

THE

Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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MASONS AND THE JUBILEE.

A PROPOSITION will be submitted to Grand Lodge, at the Quarterly Communication on the 2nd June next, to vote a total of 8,000 guineas in commemoration of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign, the amount to be equally divided, in sums of 2,000 guineas each, between the Prince of Wales Hospital Fund and the three Masonic Institutions. We can anticipate nothing but a hearty and unanimous response to the suggested vote, which will not only be the means of marking the gratification of the Craft, but will also be of material service to most deserving funds, and, in conjunction with the amounts to be distributed as the result of the Albert Hall meeting will make no meagre contribution from the Craftsmen of England on this auspicious occasion.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

SELDOM has an election given stronger evidence of the almost universal practice that now exists of combination among voters in different parts of the country, than was the case yesterday, when Annuityants were elected on to the two Funds of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. No less than twenty-nine out of the forty-four of the vacancies then filled were secured by first application cases, while if we go a step further we find that nineteen out of the twenty-three elected men, and twenty of the twenty-one elected Widows were new to this or last year's list of candidates. Thus we find that of the seventeen older candidates among the men only four were successful, while of the nineteen Widows who now made their third (or more) application, only one was elected.

Not only were the older candidates unsuccessful, but in many cases the few votes recorded on their behalf showed they were virtually neglected, no less than twenty-eight of the "brought forward" cases having less than a hundred votes each recorded on their behalf. This seems to be particularly hard, as it is really unkind to raise the hopes of these old people by putting them forward as candidates for the Institution, and afterwards leaving them to shift for themselves, although there may be a satisfactory answer to the charge of indifference that seems to be justifiable here. There is, however, one ray of hope for these old people in this year of general rejoicing and large-hearted benevolence, the Committee of the Institution having decided to present a sum of five pounds to each of the unsuccessful candidates, to mark the completion of the 60th year of Her Majesty's reign; while the fact that £2,000 may be expected from Grand Lodge, as the Craft's official mark of gratification; and a further £1,500 or so, as the share of the result of the Albert Hall meeting will so far enrich the funds of this Institution as to lead to a probable extension in the number of annuities at no very distant date.

After the declaration of the poll Bro. Terry, Secretary of the Institution, stated that the sum of £7 was available

for Bro. Thomas Lord, £6 7s for Bro. Richard Day, and £5 for Bro. Henry Wilson, as the three highest unsuccessful cases among the Brethren, and similarly £7 was given to Mrs. Harriet Hester, £6 7s to Mrs. Sarah Matilda Hodges, and £5 to Mrs. Matilda Nottelle, they heading the unsuccessful list on the Widows' side. The first two of these amounts for each branch are given from the John Hervey Benefaction Fund, the two five pound notes coming from the Emulation Lodge of Improvement. That all are appreciated by the recipients goes without saying; we imagine these grants are among the most acceptable of the many given year by year through the medium of the Craft, as they go a certain distance towards lightening the disappointment that follows the failure to secure a place among the Annuityants.

It is perhaps early yet to talk of what is best for the Benevolent Institution to do in recognition of the special sums it will this year receive, as mentioned above, but we think there is a pretty general feeling that an extension of the number of Annuityants will be possible, and will be proposed in due course. There is much to be said in favour of an addition on the lines of the annuities now in force, that is to say, £40 each for the Male Annuityants and £32 each for the Widows, but as a counter proposition may be urged the desirability of creating twice the number of new pensions, at half those amounts.

It is proverbial that half a loaf is better than no bread, and when there are so many candidates (approved as worthy of the assistance of the Institution, after complying with what must be described as very stringent regulations) sent back year after year it seems that some arrangement that would allow of a wider distribution of the benefits would meet with approval. Besides this, we may point to the different local funds started in the Provinces, where smaller pensions are provided and fully appreciated, and ask if it would not be wise to take them as an expression of public opinion and base any extension of the Benevolent Institution on the lines which appear to give so much satisfaction locally?

THE BOYS SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

WE are very pleased to hear that the Province of Cumberland and Westmorland is taking active steps to worthily support its chief as Chairman for the Anniversary Festival of the Boys School. At the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge last week, the handsome sum of five hundred guineas was voted in support of the Provincial Grand Master's presidency, while a further grant of fifty guineas from the Provincial Grand Chapter was made the same day for the like purpose. Such liberality has only once been equalled—by West Lancashire, in 1891, but in that case the Province comprised 104 Lodges, whereas Cumberland and Westmorland has but 21. This augurs well for the total to be looked for from the north of England at the coming celebration.

EAST LANCASHIRE.

THE annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday, 19th inst., under the presidency of Colonel Le Gendre N. Starkie Provincial Grand Master, at the Baths Assembly Rooms, Bolton. There was a very large attendance of members, the roll being signed by between 600 and 700 Brethren. Colonel Starkie was supported by Bros. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds Deputy Provincial Grand Master; Edward Ashworth, J. Chadwick, and R. Newhouse, past Officers of the Grand Lodge of England; Dr. D. J. Leech Prov.S.G.W., C. D. Cheetham Prov.J.G.W., S. F. Butcher Prov.G.Registrar, J. Newton Prov.G.Secretary, and upwards of seventy Present and Past Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The roll was called, and it appeared that of the 111 Lodges in the Province only one was not represented, and in that case an apology for absence from the Master had been received. The number of subscribing Brethren was returned as 4,488.

Brother S. H. Shorrocks Prov.G.Treasurer presented the accounts for the past year. They showed a balance from the previous year of £298, and that the total receipts, inclusive of that amount, were £1,071. After the necessary expenditure had been met there remained a balance in the bank of £509.

Bros. G. B. Goodfellow, W. Craven, and J. H. Lord, the Auditors, presented their report, and on the motion of Bro. J. Heelis P.P.S.G.W., seconded by Bro. J. H. Meakin P.P.J.G.W., the accounts and Auditors' report were adopted, Colonel Starkie expressing his gratification at the prosperous condition of the Province. The Prov.G.Treasurer and Auditors were cordially thanked for their services.

The Prov. Grand Secretary read the report of the Charity Committee. In moving its adoption Bro. C. D. Cheetham pointed to the necessity for all charity votes possessed by Lodges and individual members of the Order in the Province being forwarded to the Charity Committee, so that the voting strength of East Lancashire might be utilised to the fullest extent in the election of local candidates to the Masonic Charities.

The Provincial Grand Master endorsed the observations of Bro. Cheetham, and said it was of the highest importance that votes should not be lost owing to inadvertence or carelessness. The report was adopted.

Bro. Cheetham then moved that a grant of £50 be made to the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution. Bro. J. Andrew P.P.G.D. seconded the motion, and urged that the amount should be increased to £100.

The Provincial Grand Master said the meeting was doubtless in full sympathy with Bro. Andrew, but it was necessary that the great London Masonic Benevolent Institutions should not be forgotten. The motion, as moved, was supported by Bro. J. T. Hooper P.P.G.Treasurer, and adopted.

Bros. A. Clegg, H. Hayes, J. Walker, T. Allitt, and Christopher Wren were elected members of the General Committee of the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Benevolent Institution.

For the office of Provincial Grand Treasurer there were nominated Bros. J. Hardcastle, Bolton, and Nathan Heywood, Manchester. Bro. Hardcastle was declared elected.

The Provincial Grand Master invested the Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge for the ensuing year as follow:—

Bro. Vice-Chancellor S. Hall, Q.C., 62	-	Senior Warden
Capt. J. Barlow 1012	-	Junior Warden
Rev. G. A. Latham 2529	-	Chaplains
Rev. W. D. D. Firth 633	-	
John Hardcastle 37	-	Treasurer
G. L. Vaughan 1030	-	Registrar
H. Lycett 62	-	Deputy Registrar
J. Newton 37	-	Secretary
W. H. Brown 221	-	Senior Deacons
Thomas Uttley 2464	-	
Thomas Mellor 2560	-	Junior Deacons
Harry Perry 2447	-	
Joseph Snape 1055	-	Superintendent of Works
Charles S. Winn 2387	-	
Samuel Moore 992	-	Director of Ceremonies
Joseph Selby 1083	-	Deputy Dir. of Cers.
W. Clark 1012	-	Assist. Dirs. of Cers.
W. Gray 999	-	
D. Lord 286	-	Sword Bearer
W. T. Mitton 1868	-	
T. T. Hardicker 2449	-	Deputy Sword Bearer
T. Hamer 146	-	Standard Bearers
W. J. Melling 2185	-	
F. Coupe 1147	-	Organist
W. H. Maxfield 204	-	
W. Craven 1633	-	Assistant Secretary
W. Greenwood 348	-	Pursuivant
J. M. Jones 1322	-	Assistant Pursuivant
T. Murphy 37	-	Stewards
E. Hope 146	-	
H. Critchley 221	-	Tyler.
J. J. Bentley 221	-	
R. Jones 348	-	
A. Unsworth 1723	-	
E. H. Flower 999	-	

Bro. C. D. Cheetham gave notice that at the November meeting he would move that the sum of 100 guineas be given from the funds of Provincial Grand Lodge to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows.

Provincial Grand Lodge was afterwards closed. In the evening there was a banquet at the Bolton Town Hall.—“Manchester Guardian.”

SOUTH WALES WESTERN DIVISION.

THE installation of Bro. Lieutenant General Laurie, M.P. for the Pembroke and Haverfordwest Boroughs, as Provincial Grand Master of the Western Division of South Wales (in succession to the late Lord Kensington) will take place at Tenby, on 4th June. The ceremony will be performed by Bro. W. W. Bramston Beach, M.P., Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire. The Provincial Grand Lodge will be held under the banner of Tenby Lodge, No. 1177, of which the Rev. G. C. Rowe is Worshipful Master.

WARWICKSHIRE.

A MEETING of the Provincial Grand Lodge was held on the 6th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Birmingham. During the progress of the Lodge the Provincial Grand Master Lord Leigh, who presided, proposed a donation of twenty-five guineas from the funds of Grand Lodge towards the erection in St. Mary's, Warwick, of a pulpit in commemoration of the Queen's long reign, which proposal was carried unanimously. The total cost of the pulpit, about £200, will be defrayed by the Masons of Warwickshire, and it is understood that most of the money is already in hand.

Bro. W. F. Tolladay P.M. of the Forward Lodge, No. 1180, handed to the representatives of the Warwickshire Masonic Benevolent and Pupil's Aid Fund the sum of £200, collected by him for this deserving object; after which the Lodge was closed with an eloquent oration by the Rev. C. W. Kirkby P.G.C.

No new appointments were made, and it is understood that the next investitures will take place at the Shakespeare Lodge, Warwick, instead of Stoneleigh Abbey, as was previously arranged, in order that the assembled Lodges may have an opportunity of seeing the Masonic pulpit, which it is hoped will by that time be erected in St. Mary's Church, Warwick.

A banquet followed the proceedings in Lodge.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday, at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. J. H. Matthews President of the Board in the chair. The Senior Vice-President Bro. D. D. Mercer, and the Junior Vice-President Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, occupied their usual places. The Grand Secretary Bro. E. Letchworth, the Assistant Grand Secretary Bro. W. Lake, Bros. W. Dodd, G. S. Recknell and H. Sadler G.T. represented the Grand Secretary's department, besides whom a very large number of Brethren were present. The Quarterly meeting of the Board of Masters first had the business paper of Grand Lodge for 2nd June submitted to it, after which twenty-nine petitions for relief by the Board of Benevolence were considered. A total of £655 was voted to twenty-three of these, in sums of from £5 to £60. Two petitions were withdrawn, one was dismissed, and three were deferred.

CONSECRATION.**CRANE LODGE.**

CRANBROOK, though fitly styled the principal town in the Weald of Kent, has not hitherto possessed, as a centre, a Lodge of Freemasons, though members of the Order may be resident in it, and in the district immediately round it, but an influential gathering of the Brotherhood, emanating from another quarter, had a meeting in the town of Cranbrook on Tuesday, 11th inst., and gave evidence of the fact that a Freemason's Lodge will shortly be established in it. The style and title of the Brotherhood's formation here will be taken from the well-known stream, the “Crane,” which flows in and near the town, and the members of the Lodge will have their location in that ancient and historical institution, Ye “George” Hotel, where good Queen Bess once stayed for the night. The quaint little town of Cranbrook is at last waking up from its long, long sleep.—“Sussex Express.”

ROYAL ARCH.

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WEST YORKSHIRE.

THERE was a large attendance of Companions at the annual Convocation of the Provincial Grand Chapter of West Yorkshire, which was held under the auspices of Regularity Chapter, No. 404, in the Freemasons' Hall, Halifax, on Saturday, 15th inst. The Provincial Grand Superintendent the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., presided.

The ordinary Chapter was opened by the Officers of the Regularity, and the Prov. Grand Officers were received in due form.

On the roll of the Chapters in the Province being called, it was found that seven were unrepresented. The Provincial Grand Superintendent, in an address to the Companions, expressed regret that the members of Royal Arch Masonry in West Yorkshire were not proportionate to the members of the Craft. In the Province there were about 80 Craft Lodges, while there were only 42 Chapters. He had recently had applications for two new Chapters, one for the Colne Valley (1645) and the other from Wentworth (1239), Sheffield, which would probably be granted. During the past year there had been an increase of members; this was gratifying inasmuch as there had been a decrease the previous year. He hoped to see a large accession of members. Alluding to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, he said that a meeting of Masons had been called for the 14th June, at the Albert Hall, London, as a demonstration of loyalty on the part of the whole of the Masons of the country. This would be presided over by the Prince of Wales the Grand Master. For that meeting there were only five tickets at the disposal of each Lodge, and the number could not be increased. The meeting would relieve individual Lodges of taking active measures for tendering their loyal congratulations to the Queen, but he suggested that each Lodge should record on its minutes an expression of loyalty. He intimated that on behalf of West Yorkshire he had accepted the invitation of the Empire Lodge to attend a banquet at the Hotel Cecil, on the evening of the Albert Hall meeting, to meet the Colonial Premiers who were members of the Craft; and also an invitation of the Bishop of Rochester to attend a Masonic service at St. Saviour's, Southwark, at which the Prince of Wales might be present.

The accounts, presented by Comp. W. Smith Prov. G. Treas. showed a balance in hand of £280 13s 6d. Comp. J. Gibbs, Rotherham, was elected Prov. G. Treas. for the ensuing year, on the proposition of Comp. W. Smith, seconded by Comp. J. Robertshaw.

The Provincial Grand Superintendent proceeded to invest his Officers for the ensuing year, as follow:

Comp. Henry Smith 154	-	-	-	H.
H. S. Childe 154	-	-	-	J.
H. G. E. Green 1019	-	-	-	Scribe E.
W. Laycock 1001	-	-	-	Scribe N.
J. Gibbs 904	-	-	-	Treasurer
J. C. Bell 1283	-	-	-	Registrar
T. H. Tanner 337	-	-	-	Deputy Registrar
T. Norfolk 600	-	-	-	Principal Sojourner
J. T. Simpson 61	-	-	-	1st Assistant Sojourner
W. W. Clayton 304	-	-	-	2nd Assistant Sojourner
T. Read 302	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
H. King 307	-	-	-	Deputy Sword Bearer
J. Robertshaw 139	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
G. Blackburn 264	-	-	-	Assist. Standard Bearers
J. H. Roper 265	-	-	-	
W. D. Quamby 208	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
R. Ruff 2491	-	-	-	Assistant Dirs. of Cers.
G. Stones 1462	-	-	-	
C. Middleton 2069	-	-	-	Organist
W. S. Milligan 448	-	-	-	
C. England 910	-	-	-	Assistant Scribe E.
A. Macredie 296	-	-	-	
A. Armitage 521	-	-	-	Stewards
G. Earle 306	-	-	-	
J. Tillotson 387	-	-	-	Janitor.
T. Chester 904	-	-	-	

At the conclusion of the proceedings the brethren sat down to tea.

MARK MASONRY.

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NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE.

BY the invitation of the Brethren of the Star in the East Lodge the annual gathering of the Mark Masons in the Province was held on Friday, 7th inst., at Scarborough. The Provincial Grand Master Lord Bolton presided, and appointed and invested Officers as follow:

Bros. C Gray	-	-	-	-	Senior Warden
R. McBean	-	-	-	-	Junior Warden
W. A. Cheeseman	-	-	-	-	Master Overseer
J. Holland	-	-	-	-	Senior Overseer
David Morley	-	-	-	-	Junior Overseer
Rev. E. A. B. Pitman	-	-	-	-	Chaplain
F. W. Halliwell	-	-	-	-	Secretary
T. W. Rennison	-	-	-	-	Registrar of Marks
T. S. Brogden	-	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
Smith Exley	-	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
J. Forbes	-	-	-	-	Inspector of Works
G. Rennard	-	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
R. S. Pears	-	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
W. E. Adamson	-	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
J. A. Jones	-	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
G. W. Long	-	-	-	-	Organist
J. T. Chambers	-	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
H. S. Horne	-	-	-	-	Inner Guard
W. Lowther Harrison	-	-	-	-	Stewards
C. Nicholson	-	-	-	-	
Copley	-	-	-	-	Tyler.
W. Stockdale	-	-	-	-	

Lord Bolton having thanked the Driffield and Middlesbrough Lodges for their invitations to hold the next Provincial Lodge at their towns, reviewed the work of the past year, and regretted the condition of the Province was not satisfactory. The Mark Degree was, he said, a beautiful one, and deserved to be cultivated by a larger number of the Craft.

Brother J. L. Barker D.Prov.G.M. West Yorkshire briefly expressed the hearty good wishes of the sister Province of West Yorkshire, and hoped they would increase and have continued prosperity.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was subsequently closed in due form.

LEBANON LODGE, No. 325.

THE installation meeting was held at Lostwithiel, on the 6th inst., when Bro. G. Shanks P.M. was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, by Bro. Perry P.M., who performed the ceremony with great ability and in a very impressive manner. The Board of Installed Masters included several well-known and distinguished Masons of the neighbourhood.

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FIDELITY AND UNANIMITY LODGE, No. 348.

THE celebration of the annual festival took place at the Masonic Hall, Taunton, on Tuesday, 27th ult., when Bro. Wm. H. Westlake was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year as successor to Bro. R. Knight. The ceremony of installation was performed in a very able and impressive manner by Bro. F. T. Ellworthy P.M. P.G. Secretary, in the unavoidable absence, through indisposition, of Bro. R. C. Else Prov.G.M.M.

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DUNELM LODGE, No. 356.

THE annual meeting was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Old Elvet, Durham, on Friday, 14th inst. Bro. H. Brown W.M. presided, and was supported by a goodly number of Past Masters, Officers, and Brethren.

The Treasurer's report, read by the Secretary, showed that the Lodge was in a flourishing condition both numerically and financially.

Bro. Lawson P.M. then presented Bro. T. Black S.W. for installation. The ceremony was most impressively performed by Bro. Brown.

The Brethren, at the invitation of the new Master, then adjourned to refreshment, when the usual Loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured. Pleasant harmony concluded the evening's proceedings.

JUBILEE PRESENTATION AT STOCKPORT.

AT the monthly meeting of the Lodge of Concord, No. 323, held at the Florist Hotel, Stockport, on Wednesday, 12th inst., Bro. J. A. Penney W.M. presiding, Bro. Wm. Wood I.P.M. and Treasurer presented a chain to be worn by the W.M. The chain, which is of solid silver, is formed by a succession of Masonic Emblems, with small silver plates for the reception of the names of successive W.M.'s by whom it may be worn. It bears the inscription:

Presented to
The Concord Lodge, No. 323,
By Bro. WILLIAM WOOD, I.P.M., Treasurer,
commemorating the Diamond Jubilee reign, June 1897,
J. A. PENNEY, W.M.,
H. NEWTON, P.M., Secretary.

Bro. William Wood, in making the presentation, expressed the great pleasure it gave him, and added that he should have held it over until the next meeting of the Lodge in the second week in June, but that he was leaving the country for Russia, where he expected to remain some little time, and he had therefore brought it up a month before the time.

Bro. J. A. Penney W.M. accepted the presentation in the name of the Lodge, expressing the great pleasure it gave him to be the recipient in the name of his Brethren of such a handsome gift. He would assure them that he would take the greatest care of it during his year of Office. He would use every endeavour to hand it down untarnished and unsoiled to his successor in the chair.

Bro. William Johnson S.D., in a few well-chosen words, proposed a vote of thanks to Bro. Wood for his present, and this was seconded by Bro. Golburn J.W., supported by Bros. W. Walmsley P.M., W. Slack J.D., and carried unanimously.

Bro. Wood, in accepting the vote of thanks, reiterated the pleasure it gave him to be allowed to make such a present to the Lodge, and said that if it was accepted in the spirit it was given he should feel doubly pleased.

Subsequently Bro. Wood, remarking that one of the principles of Freemasonry was charity, proposed that a grant of five guineas be made to the Jubilee fund on behalf of the Sick Nursing Association. This was seconded by the W.M., and carried unanimously.

CHURCH SERVICES.

AN imposing and memorable Masonic service was held at St. Peter's Church, Walworth, on Sunday, 2nd inst. This is the first function of this character that has taken place in the parish of Newington, and Bro. the Rev. J. W. Horsley, J.P., by whose initiative it was brought about, is to be congratulated on the large and thoroughly representative attendance. About 200 members of the Craft assembled in the crypt beneath the church half an hour before the service, and donned Masonic clothing, a dispensation for that purpose having been obtained from Grand Lodge. Bro. J. Hattersley and Bro. J. O'Dea P.M. were the Directors of Ceremonies, and the arrangements could not have been better carried out. The whole of the nave was reserved for the Brethren, the remaining portions of the church being crowded long before the hour at which the service was announced to commence.

Punctually at 6.25 p.m. the Masonic procession entered the church, the Provincial Grand Officers leading the way, followed by the Past Masters, the Worshipful Masters, and the others taking part. The Arch and Craft clothing worn by the Brethren and the jewels which adorned the breasts of the Officers added a wealth of colour and brilliancy to the scene, which was striking in the extreme. The service was sung by Bros. the Revs. A. C. Lennox Robertson P.M. P.Z. P.D.G.C. and C. J. Langley P.M. P.P.G.C. (assistant clergy of the Church). There were special Psalms and special lessons, the latter (Ezra iii. and 1 Cor. xiii.) being clearly and distinctly read by Past Masters J. A. Dawes, M.A., and Dr. G. Millson.

Bro. the Rev. J. W. Horsley, M.A., J.P. (rector of St. Peter's), preached an eloquent sermon, in the course of which he explained the objects of Freemasonry. It was not, he said, a benefit society. The Brothers paid their fees, subscriptions, and contributions, but claimed in return no gift whatever. Nor was it a political society. In their Lodges they vetoed politics, yet English politics owed not a little of its purity to English Freemasonry. Nor was the Craft, as was sometimes imagined, a religion; for it contained men of all creeds. It was, however, calculated to make every member a more sincere follower of the faith which he professed. The Craft was not a feasting club nor a secret society, although it had been condemned by the Pope of Rome as being the latter. Its members were not unknown, and its aims and purposes were proclaimed and glorified in. Of course they had some secrets. So had most people engaged in trade, but Masonic secrets were of no use whatever to the world at large. The Craft was a Brotherhood or Fraternity of men of all classes, of all nations, and of all races, colours, and creeds, who were and must be, first of all, believers in one personal God, and, secondly, believers in immortality. As regarded character, they must be of good repute and morals, free, sound, charitable and loyal. Some might fall away from their principles. This was not in consequence of, but in spite of Freemasonry. One of the features of their Lodges was equality—the rich man from his mansion and the poor man from his home met there on a level. And with equality there was liberty. In their Lodges bitterness was impossible, and loving-kindness a necessity. Commenting on the number of Masonic charities, the Rev. gentleman referred to the good work done in educating the orphan boys and girls of members, and in brightening and sustaining the last years of old Masons and their widows. Upwards of £80,000 a year was, he said, subscribed in order to maintain these and other charities connected with the Craft. The voluntaries before and after the service were (a) "Zur Eröffnung der Loge," (b) "Arie mit Chor," and "Marsch aus der Oper Die Zauberflöte," from Mozart's music for Freemasons. The offertory, which realized £20, will be divided between the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons, and the reseating fund of St. Peter's Church.—"South London Press."

ON Sunday, 25th ult., a special service, under the auspices of Lodges Nos. 198, 447, and 1000 (I.C.), Newtownards, was held in Newtownards Parish Church in aid of the Down Masonic Widows Fund. There was a numerous attendance of Brethren from Belfast and the surrounding districts. The members assembled at the Town Hall, and, having been marshalled by Bro. J. H. Barrett Prov. Grand Director of Ceremonies, walked to the church. At the sacred edifice the procession, which was most imposing in its character, was met by Bro. Rev. W. L. T. Whatham, rector, who preached; Bro. Rev. C. Bassett, curate; and the Knights Templar; and, having been re-constituted, was led by the Provincial Officers into the church. The congregation, which was an exceedingly large one, included the Marquis of Londonderry, who occupied the family pew.

Bro. Rev. Wm. L. T. Whatham selected as his text Romans xiii., 10—"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law." He said that before speaking of the objects and utility of Freemasonry, he desired to say a few words

about the history and present position of the Fraternity. That Freemasonry was of great antiquity every one would admit. Some writers had gone so far as to affirm that it had a being "ever since symmetry began, and harmony displayed her charms"; and, although they could not accept literally such a statement, they must admit that the principles underlying the ritual and tenets of their Order were in accordance with the eternal law, which was illustrated by every beauty in nature and every power in the universe. There could be little doubt that Freemasonry was in existence in the time of King Solomon, and that members of the Craft were employed in the building of the first temple at Jerusalem. The example then set by the Brethren in taking part in the erection of noble buildings for religious and philanthropic purposes had been followed ever since by their successors throughout the centuries. The preacher instanced St. Paul's Cathedral, hospitals and infirmaries in London and elsewhere, and the various Masonic schools and homes in England and Ireland as instances of the brotherly and humane spirit which still pervaded the Masonic body. Proceeding, he said that the history of Freemasonry in England had been of a chequered description. At one time the Freemasons had been subjected to obloquy owing to a misunderstanding of their objects; but the time of trial was now past, and they could look back upon great achievements, while at the present day there was no society which could boast of such powerful influence amongst all sections of the people. In Ireland the Grand Lodge was revived in the year 1780; and, although eight years later the Freemasons had been excommunicated by the Pope, and had suffered a great deal of misrepresentation since, the Craft had so far prospered that there were at the present day upwards of 450 Lodges in the country. Indeed, it might safely be said that throughout the world the Craft of Freemasons was the most powerful and most energetic of all organisations of a human origin. If he might be pardoned for alluding for a moment to their own town, he would remind his Brethren that it was now one hundred and thirty years since a Lodge of Freemasons had been established in Newtownards. That the Institution was a factor in the life of the district could be gathered from there having since then been formed two new Lodges, and from the rapidly increasing number of applications for admission into the Order. He was of opinion that Freemasonry was of great utility at the present day. It was not only a benefit to its members and to their families, especially in cases of sickness and death, but it also acted as a deterrent to many of those forces which were at work to destroy the foundations of social order and of religion. It worked as a corporate body, under the discipline and in obedience to its own laws. While it was true that they were much indebted to the individual for the origination of great purposes, they had to remember that great results were achieved only by the combined action of individuals. They had exemplifications of this truth not only in the Christian Church and in other religious organisations, in every profession, in every science worthy of the name, and in all those institutions which tended to moral and social well-being; but also was the necessity of combination illustrated by the cases of those agencies which had brought about the deterioration of communities or any retrogradation of mankind. Trades and professions, arts and sciences, social and political efforts, the progress of civilisation, all were dependent upon confederation. Acting, then, upon this idea of brotherhood, Freemasonry held up as its ideal the fulfilling of law; and held that in the perfection of law were true harmony and true happiness to be found. Holding that the realisation of human capacity was the greatest good for man, Freemasonry sought to develop man's whole being and to mould his surroundings to achieve for him a due environment, both physical, moral, and spiritual. While recognising that the interests of the individual were not, to quote the words of a modern writer, identical with those of a social organism, Freemasonry, by teaching the unity of the race, showed forth, as does the Christian faith, that men constitute one whole body, whose well-being was advanced or retarded by whatever affected its various members. Freemasonry had ever been on the side of freedom, not of falsely-styled freedom which was identical with that of anarchy, but of that true freedom whose law was love and whose love caused it to carry out the behests of the law of the Eternal Father. The reverend gentleman concluded his sermon with an earnest appeal on behalf of the Down Masonic Widows Fund.

A MASONIC SERVICE.

(By an Occasional Contributor).

I WAS interested in the animated discussion in the columns of the "Church Times" between those who maintained that Freemasonry was not worthy of the active support and countenance of Churchmen and those who held that the Craft was a handmaid of morality and religion, and that for Churchmen to belong to it was innocuous, pleasant, and beneficial to themselves and others. The "Roma locuta est, causa finita

est" was, as expressed in terms or supplying the motive of opposition, the sheet-anchor of most of the opponents of the Craft; but the recent revelations and confessions of a certain M. Taxil, who had been puffed and blessed by Italian, French, and Belgian ecclesiastics as having proved some connection between at any rate Continental Masonry and the cult of Satan, and the deposition of a certain Diana Vaughan from the position of a penitent High Priestess of Diabolism and Masonry to that of a typewriting girl employed by M. Taxil to aid in his gigantic hoax, must have somewhat shaken the force of this argument. On the other hand, the defence of the Craft, which fell largely into the hands of the Rev. J. W. Horsley, proved that Continental Freemasons had so departed from the real principles of the Order, which include of necessity a belief in God and in immortality, that they had been solemnly and effectually excommunicated by the Grand Lodge of England, and that, therefore, what the Pope might say, with much reason, concerning what is still called Masonry in some of the countries of the Continent did not touch the real Masonry as found and practised in England, and many other lands which had been taught by England. As the great majority of Masons in England belong to the Church of England, it is not a matter too trivial to be considered, nor can a few opponents, especially when arguing from external ignorance, assume that their Brethren shall leave the Craft at their invitation. In South London I have noted that amongst the various uses to which St. Saviour's, Southwark, is being put under its new and vigorous collegiate government, that of inviting various classes of people, or wide-spread societies, to assemble there on certain days for common worship is one of the most interesting and acceptable. On the afternoon of Ascension Day there is to be a great gathering of Masons at St. Saviour's, when the offertory will be devoted to the Restoration Fund. The Dean of Rochester (Grand Chaplain for this year) is to preach, and the Bishop of Llandaff (his predecessor in the Masonic Grand Chaplaincy), the Deans of York and Gloucester, Archdeacons Stevens and Sinclair, and other Past Grand Chaplains are expected to be present. The Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom as Pro Grand Master will attend with a large number of Grand Officers, and no doubt the church will be filled by Masons from all parts of England, and not merely from South London or the metropolis only. The sombreness of a male congregation will be brightened by the use of Craft clothing and jewels, for the wearing of which at this function a dispensation has been obtained.

Before, however, this service had been announced, one had been arranged for in South London at St. Peter's, Walworth, and there I found myself last Sunday evening. That spacious church of Sir John Soane's building, a replica of Holy Trinity, Marylebone, or Holy Trinity of it, is now well adapted for a large gathering, as the high pews have recently been replaced by open seats specially designed for the church, with a low chancel screen and gates of the same material and colouring, the architect being Mr. Maurice Adams, under whose instructions the whole of the interior has been boldly and effectively coloured. The breadth of the central aisle adds dignity to the church, especially when used for processions. The galleries on Sunday were required, as about 1,200 people were present, attracted largely by this being the first service of Masons held in this neighbourhood. The Brethren of the Craft assembled to the number of 200, in the "Convenient room adjoining the Lodge" that the picturesque crypt provided. There they vested themselves in the regalia and ornaments to which they were entitled, and, led by the churchwardens with their staves of office, proceeded by some winding steps up into the church. Masonic ritual, by the way, reverses that of the church, since those of greatest dignity lead the procession instead of being placed at its end. Masons being taught to move in order and with some dignity, the procession up the centre aisle compared favourably with many ecclesiastical ones we have seen. The surpliced choir then entered, and from the printed service paper it could be seen that all three of the clergy of the church, as well as its churchwardens, were Masons. The clergy wore the collars of their degree over their surplices, in addition to their academic hoods and the white stoles of the priesthood. The voluntaries before and after the service were from Mozart's Music for Freemasons, that at the beginning being his *Zur Eröffnung der Lodge* (For the Opening of the Lodge). The hymns were familiar both to users of hymns ancient and modern, and one, at least, to the Craft as used in their ceremonies. The opening hymn was "Through the night of doubt and sorrow," which might have been written expressly for Masonic use, as all Brethren, especially if Master Masons, can understand. The psalms were special ones—xvi., cxii., and cxiii.—all being not only patient but suggestive of Masonic teaching. The special lessons were read by two Past Masters of Lodges in lay attire, with the insignia of their degree, and were Ezra iii. (which describes the laying of the foundations of the second temple) and St. Paul's magnificent description of charity. The service paper advised us that "after each prayer or collect the Amens will be sung in the old English words 'So mote it be,'" and right lustily were the familiar words sung by the Masons present. The anthem was Dr. J. Clarke Whitfield's setting of Psalm cxiii., which is of common use in the Masonic ritual, and familiar also from similar use was the hymn before the sermon, "O Lord, how joyful 'tis to see the Brethren join in love to Thee."

The preacher was described on the paper as "Brother the Rev. J. W. Horsley, Quatuor Coronati Lodge Inner Circle," and his text Wisdom viii. 7, which, by the temporary substitution of one word for another might, he said, be read, "If a man love Freemasonry, her labours are virtues: for she teacheth temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude: which are such things as men can have nothing more profitable in their life." The book, he said, was described by one of the Articles as to be "read for example of life

and instruction of manners," and therefore especially suitable for a society which was a peculiar system of morality. The book, moreover, was chiefly concerned with vindicating the two dogmas of the existence of God and the truth of immortality against sensualists and atheists, and therefore it was a handbook for a fraternity based on these two doctrines. In the beginning of the first chapter, brethren would find more than an echo of the instruction imparted to them in the first degree, in the beginning of the thirteenth they would be reminded of the teaching of the second degree, while the beginning of the third chapter would be inseparably connected in their memory with the third degree. He proceeded to declare, against popular ignorance and grotesque surmisings, what Freemasonry was not, especially quoting a manifesto issued by Portuguese Masons in 1869 against the assumptions and untrue assertions of Rome. "Freemasonry is neither a religious sect nor a political party; it claims no Divine origin, assumes not to usurp the prerogative of the Church or the office of the ministry; it has no sympathy with that spirit which opposes or ridicules the Church, or seeks to exalt any society or system of philanthropy against religion." The remainder of his sermon consisted of a somewhat impassioned defence and eulogy of the aims, offices, and effects of true Masonry as a universal brotherhood that made for righteousness and promoted mightily the principles of liberty, fraternity, and equality, while introducing to some and deepening in others a knowledge of the unity of God and a personal life of progress and ascension throughout eternity. The attention of the large congregation was as marked as the heartiness with which they joined in the whole service. During the singing of the hymn "Blessed City, Heavenly Salem," with its significant lines—

Many a blow and biting sculpture, polished well those stones elect,
In their places now compacted by the Heavenly Architect—

the offertory was collected by Past Masters. I learned afterwards that it amounted to over £20, half of which was for one of the great Masonic charities, that for Aged Freemasons and the Widows of Freemasons, and half went to the debt on the reseating of the church. After the presentation of the alms at the altar, which was bright with Easter hangings, flowers, and the six vesper lights, the benediction by the Rector was preceded by the collect well known to the Craft, "Almighty and Eternal God, Architect and Ruler of the Universe." The choir then proceeded to their vestry, while the procession of Masons retired westward in due order to the crypt, where friendly intercourse prevailed for some time.

The service obviously impressed and edified all, and many of them were "pious varriers from the church," or those who rarely found themselves within its walls. The adaptability of a choral evensong to such a service was clearly demonstrated, and the scruples of the rigorist rubrician would melt before the plain benefit of such a gathering of those not usually united in common worship, not at one in external matters of politics or religion.—"Church Times."

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ROYAL
Masonic Benevolent Institution
FOR
AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF FREEMASONS,
CROYDON.

OFFICE—4 FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON, W.C.

Grand Patron and President:

His Royal Highness THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., M.W.G.M.

—:o:—

At the Annual General Meeting of this Institution, held at Freemasons' Hall, London, on Friday, 21st May 1897,

W. Bro. JOHN A. FARNFIELD,

Patron, Past Assist. Grand Dir. of Cers. England, in the Chair.

After the general business was disposed of, the Governors and Subscribers proceeded to the ELECTION of 23 MALE ANNUITANTS from an approved list of 65 Candidates, and 21 FEMALE ANNUITANTS from an approved list of 52 Candidates, when the following were declared duly elected:—

MALES.

No.	Name	Votes.	No.	Name	Votes.
1	Bro. H. E. Frances	4807	13	Bro. R. Simmonds	4204
2	Bro. J. Dolve	4695	14	Bro. J. D. Medcalf	4200
3	Bro. T. J. Maidwell	4597	15	Bro. E. W. Coombes	4170
4	Bro. J. Very	4463	16	Bro. M. Kemp	4145
5	Bro. W. Hodges	4407	17	Bro. J. Eastabrook	3914
6	Bro. J. White	4369	18	Bro. W. Whitehead	3911
7	Bro. W. W. Walesby	4365	19	Bro. J. C. Oddy	3888
8	Bro. S. Edwards	4354	20	Bro. T. Barber	3880
9	Bro. J. C. Flattely	4328	21	Bro. A. H. Denton (deferred)	3867
10	Bro. E. Walker	4325	22	Bro. A. Pilgrim (deferred)	3804
11	Bro. W. M. Esmond	4307	23	Bro. A. W. Fenner (deferred)	3660
12	Bro. E. J. Webb	4212			

WIDOWS.

No.	Name	Votes.	No.	Name	Votes.
1	Mrs. Cutler	5523	12	Mrs. Barfield	4269
2	Mrs. Darling	5391	13	Mrs. Dixon	4203
3	Mrs. Schofield	5137	14	Mrs. Tarling	4157
4	Mrs. Poynter	4913	15	Mrs. Martin	4020
5	Mrs. Perring	4855	16	Mrs. Allinson	3719
6	Mrs. Sanderson	4788	17	Mrs. Lundie	3520
7	Mrs. Stevens	4749	18	Mrs. Cross	2821
8	Mrs. Hood	4644	19	Mrs. Dearsley (deferred)	2481
9	Mrs. Darley	4402	20	Mrs. Clinch (deferred)	2132
10	Mrs. Lewin	4319	21	Mrs. Rowe (deferred)	1768
11	Mrs. Powell	4282			

The votes of the unsuccessful candidates will be carried forward to the next election.

Those marked A are elected to fill vacancies occasioned by death since the voting papers were issued.

The three lowest on the Poll (both Male and Female) will be placed on the list of annuitants as vacancies occur. The Committee voted the sum of £5 to every unsuccessful candidate as a gift to commemorate Her Most Gracious Majesty's 60th year of her reign.

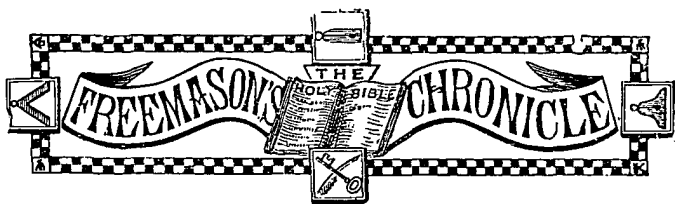
By order,

JAMES TERRY, Vice-Patron and Secretary.

21st May 1897.

The next Anniversary Festival will be held on the 23rd February 1898, under distinguished presidency. The services of Brethren and of Ladies to act as Stewards on this important occasion are earnestly solicited, and will be gratefully acknowledged.

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



SATURDAY, 22ND MAY 1897.

THE BENEVOLENT ELECTIONS.

THE annual meeting of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was held yesterday, the principal business being the election of Annuitants to fill the vacancies caused by death during the year. For the Male Fund there were 65 candidates, of whom 23 were elected. On the Widows side the list showed 52 approved candidates, reduced to 49, however, by the death of two of the applicants, and the withdrawal of another; 21 of the 49 remaining were elected. The advertisement above gives the list of successful candidates, the unsuccessful, and the number of votes recorded on behalf of each, were as follow:

MALES.

No. on List.	Name.	Votes: Forward.	Polled.	Total.
57	Lord, Thomas	...	3652	3652
13	Day, Richard	530	2882	3412
16	Wilson, Henry	1466	1784	3250
11	Smith, Edward	1403	1215	2618
43	Tyer, Thomas John	20	2340	2360
40	Perry, William	...	1808	1808
5	Brown, George Thomas	1632	26	1658
8	Mott, James	288	1094	1382
49	Rendel, Thomas	20	1346	1366
37	Merboth, John Philip	...	1309	1309
25	Hose, Samuel James	278	889	1167
1	Musham, John	796	182	978
12	Ransom, Alfred	568	407	975
54	Sturge, Edwin	...	935	935
47	Janeway, Thomas	20	850	870
35	Hills, William	20	780	800
56	Darton, James	...	774	774
50	Hills, John	...	747	747
65	Martin, William Henry P.	...	744	744
64	Smith, James	40	523	563
59	Davey, Charles	40	510	550
2	Nichol, Robert	393	32	425
38	Eckstein, William	...	283	283
3	McLean, William John	267	10	277
55	Knowles, Thomas	...	255	255
36	Harrison, Albert William	...	222	222
52	Blake, Robert	...	78	78
4	Stockman, Thos. S.	43	26	69
7	Hatton, Peter Valentine	53	12	65
31	Holland, Thomas	...	62	62
19	Benson, Richard Hodge	36	18	54
60	Crane, George Francis	40	4	44
24	Gee, Nathaniel	4	24	28
27	Crosby, Henry	3	16	19
61	Lazenby, Thomas Cradock	...	17	17
58	Beech, John	...	15	15
10	Richmond, William Miles	9	4	13
23	Frew, James	1	6	7
9	Kessel, Solomon	...	6	6
46	Millington, Joseph	...	4	4
45	Nicholson, Matthew	...	2	2
62	Wareing, John	...	2	2

WIDOWS.

No.	Name.	Votes.	Polled.	Total.
39	Hester, Harriet	...	1698	1698
38	Hodges, Sarah Matilda	...	1674	1674
23	Nottelle, Matilda	7	1204	1211
27	Hosgood, Margaret	...	1100	1100
1	Salisbury, Jane	297	317	614
48	Hurd, Matilda	...	514	514
15	Dickinson, Eliza Emma	393	56	449
2	Mannington, Eliz. Atkinson	333	82	415
28	Weaver, Mary Ann	...	350	350
5	Russell, Olivia	294	22	316
33	Stuart, Elizabeth	20	280	300
3	Foot, Mary Ann	271	12	283
49	Allan, Louisa Anne	...	270	270
7	Cowell, Nancy	226	7	233
51	Compton, Ann	...	219	219
6	Olive, Elizabeth	114	4	118
14	James, Clara	40	76	116
10	Cartledge, Annie	98	13	111
4	Ionn, Elizabeth	67	17	84
12	Snart, Mary Ann	42	9	51
17	Reid, Mary	21	27	48
8	Lemon, Charlotte	20	3	23
11	Miller, Margaret	19	3	22
18	Sargent, Agnes Adelaide	20	...	20
16	Banning, Ann	13	3	16
19	Wright, Martha Frances	7	8	15
22	Wadsworth, Hannah	7	6	13
35	Claisen, Maria	...	5	5
9	Clarke, Elizabeth	...	Dead	
36	Speed-Andrews, Jane	...	Dead	
37	Wharton, Elizabeth	...	Withdrawn	

Following the announcement of the result Bro. J. A. Farnfield, who acted as Chairman of the day, announced that the £5 voted to each of the unsuccessful candidates would be sent them on the 21st or 22nd June. Thanks were given to the Scrutineers—who were congratulated on having done their work so well that not a single question had arisen—the usual formal votes as to advertising and reporting the proceedings of the day were agreed to, and the business concluded with the customary compliment to the Chairman for presiding.

The Royal Birthday Number of "Mothers and Daughters," with its heraldic coloured cover and large presentation portrait of the Queen (measuring 20 by 25 inches) makes a splendid commencement of the new weekly issue. The portrait is one of the most recent and most striking, and will make a worthy souvenir of a great occasion. In connection with an article on Kensington Palace, where our Gracious Sovereign first saw the light, 78 years ago, the Editress has been fortunate enough to secure an illustration of the Royal Nursery, with some of the toys of the future Queen still in position. There is also the first of a series of articles on some Royal English Mothers, a Letter from Paris with three illustrations of the latest fashions, an announcement of an easy Prize Competition in which the prize is a fortnight's holiday at the seaside or ten days on the Continent, two stories, and many other interesting items. While not disdaining the description of dress and fashion, the note of "Mothers and Daughters" is somewhat higher than many of the papers issued especially for women.

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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RAVENSBORNE LODGE, No. 1601.

THE installation meeting was held on Thursday, 22nd ult., at the Lewisham Board of Works Offices, Catford, when Bro. William Chas. Sayers was installed in succession to Bro. H. Dow White, and invested his Officers.

During the evening Bro. W. G. Lemon, J.P., P.A.G.D.C. was presented with a handsome illuminated address, on his retirement from the Treasurership of the Lodge after twenty years service.

The Brethren afterwards adjourned for refreshment to the Holborn Restaurant, where the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, and a capital musical programme was contributed to by Bros. Jefferies, Morrow, Sweeney, Wyburn, Leach, and Phillips.

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LEWISHAM LODGE, No. 2579.

A MEETING of this Lodge was held at the Parish Church Hall, Ladywell, on Saturday, 8th inst., Bro. C. Lamb W.M. presiding.

Bro. H. W. Humphreys P.M. 1638 P.P.G.St.B. Surrey, and Bro. J. Morley 1638 were elected joining members. Work in the second and third degrees was performed by the W.M. in most efficient manner.

It was decided that, in consequence of the rapid growth of the Lodge, the fees should be raised. Two candidates for initiation were proposed.

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INSTRUCTION.

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ROYAL ALFRED LODGE, No. 780.

ON Thursday, at the house of Bro. Capt. W. T. Purkiss, V.D., the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, Bros. S. J. Parker W.M., J. Allen S.W., C. Jacobs J.W., J. Dennis W.M. 2400 acting Preceptor, J. T. Larkman P.M. Treas. acting Secretary, James Halstead S.D., H. T. Johnson J.D., W. Langdon I.G., R. Goff Steward, H. R. Worth, H. J. Gomm, Wynman, and others.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. H. Gomm candidate. The Lodge was called off and on. Resuming the working the W.M. opened the Lodge in the second degree, and vacated the chair in favour of Bro. J. Dennis acting Preceptor, during whose working the post of Preceptor was most ably fulfilled by Bro. W. Fisher P.M.

The acting W.M. intimated his intention of working the third degree, and Bro. Worth having offered himself as candidate, the Lodge was advanced, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed.

It was proposed by Bro. J. Dennis W.M. 2400, and seconded by Bro. J. Allen S.W., that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes for the excellent working of Bro. Parker, who had that evening occupied the chair for the first time in this Lodge of Instruction. Bro. Allen was elected W.M. for the next meeting.

As we say elsewhere, this is a most convenient Lodge for West London Masons, who will receive a hearty welcome any time they can visit the assemblies.

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HORNSEY LODGE, No. 890.

THE annual supper was held on Tuesday, 4th inst., at the White Hart Masonic Rooms, High Street, Lewisham. Bro. G. A. Pickering P.M. P.G.S. presided, and there were about forty Brethren present.

The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, Bro. W. Martin A.G.Purs. responding for Grand Lodge. The health of Bro. Pickering was proposed in eulogistic terms by Bro. Martin, and that of the Preceptor was given from the chair. Other toasts were the health of Bro. Robin Secretary, and the musical Brethren. An informal musical programme was contributed by Bros. Bayley, Drew, J. Williams, Pynegar, Bridges, Dixon, and others, Bro. C. W. Wilkes presiding at the pianoforte.

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HYDE PARK LODGE, No. 1425.

ON Monday, at Bro. Edwd. Stevens's, the Prince of Wales Hotel, Eastbourne Terrace, W., Bro. S. G. Thorne W.M., H. Crookes S.W., J. H. Beardon J.W., W. J. Ferguson P.M. Preceptor, H. Dehane P.M. Sec., H. Campbell S.D., L. J. Powell J.D., H. J. Thomas I.G., A. Le Claire, W. Handover, B. R. Thomas, Wynman.

The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of initiation, Bro. Thomas candidate. Bro. Le Claire answered the questions, was entrusted, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, he acting as candidate. The Preceptor, with the assistance of the Brethren, worked the third section. Bro. H. Crookes was elected W.M. In most eloquent terms Bro. Ferguson Preceptor proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes for the excellent working of the W.M. for the first time, which was seconded by Bro. H. Dehane, and unanimously accepted.

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MOUNT EDGCUMBE LODGE, No. 1446.

ON Tuesday, at Bro. R. J. Brinkley's, the Rockingham, Newington Causeway (which noted house is under the able management of Bro. John Mason), Bro. J. Brown acted as W.M., J. Jones S.W., E. Mitchell J.W., J. Andrews P.M. Preceptor, Arthur E. Mullins Secretary, F. Jennings S.D., T. Stewart J.D., E. E. Jenkins I.G. There were also present Bro. Hill W.M. 1446, Cohen, Jacobs, Levy, Cannon, O'Dea P.M., Tofts, G. Hamilton P.M., Collins, Wynman, and others.

The Lodge was opened up and Bro. Levy answered the questions leading to the third degree, the ceremony of raising being then rehearsed. By desire of the W.M. Bro. O'Dea W.M. of the Borough Lodge, with the assistance of the Brethren, worked the first section of the lecture.

Bros. O'Dea, Levy, Jennings, Cannon, Cohen, and Jenkins were unanimously elected members, each Brother in suitable terms expressing his thanks. Bro. James Jones will preside as W.M. next Tuesday.

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BROMLEY ST. LEONARD LODGE, No. 1805.

AT the Bow Bells, Bow Road, on Wednesday, 12th inst., Bro. F. A. Slater W.M., Boyce P.M. S.W., Bird J.W., W. Johnson S.D., Pollock J.D., H. Soar I.G., De Casseres Preceptor, Thornton Secretary, Moffat, Burdon, Joss, Cuthbertson, Absalom.

Bro. Burdon answered the questions leading to the second degree and that ceremony was rehearsed, Bro. Burdon candidate. Bro. Moffat answered the questions leading to the third degree and that ceremony was rehearsed. Lodge was closed in the three degrees.

The annual supper was arranged for Wednesday last. Bro. Boyce was elected to the chair for the 26th inst., to which date the Lodge was adjourned.

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PROVINCIAL.

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GLAMORGAN LODGE, No. 36.

THE members held their annual meeting in the Masonic Temple, Cardiff, on Friday, 14th inst., Bro. Chas. H. Priestly in the chair of K.S.

The chief business was the election of the W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. the Rev. Joseph Baker, vicar of St. Catherine's, was unanimously chosen in succession to Bro. C. H. Priestly.

The Master-elect, in returning thanks, assuring the brethren that the duties attaching to his high office would be faithfully and zealously discharged.

Dr. Thomas Wallace was unanimously re-elected Treasurer.

The visitors (numbering close on 100) received a hearty welcome from the Worshipful Master Bro. Priestly, and they and the members supped together after the Lodge was closed.

The installation of the new W.M. will be held in the Masonic Temple, on St. John's Day, 24th June.

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ST. GEORGE LODGE, No. 242.

ON Friday, 7th inst., Bro. F. H. Buckland was installed as Worshipful Master, at Doncaster.

The banquet was afterwards held in the Lodge room, and was provided by Bro. Richardson. In memory of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Bro. Buckland presented to each member a most artistically designed book containing the photos of his Officers, together with the menu and toast list, and a list of Past Masters since the Lodge was formed.

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ETRUSCAN LODGE, No. 546.

AT the ordinary monthly meeting, held at the Masonic Hall, Longton, on Thursday, 13th inst., the Worshipful Master Bro. G. H. Frewer referred to the great honour which had been conferred upon the Etruscan Lodge, and the Province of Staffordshire generally, by the appointment of Bro. Geo. C. Kent, the Town Clerk of Longton, to the office of Assistant Director of Ceremonies in Grand Lodge. It was, he said, a greater honour than could have been expected, but not greater than deserved, and he wished him long life and health to enjoy it. Bro. Kent was saluted with the honours due to his office.

At a later stage of the evening Bro. W. R. Blair P.P.S.G.W. proposed the following resolution: "That the members of the Etruscan Lodge desire to recognise the great honour conferred upon the Lodge by the appointment of one of its members to Grand Lodge rank, and they desire to offer their hearty congratulations to Wor. Bro. G. C. Kent upon his recent appointment to the office of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies." The sentiments expressed in the resolution were amplified by Bro. Blair, in an eloquent speech, and endorsed and supported by other Past Masters of the Lodge. The loving cups were passed round in the Lodge, being the first occasion within the last quarter of a century; and Bro. Kent acknowledged the compliment in his usual happy manner.

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ST. BARNABAS LODGE, No. 948.

THE brethren held their thirty-third anniversary at the Elephant and Castle Hotel, Linslade, on Thursday, 6th inst.

The accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary were first examined and verified by the Audit Committee. It was shown that, after paying expenses and distributing a considerable amount in charity, a goodly balance was carried forward to next year.

The installation ceremony and appointment of Officers was then proceeded with, after which the brethren sat down to a sumptuous banquet, provided by Bro. Edward Lawrence. Since the last annual gathering the Lodge has lost by death Bro. James McCubbin, who was P.P.G.S. and senior member of St. Barnabas Lodge, he having been connected with it some thirty years.

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WILLIAMSON LODGE, No. 949.

THE annual meeting was held on Monday, 17th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Monkwearmouth, Bro. Thomas Harrison W.M. presiding.

The W.M.-elect Bro. Richard Dickinson Smith S.W. was presented by Bro. L. R. Davies P.M., and the ceremony of installing him was ably performed by Bro. George Washington Bain P.M. P.P.G.W.

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ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 1343.

THERE are no less than twenty-six Lodges in this country named after the beloved disciple, but in point of prosperity and real good Masonic working it is at least doubtful whether any of the more ancient can compare

with that at present under notice. The annual festival was commemorated on Wednesday, at the Masonic Hall, Grays, Essex, and was attended by a numerous assembly of Brethren from London and the surrounding districts. Bro. F. W. Pelling Grand Steward of Essex presided as W.M. for the last time during his tenure of office, but he signalled his exit from the chair by an admirable rendering of the two principal ceremonies, which brought his reign to an honourable close.

The Lodge was opened at the early hour of half-past two, and after the minutes had been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Messrs. Herbert Manning, A. Borradaile, and William Thomas Knight, which proved in their favour. Mr. Manning being present was admitted and regularly initiated into Freemasonry according to ancient custom. Bros. the Rev. A. H. Delafield and William Brown proved their proficiency as Craftsmen, were duly raised to the sublime degree, and took their seats in the Master Mason's Lodge. Both these ceremonies were admirably worked by Bro. Pelling, and met with the appreciative applause of the Brethren.

The Lodge was then "called off" for a short rest before the principal business of the afternoon. Upon the return of the Brethren the chair was assumed by Bro. Thomas J. Ralling P.A.G.D.C., the Provincial Grand Secretary of Essex, who, as announced in our previous issue, had kindly consented to perform the ceremony. Bro. Ralling was assisted by Bros. M. T. Tuck as S.W., Charles Westwood as J.W., and Robert Atkins as D.C.

Bro. Edward Ayres the W.M.-elect was duly presented, and gave his assent to the ancient charges and regulations. A Board of Installed Masters was then formed, when Bro. Ayres was invested as Master and placed in the chair of K.S. in due form. The ceremony over, the Brethren were re-admitted, when the W.M. was regularly saluted by the members in the three degrees.

When presenting the Warrant Bro. Ralling remarked that it was issued during the Grand Mastership of the Marquis of Ripon, now no longer a member of our Fraternity, but who had ever proved a good and true Mason whilst connected with the Craft.

The following Officers were then appointed and invested by the Master:—Bros. Joseph Weymouth S.W., G. H. Silverwood J.W., Rev. Frederick Haslock P.G.C. Chaplain, Charles Westwood P.A.G.D.C. Treasurer, H. C. Borradaile P.P.G.S.B. Secretary, Charles Asplin S.D., Richard Atkins P.M. J.D., Robert Walker I.G., Robert Matthews Organist, W. B. Heagerty P.P.G.R. D.C., Dorman and Chatty Stewards, George Martin, for the twenty-ninth time, Tyler. The appointments appeared to be very popular, and the Officers were greeted with good "fire" by the Brethren.

The addresses to the Master, Wardens and the Brethren were then delivered by Bro. Ralling, who quite surpassed himself in this elocutionary effort, and met with hearty applause. The Auditors presented their accounts and report, which congratulated the Lodge upon its excellent financial position.

The next business was the presentation of the Lodge Jewel and Past Master's Collar to Bro. Pelling which had been voted at the last meeting. This was done in graceful fashion by Bro. Ayres, who complimented his predecessor upon having had a successful year of office. Bro. Pelling briefly returned thanks for the gifts, leaving his further remarks till later in the evening. A further compliment was paid to Bro. Pelling by the Brethren, who elected him as Charity Representative of the Lodge.

A sum of five guineas was voted from the funds to head the Master's list as Steward for the Boys School Festival.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Ralling for his services as Installing Master, upon the proposition of the W.M. and Bro. P.M. Heagerty, who remarked while they were much honoured by his presence, it was not to be supposed there were no Past Masters perfectly able to undertake the duty.

Bro. Ralling returned thanks, and stated the pleasure he had in being present and responding to the request of the Lodge in performing the ceremony. He should ever remember the hearty reception that greeted the Provincial Grand Lodge when held at Grays, in 1895, and he was very glad to be once more among them.

There being no other business the closing hymn was sung, the Lodge was closed in perfect harmony, and the Brethren adjourned to the banquet room, where an excellent repast was served by Bro. Cunningham. The utmost conviviality ensued, the new Officers and the Initiate naturally receiving great attention.

The customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were submitted by Bro. Ayres, and received with acclamation by the Brethren. Bro. Ralling responded for Grand Lodge, and bore testimony to the vast amount of work performed by its members. Important questions arose from time to time which required great judgment and tact to decide. They all took great interest in the Craft. There were three members of Grand Lodge who came from the Province of Essex, viz., Bro. Col. A. R. Mark Lockwood, M.P., who was Senior Grand Deacon, Sir William Abdy, Bart., who was Junior Grand Deacon, and the Ven. Archdeacon Stevens who was Grand Chaplain. He, Bro. Ralling, was appointed a Grand Officer at the last jubilee, ten years ago. He had very great pleasure in performing the ceremony of Installation, and heartily wished the W.M. a happy and successful year of office.

Bro. Charles, as Senior Provincial Grand Officer present, returned thanks for that body. It was a great honour to belong to the Provincial Grand Lodge, and he could assure the Brethren that they were all actuated with a desire to carry out their duties to the best of their ability.

Bro. F. W. Pelling, in highly complimentary terms proposed the health of the Worshipful Master, saying the outburst of applause that greeted his name was a sufficient proof of his popularity. Time prevented him from enlarging upon his many qualifications, but he congratulated him most heartily on succeeding to the chair, and wished him good luck and prosperity. The toast was drunk with musical hours.

Bro. Ayres suitably returned thanks, and expressed his determination to make his year of office a great success. Nothing should be wanting on his part to prove to the Brethren his gratitude for having elected him. In cases of difficulty he had the assistance of some excellent Past Masters, and a good staff of Officers, who would all work well together to promote the interests of the Lodge. He should no doubt have a trying time, but he had the sympathy of those who had gone through the chair, and of those who were advancing to it, and he trusted that on retiring from his Mastership he would have secured the approbation of the Brethren.

Bro. Pelling, in response to his toast, said he had enjoyed a year of extreme pleasure, and had met with nothing but good-will from all. He should ever regard their handsome present as his proudest possession, for the jewel was a souvenir of a very successful year. He certainly regretted having now to go to the left of the chair, but he would show himself anything but a fossil, and would render the W.M. every assistance in his power.

Bro. Spencer Guy responded for the Past Masters, who were always ready to help in promoting the best interests of St. John Lodge. For the last five or six years they had had a continual round of prosperity.

Bro. Westwood acknowledged the compliment paid to the Treasurer,

and regretted the absence of the Secretary, on account of ill-health. The success of the Lodge was due to the fact that they all endeavoured to be happy themselves and communicate their happiness to others.

Bros. Orlton Cooper, J. C. Biggs, and Henry Forss returned thanks for the Visitors, and the Officers of the Lodge having been congratulated, the Tyler's toast brought this very enjoyable gathering to a happy termination.

An excellent entertainment was provided by Bro. James Horncastle, who was assisted by Miss Stanley Lucas, Miss Helen Saunders, Bro. Thomas Sweeney, Bro. Walter Churcher, Mr. Marcus Borradaile, and others, but we might suggest that on future occasions the programme, especially when the songs are printed, should be adhered to.

Among those present were Bros. Ralling P.A.G.D.C. Prov.G.Sec.Essex, A. Lucking P.G.P. P.G.D.C. Essex, J. C. Biggs P.P.G.D.C. Kent, J. W. Cox P.P.G.P. Essex, F. Spencer Guy P.P.G.D.C., M. T. Tuck P.P.G.S.B. I.P.M. 901, W. B. Heagerty P.P.G.R., F. Haslock P.G.C. Essex, J. Hammond W.M. 1437, Orlton Cooper P.M. 211, Benjamin Thomas P.M. 1000, H. J. Day P.M. 1457, R. Stebbing W.M. 2063 P.M. 1685, Henry Forss I.P.M. 483, W. Harvey I.P.M. 174, James Cook P.M. 907, W. J. Langman W.M. 2409, W. H. Turner S.W. 2242, James A. Gillett 483, W. Blyth 77, J. F. Bailey 2120, George E. Rossiter J.W. 907, F. O. Tubby 30, J. R. W. Thorne 2157, A. Fergusson 92, W. Prevost 43 S.C., W. H. Brough, W. Brown, D. Pean, E. Cunningham, Elliott G. Fletcher, A. C. James, Thomas M. Capron, W. M. Taylor, Herbert Maning, John Sivewright, J. Melvin, John Higgins, F. G. Bird, H. W. Fryer, W. Robinson, Herbert Brooks, and others whose names we were quite unable to decipher.

Bro. Edward Ayres, the new Worshipful Master of the St. John Lodge, No. 1343, was born 27th November 1862, at Middleton Cheney, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, and was initiated into Freemasonry in the St. John Lodge, so recently as May 1891, but his rapid rise has been due to the zealous interest he has ever evinced in Masonic affairs. He has served most of the Offices of the Lodge, and is a constant attendant at the Lodge of Instruction, where he has learned to perfect himself in the ritual of the Craft. He is a member of the Royal Albert Chapter, No. 907, but has not yet taken office, being anxious to fulfil his duty as Master before he progresses further. He acted as Steward for the Boys School in 1895, when he took up a very substantial amount, and he is also a Life Governor of the Girls School and a Life Subscriber to the Benevolent Institution. Bro. Ayres is a member of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, and is on the Committee of the Dinner Club in connection with the Old Boys.

ROSE OF RABY LODGE, No. 1650.

THE Brethren assembled in the Scarth Memorial Hall, Staindrop, on Tuesday, 27th ult., to assist at the installation of the W.M.-elect Bro. Thomas Imeson S.W.

An apology was received from the retiring W.M. Bro. Jno. E. Backhouse stating how sorry he felt he was unable to be present, and desiring his best thanks to be conveyed to the Officers who had so ably assisted him during his year of office.

Bro. Lord Barnard wrote expressing regret at his inability to be present, and offered his congratulations to Bro. Imeson, wishing him every prosperity during the ensuing year.

The ceremony of installation was most impressively performed by Bro. C. D. Hill Drury, M.D., J.P., Past Grand Assistant Director of Ceremonies England.

At the conclusion of the ceremony a banquet was held, to which about forty sat down, and the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured.

MONTGOMERIE LODGE, No. 1741.

THE anniversary meeting was held on Monday, 17th inst., at Diss, when Bro. F. J. Burrage was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being performed by Bro. H. O. Lyus.

The installation banquet followed at the King's Head Hotel.

ARNOLD LODGE, No. 1799.

THE installation meeting was held on Tuesday, 18th inst., when Bro. George Gardiner was duly installed, Bro. W. E. Sutton performing the ceremony before a good attendance.

A jewel was subsequently presented to the retiring W.M. Bro. W. Wright, and Bro. H. Finer was elected the Charity representative for the ensuing year.

A banquet followed at the Marine Hotel, when a capital spread was provided by Bro. A. J. King.

SPENCER WALPOLE LODGE, No. 2197.

ON Monday, 10th inst., Sir John Goldie-Taubman Prov. Grand Master of the Isle of Man, attended by a number of his Officers, visited this Lodge, in response to the invitation of the W.M. and Officers. At the request of the W.M. the Deputy Prov. Grand Master performed the ceremony of raising, and for his services received the thanks of the Lodge.

BISLEY LODGE, No. 2317.

THE last meeting for the season of this highly-prosperous Lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Woking, on Thursday, 6th inst., Bro. Capt. J. Hoey W.M.

It being election night, Bros. J. H. Askham S.W. and Major G. Collins P.M. were unanimously chosen as W.M. and Treasurer respectively. Bro. W. Chapman was elected Tyler by a show of hands, in the room of Bro. G. J. Mason, whose resignation, on the score of failing health, had been accepted with regret, and it was directed that the appreciation of the Brethren of his valuable services as Tyler during the existence of the Lodge should be recorded on the minutes. Bros. M. A. Shaw and N. Dudge were elected Auditors.

A Past Master's jewel was unanimously voted to the retiring Master, but Bro. Captain Hoey having expressed a preference that the sum thus voted should be given to one of the Masonic Charities and carried to the credit of the Bisley Lodge, the matter was, after discussion, referred to the Audit Committee to settle and arrange.

At the conclusion of business the Lodge was closed, and the Brethren adjourned for refreshment, the usual Loyal and Masonic toasts being given from the chair.

In proceeding with the toast of the Grand Officers, the W.M. said they had one present that night in the person of Bro. Gould, whose merits were well known to them all, and with whom he had himself been acquainted for a period of over thirty-eight years.

Bro. Gould, in the course of his reply, said it gave him much pleasure to be present at the Bisley Lodge that evening. He had seen five Masters placed in its chair, and while he could not quite say that he had witnessed every ceremony which had been performed in the Lodge since his first visit to it in 1892, he had nevertheless enjoyed the good fortune of being present at most of their meetings, and there was not a single member with whom he was not personally acquainted. The working had always been excellent, and he felt sure that in that respect, as well as in the reputation the Lodge had justly acquired for hospitality, it would go on and prosper in the future, under the genial sway of the Master-elect Bro. Askham, as it had done in the past under the retiring W.M. and the worthy Brethren who had preceded him in that chair. The Past Masters of No. 2317 had all done good suit and service in the Craft, and were very highly esteemed, but he thought that when towards the close of the year Bro. Hoey passed into their ranks it might be said without any fear of contradiction that the Bisley Lodge would possess one of the finest galleries of "Old Masters," not only in Surrey, but in all England.

LOXFIELD LODGE, No. 2450.

THE annual meeting was held on Wednesday, 5th inst., at the Maiden's Head Hotel, Uckfield, when Bro. H. M. Langdale J.W. was ably installed in the chair by the out-going W.M. Bro. W. Flint.

The I.P.M. was presented with a Past Master's jewel as a mark of esteem, and in recognition of the able manner in which he had carried out his duties as W.M. during his year of office. All business being ended, the Brethren adjourned, and partook of an excellent banquet, provided by Bro. Beaty, in his usual admirable style, after which the customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were given.

Bro. J. M. McLeod ably responded for the Grand Officers, and gave an account of the excellent state of efficiency the Boys School was in. He mentioned the large proportion of successful candidates who passed at the recent examinations, viz., eighty per cent. of those who entered, and they were about one-third of the whole School.

ASCOT LODGE, No. 2460.

THE installation meeting was held at the Royal Ascot Hotel, Ascot, on the 1st inst., when there was a good attendance of members and visitors.

After a most successful year of office, Bro. C. O. Burgess P.P.S.G.D. Surrey installed Bro. H. Luff, an energetic member of the Lodge, as the W.M. for the ensuing year.

Later on the W.M. presented a Past Master's jewel to Bro. Burgess, as a small token of esteem and regard, and said it would be impossible to repay the I.P.M. for the splendid work he had done in the Lodge, and for Masonry generally.

Bro. Burgess briefly returned thanks.

The Deputy Prov. G.M. was unfortunately compelled to leave before the usual toast list was proceeded with, and the Worshipful Master, in the name of the Brethren, thanked him for his kindness in attending.

Bro. J. T. Morland Deputy Provincial Grand Master thanked them for the compliment paid him. It had given him great pleasure to visit them, having taken part in the consecration, and witness the admirable manner in which the I.P.M. performed the installation ceremony. He wished the W.M. a year of prosperity.

IXION LODGE, No. 2501.

THE annual installation festival took place on the 18th inst., at the Roebuck Hotel, Buckhurst Hill, with more than usual success, which was no doubt owing to the popularity of the W.M.-elect Brother William Gower, who is so well and favourably known to the Brethren of the Province of Essex.

A goodly number of Brethren, including several Grand and Provincial Grand Officers, were present, and the ceremony was very ably rendered by Bro. H. E. Herman.

The new Master invested the following Officers to assist him during the year:—Bros. W. J. Barnes S.W., T. H. Lloyd J.W., the Ven. Archdeacon Dunbar, D.D., Chaplain, R. Sandell Treasurer, George T. Peall P.M. Sec., John R. Carter S.D., Leo Taylor J.D., H. Miller I.G., B. G. Jones D.C., F. X. Zimmerli A.D.C., G. E. Gratton Organist, B. Dietrich, M. Mitchell, V. Taylor, E. Willmott, H. C. Hudson, and C. H. Wilson Stewards, and David Legg P.M. Tyler.

A handsome Past Master's collar and jewel was presented to Brother Herman, and Bro. Gower having received the congratulations of the Brethren the Lodge was closed, and the company adjourned to a recherché repast provided by Bro. A. C. Smith.

The usual Loyal and Masonic toasts were duly submitted and accepted, Bro. C. J. R. Tijou P.G.P. responding for the Grand Officers. Bro. C. J. Smith W.M. of the Earl of Warwick Lodge responded for the Provincial Grand Master, and Bro. Wm. Shurmur P.P.G.T. acknowledged the compliment paid to the Provincial Officers, he taking occasion to bear testimony to the vast amount of work performed by Bro. Judge F. A. Philbrick, on behalf of Freemasonry. His convincing eloquence, judicial acumen and sound judgment had gained the appreciation of Brethren in all parts of the world. As Deputy Grand Master of the Province of Essex he had secured their esteem and regard, and he hoped the Great Architect would spare him for many years to come. The rest of the Provincial Grand Officers were true and trusty Masons, who had well deserved the honours conferred upon them. Having spoken for the Present and Past Provincial Grand Officers he desired to say a few words with reference to the future Officers. An understanding existed in Essex of allowing the Grand Treasurership to alternate between the urban and rural divisions of the Province. Last year the nomination rested with the rural Brethren, and their nominee was elected to the Office. This year it was to be hoped that Bro. William Gower their Worshipful Master would obtain the suffrages of the Brethren, and be elected to the post, for which position he was so well qualified. The announcement was received with loud applause.

Bro. R. Stebbings W.M. of the St. Osyth's Priory Lodge, Bro. Davidson Kemp W.M. of Empire Lodge, and Bro. George Adams P.M. responded for the Visitors; and the Officers having replied to the compliment paid to them, the Tyler made his appearance, and wishing God speed to all poor and distressed Masons, brought the interesting proceedings to a close.

ROYAL ARCH.

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WHITTINGTON CHAPTER, No. 862.

A CONVOCATION was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on the 10th inst., when there were present G. Gregory Z., H. Brocklehurst H., Arthur J. Cove J., J. E. Weaver P.Z. S.E., W. S. Wright S.N., James Irvine P.Z. Treasurer, C. V. A. Pouncefort P.Soj., H. Kemp 1st Assist.Soj., T. H. T. Jarvis 2nd Assist.Soj., J. C. Tilt I.P.Z., G. Thompson, R. Larchin, H. Dehane P.P.G.P. Essex, H. Higgins P.Z. 1381 1483, P. Day, W. Tyler, E. Croft Wise, F. Guanzzeroli, W. A. Weeks, F. W. Quandt, J. Coote, J. Gilbert Janitor.

Visitors:—W. Secret 1394, E. Chane 170, A. Collins 1423, and J. W. Crosbie 53 Canada.

The Chapter was opened and the minutes of the last Convocation read and confirmed. Comp. Brocklehurst was installed by the M.E.Z. as 2nd Principal, and the following Brethren were exalted:—C. R. Alexander 170 and 2396, W. A. Grayson 862, and L. H. Lemon 2396.

The Principals and Officers for the ensuing year were elected:—Comp. Brocklehurst M.E.Z., and each of the present Officers in rotation. The Chapter was closed and the Companions adjourned to the banquet, after which the usual Loyal and Grand Officers' toasts were honoured.

Comp. Tilt, proposing the M.E.Z., said it was a most pleasing duty, and congratulated him and the Chapter on the fact that he had the opportunity of showing he was most capable of doing all the work pertaining to the position of M.E.Z. What he had gone through that evening was to the satisfaction of all. He had been a long time amongst them, and had the good-will and friendship of all.

The M.E.Z., in responding, said that would be the last time he would preside at their banquet. He thanked them for their sympathy and friendly co-operation during his year of office, and in vacating the 1st Principal's chair he should hand to his successor the office as happy and comfortable as he had received it, and trusted he would have as prosperous a year.

The M.E.Z. proposed the Exaltees, and in doing so told them he anticipated they would prove three worthy Companions of the Chapter. As they came to know its members more intimately they would be pleased they had come amongst them, as such a fraternal feeling existed. They would be heartily welcome amongst them.

Comp. Alexander said he had been blindfolded on two occasions, and was impressed the first time, but much more so on the second. He would use his best endeavours to understand as time went on that which he had witnessed and taken part in during the evening.

Comp. Grayson was never more impressed in his life, and trusted he would become a worthy Companion and useful to his fellow men.

Comp. Lemon said during his Masonic career he had always gone before Comp. Alexander, but now he came after, and trusted he would be always a good Companion.

The M.E.Z. said the Companions would welcome the Visitors with enthusiasm. When one visited a Chapter he always learnt something; there existed a slight variation or diversity in the London and country Chapters, but it was but trifling in its nature. That night the Visitors had gained the friendship of the whole of the Companions, and that never differed either in London, country or colonial Chapters. He coupled with the toast Comp. Crosbie, from Canada, and Comp. Chane.

Comp. Crosbie, in reply, said he had spent a most pleasant evening. It was his first visit in England, but he had visited in Calcutta. He expressed his pleasure at the way the work had been done, was thankful he came, and would carry back to the Companions in Canada a report of the heartiness of his welcome.

Comp. Chane said it was only through an accident, going away from London, that he had not been exalted in the Whittington Chapter instead of his parent one, and remarked on the difference of working at Weymouth, Dorset, and Poole; but one thing they never differed in—the welcome of visitors.

The M.E.Z. gave the Past Zs., to which Comp. Weaver replying said next year would be the 25th anniversary of the Chapter, and he would assist the M.E.Z. in making it a memorable one in conjunction with the Companions. It was always a pleasure to him, as one of the founders and S.E., to do all he could for the welfare of the Chapter.

Comp. Thompson also briefly replied, and in concluding said if they went along as they had been lately doing there would be many shining stars to look forward to.

The Officers of the Chapter was responded to by Comp. Brocklehurst M.E.Z.-elect, and Comp. Wright P.S.

The Janitor's toast concluded the evening.

The musical arrangements were carried out by Comp. Pouncefort at the piano, Day, Banjo, Wright-Collins, and Thompson.

ESSEX CHAPTER, No. 276.

A CONVOCATION was held at the White Hart Hotel, Chelmsford, on the 17th inst., when there were present Comp. H. Dehane P.P.G.P.S. Essex M.E.Z., T. J. D. Cramphorn H., G. W. Pascall J., J. P. Sewin P.Z. P.P.G.S.N. S.E., A. C. Durrant P.P.G.H. S.N., A. Durrant Prov.G.T. Treas., J. P. Green P.S., R. Cook 1st Assist.Soj., Braithwait, T. J. Ralling P.G.S.E. Prov.G.S.E., Suthery P.P.G.S., T. W. Hair, T. S. Sault Janitor, and others.

The Chapter was opened in ancient form, and the Companions admitted. The minutes of the last Convocation were read and confirmed. Communications were read from Comp. Letchworth S.E., Comp. Saul, and Bro. Dr. Mugford, who was successfully balloted for, regretting his inability to be present owing to illness. The satisfactory report of the Auditors was read and adopted.

Other Chapter routine business being completed a conclave of Installed Principals was formed and Comp. Dehane installed Comp. Cramphorn M.E.Z., G. W. Pascall H., and J. P. Green J., and the other Officers were invested in rotation.

A P.Z. jewel was unanimously voted to Comp. Dehane, in recognition of his services since he had belonged to the Chapter. A like honour has only been conferred on two or three occasions for the last forty years or more.

The Chapter was closed and adjourned until November. A banquet followed, at which the customary toasts were honoured and a pleasant evening enjoyed.

BLAGDON CHAPTER, No. 659.

THE annual convocation was held in the Mechanics' Hall, Blyth, under the presidency of Comp. William Robson Z. P.G.A.D.C. There was a

fair attendance of members and visiting companions. After the transaction of the ordinary business of the Chapter, Comp. William Charlton was installed into the chair of Z. for the ensuing year, Comp. Reay as H., and Comp. R. Guthrie as J.

The Chapter was afterwards closed in due form, and the members then adjourned to the Star and Garter Hotel, Blyth, where the annual banquet was held.

PRESENTATION AT LINCOLN.

AN interesting social meeting of the Officers of the Lodges connected with the Freemasons' Rooms at Lincoln was held last week, when Bro. F. Saward, who has recently been appointed district goods manager of the Great Eastern Railway at Ipswich, invited his fellow Officers to a repast.

After the Loyal toasts had been duly honoured, Bro. Barlow W.M. St. Hugh Lodge, on behalf of the Brethren, in a very happy manner eulogised the Masonic career of Bro. Saward, and presented him with a Master Mason's jewel, together with the following engrossed address:—

Presented to Bro. Frank Saward, together with a Master Mason's Jewel, on his leaving Lincoln, by the Officers of the Witham Lodge, 297, St. Hugh Lodge, 1386, Remigius Lodge of Mark Master Masons, 117, and Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Concord, 297, as a token of the high esteem and respect in which he is held by the Brethren, and in appreciation of his zeal and fidelity as a Mason, and of his many excellent qualities which have made for him friends of all who know him.

The remarks of Bro. Barlow were supported by the Masters of the other Lodges, who expressed the regret of the Brethren upon Bro. Saward's departure, and at the same time congratulated him upon the attainment of his promotion to Ipswich. Bro. Saward, in reply, thanked the Masters and Brethren for their very good wishes, and hoped to be long connected with his Lincoln Brethren, who had proved to him to be such firm friends.

PRESENTATION AT GATESHEAD.

AGATHERING of Freemasons took place on Tuesday, 18th inst., at the Half Moon Hotel, Gateshead, for the purpose of showing their appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Bro. T. R. Jobson P.M. P.P.G.S.B., in carrying out the arrangements to a successful issue connected with the ball in Gateshead Town Hall, promoted by the Brethren of Lodges 48 and 424. Bro. Alfred Simpson W.M. 48 presided, and the vice-chair was occupied by Bro. James Burrell W.M. 424.

The former, in the course of a deeply interesting address, referred in high terms of commendation to Bro. T. R. Jobson, and the great respect in which he was held by members of the Craft. It was with great pleasure he presented to him, on behalf of the Brethren, a Past Master's jewel. Bro. Jobson replied in suitable terms.

MISS BLANCHE LESLIE, who has won for herself a name as a refined serio vocalist and graceful dancer, will leave England to-day (Saturday), for Johannesburg, via Southampton, by the S.S. "Norman," to fulfil an engagement at the Empire there. We wish her every success, and are sure she will sustain the high reputation she has earned on the English stage.

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LODGE MEETINGS NEXT WEEK.

Fuller 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. & Pness, F.M.H.
 183 Unity, Ship and Turtle
 706 Florence Nightingale, W'lw'ch.
 902 Burgoyne, Anderton's
 905 De Grey and Ripon, F.M.H.
 1632 Stuart, Camberwell
 1828 Shepherd's Bush, S'pherd's B'sh
 2397 Columbia, Criterion
 43 St. Paul, Birmingham
 48 Industry, Gateshead
 491 Royal Sussex, Jersey
 1008 Roy. St. Edmund's, Bury St. E.
 1325 Stanley, Liverpool
 1752 Ogmire, Bridgend
 1991 Agricola, York

2042 Apollo, Liverpool
 2068 Portsmouth Temperance, L'dp't.
 2257 Powell, Bristol
 2363 Minnehaha Minstrel, M'chester.
 2429 Research, Leicester
 2547 Llangatlock, Cardiff
 2582 Lewisham, Smethwick

Tuesday.

14 Tuscan, Freemasons'-hall
 46 Old Union, Ship and Turtle
 165 Hon. & Gen'sity, Inns of Co.Ho.
 259 Prince of Wales, Metropole
 2108 Empire, Criterion
 253 Tyrian, Derby

299 Emulation, Dartford
 310 Union, Carlisle
 335 Rectitude, Corsham
 357 Apollo University, Oxford
 564 Stability, Stourbridge
 597 St. Cybi, Holyhead
 788 Crescent, Hampton Court
 859 Isaac Newton, Cambridge
 943 Sincerity, Norwich
 954 St. Aubyn, Devonport
 1007 Howe & Charnwood, Loughboro
 1016 Elkington, Birmingham
 1052 Callander, Manchester
 1309 Acacia, Hampton Court
 1358 Torbay, Paignton
 1390 Whitwell, Millon
 1479 Halsey, St. Albans
 1536 United Military, Plumstead
 1580 Cranbourne, Hatfield
 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
 1942 Minerva, Fenton
 2025 St. George, Plymouth
 2328 Albert Victor, York
 2404 Lord Charles Beresford, Ch't'm.
 2405 Ionic, St. Helen's

Wednesday.

2 Antiquity, Freemasons'-hall
 212 Euphrates, Holborn Restaurant
 753 Prince Fred. Will'm., Frascati
 754 High Cross, Tottenham
 898 Temperance in East, Poplar
 1360 Royal Arthur, Wimbledon
 1419 Evening Star, Freemasons'-hall
 2332 Borough of G'n'wich, E. G'wich
 2416 Hiram, Freemasons'-hall
 76 Economy, Winchester
 82 Foundation, Cheltenham
 163 Integrity, Manchester
 220 Harmony, Garston
 257 Phoenix, Portsmouth
 304 Philanthropic, Leeds
 439 Scientific, Bingley
 461 Fortitude, Newton
 651 Brecknock, Brecon
 724 Derby, Liverpool
 778 Bard of Avon, Hampton Court
 887 Leigh, Birmingham
 1039 St. John, Lichfield
 1083 Townley Parker, Manchester
 1119 St. Bede, Jarrow
 1219 Strangeways, Manchester
 1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge
 1296 Vale of Brisington, Brisington
 1343 Saint John, Grays
 1635 Avon, Manchester
 1714 Albert Edward, Yorktown
 1723 St. George, Bolton
 1756 Kirkdale, Liverpool
 1760 Leopold, Scarborough
 1775 Leopold, Church
 1809 Fidelis, Guernsey
 1967 Beacon Court, New Brompton
 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
 2444 Noel, Kingston-on-Thames
 2448 Bradstow, Broadstairs
 2571 Holmes, Newcastle-on-Tyne

Thursday.

General Committee Girls School,
 Freemasons' Hall, at 5.
 34 Mount Moriah, Freemasons'-hall
 861 Finsbury, Great Eastern Hotel
 1421 Langthorne, Ilford

1523 St. Mary Magdalene, Café Royal
 1524 Duke of Connaught, Anderton's
 1658 Skelmersdale, Camberwell
 2432 Sir W. Raleigh, Inns of Crt Ho
 59 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
 403 Hertford, Hertford
 410 Grove, Ewell
 475 Bed. St. John Bap., Luton
 590 La Cesaree, Jersey
 594 Downshire, Liverpool
 636 De Ogie, Morpetu
 707 St. Mary, Bridport
 772 Pilgrim, Glastonbury
 784 Wellington, Deal
 787 Beaureper, Belper
 807 Cabbell, Norwich
 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
 1513 Fernor, 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
 1492 Alma Mater, Cambridge
 1505 Emulation, Liverpool
 1519 Albert Edward, Clay'n-le-Moors
 1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
 1616 Friendship & Harmony, W'yb'ge
 1626 Hotspur, Newcastle-on-Tyne
 1702 Sub-Urban, Great Stanmore
 1705 Prince of Wales, Gosport
 1817 St. Andrew, Shoburness
 1884 Chine, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
 1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
 1971 Ald'shot, Army & Navy, A'shot.
 2101 Bramston Beach, Godalming
 2184 Royal Vict. Jubilee, Rainham
 2195 Military Jubilee, Dover
 2214 Josiah Wedgewood, 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 Hatherston, Walsall

Friday.

Council Boys School, F.M.H. 4.
 197 Jerusalem, Freemasons'-hall
 1591 Studholme, Café Royal
 602 North York, Middlesbrough
 810 Craven, Skipton
 1295 Gooch, New Swindon
 1303 Pelham, Lewes
 1391 Commercial, Leicester
 1435 Annesley, Nottingham
 1712 St. John, Newcastle-on-Tyne
 1777 Royal Hanover, Twickenham
 1822 St. Quintin, Cowbridge
 1920 Eurydice, Surbiton
 2371 Felix, Felixstowe
 2415 Tristram, Shildon
 2431 Kingsley, Northampton

Saturday.

631 Methuen, Taplow
 1462 Wharnccliffe, Penistone
 1965 Eastes, Bromley

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Adelphi.—8.15 Secret Service. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
St. James's.—8, The Princess and the Butterfly. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.
Strand.—8, Doctor Johnson. 9, The Queen's Proctor. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
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 and Saturday, 3.
Prince of Wales's.—8.15, La Poupée. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Savoy.—7.45, After all. 8.20, The Yeoman of the Guard. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Gaiety.—8, The Circus Girl. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Court.—8, The Hobby-horse. Matinée, Saturday, 2.
Avenue.—8.30, Belle Belair. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Royalty.—8.15, A Court of Honour. Daily, at 2.30, Le Monde ou l'on s'ennuie.
Duke of York's.—8.15, Lost, Stolen, or Strayed. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Terry's.—8.20, The French Maid. Matinée, Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30.
Shaftesbury.—8, The Yashmak. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.
Comedy.—8.10, A Phenomenon in a Smock Frock. 9, Saucy Sally. Matinée, Wednesday, 3.
Lyric.—8.15, Othello. Matinée, Wednesday, 2.30.
Criterion.—8.30, The Physician. Matinée, Saturday, 2.30.
Garrick.—8.15, The Lady Lawyer. 9, My friend the Prince. Matinée, Saturday, 3.
Olympic.—2.30 and 8, Shakespearian plays.
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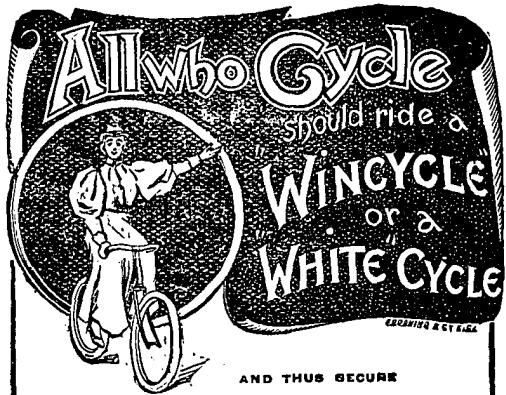
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