS.

Councillor R. M. Fynes-Clinton, of 25, Eldon Square, Reading, writes as follows to the *Berkshire Chronicle*: "We have just had a visit from a magpie. He alighted on the lawn beside us, hopped to the onion bed, pulled up an onion, tried to swallow it and failed, buried it under a pile of leaves which he collected from round about, hopped up the step-ladder and pecked at the nails, dug up his onion, found it still too large and buried it again, gave a hop-dance, throwing leaves over his shoulder, then pulled up several lettuce and spinach seedlings. When I whistled he came eagerly to a bowl of water and drank, then pecked at my fingers. An amusing but destructive visitor."

A GREAT THOUGHT.

THINGS THAT MONEY CANNOT BUY.

The late George Horace Lorimer, for many years editor of "The Saturday Evening Post," once wrote these words: "It is a good thing to have money and the things that money can buy; but it is good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure you haven't lost the things that money can't buy."

The things that money can't buy would make a long list—here are some of them:—

Money can't buy real friendship—friendship must be earned.

Money can't buy a clear conscience—square dealing is the price tag.

Money can't buy the glow of good health—right living is the secret.

Money can't buy happiness—happiness is a mental attitude, and one may be as happy in a cottage as in a mansion.

Money can't buy sunsets, singing birds, and the music of the wind in the trees—these are as free as the air we breathe.

Money can't buy character—character is what we are when we are alone with ourselves in the dark.

Money can't buy inward peace—peace is the result of a life in harmony with God through the redeeming merits of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Die when I may, I want it said of me, by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow.—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The world goes up and the world goes down,
And the sunshine follows the rain,
And yesterday's sneer and yesterday's frown
Can never come over again.
No, never come over again.

—CHARLES KINGSLEY.

Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a true friend. Neither to weigh thoughts, nor measure words, but pouring all right out just as they are—chaff and grain together—certain that a faithful, true hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and with the breath of comfort blow the rest away.

Life is short, and we have never too much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are travelling the journey with us. Be swift to love. Make haste to be kind.

This is the comfort of real friends, that though they may be said to die, yet their friendship and society are, in the truest sense, ever present because immortal.

What seems to grow fairer as life goes on, is the love and grace and tenderness of it ; not its wit and cleverness and grandeur of knowledge—grand as knowledge is—but just the laughter of little children, and the friendship of friends.

That man is blest who every day is permitted to behold anything so pure and serene as the western sky at sunset, while revolutions vex the world.

“ A little thing is a little thing, but faithfulness in little things is a great thing.”

The best portion of a good man's life,
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love.

The supreme happiness of life is the conviction of being loved for yourself ; or, more correctly, being loved in spite of yourself.

As life is made up, for the most part, not of great occasions, but of small, everyday moments, it is the giving to those moments their greatest amount of peace, pleasantness, and security that contributes most to the sum of human good.

“ How can I, who drink good wine and bitter beer every day of my life, in a comfortable room, and among friends, coolly stand up and advise hard-working fellow-creatures to take the pledge ? ”
—GLADSTONE.

“ Know, foolish Saracen,” replied the Christian without hesitation, “ that thou blasphemest the gifts of God, even with the blasphemy of thy father Ishmael. The juice of the grape is given to him that will use it wisely, as that which cheers the heart of man after toil, refreshes him in sickness and comforts him in sorrow. He who so enjoyeth it may thank God for his wine-cup as for his daily bread ; and he who abuseth the gift of heaven is not a greater fool in his intoxication than thou in thine abstinence.”—SCOTT.

CRICKET.

This review carries us from May 22nd to the end of July. Our brief season will be practically over when the ensuing GAZETTE is on the market, but the Editor must have his “ copy ” in good time.

During this period the Saturday team have played nine games, winning one, losing six and twice making a draw. We had two blank afternoons, one due to rain when we were to have played the Old Blues, and on the other the ground was being prepared for the August Bank Holiday sports.

The Youths' team have played through their League games, but the early promise was not fulfilled. Of the ten games, we were only successful three times and with one “ tie ” we got 7 points out of a possible 20. However, the lads were very eager and came up full of fight each week, in spite of some heavy scores made against them.

The Ladies were not able to play at all during the season, the matches arranged were cancelled by one side or the other, due to weather conditions or lack of players. It was then felt it would be more satisfactory to say “ finis ” and hope for better luck next year.

Brief notes of the games so far played follow :—

May 22nd. SIMONDS 51 v. 45TH R.A.P.C. 94 for 5.

A bad start was made by us, two wickets falling for one run. With the score at 20 three more fell, the sixth went down three runs later, then the seventh and eighth at 32 and the ninth at 38. The last wicket helped to make the total look a little better, but at 51 one batsman put his leg in front of a straight one. F. Benham, W. Jelley and J. Buswell each made 10, the last named carrying his bat.

We got the first two wickets down for 6, and the next at 19. The fourth fell at 36, but the next partnership carried the game to safety, adding 43. When time was called the Pay Corps were six short of the century.

E. Scott (3 for 19) and E. Greenaway (2 for 15) got the wickets. Four other bowlers were tried, but without result.

May 29th. SIMONDS 55 v. R.A.F. XI 92 for 9.

We had the first knock and the opening pair started quite confidently, putting on 18, but after that the wickets fell at frequent

intervals without increasing the score to any great extent. E. Morgan (15) and E. Greenaway (14) got the lion's share of the runs. Turton bowled well, taking 7 for 25.

The R.A.F. lost their first man for 11, the second for 32, but the next partnership did the trick, the wicket falling just after our total was passed. With the score at 92, their innings was declared closed. Tully, Pettitt and Thompson were the best scorers, but our bowlers could not get any luck. W. Piercy (3 for 25) bowled well, F. Chapman took the honours, however, with 2 for 2. Greenaway and Scott each got one wicket.

June 5th. SIMONDS 72 v. 7TH BATT. HOME GUARD 70.

A very exciting game ended in our favour by 2 runs. The Home Guard batted first, and although the first wicket fell for 2, the second added 44. Then a slump came and the next seven men only made 10 between them. The last wicket brought the score up to 70. Cookly (26) and May (15 not out) were responsible for nearly all the runs. C. Morgan had the remarkable figures of 6 for 9, and Greenaway took 3 for 24, the remaining wicket was actually the first to fall through a "run out."

For a time it looked as though we should get this total fairly easily for we had 48 on the board for the loss of 3 wickets, but after the fall of the next at 57 it became a keen struggle until the score was level with the departure of No. 9. We were relieved and delighted when the winning hit was made before the last wicket fell. J. Doe (22) and E. Greenaway (13) took most of the batting honours.

June 12th. SIMONDS 30 v. F.T.C., R.A.F., 151 for 9.

The scores above speak for themselves. We made a disastrous start, losing 3 wickets without a run being made, 2 more fell with 8 on the board, and 3 more with only 1 run added. The ninth partnership saved us from total eclipse by adding 20 and 1 run later it was all over. Three men only broke their "duck," viz., Scott (11), Benham (5) and Patrick (7), and "Mr. Extras" helped with 7 more. Dodkins (6 for 9) and Manns (4 for 14) bowled unchanged.

For a time we held the R.A.F., taking 2 wickets for 16. Then Hahn joined Calder and put on 39 before being separated, the latter having made 26. Hahn made 71 before being bowled by Piercy, Pepper made 20, Marsh 10 and Dodkins was not out 17 when the closure came.

Piercy took 5 for 49 and Pearce 4 for 53. Three other bowlers were tried.

June 19th. SIMONDS 26 v. R.A.F. XI 47.

This was the return fixture and the R.A.F. had first knock. Piercy and Scott were bowling well, but R. A. Tozer, newly returned from South Africa and now home on leave, had an inspired spell, taking five wickets for 3 runs in 3 overs, one of them a maiden. The fielders were right on their toes and five catches were held.

Our skipper was not one who thought the game as good as over and warned the team that even this small score had to be equalled. We could not even do that, for a procession started with the fall of the first wicket at 4 and although only three "ducks" came home, not one batsman could reach double figures.

June 26th. SIMONDS 55 for 2 v. 45TH BATT. R.A.P.C. 108.

The visitors batted first and although we got one of their opening pair in the first over before scoring and the second one down with only 7 on the board, we could not maintain these early successes. However, we had got eight men out for 64, but the ninth partnership added another 41. Three runs later we got the last man.

We tried six bowlers, but there was no outstanding figure. Morgan was the most successful, taking 3 for 15, but E. W. Clarkson finished the innings off by securing a wicket without loss of runs in part of his only over.

We had not a lot of time left to make over a century and lost our first man for 14, the second wicket put on 21, and when time was called E. Scott and E. Greenaway were holding the fort, having then made 12 and 16 respectively.

July 3rd. SIMONDS 73 for 7 v. P.O. ENGINEERS 135 for 7.

We took the field and got an early wicket with 10 on the board, but saw 60 on there before we got the second. The third fell at the same figure and the fourth at 80, followed by No. 5 at 89. Twenty more were added before the next trip to the pavilion, and No. 7 fell at 123. Twelve runs later the innings was declared closed. Greenaway and Scott each took 2 wickets for 26 and 35 respectively, and Morgan got 3 for 50.

Our batting again fell short of expectations and 4 wickets were down for 19. F. Benham then joined E. Scott and they added 41. We lost the next wicket at 71, but time was called two runs later, and so for the second week a drawn game resulted.

July 17th. SIMONDS 93 v. CALLAS, SONS & MAY 160 for 9.

Morgan and Doe opened the innings and made 20 before being parted. After that there were no really outstanding partnerships, the score being steadily pushed along. Greenaway was top with 19, Doe, Beddow and F. Benham following along with 14, 12 and 11 not out respectively.

Good bowling and some keen fielding gave us hopes of a win, for 5 wickets were down for 26. Then the next couple broke the spell and made 30. The succeeding partnership very effectually dispelled any idea remaining, for in spite of bowling changes it could not be broken before 113 were on the board. We got the next wicket 5 runs later, but when time was called 160 was the total against us. Scott took 4 for 29 and Morgan 3 for 44. Greenaway got the other for 30 and the other bowlers tried had no success.

July 24th. SIMONDS 50 v. WILLIAMSONS 99.

We won the toss and in batting also took a toss. We had just reached double figures when the first wicket fell; the next six only added 17 and it was left to the "tail" to make the score look anything like respectable. C. Morgan made 10 and W. Scott 11. T. Patrick was 6 not out and then batting steadily.

Our bowlers set about their task of getting wickets and keeping the runs down to good purpose, for with 6 wickets down only 32 were scored. However, we could not separate the next pair, who carried the total along to 62. Although we took the next at 66, one run was needed to complete the century when the ninth wicket fell and the innings was then closed.

W. Piercy took 4 for 26, E. Greenaway 3 for 29 and C. Morgan 2 for 19.

Now for a quick run through the Youths' games. Perhaps the more direct approach would be to give the results of the games as played and then comment on the highlights. Results were decided by the runs scored by each side in a specified number of overs.

May 18th	...	Huntley & Palmers	...	39	v.	Simonds	...	...	39
" 25th	...	Caversham	...	34	v.	Simonds	...	...	41
June 1st	...	Simonds	...	33	v.	1836 A.T.C.	...	...	106
" 8th	...	Y.M.C.A.	...	51	v.	Simonds	...	...	23
" 22nd	...	Simonds	...	31	v.	Huntley & Palmers	...	...	50
" 29th	...	Simonds	...	67	v.	Caversham	...	...	44
July 6th	...	1836 A.T.C.	...	108	v.	Simonds	...	...	31
" 13th	...	Simonds	...	40	v.	Y.M.C.A.	...	...	110
" 20th	...	Simonds	...	62	v.	Battle	...	...	114
" 26th	...	Battle	...	46	v.	Simonds	...	...	50

The first game has previously been reported.

Caversham gave us our first win by 7 runs. Our batting was fairly consistent, B. Patrick being top with 11 before being run out. We got 9 wickets down, Westall taking 4 for 15, T. Patrick 2 for 18 and Harding 1 for 1.

Against the A.T.C. neither batsmen nor bowlers shone and a half century was registered against us.

The Y.M.C.A. had W. Piercy in their side and he had a good spell of bowling, taking six of our wickets for 10. Seven "ducks" came home to roost. Four of our bowlers each took one wicket and one lad was run out, but our score was more than doubled.

Against H. & P. we hoped to get that extra one we failed to obtain in the first match, but finished up 29 behind. We lost 5 wickets, getting 31, and took 6 for 50. No outstanding events occurred either in batting or bowling in this game.

We made to get a "double" against Caversham, but the latter did not bat quickly enough as they had wickets in hand at the end of the game. Werrell carried his side, being 31 not out, out of a total of 44 for 6. J. Owens took 5 for 8, after having scored 22. J. Eighteen also had a good knock and made 20. Appleby was 11 not out.

The A.T.C. scored two more than in the first game and got us out for two less. Another 50 against us. Westall (3 for 31) was our most successful bowler.

The opening pair of Y.M.C.A. knocked up 110 for the loss of one wicket and this was a "run out" off the last ball of the last over. Our changes of bowling were quite ineffective and only further marred the bowlers' averages. We made a poor start, which unfortunately was maintained. Only A. Priddy and R. Ballard kept their ends up for a time, making 13 and 9 respectively. Again W. Piercy had a good evening against us, taking 6 for 19.

We made quite a respectable total against Battle, everyone scoring. Our bowlers could not break through the defences of Hoadley, who had a fine knock of 73 before Patrick caused him to "play on." Appleby and F. Scott each took a wicket out of the three that fell.

The following week the tables were turned and we won a keenly contested game by 4 runs. J. Owens batted well and was 19 not out; Appleby was next with 12.

Owens and Patrick shared the bowling, taking 6 for 12 and 4 for 28 respectively.

The League table has not yet been published, so it will have to be given in the subsequent issue together with the averages.

J.W.J.

PRESENTATION TO MR. J. M. HAMMOND
ON COMPLETION OF FIFTY YEARS' SERVICE.

On Monday, September 6th, Mr. J. M. Hammond completed his Jubilee of service on the Firm, and was invited to the Board Room by the Directors to receive a Silver Salver and a Cheque. The presentation was made by Mr. F. A. Simonds, Chairman and Managing Director in his customary gracious manner, which has so endeared him to the whole of the employees.

In his opening sentences Mr. F. A. Simonds recapitulated Mr. Hammond's long and loyal service, which commenced as a junior clerk at Slough Branch in 1893, his subsequent transfer to Worthing in 1898, and from thence to our military depot at Aldershot in 1901, where he filled the position of chief clerk until 1931, when the centralisation of our military business and the mechanisation of transport brought about the transfer of our Aldershot staff to Reading. He stated that Mr. Hammond had had a life's experience of Army business, and hoped that he would be with us for many years to come. In a witty interlude, Mr. F. A. Simonds added that it was no reflection upon Mr. Hammond's efficiency that all the Branches at which he had served had since been closed, but that those steps had been taken in accordance with the scheme of centralising deliveries.

Proceeding, Mr. F. A. Simonds mentioned that Mr. Hammond's father, who was a Bandmaster in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, was one of the first persons he had met when he entered Eton in 1892. He added that he was a grand old fellow, and he remembered him well in connection with those early days.

A further comment in regard to Mr. Hammond's present-day service was that he had been informed that he (Mr. Hammond) refused to march in step with modern times, as he declined to work by the clock and only left off when work was done. In this respect he was probably good company for other members of the Branch Department staff.

Mr. F. A. Simonds then made the presentation, and Mr. Hammond replied :—

“ Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

“ I thank you for the great honour you have conferred on me in making this presentation in celebration of my having completed fifty years' service with the Firm, and also for your kind appreciation of my work. I am proud and happy to have attained my Jubilee.

“ For a great number of years I have been connected with the military side of the business, which I commenced under the late Captain W. Batchelor at Aldershot Branch, which in those days was the pivot of our military business.

“ In bygone days, one of my greatest joys was to go out on manoeuvres which, although strenuous, would now be looked upon as picnics. I still hope to figure in the new type of Army exercises when peace comes.

“ I can recollect some of the prices which were in force when I joined the Firm, and which might be interesting to you.

S.B.A. Pints ...	2s. 9d.	Gin ...	... 1s. 10d.
Pins L.D.A. ...	3s. 9d.	Whisky ...	... 3s. 0d.
“ F.P.A. ...	4s. 6d.	Brandy ...	... 4s. 0d.
“ S.B.A. ...	5s. 6d.	Port and Sherry	2s. 0d.

“ I again thank you, gentlemen, one and all, for your valuable gift, which I shall always treasure.”

The Salver was engraved :—

PRESENTED TO
J. M. HAMMOND, Esq.,
BY THE DIRECTORS OF
H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD.,
ON THE COMPLETION OF
50 YEARS WITH THE FIRM.
SEPTEMBER 6TH, 1943.

At the close of business on the same day, a further ceremony was held in the Board Room when, on behalf of the Staff, Mr. A. R. Bradford presented Mr. Hammond with a Gold Wrist Watch suitably engraved.

In making the presentation, Mr. Bradford said :—

“ Mr. Hammond,

“ We have assembled here to-day to pay tribute to you on the completion of fifty years' service on this grand old Firm. (*Applause.*)

“ It is a record of which you must be truly proud, and we of the Branch Department and your old colleagues at Farnborough are also proud of you. We are glad that you have enabled the Branch Department to retain the record of the longest serving member of the Staff at the Brewery.

"You have served this Firm with a loyalty and fidelity which has been an example to all with whom you have worked, and we are glad that you are still able to pull your weight.

"It is a great feat of endurance, particularly in view of the strenuous times through which we have passed and are still passing.

"At Aldershot you set up a very high standard of work, and in that military atmosphere you were a veritable Sergeant Major (except perhaps in language) in seeing that that standard was maintained.

"I recollect that when visiting Aldershot Branch after manoeuvres to settle up accounts, we were impressed by your military manner and bearing, and we were never quite sure whether we should come to attention or salute you. But to-day, Mr. Hammond, we do salute you on your wonderful achievement, and we who have gathered together to do you honour and your old Farnborough associates who cannot be present, ask you to accept this gift as a token of our goodwill and in the hope that you will be amongst us for many years to come.

"On behalf of your colleagues, I have very great pleasure in presenting you with this wrist watch, which we hope will give you as good service as you have given to the Firm."

Mr. Hammond stood up well to this second ceremony, and replied:—

"I thank you, Mr. Bradford, for the very nice things which you have said regarding my past service on the Firm, and I thank all my colleagues for the valuable and useful gift which has been presented to me in commemoration of my having completed fifty years' service. I feel very proud to have been able to do so.

"I thank you all for attending this ceremony, and again thank you, one and all, for the very handsome present, which will always remind me of pleasant memories and happy days."

After much cordial handshaking and personal congratulations, Mr. Hammond must have welcomed the end of a perfect day.



BREWERY JOTTINGS.

(BY W. DUNSTER).

We have received quite a number of letters from those of our boys who are overseas and their letters contain many interesting items and a big appreciation of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE with its news of The Brewery.

Corporal S. G. Treacher, writing to his friend Mr. H. Treadgold, says life is not too bad out in the Middle East. He is feeling very fit and one compensation they have is that they can get 10 cigarettes for just over 6d. and tobacco at 1/4½ an oz. They have had a few concerts and cinema shows. His O.C. is Lieut. N. H. Lipscombe, and they compare Reading and Brewery notes when they have a chance. He sends kind regards to all friends at H. & G.S. A further letter has been received from him acknowledging safe receipt of postal order from the Social Club.

We had a shock from Private H. G. Sexton when we learned from a letter he wrote to Mr. W. Bowyer that he was in the Black Watch. He had been in the fighting in North Africa and had had a spell in hospital suffering from a shaking received from a German mortar bomb. However, he had been discharged from hospital when he wrote. They were able to get plenty of wine but no beer out there. Altogether he had been attached to five different regiments, and he thought he would have a job to tell anyone in which regiment he *actually* served after this "show," as he calls it, was over. All good wishes to all at The Brewery.

Lieut. N. H. Lipscombe wrote to Mr. W. Bradford sending sincere thanks to the Social Club Committee for their gift to him. He was quite well and looking forward to the time when he could have a good old "S.B." once again. Every good wish to all was sent.

Signaller F. H. Kemp, writing from India to Mr. W. Bradford, thanked the Social Club Committee for the postal order. He had received THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE for December, and referring to the crossword puzzle which appeared therein asks if there is a *liquid* prize for a correct solution. The beer they get out there is two bottles per month, mostly Indian brewed, and he was not particularly in love with it. Australian beers were better, in fact as good as many at home. He had seen E. Bailey, of the Catering Department, out there, also the son of Driver "Bill" Dewey. In his section there were two other Reading fellows and they yarned about the old town. It was very warm out there, but when they had leave—which they spent in the hills—they were glad enough to have at least two blankets on top when sleeping. He sent kind wishes to all of us.

L/Corporal C. Wade, writing from the Middle East to Mr. P. Luker, thought it would be a good idea to celebrate the termination of the African campaign by sending a few words of greeting. His only regret was not being at home when a liquid form of celebration would have been possible. They were then wondering what their next job would be. Meanwhile, they had a chance to overhaul their tackle and sew a few buttons on at strategic points. He gets letters occasionally from P. Loader (India) and J. Knight (Ceylon). One of his rare treats was the discovery of a genuine bottle of our Light Pale Ale, which was excellent and his first "drop of Simonds" since 1941. It is very seldom they are able to get any beer, which is a pity for they develop a big thirst in that part of the world. When writing he was in a better spot than the desert, and mentions that fine crops were growing of wheat and barley, also fields of grape vines, olive trees and almonds. Insect life was abundant, ants and flies predominating. There were a number of tortoises, too, which seemed a lot more lively than their exiled brothers (and sisters) in England. There were plenty of birds about and he mentions having seen skylarks, goldfinches and partridges. "Remember me to all old friends," he concludes.

L.A.C. C. W. J. Greenaway, writing from India to Mr. W. Bradford, thanks the Social Club Committee for the gift sent to him. He mentions that Frank Lawrence and himself were well on in their third year out there and that they were in hopes of coming back to "dear old Blighty" this year. The only other ex-Breweryite he had met out there was P. Loader. Copies of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE had reached him regularly. He wished to be remembered to all friends, particularly those in the Branch Department, and he had hopes it would be not too long before he was playing cricket again for the "old team."

Lieut. R. C. Pitts has written two letters from India, one to Mr. W. Bradford thanking him for the gift from the Club, and the other to Mr. F. C. Hawkes. In the first he mentions that it is very warm and they are rationed to three bottles of beer per month (Indian brew), but the previous year he had had a bottle of Milk Stout and found out that it was very well known out there. He had been on a course and was going on another. There was an excellent swimming pool and he had a dip every evening. Tennis and football were played, in spite of the heat. He had a servant to wait on him hand and foot, and instances how they wash clothes. The method is to beat the clothes on large stones and, in consequence, they do not last long (he did not say anything about coupons!) The cost of living was rather high: nevertheless, he had no regrets at having gone to India and taking it all round he thought the climate better there than at home. Still, he might change his views for he was booked for a very hot spot. He sent good wishes to

everyone at the Firm. In his second letter to Mr. Hawkes he mentions that he is residing in the city famous for the wonderful tomb known as Taj Mahal. It certainly was a marvellous building, built entirely of white marble inlaid with precious stones, the designs taking the shape of flowers and birds. Although the heat had been terrific and the monsoon was just about to start he was not particularly keen on the rain for it was impossible to keep anything dry during this period and there were plenty of snakes about, too. He had kept very fit. Beer was scarce and not very special. One of the things he had managed to accomplish was to pass the language examination in Hindustani and until this was done no leave or promotion was possible.

Corporal E. F. Venner has written two letters to Mr. W. Bradford. In the first he mentions that thanks to the "Lads in Blue" a consignment of bottled beer had arrived out there and he was delighted to see the cases bearing the name of the Firm. He says if H. & G.S. can keep them supplied with beer the name of the Firm will be talked about as much as the Eighth Army. In his second letter he says he had been in most of the towns in North Africa and considered Tunis the best of them all. The town had been looted very thoroughly by "Jerry" before he was driven out, which went to prove he wasn't as civilized as the natives. Many old wonderful Roman ruins he had seen, and he wondered how long they had taken to build. Beer was being brewed out there, but he thought it best not to express in a letter what he thought of it. They were on the shores of the Mediterranean and enjoying the sensation of unlimited water to bathe in, not like it was in the dark times at Tobruk when two pints was the daily ration to make tea, wash, shave and then pour into the radiator.

Sergt. H. Weight, in a long and most interesting letter to W.D., said he was quite fit. Writing from North Africa, he said the plague of their lives was flies. They came in millions and they tickle, they buzz, they crawl over arms, knees and face, they drop into dishes, they descend in clouds, pester, annoy and generally make themselves a darned nuisance. All manner of interesting specimens of insect or reptile were about and he particularly mentions scorpions, snakes and lizards. He had visited practically every district between Oran and Bizerta, and he thought the scenery most of the way was simply terrific. It is one huge succession of mountains, gorges, plains, vineyards, sandhills, twisted roads and narrow passes. All very colourful, exceedingly beautiful and typically North African, with its many Arab villages tucked away among the hills. In the towns there is always the same avenue of trees along the one and only High Street, several cafes, one or two barbers, a blacksmith, vegetable store and post office-cum-gossip shop. The remainder consists of balconised houses and one or two

struggling little shops that advertise nothing but sell everything. The large towns and ports were quite modern as far as buildings are concerned, for the French are well known for their use of reinforced concrete and you get an atmosphere of strict design and spacious accommodation, contrasting strangely with previous glimpses of Arabic and Moorish structure. He asks for his kindest regards to be passed on to all who knew him at The Brewery.

Two letters have been received from Sig. C. L. Langton, one to Mr. W. Bradford thanking the Club for the postal order sent to him, and one to W.D. In the first he mentions he is feeling fit and that he prefers North Africa to Egypt. In the second he says he has received the last two issues of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, both of which he has read with great interest. News of The Brewery was very welcome and he wished to be remembered to all who remember him.

L.A.C. J. Knight has written from Ceylon three letters. In his first, to Mr. S. Bird, he says he is receiving letters regularly even if they take a long time to reach him. He had read of the present price of barley in England and this had "shook" him somewhat. Many of the parts of Ceylon were very beautiful and the coast like the pictures of the South Sea Islands; however, without the beautiful ladies which adorn the films taken of such parts by the people of Hollywood. Many of them had turned naturalists out there as wild life abounds and the butterflies were well worth collecting. They had killed scorpions 10 inches long and there were many snakes about, some of a most poisonous type. In his letter to Mr. W. Bradford thanking him for the postal order from the Club, he mentions that he will have to drink the health of the members in Australian lager (ration of one bottle per week). He received letters from C. Wade (Middle East) and N. Rainbow (Royal Navy). In his airgraph to W.D. he says he was delighted at receiving a copy of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. Unfortunately, at the time of writing he was in hospital with dysentery, but was improving. The news had pleased them all out there. Concluding, he wished to be remembered to all friends at The Brewery.

A letter from Seaman H. M. Fallon has been received, in which he states he is one of our ex-transport workers and asked to be remembered to his old friends, Bert Edwards and Clem. G. Lewis. He asked for a HOP LEAF GAZETTE to be sent to him and this was done. Acknowledging receipt of the magazine, he says how much he and all the boys on board appreciated it.

P/O S. Brunson, writing from Aden to W.D., mentioned he had just received the March issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. In his opinion it was full of interesting reading and enjoyed by the

members of the mess. He also thought the Brewery had a lot of artistic talent these days and he thought the illustrations excellent. He was feeling very fit, but was a lot thinner owing to the great heat. Best wishes to all, he concludes.

L.A.C. L. Walker, writing from the Middle East, thanked Mr. Bradford and the Committee of the Club for the postal order sent him. He was feeling fit even though still in the desert. On rare occasions they had a game of cricket and swimming whenever they had a chance. Best wishes and sincere thoughts to all at The Brewery.

Gunner A. George, writing from North Africa to the Editor, wished to be remembered to all his old friends in the Union Room. He had been receiving THE HOP LEAF GAZETTES regularly and enjoyed the articles in them. He was keeping well and although it was very hot in the day it was intensely cold at night. Wine flows in plenty, but there was very little beer, though he did visit a distillery owned by a Mr. H. Carbonnel and he was allowed round the bottling department. He had a most happy time there. He had only seen one person from The Brewery out there and that was Bert Oxley.

L/Corporal A. C. Howman, writing from North Africa to Mr. H. Webb, says he was quite fit and well. The biggest worry out there were the flies and heat. He was by the Mediterranean, which was a consolation. He had visited Algiers and Tunis, but was not impressed with either town. Buying eggs and lemons from the Arabs was quite an amusing experience and you had to see that they did not overcharge you. The beer was very poor and he was practically a teetotaler. He asked for THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE to be sent to him and this has been done. He hoped all at The Brewery were fit and well, and he sent his kind regards to everyone here.

Sig. K. Solly, writing from the Middle East to Mr. P. Luker, was very pleased at just receiving a copy of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE. It was very hot in the desert and they had been on the "dusty trail" for a fortnight. The scenery is flat and devoid of vegetation save for a few hardy shrubs. Hordes of flies made their life anything but pleasant. Beer was scarce, but cigarettes plentiful. He had been on leave in Alexandria and he thought it a splendid place, and there were many places of interest to visit. To all his old associates he sent his good wishes.

A.C. K. Organ, writing to the Editor from somewhere in the Soudan, said the temperature soared to amazingly high levels, but they had a small swimming pool and a small cinema. Being a wireless operator he was on duty at all hours of the day and night,

but it was so arranged that they had 24 hours off every third day, when they tried to make up for lost sleep. Food and billets were good and they had a small canteen. Imagine his surprise on his first visit there to find our Light Pale Ale on sale. He wished to be remembered to all those in the cricket team and hoped to be playing again at Berkeley Avenue when this "lot" was over. In Egypt he had met L. F. Pitts, of the Catering Department. To all friends in the General Office he sent his kind regards. Mr. F. C. Hawkes has also received an airgraph from him.

Many of our old staff have visited us during the past three months and here are the names of some of them:—J. Clay, S. Gray, D. E. Beesley, Pilot Officer P. Paice, K. M. Johnson (after training in Canada), F. J. House, L. J. Martin, N. Tott (whom we congratulate on now being a proud father), R. A. Tozer, L. Fullbrook, K. Jenkins, R. C. Ayers, R. Wheeler (now in an O.C.T.U.), S. Collins, R. Huddy, H. Goatley, F. Pusey, E. Martin, G. Harding, G. Gigg, Capt. P. James and R. J. Griffin.

Congratulations to J. Martin on his recent marriage.

T. Howells was recently presented with a Long Service Bar to his medal by Lady Louis Mountbatten at a recent parade held in Reading of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Taffy Howells has completed over thirty years with this wonderful organisation.

Lieut. J. J. Cardwell, of the Royal Engineers, has been discharged from the Service owing to ill-health and is now back at the Brewery in the Surveyor's office. We all hope with his return to civilian life he will be soon restored to his normal state of health.

Mr. W. Wheeler, of the Beer Cellars Department, recently underwent a severe operation, and for a while was on the danger list owing to complications. However, he is now back at work and gradually regaining his strength. He pays a tribute to Battle Hospital, and says the treatment, together with the expert nursing received, he will never forget. In fact, no praise could be too high for the staff at the hospital for the way they looked after him and for that matter, all the other patients as well.

We welcome back to work three old members who have been on the retired list for some while, viz.: J. Cholwill, A. Grove and C. Major, all helping to keep the wheels of the Brewery turning, and they are all doing a good job of work for the old Firm.

We regret to record the death of Mr. H. Treadgold who had been in our employ for 18 years. Although he had been away for a while on the sick list his passing came as a great shock to all of us. We take this opportunity to express our deep sympathy to all relatives in their sad loss.

An interesting Lambourn wedding took place at St. Michael and All Angels' Church during August between Police Constable W. Dodds, of the Berkshire Constabulary stationed at Wantage, and Miss E. M. Staddon, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Staddon, of the "Lamb," Lambourn. Over 100 guests were present, and the event attracted a great deal of local interest. The opportunity is taken to wish the happy couple every success, good health and long life.

The following changes have taken place during the past few months, and to all we wish every success:—

Three Horse Shoes, Radnage (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mrs. R. Harry.

Off Licence, "Golden Ball," Owlsmoor (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. F. Parnwell.

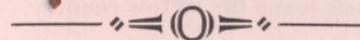
The Iron Duke, Crowthorne (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. H. Hawkins.

Home Sweet Home, Roke (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. W. E. C. Smith.

The Grenadier, Whitley, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. M. Long.

The Three Swans, Hungerford (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. M. N. Finelli.

We regret the death of Mr. H. H. Durrant in July last. He was the tenant of the "Carnarvon Arms," Whitway, in 1930, and left in 1933, then taking over the tenancy of the "Gun," Wash Common, which he held until October, 1938.



A MOST COMFORTABLE AND ATTRACTIVE SALOON.



The above photograph is of the Saloon Bar at "The Grenadier," Basingstoke Road, Reading, so ably managed by Mrs. Long and her daughter.

COMMANDER H. D. SIMONDS, R.N.

We are pleased to record that Commander H. D. Simonds, R.N., returned safely to this country in June just as our previous issue was going to press. He has been engaged on important Admiralty work in America and Canada since September, 1939.

A hearty welcome was extended to him from his very wide circle of friends.

We were also greatly joyed to learn that Mrs. H. D. Simonds and family have since reached England after an uneventful voyage.

Following their long sojourn on "the other side" and their experience of the rigours of a Canadian winter, they must be happy indeed to resume their home life in this country.

NATIONAL SAVINGS.

H. AND G. SIMONDS' GROUP AWARDED CERTIFICATE OF HONOUR.

The H. and G. Simonds' Group of National Savings has been in existence since 1924, and under the very able secretaryship of Mr. A. H. Hopkins has achieved very great success.

The following Certificate is indicative of the good work being done :—

This
Certificate of Honour

is awarded to

**H. & G. SIMONDS Ltd.,
SAVINGS GROUP**

in recognition of special achievement
during the

WINGS FOR VICTORY
National Savings Campaign, 1943.

I extend my thanks to all concerned in
this important National Service.

(Signed) ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR,
Secretary of State for Air.



FIRE FIGHTERS.

"HEELAS" STAFF CHALLENGE CUP.



"A" TEAM.



"B" TEAM.

The Brewery Fire Brigade were invited to enter this competition, and in the Four Men Trailer Pump Drill won the second prize (silver medals), doing their work in the excellent time of 65 seconds.

"A" Team was represented by Fireman T. Fisher, L/Fireman R. Smith, 2/O Lovejoy, Fireman A. Josey, with Chief Officer E. A.

Tigwell; and "B" Team by Fireman A. Franklin, L/Fireman E. Kingston, Fireman J. Tate, Fireman Driver Brench.

With "A" Team is Capt. A. S. Drewe and C/O E. A. Tigwell, also Fireman Driver R. West, who gave valuable help to both teams.

THE LATE MR. JOSEY.



Mr. Josey is seen sitting on the left of the photograph.

There recently passed away, in his 95th year, Mr. Josey who, for many years, acted as a traveller for H. & G. Simonds, Ltd. His old-world courtesy and great goodness of heart won the respect and esteem of all who came in contact with him. In 1881 he was out on his rounds at Waltham when there was a very heavy fall of snow and he was advised to hurry home. He consulted his good steed "Tommy" who neighed knowingly. Mr. Josey took the tip and made straight away for home where he arrived none too soon, for the storm was one of the worst experienced in this country.

WEDDING OF MR. PETER HAMMOND.

Mr. Peter Egerton Hammond, son of Mr. Hammond, of the Branch Department, who is now in the army, was married some time ago at Christchurch, Reading. The bride was Miss Joan G. Attwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Attwood, of "Northside," Worting Road, Basingstoke. The bridesmaids were Miss Peggy Hammond (sister of the bridegroom) and Miss Barbara Attwood (sister of the bride). Mr. Mark Hammond (brother of the bridegroom) was best man.

The reception was held at Parslow's Restaurant, and the honeymoon was spent at Bournemouth.

Mr. Hammond, who was in the Accounts Department at the Brewery, figured prominently on the tennis courts and cricket field.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

THE INFANTILE SEX.

My husband is like most men—very childish where women are concerned.—*Wife at a North London court.*

* * * *

“Does your uniform fit?” asked the sergeant.

“Perfectly,” said the recruit.

“And your cap?”

“Perfectly.”

“And your boots?”

“Perfectly.”

“Lumme, man, you must be deformed.”—*Tit-Bits.*

* * * *

“We shall be glad,” wrote the firm to the Ministry of Labour, “if you can assist us in retaining this man for a little longer. He is the only man left in the firm, and he is carrying on with fifteen girls.”

* * * *

The lorry driver, pulled up somewhere in Yorkshire by the policeman waving his light, was told to get down.

“What’s t’matter?” he asked as the constable led him towards the tail board.

“That’s t’matter,” said the man in blue. “Wheer’s thi red lamp?”

“Nay, nivver mind t’lamp,” suddenly shouted the driver. “Wheer’s t’ruddy trailer?”

* * * *

HOWLERS.

There is nothing more enjoyable than a ride on a well boiled icicle (well oiled bicycle).

The population of London is very dense.

They gave William IV a lovely funeral; it took six men to carry the beer.

A gentleman is a man who gives up his seat to a lady in a public convenience.

Queen Victoria was the longest queen on the throne.

A vacuum is an empty space where the Pope lives.

A Soviet is a cloth used by waiters in hotels.

The handsome young man never wore anything else but white gloves and spats.

The Royal Mint is what the King puts on his roast lamb.

The temperate zone is the region where no one drinks too much.

The Nabob imprisoned a lot of Englishmen in the Black Hole of Calcutta with only one little widow.

Wolsey saved his life by dying on the way from York to London.

The mountaineers climbed Vesuvius only to find the creator smoking at the top.

To remove air from a flask, first fill the flask with water, then tip the water out and put the cork in quickly.

Tadpoles eat one another and become frogs.

Henry VIII had an abess on his knee which made walking very difficult.

Some instruments used in an orchestra are viles, cellars, trumpets, hornets, baboons, old boys and bubble bases.

Marconi is used for making puddings.

Edward III would have been King of France if his mother had been a man.

A draft-clerk is a man who works in a bank and opens and shuts the doors when customers come in and go out.

Alexander the Great was born in the absence of his parents.

Mussolini is a sort of material used for ladies’ stockings.

Queen Victoria was very brave; she sat on the thorn for more than fifty years.

The Chiltern Hundreds are things you see with a microscope in cheese.

The Papal Bull is the father of the cow kept at the Vatican to supply the Pope’s children with milk.

Finally James II gave birth to a son, so the people turned him off the throne.

To-day many people are in gaol for committing suicide under the influence of drink.

There are many beautiful walks in the neighbourhood. First you pass the cemetery and shortly after you come to the lunatics' home.

Contralto is a low sort of music that only ladies sing.

The jockey lost two of his teeth when his horse fell and had to be destroyed.

Hell hath no fury like a woman's corn.

Dew is caused by the revolving of the earth. It revolves once every twenty-four hours, and because of the tremendous pace it perspires freely.

The inhabitants of Moscow are called Mosquitoes.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

READY RESPONSE AT THE BREWERY.

At the Brewery there was a ready response to the appeal for blood transfusion, particularly among the older members of the staff who set a very fine example and one that others might well try to emulate. Below is given a full list of the donors:—

Men Blood Donors.—Capt. L. A. Simonds, Messrs. E. S. Phipps, A. G. Richardson, J. H. Wadhams, A. W. C. Bowyer, S. A. Hinton, E. Mansbridge, L. Harvie, H. Neighbour, J. Green, J. B. Doe, R. Broad, R. Appleton, J. Whiteway, R. N. Crocker, S. Winterbourne, F. Brench, A. Butt, A. L. Delement, H. Hinxman, W. F. Nicholls, J. Ashley, A. Smith, G. Mylum, C. Tame, C. Hole, L. Kirby, L. Farrance, E. Gosney, E. Cordery, E. Blackford, E. West, E. Moore, W. Painter, W. Gibson, S. A. Harbor, F. Shipton, F. Brown, F. Hunt, G. Potter, C. B. Cox, H. Shepherd, E. Pritchard, H. H. Stevens, E. Randall, S. Crew, E. Kingston, F. Mundy, W. Venner, E. Holder, N. Parsons.

Women Blood Donors.—Miss N. Sharpe, Mrs. M. Elliott, Miss D. Tunmore, Mrs. L. M. Farr, Mrs. F. D. Collis, Mrs. H. Griffin, Mrs. L. M. Morgan, Miss D. J. Probyn, Mrs. V. Brown, Miss J. Startup, Mrs. F. Freeth, Mrs. E. Wise, Miss L. Levison, Mrs. L. Dance, Miss J. Curtis, Mrs. Huggins, Mrs. J. Adey, Miss P. M. Hammond, Miss D. Andrews, Mrs. Q. Evans, Mrs. D. Turner, Miss O. Shurmer, Mrs. C. Alexander, Miss P. Pickett, Miss J. Bernard, Mrs. A. Jackson.

NOTABILITIES AT THE BREWERY.



How many absentees to-day?

BRANCHES.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

The opening of the Plymouth "Wings for Victory" Week attracted large crowds to the city, and the thousands of smiling faces watched the large parade of the various Services and Organisations headed by the Royal Marine Band. In the procession were units from Allied Forces. It was a real Royal Air Force Day and the salute was taken by the Rt. Hon. S. M. Bruce, Australian High Commissioner in London, and former Prime Minister, who was supported by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Ald. W. J. Modley), the Lady Mayoress (Lady Astor, M.P.), Mr. L. Hore-Belisha (M.P. for Devonport), Col. H. Guest (M.P. for Drake Division), the Commander-in-Chief (Admiral of the Fleet Sir Charles Forbes) and Lady Fobres. Also the Garrison Commander and the Officer Commanding the Royal Air Force for the area.

The challenge to Oxford created intense interest, and by exceeding their target of one-and-a-half million pounds Plymouth are very proud of the response made.

The salute on the final day of the "Wings for Victory" Week was taken by Major-General Ira C. Eaker, Chief of the U.S. Army Air Force in Britain.

The happy news has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Campling that their son, although reported missing for so long, is a prisoner of war. Mr. Campling is our tenant of the Star Inn, Liverton, Newton Abbot, and his son (Mr. F. S. Campling) was very popular in the local cricket world, having played for Devon County and Torquay, and has on several occasions played with our Mr. J. E. G. Rowland.

We much regret to announce the death of Mr. C. J. Latham, of the Off-Licence, Fleet Street, Devonport, who was a valued customer of the Tamar Brewery for over forty years, and we are very grieved at losing such an old friend. We sympathise with his family in their great loss.

We are sorry to record the passing of Mr. H. Heathman, of the Dartmoor Inn, Lydford, after a long illness. He leaves a widow and son to mourn his loss.

A bottle of our famous "S.B." realised the sum of £3 at Pensilva (Cornwall) in aid of the "Wings for Victory" Fund. A most excellent cause for the finest beer.

A very pretty wedding was solemnised recently at St. Gabriel's Church, Plymouth, when the contracting parties were Mr. Reg. Luff (for some years now a member of our clerical staff) and Miss Audrey Broom of the Expense Accounts Department, H. M. Dockyard.

The bride wore a most becoming gown of white figured satin with veil secured by orange blossom, and carried a shower bouquet of Madonna lilies. She was attended by two bridesmaids. The best man was Mr. F. A. Luff, B.E.M., brother of the bridegroom, and the two ushers were Mr. E. Hingston and Mr. P. Witchell, both of whom are in the same department as the bridegroom at the Brewery.

After the reception the happy couple travelled to London for their honeymoon, and we convey to them the most sincere wishes of everyone for a long and happy life. The numerous presents included a canteen of cutlery and a handsome electric light standard from the staff of the Tamar Brewery.

News has reached us that Mr. C. R. Holman, who our many readers will remember as one of our outdoor representatives, has been promoted to Lieut.-Commander, R.N.R. He is serving with the Fleet Air Arm at Gibraltar, and everyone is really delighted to learn of the well-earned and steady promotions he has received.

Mr. Holman had his civilian "wings" before the war. He little thought during his training that he would one day lead a Squadron of Fliers in the Royal Navy!

We are happy to record that Mr. R. J. Dunstan of our office staff who is serving with the Royal Air Force is now a Pilot Officer (Air Gunner) and was looking quite fit and well when he called in to see us just lately. Our very best wishes are with him.

The D.F.M. has been won by a member of our office staff (Sergeant W. Waycott, A.G., R.A.F.), and we are all very delighted to know of the granting of this great honour. He has since been promoted Pilot Officer, and all his colleagues send hearty congratulations on his promotion.

We have heard from the following employees at present serving in H.M. Forces :—

Staff/Sergeant R. Jagers, R.A.S.C., who is in the Middle East, and he writes to say he is safe and well, and wishes to be remembered to his colleagues at the Tamar Brewery, Devonport.

Signalman W. F. Germain, Royal Signals, serving in the Middle East, writes that he is quite happy and well.

Corporal C. V. Churchward is serving on the General Staff, Headquarters, at Malta, G.C. He has been there for three years, and is well, and will be able to tell us some stories when he returns from the George Cross Island.

Driver P. Fitzgerald, R.A., British North African Forces, is getting on very well, but says that he would much prefer hauling beer in Devon and Cornwall than a gun in North Africa!

Leading Radio Mechanic F. J. Turner, R.N., writes from Sicily that he has been half-way round the world. He said that in Sicily he has had "Simonds' Farsons Ale, and I can tell you that it was good to taste a little ale again, even if it was only one bottle per man per week."

We have received a visit from Corporal C. Sammels, R.M., who has returned wounded from Pantellaria. He is in great spirits and tells us that it was a Royal Marine who was the first man to land in Sicily. He said that when he was at Tunis His Majesty The King had 21 guns as a salute, but when Sammels returned to Plymouth at night during an air raid he had over a thousand! Corporal Sammels won the Light Heavy-weight Championship of the Plymouth Division of the Royal Marines before he started fighting abroad.

The following changes have taken place since our last contribution to the GAZETTE :—

The Seven Stars, Dartmouth (Mr. F. W. Bullock to Mr. W. J. Peters).

The Ashburton Arms, West Charleton, near Kingsbridge (Mrs. B. M. Isbell to Mr. E. Bullock).

The Dartmouth Inn, Newton Abbot (Mr. F. A. V. Magner to Mr. W. Harris).

The White Hart, Torquay (Mr. L. Wakeham to Mr. S. Bray).

We wish all the new licensees every success in their new undertakings.

PORTSMOUTH.

ON THE MAP.

Councillor Leonard Glanville, who as chairman of a special committee of the City Council will be largely responsible for putting Southsea "on the map" as a seaside and health resort after the war, has been telling local Rotarians something about plans for reconstruction of the city. At present, of course, Southsea is but a shadow of its former self. Famous shopping centres have been swept away, landmarks have been removed, piers and gardens devastated. But, as Mr. Glanville, in his cheery, optimistic style predicts, Southsea will live again, and not only that, but there is every reason why it should one day rank as one of the most attractive coast resorts in the British Isles. It has remarkable natural resources but the trouble, said Mr. Glanville, is that in the past these resources had not been taken advantage of.

AN URGENT NEED.

Outlining some of the attractions most needed, Mr. Glanville spoke of new and wide thoroughfares, a huge conference hall to accommodate such assemblies as, for instance, the T.U.C., a sports stadium, winter gardens, music and entertainments. But, he added, with emphasis, it is no use providing all these unless good and adequate hotel accommodation is also available. The urgent need of fully licensed, up-to-date, first-class hotels has in the past greatly handicapped efforts to modernise Southsea and attract visitors. Compared with other resorts the paucity of such highly necessary accommodation has always been a subject of comment. After all, seaside resorts are a business subject to keen competition, and Southsea's aim must be to offer the best value for money. Portsmouth will always be first and foremost a naval and dockyard town, but if future prosperity is to be achieved its nest egg, Southsea, must be placed high in the list of first-rate holiday resorts.

ANCIENT ALDERMEN.

Apropos the election of Councillor Ellis Jones to the Portsmouth City Council Aldermanic Bench, it is interesting to recall that the term Alderman was first used in the year 1627 under the Charter of Charles I. The term "Mayor's Assistant" then fell into disuse, that of Aldermen being substituted. Aldermen were elected for life, and the whole management of the affairs of the Corporation was vested in them and the Mayor. Any vacancy on the Aldermanic Bench was filled by a majority of the other Aldermen nominating and electing one of the burgesses.

"THE NUT."

Although many of Portsmouth's famous old hostelries have now disappeared, happily a few remain to remind us of bygone days. One of them is the Keppel's Head, more familiarly known throughout the Navy as "The Nut." A story concerning the original building which was destroyed by fire in 1803 and afterwards rebuilt, is worth recalling. Previous to the Naval educational establishment being transferred to Greenwich young Naval officers were examined for promotion in Portsmouth Dockyard where their preliminary training was undergone. "The Nut," being so conveniently situated, was the rendezvous of these budding Nelsons who succeeded in making the place famous in more ways than one! At the hotel was a typical Dickensian waiter who had the reputation of being a remarkable psychologist. He possessed, it is recorded, the uncanny knack of being able to accurately forecast the position his officer customers would occupy in their forthcoming examinations. "You will be plucked, sir," or "You will get a second class, sir," he would answer when asked for his prediction by an aspirant for advancement and almost invariably he was correct. Years afterwards he confessed that he gauged the result of the examinations by the number of hours spent by candidates at "The Nut" and the quantity of brandy and soda consumed by the different individuals upon whom he so assiduously attended! Anyhow, so highly esteemed were the hotel and its proprietor in those days that, in 1862, Naval officers of the port presented the latter with a handsome service of silver plate.

A WORTHY EFFORT.

The licensed trade of Portsmouth is justly proud of its vigorous savings drive during "Wings for Victory" Week, and the amount saved approximated £1,200. One Southsea hotel was responsible for £324 16s. 6d. of the total. Not a bad effort.

A GOEBBELS STORY.

Have you heard this one? It may not be new, but at any rate it appeared recently in one of the Free Norwegian newspapers and was translated by a Portsmouth reader. Goebbels was walking through the Unter Den Linden when he met a little boy carrying a basket. Asked what the basket contained, the boy replied, "Little Nazis." Goebbels mentioned the incident to Hitler who was so impressed that he decided to give the boy a medal. A fortnight later the boy was traced and visited by Churchill's "Corporal." The boy was playing with the kittens. "What are those sweet animals?" queried the august one, and the boy replied, "Pussy cats, of course!" "But," persisted Hitler, "a fortnight ago you said they were Nazis." "They were blind then," came the prompt reply.

BRISTOL.

Bristol's Own Fund, for local members of H.M. Forces, is no mere municipal effort under the patronage of a few chosen City Fathers and a central committee. Its object—to provide comforts for all its serving sons or daughters—is one which has become very deeply rooted in every section of the community, and its sturdy growth from year to year is an outstanding example of what can be achieved by the unified endeavour of every citizen.

The Cumberland Hotel, Totterdown, is but one small part, typical of the whole. Our tenant, Mr. W. Hurford, has always been one of its staunchest supporters, and the generous and consistent help given by his customers, under the leadership of Mr. Will Tremlett as organiser, has given pleasure and pride to hundreds of those who are cheerfully facing every hazard of war to-day so that the world of to-morrow may live.

During the past year over 350 5/- Postal Orders have been sent by them to the "Cumberland Boys" overseas. One airgraph acknowledgment concluded: "I could just go a few pints of Simonds' as it is so hot here."

Another ran: "When I read the Cumberland on the back of the envelope it made my mouth water for a pint of good old Simonds' beer. You are doing a fine job looking after us service lads. Keep it up." A well deserved tribute, Totterdown, from the men who are making history day by day and recreating our Empire anew to their own lasting glory and for the future happiness and security of mankind. No endeavour, no contribution in cash, or kind, can ever repay this debt.

Keep it up "Cumberland" and all those other "Simonds' Centres" where sportsmen foregather in this Bristol of 1943, where amid much that is battle-scarred and grim, we now discern with ever-growing faith the complete and final vindication and preservation of those principles of life which we, and those who fight with us, count as of more value to us and posterity than life itself.

Bristol's Own Fund has already cheered a thousand tired hearts and given a fresh impetus to mind and body. It is pleasing to know that our "Hop Leaf" family in Bristol is contributing in a variety of ways towards such a noble cause.

THE LAMB HOTEL, BATH.

We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. W. G. Powell, our widely esteemed tenant of the above house, after a brief illness. Mr. Powell and his family for over five years had made the "Lamb" one of the most popular houses in Bath, a centre of cheerful and unselfish endeavour for civilians and the services alike. One of the old "1914-18 Brigade," he had a wide circle of friends, being ever ready to help the "underdog" on his way.

His courageous and cheery outlook on life, in adversity or success, enabled him and his family to make of the "Lamb" something which no predecessor, or even we ourselves, could have visualised, and we are glad to render a well deserved tribute to his own personal efforts to this success. He will be greatly missed by many, and our deepest sympathies are extended to Mrs. Powell and her family in their great loss.

Her part in the "Lamb" has always been an active one, and it is therefore only fitting that she should now be given the opportunity to carry on the family tradition. We have sound reasons to believe she will do so in every way.

Other changes of tenants recently are :—

The Sceptre Hotel, Bristol (Mr. James Cord).

The Punch Bowl, Bristol (Mr. W. E. Burnell).

Our best wishes to each for a long and successful "Hop Leaf" association.

LUDGERSHALL.

The following interesting letter has been received by our Manager from Bombardier T. A. Dennis, who is serving in a Field Regiment of Royal Artillery with the Central Mediterranean Forces :—

"August 2nd, 1943.

"DEAR MR. SHRIMPTON,

"Just a few lines letting you know we are going great guns again, only this time in Sicily. The Regiment took part in the initial landing on the beaches. Tidy old capers! So far we have been doing well, and the Regiment ranks very high.

"The Sicilians and Italians are starving and the good-natured Tommies manage to give them something.

"Sicily in summer is decidedly hot and would be considered a heat wave in England.

"The final impression of Sicily is one of intense sunshine, of rugged mountains, of vine and olive clad slopes, of torrents and of dry ravines, of white roads winding steeply up hills and down valleys, of peasants and mules, of large ports and cities, and of small, forgotten mediaeval towns with narrow streets, perched on hillsides.

"There is, of course, Etna, still an *active* volcano.

"Sanitation is primitive and there are plenty of diseases to catch unless you look out to your hygiene. Malaria is prevalent, and we wear veils at night to protect us from mosquitoes.

"Well, I will not bore you any more about Sicily. However, it is quite a change from *desert sands*.

"Hoping this letter finds you pretty fit and also the staff. Kind regards to Mr. and Mrs. Thornbery and all the boys. Unfortunately there is no beer here, only wine; and then it is a case of first troops there. We have had our share.

"I hope by the time you receive this Sicily is entirely in our hands."

GIBRALTAR.

THE HON. E. M. B. COTTRELL, O.B.E., J.P.

LINK WITH LEADING READING FIRM.

The award of the Order of the British Empire to The Hon. E. M. B. Cottrell, O.B.E., J.P., for public services in Gibraltar is a fitting recognition of voluntary labours by one of the most popular residents on the Rock, possessing as he does a long and intimate knowledge of Gibraltarian social and business life.

Mr. Cottrell is a Member of the City Council of Gibraltar, and was appointed British Vice-Consul at Algeciras in 1941. He is a grandson of the late Major W. F. Cottrell, who at one time was Garrison Adjutant and Quarter-Master at Gibraltar and subsequently Military Representative to Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., at Aldershot, and later on, Manager at their London Branch from 1897 to 1898.

Mr. Cottrell has been associated with Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., for many years, having acted as their sole agent for Gibraltar

since 1928. He was the proprietor of the old established business of M. Baglietto, Wine, Spirit and Beer Merchants, and enjoyed an extensive trade with the Navy and Shore establishments on the Rock. The local interests of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., were transferred to Mr. Cottrell, who subsequently merged his business with that of Messrs. Saccone & Speed, Ltd., who now act as sole agents to Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., for Gibraltar.

SALISBURY.

READING "WINGS FOR VICTORY" WEEK, 1943.

The June issue of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE reproduced an original drawing by Mr. W. Giddy, under the title "Wings over the Navy." This picture was specially drawn and presented by him for auction at the above effort.

It was therefore gratifying to him when he was informed that his picture realised £800. Prior to this he produced two smaller pictures for Reading's "Warships' Week," which brought in £250.

This inspired him to create what he regards the best effort of all his naval pictures, "Wings over the Navy." At a very early age Mr. Giddy resided in H.M. Dockyard at Devonport and therefore had all the opportunities he could wish for to see H.M. ships being built and fitted out, dry-docked, and lying at the jetties. From that time he made the drawing of ships his greatest hobby, and so it still remains.

In the drawing portrayed in THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE, Mr. Giddy depicts the "King George V" class of battleship, the two latest being H.M.S. *Howe* and H.M.S. *Anson*, but he well remembers the *Anson's* predecessor (built in 1884). He has been on board her on many occasions and recollects that the ship's pet was a bear. This, however, was many years ago.

Mr. Giddy is very proud that his hobby has been the means of contributing £1,050 towards Reading's efforts and the national cause.

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QUEEN'S HOTEL,
MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY.
Telephone No. : Newbury 47.

ST. GEORGE & DRAGON HOTEL,
WARGRAVE, BERKS.
Telephone No. : Wargrave 15.

SHIP HOTEL,
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Telephone No. : Reading 302911.

SUNNINGDALE HOTEL,
SUNNINGDALE, BERKS.
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WATERSIDE HOTEL,
THREE BRANCHES, PAIGNTON.
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