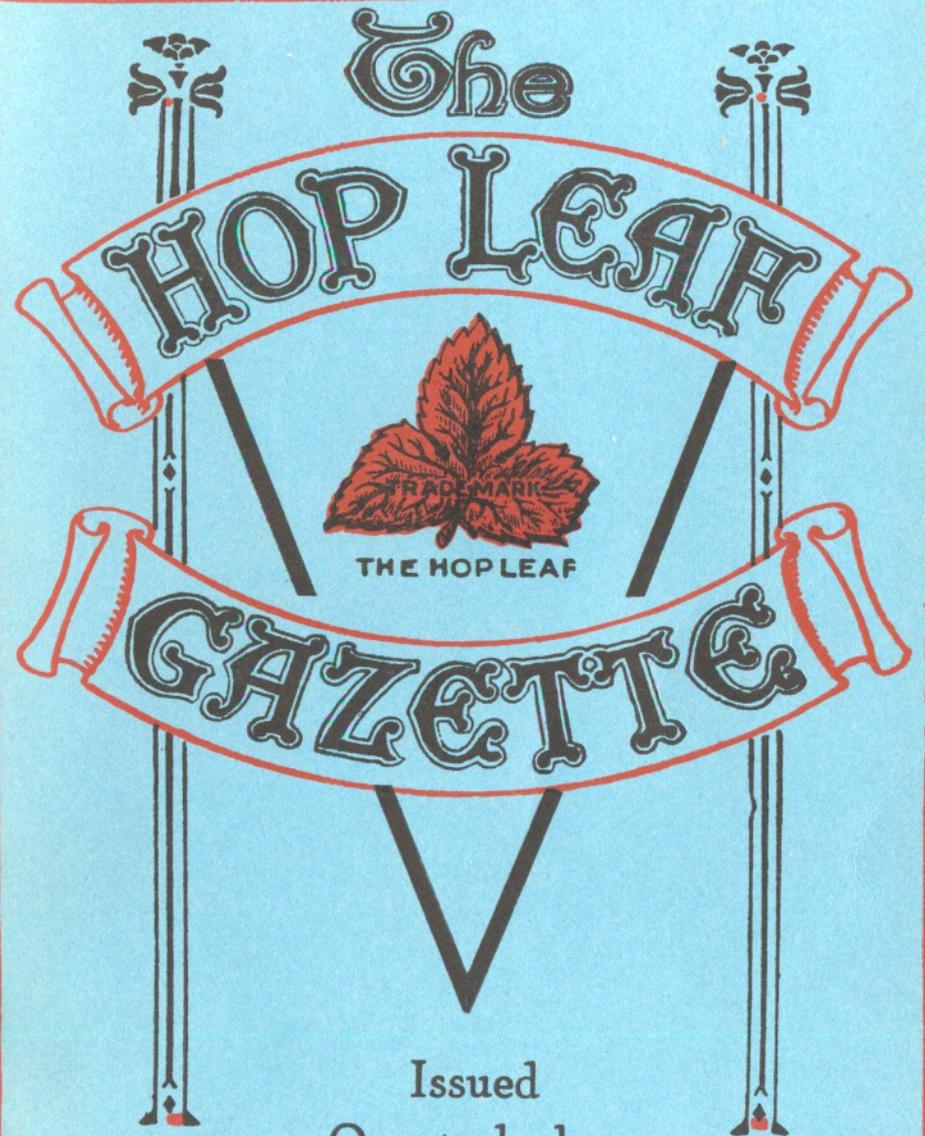


VOL. XXII.

DECEMBER, 1947.

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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. XXII.

DECEMBER, 1947.

No. 1



Xmas, 1947.

The Directors of

H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.

take this opportunity of expressing
Cordial Greetings and Best Wishes
for your future Health, Happiness
and Prosperity.

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

The Brewery,
Reading.





MR. W. P. CRIPPS.

MR. W. P. CRIPPS.

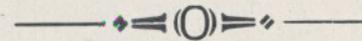
APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF H. AND G. SIMONDS, LTD.

The appointment of Mr. W. P. Cripps, Chairman of the Cirencester Brewery, Ltd., to the directorate of this Company on the 1st October, 1947, has proved wonderfully popular, and through this medium we tender to him our hearty congratulations and our best wishes for many happy years in his high post.

Educated at Wellington College, Berkshire, Mr. Cripps spent some time in an architect's office and a further period with a building contractor, where he gained experience in architecture and building construction. Subsequently he spent some months as a pupil in three different Breweries, preparatory to joining his family's business, the Cirencester Brewery, Ltd., in November, 1928. In 1934 he was appointed Secretary and Manager of the Company, which office he held until it was amalgamated with H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., in 1937, when he became a Director. A year later he joined the Board of W. J. Rogers, Ltd., Jacob Street Brewery, Bristol. Upon the retirement of his father, Capt. E. T. Cripps, just over a year ago, he was appointed Chairman of the Cirencester Brewery, Limited.

Mr. Cripps is a member of the Urban District Council of Cirencester, and holds the office of Honorary Treasurer of the Cirencester and Tewkesbury Division, Conservative and Unionist Association. He is also a member of the Council of the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce, and a past-President, and serves on the Central Committee of the Cirencester Conservative Benefit Society. Although business is his main occupation and hobby, Mr. Cripps is fond of motoring, racing and amateur theatricals.

It might be of interest to some of our older local readers to state that Mr. Cripps' great-grandfather was the late General Radcliffe, who lived at Balmore, Caversham; also that his wife's late father, the Rev. A. C. Sturges-Jones, was, very many years ago, Assistant Priest at St. Mary's, and was popular in his work and recreation, and will be remembered as a keen cricketer.



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 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

To the ever-increasing circle of readers of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE I wish a very Happy Christmas, and all that is best in the New Year.

We have passed through trying times during the past twelve months, and our Directors have indeed had a heavy burden to shoulder. But cheerfulness seems an inherent and integral part of the Brewery in Bridge Street and, with all working together loyally, I am sure we shall keep the Hop Leaf flag flying high. Good fellowship abounds, and nothing can do more to lighten the load and relieve some of the anxieties of our great Directors than for them to know that they have behind them, backing them up, a band of willing workers.

And so my Christmas and New Year's message to you all is : carry on in the same fine spirit and give of your best to one of the best of firms. And then, come what may, we know we shall emerge triumphant.

HAPPY MEMORIES.

It is at Christmastide that we often sit and think of the days that are no more—aye, and the nights, too! My memory often goes back to those fire-watching nights. How we transformed what might have been an irksome duty into a time of good cheer. We were all pals together. For instance, how well I remember the late lamented Mr. Louis Simonds coming to the Club one night and joining us in a game of billiards. How we enjoyed that game! A small thing in itself, but his kindly presence and good sportsmanship make it still linger in our memories. As I have said, we had a good time, and yet we were always conscious of the fact that at any moment we might be called upon to deal with the dastardly work of bombs and above

and below our gaiety was the grim determination that, should the worst happen, no matter what the risk to life and limb, we would do our best to deal with any job that came our way. We were always prepared for that!

Thank God nothing serious happened!

WELL DESERVED ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

At the end of another year it would be unforgivable were we to omit mention of the worthy part played by Messrs. Bradleys, the well-known printers, in the production of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE. It is indeed a work of art and calls forth expressions of admiration from many quarters. Only those familiar with the printing trade can appreciate the great amount of intricate detail such a publication entails. The proofs are always commendably clean, and printers' errors are almost unknown. It is always a pleasure to call at the Crown Press where one ever receives the utmost kindness and courtesy from a very efficient staff.

May the association long continue!

ASCOT RACE CHANGES.

Windsor Rural Council have agreed to plans for the reconstruction of Ascot Racecourse. The main change, which has been approved by the King, is to reconstruct the New Mile by moving it 100 to 150 yards farther north. This will involve the removal of the Golden Gates and closing of the Winkfield Road and will give spectators in the grandstand and the 10s. enclosures an uninterrupted view of racing.

FAMOUS STRAND TAVERN.

Do you know that the Devereux Tavern, in Devereux Court, off the Strand, was formerly the Grecian Coffee House, famous in the literary world of London during the 17th and 18th centuries? asks the *Morning Advertiser*.

Here came Addison and Steele, Dr. Samuel Johnson, Sir Isaac Newton, and the unhappy Richard Savage. It was the comedian Foote's morning lounge, and in a cosy corner Oliver Goldsmith resorted, when funds were in, to "wind up his shoemaker's holiday with a supper."

Here, too, it is recorded, two young fellows quarrelled one evening regarding the correct pronunciation of a certain Greek

word, and not being able to adjust the matter amicably, stepped out into the court and settled it with their swords, the one falling by the other's hand.

Another famous coffee house in Devereux Court was Tom's, which was a favourite meeting place for men of letters.

On the wall of the Devereux Tavern may be seen a bust of the third Earl of Essex.

(This famous Tavern is under the control of our Hotels and Catering Department.)

BIRD FANCIER.

A young mother lost her very small daughter in the confusion of a railway terminus. She scouted around for some time and finally spotted the tot in the centre of a group of nuns. "Oh!" she gasped, much awed. "I hope she hasn't been too much trouble to you."

"Not at all," chuckled the Mother Superior, "we've had a fine time. Your little girl is under the impression that we are penguins."

ALLOTMENTS FOR EMPLOYEES.

It was indeed a happy suggestion to hand over about two acres of the Sports Ground to be converted into allotments. This portion of the Sports Ground had laid unused for a considerable time, but is now being turned to a very useful purpose. The ground has been pegged out to 19 plots of 10 poles each, and the applications for them have been very successful. Already several have commenced work upon them, and it is anticipated by next spring we shall see many successful results of the efforts made by these employees.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM H.M. THE KING.

Mr. Geo. Laney, of Farnborough, a pensioner of the Firm, and who was employed at Farnborough Branch for many years, celebrated the 60th anniversary of his marriage on Wednesday, December 10th, and received a telegram of congratulation from H.M. The King. We are pleased to record this splendid event, and take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Laney, and to wish them many more years of happiness.

GENERAL SIR MILES C. DEMPSEY, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.Sc.

We are very pleased to record that General Sir Miles Dempsey accepted the offer of a Directorship of this Company, following his resignation from the Army in August, and has already taken his seat on the Board.

He brings with him the vast experience which has been accumulated during many years of military service, which should prove of inestimable value to the Firm in the years which lie ahead. Through these columns we wish him every happiness in his change over to industry.

We hope to reproduce a portrait of General Sir Miles Dempsey in the frontispiece of our next issue.

SIMONDS' ANNUAL BALL

will be held in the

LARGE TOWN HALL,

on **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24th, 1948.**

Further particulars later.

MR. A. J. REDMAN.

RESIGNATION FROM DIRECTORATE OF H. AND G. SIMONDS, LTD.

It is with considerable regret that we announce the resignation of Mr. A. J. Redman from the Board of Directors, for reasons of ill-health, on September 30th, 1947.

In his letter of resignation to our Chairman and Managing Director, Mr. Redman has placed on record his appreciation of the willing and kindly help he has always received from the senior members of the staff. As he says, it is with real regret that he takes farewell of this Firm with which he has been associated for seventeen years.

His wisdom and wide experience of the brewing industry have been of inestimable value, and his exceptionally friendly disposition endeared him to all with whom he came into contact.

Mr. A. J. Redman became a Director of this Company in June, 1930, when the control of Ashby's Staines Brewery, Ltd., and Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd., of which he was a Director, was vested in our Firm. He is Chairman and Managing Director of Wells & Winch, Ltd., of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, and their subsidiaries. The Company is one of the largest brewing concerns in the Eastern Midlands.

Notable events in Mr. Redman's life include the following:—

He purchased for his own Company the brewery in which he started as a boy.

Became a Director of Messrs. Ashby's Staines Brewery, the Company in whose employ he had his first appointment.

Mr. Redman's residences are "Weymede," Byfleet, Surrey, and "Two-Ways," Hayling Island, Hants.

He has a small string of racehorses which are trained by Mr. Dines.



"HOP LEAF NIGHT."

AN OUTSTANDING SOCIAL SUCCESS.

(From *Morning Advertiser*, September 18th, 1947.)

Now that the hop picking season has virtually ended, there could be no more appropriate occasion than a "Hop Leaf Night" to aid the Licensed Victuallers' School, thought Mrs. H. T. Bailey, the honorary organiser of the event, which took place at the Connaught Rooms, with outstanding success, named the function in honour of Mr. F. A. Simonds (Chairman of Messrs. H. and G. Simonds), the well-known firm of brewers, of Reading, whose trade mark is the hop leaf.

Mr. Simonds is well remembered for his efforts as President of the Licensed Victuallers' School, when Mr. Alfred J. G. Lay was Governor a few years ago, and when a record list of donations, amounting to £41,144, was announced, and it was out of compliment to him and the keen interest he has displayed in the welfare of the Licensed Victuallers' School, that Mrs. Bailey secured his consent to be present on the occasion of her latest effort to raise funds for the benefit of the School at Slough.

The Grand Hall of the Connaught Rooms was comfortably filled for the occasion, and Mrs. Bailey, who presided, extended a special welcome to parties who had travelled by bus or motor-coach from Hounslow, High Wycombe, Beaconsfield and Slough and Windsor.

Numerous telegrams wishing Mrs. Bailey and her principal guest a happy and successful evening having been read, Mrs. Bailey submitted the loyal toast and followed it by proposing the health of the guest of the evening. She thanked Mr. Simonds cordially for accepting her invitation and by so doing, to have ensured the success of the occasion: In Mr. Simonds, she declared, they had one of the most outstandingly popular members of the Wholesale Trade, and as a result of that gathering, it was hoped to be able to hand over a cheque of substantial proportions for the benefit of the Licensed Victuallers' School. She knew that all present would agree with her in expressing the hope that Mr. Simonds, his son, and the other members of his firm present, would spend an enjoyable evening with them and carry away happy memories of a job well done for the benefit of the children in the Licensed Victuallers' School.

Mr. Simonds, in reply, said he would take the earliest opportunity of congratulating "Dolly" Bailey on a marvellously

arranged entertainment which led him to voice the belief that she must be considered a queen of organisers. He could not help congratulating her, on behalf of the brewing trade, and, indeed, on behalf of the Wholesale Trade generally, on the manner in which she had conducted those proceedings.

“ DRIVE AWAY FEAR.”

It was, he declared, another instance of what could be achieved by the ladies connected with the Trade. In their own houses, for instance, they exercised a tremendous influence on public opinion, in public, private and saloon bars and lounges, which were frequented by all classes of the community. By reason of that fact he would ask them to exercise their influence to help the country in these dull days in which there were so many forebodings. They could assist in driving away a fear for the future which appeared to be exercising the minds of many people, to tend rather to look on the silver lining hidden behind all dark clouds and to use their influence to dissipate ideas of a lack of hope for the days to come. So far as he was concerned he would use the present opportunity to exert all his efforts to ensure that the mutual influence which their Trade enjoyed should be employed in the interest of the nation as a whole in the present period of trial.

Recently he had been in close touch with both sides of the Trade, and he was well aware of the excellent feeling which permeated their contacts. He had been in close contact with Alderman Albert Dyer, [the Chairman of the National Consultative Council of the Retail Liquor Trade, and they did not have any great disagreement.

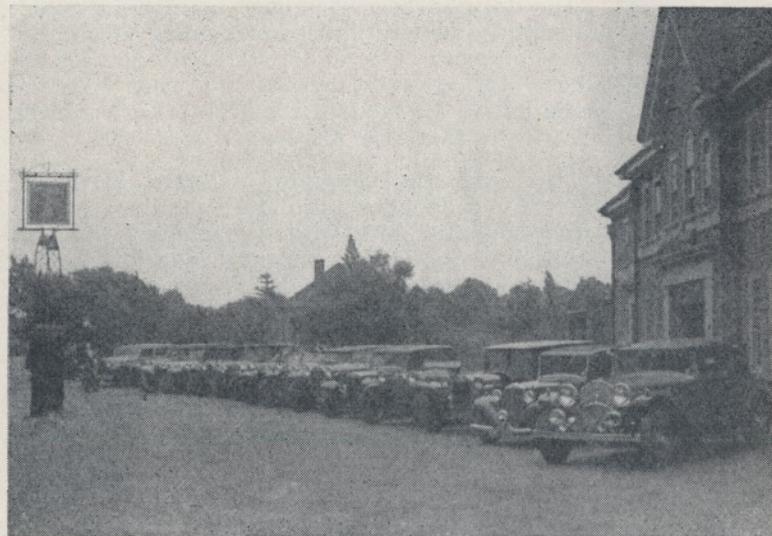
CHEQUE PRESENTED.

Striking another note, Mr. Simonds said he hoped to be able to continue to assist in the education of the children of deceased or distressed licensed victuallers who were accommodated in the Licensed Victuallers' School. He hoped that all present would follow his lead, and show their deep interest in the School by subscribing more handsomely to its funds now than ever they had done before.

A cheque for £74 was then handed in on behalf of the South-East London Protection Association, representing the amount collected on the occasion of the society's outing for the benefit of the School.

“ Prosperity to the Licensed Victuallers' School ” was the toast proposed by Captain V. H. E. Langford, who declared that the happy boys and girls in that School were fortunate in having such ladies as Mrs. Bailey to organise events of the kind which those present were enjoying, to provide the necessary funds for their education and general well-being. He congratulated Mrs. Bailey and her helpers on the success which had attended their efforts.

Acknowledging the toast, Mr. Arthur Spencer, the Governor of the Incorporated Society of Licensed Victuallers and the Licensed Victuallers' School, thanked all concerned for their support on that occasion. . . .



“ Lancia ” Motor Club Rally at Grosvenor House, Caversham, on September 7th, 1947.

BREWERY JOTTINGS.

BY W. DUNSTER.

Sincere congratulations to Mr. Harry Davis on appearing as the frontispiece in our last issue. Without a doubt he has had a really big job throughout the war years, and since. Unfortunately it does not get any better, as supplies are not yet becoming easier, so the "blue pencil" has still to be wielded, and that has pleased no one. I think all will agree Mr. Davis has remained cheerful throughout, and does his best for all sections of our trade. Perhaps his "half-section," Mr. Jimmy Wild, helps to keep him in a pleasant frame of mind. Mr. Wild is well known for his unflinching good humour, in spite of disabilities sustained in the First War. By the way, his only son has now been demobbed, which must be a comfort to him—they seem alike as two peas.

Like many others, we fully realise it is a time of crisis for this country, so we were not so surprised as we might have been that our trade has had further burdens placed upon it by the recent Budget. The duty on beers has once again been raised, also on wines and spirits, and with Christmas looming ahead, it is not at all a pleasant outlook. One of our staff still sighs for the happy times when beer was "tuppence" a pint. At the conclusion of hostilities we all thought that the price would be coming down. Evidently that time is a long way off yet.

We congratulate Mr. R. C. Ayers (now at Messrs. Dowlings, Andover) on the birth of a daughter, also Mr. S. Taylor (General Office), whose wife presented him with a daughter. As this latter event took place in Scotland, it meant a long journey for the new daddy before he could see the infant.

Mr. Harold Randall (Accountants' Dept.) had a very anxious time when his son, while with him on holiday, was taken ill, and the trouble was diagnosed as infantile paralysis. Fortunately, he quickly recovered, and it is pleasing to know he is going on well. What a shock the little boy's illness must have been for Mr. and Mrs. H. Randall! We are all pleased that things have turned out so well.

A member of the staff, Mr. P. M. Smith, has emigrated. He started with the Firm in 1936, and after serving in the Forces for over six years, resumed in the Bottled Beer Dept. Office. He then left for Rhodesia, and he readily found a job, and from all accounts is doing quite well out there. Mr. J. Martin (Delivery Office) has also left us for another position in the town.

We regret to record the death of Mr. J. Rumens, of the Cellars Dept. He came to the Brewery from the Army in 1923 (Brock Barracks, Reading). By the way, Mr. Lottie Collins, one of our very cheerful pensioners, tells me he was responsible for him coming to H. G. & S., as he (Lottie) asked the late Mr. C. W. Stocker for a job for him. He was a member of the Seven Bridges cricket team (as it was then called) for a number of years. "Joe," as he was always called, used to bowl "slows," pitching the ball well up in the air. And he used to get plenty of wickets. At times he was hit all over the place, and 'tis said, on one occasion, another "Joe" was fielding very deep. Joe Rumens, however, called for the other Joe to field even deeper, and he replied, "How can I? I'm in the next field now!"

Football is still a big topic at the Firm, and two Brewery teams turn out each Saturday. The first eleven are doing very well indeed, and have been at the top of their league. The second team have had varying fortunes in results, but are full of enthusiasm, and that's the spirit that counts. One of their regular supporters is Mr. Fred Edwards, now on pension, and looking as well as ever. It is seldom he misses seeing the first team play, home or away, and whatever the weather.

The Reading Football Team are not by any means playing consistently, and a really winning combination has yet to be obtained. Quite a number of new players have been signed on, so the management are fully alive to the fact that the team needs strengthening. Maybe they were waiting for the Cup Ties to pull out that something extra. One thing about it, in spite of quite a number of home defeats, support has been splendid, so far, at Elm Park. By way of contrast, the Reserve team have been doing quite well, and the ardent fan (we have quite a number at the Brewery) does not miss a match. We would like to take this opportunity of congratulating our friends, Messrs. Huntley & Palmers, whose football team are playing so well, and have reached the first round proper of the Amateur Cup. We have no doubt our friend Mr. J. Oster, Secretary of the Recreation Club for so many years, is well pleased with the prowess of his team.

We have welcomed back Mr. M. Rickards to the General Office. Before the war he was on the Travelling Staff, and some years ago had an operation which was successful. After several years' service in the Army, on "demob," he returned to the Brewery, and then was transferred to Woking Branch as a traveller. Unfortunately he had to return to Reading for another operation. This was successful, and after a spell of convalescence

he returned to be in charge of a section of the books in the office, and we all wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

The new heating installation is now in operation, and working quite satisfactorily. No doubt we in the Offices have had quite our share of "bangs" during the last few months for, in order to put in the new pipes and radiators, the hammer and chisel men and carpenters have been making holes in solid walls and wood-work. The din has been furious at times. Also in Bridge Street, just outside the Offices, men have been busy with pneumatic drills making a great noise. After the road breakers, came the road makers. At the moment the road looks quite good, and most of the din has subsided.

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

The Plough, Headley (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. H. Prior.

The Plough, Baydon (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. E. Dicker.

The Travellers' Rest, Basingstoke (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. L. C. Johnstone.

The Yew Tree, Spencers Wood (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. W. E. Briant.

The Five Bells, Riseley (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. S. E. Fiford.

The Swan, Great Kimble (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. D. G. Hughes.

Off Licence, Ale Stores, Stone (Wheeler's Wycombe Breweries, Ltd.)—Mr. C. G. L. Rogers.

Off Licence, Cricklade (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. J. W. Wood.

The Wheatsheaf, Stanwell (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. E. Brodie.

The Clifton, Caversham Road, Reading (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. S. W. Turrell.

The Crown, Lower Basildon (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. M. W. Middleton.

The Bricklayers' Arms, Newbury (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. C. H. House.

The King's Head, Thatcham (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. B. Harding.

The Roebuck, Binfield (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. Thatcher.

The Farriers' Arms, Spencers Wood (H & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. C. L. Caladine.

The Greyhound, Eton Wick (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mrs. L. M. Newell.

The Feathers, Hythe End, Wraysbury (H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.)—Mr. E. A. G. Faulkner.

The Railway Hotel, Staines, has been transferred to our Hotels and Catering Department, as from the 14th October, 1947, and will, therefore, now be dealt with on similar lines to other managed Houses run by that Department.

The Cricketers Inn, Winchester (J. May & Co., Ltd.)—Mr. R. A. Pearce.

The Golden Lion, Cliddesden, Basingstoke (J. May & Co., Ltd.)—Mr. A. D. Jones.

The Barley Mow, Oakley, Basingstoke (J. May & Co., Ltd.)—Mrs. L. Neale.

In the case of the Cricketers Inn, Winchester, Mrs. Criddle and her late husband had been tenants of this House since February, 1920.

The licence of the Barley Mow, Oakley, has been transferred to Mrs. Neale, the widow of the former licensee, Mr. Frank Neale, who had held the licence since January, 1918.

Our congratulations are extended to Mr. John Hatt, who has been tenant of the Sportsman's Arms, North Dean, near High Wycombe, for 50 years. The following account is from the *Bucks Free Press*, giving details of the presentation of an inscribed silver tankard, to which the Firm also subscribed:—

"Friends came from far and near to offer congratulations to Mr. John Hatt, and to join in the celebrations on the occasion of his 50th anniversary as licensee of 'The Sportsman's Arms,' North Dean. This historic moment in the life of the small hamlet was marked by the presentation to Mr. Hatt of an inscribed silver tankard. Mr. A. E. Turner, in making the presentation on behalf of almost 100 friends present, spoke of the important contribution which Mr. Hatt had made to the enjoyment and well-being of the village community over the past half century. During that time he had come to be known as 'Uncle John,' and had won the affection and esteem of all who knew him. Mr. Turner also referred to the invaluable help given to Mr. Hatt by his

daughter, Mrs. Alice Smith. A toast to the health of Mr. John Hatt was accompanied by musical honours. Mr. Hatt, who is aged 73 years, acknowledging the presentation and good wishes, said that was a most happy moment in his life, and although he doubted whether he would complete another 50 years as landlord, he hoped to continue for a long time yet."

We are pleased to offer our congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. J. Hussey on the recent celebration of their diamond wedding. They have been tenants of the Six Bells, Shinfield, for 38 years, and are a well-known couple in the village; and Mr. Hussey a character whenever he used to call in at the Brewery.

On the completion by Mr. S. Kerr of 50 years as licensee at the Hatch Gate, Whitchurch, Mr. C. Bennett (Estates Dept.), wrote him a letter offering the heartiest congratulations of the Firm on such a wonderful attainment. Mr. Kerr, in his reply of thanks, mentioned that his health was, generally speaking, very good, but his memory such that he was unable to write letters, and stated his son was writing this answer. In conclusion, he says: "I must say that my tenancy under your Company has been a very happy one, and I sincerely hope that my family connections with your Company may carry on for many years to come."

We much regret to record the following deaths during the past few months:—

Mr. A. L. Brodie, of The Wheatsheaf, Stanwell, died on the 17th September, and had been tenant of this House since May, 1935.

Mr. W. G. Newell, of The Greyhound, Eton Wick, died on the 14th October, and had been tenant of this House since January, 1925.

Mrs. A. L. Thatcher, of The Roebuck, Binfield, who died on the 9th October, had been at this House from June, 1926. Mr. W. G. Hewins was her first husband when they went to The Roebuck in 1926. On his death she took over the tenancy in February, 1932, and held the licence until her death in October, 1947.

Mrs. Lambert, of the Jolly Anglers, Yiewsley, who died on the 14th October, as a result of an accident when dismounting from a bus.

Mr. S. H. Osborne, of the Crown Hotel, Marlborough, who died on the 16th November, and had been tenant of this House since 1942.

Mr. N. W. Harding, of the King's Head, Thatcham, who died on the 25th June from infantile paralysis, and had been tenant of this House since April, 1945, when he took over the licence from his father. This was a very sad loss, as Mr. Harding was a well-known fast bowler, and played for Kent. He had had a most successful season, and naturally was in the prime of life, and to be stricken down in this way was both a shock and calamity.

Mr. F. G. Millard, of the Sawyers' Arms, Lambourn, who died on the 11th October, and had been tenant of this House since April, 1937. Mr. Millard, who was educated at the old British School, Reading (the writer, by the way, was at school with him for a number of years—in fact, in the same class, together with another Breweryite, viz., Mr. Les. Duguid, now at The Griffin, Caversham), and started in the offices at H. & G. S. in August, 1904. A member of the Berkshire Yeomanry, he served throughout the first Great War and, after his return to the Firm, he served in the General Office, and later the Delivery Office, where he was until 1937. He then went to Lambourn, and being of an affable and genial disposition, he made many friends and a success of the Sawyers' Arms. Many were present at the funeral at St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Lambourn, and the wreaths were numerous. Mr. W. Bowyer was present, representing the Firm, and Mr. S. Hinton attended, representing the 1/1st Berkshire R.H.A. Mr. Millard, being so well-known to so many of us, we look upon his passing as a personal loss, and our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife and daughters.

THE COVERDALE HOTEL, PAIGNTON.

The Coverdale Hotel, Dartmouth Road, Paignton, Devon, a fully licensed residential hotel, came under the control of our Hotels and Catering Department on June 25th, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warren have been appointed resident managers.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

We hear the rain fall, but not the snow,
Bitter grief is loud, calm grief is silent.

Of t have I heard, and now believe it true,
Whom man delights in, God delights in, too

Nothing teaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.

An ounce of cheerfulness is worth a pound of sadness to
serve God with.

Flowers are the sweetest things God ever made and forgot
to put a soul into.

Freethinkers are generally those who never think at all.

Life is a long lesson in humility.

Nature is the living, visible garment of God.

There is one thing that is more glorious and precious than
the whole material universe : and that is a woman's love.

You will find angling to be like the virtue of humility, which
has a calmness of spirit and a world of other blessings attending
upon it.

Rough diamonds may sometimes be mistaken for pebbles.

The Devil is a busy bishop in his own diocese.

Waters that are deep do not babble as they flow.

We make way for the man who boldly pushes past us.

You may lose a fly to catch a trout.

There is a pleasure in the pathless wood ;
There is a rapture on the lonely shore :
There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep sea, and music in its roar ;
I love not man the less,
But Nature more.

FOOTBALL.

The Brewery teams kicked off on August 30th under some-
what tropical conditions, and due to the hard state of the grounds
many minor injuries occurred in the first two or three weeks.
Fortunately, the " B " Team had some worthy reserves to fill
the breaches in the " A " Team, and it reflects credit on the
manner they carried out the first part of the league programmes.

RESULTS TO DATE. " A " TEAM.

| | | | | F. A. |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| Albion Athletic | ... | ... | Home | 7-0 |
| Goring Reserves | ... | ... | Home | 16-3 |
| Burghfield | ... | ... | Away | 2-1 |
| Exiles | ... | ... | Away | 2-2 |
| Cholsey | ... | ... | Home | 5-0 |
| Rabson Rovers | ... | ... | Away | 3-0 |
| Albion Athletic | ... | ... | Away | 6-0 |
| Rabson Rovers | ... | ... | Home | 3-2 |
| Didcot Athletic | ... | ... | Home | 3-1 |
| Dorchester | ... | ... | Away | 1-2 |

| RECORD TO DATE :— | P. | W. | L. | D. | F. | A. |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 52 | 11 |

Goal Scorers : Venner, 26 ; Tuttle, 4 ; Wheeler, 6 ; Ward, 3 ;
Hawkins, 6 ; Braisher, 2 ; Coleman, 1.

" B " TEAM.

| | | | | F. A. |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| Henley Trinity | ... | ... | Away | 0-2 |
| Pangbourne | ... | ... | Home | 1-3 |
| Peppard | ... | ... | Away | 12-0 |
| Sunninghill | ... | ... | Away | 1-7 |
| Henley Trinity | ... | ... | Home | 4-4 |
| Henley Y.M.C.A. | ... | ... | Home | 2-3 |
| Reading P.O.W. | ... | ... | Home | 5-2 |
| Henley Y.M.C.A. | ... | ... | Away | 5-3 |
| Peppard | ... | ... | Home | 4-1 |
| Nettlebed | ... | ... | Away | 0-8 |
| N.A.L.G.O. | ... | ... | Home | 3-1 |
| Sunninghill | ... | ... | Home | 4-2 |

| RECORD TO DATE :— | P. | W. | L. | D. | F. | A. |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 12 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 41 | 36 |

Goal Scorers : Johnson, 11 ; Greenaway, 8 ; Waters, 8 ; Neville, 6 ;
Taphouse 2 ; Cudlipp, 2 ; Beasley, 2 ; Sherville, 1.

More supporters would give the players encouragement.

NATURE NOTE.

(BY C.H.P.).

SOME SIDELIGHTS OF A PHEASANT SHOOT.

BLACKBERRY AND BUTTERFLY IN NOVEMBER!

In the woods and fields there is much to be seen at all seasons of the year; even the winter months have their peculiar charms. And, as wild Nature's ways have a special interest to me, you can judge of my delight when I received a kind invitation to a pheasant shoot amid rural scenes that bring back many happy memories to me. The year 1947 has been remarkable in many ways, and although this shoot was on November 1st, the foliage was still thick on the trees and bushes, some of the undergrowth being well-nigh impenetrable, and the beaters had a difficult task, which they carried out with the utmost cheerfulness and with considerable success. In fact, one of the guns went out of his way to warmly thank and congratulate these men on the excellent sport they had provided—a thoughtful little act that was much appreciated.

ALL IN HAPPY MOOD.

Though it was November, the weather conditions seemed far removed from those generally obtaining at this season of the year, and everybody appeared in very happy mood. The guns took up their positions, the beaters lined up, a whistle blew, and the day's sport had begun!

It was soon evident that there was a good head of game, and though the pheasants had plenty of thick undergrowth in which to conceal themselves, the beaters did their work so thoroughly that the birds and "bunnies" were driven from their fastnesses, and the *crack, crack*, of the guns proved that the pheasants were on the wing. They were sturdy and strong, flying at a great pace, but the shooting was good, with the result that many a fine bird that had adorned the woods was fated to play his next part by adorning the dining table.

BEATERS IN BATTLE DRESS!

It was quite amusing to see the beaters as they emerged from the woods, literally covered with the silken strands of the rosebay willowherbs or the bracts of the burdocks, the hooked points of which cling to your clothes with great tenacity. But it was all taken with the greatest good humour. It was hard to realise it was November when one could gather, here and there, a luscious blackberry, and see a peacock butterfly flitting around. The holly tree, with its peculiar yellow berries attracted a good deal of attention, and blackbirds were busy feeding off sickly-sweet berries of the yew trees. There were other autumnal or winter wild fruits which, together with the colourful foliage, gave a gaiety to the scene which was very pleasing to the eye.

CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE.

The very hard winter which we experienced had not been without its effects on the bird life. The thrushes seemed as hard hit as any of our wild birds, and there were very few to be seen. Usually I have the pleasure of observing families of long-tailed tits, but this year they were conspicuous by their absence, as were the tiny goldcrests, so small that five-and-a-half of them go to the ounce! The note *twit-twit, twit-twit* attracted my attention to a nuthatch, and I was glad to see several of these interesting tree-climbers. One little tree-creeper also came into view as he wound his way, with mouse-like motion, up the trunk of a tree.

The prolonged dry summer had made it quite easy going across the fields, as compared with other years. I was glad to see those silver-songsters, the larks, in evidence and also quite a number of meadow pipits, whose note *zeeah, zeeah*, quickly attracted my attention. Their breasts are spotted like those of the thrush, and their upper parts are tinged with olive. The kale was not waterlogged on this occasion, and you could wade through this with comparative ease. It held quite a number of pheasants, partridges and hares, and provided good sport. As I passed a rick I commented: "My word, that's a work of art!"

I learned afterwards that the man responsible for its erection had gained a first prize for the thatching, and a second for the building of the rick—I am sure he thoroughly deserved this recognition of his craftsmanship.

A REFRESHING REST.

How refreshing it was amid these sylvan surroundings to pause awhile and partake of a little food and drink—both very welcome after our appetites had been sharpened by hours of fresh air and tramps through wood and across field. The drink went down like good wine; it was Satisfying and some of the Best that is brewed! I noticed, though he had had a long and busy morning, and must have been hungry and thirsty, too, that the great White Chief of the shoot strolled around to see that others were provided for, before partaking of refreshment himself. At these pauses in the day's work I always like to have a chat with the keepers for they have an intimate knowledge of the wonders of the woods. If they come across a dead rabbit they can tell if it has been killed by a cat or a fox or other four-footed poacher. If a fox finds a rabbit in a snare, for instance, he will bite off the head, and thus free it from the wire before carrying it away for dinner.

EVERY MINUTE INTERESTING.

But we must not tarry too long talking, for there is more work to do and the days are short, so the sport is resumed. The weather remains kind, for though some ominous-looking clouds come over from the west, only a few drops of rain fall, and the afternoon proves as enjoyable as the morning, with excellent sport, and everybody in the best of spirits. Every minute is filled with something of interest and at almost every step we add to our knowledge of the trees, the birds, and the little beasties that have their abode in these woods. At length "cease fire" is sounded and we come, reluctantly, for my part, at any rate, to the end of a perfect day.

A TINGE OF SADNESS.

I say a perfect day, though I do not forget that it was tinged with sadness, for were there not absent friends who will, alas! never be seen to raise gun to shoulder again, amid these delightful surroundings.

But we know that these great gentlemen, by the kindly, useful lives they led here on earth, have assuredly gone to their reward!

SPECIAL NOTICE.

It had been a heavy morning in the blazing heat; and particularly on the parched summit of Hackpen Hill, above the White Horse. As I ran down into Wroughton I felt that refreshment was indicated, and pulled up at the first sign of the Hop Leaf. "The Carters' Rest," the place was called, and I duly dealt with a pint in the way that pints are meant to be dealt with. So doing, I observed a notice on the wall; it was framed, and the lettering had been neatly done by hand, in red and black inks. The style, and the touch of decoration, suggested the mid-Victorian period, to which I have indeed no doubt that they belonged. And the wording, which seemed to me worth copying out, was this:—

SPECIAL NOTICE.

A MAN is specially engaged and kept on the premises to do all the SHOUTING, CURSING AND SWEARING that is required in this establishment.

A DOG is also kept to do all the barking.

OUR FIGHTING MAN AND CHUCKER-OUT has won 75 PRIZE FIGHTS, has never been beaten, and is a splendid shot with A REVOLVER.

An undertaker calls every morning for orders.

The late Thomas Burke, whose book, "The English Inn," ranks among the classics of roadfaring, used to collect things of just that kind. Some of his discoveries in the way of directives to customers were most highly diverting, and I know that he would have relished the above example. Particularly in the older and smaller inns there must be many quaintly worded or otherwise amusing notices, that would be well worth recording in print before they vanish before a regular new broom of a landlord. If any readers have specimens in their houses, and would like to send particulars to the Editor of THE HOP LEAF for publication, that would, I am sure, be welcomed by many others beside myself.—F. JONES, Farnborough, Banbury, Oxon.

MESSRS. SACCONI & SPEED, LTD.

We are pleased to record that our associated Company, Messrs. Sacconi & Speed, Ltd., Wine and Spirit Shippers, of 32, Sackville Street, Piccadilly, have secured the Royal Warrant :

BY APPOINTMENT TO H.M. QUEEN MARY.

SIMONDS' TENNIS CLUB.

A VERY ENJOYABLE SEASON.

Tennis members have enjoyed a very good season, thanks to the grand summer weather which was much appreciated after the poor summers of previous years, and full use was made of the excellent courts on the Sports Ground, though, naturally, the grass courts looked very tired by the end of August, and there was little, if any, grass on the base lines.

The Ladies' and Gentlemen's Singles Tournaments were revived for the respective challenge cups presented by Mr. R. St. J. Quarry and Mr. E. D. Simonds, and the successful competitors were Mrs. Josey, wife of Mr. Charles Josey, one of our wages clerks, and Mr. Pitts, now one of the trainees. All matches throughout the Tournaments were keenly contested, and the winners are to be specially congratulated, as the finals in both instances were real ding-dong battles, and the winning margin was a very narrow one.

We also renewed our pre-war contests with Messrs. Courage, of Alton, and two most enjoyable matches were played, even though, I regret to say, the honours went slightly to the other side. Matches were also arranged with the Tennis Clubs of the R.A.P.C. and the Reading Co-operative Employees' Association, and very enjoyable afternoons were spent.

Members who do not usually visit the Sports Ground during the cooler seasons will be very pleased to know that the two hard tennis courts have been resurfaced, and those who have had the opportunity of playing on them are loud in their praise.

Messrs. Sutton, who undertook the work, and carried it out very quickly, are to be congratulated on their "Master Courts"; they are much kinder to one's feet, as also balls and rackets, and we shall also appreciate them in the summer when perhaps damp conditions render the grass courts somewhat hazardous.

A. M. P.

TEMPLE END CRICKET CLUB.



The Temple End Cricket Club, of which our Directors are Vice-Presidents, have won the championship of the Chesham and District Cricket League this season.

Above is a photograph of the team and the league cup, with Mr. E. A. Hilliers, the Chairman, seated on the ground, on the left, and Mr. E. Edwards, Hon. Secretary, seated on the ground, on the right.

Hearty congratulations to the players on their great performance and also on the fine sportsmanship they showed on achieving that end!



A GREAT THOUGHT.

CONCERNING A GREAT MAN.

On reaching home, Kingsley finds visitors awaiting him : the quiet little country Rectory is sought out by many men of many minds, officers, naval and military—Churchmen and Non-conformists—Americans, Colonials, Anglo-Indians. Considerable time must be passed in kindly intercourse with these—in affording them the incalculable invigoration of spirit which he knows so well how to give. He lies in his hammock in the study, smoking and talking—eager, vivacious, passionately sympathetic : and, at last, he is alone, to refresh himself by one of those “ Sabbaths allowed for the mind as well as the body, when the intellect is stilled, and the emotions alone perform their gentle and involuntary functions.” And first he brings the spiritual consolation of prayer and reading to his beloved aged mother, to whom he is the very light of the eyes, and whose face is illumined by the sunshine of his presence whenever he enters her room. Then he sits awhile in the drawing-room, his hand in his wife’s, regarding with unfeigned joy his children as they frolic around him. This is, perhaps, his sweetest hour of the day. The “ sea-like modulations ” of his voice sink down into tender monosyllables : and that great love which is the well-spring of his being is given free vent towards these, his nearest and dearest, in look and thought and word.

The children, sleepy and laughing, go up at last to bed ; the clear March night is populous with stars, as Kingsley, for one last breath of the cold wild wind, looks out into the rustling shadows of the garden. Then, with a sigh of uttermost content, he shuts the study door, and meditates for a few moments over a book such as he himself has recommended to be read, “ after the care and bustle of the day is over . . . some book which will compose and soothe the mind . . . which will bring us face to face with the true facts of life, death and eternity . . . which will give us, before we sleep, a few thoughts worthy of a Christian man, with an immortal soul in him.” And as the stately sentences fall like a solemn music into his mind, and his bright eyes grow dim with sleep, and his taut muscles relaxed with weariness, Charles Kingsley says to himself, at the close of another week’s work, “ You do not know half—no, not the thousandth part of God’s love and mercy to you, and you never will know. . . . Burn up the chaff of vanity and indulgence of hasty prejudices, second-hand dogmas, husks which do not fill my soul . . . and if there be any grains of wheat in me, any word, or thought, or power of action which may be of use as seed for my nation after me, gather it, O Lord, into Thy garner.”—From “ A Day with Charles Kingsley,” by Maurice Clare.

WEST COUNTRY SIMPLICITY.

The “ Langton Arms,” which is the subject of our photograph below, is one of the outposts of Simonds’s Empire. It is situated in the village of Tarrant Monkton, a quiet Dorsetshire backwater, well away from the arterial roads and “ far from the madding crowd.”



It is a typical example of the growth of a public house from a country cottage. No doubt, in earlier years, this block consisted of two or maybe three cottages which have all been gradually absorbed into what is now the one premises. In common with many such public houses, the tenancy of this one includes a considerable amount of land, so that the tenant, Mr. E. G. Hull, is not only a publican, but a smallholder as well. On the day the photograph was taken he had been busy tending his cattle, and as it was one of those really hot days during the late summer, he was, as you will see from the picture, most suitably attired.

The viewpoint from which the “ shot ” was taken was the churchyard which adjoins the public house. The wrought ironwork seen in the foreground is the actual framework which used to support an oil lamp, which at one time served to light worshippers on their way to the church and, maybe, later in the evening to the “ Langton Arms.”

One of the chief interests in this example is the use of thatch for the roof. We are told by many that this craft is fast dying out, because of the risk of fire, other minor drawbacks, and the supposed lack of thatchers. This would appear to be untrue pessimism, as there are over 170 of them named in a recent building Trades Directory, not to mention the small jobbing craftsmen who carry out the hundred and one repairs to ricks and roofs. Methods employed vary in each district, as do the names of the various processes. The chief of these is perhaps that of preparing and levelling the straw which is known as "yelming" in the West and "reed-drawing" in Dorset, where it is usually carried out in a press made of a bench and an adjustable beam. Those who are interested will find this skilled work described by Sir H. Rider Haggard, and in detail by Mr. Hennell in his "Change on the Farm."

Once again we are indebted to our Chief Architect, Mr. R. E. Southall, for the illustration.

J. L. H.
Architectural Staff.

THE LIGHTER SIDE.

The train was pulling out when a young soldier jumped on. As he stood panting, an elderly passenger said scornfully :

"You army fellows don't keep yourselves in condition. When I was your age I could carry a cup of coffee in one hand, run half a mile and catch the 8.15 and still be fresh as a daisy."

"You don't understand, pop," said the soldier. "I missed this train at the last station."

* * * *

A soldier came to a base hospital with the complaint that he was unable to sleep at night. The M.O.'s advice was that he should eat something before he went to bed.

"But, sir," the soldier reminded him, "two months ago you told me never to eat anything before going to bed."

The medical officer blinked and then, with full professional dignity, replied, "My boy, that was two months ago. Science has made enormous strides since then."

LIGHTER SIDE.

The young, newly married veteran after a very tiring day was enjoying his pipe and reading the evening paper. The wife, who was poring over a cross-word, suddenly called out : "Henry, what is a female sheep?" "Ewe," curtly replied her husband, and that's how their first row started.

* * * *

A Scots ex-Serviceman was stripping the wallpaper from the walls of his house when an old army pal called to see him.

"Weel', Donald," said the latter, "are ye going to have a new paper?"

"Na, na," replied Donald, "Ah'm moving."

* * * *

Having only recently moved into the garrison town, the Colonel's lady was determined to impress the officers of the regiment and their wives. She arranged for a musical At Home, and told her husband to see to the booking of a musician to entertain the guests.

"Have you engaged the pianist yet?" she asked a few days before the great evening.

"Yes, my dear," the Colonel replied, "a great virtuoso."

She looked annoyed.

"Never mind about his morals. Can he play?"

* * * *

A mother rabbit to her small child :

"A magician pulled you out of a hat—now stop asking questions."

* * * *

PRETTY CUSTOMER : "May I try on that dress in the window?"

ASSISTANT : "Oh, no, madam, the manager would not like that, but you could use the private fitting-room!"

* * * *

TEACHER (*warning her pupils against catching cold*) : "I had a little brother once who took his new sledge out into the snow one day. He caught pneumonia, and three days later he died."

VOICE (*from the back*) : "Where's his sledge?"

* * * *

Only ladies sing contralto, which is a low kind of music.

After the black-out the girl said: "'Erbert, you really shouldn't have kissed me like that, with all those people so close around us, even if it was in the dark."

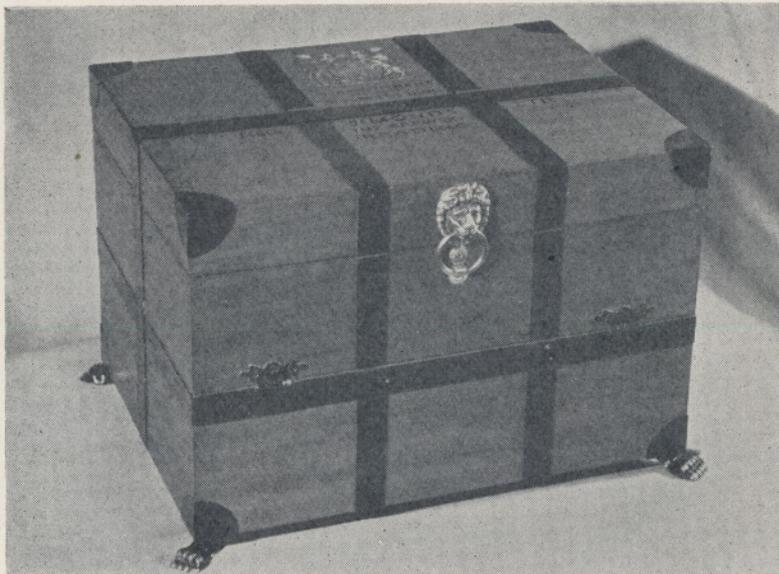
"I didn't kiss you," said the boy, looking angrily around in the crowd. "I only wish I knew who it was—I'd teach him!"

"'Erbert," sighed the girl, "you couldn't teach 'im nothing!"

MARRIAGE OF H.R.H. PRINCESS ELIZABETH.

As holders of the Royal Warrant of Appointment as Brewers to His Majesty King George VI, the Firm were privileged to present a brew of Strong Ale, specially bottled and labelled, to celebrate the marriage of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth to H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and a portion has been on view among other wedding gifts at St. James's Palace in specially designed and decorated caskets bearing the Royal Arms.

The photographs reproduced below depict one of the caskets shewing the label which was specially designed for the occasion.



THE LIGHTER SIDE.

A man entered a baker's shop and ordered a cake, requesting that it be baked in the shape of the letter "S." The next day he called for the cake, which the baker very proudly displayed. The man looked at it and exclaimed, "Oh! but I'm very much disappointed. This is a block-letter 'S,' and I wanted a script-letter 'S'."

The baker replied. "Very well, we'll bake you another cake shaped like the script-letter 'S'."

Next day the man came in again for his cake and seemed very pleased. "That's fine," he said. "It's just what I want." The baker was much pleased too, and wanted to know where the cake was to be delivered.

"Oh, never mind sending it," answered the customer quickly, "I'll eat it right here."

BRANCHES.

BRIDGEND.

The staff at Bridgend Branch would like to extend most cordial Christmas Greetings to the Board of Directors, and our colleagues throughout the Company and its subsidiaries, coupled with the hope that the New Year will bring some relaxation of the restrictions and anxieties with which our trade is confronted at the present time. Greetings also to our tenants, who have so ably carried the "Hop Leaf" banner during the year, and our many friends in the free houses and off-licences, clubs, military and R.A.F. Messes.

The following changes of tenancy have occurred since the last issue, and we are confident that the new occupants will maintain the high standard of service to the public which our Houses have attained over the past difficult years:—

The "Royal Oak" Inn, Bryncethin : from Mr. J. Loveluck to Mrs. G. Baker.

The "Star" Hotel, Bridgend : from Mrs. G. Jones to Mr. G. Griffiths.

In November, 1946, Mr. Griffiths married Miss M. Holloway, a member of our clerical staff, who has now resigned to assist her husband in the "Star" Hotel. Mr. Griffiths was for 17 years a Detective Sergeant in the Glamorgan Constabulary, and from the many tributes paid to them both, we are confident they will succeed in their new vocation.

After a lapse of several years, the Neath and District Darts League has been reformed, with headquarters at the "Lamb" Hotel, Neath. Teams from several of our Houses are competing, and we anticipate that some stirring "battles" will be fought for the championship. Much hard work has been done by the Organising Committee, but the keenness of the teams and the spirit of good fellowship prevalent among the members and their following must afford great satisfaction to them and be some reward for their efforts.

THE FARMER'S ARMS, ST. BRIDES MAJOR.

We record hereunder an extract from an advertisement card which the genial host (Mr. J. Roberts) has had printed, as we think readers will appreciate his discourse on "Man's Unfortunate Lot."

MAN'S UNFORTUNATE LOT.

Did it ever occur to you that a man's life is full of crosses and temptations? He comes into the world without his consent and goes out against his will, and the trip between is exceedingly rocky. The rule of contraries is one of the features of this trip.

When he is little the big girls kiss him ; when he is big the little girls kiss him. If he is poor, he is a bad manager ; if he is rich, he is dishonest. If he needs credit he can't get it ; if he is prosperous, everyone wants to do him a favour. If he is in politics, it is for graft ; if he is out of politics, you can't find a place for him and he is no good to the country. If he doesn't give to charity he is a tight wad ; if he does, it's for show. If he is actively religious, he is a hypocrite ; if he takes no interest in religion, he is a hardened sinner.

If he gives affection, he is a soft specimen ; if he cares for no one, he is cold-blooded. If he dies young there was a great future for him ; if he lives to an old age, he missed his calling.

If you save money, you're a grouch ; if you spend it, you're a loafer. If you get it, you're a grafter ; if you don't get it, you're a bum—so what's the use?

We can, however, assure any intending visitors to St. Brides that "Jack" Roberts is anything but a cynic, and that a most cordial welcome awaits all callers at the sign of the "Farmers' Arms."



The attractive new bar at The Grapes, Windsor.

BRIGHTON.

MR. CHURCHILL'S VISIT TO BRIGHTON.

Brighton's day of the year—indeed, the day of many years—was early in October, when Mr. Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime Premier, came to the town to receive the Freedom of the Borough.

Brighton welcomed him with a warm-hearted spontaneity which left no doubt as to their feelings towards him. As he drove, sprightly and smiling, through the streets in an open car to receive the Freedom of the Borough, he received a tumultuous welcome from huge crowds. They swarmed around the car as, complete with billy-cock hat, stick, cigar and "V" sign, he drove by. They broke through the police cordons, blocked the roads—the traffic had to be diverted—and ran, cheering, in his wake. It was V-Day all over again. But this time it was C-Day.

It was, appropriately, at the Dome ceremony where the spontaneous welcome reached its climax. As Mr. Churchill finished his speech the people stood and cheered him; a woman's voice led a round of three cheers; a man started singing "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." As Mr. Churchill left the platform he caught Mrs. Churchill by the hand and led her into the procession. The cheering echoed after them as, side by side, they walked from the Dome.

Several times during his Dome speech, which was studded with shafts of wit and reminiscences on his many past visits to Brighton, he was interrupted by prolonged cheers. Speaking of these past connections with the town, Mr. Churchill recalled his school-days at 29 and 30, Brunswick Square—"the boundaries were not defined with such scrupulous precision as they are now," he quipped—under the guidance of "the two Miss Thompsons."

He revealed that a near collision with a brewer's dray and an attack of double pneumonia—"I hope you won't think I am reflecting on the salubrity of the town"—almost made his stay "longer than might have been expected." Mr. Churchill moved on to the 'nineties when he spent four or five months in the town recovering from a very bad accident. Then he moved on again to the first week in July, 1940, when he came to see Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery at the Royal Albion Hotel, when the invasion was said to be imminent. And so he moved on to the present—"very different is the scene"—with people freed from the imminence of invasion, but with fresh troubles and burdens.

"But, for my part," he added, "I believe firmly that we shall succeed after a period of heart-searching and strenuous effort, in bringing our country back again to a fair enjoyment of the great inheritance it won for itself, and hoped it had won for all the nations of the world.

"May Brighton and all Sussex," he added, "live to see the exertions of the war rewarded by their prizes, and feel that they are once again placing old England and Britain in her proper place in the world.

Mr. Churchill's day began with his arrival at the Royal Pavilion, where he was received by the Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton), Alderman T. E. Morris and Mrs. Morris), and introduced to past Mayors, other notables, and Lt.-Col. R. L. Broad, M.C., officer commanding the 5th (Cinque Ports) Brighton, the Royal Sussex Regiment, of which Mr. Churchill is Hon. Colonel.

The Regiment took a prominent part in the day's proceedings, the lunch at the Corn Exchange being given in their honour.

(Kindly contributed by the Editor, "Sussex Daily News.")

It is interesting to record that for the duration of Mr. Churchill's visit to Brighton he stayed at one of Brighton's luxurious hotels, the Hotel Metropole, where he arrived on the previous evening and was met by Mr. S. B. Till, the Manager. Large crowds had been waiting nearly two hours outside the Hotel Metropole, where, not content with cheering his arrival, they called on him to appear on the balcony of his first floor suite. Mr. and Mrs. Churchill occupied two communicating suites, one of which has since been named the "Churchill Suite" in honour of his visit.

Mr. Churchill's visit also coincided with the Conservative Conference, which was attended by several thousand staunch supporters, and no less than nine ex-Cabinet Ministers were staying at the same time in his hotel and he had a number of them to dinner parties in his suite.

The last morning was marred by the very tragic accident to Mr. Churchill's dog "Rufus," for whom he had a very great affection.

Mr. Churchill impressed all who came into contact with him as a really "great" man, but with all a very human and good family man.

LONDON BRANCH.

FEEDING TIME AT THE ZOO.

During the war the catering industry had to reorganise and adapt itself to feeding millions, both in the Services and at home in civilian life, but it is not every caterer these days who finds himself faced with the problem of providing meals and refreshments for between two and three million people every year.

The catering department of the London Zoo has to be prepared to cater for crowds like these, and when considering the total visitors over the space of a year, it should be borne in mind that the majority of people are handled during the six months of the summer season only, and the attendance in the Gardens can number up to 80,000 in a single day.

During the past eighteen months many improvements have been carried out. Bearing in mind the fact that visitors to the Zoo want to waste as little time as possible in obtaining a meal, the cafeteria system was introduced in 1946. Now there are four cafeterias, one fully licensed, and two waitress serviced restaurants, both fully licensed. In addition, there are a number of refreshment bars, a licensed buffet bar, and a fleet of mobile tea trollies which provide teas and light refreshments at any point within the Gardens.

The Zoo also has its own bakery, where large quantities of bread, rolls, buns, cakes and pastries are produced daily. The latest addition to the catering amenities is a new Fellows Restaurant situated on the first floor above the Regent Cafeteria. Adjoining the restaurant is a spacious lounge and bar overlooking the Fellows lawn and garden.

Some indication of the task involved in providing for the needs of visitors can be gathered from the following resumé of statistics covering six months of the current year.

During the period under review, no fewer than 1,314,840 meals and 1,271,288 cups of tea or coffee have been sold.

In addition, many other items have been handled, including thousands of gallons of ice cream and 781,776 bottles of minerals. The licensed side, although small in comparison, can also provide some interesting figures. During the same period some 84,600 bottles of beer have been sold. This figure includes Lager and Simonds' Canned Beer. In addition, 46,476 pints of draught ale of various grades and gravities have been provided to satisfy the thirsty crowds.

Nowadays, with strict rationing and food control in force, the animals at the Zoo do not share the tit-bits from the catering department as they used to before the war, but the artful elephant sometimes manages to obtain a "Doctor's Certificate" to procure a bottle of rum from the closely guarded cellar, in order to relieve a chill!

The catering department of the London Zoo is controlled by Mr. William N. Hill, aided by his assistant, Mr. John Bunyan. Mr. L. R. F. Spanner is *Chef de Cuisine* who, in addition to controlling the main kitchen, has the complex task of supervising the bakery and various subsidiary kitchen services in all establishments.

BREWERS' EXHIBITION.

A welcome return to old times was the Brewers' Exhibition, October 27th to November 1st, held for the first time at Olympia.

The lay-out of the stands was very smart and attractive, and the daily attendance was large, and included many visitors from overseas, despite currency restrictions.

One of the most interesting features of the Exhibition was the Inn Signs Competition, with 230 entries from artists in 30 counties. The entries were of a high standard, and the prize-winners were:—

First Prize: R. Crosby Cook, Guildford, "The Two Cocks."

Second Prize: Alec E. Wiles, Southampton, "The Dog's Head."

Third Prize: Kathleen Monk, London, "The Pheasant."

There were also competitions for Empire Wines (130 wines), Barley (60 entrants) and Hops (over 100 competitors), but unfortunately owing to the shortage of materials, etc., there was no competition for Beers this year.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

Congratulations to Major F. J. Johnson, our late Manager, and Mrs. Johnson, who celebrated their golden wedding on the 5th October, 1947.

We wish them many years of continued happiness and good health to enjoy their well-earned leisure.

SEASON'S GREETINGS.

We take this opportunity of extending the season's greetings to our Directors, heads of departments and staff at the Brewery and Branches, and to all our friends in the trade.

SWINDON.

Through the medium of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE, the staff would like to wish the Directors and staff at Reading, and colleagues at the Branches, a very Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year.

PORTSMOUTH.

AUSTERITY CHRISTMAS.

Another austerity Christmas! Little did we think when at this time last year we wished each other a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year that the shortages and restrictions then prevailing would continue so long. But they have, and we can do nothing about it except continue with smiling faces and glad hearts—glad at least that we are living in peace, and that our old colleagues are back with us continuing the good work.

Portsmouth Branch, therefore, joins in wishing Directors, headquarters, branches, customers and staffs a right joyous break. We know the shortages you will all suffer, but we must follow the advice of the old music-hall song which told us that if we could not get what we liked we must like what we get! So let's drink a bumper to good old Father Christmas; may his pilgrimages in the New Year bring us health and success, and may the silver lining to the dark clouds soon banish from our thoughts the hateful word austerity.

FARMER LORD MAYOR.

Councillor Frank Miles who has been unanimously chosen by the Portsmouth City Council to succeed Councillor R. J. Winnicott in the proud position of Lord Mayor will enter upon his manifold duties and responsibilities with the good wishes of his fellow citizens. And Mrs. Miles, his genial wife, will share to the full all those kindly thoughts so eloquently expressed at his election.

Councillor Winnicott, who has done so well during his onerous year of office, will now be once more free to devote himself to his normal Council duties. In his own words, he is likely as chairman of the Finance Committee to prove "a rebel against Whitehall and their restrictions." Councillor Winnicott, in common with his Council colleagues, wants to get on with the reconstruction of our blitzed City, and he told the Minister of

Town and Country Planning so at a recent conference. The Minister said that the work of reconstruction may, as a result of the economic crisis, have to be held up, perhaps for a couple of years, but the Council are not prepared to accept this verdict without appeal, and Councillor Winnicott will have the people behind him in his determination to get things going and the wheels of industry turning.

YOUNG, BUT EXPERIENCED.

Councillor Frank Miles is young in years so far as Lord Mayors go, but he is ripe in experience, and he has already done notable work as a member of the Council, particularly as vice-chairman of the Housing Committee.

Descending from old yeoman stock, the new Lord Mayor is a farmer by profession, and Closewood Farm, Denmead, on the outskirts of the City, has always been regarded as an example of modern methods and treatment. He brings to his new duties of Chief Magistrate the benefit of practical experience and sound judgment.

Throughout his comparatively short public career he has always shown business aptitude and a profound sympathy for the "under dog," his difficulties and needs. Everyone will wish him well during his term of office. He will have no sinecure, but he will enjoy the help and support of everyone of his colleagues.

WAVERLEY'S REVIVAL.

Our old friends of the Southsea Waverley Bowling Club have had an exceedingly successful season, and have shown that their old-time prowess on the green, which declined during the two world wars, is slowly but surely returning. At the annual reunion dinner of the Portsmouth and District Bowling Association, recently, it was recalled that Waverley, who finished third in the league last season, were to furnish next season's President of the Association, in Mr. W. Christopher, and that in the 1947 Southsea open tournament had provided the singles champion in Mr. E. Nicholas. Several other Waverley bowlers also did well in the various competitions.

Incidentally, the tournament made a profit of £250, which was handed to the Lord Mayor for his £20,000 Royal Hospital Appeal Fund. The tournament attracted many visitors to the City, and speakers at the dinner emphasized that it was a decided asset to the City, and would become even more so when the

City Council were able to increase the amenities they have in mind. Great strides have been made in reconditioning the public greens in various parts of the City, and a programme to further improve them is to be carried out as soon as more labour and material are available.

SUBURBAN INNS.

It is satisfactory to know that provision is being made for the building of licensed premises on the new estates that are being developed in the Portsmouth area. As a matter of fact, the transfer of a number of licences from some of the City's blitzed public houses to new sites on the Paulsgrove estate has already been approved by the Minister of Town and Country Planning, and the plans envisage premises on modern lines and with every up-to-date convenience and comfort. Incidentally, the plans of the Portsmouth Licensing Planning Committee were the first in the country to receive confirmed approval, and the Justices' Clerk, Mr. B. J. Tay, who is also clerk to the new authority, has been warmly congratulated upon the business-like methods employed.

FIRST SEA LORD.

A notable addition has been made to the ward room of H.M.S. *Dryad*, Portsmouth headquarters of naval navigational training. It is the portrait of Admiral Sir John Cunningham, painted by Mr. John Souter, and it will hang beside that of Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Henry Oliver. When Sir John was appointed First Sea Lord he created a record, for never before had a navigation specialist enjoyed the distinction of becoming the naval head of the Admiralty, and this branch of the Senior Service are proud of the distinction. Hence the hanging of the portrait in *Dryad*, a ceremony performed recently with characteristic enthusiasm.

DEVONPORT.

The staff of Tamar Brewery send Christmas Greetings and all good wishes for 1948 to our Directors and fellow employees at home and abroad, also all readers of the HOP LEAF GAZETTE. May 1948 mark the turning point in our country's difficulties; this is the sincere wish of us all.

Congratulations to the "Navy Hotel," Plymouth, tug-of-war team on their success in the competition organised by Sutton Harbour Regatta Committee on August 16th last. A photograph

of the winning team appears in this issue of the GAZETTE. Mr. E. R. Beahan, the popular host at the "Navy Hotel" assures us that Simonds' "HEAVY" Beer played no small part in the team's training.

"NAVY HOTEL," BARBICAN, PLYMOUTH.
Winners of Tug-of-War at Sutton Harbour Regatta, August 16th, 1947.



Back Row (left to right): E. R. Beahan (Manager, Navy Hotel), B. McCartland, S. Hills, A. Easton, F. Ringwood, C. Watts.
Front Row (left to right): E. N. Armstrong, S. Ringwood, W. Bailey (Coach), J. N. Harris.

Torquay Licensed Victuallers' Association held their annual Banquet at the "Imperial Hotel," Torquay, on October 23rd, 1947. R. H. C. Whiteway, Esq., J.P., Chairman of Whiteways Cyder Company, presided. Among his guests were Mr. and Mrs. E. Duncan Simonds, who we were pleased to welcome to the West Country once again.

The Association are to be congratulated on providing a function in keeping with their past efforts, in spite of the austerity which prevails.

The various darts competitions throughout this area continue enthusiastically. The "Hop Leaf" Darts League in Plymouth district is having another successful season. The Sydenham Arms team are playing consistently well, and are at present league leaders. They are followed closely by the Weston Mill, Stopford Arms, Abbey Hotel, Standard Inn and the Camel's Head, who are also playing well. The league table up to the time of going to press is published below:—

| | P. | W. | L. | F. | A. | Pts. |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Sydenham Arms | 12 | 10 | 2 | 63 | 45 | 20 |
| Weston Mill | 12 | 9 | 3 | 72 | 36 | 18 |
| Stopford Arms | 12 | 9 | 3 | 66 | 42 | 18 |
| Abbey Hotel | 12 | 9 | 3 | 64 | 44 | 18 |
| Standard Inn | 12 | 9 | 3 | 63 | 45 | 18 |
| Camel's Head | 12 | 9 | 3 | 62 | 46 | 18 |
| Tamar Hotel | 12 | 8 | 4 | 63 | 45 | 16 |
| Swan Hotel | 12 | 8 | 4 | 56 | 52 | 16 |
| King's Arms | 12 | 6 | 6 | 54 | 54 | 12 |
| Prince Alfred | 12 | 5 | 7 | 48 | 60 | 10 |
| Grapes Tavern | 12 | 5 | 7 | 47 | 61 | 10 |
| Gloucester Arms | 12 | 4 | 8 | 47 | 61 | 8 |
| Steambridge | 12 | 4 | 8 | 47 | 61 | 8 |
| Simonds' Social Club | 12 | 3 | 9 | 47 | 61 | 6 |
| Morice Town Vaults | 12 | 3 | 9 | 43 | 65 | 6 |
| Vine Hotel | 12 | 3 | 9 | 41 | 67 | 6 |
| Chester Cup | 12 | 2 | 10 | 47 | 61 | 4 |
| Stoke Vaults | 12 | 2 | 10 | 42 | 66 | 4 |

Darts enthusiasts had a very enjoyable evening at the Swan Hotel, Devonport on October 29th, when Mr. Joe Hitchcock and his team played four matches against local teams in aid of the funds of St. Dunstan's Institution for the Blind. Mr. Hitchcock's team were successful in all matches; it was indeed a pleasure to watch the consistent throwing of darts by this famous team. Congratulations to Mr. A. W. Sorrell, the popular landlord of the "Swan," for organising the matches so successfully, and for his efforts on behalf of St. Dunstan's. This wonderful Institution benefited to the extent of £36.

On September 30th we said "au revoir" to Mr. A. B. Beasley (Surveyor's Dept.), who retired on that day after over 52 years' loyal and efficient service to the Company at Reading and Devonport. Mr. Beasley has a wonderful record, and we at "Tamar" are proud to have been associated with him for over half of his service with the Firm. We hope that both Mr. and Mrs. Beasley will enjoy their retirement, so fully earned, for many years to come, and that Mr. Beasley's health will improve now that he can take life more leisurely.

On behalf of the staff at "Tamar" Mr. S. H. Spurling had pleasure in presenting Mr. Beasley with a silver plated teapot, sugar basin and milk jug, which were suitably inscribed. With feeling, Mr. Beasley acknowledged the gift, and thanked all his old colleagues for their close co-operation during his many happy years with them.

On November 1st, Mr. R. A. Lane, our Foreman Engineer (Brewery) left us to join the staff of Messrs. Saccone & Speed, Ltd., Gibraltar. Mr. Lane joined our staff as Chief Electrician via Reading and Crabbs Park (Cyder Factory) on January 6th, 1935; he was subsequently promoted to Foreman Engineer on October 1st, 1945. Upon his arrival he soon established himself as a popular member of our staff. It is true to say of him "that nothing was too much trouble," and we fear many wireless sets, etc., will miss his magic touch, because there is no doubt that he had the ability to make the most obsolete thing "work." Truly, our loss is Gibraltar's gain.

Mr. J. E. G. Rowland had pleasure in presenting Mr. Lane on his departure with an oak Westminster Chimes clock, suitably inscribed, on behalf of the entire staff.

Mr. Lane, in acknowledging the gift, said how much he had enjoyed his association with Tamar staff, and took with him many happy memories. The writer is sure that at the sound of "Tom-Toms" Mr. Lane's thoughts will turn to his last night at Tamar Social Club, *verb sap.*

Wednesday, October 29th, was a red letter day in the history of Plymouth. Their Majesties The King and Queen visited the city to open the new City Centre. His Majesty unveiled a plaque to commemorate the commencement of the rebuilding of the city after extensive damage during the 1939-45 War. His Majesty also named the two new roads which will run through the centre of the city. The east-west road being named "Royal

Parade" and the north-south road, which will eventually link the North Road railway station with the Hoe, "Armada Way."

Large crowds assembled to greet our beloved King and Queen, who were given a tumultuous welcome.

TAMAR SOCIAL CLUB.

We have been happy to entertain darts, etc., teams representing the St. Budeaux Working Men's Club, the Who'd Have Thought It Inn, Milton Coombe, the Freemasons' Arms, Devonport and King's Arms, Mavegissey, during the past quarter. The games played (all friendlies) were most enjoyable, and we look forward to the return matches.

Our "Hop Leaf" Darts League team is not enjoying the success it deserves, several matches having been lost by the odd game; the results are of secondary importance when the pleasure derived from these weekly tournaments is of such a high standard.

The snooker team competing in the Plymouth Social Clubs League is having quite a successful season; at the time of writing these notes they have won five matches out of eight. As this is the team's first season in competitive snooker, we congratulate them on a successful start.

The billiards team competing in the Plymouth Social Clubs League is not being so successful; however, they have won three of the matches played, and the team appears to be settling down now after a slow start.

The table tennis team have won all four matches played to date in the Plymouth and District League; they are certainly going "great guns," their games record being 19 for, 1 against. Well done!

The sub-committees appointed to arrange the various games, selection of teams, etc., are to be congratulated on the good work they are doing; the enthusiasm which prevails is, we are sure, ample reward for their efforts.

Congratulations to Miss N. Watson and Mr. J. Cunningham, both of the Bottling Dept., on their marriage on October 18th, 1947. Mr. J. E. G. Rowland was pleased to present the happy couple with several useful items of household furnishings, etc., which had been subscribed for by the staff. Our good wishes are extended to the happy couple, with the hope that they will have long life and much happiness.

Congratulations to Mr. E. L. Morgan, our Assistant Architect, on the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, on October 13th. We are happy to report that both Mrs. Morgan and daughter are doing well.

Our congratulations are also extended to Mr. F. Luscombe, of the Bottled Beer Dept., on the birth of a son on September 24th. Mrs. Luscombe and baby, we understand, are both doing well.

We extend deep sympathy to Mr. R. Smith (Accounts Dept.), for the untimely death of his father, on September 13th last, R.I.P.

OXFORD.

"FOOT-THE-BALL" CONTEST AT OXFORD.

Recently a large number of posters were exhibited in Oxford, drafted in the Victorian manner, which read:—

"A further Contest in Sturdiness and Agility. 15 Sportsmen of Oxford will again contend with 15 Gentlemen of Caius in the capital game of 'Foot-the-Ball,' with no less than Three Balls, Tuesday afternoon, October 21st, 1947, Trafalgar Day."

"Explanation. The Sportsmen of Oxford wishing to preserve and promote the genial and healthy understanding engendered by their friendly encounter at Cambridge last year, and desirous to avenge the defeat they so narrowly sustained, have in the spirit of the age-long and honourable tradition of friendly rivalry existing between these two great English Universities invited the afore-mentioned Gentle of Caius to participate in a further trial of skill and endurance to be played in the ancient and royal City of Oxford. The Prize will be one Kilderkin of Good English Ale which shall again be the forfeit of the losing team, and will be consumed by all the players immediately on their return after the termination of the match."

Then followed an elaborate set of "The Rules of the Game," one item of which stated that "any player who shall Maul, Lame or Mutilate any other Player shall be deemed a Foul Player" and another item stated "it shall be judged highly inappropriate on the part of any Player to strike the Ball with his Head, unless he first remove his Hat."

This highly amusing advertisement then continued with :—

“ Arrangements for the Day, including sundry Diversions and Spectacles. The Cambridge fancy entering the city by way of St. Giles and Broad Street will be received and welcomed by the local Sportsmen outside the entrance to the Sheldonian Theatre at 12.30 o'clock in the afternoon. Thereafter the rival teams will walk in company, led by the Band and the Officials, to Mr. Harvey's ' Roebuck,' the well-known sporting house and a famed place of refreshment, where they shall repair to luncheon. After luncheon the opposing teams will walk to the scene of the game, which will be played on The Merton College Sporting Field (which College God preserve) assembling in Broad Street at 2.30 o'clock, and by way of Holywell Street and Mansfield Road. Here the three balls will be ceremoniously ' kicked away ' at 3.0 o'clock precisely. The duration of the game will be approximately three quarters of an hour.

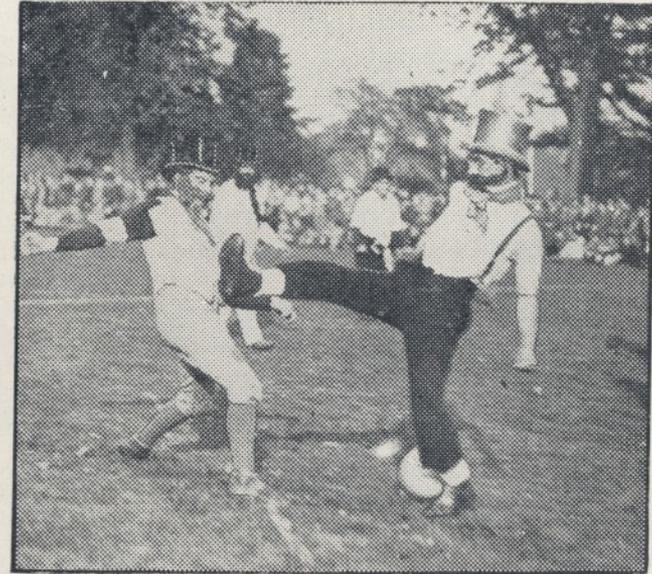
“ After the game has been concluded and the Prize drunk, the assembled company shall proceed back to Broad Street, where a suitable farewell will be bid the Gentlemen before they begin their hazardous journey back to Cambridge. The company will then disperse.

“ God Save the Queen.”

We would like to place on record that the “ Good English Ale ” referred to above was a Kilderkin of our celebrated Reading Pale Ale, and that the luncheon party was catered for by our tenant, Mr. W. J. Harvey, at the sign of the “ Roebuck ” in Market Street, Oxford.

The actual football match, played by gentlemen in the correct Victorian tradition, complete with top hats, pantaloons or very tight trousers, full sets of whiskers, etc., was a very amusing spectacle and was viewed by a large crowd of both “ Town ” and “ Gown.” By the courtesy of the *Oxford Mail*, we give below a report of the proceedings.

The Staff at Oxford Branch send their greetings and best wishes for the Festive Season to the Directors, Heads of Departments and Staff at Reading, and also to their colleagues at Branches.



A hefty kick which missed during the “ foot-the-ball ” match at Oxford.



A trio of invalids who desired bigger grants for “ Zulu War Veterans ” in the “ foot-the-ball ” rag at Oxford.

BRIGHTON.

The staff and employees send hearty Christmas and New Year Greetings to the Directors, Heads of Departments, their colleagues at Reading, Branches and Subsidiary Companies, and to all customers.

WEST TARRING WORKING MEN'S CLUB :

ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL.

On Saturday, October 4th, the West Tarring Working Men's Club held their Harvest Festival. This festival has been an annual event to commemorate the fact that not a single casualty occurred out of a membership of 350 when the Club was totally demolished by a bomb in 1943.

The President, Mr. H. Colley, presided, supported by the Chairman, Mr. P. H. Savory, and the guests included Mr. Oakton, Governor, and Sister Foster (deputising for the Matron) of the Worthing Hospital, the Rev. Henshaw, Curate of St. Andrew's Church, West Tarring, Mr. F. W. Freeman and Mr. J. Bramley, representing the Company.

Through the generosity of the members of the Club, a sum of £46 12s. od., together with a magnificent collection of fruit, vegetables, etc., were presented to the Governor of Worthing Hospital by Mr. Colley, on behalf of the members. In thanking the Club for the wonderful assistance given to the Hospital, Mr. Oakton said how much this was appreciated, and hoped that in the future they would still continue the good work. The Rev. Henshaw also expressed appreciation of the excellent spirit that existed among the members and urged them to foster this goodwill. Mr. F. W. Freeman also thanked the Club for their continued loyalty to the Company, and assured them that our long and cordial business association with the Club was greatly appreciated by the Directors, and that we were at all times only too anxious to co-operate to our mutual benefit.

The presentation was followed by an excellent entertainment given by Messrs. P. & C. Courtnadge and other members of the Club. The Rev. Henshaw also contributed some amusing items. The Club's poet, Alan Scutt, rendered a topical poem, in which he introduced many of the members and their peculiarities.

This memorable evening, which was organised by Mr. C. Courtnadge and the following Committee, was concluded with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem :

Messrs. F. Blackmore (Chairman), A. Bleach (Secretary),
R. Grevatt, E. Gill, W. Aucock, T. Clear, A. Scutt.

The success of the evening was in no small measure due to the Webb Bros. (stewards) for the capable manner in which they

dealt with the catering and served refreshments to the large gathering. It is interesting to record that Messrs. A. & S. Webb, the stewards, have had a long association with the "Hop Leaf" in many parts of the world during their service in the Royal Navy.

On the following Sunday, the gifts were distributed at the hospital by members of the Club.

SALISBURY.

THE LATE MR. F. S. BRADBEER.

At the "Haunch of Venison," one of Salisbury's most ancient inns, dating back to 1320, Mr. Firmin Sidney Bradbeer, whose family have been the hosts there for well over 100 years, died early on Tuesday morning, September 9th, at the age of 74.

Mr. Bradbeer, a native of Southampton, where he was a schoolmaster, came to Salisbury in 1903 to take the inn over from his aunt, and since then he has been a very familiar figure in the city, serving as a councillor for several years. He resigned during the first World War, but later unsuccessfully contested St. Edmund's ward.

On his arrival at Salisbury he became a member of the Rotary Club, and the original Salisbury Parliament, where his powers of debating were so valued that he became Prime Minister in a Conservative Government. He was at one time chairman of the Licensed Victuallers' Association, and for over 20 years was the treasurer. A Freemason, he was a member of Elias de Derham Lodge, and at one time a churchwarden of St. Thomas' Church. Interested in amateur theatricals he was a member of both the Salisbury Operatic Society and the Dramatic Society for whom he wrote one or two plays.

He was always interested in sport. Shooting was one of his chief hobbies and he had a reputation of being a good shot. He was a well-known chess player, and in addition to representing Wilts and Hampshire, he was president of the Wiltshire County Chess Association and played for the South of England against the North. His interest in golf and cricket was satisfied by membership for years of the South Wilts Golf Club, and the South Wilts Cricket Club. He served in the R.F.C. for a short time in the 1914-18 war and was at one time a territorial.

Mr. Bradbeer was succeeded in January, 1946, as licensee by his elder daughter Florence, now Mrs. Jack Edwardes. There is another daughter, Miss Marjorie Bradbeer, and a son, Mr. F. P. Bradbeer, a member of the Wilts Constabulary, stationed at Swindon.

The funeral took place at St. Thomas' Church.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Alfred Reginald Burton, the popular steward of Fisherton Working Men's Club, who died on Wednesday, September 24th. "Jim" Burton, as he was affectionately known to all his friends, was 43, and had been seriously ill for about six months. From 1921, until the retreat from Dunkirk in 1940, he served with the Wilts Regiment. That year he transferred to the South Staffs Regiment, with whom he went to the Middle East, reaching the rank of Company Sergt-Major. He became steward at the Fisherton Working Men's Club in July, 1945, and was there until his illness. Before the war he was the steward at the Salisbury Territorial Club. He was unmarried.

Another sad loss has just been received by us. Mr. F. Sharp, Secretary of the Royal Artillery Club, Salisbury, passed away on Sunday, November 16th, after a short illness. Since the Club opened in November, 1946, Mr. Sharp worked extremely hard to make it a great success, and his excellent work in this will be missed by all his team mates at the Club. Our greatest sympathy goes out to his wife and relatives.

The members of Salisbury branch extend to the Directors, the staff at the Brewery and branches, their good wishes for Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

BLANDFORD.

With the approach of Christmas, all members of the staff at Blandford Branch send the season's greetings to the Directors and all members of the Company at Reading and other Branches, at home and overseas, wishing them a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

May we also extend this greeting to our tenants and all customers in this area.

BRISTOL.

May we, in the spirit of the coming festive season of goodwill and fragrant memories, wish our ever kindly Directors a very Happy Christmas and a brighter New Year. Their example and generosity of outlook amid so many grave problems of our daily life is something which not only fills us with pride, but also inspires us for the future, whatever difficulties it may hold.

Our sincerest good wishes to other members of the great "Hop Leaf" family, both at home and overseas, in and out of uniform—wherever you may be. A very Happy Christmas to you all, and every success for the future!

And a special greeting to our Malta colleagues and friends, from Bristol folk, who remember with ever-glowing pride the power of your example which foiled all the devilries of the Hun and condemned the Arch-criminal himself to the funeral pyre of his own impotency. Yes, we still remember, even in 1947. (Ah, if only we always remembered "what might have been," and could keep alive the Christmas spirit of goodwill, tolerance and fellowship all the year round, what a wonderful place this old world of ours might yet be!)

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of our old and greatly esteemed tenant, Mr. J. Leadbetter, of the "Coach and Horses," Gloucester Lane, Bristol. A great sportsman was Joe, well remembered by many of the older generation for his great track riding, when Wills, of Putney, Payne, of Worcester, and Meredith, of London, were the brightest stars of the cycling world in the early years of the present century. A winner of many open events in his day, Joe Leadbetter was never one to talk about his own triumphs or achievements. During his many years in the trade he was one of Bristol's most respected and most modest licensees, and his death has left a gap in our ranks which can never be filled, for his type are not bred to-day. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Leadbetter and her family in their great loss. He was a worthy son, of whom Bristol was justly proud.

LUDGERSHALL.

During the month of October three old and valued servants of the firm, T. Bugden, H. Hull and A. Harper have retired from active service.

Although these men have reached the age when retirement becomes necessary they were all very reluctant to part company.

At a farewell gathering in the office, Mr. Paice thanked them all for their very loyal service and the hard work which had been put in for the Firm.

We all wish them a long and happy time in which to enjoy the fruits of their labours.

The staff at Ludgershall and Andover take this opportunity of wishing everybody at other Branches and at Reading the Compliments of the Season, and the hope for a brighter New Year.

WOKING.

We at Woking Branch extend to the Directors and Staff at Reading, the Branches and Associated Companies, our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

THE WEDDING GIFT.

At the moment of going to press we have received the following letter from H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth acknowledging the Firm's wedding gift.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

13th December, 1947.

I want to send my warmest thanks to the Directors and Staff of Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Limited, Reading, for the Special Brew of Old Berkshire Strong Ale which in their generosity they have given me.

Will you please let all concerned know how delighted I am by this mark of their affection and goodwill.

(Signed) ELIZABETH.

The Chairman of Directors,
Messrs. H. & G. Simonds, Ltd.,
The Brewery,
Reading,
Berkshire.

Stay at a Simonds Hotel.

- BASINGSTOKE**, Hants.
RED LION HOTEL.
'Phone : 187.
- BRIXHAM**, Devon.
BOLTON HOTEL.
'Phone 233511.
- CHEDDAR**, Somerset.
BATH ARMS HOTEL.
'Phone 25.
- CIRENCESTER**, Glos.
CROWN HOTEL, West Market Place.
'Phone 288.
- DARTMOUTH**, Devon.
ROYAL CASTLE HOTEL.
'Phone 25.
- EGHAM**, Surrey.
ANGLERS HOTEL, Bell Weir Lock.
'Phone 99.
- EYNHAM**, Oxon.
EVENLODE HOUSE.
'Phone 215.
- FARNBOROUGH SOUTH**, Hants.
QUEEN'S HOTEL, Lynchford Road.
'Phone 1000.
- FROME**, Somerset.
GEORGE HOTEL, Market Place.
'Phone 2584.
- KENNFORD**, Nr. Exeter.
ANCHOR HOTEL (on Exeter-Torquay Road, Kennford By-Pass).
'Phone : Kennford 274.
- LONDON** (Bar and Restaurant).
*THE DEVEREUX, 20, Devereux Court, Strand, W. C.2.
'Phone : Central 4740.
- NEWBURY**, Berks.
QUEEN'S HOTEL, Market Place.
'Phone 47.
BACON ARMS HOTEL, Oxford Street, (on Bath Road).
'Phone 408.
- OXFORD**.
EASTGATE HOTEL, In "The High."
'Phone 2694.
- PAIGNTON**, Devon.
GERSTON HOTEL, Victoria Road.
'Phone 5016.
COVERDALE HOTEL, Dartmouth Road.
'Phone 568011.
- PAIGNTON**, Devon.
WATERSIDE HOTEL, Three Beaches.
'Phone 57553.
- PRINCES RISBOROUGH**, Bucks.
BLACK PRINCE HOTEL.
'Phone 76.
- READING**, Berks.
SHIP HOTEL, Duke Street.
'Phone 302911.
- *CHEDDAR CHEESE, Broad Street. (Bar and Restaurant.)
'Phone 381811.
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'Phone 317611.
- *GROSVENOR HOUSE, Kidmore Road, Caversham. Bars, Banqueting and Dance Rooms.
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P.A.—Reuter Photo.

Wedding of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth and H.R.H. The Duke
of Edinburgh, November 20th, 1947.