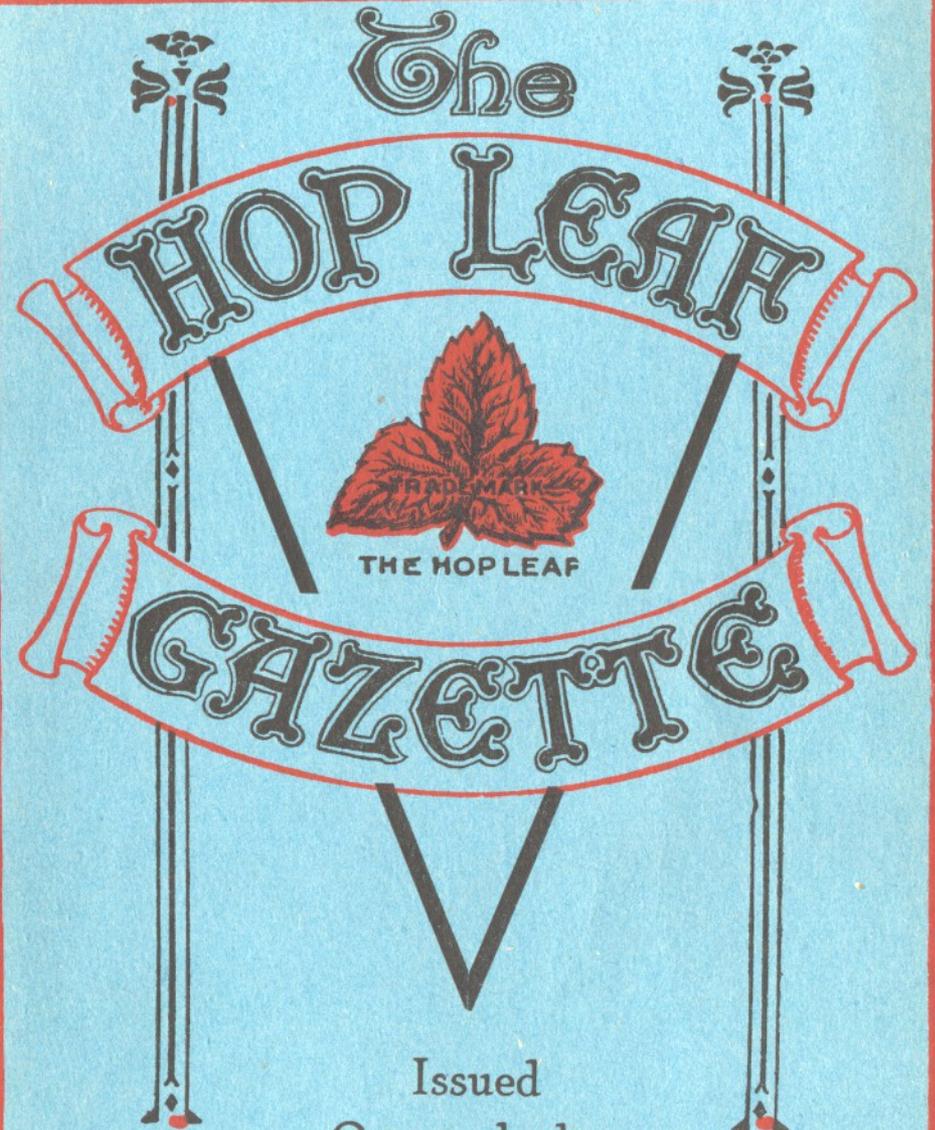


VOL. XIX.

SEPTEMBER, 1945.

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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. XIX.

SEPTEMBER, 1945.

No. 4

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



MR. L. E. BROWN.

In this issue the limelight of publicity is turned upon Mr. L. E. Brown, assistant cashier at Reading.

Mr. Brown has spent the whole of his business life at the Brewery, where he made his debut in June, 1917, as a junior clerk in the Delivery Department. Even in those early days, when his work mainly consisted of checking the loads on the drays, he earned the confidence of the head of his department through his reliability. In May, 1921, he was moved to the General Department and was employed upon the Sales Books for which his earlier work had fitted him. After a few years, he was promoted to the position of temporary cashier to the South Berks Brewery Company, which still retained its separate identity, although the staff were merged in the parent Company. Subsequently, upon a reorganisation of that office, Mr. Brown was transferred to ledger work, consisting of Journals and Accounts. When a separate Accounts Department was formed in 1938, he was transferred to that office, where he was engaged upon general work and Railway accounts, which require special ability and care.

Throughout all the changes in his occupation, Mr. Brown has applied himself assiduously to the task in hand, with a singleness of purpose which marks a man who is devoted to his work and desires to give of his best. Such characteristics, which have become all too rare in business houses during the trying years of war, bring their own reward and when a new appointment to the Cashier's staff became necessary in April, 1944, Mr. Brown was selected to fill the position of an Assistant Cashier, which he now holds. In carrying out his manifold duties, Mr. Brown's all-round knowledge of Brewery routine and his past experience have equipped him for the work. Scrupulously polite and attentive, he observes the golden rule that "the customer is always right" and faces the many queries and enquiries which arise from the other side of the counter, with the stoicism and patience which are so great an adjunct in dealing with various situations. Moreover, in handling all cash received through the post and ensuring that the appropriate accounts are credited, the strictest accuracy is demanded.

Mr. Brown was exceptionally successful in his handling of large numbers of United States Military Units who daily called at the Brewery for supplies of beer. Oftentimes considerable tact and persuasion was needed in satisfying this new clientele, particularly when the quantity available was small and it was necessary to arrange an equitable distribution. The enormity of the job needed to be witnessed to be understood but Mr. Brown earned full marks in dealing with difficult situations.

To this general biography of the subject of our frontispiece it should be added that Mr. Brown does not work by the clock, as he is always ready to put in an extra half hour before, or after, business hours, when necessary.

During the war Mr. Brown acted as Air Raid Warden at the Brewery and in the Reading A.R.P. He is an intensive amateur gardener and produces some good vegetables, of which he is justifiably proud.

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.)

NIGHTINGALES SING IN NIJMEGEN.

The "Aldershot" of B.L.A., Nijmegen, connecting Occupied Germany with its long line of communications to the rest of Europe and Britain, is alive with uniforms and streams of lorries taking supplies to the Army of Occupation. Heavily shelled by the Germans during their retreat, it is but a few miles from battered Arnhem and devastated Cleve and Emmerich. In spite of the warlike atmosphere of the town of soldiers and signposts, Lieut. Yorke, of High Street, Stainland, Halifax, Yorks, area officer for NAAFI, has found a spot of peaceful solitude. In his mess on the outskirts of Nijmegen, he is sung to sleep at night by nightingales. "It reminds me of the old B.B.C. efforts to relay the bird," he said. "It took them all their time to get one nightingale to perform. We have several in our garden here competing with each other in sheer beauty of sound, non-stop."

YOUR SAVINGS : OFFICIAL.

Sir Harold Mackintosh, Chairman of the National Savings Committee, in a speech in London recently pointed out that all political parties have expressed their desire to protect the people's savings. He added: This is borne out in practice by the fact that during the twenty-nine years since the National Savings Movement was started there have been no fewer than fourteen Governments and each and every one has supported the National Savings Movement and honoured every penny invested in National Savings. That it will continue to be so in the future is beyond any doubt, for the security and honour of the State are involved in maintaining British Government securities as the finest in the world.

CIRENCESTER LICENSED VICTUALLERS' HELP FOR RED CROSS.

In the one year and nine months since the Cirencester Licensed Victuallers' Group was organised by our Mr. E. H. Kelly, the group's contributions have amounted to no less than £2,666 12s. 3d., contributed at the time when the calls of Red Cross funds were greatest—a record which few if any similar groups can have equalled and one of which all concerned may contemplate with satisfaction.

To all who have helped, Mr. Kelly tenders his warmest thanks.

READING CHANNEL ISLANDS SOCIETY.

The following letter speaks for itself :—

"Dear Sir, Now that the liberation of the Channel Isles is complete, the time will arrive very shortly when we shall have to wind up our little Society.

"Before doing so, however, my Committee desire to place on record the deep appreciation we hold for the firm you represent, and to thank you for all the kindnesses you have shown to our Society over the last five years.

"Through your generosity in letting us have your ground for the children's sports, your donations, and various other kindnesses, you have made it possible for us to raise money for the benefit of our unfortunate countrymen and women during the years of occupation.

"We wish therefore to place on record our sincere thanks to you, and your fellow directors, and wish your firm every prosperity for the future.

"One day, who can say, but that we shall have the products of your well-known firm on sale in the Islands.

"In conclusion, may I add my own personal thanks for the courtesy always shown to me when approaching you on behalf of the Society."

Yours faithfully,

For, and on behalf of the Committee,

E. J. BRICKNELL,
Chairman.

"MOST CHRISTIANITY IN THE PUBS."

"I find more practical Christianity in the taverns than I do in the church," said the Rev. John S. Davies, of Harden, Yorkshire,

in his farewell sermon. He is known as the "parson who likes a glass of beer," and is leaving because he feels he has been in the parish too long.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE MASTER.

At the close of an address given by Dwight L. Moody, a highly educated minister said to him coldly, "Excuse me, but you made at least eleven mistakes in your grammar to-night." Mr. Moody smiled and said, pleasantly, "Probably I did. My early education was very faulty. But I am using all the grammar I know in the service of the Master. What are you doing with yours?"

ST. DUNSTAN'S DART BOX APPEAL.

The organiser of this Appeal hopes that these boxes will be placed in Licensed Houses and Clubs and he is receiving ready assistance in this direction from our Estates Department. The scheme is being run on the same lines as the Red Cross one, which did such wonderful work for their Prisoners of War Fund. The object is a fine one and worthy of the generous support of all Licensed Houses and Clubs.

NAAFI BALANCE SHEET.

At the half-yearly meeting of the Council of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes, the NAAFI Balance Sheet as at 2nd September, 1944, and the Revenue Account for the fifth year of the war were presented. The turnover for the fifth year of the war was £156,000,000. The Revenue Account shews that after payment of Rebate and Discount there was a net revenue for the year of £5,301,482, which has been disposed of as follows :—

NAAFI/ENSA entertainment	...	...	£3,600,080
Free issue overseas of sports goods, newspapers, etc.	...	...	130,584
Grants to Service Welfare and Benevolent Funds	...	...	1,570,000
Balance carried forward	...	...	818
			<hr/>
			£5,301,482

OUR SPORTS GROUND.

Our Sports Ground has indeed proved a boon and blessing to men—and women, during these summer months. The cricket pitch has been kept in very fine condition and wielders of the willow have been delighted to play on it. Many and varied teams have been granted the use of the ground—it has also been used for other good causes—and that this sporting gesture on the part of the Directors, has been greatly appreciated is evidenced by the

numerous letters—including one from New Zealand cricketers—Mr. W. Bradford has received extolling the excellence of the ground and its pleasant surroundings. The Brewery XI have had a successful season and Mr. J. W. Jelley, the hard-working Hon. Secretary of the Cricket Section, is mainly responsible for this happy state of things. It has been a treat to play on the well-kept tennis courts. A number of matches were arranged and many hard fought and enjoyable games resulted. Both in regard to cricket and tennis, teas were provided and those ladies, particularly Miss Prosser, Miss Young and Mrs. Greenaway, who kindly waited on us, are deserving of, and certainly have, our great gratitude.

Our Sports Ground is a very fine one and it has been put to very fine use. May we for many years "Play up, and Play the Game" on it!

BANK HOLIDAY FLOWER SHOW.

The Vegetable and Flower Show, arranged on Monday, August 6th, for members of our Social and Recreation Club and held on the Sports Ground, was a great success. The show of vegetables, cut flowers, etc., was highly creditable to all concerned. In the Ladies' Section there was ample evidence that they know how to cook and use the needle. Children sent some choice wild flowers and showed specimens of their needlework. A show like this means a lot of hard work for someone and Mr. W. Bradford, the ubiquitous Hon. Secretary is to be congratulated on the results of his labours.

MR. W. BRADFORD'S NEW APPOINTMENT.

The Board of Directors have appointed Mr. Walter Bradford, Chief Cashier, and his many friends at the Brewery will join with me in heartiest congratulations. Mr. Bradford has the great gift of handling difficult situations with rare tact and ability, always paying scrupulous attention to detail. His popularity in the Firm is largely due to his kindly and courteous manner and his genial recognition of friends, wherever he may meet them. Although Mr. Bradford's appointment may mean the curtailment of some of his many activities, we sincerely hope he will be able to continue his social work which he has ever carried out with so much satisfaction to all concerned.

OURS IS THE FUTURE.

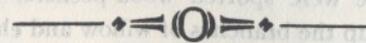
Today, an immense responsibility is ours. We are the custodians of the future. We are at the birth of a new age. But what will we bring forth—an age that will fulfil the high aspirations of

mankind, or another era of strife in which the forces of evil may yet triumph? The answer may well depend on the efforts of each one of us during the next decade, for unless we all—individually as well as collectively—contribute something towards the solution of the major problems of our times, there can be little hope for our civilization. There is the problem of ensuring freedom from want . . . of finding continued employment for millions. There is the problem of discharging the nation's debt . . . of maintaining the stability of our currency. There is the problem of fulfilling our pledges to those who look to us for succour—without endangering the interests of those who come after us. These are the problems. How can we, as individual members of our nation, help to solve them? The answer is manifold.

We can help by continuing to set an example to the world for courage, common sense and fundamental decency in peace, just as we did in war. We can help by thinking clearly and realistically and by acting upon the decisions born of that clear and realistic thinking, in a calm, unprovocative manner. We can help by continued saving until the dangers of inflation are past. We can help by remembering that those who do not agree with us are not necessarily against us—that *our* beliefs and *our* ideas are not the only beliefs and ideas that are right, though they may be best for us.

Finally, and perhaps this is the most important point of all to be remembered, we can help by applying to all considerations of a national character, that self-same pride and loving interest we take in ensuring the continued welfare of our own families.

The age-long history of our islands is one of danger and difficulty boldly faced. In our hour of need, we have always found the answers to our difficulties deep in our hearts. It is there that we must look for the answers today—for ours is the future and the future is in our hearts.



NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

AUTUMNAL BEAUTY.

LIFE AND COLOUR BY THE RIVERSIDE.

"NO SPRING, NOR SUMMER BEAUTY HATH SUCH GRACE

AS I HAVE SEEN IN ONE AUTUMNAL FACE."

Thus wrote the poet, and as I sat by the riverside, with colour all around, I thought, how true were those words! It was the last day in August and I was fishing near Mapledurham. The purple loosestrife was still in bloom and at my feet little mimulus plants were making a brave show. The trees were displaying their rich autumnal dresses of red and gold and bronze, and as the warm sun played on the rich colouring it showed up the beauty of the varied shades to perfection.

DRAGON-FLIES BY THE DOZEN.

Birds and insects added colour to the scene. There were dragon-flies by the dozen, large and small, cruising to and fro hunting down weaker insects. Two settled on my rod and as their great eyes blazed at me I noticed their strong grasping legs ever ready to seize some helpless insect. They are indeed resplendent flies and I watched, with wonder, a dainty Demoiselle, with brilliant blue body and brown patches on his wings, as he preened himself within a few inches of my eyes. Though they look so fierce, dragon-flies are quite harmless and do not sting.

GAY GARBS OF THE BIRDS.

The birds, too, had their gay garbs. There were numbers of goldfinches, every bit like big butterflies as they searched the thistles for seed, their sweet, clear twittering being very pleasant to the ear. There were spotted wood-peckers, large and small, jerking their way up the branches of willow and elm, and moorhens kurooked as they swam about dining off water weeds. It is about August that the adult moorhens moult and, like the swans, drop all their flight feathers at once and, for a short time, are unable to fly.

THE HAUNT OF THE HERON.

The note *hawk hawk* attracts my attention and I notice two old carrion crows, in their black suits, near their nest. These crows are impudent birds and very bold. They feed on animals, eggs and molluscs, and in order to break the shells of the molluscs they drop them from a height on to a hard substance and then fly down and feed off the contents. Seagulls do likewise. Like the swans, crows pair for life. A streak of blue, in the form of a kingfisher flashed by me at least a score of times and, I noticed by what was in his beak, that he was a more successful angler than I. There were still some swallows and martins in evidence, but I saw no swifts. The little owls were calling cu-cu-cu and as one took a short flight he was promptly mobbed by other birds but he remained unperturbed. The little owl has a very bad reputation as a slayer of young game birds. In one meadow, among the cows were six herons. They are about three feet in height. Two of them were standing, motionless, up to their knees in water. Herons will swallow frogs whole, crack the skulls of water rats and swallow them in the same manner.

A GREAT EXAMPLE.

Many other birds, insects and little animals come under notice and all add to the delight of a day's fishing. The sweet Thames flows softly on its way and, as I pack up to leave this beautiful river, I think:

O! Could I flow like thee, and make thy stream

My great example, as it is my theme!

Though deep, yet clear, though gentle, yet not dull;

Strong, without rage, without o'erflowing, full.



BREWERY JOTTINGS.

BY W. DUNSTER.

Now that the war with Japan is ended we really can look forward to the days of peace. It has been a long journey with many difficult days but it has been a source of great satisfaction that we have been able to maintain the HOP LEAF GAZETTE throughout the whole six years of war, even though we now only appear quarterly. Naturally there seems every prospect of a very busy time in front of all of us and we shall welcome back the "old" members of the Brewery who have been serving in the forces all over the world.

Although I received a letter from Corpl. C. L. Langton, giving an account of a most enjoyable leave spent in Venice, he has since arrived home and we were all pleased to see him looking so well.

L/Corpl. E. W. King has written three letters to W.D. since our last issue and he gives most graphic accounts of many events such as V-Day rejoicings, etc. Nevertheless in spite of his natural longing to get home he does seem to be impressed by some things in Italy and it is evident that another visit to Rome was most enjoyable and that opera thrills him. This latter is done in wonderful style out there, in fact Eric King is of opinion that he has never seen anything better. His description of a football match when a team of Football Association stars played a S.E. Italy XI, makes good reading, thus: "Scattered amongst the K.D. shirts were splashes of dazzling white of the navy uniforms, whilst heads were donned with black, blue, red, green and khaki berets. Before the game the Polish band and the Scottish pipers entertained the spectators."

Another one who writes in graphic style is Sergt. H. Weight and he is in Italy too. He says to W.D. (in two letters) that he is fit and well but they all have the group demob. fever. Life though was much easier and overseas life was not what it was say two years ago. He sent greetings to all.

A letter from "young" George Andrews (son of the well known Mr. G. Andrews of the Bottled Beer Dept.) written from the West Indies was a very welcome surprise to W.D. The celebrations there for Victory Days were mainly celebrated with rum, but he says he would have preferred "S.B." The HOP LEAF GAZETTE reached him regularly and he read it with interest. Sport of all sorts was indulged in. "Young" George is in the Fleet Air Arm and Machine Gunner at that.

Sergt. J. Knight has written both Mr. S. Bird and W.D. As befits a member of the Brewery Room he wonders if the Firm will

be brewing a Victory Beer. They have a bottle of Canadian beer weekly, wines mostly from Palestine, with fantastic names, and they were receiving English gin which was much preferable to the Indian brand. He lived in hopes of coming home on leave before Christmas and being demobbed in the early months of 1945.

Two letters have been received by Mr. C. Bennett from L.A.C. R. P. Huddy from India. The V-Day celebrations were very good and he also enjoyed 16 days in Kashmir. The heat was a big strain. The bottled beer they received out there was like cider with a dash of vinegar, but it had after effects, so there must be something in it. Like many others he was thinking of demob.

Corpl. A. C. Howman writing from Italy to W.D. says they all have demob. fever out there. He was not too optimistic about getting home this year. A leave spent in Rome was very enjoyable and for one thing there was fairly good supplies of beer, although one had to queue up for it.

Two letters have been received from L.A.C. K. Organ by W.D. He has spent two years in the Sudan, a very warm spot indeed, and was due for a move where it would be cooler. Nevertheless he keeps very fit. Beer was scarce and it was mainly Canadian. Their Victory celebrations were very good and this is described very graphically (I only wish I had space to give it in detail—w.d.).

A letter from Lieut. R. R. Priddy to W.D. shows that he has moved to India. He was quite well but was not impressed by what he had seen of the so-called "Mysteries of the East." They got an occasional bottle of whisky (Canadian) also beer. When writing he had no idea of when he would be home.

Capt. R. C. Pitts writing from India to W.D. says he is quite well and he was due home before Christmas. He had plenty to do and had had some enjoyable times, the time passed quickly. The summer this year from his point of view was the best he had spent out there.

Corpl. M. Tilbury writing from Germany to Mr. C. Bennett remarks that he was kept very busy. He was hoping to be demobbed but expected it would not be until the turn of the year. Since he wrote he has been home on leave and was looking very fit indeed.

The sad news has been received by Mr. F. Drury that his son Harold is "Missing, believed Drowned." Official intimation has been received by Mr. F. Drury from the War Office to the effect that the Japanese had informed them of this. It would seem that this happened last autumn, when a boat carrying prisoners of war was torpedoed (the Japs say by the Americans). This is

a really terrible blow after such a long time of hopes and this intimation has only been received since the Japanese accepted the surrender terms. We all feel very sorry for Mr. F. Drury and our heartfelt sympathy is extended to him on this grievous blow.

We are sorry to record the death of Mr. "Joe" Benford in rather tragic circumstances. He was very well known both on the Brewery and the Club in fact I think practically everyone knew "Joe." For a long number of years he had worked in the Beer Cellars and was a good and conscientious worker. We take the opportunity to offer our sincere sympathy to his relatives.

A number of our service members have been visiting us lately. I am informed that C. Palmer and G. Cannings of the Transport Dept. are now back at work again. Mr. H. Goatley of the Estates Office is the first member of the staff to be demobbed and he is starting once again very shortly (he has been away exactly six years). We saw L/Cpl. C. Wade when he was home after 4 years or so away and I believe is now in Austria. Another visitor was Capt. N. H. Lipscombe looking as big as ever but very fit. He is expecting also to go back to Austria soon. Mr. G. Poole home from Ireland was expecting demob. in a month or so. Sergt. P. Loader (R.A.F.) called in wearing three ribbons and it showed he had travelled round the world a bit. Fortunately for him he "missed" Singapore. Mr. Tom Kent who is on the Isle of Wight looked ever so fit when he called in. Probably he will not have to go overseas now, but it would seem he is not likely to be demobbed yet awhile. Another was L.A.C. Gray and he was on embarkation leave and it was pretty definite he would be going soon to the Far East. Sergt. H. Oxley has been home from Italy for a month and has left once again, but whether it would be for "foreign parts" was not certain. Corpl. S. G. Treacher who came home from Italy in January is not likely to be sent out again and like so many others is looking forward to demob. he informed us when he called.

Football has started once again but so far Reading have fared very badly, due mainly to not being able to field anything like the same team each match. It would seem that this will be a "go-between" season until perhaps next season when matches will be played under more normal conditions. Still we hope the Club will have a successful season in spite of all difficulties.

It is pleasing to record that practically all on the Brewery worked the two V.J.-Days and so enabled many to enjoy a little celebration that would have been lacking otherwise. In spite of this though, many of the pubs could not stand up to the strain very long and from all accounts the Sunday found practically all of them in the town and round about closed. It was probably the "driest" week-end for Reading for many a long day.

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

- The Brickmakers' Arms, Lane End (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—Mr. R. W. Hodges.
- The Windsor Castle P.H., Windsor (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. R. Wood.
- The Pheasant, Highclere (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. K. Streeter.
- The Royal Oak, Whitchurch (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. G. A. C. Tate.
- The Carrington Arms, High Wycombe (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—Mrs. F. E. McDermott.
- The Lamb, Kingston (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. C. Warner.
- The Pheasant, Whitley, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. R. J. Holt.
- The North Star, Slough (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. W. F. Smart.
- The Furze Bush, East Woodhay (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. G. J. Tibbles.
- The White Lion, Cryers Hill (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—Mr. R. H. Alderman.
- The Stag and Hounds, Ashford (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. F. W. Motteram.
- The Royal Oak, Chinnor (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries Ltd.)—Mr. F. Wells.
- The Downshire Arms, Easthampstead (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. E. M. Surman.
- The Crown, Radnage (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. R. J. W. Plumridge.
- The Anchor, High Wycombe (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. T. W. Anstead.
- The Crown, Bray (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. A. C. Woolmington.
- The Coach and Horses, High Wycombe (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. L. C. M. Dent.
- The Red Lion, Lambourn (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. K. A. I. Warwood.

Apropos the change at the Coach and Horses, High Wycombe, the Bucks Free Press comments as follows :—

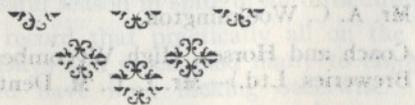
“ Licensee of the Coach and Horses Inn, Easton Street, High Wycombe, for 39 years, Mr. Marmaduke James Samuel Dent has retired and has been succeeded as the licensee by his son, Mr. L. C. M. Dent. Aged 78, Mr. Marmaduke Dent became landlord of the Coach and Horses in 1906. In those ‘ good old times ’ as Mr. Dent described them to a representative of the Bucks Free Press the licensing hours were from six o’clock in the morning to eleven o’clock at night. The early morning trade was mainly with drivers of horse-drawn vans conveying furniture from High Wycombe to London and elsewhere. They usually refreshed themselves with a glass of hot rum and milk at a cost of 2½d. Beer was then 2d. a pint and bitter was a little more expensive at 3d. Spirits were kept in eight-gallon earthenware containers. Whisky and Brandy were 3d. a nip and Gin 2d. For over one hundred years the licence of the Coach and Horses has been held by three families—originally by Mrs. Higgs, followed by Mr. G. George and then his son and subsequently by Mr. Dent.”

We regret to record the following deaths of tenants and to all relatives we extend our sincere sympathy :—

Mr. W. H. Foster, of the Royal Oak, Whitchurch, who died on the 12th June, 1945, had been tenant of this house since 1934.

Mr. A. H. Drew, of the Anchor, High Wycombe, died on the 27th June and had been tenant of this house since May, 1920.

Mr. G. B. J. Newington, of the Bird in Hand, Tilehurst, who died on the 22nd August, 1945, had been tenant of this house since August, 1939.



THIS YEAR'S CROP OF ENGLISH BARLEY.

Messrs. Wallis Son & Wells, of Reading, the famous Corn and Agricultural Merchants and Importers, have kindly supplied us with their report on the 1945 crop of English barley.

The report is as follows :—

EASTERN DISTRICT.

Norfolk.—The prospects of good barley stand out, especially in the west of the county. There appears to be an increased acreage under barley, as less wheat was sown in the autumn. Both yield and quality should be better than last year.

Suffolk.—In this county it looks as though there will be an increase of perhaps 5 per cent. over last year. The crops are standing well, and quality promises to be good. The Suffolk area escaped the heavy storms which were experienced in southern districts, and the barleys on the light land look particularly good as there has been rainfall throughout the growing period and no check from drought. The increase in acreage on many farms was caused through farmers not being able to get in their autumn-sown wheats.

Essex.—Crops look remarkably well, and quite a quantity of the winter-sown two-row barleys are coming to market. Though in some cases the quality is disappointing, there are some nice white ripe barleys available, but more recent rains will limit the quantity of these. Unfortunately some of the crops have been laid.

Yorkshire.—There is a big increase in the acreage, and it looks as though the yield may be twelve sacks per acre, but the crop is later here, and a great deal depends on the weather. With sunshine there should be some barleys of very good quality.

Cheshire.—The acreage seems to be about the same as last year and the crop is looking well. It is strong in the straw and there are prospects of a good yield, but the barley was only making its major growth during the first part of July.

MIDLAND DISTRICT.

Leicestershire, Rutland and Neighbourhood.—The acreage is substantially larger, and the general appearance of the barley at the time of writing is excellent. Harvesting operations are just beginning. The barley crop in the Midlands has not suffered to any substantial extent by the recent heavy storms, as only a very small acreage has been laid or otherwise damaged.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Kent.—The barleys in this area are looking extremely well, and it would appear that the yield should be about the same as last year. The district has had beneficial rains and the acreage appears to be slightly increased. We expect some good quality barley.

Sussex.—Part of this county unfortunately suffered from very heavy rain on the 10th and 11th July, which has laid rather badly some of the crops. Otherwise this county showed great promise, and there is a big crop of barley to be had, but we know quality will be very variable.

Hampshire.—On the chalk soils there is an increase in the acreage sown. The rains have been very beneficial, but have resulted in the crop having rather more straw than usual. Unfortunately many crops have been badly laid in places by heavy rains and wind; also there has been a somewhat uneven ripening. There will be a very great variation in the quality. Some of the samples we have seen threshed from the downland are small in size, but we have seen some barleys combined which show a good sized berry of good quality. It looks as though the yield will be good, as barley was the crop of the year. In this county cases are reported of "Take-all" disease; we are pleased to say this is not general, although the county has suffered badly from laid crops. Harvest operations will be somewhat prolonged. A quantity of six-row winter barleys came to market early. There is not a great number of two-row winter barleys sown in this area. Round Petersfield the early sown barleys are distinctly better than the later sowings, having ripened more evenly.

Berkshire.—Though some of our bigger growers have no increase in acreage, it looks as though the yield will make up for this, and there should be some barley of very good quality, but again in this county some of the crops have been lodged. Our friends on the light gravelly land estimate the yield will be up to 20 per cent. better than last season. This is owing to the rains which were spread over the growing season.

Oxfordshire.—The barleys in this county look exceptionally well, and we expect an improvement in quality on last year. Crops are heavy, and there is still a risk of them going down. Unfortunately there has already been a certain amount of lodging, but not so serious as in the counties to the south. The growers estimate that the yield will be considerably above that of last year and also above average. On the best barley farms we think the acreage sown is about as usual.

Wiltshire.—A large area has been sown to barley, and most of our friends report that they have an increased acreage. There will be a very big variation from thin barleys to bold barleys. Some have sown 25 per cent. extra acreage, and the barley looks like yielding remarkably well, but the sun is urgently needed to complete the ripening. The earlier sown barleys are the best. Barley is the crop of the year, but unfortunately a good many crops, especially the later sown, have lodged. There is a big increase in the percentage of six-row winter barley sown in this county. In this area, as in Hampshire, we have come across cases of the "Take-all" disease. A quantity of Camton barley has been sown which will not be of interest to brewers.

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Gloucestershire.—There is a wonderful crop of barley and there appears to be an increase in the acreage. Some damage has been done by crops being laid, but on the whole throughout the county we do not think this is excessive; given plenty of sun now, we expect to see some good quality barley from the increased acreage which has been sown on the best farms.

Herefordshire.—In this county there appears to be an increase in the acreage, estimated at perhaps 10 per cent. There are cases of lodging, but if the weather holds and we get sun, there will be some excellent quality barley from crops well above average.

Somersetshire.—Barley appears to be the crop of the season, but in some districts there are cases of lodging owing to the length of straw, but from what we have seen, the damage is slighter than in neighbouring counties. Harvest in this area will be somewhat later than usual, as there has been lack of sun. There is an increased acreage and there will certainly be a big variation in quality. The barleys in the Porlock district certainly look well, but in many cases the crop is far from ripe.

Devonshire.—Barleys in this county have been looking exceptionally well, but sunshine is very badly needed. The barley was standing well, but the straw is long, and should heavy rains with winds be experienced there may be more damage, in parts it is already laid. It looks as though there is a slight increase in the acreage. Most of the barley sown in Devonshire is spring barley; there is a very limited quantity of winter. There will be a big variation in quality.

Cornwall.—There does not appear to be much alteration in the acreage sown. The prospects both of yield and quality are good, but again, sun is very definitely required.

SUMMARY.

It would appear that this year there will be a very considerable variation in the quality of barleys. Some of the winter sown two-row barleys which have appeared on the market were white in appearance, but the quantity of these will be very limited as rain set in which will mean yellow barleys.

Harvesting operations will be spread out over a very lengthy period. In Essex a self-sown parcel of six-row winter barley was threshed and available the first week in July, whilst in Devon another self-sown crop was cut on July 9th.

This season there is no alteration in the maximum and minimum prices for barley, and this will again result in a big demand for the better grade barleys, which, at the difference in price, are the best value.

With price control at the present limits, quantity makes more appeal to the grower than quality, and he is apt to plant those varieties of barley which will give the biggest yield per acre, though not the best quality.

For the 1946 harvest with the margin between bottom and top increased by 10s. od. per quarter, there may be more inducement to sow that type of barley which will give the quality, and we hope that those farmers who have been putting in increased acreage of the six-row winter barley, will consider instead putting in the Pioneer winter barley which is a two-row barley, and which, this year, is producing some very fine quality samples.

Unfortunately we have seen many lots of barley, both the six-row winter and spring barleys, which have been cut and threshed before they were ripe.

There is an increase of combine harvesters in the southern areas, and this is bringing a quantity of barley to market, part of which is not suitable for storing until it has been dried.

As you will have seen by our detailed reports, there has been considerable lodging of barley this year. Some growers attribute this to the use of nitrogenous fertilisers, but the National Institute of Agricultural Botany advise us that they attribute this lodging to the high temperatures in April, and partly to over-seeding, growers not sufficiently taking into consideration the rate of seeding in relation to tillering capacity of the variety of the seed they were planting.

No doubt if larger supplies of potash could be made available for the southern counties, there would be an improvement in the quality of the barleys, and for the coming crop we are hopeful there may be sufficient potash available for the land which is definitely potash deficient.

MR. C. BENNETT.

PRESENTATION TO COMMEMORATE 50 YEARS' SERVICE.

("C.B." DAY).

To commemorate his Jubilee of service with the Firm, Mr. C. Bennett, Manager of the Estates Department, was on Monday, 25th June, the guest of the Directors at a luncheon given in his honour at the Ship Hotel, Reading. The Directors present were Mr. F. A. Simonds (Chairman and Managing Director), Mr. J. H. Simonds (Vice-Chairman), Commander H. D. Simonds, Major G. S. M. Ashby and Mr. L. A. Simonds. Practically all the heads of departments were able to be present, in response to the Directors' invitation, and Mr. C. E. Gough journeyed specially from Paignton to take part in what proved to be a very homely and happy party. By special invitation, Mr. Chas. W. N. Sharp, F.A.I., Chartered Surveyor, of Messrs. Cooksey & Walker, and Mr. H. F. Dunster, F.S.I., Rating Surveyor, also attended.

Mr. F. A. Simonds presided and was in his best form, his genial manner and brilliant humour keeping all the gathering in the highest spirits. He described the event as "C.B." Day. In proposing Mr. Bennett's health, the Chairman congratulated him on his long and successful service with the Firm at Farnborough, Portsmouth, Woking and Reading, and particularly mentioned his present appointment as Manager of the Estates Department, in succession to the late Mr. H. F. Lindars, who passed away in 1932, since which date the number of properties controlled by the Firm had so largely increased. He referred to Mr. Bennett's outstanding ability and his wide knowledge of the licensed houses and numerous tenants now on the books of the Company, and said this work involved a close acquaintance with the laws relating to licensing and assessments, apart from the legislation concerning property generally and particularly the War Damage Acts and the numerous Emergency Acts affecting property. He paid tribute to Mr. Bennett's loyalty and high character, and commended his capacity for co-operating usefully, in the best interests of the business, with all other departments. The Chairman then presented Mr. Bennett with a beautiful silver tea service, suitably inscribed, also a cheque.

Mr. Bennett responded, thanking the Chairman for his complimentary remarks and the Directors generally for their many kindnesses throughout the past fifty years and for the friendship they had always shown him on so many occasions. He said it was an honour and a privilege to serve such gentlemen, and it was a great pleasure to him to know that he had given satisfaction. He expressed grateful thanks for the presentations and said he would always treasure the tea service as a memento of a great occasion in his life. He paid tribute to his predecessor of revered memory, and thanked all his colleagues for their ready help and co-operation, and made particular reference to Mr. W. H. Davis, whose loyalty and ability were invaluable in the important work of the Estates Department.

WEDDING OF MR. ABRAHAM AND MISS JOSEY.

(Photograph on page 199).

The wedding took place at St. Peter's Church, Caversham, on Saturday, 23rd June, of Mr. Donald B. Abraham, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Abraham, of 7, Cromwell Road, Caversham, and Miss Sybil C. Josey, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Josey, of 236, Tilehurst Road, Reading. The service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. H. H. Nash.

The bride, given away by her father, wore a gown of ivory satin brocade, and carried a bouquet of pink and gold roses. She was attended by her sister Miss Olive Josey, as bridesmaid.

The best man was Mr. Victor H. Abraham, brother of the bridegroom.

Mr. Abraham is a member of the Accounts Dept., and Miss Josey is the daughter of Mr. Sidney H. Josey, for many years Chief Wages Clerk.

On June 22nd a presentation of a silver plated tea set and tray was made by Mr. A. E. Smith on behalf of the subscribers. He was supported by Mr. F. C. Hawkes together with a large number of the staff.

THE WHITE LION, CRYERS HILL.

CHILDREN'S "VICTORY" PARTY.

The two photographs on page 200 were taken in connection with the Children's "Victory" Party arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Hillier of The White Lion, Cryers Hill, High Wycombe. The occasion proved highly successful and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The support received from the local people was amazingly good, and a substantial amount was banked towards an even better party for final Victory Day.

No less a sum than £56 14s. 5d. was subscribed by the folk on Cryers Hill in fourteen days, and there were many gifts of food, tea, milk, sugar and salads. Cash prizes amounting to £16 were distributed among eighty children, and £34 banked towards Final Victory rejoicings.

Mr. and Mrs. Hillier are shortly relinquishing their tenancy of The White Lion, but they are not going far, and will remain among the many friends they have made in the district.

All good wishes will go out to them on their retirement into private life. May they be favoured with a large measure of good health!

THE OLD-WORLD VILLAGE OF BENSON.



This interesting Christmas card for Xmas, 1941, was handed to our collector by Mr. C. Lewendon, tenant of the Farmer's Man, Benson.

Benson is an old-world village that, in recent years, to meet the rapid development of motor traffic, has been by-passed. Years ago it was a busy coaching village and there are still several inns in the village which testify to this once important feature of English life. Among the inns is the Farmer's Man which took no small part in the life of the past. The licence of this house has been held by a member of the Lewendon family for over sixty years. The present licensee, Mr. Charles Lewendon, is always very pleased to point out to visitors the old-fashioned beams in the house, beams which have been there for many a long day, and until quite recent years had been hidden by a few thicknesses of plaster.

One quaint item in this Oxfordshire village is the clock in the church tower, the dial is numbered with roman numerals and shows two elevens and no nine.

E.G.

CRICKET.

END OF A SUCCESSFUL SEASON.

The season just terminated has been a most successful one from a "results" point of view, although the number of matches cancelled for various reasons and the weather conditions on a number of Saturdays have been very disappointing.

Twelve matches were played, of which we won six, drew four and only lost two. Two matches were cancelled through rain and twice our opponents were unable to raise teams, the cancellation being received too late for us to arrange other games.

We would have to refer back for a number of years to find one to equal this year's record, a fact which gives great satisfaction to Skipper Benham. Great credit is due to him for his example and leadership on the field and to Mr. Greenaway, his deputy, who was always at hand for consultations, also for his collaboration in team selection.

Whilst every endeavour is made to play employees of the Firm, we have had to rely on the regular assistance of a few "outsiders," and we are very pleased to record their help throughout the season.

Boys in the Services are always given a game when their leave permit them playing. This year five old members joined in for a Saturday afternoon with the bat and ball, and we were delighted to welcome them. Maybe before next season commences we may have quite a number of them back with us for "keeps." Here's hoping.

Now it is time to review the games from June onwards.

On the 2nd June we were to have played the R.A.F., Burghfield, but heavy rain commenced falling about midday and as it looked like a wet afternoon the match was called off. As it happened it turned out fine later and a late start would have been possible. The cancellation came too late for our players to be notified and as they put in an appearance a "knock about" game was improvised.

June 9th. SIMONDS 64 FOR 6 (dec.) *v.* R.A.F., HAMPSTEAD NORRIS 32.

We batted first but soon met with misfortune, losing 3 wickets for 4 runs. Eric Scott and R. Lambourne stopped the rot and added 16 before the latter was bowled. Another quick wicket and then E. Greenaway joined partnership and the score was

carried to 59, Scott being caught for 28. Five runs later Skipper Benham took a sporting chance and declared. This decision paid a good dividend for Pearce and Greenaway, backed up by splendid fielding, carried all before them. The former took 6 wickets for 17 runs in 12 overs, 7 of them being maidens. Greenaway had 11 overs 1 ball, 6 maidens, 4 wickets for 11 runs. The field lent considerable assistance by holding seven catches.

June 16th. SIMONDS 78 *v.* R.A.F., SHINFIELD 141 FOR 1.

This week we came unstuck, the bowlers could get no luck and when the ball was put in the air it fell wide of the field. F/Lieut. Cheetham completed his century and his partner made 35 and then a catch was held by Kelly off Pearce and the innings was then declared closed. Only 6 extras were conceded.

We lost our first wicket with only 6 runs on the book and the second fell at 17. A stand was made then by F. Benham and E. Scott which added 33, but wickets again fell cheaply, six falling for 16 runs. The last wicket put on 12 and we were all back in the pavilion for 78.

Benham (19) and Greenaway (12 not out) were our most successful batsmen.

June 23rd. SIMONDS 46 *v.* R.A.F., BURGHFIELD 64.

Here again we had to take second place. Benham won the toss and put the visitors in, who had to thank Corporal Middleton for over half their runs. He made 37 before getting his leg in front of a straight one from Scott. W/Comdr. Nicholson and S/Leader Draper (formidable opponents in previous encounters) were both dismissed for a duck. When the last man was out, the total score was only 64 and we thought we stood a good chance of turning the tables.

Pearce took 4 for 8 and Scott 4 for 18, the other two wickets were shared by Greenaway and Merry.

It soon became evident that we should have to fight for the runs against the wiles of S/Leader Draper and the speed of Simpson. Our first wicket fell at 11 and the second at 27. Then 4 men came back, with only 4 runs added. The seventh wicket raised the score to 40, but Nos. 8, 9 and 10 could not manage more than six between them.

Benham (10), Pearce (9) and Merry (8) were our first three men in and were top scores in the same order.

June 30th. SIMONDS 79 FOR 4 v. P.O. ENGINEERS 53.

Those who believe 13 is an unlucky number, will, no doubt, find some supporters from the P.O. opening batsmen. The visitors started the batting and lost their first wicket at 13—numbers two, three, and four also failed to beat the "hoo-doo." Wait, however, held the fort and with Seager raised the score to 25, but again our bowlers took toll, to the extent of 3 for 9. The ninth wicket added 8, the last partnership added 11, Wait carrying his bat for 21.

Greenaway had a spell of 15 overs, four being maidens, taking 5 for 24. Pearce had one less, 4 maidens and 3 for 26. Aubrey Benham forgetting the Navy for a few hours, bowled 2 balls and had the satisfaction of seeing a catch taken off the second.

F. Benham and Pearce started off in fine style and brought victory quite close before the Skipper was caught with 25 to his credit and 41 on the board. Two balls later, Pearce was lbw. Then Merry and A. Benham had a "go" and the winning hit was made before the former was caught, having reached double figures himself. Another wicket fell two runs later, making 61, and with the total at 79, the innings was closed, Benham carrying his bat for 25.

July 7th. SIMONDS 60 FOR 4 v. BERKELEY C.C. 127 FOR 5 (dec.)

Berkeley batted first and soon made it evident they were out to stop us pulling off a double. We got one wicket down for 10, but our bowlers could get no further luck until 58 were registered. Then the third partnership added another 55 before it was broken. With the same score (113) a run out was made and 14 runs later the innings was closed. Scores of 42, 35 not out and 32 took the gilt off the bowlers' averages. Pearce with 3 for 35 had the best figures, his wickets all being made with the assistance of the field. Scott hit the wickets, his one success costing 30.

We were not given a great deal of time to make the runs, but lost the first two wickets for 10. Then came another Merry-Scott combine which raised the score to 58, at which total we also lost the fourth wicket. When time was called we had just reached 60. Merry made 24 and Scott 27 not out.

July 14th. SIMONDS 123 FOR 5 (dec.) v. OLD BLUES 42.

We batted first but soon lost a wicket, which was rather quickly followed by another—15 for 2 was not promising, but Merry and Scott again put a better aspect on the game, adding 32 before the former was bowled, with 19 to his credit. Ken Scott

then joined his brother and had his best innings of the season. He made 35 and helped to carry the score to 97. Sexton then went in and held his end up whilst Eric made some more runs. When Sexton was bowled for 6 and with 123 on the board, Skipper Benham declared, Eric Scott carrying his bat for 45.

Greenaway and Pearce were in good form each starting off with a maiden and the former taking a wicket with the first ball of his second over, and with only 1 "extra" scored things did not look too good for the Blues. Further successes came quickly as Nos. 2, 3 and 4 departed at 6, 8 and 10 respectively. Nine runs later we got a further wicket followed by another at 20. A stand was made which added 15, but we got another man out without any addition to the total. The ninth wicket fell at 40 and two runs later it was all over. Pyke 14 and Eggleton 10 were the only players to reach double figures. Greenaway took 4 for 27, but Pearce had a real day out taking 5 for 10 in 7.3/6 overs, four of which were maidens. The field was well on its toes taking 6 catches, plus a run out.

July 21st. SIMONDS 51 FOR 6 v. MORTIMER 148 FOR 5 (dec.)

As this was our first encounter with Mortimer we had no idea of their strength, but we soon found out. They batted first and although we got their first wicket down for 10, we failed to get another for some time, and by then 43 runs were in the book. The next partnership exactly doubled the score, the subsequent one added 18 and when the next fell at 148 the innings was declared. Daley had a fine innings of 64 and was ably assisted by Simpson with 26 and Middleton 23 not out.

Greenaway took 3 for 57. E. Scott and a "guest" player—Hiscock—took the other two.

We tried a different opening partnership, but it was not a success, the first wicket falling for 1 run and the second at 5. Merry and Scott again came to the rescue, but could only bring the score up to 20 and two runs later No. 4 fell. We then made it 42 before No. 5 retired to the pavilion followed by No. 6 at 46. With the total at 51 time was called and we were able to claim a draw, although the game was much in favour of the visitors.

Simpson followed up his batting by taking 5 for 19. Daley took the other for 12.

Following this match we had three blank Saturdays. First of all the R.A.F., Hampstead Norris, reported that they were unable to raise a team for the 28th July. The following week had been left vacant in order that the ground could be prepared for the Social Club's Fete and Horticultural Show on Bank Holiday.

The following week the R.A.F., Shinfield, also found it impossible to fulfil their fixture, a great disappointment as we were hoping to have put up a better show than on our previous encounter.

August 18th. SIMONDS 59 FOR 9 v. P.O. ENGINEERS 52.

The P.O. had first knock and lost their first wicket at 5 and the second at 17. From there it was carried to 25 and 3 runs later the fourth wicket fell. Ten were added for the next and then came some quick successes for us, five wickets falling for 14 runs. Wait was again the star batsman for the P.O., scoring 24 out of the total of 52.

Greenaway took 6 for 21, E. Scott 3 for 6. Pearce also had a spell of 7 overs but could get no luck, having 18 runs scored off of him.

Our batting suffered two losses in quick succession with only 2 runs scored. Once again Merry and Scott pulled the game round and carried the total up to 27. The succeeding partnership added 14. Then two more fell with 45 on the board, but the seventh wicket brought us victory, 54 then being the score. It was decided to have two more overs, it being close on time, and we lost two more wickets through the batsmen having a go. When time was called we had made 59 with Sexton not out 9. Merry was top scorer with 25, followed by E. Scott 13.

August 25th. SIMONDS 65 FOR 4 v. MINISTRY OF HEALTH 57.

The M.O.H. went in and started aggressively, putting on 36 before Simpson in endeavouring to evade a rising ball did not get his bat quite out of the way and was well caught by Benham behind the stumps. He had then scored 24. After that the bowlers and field got well on top, two wickets falling at 38, one at 40, 44, 52 and the last four at 57. Underhill 13 and Eyres, Jnr., 12, were the only other players to reach double figures.

Merry had an inspired spell of bowling, taking 5 wickets for 13 in 9 overs, 5 of which were maidens. Scott also did well, taking 4 for 26, but Greenaway could not get that little bit of luck that is so welcome.

We did not get such a good start off. In fact we lost one of the opening pair with only 3 runs scored. Sexton was joined by Merry and raised the runs by 15 before the former was bowled. Eric Scott joined his old partner and the score began to creep up nicely, reaching 42 before Merry was caught, having made 16. Geof. Harding, home on leave, then went in and looked quite comfortable, but put one up off Hibbard having made 6, but

leaving us just short of our opponents score. However Ken Scott joined Eric and they played out time. Our score then being 65 for 4, Eric not out 30.

So ended our last game of a very successful season. It is rather a pity the Club do not get a few more supporters. On several occasions we have been short of an Umpire or scorer (sometimes both) when, with someone on the ground willing to give a hand, it would have been a great relief to the Captain, who dislikes being beholden to the opposing side by having to ask them to provide either of these officials.

It will be possible, if space is available, to include the averages with this report, which the writer believes will be appreciated by the members of the team, instead of having to wait until the ensuing issue.

Although twenty-four players have been called on during the season a number of them only played once or twice. To save a little space, therefore, it has been decided to only include those who batted or bowled in three or more matches.

AVERAGES.

Batting.	Innings.	Times Not out.	Highest Score.	Runs.	Average.
E. SCOTT ...	11	4	45*	225	32.14
R. MERRY ...	12	1	57*	222	20.18
E. C. GREENAWAY ...	8	4	22*	45	11.25
F. J. BENHAM ...	12	—	25	83	6.91
H. G. SEXTON ...	8	3	9*	30	6.00
R. PEARCE ...	12	—	12	40	5.00
K. SCOTT ...	10	1	35	45	5.00
J. W. JELLEY ...	4	—	5	16	4.00
R. LAMBOURNE ...	3	—	7	7	2.33
G. KELLY ...	4	—	2	2	.5

* Signifies not out.

Bowling.	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
E. SCOTT ...	76	14	200	22	9.09
R. PEARCE ...	89.1	24	251	26	9.65
E. C. GREENAWAY ...	131	27	337	29	11.62
R. MERRY ...	30	6	93	7	13.28

Catches.

F. J. Benham, E. Scott 7; E. C. Greenaway, R. Merry 4; G. Kelly, R. Pearce 3; R. Lambourne, H. G. Sexton 2; J. B. Doe, G. W. Harding, J. W. Jelley, A. Priddy 1 each.

Score of Own Side.

Runs 833, Wickets 77, Average 10.81.

Score of Opponents.

Runs 1066, Wickets 93, Average 11.46.

We are pleased to see that Eric Scott heads both the batting and bowling averages and shares the catches honours. He has rendered yeoman service this season, figuring in a number of stands with R. Merry to put our batting into a good position.

Our best thanks are tendered to our guest players, especially R. Merry and R. Pearce for their most valuable assistance. The former took part in every game.

We cannot wind up this report without once again most heartily thanking the ladies for all the work they put in to provide that welcome cup of tea and its accompaniments. Now that the Pavilion has been enlarged it is much easier to seat the players and to wait upon them. For this alteration we are all most grateful.

The cricket table and the general state of the ground showed the result of the constant attention given and was most favourably commented upon by our visitors. We are indeed fortunate in having such a good and well kept Sports Ground for our pleasure.

J.W.J.

MINUTE OF BOARD MEETING

HELD

20TH AUGUST, 1945.

The acceptance by Japan of the terms of surrender formulated by the Allies having been announced at midnight on Tuesday, 14th August, the Board consider it appropriate again to express their gratitude to those members of His Majesty's Forces who have by their continuing valour and endurance thus achieved final Victory and brought peace to the world.

The Board also desire to place on record their appreciation of those employees and members of the staffs at Reading and Tamar Breweries and certain Branches who, by working during the two V-Days, enabled the essential services of brewing to be maintained and delivery to be effected over a wide area thereby enabling the general public to have the necessary facilities for a suitable celebration of this epoch-making event.

ARMY BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE.

Southmead Hospital,

BRISTOL.

Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd. 6th July, 1945.

"DEAR SIRS,

"I am sure it will be of interest to you and your employees to know the extent of their contributions to the war effort in the way of voluntary blood donations to the Army Transfusion Service.

"The statistics from September 3rd, 1939, to V-E Day, May 8th, 1945, are now available, and I am able to say that your employees have made 141 donations in the course of two visits by the Service. This is a most worthy contribution, and a record of which all may be justly proud.

"I should be glad if you would find some means, through the Press or otherwise, of bringing these facts to the notice of those concerned, and also of expressing the very grateful thanks of the armed forces for this practical and life-saving help, which has played such an important part in giving the wounded man a 95 per cent. chance of life.

"All our efforts are now concentrated on the war with Japan, and we still need your help for this as well as for the continuation of the Service which caters for civilian needs in accident and maternity work.

"I am myself shortly to leave the Service, but I could not do so without first sending you this record of what has been achieved, as well as my personal thanks for the support which has been given, and which, I know, will continue."

LIONEL G. H. WHITBY,

Brigadier,

Commanding Army Blood Supply Depot.



A GREAT THOUGHT.

YOUNG CRICKETER AND BLIND FATHER

Here is a fine story of cricket and of life which concerns a boy whose father was blind. The father had been a good cricketer in his time, and now his loved recreation was to stroll down to the school grounds, and sit while his son played. He had ambitions for the lad, and keenly desired that he should become a fine player. He used to listen to the crack of the bat, the merry shouts, and pick up scraps of criticism about his son's play.

When the lad was picked for the school team in an important match his father anticipated a pleasant day. But before that day came he was stricken with illness, and in a few weeks was dead. On the day of the match he was lying still, awaiting burial.

The captain of the school approached the boy and said, "Look here, I'm awfully sorry, old chap. Perhaps it might be better if you didn't play in the match. It would be too much for you, with the pater lying there, and you might go all to pieces."

But the boy answered, "If it's all the same to you, I'll go through with it."

The match came off, and the lad played a great innings.

When all was over the captain gripped his hand and said, "Splendid, old chap, but I hardly thought you would come off under the circumstances."

Then the lad looked up at him, and, with some hesitation, answered, "Well, I somehow thought it would be all right, for I remembered as I went in that this would be the first time my father had ever seen me play."

That must have been rough going, but it was a fine innings played in a dark hour.

I would not have you think, however, that I view this game of life as one long stretch of suffering and toil. For some, it is almost that; but for the many it has its pleasant hours, its idle moments beneath the trees, with sun and shadow flecking the quiet fields.

Nevertheless, times will come, whether early in the morning, or late in the day, when there is a sudden turn of the game. No longer is it a happy contest played under a glowing sky, but a devastating combat, bewildering in its fury, waged in the twilight shadows and falling rain.

Then, only the straight bat, and the courage born of God, will bring us through.

For you, lads, the game is now beginning. See! the players jerk the red ball from hand to hand. The captain nods and points. The field falls obediently into order. The first batsman takes centre, sweeping the field with leisurely glance. The bowler grasps the leather, runs, and with loose motion, hurls the ball towards the stumps. The game is on!

I wish you a long and happy day, and a sporting game. Into it, then, with high desire and glorious hope! Play on, through the morning light, through the long, long afternoon of golden sun, till the night sets in, and Time, the Old Umpire, lifts the bails; till you stumble tired, but unbeaten, up the steps of the Great Pavilion . . . where some wait whom you love, and . . . where the Great Captain stands.

Play up, lads; without whining, or grouching, or foul temper, or slack indifference . . . play hard and well.

For He is on your side, Who Himself so nobly played the game; played it in the silent wilderness, and amid the clamorous crowds; played it right on, till the sun's light failed, and the ground cracked beneath the lonely Cross. . . . For it became Him thus to play. . . . He. . . .

The Captain of our Salvation.

[From "The Sunlit Fields," by A. H. Lowe.]



THE LIGHTER SIDE.

SCHOOL HOWLERS.

Christians are only allowed one wife. This is called "monotony."

* * * *

A grass widow is the wife of a dead vegetarian.

* * * *

Etc. It is a sign used to make believe you know more than you do.

* * * *

A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble.

* * * *

Liberty of conscience means doing wrong and not worrying about it afterwards.

* * * *

On one side of a penny is the King's head, on the other a young lady riding a bicycle; her name is Ruby Tanyer.

* * * *

Milton wrote "Paradise Lost"; then his wife died and he wrote "Paradise Regained."

* * * *

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

* * * *

Oxygen is the stuff of which Oxo is made.

* * * *

An optimist is a man who looks after your eyes; a pessimist looks after your feet.

* * * *

A zebra is a sort of cream-coloured donkey with black stripes from which you make stove polish.

* * * *

A pedestrian is a man whose wife has taken the car.

* * * *

King Solomon was very fond of animals. He kept three hundred porcupines.

* * * *

Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

* * * *

Social tact is making your company feel at home, even though you wish they were.

An adult is one who has stopped growing except in the middle.

* * * *
A Job's comforter is a thing you give babies to soothe them.

* * * *

What is the Soviet? It is what the middle-classes call their table-napkins.

CONSTABLE: "I saw him (*defendant*) on Saturday night with one arm around a lamp-post and with his other hand he was knocking on the standard and shouting: 'Open the door and let me in.' I told him there was nobody living there and he said: 'You are a liar. There is a light upstairs.'"

* * * *

The wife of a man who had enlisted in the Navy handed the pastor of a church the following note:

"Peter Bower, having gone to sea, his wife desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety."

The minister glanced at it very hurriedly, and announced:

"Peter Bower, having gone to see his wife, desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety."

* * * *

A traffic policeman at busy cross-roads saw an old lady beckon to him. He held up some cars, a lorry, and two taxis to get to her side.

"What is it, madam?" he asked rather impatiently.

The old lady smiled and put her hand on his arm.

"Officer," she said in a soft voice, "I just wanted to tell you that your number is the number of my favourite hymn."

* * * *

Among a group of evacuees from Bradford, staying at the vicarage at C—, was a boy who kept saying "Damn." Overhearing it, the Vicar's wife delivered a lecture, and a sixpence, saying, "Now promise me never to use that word again;"

The boy thought for a moment, and then replied, "Missus, I know a word worth half-a-crown."

* * * *

The subject for the school essay was "Anatomy," and one small girl wrote:—"Anatomy is the human body, which consists of three parts—the head, the chist, and the stummick. The head contains the brains—if any; the chist contains the lungs and a piece of the liver. The stummick contains the bowels, of which there are five—a, e, i, o and u."

The doctor had been called in to attend upon a young woman. "Oh," he remarked cheerfully after his examination, "there's not a great deal wrong with you. What you want more than anything else is a little sun and air."

"Oh, doctor," said the girl in embarrassment, "I'm not even engaged yet."

* * * *

An artist, very much married, spent a riotous evening with some of his friends, and felt—and looked—very seedy "the morning after."

His wife was anxious about him and persuaded him to consult a doctor. The latter, after examining his patient, diagnosed his complaint and prescribed for him.

"My wife will want to know what I am suffering from," said the patient as the doctor showed him out.

"Oh, tell her it's syncopation," was the reply.

On his return home the husband repeated to her what his doctor had said. She did not know what the word meant, so she looked it up in a dictionary and read: "Syncopation—an uneven movement from bar to bar."

* * * *

"Go, ask Papa," the maiden said,
He knew that her Papa was dead,
He knew the kind of life he'd led,
So understood her when she said
"Go, ask Papa."

THE ATOMIC BOMB.

(From a Correspondent).

Those who decried the use of the atomic bomb in bringing about the end of the war would be advised to refer to the Bible for the justification of employing this Heaven sent weapon, which brought the long drawn out hostilities so abruptly to a close and released humanity from the agony of prolonging a war with an unscrupulous nation, whose barbarities are only now being revealed by the unfortunate prisoners who fell into their hands.

We would refer all those, whose mistaken sympathies were on the side of the Japs, to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire from heaven—Genesis 19, v. 24/29:—

"24. Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah; brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven;

25. And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities and that which grew upon the ground.

26. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

27. And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord;

28. And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.

29. And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot dwelt."

If, in these enlightened days, we are still to accept the Sacred Book as authentic history, the above quoted verses should satisfy all those critics who condemned the destruction of Nagasaki and Hiroshima that an age old precedent had been followed. The thoroughness of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah indicates that atomic energy was employed by the Divine hand.

THE LATE EDWARD GEORGE DENTON.

(Photograph on page 199).

It is with very deep regret that we have to record the death of our colleague, Mr. Edward George Denton, of 85, Brixham Road, Reading, writes a member of the Building Dept. Staff. He passed away in the Royal Berkshire Hospital on the 7th August, at the age of 57.

"Ted" had been employed on the Brewery Building Dept. Staff since 1924. He was a strong, capable and conscientious worker. He had been in failing health for about six months but his end came as a great shock to all at the Brewery.

He served during the first World War, with the Devon Regt., in France and Flanders, and was severely hurt when he was buried by shell fire during one of the fierce artillery bombardments of the campaign.

During this last war he was a member of the Brewery Fire Brigade and did good work at the A.R.P. and Fire Guard Sector Headquarters.

The funeral took place at Henley Road Cemetery and was attended by many of his workmates and members of the Fire Brigade. A floral tribute was also sent from the Brewery.

The true sympathy of us all goes out to his widow, son and daughter.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

If calamity, disgrace or poverty come to your friends—then that is the time they need you.

Friendship won by gifts resembles a straw fire that, having matter to feed upon burns brightly; let new fuel be neglected, it dies, consumes and goes out.

I never knew any man in my life who could not bear another's misfortunes like a Christian.

A man never shows his own character so plainly as by his manner of portraying another's.

We are born with faculties and powers capable of almost anything—such at least as will carry us further than can be easily imagined. But it is only the exercise of these powers which gives us ability and skill in anything, and leads us to perfection.

The door to success is labelled "Push."

There are several ways of paying debts, but most of them are paid with reluctance.

Experience is what you get when you are looking for something else.

The way of Heaven is like the drawing of a bow; it brings down what is high, and raises what is low.

In all things throughout the world, the man who looks for the crooked will see the crooked, and the man who looks for the straight will see the straight.

Sydney Smith once made up a list of things that one could do without. He finally ended by saying we could eliminate everything but cooks.

We are controlled by our habits. At first we manage them, but later they manage us.

Some of the commonest faults of thought and work are those which come from thinking too poorly of our own lives, and of that which must rightly be demanded of us.

It is the mind that maketh good or ill,
That maketh wretch or happy, rich or poor;
For some that hath abundance at his will,
Hath not enough, but wants in greater store;
And other, that hath little, asks no more,
But in that little is both rich and wise.

God holds the key of all unknown,
And I am glad;
If other hands should hold the key,
Or if he trusted it to me,
I might be sad.

Whatever is coming, there is only one way to meet it—to go straight forward, to bear what has to be borne, and to do what has to be done.

A person's character is like a fence—it cannot be strengthened by whitewash.

Pleasure is like treacle. Too much of it spoils the taste for everything.

The secret of life is not to do what one likes, but to try to like that which one has to do, and, in time, one does like it.

The most wasted of all days is that on which one has not laughed.

Small cheer and great welcome make a merry feast.

Heaven and earth are threads of the same loom.

For they can conquer who believe they can.

And statesmen at the council met

Who knew the seasons when to take

Occasion by the hand, and make

The bounds of freedom wider yet.

From yon blue heavens above us bent

The gardener Adam and his wife,

Smile at the claims of long descent.

However it be, it seems to me

'Tis only noble to be good.

Kind hearts are more than coronets,

And simple faith than Norman blood.

Our best increases with the doing of it.

He who forgets to pray bids not himself good morrow or good day.

Patience is the best remedy for every trouble.

Without real trial, how soon we find rust upon our arms and sloth upon our souls, and the difficulties of common life weigh like chains upon us, instead of being brushed away like cobwebs.

Beware of small expenses ; a small leak will sink a big ship.

Life has many shadows, but 'tis the sunshine makes them.

He has not learned the lesson of life who does not every day surmount a fear.

People glorify all sorts of bravery except the bravery they might show on behalf of their nearest neighbours.

The more judgment a man has the slower he will be to condemn.

Greatest truths are the simplest, so likewise are the greatest men.

Fix your thoughts on the good that is in every soul, and make your appeal to that. The plan is a wise one judged by results. It secures for you loyal helpers, worthy friends, gets the work done, aids the digestion, and tends to sleep at night.

Bend your knees to God, but put your shoulders to the wheel.

Do we realise the great part in the scheme of things played by the commonplace ?

" A commonplace life," we say—and we sigh.

But why should we sigh as we say ?

The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky

Makes up the commonplace day.

The moon and the stars are commonplace things,

And the flower that blooms, and the bird that sings,

But dark were the world and sad our lot

If the flowers failed, and the sun shone not.

And God, Who studies each separate soul

Out of commonplace lives makes His beautiful whole.

BRANCHES.

BRISTOL.

We much regret to record the death of our tenant, Mr. H. J. Fry, of The Golden Bowl, Jacob Street, Bristol, on September 15th, after a long period of ill-health very bravely borne.

Since April, 1940, when they took over this house, Mr. and Mrs. Fry have shown how good service, allied to cheerfulness, can command success, and our deepest sympathies go out to Mrs. Fry and her family in their sad loss. Mr. Fry will long be remembered by all who knew him and appreciated his unassuming personality and sterling character to the full.

Our heartiest congratulations to the Cumberland Hotel Darts Team, the winners of the Bedminster (Bristol's Own Fund) Darts League Championship, who, during the season just closed, played 38 matches, won 29, and lost 9 only, which was rather a remarkable performance considering the class of opponents they had to meet.



Photograph reprinted by kind permission of the "Bristol Evening Post."

G. Mortlock registered 11 " tons " during the season, but the highest individual score was 144, made by G. Davis. In the photograph their Captain, C. Clark, is seen receiving the Championship Trophy from Mr. William Stanley, Hon. Secretary of the League, whilst behind Mr. Stanley is Mr. W. Hurford, the genial

host of the "Cumberland" who has done such outstanding work in assisting to arrange for the matches to be played at his House for Bristol's Own Fund, particularly for the *Evening Post* section.

The "Cumberland" was the rendezvous during the war for many of the officials of Bristol's Own Fund, and the amounts received there totalled altogether nearly £3,500, raised by various means in the locality. We should also like to convey our congratulations to all responsible for this Fund on the wonderful achievement during the past six years, a result which was only possible by spontaneous generosity and hard work.

PORTSMOUTH.

"BIG HEARTED GORDON."

Mr. Gordon Pannell, whose three years' wartime service as President of the Portsmouth and Gosport Licensed Victuallers Society recently terminated, is popularly known as "big hearted Gordon." He is "mine host" at the King's Head Hotel, Southsea, and during the troublous time he was in office he devoted all his time and energy to keeping members of his organisation together, to seeing that their interests were safeguarded, and to establishing the closest liaison between magistrates, police and brewers. That he was entirely successful speaks highly for his tact and enthusiasm, and it will long be remembered that he left the Presidency of the Society, not only much stronger in membership, but with increased prestige and negotiating influence among the people who matter.

Mr. Pannell, with characteristic modesty, attributes his success to the efforts of his popular secretary, Mr. W. F. Bailey, and executive committee, and he emphasised this at a luncheon he gave to his successor, Mr. H. Luther, and other officers and committee men recently. Unity of action and a straightforward policy, he said, were invaluable, and that the Society had managed to achieve this desideratum, in spite of many and almost insuperable wartime difficulties, was attributable to the efficiency shown by those who supported him throughout a critical period of the Society's history.

Incidentally, the Society is the oldest trade organisation in the city—it celebrated its centenary eight years ago—and it is hoped that in the very near future it will celebrate a hundred per cent. membership.

The opportunity was taken at the luncheon to present Mr. Pannell with a handsome cigarette case suitably inscribed as a memento of his Presidency.

Mr. Pannell's cousin, Bertie, is the Chairman of the Managerial Section of the Society and Vice-Chairman of the National Committee.

"THE FIVE CRICKETERS"

Apropos the purchase by the Royal Sailors' Rest of the Grosvenor Hotel, at the corner of Western Parade and Osborne Road, Southsea, a correspondent has asked us if we can inform him when this hostelry originated. The Cricketers' Tavern—its first name was "The Five Cricketers"—was built on Southsea Common at the rear of the garden of Beaulieu House, famous for its 140-ft. maze, early in the seventeenth century, and presumably it was so named because it was the rendezvous for cricketers in those days who played on the land adjoining. It was also, we are informed, the meeting-place of smugglers, who, having landed their illicit cargoes from France and Holland on the beach, used to go to the "Cricketers" for their refreshment.

Eventually the old house was demolished and on the site the Grosvenor Hotel was built. This developed into a first-class residential hotel with annexes in Western Parade, and it was intended to still further extend it in post-war years. The Sailors' Rest, however, offered a substantial sum for it, and they are now using it. Meanwhile the licence is under suspension.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Stallard, who recently celebrated their golden wedding. Mr. Stallard is the popular licensee of the Regent Arms, Landport, and he and his wife received many messages and good wishes from customers and friends in the district.

THE TAMAR BREWERY, DEVONPORT.

"V.J." DAY.

"V.J." Day was celebrated here with much more vim than "V.E." Day. When we celebrated "V.E." Day most of us in this part of the country had a number of our people in the Far East so we did not feel like letting ourselves really go on that occasion.

At midnight on the 14th August as soon as the news was broadcast that the Japanese had given in, all the Warships, Merchant Ships, Railway Engines and Factories, in fact anything that could hoot, had a Symphony Concert until after day-break. It was raining hard at the time but all the younger element got out of bed and proceeded to the Hoe. Warships in the Sound turned on their searchlights and gave a display of fireworks. On the two holidays, Wednesday and Thursday, there was dancing on the Hoe and the young people started a bonfire. They took every

piece of wood they could find in the vicinity, including some of the very hard oak seats, so until we can get new seats the visitors will now get corns on their *feet*. Taking it all round, the celebrations were carried out in the most orderly way and although there was a little fuss at one place it was greatly exaggerated by the London Press. It did not amount to very much more than a little horseplay. On Wednesday, the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, who was accompanied by the Bishop of Plymouth and the heads of the Services, read the historic proclamation outside the ruined Guildhall and St. Andrew's Church. Services of Thanksgiving took place in churches of all denominations. In all the districts of Plymouth they had Victory Teas in the streets and the youngsters have had a fine time. In all the towns and villages in Devon and Cornwall they have had Victory Teas and Sports and they have not yet finished.

Up to now we have not had many of our Staff demobilised but between this time and Christmas we shall be having quite a number of our employees back. We have had a number of calls from members of our Staff who are still serving. They all look very well indeed and when they receive their new suits we people who were left behind will feel very shabby.

The following changes in our licensed houses have occurred since we published our last notes :—

Ashburton Arms, West Charleton—Mr. E. Bullock to Mr. E. J. Tucker.

Victoria Hotel, Dartmouth—Mr. C. L. Blatcher to Mr. W. H. Davey.

Bell Inn, Dartmouth—Mrs. D. E. Palmer to Mr. D. Atkins.

They each have our very best wishes for a successful business and happiness.

We regret to report the death of Mrs. Collier, the wife of Mr. A. E. H. Collier, our tenant of the "Freemason's Arms," Devonport. Mrs. Collier managed the business for her husband whilst he was serving at sea in the Royal Marines. Mrs. Collier served all through the very severe bombing of Devonport and she was very brave and never grumbled although she was not enjoying very good health. We tender our deepest sympathy to Mr. Collier and his son in their great loss.



The Bride and Bridegroom (see page 176).



The late Mr. G. Denton (see page 191).



The White Lion.

(See page 176).



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