

THE Freemason's Chronicle.

A WEEKLY RECORD OF MASONIC INTELLIGENCE.

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TRUE BROTHERHOOD.

THE progress of the war, the work of relieving those of our fellow countrymen who are surrounded in South Africa, aid for the sick and wounded, and care for the wives, widows and children of our gallant soldiers and sailors who had been called away to defend the honour of the empire, remain the chief topics of the day, and it is but natural that Freemasons and Masonic Lodges throughout the country should be taking a prominent part in pouring the healing balm of consolation into the wounds of the afflicted.

To those within the circle of Freemasonry this desire on the part of the Craft to relieve the wants of others by no means comes as a surprise, and there are many outsiders who have also learnt by similar acts in the past to recognise that the Masonic Brotherhood is foremost among those ready to relieve the distress of their fellows; but we venture to think there are many others who view with surprise the part Freemasonry is just now taking in supporting the various Patriotic movements started in our midst.

In this connection it must be borne in mind that the Freemasons of England belong to a class which, it is fair to say, must of necessity personally support the different movements; yet we find day after day large numbers of Lodges figuring among the subscribers, either voting sums from their corporate funds, or organising subscriptions in the good cause; and if it were possible to compile a complete list we are convinced it would be found that very few of the Lodges which have assembled during the time the war has been in progress have omitted to lend the ear of sympathy to the cry of the distressed, or have neglected to do something tangible towards their relief. Such action on the part of the Craft must raise it in the estimation of the outside world, and must show to those who care to consider the matter that our boast of Universal Brotherhood and Relief is really based on a substantial and solid foundation.

We trust we may yet have much more to show in the way of direct evidence of the liberality of the Craft, meanwhile we record the following items, as acknowledged by the respective Funds during the current week:

MANSION HOUSE WAR FUND.

Cripplegate Lodge, No. 1613	-	-	-	80	0	0
Enoch Lodge, No. 11	-	-	-	23	0	0
Panmure Lodge, No. 720	-	-	-	21	0	0
Burdett Coutts Lodge, No. 1278	-	-	-	14	5	0
Old Concord Lodge, No. 172	-	-	-	10	0	0
Universal Lodge, No. 181	-	-	-	10	10	0
Wellington Lodge, No. 548	-	-	-	10	10	0
West Smithfield Lodge, No. 1623	-	-	-	10	10	0
Evening Star Lodge, No. 1719	-	-	-	10	10	0
Gallery Lodge, No. 1928	-	-	-	10	10	0
Huguenot Lodge, No. 2140	-	-	-	10	10	0
Navy Lodge, No. 2612	-	-	-	10	10	0
Papyrus Lodge, No. 2562	-	-	-	8	2	6
Excelsior Lodge, No. 1155	-	-	-	8	0	0
Crusaders Lodge, No. 1677	-	-	-	6	10	0
St. George Lodge, No. 140	-	-	-	6	6	0
Midland and Oxford Bar Lodge, No. 2715	-	-	-	5	10	0
Middlesex Lodge, No. 143	-	-	-	5	6	0

United Mariner Lodge, No. 30	-	-	-	5	5	0
Rectitude Lodge, No. 502	-	-	-	5	5	0
South Norwood Lodge, No. 1139	-	-	-	5	5	0
Dinbych Chapter, No. 1177	-	-	-	5	5	0
Albert Edward Chapter, No. 1780	-	-	-	5	5	0
Howard Lodge of Brotherly Love, No. 56	-	-	-	4	1	0
Fulham Lodge of Instruction, No. 2512	-	-	-	3	10	0
Witham Lodge, No. 297	-	-	-	2	2	0
Emblematic Lodge, No. 1321	-	-	-	2	2	0
Royal Albert Lodge of Instruction, No. 907	-	-	-	1	5	0

DAILY TELEGRAPH FUND.

	Shillings.
Grand Mark Lodge	2100
Woodgrange Lodge, No. 2409	1102
Atlingworth Lodge, No. 1821	600
Welcome Lodge, No. 1673	570
Merchant Navy Lodge, No. 781	525
Westbourne Lodge, No. 733	500
Cricklewood Lodge, No. 2361	480
Nelson Lodge, No. 700	420
Earl of Zetland Lodge, No. 1364	420
Surrey Masonic Hall Lodge, No. 1539	420
Wanderers Lodge, No. 1604	420
Kensington Lodge, No. 1767	420
Eyre Lodge, No. 2742	420
Manchester Lodge, No. 179	345
Whittington Lodge and Chapter, No. 862	315
La France Lodge, No. 2060	280
Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19	250
Cosmopolitan Lodge, No. 917	245
Eastern Star Lodge, No. 95	220
Borough Lodge, No. 2589	220
Rose of Denmark Lodge, No. 975	213
Viator Lodge, No. 2308	213
Crmden Lodge, No. 704	210
Earl of Lathom Lodge, No. 1922	210
Tilbu. / Lodge, No. 2006	210
Lombardian Lodge, No. 2348	210
Æculapius Chapter, No. 2410	205
Mount Lebanon Chapter, No. 73	200
Light Lodge, No. 2721	168
Granite Lodge, No. 1328	156
Onslow Mark Lodge, No. 361	148
Albion Chapter, No. 9	120
Globe Lodge, No. 23	105
Domestic Lodge, No. 177 (wrongly given as Dramatic Mark Lodge in our last issue)	105
St. Paul Lodge, No. 194	105
New Concord Lodge, No. 813	105
Erasmus Wilson Lodge, No. 1464	105
Wanderers Chapter, No. 1604	105
Logic Club of Instruction	105
Medina Lodge, No. 35	100
Constitutional Lodge, No. 55	100
Yarborough Lodge, No. 554	100
Selwyn Lodge, No. 1901	100
Asaph Lodge, No. 1319	80
Justinian Lodge, No. 2694	73½
Royd's Lodge, No. 1204	70
Wandsworth Lodge, No. 1044	63
Euston Lodge, No. 2283	63
Colne Lodge, No. 2477	55
Hemming Lodge, No. 1512	52
Bromley St. Leonard Lodge, No. 1805	49
Freedom Lodge, No. 77	42
City of Westminster Lodge of Instruction, No. 1563	42
Citadel Lodge of Instruction, No. 1897	42
Selwyn Lodge of Instruction, No. 1901	42
Bolingbroke Mark Lodge, No. 451	40
Prince Leopold Mark Lodge, No. 238	34
La Tolerance Lodge of Instruction, No. 538—third list	16
Do. ————— fourth list	13½
Chaucer Lodge of Instruction, No. 1540	27
Lebanon Lodge of Instruction, No. 1326	21
Ebury Lodge of Instruction, No. 1348	21
Dunmurry Lodge, No. 783 I.C.	20

The General Board of the Mark Master Masons of England announce with pleasure that the "Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons for the Ashton-under-Lyne District" has been formally dissolved and a Warrant of Confirmation granted, under the title of "The Ashton District Lodge, T.I.," the same to take precedence as fifth on the Mark roll of England and Wales.—"All's well that ends well."

ROYAL ARCH.

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WEST YORKSHIRE.

THE half-yearly meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter of West Yorkshire was held on Wednesday afternoon, in the Masonic Hall, Milnsbridge, near Huddersfield.

In the absence of the Provincial Grand Superintendent the Right Hon. W. L. Jackson, M.P., who was detained in London on the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure, the first Principal's chair was occupied by Comp. R. Wilson Prov.G.H., Comp. J. L. Atherton taking the chair of H., and Comp. J. Barker, of Mirfield, that of J.

There was a large attendance of Companions, additional interest having been lent to the proceedings by the fact that a new Chapter, named the Armitage, No. 2261, was to be consecrated during the afternoon, and only five Chapters were unrepresented.

The acting Grand Superintendent strongly appealed to the liberality of the Companions on behalf of the funds being raised for the relatives of the men who had been called up to serve in the Transvaal.

On the motion of Comp. R. Sheard, seconded by Comp. W. Dyson, and supported by Comps. J. Barker, Harrop, and Parke, the salary of the Prov.G.S.E. was increased by twenty-one guineas.

On the motion of Comp. C. L. Mason, seconded by Comp. W. Blackburn, a grant was made to replenish the tools in the carpenter's shop connected with the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

During the proceedings Comp. C. L. Mason read an interesting paper on "The Degrees of Freemasonry and the Royal Arch."

The ceremony of consecrating the Armitage Chapter was performed by the acting Prov.G.Superintendent, assisted by the other Principals, and he inducted Comp. W. Dyson to the chair of M.E.Z., C. H. Crowther to that of H., and H. Shaw to that of J.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE annual convocation of this Provincial Grand Chapter was held on Monday afternoon, at the Masonic Hall, Station Road, Wallsend. In the unavoidable absence of the Provincial Grand Superintendent Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., the position of Superintendent was occupied by Comp. J. Straker Wilson P.P.G.H., and the other chief Principals were Comps. Henry Gibson Prov.G.H., and H. Soden Bird P.P.G.J. as Prov.G.J. There was a numerous attendance of Principals of Chapters and Companions.

The report of the Fund Committee was read by Comp. J. Cartmell Ridley P.P.G.H. Prov.G.S.E., and reported the retirement, though illness, of Comp. Thos. Purvis from the important position of Prov.G.S.E. which was received with much regret, and also the resignation of E. C. Macarthey Prov.G.Treasurer. The P.G.Superintendent had appointed pro. tem. Comp. J. Cartmell Ridley as Prov.G.S.E., and Comp. J. Gibson Youll as Prov.G.Treasurer.

Comp. Macarthey Prov.G.T., read the Treasurer's financial statement, and the report of the Fund Committee and the Treasurer's statement were adopted.

On the motion of Comp. John Spearman, seconded by Comp. Cummins P.P.G.H., Comp. J. G. Youll was unanimously elected as Prov.G.Treasurer.

On the motion of Comp. R. W. Cummins P.P.G.H., an expression of sincere sympathy was passed with Comp. T. Purvis P.P.G.S.E., on his serious illness, which was responded to by Comp. W. E. Harker Z.

Comp. A. T. Aitchison proposed a vote of thanks to Comp. Macarthey for his past services as Treasurer.

The roll of Chapters was called, and the Prov.G.S.E. read a number of letters explaining absence. One letter in particular was from Sir Matthew White Ridley Provincial Superintendent, who stated that in connection with the visit of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Germany, he had been commanded to Windsor Castle, and he was thus unavoidably unable to be present. He had looked forward to meeting the Officers and members of the Provincial Chapter, but his duties quite prevented his being with them. Other letters were from Officers who were attending the funeral of the late Dr. F. Skrimshire third Principal of the Chapter of Morpeth, in the report of which Chapter special reference was made to the loss which Masonry had sustained in the sudden death of Dr. Skrimshire, whose zeal and interest was referred to by the first Principal of the Chapter in fitting terms.

The acting Prov.G.Superintendent Comp. J. Straker Wilson referred to the absence of the Prov.G.Superintendent, who had desired that his absence should be explained to the Companions. There had not been time to postpone the Chapter, and he had undertaken by request to represent the Prov.G.Superintendent. Since last they met they had lost by death their esteemed Pro Grand Superintendent the Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom, a distinguished nobleman and an eminent Mason, whose loss would be long felt by the Grand Chapter of England. He also deeply regretted to announce the resignation of Comps. Purvis and Macarthey from their own numbers. He referred at some length to the good work and the position Comp. Purvis had done and occupied, and all would join in the hope for his recovery. Comp. Macarthey was also obliged to resign his duties, and he was sure all would join in acknowledging his courtesy and valuable services to the Provincial Grand Chapter. He was glad to be able to report that fifteen new members had joined their Chapters since last meeting, and they could congratulate the Prov.G.Superintendent and the Province on the increase in their numbers.

The acting Prov.G.Superintendent then invested the following as the Officers of Provincial Grand Chapter for the coming year :

Comp. T. E. Jobling	-	-	-	H.
G. A. Allan	-	-	-	J.
J. Cartmell Ridley	-	-	-	Scribe E.
T. Pickering	-	-	-	Scribe N.
J. Gibson Youll	-	-	-	Treasurer
T. J. Armstrong	-	-	-	Registrar
J. A. Stelling	-	-	-	Principal Sojourner
T. Appleby	-	-	-	1st Assistant Sojourner
T. R. Guthrie	-	-	-	2nd Assistant Sojourner
L. F. Allan	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
John Crow	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
J. Straker Wilson	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
R. W. Cummins	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
W. H. Nixon	-	-	-	Organist
Leo Nixon	-	-	-	Assistant Scribe E.
Joshua Curry	-	-	-	Janitor.

It was announced that the next meeting would be under the auspices of the De Swinburne Chapter, Newcastle.

MARK MASONRY.

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KENT.

THIS Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons was held under the auspices of the Granville Lodge, No. 390, at the Guildhall, Deal, on Wednesday, 25th ult.

Viscount Dungarvan Deputy Grand Master Provincial Grand Master presided, and appointed the following Brethren Provincial Officers for the ensuing year :—

Bro. Frederick Hughes-Hallett 129 378	-	-	-	Deputy
John Wyatt Court 390	-	-	-	Senior Warden
Joseph Harrison 294	-	-	-	Junior Warden
Alex. S. Greenway, M.D., 309	-	-	-	Master Overseer
Samuel R. Wilson 129	-	-	-	Senior Overseer
Alfred W. Southwell 262	-	-	-	Junior Overseer
Rev. Wm. B. Drawbridge 267	-	-	-	Chaplain
Herbert Black 69	-	-	-	Treasurer
Charles Loud 378	-	-	-	Registrar
J. George Podevin 152	-	-	-	Secretary
Henry S. Bagshaw 237	-	-	-	Senior Deacon
John O. Cook 44	-	-	-	Junior Deacon
William Roper 267	-	-	-	Inspector of Works
John P. White 364	-	-	-	Director of Ceremonies
Jonathan D. Hull 69	-	-	-	Assistant Dir. of Cers.
Sidney Newton 390	-	-	-	Sword Bearer
Arnold H. Ulyett 266	-	-	-	Standard Bearer
John G. Cheyney 380	-	-	-	Organist
George H. Porter 226	-	-	-	Assistant Secretary
Enrico Caraco	-	-	-	Inner Guard
Thomas Bugler 416	-	-	-	} Stewards
John T. Loader 322	-	-	-	
Charles M. Challenger 332	-	-	-	} Tyler.
Joseph Oram 237	-	-	-	

NORTH WALES.

THE annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Mark Lodge is to be held at Bangor, on Wednesday, 13th December.

ST. ANDREW LODGE, No. 63.

AT the Masonic Hall, Southampton, on Tuesday, 14th inst., it being the celebration of the festival of St. Andrew, Bro. T. E. Smith S.W. P.P.G.I.W. was installed Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The ceremony of installation was ably and impressively performed by Bro. Lawrence Steele P.P.G.S.W. P.A.G.I.G. England.

At the banquet which followed the ceremony, in replying to the toast of the Officers of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England, &c., Bro. J. E. Le Feuvre congratulated the W.M. on the large number of Brethren who had attended to support him.

A very pleasing and pathetic incident was introduced into the well-arranged programme in connection with the visit of Her Majesty to Bristol on Wednesday in last week. It appears that Bro. William Maby played the cornet in the band at the hotel in Clifton where Her Majesty stayed with her mother, the late Duchess of Kent, nearly seventy years ago, and that this incident came within the knowledge of Her Majesty, or of her advisers who had the arrangements of the order of the day. At the halt made at the Bristol Council House Bro. Maby was presented to his Sovereign, and was honoured with a personal conversation, Her Majesty greeting him with one of those kind expressions for which she is renowned:—"I am exceedingly pleased to see you here to-day, Mr. Maby." This pathetic mark of sympathy with one of the humblest of her subjects evoked a storm of popular applause. Upon the recent occasion Bro. Maby was playing the cornet with the band of the first Volunteer Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. Our veteran Brother has served as Trumpet-Major in the Gloucestershire Hussars, and has held the same office to the grandfather of the present Duke of Beaufort, whilst he was Bandmaster to the present Duke's father for some twenty-three years. He wears the long service medal of the Volunteers and is eighty-six years of age. Bro. Maby was initiated into Freemasonry in or about the year 1856, in the Royal Clarence Lodge, No. 68. He is a Mark Mason and a Royal Arch Mason, but has taken especial interest in the Orders of Knighthood. Herein probably there has been more scope for his musical knowledge and abilities, for he has served as first Grand Herald, and in this capacity heralded the Prince of Wales when he was made Supreme Grand Master in the High Grades. During his long and useful life our Brother has heralded very many important functions—Masonic and otherwise—and his services at Consecrations and Installations are much valued and appreciated. Bro. Maby was many years ago elected an honorary member of the Eldon Lodge, No. 1755. Last week nearly all the London papers pleasantly alluded to the favour recently conferred upon him by an introduction to the Queen.

What's in a name? Very much, we should say, after a brief glance at Bro. R. F. Gould's new book, "Military Lodges, or Freemasonry under arms," which we expected would be a very dry addition to the dry volumes which form the majority of a Masonic library; and which, instead, turns out to be one of the most interesting Masonic books it has been our pleasure to look into, and goes to prove how much light readable matter can be compiled in connection with such an apparently dry subject as Military Freemasonry. We have already spent a few pleasant hours perusing some of the racy anecdotes Bro. Gould has been able to collect, and look forward to further enjoyment in the same direction, when we shall be better able to give a formal "review" of the book. Meanwhile we can but advise our readers to procure a copy for themselves; they will find it a pleasant companion for a railway journey, for an occasional snatch of reading, or for a steady perusal in regulation form. It is published by Messrs. Gale and Polden, at 5s.

On Wednesday, 15th inst., a well-attended concert, organised by Bro. Walter Gladding, took place at the Cannon Street Hotel, the proceeds being devoted to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The chair was taken by Bro. Boulton P.P.G.S.D. Essex, and an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered, the principal artistes being Bros. Harry Tipper (silver bells), A. Edwards (cornet), A. Waldon (elocutionist), Roland Henry (musical sketches), Harry Greene (tenor), W. H. Berry (humorist), Wills Page, W. C. Hamilton, and Fred Russell (ventriloquist). The duties of musical director were ably discharged by Bro. W. C. Hamilton, while Bro. E. J. Jose presided at the piano. The stewards were Bros. E. Smith P.M., H. J. Seal S.W., T. Threlford J.D., and H. Casswell.

The will of the late Bro. Asher Barfield, of 26 Clarges Street, Mayfair, Past Grand Treasurer of England, was proved on 13th November by Mr. Henry Piggott, and Mr. David Frederick Norrington, the executors, the value of the estate being £27,124 9s 5d. The testator bequeaths his Masonic curios and £100 to Mr. David Frederick Norrington; £100 to Mr. Henry Piggott; £200 to his housekeeper, Charlotte Chapman; £50 to his gardener, White; and

£50 to Mr. Oliver Asher Daniels. His residuary estate is divided between Mr. David Frederick Norrington; the children of his brother, Mr. Henry Barfield; the children of his sister, Mrs. Jane Martin; the children of his sister, Mrs. Sarah Edwards; and his brother, Mr. Charles Barfield.—"City Press."

We direct the attention of our readers to an article we this week reprint from the "American Tyler," recounting "some aspects of old country Masonry," which is well worth a perusal. The writer has evidently visited little and assumed much; but he appears to be of an observant nature; and directs attention to points which call for consideration and reform, although his opinions of some items he writes upon are highly coloured—at least from an English Mason's point of view.

The seventh annual Ladies' banquet and ball of the Confidence Lodge, No. 193, will be held on Wednesday, 29th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, when Bro. George Spice W.M. will preside and direct the proceedings. We wish the Brethren and their friends a repetition of the enjoyment that has attended the previous similar meetings arranged by the Lodge.

Those of our readers who are interested in the history of the Craft in bygone days would do well to refer to the report of the Phoenix Lodge, given elsewhere in this issue. An interesting sketch of the history of that Lodge is there given.

"A SPRIG OF ACACIA."

IT has pleased The Great Architect to call our Brother Charles Barritt Barnes somewhat suddenly to the Grand Lodge above; and it was amidst a scene of deep lamentation and regret that his earthly remains were properly disposed of on Tuesday, at the Elmers End Cemetery. The principal mourners were his three sons (all members of the Royal Athelstan Lodge) and four daughters, while a large number of Masonic and other friends also assembled to pay their last tribute to departed merit. Bro. Barnes, who was in his sixty-sixth year, was initiated in the Royal Athelstan Lodge, No. 19, thirty years ago, and by regular gradation became Master in 1886. To commemorate his happy and successful year of office he presented to the Lodge a handsome silver Loving Cup, and this he has since supplemented by many other valuable gifts. After passing the chair he was appointed as Secretary to the Lodge, which position he has since held. In 1870 he founded a Benevolent Fund in connection with the Lodge, which has been one of the most successful among the many to be found in Freemasonry, and has been the means of soothing many cases of affliction. He was a universal favourite among the Brethren, to whom his modest, courteous and discreet conduct had endeared him as a personal friend. So highly was he esteemed among his fellows that last April the Lodge presented him with a silver Dessert Service and an illuminated address, to mark their appreciation of his valuable services as Secretary, and their high esteem of him as a Mason. The account of this presentation appeared in our issue of 22nd April last. Bro. Barnes was a generous supporter of the Masonic Charities, and was a Life Governor of each. He was likewise one of the Founders of the Telegraph Cable Lodge, No. 2470; and has altogether done good suit and service for the Craft in general. His death will leave a vacancy which it will be difficult to fill.

THE announcement of the death of Bro. Joshua Milner, of Mirfield, which took place on Thursday, 16th, at his residence, will be received with deep regret, not only in Mirfield, but throughout the district, where he was well known and very highly respected. The deceased was sixty-three years of age, and, as a public man, faithfully served his fellow townsmen. For twenty-one years he was an active member of the old Local Board. For a period of seven years he held the office of chairman of the local administrative body, and during that time he gave satisfaction to every member. In political matters Mr. Milner preserved a rigid silence, and no one knew to what party he leaned. In all matters, however, which tended for the good of the community, and in all philanthropic efforts, he displayed a generous spirit. He was a member of the Wesleyan Church, and was circuit steward for about two years. He was a Past Master of the Mirfield Lodge, and its Charity Representative.

SOME ASPECTS OF OLD COUNTRY MASONRY.

WHEN an American Mason begins to visit Lodges in Great Britain or Ireland, he experiences a variety of sensations or feelings, such as surprise, disappointment, pity, disapproval, &c. These vary, however, according to the varying condition of the individual Lodges which he may chance to visit. After a time these feelings give place to others of a less antagonistic nature, and gradually, as the strangeness wears off, he begins to find that after all Masonry is Masonry the world over, although the manner of doing things may vary quite materially. His own opinion of how to conduct a Lodge and its work may not be the correct one, but it is evident to him that it is at least very different from that of the Brethren amongst whom he now finds himself. It is the purpose of the writer merely to point out a few of the differences between Masonry as practiced in the United States and in the "Old Country."

Size of Lodges.—The average number of members to each Lodge is very much less than in the United States. In the north of Ireland, where the writer is situated, the Lodge which contains thirty-five or forty members is considered of fair size, and one of seventy or more members is large and likely soon to be split up into two or more. An average of six or eight initiations per year is considered good work.

Size of Lodge Room.—The average size of the Lodge room is very much less than that of the average American Lodge. Very few, if any, cities in the British Isles possess a Temple or Masonic Hall sufficient for the local requirements of the Craft. In the city of Belfast there are at least ten buildings devoted entirely to the purposes of Masonry. These consist of a respectable looking Masonic Hall erected forty years ago, and accommodating about one-third of the Lodges, several small Halls built for the purpose, and several transformed dwelling houses. These Halls are scattered all over the city, and the average size of the actual Lodge room is not more than 25 by 15 feet.

Number of Lodges.—As a necessary corollary from the numerical size of Lodges as stated above, it may be deduced that the number of Lodges is much greater under these conditions than could be the case where Lodges may number from 100 to 500 or more. The city of Dublin, where are situated the headquarters of the Fraternity in Ireland, boasts of something over thirty Lodges, with R.A. Chapters in proportion, whilst a stranger intent on visiting all the Lodges and Chapters of Belfast at the rate of six per week, could not accomplish the task in less than four months, and he would have no time for the so-called "higher degrees." There are no less than seventy-one Blue Lodges in Belfast, with either twenty-nine or thirty of the Red, the population being 300,000. No other city in the world outside London can approach to this number.

Lodges in Ireland meet only once a month, with a "holiday" (in many cases) in June, July and August, thus making on the average only nine meetings per year. Some of the larger Lodges occasionally have an emergency meeting, but these are few and far between, and the "emergency" must be very real to call for a second meeting in the month. Royal Arch Chapters meet once every three months. The meetings are called for 7.30 p.m. and commence about 8, or sooner if the required number is present. The communication lasts usually till about 10, during that time the regular business is transacted as well as any Degree work that may be on the programme, and then an adjournment is usually made to the refreshment room. Here a light cold lunch is the usual repast, accompanied by a plentiful supply of beer, claret and best Irish whiskey. Teetotallers, who form a small minority, are furnished with aerated ginger beer, &c. Instead of the speeches looked for on this side of the Atlantic, there are invariably given in the most prefatory manner the toasts of the Queen, Grand Master, Provincial Grand Officers, visitors, &c.

Conferring Degrees.—This branch of Masonic work, which is generally considered in America to be a most important item in the labour of a Lodge, seems to be treated in Ireland as merely incidental, and to be finished as soon as may be. This is largely due to the fact that the work has to be sandwiched in between "business," whenever time can be spared from the inevitable discussions regarding the question of a Lodge picnic or the quality of the whiskey at the last "refreshment." Consequently, when one compares the actual work with that of a live American Lodge, one must be excused if it appears to be very meagre in quantity and extremely poor in quality. The Grand Lodges of Great Britain and Ireland have no established ritual, except (in Ireland) such as is inculcated by a few Provincial Instructors acting under the direction of the Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Instruction, which meets four times a year in Dublin. But the whole system of instruction is a farce, and in actual practice each Lodge is a law unto itself and every man does that which is right in his own eyes. The beautiful moral precepts of our Institution and the symbolical applications of the emblems, &c., are slurred over as quickly as possible or entirely omitted. In many cases the work following the O.B. is so cut down as to consist of absolutely

nothing more than the communication of certain signs, words and tokens, which alone are termed the "records." In the experience of the writer, the average time expended in conferring the three degrees of a Blue Lodge is thirty, twenty, and forty minutes respectively. There is no paraphernalia of any kind in the American sense. The charge to candidates is invariably read and generally bungled. Music plays a very small part in the ceremonies as a rule, and in very many cases is conspicuous by its absence. A very peculiar feature of degree work in Ireland is the fact that very few Lodges can boast of Officers or members who are capable of conferring them, and they are perforce obliged to invite outsiders to work for them. In the North of Ireland there are Lodges whose degree work is all done by Brethren who travel twenty miles or more for that purpose, whilst the entire degree work of the seventy-one Lodges of Belfast is performed by twelve or fifteen Brethren who are usually elected honorary members of the Lodges which they oblige, and several of whom are responsible for the work of nine different Lodges. The work of these men varies very much and depends largely on the "personal equation" of the individual, and several of them are far from being well educated. All of the above remarks on degree work apply equally to the Chapters.

Desire for Office.—It seems to be the desire of every man who becomes a Mason to get into office as soon as possible. It is therefore customary, in order to give every one a fair chance, to elect each member in rotation according to his priority in joining the Lodge, no question ever being raised as to his fitness for the same. Hence it comes about that many Masters of Lodges are utterly unable to open and conduct their Lodge without being constantly prompted by a better qualified Brother, who is usually a Past Master. A Master has been known to read three or four lines of the E.A. charge instead of the introductory prayer before being stopped by his prompter. When a few Brethren realise that there are so many ahead of them in order of seniority as members that they cannot wait their turn in patience, they simply form a new Lodge, which is an exceedingly simple operation.

Examination of Visitors.—It is the custom for the Grand Lodges of the British Isles to issue certificates to all newly-initiated Brethren. When visiting strange Lodges a Brother is invariably requested to produce this certificate as well as pass the "tests." The examiners, however, are exceedingly lax in their methods, and the writer feels that in the case of one or two Lodges at least, he would have gained admittance without having been initiated at all.

Dues and Costs.—The minimum charge for the three degrees as fixed by the Grand Lodge is, for Dublin, twenty-five dollars, and outside of Dublin twenty dollars. Very few Lodges exceed this amount. The average rate for dues is five dollars, and is usually collected monthly, the roll being called and each member paying up as called upon. Absent members are expected to send apologies through the Secretary, and frequently do, especially when they are in office or are nearing the time when they hope to be voted in for the first time.

Some Grand Lodge Regulations.—The Secretary of a Lodge must be a Past Master. The Secretary must send out printed circulars to each member, notifying them of each Regular or Special Communication, and specifying the work to be done; no unspecified business can be taken up. No Lodge can be opened or closed without the presence of a Past Master. The Grand Lodge "recommends" that Officers should be able to confer degrees, but makes no ruling to that effect.—David A. Suttie, in "American Tyler."

THE SCHOLAR IN POLITICS.

THE same man should not try, at least in Masonry, to be at once an historical scholar and a legislator. The two vocations are incompatible and will conflict. Each demands a certain hardness, an indifference to certain considerations, one might almost say a certain unscrupulousness. The scholar's business is to ascertain the exact truth, and to make it known without regard to considerations of policy, without scruple as to the possible result upon the prosperity of the Craft. The legislator, on the other hand, needs, or is supposed to need, and usually supposes himself to need, a disposition and a willingness, without scruple as to one's duty to the eternal verities, to suppress or to ignore disagreeable truths. The scholar deals in whole truths, the legislator in non-truths, untruth, suppression of truth—anything but the whole truth, and especially in half-truths.

The scholar must always be right. The politician, as Speaker Reed used to say, must be careful not to be right at the wrong time.

Usually there is no clashing. The legislator need only ask himself whether a certain measure is popular or useful. It may be contrary to all the truths of history and precedent. Five times out of ten the historical scholar, knowing that fact, will think it unnecessary to mention it. Five times out of ten he will call attention to it, but so few will listen to him or take any

interest in the question he raises that the Masonic legislator (we might as well say politician) need pay no attention.

But trouble arises when, as in the State of Washington, a Masonic scholar, trained to aim at the whole truth and to be satisfied with nothing less, becomes also responsible for legislation. The result is as if a state legislature were to decree obedience to the whole code of Christ. Human nature would not stand it.

Our Most Worshipful Brother Past Grand Master William H. Upton has, by his papers upon negro Masonry, placed himself at the head of the American branch of the new school of Masonic Historical study, if he will take and hold the place. This is the school which has enough distinguished representatives in England to compose a Lodge of thirty-three members—the Lodge Quatuor Coronati. This Lodge is composed of Hughan, Gould, Speth, Crawley, Lane, and twenty-eight others of the same sort. These men have revolutionised Masonic History and Masonic scholarship. We question if they have yet at all influenced Masonic Legislation. Very wisely they have not tried. It is enough for them to do to ascertain the whole truth and to put it upon record. The responsibility for the use made of the light thus cast is upon the Craft. It is best to let it make its way slowly.

Bro. Upton's latest paper upon negro Masonry, printed in the volume of Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of the State of Washington—just out—is a monument of Masonic learning, a model of historical and critical method of the new school. It has no place in what has heretofore passed for Masonic learning in this country—a learning real enough at bottom, but biased and prejudiced, full of controversial twists and of the half truths which to the politician are whole truths, and which, at all events, he makes to pass for such. It marks its author as capable of better things than Masonic politics.

We regret that the occasion should have arisen for its publication in its present connection. It should have been (of course with an altered style) published in the Transactions of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati, where it would have enjoyed the pure air of Masonic Scholarship untainted by Masonic politics, and where it would, doubtlessly, have secured for its author the blue ribbon of Masonic membership in that Lodge. It would have gained dignity printed there, and would have lost none of its practical effect, for it would have none in either case, at least for many years.

All over the country are young scholars who are fully conscious of the faults of the American historical method as heretofore applied to Masonry, and eager to follow in the path marked out by the English Brethren of the Quatuor Coronati. They need only a leader. The "Tyler" most earnestly calls upon M. W. Bro. Upton to divorce himself from Masonic politics, which will hamper him and finally ruin his method and his style, and to assume this high position—higher than any which Masonic politics has within its gift, whether in Washington, New York, England, or in any jurisdiction on earth.—"American Tyler."

THE BALLOT.

EVERY Freemason is gifted with a power which in one direction, at least, is supreme. In the Lodge the Master is master in all things, yet he has no more authority in the matter of the ballot than has every other Master Mason who is a fellow-member. There is in the hand of every Freemason a ball which has deadly Masonic power when wielded against an applicant for initiation and membership. The profane remains profane at the will and pleasure of one initiate. This is sovereign authority, but it is in consonance with the spirit of our Fraternity, which is eminently one of authority and law. It exercises a paternal government, and in this respect every Brother is a father, every member has supreme authority over every applicant for initiation. This was the early regulation in the Craft, and we in the United States of America, at least, have sedulously maintained this Masonic usage. In criminal law it is recognised that it is better that nine guilty men should escape than that one innocent one be punished, and hence there is always a presumption in favour of innocence, so that a jury is never warranted in convicting, if there be a reasonable doubt in favour of the innocence of the prisoner. But in Freemasonry the rule is different, there it is considered better that nine worthy applicants should be rejected, than that one unworthy should be approved.

We start out with this premise, but it does not warrant the conclusion that every member of a Lodge may carelessly, thoughtlessly and irresponsibly exercise his sovereign authority in the ballot. The Craft may not reckon with him for such conduct unless he convict himself by revealing his own unworthy motives, but his conscience should; and in what we have to say now respecting the Masonic use of the ballot, we shall appeal to the reader's sense of Masonic justice—in other words, to his Masonic conscience.

It goes without saying that the immoral, the dissipated, the dishonest, the mentally unbalanced man is unfitted for the

Masonic Fraternity. We desire sound men, morally, mentally and physically. The unworthy initiate who has succeeded in hoodwinking the Craft sufficiently to secure initiation is not thereby ensured the right to advancement. The error of the ballot may be corrected at any time prior to his entire reception into the Fraternity, so that facts which, if properly known, would have justified his rejection, may cause his subsequent suspension or expulsion. All this is clear. But this is outside of that to which we are about to advert.

Brother reader, do you realise the truth that the possessor of sovereign power should be sovereign over himself, should be master of his prejudices, his passions, his moral or mental blindness? The power of the ballot carries with it a weighty responsibility. For a man who in the best sense of the term is a good man and true to rest under the imputation of Masonic rejection, is an unmerited punishment. He is announced to the universal Craft to be an unworthy person, one not fit to associate with Freemasons, one whom we cannot trust, and therefore will not have among us, one who has been weighed in the balance and found wanting, and in consequence cast out among the rubbish. To pronounce this judgment on an applicant is to pronounce a dire condemnation. When an applicant is rejected by our ballot we do not say only that he is unfit for our Lodge, but that he is unfit for any Lodge—that he is unworthy to become a Freemason. While it is our bounden duty to promptly reject the morally, mentally and physically halt and lame and blind, let us never reject an applicant only because he is a rival in business, or of a different religion, or has some angles in his character which oppose themselves to our smoothness, without injuring either ourselves or our fellows. Ancient Freemasonry is not a rite of perfection. It aims high, but it does not expect to hit the moon. It is a reasonable Fraternity, and every member of it should be a reasonable man. It does not expect to accomplish impossibilities, but it does expect every one of its initiates to be truly loyal to it, and while guarding its portals against the admission of improper applicants and candidates, to reject no applicant because his hair is red, his complexion pale, his disposition not altogether saintly, or his behaviour a trifle below that of the high standard which we set up for ourselves, but never attain. Brethren, examine yourselves on every occasion before you cast a ballot.—"Keystone."

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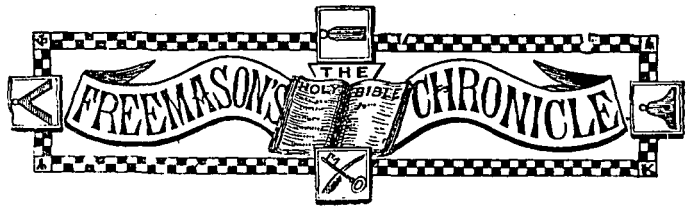
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SATURDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 1899.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

THE monthly meeting of the Board was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. The presiding Officers were Bros. J. H. Matthews President, D. D. Mercer Senior V.P., and Henry Garrod Junior V.P. The Grand Secretary, the Assistant Grand Secretary, Bro. W. Dodd, and Bro. G. S. Recknell were present, and there was a very large attendance of other Brethren, who, at the general Committee of Grand Lodge, which was held previously to the sitting of the Board of Benevolence, heard read the paper of business for the Quarterly Communication of 6th December.

When the Board of Benevolence was opened, on the motion of Bro. D. D. Mercer, seconded by Bro. Henry Garrod, a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Bro. J. H. Matthews, for the very able, kind, and courteous manner in which he had discharged the duties of President of the Board during the past twelve months.

The Brethren then confirmed the recommendations of the October meeting, to the amount of £240, and afterwards took up the new list of petitions, forty-seven in number. Two of these were dismissed and three deferred. Of the remaining forty-two, the Board recommended Grand Lodge to sanction £75 in two instances, and £50 in one case. Six were recommended for the Grand Master's approval for £40 each, and nine for £30 each. Fourteen grants of £20 each, one of £15, five grants of £10 each, and four of £5 each completed the record.

R. M. I. GIRLS.

WE are asked to notify that Thursday, 7th December, is the latest day by which petitions for the April election 1900 must reach the office of the Institution at Freemasons' Hall, London. It is, however, very desirable that they should be received as much before that date as possible.

The Mayor of Gravesend, Bro. J. N. Willis W.M. 483, has devised a novel and it is to be hoped a popular method of assisting the Widows and Orphans Fund for the relief of those left dependent through the death of the soldiers and sailors now fighting in South Africa. He proposes to hold a series of dances, of which he will bear the entire cost, and those who attend will contribute one guinea each to the Fund. An influential Committee has been appointed to carry out the necessary arrangements.

The regular meetings of the St. John Lodge, No. 697, Warrenpoint, Ireland, are held on the first Tuesday in each month, and of the Chapter attached thereto on the second Tuesday. Visitors to the district would, we are sure, be heartily welcomed if they paid a visit to either the Lodge or the Chapter.

At the annual meeting of the Snowdonia Mark Lodge, No. 259, recently held at Menai Bridge, it was decided to remove the Lodge to Bangor, where the great bulk of the members reside.

An invitation ball under the banner of the St. Giles Lodge, No. 1587, took place in the Town Hall, Cheadle, on the 15th inst., a party numbering about fifty being present.

QUIETLY LAID AWAY.

MANY Masons are quietly laid away on the shelf, so covered with dust as to almost relieve mother earth from the necessity of receiving their bodies and "piously covering their

remains within her bosom." Cobwebs have grown about the pictures of ceremony and ritual. Memory has lost much of its power, and is treacherous. Long disuse has nearly paralysed the senses of seeing, feeling, and hearing. The "faithful breast" has been locked so tight that the secrets cannot be extracted save by the power of the setting maul, which will crush its thick, encrusted shell of forgetfulness.

Many of those whose days of Masonic usefulness have passed once occupied prominent positions in the Craft. Some were Masters, some were District Deputies, and some others were even Grand Masters. During the climbing process they were filled with enthusiasm. They were present at every communication of the Lodge, both stated and special. They were interested in everything pertaining to its welfare, were ready to "post" candidates, serve on committees and do anything that might be required of them. They were always ready to give advice, and lend their energies to carry on any work undertaken. They were models of zealous Craftsmen, always on hand to help in the third degree, and never missed a banquet where they were given an opportunity to make a "few remarks." As years wore on and they ascended "round after round of the ladder that leads to fame in our mystic circle," and with modest humility and gracious condescension received "the purple of the Fraternity," their interest grew apace. They condescended to grace the meetings of the Lodge at such times and on such occasions as the "dignity" of their "exalted stations" would allow. When once they reached the goal of their ambition, the cynosure of all eyes, they stood for a moment upon the pinnacle of fame, the "purple" resplendent in its royal beauty. Then the transformation scene took place, and they disappeared.

As rockets shot into the air, they went up, filling the eyes of their Brethren with admiration at their increasing beauty, leaving behind them in their passage streams of glorious enthusiasm. When the climax had been reached, like the rockets, they burst forth in all the glory of their high and exalted positions, dazzling the sight and causing exclamations of delight; and, like the rocket, the brilliant display was but for a moment. Where was the rocket? The sky was blank. No spot was left to mark the high altitude which the rocket had reached. All that was left was the stick, burned at one end, picked up by a boy, who trundled his hoop with it. "Imperious Cæsar, dead, and turned to clay, might stop a hole to keep the wind away."

Every Lodge has its members who are laid away, members who are still active in the affairs of life. Some have "gone up higher" in Masonry and forget the days when they were younger and took delight in the plain, old-fashioned "blue Lodge." They have been attracted by the gew-gaws and trappings of display and the high-sounding names and titles of the "higher bodies." Others claim that "business cares" and "other ties" prevent their taking an "active" part in Lodge affairs. Those "other ties" are often "the club," where they have unsatisfied ambitions. They go yachting, fishing, gunning, and follow all sorts of pleasures without finding that they interfere with business. When asked to take an interest in Lodge affairs they have the ready answer: "I have served my apprenticeship; let the younger men bear the burden." Having reached the summit of their ambition they pessimistically remark: "Well, after all, the game was not worth the candle." While en route to the goal they thought it worth many candles, and they burnt them freely.

The lack of interest manifested by the members laid away seems almost to prove that their zealous attachment to the "tenets of their profession" was a selfish ambition. It would seem to indicate that they had "an axe to grind," and as soon as the members of the Lodge had turned the grindstone sufficiently to whet the edge they had no more use for the Fraternity. It is a lamentable fact that many of these members who have been leaders and have been quietly and decently interred in the grave of memory, could scarcely find anyone to vouch for them should they desire to visit a Lodge. The Lodges everywhere need the support of all their members. The work to be done requires that those who attempt to do it shall be in earnest, and those who have once been honoured by the Fraternity, whose experience ought to qualify them to direct affairs in a proper and successful channel, are in duty bound to assist and encourage in every way they can those who are bearing the "heat and burden of the day." The principles and lessons of Masonry are precisely the same to-day as they were when these "shelf-members" were active, and ought to appeal as much to them now as then. A good work should never be abandoned, but should be prosecuted with even greater enthusiasm as the years go by. Let then the Past Masters, the Past District Deputies, and the Past Grand Masters not forget their first love, nor the days when they were active in the good cause of humanity. Let not the "decking" with a jewel, or the "watching" with a watch; the "caning" with a cane, or the "ringing" with a ring, mark the closing of a useful career, or a cessation of interest in the affairs of the Lodge. —"Masonic Standard."

REPORTS OF MEETINGS.

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

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CRAFT: METROPOLITAN.

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DORIC LODGE, No. 933.

THE usual meeting was held on Tuesday, 14th inst., at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. There were five candidates on the agenda for initiation: Mr. R. H. Wilson, of Forest Gate; Mr. Robert Pickard, of Stoke Newington; Mr. W. F. Laing, of Whitechapel Road; Mr. H. F. Adams, of Canning Town; and Mr. E. A. Gibbs, also of Canning Town. The ballot was formally taken, and no objective vote being made, the ceremony proceeded, three candidates being taken in the first place and two later. The final part of the ceremony was rendered in the presence of the five. The W.M. Bro. Robert Ayton jun. was well supported by the members of the Lodge, the majority of whom are well known in business circles in the East of London.

At the close of work the usual business re correspondence proceeded, and Bro. Ayton P.M. proposed that a vote of 100 shillings should be made to the "Daily Telegraph" Soldiers Widows and Orphans Fund, pointing to the necessity for help in view of what is occurring in the Transvaal. Bro. Tucker P.M. seconded this, and it was unanimously carried.

The Lodge was formally closed, and the Brethren adjourned to supper, after which the customary toasts were given and responses made.

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LONDON SCOTTISH RIFLES LODGE, No. 2310.

THE regular meeting was held on Thursday, 16th inst., at the Criterion, Piccadilly, under the presidency of the W.M. Bro. Capt. D. Campbell Whyte, who was supported by Bros. Major Glyn-Smith P.M., Captain Brake P.M., Major Montgomery, Paymaster Sergeant Geo. D. Fraser Organist, and a large number of other members and visitors, among whom were Bros. A. Wyatt 1567, H. J. Crook 2698, and H. Willsmer 1567 2698.

Messrs. Ford were very impressively initiated by the Worshipful Master, the working of the whole ceremony being most perfectly rendered.

A presentation was made to Bro. Capt. Brake, on the occasion of his marriage.

The sum of ten guineas was voted to the War Fund, in connection with the regiment with which the Lodge is associated.

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SIR WALTER ST. JOHN LODGE, No. 2513.

AT the Holborn Restaurant, on Saturday last, the Brethren assembled in the Masonic Temple in force. The popular Master Bro. G. Collar, B.A., B.Sc., was in fine form, and was ably supported by his Officers.

The ceremony of the second degree was performed in an exemplary manner, and Bro. Clayson is to be congratulated on the very clear and explicit delivery of the lecture on the tracing board by Bro. Joseph B. Dixon S.D.

The sum of £5 5s was voted for the list of the Immediate Past Master Bro. Rev. St. Clair Hill.

It was unanimously resolved to hold a Ladies' night in the New Year, as that of last year had been so successful in every respect.

Among those present were: Bros. G. Collar W.M., H. Smalls acting S.W., A. C. Rogers J.W., R. F. Macdonald P.M. Treas., J. J. White P.M. Sec., J. Briggs Dixon S.D., W. H. Coleman J.D., L. T. Malinson I.G., T. Deason Std., H. Cavill A.D.C., J. Whiteman Tyler, J. Moore Smith P.M., H. Madden Org., E. A. Price, Chadwick, Woodward, Ibbertson, Jago, Holt, Brentnall, Hayworth, Lever, Jacobs, Kemp, Sharland, Ryde, Philips, Crockett, and others.

Visitors: Bros. Geo. King P.M., Sam. Meech P.P.G.Std.Middx., J. Briggs, F. W. Sinclair Std. 2345.

The Brethren dined together after the completion of the Lodge work, under the presidency of the W.M., and passed a very pleasant time, duly honouring the usual Loyal, Patriotic, and Masonic toasts. The harmony of the evening was further enhanced by the capital singing for which the "Sinjans" are noted.

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INSTRUCTION.

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FINSBURY PARK LODGE, No. 1288.

ON Saturday, at the Old Cock Tavern, Highbury, Bros. W. Briggs W.M., G. H. Paine S.W., E. Parker J.W., H. Hill P.M. Prec., W. Sycklemore P.M. Treas., John Thorn acting Sec., Fred Henderson S.D., W. H. Coley J.D., W. Newbold I.G., A. J. Davis, F. Parkington P.M., A. A. Ibbott, J. Hume S.W. 2031, M. M. Taylor P.M., F. Linfoot, W. Hudson, and J. Wynman.

Lodge was opened up and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, with Bro. A. J. Davis candidate. This being ended, Bro. Sycklemore P.M. worked the first section of the lecture, whilst Bro. Hill in his usual able manner assisted the Brethren with the answers. Bro. Hill in well deserved complimentary terms proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes for the perfect manner in which the W.M. had fulfilled the duties of the chair for the first time in the Lodge, which compliment was acknowledged. We add our congratulation to Bro. W. Briggs on his excellent working; it was all that could be desired.

Bro. W. Hudson S.W. 704 was elected a member, and Bro. G. H. Paine W.M. for Saturday next, 2nd December. Bro. Hill P.M. Preceptor of the Lodge will preside to-day (Saturday), and we may again remind our subscribers that the ceremony of raising will be rehearsed with choir and full musical accompaniment, at 7.45 sharp. Several professional Brethren will attend.

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WOODROW LODGE, No. 1708.

ON Monday, at Bro. Rudderforth's, Stone's Restaurant, 24 Pantons Street, Haymarket, Bros. C. West W.M., J. E. Culverhouse S.W., G. Yowell

J.W., C. Wetton P.M. Dep.Prec., J. W. Simeons Sec., J. Wynman S.D., T. Burgess J.D., J. W. Ollington I.G., Fred T. Keeble, A. Menn, A. Pion, G. Baker, G. Spice W.M. 193.

The Lodge was opened in the three degrees and resumed to the second degree, when Bro. Simeons answered the questions and was entrusted. The Lodge was resumed to the third degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. This being ended, the W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Simeons, who resumed the Lodge to the first degree. Bro. Spice having offered himself as candidate for passing was examined and entrusted, the Lodge was further advanced, and that ceremony was rehearsed.

The W.M. having again taken the chair, the Lodge was resumed to the first degree, and Bro. Culverhouse was elected W.M. for Monday, 4th prox., next Monday it being the Preceptor's privilege to occupy the chair.

Letters were read from Bros. Rudderforth and C. Woodrow P.M. Preceptor, stating their inability to attend the meeting and the Annual Supper, on account of indisposition, and it was proposed that letters should be sent to those Brethren, wishing them a speedy recovery. Bro. Simeons, in the absence of Bro. Woodrow, was unanimously elected to preside as chairman at the Annual Supper, which will take place on Monday, at 9 o'clock punctually.

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CITADEL LODGE, No. 1897.

THE 184th meeting was held on Friday, 17th instant, at the Farleigh Hotel, Amhurst Road, Stoke Newington, N. Bro. Gordon de Lacey Larner W.M. of the Lebanon Lodge acted as W.M., with U. B. Ladler S.W., E. G. Platt J.W., F. Dunstan P.M. P.P.A.G.D.C.Middx. Preceptor, Harry Willsmer Secretary, J. Bartlett S.D., Leber J.D., Ing I.G., A. Rusby P.M., W. A. Wallace, J. Suckling, T. Feistel, Skates, Alderman, R. Willsmer, Herbert, Bishop, Ashton, Wiggington.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Alderman candidate. The charge was given by Bro. Larner. Bro. Wiggington acting as candidate the ceremony of raising was rehearsed.

Bro. Ladler was elected W.M. for the next meeting.

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WALTHAMSTOW LODGE, No. 2472.

WE were pleased to see such a very good meeting on Monday, at Bro. Mears's, the Lord Brooke, Walthamstow, when the chair was taken by Bro. J. H. Tailby, who received the assistance of Bros. S. C. Rhodes S.W., R. Darling P.M. J.W., W. W. West Dep. Prec., F. Budd Treas., J. Clark P.M. Sec., M. Bleick S.D., C. Hurst J.D., G. J. Stubbings I.G., T. Stacey W.M. 2472 Org., W. Beck, A. Attwell, A. G. Hopkins, W. C. Jones, F. G. Stubbings, T. C. Bothin, T. J. Parkins, C. T. Papworth, W. G. Hales, L. Yetley, J. Wynman, &c.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. W. Beck acting as candidate. The Lodge was called off and on. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. T. W. Stacey W.M. 2472, who rehearsed the second ceremony, for which Bro. Beck again offered himself as the candidate. Bro. Tailby resumed his chair.

Bro. S. C. Rhodes was elected W.M. for Monday, 4th December, next Monday being the Annual Supper night, at which Bro. W. Shurmur P.M. P.G.S.B. will preside.

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ALFRED NEWTON LODGE, No. 2686.

THIS prosperous Lodge assembled on Tuesday, at the Royal Palace Hotel, Kensington, W., and we then had the pleasure of witnessing the working of the popular Worshipful Master of the mother Lodge Bro. A. J. Naughton, who received the assistance of Bros. J. Nichols S.W., W. R. Flack J.W., R. H. Williams P.M. P.P.G.D. Middx. Preceptor, E. Vernon Dep. Sec., E. A. Bertram S.D., W. Arnold J.D., J. R. Francis I.G., F. Le Sueur Steward, H. K. Kewton, P. Carmichael, H. Redgrave, J. W. Jupe, A. Swann, A. Weiss, W. Binfield, H. Day, H. J. Cousen I.P.M. 172, L. Standing, H. Seal, J. Wynman, and others.

The W.M. rehearsed the ceremony of passing, for which Bro. H. K. Newton having offered himself as candidate was first examined and entrusted. The Lodge was called off and on, when the W.M. proceeded to examine Bro. H. Redgrave, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed. The working of both the degrees was perfect. Bro. Williams Preceptor worked the first section of the lecture.

Bro. Henry Webster 1512 was elected a member, and Bro. Nichols was chosen to take the position of W.M. on Tuesday next.

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PROVINCIAL.

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PHENIX LODGE, No. 94.

AT a recent meeting of this Lodge, held in the old Masonic Hall in Queen Street, Sunderland, Bro. J. D. Todd P.M. P.P.G.S.B. gave some interesting particulars respecting the history of the Lodge.

The Phoenix Lodge, now No. 94 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England, was originally constituted on 25th November 1755, by Warrant from the Earl of Carnarvon Grand Master of the English Masons at that time, the Warrant authorising the meeting to be held at the Masons' Arms, Sunderland, the number of the Lodge then being 207. In 1777-8, the Lodge then being under the Mastership of Bro. Captain George Thompson, who occupied that honourable position for several years, a Masonic Hall was built by him, on the site of the present building, the foundation stone of which was laid with Masonic honours. That day being the anniversary of the accession of King George, the Lodge was called "King George Lodge" in honour of the event. As early as 19th November 1783 the hall was entirely destroyed by fire, together with the furniture and pictures, including the Warrant. The Lodge was afterwards held at the house of Bro. Jowsey. In April of the following year (1784) the members, accompanied by a great number of visitors from the neighbouring Lodges, went in procession to lay the foundation stone of the present building, and from this time forth the name of the Lodge was changed to that of Phoenix, in commemoration of the restoration, which is still represented by the old painting on the walls, and by the emblem on the circulars. An extract from a history of Sunderland says:—The ceremony of dedicating the new Hall was one of the most brilliant meetings Freemasonry had ever witnessed in this part of the kingdom. This took place on Tuesday, 5th April 1785, and was attended by Brethren from the following Lodges: Phoenix (Sunderland) 50, Stockton 10, Swallow 4, Sea Captains (Sunderland) 23, Granby (Durham) 14, St. John (Newcastle) 25, St. Nicholas (Newcastle)

9, St. Hilda (Shields) 11, Harmony (Monkwearmouth) 16, Unwin (Gateshead) 15, Lion (Whitby) 3; total 180. And this, be it remembered, in the days when advantage could not be taken of railway facilities, showing that whatever may be said of the present race of Freemasons, we have not yet improved on the enthusiasm of our forefathers.

From printed references in the minutes of recent dates, mention is made that the organ at present in the building was erected by a Mr. Donaldson, of Newcastle, in the year 1783, at a cost of £50. There is evidently a mistake in the date, as the present Hall was not opened until 5th April 1785; it may be, however, that the organ was ordered before the fire, but not erected until after the dedication of the Hall. At any rate the organ is considerably over 100 years old. During the earlier years of my Masonic career, its tones were heard almost every Lodge meeting. At that time the refreshments were served in this room, and the E.A. Song was played by our late Past Master Wm. Whinham, and sung by the Brethren. Since then the keyboard has been brought down to the level of the Lodge. Previously the player had to ascend to the organ gallery by the step ladder at the north side.

Under date 29th September 1821, a new Warrant was issued by the United Grand Lodge of England. During the period between the two Warrants, the number of the Lodge had been changed from 207, 169, 146, to 121. Since then it had been known as 111, and is now designated 94. At our meeting on 6th October 1886 the Lodge was honoured by the attendance of several Provincial Grand Officers, and during the evening Bro. Hudson, the then and present Provincial Grand Secretary, handed over to the W.M. some of the ancient books of the Lodge, which had been missing for a period of fifty years, and which he had been instrumental in obtaining. Amongst these were the original constitution of 1755, containing seventeen clauses only, a wonderfully different volume from that now required from Government.

On 6th May 1896, Bro. R. Hudson presented to the Lodge a reprint of a biographical sketch of Bro. Dr. Tipping Brown, which had appeared in the "Freemasons' Magazine," in the year 1795, at the time that Dr. Brown was W.M. of this Lodge. The portrait and printed extract still adorn our walls in the west, behind the S.W.'s chair. On the same evening a visit was received from Bro. W. J. Hughson P.S.G.D. of England, to whom and to Bro. Hudson P.G.S.B. of England, an address was presented, the following being an extract therefrom:—"Every few years the question as to the oldest Lodge in Sunderland again and again comes to the front. That time has once more arrived, it being my lot recently to listen to a stirring speech to that effect." The foregoing extract, however, conclusively demonstrates that whatever may have been the cause of a sister Lodge having had assigned to it a number lower than ninety-four, it could not be on account of its greater antiquity, that belonging (so far as the Province of Durham is concerned) to one Lodge only, viz.: Industry, No. 48, of Gateshead. In reviewing our history, it is a source of great gratification to have still in our midst as a frequent attendee an old and esteemed P.M. in the person of Brother John Riseborough, who was initiated in March 1859, and who thus carries with him a personal history of over forty years.

On 1st September 1886, the members in Lodge assembled agreed that application should be made to the Grand Lodge for a Centenary Warrant. The causes which prevented this application I need not now explain, as the request was recently made, and has been acceded to, and to-night I have the pleasing privilege of having the document in possession.

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CORNUBIAN LODGE, No. 450.

At a meeting at Hayle, on Thursday evening, 16th inst., Bro. T. A. Taylor P.M. was unanimously elected W.M. for the coming year, and Bro. F. Harvey P.M. P.P.S.G.W. was re-elected Treasurer for the thirty-third year in succession.

The meeting was of more than ordinary interest, as Bro. J. P. Smith P.M. P.P.S.G.D. had a few days previously celebrated his golden wedding, and the forty-sixth year of his joining the Lodge. The hearty congratulations of the Brethren were presented to Bro. Smith by the W.M. Bro. G. B. Pearce P.P.S.G.W.

The circular issued by the Provincial Grand Master the Earl of Mount Edgcombe, respecting Masonic contributions to the Fund now being raised to assist the soldiers and sailors, was considered and warmly taken up by the Brethren, though many of them have already contributed through other channels. Twenty guineas was voted from the Lodge funds, and a similar sum was contributed by those present. Brother J. G. Osborn P.M. was appointed Steward to receive subscriptions. It is hoped to raise the amount to £50.

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UNITED BROTHERS LODGE, No. 1069.

The Mayor of Portsmouth, Bro. Harold R. Pink, who has commenced his year of office under most happy auspices, attained, on Monday evening, 13th inst., another high honour, being installed as Worshipful Master of this Lodge.

The elevation of the Chief Magistrate of the Borough to the chair of a Masonic Lodge has rarely, if ever, before occurred in Portsmouth, and the interesting ceremony attracted a record attendance of members of the Craft to the Masonic Hall, Highbury Street. In addition to the Masters and principal Officers of practically all the neighbouring Lodges, there were present many Provincial Officers of high rank, including the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Bro. Edgar Goble.

A good many of the Mayor's colleagues in municipal life (some of whom hold Provincial rank) also attended, these including Aldermen A. L. Emanuel and R. Barnes, and Councillors H. Kimber, W. T. Duprée, W. E. Duck, W. Stevenson, G. C. Vernon-Inkpen, R. Payne, and H. A. Harman.

The installation ceremony was very ably performed by Bro. W. Stevenson P.M., and the Mayor having been inducted into the chair of K.S., appointed and invested his Officers.

Subsequent to the investment, very hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the Installing Master for his meritorious services, and to the I.P.M. for his work during the past year. In the case of the latter, the thanks were accompanied by a jewel, subscribed for by the Lodge.

The banquet which followed was a brilliant function, there being a very large gathering of prominent Officers. The banquet was catered for by Messrs. Hill and Co., and during its progress the band of the R.M.A. played selections. Thirteen toasts claimed the attention of the guests, who numbered about a hundred.

Deputy Prov.G.M. Goble repounded for the Officers of the Grand Lodge, and over a score of wearers of honours rose in acknowledgment of the toast of the Provincial Officers.

The toast of the evening, that of the W.M., was in the able hands of Past Master Ross. It gave opportunity for expressing satisfaction at the high honour of citizenship recently bestowed upon the new W.M., and hopes that his year of office as Mayor would be as successful as there was every reason to believe his tenure of the Masonic chair would be.

In a suitable reply, the W.M. acknowledged the universal kindness he had experienced, and assured those present of his utmost endeavours, not only to sustain the dignity of his Masonic position, but that of his position as Chief Magistrate of the Borough.

The musical programme was contributed to by several of the Brethren, including Bros. Attree, King, and Love, Bro. F. White accompanying on the piano. Bro. Fowler also recited "The Absent-Minded Beggar," and a collection taken afterwards for the War Relief Fund amounted to £5 11s.

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ROYAL DENBIGH LODGE, No. 1143.

THE installation meeting was held at Denbigh, Brother J. Parry Jones W.M. presiding. Brother the Rev. J. P. Poole-Hughes was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the ceremony being performed by Brother the Rev. Dan Edwards. There were several visiting Brethren present, including the Worshipful Masters of the Wrexham, Rhyl and Mold Lodges.

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ARCHITECT LODGE, No. 1375.

THE regular meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, on Friday, 3rd inst., Bro. John Mann Crone Worshipful Master. After the reading and confirmation of minutes, Bros. Joshua Lingard and C. J. Holt Gradisky, whose proficiency had been proved, were passed to the degree of F.O. A very enjoyable evening was afterwards spent at the festive board, Loyal and Masonic toasts being agreeably varied by songs, recitations, &c.

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TRUTH LODGE, No. 1458.

THE regular meeting was held at the Mitre Hotel, Manchester, on Saturday, 4th instant, Bro. A. B. Taylor W.M. After the reading and confirmation of minutes a ballot was taken for Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, the choice falling unanimously upon Bro. Leopold Hirsch S.W. Other Officers were also selected.

Lodge having been closed, the W.M. held a reception, the Brethren introducing their lady friends, the company shortly afterwards sitting down to an admirable repast. This was followed by a pleasant entertainment, which was mainly of a musical character, the contributors being Bro. John H. Greenwood P.M. 2387 Prov.G. Organist (E.L.), who furnished several of his popular songs and humorous pieces; Bro. Buckley Carr P.M. P.P.G.D.C., who sang "Friends of the Brave"; Bro. T. P. Cooper I.P.M., "The Warrior Bold," and his inimitable "Old Timber Toes"; Bro. J. Doyle, "My old Dutch," "The Last Roll Call," &c.; Bro. Harry Flint, several Irish songs; whilst Miss Howard made a most pleasing impression upon a very appreciative audience by a pianoforte solo, an Irish lullaby, and other songs. The recitations were furnished by Brother Edward Roberts P.M., &c., who gave German and Irish sketches; and Bro. W. Dewhurst, who shone in a selection from Shakespeare. Brother Alfred Hebden P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C. officiated as Director of Ceremonies.

Several toasts were honoured, notably that of the ladies, proposed by Bro. W. J. Herring, and replied to by Bro. Dewhurst; the Worshipful Master, given by Bro. Cooper, and suitably responded to; the W.M.-elect, and the Secretary.

Bro. Buckley Carr, in proposing the latter toast, said the Worshipful Master and Officers had asked him to perform a duty which he did with unflinching delight. After dwelling for some little time upon the Secretarial duties, he said the officer was generally selected on account of good qualifications. Bro. G. P. Taylor had displayed zeal in, and attachment to the institution, which was highly appreciated and venerated by the Brethren, and he had been singled out for special recognition. It was therefore his proud privilege and pleasure to decorate him with a Past Secretary's jewel, as a means of marking the amount of respect which the Brethren entertained for him on account of faithful and valued services rendered to the Truth Lodge. Might Bro. Taylor be spared to wear the jewel for many years to come. It bore the following inscription:—

Presented to

Bro. G. P. TAYLOR,

by his Brother Officers, as a token of appreciation of valuable services rendered as Secretary.

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ST. ELETH LODGE, No. 1488.

THE installation meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Amlwch, Bro. Robert Roberts (Llanallgo) W.M. presiding. Bro. W. J. Gruer was installed W.M. for the ensuing year, the installing master being Bro. the Rev. James Smith P.M. Chaplain of the Lodge.

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ISRAEL LODGE, No. 1502.

THE celebration of the "silver jubilee" of the consecration of this Lodge which took place at the Masonic Hall, Liverpool, on the 20th inst., in connection with the annual installation meeting, was an event which was looked upon by members and visitors with the greatest interest. Originally established for the special purpose of meeting the requirements of the many Jewish Brethren resident in Liverpool, the Lodge has deservedly held a high place in the long roll of West Lancashire confraternities, and the numerous attendance on this occasion gave emphasis to the highly honourable position which it has deservedly secured.

The chair at the opening of the proceedings was occupied by Bro. George Finger W.M., who was well supported by members and visitors.

After the preliminary business, Bro. R. Wylie Deputy Grand Master of the Province proceeded to instal Bro. David Gabrielson P.M. as Worshipful Master for the third time, receiving valuable assistance in the ceremony from Bro. G. Finger, the retiring Master, to whom a Past Master's jewel was subsequently presented, and Bro. R. Robinson P.P.G.R.

Before the proceedings closed, a sincere vote of sympathy was extended to the Secretary Bro. B. Levey, in view of the death of his son, who had been killed in the war in South Africa.

CORBET LODGE, No. 1583.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the inauguration of this Lodge was held at the Masonic Room, Whitehall Hotel, Towyn, on Thursday, 9th inst. In view of this being the silver anniversary of the Lodge, additional interest was taken in the proceedings, and a fair number of Brethren attended to celebrate the event, as well as to do homage to the W.M.-elect Bro. R. J. Jones of Aberystwyth.

After the usual formalities the business of the Lodge was transacted, when the Brethren, to the number of twenty-five, sat down to banquet. The usual toasts were well received and responded to. The new W.M., in a spirited speech, alluded to the crisis in the Transvaal, and made an appeal on behalf of the wives and children of the men who were now fighting in South Africa. During the evening a substantial sum was collected.

KIRKDALE LODGE, No. 1756.

THE annual installation took place on Wednesday, 22nd inst., at the Skelmersdale Hall, Liverpool, and was rendered especially interesting in view of the fact that this was the twenty-first year of the existence of the Lodge, which has been to the front in connection with its aid to all the Masonic schemes. There was an attendance of about 160 members and visitors.

Bro. T. Hillman W.M. concluded a successful year of office by effectively installing Bro. John O. Ellams as his successor in the chair, an appointment which has met with general approval.

In the course of the evening Bro. Hillman was presented with a Past Master's jewel and a case of cutlery.

Bro. E. Johnston, one of the founders and first W.M. of the Kirkdale, was also the recipient of a massive solid silver loving cup, in view of the services he had rendered to the Lodge during its twenty-one years existence. Mrs. Hodd, widow of a former member of the Lodge, also presented a silver inkstand for use in the Lodge, as a memento of her late husband.

WINDERMERE LODGE, No. 2217.

THE members celebrated the festival of St. John the Evangelist on Thursday, 9th inst., when the chief business was the installation of the W.M.-elect Bro. J. C. Harrison.

The Lodge was opened at three o'clock, a good number of visiting brethren being present. The ceremony was ably performed by the retiring W.M. Bro. Joe Cowperthwaite, assisted by Past Masters of the Lodge.

HORWICH LODGE, No. 2324.

THE annual meeting and festival of St. John of Jerusalem took place at the Bridge Hotel, Horwich, on Tuesday, 14th inst., Bro. Thomas Cooper W.M.

There was a capital attendance of members and visitors, and the proceedings commenced at 4 p.m. prompt with a voluntary on the organ, played by Bro. Dr. G. H. Whittaker P.M. P.P.G.O. Org., followed in turn by the confirmation of minutes, the reading of letters of apology from Bro. the Right Hon. Lord Stanley, M.P., P.G.W. Provincial Grand Master E.L., a member of the Lodge; Bro. J. J. Lambert P.M. P.G. Deacon (Eng.) P.P.G. Registrar, and others; the passing of accounts and balance sheet, and the election of Charity Representative. There were propositions for three candidates, namely, Messrs. Barker, Walter Stacey, and Fred Dickens, and these gentlemen will probably be initiated at the December meeting.

The next business was that of installing Bro. William H. Howarth S.W. Worshipful Master-elect into the chair of K.S., the ceremony being performed in a finished and masterly manner by Bro. William Mason Varley P.M., assisted by Past Masters Hawthorn R. Thornton Sec. P.P.D.G.R., Zack. Tetlow, F. Morton Palmer, and John Slyman 1730, J.P., P.P.G.D.

In assuming his new position, Bro. W. H. Howarth addressed and invested Bro. Cooper, the retiring W.M., in very felicitous terms, at the same time congratulating him upon the excellent manner in which he had performed his work in the Lodge. The remainder of the Officers for the financial year 1899-1900 are as follow: Bros. W. W. Glover Senior Warden, James Ryder Junior Warden, Rev. T. Storey Bates Chaplain, R. Hampson Treasurer, Hawthorn R. Thornton P.M. P.P.D.G. Reg. Secretary, F. Thornham Senior Deacon, James Kay Junior Deacon, Ralph Bates Director of Ceremonies, Dr. G. H. Whittaker P.M. P.P.G.O. Organist, Robert Harrison Inner Guard, John Wood Senior Steward, W. Baldwin Junior Steward, J. H. Hadfield Third Steward, R. T. Court Fourth Steward, Thomas Eddleston Tyler, Dr. G. H. Whittaker P.P.G.O. Charity Representative.

Before concluding our remarks with regard to Lodge business, we are in duty bound to say something about the Lodge room itself, which is pleasant, commodious, and handsome, and Bro. Andrew Parr, the host, is to be highly complimented upon having eliminated everything of an incongruous character which was at all likely to mar the general happy surroundings.

A most sumptuous banquet was afterwards provided, and here the notable management of Mrs. Parr was manifested, for the dishes were well and quickly served, which cannot be said of all similar functions, and the attention was everything to be desired.

Loyal and Masonic toasts were interspersed with songs, sketches, &c., the contributors being Bros. Dr. G. H. Whittaker P.M., &c., John Urnston P.M., Wm. Varley P.M., the Worshipful Master, H. R. Thornton P.M., Ralph Bates D.C., Edward Roberts P.M. 1459, and others.

Bro. Buckley Carr P.M. 1161 P.P.G.D.C., whose name had been coupled with the toast replied on behalf of the Provincial Grand Officers.

Bro. Dr. Whittaker proposed the health of the W.M., and Bro. Howarth replied, saying he could scarcely find words in which to express his feelings. He thanked Bro. Whittaker for the many kind things he had uttered about him, but he did not deserve a thousandth part of what had been said. During the ensuing year he would endeavour to emulate the Past Masters in any duties he might have to perform. There was a good immediate prospect before the Lodge, and a likelihood of further work. He, however, had a good array of Officers to support him, and all he wanted was harmony. Personally he would so far as lay in his power give any assistance to the Officers, if they would only avail themselves of it. In concluding an admirable speech he regretted that his father was not present at the meeting.

Bro. Rev. T. Storey Bates proposed the health of the Installing Master, which elicited a suitable reply from Bro. Varley, who maintained that this was one of the most successful installations in the annals of the Lodge.

Bro. Howarth W.M., in proposing the health of the I.P.M., again paid him a very high compliment, and, on behalf of the members, took this

opportunity of presenting him a beautiful Past Master's jewel, which bore the following legend:

Presented to

W. BRO. THOMAS COOPER P.M.,

by the Brethren of the Horwich Lodge, No. 2324,

as a token of their esteem, and in recognition of his services as W.M.

14th November 1899.

Bro. Cooper I.P.M. very graciously acknowledged the gift.

Bro. James Ryder J.W. proposed the health of the visitors, to which Bro. Edward Roberts P.M. responded. Other toasts were submitted.

Among the more prominent visitors, whose names have not been mentioned, were Bros. Wm. Goodacre G.S.Wd.Br. England Provincial Grand Secretary, and John Waring P.M. 1134.

ROYAL ARCH.

PHILBRICK CHAPTER, No. 1662.

THE installation meeting took place at the Lord Brooke Hotel, Shernall Street, Walthamstow, on Saturday, when Comp. William Shurmur M.E.Z. presided, and was supported by Comps. D. H. McGowan H., and James Speller J., together with a large number of other members.

Bro. Ernest Claud Holmes, of the Upton Lodge, No. 1227, having been approved, was regularly exalted into Royal Arch Masonry by Comp. Shurmur, after which the historical lecture was delivered by Comp. William Gower, the Symbolical by Comp. G. W. Knight, and the Mystical portion of the degree by Comp. Shurmur.

A conclave of Installed Principals having been formed the installation of the three Principals was proceeded with, viz.: John Henry Wildash as M.E.Z., James Speller as H., and George Graveley as J. The ceremony of installation was performed by Comp. William Shurmur in his usual admirable manner, and thoroughly merited the vote of thanks accorded him. The Officers who had been elected were then invested, and the occasion was celebrated by the customary banquet.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

THE advent of the new century has supplied the theme for a large number of the greeting cards prepared by the up-to-date house of Raphael Tuck and Sons for the coming Christmas season and the New Year, and despite the fact that the firm's productions in previous years have seemed to reach the high water mark of excellence, it is safe to say their specimens for the coming season are in advance of all predecessors, and are, we venture to predict, destined to add yet further to the very high reputation already secured by the firm.

The fact that the present season's catalogue of Christmas and New Year's Cards, Calendars, Books, Booklets, Toy Books, Art Novelties, Reliefs, &c., &c., runs to some 250 pages, with the very briefest description of the several items touched upon, is sufficient evidence of the great variety and large assortment of the firm's productions, and will sufficiently excuse any shortcomings on our part or the attempt, in the short space at our disposal, of anything like an exhaustive or even partial notice of the artistic specimens provided to meet the public demand. It is by no means too much to say that every taste is provided for, and every fancy considered, and the chief difficulty in dealing with the splendid assortment is to know where to begin, and which to select for particular notice from among the many which so richly deserve special commendation.

The "Platino Panels" this year prepared by Messrs. Raphael Tuck are absolutely perfection. They may be truly described as regular gems of art work, every one of them constituting a most delightful gift, particularly valuable as being worthy of a permanent place in the home; and to those who look for really substantial gifts, as opposed to mere "finery," it would be hard to make a better choice than one or other of the numerous examples prepared in this section of the firm's work.

Among the many Calendars is a very chaste production "Golden Memories," which should be of special service to those who desire, as we happen to do just now, to make a golden wedding gift to some friends, but it by no means follows that such an association is inseparable from the card, it being also in every way suitable for ordinary presentation. Another hanging Calendar which calls for special mention is the "From century to century" one, which we are convinced will meet approval wherever it is shown. Yet other pleasing novelties are the "Flowers of Remembrance" Calendar, and more in the same series, while numerous other tasteful and artistic works are included in this every popular and useful section.

Juvenile requirements are well catered for in several ways, among the most pleasing being the "Royal Art Novelty" series of decorative standing reliefs, which are sure to win the approval of the youngsters. The "Soldiers of the Queen" series—twelve double figures in full marching order—will naturally be the most popular in these stirring times, but they will be close pressed by the many others, and only win the preference by reason of the martial spirit which just now prevails. Illustrated texts, booklets, toy books, and last, but by no means least, Father Tuck's Annual, all lend themselves to the provision of enjoyment for the young folk, and the immense variety provided makes a selection a very difficult matter for those whose bent leads them in that direction.

In ordinary forms of Christmas and New Year cards it is only necessary to say that Messrs. Tuck well maintain the high reputation of their house, alike in variety of form and subject, beauty of design, and splendour of workmanship. As year by year these artistic greeting cards become more and more popular one would naturally think that the work of providing new designs and novelties would be almost impossible, but Messrs. Tuck prove that their resources are by no means exhausted; rather, that their latest works are their best, and one almost comes to the conclusion, after a cursory glance at them, that perfection has been reached—but the eminent firm whose work we have thus briefly referred to will no doubt contradict us in this direction, and in years to come will prove that their resources are as prolific as ever they have proved to be in the past.

One word in conclusion; in cards alone Messrs. Raphael Tuck have this year prepared no less than 1,200 entirely new sets, many of them introducing some new process, or fresh adaptation of older methods; with most satisfactory results. The firm looks forward to an even larger amount of business than has been accorded them in the past—they deserve it; and we hope they will not be disappointed.

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. & Iness, F.M.H.
26 Castle Harmony, Savoy Hotel
28 Old King Arms, F.H.
79 Pythagorean, Greenwich
144 St. Luke, Anderton's
183 Unity, Ship and Turtle
222 St. Andrew, Albion
706 Florence Nightingale, W'lw'ch.
902 Burgoyne, Anderton's
905 De Grey and Ripon, F.M.H.
1540 Chaucer, Southwark
1615 Bayard, 33, Golden Square
1632 Stuart, Camberwell
1744 Royal Savoy, Criterion
1745 Farrington (Without), Via. H'tl
1828 Shepherd's Bush, S'pherd's B'sh
1910 Shadwell Clerke, M'kmasons'-h.
2396 Bishopsgate, Gt. Eastern Hotel
2397 Columbia, Criterion

43 St. Paul, Birmingham
48 Industry, Gateshead
62 Social, Manchester
353 Royal Sussex, Winhill
491 Royal Sussex, Jersey
557 Loyal Victoria, Callington
1008 Roy. St. Edmund's, Bury St. E.
1110 Tyrian, Eastbourne
1177 Tenby, Tenby
1218 Prince Alfred, Mossley
1258 Kennard, Pontypool
1325 Stanley, Liverpool
1688 Buxton, Buxton
1752 Ogmere, Bridgend
1753 Obedience, Okehampton
1991 Agricola, York
2042 Apollo, Liverpool
2068 Portsmouth Temperance, L'dp't.
2257 Powell, Bristol
2279 Thornham, Thornham
2363 Minnehaha Minstrel, M'chester.
2429 Research, Leicester
2547 Llangattock, Cardiff
2582 Lewisham, Smethwick

Tuesday.

14 Tuscan, Freemasons'-hall
46 Old Union, Ship and Turtle
141 Faith, Anderton's
145 Prudent Brethren, F.M.H.
165 Hon. & Gen'sity, Inns of Co.Ho.
186 Industry, Freemasons'-hall
205 Israel, Cannon Street Hotel
1158 Southern Star, Southwark
1348 Ebury, Criterion
1441 Ivy, Camberwell
2108 Empire, Criterion
2424 St. Stephen, Lewisham

253 Tyrian, Derby
299 Emulation, Dartford
310 Union, Carlisle
357 Apollo University, Oxford
597 St. Cybi, Holyhead
859 Isaac Newton, Cambridge
943 Sincerity, Norwich
954 St. Aubyn, Devonport
1007 Howe & Charnwood, Loughboro
1016 Elkington, Birmingham
1052 Callander, Manchester
1353 Torbay, Paignton
1390 Whitwell, Milton
1479 Halsey, St. Albans
1536 United Military, Plumstead
1566 Ellington, Maidenhead
1609 Liverpool Dramatic, Liverpool
1636 St. Cecilia, Brighton
1650 Rose of Raby, Staindrop
1675 Ancient Briton, Liverpool
1678 Medway, Tonbridge
1779 Ivanhoe, Sheffield
1834 Duke of Connaught, Landport
1896 Audley, Newport, Salop
1942 Minerva, Fenton
2025 St. George, Plymouth
2328 Albert Victor, York
2358 Mona, Castletown
2404 Lord Charles Beresford, Ch't'm.
2405 Ionic, St. Helen's

Wednesday.

House Committee, Benevolent Institution, Croydon, at 3.
822 Victoria Rifles, Freemasons'-hall
898 Temperance in East, Poplar
1768 Progress, Freemasons'-hall
76 Economy, Winchester

163 Integrity, Manchester
187 Rl. Sussex Hospitality, Bristol
304 Philanthropic, Leeds
439 Scientific, Bingley
461 Fortitude, Newton
540 Stuart, Bedford
651 Brecknock, Brecon
996 Sondes, East Dereham
1083 Townley Parker, Manchester
1119 St. Bede, Jarrow
1219 Strangeways, Manchester
1283 Ryburn, Sowerby Bridge
1714 Albert Edward, Yorktown
1775 Leopold, Church
1793 Sir Charles Bright, Teddington
1953 Prudence & Industry, Chard
1989 Stirling, Cleator Moor
2064 Smith Child, Tunstall
2186 Striguil, Chepstow

Thursday.

General Committee Girl's School, F.M.H., at 5.
22 Neptune, Guildhall Tavern
1524 Duke of Connaught, Anderton's
2192 Highbury, Highbury
2264 Chough, Cannon Street Hotel
39 St. John Baptist, Exeter
111 Restoration, Darlington
129 Union, Kendal
475 Bed. St. John Bap., Luton
590 La Cesarea, Jersey
636 De Ogle, Morpeth
707 St. Mary, Bridport
772 Pilgrim, Glastonbury
807 Cabbell, Norwich
904 Phoenix, Rotherham
966 St. Edward, Leek
1032 Townley Parker, Chorley
1097 St. Michael, Tenbury
1151 St. Andrew, Tywardreath
1166 Clarendon, Hyde
1313 Fermor, Southport
1322 Waverley, Ashton-under-Lyne
1492 Alma Mater, Cambridge
1519 Albert Edward, Clay'n-le-Moors
1578 Merlin, Pontypridd
1630 St. Michael, Coventry
1884 Chine, Shanklin, Isle of Wight
1957 Grove, Hazel Grove
2269 Peace, Wigan
2418 Hedworth, South Shields

Friday.

90 St. John, Albion
554 Yarborough, Fenchurch Street
890 Hornsey, Anderton's
1275 Star, Greenwich
1489 Marquess of Ripon, Highbury
1627 Royal Kensington, F'masons'-h.
2467 Pickwick, Anderton's
2488 Eccentric, Criterion
2511 St. John at Hackney, Hackney
44 Friendship, Manchester
242 St. George, Doncaster
306 Alfred, Leeds
521 Truth, Huddersfield
574 Loy. Berkshire Hope, Newbury
601 St. John, Wellington, Salop
698 Ryde, Ryde
709 Invicta of Ashford, Ashford
751 Eastnor, Ledbury
837 De Grey and Ripon, Ripon
936 Adair, Aldeburgh
998 Welchpool, Welchpool
1009 Shakspeare, Manchester
1230 Barnard, Barnard Castle
1295 Gooch, New Swindon
1375 Architect, Chorlton-cum-Hardy
1405 Southwell, Nottingham
1458 Truth, Manchester
1561 Morecambe, Morecambe
1664 Gosforth, Gosforth
1754 Windsor, Penarth
1838 Tudor Rifle V'nt'rs., W'v'h'pton
1993 Wolsley, Manchester
2433 Minerva, Birkenhead
2491 White Rose of York, Sheffield
2494 Humber Installed Masters', Hull
2569 St. Trillo, Colwyn Bay

Saturday.

142 St. Thomas, Ship and Turtle
1572 Carnarvon, Albion
1622 Rose, Camberwell
1949 Brixton, Kennington
2466 Cheerybles, Freemasons'-hall

1362 Royal Albert Edward, Redhill
1388 Canynges, Bristol
1466 Hova Ecclesia, Brighton
1550 Prudence, Plymouth
1929 Mozart, Croydon
2096 George Price, Croydon
2493 Vale of Eden, Appleby
2541 St. Andrew, Avonmouth

ENTERTAINMENT NOTES.

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Lyric.—A particularly charming, bright and lively piece has just been produced under the management of Mr. Tom B. Davis, which we venture to predict will have a lengthy and successful run. It is of the musical comedy order, though it might fairly be termed a comic opera, and is entitled "Florodora," written by Mr. Owen Hall, with lyrics by Messrs. E. Boyd-Jones and Paul Rubens, while the music is by Mr. Leslie Stuart. The story is simplicity itself, but the dialogue is full of smart though somewhat caustic sayings as to the doings of society. Cyrus W. Gilfain having "annexed" the Island of Florodora from the father of Dolores, seeks to marry her in order to secure his title and possessions. Unfortunately she is in love with Frank Abercoed and he with her, while Lady Holyrood desires to wed Cyrus. To get rid of Frank, Mr. Gilfain wants him to marry his daughter Angela, who is betrothed to Captain Donegal, and the ensuing complications may be imagined. To put things straight Gilfain enlists the services of Anthony Tweedlepunch, a showman, phrenologist, &c., who knows the secret of Dolores' birth and Gilfain's rascality, but he only serves to make matters worse, until Gilfain's confession is extorted by Lady Holyrood, when the various lovers pair off. The music is certainly above the average, and many of the songs will soon be heard all over London. Miss Ada Reeve, as Lady Holyrood, has the best part, her acting, singing and dancing meeting with much appreciation. Her song on "Tact" is very taking, and received a double encore. Miss Kate Cutler performs the part of Angela in an admirable manner, her Whistling Song and "I've an inkling," both by Mr. Rubens, also eliciting encores. Dolores is represented by Miss Evie Greene, a new comer who is heartily welcomed. The principal male parts are sustained by Mr. C. E. Stevens, an excellent Cyrus Gilfain; Mr. Melville Stewart, the manly representative of Frank Abercoed; Mr. E. Stevens, as Donegal; Mr. Frank Holt, as Leandro; and Mr. Willie Edouin, who makes a most amusing Tweedlepunch. The chorus, both male and female, are excellent, and the whole piece goes with a swing that is delightful to witness. The dresses are exceedingly rich and handsome, and the two scenes of the Island and Abercoed Castle, by Julian Hicks, were greeted by the audience with applause. We were glad to notice that Bro. H. J. Callain is once again to the fore as Mr. Davis's acting manager.

London Pavilion.—Bro. Frank Glenister, the popular manager of this establishment, announces a special Matinée, by permission of the Directors, for Monday week, the 4th December, the proceeds of which will be handed to the Lord Mayor, in aid of the Transvaal War Fund for Widows and Orphans. Several of the most celebrated artistes of the Music Halls have promised their support, and a lengthy programme will be presented. The latest novelties of this Hall include Mdlle. Olive, a very clever juggler; an excellent patriotic song "Sons of the Empire," written by Mr. Jack Bradford, and sung by Mr. Leo Stormont; and the inimitable Miss Letty Lind, who is especially engaged in a repertoire of her favourite songs and dances. There is always an enjoyable entertainment to be found at the London Pavilion.

Wyndham's.—It is very gratifying to notice the splendid result of Bro. Charles Wyndham's efforts to increase the Patriotic Fund, on the occasion of the opening of his new theatre. This is the age of records and big figures, but we doubt whether any actor has raised so large a sum as £4,000. Heartly good wishes to Bro. Wyndham, long life to him, and a full measure of the success he so richly deserves for his new house.

WAR.

A T sound of all these long-borne martial strains,
Our tongues wax loose and heaves th' emotional breast,
Courses the blood full madly thro' the veins
And fills the hasty mind with vague unrest.
Eager for news we wait the long day through,
Whilst rash, impetuous speech is bridled never;
For pent-up thought bids curbed words adieu
And ready eloquence flows on for ever.
But we are sick of deeds of blood and death—
Of men, like wolves, pitted against each other,
Fighting and cursing with their latest breath,
And Cain-like slaying some poor human brother.
Oh! bid, Great God, this constant warring cease
And grant Thy children one long reign of Peace.

CHAS. F. FORSHAW, LL.D.

Bradford.

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