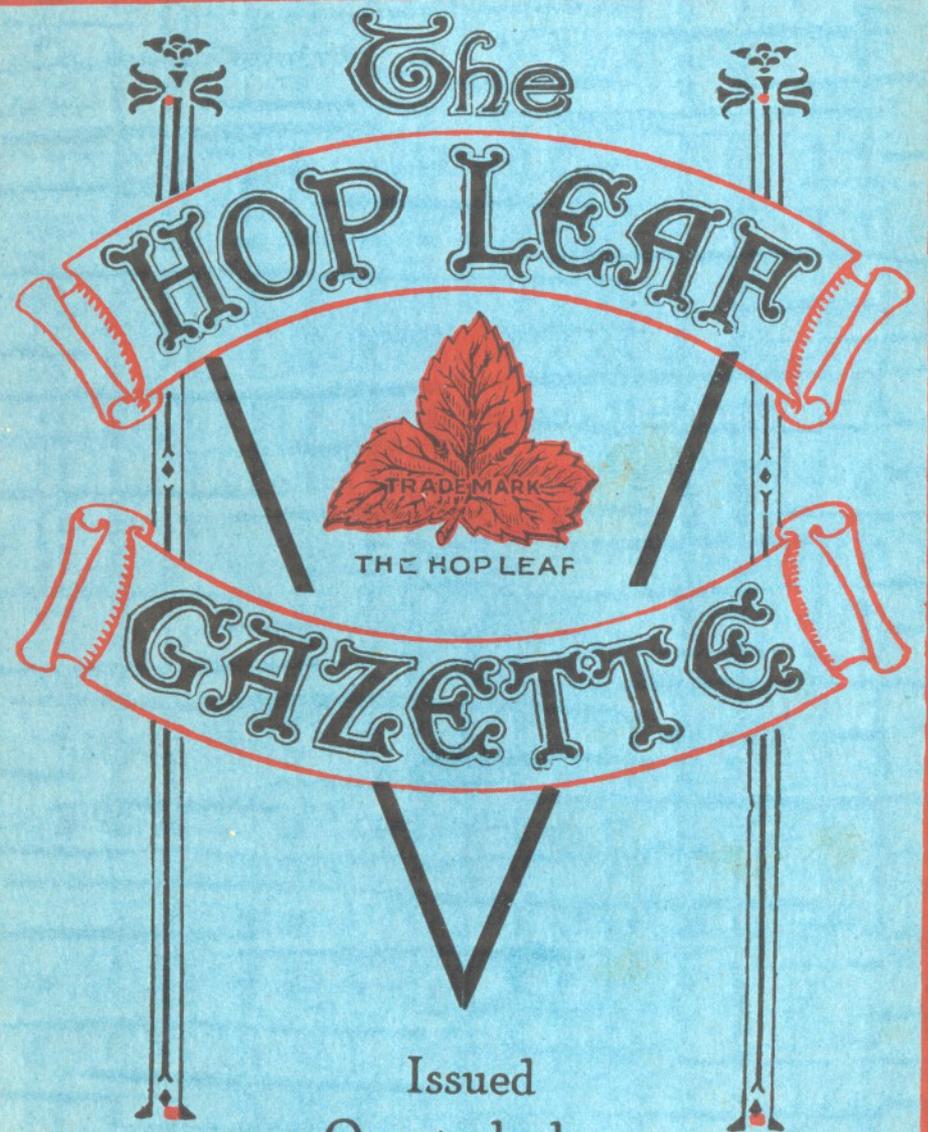


VOL. XXI.

DECEMBER, 1946.

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The

HOP LEAF



TRADE MARK

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. XXI.

DECEMBER 1946

No. 1

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Mr. H. C. Hillman Frontispiece	
Chat from the Editor's Chair	4
Nature Note	10
A Great Thought	13
Brewery Jottings	16
Words of Wisdom	25
Cricket	27
Lighter Side	36
Branches	39

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

Greetings

TO OUR MANY READERS
WHEREVER THEY MAY BE
THE DIRECTORS OF
H. & G. SIMONDS, LTD.
TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY
OF EXPRESSING THEIR
CORDIAL WISHES FOR
XMAS and THE NEW YEAR.

The Brewery, Reading

Xmas 1946



MR. H. C. HILLMAN.

MR. H. C. HILLMAN.

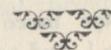
To Bristol Branch has again been allotted the position of honour in this journal, and the portrait of Mr. H. C. Hillman which appears in the frontispiece of this Christmas number will serve as an introduction of a prominent official of our Western Depot to those of the vast "Hop Leaf" circle whom he has not yet met.

Mr. Hillman has for many years been in charge of the Transport Department, where his aptitude for organisation and ability to surmount the many delivery problems ensures the smooth working of the fleet of vehicles which he so efficiently controls. Even to the periodical visitors from Headquarters it is apparent that the department is conducted with perfect rhythm.

Since 1935, when the Jacob Street Brewery was acquired, the absorption of other breweries and the opening up of new areas in the South-West, also in South and West Wales, have necessitated the despatch of much greater tonnage as year succeeds year. The Transport Department's task—to "deliver the goods"—has been carried out with unflinching regularity and speed, thanks in large measure to Mr. Hillman, who has that orderly anticipatory mind, combined with a retentive memory, which are so essential for such a task. Difficulties are never allowed seriously to impede the vital flow of traffic to and from our Bristol Brewery.

Mr. Hillman joined the Jacob Street staff in September, 1903, as a Junior Clerk in the Despatch Office. In the course of time he progressed, by way of Trade Records, Accounts, Wages and Sales Departments until 1915, when he answered the call for "King and country" by joining the Devon Regiment. After training at Tregantle Fort and Crownhill, in the West Country, he was drafted in June, 1916, to France, was promoted Sergeant and awarded the M.S.M., serving in various sectors of the Western Front until the "Cease fire" sounded.

Back in "Civvy Street" by January, 1919, he took over duties in the General Office until 1925, when he was appointed to take charge of the Railway Accounts. Later, in 1931, upon amalgamation with the Delivery Office, he assumed his present responsibilities. Like many other old servants, Mr. Hillman "makes of work a pleasure," and has little time for hobbies or games. Extremely conscientious, he is always available, especially when out-of-door contracts are being carried out, and transport and supply problems are many and varied.



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.)

A GREAT RECORD ;

This month Mr. F. A. Simonds completed thirty years as Managing Director of the Company. For some years he has also been Chairman. During that long period he has performed wonders. His outstanding business ability and strikingly attractive personality have won for him deep and widespread respect and hosts of friends. The famous Firm of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., has no greater asset than the magnetic personality of its Chairman and Managing Director.

May he continue some years yet to adorn that high office !

THE "HOP LEAF" FLAG !

Another year is drawing to its close, and what a momentous year it has been ! In spite of the manifold difficulties to be faced, the "Hop Leaf" Flag is still flying—and flying as high as ever in public favour. And this happy state of things is due to our energetic and enterprising Directors, led as they are by that great and far-seeing Captain, Mr. F. A. Simonds. The name of Simonds was never held in higher esteem, and this is due, not only to the excellence of their beers, wines and spirits, but to the fact that the workers always get a square deal at the hands of their employers.

May that happy state of things long continue !

LET US PULL TOGETHER !

In the future it is fervently to be hoped that all will pull together in the same fine spirit and then all will be well. And so I say to all, from my heart : Play up, play up, and, above all, **PLAY THE GAME!** Then, indeed, we can look forward to a Happy Christmas and, perhaps more important still, a Bright and Prosperous New Year, aye ! and many, many New Years !

LONG SERVICE "MEDALS."

Fifty years is a big slice out of one's life, but three loyal servants of the Firm have just retired after giving of their best for that long period. And they were treated handsomely by the Directors in recognition of all they had done. Nor were they forgotten by their colleagues who gave them valuable presents. In these days, when we hear so much about "our rights," let us not forget "our duties." And in this respect, the three fine fellows referred to set us all a great example which we shall do well to try and emulate. The names of Mr. J. M. Hammond, Mr. F. R. Josey and Mr. H. C. Shepherd, the gentlemen referred to, and the good work they accomplished, will be remembered at the Brewery for many years to come.

May the evening of their lives be crowned with good health and much happiness !

A QUIET, EFFICIENT WORKER.

Mr. A. H. Hopkins, head of the Correspondence Office, is one of those quiet, efficient workers who is content to hide his light under a bushel, but it shines forth in spite of that fact. Among his multitudinous duties he finds time to do a great work for the National Savings Movement, and he has just received the following recognition of his valuable efforts :—

"This Certificate is presented in recognition of the notable service freely given from 1924 to 1946 by Mr. A. H. Hopkins to the National Savings Movement, whose powerful aid to the Nation's finances sustained our victorious Forces."

The Certificate is signed by the President, Vice-President, and Chairman of the Movement.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.

These additions to the dictionary are suggested by the Wall Street Journal, New York :—

BOOM : A period when people buy things they do not need at prices they cannot afford.

BUSINESS : An ancient activity once run by the people who owned it.

INSURANCE : A mutual ticket issued to wives to collect their husbands' bets.

GOOD ENOUGH TO KEEP?

"It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good," and the same sentiment applies to heavy rains. The Thames has been in flood, but the angler always reaps a rich harvest of fish after such conditions. Heavy "bags" should be the order of the day when the water nears its normal conditions. C.H.P. will be there! And (to quote H. Burman), this is my ardent prayer:—

"God grant that I may live to fish
Until my dying day;
And when it comes to my last cast
I then most humbly pray,
When in the Lord's safe landing-net
I'm peacefully asleep,
That in His mercy I be judged
As good enough to keep."

EPITAPHS.

In St. Andrew's, Plymouth, is the following couplet:—

"Praises on tombs are vainly spent,
A man's own name's his best monument."

Very often the employment of a person served as the theme for his epitaph as in this example of a respected watchmaker, of Lydford, Devon:—

"Here lies the outside case of George Routleigh, Watchmaker. Integrity was his *mainspring*, prudence the *regulator* of all his actions. His *hand* never stopped when asked to relieve distress. His *hours* were spent in giving pleasure to others. He departed this life Nov. 14th, 1802, *wound up* in the hope of being thoroughly *cleaned and repaired* by His Maker."

SIGN OF OTHER TIMES.

An 18th Century inn at Iserlohn, Germany, well-known to tourists before the war, is now a NAAFI Club. Its ancient sign—a key—still swings above the door. It was formerly a reminder to customers about to spend an evening in the inn that they must bring the key of their front door in order to let themselves in when they return home. To-day the sign has lost its significance, as NAAFI Clubs close at a reasonable hour, and the patrons return to billets.

"HOP LEAF GAZETTE" COMES OF AGE!

*Congratulations from our Chairman and
Managing Director.*

The following message has been received from our Chairman and Managing Director:

Congratulations to the HOP LEAF GAZETTE on its "Coming of Age" number. It has been a wonderful success all its life as the channel for distributing information about the personnel and activities of the Firm from one part of the World to another. I little thought when, at the instigation of our good friend, Captain R. L. Jolliffe, of Messrs. Bertram & Co., Ltd., over twenty-one years ago, I suggested this publication being started, that it would be the outstanding success it has proved to be. May it have many more years of successful publication.

**My warmest congratulations to the Editor,
the Manager, and all concerned.**

Thanks are due to all who have contributed towards making the Gazette the popular periodical that it has undoubtedly proved to be.

Messrs. Bradley & Son, Ltd., have rendered us most valuable assistance, particularly during the anxious times through which we have just passed. Their artistic work has been a matter of much favourable comment, and we are indeed fortunate in being served by a firm of such high standing.

ILLUMINATED ADDRESS FOR MR. F. A. SIMONDS.

RECORD SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

The work of our Chairman and Managing Director for the Licensed Victuallers School, Slough, has created a record, and as an acknowledgment of his wonderful work he was presented with an illuminated address. This, which is couched in the warmest terms of appreciation speaks for itself.

It is as follows :—

“ LICENSED VICTUALLERS’ SCHOOL, SLOUGH, BUCKS.

“ At the final meeting of the Governor and Committee of Management of the School for the year 1945/6, held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen’s Street, London, W.C., on Wednesday, the 17th April, 1946, it was moved by Mr. Alfred J. C. Lay, Governor, seconded by Mr. George Nosworthy, Governor-Elect, and unanimously agreed that the best thanks of this Committee are due and hereby tendered to Fk. A. Simonds, Esquire, Chairman, H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., for having so successfully occupied the Presidential Chair for our School for the year ended April, 1946. His personality and untiring energy greatly assisted in collecting the record subscription list of £41,144 1s. 8d.

“ The congratulations of the Committee of Management are extended to Mr. Simonds for securing interest in the School from so many members of the Trade in the Provinces, and the high esteem in which he is held throughout the Wholesale and Retail Trade is reflected in a manner in which his appeal was answered.

“ A great honour was conferred upon the School by a visit from Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent, who distributed the prizes and addressed the children on Speech Day, March, 1946.

“ We should like to place it on record that this is the first occasion on which the firm of H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., have provided a President for the School, and it is sincerely hoped that we shall long have the support and interest of this esteemed Company.”

The Address is signed by the Governor and Secretary of the School.

It may be stated here that all of H. & G. Simonds’ tenants to whom Mr. Simonds appealed responded nobly.

VISIT FROM BRISTOL FRIENDS.

On Saturday, November 9th, a party of 50 employees from the Bristol Brewery visited Reading for the purpose of witnessing the football match between Reading and Bristol City.

Arriving at Reading at 10.15 a.m., they were escorted round the Brewery, after which lunch was served in the Works Canteen. Mr. Knapp and Mr. Robertson sat down to lunch with them, and this gesture was highly appreciated by all. A coach then conveyed the party to Elm Park, and their visit was compensated by a victory for Bristol City of 5—2. On return to the Brewery tea was prepared, after which a social evening, which consisted of a darts tournament and a dance.

We at Reading were very pleased to see our fellow-employees from Bristol.

This may be a forerunner to many similar excursions, and all Branches may rest assured that they will receive a similarly warm welcome should they visit Headquarters at Reading.

FORTHCOMING DANCE.

The Social Club are arranging to hold a Dance in the Town Hall on Friday, January 31st, 1947, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Those who were fortunate to attend the one held last March will recollect that this was undoubtedly the event of the season. Every effort is being made to have an equally successful dance this time.

Further particulars will be published later.

MARRIAGE OF MR. NOGELI.

On Saturday, November 2nd, the marriage took place at King’s Road Baptist Church of Mr. K. Nogeli and Miss Doris Bloomfield. To mark the occasion, the bridegroom, a member of our Wines and Spirits Department staff, now returned from the Forces was, at a happy gathering of the staff, the recipient of an electric clock, which Mr. Warner presented to him with best wishes from all for the future health and happiness of himself and his bride.

Mr. Nogeli suitably replied.

NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

THE WONDERS OF THE WOODS.

SOME THOUGHTS ON A PHEASANT SHOOT.

The countryside has its peculiar charms at all seasons of the year, and some of the most beautiful pictures are painted during autumn and winter. Recently I was granted the great privilege of being present at a pheasant shoot, and the journey to the scene of operations provided some delightful scenes. We passed under an archway of beech branches. They seemed to hold out their arms to greet us. And when the keen wind blew, a shower of russet and gold leaves fell along our way, making a fairy-like scene which greatly impressed us, and seemed a happy augury for a grand day in the woods and fields. Our driver was one of those fine fellows who is the personification of competence and consideration, and so his passengers could enjoy, to the full, gazing on the landscape.

THE GAME HAD BEGUN!

Arriving at our destination all was in readiness. The guns were there, and the beaters, and the owner of the estate—great in heart and mind—was giving instructions to his head gamekeeper, for there are many and varied details to arrange on a day's shoot. The guns then moved off to their allotted positions, the beaters lined up at the end of the wood about to be "drawn," a whistle was sounded—and the game had begun!

COCK OVER!

The shoot proved a wonderful variety entertainment, and the bag included two woodcock, in their mottled plumage of black and chestnut-brown, flecked with white. Their great security lies in concealment, and they will remain motionless until a dog is almost on them or a beater reaches the very bush under which they are hiding. When they are aroused they rise, with a whirr, winding and twisting their way through the trees. It has been recorded that woodcock carry their young through the air to water, holding the chick between their thighs pressed close to their bodies.

"DONE THEMSELVES WELL."

There was some excellent shooting, and the bag was a mixed one, also including pheasants, partridges, hares, rabbits, pigeons and jays. With so much corn lying about the birds did not have to roam far for food and their plump bodies proved that they had "done themselves well." One of the guns, in particular, seemed to be doing extremely good work, but knowing the high office he holds, one was not surprised that nothing came amiss to him in the air! There was one shot, however, which I thought was a perfect piece of marksmanship. A pheasant was flying very fast, and high over some tall trees. The gun was so placed that there was only one very small open space between the trees, flying over which, the bird would give him his only chance. The pheasant passed that way—*bang!* It was the work of a split second, the bird fell dead—a shot for which any sportsman would award full marks. And this wonderful prowess was shewn by the owner of the estate.

As I gazed on the wonderful blue feathers that adorned the jay's wings, my mind harked back to a little trout stream, where I had done good work, using these gay colours on my flies'

A "CHARM" INDEED!

A charm of goldfinches lent colour to the scene as they were busy with their well adapted beaks finding food in the form of seeds. There must have been more than a dozen of them, my attention being drawn to the birds by one well versed in natural history. The golden-crested wrens seemed conspicuous by their absence this year, but a few long-tailed tits were in evidence, also many cole-tits, nuthatches and a few marsh-tits.

NATURE'S PROTECTIVE PLANS.

He marks the bounds which winter may not pass,
And blunts his pointed fury; in its case,
Russet and rude, folds up the tender germ
Uninjured, with inimitable art;
And, ere one flowery season fades and dies
Designs the blooming wonders of the next.

These fine lines came to my mind as I observed the rhododendrons already abounding in buds. And how well those

buds are protected from the keenest frost. Before the winter or period of inaction has succeeded to the healthful vigour of the summer the leaf and flower, destined to burst forth on the return of spring, have already been formed, and shut up within their enclosing shields or cases, they remain safely protected throughout the winter from its most biting keenness. Various provisions are apparent for effecting this. In some cases a succession of hard scales envelop it on their successive folds; in others as in the willow, this is further protected by a downy covering, bearing considerable resemblance to the protecting wrappings within which some of the insects pass safely through a similar state of hibernation preparatory to the transformation of spring; while an additional protection is provided in the coating of thick resinous matter which may be observed exuding from the large buds of the horse chestnut when they swell and prepare to burst in the spring. A few primroses, too, were showing bud. In one meadow I saw a monster thistle plant. It must have measured at least seven or eight feet in circumference. Yet another item of interest was a holly tree bearing *golden berries*.

WONDROUS WISDOM AND POWER.

You learn much of wild nature's ways at a pheasant shoot. Now it is winter—the sleep of nature—with its snows, its ice, its decay, and withering and death; and yet it, too, no less than all the other seasons, abounds in proof of wondrous wisdom, goodness and power. God is indeed manifest in all His works. We cannot shut our eyes on the proofs which surround us, proclaiming for all existence a Divine Creator; for all governance, a Divine Ruler; and for all that is, animate or inanimate, a Divine Sustainer, without Whom existence becomes inconceivable, even for a moment. Behind the visible is everywhere manifest the invisible Nature, law, and order; generation, vitality, reproduction, and all the instincts which so wisely guide the animate creation will satisfy no intelligent mind as final causes.

They are but steps in the process of reasoning, by which at length we reach to that great First Cause, the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending, the first and the last, the Almighty!

A GREAT THOUGHT.

ON AUTUMN.

Let the young go out, in these hours, under the descending sun of the year, into the fields of nature. Their hearts are now ardent with hope—with the hopes of fame, of honour, or of happiness; and, in the long perspective which is before them, their imagination creates a world where all may be enjoyed. Let the scenes which they now may witness, moderate, but not extinguish their ambition; while they see the yearly desolation of nature, let them see it as the emblem of mortal hope; while they feel the disproportion between the powers they possess, and the time they are to be employed, let them carry their ambitious eye beyond the world; and while, in these sacred solitudes, a voice in their own bosom corresponds to the voice of decaying nature, let them take that high decision which becomes those who feel themselves the inhabitants of a greater world, and who look to a being incapable of decay.

Let the busy and the active go out, and pause for a time amid the scenes which surround them, and learn the high lesson which nature teaches in the hours of its fall. They are now ardent with all the desires of mortality; and fame, and interest, and pleasure, are displaying to them their shadowy promises and, in the vulgar race of life, many weak and many worthless passions are too naturally engendered. Let them withdraw themselves, for a time, from the agitations of the world; let them mark the desolation of summer, and listen to the winds of winter, which begin to murmur above their heads. It is a scene which, with all its powers, has yet no reproach; it tells them that such is also the fate to which they must come; that the pulse of passion must one day beat low; that the illusions of time must pass; and that "the spirit must return to him who gave it." It reminds them with gentle voice of that innocence in which life was begun, and for which no prosperity of vice can make any compensation, and that angel who is one day to stand upon the earth, and "to swear that time shall be no more," seems now to whisper to them, amid the hollow winds of the year, what manner of men ought they to be who must meet that decisive hour.

There is "an even-tide" in human life—a season when the eye becomes dim, and the strength decays; and when the winter of age begins to shed upon the human head its prophetic snow. It is the season of life to which the present is most analogous; and much it becomes, and much it would profit you, to mark the instructions which the season brings. The spring and the summer of your days are gone; and with them, not only the joys they knew, but many of the friends who gave them. You have entered upon the autumn of your being; and whatever may have been the profusion of your spring, or the warm intemperance of your summer, there is yet a season of stillness and of solitude, which the beneficence of Heaven affords you, in which you may meditate upon the past and the future, and prepare yourselves for the mighty change which you are soon to undergo.

If thus you have the wisdom to use the decaying season of nature, it brings with it consolations more valuable than all the enjoyments of former days. In the long retrospect of your journey, you have seen, every day, the shades of the evening fall, and, every year, the clouds of winter gather. But you have seen also, every succeeding day, the morning arise in its brightness; and, in every succeeding year, the spring return to renovate the winter of nature. It is now you may understand the magnificent language of Heaven; it mingles its voice with that of revelation; it summons you, in these hours when the leaves fall, and the winter is gathering, to that evening study which the mercy of Heaven has provided in the book of salvation: and while the shadowy valley opens, which leads to the abode of death, it speaks of that hand which can comfort and can save, and which can conduct to those "green pastures, and those still waters," where there is an eternal spring for the children of God.

ALISON.

MRS. F. A. SIMONDS FLIES TO SON ILL AT GIBRALTAR.

Learning that her son, Kenneth, was seriously ill with typhoid in Gibraltar, Mrs. F. A. Simonds chartered a 'plane at Woodley on Sunday afternoon, December 1st, and flew to his bedside. She was accompanied by their eldest son, Mr. L. A. Simonds, and they arrived on Monday morning to find that the patient was making good progress. Daily visits to the hospital during the week showed that the improvement was being maintained.

SIGNATURES OF THE GREAT.

The collecting of autographs of famous and interesting people is a fascinating hobby, writes L.A.C. Ron C. Ayres, late of the Delivery Office, and it intrigued me so much that in May, 1938, I began my quest: to waylay as many famous people in my travels as I could; and those I could not meet, to send a disarming polite letter for their autograph. I have many pleasant memories of the notabilities I have met, whilst others have sent me most charming letters with their signatures.

My request for the autograph of King George of Greece developed into an interesting episode. The Metropolitan Police visited me, making enquiries as to the reason I desired the signature. Nevertheless, my request was granted. Of course to obtain Royal signatures is, to say the least, a trifle difficult, but constant efforts sometimes bear fruit.

I regret I have not yet secured the signature of Britain's hero, Winston Spencer Churchill. Lord Beaverbrook and George Bernard Shaw have up to now eluded me, but I live in hope. A very keen collector heard of my modest efforts and challenged me. His name is Mr. Wilson Barrett, of Bulwell, Nottingham, and he has been collecting autographs for a considerable time. Although my efforts were retarded by my service career, I had obtained a thousand autographs at the time of the challenge, and the result was—I won! I am indeed proud of the result.

This hobby of mine, as I have said, is most interesting, and the famous people I have approached have, as a rule, been most charming. To the collector just beginning I would say, a little flattery helps, and also a little "subtle diplomacy."

The autographs of Mr. Attlee and Mr. Fraser I have had for some years. And I have this collection of military personalities: Eisenhower, Montgomery, Bradley, Spaatz, Patton, Dempsey, Gort, de Gaulle, Legentilhomme, Catroux, Wavell, Auchinleck, Alexander, Maitland-Wilson, Paget, Slim, McArthur, Rees, Mountbatten, Ritchie, Cunningham, Harwood, Keyes, Pound, Portall, Tedder, Harris and Sholto Douglas, etc.

A man was announcing to his friends at the club that he was going to be married shortly.

"Well, old man," remarked one of his listeners, "I hope you'll be very happy."

"I don't see why I shouldn't," was the reply. "I came through the war all right."

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

BY W. DUNSTER.

Once again, a Happy Christmas to all our readers! This time indeed it should be better all round, with so many back to the Brewery fold once more. It will at least be a Christmas at home for quite a number who have had to spend it far, far away, for so many years.

During the last few months the Offices in particular have been fast filling up on the return of so many of the pre-war staff. Some of those who have returned have puzzled us. They seem to be different or, perhaps, we have forgotten their names for the time being.

Whilst we welcome back so many we are still losing a number of the younger members, also the ladies, who did such good work during the war. They have departed to other jobs, and we wish them every success.

The past few months have seen the departure on pension of Mr. J. W. Hammond, of the Branch Department; Mr. F. Josey, of the Cask Office, and Mr. H. C. Shepherd, late Cashier. This is recorded in detail in this issue, but the writer would like to say he wishes them all good health and a happy retirement. They have all been good friends for many years. At the end of this year there will also be others who will be retiring, and about this we shall have something to record in a later issue.

Football is now in full swing, and many of us are interested, although the form of Reading has been most inconsistent, and it was particularly so in the recent visit of Bristol City when that team, encouraged somewhat by the advent of a number of Bristol Brewery friends, trounced Reading in no uncertain style. However it was a win that was well deserved, and it is pretty evident that Bristol City are more likely to go "up" than Reading. One satisfactory feature has been the boom at Elm Park, for all the home gates have been very satisfactory, and there is a lot of enthusiasm for the game. Maybe we shall have a good run in the Cup, for it does not seem that Reading have anything of a chance for the League this season. Brewery football also is in full swing and there is plenty of enthusiasm for that too. I do hope they will have a successful season, and this will rejoice the heart of the Secretary, Mr. Frank Pusey.

Congratulations to Mr. P. Luker on being appointed head of the Cask Office. He is a good, conscientious worker, knows the job, and will make a success of it.

Mr. F. Josey wished me to mention that he had received a letter from Mr. Freddy Powell, who would like to be remembered to all who knew him when he was at the Brewery.

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

- The Royal Tar, Brentford (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. H. Hall.
- The Carpenter's Arms, Chertsey (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. F. J. Brazier.
- The Flowing Spring, Sonning Eye (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. H. D. Dymott.
- The Wellington Arms, Whitley Street, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. G. J. Ratcliffe.
- The Old Waggon and Horses, Newbury (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. W. C. Cook.
- The Hour Glass, Sands, High Wycombe (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. F. Onley.
- The Lamb, Eversley Cross (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. S. G. Hern.
- The Blue Lion, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. L. E. Blake.
- The Three Horse Shoes, Kintbury (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. L. H. J. Nash.
- The Barley Mow, Kintbury (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. G. Furnell.
- The Lamb, Potters Row (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. A. A. Langford.
- The Prince of Wales, Feltham (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. J. B. J. Doe.
- The Fox and Hounds, Calcot (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. A. Rice.
- The Red Lion, Lightwater (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. C. W. Rixon.
- The Royal Oak, Chinnor (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. P. Trew.
- The Bull and Butcher, Sandhurst (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. H. G. Shorter.
- The Bell, High Wycombe (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. H. T. Spencer.

The Nag's Head, High Wycombe (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. A. J. R. Bason.

The Carpenter's Arms, Windsor (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. R. E. Miller.

The Bells, Staines (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. G. S. Brace.

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

Mr. W. P. Wallis, of the Fox and Hounds, Gosbrook Street, Caversham, who died on the 29th September, 1946, had been tenant of this house since March, 1938, and for six months previously at the Travellers' Rest, Basingstoke.

Mr. S. Rice, of the Fox and Hounds, Calcot, who died on the 12th October, 1946, had been tenant there since October, 1925.

Mrs. L. Bason, of the Nag's Head, High Wycombe, who died on the 26th October, 1946, had been tenant of this house since May, 1938, on the death of her husband. Her husband had taken over the tenancy in June, 1916.

Mr. M. Butler, of The Bells, Church Street, Staines, who died on the 2nd November, 1946, had been at this house since July, 1934.

Mr. W. J. Flower, of The Bull, Barkham, who died on the 4th November, 1946, had been tenant since February, 1929, at this house.

Mr. J. Goodenough, of the Bricklayer's Arms, Wolseley Street, Reading, who died on the 25th November, 1946, had been tenant since June, 1929.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

Outside a barber's shop a street musician started playing the euphonium.

After about five minutes the barber went outside and said to him : " For heaven's sake go away—you're taking the edge off my razor."

* * * *

" Of all my staff, Jones, you have been the most diligent and willing. I have therefore arranged the holidays so that you get the longest day."

LICENSED VICTUALLERS' SCHOOL.

" RECORD YEAR " WORKERS HONOURED.

Deserved tribute was paid by a large company assembled at the Connaught Rooms, London, to Mr. Alfred J. G. Lay, the immediate past Governor of the Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers and the Licensed Victuallers' School, and Mrs. Lay, at a presentation dinner to mark the outstanding success of the former's year of office as the result of which a financial record of £41,144 1s. 8d., collected for the benefit of the Licensed Victuallers' School in any one year, was set up.

The occasion—one for all-round congratulation—was the more significant, in that not only were the proceedings graced by the presence of the President during Mr. Lay's year of office—Mr. F. A. Simonds (Chairman and Managing Director of Messrs. H. and G. Simonds, Ltd.), but also by the presence of the Marquis of Carisbrooke, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., this year's President of that excellent school at Slough.

The only regret was the enforced absence of the Marchioness of Carisbrooke, who, it was explained, had been the unfortunate victim of a slight accident.

Mr. Lay said he was particularly appreciative of the presence of his President, Mr. F. A. Simonds, to whom he would ever be grateful for coming to his aid and for his ever-ready assistance, as well as to the members of his firm, Mr. Bennett and Miss Prosser, who were always ready to help in every way. The only regret he had was they were unable to work together in double harness for more than four months because he felt that had they been able to run the full course the result would have been possibly something in the neighbourhood of £100,000.

Mr. Lay then presented an illuminated address to Mr. F. A. Simonds, who, he declared, was still working for the School, even though he had ceased to be President.

Acknowledging the gift, Mr. Simonds said the address would occupy as prominent a position of honour in his office as was now enjoyed by a similar tribute presented to Mr. H. A. Simonds in 1881, in recognition of his Presidency of what was now known as the Licensed Victuallers' Benevolent Institution. On that occasion, too, he believed a record donation list was announced.

Mr. Simonds went on to say that once again it had been proven that a poor country brewery could come to the top, and as they had heard something about " root and branch " he hoped that the name of Simonds would be honoured again, in which case

they would probably take the opportunity of showing some of the London brewers what could be done. He had the happiest recollections of his year of office, during which he had been brought into touch with many friends whose acquaintanceship he hoped would continue.

Presentations were also made to Mr. C. Bennett and Miss A. M. Prosser as a recognition of the services they were able to render to the President during his successful period of office.

FORTY YEARS AGO.

MEMORIES OF THE "SHIP" HOTEL.

Memories of the Ship Hotel of forty years ago came out the other evening when Mr. L. R. Stoakes, who has been staying there regularly since 1900, celebrated his 47th year as a visitor to that hotel.

"Beer in those days," said Mr. Stoakes, "was twopence a pint in the four ale bar, and whisky was threepence a 'go.' Players' cigarettes were threepence for ten, and Woodbines were a penny for five. Those were the days!

"Whisky *was* whisky, too, and you got it in two-gallon stone jars in a wicker basket at a guinea a gallon. And there wasn't a headache in a hogshead.

"Ascot dinners were a great feature of the 'Ship' in those days. The commercials used to come down to them and collect the orders from the local drapery buyers at the same time. That killed two birds with one stone.

"The 'Ship' was a favourite spot for the commercials in those days just as it is to-day. But there were differences. There weren't any lights in the bedrooms, and you had to find your way upstairs by the light of a candle.

"Slippers," said Mr. Stoakes, with a twinkle in his eye, "were provided by the management for commercials, and hot grog would be brought up to your bedroom if you asked for it.

"Food was good, too, and the old 'Ship' had a really great reputation amongst commercials. There was a room upstairs set aside for their use, and everyone used to know each other. It was more like a club than an hotel.

"There was no need to book your bedroom in advance. A traveller's calls were made quite regularly and your hotel knew,

more or less, when to expect you. Porters from nearly all the hotels in town were waiting at the station, and knew you well enough by sight even if they did not know you by name.

"You always elected a President of the Day, and after high tea or your evening meal, he made a collection for the Commercial Travellers' Benevolent Fund. Your meal was cheaper if you took wine, and the President usually worked out the bill for the whole party and sent what was left to the Benevolent Fund.

"No smoking was allowed in the hotel after nine o'clock in the evening. There was little outside entertainment to be had. There was no theatre and no music hall. But the club atmosphere of the hotel helped the commercial and gave him the opportunity of a game of solo or an argument over Tariff Reform.

"Hot grog was served in the evening, but the early morning cup of tea did not become popular until some years after 1900.

The chambermaid brought hot water in a stone jar up to the bedrooms in the morning. Nowadays it's much more convenient to get it from the tap.

"One thing I would like to say," said Mr. Stoakes, "is that the hot water at the 'Ship' IS hot.

"The hotel which intends to be a success in the future must look after points like that. The biggest and best advertisement for any hotel is to be personally recommended, and this will be as true in the future as in the past. The new type of traveller will be more of a contact-man than an order-getter. He will, probably, have a car supplied by his firm. That means that the hotel must supply him with garage room or else he will go elsewhere. His expenses sheet will be pretty strictly checked by his firm and the hotel should, therefore, be able to supply him with an evening meal, bed and breakfast at a fixed price.

"In 1912, a man could rear a family on 30/- a week. For 2s. 6d. you could get a really good high tea or lunch; and it was a good meal.

"Even in 1917, your dinner still only cost you 2s. 6d. But nowadays everything is expensive. The hotel, therefore, which can offer a good room and good food at a reasonable price is going to get an enviable reputation amongst the 'gentlemen of the road.'"



PRESENTATIONS AT THE BREWERY.

RECOGNITION OF LONG AND LOYAL SERVICE.

A proud record of 103 years' service with Messrs. H. and G. Simonds has just been brought to an end with the retirement recently of Mr. J. M. Hammond and Mr. F. R. Josey.

Mr. Josey, whose home is at Kearsley Road, Reading, had held the office of manager of the cask department at Reading since 1903. He commenced as a junior clerk in the cask department in 1896—fifty years ago—and in June this year received from the Directors of the firm silver entree dishes and a cheque to mark his jubilee. Mr. Josey also filled appointments in the refreshment and general departments before returning as manager to the cask department. To mark his retirement, he received from the members of the staff of H. and G. Simonds a standard lamp and a wireless set. Mr. Josey's father also served with the same firm for over 50 years, and he has a nephew still with them.

Mr. J. M. Hammond, of Milman Road, Reading, has spent the majority of his 53 years' service with the firm on the military side of the business. He commenced his career as a junior clerk at Slough in 1893, and was subsequently transferred to Worthing. He went to the military depot at Aldershot in 1901, and filled the position of chief clerk there until 1931, when he came to Reading, where he continued to deal with the military side of the business.

When Mr. Hammond completed his 50 years with the firm in 1943 he was presented with a silver salver and a cheque by Mr. F. A. Simonds, Chairman and Managing Director. At the recent presentation he was asked to accept a bureau from the members of the staff.

Mr. Hammond has a son and daughter still at the Brewery.

PRESENTATIONS FROM THE STAFF.

Mr. E. S. Phipps, Secretary to the Company, said they were gathered together to congratulate two stalwarts of the firm who, for over 50 years, had rendered true and loyal service. That was a great achievement, and it was the fervent wish of all present that they would be spared many years to enjoy their well-earned retirement.

Mr. A. R. Bradford, Manager of the Branch Department, in making the presentation paid high tribute to Mr. Hammond's long, loyal and valuable services to the Firm and referred to his intimate knowledge of the military trade with which he had been closely associated for over fifty years. He said, "Mr. Hammond

had always been a good team worker in whom could be placed the utmost reliability. Born of a military family, Mr. Hammond had brought perfect military discipline into the Aldershot Depot in which he served for thirty years, and at Reading he had been a tower of strength in the Military Department and would be sadly missed. Mr. Hammond's true value was well known to all and he richly deserved the leisure which he would now be able to take on his retirement. On behalf of those assembled he had great pleasure in presenting to Mr. Hammond the bureau as a token of the good fellowship which existed amongst them all." (*Applause.*)

Mr. Hammond feelingly acknowledged the handsome gift and the very kind words that were said about him. He hoped to meet them all again from time to time.

Mr. F. C. Hawkes, Manager of the Home Department, made the presentation to Mr. Josey who, he said had just finished his career at the Brewery, a very honourable career, extending over 50 years. He had well and truly maintained the family tradition of long and faithful service to that Company. Personally, he took it as a very great compliment to be asked to present these gifts to Mr. Josey on behalf of the members of the staff. For 46 years they had worked together in the greatest harmony and closest co-operation. Mr. Josey's business career had been characterised by loyalty to the firm, thoroughness in his work and good fellowship among all members of the staff. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Josey said he found it difficult to find words to express his grateful thanks for their beautiful gifts, and particularly to Mr. Hawkes for his very kind words. For 43 years he had been head of the Cask Office, and he thanked his deputy, Mr. Luker, for his loyalty during the last few difficult years. "I hope," he added, "that Mr. Pusey will be as loyal to you as you have been to me, and I am certain he will be. You will make a very fine combination and be a credit to the firm." Continuing, Mr. Josey observed he would like to say a few words to the younger members who had just returned from the Forces. He congratulated them on the way they had settled down and only hoped the remainder would settle down equally well. Many of the present Heads of departments had passed through the Cask Office, and if they proved equally conscientious and good team workers they, too, might rise to similar high positions. He again thanked them from the bottom of his heart for their gifts and for their attendance there that evening. (*Applause.*)

There were many congratulatory handshakes before the happy gathering dispersed.

ANOTHER PRESENTATION.

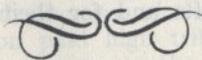
Another very pleasing little ceremony was enacted at the Brewery to signify the esteem and affection felt towards Mr. H. C. Shepherd, for some years Chief Cashier, on his retirement after over fifty years of good service.

Mr. Phipps said he was very pleased to preside over that gathering where they met to say au revoir, but not good-bye, to Mr. Shepherd after over fifty years of loyal service to the Company. He could claim to have known Mr. Shepherd as long as anyone present—and what a good fellow he had been! It was their fervent wish that he would enjoy good health and live for many years to enjoy his well-earned pension and rest from his arduous labours.

Mr. Hawkes, who made the presentation, said that this was a very auspicious occasion in Mr. Shepherd's business career. Only a few minutes ago he laid down his pen after fifty years of loyal work thoroughly carried out. Mr. Shepherd had always proved a very genial colleague with whom to work. During the course of a year a vast sum of money passed through Mr. Shepherd's hands. But his duties had been carried out thoroughly and with every satisfaction to the Firm. The members of the staff had asked him to hand to Mr. Shepherd that wireless set and tea service as a token of their esteem and affection. He hoped that with rest, Mr. Shepherd's health would improve, and that he would sit down, listen to the wireless set, take tea with his family, and look back on the times he spent with the Firm with nothing but happy memories. (*Applause.*)

Mr. Shepherd, whose heart was obviously very full, feelingly expressed his thanks for the beautiful presents and all the nice things that had been said about him. "Thank you all again!" he concluded.

Personal congratulations were then showered upon Mr. Shepherd, and all wished him good health and many years of happiness in his retirement.



WORDS OF WISDOM.

The blessedness of giving is not limited to cheques and bank-bills. There are gifts that far transcend these—gifts of patience, sympathy, thought and counsel, and these are gifts that the poorest can give.

What better encouragement to the young than to be able to tell them that happiness keeps breaking through.

"Safety first" is an excellent maxim as long as its application is limited to its proper sphere. As a general rule of conduct, it savours of inertia and cowardice.

Your body is a lovely harp—
And yours alone the task to choose
What string shall wake this instrument
Whose beauty you may win or lose.
Your task to tune it, slack or true;
To let it shriek in abject fear,
Or by an inner listening
To bring the notes of heaven near.

We must think ourselves into an earthly immortality. By day and by night, by years and by centuries, still striving, studying, searching to find that which shall enable us to live a fuller life upon the earth—to have a wider grasp upon its violets and loveliness, a deeper draught of the sweet-brier wind.

If thou art worn and hard beset
With sorrows that thou would'st forget,
If thou would read a lesson, that will keep
Thy heart from fainting and thy soul from sleep,
Go to the woods and hills. No tears
Dim the sweet look that Nature wears.

Early they rise with whom hope awakens, and they travel fast with whom she goes companion of the way.

An obstinate man does not hold opinions; they hold him.

There was never an ill thing made better by meddling.

Condescension is an excellent thing, but it is strange how one-sided is the pleasure of it.

Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much. Wisdom is humble that he knows no more.

Some of your hurts you have cured,
And the sharpest you still have survived;
But what torments of grief you endured
For evils which never arrived.

True charity not only covers a multitude of sins, but includes a multitude of virtues, such as forbearance, gentleness and mercy to the faults of others, and the remembrance of our own imperfections.

Star-gazing is very sweet and elevating, but it is well sometimes to pick up the homely flowers that grow round our feet.

The work that makes the most show is not always the most important.

FOR CHRISTMAS DAY.

The brightness of this day we owe
Not unto music, masque, or show,
Nor gallant furniture, nor plate,
But to the manger's low estate.

Make yourselves nests of pleasant thoughts—houses built without hands for your souls to live in.

Manners depend very much upon the quality of what you most frequently think on, for the soul is tinged and coloured with the complexion of thought.

Character is like a fence, it cannot be strengthened by white-wash.

There is no death in God's wide world,
But one eternal scene of change;
The flag of life is never furled,
It only taketh wider range.

CRICKET.

BATTING AND BOWLING AVERAGES.

With news of the Australian tour in the papers along now, mention of our summer sport does not seem so out of place in December after all.

The last issue of the GAZETTE took us up to the end of August, with two matches still to be played, but unfortunately we were very reluctantly compelled to call off our visit to Wokingham on September 7th, and once again apologise to St. Sebastians, our opponents.

September 14th. SIMONDS 65 v. DENMARK HOUSE 92 FOR 6 (dec.).

This proved to be our second reverse of the season and one of our lowest scores.

Batting first, Hansford (22) and Larby (36) put on an opening stand of 50 for the visitors and, with Blancard scoring 14, the total reached 92 for 6, at which a declaration was made. Jelley (2 for 9) and Cox (2 for 12) were most successful with the ball.

Batting only nine men, we were soon in trouble against some keen bowling on a drying wicket, losing our first man for a mere two runs, and the three following wickets only doubled the total each time. The next added 11, and the sixth fell at 33, of which Cox obtained 15. Then came a brilliant fighting stand of 28 by E. C. Greenaway (23) and Jelley (11) before the former was bowled. The end came four runs later and a minute or two from time when Blanchard took a magnificent catch hard and wide of his left hand.

Hansford and Blanchard bowled well, taking 4 for 21, and 3 for 26, respectively.

So ended quite a successful season, 22 players having been called upon to take part in the 14 matches, six of which were won, six drawn, and the last two lost.

All that remains now is to acknowledge the assistance given by those who contributed and made our first post-war season such an enjoyable one.

No words of praise are too high for the splendid way that Miss Prosser and her band of willing helpers carried out the arrangements for teas, which were especially welcome in view of the dreadfully cold and dismal summer generally. Also, those others who assisted behind the scenes before the matches actually

began. Once again, "thanks a lot, ladies." A pat on the back, too, for our worthy groundsman, Len Povey, who always had a perfect wicket ready for us, and helped in many other ways. To quote a phrase: "Cricketers may come, and cricketers may go, but groundsman go on for . . ."—well, quite a long time, we hope!

Thanks also to George Kelly, who took over the white coat this year and did grand work. We were all very glad to see him back at the firm after his nasty knock on the last day of August, the effects of which, unfortunately, still has not left him. Our old friend, Bill Sparks, was good enough to take over when needed, and we are very grateful to them both.

AVERAGES.

Lack of space prevents complete figures being given, so, as in the past few years, the following lists show members who have batted or bowled in more than three matches:—

Saturday Team:

BATTING.

	Innings.	Times Not out.	Runs.	Highest Score.	Average.
E. G. CRUTCHLEY	6	3	185	67*	61.66
W. G. NEVILLE	10	4	175	68*	29.16
A. BENHAM	9	1	232	56	29
E. SCOTT	9	3	164	63*	27.33
C. R. JOSEY	6	1	89	27	17.8
L. G. FIELD	14	2	152	26*	12.66
E. C. GREENAWAY	7	3	48	23	12
G. H. BEDDOW	7	—	79	50	11.28
F. J. BENHAM	9	—	72	28	8
H. G. SEXTON	5	1	21	11*	5.25
W. J. GREENAWAY	8	1	34	16*	4.85

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
N. TOTT	27	9	60	11	5.45
E. G. CRUTCHLEY	37	11	68	9	7.55
E. SCOTT	69	14	152	19	8
L. G. FIELD	35	6	109	10	10.9
W. G. NEVILLE	47.1	6	140	12	11.66
E. C. GREENAWAY	101.5	26	250	20	12.5
A. BENHAM	41	15	92	7	13.14
H. G. SEXTON	40	7	122	8	15.25

Catches.

L. G. Field 9; F. J. Benham and E. Scott 5; G. H. Beddow, A. Benham, E. C. Greenaway, W. J. Greenaway and W. G. Neville 3; E. G. Crutchley, C. R. Josey and N. Tott 2; J. Birchall and H. G. Sexton 1.

Total Runs Scored:—

For, 1,357 for 77 wickets. Average, 17.62.

Against, 1,111 for 113 wickets. Average, 9.83.

"LOUIS SIMONDS" CUP FOR BATTING.

It was decided at the commencement of the season that it was an appropriate time to revive this competition. After careful consideration of the conditions laid down when the Cup was originally presented, the Committee decided that players must bat in 50 per cent. or more of the games played, and that it be awarded to the one with the best average in this section. It will be seen, therefore, that although Mr. E. G. Crutchley heads the full batting averages, he did not bat in the requisite number of matches, viz., seven; and that Mr. W. G. Neville is the successful member this season with 29.16 runs. Mr. A. Benham ran a very close second, only one run deciding the issue. Our congratulations to them, and to Mr. N. Tott on topping the bowling with the splendid average of 5.45.

SENIOR AND ALL-YOUTH EVENING MATCHES.

These, too, were very successful. Of the former, three out of four matches were won and the other lost, whilst the youngsters were unlucky in being victorious in only two out of five games.

Mr. C. R. Josey headed the batting with an average of 32.5, closely followed by Mr. A. Benham (32), whilst Mr. P. Eighteen took the bowling honours with 1.66, and Mr. A. Benham was again runner-up with 4.5 average.

In the all-youth games, owing to the absence of a regular scorer, the book failed to balance on two occasions, and unfortunately our opponents, too, seemed to have had the same trouble. However, as far as can be ascertained, Mr. J. Birchall topped the batting list with 25.5 and Mr. P. Lackington the bowling with an average of 5.75 to his credit.

Next season it is hoped to put out two Saturday teams; for the 1st XI of which an even more attractive fixture list is being arranged. Some good matches are also in mind for the Second string as soon as it is certain that one can be arranged. All those wishing to play next year are asked to be sure to come along to the Annual General Meeting when it is held later on—details on notice boards in due course.

W.J.G.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM LIEUT. (Q.M.) G. GARDNER, R.E.

Lieut. (Q.M.) G. Gardner, R.E., formerly employed at the Brewery, in an interesting letter to our Mr. F. E. Dryden, says he is now in Palestine, near Lydda. He is in the main stores, Engineer Base Workshops, and his job should prove very interesting.

They have quite a big establishment at Beit Nahala, with over 3,000 native labour employed in production alone, making all the various components for installation in the new camps which are being built. Unfortunately, with all the unrest in the country, they are virtually confined to camp, and if they do go out it is only with an escort, and they have to carry arms everywhere. They are fortunate in having a nice comfortable Mess, which helps to make things tolerable in off-duty hours. He adds: "If I should see Mr. Hemmings again I will certainly give him your Message. If you have a spare copy of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE, I should be grateful for it. Although I suppose I am not considered an employee, I always am proud of the fact that I was at one time. The Firm were one of the best that I ever worked for. I wish them all the very best of good health and good luck."

DEATH OF MR. R. C. COCKBILL.

(*Photograph on page 59*).

Mr. Richard Charles Cockbill, who died at his home at Kentwood Hill, in July, at the age of 74, was an enthusiastic member of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. He was admitted a member of the Coronation Lodge in 1910, and later raised to the degree of Primo C.P. The honorary degree of Knight of Merit was conferred on him in 1927, and in 1937 his name was inscribed on the Roll of Honour of the Grand Lodge of England.

When he retired about two years ago Mr. Cockbill had served 19 years in the surveyor's department of Messrs. Blandy and Hawkins, and then on their being absorbed by Messrs. H. & G. Simonds in 1920, he became an employee of this firm, supervising the buildings, repairs and alterations of 180 licensed properties and numerous private houses.

Mr. Cockbill was a keen angler and gardener and a popular member of the Tilehurst Conservative Club. His wife died six years ago, and he leaves a son and two daughters, all of whom reside in the home on Kentwood Hill.

At the funeral a guard of honour was formed by members of the Coronation Lodge of the Buffaloes.

(*This report was unavoidably held over from our last issue.*)

A GREAT WORKER FOR THE TRADE.

MR. P. DIBDEN.

Mr. Peter Dibden, who has been an industrious worker for Trade protection for many years, intimated his intention not to seek re-election when the municipal elections were held at Aldershot.

At a recent council meeting the Mayor of Aldershot, Alderman J. W. White, J.P., stating that he would be missed very much, expressed regret at this decision, adding that they were all cognisant of the great work Mr. Dibden had done, especially on his "pet committee." (The Mayor was referring to the Council's Electricity Committee, on which Mr. Dibden has served for the past 16 years, during five of which he was Chairman, and during which period he has only missed one meeting). The grateful thanks of the Council were extended to him.

His manifold activities on behalf of the Trade include the Chairmanship (founding) of the Surrey Licensed Victuallers' Federation; Presidency (founding) of the West Surrey Women's Auxiliary League; Vice-Chairmanship of the Home and Southern Counties District of the National Trade Defence Association; membership of the executive committee of the N.T.D.A.; and the hon. secretaryship (for some 15 years) of the West Surrey and District Licensed Victuallers' Protection Association, of which he was formerly Chairman.

Considering the numerous commitments of Mr. Dibden in the Trade protection sphere, it is certainly not difficult to understand the reason for his not desiring to stand at the Aldershot elections. It is, indeed, rather a matter for admiration that Mr. Dibden has been able to undertake these dual activities for so long.

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO WEST SURREY ASSOCIATION.

The President of the West Surrey and District Licensed Victuallers' Protection Association (Mr. L. A. Simonds, a director of H. and G. Simonds, Ltd., Reading) was present at a meeting of the Association on 31st October, held at the Stoke Hotel (Mr. O. Wilkinson), Stoke Road, Guildford.

The Chairman (Mr. W. H. Sharman, a trustee of the Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers and the Licensed Victuallers' School), in opening the meeting, said it was his pleasure to introduce their President for the year, Mr. L. A. Simonds, a

director of Messrs. H. and G. Simonds, of Reading. He had worked with the President's father in connection with the Licensed Victuallers' School, and he was sure that in the son, who was present that day, they would see an exhibition of the same spirit of co-operation and aid. He was also sure that their President would do all he could in the interests of the Trade, and would have the interests of the West Surrey Association at heart.

The President, in responding, spoke of the long connection with the Trade and its protection and charity work which his firm and family had enjoyed. Forty-four years ago an ancestor had taken a chair and he still had the tribute on vellum, which had been presented to him on that occasion. His own father had done a great deal of protection and charitable work, and he himself had taken the chair at a number of banquets before the war, and he was happy to come at last and take up the Presidency of the West Surrey Association. He would particularly like to see all those present at the annual dinner and dance of the Association, which would be held on 8th January next. He could assure them that his firm took an intense interest in everything affecting the Trade, and he would say with perfect confidence that his own interest would not be less. He was looking forward to the work he would have to do during his year of presidency. His firm owed a great deal to them for their undivided loyalty and support, and he trusted that he would be able to repay them in some measure.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A man arrived home in the small hours of the morning and, having a wholesome fear of his wife, decided to proceed with caution.

Taking off his boots, he crept noiselessly upstairs, stealthily opened the bedroom door, and, with the greatest care, crawled into bed. With a sigh of relief he went off to sleep.

In the morning he looked round for his wife and suddenly remembered she had been staying with an aunt for the past fortnight!

* * * *

"Oh, yes, they are a distinctly literary family," said one neighbour to another. "The daughter writes poetry nobody will print, the son writes plays nobody will act, and the mother writes novels nobody will read."

"And what does the father write?"

"Oh, he writes cheques that nobody will cash."

TALE OF AN ASH TRAY.

It was during the early days of the Normandy campaign that the writer was invited to a drink in the Mess of the 9th (Br.) Infantry Brigade Workshops, R.E.M.E.

The "Mess" comprised a three-sided canvas shelter—normally used by the blacksmiths—and was set up in a field near the famous by-pass at La Deliverande. The furnishings were, to say the least of it, austere, but there, resting upon a "Table, Barrack," was a china ash tray bearing the familiar name "Simonds," with the red hop leaf giving a gay splash of colour to the drab surroundings.

From time to time when visiting the Mess during the journey from the beaches to Bremen it was noticed that the old tray was still weathering the storm and had survived plenty of "near ones"—but it remained unchipped and was still in its usual place.

The writer left the Division for a few months, but was posted back to the 9th Workshops. It was then understood that the unit was off to the Far East, and much packing took place, but as is the way of the Army it didn't come off, and the tray was moved into rather more genteel surroundings—"civvy" billets—for a short while. The housing situation was easier then!

Then came the move to the Middle East. The unit stores and equipment were handed in to Ordnance, and all the rubbish and old junk accumulated during the past 16 months was disposed of—but not the ash tray. It was packed up with the bits and pieces that make life a little more comfortable in the field and forwarded with the pious hope that it would turn up at the other end. Of course it did!

From the "kitting-up" base in Egypt the unit ranged up and down Palestine and in the Suez Canal zone. Many times the stores and equipment were hurriedly packed up and slung into boxes and thrown on to wagons, but the old tray always came up smiling, a reminder of home and good ale.

The last time it was seen it had been elevated to an honoured position on the O.C.'s table, and when your correspondent left for the joyful trek home he bade a fond farewell to the faithful ash tray which had carried the name of Simonds far and wide and had conjured up pictures of old, comfortable inns in a pleasant land.

Even with the latest "releases" the old tray still "soldiers" on!

A.E.W.

MR. J. W. JELLEY'S FINE CRICKETING RECORD.

(*Photograph on page 60.*)

For twenty-six years Mr. J. W. Jelley acted as Hon. Secretary of H. & G. Simonds' Cricket Club, and during that long period he put in a lot of fine work, particularly when he kept the ball rolling during the war.

His genial personality, tact and hard work made him an ideal secretary, and wielders of the willow owe him a great debt.

ENGAGEMENT OF MR. E. DUNCAN SIMONDS.

The engagement is announced between Eric Duncan, second son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Simonds, of Audleys Wood, Basingstoke, and Clarinda Monica, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Stevens of Holmwood, Kingston Hill, and of Crown Slip, Seaview, Isle of Wight.

CHERTSEY AGRICULTURAL SHOW AND PLOUGHING MATCH.

The second post-war Show was held on Wednesday, 18th September, at Chertsey, and proved, in spite of our usual "summer" weather, to be a very attractive event, with a goodly number of entries on the "produce" side. The specimens reflected the usual care and industry of all the competitors, especially in view of the past difficult season, whilst the samples of cattle and horses drew the admiration of the "macintoshed" crowd.

It was pleasant for those just returned from places overseas to enjoy the comfortable typical "English" atmosphere, a pleasant indication of our return, if a slow one, to normality.

Mr. C. Cave, of the Vine Inn, Chertsey, who has undertaken the supply of beers, etc., for a number of years, was again to the fore, and the Firm's marquee was as popular a retreat as ever.

It is to be hoped that next year's show will be favoured by much brighter weather.

MR. J. B. DOE.

PRESENTATION ON LEAVING HOTELS DEPARTMENT

After some 27 years' service with our Company, Mr. J. B. Doe has relinquished his post as senior clerk in the Hotels Department, but we are glad to report that he is not severing his connection with the "Hop Leaf," as he has now become Mine Host at the "Prince of Wales," Feltham.

At the close of business on Saturday, 28th September, a very pleasing ceremony took place in the Hotels Department. Mr. H. C. Davis, Manager, in presenting Mr. Doe with a wallet and fountain pen, made a charming and appropriate speech in which he thanked Mr. Doe for his good services to the Company and wished him success in his new venture.

Mr. P. Wadlow then proposed Mr. Doe's health, which was received with acclamation.

Mr. Doe, in responding, said: "I did not expect all this, but from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much for the mementoes of the very happy times I have spent here, and I shall always cherish pleasant memories of my services with the Firm."

At the conclusion, Mr. Doe received the personal good wishes of all present.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

M'Tavish had never had the reputation of being an early bird and things became so bad that his foreman had had to give him a telling-off for his bad timekeeping. Noticing, thereafter, a considerable improvement, he complimented Mac on his changed ways.

"Aye," retorted the latter, "I've got a parrot now."

"But what in the name of goodness has a parrot got to do with it. Didn't I advise you to get an alarm clock?"

"Oh, I got one," admitted M'Tavish, "but after a morning or two I got used to it and then it failed to wake me so I just got a parrot and now when I go to bed I hang the alarm over its cage. When it rings it wakens the parrot, and what the parrot says would waken anybody."

LIGHTER SIDE.

There was a landlubber with the shipwrecked crew that had been adrift for two days, with hope at low ebb. "What's that?" exclaimed the landsman, pointing into the distance. "That's land, isn't it?"

"I see nothing but the horizon," replied the first mate.

"Well, hang it all that's better than nothing. Let's pull for it."

* * * *

A doctor had a late night call and was just preparing to start out when the telephone bell rang, and a man's voice asked him to call at once. "I really must apologise for bringing you out on a night like this," he said.

"Oh, don't worry," said the doctor. "As a matter of fact, I have just had a call from another patient in your road, so I shall be able to kill two birds with one stone."

* * * *

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

* * * *

A lawyer was defending a man accused of housebreaking and said to the Court: "Your Honour, I submit that my client did not break into the house at all. He found the window open and merely inserted his right arm and removed a few trifling articles. Now, my client's arm is not himself, and I fail to see how you can punish the whole individual for committing an offence by one of his limbs."

"That argument," replied the judge, "is very well put. Following it logically, I sentence the defendant's arm to one year's imprisonment. He can accompany it or not, as he chooses."

The defendant smiled and with his lawyer's assistance unscrewed his arm, and, leaving it in the dock, walked out.

* * * *

"Well, madam, why don't you wish to serve on the jury?" asked the judge.

"I'm opposed to capital punishment."

"But this is merely a case in which a wife is suing her husband for a debt. It seems she gave him 500 dollars to pay down on a handsome fur coat, and he is alleged to have lost the money at poker."

The woman juror spoke up promptly: "I'll serve. Maybe I'm wrong about capital punishment."

* * * *

A new-rich man bought a big place in the country and determined to devote himself to rustic pursuits. To a friend he confided some of his ideas. "I'm going to have a big lake and breed salmon. "Oh," said his friend "you can't do that, old man. Salmon have extraordinary habits, you know. They've got to go down to the sea every year or something like that." "What?" cried the rich man! "I don't mind taking the wife and the kids down to the seaside each year, but I'm darned if I'm going to cart a lot of salmon as well!"

* * * *

An Englishman was appointed manager of an Aberdeen business which had been declining. So successful were the methods of the newcomer that, at the end of the year, the profits showed an increase of 200 per cent. The manager was sent for and the gratified chairman of directors addressed him as follows: "Well, Mr. Jones, we have decided to make you a present of this cheque for £100, and, furthermore, I am authorised to say that if at the end of our next trading year we maintain our present level of profits, we shall have much pleasure in dating and signing it."

* * * *

During a certain grouse shoot two sportsmen were potting at the birds from butts situated rather closer together than is usual. Each of them was accompanied by his wife as loader.

After a sudden sharp report, a red and indignant face appeared above one of the butts, and its owner shouted angrily: "Confound you, sir! Do you realise you almost hit my wife just now?"

The culprit was visibly shaken. "Did I?" he said aghast. "I'm frightfully sorry! Er—er—have a shot at mine!"

* * * *

The under-gardener of the large mansion stopped the butler as he was walking in the grounds.

"Mr. Reeves," he explained "would you mind pointing out that fellow Darwin to me the next time he calls to see the master?"

The butler frowned heavily.

"Darwin?" he said. "Sure you're right about the name? I don't seem to know him."

"Yes, that's right," said the under-gardener. "Darwin's the name. I happened to hear the master say the other day that every time he looked at me his mind went back to Darwin."

* * * *

Mr. Jones opened an account for his wife at the local bank. A few months later the manager, meeting him, remarked: "Would you kindly tell your wife that her account is overdrawn?"

Mr. Jones mentioned the matter to his wife at breakfast the next day, who received the information with a casual and rather cold, "Oh, is it?"

The next morning the manager received a letter from the lady, which, when he opened it, contained a half-sheet of notepaper, on which was written in large letters, heavily underlined: "SNEAK."

* * * *

A picnic party sent one of their number to the nearest village to purchase provisions.

He returned with a bottle of whisky, half a dozen bottles of beer, a corkscrew and a loaf of bread.

His party greeted him with a roar of laughter.

"Great Scott!" one of them cried, "he's even remembered the sparrows."



BRANCHES.

BRIGHTON.

With the approach of winter this popular resort looks somewhat deserted after having enjoyed, from all appearances, a most successful season. Although somewhat marred by the inclement weather and beer shortage, large numbers of visitors made the best of their much-needed post-war holidays.

In addition to the holiday crowds the town has been the venue of many important conferences and sporting events. Race meetings at Brighton, Lewes, Fontwell Park and Plumpton were well patronized and "S.B." was once again in great demand, although supplies were limited.

The tenancy of the "Royal Oak," St. James's Street, has changed hands, the new tenant being Mr. Maurice Luscombe, the son of our Manager. Visitors to Brighton will be most welcome at this establishment where they can enjoy the "Hop Leaf" brands in good company.

After 14 years' loyal service Mr. W. Stanforth, of the Travelling Staff, retired on October 31st. To mark the occasion the Staff presented him with a fountain pen and cigarette lighter. We all wish him good health and happiness in his retirement, and trust he will now find more time to enjoy the game of bowls which he loves so well.

The Staff and Employees send hearty Christmas and New Year greetings to the Directors, Heads of Departments and their colleagues at Reading, Branches and Subsidiary Companies.

OXFORD.

All Staff and Employees at Oxford, Headington and Banbury, who had been privileged to meet our late respected Vice-Chairman, Mr. John H. Simonds, were sorry indeed to learn of his passing; and they here respectfully record their sincere sympathy with the family in their sad loss.

ROYAL VISIT TO OXFORD, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 1946.

Oxford City and University were agog with excitement when Their Majesties the King and Queen graciously consented to add one more to the long list of Royal visits to this ancient and loyal city on the occasion of the opening of the new Bodleian Library by the King on Thursday, October 24th. The route taken by the

royal procession was gaily decorated, including our own High Street Offices and the East Gate Hotel, which were draped with bunting and flags which made a brave show.

Many of the fine peals of bells, for which Oxford is famous, were rung, and a real holiday feeling prevailed everywhere.

The royal party arrived at the G.W.R. Station (which was also bedecked with bunting, flags, etc.) at about 12.40 p.m. and proceeded by car to All Souls' College for lunch, attended by the Chancellor of the University, Lord Halifax, the Vice-Chancellor and other University dignitaries, together with His Worship the Mayor of Oxford and the City Fathers. After lunch the procession proceeded to the Sheldonian Theatre for an address of welcome, then on to the New Bodleian Library via the Divinity School.

Following the opening ceremony Their Majesties took tea at the Queen's College, and after dining at Christ Church returned to London by special train in the evening.

Thus the University and the City had a marvellous opportunity of seeing their beloved King and Queen, who smilingly acknowledged the cheering crowds which had assembled along the route to give them a loyal welcome.

May we offer our sincere wishes for a really Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all readers of THE HOP LEAF GAZETTE.

WOKING.

BROOKWOOD WORKING MEN'S CLUB AND INSTITUTE.

PRESENTATION TO MR. J. HOLLOWAY.

On Friday, 18th October, Mr. J. Holloway, who retired in June after 41 years "on the road" for the Firm, attended the Brookwood Working Men's Club and Institute and was presented with a handsome silver cigarette case, suitably inscribed, as a token of esteem by the Committee and members of the Club.

Mr. B. Fulk, Vice-President, in making the presentation, paid tribute to Mr. Holloway, who was first Secretary of the Club upon its foundation in 1907.

Mr. Fulk said that the assistance rendered to the Club by Mr. Holloway, not only during his term as Secretary but in his capacity as "liaison officer" between the Club and the Firm, was at all times of the highest order. His work when the Club was first formed laid the foundations of what is now a most prosperous

institution and a valued part of local life. The Vice-President also hoped that Mr. Holloway would continue, as far as he was able, to visit the Club and take part in its activities.

Mr. Holloway, replying, thanked the Committee and members for their extreme kindness and said he remembered collecting the initial subscriptions of 1/- per member before any premises had been secured; also that it was the enthusiasm of the original 60 or 70 members that had contributed largely to the present prosperity. Continuing, he said that the Club was fortunate in having the services of Mr. J. Montague as Secretary and Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Groves as Steward and Stewardess, and he wished the Club every prosperity in the future.

Mr. A. E. Wake also attended, and in reply to a welcome to the Club given him by the Vice-President, said that whilst he was sorry to find upon his return from service with H.M. Forces that Mr. Holloway had retired, he was glad inasmuch as Mr. Holloway was now able to enjoy a well-earned rest, especially after the strain and stress of the war years during which it has been the painful necessity for him to say "No" when all his traveller's instincts wanted to say "Yes"! Mr. Wake also said that Mr. M. Rickards (who was also present), who had succeeded Mr. Holloway, would continue to give his best services and maintain the friendly relations that existed between the Club and the Firm for so many years, which were such an outstanding example of co-operation and goodwill combined with sound business practice.

WEST END, CHOBHAM, AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SHOW.

The Indian summer enjoyed during the latter part of September and beginning of October gave a pleasant warm and sunny day for the Ploughing Match and Show held at West End, Chobham, and Bisley, on Wednesday, October 2nd.

It was pleasant to watch the contestants turning perfect furrows in the ploughing match where the gentle purposeful gait of the horses contrasted to the efficient chuffing of the motor tractors. Who are we to enter into any discussion upon the merits and demerits of horse and tractor, but from even casual observation we noticed that the horse teams drew the main interest of the crowd whilst the tractors ploughed their way in rather more solitary state!

A refreshment marquee for the ploughing match proved very popular, the catering being undertaken by Mr. W. Jaques, of the "Hen and Chickens," Bisley. Mr. Jaques also catered for the

annual dinner of the Society at his house on the following evening, and our roving reporter found every evidence of a cheery evening when he looked in.

"HOP LEAF" GAMES TEAM.

A new feature has been introduced into the social life of the Branch by the forming of the "Hop Leaf" games team, and already some very pleasant evenings have been spent in throwing a merry dart in matches arranged with several clubs in and around the district.

The opening fixture was played at the Woking Liberal and Radical Club, Bath Road, Woking, on Friday, October 25th, and ended in a draw after some very keen games.

Thanking Mr. Long (Games Secretary, Woking Liberal and Radical Club) for the Club's hospitality and for his kindly words of welcome, Mr. A. E. Wake said that although the "Hop Leaf" Club had not been successful in winning their first match they had been successful in spending a most enjoyable evening and hoped it would be the forerunner of many more.

At each engagement the most splendid and generous hospitality has been enjoyed and we are looking forward to ranging far and wide over Surrey visiting our many friends. Mr. M. Rickards is organizing the matches and already he has a most attractive programme arranged, whilst the team are sharpening their darts, determined to give a good account of themselves and if keenness is any indication then we can expect some good results.

Results :—

October 25th v. Woking Liberal and Radical Club.	Draw.	3 All.
November 1st v. St. John's Working Men's Club and Institute	...	Lost. 4—2.

We extend to the Directors and our colleagues at the Brewery and Branches, also to our customers, the Season's Greetings, and the hope of less austere days in the year ahead.

ADDLESTONE BRITISH LEGION CLUB.

A most successful Dinner and Concert was organized by the Addlestone British Legion Club on Friday, 15th November.

Approximately 150 members and visitors sat down to dinner and were afterwards entertained by the "Roundabout Revue"—a cheery concert party.

The chair was taken by Lt.-Col. F. W. Bell, O.B.E. (Chairman of the Club and Branch) who, in a short speech, spoke of the greatly increased membership and reminded members of the necessity of good parades and thus showing the strength of the Legion to the public.

Mr. W. J. Tucker (Branch President) reminded those present of the ideal of the Legion, which was "Service, not self." He congratulated the Chairman of the Club (Mr. R. Abel) and his Committee upon the organization and success of the evening and spoke of the growing influence of the British Legion.

It is indicative of the "live" spirit that exists in the Addlestone Branch that the Poppy Day collection this year exceeded all previous records.

The Firm was represented by Mr. A. E. Wake and Mr. M. Rickards.

STAINES.

CHRISTMAS, 1946.

All employees at Staines wish our Directors and all those serving under the "Hop Leaf" banner a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year in 1947.

RETIREMENT OF MR. A. BEACH.

After working at the brewery here for the past sixty years, Mr. Arthur Beach retired on October 31st. During these years his quiet unassuming manner had won him the respect of all with whom he came in contact, and to mark the end of a truly remarkable record his colleagues presented him with an electric kettle and an electric toaster. The presentation was made in the women's canteen, which was packed to bid him farewell, and, in making the presentation, Mr. Gosney described Mr. Beach as one of "nature's gentlemen," and he had given a pattern for us all to follow, and if we did so, we should not go far wrong. Among the supporting company were Messrs. H. Dean, H. L. Aust, R. Ward and E. Brown.

In expressing thanks, Mr. Beach said he had had some very happy times and he would miss his colleagues. He had always tried to carry out the motto, "Do to others as you would like them to do to you." Mr. Beach was accorded musical honours.

DEATH OF MR. E. BOULTER.

It is with regret we record the recent death of Mr. E. Boulter. He had worked practically all his life at this brewery, and for several years was a popular drayman, respected by all our numerous customers. During the first world war he saw active service with

the East Surrey Regiment. The interment took place at the London Road Cemetery, Staines, and the firm was represented by Messrs. E. Brown, H. Carr and A. Foster.

DARTS.

At a recent enthusiastic meeting held in the men's canteen, a Dart Club was formed among the employees at this Branch, and the following officials were appointed:—

Captain : J. Watkins.

Vice-Captain : W. Peters.

Committee : W. Benham, H. Carr, L. Cowdray, C. Luxton and A. Pearce.

Secretary : E. Brown.

Treasurer : E. Gosney.

The trial games were held at the "Phoenix," in which the Bottling Department defeated the Transport and Offices.

The Bottling Department team was : W. Peters (*Captain*), E. Brown, A. Irwin, J. Payne, F. Wellbelove, J. Wicks, F. Fry and Miss G. McEvoy.

During the evening the highest individual score was made by A. Irwin, 134.

The following week a visit was paid to the "Feathers," Laleham, when our team proved victorious in two straight games.

The Brewery was represented by the following : J. Watkins (*Captain*), W. Peters, W. Benham, A. Payton, J. Payne, A. Wright, R. Keefe and Miss G. McEvoy.

The highest score of the evening was 171, thrown by J. Payne.

An interesting fixture list is being made, and it is hoped during the season to issue challenges to the Brewery, Reading, and to London Stores and Woking Stores.

"CARPENTER'S ARMS," UXBRIDGE.

Mr. H. Brumm, tenant of the above house, is the owner of a very clever spaniel named "Judy," who, at a word from her master, fetches a bottle of beer and a glass in her mouth. She will also bring change from the till, but her sense of money values varies. Sometimes she brings a single coin, sometimes a mouthful, but the fact remains she does these things, and demonstrates to unbelieving strangers who may think Harry Brumm is pulling their leg. In addition, Judy bristles with ferocity if her master says, "There are trouble-makers in the house." So there is never any trouble at the "Carpenter's Arms."

SALISBURY.

We take this opportunity of sending our Christmas Greetings to the Directors and all Managers of the various departments who have so ably steered the firm through many difficult times during the year.

We also send Greetings to the members of the staff who have returned from the services, their fighting days over.

We also remember those who are still serving their country.

A Happy Christmas to all past and present employees wherever they may be.

SWINDON.

The staff and employees at Swindon Branch, through the medium of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE, would like to send the Directors and staff at Reading, and all their friends at other Branches, good wishes for Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

FARNBOROUGH.

The members of Farnborough Branch desire to convey to the Board of Directors, the staff at the Brewery and Branches, their sincere wishes for a very Happy Christmas and prosperity in the New Year.

BLANDFORD.

May we offer the season's greetings to the Directors and all members of the firm at Reading and other Branches, wishing them a very Happy Christmas and a more prosperous and less difficult time in the coming year.

We also extend this greeting to our tenants and all wholesale and retail friends in this area.

BRIDGEND.

With the approach of Christmas, may we, the staff of Bridgend Branch, extend our Greetings and good wishes to the Board of Directors, our colleagues at Reading and the Branches, our tenants, and all free, military, Royal Air Force and private trade customers, whom we have endeavoured to serve to the best of our ability

during the past difficult year. It is regretted that this second peacetime Christmas will not see the end of the irksome shortages and restrictions which we suffered during the late war, but we look forward with optimism to the coming year, and the possibility of an early return to normal trading conditions.

During the past year the undermentioned members of our staff have "taken the plunge" into matrimony:—

Miss K. Davies to Mr. J. Williams; Miss M. E. Jenkins to Mr. Mostyn Jones; Mr. G. L. Hardwick to Miss E. P. E. J. Lloyd; Miss M. Holloway to Mr. G. Griffiths.

In each case, gifts were subscribed for among the staff, and presented with expressions of good wishes for the happiness of the couples concerned.

In July last we bade "au revoir" to Mr. S. H. Spurling, when he left to take up his new appointment as manager of the Tamar Brewery, Devonport. We should like to extend to him and his family special greetings at this time of the year.

We have also been pleased to welcome back during the year the following members of our staff: Mr. C. L. Carvill; Mr. C. G. Richmond; Mr. L. W. J. Thorne; Mr. G. L. Hardwick; Mr. D. G. Davies.

We trust they are not finding the change from the privations of war to the "rigours" of peace too exacting, and that never again will it be necessary to call upon them to leave their homes and families in the defence of the "Auld Country."

PORTSMOUTH.

A CHRISTMAS TOAST.

When this December number of the "HOP LEAF" went to press we were on the threshold of another year—1947. We were also anticipating—some of us, perhaps, a wee bit dubiously—the Christmas festivities about to be enjoyed with the world at peace. That it may long continue so is the fervent wish, we hope, of us all. And may we all, everyone connected with our firm—Directors, headquarters, branches, customers and staff—enjoy a right royal festive celebration. May the succulent turkeys, fat geese, plum puddings and mince pies be in plentiful supply and all drink shortages have disappeared. Here's a health to all of us: May we be together for many more Christmases and New Years, and may each one bring good health and prosperity in their wake. So drink deep and hearty, lads and lassies, and may our only future troubles be little ones!

OUR NEW LORD MAYOR.

Congratulations to Councillor R. J. Winnicott on his elevation to the proud position of Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, in succession to Alderman A. E. Allaway, who has had two difficult but successful years of office. Councillor Winnicott has waited a long time for the honour, and in the meantime he has done valuable work as a member of the Council and as Chancellor of the City Exchequer.

In the course of the Mayor-making ceremony the new Lord Mayor revealed that the various Corporation Committees anticipated a capital expenditure of £19,500,000 on vast programmes of improvement during the next three years. "We must turn disaster into opportunity," he said. "We must plan a better Portsmouth. We must have vision, but we must keep one foot on the ground. While we think of the future we must not forget the present."

The coming year will be one of great opportunity as well as great responsibility, and citizens of every creed and class will wish him well in the colossal task which lies ahead.

WAVERLEY'S GOING STRONG.

We were privileged to play some small part in the recent Jubilee Celebrations of our old friends of the Southsea Waverley Bowling Club. The Banquet and Ball that was so successfully organised proved most enjoyable, and everyone of the 350 members and guests present will remember for many years to come the happy time they spent.

Fifty years is a long time, and when one considers what has transpired during that lengthy and momentous period one is more pleased to be able to congratulate the Waverleys on their present flourishing position. Started in a small way with an old second-hand tin hut for a club house, the Club has gone on from strength to strength. Bowls honours, national, county and local, have been piled up by its members from year to year, the crowning success being when four of their members won the all-England rink competition. Much of the success achieved has been due to the wise management of successive presidents and officers, and, thanks to them, the Waverleys have always been, as they still are, a happy and contented family; keen bowlers, generous hosts, and good sports in victory or defeat. May this happy state of affairs always continue!

NEW NAVAL CLUB.

Holland House, a fine residence on the Southsea seafront, overlooking the Ladies' Mile on the Common and Spithead, has

been purchased by the Portsmouth Branch of the Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society, and opened as a club for the engineering branch of the Royal Navy. The building has been splendidly adapted for the purpose it will serve, and as the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth, Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, told a big audience when he performed the opening ceremony, the Branch has sealed a magnificent effort by dedicating the building to the memory of E.R.A.s of the Port who gave their lives in the second world war. Prominent in the entrance is a Roll of Honour, with the names of 150 Engine Room Artificers who made the supreme sacrifice.

A GOOD START.

Present membership of the club numbers 250, and many of these are at present serving abroad, some as far away as China. There is sleeping accommodation for 35, and, in addition to a billiards room, is a table, presented by the E.R.A.'s Mess of R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth. There are two lounges, five bathrooms, a well-equipped kitchen, central heating, a commodious licensed bar and other amenities.

"Your erection of this club," commented Sir Geoffrey Layton, "is a great help to me, because I shall know that at least one branch of the Service will be happy and comfortable here."

The entire cost of the furnishing of the building has been defrayed by contributions from E.R.A. Messes throughout the Portsmouth Command. The club also received a generous gift of £1,000 from Mr. J. Zoppi, who, as an ex-C.E.R.A., was for a number of years chief engineer of the Duke of Westminster's private yacht, *Cully Sark*.

BRISTOL.

We very much regret to record the death of an old and valued tenant, Mr. George Perry, at the "Hit or Miss," Easton Road, Bristol, where, in his own unassuming way, he had since 1932 made many friends. Under his guidance, with the help of a devoted wife, that house had successfully and consistently year by year, consolidated its position at the end of Easton Road in the interests of this Company.

We are most pleased therefore to add that Mrs. Perry is to carry on in the family tradition, with the help of her son, now released from service duties, thus ensuring the continuity of progress. In offering to her our deepest sympathy at such a time,

may we also add our good wishes for the future, and the hope that she may successfully dispense "Hop Leaf" products to our esteemed Easton Road patrons for many years to come.

Other recent transfers have been:—

The "Swan" Hotel, Stokes Croft, Bristol (Mr. A. Hale).
 The "Glass House" Hotel, Bristol (Mr. W. R. Webber).
 The "Colston Arms," St. Michael's, Bristol (Mr. V. E. Jennings).
 The "Richmond" Hotel, Bristol (Mr. A. H. Cox).
 The "Railway" Hotel, Yatton (Mr. E. H. Austin).
 The "Sceptre" Hotel, Bristol (Mr. E. K. Wright).

For each we anticipate the fullest success possible in this post-war period of not unexpected difficulties. We also add the fervent hope that in all our interests, the "silver lining" may not be overlong in disclosing itself.

THE BRISTOL "HOP LEAF" DARTS LEAGUE.

We are indebted to Mr. E. Gristock, the league secretary, for the following excellent report on activities to date, which we know will be full of interest to many of our city "regulars":—

"The annual general meeting of the League was held at the 'Paxton Arms' in September, when the election of officers and committee took place. Mr. W. T. Bryant was voted to the Chair, while the Committee elected were Messrs. E. Harding, W. Pavey, T. Curtis and W. Stansfield. Mr. R. Rowlands accepted the Treasurership, with Mr. E. Gristock as Hon. Secretary.

"Twenty-three entries were received for membership for 1946/47, and it was decided to again form two sections, North and South.

"The season opened on October 1st, and last year's form was soon at a discount. In the north section the 1945/46 winners, 'Black Horse,' Redfield, were swamped in the tidal waters around Easton Road, and lost both to the 'Paxton' and 'Three Tuns.' A little of that lost ground has, however, since been regained by three victories.

"The 'Horse and Jockey,' newcomers, won their first five matches, and made a grand start. The 'Paxton' boys stopped their progress by winning 5-4 in the sixth match. 'Paxton' also spoilt the 'Botany' 'A' team's sequence of victories, and then allowed the 'Richmond' to register their first success by 5-4 on their own board!

"The Barton Hill boys did not stop there, but followed that up by beating 'Punch Bowl' 7-2 and 'Three Tuns' 6-3. (Good work!)

"'Black Horse,' Hambrook, lost prestige in the early matches, but must soon recover their old form which almost gave them the championship last year.

"In the southern section 'Colston Arms' have yet to be defeated. They are undoubtedly a hot combination which will not be overcome by many, playing as they are now. 'Bath Arms' are also an excellent side. The loss of their first game only spurred them on to greater efforts, while 'Gaiety' will not be so far away from the top when the season ends on present form.

"The 'Bathurst,' 'Bell' and 'Three Horse Shoes' are all newcomers, who, with a few more public performances, will offer much stiffer opposition to all comers.

"The young 'Black Horse' team at Hambrook are all triers, and in the course of time will surprise many of the experts.

"The high standard of individual achievements for the first part of the season has been very marked. Mr. S. Ball, of the 'Botany' 'B,' scored a maximum of 180 with three darts against 'Punch Bowl.' Other high spots have been Messrs. E. Edworthy, 140 and 120; M. Glastonbury, 140; R. Anstey, 134, 120 and 100; E. Fletcher, 140; G. Davidson, 140; I. Dyke, 140 and 120. The best 'kick-off' was by Mr. R. Box, of 'Botany' 'A' with 114. The best finish was by Mr. B. Stratford, of 'Cumberland' Sports. When needing 105, he made game in three darts by treble 15, 20 and double 'top.'

"The league has an excellent Chairman, and a live and understanding Committee, and every team is looking ahead to a very enjoyable and interesting season.

LEAGUE TABLES.

North Section—	P	W.	L.	Pts.
Paxton Arms	6	5	1	10
Botany Tavern "A"	6	5	1	10
Horse and Jockey	6	5	1	10
Black Horse, Redfield	5	3	2	6
Black Horse, Hambrook "A"	5	3	2	6
Swan Inn	5	3	2	6
Richmond Hotel	6	3	3	6
Botany Tavern "B"	6	2	4	4
Three Tuns	6	2	4	4
Bridge Inn	6	1	5	2
Lord Chancellor	6	1	5	2
Punch Bowl	5	0	5	0

South Section—	P.	W.	L.	Pts.
Colston Arms	5	5	0	10
Bath Arms	5	4	1	8
Gaiety	4	3	1	6
Cumberland Sports	4	3	1	6
Pilot Hotel	5	3	2	6
Black Horse, Hambrook "B"	4	2	2	4
Three Horse Shoes	4	1	3	2
Windsor Castle	5	1	4	2
Bathurst Hotel	5	1	4	2
Mayor's Arms	5	1	4	2
Bell Hotel	5	1	4	2

The temporary residence in Bristol, during the autumn months, of Mr. E. Duncan Simonds, the second son of our revered Chairman and Managing Director, was not only of considerable interest to a great many of our trade friends in the city, but was also of cumulative value to "Hop Leaf" interests as a whole. His "ambassadorship" of the great Firm which bears his honoured name was a particularly happy and personal one, the influence of which will long remain.

Despite the heavy demands both upon his time and energy, day by day during business hours, he also gave unstinted support to other calls upon his time later, not the least of which was leading his section of Jacob Street Skittle and Snooker Commandos in their nightly forays down the darkest alleys, and around the often difficult "cul de sacs" of the "potting" fraternity, in and out of the city. He entered fully into the spirit of each enterprise, and we feel that no notes for the past quarter could be complete which did not record the extreme pleasure which his visit gave to so many in the Metropolis of the West.

The occasion of the Reading *v.* Bristol City league match gave many Jacob Street staff and employees a rare opportunity to enjoy not only a memorable game, but also a demonstration of their Directors' unfailing generosity and kindly thought during their visit to Headquarters, which will remain as a tangible proof of the deep-rootedness of the "Hop Leaf" stock, and its care for all members of the family for a long time to come.

Mr. H. H. Robertson led the "deputation," and in the words of many who took part, "it was a great day," thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. W. Bradford and the many other Reading colleagues who so unselfishly gave of their time and labour on our behalf. The result of the match, a 5-2 defeat for the home team, was not

unexpected to us, who know the merits of the "Robins" this year, and are full of confidence that, on their form so far, promotion prospects are very rosy indeed. We look forward to the return game with pleasure, and hope to see many of our Reading colleagues at Jacob Street on that day.

Such inter-visits must materially develop that essential team spirit and complete loyalty of purpose within the Company, which is now one of its proudest possessions. The "Hop Leaf" tradition is no mere modern slogan. From the banks of the Kennet it has for two centuries past shed its diffusing beam upon all its children, and the recent example of its truth is something which has warmed our hearts considerably. A thousand thanks for all you did!

May we, at the end of this first completed post-war year, despite the many legacies of the war which still harass us, cheerfully and with ever-thankful hearts, wish our most kindly Board of Directors a very Happy Christmas-tide, and good health and fortune in the year ahead.

And to all our colleagues at home and abroad, we send our sincerest good wishes and remembrances. May 1947 bring to all of you that something in life which now you miss, whatever it may be! Here's hoping, anyway!!

DEVONPORT.

All personnel at the Tamar Brewery send loyal Christmas Greetings and good wishes for 1947 to our Directors and all colleagues at Headquarters and Branches at home and overseas. It is our hope that as 1947 progresses conditions will improve, and the "good things" of life will become more plentiful.

The popular pre-war "Hop Leaf" Darts League recommenced its activities in October with a good entry of fifteen teams from Plymouth and Devonport district houses.

At the initial meeting of the league on the 27th September, 1946, the following executive were elected:—

Chairman : Mr. E. S. Baxter, Longroom Inn, Stonehouse.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. A. W. Sorrell, Swan Hotel, Devonport.

Committee : Mr. P. Glover, King's Arms, Tamerton Foliot.
Mr. F. Mitchell, Vine Hotel, Stonehouse.
Mr. J. Sorrell, Standard Inn, Devonport.

Hon. Secretary : Mr. D. Hartigan, Sydenham Arms, Plymouth.

The matches played to date have created much enthusiasm, and everyone has enjoyed the good sportsmanship of the meetings. Of the much fancied teams, the "Camel's Head," Devonport, have fulfilled expectations. However, it is anticipated that the "Tamar Hotel," Crownhill, "Standard Inn," Devonport, and the "Swan Hotel," Devonport, will challenge them for their position at the top of the league table before the season ends.

Congratulations to the "Abbey Hotel," Plymouth, for consistently good form—"dark horses," these "Abbeyites," so look out "Camel's Head." The "Longroom Inn," Stonehouse, gave the strong "Weston Mill," Devonport, side a surprise by winning 5—3. The "King's Arms," Tamerton, without a win to date, are to be congratulated on putting up some good shows, but the "darts are not flying for them." Pat Glover, mine host, who, readers will recollect, was Grimsby Town Football Club's Welsh international centre-forward, is confident his boys will soon get into their stride, and get away from the bottom of the league table.

Football, as in pre-war days, is now one of the main topics of conversation (?) again. We are very satisfied with the results which Plymouth Argyle F.C. have achieved so far, particularly after the bad season which the Club had last year. Home Park is slowly recovering from its "war wounds," and it is to be hoped that the grandstand which was "blitzed" in 1941 will soon be rebuilt.

The question is, when are we going to see our old rivals Reading at Home Park again. The prospects for 1947-48 are dim unless, of course, Reading put on a spurt through the difficult Christmas and New Year programme. No, the thought of Argyle going down to the Third Division has not entered our heads. We mention this in case some of our Reading friends expected to see Argyle's first team at Elm Park next season.

The "Stiffs," as the reserves are called, met at Elm Park on the 19th October last, and we were pleased that Argyle managed to win by two goals to one after a close game.

THE "TEIGN BREWERY INN," TEIGNMOUTH.

Mrs. G. Lang, who went into the Teign Brewery Inn as a bride—years ago (we will not tell them, Mrs. Lang; let them come and see you, and guess) had the pleasure of taking her lady

customers for an outing to Looe and Polperro on the 29th August, and from accounts we have received, the ladies had a most enjoyable day. Upon their return to Teignmouth in the evening, Mrs. Lang was presented with an electric table lamp, and of this little memento of an auspicious occasion Mrs. Lang is justifiably very proud.

Not to be outdone, Mr. Lang, who has forgotten the number of years he has been associated with the Inn and the Teign Brewery previously, arranged an outing for his customers on the 7th September. The gentlemen proceeded to Bridport and Axminster, and a good time was had by all. What they did is a "closed book," but, ladies, a word of warning, you make it a mixed outing next time—that's all!

Upon returning to Teignmouth, Mr. Lang's friends presented him with a pipe, pouch and a fountain pen; these gifts Mr. Lang displays with much proudness.

May we say "Well done!" Mr. and Mrs. Lang, such efforts as yours maintain the good fellowship upon which the greatness of our calling is based.

THE "NEW INN," LIVERTON, DARTS CLUB.

The conclusion of a very successful season was marked by an outing to Bristol by road on the 7th September by twenty-six members of the Club. Leaving the "New Inn" promptly at 7.30 a.m. in good weather, an unusual occurrence this year, the first stop was made soon after going over the border into Somerset, when sandwiches, thoughtfully provided by Mrs. Derges, were enjoyed, together with a bottle of "Brown Ale."

Upon arrival at Bristol, the party proceeded to Jacob Street Brewery where they were met by Mr. J. H. Law, who kindly arranged a tour of the Brewery, not forgetting the Beer Cellars where our products were "sampled"—a most enjoyable part of the visit, we understand.

After saying "au revoir" to Mr. Law and his assistants, the party proceeded to Horts Restaurant for lunch, the meal provided being excellent. In the afternoon the members of the Club saw the football match between Bristol City and Brighton.

A very interesting and happy day was had by all, and when the party reached home again at 10.15 p.m., the thanks of all were

expressed to Mr. W. J. Derges, our popular tenant of the "New Inn" for arranging such an enjoyable outing. Through the medium of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE, Mr. Derges sends his best thanks to Mr. Law and all at Bristol for the assistance rendered in making their short stay in Bristol so pleasant.

The following changes have been made in our Houses during the past quarter:—

The Victoria Hotel, Dartmouth, from Mrs. I. A. Davey to Mr. J. Stevens.

The King's Arms, Mevagissey, from Mr. J. Stevens to Mr. V. J. Bethell.

The Grapes Tavern, Devonport, from Mr. F. J. Searle to Mr. W. H. G. Perkins.

Mr. F. Searle has retired from the "Grapes Tavern" after over 25 years' loyal service to the firm and his customers, and we hope that his health, which has not been good of late through an injury to his leg, will soon improve, and so enable him to enjoy his well-earned retirement. His successor, Mr. W. H. G. Perkins, is his son-in-law, so the "Grapes" is remaining in the family circle. In wishing Mr. Perkins all success for the future, we know this sentiment is shared by his father-in-law.

Mr. J. Stevens has moved from the King's Arms, Mevagissey, where he has been for the past eight years, to the Victoria Hotel, Dartmouth, and we hope he will be happy in his new surroundings.

Mr. V. J. Bethell, who is a newcomer to the "Hop Leaf" family, is an ex-Gunner, and was demobilised some few months ago. We wish him every success in his new sphere.

Congratulations to Mr. C. H. Harris, of our clerical staff, on the arrival of a son and heir. We are happy to report that both Mrs. Harris and baby are doing well.

Last, but by no means least, we record the following marriages of members of our staff since our last notes:—

Mr. J. Meikle, of our Delivery Department staff, was married at St. Luke's Church, Gosport, on the 16th October, to Miss J. Golding, of Gosport. On behalf of the staff, Mr. S. H. Spurling presented Mr. Meikle with a cheque to enable him to buy a suitable present from us all.

Mr. S. E. England, of our Transport Department, was married to Miss J. O'Leary, of Mitcham, Surrey, on the 21st September. The ceremony was performed at All Saints' Church, Mitcham. Mr. England was presented with a cheque by his colleagues so that he could obtain a memento of the occasion.

To both the newly wedded couples we offer our very best wishes and every happiness.

LONDON.

Major F. J. Johnson and the staff of London Branch send heartiest wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year to the Directors and all our colleagues at Reading and Branches. We should like to take this opportunity of congratulating our Directors on their very successful year under many difficulties, and also extend our appreciation to our many customers on their loyal support.

We have had the pleasure during the past year of welcoming back many of our staff who have been so ably defending us in the late war. Without exception they seem to be settling down comfortably again despite restrictions. We regret that we are losing the services of a few of our older members of the staff. Mr. Frank Gardiner has had to retire after a severe illness, and we are pleased to know that he has made a good recovery. May he enjoy many years of leisure. He will be missed by many of our friends at Newmarket, Hurst Park and "Ally Pally," to mention a few of the racecourses where he was most helpful.

Another of our representatives in Mr. R. Woodward will be leaving us at the end of this year under the law of *Anno Domini*. To him also we wish a long and happy retirement.

We also record the return to our Branch of Mr. Francis, who carried on at our Woking Branch whilst the Manager was on service during the war years.

We extend to all our customers our deep gratitude for their forbearance with us in the past year of shortages, and sincerely trust that we shall be in a better position to meet their requirements in the coming year.

LUDGERSHALL.

All at Ludgershall extend to the Directors, the Staff at Reading and other branches, our best wishes for the Festive Season.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The theatrical producer was giving an audition to a man with a new act.

Producing a puppy from his pocket, the man placed it on the piano, whereupon the puppy calmly proceeded to play part of one of the operas.

"Wonderful!" exclaimed the producer. "I'll give you £200 a week for that."

"But that's not all," said the man, producing from another pocket a parrot, which, perched on the piano, sang an aria from the opera to the puppy's accompaniment.

Almost speechless by now, the producer managed to bring out an offer of "£400 a week for that."

"Er—er," said the man, "before you decide, I must tell you this act's not exactly on the level. You see, the parrot can't sing. The puppy's a ventriloquist."

* * * *

An English comedian, who prided himself upon his ability to speak the Scottish dialect like a native, was invited to a dinner party by an Edinburgh man. During the evening the comedian told some stories in his best Scots accent, and then, thinking to spring a surprise on the party, he said to his host: "What part of Scotland would you say I come from?"

The host looked dubious. "Penzance?" he asked.

* * * *

The newly-married commercial traveller decided to take his wife on a trip round one of his country districts. He had boasted of how well known he was to hotel proprietors and how at one town not only was his place reserved for him, but also a pot of honey placed before him. On arrival at this town, however, there was no pot of honey, and the traveller called to the waiter:

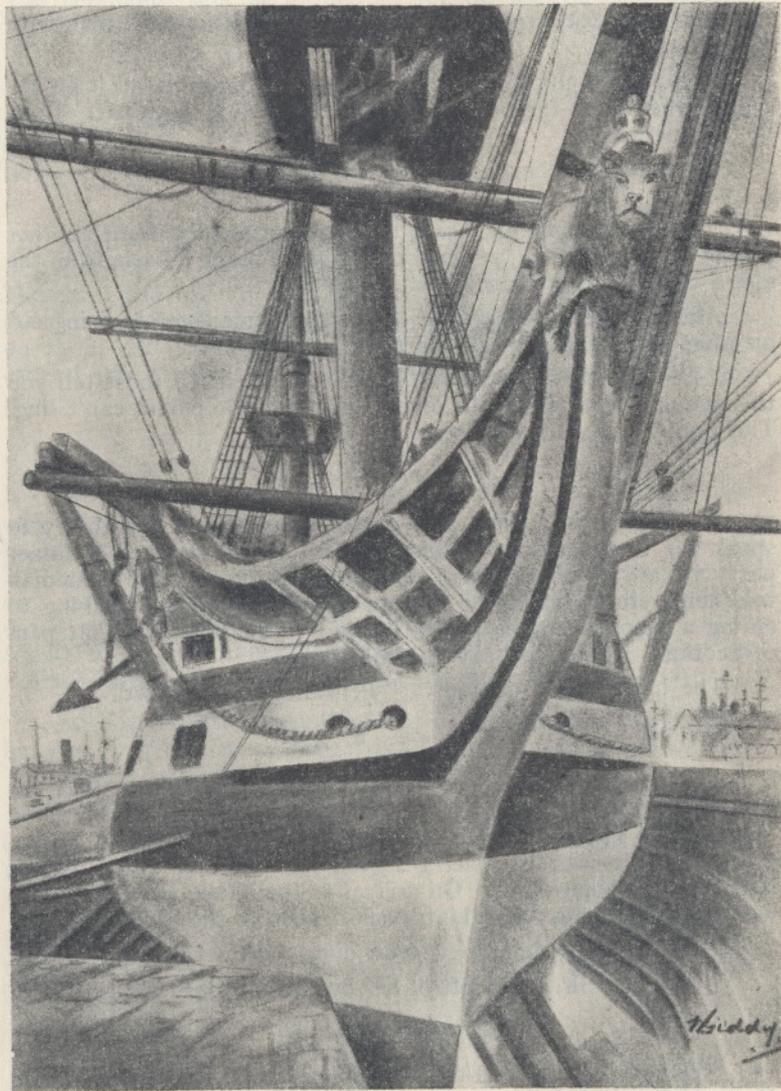
"Hey, waiter, what have you done with my honey?"

"Nothing, Sir. She left of her own accord last week."

* * * *

"Did you give Dorothy that copy of 'What Every Girl Should Know'?" asked father.

"Yes," replied mother thoughtfully, "and she's writing a letter to the author suggesting a couple of dozen corrections and the addition of two new chapters."



H.M.S. "Victory" at Portsmouth Dockyard.



Mr. R. C. Cockbill.



Mr. J. W. Jelley.

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CROWN HOTEL, West Market Place.
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