

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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THE BENEVOLENT FESTIVAL.

WE are looking forward with agreeable anticipation to the result of the Anniversary Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, to be held on Wednesday, under the most distinguished presidency of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, and hope that in our next issue it may be our pleasurable duty to record a successful gathering and, above all, an exceptionally large amount of donations on behalf of this most useful Charitable Institution, the claims of which are best demonstrated by the mere recital of the one fact that an amount exceeding £16,300 is being annually distributed in Annuities among 472 Aged Masons or their Widows, in such substantial portions as £40 for each of the Brethren (200 in number) and £32 for each of the Widows (of whom 242 are on the books of the Institution). In addition some thirty other old ladies are receiving the half of their late husband's annuity, in accordance with the custom of the Fund.

In these days, when huge sums are being raised on account of particular appeals—the Indian Famine Fund and the numerous special matters arranged in connection with the Queen's Commemoration in particular—the claims of such a Fund as the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution are very apt to be slighted in some quarters, and hence it is there must be a certain amount of anxiety among those who are virtually pledged to continue the good work of this particular Fund of Masonic benevolence, for it must be at once conceded that the regular provision of upwards of £16,000 per annum for Annuities alone, apart from the necessary working expenses, is no light matter. It was in view of this that we last week spoke disparagingly of the proposal made at the St. Michael's Lodge, to start a Masonic Fund in support of the Prince of Wales Hospital scheme—not, as we then explained, that we were greedy, and wished that the benevolence of Freemasonry be confined to its special funds, but because we believe there is a limit to the benevolent capabilities of the Craft, and it is not true charity to help outsiders and leave those within our ranks virtually stranded in the hour of their adversity. But apart from all this, the question is not one of mere sentiment, for the Craft has virtually assumed an amount of responsibility in this direction—the £16,000 odd required for these Annuities being a case in point, while, as our readers are aware, there are two other Funds to support, whose yearly claims are equally imperative, and equally dependent on the liberality of the Masonic Brotherhood.

It is very satisfactory to know that the Institution has this year enlisted the sympathy of one of the highest in the land—H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn—whose services to the cause of Freemasonry long since won him the honorary distinction of Past Grand Master of England, while he exercises further power as Provincial Grand Master of Sussex and District Grand Master of Bombay, two divisions of the Craft in which he enjoys

great popularity, although we think we may fairly say that throughout the Order, both as a member of the Royal Family and as a Freemason, the Duke is universally admired and respected.

The popularity of His Royal Highness is manifest on this occasion, in the number of Ladies and Brethren who have undertaken to support him, by acting as Stewards for the Festival over which he will preside, and, as we intimate at the outset of these remarks, there is fair reason to anticipate a successful outcome as the result of the efforts put forth in connection with this event. That there is very great need for a special success is evident when we mention that in addition to the large number of Annuitants already elected to the benefits of the Fund there are considerably over 100 approved candidates for the next election, only a very small proportion of whom can be admitted, unless the result of next Wednesday's Festival enables the Committee to recommend an extension of the work of the Institution, by the creation of additional Annuities. We sincerely hope such a course may be possible, as a recognition of the kindly assistance rendered by the distinguished member of the Royal Family who will preside.

DERBYSHIRE.

A LARGELY attended and interesting function took place at the Masonic Hall, Derby, on Tuesday evening, when a new Mark Lodge, the Woodiwiss, No. 503, named out of compliment to the Grand Master of the recently constituted Province of Derbyshire (Bro. Abraham Woodiwiss), was consecrated. The ceremony was performed by the Pro Grand Master of England the Earl of Euston, assisted by several Officers of Grand Lodge.

Subsequently the Grand Secretary of England Bro. C. F. Matier installed Bro. W. H. Marsden as the first Master of the new Lodge. The latter appointed Bro. Dr. F. Iliffe as the first Senior Warden, and Bro. Sir Thomas Roe as the first Junior Warden. Among other Officers appointed were:—Bro. J. Cutting M.O., William Hart Secretary, Edgar Horne P.P.J.G.W. Treasurer.

After the proceedings the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Derbyshire was held, Bro. A. Woodiwiss P.G.M. occupying the chair. The reports of the various Worshipful Masters respecting the condition of Mark Masonry in Derbyshire were presented, and regarded as satisfactory.

CHESTER COLLEGE CLUB.

THE Manchester Branch of the Chester College Club held a Smoking Concert at the Crown Hotel, Manchester, on Saturday, 6th inst. The Principal of the College, Rev. J. D. Best, M.A., presided, and was supported by Messrs. H. Bentley, H. Littlewood, and T. Arden.

A good muster of Cestrians cordially received his opening remarks, which were of an interesting and reminiscent nature. An excellent programme was given by members and friends.

Mr. Haughton's rendering of "Mona" was highly appreciated, as were the songs of Messrs. Travis, Lunt, Chorlton, Shaw, and Deakin.

The humorous part of the programme was in the hands of Messrs. W. H. Price, C. R. Riley, and E. Roberts. The latter gentleman favoured the company, by request, with his recitation, "Setting a hen," which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. H. Littlewood proposed a vote of thanks to the Reverend Chairman, which was carried with musical honours.

Mr. J. E. Peltener (local Secretary) proposed the toast of the Visitors, to which Mr. R. Lunt replied. Mr. Theo. Arden (general Secretary) presided at the piano. Many of the above gentlemen are members of the Craft.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening, at the Freemasons' Hall, when there was a very large attendance of Brethren. Bro. James Henry Matthews President of the Board presided, and Bros. D. D. Mercer and C. A. Cottebrune Senior and Junior Vice-Presidents occupied their respective chairs. Bros. Edward Letchworth Grand Secretary, W. Lake Assistant Grand Secretary, W. Dodd, and G. S. Recknell, and several Past Grand Officers were present.

At the Board of Masters, which was first held, a long paper of business for the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of 3rd March was submitted to the Brethren.

When the Board of Benevolence was opened and the recommendations made to the Grand Master had been confirmed, thirty-nine new petitions were examined. Twenty-two out of these were from Lodges in the London area. During the evening three were dismissed and three deferred, but £1,000 was voted in the other cases; £60 to one, £50 to two, £40 to nine, £30 to ten, £20 to seven, and £10 to four.

DEVONSHIRE.

THE special Provincial Grand Lodge already referred to in our pages is to assemble at the Freemasons' Hall, Princess Square, Plymouth, on Wednesday, 24th inst., at 4 p.m., for the purpose of constituting the Sir Francis Drake Lodge, No. 2649, which is to be held in that building. This will be the second to be consecrated since the appointment of the Hon. Sir Stafford Northcote, Bart., M.P., C.B., as Provincial Grand Master, and with the new Lodge already sanctioned for Dartmouth will give fifty-five Lodges on the roll of Devonshire; but it is not likely even with that large number that the petitions for new Lodges will end, says the "Western Morning News," as several of the old Lodges are very large as respects membership, and it is generally felt there should be increased facilities for the junior Brethren taking office and arriving at the distinction of being Masters in due time. Under present circumstances, in not a few Lodges any hopes of reaching the chair can be entertained but by very few members within a reasonable period.

On the same afternoon, at three o'clock, the annual meeting of the Aged Widows' Annuity Fund for Devonshire will be held in the Freemasons' Hall, when two candidates will be elected, for the first time, to the privileges of the Institution. It is rather awkward, remarks our contemporary, that the polling will take place just when the ceremony of constitution will be onward, but doubtless a little management will remove or prevent any cause for friction or difficulty, and enable the Brethren generally to take part in both meetings.

THE Provincial Grand Master of Devonshire has initiated a movement which should have the support of the county, says the "Western Mercury." He hopes to obtain from all the Devon Masonic Lodges contributions towards the Indian Famine Fund, to be conveyed through the Grand Master H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The circular issued by the Provincial Grand Master runs as follows:—

DEAR SIR AND WORSHIPFUL BROTHER.—You will have seen in the public prints that H.R.H. the Most Worshipful Grand Master intends moving that a substantial sum be voted from the funds of Grand Lodge towards the relief of our famine and plague-stricken fellow subjects in India. It is unnecessary for me to enlarge upon the terrible condition and circumstances which so strongly appeal to our hearts and sympathies, and which have created the desire amongst all sorts and conditions of men to assist in alleviating.

I would not have the Freemasons of Devonshire to be backward in this good movement, and shall be glad if you will lay the matter before the members of your Lodge, that a sum may be voted from its funds, and contributions received from the Brethren.

These I will ask you to pay as early as possible to the Prov.G. Treasurer, Bro. E. Roseveare, Great Western Docks, Plymouth, or to the Prov.G. Sec. Bro. John Stocker, 66 St. Thomas, Exeter, either of whom will acknowledge the receipt.

I propose to close the list on the 11th day of March, and to pay the whole in the name of "The Freemasons of Devonshire," to the National Fund, being raised by the Lord Mayor of London.

I rely on your cordial support to assist in making this Fund worthy of the great needs of the case, and the honour and dignity of our noble Order.

Yours fraternally,

H. STAFFORD NORTHCOTE Provincial Grand Master.

A very pleasing and interesting function took place recently at the King's Hall of the Holborn Restaurant, in connection with the Lewis Lodge, No. 1185, and the Cator Lodge, No. 2266, when upwards of 285 Masons, their wives and friends, partook of a banquet, followed by a ball. This number compares more than favourably with any previous gathering of a like nature, and reflects creditably upon the popularity of Bro.

Alfred Wood and his colleague, Bro. R. C. Klyne, the Masters of the respective Lodges. A novel feature in the proceedings was the presentation to Mrs. Alfred Wood of a handsome silver flower basket filled with choice exotics and lilies of the valley. This ceremony was performed by Bro. Goldsmith I.P.M., amid much enthusiasm. The latter said that the Brethren desired to record their appreciation of the work accomplished by Bro. Wood, and thought no better fitting acknowledgment could be made than to present that Brother's wife with some souvenir of their esteem and regard. He trusted that Bro. Wood would have long life and prosperity, and wished his ruling star might still continue to mount in the ascendancy in the horizon of the world of Freemasonry. His career up to the present had been a very successful one, and he echoed the sentiments of them all when he hoped that increased prosperity might attend his efforts. Bro. Wood suitably acknowledged the compliment that had been paid his wife and himself, saying that the Brethren could hardly conceive the inestimable value that would accrue from such a presentation. Among others was the fact that they had, by their kindness, put it out of the power of his wife to find fault with him should he be detained late on some future occasion over Masonic business. The souvenir would be always a gentle reminder of the present occasion and its happy moments, and one that must always conjure up pleasant recollections and scatter to the winds all ideas of wrath and anger. In conclusion he trusted he should always merit that trust and confidence they had reposed in him, and thanked them heartily for the handsome present.

On Wednesday, 10th inst., a large and distinguished company responded to the invitations of the W.M. and members of the Border Lodge, No. 2475, to an "At Home" and ball at the White Hart Hotel, Blackwater. At the conclusion of the concert supper was served in *recherché* style in the billiard-room, after which dancing was commenced, and kept up with much spirit until four a.m. Bros. S. F. Baker and W. Craig ably officiated as M.C.s, and the arrangements generally were carried out in the most perfect and satisfactory manner, a thoroughly enjoyable evening being spent.

It being more than twenty years since the last Masonic Ball at Goole, the Aire and Calder Lodge decided on the experiment of holding a dance on behalf of the Masonic Charities. The event took place in the Drill Hall, Goole, and was attended by about seventy Brethren and their wives, including a good contingent from the Masonic Lodges at Hull and district. The Worshipful Master Bro. H. J. Peacock brought a fairly large party from Hull. The dance was a brilliant success.

A ball in connection with the Falcon Lodge took place in the Assembly Rooms, Thirsk, on the 12th inst. There was a large attendance, the arrangements being well carried out, under the superintendence of the Hon. Secretary Bro. J. R. French and the Committee.

The fourth annual supper and concert of the Upton Lodge of Instruction, No. 1227, will be held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, on Monday, 1st March, at 6.30 for 7 p.m. The chair will be taken by Bro. G. A. Peters W.M. of the Mother Lodge, who will be supported by the Officers of his Lodge, and most of its members. Ladies are specially invited, and a very pleasant evening is anticipated. Bro. H. J. Rowberry I.G. 1227 (1 Buccleuch Terrace, Cottenham Road, Walthamstow) is acting as Secretary, and he will be pleased to supply tickets, the price of which is 5s each.

The date on which Bro. James Terry P.G. Sword Bearer of England Secretary of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will rehearse the ceremonies of Consecration and Installation at the Citadel Lodge of Instruction, No. 1897, has now been fixed for Friday, 19th March, the meeting to take place at the Farleigh Hotel, Amhurst Road, Stoke Newington. Bro. Harry Willsmer Secretary of the Lodge will supply any further information that may be desired.

The man, says "The Masonic Journal," who sits down in the Lodge and waits to be appreciated will find himself among the "lost freight," and uncalled for. If he desires to make a success in the Order he must show his "goods," and then his worth will soon be rated and associated. The opposite of this one is the man who wants to run the Lodge according to his own ideas; he will find himself "side-tracked" at some flag station, never to be heard of again.

CHURCH SERVICE.

NEARLY 200 members of the Craft attended the special service recently held at the Parish Church, Wood Green, for the purpose of aiding the fund for the improvement of the chancel, the members of the Wood Green Lodge, No. 2426 and the Lewis Lodge, No. 1185 appearing in force. The Masonic choir had taken their places when, punctually at 3.30, the procession emerged from the vestry, passing down the north aisle into the nave, singing the processional hymn.

The service was conducted by Bro. the Ven. W. Sinclair, D.D., Archdeacon of London, assisted by Bro. the Rev. H. A. Hebb, M.A., Headmaster of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and the Rev. J. Thomas, the vicar. The musical portion of the service was under the direction of Bro. James Hallé Organist of the Wood Green Lodge, Mr. C. A. Wilkinson, and Mr. H. E. Knight. The anthem was from St. John iv.: "God is a Spirit, and they who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship Him," with a solo, "In native worth" (Haydn), and a quartet, "God is a Spirit" (Bennett), which were most impressively rendered.

Archdeacon Sinclair took his text from 1 Peter iii. 8: "Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." After a few preliminary sentences, the preacher referred to the sacred story of Naomi and Ruth, afterwards wife of Boaz, which could never become commonplace, although it had been read by more than 120 generations of men. He described Naomi and her daughter-in-law standing on the mountains of Moab, over-looking the green country spreading out to the banks of the Jordan. The time had come when the two widows must either go with their mother-in-law, or return to their own country. There was much to call them back to their former friends and their old religion; whilst before them only lay the country of the mother of their former dead husbands—a land in which they would be strangers. No wonder, then, that one went back. But the other, feeling a deep pity for the mother of her young husband, entreated not to be sent away, saying, "Where thou goest I will go; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest I will die, and there will I be buried; the Lord do so to me and more also if aught but death part thee and me." The connection between the Christian and Jewish religion and Freemasonry was, he said, very close. This was so in the middle ages, when the practical brotherhoods were founded and carried on by men who had built many of our cathedrals. Those who were Masons were pledged to fulfil the law of God. The founder of Christianity had told His disciples what this was: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might, and thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." This was the rule which they were taught to observe by Christ, whose very first public act was one of kindness. If any supposed that religion, whether Hebrew or Christian, would do everything of itself, and that men might fold their arms and sit still, they would be terribly mistaken. God had placed upon mankind not only the duty but the necessity of choosing the good and avoiding the evil. The greater number of men had not chosen good; and if it was not for God's undying law, that good must prevail in the end, things would have become utterly unbearable. Freemasonry had now its ten thousand Lodges and its million of adherents, and the kindness which God had shown even to the meanest of any one of these ought to be the inspiration of greater gratitude. If it were not for God's love, nothing which they valued would exist. God had shown His love by giving the people of this country a sound form of Government, under which they could live in peace and freedom, and had given them a wise Queen and a free assembly and the various means of education. He had allowed the people of this country to be well off in these respects, not because he liked them better than others, but because for a variety of reasons they made more use of the laws of God than people elsewhere. It was plainly their duty to repay God by helping forward His kingdom on earth. The duty of kindness one to another was imposed upon each. Fathers ought not to speak harshly and unkindly to their children, nor to spoil them by treating them as mere play things, but to teach them the rule of good conduct, and send them to school as long as they could to learn as much as possible, which would be useful in their after lives. Mothers, in the same way, should be tender and kind, and not attempt to govern by fear. They should remember, in fact, that they have, by bringing children into the world, brought upon themselves a burden which it is their duty to bear. Members of a family ought to be friendly and helpful one to another, always believing the best and being willing to help each other. In St. John they might read, "He that loveth not his brother abideth in death." Kindness ought to be the rule of life, and it was plainly unchristian to bear malice against any one. It would be better that we should correct our own great failings than complain of the faults of others. There was a close union between the

principles of Freemasonry and the laws of Christianity, as was symbolised by the signs of the four Evangelists on their coat of arms; and when a Master was made he was charged to conduct his Lodge on the lines of the whole law. It was greatly upon the observance of this principle that Freemasonry in England had advanced beyond that of Continental nations, though partly also because the Roman Church had cast a slur upon it. He was delighted to see a gathering of Freemasons in the churches. Their principles were in harmony with the Church's creeds. As he had said before, Freemasons had built many of the great cathedrals. They were now assembled with a view to assisting a similar object. The chancel of the church in which they were assembled was too small, and the Vicar was anxious to have it enlarged to meet the needs of the parish. They all knew the circumstances, and it was scarcely necessary to say more in order to recommend the matter to them. In conclusion he prayed that God might bless the various Lodges represented that afternoon, and he hoped they might have before them a very useful and happy year.

The offertory was then taken whilst the hymn commencing "O Lord, how joyful 'tis to see the Brethren join in love to Thee" was sung. After the Benediction the recession was formed, and the Masons left the Church as the recessional hymn was sung, the congregation still remaining in their places. Between 450 and 500 persons—not Masons—were admitted by ticket, and the congregation occupied every available seat, and many had to stand during the whole of the service. The offertory amounted to nearly £35.

Bro. J. T. Davies officiated as Director of Ceremonies, Bro. A. Wood was Hon. Treasurer, and Bro. E. J. Wickenden Hon. Secretary. The Committee included more than a hundred prominent Craftsmen.—"North London Echo."

One suggestion for the celebration of her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee is that there should be held a Masonic service, by special dispensation, at Llandaff Cathedral. Such a commemorative ceremonial, as the "Craftsman" points out, involving a large gathering of Masons, attired in their variegated regalia, at Llandaff Cathedral, would make an imposing spectacle, and the impression of the service would be deep and lasting. The Lord Bishop of Llandaff is one of the Grand Chaplains of England, and his Lordship could, no doubt, be prevailed upon to conduct at least the devotional part of the ceremonial.

Many years ago our Craft locally was not only wickedly persecuted, but socially and politically ostracised; and the principle excuse of our persecutors was that Freemasons were using the fraternity for political gain or preferment. Our Brethren submitted to this cruel and unjust persecution without a murmur, and their prudence and fortitude challenged the admiration and secured the sympathy of the people. We must maintain our standing by demonstrating to all mankind that our aims are confined to moral, charitable and religious problems, and hence we must live above and beyond suspicion of self-interest. The moment we seek to divert fraternal devotion into political channels that moment we bring ourselves into disrepute and become the object of just criticism. Let us never attempt to carry anything into the Lodge Room or out into the Fraternity at large which partakes of anything in social or political life where Brethren honestly differ. We meet around a common altar devoting our best energies to a common purpose. Any attempt to drag outside matters within our communications or to secure influence without the Masonic circle will seriously injure the foundations of our great institution. We can be friends and Brothers; we ought to be. We can as individuals favour each other in all things that go to make up our prosperity. We can and ought to aid our Brethren in this direction, but in so doing never attempt to use the Fraternity for selfish or political ambition. I appeal to you, my Brethren, ever to keep in mind and carry out in practice the ancient charges of a Freemason, "We are resolved against all politics, as what never yet conduced to the welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will."—John W. Vrooman, in "New York Tribune."

SMOKING CONCERT.

BRO. VIVIAN BENNETTS gave a most successful smoking concert at the St. George's Club, Hanover Square, on Tuesday, at which Lieut.-General G. H. Moncrieff presided. The principal items were contributed by the Concord Part Singers, whose glees and madrigals were artistically rendered, and by Bros. George May, James Brand, and Vernon Taylor, whose songs were much enjoyed. Madame Ellaline Grantley, the happy possessor of a fine soprano voice of wide compass, rendered Cowen's pretty song, "The Swallows," with capital effect; and later on sang "Asthore" (Trotère), with exquisite sweetness; both being greeted with loud applause. Mr. Roberts, of the Lyceum Theatre, gave some humorous recitations, and his pantomimic sketch, "A Game of Nap," evoked roars of laughter. Miss Maude Horne played a violin solo in an agreeable manner, and Mr. Will Edwards gave some laughable comic songs. Altogether a very pleasant evening.

OLD MEMORIES.

The scent of sylvan groves after a summer shower ;
The sound of the curfew bell at the evening hour ;
The lowing of peaceful kine on the meads below ;
The murmuring stream as it on to the sea doth go.

The welcome musical note of the cuckoo heard—
'Neath umbrageous branches of trees where no wind stirred ;
The carol of the gay lark as it upward soars,
And at heaven's gate its psalm of praise outpours.

The old song heard once again, or the cadence sweet—
Of the madrigal, chanted by voices for angels meet :
These draw a sigh from the heart for the days gone by,
As they touch the forgotten chords of memory.

EMMA HOLMES.

Author of "Amabel Vaughan."

Aberdeen.

The Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., P.G.Chap. D.Prov.G.M. Durham dedicated, at St. Aidan's Church, West Hartlepool, on Sunday afternoon, a memorial window erected in memory of the late Rev. A. F. Sim by the Freemasons of West Hartlepool. The Rev. A. F. Sim was curate of St. Aidan's, and died at the Universities Mission at Kota Kota.

Our readers may remember that at the installation meeting of the Lodge of Freedom, No. 77, in July last year, certain Danish Brethren belonging to the Danish frigate "Valkyrien" were received and heartily welcomed. A letter has just been received from the St. John's Lodge, of Copenhagen, of which we attach a translation :

To the Brethren of the Lodge of Freedom, Gravesend.

Our Chairman here, Master Brother Commander Sommerfeldt, as well as all the Officers of the St. John's Lodge, have commissioned me to thank the Chairman, Master, and Officers of the Lodge of Freedom, as well as all the Brothers, for the amicable reception and loving hospitality which has been shown to our fellow Brothers during their stay in England in July 1896. The Brotherly greeting which was sent through Commander Fugl has been read to this Lodge, and received with much joy and heartiness by the Brothers present, and we send by this to the Lodge of Freedom an equally hearty and thankful greeting. With best wishes for the future welfare of your Freemason's Lodge, and with the hope of prosperity and progress for each one of the dear Brothers.

Yours fraternally,

L. SERYN, Lodge Secretary.

Dr. Hime, whose services to the Masonic Order in Ireland are well-known, has produced a book, entitled "Masonic hints," with a Masonic map of Ireland, and excellent engravings of the schools for orphan boys and girls at Clonskeagh and Balls Bridge. Dr. Hime sets forth the vast importance of these great charities which the Masonic body supports, and at the same time shows how much might be done by more general and systematic Benevolence. While some Provinces—notably that of Dublin—do their utmost in the matter, there are many who are lamentably deficient. He proposes a scheme by which Masons should be afforded greater facilities for increasing the funds of the Institution, and in this connection publishes an admirable chapter by Mrs. Power O'Donoghue on the management of amateur entertainments. He further deals in an eloquent and able manner with the connection between Freemasonry and religion, and shows the absurd and baseless character of the Papal attacks upon the Order. We heartily congratulate Dr. Hime on the good service his book is likely to do the great cause of charity, and we commend it most heartily, not only to Masons in Ireland, but throughout the United Kingdom.—"Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette."

We do not as a rule touch upon political matters, but there are exceptional occasions, when members of our Order are particularly concerned, that departures from custom are permissible. Such is the case in regard to a recent meeting which produced what is locally described as a veritable red-letter day in the annals of the Primrose League in Torquay. In the afternoon the installation took place at Chelston Cross, the residence of Captain Phillpotts, M.P., of the members of the first Chapter of the Order of Imperial Knights, a new branch of the organisation which is likely to be of very great benefit to it, both from a pecuniary point of view and also in bringing within its borders and retaining there gentlemen who, whilst wishing the cause every success, are often precluded by professional and other engagements from taking an active part in its business and public meetings. In the regretted absence of the Earl of Lathom the Grand Prior of the Order, the ceremony of installation was performed by Lord Poltimore, a member of Grand Council, the

esteemed and popular member for the Division receiving the honour of being the Commander, and Bro. John Chapman (with whom the idea of the Order originated) that of Deputy Commander. This interesting ceremony was followed in the evening by the Christmas meeting of the Torquay Habitation, which, held in the spacious Bath Saloons, was as splendid a success as ever. The principal speakers were Captain Phillpotts, M.P., Lord Poltimore, who explained the aim and object of the Order of Knights Imperial ; and Mr. Lane Fox, who, more humorous and yet more earnest than ever as the Vice-Chancellor of the Primrose League, received a very hearty welcome after a rather prolonged absence from Torquay, where he was a former popular resident.

Plain, sensible, all-round men, are the ones that best serve the world. A genius is likely to pursue an erratic course, moving about in ways of brilliancy that may result in much good or ill. There is always something of uncertainty or of risk attending the movements of impulsive men, possessed of extraordinary gifts, who are inclined to despise ordinary methods and follow new and untried paths. In the Masonic organisation there is found now and then a man of this stamp, fiery and aggressive, who has set his heart upon reforming the institution. He has little or no respect for rules and precedents ; he does not wish to do as other people do, but marks out a new course and calls upon Brethren to follow him in the strange paths. Such a one rends but small service to the Craft.—"New York Tribune."

The New Zealand Grand Lodge recently received some new regalia for its officers from London, the cost being £123, on which customs duty amounted to no less than £32 9s 6d. Thus, says the "New Zealand Craftsman," a benevolent Institution which spends hundreds of pounds annually in assisting the State, by the relief of distress, is taxed to keep up the farce of "Protection."

The Lodges of Natal working under the Scottish Constitution have petitioned the home authorities for the formation of a District Grand Lodge.

YE OLDE FRIENDS.

THE fifth annual Smoking Concert of "Ye Olde Friends" took place on Friday of last week, at the Freemasons' Tavern, with extraordinary success, the great Hall being occupied to its utmost limit. The "Friends" are a number of benevolent gentlemen, most of whom are members of the Craft, who have organised these concerts for the double purpose of meeting together from various parts to enjoy a pleasant evening, and to give a similar entertainment to those who are not blessed with this world's goods, but who, from circumstances of unavoidable calamity and misfortune are reduced to the lowest ebb of poverty and distress. Mr. Robert G. Barber occupied the chair, and was supported by the following Committee:—Messrs. T. M. Browning, G. T. King, W. Blanchette, G. A. Farman, M. Fournier, J. H. Gérard, C. James, C. Humberst, F. A. Heymer, F. R. Janetsky, Otta Luer, L. Mantell, T. Platten, H. Reed, L. Schmitt, J. K. Taylor, A. Thomson, S. F. Vandyke, R. Vorley, G. A. Wells, F. Williams, and H. Cross (Secretary).

An excellent programme was provided by Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, and comprised such artistes as Maldwyn Humphreys, Franklin Clive, the Minnesingers Quartet (Rogers, Hobbs, Burridge, and Davis), A. W. Sawyer, Fred Stephens, Arthur Melrose, Sydney Gandy, and Howard Reynolds, all of whose names are so many guarantees of excellence in their respective styles. The concert was evidently much appreciated, to judge by the liberal applause bestowed.

During the evening Mr. T. M. Browning gave a short account of the good work done by the "Olde Friends." Out of the proceeds of the last concert they had entertained three hundred children of London to a substantial tea, followed by amusements and presents of toys and sweets. They all thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and returned to their homes bright and happy for their recreation. The Committee hoped in about six months to give another entertainment, when perhaps a still larger number would be invited. He concluded by asking the company to accord a vote of thanks to their chairman. This was done with much enthusiasm, accompanied with musical honours. Mr. Barber, in acknowledging the compliment, said that he had much pleasure in assisting the Committee, as he looked upon these concerts as a means of bringing old friends together, thus helping to cement their friendship and so knock off the rough knots as they passed on their business ways. The proceeds realised went to lighten the hearts of those who were not so well off as those present, and he was sure that all were glad to contribute to the enjoyment of others. He heartily thanked the Committee, and hoped their endeavours would be further extended by the result of the concert.

"A SPRIG OF AGACIA."

THE funeral of Bro. Isaac Smith, of Grassendale Villa, St. Ann's, St. Helens, who was a respected member and Past Master of the St. Helens Lodge, No. 897, one of the founders of the Ionic Lodge, and a member of the Royal Arch Chapter, took place at St. Helens Cemetery on Thursday, 11th inst. The cortège started from the house at two o'clock, and was met at the cemetery by a large number of Masons.

LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

Further particulars as to place of meeting of the undermentioned Lodges are given in the Freemasons' Calendar and Pocket Book (published by Grand Lodge for the benefit of the Charity Fund).

Monday.

4 Rl. Som. Ho. & Iness, F.M.H.
26 Castle Harmony, Savoy Hotel
28 Old King Arms, F.H.
79 Pythagorean, Greenwich
183 Unity, Ship and Turtle
222 St. Andrew, Albion
706 Florence Nightingale, W'lw'ch.
902 Burgoyne, Anderton's
1540 Chaucer, Southwark
1615 Bayard, 33, Golden Square
1744 Royal Savoy, Criterion
2396 Bishopsgate, Gt. Eastern Hotel
2397 Columbia, Criterion
43 St. Paul, Birmingham
48 Industry, Gateshead
62 Social, Manchester
491 Royal Sussex, Jersey
557 Loyal Victoria, Callington
827 St. John, Dewsbury
1008 Roy. St. Edmund's, Bury St. E.
1110 Tyrian, Eastbourne
1177 Tenby, Tenby
1218 Prince Alfred, Mossley
1258 Kennard, Pontypool
1325 Stanley, Liverpool
1638 Buxton, Buxton
1748 Castlemartin, Pembroke
1752 Ogmere, Bridgend
1753 Obedience, Okehampton
1861 Claremont, Croydon
1991 Agricola, York
2042 Apollo, Liverpool
2068 Portsmouth Temperance, L'dp't.
2257 Powell, Bristol
2279 Thornham, Thornham
2363 Minnehaha Minstrel, M'chester.
2373 Hardwick, Chesterfield
2547 Llangattock, Cardiff
2553 Rufford, Nottingham
2582 Lewisham, Smethwick

Tuesday.

14 Tuscan, Freemasons'-hall
46 Old Union, Ship and Turtle
92 Moira, Albion
141 Faith, Anderton's
145 Prudent Brethren, F.M.H.
165 Hon. & Gen'sity, Inns of Co.Ho.
186 Industry, Freemasons'-hall
259 Prince of Wales, Metropole
1348 Ebury, Criterion
1441 Ivy, Camberwell
2108 Empire, Criterion
2424 St. Stephen, Lewisham
253 Tyrian, Derby
299 Emulation, Dartford
310 Union, Carlisle
564 Stability, Stourbridge
597 St. Cybi, Holyhead
943 Sincerity, Norwich
954 St. Aubyn, Devonport
1016 Elkington, Birmingham
1052 Callander, Manchester
1358 Torbay, Paignton
1390 Whitwell, Millon
1479 Halsey, St. Albans
1536 United Military, Plumstead
1566 Ellington, Maidenhead
1609 Liverpool Dramatic, Liverpool
1636 St. Cecilia, Brighton
1650 Rose of Raby, Staindrop
1675 Ancient Briton, Liverpool
1678 Medway, Tonbridge
1779 Ivanhoe, Sheffield
1834 Duke of Connaught, Landport
1896 Audley, Newport, Salop
1942 Minerva, Fenton
2025 St. George, Plymouth
2328 Albert Victor, York
2358 Mona, Castletown
2404 Lord Charles Beresford, Ch't'm.
2405 Ionic, St. Helen's
2518 Chas. Ed. Keyser, Hoddesden

Wednesday.

Festival Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Freemasons' Tavern, 5-30
2 Antiquity, Freemasons'-hall
201 Jordan, Freemasons'-hall
212 Euphrates, Holborn Restaurant
898 Temperance in East, Poplar
1589 St. Dunstan, Anderton's

1718 Centurion, Inns of Court Hotel
1768 Progress, Freemasons'-hall
1818 Clapham, Criterion
2395 Avondale, Brixton
2455 St. Martin, Charing Cross
2562 Papyrus, Criterion
32 St. Geo. Harmony, Liverpool
76 Economy, Winchester
82 Foundation, Cheltenham
117 Salopian of Charity, Shrewsbury
163 Integrity, Manchester
220 Harmony, Garston
250 Minerva, Hull
257 Phoenix, Portsmouth
304 Philanthropic, Leeds
439 Scientific, Bingley
461 Fortitude, Newton
540 Stuart, Bedford
651 Brecknock, Brecon
724 Derby, Liverpool
785 Twelve Brothers, Southampton
887 Leigh, Birmingham
996 Sondes, East Dereham
1039 St. John, Lichfield
1083 Townley Parker, Manchester
1119 St. Bede, Jarrow
1219 Strangeways, Manchester
1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge
1633 Avon, Manchester
1714 Albert Edward, Yorktown
1723 St. George, Bolton
1756 Kirkdale, Liverpool
1760 Leopold, Scarborough
1775 Leopold, Church
1809 Fidelis, Guernsey
1953 Prudence & Industry, Chard
1967 Beacon Court, New Brompton
1984 Earl of Clarendon, Watford
1989 Stirling, Cleator Moor
2019 Crook, Crook
2064 Smith Child, Tunstall
2149 Gordon, Hanley
2186 Striguil, Chepstow
2216 Egerton, Swinton
2320 St. Martin, Castleton
2357 Barry, Cadoxton
2385 Godson, Oldbury
2435 Wineslai, Winslow
2444 Noel, Kingston-on-Thames
2448 Bradstow, Broadstairs
2571 Holmes, Newcastle-on-Tyne

Thursday.

General Committee Girls School, Freemasons' Hall, at 5.
22 Neptune, Guildhall Tavern
34 Mount Moriah, Freemasons'-hall
65 Prosperity, Guildhall Tavern
66 Grenadiers, Freemasons'-hall
99 Shakespeare, Albion
507 United Pilgrims, Southwark
858 South Middlesex, Fulham
861 Finsbury, Great Eastern Hotel
871 Royal Oak, Deptford
1563 City of Westminster, Café Royal
1601 Ravensbourne, Lewisham
1608 Kilburn, Regent Street
1816 Victoria Park, London Tavern
1974 St. Mary Abbott, Kensington
2264 Chough, Cannon Street Hotel
39 St. John Baptist, Exeter
51 Angel, Colchester
78 Imperial George, Middleton
111 Restoration, Darlington
129 Union, Kendal
202 Friendship, Devonport
346 United Brethren, Blackburn
348 St. John, Bolton
475 Bed. St. John Bap., Luton
590 La Cesaree, Jersey
594 Downshire, Liverpool
636 De Ogle, Morpeth
707 St. Mary, Bridport
787 Beaureper, Belper
807 Cabbell, Norwich
809 United Good F'ship., Wisbech
904 Phoenix, Rotherham
935 Harmony, Salford
966 St. Edward, Leek
1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
1097 St. Michael, Tenbury
1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
1163 Emulation, Birmingham
1166 Clarendon, Hyde
1313 Fermor, Southport

1322 Waverley, Ashton-under-Lyne
1345 Victoria, Eccles
1392 Egerton, Bury
1404 Saint Vincent, Bristol
1418 Fraternity, Stockton-on-Tees
1437 Liberty of Havering, Romford
1501 Wycombe, High Wycombe
1505 Emulation, Liverpool
1519 Albert Edward, Clay'n-le-Moors
1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
1626 Hotspur, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1630 St. Michael, Coventry
1705 Prince of Wales, Gosport
1817 St. Andrew, Shoburyness
1884 Chine, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
1971 Ald'shot, Army & Navy, A'shot.
2017 Duke of Portland, Nottingham
2101 Bramston Beach, Godalming
2131 Brownlow, Ellesmere
2195 Military Jubilee, Dover
2214 Josiah Wedgwood, Etruria
2215 Anfield, Anfield
2263 St. Leonards, Sheffield
2269 Peace, Wigan
2335 Cycling and Athletic, Liverpool
2375 Hilbre, Hoylake
2387 Manchester Dramatic, M'chester
2418 Hedworth, South Shields
2462 Clarence, West Hartlepool
2463 Bootle-Wilbraham, Knotty Ash
2474 Hatherton, Walsall

Friday.

Council Boys School, Freemasons' Hall, at 4.
197 Jerusalem, Freemasons'-hall
569 Fitz-Roy, Head Qrs. H.A.C.
2000 Earl of Mornington, Café R'y'l.
602 North York, Middlesbrough
810 Craven, Skipton
1385 Gladsmuir, Barnet
1391 Commercial, Leicester
1435 Annesley, Nottingham
1712 St. John, Newcastle-on-Tyne
1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge
2371 Felix, Felixstowe
2415 Tristram, Shildon
2431 Kingsley, Northampton

Saturday.

House Committee, Benevolent Institution, Croydon, at 3.
1541 Alexandra Palace, Holborn
1584 Loyalty and Charity, Frascati
1706 Orpheus, Holborn Restaurant
2513 Sir Walter S. John, Cam'well
1462 Wharcliffe, Penistone
2048 Henry Levander, Harrow S't'n.
2201 Earl of Sussex, Brighton
2421 Carrington, Amersham

We all know how devoted Albert Edward is to Masonry, for, during the last fifty years, His Royal Highness has had great experience in the laying of foundation stones. The next time it is desired to make Our Future One a presentation it would not be a bad idea to get a measurement of each one of these foundation stones, then make a similar one to those mentioned, and insert the inscription of the Royal address given at each place on one side, with a copy of the menu of the substantial lunch or dinner which took place afterward on the other side. Then erect these stones into an obelisk and place on the top a becoming statue of the Royal One.—“Modern Society.”

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

We shall be pleased to receive particulars of Masonic meetings for insertion in our columns, and where desired will endeavour to send a representative to report Lodge or other proceedings.

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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DORIC LODGE, No. 933.

THE installation meeting was held on Tuesday, 9th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, Bro. J. Rushworth W.M.

The agenda included the passing of Bro. John Bell, but as he was not in attendance, the installation of Bro. W. A. Hine was at once proceeded with, the outgoing W.M. performing the ceremonies with admirable precision and effect. There was a good gathering of Past Masters, and at the special function the vice-chairs were occupied by Bros. John West and J. Hall Brown, with Bro. Moss as I.G.

The outgoing W.M. had evidently prepared himself for the ceremony, says the "East London Observer," and did all that was required in a manner which did him great credit, and gave satisfaction to the Brethren. The new W.M. Bro. Hine had also qualified himself for the duty of investing his Officers, so that there was no hesitation in the ceremony.

Minor business having been disposed of, the Lodge adjourned to dinner, to which upwards of forty sat down. The usual toasts were proposed after the repast, and the customary responses followed, but they were brief, as the newly-elected W.M. had provided a most excellent programme of songs, to which Miss Phyllis Hope, Miss Louise Jenkins, Mr. Arthur Grover, Mr. Rich, Mr. Henry Bailey, and Mr. F. W. Stephens contributed with marked success.

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MOUNT EDGCUMBE LODGE, No. 1446.

AN unusually large number of Brethren assembled at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, on Saturday, to celebrate the twenty-fourth anniversary of this popular Lodge. Bro. Rutherford Darling W.M. presided, and was supported by his Officers: Past Masters J. Whitehead, G. W. Perry, G. E. Hamilton, T. Cull, O. P. Boret, G. H. L. Renton; and the following Brethren:—James Terry P.G.S.B., W. H. Kempster P.G.S. P.M. 60, F. A. Powell P.P.G.S.W. Monmouthshire, E. M. Jeffrey I.P.M. 1227, R. Bottle P.M. 1624, J. Andrews P.M. 1986, J. G. Carpenter W.M. 15, T. A. Stenner P.M. 861, C. H. Cox P.M. 1839, G. R. Lambert P.M. 228, S. Rashleigh P.M. 902, Orton Cooper P.M. 211, Wm. Page 141, A. W. J. Way 2184, E. J. Hiscock 1602, Thomas Stewart 1563, T. Durent Chandler 1892, W. E. Kent 2427, J. H. Cooper J.W. 1475, J. H. Whitty 1155 and 2469, Walter Stone 1149, B. G. Jones 2501, J. T. Osroft 902, Augustus Sawyer 754, J. Fleming 1987, G. Chandler J.D. 2362, T. A. Organ 2603, J. B. Ellery 475, Wm. Roots 2589, Alfred Haine 1949, W. J. Short 1662, H. E. Mullins 211, H. Cross 211, B. C. Kirby I.G. 228, A. Brown 2589, G. J. Stubbings 2574, W. A. Wickham 1670, E. Rumney Smith 140, Thomas Morris 902, George Herridge 1922, S. H. Pearsall J.W. 1298, F. J. Holden 2202, and P. L. Lynch 2632.

The Brethren of the Lodge wore Masonic mourning out of respect to Bro. C. Thompson, one of the oldest members, who had passed away since the last gathering.

The Lodge was opened by the W.M., and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Audit Committee presented their reports, which proved in a highly satisfactory manner the prosperity of the Lodge.

Bro. A. E. Mullins J.W. having been unanimously elected as Master for the ensuing year, was presented by P.M. Hamilton, and signified his assent to the ancient charges and regulations. Having been duly obligated, the Brethren retired and a Board of Installed Masters was constituted, when Bro. Mullins was regularly placed in the chair with all honours. The ceremony was ably conducted by Bro. Darling, who subsequently delivered the addresses with admirable effect. Upon the return of the Brethren the new Master was proclaimed and saluted in the various degrees, Bro. James Terry acting as Director of Ceremonies.

The following are the Officers who were invested by Bro. Mullins to assist him during his year of office:—Bros. J. Brown S.W., Jesse Masters J.W., G. W. Perry P.M. Treasurer, G. M. E. Hamilton P.M. Secretary, W. G. Hale S.D., J. J. Morse J.D., Dr. I. Thompson I.G., W. Duncan D.C., J. Whitney A.D.C., E. S. Cockton Organist, T. T. K. Sherborne and T. J. Isherwood Stewards, and T. Harrison Tyler.

Bro. J. Moorhouse Thomson, a former member of the Lodge, was re-admitted as a joining member. The ballot was then taken and proved in favour of Mr. Jacob James Tate and Mr. Rufus John Rackham. The former gentleman being in attendance was admitted and duly initiated into Freemasonry by Bro. Mullins, who worked the ceremony in a masterly manner, thereby proving his capacity for his exalted position.

Three candidates were proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and the resignation of one Brother was accepted with regret. The W.M. announced that Bro. J. Brown S.W. intended to go up as a Steward at the approaching Old People's Festival, and proposed that the sum of ten guineas be voted from the Lodge funds to head his list of subscriptions, which was seconded by the Treasurer and agreed to. The letter from Grand Lodge granting dispensation for the Brethren to wear Masonic clothing at the forthcoming Ball was read by the Secretary. There being no other business before the Lodge, Bro. Mullins received the congratulations of the visiting Brethren, and the closing Hymn brought the proceedings to a happy termination.

The banquet was held in the newly decorated hall, the company numbering nearly a hundred persons. The customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted by the W.M. and drunk with enthusiasm.

Bro. Terry, who responded for the Grand Officers, took advantage of the opportunity to deliver an earnest yet humorous appeal to the Brethren on behalf of the Masonic Charities, giving many interesting details of each. His remarks were received with great applause, and should have good results on the 14th inst.

The Master's toast was greeted with much fervour, to which he replied with becoming modesty, and then proposed the initiate, who returned thanks in a neat little speech.

Bro. Mullins presented the Immediate Past Master with a magnificent jewel voted by the Lodge, and congratulated him upon his successful year of office. Bro. Darling returned his sincere thanks, not only for the present, but to the Officers for their loyal support while he occupied the chair. Several

other toasts followed, but the lateness of the hour prevented our remaining—as time and trains wait for no man we reluctantly tore ourself away.

During the proceedings at the festive board a collection was made on behalf of the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund, a total of £5 18s being received, which sum it was intended to forward to the "Daily Telegraph" Shilling Fund.

In addition to those above mentioned the following members were present: A. J. Hannant, T. W. Sankey, R. J. Nutman, S. C. Hunt, R. A. Brown, John Witney, F. W. Cooks, Thomas Tofts, I. R. Gillespie, H. Poole, E. Mitchell, J. T. Jones, B. Jefferys, J. Parsons, A. Burch, A. W. Beetles, Wm. Chalmers, R. Bott, F. P. Yonge, T. Hoskins, R. E. Clarke, E. C. Jenkins, J. C. Atkin, H. Lane, T. J. Dean, J. H. Day, E. Morris, T. F. Sherwood, A. Faulds, E. H. Mitchell, G. H. Richards, and many others whose names we were unable to gather.

Bro. Arthur E. Mullins, the new Master of this Lodge, was born at Greenwich, on the 9th October 1861, and initiated into the Craft on the 13th June 1891, in this Lodge. He took so great an interest in Freemasonry that he was exalted in 1893, becoming a Companion in the Panmure Chapter, No. 720, of which he is now the Scribe N. In 1894 he joined the Prince of Wales Mark Lodge, No. 4, and made such progress that he now occupies the rank of S.O. He is also a member of the Correspondence Circle of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076. His zeal for our Order is further exemplified by the fact that he is Secretary to the Mount Edgcumbe Lodge of Instruction, in which he inaugurated a Benevolent Association that has been most successful. Bro. Mullins is by profession an architect and surveyor (a worthy and appropriate occupation for a member of our Institution). He is a member of the London Society of Architects, and a silver and bronze medalist of King's College. So distinguished a Freemason should have a brilliant career before him.

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NEW CROSS LODGE, No. 1559.

AT the meeting of this Lodge, held at the Hotel Cecil, on Friday, 12th inst., Bro. J. S. Targett was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing twelve months, and invested the following Officers:—E. Peroni S.W., W. Menninger J.W., W. Cowley P.M. Treasurer, T. Grummant P.M. Secretary, T. R. Busby S.D., A. Bonoldi J.D., S. E. Firminger I.G., J. D. Graham P.M. D.C., Carlo Grassi P.M., A. Peria and H. G. Walden Stewards, J. Li Calsi P.M. Organist, and J. Whiteman Tyler.

During the evening a Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. A. Cogliati the Immediate Past Master, and an excellent musical entertainment was given under the direction of Bro. Norfolk Megone.

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LEOPOLD LODGE, No. 1571.

THE regular meeting was held at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, on Wednesday, 17th inst., under the presidency of Bro. J. Hampson W.M., who was supported by his Immediate Past Master Bro. Meadows, Bros. T. Duffield P.M., A. Watts P.M., W. Langford S.W., G. Horwell J.W., W. Carey P.M. Treasurer, E. W. Morgan P.M. Sec., C. Morris S.D., G. Leach J.D., G. Hall I.G., J. H. Pain Steward, J. S. Gregory Tyler, several other members of the Lodge, and some visitors.

The Lodge having been opened with the customary formalities, Bros. J. E. Brook, H. V. Down, A. Simmonds and W. Wickham were examined as to their efficiency as Apprentices, and were afterwards passed to the second degree in regular order.

The Lodge being resumed, Mr. Walter Mercer Egles, who had been previously balloted for and accepted, was duly initiated into the mysteries of the Craft, after which, a few minor matters having been disposed of, the Lodge was closed and the Brethren adjourned to the banquet room and here, after an enjoyable repast, the Worshipful Master submitted the usual toasts.

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BOROUGH LODGE, No. 2589.

A MOST successful meeting was held at the Bridge House Hotel, Southwark, on Wednesday, 17th inst., to witness the first working of the W.M. Bro. W. Roots since his installation. The Brethren and Visitors were not disappointed as to the ability of the present ruler, as his work was faultless, and the ritual most impressively rendered. Bro. Roots was ably assisted by the following Officers:—J. O'Dea I.P.M., A. Atkin S.W., H. Bulpitt J.W., J. Hattersley P.M. Treas., E. Bridges Sec., R. J. Morley S.D., J. Cannon J.D., W. Pottinger I.G., E. W. Hattersley D.C., W. Waterman Org., James Harding P.M. Tyler; also Bros. A. Sansom, G. Lawes, G. Reynolds, S. Dawson, A. T. Brown, A. Payne, C. Hunt, and others.

Visitors: Samuel Levy 1178, M. Chapman P.M. 619, J. Cain P.M. 179, J. Levy 1178, Wynman, and several others.

The Lodge was opened with solemn prayer, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. then advanced the Lodge to the second degree, and Bros. Sansom and Reynolds answered the usual questions leading to the third degree. The Lodge was opened up, and those two Brethren were raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The W.M. resumed the Lodge in the first degree, when Bros. F. Hockerday and G. Lawes were examined, entrusted, and subsequently further advanced into Freemasonry as Fellow Crafts.

The W.M. again resumed in the first degree, when the ballot was taken for Mr. Edward T. Coules. This proved unanimous in his favour, and he was admitted into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, the W.M. giving the Charge.

The working of the principal Officer throughout the meeting was highly commended by Past Masters, Members, and Visitors alike, his rendering of the three ceremonies in such excellent manner, on the first night since his installation, being a feat of no mean order. We also compliment the Officers for their able assistance.

After a few more transactions the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren retired to the banqueting room, where an excellent dinner was partaken of, followed by the customary toasts, &c.

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INSTRUCTION.

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WESTBOURNE LODGE, No. 733.

ON Tuesday, at Bro. Jones's, Oliver Arms, Westbourne Terrace North, Harrow Road, Bro. Roberts W.M. 733 W.M., C. J. Brown W.M.-elect 733 S.W., Wortham J.W., R. J. Rogers P.M. acting Preceptor, G. D. Mogford

I.P.M. 2362 Sec., G. Weaver S.D., C. E. Lilly J.D., Busby I.G., Bagnall Std., G. Groom, Beesley, G. Jackson Crow, C. Halston, Wynman, and several others.

After preliminaries the Lodge was opened in the second degree, and the ceremony of installation was rehearsed, Bro. Brown W.M.-elect 733 being presented, obligated, proclaimed and saluted in the three degrees. He invested the Officers, and the Lodge was called off and on. The Lodge was resumed in the second degree and Bro. Jackson Crow answered the questions leading to the third, he being subsequently raised.

Brother Groom, of the Bloomsbury Rifles Lodge, was elected a member, and Bro. T. Mogford as W.M. for next meeting. It was unanimously agreed that the annual supper should take place on Tuesday, 23rd March.

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HYDE PARK LODGE, No. 1425.

AT Bro. E. Stevens's, Prince of Wales, Eastbourne Terrace, Bishops Road, on Monday, Bro. J. Chubb W.M., W. Handover S.W., H. Harris J.W., W. J. Ferguson P.M. Deputy Preceptor, H. Dehane P.M. Secretary, G. E. Harris S.D., S. G. Thorne J.D., G. Weaver I.G., G. D. Mogford I.P.M. 2362, Bartlett P.M., Hillier P.M., Campbell P.M., James H. Bearden, Smith, Bates, Williams, Crookes, Wynman, and others.

Bro. H. Campbell P.M. was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed. Bro. A. Williams having been examined and entrusted the Lodge was advanced, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, he acting as candidate. Great credit is due to the W.M. for the excellent working of the ceremonies.

Bro. James H. Bearden was accepted as a member, and Bro. Handover was elected W.M. for the next meeting.

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EVENING STAR LODGE, No. 1719.

AT the Rutland Hotel, Perry Hill, Catford, on Saturday, 6th inst., Bro. C. Woods W.M., Reichenheim jun. S.W., Roberts J.W., Beste Sec., Ward S.D., Spencer West I.G., Hunter P.M., Thomas P.M., and others.

The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Richards candidate, and afterwards proceeded to rehearse the second ceremony, Bro. Thomas P.M. representing the candidate.

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BROMLEY ST. LEONARD LODGE, No. 1805.

AT the Bow Bells, Bow Road, E., on the 17th inst., Bros. G. H. Fennell W.M., W. Joss S.W., A. S. Bird J.W., W. Boyce P.M. S.D., W. Johnson J.D., J. Young I.G., W. Marchant Organist, J. DeCasseres P.M. Preceptor, F. Thornton Secretary, J. West, Butcher, J. Spencer, Holmes, Lewsey, Panting, W. West, Ben Johnson P.M.

The Lodge was opened to the second degree, and Bro. Holmes answered the questions leading to the third, that ceremony being afterwards rehearsed, he acting as candidate.

Lodge was resumed to the first degree and Bro. Fennell vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Holmes, who rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. W. West as candidate, and that Brother next answered the questions leading to the second degree. Bro. Fennell resumed the chair, and it was decided to hold the annual supper on Wednesday, 24th March. Bros. Butcher, Spencer, and W. West became members of the Lodge, and Brother Joss was elected to the chair for Wednesday next.

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P R O V I N C I A L .

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UNION LODGE, No. 38.

ON Thursday, 4th inst., the Brethren held their annual festival at the Council Chamber, Chichester, when Bro. Charles R. B. Knight was installed as W.M. for the ensuing year by Bro. G. Fielder W.M., who received a gold Past Master's jewel as a memento of a successful year of office.

The Lodge voted ten guineas to the funds of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and will be represented by Bro. Charge P.M. at the ensuing festival at which H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught Provincial Grand Master of Sussex will preside. A donation of £5 was also voted to the Indian famine fund, to be sent to the Mayor of Chichester. The installation banquet was held in the evening, the W.M. presiding.

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FREEDOM LODGE, No. 77.

ON the 15th inst., at the New Falcon Hotel, Gravesend, Bro. R. J. Beamish P.M. P.P.G.D.C., in the absence of Bro. Robert Charles Fowle W.M., presided, assisted by Wm. Gunn S.W., George Masters J.W., George Rackstraw P.M. Treasurer, John C. Biggs P.M. P.P.G.D.C. Sec.; Past Masters A. J. Whitfield, Joseph Solomon, W. H. Hedger, G. T. King, Thomas Dean, Rev. A. Jackson P.P.G.C.; Joseph Davis J.D., E. B. Wilks I.G., and F. W. Martin D.C.

After the usual preliminaries the ballot was taken and proved in favour of Mr. William Henry Martin, who, having been prepared, was admitted and initiated into Freemasonry. Bros. H. E. Keens, Thomas Schultz, and F. Box proved their proficiency by answering the questions leading to the degree of Fellow Craft. The ceremony was admirably rendered by Past Master Beamish, who explained the working tools at length, and afterwards delivered the ancient charge to the Initiate.

The chair was then taken by Bro. Joseph Solomon, who opened the Lodge in the second degree, when Bros. Keens, Schultz, and Box were passed as Craftsmen. This ceremony was worked by Bro. Solomon with equal efficiency, and the Lodge was closed.

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ST. GERMAIN LODGE, No. 566.

THE annual festival was held at Selby, on the 12th inst., when the W.M.-elect Bro. Jos. Giddy was duly installed in the chair by Bro. the Rev. H. Greeves P.P.S.G.W. in the presence of a numerous attendance.

The installation banquet was held at the Londesborough Arms Hotel, where the company included a great number of visiting Brethren.

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ROYAL LODGE, No. 643.

ON Monday, 14th inst., the annual meeting was held at the Lodge room, Foord's Hotel, Filey, when Bro. Henry Taylor S.W. was installed.

Heartly good wishes from the visiting Brethren having been given, the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren assembled in the banqueting room, where a sumptuous banquet was provided, upwards of thirty-five partaking thereof. The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were heartily responded to.

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CAMALODUNUM LODGE, No. 660.

ON the 16th inst., Lord Bolton Deputy Provincial Grand Master North and East Yorkshire attended the annual festival of the Lodge at Malton, and duly installed into the chair Bro. R. S. Pears S.W.

The annual banquet afterwards took place at the Talbot Hotel, the W.M. presiding, and the usual Masonic toasts were honoured.

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DE TABLEY LODGE, No. 941.

THE annual installation was held at the Royal George Hotel, Knutsford, on Monday, 8th inst., when Bro. G. Wildgoose W.M. presided over a very large attendance.

After the routine business had been transacted, Bro. Henry Pemberton S.W. W.M.-elect was presented by Bro. W. Wildgoose P.M. P.P.G.T., and he was duly installed in the chair of King Solomon by the W.M., who performed the ceremony in an exceedingly impressive manner.

The business of the Lodge was followed by the customary banquet, a capital menu being provided by Miss Backhouse, of the Royal George Hotel. Bro. Pemberton W.M. submitted the usual toasts.

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GRETA LODGE, No. 1073.

ON Tuesday, 9th inst., the annual meeting was held at the Keswick Hotel, Keswick, in the new Lodge room, which is considered to be the finest in the Province of Cumberland and Westmorland. Bro. H. Hallowell S.W. was installed in the chair of King Solomon according to ancient custom, and invested his Officers.

The Brethren then sat down to a banquet served by Bro. W. Wilson in excellent style, and the usual toast list was gone through. During the evening Bro. the Rev. J. N. Hoare, on behalf of the Brethren, presented to Bro. J. F. Hope a very handsome Past Master's jewel.

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ST. GEORGE LODGE, No. 1098.

THE annual festival and installation of W.M. took place at the Masonic Hall, Tredgar, on the 11th inst., when Bro. James Johnston was installed by the retiring W.M. Bro. W. North P.G.Furst.

At the close of the installation the Worshipful Master presented a Past Master's jewel to the I.P.M. Bro. North, on behalf of the Lodge.

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DENISON LODGE, No. 1248.

AT the annual meeting at Scarborough, on the 10th inst., Bro. C. E. Brittain was installed as W.M.

Afterwards the banquet was held at the Royal Hotel, and then the Loyal and Masonic toasts were given from the chair by Bro. Brittain. An excellent musical programme was rendered.

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ADUR LODGE, No. 2187.

THE annual meeting was held at the Assembly Rooms, Henfield, on Monday, 8th inst., when Bro. Walter Hillman was installed W.M. for the ensuing year.

On the closing of the Lodge the Brethren sat down to a banquet, after which the customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, and a musical programme was carried through.

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FAIRFIELD LODGE, No. 2290.

THE installation meeting was held in the Masonic Rooms, Fairfield Street, Fairfield, when there was a large gathering. The installation ceremony was performed in an admirable and impressive manner by Bro. R. G. Bradley I.P.M. P.P.G.D.C., who invested Brother William Roscoe Parkinson as the Worshipful Master.

At the close of the installation proceedings, the members and visitors sat down to a banquet admirably served by Brother Templeton. When the cloth was removed, the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, and an excellent musical programme was provided, while a phonographic entertainment, given by Bro. T. Bush P.M., proved most entertaining and interesting.

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WIRRAL LODGE, No. 2496.

THE installation meeting was held at the Claughton Music Hall, Birkenhead, on Thursday, 4th inst. There was a large attendance of Brethren, especially visitors, and the installation ceremony was witnessed by twenty-six Installed Masters.

The Lodge was opened by Bro. James Gamlin, assisted by his Officers, and after the routine business had been completed, Bro. George Proudman P.M. S.W. was presented by Bros. James Gamlin P.P.G.D. and T. F. Tomlinson P.M., the duties of Installing Master being most effectively performed by Bro. Owen Jones P.P.G.S.B., who was highly complimented on the admirable way in which the duties had been rendered. The address to the Brethren generally was given in a masterly and impressive manner by Bro. Gamlin.

The following Brethren were appointed and invested by the Worshipful Master as the Officers for the ensuing year:—Bros. A. H. Rigmaiden S.W., James Woodcock J.W., J. T. Thompson P.M. P.P.G.R. Treasurer, Richard Powell P.P.G.Std. Secretary, A. E. Coveney P.M. P.G.D. D.C., James Smith S.D., Millward Hughes P.P.G.O. J.D., John Carter I.G., J. J. Elliott, J. Taylor, R. Rowland Hughes, and Dr. Laird Pearson Stewards, W. A. Weston Organist, and H. W. Holtaway Tyler.

The next duty of the new W.M. was, as he remarked, a very pleasant and important one, it being to call upon Bro. Past Master Thomas Shaw P.P.G.W. to present, on behalf of the Brethren, the retiring W.M. Bro. Gamlin with an illuminated address and jewel. In doing so Bro. Shaw said that it gave him very much pleasure to present these as a mark of their esteem, and to show the high appreciation in which Bro. Gamlin was held, and it was the wish of every Brother in the Lodge that he might live many years to wear the jewel, and that when his family looked upon the address in years to come, they would see the respect in which their father was held by the Brethren of the Wirral Lodge.

Bro. Tomlinson was then called upon by the W.M. to ask Bro. Gamlin to accept, on behalf of the Brethren, a beautiful bracelet, set with diamonds and sapphires, for Mrs. Gamlin. This duty having been feelingly and gracefully performed, Bro. Gamlin, in a few well chosen remarks, thanked the Brethren for the beautiful and valuable presents, which he said would be treasured by both himself and his wife until the end of time.

The Lodge having been closed, the Brethren retired to the banqueting room, where a dinner of the most recherché character was served.

At the close of the banquet the W.M. gave the first toast—that of the Queen, and said:—"For the first time from this chair I have the great privilege and pleasure of proposing the toast of the Queen. During the sixty years of Her Majesty's happy and memorable reign her dominions have been extended over every quarter of the globe, and we, her subjects at home, enjoy a freedom unknown to our ancestors, and a prosperity unexampled in the history of any nation the world has ever seen. At the present time the feeling of loyalty which actuates the nation is unsurpassed, and we as Masons on this important occasion offer our most hearty congratulations to Her Majesty on the remarkable and unique period which her reign has reached, and for the marvellous effect which the success of that reign has produced upon the respect of the whole civilised world. I am sure we all express an earnest hope that no shadow will come over the year to mar the celebrations of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, the sixtieth year of her reign. No monarch in England has reigned so long, no monarch has reigned so wisely and so well, and none have enjoyed so continuously and increasingly the love and respect of their subjects." The toast was most enthusiastically received by the Brethren, a congratulatory telegram being sent to Her Majesty, which was graciously acknowledged by her Private Secretary, Sir Arthur Bigge.

The health of the W.M. was proposed by Bro. Gamlin, who spoke of the pleasure it gave him in proposing it. He perhaps felt even more pleasure than he did on the last occasion when a similar toast was proposed, as there was less sense of responsibility. The Brother who was succeeding him he was sure possessed all the skill, ability, and tact needed to guide the Lodge. He hoped the W.M. would have health and strength to perform the duties.

Bro. George Proudman W.M., on rising to respond, received quite an ovation. He said he regarded the Mastership of the Lodge as a post of great importance, one that could not be lightly undertaken. It was in that sense he felt his incapacity to follow so able a Master as Bro. Gamlin had been, but could say his heart was in the work, that his services were at the disposal of the Lodge, and that he would do his utmost to make his year of office acceptable to the Brethren.

Other toasts were submitted, that of the visitors being responded to by Bros. Revs. Dr. Knox and Robert Edwards.

Among the numerous visitors were:—Bros. Rev. Dr. Knox P.P.G. Chap., Rev. Robert Edwards Prov.G. Chap., Rev. S. Stewart Stitt Prov.G. Chap. Jersey, G. H. Brown P.M. 537 P.P.G.W., John Armstrong P.M. P.P.G. Supt. Works, E. G. Mason P.M. P.P.G.D., W. Richmond W.M. 267 P.P.G.Std., George Wold W.M. 537, J. McLeavy W.M. 477, F. V. Fearn W.M. 1576, H. Dutton W.M. 1276, R. Parry P.M. 1276, A. Saunders P.M. 477, J. Clarke Prov.A.G. Secretary, J. Pruddah P.M. 241, Dr. Brewer S.W. 2433, J. B. Jones W.M. 1013, F. Minshull I.G. 1393, Samuel J. Carr Sec. 2375, J. H. Jackson P.M. 605, R. Robinson P.M. 477, J. Fraser P.M. 605, &c.

An excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered by Bros. Millward Hughes, Weston, G. Wild, Wilson, and Walter Baker, the latter's rendition of the "Worshipful Master's song" being well received.

Bro. George Proudman, the newly-inducted Worshipful Master of this comparatively young Lodge, of which he was one of the founders, is not only a very ardent and a very active Freemason, but also a popular man in his district, and we write this from personal knowledge. As will be seen from the above report, he has already occupied the principal chair, and the ceremony just described has constituted him an Installed Master for the second time in his Masonic experience, the first occasion being in connection with the Royal Victoria Lodge, No. 1013. He is also a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the Masonic Order of Knights of Rome and the Red Cross of Constantine, also a K.H.S., and Knight of St. John the Evangelist, so that the members in selecting him to guide the destinies of the Wirral Lodge for the next financial twelve months, have at least chosen a Brother who can add experience to many other abilities.

ROYAL ARCH.

RECTITUDE CHAPTER, No. 581.

THE Companions were summoned to the duties of the Chapter, and attended in good force, at the Mosley Hotel, Manchester, on Thursday, the 4th inst., Comp. H. B. Brown M.E.Z. The principal business of the evening was that of balloting for Bro. John Joseph Walton, Lodge of Faith, No. 581, which was successful. The candidate was then exalted into Royal Arch Masonry by Comp. W. J. Melling P.Z., who afterwards delivered the various charges to the Officers and Companions, these having been deferred from the installation meeting. Comp. J. C. Wilson performed a similar duty with regard to the lecture.

All the Companions then adjourned to tea, this being followed by the festive board, where Loyal and other toasts were relieved by songs, &c., a pleasant evening being spent. Besides those mentioned above, we noticed that the following were present, viz., Comps. J. M. Frost P.Z., James Hayes P.Z., Robert Rudman J., Harry G. Walker E., T. C. Lilley P.S., W. Rostron Treasurer, J. C. Brown, W. Goodman, C. H. Griffiths, Robert Adshhead, Nelson Stokes, James Pollitt, and others.

ST. LEONARD CHAPTER, No. 1766.

THE installation meeting was held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., on Wednesday, 17th inst. Comp. William Shurmur

P.P.G.T. Essex M.E.Z. presided, assisted by Comps. S. C. Kaufman H., W. Gower acting J., C. Boulton P.Z. A.G.D.C., James Speller P.Z. Scribe E., A. Cunnington P.S., also Comps. Fredk. Clark M.E.Z. 534 P.G.A.D.C. Surrey, Chas. H. Bestow S.N. 2374, W. S. Clark 2246, Orlton Cooper 1928, J. Tollworthy, Henry Prenton Organist, D. E. Leman, A. A. Barnes, A. Praeger, J. Clark.

The Chapter having been duly convened and opened by the Principals above mentioned, the Companions were admitted, when the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ballot was then taken, and proved unanimous in favour of Bro. Frederick Eyre S.W. of Prince Leopold Lodge, No. 1445, who was admitted and regularly exalted as a Companion of the Supreme Degree. The ceremony, it is needless to say, was admirably rendered by Comp. Shurmur. After the investiture Comp. Gower recited the Historical Lecture, Comp. Kaufman delivered the Symbolical Lecture, and Comp. Shurmur explained the mystical portion of the degree. The manner in which these beautiful addresses were given was a real Masonic treat, and may well serve as an example for others to follow; the impressiveness of the words, delivered with quiet emphasis, caused a beneficial effect on the Exaltees and Companions generally.

The installation of the Principals was then proceeded with, Comp. S. C. Kaufman as M.E.Z., James Stephens P.Z. as H., James Speller P.Z. as J. These ceremonies were also conducted by Comp. Shurmur.

The following Companions were invested as the Officers:—James Boulton P.Z. Treasurer, William Gower Scribe E., G. H. Clark Scribe N., A. Cunnington P.S., A. A. Barnes and J. Tollworthy Assist. Sojs., A. Greenwood D.C., D. E. Leman, A. Praeger, and T. Batcherler Stewards, H. Prenton Organist, and John Ives Janitor.

When investing Comp. W. Shurmur as I.P.Z. of the Chapter, Comp. Kaufman expressed in feeling terms the thanks of the Companions for his very able services, and presented him with the I.P.Z. jewel that had been voted him.

Comp. Shurmur briefly returned thanks for this handsome mark of their favour, and said that the Companions might always count upon him to render any assistance, should they have occasion to require his services. His whole heart and soul were in Freemasonry, and having been the first Principal of the Chapter, he would naturally look after its prosperity.

The M.E.Z. received the congratulations of those present, and there being no other business, the Chapter was closed, and the company adjourned to dinner. When all were seated, a photograph, by means of a flare, was taken of the Companions by Messrs. Symons and Co., of 60 Chancery Lane, W.C.

Upon the termination of the repast the customary Loyal and Royal Arch toasts were submitted by the M.E.Z., in the course of which he suggested that the contents of the Charity Box that evening might be sent to the Indian Famine Fund. This was agreed to, and a goodly sum was collected.

Comp. James Boulton responded for the Grand Officers, and expressed the hope that at the next distribution of Grand Lodge honours their dear friend Comp. Shurmur would not be overlooked.

In response to the M.E.Z.'s toast, Comp. Kaufman, who met with a cordial reception, said that though it was a hard matter to follow their late Principal, he would endeavour to do the work to the satisfaction of the members.

Comp. Shurmur proposed the Exaltees, who suitably returned thanks for the honour conferred upon him that evening. He had been deeply impressed with the ceremony, which would have a lasting effect upon him.

In response to the compliment paid him, Comp. Shurmur said it was a very great pleasure to instal the M.E.Z., and congratulated the Chapter in having such an excellent Mason as Comp. Kaufman at their head. He asked the Companions to accept his heartfelt thanks for their goodwill, and also for the valuable jewel they had given him. He should always look back to the happy time he had spent in the Chapter, in which he had made such good friends.

Comps. Frederick Clark, G. H. Bestow, and J. Clark returned thanks for the visitors, and wished the M.E.Z. and the Chapter every success. The Officers were also complimented, and in return promised to do all in their power to assist the Principals, so there is every prospect of a very successful career for the Chapter in future. The evening's musical entertainment was arranged by Comp. H. Prenton.

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES.

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Lyceum.—Owing to the indifferent health of Miss Ellen Terry the production of Messrs. Sardou and Moreau's play "Madame Sans-Gene," which was announced for this evening, has been postponed. Sir Henry Irving having recovered from the effects of his accident, will appear as Richard III on the 27th inst.

Criterion.—Bro. Charles Wyndham, looking as debonnaire and as juvenile as ever after his holiday, has made his re-appearance in the delightful play "Rosemary," resuming his fine study of Sir Jasper Thorndike, which has now become one of his most finished impersonations. Miss Mary Moore, the winning little maiden who steals away the old bachelor's heart, is as charming as it is possible for her to be; while Bro. Alfred Bishop, as the choleric sea captain, and Bro. J. H. Barnes as the dogmatic Professor Jogram, together with Miss Carlotta Addison, Miss E. Vining, and Miss M. Jocelyn, the latter a new comer here, all contribute by means of their respective characters to present a piece perfectly acted in every part. As Mr. Wyndham has some new plays which he is anxious to submit for public approval we would advise all lovers of good acting to pay a visit here at the earliest opportunity, before "Rosemary" is taken off.

BRO. TERRY, of Wandsworth, has brought out a wine for dyspeptic individuals, under the name of VINCOTER, which should secure for him the thanks of the large army of martyrs who daily suffer from this wearing complaint. We have been favoured with samples of this wine, and can unhesitatingly assert that it is a splendid brain reviver and strengthener. Being, as it is, recommended by no less an authority than Bro. Dr. P. H. Davis, the eminent Analytical Chemist, of London, there remains no doubt of its absolute efficacy as a restorer and builder up of debilitated and over-wrought systems.

OLD Books and Curiosities relating to Freemasonry or other Secret Societies wanted. Address, W. W. Morgan, New Barnet.

BLUE ABOVE AND BLUE BELOW.

THESE are many associations connected with the colour which is to the Mason so suggestive a symbol. "Blue is emphatically the colour of Masonry," writes one authority upon the subject, and its frequent use in the degrees and decorations of the Lodge room makes it a suggestive emblem to the members of the Fraternity. The average Brother is familiar with the sight of this blue used in various devices and with wide significance, but the true meaning of the colour, the reason for its place and pre-eminence is too often unknown or unheeded. The eye may see the outward beauty of device and colouring, but the intended revelation will not be appreciated unless the symbol is understood and its appropriateness made manifest. In order that symbolic teachings may have their right place in Masonry, as elsewhere, there must be an intelligent grasp of their meaning and derivation, a study of their origin and significance.

The colour under discussion is honoured in its position as the only appropriate tint, white not being properly a colour, for the decorations of the "Blue Lodge." Not only in the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry does blue play an important part, but in the Scottish Rite it is also largely used with various suggestive meanings. Its primal significance is that of universal Brotherhood and charity, because, as the colour of the skies above is over all men, so should these virtues be inculcated in every human soul. We find in all the teachings emphasized by the colour, blue, this broad character, whether its symbolism is based upon a historical or a moral foundation. Thus in its use in the degrees in the symbolic Lodges its reference is said to be to the skies of azure and gold, in which Jehovah was revealed to Moses on Mount Sinai, while in other uses blue signifies immortality and heaven itself. One of the best definitions of the significance of this emblematic tint is that given by Neale, in his Symbolic Colours: "Azure was in divine language the symbol of eternal truth; in consecrated language, of immortality; and in profane language, of fidelity." The virtues of fidelity, gentleness, constancy and wisdom have all been represented by this colour, while it has always been used to suggest that these virtues should be for all men under the broad canopy of heaven.

In the religious ceremonies of the Hebrews blue was largely used. The High Priest wore the colour and the people also were directed to wear a blue ribbon, and one of the veils of the Tabernacle was of this symbolic hue. We find an allusion to this in Numbers xv., 38, "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments . . . and that they put upon the fringe . . . a ribband of blue." Among the Gentile nations of antiquity blue was also used in religious symbolism. The Druids, the Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Hindoos, all employed the colour either as a dress for idols or as symbolic of sacred truth and Deity. We find the colour frequently used by the Old Masters for the garments of angels and the Virgin—in this use it is said to denote modesty. The old cathedrals are full of examples of the way in which this colour may be employed for church adornment, in stained glass effects in paintings, in mosaics, and in the dye of cloths and hangings. The church has used this colour with effect all through the centuries and thus emphasized its teachings of immortality and Divine eternity. It seems a strange coincidence that this colour, beloved by the ritualist and the Roman church, should also be the badge of the sturdy Scotch Covenanters, who based their selection upon the Bible quotation previously quoted, and of the Presbyterian clergyman whose blue apron was thrown over the preaching tub before he began his sermon. "'Twas Presbyterian true blue," says Hudibras, and another less famous writer tells of one who attended a lecture—

"When I a tub did view,
Hung with an apron blue;
'Twas the preacher's, I conjecture."

This colour so justly prominent in Masonry and the church touches life also at many other points. It is the colour of poetry and romance. The true lover's knot is always azure, the ideal is suggested by the blue roses of German writers, while the poets sing of the "blue heaven above us bent."

"The sea! the sea! the open sea!
The blue, the fresh, the ever free."

and

"The blue-rushing of the arrowy Rhone."

In art and nature blue has its significance. In heraldic blazonry it is quite often used to signify fidelity and spotless reputation; as already indicated, its various shades are employed in many forms of church decoration, notably that of stained glass, where the different tints may be soft as the turquoise or hard as the brilliant glitter of the sapphire. In nature, there is the unparalleled charm of sky and ocean, the "blue above and below," which poets have sung ever since the creation of the world. Then there is a tiny forget-me-not, the fringed gentian, the morning glory's "airy cups of blue" to charm us with their beauty; while the violet's blue has been lauded by many a poet in verses of world-wide fame.

In literature there are not only "Blue Books," but many phrases and allusions to this colour and its meanings. There are the "blue stockings," a well-known nickname for women writers. There are varying foundations given for this name—that commonly accepted is: "In the time of Dr. Johnson, Mrs. Thrale and other ladies held weekly assemblies for meeting literary men. A Mr. Stillingfleet was an eminent member. His dress was peculiar and he wore blue stockings. When he was absent he was greatly missed, and it was common to say, 'We can do nothing without the blue

stockings.'" By degrees the name came to be applied to the ladies who attended, and the assemblies received the name of "Blue Stocking Clubs." From this it was an easy matter to term all women of literary ability, blue-stockings.

We have also the phrase, true blue, by which we designate a person of enduring virtue and unblemished reputation. This reference comes from the blue cloth and thread made in Coventry, England, which is noted for its excellent wearing qualities and fast colour. The proverb "true blue will never stain," means that a noble heart will never disgrace itself, and owes its origin to the blue blouses and aprons which are worn by butchers and which do not show blood stains. We are all familiar with the name True Blue School, so-called because its boys wear long blue coats or gowns. Then, too, there were the Blue Gownsmen, the order of paupers in Scotland who were privileged to ask alms through the realm and who wore cloaks of coarse blue cloth. The Scotch themselves were called Blue Caps or Blue Bonnets. Scott wrote:

"England shall many a day
Tell of the bloody fray,
When the blue bonnets came over the border."

Many of us have suffered from the attacks of melancholy termed the "blues," but we have not all realised that this lowness of spirit is so termed because indigo dyers are specially prone to melancholy. Paracelsus has also stated that blue is injurious to health and spirits, but the "blue glass" theory of a few years since was in opposition of this idea.

The term Blue Nose is a familiar name for one born in Nova Scotia. Haliburton gives this version of its origin: "'Pray, sir,' said one of my fellow passengers, 'can you tell me the reason why the Nova Scotians are called Blue Noses?' 'It is the name of a potato,' said I, 'which they produce in the greatest perfection and boast to be the best in the world. The Americans have in consequence given them the nickname of Blue Noses.'"

But the colour blue touches also the home life and is closely linked with memories dear to every human heart. In the games and songs of childhood blue is everywhere made prominent, and as she looked into the soft depths of baby eyes many a mother has sung:

"Where did you get your eyes of blue?"
"Out of the heavens as I came through."

Of course it is doggerel, but it clings to the mature mind with a tenacity worthy better things.

"The rose is red, the violet's blue,
Pinks are pretty and so are you."

So it is Little Boy Blue and his doings are remembered, though the years are many since the rhyme was first heard and loved. There are many reasons why we should like and honour this colour which figures so largely both in history and romance, but none is more potent than that given by a little girl who, when asked to state her reasons for a decided preference for blue, said, "My mother likes it best, so of course I do." This may not be logic, but it is love, and it is because of this associated life, that we care for symbols and emblems. So it is we look beyond the blue for the immortality we seek, so it is that we glean from Masonry, from religion, from art, from nature, from literature, and from the home, the best in material and tangible form to suggest the inner meanings which only the heart can reveal, and which belong to humanity in its related life.—G. H. R. in "Freemasons Repository."

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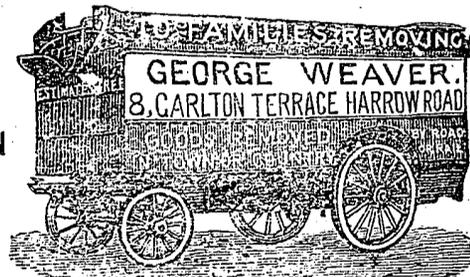
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Shaftesbury.—8:15, The Sorrows of Satan. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.
Haymarket.—8:30, Under the Red Robe. Matinée, Wednesday and Satur-
day, 2:30.
St. James's.—8, As you like it. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
Savoy.—8:15, His Majesty. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.
Daly's.—8:15, The Geisha; A story of a Tea House. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.
Vaudeville.—8:15, Round a Tree. 9, A Night out. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Prince of Wales's.—On Wednesday, La Poupee. Daily, at 2:45 A Pierrot's
Life, &c.
Gaiety.—8, The Circus Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Adelphi.—7:45, All that glitters is not gold. 9, Black Ey'd Susan.
Strand.—8:15, My Aunt's advice. 9, The Prodigal Father. Matinée,
Wednesday and Saturday, 3.
Duke of York's.—8, The Gay Parisienne. Matinée, Wednesday and Satur-
day, 2:30.
Terry's.—8:15, Delicate Ground. 9, The Eider-down Quilt. Matinée,
Saturday, 2:30.
Lyric.—8:15 The daughters of Babylon. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday.
Comedy.—8, A White Stocking. 8:45, A White Elephant. Matinée, Satur-
day, 3.
Criterion.—8:30, Rosemary. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.
Court.—8:15, A bit of old Chelsea. 9, Sweet Nancy. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Avenue.—8:30, Nelson's Enchantress. Matinée, Saturday, 2:30.
Globe.—On Thursday, The Mac Haggis.
Garrick.—8:15, The man in the street. 9, My friend the Prince.
Princess's.—8, Two little Vagabonds. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday.
Grand.—7:25, Cinderella. Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, 1:25 also.
Parkhurst.—8, Jedbury, Junior
Alhambra.—7:45, Variety Entertainment. 8, Rip Van Winkle. The Ani-
matographe. 10:25, The Tzigane.
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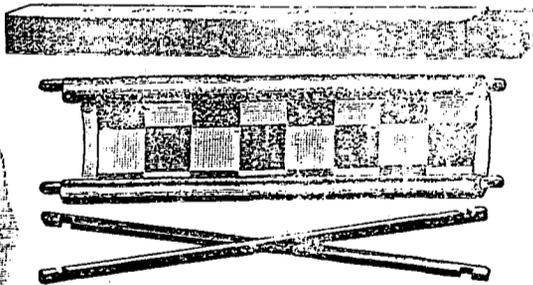
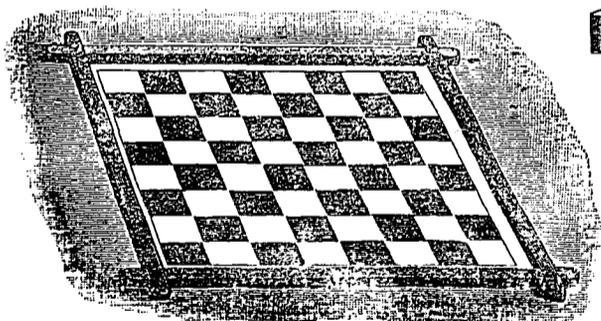
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