

THE FREEMASON.

The Organ of the Craft, a Weekly Record of Progress in
FREEMASONRY, LITERATURE, SCIENCE AND ART

REPORTS OF THE GRAND LODGES ARE PUBLISHED WITH THE SPECIAL SANCTION OF

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, THE M.W. GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND; HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF IRELAND
RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF HADDINGTON, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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FREEMASONRY IN THE NEWER AMERICAN JURISDICTIONS.

We have a very great respect for American Freemasonry in the older jurisdictions in the United States. We have no great difficulty in realising that the system of the Craft as it is known and practised under the auspices of such Grand Lodges as those of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New York, and others that might be enumerated, bears a very strong resemblance to the system as it is known and practised in the lodges within the jurisdiction of our own Grand Lodge. We know full well there must be differences of minor importance, arising out of the differences which exist between the habits of the two countries, but the essentials are the same. When, however, we come to read the Proceedings, or comments on Proceedings, which are to be found in the foremost American Masonic magazines, reviews, and periodicals generally, in certain of the more recently established Grand Lodges, we are at a loss to understand how a system, which, as we know it, is characterised by extreme simplicity, can be converted by the Grand Lodge authorities in such outlying jurisdictions as that of Washington—to which we briefly referred in one of our Notes last week—can be made so amazingly complex as to bewilder even the most precise among the learned of our Society. We often wonder to ourselves in what state American Masonic jurisprudence will find itself half a century hence, if the Grand Masters of the later jurisdictions keep on, as they have been doing for some years past, multiplying their decisions on points of the most trivial detail. Who will venture upon the herculean task of compiling a book on this subject? And, when compiled, what library in the United States will be capable of accommodating its thousands of volumes? One stands aghast at the multitude of trumpery matters to which the Grand Master of such a jurisdiction devotes the bulk of his leisure and the whole of his mental powers during his year or two of office. Be it remembered that this Grand Lodge has been in existence only 35 years, that it started on its career with four lodges, and now has on its roll 72 lodges, with an aggregate membership of 4091. But half a century hence—or even earlier—when it becomes absolutely necessary to evolve what is and what is not good Masonic law out of the chaos of decisions which already exists, and which, a few years later on, will be a thousand times more chaotic, the decisions of such a body as this Grand Lodge will stand on an equal footing, if they do not possess an equal value, with that of New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, &c., and may be found to exercise a baneful influence on the future of the Craft under the Stars and Stripes. Here, for instance, is the record of the work done, and the recommendations submitted by Grand Master THOMAS AMOS at the last annual meeting at Spokane, on the 14th and 16th of June, 1892: "Reported twenty-six approvals and three disapprovals of amendments to lodge by-laws, the permitting of two public installations of officers outside of lodge halls, the refusing of a request of a lodge to have a supper and ball on St. John's Day, under auspices of the Grand Lodge, the permitting of twelve lodges to change their places of meeting, the constituting of seven lodges, one personally and six by proxies, the forming of ten new lodges by dispensation, the laying of four corner-stones by proxy, the granting of eight special dispensations, and the refusing of like favour in as many cases, the receiving of a petition for revival of one lodge on which he requested but did not receive further information, the disciplining of three lodges for illegal doing, the official visiting of 18 lodges, the investigating and deciding adversely of a complaint by an Oregon Lodge of an invasion of its jurisdiction, the hearing of a complaint as to the number given to a lodge, the interdicting of the conferring of the Cerneau rite, and the rendering of ten decisions." The above is merely a summary we have taken from the pages of that excellent journal, the *Voice of Masonry*, but no doubt the original description by Bro. AMOS, as set forth in the annual Report of Proceedings occupies many pages. To much of this we raise no objection whatever; it is part of a Grand Master's duty to tell his Grand Lodge what he has done in the way of constituting lodges, laying corner-stones, and other functions of a similar character; but, according to our idea, he is not called upon to enumerate every petty detail to which his attention is called. *De minimis non curat lex* is an old legal maxim; but for all the good that some of these particulars were calculated to effect, he might as well have told his audience that he breakfasted at 8 a.m. in the summer and 9 a.m. in the winter, while, as regards his sanction of public installations, he is evidently not very conversant with the system of Masonry, or he would never have permitted so monstrous a violation of its practice. Among his recommendations we notice two only which are both calculated to inflict grievous harm on the Craft. One is "the abolishing of the Past Master's Degree," and the other "limiting of the time in which a brother must affiliate after securing admission or becoming a contributor to the lodge he visits." We noticed last week the resolution about the territorial jurisdiction of private lodges; but what shall be said of another resolution: "That no lodge in the State is under obligation to extend Masonic aid or privileges to non-affiliated Masons who

have resided within its jurisdiction one year without affiliating with it or contributing to it its established dues?" Why, again, should it be "deemed a cause of concern and uneasiness that while 437 candidates were initiated, only 85 were rejected?" Are we to understand by this that the 437 accepted candidates were such a seedy lot that Grand Lodge wondered why the whole of them had not been treated as the 85 who had been rejected? If so, much cannot be said for the kind of Masonry that exists in this particular jurisdiction, and the idea that the decisions of its authorities may some day be placed on a level with those of such Grand Lodges as those we have before referred to becomes intolerable. We do not suppose the thing is possible, but it would be a clear benefit to American Freemasonry if the influence of the Senior Grand Lodges could be made more commanding, and that of the minor establishments more circumscribed. Otherwise, the Craft in the States will some day find itself in a difficulty.

CONSECRATION OF THE ST. CLEMENT'S LODGE, No. 2442, AT LEIGH, ESSEX.

On Saturday, the 10th inst., nearly 100 members of the Craft assembled at the Bell Hotel, Leigh, Essex, to witness the consecration of the St. Clement's Lodge, No. 2442. The lodge has been named after the saint to whom the parish church at Leigh is dedicated; and meetings will be held between the months of May and October inclusive. The impressive ceremony of consecration was performed by Bro. Lord Brooke, Prov. G. Master, who was accompanied by the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Reg. A large number of brethren were present.

The Provincial Grand Officers and visitors of distinction assembled in an ante-room, and walked in procession to the lodge room, where, headed by Bro. Lord Brooke, they were cordially received. The P.G.M. took the chair, and appointed his officers *pro tem.* as follows: Bros. J. J. C. Turner, P.P. S.G.W., S.W.; J. H. Salter, P.J.G.W., J.W.; the Rev. J. Percy Noyes, P.G.C., Chap.; T. J. Ralling, P.G. Sec., Sec.; Albert Lucking, P.G.D.C., D.C.; and W. Shurmur, P.P.G. Treas., I.G. Lodge was opened in the three Degrees, and, after the singing of the hymn "Hail, Eternal, by whose aid," prayer was offered by the Chaplain.

Bro. Lord BROOKE briefly addressed the brethren. He said he was always pleased to meet his brethren in Essex, and it was a source of satisfaction to himself, as it was to all of them, to see a lodge of such great promise started in that locality. This would be the 33rd lodge in the Province of Essex, and, as they knew, the number 33 was mystically emblematical of the highest Degree in their Order. He trusted the lodge with that high number would always influence the highest aims for the benefit of Freemasonry. A great deal of trouble fell upon the founders of a new lodge, and he was sorry to hear that their Secretary, Bro. George Moss, was so ill that he could not be present. That was a matter of regret to all of them. With that exception, the lodge seemed to have started under most favourable auspices, and he congratulated them heartily.

The Prov. Grand Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. J. PERCY NOYES (who had journeyed all the way from Truro for the purpose), delivered a most instructive oration. The reverend brother said:

It is usual at the consecration of a new lodge that an oration should be made, setting forth briefly some of the principles of Masonry: not for instruction of the brethren—any attempt to instruct in this way would be presumption on my part—but to try and recall to our minds, and to emphasise, certain points which are (perhaps from the very fact of our hearing of them in other forms frequently) sometimes apt to be overlooked or forgotten. Freemasonry in its purity is one of the noblest of institutions. Of its great antiquity I need not say much, but even this adds to the love which we, members of the Craft, have for it. The beauty and solemnity of its ritual—the deep meaning there is in almost every movement, and in all the accessories which are in use while we are at work—all these add, and ought to add, to the reverence which we feel for it. But in neither antiquity nor ritual does the nobility of the institution consist. It is rather the inward meaning of our observances, and forms, and ceremonies which makes our Order the power which it undoubtedly is in the world. There is, in the first place, the acknowledgment of the Love, Bounty, and Beneficence of the Great Architect and Geometrician of the Universe, and that we owe it as a duty to Him that our lives should be straightforward and upright, and all our actions squared according to His rule; that when a man becomes a Freemason he should determine to try, as far as possible, that the crooked in his life must henceforth be made straight, the rough places plain. And then there follows in natural sequence the duty of Brotherly Love. Every fresh lodge which is consecrated should be a new centre from which shines forth—not with any offensive lime-light flash of demand for notice and the praise of men, but with a warm and steady incandescent glow—a determination to benefit our fellow-men. The nobility of the Institution consists in its doctrine of utter unselfishness. And this, not merely with regard to our dealings with our brethren in the Craft, but also with everyone with whom we have to do, with every creature with whom we may be brought into contact. Thus the ordinary everyday life of a worthy Mason himself answers the often asked (and sometimes sneeringly asked) question—"What is the use of Freemasonry?" The true man who becomes a member of the Free and Accepted Masons, tries to become a better citizen, a better neighbour, a better man than he was before. This, surely, is the nature, these are the principles of our Society. We pray, then, that the Great Architect, the Father Almighty, will bless abundantly the lodge which is this day being consecrated, and our further desire is that every member of the Craft throughout the world may remember his responsibilities as a brother, and may ever keep untarnished and unsullied the nobility of this venerable Institution.

The consecration ceremony was then performed.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Geo. Palmer, P.M. 781, assisted by Bros. G. R. Dawson, F. J. Cumine, C. H. Bowmaker, and W. H. Judd. Bro. Palmer made an efficient Organist, and the vocal efforts of the other brethren named added materially to the effect of the ceremony.

Bro. Philbrick, Deputy Prov. Grand Master, then ably installed Bro. Jas. Boulton, P.M. 28, 1056, 2291, as the first W.M. of the lodge.

Bro. John Byford, P.M., was elected as Treasurer, and he will also act as the I.P.M.

The W.M. then appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. William A. S. Staley, S.W.; Charles A. Hales, J.W.; William Beecroft, S.D.; Henry Barrow, J.D.; Frederick England, I.G.; and James S. Metcalfe, D.C.

The latter brother was also invested as Secretary, on behalf of Bro. Geo. Moss, and Bro. A. W. Martin, Provincial Grand Tyler, was unanimously elected Tyler.

The W.M. was elected to represent the lodge on the Essex Provincial Charity Committee, and as Steward at the next Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

It was mentioned that Bro. Lord Brooke had consented to preside over this Festival, and, on the motion of Bro. BYFORD, the sum of 25 guineas was voted from the funds of the lodge towards the Boys' Institution.

The officers of the lodge were appointed as a Committee to frame by-laws, and the S.W. brought forward several propositions for initiation.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Bros. Lord Brooke and F. A. Philbrick for their services, and it was unanimously resolved that they should be elected honorary members of the lodge.

Bro. Lord BROOKE suitably acknowledged the compliment, and the lodge was then closed.

For the convenience of the brethren, the down express was stopped at Leigh, in order to convey them to Southend, where the banquet was subsequently held.

The banquet was served in the ball-room of the Royal Hotel, Southend, and was attended by about 80 brethren. The W.M., Bro. James Boulton, presided, and he was supported at the head table by Bro. Lord Brooke and most of the Prov. Grand Officers. The seating arrangements were satisfactorily carried out by Bro. John Byford, the acting I.P.M., and the catering of Bro. B. Thomas, the manager of the hotel, gave very general satisfaction, and he was personally congratulated upon it by Bro. Lord Brooke. At the conclusion of the banquet, the customary toasts were proposed by the W.M., and heartily received.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER, in proposing "The Provincial Grand Master," referred to the popularity of his lordship amongst the members of the Craft, and specially thanked him for his presence that day.

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Bro. Lord BROOKE, in responding, said he hoped their youngest lodge might live and prosper. They had got a very pretty spot down there, and Leigh was a very growing place. He had been their Provincial Grand Master for something like 11 years, and he had spent some very happy times with them, thanks to their great kindness and indulgence. It should be their great wish in the world to think of their fellow-men as much as they could, and Freemasonry doubly placed that obligation and resolve upon themselves. They must think of the serious part of Freemasonry, as well as the pleasurable part, and he felt sure he need not tell his friends, the Masters and the founders of the St. Clement's Lodge, that it was their duty to make Freemasonry well thought of. In Essex times were very hard, but at the same time he hoped Essex would credit the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys with a good sum next year, when he had promised to preside at its annual Festival.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER proposed, in complimentary terms, "The Deputy Prov. Grand Master and the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past." Bro. Philbrick was much esteemed by Freemasons throughout the length and breadth of the country, and he received their universal sympathy in connection with the outrage that was recently committed upon his dear and beloved daughter.

Bro. PHILBRICK, who was very warmly received, said it afforded him sincere pleasure to serve under such a head as Lord Brooke. Many of the Masonic provinces had at their head men of high rank who were beloved and esteemed, but none of them was more beloved or more esteemed than was Lord Brooke. He (Bro. Philbrick) was very pleased and very proud to be present upon that occasion; and he hoped their new lodge might bring the light of Freemasonry to shine upon a part of the province where it had not shone before. It might not shine at its commencement with the great brilliancy of an arc light, but he hoped it would throw out a steady and pure ray. Their lodge had been successfully launched, and he felt confident the helm was in the right hands, and that, even if the Admiralty charts were wrong, they would escape, and would not manage to get their ship stranded. He wished them a prosperous voyage under the guidance of their old pilot, and might they "cross the bar" in safety, and reach the desired haven. He trusted the gales would be propitious, and that no uncertain winds would baffle their experienced old mariner, but that he would be able to steer them a straight and prosperous course under the "lee." He (Bro. Philbrick) thanked them very much for what had been said concerning his daughter, and he could scarcely tell them how deeply touched he was by the great sympathy that had been extended to him in regard to the unprecedented trouble that had fallen upon his household. He was pleased indeed to tell them that they had great and good hopes that his daughter's recovery would be permanent.

Bro. Lord BROOKE proposed "The Health of Bro. Boulton, the Worshipful Master of St. Clement's Lodge." He wished Bro. Boulton every luck, and said that, like Bro. Philbrick, he (Bro. Lord Brooke) hoped their "old pilot" would steer their ship beautifully over the waters. They might have to encounter some shoals, but he had no doubt that they would only show the capacity of their accomplished helmsman, and that there would be no question of salvage. He hoped that next year they would have a largely increased "log," and that at the end of their course they would find the "salt" of Freemasonry had stuck to them.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER, in responding, said that about 18 months ago he was asked by some of the brethren of Leigh to put them in the way of getting a warrant for a new lodge. He did so, and then, to his surprise, they asked him to become their first Master. He accepted the position somewhat reluctantly, but he was more than gratified at having been so cordially received. God sparing his health, he was determined to

do everything that lay in his power to make the St. Clement's Lodge a success. He then proposed the toast of "The Visitors," and particularly thanked the Priory Lodge for having recommended Grand Lodge to grant the warrant for the St. Clement's Lodge.

Bros. R. THOMAS, W.M. 1000; T. HOOD, JOHN WALKER, G. R. DAWSON, and other brethren responded to the toast.

Bros. E. H. TAYLOR and G. N. H. WHALES replied for "The Press," The other toasts were "The Wardens and Officers of St. Clement's Lodge," each of whom responded; and the Tyler's toast, given by Bro. A. W. MARTIN.

The speeches were interspersed with a capital selection of songs and glees by Bros. G. R. Dawson, W. H. Judd, F. J. Cumine, C. H. Bowmaker, G. Palmer, O. E. Riche, and others; and the pianoforte accompaniments were played by Bro. Geo. Palmer.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ESSEX.

On Saturday, the 3rd inst, the ninth annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter of the Province of Essex was held at Halstead, the Grand Superintendent, Comp. Frederick A. Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Registrar, Recorder of Colchester, presiding, supported by the following Provincial Grand Officers: Comps. Rowland Plumbe, Prov. G.H.; Francis White, Prov. G.J.; T.J. Ralling, Prov. G.S.E.; R. G. Kellett, Prov. G.P.S.; Milner Jutsum, Prov. A.G.S.; Andrew Durrant, Prov. G. Treas.; J. J. Cavill, Prov. G. Reg.; A. Lucking, Prov. G.D.C.; and A. W. Martin, Pro. G. Janitor.

The minutes of the last annual meeting, held at Chingford, having been read and confirmed, letters regretting their inability to attend were read from several distinguished R.A. companions.

The roll was next called, and the 10 chapters comprising the province were all found to be represented.

The PROVINCIAL GRAND SCRIBE E. then read an abstract of the annual returns, which showed the number of companions on the register to December 31st last to be 220, an increase of 16 on the previous year. There was also an increase in the amount of contributions. The Auditors' Report showed a balance in hand of £31 17s. 8d.

Comp. JOHN J. C. TURNER, P.Z. 51, P.P.G.J., said before proceeding with the business of that meeting there was one matter which he thought should be at the earliest possible moment brought before Provincial Grand Chapter. Since the last annual meeting a very sad calamity had befallen the family of their beloved Grand Superintendent, and no one had scanned the papers more than the Royal Arch companions of Essex for news of the condition of the young lady who had been the victim of a madman's violence. Many members of the Prov. Grand Chapter had, as individuals, expressed their sympathy with the Grand Superintendent and his family, but he was sure all would feel that this meeting should not be allowed to pass without their placing upon record their feelings on the subject. He begged to move:

"That this Provincial Grand Chapter desires to express its sincere regret at the severe injury inflicted upon the daughter of the Grand Superintendent in August last, and earnestly hopes that by the blessing of T.F.A.L.G.M.H. she may in time be completely restored. The members of this Provincial Grand Chapter venture to add an expression of their deep sympathy with the Grand Superintendent in the terrible anxiety through which he has passed."

Comp. R. PLUMBE, Prov. G.H., seconded, remarking that he fully agreed with every word of the resolution, and also what Comp. Turner had said.

The GRAND SUPERINTENDENT, who was much affected, said he should have a heart of stone if he did not feel deeply the kindness that had prompted the kind terms of the resolution that had just been placed before Provincial Grand Chapter, and responded to so unanimously. It was seldom that a calamity like that which had befallen his poor child occurred in a country like England. He was breaking no confidence when he said that in a letter written by the Queen asking for full details, her Majesty expressed disbelief in the first intelligence that had appeared in the public papers. The sympathy of all classes from the highest in the land had been universal to both families. For himself he might say that during many hours of terrible suspense—when they did not know from hour to hour what they might expect—his almost only solace had been the generous sympathy of his brethren and companions in the Craft and Arch, whilst he also felt he had the kind thoughts of many who did not write, being anxious not to add to the mass of correspondence which flowed in from all parts of the world. He thanked the companions present for this recognition of his trouble at this first meeting since the occurrence; if anything were wanting to endear the companions to him, it had been the act they had done in passing that resolution. He felt sure they would be interested to know that the report that morning was slightly better. One of the most distressing features of the case had been that the speech had been affected—not the articulation—but there had been a difficulty in giving expression to the desires of the mind. From the symptoms that morning, however, they had great hope that the full faculty of speech might be restored in a few hours.

After a brief interval the GRAND SUPERINTENDENT again rose, and said he was pleased to congratulate himself and the Provincial Grand Chapter upon the meeting that day. For the reasons that had prompted the resolution just passed, it had been necessary to postpone till then, and he was not sorry altogether for it, because it enabled him to mention a fact that had occurred within the last few days. At the last meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter they had nine chapters on the roll. Two days ago one had been added, and, if what he had heard within the last few hours was true, it was very probable that he should be asked to recommend another charter to the Supreme Grand Chapter. The new chapter just consecrated was under the presidency of their excellent Comp. William Shurmur, whose zeal and competence were undisputed; while the chapter had been launched with an amount of energy and go which gave good promise of its proving a powerful accession to their roll. With regard to the province generally, there was every reason to be satisfied with its progress. When the province was constituted there were four chapters, with a membership of 110 companions. The nine chapters in existence when there returns were made up, which did not include the addition on Thursday, showed that the members had doubled—a 100 per cent. in nine years. The figures exhibited a greater proportionate increase in the number of chapters than members, which showed that the companions were able to practise the Arch convenient to their dwellings. Their increase had been a sound one, particularly when they considered that the times were not very flourishing, either in business or agriculture. He was glad to know that the work was

being most satisfactorily carried on in the chapters of the province; the traditions of the Craft were being fully maintained, and, he trusted, this happy state of things would continue. Referring to the by-laws that were to be brought forward that day, the Grand Superintendent said the Committee had devoted much time and consideration to them, and, having carefully examined them himself, they were, he considered, quite a model set. The Principals of the chapters had had a copy sent them for quiet consideration before this meeting, and he had no doubt they had fully digested them. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to the Most High that the province had been spared any great losses from its ranks, and trusted that at their next meeting, which he proposed to hold at Colchester, they should all meet again in health and strength.

On the motion of Comp. VERO TAYLOR, P.P.G.H., seconded by Comp. A. LUCKING, P.G.D.C., the companions unanimously, for the tenth time, re-elected Comp. Andrew Durrant, P.Z. 276, as Prov. G. Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Prov. Grand Officers for the year were appointed and invested by the Grand Superintendent as under:

Comp. Milner Jutsum, M.E.Z. 2154	...	Prov. G.H.
" William Shurmur, P.Z. 1471, M.E.Z. 2374	...	Prov. G.J.
" Thos. J. Ralling, P.Z. and S.E. 51, P.G.S.B.	...	Prov. G.S.E.
England (tenth year)	...	Prov. G.S.N.
" R. D. Poppleton, M.E.Z. 51	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" W. Gayton, M.D., M.E.Z. 214	...	Prov. G.P.S.
" J. H. Salter, P.S. 1024	...	Prov. 1st A.G.S.
" George Graveley, H. 2374	...	Prov. 2nd A.G.S.
" R. Jennings, 1437	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" Harris Hills, 2154	...	Prov. G. Std. Br.
" R. Haward Ives, J. 51	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" A. Lucking, P.Z. and Treasurer 1000, P.A.G.	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
D.C. England (tenth year)...	...	Prov. A.G.S.E.
" J. Hutley, J. 1024	...	Prov. G. Janitor.
" E. H. Inman, S.E. 2154	...	
" A. W. Martin	...	

Comp. FRANCIS WHITE, P.P.G.J., proposed that the by-laws, as printed and in the hands of the members of Provincial Grand Chapter be adopted.

This was seconded by Comp. A. LUCKING, Prov. G.D.C., and unanimously agreed to.

The sum of 20 guineas was voted to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and on the motion of the GRAND SUPERINTENDENT, seconded by Comp. GEO. COOPER, P.P.G.H., a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the members of the Colne Valley Chapter for the excellent arrangements they had made for the reception of Provincial Grand Chapter.

At the conclusion of the business the companions dined together at the George Hotel, under the genial presidency of the Grand Superintendent. A most excellent repast was well served by the host of the George, Mr. Turnell.]

WOR. BRO. G. WILLIAM SPETH.

A most accomplished gentleman and Mason of celebrity, not only in his native country of England, but well known in every quarter of the globe, is Wor. Bro. George William Speth, whose portrait we take great pleasure in presenting with this issue. Indeed, few have so enviable a reputation outside the limits of their own jurisdiction as this distinguished brother, the able and courteous Secretary of the great Lodge Quatuor Coronati, of London, who is also a prominent Masonic author and writer.

The subject of our brief sketch was born in England in 1847, and was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry in the Lodge of Unity, No. 183, London, in 1872, of which lodge he became Worshipful Master in 1876. He was exalted to the Royal Arch Degree in Sir Francis Burdett Chapter, No. 1503, Twickenham, in 1883. His best known works in book form are "A History of the Lodge of Unity, No. 183," published in 1881, and "Royal Freemasons," published in 1885, the latter being, as he terms it, a series of "sketches of scions of reigning houses in Europe who have donned the lambskin apron since A.D. 1717." The former is a charmingly written history—indeed, a *model* lodge history—containing valuable and instructive matter to the student, especially a succinct and interesting account of pre Grand Lodge Masonry in Great Britain. The writer of this article particularly values an autograph copy presented by Brother Speth a few months ago. As a contributor to Masonic periodicals, this, our friend and brother, has accomplished much, and has been a painstaking and energetic worker. Many of his productions have appeared in the *Masonic Monthly* and other magazines of his own country, and in the *Keystone*, of Philadelphia, to say nothing of many valuable articles in *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, the most important of which, "The Steinmetz Theory Critically Examined," "Scottish Freemasonry before the Era of Grand Lodges," and "The Foundation of Modern Freemasonry," are really valuable contributions to Masonic history. His "Masonic Curriculum" is something that should be read by every student, containing as it does important hints and suggestions to those in pursuit of knowledge of our art, and, with his permission, we may some day reproduce it in these pages. His "Commentary on the Matthew Cooke MS." exhibits the fruits of learning and scholarship, and is one of the best contributions we have to that class of Masonic literature.

Brother Speth is a most delightful correspondent, and his letters to us in particular, covering a period of several years, are most interesting reading, and form a veritable storehouse of information connected directly and indirectly with Masonry. A seeker after knowledge himself, he is most generous in giving unto others of his own ample store.

Even if Brother Speth had accomplished nothing else, the Lodge Quatuor Coronati, with which his name is so intimately associated, will for ever remain an enduring monument to his genius, talents, and industry. Originally one of its founders, he has, since its institution, been its leading spirit, and by his executive ability and untiring energy has built it up to proportions that were never dreamed of at the outset. The good that it has done, and is now doing, cannot be estimated; nor can it be predicted what a mighty instrument for the dissemination of useful knowledge it will become in future times. A history of this great lodge from its inception to the present is a recital of the great life work of Brother Speth—his masterpiece, which will never be finished, but which is growing more and more perfect under his skillful touch, day by day, to which he gives his whole

time and attention, and the benefit of his mature wisdom, education, and experience.

Having long been a co-labourer with those intellectual giants, Gould, Hughan, and Woodford, in lines of original investigation in Masonic matters, Brother Speth, together with the three distinguished lights of the Fraternity just mentioned, and several others, to wit: Sir Charles Warren, colonel in the Royal Engineers, and a celebrated Palestine explorer; Wm. Harry Ryland, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries; Walter Besant, whom we all know as a most charming novelist; and Sisson Cooper Pratt, major in the Royal Artillery, and an able writer on military subjects, conceived the idea of establishing in the City of London a lodge whose members should devote themselves to the cause of Masonic study and investigation, and, in the language of the late Brother Woodford, "induce a more scholarly and critical consideration of our evidences, a greater relish for historical facts, and subserve at the same time the increasing and healthy movement for the extension of libraries and museums in all lodges."

The petition for the Warrant of Constitution was duly drawn and recommended by the Master and Wardens of Moira Lodge, No. 92, and the warrant was granted, signed, and sealed by the Grand Secretary and Deputy Grand Master, the Earl of Lathom, by command of his Royal Highness the Most Worshipful Grand Master, on the 28th of November, 1884. On the return of the Worshipful Master designate from a diplomatic and military mission to Bechuana Land, Africa, the lodge was consecrated in Freemasons' Hall, London, on the 12th of January, 1886, Bro. Sir Charles Warren being installed as Master, Bro. G. W. Speth as Secretary, and Bro. Walter Besant as Treasurer.

The objects for which the lodge was organised are—

1. To provide a centre and bond of union for Masonic students.
2. To attract intelligent Masons to its meetings, in order to imbue them with a love for Masonic research.
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7. To reprint scarce and valuable works on Freemasonry, and to publish manuscripts, &c.
8. To acquire permanent premises, and form a Masonic library and museum.

The stated meetings are held on the first Friday in January, March, May, and October, St. John's Day in Harvest, and the 8th November, Feast of the Quatuor Coronati.

At every meeting an original paper is read, followed by a discussion, which is printed in the transactions, *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, published in April, July, and December of each year.

The membership is strictly limited to forty, and no one is admitted without a literary or artistic qualification, which must be of high excellence. Every candidate presents a *masterpiece* in support of his claim.

On the roll of membership are some of the most distinguished names in the United Kingdom, all of whom are men of note in literary and artistic circles, and include several officers of high rank in the Army and Navy, one Arctic explorer, and one astronomer.

As a large number of Masons at home and abroad were desirous of participating in the special labours of the lodge, the *Correspondence Circle* was inaugurated in January, 1887, which enables any Master Mason in good standing, anywhere in the world, to become a corresponding member. Members of the Correspondence Circle require no special qualification, but are subject to election. They pay no initiation fee, but are charged a small sum annually to defray the cost of the printed transactions. They receive the summonses convoking the meetings, and are welcome guests whenever it is possible to attend, have free access to the library, museum, and writing rooms, receive the Transactions, and have the privilege of purchasing at cost the reprints and other special publications of the lodge. Grand and subordinate lodges, societies, libraries, reading rooms, &c., are admitted on the same footing as individuals.

Among the corresponding members in this country may be mentioned the Grand Lodges of Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, and New York; the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction, A. & A. S. R., Washington; the Bureau of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution; Libertas Lodge of Perfection, Richmond; the Grand Master of Virginia, and about twenty-five of the Virginia brethren, besides many Grand Masters, Grand Secretaries, and other brethren in various parts of the country. Altogether there are about 1400 members, distributed all over the civilised world.

The papers that have appeared in the Transactions are invaluable, and many of them are as interesting to the profane as to the Mason; but the *great work* of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati is the publication of manuscripts *in fac simile* and colours, reprinting rare Masonic books, &c. These have been beautifully done, and it will be impossible to estimate the magnificence and value of the collection in a few years to come. Some of them are treasures of the British Museum, and have never been brought to light elsewhere. The list to the present time comprises: the *Regius MS.*, or Halliwell Poem, the oldest known Masonic document; the Matthew Cooke MS.; the Lansdowne MS., copy of the Old Constitutions; the two Harleian and the two Sloane MS. Constitutions; the William Watson Roll of the Constitutions; the Cama MS.; the Grand Lodge Rolls, Nos. 1 and 2; the Buchanan Roll; the Harris MS.; a reprint of Anderson's second edition of the Book of Constitutions, 1738, one of the rarest and most valuable of Masonic works; a reprint of "The Beginning and First Foundation of the Most worthy Craft of Masonry, with the Charges Thereunto Belonging," 1739; a reprint of "The Secret History of the Freemasons," and a reprint of "The Long Livers." The reprints are exact copies, every page photo-lithographed, and not merely reproductions in old-face type.

The Correspondence Circle was the creation of Bro. Speth, and for the great benefits conferred by it, the brethren, wheresoever dispersed, owe him a lasting debt of gratitude. We are glad to announce to our readers that this highly esteemed and much beloved brother has kindly consented to write an original article for the *ROUËR ASILAR*, which we hope to produce in our December issue.—*Rough Ashtar.*

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The following communications, amongst others, unavoidably stand over:

CRAFT.—Priory Lodge, No. 1000; Portland Lodge, No. 1037; John Hervey Lodge, No. 1260; Royal Albert Victor Lodge, No. 1562; Rose Lodge, No. 1622; and St. Leonard's Lodge, No. 1766.

ROYAL ARCH.—Moravia Chapter, No. 387; St. John's Chapter, No. 488; and Camden Chapter of Improvement, No. 704.

Annual Festival of the Langton Lodge of Instruction. Devon Masonic Educational Fund.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1892.

Masonic Notes.

Within 24 hours more or less of the time when this number finds its way into the hands of our readers, the Great Festival of Christmas will be upon us. We gladly, therefore, take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a Merry Christmas both now and for many years to come. As this Festival falls in this instance on a Sunday, its celebration will necessarily be more subdued in tone; but, owing to that wise dispensation by which the Christmas festivities are spread over a goodly number of days, there will still be ample time for indulging in the usual seasonable pleasures. One thing is certain, the children home from school will not be denied their enjoyments, and their holidays are not limited to a single day, and we doubt not they will be afforded the opportunity of renewing their acquaintance with Clown and Pantaloon, Harlequin and Columbine, as well as with the sprites and the fairies and other people who take a conspicuous part in Christmas Pantomimes.

* * *

Bro. D. Murray Lyon, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, has issued the following circular to all the lodges in Scotland:

"I have the honour to inform the Lodges in Scotland and the Proxy Masters on the roll that the half of the free income of Grand Lodge for year ending 24th November last amounts to about £1380, of which sum £690 will be at the disposal of the Board for the payment of annuities in the year 1893. A similar sum falls to be capitalised. Of the £1736 at the disposal of the Board for the year 1892 the sum of £1085 was paid in annuities. The salaries and working expenses for the year amounted to £91. Balance, £560. An expenditure of £1115 is required to meet the payments of 106 pensioners presently on the roll. The Board meets on 12th January next for the granting of annuities. Petitions for consideration at this meeting cannot be received after the 21st instant."

* * *

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Forfarshire has also issued a circular on the subject. Under the new rule of Grand Lodge all annuitants must now be reported upon annually by the Provincial Grand Lodges. Twenty-two annuitants in this Province of Forfar fall to be certified by the Provincial Grand Master as representing the Province before the annuity is sent off. The Committee met for this purpose in the Ancient Hall, Dundee, on the 21st instant.

* * *

According to the Voice of Masonry, a person of the name of Byron F. Lockwood, of Jackson, Michigan, is reported to have been suing the Freemasons and Odd-fellows in that town for having blackballed him some years ago when he offered himself as a candidate for admission into their respective lodges. Our worthy contemporary considers this good evidence of the justice of his rejection. So do we.

* * *

The advice contained in the address which Bro. Lieut.-Col. Newton, D.P.G.M., delivered in his capacity of P.G.M., at the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nottinghamshire, on the 8th instant, is precisely what might be expected from an ardent and expert Mason, who is unable to think too highly of the Craft. His remarks as to the Worshipful Master, and his suggestion that that officer "should possess, and should be able to impart some knowledge of the meaning and origin of ceremonies, which, unless explained, may seem tedious or frivolous formalities," should be taken to heart by all who have at heart the welfare of Freemasonry. The same may be said as to the caution he administered to the Worshipful Masters in Nottinghamshire, to reject all candidates in whose

avour the tongue of good report has not been heard, and to be especially careful to enquire, in the case of those who offer themselves as candidates from a distance, why they have not sought admission into the lodges in their immediate neighbourhood.

* * *

Bro. Lieut.-Col. Newton was also and especially well advised when he pointed out that a lodge which is thus jealously guarded by its principal officer "will reflect more credit on its Master, even if his caution has rejected every candidate during his year of office, than will attach to one who, to feed his own importance or to swell the muster roll, admits indiscriminately all who offer themselves." Such advice as this should be carefully pondered in these days, when we hear of Masters announcing it as their determination to beat the record as regards the number of candidates elected into their lodges. It is enough to increase the muster rolls of lodges, but not so easy to ensure that the candidates shall be worthy of acceptance.

Correspondence.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but we wish in a spirit of fair play to all to permit—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.]

THE LANSDOWNE MS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Some time since Bro. Yarker called attention in your columns to the enhanced interest attaching to the Lansdowne MS. in the light of certain theories of mine on the early history of Freemasonry in Britain. I am sorry that none of my more learned brethren have followed the matter up, but as they have not, perhaps you will kindly afford me space for a few remarks on the text of the MS.

The real value of it to the student lies in its variant version of the Edwin Athelstan story. This it is which really differentiates the text from others and justifies Dr. Begemann's classification of it. In other respects its difference from other copies of the Old Charges, are rather apparent than real, and are due in at least four instances to careless copying. There is, however, no evidence of this in the York legend, and the reading is therefore a noteworthy one, as I pointed out in my paper on the Alban-Athelstan legend. But taken as a whole, the MS. is a very imperfect representative of its original. Were it not for the evidence afforded by other charges—the Harleian, 2054, and the Sloane MSS. for instance—of how carelessly educated men could write, and of the rubbish they could subscribe, one would hesitate to accept the statement that the Lansdowne is the work of Sir Henry Ellis. Why men should take the trouble to copy out one of these lengthy documents at all, and not bring more intelligence to bear upon it, nor even take the precaution of reading it over and correcting it, is not the least of the mysteries which puzzle the student of Freemasonry. Some of the mistakes might be accounted for by imperfect hearing, on the supposition that the scribe wrote from dictation, or was embodying an imperfectly transmitted oral tradition; but there are other mistakes so plainly the result of misreading and careless copying, that the former theory is inadmissible. The critic of the Lansdowne MS. can come to no other conclusion than that the scribe was either very absent-minded or unintelligent.

There is a palpable error in the Lamech legend—one that makes nonsense of the text as it stands, although the matter is not one of vital interest to the student. We are told with an artlessness worthy of Falstaff that "by his first wife Ada, Lamech begat a son and a daughter, and these four children found the beginnings of all crafts and sciences." The allied "Hughan" text, with which others are in substantial agreement, gives us the clue to the error. The copy read: "By the first wife Ada he begat two sons, the one called *Jabal* and the other *Jubal*, and by the other wife *Sella* he begat a son and a daughter." The scribe's eye taken off the text for a moment, upon resumming lighted on the second "begat," instead of the first, and caused him to omit the words italicised.

But there are, unfortunately, omissions in the MS. of a much more serious character. We are conscious of confusion before we reach the end of the first sheet of the original. The *Euclid charges* are given in mistake for the *Nimrod ones*. Turning to kindred MSS. again for light, we discover an omission of some 500 words in the Lansdowne copy; the result apparently of sheer carelessness. In what I take to be typical texts, the *Nimrod* and the *Euclid charges* are prefaced respectively by almost the same words, viz., "he gave them a charge in this manner," and "he gave them a charge after this manner." The copyist, perhaps returning to his work after a considerable interval, "took up his parable at the wrong place—at the second 'manner' instead of the earlier one—and omitted the highly important intervening passage."

Again, the Charles Martel legend is inaccurate, too, I fear, and will not bear the weight that has been attached to its slightly variant reading.

It seems at a first glance to avoid the apparent anachronism of making Charles Martel contemporary with Naymus Græcus. But holding, as I do, this

anachronism to be only apparent, the Lansdowne reading, if established, would, it seems to me, help us very little in interpreting the Charles Martel legend. It has, however, been cited in evidence against my own contentions. Had my critics compared the Lansdowne version with that given in other MSS. closely related to it they would, perhaps, have modified their opinions. I feel satisfied that the variation in the Lansdowne MS. is only a transcriber's error, and of precisely similar character to those already noted. The Hughan and Cama MSS., the two Sloanes, and the Harleian, 2054, show us plainly how it occurred. The recurrence of the word "Craft" misled the Scribe, and the passage that now reads "And he" (i.e. Charles Martel) "was a man that loved well the said Craft, and took upon him the rules," &c., ought, almost certainly, to read "And he was a man that loved well the said Craft, and went unto this Naymus Græcus, that is above said, and learned of him the Craft, and took upon him the rules, &c." The italicised words have been omitted through careless tracing of the lines as before. The Clerke—a related version—has "Science" instead of "Craft" in both cases, but otherwise supports the typical "Hughan" reading, given above.

Another omission, though of less importance, occurs in the Alban story, if I mistake not. Comparing the Lansdowne reading, as before, with others to which the MS. shows strong affinities, it seems probable that after the words "until St. Albanus" we should insert "time and in his days the King of England, that was a Panem, did wall the town about that is now called St. Albanus." The transcriber, as before, "lost his place," and mistook the second "St. Albanus" for the first.

A few minor errors may also be noted, though a complete catalogue of them is out of the question.

(a) "The first is Grammer (not Gamer as in the Q.C. transcript), and that teacheth a man to spell." *Spell* should plainly be *speak*.

(b) "And first wrought houses of stone, and he and his brother, &c." The true reading is "of stone and tree, and his brother," &c.

(c) "Nineveh, or the city of the East port," should probably be other cities of the East parts, just as we commonly say, "in foreign parts." The MSS. of the Sloane family have "East Asia," which is a still less intelligible reading. Can it be by any possibility an imperfect echo of an "est Asshur" in one of the Latinised Watson-Cooke type of charges?

(d) "24,000 workers of stone." By hook or by crook—"flower and twenty thousand," as the Harleian, 2045, has it, has been substituted, for four times twenty thousand; a score and four, for four score.

(e) "And he had a son that was called *Aman*." "*Aman*" is probably a perversion of the "*Ayonon*," which some MSS. give as the name of the chief architect—"Ayonon," may have been an intermediate version of the name, but the division of it into two words in the Lansdowne, suggests to my mind that the exemplar copy was indistinctly written, and the "if" virtually obliterated.

(f) "Nor have been abroad" (Singular Articles, No. 9), is an amusingly softened form of "nor be a bawd," which the context suggests, and the Hughan MS. shows to have been the original form.

There are many other little points one would like to dwell on—points which appear to me to make for my own theories, but my letter is already too long, and they must be reserved for another time.—Yours very truly,

CHARLES C. HOWARD,

W.M. 2036, (E.C.), C.C. 2076 (E.C.)

Picton, N.Z., October 31.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

1017] AN OLD ATHOL WARRANT.

No. 140.

Kelly, Grand Master.

Richd. Swan, S.G.W., Wm. Dickey, D.G.M., Richd. Swan, for Wm. Clarke, J.G.W.

To all whom it may concern We the Grand Lodge of the most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons (according to the old Constitutions granted by his Royal Highness Prince Edwin, at York, Anno Domini Nine hundred twenty and six, and in the Year of Masonry Four thousand Nine hundred twenty and six), in ample Form assembled, viz. The Right Worshipful and Right Honorable Thomas Erskine, Earl of Kelly Ld. Viscount Renton Baron of Pittrevaic in Great Britain, Grand Master of Masons! The Worshipful Mr. William Dickey, Deputy Grand Master, the Worshipful Mr. Richard Swan, Senior Grand Warden, and the Worshipful Mr. William Clarke, Junior Grand Warden (with the Approbation and Consent of the Warranted Lodges held within the Cities and Suburbs of London and Westminster) Do hereby authorise and empower our Trusty and Well-beloved Brethren, viz. Thomas Todd, one of our Master Masons, William Burn, his Senior Warden, and Francis Collingwood, his Junior Warden, to form and hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons aforesaid, at the Masons Arms in the Town of Ford and County of Northumberland (To be known by the Title of Sr. John Hussay Delavel's Lodge upon the first Monday of every Kalendar month on all seasonable Times and lawful Occasions. And in the said lodge (when duly congregated) to admit and make Free Masons, according to the most and honorable Custom of the Royal

Craft in all Ages and Nations throughout the known World. And we do hereby farther authorise and empower our said Trusty and Well-beloved Brethren, Messrs. Thomas Todd, William Burn, & Frs. Collingwood (with the Consent of the Members of their Lodge) to nominate, chuse, and install their Successors to whom they shall deliver this Warrant, and invest them with their Powers and Dignities as Free Masons, &c. And such Successors shall in like Manner nominate, chuse, and install their Successors, &c., &c., &c. Such Installations to be upon (or near) St. John's Day during the Continuance of this Lodge for ever. Providing the above-named Brethren and all their Successors always pay due Respect to this Right Worshipful Grand Lodge, otherwise this Warrant to be of no Force, nor Virtue.

Given under our Hands and the Seal of our Grand Lodge in London this Twentifourth Day of January in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred Sixty and six and in the Year of Masonry Five thousand Seven hundred Sixty and six.

Lau. Dermott Grand Secretary.

Note—This warrant is registered in the Grand Lodge Vol. 5th. Letter E.

This is another of the extinct Lodge warrants, and is copied from a photograph of the original kindly placed at my disposal by Bro. Hughan. The document is printed, except those parts set out above in italics, which are filled up in the well-known handwriting of Laurence Dermott, whose characteristic signature at the foot is very conspicuous. Students may note that the lodge appears to have borne a distinctive name, which was unusual with the "Ancients" at that period. I invite special attention to the date—24th January, 1766—all former records having it noted, as of 24th June in that year.

JNO. LANE.

1018]

CURIOUS MASONIC MEDAL.

In reference to the medal which Bro. Shackles describes in a recent number of the *Freemason*, I may inform him that in the Museum of the Supreme Grand Council, 33°, there is a silver-gilt medal of the same design (Coombe). It is inscribed: Presented by the Lodge of Fortitude, to Bro. John Crompton Bishop, P.M., A.D. 1804. These medals strongly resemble that engraved in the "History of the Royal Union Lodge, No. 246," and described by Bro. Hughan, of which an example is found in the Grand Lodge Museum, and the writer possesses a third.

M. C. PECK.



Craft Masonry.

METROPOLITAN MEETINGS.

Moire Lodge (No. 92).—The 137th anniversary meeting of this lodge was held at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on the 8th inst. Present: Bros. G. Greiner, I.P.M.; M. F. Tweedie, S.W.; Ernest Greiner, J.W.; T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., Treas.; R. F. Gould, P.M., P.G.D., Sec.; M. A. Tweedie, S.D.; J. M. Mitchell, J.D.; R. I. Woodhouse, Chap. and I.G.; Harold Carter, P.M.; Adam Pringle, P.M.; Bertram Noakes, P.M.; H. F. Auldjo, P.M.; G. C. Andrew, P.M.; W. Kidner, P.D.G.S. of W. China; J. P. Murrrough and H. L. Riseley. Visitors: Bros. Col. G. Noel Money, C.B., Prov. Grand Master Surrey; Thomas Fenn, P.B.G.P.; Edward Letchworth, Grand Sec.; Peter de Lande Long, P.G.D.; Dr. Ralph Gooding, P.G.D.; Witham M. Bywater, P.G.S.B.; J. P. Richards, P.M. 1584; Charles T. Tyler, P.M. 1395; G. A. K. M. Heysham, S.D. 1572; J. H. Jenks, S.; Lewis Lewis, 2410; Cyril Plummer, 4; the Rev. J. H. Smith, P.P.G. Chap. Leicester and Rutlandshire; G. R. Ousey, P.M. 59; H. W. Noakes, J.W. 1982; J. Webb, 1287; Henry C. Barker, 21; W. Harris; Luke Hansard, P.M. 1506; T. H. Gardiner, I.P.M. 1150; C. W. Skinner, 2000; and Thomas Savage, 173.

A candidate for initiation was balloted for, and duly elected, after which Bro. Michael Forbes Tweedie, S.W., was installed as Master for the ensuing year by Bro. R. F. Gould, P.G.D. The Wardens' chairs during the ceremony were respectively occupied by Bros. Long, P.G.D., and Gooding, P.G.D., and the functions of I.G. and D.C. discharged, for the same period, by Bros. Bywater, P.G.S.B., and C. T. Tyler, P.M. 1395. There being no I.P.M., owing to the lamented death of Bro. J. P. Fearfield in February last, the duties of that office were kindly undertaken by Bro. Col. Noel Money, C.B., Prov. G.M. Surrey. The following are the officers for the year, those present being duly invested: Bros. E. Greiner, S.W.; M. A. Tweedie, J.W.; T. L. Wilkinson, P.M., Treas.; R. F. Gould, P.M., Sec.; J. M. Mitchell, S.D.; Rev. R. I. Woodhouse, Chap. and J.D.; Wickham Noakes, P.M., Stwd.; and George Couchman, Tyler.

An excellent banquet was afterwards served, and the customary toasts followed, the W.M. happily dilating upon the services of the Grand Officers, and in proposing their health, solicited a few words each in response from the Prov. Grand Master of Surrey, the President of the Board of General Purposes, and the Grand Secretary, whose several speeches were listened to with great attention, and greeted with much applause.

The toast of the evening, "The Memory of Earl Moira, the Patron of the Lodge," was given by the Treasurer in a powerful address literally overflowing with the eloquence for which he is renowned.

To this succeeded "The Health of the W.M.," who observed, in reply: Bro. acting Immediate Past Master

Gould and Brethren,—I have to thank you very heartily; you, Bro. Gould, for the way in which you have made reference to me, and you, brethren, for the way in which you have received my name. I can assure you all that I am most sensible of the great honour done me by my brethren of the Moira Lodge by electing me to this chair, and I trust that I may be enabled to fulfil its duties during the ensuing year with honour and satisfaction to the lodge and myself. I little thought, brethren, when I was initiated in this lodge about 10 years ago, that I was in my own person effecting a junction between two chains of events, of which the first links had been forged many years ago by the hand of Lord Moira himself. But, on looking into the family history, I found that almost at the very time when his lordship became patron of this lodge, and took its welfare in charge, he also gave my grandfather, whose namesake I am, a commission in his then Majesty's Royal Regiment of Artillery, and I actually hold in my hand at the present moment the very document under Lord Moira's own signature, in which he announced that fact to my grandfather. Now, brethren, you will recognise the genius and foresight of Lord Moira, for had it not been for that commission in the Artillery which shaped nearly the whole course of my grandfather's life, it is most probable that he and my grandmother would never have met, and that if I had been anyone at all at this present time, it would have been another person altogether, and not in this chair. Hence you will see that Lord Moira not only had the then present welfare of the lodge in view, but also made provision for the supply of initiates at so great a distance of time as nearly 100 years to come. I have ventured to trouble you with this fragment of my family history, because I am proud to think that owing to the honour done me by my election to the chair, it may be regarded also as a small detail of the history of the lodge itself. I again thank you, brethren, very heartily for the cordiality with which you have received me, in taking my place in the position to which you have elected me.

With the toast of "The Visitors" were associated the names of Bros. C. T. Tyler, P.M. 1395, and the Rev. J. H. Smith, P.M. 279, P.P.G. Chap. Leicester and Rutland, who severally replied.

Bro. R. F. Gould returned thanks for "The Past Masters," and Bro. Ernest Greiner, S.W., for "The Officers."

It may be added that the musical arrangements, under the direction of Bro. Henry Lindsey, were of an exceptionally high character, the services of the following artistes having fortunately been secured: Miss Maggie Purvis, Madame Annie Buckland, Messrs. Wingrove Ives, Arthur Payne, H. R. A. Robinson, and Bro. Charles Stevens, P.M. 1793.

St. Luke's Lodge (No. 144).—A meeting of this old-established lodge (consecrated in 1765) was held at Anderson's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 5th inst., when there were present Bros. A. Saunders, W.M.; F. Stutfield, S.W.; J. W. Sharpe, J.D.; E. Wilts, P.M.; Sec.; T. Markland, P.M., Steward; T. Bowler, Tyler; H. Mann, jun., P.M.; W. J. Forscutt, P.M.; J. Maples, P.M.; W. H. Tucker, I.P.M.; S. E. Storr, R. S. Illing, J. H. Beauchamp, R. Bartholomew, and V. Honour. Visitors: Bros. S. J. Derham, S.W. 1622; J. Bishop, 1744; and R. T. West, 1744.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the W.M. in an excellent manner passed Bro. S. E. Storr, and afterwards raised Bros. J. H. Beauchamp, Victor Honour, and R. S. Illing.

After the lodge was closed the brethren adjourned for refreshment.

The W.M. gave with commendable brevity the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were cordially received.

Bro. Tucker, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," stated that he was a very popular member and well known in the Masonic world. He did his utmost for the lodge and up to the present time had done everything to the satisfaction of the brethren.

The Worshipful Master, in reply, stated that he hoped for plenty of initiates, and with the assistance of his officers would do his best to carry out his duties with satisfaction to himself and the brethren.

The W.M. gave "The Visitors," a toast which he said was always received with enthusiasm, and in giving them a hearty welcome hoped they would come again.

Bro. Derham, S.W., in reply, stated that he had known the W.M. for many years and the short time he (the W.M.) had been in the Craft he had acquitted himself ably in the working.

Bros. John Bishop and West also replied.

The Worshipful Master, in suitable terms, proposed "The Health of the Past Masters."

Bro. Maples, in reply, stated that through ill-health he had not been in a Masonic lodge for some time, but he always made a point of attending the lodge on the first Monday in December, as that was the day 30 years ago when he was initiated in the lodge.

Bro. Witts also replied, and urged the younger members to join lodges of instruction.

Bros. Markland, Forscutt, and Tucker also replied in a few well-chosen remarks.

The toast of "The Officers" was next given by the W.M., who remarked that Bro. Stutfield, S.W., was well up in all the Degrees, and when he was elected to the chair he would make an excellent W.M.

Bros. Stutfield, and Sharpe, J.D., suitably responded. During the evening the toast of "The Masonic Press" was given, coupled with the name of our representative, who responded.

The Tyler's toast ended a pleasant evening.

The following vocally entertained the brethren: Bros. Saunders, Storr, Witts, Tucker, and Illing.

Kennington Lodge (No. 1381).—This rapidly increasing lodge met at the Horns Tavern, Kennington Park, on the 6th inst., when there were present, among others, Bros. Dennis, W.M.; Lundie, S.W.; Heard, J.W.; George Everett, P.M., P.G. Treas.; W. Stuart, P.M., Sec.; Colwell, I.G.; Hopkins, Org.; H. Higgins, P.M.; Capt. T. C. Walls, P.M., P.P.G.W.; C. H. Köhler, P.M.; Cockburn, P.M.; R. La Feuillade, P.M.; W. W. Westley, P.M.; and Foalé, P.M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. H. Sampson, T. Motterhead, and T. Scott were raised, and Bro. G. Reddish passed, both ceremonies being well performed.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

Bro. George Everett, P.G. Treas., acknowledged at length, and in his accustomed genial manner, "The Health of the Grand Officers."

Bro. W. W. Westley, acting I.P.M., proposed the toast of "The W.M." He said that Bro. Dennis that evening had discharged his duties excellently, the working of the third ceremony being particularly well performed. The Worshipful Master's year of office was rapidly drawing to a close, but it had been by no means an uneventful one.

This pledge having been warmly received, the W.M. returned thanks.

"The Visitors" followed, and this toast was responded to in fluent language by Bro. Berry, P.M., P.Z., &c.

In giving "The Past Masters," the W.M. spoke in terms of the highest commendation of Bro. Westley, the acting I.P.M. The W.M. said that he owed a great deal to that brother, whose kindness and painstaking tuition as Preceptor to the No. 1381 lodge of instruction had been most valuable to those members seeking Masonic instruction in its best form. In conclusion, he coupled the toast with the name of Bro. Westley, who acknowledged in modest terms this special recognition of his services.

"The Treasurer, Secretary, and Officers" followed. The W.M., in speaking of the first-named brother, said that he was sorry to see that he was far from well. No. 1381 was under great obligations to Bro. Everett; the lodge was in a highly successful position mainly through that distinguished brother's exertions. Bro. Stuart, as their Secretary for nearly 19 years, was entitled to their best thanks. The W.M. then spoke at length upon the services of the officers.

This toast having been acknowledged by Bros. Everett, Stuart, Lundie, and Heard, the proceedings terminated.

During the evening Bros. Hopkins, Lundie, Cockburn, and others vocally entertained the brethren.

Crichton Lodge (No. 1641).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Surrey Masonic Hall on Saturday, the 17th inst., when there were present Bros. Thos. Roe, W.M.; Elphege Janau, S.W.; R. J. Vincent, P.M., J.W.; J. H. Watson, Treas.; V. T. Murché, P.M., Sec.; G. King, S.D.; R. Sykes, J.D.; T. Nettleship, I.G.; E. J. Day, Org.; W. Briant and G. Gill, P.M., Stwds.; G. Harrison, Tyler; D. D. Mercer, P.M., P.G.P.; G. M. Hamilton, I.P.M.; T. Weeks, P.M. (Hon.); R. Greenwood, P.M.; S. H. Goldschmidt, P.M.; R. J. Voisey, P.M.; J. W. Thomas, P.P.G.S.B.; P. A. Nairne, P.M., G.D.; J. H. Stunt, P.M.; H. W. Prior, C. H. Stone, W. H. Barratt, T. G. Ball, W. Binns, A. H. Warran, G. Rankin, O. L. Finch, J. T. Evans, J. J. Elliott, H. R. Redmond, E. Ballantine, G. L. Henderson, E. H. Nelson, T. A. Organ, C. Castle, T. S. Cooke, J. W. Melton, C. P. Hodgson, H. Redman, G. Russell, and S. Cresswell. The visitors were Bros. H. Garrod, P.G.P.; J. Page, 137; A. England, 1216; F. Collins, 1165; T. Smith, P.M. 30; H. Taylor, J.D. 1347; H. Bué, 1820, P.G. Std. Br.; T. W. Yates, 1090; E. J. Morgan, 2030; T. G. Wells, 1658; J. Bate, D.C. 1507; W. J. Pope, 013; W. A. Kidson, 2393; J. Baldwin, 2343; Chas. Wilson, W.M. 1329; T. A. Hill, P.M. 1347; G. W. Paris, 1922; H. Testard, S.W. 2060; D. Charteris, 2319; W. Avery, 403; and F. Williams, P.M. 101.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Report of the Audit Committee was next presented, adopted, and entered upon the minutes, which showed a substantial balance in the hands of the Treasurer, and gave rise to hearty congratulations. The ballot was next taken for Mr. E. H. Nelson, which, proving unanimous in his favour, he was afterwards initiated in an excellent manner by the W.M., Bro. Roe. Bro. E. Janau, S.W. and W.M. elect, was next presented by Bro. D. D. Mercer, P.G.P., to the W.M., to receive at his hands the benefit of installation, which ceremony was performed in a highly complimentary manner by Bro. T. Roe, W.M., who afterwards gave the addresses most impressively. Bro. E. Janau, W.M., then invested his officers as follows: Bros. R. J. Vincent, P.M., S.W.; George King, J.W.; J. H. Watson, Treas.; V. T. Murché, P.M., Sec.; P. A. Nairne, G.D., D.C.; R. Sykes, S.D.; T. Nettleship, J.D.; W. Briant, I.G.; G. Gill, P.M., A.D.C.; C. H. Stone and J. T. Evans, Stewards; and G. Harrison, Tyler. A candidate having been proposed for initiation, Bro. T. Roe, I.P.M., gave the following notice of motion: "That the honorary membership of the lodge be conferred upon Bro. R. J. Voisey, P.M., for his eminent services given to the lodge since its consecration."

The business of the lodge ended, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, supplied by Mrs. Venables, the proprietress, in her usual superb style. The W.M. presented the usual loyal and Masonic toasts. The toast of "The Pro G.M., Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," the Worshipful Master remarked, was one which deserved the highest approval from all the brethren on account of the vast amount of labour bestowed for the benefit of the Craft. They had present that evening no less than four Grand Officers, which was a great honour, especially as Bros. Nairne, G.D., and D. D. Mercer, P.G.P., were members of the Crichton Lodge. He could not but remark upon the splendid gathering at last Grand Lodge meeting, and see the admirable and gracious manner in which the Pro Grand Master, Earl Lathom, presided. The toast was drunk most cordially.

In replying, Bro. P. A. Nairne, on behalf of the Grand Officers, most heartily thanked the brethren for such a reception, and said it was perfectly clear to the minds of our rulers, when, some 16 years ago, they granted the warrant to the Crichton Lodge, they were confident of the success that would attend it. That confidence and appreciation reposed in the founders had been fully realised, and found the lodge in its present prosperous state. The hospitality of the lodge was greatly appreciated by the Grand Officers.

Bro. Roe, I.P.M., next presented the toast of "The W.M.," remarking the great pleasure it gave him in doing so. The manner he had performed the various duties advancing to the chair, and the exemplary manner he had carried them out when installed was most convincing that he would make a worthy Master. In responding, the Worshipful Master returned his best thanks. There were three points which mostly struck him at the present time. First, it was a great honour to be Master of a lodge; secondly, especially that of his mother lodge; and, thirdly, when the Mastership was that of the Crichton. He was mindful of the honour done him, and it would be his greatest aim to render the beautiful ritual in the best possible manner.

The brethren subsequently dined together, and at the conclusion of an excellent dinner, the customary loyal and Masonic toasts occupied the brethren to a late hour.

The Worshipful Master next gave the toast of "The Installing Master, Bro. Roe." They had all witnessed his admirable working for 12 months, all knew his worth, and a more genial brother could not have filled the chair, and carried out the duties more thoroughly. He (the W.M.) had followed him for the last 15 years in the lodge, and he would endeavour to emulate him. It now gave him the greatest possible pleasure to pin to his breast the jewel unanimously voted him as a token of the love and esteem of the brethren, wishing him long life to wear it in the Crichton Lodge.

Bro. Roe replied, and said the kindness he had received from the brethren almost overpowered him. He had had a most happy year of office, and felt he was receiving at the hands of the brethren more than he deserved. He most heartily thanked them all, and was confident that the lodge under the present Master and such an array of capable officers would prove a most successful year. That splendid jewel would be treasured by him, he trusted, for many years, and remind him of their appreciation of his humble services.

The toast of "The Initiate" was given most appropriately, and, in an intellectual speech, suitably responded to.

That of "The Visitors" followed, the W.M., in the name of the lodge, giving them all a most hearty greeting, and spoke of the honour the brethren felt in welcoming such an array.

This was most suitably replied to by Bros. Smith, P.M. 30; C. Wilson, W.M. 1329; and H. Testard, S.W. 2060.

The toast of "The Past Masters" was received most cordially, and responded to by Bro. Goldschmidt, P.M., very ably.

The W.M. next gave the toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary," remarking upon their valuable services rendered to the lodge, and that he was most grateful to them for accepting office.

Both brethren most suitably replied, acknowledging the honour done them, and the great pleasure in serving the lodge to the best of their ability.

"That of 'The Officers' followed in high terms of praise from the W.M., and most ably replied to by Bro. Vincent, S.W.

The Tyler's toast closed a most successful meeting.

An excellent programme was provided under the able Organist, Bro. Day, the artistes being Bros. Vincent, Stunt, Nettleship, Castle (clarinet), Russell, and Rankin (reciter).

Shepherd's Bush Lodge (No. 1828).—A meeting was held on Monday, the 28th ult., at the Bush Hotel, Shepherd's Bush, W., when there were present Bros. C. Vandyk, W.M.; J. Rosedale, S.W.; P. Walvogel, J.W.; W. Williams, P.M., Treas.; R. Josey, P.M., Sec.; J. Allman, P.M., S.D.; A. Baker, P.M.; F. Mander, P.M.; Pierpoint, P.M.; Weinel, P.M.; Breilbart, P.M.; Bryett, P.M.; H. P. Gilbert, P.M.; Bull, J. Vandyk, J. Hewett, Marsh, Ayres, W. Watts, Jones, Mart, and Jones. Visitors: Bros. Mitchell, 1273; Newell, 860; H. Lovegrove, P.M. 2048; Cousins, 172; Wolff, 2090; H. Richardson, 1602; Welford, P.M. 735; Mulvey, P.M. 2202, P.P.G.S.B. Surrey; Abrahams, 1017; Davis, P.M. 1017; Gillingham, P.M. 1258; Avery, P.M. 511; F. West, 2090; Hardinge, 1017; Webb, 1745; and Baker, 2090.

The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Hewett was raised. Bro. Rosedale was then installed as W.M., and appointed and invested the following officers: Bros. Walvogel, S.W.; Hagen, J.W.; Williams, P.M., Treas.; Mander, P.M., Sec.; Allman, P.M., S.D.; Marx, I.G.; Ayres, D.C.; Hewett, Steward; and Goddard, P.M., Tyler. The W.M. initiated Messrs. Ernest and Alfred H. Jones in a very efficient manner. A satisfactory balance-sheet was presented and adopted. A Past Master's jewel, which had been unanimously voted to Bro. C. Vandyk was presented to him, after which the lodge was closed.

The labours of the evening being ended, the brethren partook of a very substantial banquet, provided by Bro. W. Watts, at the Bush Hotel.

The usual loyal toasts were given and many excellent speeches delivered, and a most enjoyable evening passed.

Gallery Lodge (No. 1928).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, the 17th inst., at Anderson's Hotel, when there were present Bros. E. C. Peacock, W.M.; W. T. Perkins, I.P.M.; C. K. Moore, S.W.; John C. Manning, J.W.; H. Massey, Treas.; Jas. Minstrel, Sec.; Chas. Lock, S.D.; H. J. Sanderson, J.D.; Geo. Tarran, D.C.; P. W. Husk, I.G.; E. A. Peachey, S. James, T. M. Mendle, and R. S. Masson, Stwds.; H. Wright, P.M.; W. M. Duckworth, P.M.; H. E. F. Pussey, P.M.; J. C. Duckworth, P.M.; Brodie, Baines, Syles, Vincent, Gowing, While, Pattison, Fisher, Barras, Lane, Piell, Kirby, Dodds, Kent, Saunders, Macintyre, Hunter, Irvine, Bettany, Cooke, J. Moore, and Ribbons; and among the visitors were Bros. G. J. Wade, 219; W. J. Fisher, S.W. 2190; W. F. Welsman, J.D. 1580; E. J. Horne, P.M. and Sec. 227; W. Ebbetts, W.M. 2190, P.G.S.; Richd. Eve, 1, P.G. Treas.; A. F. Asher, P.M. 1395; E. M. Money, P.M. 23, P.G.S.; T. M. Clark, 2132; E. C. Massey, P.M. 1297; Fred. Bevan, S.W. 1706; W. D. Martin, 1026; Sir Somers Vine, 2190, P.G.D.; A. N. Catmur, 23; Temple Saxe, 2190; and E. J. Wood, 2272.

After the conclusion of the ordinary lodge business, which included passing Bro. John White to the Second Degree, the ceremony of installing the S.W., Bro. C. K. Moore into the chair of K.S. was performed in a most impressive manner by the outgoing W.M., Bro. Peacock. The following is the list of officers for the ensuing year invested by the new W.M.: Bros. E. E. Peacock, I.P.M.; J. C. Manning, S.W.; C. Lock, J.W.; W. M. Duckworth, P.M., Treas.; T. Minstrel, P.M., Sec.; H. J. Sanderson, S.D.; P. W. Husk, J.D.; G. Tarran, I.G.; H. Massey, P.M., D.C.; B. Striem, Asst. D.C.; A. E. Peachey, Org.; Samuel James, R. S. Masson, H. J. Fisher, and F. W. Brodie, Stewards; and James Very, Tyler. After the investment of the officers had been completed, Bro. Peacock delivered the usual addresses to the Master, Wardens, and brethren in masterly style, and the newly-installed Master presented to him, in the name of the lodge, a handsome Past Master's jewel, which he acknowledged in appropriate terms, after which the lodge was closed with the customary formalities.

The brethren subsequently dined together, and at the conclusion of an excellent dinner, the customary loyal and Masonic toasts occupied the brethren to a late hour.

In proposing "The Health of the Grand Officers," the W.M. said that it was a toast which they approached with what "Jay Pay" would call bated breath, because the eminence of these great ones inclined ordinary members to bemoan themselves a "unclean, unclean," but he found that after they had, at the festive board, become like giants refreshed, they began to find there was still a touch of humanity about the Grand Officers, and that they hungered and thirsted like other Masons. Their board was graced by the presence of two Grand Officers—Bro. Eve, a king among Masons, who, if not born in the purple, ought to have been, and Bro. Sir Somers Vine. The latter had been especially kind in honouring that occasion, because it was his birthday, and he had arranged to give a birthday banquet to some private friends, but, rather than miss that meeting, he had fortunately been able to postpone his dinner without postponing it as far as he was personally concerned. Bro. Vine was like old wine—they liked him better the older he grew. With the toast he coupled the names of those two guests.

Bro. Eye P.G. Treas., said it was a difficult task to respond for so large a body as the Grand Officers of England. They were all men worthy of consideration, who had done their duty faithfully, and the task was one of increasing difficulty, because large as that body was, it was likely to be considerably increased. Bro. Eye went on to express the pleasure he had experienced in witnessing the admirable working in the lodge, and his especial pleasure in noting the earnestness of all the members, and the un-failing supply of new blood by which the lodge was nourished.

Bro. Sir Somers Vine, P.G.D., said that nothing but the wishes of the W.M. would have induced him to follow Bro. Eye, who spoke with all the weight attaching to an officer of long standing, who, by reason of being elected, commanded more sympathy than an appointed officer like himself. At the same time, he concurred in all the kind expressions of gratitude he had been pleased to utter on behalf of Grand Lodge; but he could fortify Bro. Eye's praise of the manner in which the Grand Officers as a body discharged their duties. His being called on he viewed in the light of a personal compliment, in reply to which he need only say that it afforded him pleasure to come to the Gallery Lodge. It gave him much pleasure to know that the Secretary of the Gallery Lodge, Bro. Minstrel had attained to the dignity of a seat in Grand Lodge. When invited by the W.M. to be present, he felt bound to attend, as it gave him the opportunity of meeting associates of bygone times. Therefore, for the personal character of the toast, he very sincerely tendered his gratitude.

Bro. Peacock, I.P.M., then rose for the purpose, as he said, of proposing what on that night of all nights in the year must be the toast of the evening, and to propose it under circumstances which came to members of Masonic lodges but once in a life time, when he has himself stepped out of the chair of K.S. and has installed another brother into it. He had looked through the records of the lodge, and found that Bro. C. K. Moore was introduced to the lodge as a visitor nine a half years ago by Bro. Massey, and that in the following December meeting Bro. Moore signed the roll as a member of the lodge. Looking through the list of those present on that occasion he noted that two of them had departed for the Grand Lodge above, so that the scriptural aphorism that one was taken and another left still held, as it would always hold, but while they lamented those who had gone, they rejoiced with those that remained, and with none more than their present Master, who was then for the first time installed into the chair of K.S. The brethren had had ample opportunities of watching, not only Bro. Moore's usefulness, and zeal, and intelligence and ability, and the conscientious way in which he had discharged every duty he had undertaken in the working of the lodge. He began—as thank heaven it was the boast of Masons to begin—at the very bottom rung of the Masonic ladder, and had worked his way steadily up to the top. And no one in the lodge had had greater reason for satisfaction at the conscientious and admirable manner in which Bro. C. K. Moore had discharged the duties of the various offices he had filled—from the very lowest office of Steward, which called for no marked ability and held out little prospect of distinction. Passing from that office to the higher office of Deacon he made bold to say that no member of the lodge had discharged the duties of the Deacon's office better than the brother who now presided over them. From the Deaconate he had passed through the Wardens' chairs and it had now been his (the speaker's) pleasure and privilege to install him in the chair from which by time and the regulations of the Order he had become obliged to retire. He would confess that he had commenced with a feeling of relief mingled with regret; but if anything could cause that feeling to be diminished, it would be the knowledge that he had installed one whose past record in the lodge gave ample assurance that his year of office would be a great success and a record of honest work. The brethren had had opportunities to judge of the merits of the W.M. for the ensuing 12 months, and from the truly Masonic spirit which Bro. Moore carried into every relation in life he had the greatest confidence, that he (Bro. Peacock) asked the brethren to join him in drinking "The Health of the W.M." with the hope that he would have a happy and prosperous year, and that when he left the chair he would relinquish it with regret, mingled with the satisfaction he would experience in installing his successor.

The Worshipful Master, in reply, said that he had to thank the brethren most cordially, for the toast had been drunk so heartily on the kind invitation of Bro. Peacock. He felt that he did not deserve all the encomiums poured on him by the I.P.M. He was glad that Bro. Peacock had drawn attention to the fact that their present Master was a Scotch Mason, and he was proud of the fact that he was one. But he had never regretted the change from the green ribbon to the blue. He used to think that Scotch Masonry was a good thing, but when he came to know the English he preferred it, and of all English lodges that he knew he preferred the Gallery. He had, within the past few weeks, attended a number of lodges, and had nowhere seen the work done better than in their own lodge. He recognised the fact that it was a very difficult task to occupy any Masonic chair, and more especially when that chair was the Master's chair in the Gallery Lodge, because Press men were nothing if not critical, but, along with that critical faculty that was freely exercised by the members of the lodge among themselves, there was never any bad blood left afterwards. The W.M. went on to say that the

brethren never came to a better decision than when they decided to move the lodge from Brixton to Fleet-street. At Brixton they were a local lodge, but in their present home they were in the centre of journalism, and available for journalists residing in any part of the Metropolis. This wisdom of the step was illustrated by such an access of members that it was found necessary to propose an increase in the initiation fee. As regarded the future, he had decided that the next meeting should, as in the past few years, be a ladies' night, and he would be glad to consult all the members privately as to any suggestions they might wish to make. He also proposed that they should have a picnic, and he intended to propose a novelty to the lodge. Last year Bro. Peacock introduced a novelty in placing an additional toast on the list. The novelty which he proposed, was to hold an emergency meeting of the lodge in the autumn, as then the journalists were to hold their annual conference in London. In mentioning the Benevolent Fund of the lodge, they could not but remember that they had sustained a bereavement through the death of its Treasurer, Bro. Walker, of whom he could scarcely trust himself to speak, for there was no one who had the principles of Freemasonry more at heart than their lost brother. It was a sad thing for them to remember that brother who was the Treasurer of their Benevolent Fund then come, not in body but in spirit, to ask them to extend to one of his children the Charity of the Masonic School for Boys. They could only get that boy elected by a strong effort. Would the office-bearers of the lodge rally round their Master to help in that matter—they could not help in a more deserving case? He might, perhaps, also appeal to the members of the Savage Club Lodge, where their brother was well and honourably known in connection with the Club, to make an effort for the child of their deceased Bro. Walker. He knew that they would have the support of the members of the Savage Club Lodge who were present, but it was fitting that he should ask those brethren to exert their influence with the other members of their lodge. Before returning to his seat he thanked the lodge for the way in which they had drunk that toast. He desired to do his work as well as possible, and trusted that he should succeed to their satisfaction.

The Worshipful Master next proposed "The Health of the Visitors," welcoming them in the heartiest manner.

The toast was briefly responded to by Bros. Lane, Sykes, and others.

The Worshipful Master then proposed "The Health of the I.P.M., Bro. Peacock," on whose conduct in the ruling of the lodge during the past year he passed high encomiums. He hoped that by a great effort he should be able to do as well as Bro. Peacock. If there was one thing more than another for which Bro. Peacock was conspicuous it was his tact. There were matters difficult to approach, more difficult to carry through, but by his un-failing tact Bro. Peacock was thoroughly successful. His working was magnificent and most impressive, as an illustration of which he might say that an initiate at their last meeting when he left the lodge said: "I thought that the English Church service was the most impressive and most important; but I almost think that the Masonic ritual is more so." He thought that impression was produced not so much by the ritual as by the manner in which it was spoken by Bro. Peacock. It was a great consolation to him, as Master, to know that he should have at his left hand so able an I.P.M. Bro. Moore proceeded to say that he had a very pleasant duty to perform. He had already decorated Bro. Peacock with the I.P.M.'s jewel, and he had now to hand him a little gift for Mrs. Peacock. It was a pleasant custom in their lodge for the brethren to subscribe for a little gift to the wife of the out-going Master—in this instance a little ring, which he now asked their brother to take home to Mrs. Peacock.

Bro. Peacock thanked the brethren for the cordiality with which his health had been drunk, and, in Mrs. Peacock's name, thanked them also for the beautiful little present which they were sending to her.

The Worshipful Master then proposed the next toast, "The Savage Club Lodge." This toast, he said, was always well received, because their own lodge and the Savage Club Lodge were intimately bound together. They, like the Savage Club Lodge, occupied the border line between Bohemia and Philistia.

The toast was responded to by Bros. Ellis and Fisher. "The Health of the Visitors" was acknowledged by Bros. Asher, Welsman, Martin, and others.

The rapid passage of time rendered it necessary to couple the next two toasts, "The Past Masters" and "The Officers of the Lodge." The respondents were Bros. Massey, the Senior Past Master and S.D.C.; Manning, S.W.; Fisher, Stwd.; and Sanderson, S.D.

Mitcham Lodge (No. 2384).—On Saturday, the 10th inst., this young lodge installed its third W.M. at the Vestry Hall, Lower Mitcham, when there were present Bros. T. P. Compton, W.M.; S. Wells, I.P.M.; F. T. Pain, S.W.; F. Deering, J.W.; W. W. Thomson, Treas.; N. M. Simmonds, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Sec.; J. E. Hunt, P.M., D.C.; A. F. Findlay, S.D.; O. B. Shelswell, J.D.; H. J. Barker, I.G.; F. Sampson, Steward; W. P. Brown, P.M., G.S.B.; D. Sewell, R. Gibson, H. List, J. Wilson, L. White, and R. H. Williams, Tyler. The visitors were Bros. H. H. Knill, W.M. 22; W. Cook, P.M. 22; E. Y. Jolliffe, P.M. 22, P.S.G.W. Middx.; W. J. Charles, P.M. 22; R. W. Coulcher, P.M. 22; W. Driver, S.W. 1360; J. M. Ranshan, I.G. 22; W. Nordens, 879; J. Pillinger, J.D. 902; and J. Haskins, 1364, P.G.O. Essex.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. F. T. Pain, S.W., W.M. elect, was then presented by Bro. N. M. Simmonds, P.P.G.S.B., to the W.M. to receive at his hands the benefits of installation. The ceremony was performed in a very impressive manner. The newly-installed W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. T. A. Compton, I.P.M.; F. Deering, S.W.; A. F. Findlay, J.W.; W. W. Thomson, Treas.; N. M. Simmonds, Sec.; J. E. Hunt, D.C.; S. Wells, A.D.C.; O. B. Shelswell, S.D.; H. J. Barker, J.D.; D. Sewell, I.G.; F. G. Sampson and R. Gibson, Stewards; and R. H. Williams, Tyler. The W.M. then raised Bro. L. White in an exemplary manner. Some further routine business having been gone through, the lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Mrs. Southerton.

The W.M. put the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, and in proposing "The Grand Officers, Present and Past,"

spoke of the great amount of time their Grand Officers gave to the Craft.

Bro. Brown, G.S.B., who was a co-founder of the Mitcham Lodge, responded. As a subordinate member of Grand Lodge, he could bear testimony that the Grand Officers were always fully occupied, and with gladness accepted the duties that fell to their charge. They were not merely an ornamental, ruling Body, but most assiduous workers in every thing for the interest of the Craft.

Bro. T. A. Compton, I.P.M., then proposed "The Health of the W.M." He heartily congratulated the lodge on having such a Master. They had all seen his capabilities, and knew his Masonic zeal. He was sure after the splendid manner the Third Degree had been worked that evening, that the government of the lodge could not be in better hands. He wished the W.M. good health and a prosperous year of office.

The toast was drunk most cordially.

In reply, Bro. Pain, W.M., heartily thanked the I.P.M., and assured the brethren that the honour conferred upon him that evening would be a life's pleasure to look back upon, and he would do his utmost to leave the chair at the end of his year of office and hand the ruling of the lodge to the next Master in the same unsullied condition as he had received it from the I.P.M.

The W.M. next gave the toast of "The Visitors," remarking their young lodge was like the older lodges never better pleased than when they had visiting brethren in numbers, and, considering the difficulties there was in getting to and from Mitcham, they were well honoured, and the brethren of the lodge gave them a most hearty welcome.

Bros. Knill, Cook, Pillinger, and Jolliffe responded, speaking highly of the work they had seen done both by the W.M. and I.P.M.

The W.M. then gave the toast of "The Installing Master, the I.P.M., and Past Master," whom he spoke of as an example he wished to follow in his working, for they might have as good, but never better, Masons. He then, in appropriate words, presented the I.P.M. with the Past Master's jewel.

Bro. T. A. Compton responded, and, in very choice words, expressed his thanks for the jewel presented, and assured them the Mitcham Lodge would always have his utmost support.

Bro. Wells responded for the Past Masters.

The Worshipful Master then gave the toast of "The Officers of the Lodge," most highly eulogising the Secretary, Bro. Simmonds, and the Treasurer, Bro. Thompson, complimenting the rest of the officers on their efficient working, and expressing his good fortune in having such officers.

Bro. Simmonds, Sec., suitably responded, heartily thanking the brethren.

Bro. Deering, S.W., responded in a very happy manner for the other officers, assuring the W.M. of their full support.

The Tyler's toast closed a most enjoyable meeting.

Bro. Dr. Haskins, P.G.O. Essex, presided at the organ and piano, whilst Bros. Gibson, Deering, Findlay, Charles, and Barker contributed to the enjoyment of the evening by songs, recitations, &c.

Æsculapius Lodge (No. 2110).—The ordinary meeting of this lodge took place at the Café Royal, Regent-street, on the 14th inst. In the unavoidable absence of Bro. Deputy Inspector-General Belgrave Ninnis, P.M., G.S.B., W.M.; Bro. Brindley James, I.P.M., occupied the chair, supported by the officers, members, and some visitors, as follows: Bros. Thomas Dutton, M.D., P.M., Secretary, as S.W.; Jacob Pickett, M.D., J.W.; G. Danford Thomas, M.D., Treasurer; G. Crawford Thomson, M.B., S.D.; W. Anthony Nutt, J.D.; H. E. Ezard, M.D., Org.; Frank Oldfield, P.M., I.G.; Frank Reid, Edward S. Bell, Lewis Lewis, H. G. Blackmore, Garland Wrighton, C. Luxmore Drew, M.B., M. Cheale, N. E. Yorke Davies, C. M. Simpson, Surgeon-Captain R. Bostock, 1971; Herbert Ezard, Sec. 2 (S.C.); F. Hurke, 22; D. Nesbitt, M.D. 1432; and W. Hutchinson.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. Bros. Hugh Lane, L.R.C.P. Edin., M.R.C.S. Eng., 379, and John Davies, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. Lond., 1056, were unanimously elected joining members. Bros. W. A. Lane, M.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., were passed to the Second Degree by the Acting W.M. in his usual able manner. Regrets for non-attendance were read from the W.M., Bros. F. Ernest Pocock, M.D., P.M., Vice-President of the Board of General Purposes; Lennox Browne, F.R.C.S., P.M., P.P.S.G.W. Essex; H. Killmark, P.M.; and Hugh Lane. The business of the lodge having been transacted, it was closed.

At the subsequent dinner the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to with great heartiness; the time between the toasts was agreeably and intellectually spent by listening to some excellent instrumental and vocal music by Miss Ida Meynell (holder of Barry and Causton Scholarship), and the Misses Hutchinson (daughters of Bro. Hutchinson), and Bro. Blackmore, whose services were suitably acknowledged in a toast for "The Ladies" by Bros. Dutton and Pickett, and answered by Bro. Hutchinson.

The brethren left in time to answer any merry peal of the night bell that might disturb their slumbers.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS.

BURSLEM.

St. Martin's Lodge (No. 98).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Town Hall, on Thursday, the 15th inst., when there were present Bros. John Mason, W.M.; W. Garner, I.P.M.; J. Scarratt, S.W., W.M. elect; A. Boulton, J.W.; the Rev. L. C. A. Edgeworth, LL.D., Chap.; R. Dain, P.M., P.J.G.W.; Treas.; T. K. Pedley, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., Sec.; F. Weston, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., D.C.; J. Beech, S.D.; R. Wilkinson, J.D.; R. Owen, I.G.; F. C. Gill and H. W. Critchlow, Stwds.; H. Boardman, Tyler; J. Pierpoint, P.M., P.P.G. Stwd.; E. Pearson, P.M.; John Godwin, P.P.G.S.B.; F. W. Mason, Geo. White, W. Bentley, S. Kellern, and others. Visitors: Bros. W. Tunicliffe, 418; P.P.A.G.D.C.; S. Watson, 2064, P.P.G.P.; T. S. Howson, 451, P.G. Stwd.; W. H. Howson, 2064, P.G.S.B.; Geo. Wilks, W.M. 2064; J. Young, J.W. 2064; Finney, I.G. 2064; A. Dain, 2064; J. Adams, 2064; A. R. Strange, W.M. 1942; S. V. Wood, W.M. 546; D.

Jones, S.W. 418, W.M. elect; Edwards, S.W. 460, W.M. elect; J. T. Fenton, 418; J. Lake, 637; and Macaulay, Africa.

The lodge was opened by Bro. John Mason, W.M., and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, as also letters of apology for non-attendance from several brethren were read. The ballot was taken for Mr. Cronshaw, which proved unanimous. Bro. R. Dain, P.J.G.W., next presented Bro. John Scarratt, S.W. and W.M. elect, for installation. Bro. J. Mason, the Installing Master, then appointed as his Installing Officers: Bros. Dain, P.J.G.W., as S.W.; F. Weston, P.P.G.S.B., as J.W.; and J. Godwin, P.P.G.S.B., as I.G.; and installed his successor in the chair of K.S. in an able manner. At the close of the installation ceremony (in which, as will be seen, most of the prominent members of the lodge seemed to have held a working partnership), Bro. T. K. Pedley, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., proclaimed; Bro. J. Pierpoint, P.M., P.P.G. Stwd., presented and explained the working tools of M.M. and F.C.; Bro. W. Garner, P.M., presented and explained the working tools of an E.A.; and Bro. F. Weston, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., delivered the address to the W.M. The newly-appointed W.M., in his turn, appointed the following officers, who were accordingly invested: Bros. John Mason, I.P.M.; A. Boulton, S.W.; J. Beech, J.W.; Rev. Danberry, Chap.; R. Dain, Treas.; T. Pedley, Sec.; F. Weston, D.C.; J. Davis, Org.; T. Saunders, S.D.; R. Owen, J.D.; W. H. Emery, I.G.; F. C. Gill, W. Roden, J. Gratton, and W. S. Gordon, Stewards; and H. Boardman, Tyler. Bro. Pearson, P.M., invested and addressed the Wardens, Bro. Brickel, P.M., invested and addressed the rest of the officers, Bro. J. Godwin, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., addressed the Wardens, and Bro. R. Dain, P.J.G.W., rendered the addresses to the brethren generally. There was not a drawback in the whole ceremony, which was performed by the respective officers in such a masterly manner as indicated very careful study on their part.

The general business of the evening having been disposed of, and "Hearty good wishes" expressed by the visiting brethren, Bro. J. Scarratt, W.M., duly closed the lodge, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided for them by Miss M. E. Hart, at the Leopard Hotel.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been given and responded to,

Bro. J. Beech, J.W., proposed "The D.P.G.M., Bro. Lieut.-Col. Brindley, and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past," which was suitably responded to by Bros. S. Watson, P.P.G.P.; W. H. Howson, P.G.S.B.; and J. T. Howson, P.G. Stwd.

The toast of "The Worshipful Master" was proposed by Bro. J. Mason, I.P.M., in very complimentary terms.

The Worshipful Master responded in a very happy manner, thanking Bro. Mason for the very kind words spoken in his favour.

The Worshipful Master proposed "The Installing Master and I.P.M.," and said all the brethren must have been pleased with the excellent working of Bro. John Mason during his year in the chair.

Bro. John Mason, I.P.M., replied, and said that the members of 98 were aware he was always pleased to do anything for the lodge, and during his year in the chair had endeavoured to do the work to the satisfaction of all, and if he had the appreciation of the brethren he was well repaid.

"The Visitors" was given by Bro. Rev. Edgeworth in a very hearty manner, and duly responded to by several visiting brethren.

"The Masonic Charities" was given by Bro. T. K. Pedley, P.P.G.S. of W., and responded to by Bro. W. H. Howson, P.G.S.B., who invited all brethren to subscribe to the Charities.

Bro. Brickel proposed the toast of "The Officers of the Lodge," and was responded to by Bros. A. Boulton, S.W., and W. H. Emery, I.G.

The Tyler's toast closed a very pleasant evening.

During the evening Bros. White, Weston, Davis, Emery, Young, Howson, and others contributed songs, &c., to the harmony of the meeting.

GREAT YARMOUTH.

United Friends Lodge (No. 100).—This lodge held its annual monthly meeting at the Royal Assembly Rooms, Albert-square, on the 12th inst. There were present Bros. H. W. Youell, W.M.; Major W. Diver, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., S.W.; W. E. Holt, J.W.; C. Diver, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., Treas.; H. Chamberlain, Sec.; G. H. Lovewell Blake, S.D.; J. Bunn, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., as J.D.; J. F. W. Bray, P.M., Org.; R. De M. Bracey, I.G.; J. Harvey, Tyler; R. D. Ruddock, I.P.M.; E. P. Youell, P.M., P.P.S.G.W. Suffolk; J. Taylor, P.M.; J. Hall, P.M., P.P.J.G.W.; F. Burton, P.M. (Deputy Mayor), P.G. Reg.; and T. M. Baker, P.M., (Town Clerk). The visitors were Bros. R. H. Teasdale, A. W. Youngman, H. Blake, J. Etheridge, and E. J. Bonfellow, all of neighbouring lodges; and W. R. Arnold, P.M., M.E.Z. 100 and 1789; and Capt. A. C. Daniel, R.A., of 1789.

The minutes of the last regular meeting having been confirmed, and the report of the Committee of Reference having been adopted, a ballot was taken for two candidates for initiation, viz., Messrs. William James Nutman and George Edward Kirkup, and it proving unanimous in their favour, they were duly admitted to the lodge and initiated by Bro. H. Youell, the M.M., in a manner that could not be surpassed, considering that this was the first time he had occupied the chair since his installation in November. The charge, after the initiation, was delivered by the S.W., Bro. Walter Diver, in his usual excellent style. Two joining members were elected, viz.: Bros. F. H. Collins, 20, and Doctor H. Collier, of 1631. The lodge was then closed.

HARROGATE.

Harrogate and Claro Lodge (No. 1001).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Avenue-road, on Friday, the 16th inst., when the following were present: Bros. R. H. Walters, W.M.; J. A. Macnab, J.W.; R. G. Howson, P.M., Chap.; G. Thompson, P.M., Treas.; A. B. Booty, Sec.; W. Darey, S.D.; A. J. Spinks, I.G.; Thomas Linskill and W. H. Turners, Stwds.; W. Child and H. Bungay, Tylers; T. Lawrence, P.M.; J. B. Griffiths, B.A., I.P.M.; A. J. Bodman, P.M.; W. T. Marshall, P.M.; John Wood, J. Rendell, I.G. 1794; and others.

The minutes of the last regular lodge were read, confirmed, and signed by the W.M. and Secretary. Bro. F.

Smith, P.M. 837, P.P.A.G.D.C., was elected a joining member of the lodge. Bro. Howson, P.M., was invested as Chaplain, and suitably addressed on his duties. Bro. Wood was passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft, the ceremony being performed in an admirable manner by the W.M., assisted by Bros. R. G. Howson, P.M.; Thompson, P.M.; and A. B. Booty. "Hearty good wishes" were expressed, and the lodge was closed.

After supper the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, interspersed with songs and recitations.

MANCHESTER.

Ardwick Lodge (No. 2185).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Midland Hotel, Ardwick, on Monday, the 13th inst., under the presidency of Bro. Richard Booth, W.M. There were present Bros. Jas. Hayes, J.W.; T. Rostron, Treas.; W. J. Melling, Sec.; J. W. Atkinson, S.D.; R. W. Atkinson, J.D.; N. Goodman, I.G.; Wm. Hoyland, P.M., D.C.; Henry Dawson, P.M., Tyler; Councillor Wm. Fitzgerald, P.M.; G. E. Wand, P.M.; John Redmond Farrer, and Chas. Bains. Visitor: Bro. Edwd. Roberts, P.M. 1459.

The minutes of the last regular meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Farrer was duly passed into the Degree of F.C.

At the festive board which followed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts having been disposed of, "The Health of the Newly-Passed Brother" was proposed, and afterwards responded to.

The efforts of the Secretary to resuscitate their drooping funds, and place the lodge upon a sound and substantial basis, were referred to by various speakers, and Bro. Melling, in acknowledging the compliment paid to him, made the welcome announcement that the lodge was out of debt.

The harmony of the evening was contributed to by Bros. Geo. E. Wand, P.M.; Wm. Hoyland, P.M.; Edwd. Roberts, P.M.; and T. Rostron.

PENDLETON.

Albert Victor Lodge (No. 1773).—Bro. Thomas Threlfall, W.M., held his first official meeting at the Town Hall, on Friday, the 16th inst., securing a good attendance of officers, Past Masters, and brethren in the following: Bros. J. L. Smith, I.P.M.; Thos. T. Sefton, S.W.; Wm. Mosley, J.W.; Saml. Statham, P.M., P.P.G.T., Chap.; Jas. Clough, Sec.; J. Clarkson, S.D.; W. Hardcastle, P.M., P.P.G.D.C., D.C.; Wm. Lambert, I.G.; W. Allen Smith, Stwd.; J. Harrop, P.M., P.P.G.D.; F. Townson, P.M.; E. Holland, P.M.; Eli Winterbottom, P.M.; Thos. Kay, P.M.; R. Duxbury, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; E. Roberts, P.M.; J. Handley, R. Hilton, Walter H. Barrett, P. B. Hayden, Albert Fletcher, J. S. Kitchen, Robert Winstanley, and Jno. Walker. Visitor: Bro. Charles Edward Borebank, 47 and 170.

The ordinary business of the lodge was of no light character, and included the presentation of Treasurer's Report, passing of accounts, and balloting for two joining members, viz., Bros. Fletcher and Kitchen.

At the festive board, which followed, Bro. Clarkson reminded the company of the approaching Christmas season by a fine rendering on the pianoforte of "Unto us a child is born," Bro. Clough recited a Lancashire sketch, Bro. Hilton was very amusing in comic singing, and Bro. Roberts sang a parody on a popular Welsh song.

PRESTWICH.

Lodge of Concord (No. 1534).—The regular meeting of the above lodge was held at Chester Bank on Thursday, the 15th instant, Bro. E. P. Mead, P.M., D.C., assuming the principal chair in the absence of the W.M. The important business of the evening was the raising of Bro. Albert Summersgill to the Sublime Degree of M.M., the ceremony being performed by Bro. J. W. Thompson, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treasurer, assisted by Bro. S. F. Simons, P.M.

At the festive board which followed, it was announced that in connection with the East Lancashire Systematic and Benevolent Institution, two new Life Governors, in addition to those mentioned at the Festival of St. John two months ago, had been created in the persons of Bros. E. Hilton, I.P.M., and J. P. Reid, both being members of the lodge.

The proceedings were diversified by songs, sketches, and recitations, rendered by the following: Bros. J. Wardle, P.M., Sec.; S. F. Simons, P.M.; W. H. Norton, S.W.; Walter M. Simons, Stwd.; and E. Roberts, P.M.

There were present, besides those mentioned above, Bros. W. B. Midgley, J.W.; A. R. Rogerson, S.D.; Edwin S. Done, J.D.; E. W. Ogden, I.G.; Frank K. Maxwell, Stwd.; R. J. Bennett, P.M.; John Walkden, P.M.; R. Hotherhall, P.M., P.D.G.D.C.; and A. Allan. Bro. J. W. Hallam, J.W. 1055, was a visitor.

SHIPLEY.

Airedale Lodge (No. 387).—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Saitaire Institute on the 7th instant, when Bro. H. Telford was installed as W.M. There was a very large attendance of brethren, the gathering being one of the most successful ever held in connection with the lodge. Amongst the visitors were brethren from the following lodges: Royal Yorkshire, the Hope, Harmony, Shakespeare, Prince of Wales, Acacia, Three Graces, Scientific, Eccleshill, Scarborough, De Warren, Wharnclyffe, St. John's, and St. Lawrence. The Past Masters present included Bros. J. Hey, H. Mitchell, E. Heaton, F. Ives, W. Oddy, J. Tillotson, C. W. Curran, and R. Knight.

The ceremony of installation was performed by Bros. Mitchell, P.M.; Heaton, P.M.; and Knight, I.P.M. The W.M. afterwards invested the following as his officers: Bros. R. Knight, I.P.M.; G. W. Pickles, S.W.; W. Jackson, J.W.; F. Lister, Chap.; J. Hey, Treas.; H. Mitchell, Sec.; W. Oddy, Charity Steward; W. H. Fawcett, S.D.; I. Cromack, J.D.; A. Booth, I.G.; E. L. Baumann, Tyler and Almoner; C. W. Curran, P.M., D.C.; J. Tillotson, Librarian; A. Swaine, Org.; and T. Rhodes, J. W. Parker, L. Arensberg, F. Deighton, Geo. Shackleton, and S. Holdsworth, Stewards.

The charges to the W.M. and officers were given by Bro. Curran, after which the brethren adjourned and celebrated the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, when the toast list was gone through, the proceedings, to which Bro. Chas. Blagbro was a contributor as a vocalist, being very enjoyable.

Royal Arch.

Jerusalem Chapter (No. 185).—This old chapter met at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the 11th inst. Amongst those present were Comps. Hardy, M.E.Z.; Cleghorne, P.Z., H.; Capt. Walls, P.Z., J.; George Davis, P.Z., S.E.; Harfeld, P.Z., Treas.; and Peacock, acting S.N.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. A notice of motion was given "That application be made to the Grand Chapter to change the name of the chapter to the Tranquility, that being the name of the lodge under whose number the chapter meets." Apologies for non-attendance were received from Comps. Francis Smith, P.Z., P.P.G.J. Cheshire, Second Principal; Ellborn, P.Z.; Staley, P.Z.; Kimpton, P.Z.; E. A. Harris, P.Z.; and many others.

The convocation was then closed, and the companions adjourned to refreshment.

Upon the removal of the cloth, the toasts only of "The Queen and Royal Arch Masonry," "The G.Z.," "The Pro G.Z., G.H., G.J.," and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," and "The M.E.Z.," were honoured.

The proceedings then terminated.

Selwyn Chapter (No. 1901).—The regular meeting of this young and promising chapter was held at the Montpelier Hotel, Choumert-road, Peckham, on Thursday, the 8th inst. There were present Comps. W. Davies, M.E.Z.; E. Gauntlett, H.; J. Lightfoot, J.; W. H. Hook, P.Z., Treas.; C. H. Stone, S.E.; J. Evans, S.N.; H. R. Hobbs, P.S.; W. J. Alford, 1st A.S.; F. H. Ford, 2nd A.S.; Dr. W. Thomas, A.D.C.; A. H. Fraser, Steward; J. Bowler, Janitor; T. Grummant, P.Z., Treas. 1275; F. E. Pow, J. E. Burkmar, E. Eagle, L. E. Eagle, and H. Hayward.

The minutes of the consecration ceremony and emergency meeting were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Bro. Wimble, P.M. 1901, for exaltation, which proved unanimous in his favour. At the last minute a telegram was received from Bro. Wimble, regretting absence through unavoidable circumstances; but the M.E.Z. rehearsed the ceremony, which was ably performed by the Principals and the rest of the officers. Letters for non-attendance were read from candidates who expressed their regret, but their intention to attend as early as possible. A notice of motion was given by the M.E.Z.—"That the hon. membership of the chapter be conferred upon Comp. T. Grummant, P.Z., for the able services he had rendered to the chapter."

The business of the convocation ended, the companions adjourned to an excellent supper, supplied by Comp. Pow, the proprietor, in his usual capital style, after which the usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts were ably given by the M.E.Z.

The toast of "The Grand Officers" received merited attention.

The toast of "The M.E.Z." was given by Comp. Hook, P.Z., in terms of high commendation, and most suitably acknowledged.

The toast of "The H. and J." received its just meed of praise from the M.E.Z., congratulating them on their excellent work that evening.

Both of the Principals responded in very appropriate terms.

"The Visitors" was given next by the M.E.Z., who gave them a hearty welcome.

Comp. Grummant, P.Z., ably replied. The toast of "The Officers" deservedly received the praise of the M.E.Z.

Each officer responded, and promised their utmost support to the chapter.

The Janitor's toast closed a most instructive meeting.

The proceedings were enlivened by the vocal efforts of Comps. Alford, Hook, Hobbs, J. Evans, Stone, Lightfoot, and Burkmar, Comp. Evans presiding at the piano.

St. Martin's-le-Grand Chapter (No. 1538).—A meeting was held on Friday, the 16th inst., at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, E.C., when there were present Comps. H. P. Hay, M.E.Z.; H. G. Hale, H.; Mumford, P.Z., as J.; G. Gregory, S.E.; J. Thwaites, S.N.; E. M. Money, P.Z. 28, P.S.; Elphinstone-Stone, 2nd A.S.; J. Ives, Janitor; R. C. Leversedge, P.Z.; J. P. Parkes, P.Z.; Hatch, Roberts, and Trezise. Visitors: Comps. W. Ratcliff, H. 3, and E. Daoust, 2090.

The chapter was opened, and the minutes of the previous convocation read and confirmed. Bro. H. B. Robinson, 1538, was regularly admitted and exalted.

The companions afterwards dined together, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and responded to very heartily. The companions separated early.

Aldersgate Chapter (No. 1657).—A meeting was held on Monday last at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Present: Comps. John Larkin, M.E.Z.; R. H. Crowden, acting H.; George Kenning, Treas., acting J.; E. Y. Jolliffe, P.Z., S.E.; George Rawlinson, S.N.; James Shoter, P.S.; Couchman, Janitor; Horace Brooks Marshall, P.Z., P.G. Treas.; and P. F. R. Saillard, P.Z. Visitor: Comp. Horace Stewart, 1194.

The minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The companions dined together under the gavel of the M.E.Z.

LANCASTER.

Rowley Chapter (No. 1051).—A meeting of this chapter took place at the Masonic Hall, Church-street, on Monday, the 19th inst., when there were present Comps. A. T. Relph, M.E.Z.; Nuttall, H.; B. Gregson, P.Z., as J.; Rich. Stanton, P.Z., S.E.; J. F. Willan, S.N.; H. Longman, P.Z., P.P.G.P.S.; J. Ellershaw, P.Z.; W. Duff, P.Z.; Capstick, Heald, Nicholson, and others.

The ballot was taken for Bros. Gordon and Turner, of the Morcombe Lodge, and were duly exalted by the M.E.Z. Another candidate having been duly proposed, the chapter was closed.

Mr. Gladstone, accompanied by Mrs. Gladstone, Miss Gladstone, and Mr. Armitstead, arrived at Biarritz at 7 o'clock on Thursday morning. At the courtyard of the Grand Hotel the party were received by the British Consul, and bouquets of flowers were presented on behalf of the municipality of Biarritz. The travellers found the country enjoying splendid weather and brilliant sunshine.

Mark Masonry.

Chiswick Lodge (No. 357).—A meeting of this lodge was held on the 5th inst., at the Star and Garter Hotel, Kew Bridge, when the members were honoured with the presence of Bros. the Earl of Euston, Deputy Grand Master, and Col. A. B. Cook, Prov. Grand Master Middx. In the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Bro. W. C. Dickey, W.M., the chair was taken by Bro. Geo. Thomas, I.P.M., Prov. G.M.O., supported by Bros. C. P. Bellerby, S.W.; George Gardner, P.M., Treas., P.G.S.B.; Dr. F. Lawrence, P.M., P.G.D.C.; J. L. Mather, P.G. Treas.; B. F. Hartshorne, M.O.; E. Chamberlain, S.D.; Cuthbert Wilkinson, J.D.; R. J. Manlove, I.G.; and R. I. Husband, Stwd. Visitors: Bros. the Earl of Euston, Deputy G.M.; Col. A. B. Cook, Prov. G.M. Middx.; E. B. Cox, I.P.M. Thistle Lodge; and W. W. Lee.

The lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed. Bro. H. Clark, I.G. 2012, was then advanced to the Degree of M.M. Bros. the Earl of Euston, Deputy G.M., and Col. Cook, Prov. G.M., were unanimously elected honorary members, on the proposition of Bro. Mather, seconded by Bro. G. Gardner. The resignation of Bro. Geo. Everett was received with sincere regret.

The lodge was closed, and the brethren having enjoyed an excellent repast, the usual toasts were duly honoured.

Bro. G. Thomas, I.P.M., in proposing "The Pro G.M., the Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers," asked the brethren to receive it with the greatest cordiality. He would not presume, in the presence of the Deputy Grand Master, to speak at any length, and moreover he had not the power to do so. When they regarded the progress of Masonry generally, and Mark Masonry in particular, they must consider it was in a large measure due to the distinguished officers placed in high positions, and whilst they had such brethren willing to occupy those posts, there was no fear of Masonry ever deteriorating.

Bro. the Earl of Euston, Deputy G.M., said he rose, on behalf of the Grand Officers, to return thanks for the kind way in which his health had been proposed. During the few years he had been a Mason he had had the most cordial help and assistance from them in every shape and form, and they were only anxious to see Masonry extended. Mark Masonry had increased considerably, and last year in the provinces there were 15 advances on one evening. The Grand Officers were anxious and willing to help the brethren to increase the power of Masonry, and Mark Masonry in particular.

The I.P.M. then said it was his privilege to propose "The Health of the Prov. G.M. and the Prov. G. Officers." It would ill become him to say all he felt with respect to the Prov. Grand Master, but he would thank Col. Cook for the distinction bestowed upon him. He could also safely do so on behalf of the W.M., who had received provincial rank.

Bro. Col. A. B. Cook, Prov. G.M., said he need hardly say how gratified he must feel to have his health proposed for the first time in a lodge in the new province of which he had been appointed Prov. Grand Master. His thanks were due to the acting W.M. for the very kind way in which he had proposed it. He was sorry the W.M. was not present and should be pleased if the I.P.M. would convey his expression of regret. As regards the old Province of Middlesex and Surrey it was well known to those who knew anything of Mark history that for years it was intended that the province should be separated, and it was also the custom in the Craft that during the tenure of office by a Prov. Grand Master no change should take place. On the death of Sir Francis Burdett it was thought expedient to divide the province. Entirely excluding the high honour conferred upon him (Col. Cook) he thought the decision was a wise one, and he hoped every member of the province would do his best to act up to and do his duty according to the change that had taken place. He took it as a compliment that a distinguished brother, a personal friend of his, who had accepted the office of Prov. Grand Secretary had been nominated for the office of Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year. He was glad to say that at the Grand Lodge the recommendation of the General Board with regard to the funds of the old province was carried without any opposition. He wished to thank the Deputy G. Master for his presence that evening, for it was a compliment not only to the Chiswick Lodge, but to the Province of Middlesex and to himself particularly. He hoped all the members of the province would do their best to help and support him, and consolidate the new province, so that when it came to his turn to hand over the province it could be said it was a happy and contented one.

Bro. G. Gardner, P.M., Treas., proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," and said he should convey the regrets of the brethren at his illness. Bro. Geo. Thomas, I.P.M., had that evening discharged the duties of the chair in an able manner, and they all thanked him for so doing.

Bro. G. Thomas, I.P.M., having thanked Bro. Gardner, said he felt somewhat of a usurper. He hoped the day would be far distant when he should not undertake the duties assigned to him in Mark Masonry. It was his favourite Degree, and he hoped the lodge would prosper in the future.

"The Advance" was next given, and "The Visitors" was responded to by Bro. E. B. Cox, P.M.

Other toasts were given, and a pleasant evening terminated with the Tyler's toast.

MANCHESTER.

St. Andrew's Lodge (No. 34).—The regular meeting of this prosperous lodge was held on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at the Freemasons' Hall. There were present Bros. C. Edgar Towell, W.M.; Geo. S. Smith, S.W.; G. A. Myers, J.W.; A. K. Boothroyd, M.O.; J. M. Veal, S.O.; John Walker, Sec.; J. M. Sinclair, P.P. G.M.O., Treas.; J. Laursen, J.D.; J. Hardwicke Marsh, Reg.; Julius Arensberg, P.P.G.O.; Joseph J. Richardson, P.P.G.I. of W.; Chas. Shaw, J. Sharples, J. Ormrod, and E. Roberts.

Bro. Smith, S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. J. M. Sinclair, Treasurer; whilst Bros. G. Alfred Myers, J.W., and A. K. Boothroyd were appointed Auditors.

GUERNSEY.

Sarnian Lodge (No. 425).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 12th instant. Bro. Balfour Cockburn, P.G.D., occupied the chair, with Bro. Richard as S.W., and Bro. Lovell as J.W. After the confirmation of the minutes of the last regular meet-

ing and two emergency meetings, the election of the W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler was carried out, which resulted in Bro. Richard being declared W.M. elect; Bro. Pengelley, Treasurer; and Bro. Biddescombe, Tyler. Bro. Weyson was then elected a member of the Audit Committee. The W.M. then rose and related to the lodge how surprised and gratified he had been when a few weeks ago he had been requested to attend at the office of the Grand Secretary, and that there in the presence of the donors he had been requested to receive the beautiful tracing board which he then exhibited and which the Consecrating Officers, through their representative, Bro. C. Fitzgerald Matier, requested him to present to the members of the Sarnian Lodge for their acceptance, as a token of their pleasing remembrance of a very interesting occasion and of the great interest which they would ever take in the welfare of the Sarnian Lodge. Bro. A. C. Quick in a few graceful words acknowledging the valuable gift, proposed the following: "That in accepting the tracing board which the W.M., Bro. Balfour Cockburn, had officially received and presented, the members of the Sarnian Lodge, No. 425, desire to place on record their most sincere thanks to Bros. C. Fitzgerald Matier, Arthur Roger Carter, Gordon Miller, R. Berridge, and C. Carrell (the Consecrating Officers), for their great kindness in presenting so handsome a gift to the lodge, and that a report of the same be entered on the minutes, and a copy be sent to each of the donors." Bro. Pengelley seconded this proposition very warmly, and it is almost needless to observe that it was carried unanimously.

After this a few minor details of business were transacted, and the lodge being closed, the brethren repaired to the banquet hall, where the evening was concluded in a most pleasant and harmonious manner.

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

RANELAGH LODGE (No. 834).—A meeting was held on Friday, the 16th ult., at the Six Bells Hotel, Hammersmith, when there were present Bros. C. C. Stafford, W.M.; R. Reid, S.W.; W. Hinds, J.W.; A. Williams, P.M., Treas.; D. S. Long, P.M., Sec.; F. Craggs, P.M., S.D.; J. Banks, J.D.; A. Salmons, I.G.; F. Barth, and W. Hide.

Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed. Bro. Barth offering himself a candidate for initiation, the ceremony was rehearsed. Bro. Barth offering himself a candidate for passing was questioned and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree and the ceremony rehearsed. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree. The lodge was closed in the Third and Second Degrees. The W.M. having risen, the S.W. was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing meeting. The lodge was then closed.

COVENT GARDEN LODGE (No. 1614).—The usual weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Criterion, Piccadilly, S.W., on Thursday, the 15th inst., when there were present Bros. Dukas, W.M.; Burgess, S.W.; Holland, J.W.; G. H. Foan, Preceptor; Reynolds, sen., Treas.; J. H. Keen, acting as Sec.; Coghate, S.D.; Kepner, J.D.; Seary, Org.; Rowe, I.G.; Harris, Jones, Berry, Wise, Hoggins, Dennis, and Walker.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Hoggins. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. Bro. Berry having offered himself as a candidate for initiation, the W.M. rehearsed the ceremony. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. G. H. Foan, who rehearsed the ceremony of installation, installing Bro. Dukas as W.M. On the first time of rising the dues were collected. On the second time of rising, Bro. Burgess, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. On the third time of rising, Bro. Foan proposed that a hearty and cordial vote of thanks be recorded on the minutes of this lodge of instruction to Bro. Dukas for the very able manner in which he had carried out the duties of the chair for the first time in this or any other lodge of instruction—seconded by the S.W., and carried unanimously. Nothing further offering for the good of Freemasonry, the lodge was closed.

HARLESDEN.—St. JOHN'S LODGE (No. 167).—A meeting was held on Thursday, the 14th inst., at the Court House. Present: Bros. W. C. Tebbitt, W.M.; W. Plaford, S.W.; J. Rawle, J.W.; W. Hillier, Preceptor; C. Penny, Treas.; W. Plaford, Sec.; J. Bartlett, P.M. 1637, S.D.; A. Jones, J.D.; W. J. Lovegrove, P.M. 1088, P.P.G.S., I.G.; A. W. Lane, P.M. 167; W. Williams, W. H. Thomas, and F. S. Priest.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the First Degree, Bro. Thomas having offered himself as the candidate, the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, after which the 3rd Section of the First Lecture, was very ably worked by Bro. Hillier, the Preceptor, assisted by the brethren. It was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously, that the S.W., Bro. W. Roche Plaford, the W.M. at the next meeting. It was proposed by the Preceptor, and seconded by Bro. W. W. Williams, that the Fifteen Sections be worked by the brethren on the 2nd Thursday in February next, and after "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed.

STAR CHAPTER (No. 1275).—The usual weekly meeting was held at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, on Friday, the 16th inst., when there were present Comps. North, M.E.Z.; Grummant, H.; Hill, J.; F. Hilton, P.Z., Preceptor; Stone, S.E.; G. Thompson, S.N.; Salmon, P.S.; Addington, H. G. Martin, Braik, Rice, Chabot, Block, and Dawson.

The minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. W. Dawson personating the candidate. Comp. T. Grummant was elected M.E.Z. for the next meeting, when the installation ceremony will be rehearsed. A vote of sympathy was passed to Comp. Cass in his sad bereavement—the loss of his daughter, and it was resolved that a letter be sent condoling with him. There being no further business, the chapter was closed.

Order of the Secret Monitor.

GRAND COUNCIL.

The half-yearly meeting of Grand Council was held at Mark Masons' Hall, on Friday, the 16th inst. Bro. Dr. J. Zacharie, G.S.R., presided. There were present Bros. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C.; W. G. Lemon, LL.D.; W. T. Newitt, Dr. H. Juler, C. E. Keyser, J. Tickle, J. J. Pakes, Dr. Alex. Stewart Brown, Colonel H. M. Gordon, W. R. Shutt, N. Brokenshire, Dr. Harley Thomas, W. J. Spratling, Grand Recorder, and other Grand Officers.

Previous to the meeting, a conclave of emergency of the University of London Conclave, No. 2, was held for the induction of Bro. Macleod, LL.D., Past Grand Master Burmah. Bro. W. G. Lemon, S.R., occupied the chair.

The Grand Council adopted the reports of the Grand Treasurer and Auditors, who reported a good balance in hand; of the Grand Recorder, who reported the issue of 138 certificates during the year; of the Grand Visitors, Bros. Geo. Danford Thomas, M.D., and C. E. Keyser; and of the Executive Committee, which included a recommendation that the Grand Visitors of the year should be *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee. A letter was read from the Sovereign Grand Master of the Order in the United States, enclosing copy of their ritual, and expressing fraternal good wishes.

Grand Festival was fixed for the third Wednesday in June, 21st, and the winter meeting of Grand Council for Friday, December 1st, 1893.

The following Grand Officers were appointed on Executive Committee for the year 1893: Bros. Dr. Zacharie, G.S.R.; W. G. Lemon, G.T.; Col. Geo. Lambert, P.G.S.; W. J. Spratling, G.R.; G. Danford Thomas, G.V.; and Chas. E. Keyser, G.V.

Appointed by the G.S.R.: Bros. J. Lewis Thomas, P.G.S.R., and Sir Augustus Harris, P.G.G.

Elected at the meeting: Bros. Alex. Stewart Brown, P.G.C.; Jas. J. Pakes, P.G. Gdr.; and Japheth Tickle, C.C., P.G.B.B.

Grand Council being closed, the brethren spent a very pleasant evening at the Holborn Restaurant, under the kindly rule of the G.S.R.

ANNUAL SUPPER OF THE JOPPA LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 188.

The annual supper of the above lodge of instruction was held on Tuesday evening, the 13th inst., at the City Boundary Tavern, Aldersgate-street (Bro. Bird, proprietor). The company present included Bros. H. Garrad, W.M. elect 188, W.M.; Davies, S.W.; Wade, J.W.; Dancyger, P.M., Preceptor; Beadell, P.M.; J. Botibol, P.M.; H. Lazerus, P.M.; A. Todd, W.M. elect; Dr. Fye, W.M. elect 201; Lacey, Van Gelder, Donaldson, Duffield, Abrahams, John Botibol, A. Botibol, Edwards, Costam, Walters, Rosenberg, Dunlop, Wand, Webb, Hambly, Hon. Sec., and others.

The lodge was opened and closed in due form, supper being served by Bro. Bird.

After the usual loyal toasts had been drunk, the PRECEPTOR, in proposing "The Health of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Garrad," said he had the pleasant and interesting duty to perform of presenting him with a Worshipful Master's apron, embellished with solid silver, as a slight mark of the esteem in which he is held by the members of the lodge for the untiring perseverance he has displayed in Masonry, and for the loyal and painstaking support he has given to the lodge.

Bro. GARRAD's reply was characterised by so much cordial warmth of feeling, that the brethren cheered him to the echo.

A hearty and enthusiastic reception was also given to the other toasts, also those of "The Visitors," "Success to the Joppa Lodge of Instruction," "The Preceptor, the Treasurer, and the Secretary," and "The Host."

Bros. Beadell, Van Gelder, Donaldson, Wade, and Todd, assisted by Messrs. W. Treliving, Hambly, A. Plunkett, and Shemmonds, contributed, by song and recitation, to the enjoyment of the evening.

It was 11.30 p.m., though the time appeared all too short, before the brethren separated, amidst the heartiest of mutual good wishes.

The Worshipful Master's apron was manufactured by Bro. George Kenning.

PRESENTATION TO COMP. W. H. DEAN, P.Z. 77, P.P.G.R. DORSET.

The companions of the Hornsey Chapter of Improvement, No. 890, desiring to express their appreciation of the services rendered by Comp. Dean on his retirement from the Committee of Preceptors, deputed Comp. S. Cochrane, at a convocation held on the 2nd inst., to present him with an illuminated address, who, in a very neat speech, enumerated some of the services rendered by Comp. Dean, one of the founders, and hoped and felt sure that his excellent and correct working in Royal Arch Masonry would be as much valued in Dorsetshire as it was in London, and that he might live long and know that he would always be kindly thought of by those he was leaving, and concluded by handing him the address, which ran as follows: "The companions of the Hornsey Chapter of Improvement,

No. 890, desire to express in marked terms their warmest thanks and gratitude to Ex. Comp. William Henry Dean, P.Z. 77, P.P.G.R. Dorset, not only for the services rendered by him as one of the Committee of Preceptors, but also for the exceptional ability and uniform kindness with which at all times his perfect knowledge of Royal Arch Masonry has been displayed for the benefit of those companions who desired to attain proficiency in the work, and in order that he may have a memento of the same, this testimonial was voted in open chapter on his departure for the West of England, and was ordered to be signed by the executive;

"H. E. DEHANE, P.Z. 890, S.E.
"JOHN DAVIES, M.E.Z. 733, Treas.
"SAMUEL COCHRANE, P.S. 3."

Comp. DEAN, who was received with applause, in acknowledging the present, thanked Comp. Cochrane (whom he hoped to see Grand Treasurer) for the kind expressions he had used towards him, and Comp. Dehane for bringing to his recollection many pleasant episodes during his connection with the Hornsey Chapter of Improvement from its foundation, especially that he had the privilege of being one of the Consecrating Officers (Joshua) at the second convocation, December, 1885, when Comp. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Registrar England, rehearsed the consecrating ceremony. Shortly after that occasion the companions elected him as one of the Preceptors, and he had used his best endeavours for the well-being and success of the chapter of instruction, but little expected that the companions so far appreciated his services as to present him with so handsome and beautifully executed address, which he certainly considered the most unique as to its design that he had ever seen. He accepted it with the greatest pleasure, as he knew he possessed their good will and esteem, or they would not have given it to him, and expressed his warmest thanks to all, and it would ever be remembered in days to come as a token of their kindness, as he never had an unkind word from any, but was always welcomed with smiles and good wishes. During the few months he had not been among them, he found that the attendances had gradually increased, and although their numbers were not so many as could be wished, still they had companions of the right sort, not quantity, but quality, and should they continue on the same lines, they might expect a continuance of that success which they had had from its foundation, but would recommend the Preceptors to have the work done, as it had always been, well, then any companion would be able to take any office wherever or whenever he might be requested to do so, and wished the chapter every prosperity. The proceedings then terminated.

BRO. WATSON'S LECTURES.

Yorkshire Freemasons have an excellent opportunity of becoming acquainted with the early history of the Craft, through the able lectures by Bro. William Watson, of 28, East Parade, Leeds (the Honorary Secretary of the famous West Yorkshire Masonic Library and Museum). What is more, these useful addresses can be heard without any cost, as Bro. Watson gives his services freely, and is ready, according to the mutual convenience of those concerned, to lecture anywhere in the county. Of course, a long distance from Leeds would be subject to arrangement.

Bro. Watson gave a lecture on *Early Freemasonry* before the brethren of the Probity Lodge, No. 61, Halifax, of which old lodge he is a member; also another lecture to the brethren of the "Royal Wharfedale Lodge," No. 1108, Otley, and exhibited a number of valuable souvenirs of the "olden tyme," illustrative of the subject, with which he is so familiar, and in which he takes such great interest. We feel assured that such work will be much appreciated, and do much to advance the best interests of the Fraternity.

GRAND PERFORMANCE IN AID OF MASONIC CHARITIES AT MANCHESTER.

An fashionable audience assembled at the Theatre Royal recently on the occasion of a performance in aid of Masonic Charities. Not only were all the seats in the dress circle occupied, but several additional rows of stalls had to be provided, and the house presented a brilliant and animated appearance. Amongst the many distinguished brethren were the following: Bros. E. G. Harwood, P.P.G.W., Chairman of the East Lancashire Systematic Masonic Educational and Benevolent Institution; Capt. J. D. Murray, Grand Treas.; Thos. Black, P.P.G.D.; James Kershaw, P.P.G.D.C.; Thos. Potter, P.P.A.G.D.C.; W. Newton, P.P.G.W.; Wm. Jaffray, P.P.G.D.; Evan Williams, P.P.G.S. of W.; J. Holland Watson, P.G.S.B.; J. Truelove Richardson, P.P.G.D.; E. G. Simpson, P.P.G.D.; M. Thomas, P.P.G.D.; Nathaniel Nicholson, P.P.G.D.; J. Newton, P. Asst. G. Sec.; A. Middleton, P.P.G.D.; John Studd, P.P.G.D.C.; George Board, P.P.G.D.; R. W. Russell, P.P.D.G.D.C.; and hundreds of other brethren.

The occasion was evidently regarded as one of exceptional interest and attractiveness. Bro. Thomas Ramsay had most generously offered the use of the theatre, with the band, free of all cost. This and the services of Bro. George Black and the other artistes giving their valuable services, and Bro. Samuel Moore presenting the whole of the printing of programmes, &c., the honourable Institution will derive substantial assistance from the entertainment.

Two plays were presented on the occasion, "A Husband in Clover" and "David Garrick." In the former Miss Helena Lisle (Mrs. Ramsay) met with great success, and created a very favourable impression. The vast audience showed their marked appreciation by frequent applause and cheering. David Garrick as played by Bro. George Black met with a very gratifying reception. He is the son of Bro. Thomas Black, a well-known and distinguished Freemason and citizen of Manchester, whose heart is always bounding with feelings of Charity, not only in Masonic, but other circles as well, and who is the principal promoter of this entertainment.

His rendering of Garrick goes to show what a great student he must have been to play such a difficult part with such great success and ability, and we are pleased to think and feel assured that our worthy Bro. George Black has a great future before him. More especially he is to be thanked for the very noble way in which he came forward to give his services to such a cause as the East Lancashire Systematic Educational and Benevolent Institution.

Great praise is due to the Committee for carrying out the arrangements so admirably, more especially to Bro. W. Craig Royle, who has worked indefatigably as Secretary.

Our Portrait Gallery of Worshipful Masters.



BRO. ALFRED SAUNDERS, of Parson's Green,

whose portrait we publish above, was installed W.M. of the St. Luke's Lodge, No. 144, in October last, in which he was initiated on the 4th of February, 1884, being proposed by Bro. Henry Cox, P.M., and seconded by Bro. Thos. Markland, P.M. He was appointed A.D.C. in 1885, and has since filled all the principal offices.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The last monthly meeting for the year 1892 of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Robert Grey, President of the Board, presided; Bro. James Brett, Senior Vice-President, and Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, Junior Vice-President, occupied the two Vice-Presidents' chairs; Bro. E. Letchworth, G.S., Bros. A. A. Pendlebury, Asst. G.S., W. Dodd, and W. H. Lee, represented the Grand Secretary's office. The other brethren present were Bros. William Vincent, David D. Mercer, S. V. Abrahams, Walter Martin, T. W. Whitmarsh, George A. Pickering, J. H. Matthews, Charles Dairy, W. P. Brown, George Graveley, S. H. Goldschmidt E. C. Mulvey, Charles J. R. Tijou, A. C. Woodward, Dr. H. J. Strong, Henry Garrod, S. Dancyger, Richard Croydon, E. L. Horne, J. H. White, S. Pardoe, Jas. Shuter, W. Airey, J. J. Pope, H. Massey, Charles S. Lawson, Walter Sanderson, W. C. Taylor, Francis J. Hannan, M.D., E. Morris, John Stroud, E. Edward Gesslowski, Wm. W. Lee, E. C. Symmons, George P. Gilland, E. Ames, Frank Matthews, Henry Lloyd, William Grellier, Charles P. Bellerby, William Chicken, Robert A. Gowan, J. W. Parsons, C. Jolly, W. Jackson, Lewis Lazarus, Francis W. Frigout, Henry G. Pitt, and Henry Sadler, Grand Tyler.

The PRESIDENT, after opening the Board, said: Brethren, before we commence the business of the evening, allow me to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and to hope that its brightness may be enhanced by the recollection that we have spent many hours at this Board in endeavouring to relieve the wants of others.

Bro. JAMES BRET, Senior Vice-President, on behalf of the Board, thanked the President for his good wishes and heartily reciprocated the same.

The brethren first confirmed recommendations made to the Grand Master at the November meeting to the extent of £265. The new list contained the names of 39 petitioners, which were qualified through lodges in the London district, and at London, Malta, Spalding, Dover, Oxford, Folkestone, Plumstead, Deal, Dartford, Aldeburgh, Plymouth, Dursley, Exmouth, Port Chalmers, N.Z., Coventry, Delhi, Bombay, Maulmain, Newport, I.W., Kew Bridge, Prescot, and Shanghai.

Three of the cases were deferred, and four dismissed, two of the latter being referred to the Board of General Purposes for irregularity in the recommendations. The remaining cases were relieved with a total of £835. Among these, two were recommended to Grand Lodge for £50 each, nine were recommended to the Grand Master for £40 each, and four for £30 each. Ten immediate grants of £20 each were made, one of £15, two of £10 each, and four of £5 each.

The President stated that the Board had voted £495 less this year than last year, but that the number of petitions relieved was larger.

The Board sat nearly four hours.

THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS GREETING.

The following was adopted at the late Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment (U.S.A.), held at Denver on the 12th August last:

"That the Grand Encampment approves and gives its official sanction to the observance of Christmas Day by Knights Templar, either in their official capacity or as Commanderies, and that annually there be a Christmas toast and response prepared and transmitted to all Grand Commanderies and constituent Commanderies owing allegiance to the Grand Encampment.

"While life and strength remain to him, the management of the matter could not be in better hands than those of the beloved Frater to whom credit is due of originating the beautiful idea, Stephen Berry, and we therefore further recommend that he be charged with the duty of preparing the 'sentiment' annually during the pleasure of the Grand Encampment, and that the expense thereof be paid on the order of the Grand Master."

In obedience to that resolution the following toast has been prepared:

"To our Grand Master, Hugh McCurdy. From Ocean to Ocean, and from Gulf to the Lakes, ninety thousand Templars send Merry Christmas greetings."

The Grand Master sends the following response:

"Christmas: The Birthday of Him who is the embodiment of all Templars' hopes. The Inspirer of that spirit which makes all Knights Templar one, wheresoever dispersed around the globe."

Will our many friends in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Colonies, join in these sentiments on Monday, December 26th, at noon, Eastern Standard time (equivalent to 5 p.m. Greenwich), and the invitation is extended to all true Templars and their friends, wheresoever dispersed, on land or sea.—Courteously and fraternally yours,

W. J. HUGHAN, Torquay,
For STEPHEN BERRY, the Originator,
of Portland, Maine.

The change is owing to Christmas falling on Sunday, so that Monday, at 5 p.m. (Greenwich time), is selected for the annual observance.

Obituary.

BRO. R. G. PIKE.

We deeply regret to record the death, after a short illness, of Bro. R. G. Pike, a founder and P.M. of the Belvedere Lodge, No. 503, on Thursday, the 15th ult., in his 83rd year. Our esteemed brother was for a number of years in business as a grocer in Week-street, Maidstone, and since his retirement from business had been living with his brother in Brompton, Chatham. He had since his initiation taken a very great interest in Freemasonry and the Masonic Charities. He was also a founder of the Belvedere Chapter, No. 503. The interment took place in the Maidstone Cemetery on the 19th ult. On the arrival of the cortege at the entrance it was met by the following brethren representing the lodge: Bro. E. Weller, W.M.; F. Kite, P.M., P.G.D.C., Treas.; H. Cruttenden, P.M., P.G.S.B.; G. Appleyard, P.M., P.S.G.D., Sec.; J. Hunt, P.M., P.A.G.D.C.; J. S. Anscorb, P.M., P.G.S. of W.; J. R. Foord, P.M., P.G.D.C.; G. Cornell, P.M.; G. E. Wallis, P.M.; T. Elmore, P.M.; J. Barker, P.M.; J. Roe, Chap.; T. Cruttenden, F. Ashdown, W. S. Reader, A. C. Brissenden, R. W. Robson, W. Maskell, H. J. Loader, J. Gray, and H. F. Whyman, S.W. 2046. The chapter was represented by Comps. T. W. A. Neech, Z.; D. T. J. Lyle, H.; F. Kite, P.Z., G. Reg.; G. Appleyard, P.Z., P.G.D.C., Treas.; S. Wagon, P.A.G.D.C., S.E.; G. E. Wallis, P.Z., P.A.G.D.C.; and E. Weller, S.N. Wreaths were placed on the coffin by the W.M. of the lodge and the M.E.Z. of the chapter, on behalf of the brethren and companions.

Bro. the Earl of Kintore, Governor of South Australia, when proroguing the local Parliament on Saturday last till the 31st prox., expressed his thanks to the members of both Houses for the attention they had devoted to their duties and the energy and determination they had shown in preventing a defeat at the close of the year.



The Fishmongers' Company have voted 25 guineas, and the Salters' Company 10 guineas, to the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital.

The ball which is to be given in aid of the London Flower Girls' Guild will take place on Tuesday, the 12th prox., and not on Friday, the 6th (Twelfth Night).

Bro. Sir Algernon Borthwick, M.P., took the chair at the meeting which was held in the Great Hall of King's College on Tuesday, and distributed the prizes won by the successful pupils of King's College School.

Bro. the Earl of Onslow has made remission of 15 per cent. on the last half-year's rents to all the old tenants on his Clendon Park Estate, Surrey, and of from 10 to 5 per cent. to those who have recently taken farms.

We regret to hear that Capt. the Hon. Ronald Greville, eldest son of Bro. Lord Greville, is dangerously ill of typhoid fever. The disease, however, is running a normal course, and the patient's strength is well maintained.

The Registrar-General's returns show that in London during last week the death-rate was 19.4 per 1000, but though this is higher than the previous return, the Metropolis is healthy, the deaths being 170 below the average.

The Duke and Duchess of Teck and the Princess Victoria Mary and Prince Adolphus concluded their visit to the Duke and Duchess of Westminster at Eaton Hall on Saturday last, and returned to London by the Irish Mail.

The last Cabinet Council before Christmas was held in Downing-street on Saturday morning, when amongst the Ministers who attended were Bro. Lord Herschell (Lord Chancellor), Bro. the Right Hon. G. J. Shaw-Lefevre, and Bro. Sir George D. Trevelyan, Bart.

A conference was held under the presidency of the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, on Saturday last, for the purpose of electing a Committee to organise cycle and athletic sports in behalf of the medical charities which are benefited by the Saturday Hospital Fund.

Thanks to the liberality of the Queen, and Lords Stratford, Brownlow, Bute, Lichfield, Coleridge, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, and others, there will be a fine collection of Italian, Flemish, Dutch, and English pictures at the forthcoming winter exhibition of the Royal Academy.

A Committee has been formed for the purpose of affording relief to the only son of the late Michael Balfe, who was recently found in a refuge in a state of the deepest distress. Among those who have already given in their names being Bros. Sir Arthur Sullivan, Sir Augustus Harris, Col. J. H. Mapleson, and G. A. Sala.

Lady Borthwick opened the exhibition and sale of work made by members of "The Children's Salon," for the purpose of endowing cots in children's hospitals, at the New Lyric Club, St. James's-street, on Tuesday afternoon, a very attractive programme of vocal and instrumental music being provided by Sir Joseph Barnby.

The Queen, with the Princess Henry of Battenberg and her children, and attended by the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, left Windsor for Osborne early on Saturday morning, and, after crossing the Solent in the Royal Yacht Alberta, reached her destination in the afternoon. The Court will remain in the Isle of Wight till the middle of February, and then return to Windsor, which she will leave for Florence about the 15th or 16th March.

The Prince of Wales presided at the dinner of the Norfolk Artillery, which was held at the Hôtel Métropole on Monday evening. Among the officers present were Bros. Col. Lord Suffield, Lieut.-Col. Sir F. G. Boileau, and Major Sir W. H. B. Folkes. In the course of the evening the Prince on behalf of himself as Hon. Colonel of the Regiment and the other officers, presented a massive silver vase to Bro. Lord Suffield on his retirement from the command of the corps after 26 years' service.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Duke of York, presided at the final meeting of the Commissioners of the late Royal Naval Exhibition. According to the report, which was read by Admiral Sir William Dowell, the surplus proceeds, amounting to £37,000, had been invested so as to produce a yearly income of £1440. The Prince pointed out that the Committee would only be able, out of so small an income, to make small monthly grants to the widows and orphans of seamen and marines for a limited period, and gratuities in cases of urgency. A Committee was accordingly formed for distributing the funds next year, and his Royal Highness expressed the hope that now a beginning had been made, the public would come forward and make substantial contributions.

In the *City Press* of the 17th inst., we noticed that Bro. Capt. T. C. Walls, presided at the 152nd winter dinner of the Tradesmen's Club, which was held at the Holborn Restaurant on the 15th inst. There was a large attendance of distinguished Corporators and others. Amongst the members and guests were Bros. A. C. Morton, C.C., M.P., P.M. (Vice-President); Alderman W. P. Treloar, Deputy G. Manners, F.S.A., C.C., P.M.; H. B. Marshall, C.C., J.P., P.G. Treas.; T. Wildash, C.C.; T. A. Woodbridge, C.C., P.M., P.P.G.R.; B. Turner, C.C., P.M.; John Lobb, C.C., M.L.S.B.; S. Weingott, C.C.; W. Wellsman, C.C., P.M.; T. Anstey, T. Simpson, P.M.; H. J. Lardner, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; H. Bennett, E. S. Lardner, P.M.; W. J. Gaze, P.M.; J. Fortescue, S. Alderton, H. Eskell-Paget, W. Pitman, H. Webber, and others. Mr. Deputy J. T. Bedford ("Robert"), was also present. The musical arrangements were in the able hands of Bro. Egbert Roberts, P.M. This club, one of the oldest in London, has numbered and still possesses amongst its members many citizens distinguished in law, medicine, science, and literature.

A GOOD PLAN.—The Eleventh Annual Edition of *Explanatory Book*, sent free, gives valuable and reliable information how to operate successfully in Stocks and Shares and obtain handsome profits.—Address, Geo. Evans and Co., Stockbrokers, 11, Poultry, London, E.C.

Messrs. Lindsay, Greenfield, and Masons, solicitors, announce their removal from 84, Basinghall-street, to 6, Old Jewry, a few doors from Cheapside.

In accordance with a request which has been found among his papers, the remains of Sir Richard Owen will be interred beside those of his wife, in Ham Churchyard, the funeral taking place this (Friday) afternoon, at 3 p.m.

On learning the death of the great anatomist, Sir Richard Owen, the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess Mary Duchess of Teck forwarded telegrams of sympathy to the family of the deceased, who was in his 89th year.

In addition to the list of special missionaries at the forthcoming Manchester and Salford General Church Mission, announced some time ago, Bro. the Rev. R. W. P. Circuit, Rector of St. Luke's, Heywood, will conduct the mission at St. Gabriel's, Hulme.

The New Year's entertainment to the 2000 children attending the Ward Schools of Farringdon Without will, by permission of the Corporation, take place in the Guildhall, on Tuesday, the 1st prox., and the Lord Mayor has accepted an invitation to be present.

By her Majesty's command, 500 copies of "The Queen's Letter to the Nation" have been forwarded to the Mayor of Portsmouth, who has distributed them among the patients in the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, and other similar institutions in the town.

The Lord Mayor distributed the prizes awarded by the London Chamber of Commerce to the successful students at the recent examination, and in doing so, expressed the hope that he should soon find City counting-houses once again, as of old, filled by English clerks.

The list of Vice-Patrons of the Civil Service Benevolent Fund, which was established about seven years ago in order to render aid to the widows and orphans of deceased Civil Servants, under the patronage of the Queen, has recently been strengthened by the addition of Mr. Gladstone and Bro. Sir George Trevelyan, Bart., who have each of them contributed donations to the Fund.

There are now 106 annuitants on the roll of the annuity branch of the Fund of Scottish Masonic Benevolence receiving annually £1115. The free income of the Grand Lodge for the past year was £1380, and one-half of this—£690—will be placed at the disposal of the Annuity Board. A similar sum falls to be capitalised. During last year £1085 was paid in annuities.

The sale of the Duke of Marlborough's collection of orchids at Blenheim commenced on Monday, and was continued during the three following days. The Earls of Wilton and Pembroke, and Bros. Lord Wantage and the Earl of Cork were among those who sent representatives, and the trade was also represented. Good prices generally were realised, and the proceeds of the first day's sale amounted to about £1000.

The Duke of Connaught visited Bournemouth on Monday and having formally opened the Cornelia wing of the Royal Victoria Hospital, which was founded as a memorial of the Queen's Jubilee, and visited the Cairns Memorial Home, he distributed the prizes in the Royal Theatre to the Volunteers. Subsequently his Royal Highness inaugurated the Royal Boscombe Arcade, the town being gaily decorated, and the pleasure grounds brilliantly illuminated in honour of the occasion.

On the evening of the 16th instant, at a meeting at Greenock of St. John's Lodge, No. 175, Bro. Dugald M'Innes, P.M., was presented by the brethren with his portrait in oil (to be hung in the lodge), as a recognition of his valuable services during a period of five years in the chair. The presentation was made by Bro. James Ried, P.D.M., of Montode. Mr. Young, of Edinburgh, was the artist, and he has succeeded in painting a very life-like portrait.

Messrs. Partridge and Cooper, "The Stationers," 191 and 192, Fleet-street, and 1 and 2, Chancery-lane, must be congratulated upon the very effective show they have made in Christmas presents and New Year's gifts, which is one of the best in Fleet-street, deserving really more than passing remark. The innumerable, tasty, and really useful articles are far too numerous to individualise; but we might call special attention to their large selection of purses, writing-cases, gold and silver pencil cases, Japanese and Chinese goods, &c., &c. Their diaries for 1893, of which they have by far the largest selection of every size, style, and binding, must be seen to form any idea of the variety they publish. Having been established upwards of 50 years, the quality of the stationery supplied by this firm, together with their moderate prices, must be known to all.

OBSTRUCTING FREEMASONS' HALL.—William Hughes and Company (Limited), 37, Drury-lane; Henry Hanson, New-yard, Great Queen-street; and L. Spackman, of the same address, appeared at Bow-street, on Monday last, charged with causing an obstruction. Mr. Jones appeared on behalf of the St. Giles's Board of Works, and Mr. Moore defended. It was alleged that the defendants, who kept horses and carts, had turned their coach-houses into stables, and allowed their carts, of which they had many, to stand in New-yard, Great Queen-street. The offices of the Grand Lodge about on New-yard, and it was contended that the defendants caused serious obstruction by placing their carts in close proximity to the office door, thus blocking up a special means of exit from the Grand Hall in case of fire. Bro. Henry Sadler, Grand Tyler, and other witnesses gave evidence showing that a great deal of obstruction was caused by defendants' vans. Bro. Peter de Lande Long, solicitor to the Grand Lodge, stated that in consequence of defendants' actions the fire exits from the Freemasons' Hall were perfectly useless. Mr. Vaughan, after hearing further evidence, said it was quite evident that the yard was a public place, and obstructions of this kind could not be tolerated. He adjourned the case until Wednesday to enable the parties to come to an arrangement.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Dyspepsia, Jaundice.—These complaints are the results of a disordered liver, which secretes bile in quality or quantity incapable of digesting food. Digestion requires a free flow of healthy bile, to ensure which Holloway's Pills and Ointment have long been famous, far eclipsing every other medicine. Food, irregularity of living, climates, and other causes are constantly throwing the liver into disorder, but that important organ can, under all circumstances, soon be regulated and healthily adjusted by Holloway's Pills and Ointment, which act directly upon its vital secretion. The Ointment, rubbed on the skin, penetrates immediately to the liver, whose blood and nerves it rectifies. One trial is all that is needed; a cure will soon follow.—ADVT.

A handsome solid silver two-candle reading lamp is to be presented to her Royal Highness Princess Marie of Edinburgh by the Plymouth Division of the Royal Marine Light Infantry on the occasion of her marriage.

Among the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry's house party at Wynyard Park during the present week was Bro. the Earl of March and the Ladies Lennox, Bros. the Earl of Dunraven, and Viscount Helmsley.

Professor Shuttleworth was the chairman on Tuesday afternoon at a meeting that the members of the Church and Stage Guild held at the Rectory, Lambeth-hill. Canon Benham was numbered amongst the company.

The Duchess of Connaught has graciously consented to become a patroness of the concert which will be given at the Westminster Town Hall, on the 6th February, 1893, in aid of the Grosvenor Hospital for Women and Children.

We have been asked to state that the historical sketch of Lodge Unanimity, No. 287, which was lately reviewed in our columns, can be obtained from Bro. James Cookson, Field House, Stockport, at 2s. for paper-bound copies, and 2s. 6d. in cloth.

The members of the Coleridge Lodge, No. 1750, have unanimously elected Bro. A. B. Wickenden, S.W., as W.M. for the ensuing year. The installation ceremony will take place on the 16th prox. Bro. T. Barnes has been unanimously re-elected Treasurer.

ROSICRUCIAN SOCIETY.—Bro. T. C. Walls, P.M. of the Metropolitan College, has received the Honorary IX. grade from the M.W. Supreme Magus, in recognition of his long and valuable services to the Society. Bro. Walls has earned the reputation of having introduced more new members than any other frater in the Society.

Statements that were made on Wednesday at the distribution of prizes by the Duke of Fife show that about 7000 students attended the Polytechnic, Regent-street, every week, while the nightly attendance is about 3000. There are in all 500 classes a-week in 80 different subjects, including 20 different trades. In the various day schools there are 800 students, while there are nearly 40 sections connected with the social part of the institute.

The following have been the engagements for the two weeks ending December 24th at the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool-street, E.C.: December 13th, Clapton Mark Lodge, No. 1305, meeting and dinner, Hamilton Room; 14th, St. Leonard's Lodge, No. 1766, installation meeting and banquet, Hamilton Room; Mr. Kaufman's Party, Pompeian Room; and Mr. Arthur Ransom's Christmas Party, Netherfield Room; 15th, Forest Ramblers' Soiree; and Clapton Lodge, emergency meeting and banquet. 16th, Clapton Lodge of Instruction and Gresham Choral Union, Bohemian Concert; 20th, High Cross Mark Lodge, No. 284, installation meeting and banquet; and 23rd, Clapton Lodge of Instruction.

For the 16th time the pupils of the Datchelor Collegiate School for Girls called around them their circle of friends and relatives for the Christmas entertainment. From the ranks of her 400 girls Miss Rigg, the principal, made a selection of performers to sustain the reputation of the school in a programme consisting of part-songs by a choir numbering 70 members, pianoforte solos and concertos, and scenes from classic drama. Misses Lea and Watson's *Ronde* for two pianos and the part-song "Come, sisters, come" (Mackenzie) were well received; but the most popular sections of the entertainment were the aptly-selected dramatic episodes. The novel information derived from the class of girls under examination in Act II. of "School" immensely pleased the hearers.

Bro. Chas. F. Passmore, Prov. G. Org., has issued the following circular to the Mark Masons of Surrey: "Dear Sir and Brother,—It is proposed to form a lodge of instruction for the Mark Degree, at the Masonic Hall, Woking, the meetings to be held on the second and third Tuesday in each month, except June, July, and August, at 7 p.m. The R.W. Prov. Grand Master, Col. Noel Money, has expressed his most hearty approval and co-operation, and the Prov. Grand Sec., Bro. A. H. Bowles, has kindly consented to act as Preceptor. The Annual Subscription will not exceed 5s., with 2s. 6d. Entrance Fee. I feel sure that the proposition will meet with your approval, and shall be obliged if you will sign the accompanying form and return it to me."

Of those upon whom her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confer the Volunteer Officers' Decoration, there are 11 present and past officers of the 1st Surrey Rifles. Considering that this regiment has an establishment of only six companies, this appears a very large proportion. Of the 11 officers decorated, no less than nine are members of our ancient Fraternity, viz.: Bros. Col. A. L. Irvine, P.M. 171, 1216, &c.; Lieut.-Col. C. H. Nevill, P.M. 1216; Lieut.-Col. I. B. Wire, P.M. 171; Major G. H. N. Bridges, P.M. 772, 1216, and 1669; Major J. P. Probert, P.M. Grand Stewards' Lodge, and No. 8; Major F. P. Easterbrook, S.D. 1216; Major A. S. Fletcher, 1216; Captain P. Clay, 1216; and Surgeon-Captain C. Swabey-Smith, P.M., &c. We doubt whether any regiment can show a better record for the Queen and for the Craft.

The following is the Christmas programme at the Empire Theatre of Varieties: Miss Lucy Clarke, ballad vocalist; Brothers Webb, musical clowns and eccentrics; Carl Hertz, with a new illusion; Derouville and Nancy, from the Folies Bergere; Brothers Avone, eccentric bar act; R. G. Knowles, the very peculiar American comedian; Bessie Bonehill, serio-comic; Montrose Froupe, acrobats; Brooks and Duncan, negro comedians; Peggy Pryde, serio-comic; Selbini Troupe, bicyclists; Semmel's Hungarian Sextette of singers and dancers. Also, the two celebrated ballets, "Versailles" and "Round the Town," with the following world-famed dancers: Signorina Luigia Cerale, Mdile. Emma Palladino, Signor Elia, Signor Vincenti, Mr. Wille Warde, Mdile. Betuna de Sortis, and Signorina Malvina Cavallazzi.

Young lady artist, daughter of Exhibitor at the Royal Academy, artistically colours photographs: Cartes, 1s., 2s.; cabinets, 2s., 3s. 6d. Photographs enlarged up to life-size, and finished in oils, water colour, or monochrome. Ivory miniatures faithfully reproduced from photographs, and most delicately painted. Special care taken with the colouring of regalia. Highest testimonials from nobility, &c.—Mabel Vernon, Craven House, Beaconsfield-road, New Southgate, N.