

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;
SIR CHARLES DALRYMPLE, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

VOL. XXXII. NO. 1300.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1894.

[PRICE 3d.]

WHAT MANNER OF MEN ARE MASONS?

Our article of last week on "The cost of Masonry" can hardly be considered complete unless we take a step further and examine for ourselves the still more important question—What manner of men are they who are eligible to be received, and indeed are from time to time received, into the Fraternity? It is admitted on all hands that there are to be found in our ranks a very large number of men of rank and opulence, while on the other hand it is undeniable that among us are many members who in the majority of cases, but by no means in all, have been reduced by unavoidable misfortune to a state of almost abject poverty. But these general statements are not more applicable to Freemasonry than they are to any other society which the world has known at different epochs in its history. There is hardly a community of men that was ever formed for political, social, religious, or moral purposes of which it might not be truly affirmed that men of wealth and men distinguished by their lack of wealth were alike included in its ranks. Therefore, if we would gratify our curiosity as to what manner of men Freemasons are, we must go further afield and into more minute detail in order to formulate an answer which may be truly and justly given.

There is perhaps one character which has been repeatedly ascribed to us without a shadow of evidence to justify it—so far at least as those branches of our Society are concerned, which have been established in the United Kingdom, its Colonies and Possessions, and the United States of America—that we are a community of men which has been formed for the special purpose of counteracting, and, if possible, destroying whatever influence for good is exercised by religion and constituted authority. The statement is absurd on the face of it, that a Society which respects all religious and political creeds equally should be opposed to religion and the determined enemy of every form of government that has been dreamt of in our philosophy. But though absurd, the statement, as we have said, has been again and again repeated; and when we and others have with equal persistency denied the assertion, our denials have been treated contemptuously, as though we had no knowledge whatever of a Society into which, of our own free will and accord, we have sought and obtained admission. In vain have we pointed out that a body which included in its ranks men of exalted position, ministers of religion, members of legislative bodies, ministers of State, and speaking generally those who were most deeply interested in the maintenance of religion and in upholding the civil power, was unlikely to be the enemy of religion and order, the only notice vouchsafed us in reply has been the further and equally monstrous assertion that, though Freemasonry was ostensibly composed of men of this description, there was an inner band of members who ruled and directed the organisation, and by whom the reputable portion of the Society was used as a mask to hide from the world their own sinister designs. But we need not pursue this branch of our inquiry, firstly, because no amount of proof we might adduce in denial of these assertions would have the slightest effect in silencing our opponents; and, secondly, because it is open to every one who becomes a Mason to acquire the fullest knowledge of the organisation and objects of Freemasonry. But who, then, are Freemasons, or rather what manner of men are they who constitute the bulk of our members? The answer may be given briefly and at once. They are not necessarily rich men, as we have already shown, and they are not poor men, for poor men do not seek to become members of a Society which requires of them certain fees for initiation, certain annual subscriptions, and the expenditure of such a sum as will furnish them with the necessary paraphernalia. But they are fairly well-to-do men, and are drawn from every class of society, as will be seen from the enumeration of the following occupations as furnished in a list of candidates for one of our Scholastic Institutions: surgeon, accountant, commercial traveller, merchant's clerk, dentist, professor of music, schoolmaster, master mariner, builder, auctioneer, merchant tailor, hotel proprietor, licensed victualler, and leather merchant. The list in which these occupations are mentioned is issued by the authorities of one of our Schools to its governors and subscribers, and the information it contains as to the social standing and Masonic career of the fathers of those children who have been accepted as candidates for its benefits, is intended as a guide to those who have and intend exercising the privilege of voting for the admission of candidates. It is, in fact, the evidence that the fathers of these applicants have been in reputable circumstances, that, as far as it is possible to determine a matter of so much delicacy, their circumstances would have enabled them to give their children a decent education, had it not been for those unavoidable calamities and misfortunes which befel them and reduced them from a state of comfort to one of poverty. Again if we glance through the list of those how have been admitted as initiates or joining members into the average English lodge, we shall find it composed of men of every class and description of

occupation, together with a few who are of independent means, or who have acquired independence after years of honest labour. Such a lodge will be found to consist indiscriminately of gentlemen of fortune, professional men, and tradesmen, who have been accepted, not because they had means and influence, not because they were members of this or that church, or because they held this or that set of political opinions, but because they had it in their power at the time they offered themselves freely and voluntarily as candidates for the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry, to satisfy those with whom their election or rejection rested that they were honest and honourable. Some lodges may have a preponderance of members who are men of independent means, or who have acquired independence after years of honourable work; some of members who fitly answer to the description of gentlemen by birth and education; some of members among whom the professional or commercial callings are more numerous represented; and others of men who follow more laborious, but not less honest and honourable, avocations; but in all cases equally it is necessary that they who seek admission into our ranks should be men of good character, and, as far as worldly circumstances are concerned, in such a position that no one can justly charge them with being influenced to join us by mercenary or unworthy motives. These, then, are the men who constitute the general body of Freemasons throughout the British Empire and in the United States; men who may or may not be rich, but who were certainly not poor at their initiation; men whom it is a pleasure to be associated with in everyday life, and who do not usually furnish forth the material of which conspirators against religion and the good order of society are composed. We are not angels, but the world generally looks kindly upon us, and it is just possible that a little of that Charity we strive to exhibit in our own quiet and unobtrusive way towards our fellow creatures might be found useful in the case of those who so persistently denounce us for our alleged wickedness.

CONSECRATION OF THE CONCORDIA LODGE, No. 2492.

This new lodge for the Province of Bucks was consecrated on Monday, at Wendover, in the new hall of the Red Lion Hotel, which was built expressly for the lodge by Bro. Holland, the proprietor of the hotel. The ceremony of consecration was performed by Bro. the Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, P.G.C., Deputy Prov. G.M. Bucks, who was assisted by Bros. J. E. Bowen, Prov. G. Sec., as J.W.; J. Williams, Prov. G. Treas., as J.W.; and Jas. Stephens, I.P.M. 2420, as Director of Ceremonies. There were present the following:

Bros. Rev. Oliver James Grace, P.G. Chap.; J. W. Burgess, P.P.S.G.D. West Lancashire; F. J. Hubbard, J. W. Markham, Henry Jowett, Thomas W. Allsop, E. T. Mackrill, George Willson, George F. Phillpot, J. George Bushell, Frederick Gott, Joseph Holland, T. J. Sewell, Thomas Dowden, R. E. Sanders, A. Bush, R. G. Lee, G. C. Jones, E. V. Bake, W. J. Mackay, John Start, W. J. Cattle, George J. Phillpot, James Williams, P.M. 591; Lewis Poulton, P.M. 591; James D. Coates, 591; W. Sinfleet, 591; H. H. Sherwin, 591; Hy. Turnham, 2420; W. F. Taylor, 591; J. K. H. Fowler, P.M. 591; John Soper, P.M. 55; Thomas Page, 591; Alexander Watson, 591; A. Ball, 2266; Henry Martin, P.M., Sec. 591; George A. Sims, S.D. 504; Arthur Wilson, 591; Frederick T. Edgington, 1321; E. Gibbs, 591; H. Taylor, 2420; Leon Bladief, 1563; William Simmonds, 1087; R. G. D. White, 591; J. S. Simcox, 591; W. H. Rowe, 591; F. F. Lehmann, 591; John Reader, S.D. 591; Geo. James, P.M. 1501; R. Willoughby, G. Std. Br.; J. McCubbin, 948, P.P.J.G.W. Bucks; J. J. Thomas, W.M. elect 2241; J. H. Roberts, P.M. 1538; W. J. Squire, I.P.M. 1743; J. W. Pearson, P.M. 1567; M. Lincoln, P.M. 534; Herbert F. Adams, 1706; S. R. Lovett, P.M. 3; G. Sales, 2012; R. Patinson, P.M. 180; B. Holeyman, 73; Edward F. New, P.M. 173; J. M. Fraser, J.D. 1426; W. J. Harris, P.M. 1321; P. J. Ward, P.M. 3; E. Hill, I.P.M. 948; Charles O. Burgess, 2191; F. Fein, 1563; George B. Fletcher, P.M. 180; E. H. Crate, P.M. 697; J. Newton Burns, 291; Col. F. J. Gardiner, P.M. 905; J. M. Brill, 780; O. Smith, 988; W. J. Crutch, P.M. 1278; W. H. Miking, P.M. 1278; H. Massey, 160, P.M. 619 and 1928; and F. Payne, Prov. G.T. Bucks.

The ceremony was very ably performed, and at its conclusion Bro. Brownrigg installed Bro. J. W. Burgess as the first W.M. of the lodge. The following brethren received the other collars: Bros. Joseph Holland, acting I.P.M.; F. J. Hubbard, S.W.; E. T. Mackrill, J.V.; Rev. O. J. Grace, Chap.; J. W. Markham, Treas.; Henry Jowett, Sec.; Bushel, Asst. Sec.; T. W. Allsop, S.D.; John Stait, J.D.; George Willson, D.C.; G. F. Phillpot, I.G.; R. C. Sanders and Thomas Dowden, Stwds.; and Somersgill, Tyler.

The Consecrating Officers were elected honorary members of the lodge.

Telegrams of congratulation were received from Bro. Robert Wylie, P.G.D., D.P.G.M. West Lancashire; Bro. Capt. J. D. Murray, P.G. Treas., who had sent apologies for inability to attend; as well as Bros. T. T. H. Roberts and Sherman.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER announced that he was going to be Steward for the lodge at the forthcoming Festival of the Girl's School, and in connection with this subject it may be mentioned that later in the evening, through the unflagging energy of Bro. James Stephens, who canvassed everyone at the banquet table, the sum of £55 2s. 6d., was placed on Bro. Burgess's list.

After the closing of the lodge, the brethren, to the number of about 90, sat down to a well appointed banquet, provided by Bro. Holland, and afterwards honoured a long list of toasts.

Bro. ROBERT WILLOUGHBY, G. Std. Br., responded to the toast of "The Grand Officers," and in the course of his remarks he expressed the great pleasure it afforded him to see Bro. Hubbard, whose guest he was placed in the S.W.'s chair. With regard to the Concordia Lodge, everyone knew that opened under such auspices as it had been that day, it would be something for the advance of Masonry and of Benevolence, which went together.

Bro. BURGESS, in proposing "The Provincial Grand Master for Bucks, and the Provincial Grand Officers," spoke in high terms of the work of Lord Carrington as a Mason, a very good illustration of which had been had when his lordship was in Australia. Bro. Burgess said he visited Australia in 1880 when the different jurisdictions placed Masonry in great confusion. When the late Earl of Carnarvon went out there he poured oil on the troubled waters, and a United Grand Lodge was established, with Lord Carrington as the first Grand Master. When Lord Carrington was installed as Provincial Grand Master of Bucks, at Aylesbury, by the late Duke of Clarence, he well remembered his Royal Highness in proposing his health, saying—"I ask you to stand up and drink the health of one of my father's oldest friends." Bro. Burgess then referred to the services of Bro. Brownrigg, in consecrating the lodge, and the other Provincial Grand Officers who had come to assist—Bros. Williams, Bowen, Martin, and James Stephens. The brethren of the lodge were grateful to them for what they had done, and were delighted that they had accepted the position of honorary members.

Bro. the Rev. J. S. BROWNRIFF replied, and said first of all he was charged by the Provincial Grand Master to assure the brethren how much he regretted not being present to perform the ceremony of consecration. His lordship would have been present if it had been possible, but he gave the lodge hearty good wishes for the future. The office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master really had a great many advantages, as he had found during a period of 21 years. It had made for him many personal friends, which he should ever consider one of the greatest privileges of his life. There was no brother, however humble his position in life might be, who could not help the Provincial Grand Master; there was no brother who was not always ready to assist; but while he accepted those offices as they were meant, and with good humour, he always thought that when those young Masons who tried to teach the Grand Master grew to be old, and in their turn found their juniors trying their 'prentice hands upon them, they would not perhaps take it so good humouredly. There were difficulties, as well as advantages, connected with the office. The Province of Bucks had 18 lodges, and he would remind the brethren that there was only one Provincial Senior Grand Wardenship to be given away every year, but every W.M. thought, and a good many Past Masters, too, that that was the only office they could possibly accept. He had to recommend to the Provincial Grand Master, but, as he was unable to recommend everybody for S.G.W., he hoped those who got a subordinate office—say J.G.W.—would bear with him in his infirmities, and if they would set him right, and show him how to do it, he would thank them. He had, however, privileges as well as advantages, and difficulties, and one privilege was on the present occasion to take the gavel from the W.M. He was the only person to do that. He thought that the first time the Master's health was proposed in his own lodge was, and it was always looked back to as years rolled by as, a great honour. He knew how much trouble Bro. Burgess had taken, and how much work he had gone through, in forming that lodge. He knew, too, that in all parts of the work Bro. Burgess had proved himself a distinguished Mason: in the far east, in the far north, and now in the centre of the whole country he had proved himself a competent Mason. He (Bro. Brownrigg) had had the happiness of consecrating the Concordia Lodge and installing Bro. Burgess as its first Master, and he would in the future, in the position of Master, be most willing both to learn and to teach.

Bro. BURGESS, in reply, said he hoped that after a longer acquaintance he should prove himself worthy of the kind terms in which Bro. Brownrigg had spoken of him. He was only one of the founders, and he would just as soon have been Junior Steward as W.M. They were all of the same mind, to further the interests of Freemasonry and to make the Concordia Lodge a great success—to use their own words—to be one in concord, peace, and unity. They had had great success, but it was not in the first, the second, or the third year; they must think Wendover was a small town; the local people might come to support them; many brethren from town might secede; it was a very difficult thing to keep a lodge going; but he thought there was every reason for their succeeding. It was very pleasing to inform the brethren that there were several unwritten laws in the lodge, one of which was that the W.M. was expected to take the position of Steward for one of the Masonic Charities during his year of office. They did not intend to do the three Charities in one year. He had himself served the three, but he took one now, and commenced with the oldest—the Girls' School, and had had his name registered that day as representing the Concordia Lodge. He asked the brethren to assist him and make a record that would never die in Freemasonry. If the brethren visited the Board of Benevolence they would see the advantage of assisting the Charities. A brother who had subscribed to the Masonic Charities got

better assistance from the Board. No one knew how soon he might be reduced to having to ask for assistance. On the previous Wednesday he attended, and nearly £700 was given away. He, on that occasion, appealed for the widow of a brother who had been a jolly good fellow, but he had never subscribed to the three great Masonic Charities. The list would be passed round to the founders of the Concordia Lodge and he trusted they would all put down 100 guineas each and support the W.M. for the Girls' School, and show they really meant to carry out the unwritten laws of the Concordia Lodge. They had adopted the name of Concordia. He first saw the light of Freemasonry in Bombay; he went to Suez; he went to Liverpool and worked there, thinking he was going to rest in the old woman's corner; but now he was in the chair he would endeavour to do his duty and make those who followed him do theirs. Concordia intended to live in harmony with the other lodges in the Provinces of Berks and Bucks. If they worked as the large provinces did they would band themselves together and if they had an unfortunate case for the Charities, an old man or woman, a boy or a girl, they would carry it in the first time by working *en bloc*, as they did in the large provinces of England.

Bro. BURGESS next proposed "The W.M. and Wardens of the Recommending Lodge, the Buckingham Lodge, No. 591, Aylesbury," and said he could testify to the kind manner in which the promoters of the lodge were received when they went to that lodge with their petition, and the cordial way in which the brethren signed the petition and wished them success. The Concordia Lodge was not formed to do the Buckingham Lodge any injury. Unfortunately, the W.M. of the Buckingham Lodge was not present, but he wished them Godspeed and every enjoyment. But Bro. Martin, the Secretary of the lodge, P.P.J.G.W., was present, and he was a brother who was always ready to assist in the furtherance of Freemasonry. The brethren of the recommending lodge thought there ought long ago to have been a lodge at Wendover, and they would be pleased to see Concordia prosper, and become a shining light in the province.

Bro. MARTIN responded, and regretted that the W.M. of his lodge was too ill to attend. He was very glad to hear Bro. Burgess say that the Buckingham Lodge was not at all jealous of the Concordia. It was an absolute fact, and if proof were needed it would be found in the number of brethren of that lodge who had attended the consecration. The Buckingham was a sort of old hen in the province which looked on her chicks with great attention. Although it was not a good parallel, he never knew a chicken with so many young ones as the Concordia. Everyone of the brethren at Aylesbury would be happy to offer them any hints and help them forward. He thanked the lodge very much for making him an honorary member. He thought the lodge was well-named, and he hoped that concord, goodwill, peace and amity, would always characterise its proceedings.

Bros. WILLIAMS, LOVETT, BURGESS (Anglo-American Lodge), and J. J. THOMAS (founder of the Carrington Lodge), also responded.

Bro. HUBBARD, S.W., in replying to the toast of "The Officers," in which the W.M. spoke of him in highly eulogistic terms, said he only wished he deserved half the praise bestowed on him. There was one thing he hoped he should do, as he was willing to do, assist the W.M. in the well-ruling of the lodge during his year of office. He trusted that on the foundation-stone laid that evening they might raise a superstructure honourable to the builders in the province to which they belonged.

The other Officers also replied.

Bro. BURGESS, in proposing "The Charities," strongly exhorted the brethren to support the Institutions.

Bro. JAMES STEPHENS, in acknowledging the toast, said he had had an honour conferred upon him that day which he should never forget, that of being elected an honorary member. The W.M. wore on his breast what might be called the Victoria Cross of Freemasonry; he wore as many as ten bars, which showed he had served at least a dozen Stewardships. The Masonic Charities had more than 500 boys and girls in their schools, and nearly 500 old men and widows on the books of the Benevolent Institution, the women having £32 a year each, and the men £40 a year each. No other institution could hold a candle to them. Every penny Bro. Burgess had he had had to work for, but he had not forgotten those who were in distress. Bro. Burgess had alluded to his (Bro. Stephens') good wife in connection with the Institutions. Mrs. Stephens had taken up at two successive festivals something like £640. She was one of the best creatures that ever broke God's bread, and she was going to qualify this year as Vice-Patron of the Girls' School. He wished the brethren to know that Bro. Burgess had been nominated by West Lancashire to serve on the Board of Management of the Boys' School, and he asked the brethren who were life subscribers to attend at Freemasons' Hall, on April 13, to vote for him, and he would maintain and uphold the splendid management of that Institution.

After the Tyler's toast, the brethren returned to town, having spent a most agreeable day.

CONSECRATION OF THE PRINCE OF WALES MARK LODGE, No. 466.

Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom, Prov. Grand Mark Master, visited St. Helens on Monday, the 29th ult., to consecrate the first lodge of Mark Masons of the St. Helens district. The nearest lodges of the Order hitherto have been those at Liverpool, Southport, and Wigan, and the interesting ceremony in the Masonic buildings, Hall-street, St. Helens, under such circumstances was a most pleasurable function to the numerous local members of the Order. The new lodge will be known as the Prince of Wales Lodge, No. 466, Province of Lancashire.

There was a large gathering of Present and Past Prov. Grand Officers, and of Mark Masons generally.

Bro. the Earl of Lathom, P.G.M., was assisted by Bros. W. J. Thomson, Past Grand Std. Br. Eng., acting Dep. Prov. G.M.; Wal. Simpson, Prov. S.G.W.; Dr. J. Murray, Prov. J.G.W.; T. Whitehead, Prov. G.M.O.; J. C. Christian, Prov. S.G.O.; C. H. Wood, Prov. J.G.O.; J. J. Hamer, Prov. G.I.G.; and J. C. Robinson, P.P.G.D.C., acting Prov. G.D.C.

The founders of the lodge were Bros. D. M. F. Gaskin, J. L. Wolfenden, J. J. Tickle, W. J. Thomson, R. G. Brook, W. Goodacre, W. Platt, and J. C. Robinson.

After the consecration ceremony, Bro. W. Simpson, Prov. S.G.W., installed Bro. D. M. F. Gaskin, I.P.M. 383, P.G. Treas., as W.M. of new lodge, and Bro. Gaskin subsequently invested his officers as follows

Bros. John L. Wolfenden, S.W.; J. J. Tickle, J.W.; John S. White, M.O.; Thomas Sherlock, S.O.; F. A. R. Neill, J.O.; John Turton, Treas.; Joseph W. Boardman, Reg.; H. Moxon, Sec.; John L. Hodgson, S.D.; William Southern, J.D.; R. G. Brook, D.C.; George Burdekin, jun., I.G.; James Heaton and Robert Coop, Stewards; and J. Taylor, Tyler.

The banquet took place at the Fleece Hotel.

The lodge was furnished by Bro. George Kenning.

SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

The following is the business to be transacted on Wednesday next:

The minutes of the last Quarterly Convocation to be read for confirmation.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES.

To the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England.

The Committee of General Purposes beg to report that they have examined the accounts from the 18th October, 1893, to the 16th January, 1894, both inclusive, which they find to be as follows:

To Balance, Grand Chapter	£424 18 2	By Disbursements during the	
" Unappropriated		Quarter	£290 4 4
" Account	187 3 4	" Balance	543 1 11
" Subsequent Receipts	414 13 11	" Unappropriated	
		Account	193 9 2
	£1026 15 5		£1026 15 5

which balances are in the Bank of England, Law Courts Branch.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received the following petition:

From Comps. Philip Moore Callow Kermode, as Z.; the Rev. William Morris, as H.; John Craine, as J.; and twenty others for a chapter to be attached to the St. Maughold Lodge, No. 1075, Ramsey, Isle of Man, to be called the St. Maughold Chapter, and to meet at the Masonic Rooms, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

The consideration of this petition was deferred at the last Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter until the returns of the chapters of the petitioners have been fully made. Since the meeting of Grand Chapter, the Lodge No. 1075, has withdrawn its sanction for the chapter to be attached to it, and the petitioners from that lodge have also withdrawn, the chapter not being required.

Petitions have also been received:

1st. From Comps. Charles Henry Reid Todd, as Z.; William Fountain Woods, as H.; Charles Henry Cumberland, as J.; and six others to be attached to the Imperial Lodge, No. 1694, London, to be called the Imperial Chapter, and to meet at Clout's Restaurant, Victoria-street, London.

2nd. From Comps. Frederick Ernest Pocock, M.D., as Z.; Lennox Browne, as H.; Henry Walter Kiallmark, as J.; and sixteen other for a chapter to be attached to the Æsculapius Lodge, No. 2410, London, to be called the Æsculapius Chapter, and to meet at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly, London.

3rd. From Comps. Samuel Gerard Kirchhoffer, M.A., 1st Grand Standard Bearer, as Z.; Major Oswald James Henry Ball, as H.; Lieut.-Col. Stephen James Melville Jopp, as J.; and seven others for a chapter to be attached to the Wellesley Lodge, No. 1899, Sandhurst, to be called the Wellesley Chapter, and to meet at the Wellington Hotel, Crowthorne, Berkshire.

The foregoing petitions being in all respects regular, the Committee recommend that the prayers thereof be respectively granted.

The Committee have likewise to report that they have received a memorial from the companions of the Chapter Stone of Friendship Ezel, No. 287, Stockport, Cheshire, praying for a charter authorising them to wear a centenary jewel, in accordance with the Royal Arch Regulations, Rule 102.

The memorial being in form, and the chapter having proved an uninterrupted existence of 100 years, the Committee recommend that the prayer thereof be granted.

The Committee have also received memorials with extracts of minutes, for permission to remove the following chapters:

"The Elias Ashmole Chapter," No. 148, Warrington, from the Masonic Rooms, Sankey-street, to rooms in St. Austin's Chambers, Bold-street, in the same town.

"The Prince Frederick William Chapter," No. 753, London, from Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, to the Frascati Restaurant, No. 31, Oxford-street, London.

"The Bedford Chapter," No. 282, Tavistock, from the Private Room, Abbey, to the Freemasons' Hall, No. 84, West-street, in the same town.

"The Alexander Chapter," No. 1661, Newark-on-Trent, from the Saving's Bank, to the Masonic Hall, in the same town.

The Committee being satisfied of the reasonableness of the above requests, recommend that the removal of these chapters be sanctioned.

The Committee have likewise received the following applications, viz.: from the Shakespeare Chapter, No. 284, Warwick, and from the Trinity Chapter, No. 254, Coventry.

1. A memorial praying that the Shakespeare Chapter, No. 284, may be detached from Lodge, No. 284, Warwick, and attached to the Temperance Lodge, No. 739, Birmingham, both lodges having given their consent, and that the chapter may be called the Temperance Chapter, and meet at the Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham, Warwickshire.

2. A memorial praying that the Trinity Chapter, No. 254, Coventry, may be detached from the Lodge No. 254, and attached to the St. Michael's Lodge, No. 1630, Coventry, Warwickshire, and that it be called the St. Michael's Chapter—both lodges have given their consent.

The Committee recommend that the prayers of these memorials be granted subject to the receipt of the consent of the Grand Superintendent in the case of the Trinity Chapter, No. 254, Coventry.

The Committee have received the following notice of motion for Grand Chapter from Comp. JOHN EMILIUS LE FEUVRE, P.G.S.B.: "That the

resolution passed by Grand Chapter on the 1st November, substituting four weeks for 12 months in Rule 73 of the Royal Arch Regulations be not confirmed, and that this Grand Chapter resolves that the words 'three calendar months' be inserted in Rule 73, instead of '12 calendar months.'"

The following chapters having exalted candidates before the expiration of twelve months from the dates of raising, viz.:

The Fletcher Chapter, No. 1031, Birmingham.

The Chapter Harmony, No. 220, Garston.

in violation of Rule 73 of the Book of Royal Arch Regulations, the Committee ordered that the chapters be censured and the candidates re-obligated, and that the Chapter Harmony, No. 220, Garston, be fined £1 is. also.

The Committee recommend that, Grand Lodge having increased the salaries of the clerks in the office of the Grand Secretary, the Grand Chapter pay its proportion of the same, viz., one-fourth.

(Signed) ROBERT GREY, President.

Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

17th January, 1894.

KNIGHT TEMPLARY IN CANADA.

The Proceedings of the "Sovereign Great Priory of Canada" for 1893 are now being circulated by the M.E. Bro. Daniel Spry, G.C.T., the energetic and zealous Grand Chancellor. The volume is nicely printed, carefully edited, and of a most interesting character. To me it is doubly valuable, as it contains an excellent portrait of my old and esteemed friend, Bro. Spry (P.G.Ms. of Canada, Craft and Knights Templars), as also one of the respected Immediate P.G.M., M.E. Bro. E. T. Malone, who filled the chair 1892-3. This part completes Volume IV., so that it is accompanied with a title page and an index to the contents, which is worthy of the name, and is a great boon.

The 10th annual assembly was held in the City of Ottawa, 18th July, 1893, and appears to have been a great success. Bro. Malone occupied the throne, and was supported by Bro. Henry Robertson, P.G.M., the accomplished writer of the Reports on Foreign Correspondence, whose thoughtful utterances and skilful digests of the mass of material at his disposal from the Grand Commanderies of the U.S.A., are doubtless much appreciated by the fratres of Canada.

The Grand Master of 1892-3 is not satisfied with the progress of the Order in the Dominion, for out of a total population of five millions of people, there are only 1100 active Knight Templars; whereas in the U.S.A. there are over 95,000 knights. In Canada there are fully 35,000 Master Masons in good standing, but about 700,000 in the rest of America. Bro. Malone has been appointed Representative from the Great Priory of Ireland, and I only wish another such eminent frater had conferred on him a similar honour from England. Surely in a Christian Order, with branches throughout the civilised world, there ought to be no difficulty in settling differences, and then to unite in one solid and compact body as Knights Templars with H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as Grand Master of the British Langue.

The Reports from the United States Representative, the veteran T. S. Parvin, and the Provincial Priors are all most business-like and fraternal documents, and do much to secure that uniformity and general efficiency so long characteristic of the Canadian Organisation.

The Report of the Grand Council was in favour of confirming M.E. Frater Spry in the rank of Past Grand Master, a recommendation, needless to state, which was unanimously and heartily agreed to by the Fratres.

M.E. Frater E. E. Sheppard was elected Supreme Grand Master, as Bro. Malone declined to serve again. I consider, however, that once in three years quite often enough to change such a good president, and it does not appear wise to multiply the Roll of Past Grand Masters unduly fast.

There are two of the Knights Grand Cross appointed by the Prince of Wales in Canada, viz., Fratres Daniel Spry and James K. Kerr, O.C., and eight of the Knights Commander of the Order. There are nine Honorary Members of this Great Priory, four being from England, viz., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, G.M., and Fratres Emra Holmes, K.C.T., Thomas B. Whytehead, and myself, all of whom, I hope, value the compliment so much as I do.

The Roll of Preceptories, Officers, &c., involving much labour, is a most welcome compilation, but especially the alphabetically-arranged Register of all the Knights Templars in Canada, and another of the Past Officers and present members of the Great Priory. The Proceedings for 1893 are, to my mind, the most attractive, useful, and comprehensive ever published by the Great Priory of Canada.

W. J. HUGHAN,

P.E.P. No. 29, Toronto, Hon. P. Prov. G. Prior of Canada.

CIPHER WRITING.—Some like to call it cryptography. It is the art of concealing the meaning of writing from all but a limited number who possess the keys. It is of very early use in the history of the world, and seems to have been practised by the teachers and priests of various religions, the Egyptians and Druids, etc.; for example, it is still used in diplomacy. In Freemasonry it has been in use, though it is now going out, and never, as far as we know, has had any authority from Freemasonry itself. Some writers aver that what is called the square Masonic cipher may still be seen and read on the walls of Herculaneum, and that it was very early in use by the operative Guilds. Some say that the Runic alphabet was also early employed by the Christian operative Masonic Guilds. All present known systems of cipher are comparatively modern. It is true that Cornelius Agrippa mentions a cabalistic cipher, and there is an old magical or Hermetic cipher. But all the so-called Masonic ciphers have no official authority, and several have been invented by charlatans like Finch. A very common cipher is that which substitutes *e* for *a*, and commencing from *e*, as the initial letter of the alphabet, makes *s* terminate in *d*. Then there is also the common form, especially abroad, and once used in the United States, of drawing two horizontal parallel lines, intersected by two parallel and vertical lines, as Mackey puts it. This system makes up nine divisions, and each division contains three letters; the second letter is distinguished from the first by one dot, the third by two. By abbreviating the lines the alphabet assumes the appearance of a square alphabet, and some say this form of cipher is very old indeed. This is the one, perhaps, most in use with some modification, in so far as the cipher is now used at all, anywhere, though each grade professes to have a cipher of its own, and many are very peculiar, and not a little intricate, especially among the high grades. There is also a cipher which consists of reading words from right to left instead of left to right, or rather, perhaps, from the reverse, which is, however, nearly obsolete. We repeat that there is, after all, no authorised Masonic cipher for Craft Masonry.—*Kenning's Cyclopædia of Freemasonry.*

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* Members of the Committee. † Workers of the Sections.

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AT FREEMASONS' HALL,

ON FRIDAY EVENING, THE 23rd FEBRUARY, 1894,
on which occasion

THE W. BRO. SAMUEL POPE, Q.C., P.G.D.,
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The Lodge will be opened at Six o'clock p.m. precisely.
W. BRO. ROBERT CLAY SUDLOW, P.G. Std. Br.,
as W.M.

THE SECOND LECTURE WILL BE WORKED.

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2nd " " J. C. Mortimer, 889.
3rd " " Charles Lewis, 1706.
4th " " J. J. Black, P.M. and Sec. 1561.
5th " " *Anderson G. Budd, J.W. 1818.

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To Correspondents.

The following communications, amongst others, unavoidably stand over:

CRAFT LODGES.—Philanthropic, No. 304; Scots, No. 2319; and Woodgrange, No. 2409.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTERS.—Prudence, No. 12, and Star, No. 1275.

Ladies' Night of the Southern Star Lodge, No. 1148.
Provincial Grand Chapter of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
Masonic Library for Hanley.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1894

Masonic Notes.

The Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter will be held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday next, the 7th instant, when, as will be seen from a letter we published last week from Comp. LeFeuvre, an attempt will be made to non-confirm that portion of the minutes of the November Convocation, which contained the resolution adopted by a large majority for reducing the interval between being "raised" and "arched" from 12 calendar months to four weeks.

We trust that any such attempt will prove unsuccessful, not merely because at the time the resolution was adopted, we hailed its adoption with satisfaction; but for the following still more important reasons. In the first place, it is almost invariably a sign of weakness in any governing body when it seeks to undo one moment what it has been at the pains of doing only a short time previously; and secondly, because we truly believe the reduction will prove beneficial to Royal Arch Masonry.

It is hardly necessary that we should call the attention of Comp. LeFeuvre and those who agree with him to Article I. of the "Constitutions of Free and Accepted Masons," in which it is laid down in accordance with the Act of Union of 1813, that "the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch" is an

integral part of "pure Antient Masonry." This being so, why, we ask, should there be the long delay of 12 calendar months between being raised and exalted? A brother may be advanced to the Mark Degree, which is separate and distinct from "pure Antient Masonry," as soon as he has become a Master Mason, but he may not be exalted until an interval of 12 months has elapsed! Were the Royal Arch a separate order of Masonry, one could understand Supreme Grand Chapter laying down such a law as to the eligibility of candidates for exaltation; but if, as the Book of Constitutions tells us, it is included in the Craft system of "three degrees and no more," the interval is needlessly long, and calculated to inflict serious injury upon the well-being of the Royal Arch.

Again, no one has ever been able to show that there is a specific virtue in the 12 months' interval—no one, at all events, so far as we are aware, has ever attempted to show cause why such an interval was imperatively demanded—and we are at a loss to understand why it should be insisted upon. Its maintenance as we have said is notoriously detrimental to the interests of the Royal Arch. Brethren are not eager to be exalted under the present law, because they appear to regard Craft and Arch Masonry, not as parts of one system, but as separate systems. Under the proposed new law, which makes the interval between raising and exaltation the same as between the inferior Degrees, this appearance of separateness will no longer exist, and the Royal Arch will become in practice what it has always been in theory—an integral part of "pure antient Masonry."

There is one point in connection with the proposed new rule which must not be overlooked. It will not be obligatory on a chapter to exalt a Master Mason of four weeks' standing, but it will be lawful for it to do so if occasion should arise. As a matter of fact, there will almost of necessity be, especially in country towns of moderate size which are fortunate enough to have chapters attached to their lodges, an interval of some months between raising and exaltation. Chapters, as compared with lodges, meet but seldom, and when the rule holds good that a candidate for exaltation must be proposed at one meeting, and, if accepted, exalted at the next, it is clear that three or four months must elapse before the Master Mason is entitled to be dubbed companion. In short, the new law will permit, not compel, exaltation after a four weeks' interval.

We understand that, in view of the very large number of brethren who are expected to attend the next Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge on the 7th March, arrangements are being made by which the votes for the several candidates for the office of Grand Treasurer for the ensuing year may be recorded with all possible dispatch, and in such a manner as to prevent any unseemly overcrowding.

We are able to announce that Bro. the Earl of Lathom, Pro Grand Master and Prov. Grand Master of West Lancashire, has arranged that the Festival on behalf of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, at which he has undertaken to preside as Chairman, shall be held on Wednesday, the 9th May.

The festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement is fixed for Friday, the 23rd inst., and according to the list of Stewards, which will be found in another column, the event will be again worthy of this distinguished university of Freemasonry. None of our readers, we think, need be reminded of the excellent work carried on by this distinguished Lodge of Improvement. Its graduates bear the hall mark of efficiency and the effect of its teachings are, especially of late years, observable in the improved working in almost all London lodges. The Craft certainly owes a debt of gratitude to the brethren who, at much sacrifice of time and great labour, have done so much to preserve our beautiful ritual from the hands of the spoiler.

On Tuesday, the 23rd ult., Bro. Ernest St. Clair, Grand Steward, so well known in connection with the La France Lodge and Chapter, was installed W.M. of the Tuscan Lodge, No. 14, in the presence of a large number of distinguished brethren, including 15 Present and Past Grand Officers of England. Under the very able direction of Bro. Tito Mattei, the musical arrangements after the banquet proved to be most enjoyable. By a curious coincidence another member of La France Lodge, Bro. Henri Buc, P.D.G.D.C., was to-day (Friday) installed in the chair of First Principal in the British Chapter, No. 8.

Correspondence.

THE NEW ROYAL ARCH REGULATION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Companion,

I am somewhat astonished at the very erroneous impression many appear to have received in regard to the resolution agreed to at the last meeting of Grand Chapter for reducing the period within which a Master Mason may be exalted to the Royal Arch.

Rule 73 of the Regulations of Royal Arch Masons provides that "No Mason shall be exalted to the Supreme Degree unless he has been a Master Mason for 12 Calendar Months at least, of which satisfactory proof should be given." The alterations carried at the last Grand Chapter and which will be submitted for conformation at the next, substitutes one calendar month for 12.

Now what I wish particularly to point out is that if such proposed alteration becomes law, every chapter would be perfectly free to exercise its own unfiltered discretion as to the period which should elapse after becoming a Master Mason before conferring the Royal Arch Degree on any candidate.

It would be perfectly competent for any chapter to decline to elect a brother who had been a Master Mason for less than one year or even two years should they consider that such a course would be for the benefit of the chapter or Royal Arch Masonry. No brother can claim to be admitted a member. The object of the proposed clause is simply to provide that in the event of a brother who has been raised one calendar month being anxious to take the Royal Arch Degree, it should be permissible for a chapter to exalt him if, in the opinion of the members of such chapter, it should be desirable to do so.

I do not suppose that in one case out of a thousand a brother would be exalted within the minimum period of one calendar month, as it rarely happens that the chapter connected with the lodge holds its meeting precisely within one calendar month after the lodge meeting.

It seems to me that the objectors to the proposed alteration have entirely overlooked the fact that it rests with the members of each individual chapter really to determine what period shall elapse between the receiving of a brother and then receiving him as a member of their chapter.

There cannot be the slightest doubt that the present hard-and-fast rule has deterred very many from joining the Royal Arch, who have not hesitated to join other branches of Masonry which do not insist on so long a period of probation.—Yours fraternally,

A PAST PROVINCIAL GRAND REGISTRAR

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Ex. Comp.

I have been patiently waiting for someone to write in the sense in which Comp. LeFeuvre has done respecting the upsetting of the old landmarks in Royal Arch exaltation, and if I am able to attend Grand Chapter on the 7th inst., I shall gladly support him.

It seems to many of us that the proposed change from 12 months to four weeks is not desirable, that it is impractical, and further that it will not have the result expected.

It is a bad plan to hurry young Masons through their Degrees; the whole thing becomes a jumble when intervals of four weeks only intervene. It might well be impressed upon a candidate at his raising, that any defects in present knowledge will be made good in the Royal Arch, and that he should patiently await his exaltation therein.

A Royal Arch Mason at an interval of only three or four months from his initiation may avoid the Mark, Ark, &c., but will probably try Templary or anything else for which a Royal Arch Mason is eligible, so that if the proposed change is made, the expected result will probably not ensue.

The proposal is impractical, because a Master Mason is not generally registered within four weeks, nor likely to have a Grand Lodge certificate. One must surely have some proof beyond the mere assertion of himself or friend that a Master Mason he is! Again the by-laws of private chapters would have to be considered.

The companion who objected that the proposal had been "sprung" upon the Order may have been technically wrong, but he was practically right. The usual notice of motion had been given, but Grand Chapter circulars lie on the table at the place of meeting often for months, get lost, or in the general apathy, go into the waste basket unread.

At our last Provincial Grand Chapter in November, I brought forward the proposal for the consideration of the companions. Only two or three of those present heard anything of it! The contemplated change was regarded with amazement, and a resolution against it would have been certainly carried, but the Acting Grand Superintendent declined to receive it, ruling it out of order for a Provincial Grand Chapter to criticise the action of Grand Chapter.

Let the question be postponed for six months, and meanwhile let a circular be issued to every private chapter, or at any rate to every Provincial Grand Chapter, directing them to assemble and consider two points, viz.: 1. Is it desirable to alter the present 12 months' period? and if so, 2. What shall the interval be? Four weeks as proposed by some, or six months, which would probably be accepted by most?—Yours fraternally,

January 29th.

C. H. W., Prov. G.S.E.

Reviews.

"HANDY ASSURANCE GUIDES, FIRE AND LIFE, 1894."—There are four of these, all most useful, accurate, and ably arranged, edited, and published by Mr. W. Schooling, Trafalgar Buildings, Northumberland-avenue. They are 3d. each, so that 13 stamps will secure the set, popularly known as "Bourne's Guides," Mr. Bourne, an insurance expert, having first brought out the "Handy Assurance Guide." It is safe to state that these sheets, which fold for the pocket, and are marvels of condensation and extensive information, have never been equalled, so that if they have not an enormous circulation, it can only be due to their not being known to the general public. The first, an old favourite, is devoted to the whole of the British Life Offices, and includes foreign offices doing business in this country (of which there are more than there ought to be, if British offices were supported as they should be). In columns are given dates of origin of each, total amount of Life and Annuity Funds, number of policies issued during the year, sum assured, the annual premiums paid therefore, life premium income and (what is most important) the commission and expenses of management, both in amount and ratio. Industrial and Friendly Societies are also duly noted. Then there is another concerning the "Life Premium Income of 85 societies, and a table of new business; one as to "New Business and its Cost" (an extraordinary compilation), and the fourth is the "Handy Fire Insurance Guide," which deals with 47 offices representing in capital subscribed and fire funds, the enormous sum of over £86,000,000, and the premium income amounts to £20,000,000. We advise our readers to speculate in the 13 penny stamps, and get a set for themselves, not only to know the character of the offices they are insured in, but also as to future business.

THE HISTORY OF THE "PHENIX" LODGE,—Portsmouth, promises to be the handsomest volume of the kind ever published anywhere. The author, Bro. Alexander Howell, of High-street, Portsmouth, is doing his utmost to make the text as valuable as the style will be attractive, and is sparing no expense in the production of this the largest history of a lodge ever printed. The ordinary edition of one guinea per copy may well be termed a large paper edition, for it measures 9 by 11 inches. The actual "large paper," however, is a truly grand volume, and will be a pleasant surprise to the subscribers, who are not in the secret as to the massive tome now being printed. Bro. Howell promises to keep us supplied with the "proof sheets" from time to time, as received by him from the printers. At present we have to page 66, which brings us down to the Union of December, 1813, about which the author has naturally much to say. The work is not confined to the Phoenix, but will cover the whole ground, more or less, as to the province, and in relation to the Royal Arch and Knight Templar ceremonies. Owing to such numerous details, and some delays as to the illustrations, the issue of the volume may not take place before next month, hence there is time for intending subscribers to forward their names and subscription to Bro. Howell, and be enrolled accordingly in this magnificent book. The author deserves support, not only because of the importance of the history, but also because its production, even if all the copies are subscribed for, will involve him in considerable loss, owing to the necessarily large outlay.



Craft Masonry.

METROPOLITAN MEETINGS.

Peace and Harmony Lodge (No. 60).—This ancient lodge met for the dispatch of business at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the 26th ult., when there were present among others: Bros. Cant. Walls, G. Stwd., W.M.; W. Masters, P.G. Stwd., S.W.; W. H. Kempster, jun., J.W.; F. Binckes, P.M., P.G. Stwd., P.G.S.B., Sec.; H. J. Lardner, P.P.G.D.C., S.D.; Debenham, P.P.G.D., I.G.; Polinz, Stwd.; W. H. Kempster, M.D., I.P.M., P.G. Stwd.; R. Barton, P.M., P.G. Stwd.; Chancellor, P.M., P.G. Stwd.; Jo-in, P.M., P.G. Stwd.; E. Rogers, P.M., P.G. Stwd.; H. Slade, P.M., P.G. Stwd.; W. J. Hamki, P.M.; W. Tno vas, P.M., and others. Bros. W. Macintosh, P.G. Stwd., A.G.D.C., W.M. Grand Stewards Lodge, and E. St. Clair, G. Stwd., W.M. 14, were visitors.

The minutes of the installation meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Jacques was passed to the Second Degree, and Bro. Jackman, raised to the Degree of M.M. Bro. W. H. Kempster, jun., was recommended for nomination to the M.W.G.M. as Grand Steward for 1894. Bro. W. Masters, P.G. Stwd., was elected to represent the lodge at the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and a sum of money voted to him as Steward. An apology from Bro. Henry Young, P.M., Treas., P.G. Stwd., was read, and subsequently a telegram was received from him conveying "Heartly good wishes" to the W.M. and brethren. In consequence of the next regular meeting of the lodge falling on Good Friday, it was resolved to hold a meeting on the evening previous, and an emergency meeting and banquet on the last Friday in March.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren and guests adjourned to the banquet, which was well served.

Upon the removal of the cloth, the customary toasts received full justice.

Bro. Dr. Macintosh, A.G.D.C., in responding to the toast of "The Grand Officers," said that he thoroughly endorsed the remarks of the proposer of the toast as to the zeal, energy and interest taken in the Craft by Bros. the Earls of Lathom and Mount Edgumbe. There were other distinguished brethren of Grand Lodge whose services, although not so prominently brought before the Craft as those of its chiefs, were productive of a vast amount of good. It had afforded him a great deal of pleasure, as an old Past Grand Steward, to visit a Lodge so highly respected as No. 60. He was gratified to see also that the W.M. was so well supported by the Past Masters, wearing the distinctive collars of P.G. Stwds. The other night he had had the honour

conferred upon him of being installed W.M. of the Grand Stewards' Lodge, an ancient and distinguished institution, one that deserved to be more strong in point of numbers than it was. In conclusion, he said that he had been interested in the working of the lodge, and gratified with the warmth of the hospitality extended to him.

Bro. Dr. Kempster, I.P.M., gave "The Health of the W.M.," prefacing the toast by many kind remarks.

This pledge having been duly received, was responded to. "The Visitors" followed.

Bro. E. St. Clair, W.M. 14, G. Stwd., acknowledged this toast in an effective speech. He said he felt somewhat in a dilemma as to the manner in which he should respond as a visitor, and in what capacity. The proposer of the toast had spoken of his services as an officer of the French Army, as a worker of Craft rituals, as a Grand Steward, and as a member of the Tuscan and La France Lodges. The remarks passed upon his humble efforts in these various capacities were, to his mind, far too complimentary. Bro. Dr. Macintosh had spoken so well and so eloquently, as a Grand Officer, upon the working of the Peace and Harmony Lodge, and the great services rendered to Masonry and its kindred Charities by so many of its members that it left him but little to add, except to heartily endorse every word that he had said. In conclusion, he called attention to the interesting fact that their W.M., Bro. Dr. Macintosh, and himself were the respective heads of three of the oldest lodges in the Craft having the privilege of nominating Grand Stewards.

Bro. Dr. Kempster responded for "The Past Masters," Bro. F. Binckes for "The Treasurer and Secretary," and Bro. W. H. Kempster, jun., for "The Officers."

The proceedings then terminated.

Lodge of Temperance (No. 169).—The installation meeting of this very flourishing South London lodge was held at the White Swan Hotel, High-street, Deptford, on Thursday, the 18th ult. Present: Bros. E. H. Johnson, W.M.; F. Ladd, S.W., W.M. elect; M. T. Carpenter, J.W.; G. Rosenstock, P.M., Treas.; J. G. Neeld, P.M., Sec.; J. R. Wellington, S.D.; W. Bately, J.D.; G. L. Moore, P.M., D.C.; A. Burgin, I.G.; T. Best and J. Murray, Stewards; W. Sanderson, P.M.; G. Brown, P.M.; J. G. Dale, P.M.; T. Wallis, P.M.; W. H. Wilton, P.M.; J. T. Moss, F. G. Ramsey, G. Butterfield, J. F. Cripps, H. R. Mitchell, J. R. Piper, A. L. Oliver, F. W. Willmott, E. G. Briggs, A. Bates, Jas. Holmes, S. Holst, D. T. Bear, H. H. Henbrey, J. Johnson, T. Kefford, and W. C. Mowbray. The visitors were Bros. J. Mason, Steward 2206; F. Fricker, 1326; R. D. Heckels, S.W. 1601; J. G. Milbourne, P.M. 13; C. H. Stone, W.M. 507; T. Barnicot, 975; A. Ridney, Stwd. 1539; C. W. Georgensen, 829; W. J. Stevenson, 147; W. J. Scrivener, 1489; E. W. Hathersich, I.P.M. 548; G. S. Cockton, 1416; R. H. Gundry, P.M. 975; and A. H. Hobbie, 171.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. Mitchell and Ramsey were passed, and Mr. J. Johnson initiated in a very commendable manner by the W.M. The Auditors' report was presented, received, and adopted, which showed a substantial balance in the hands of the Treasurer. Bro. G. L. Moore, P.M., D. of C., then presented Bro. F. Ladd, S.W., W.M. elect, to the W.M., to receive at his hands the benefit of installation, which ceremony was performed most perfectly, and for which Bro. E. H. Johnson, the Installing Master, received the hearty thanks of the brethren, the vote to be recorded on the minutes. The new W.M., Bro. Ladd, invested his officers in a manner impossible to be excelled as follows: Bros. E. H. Johnson, I.P.M.; M. Carpenter, S.W.; W. Bately, J.W.; G. Rosenstock, P.M., Treas.; J. D. Neeld, P.M., Sec.; A. Burgin, S.D.; T. Best, J.D.; C. Cobin, Org.; G. L. Moore, P.M., D. of C.; J. Murray, I.G.; Cripps and Henbrey, Stewards; and R. W. Goddard, P.M., Tyler. The addresses were most ably rendered by the Installing Master, Bro. Johnson. The W.M. rose in the lodge, and, addressing the I.P.M., said it was one of the greatest honours and pleasure in presenting the jewel so unanimously voted by the brethren, and in pinning it upon his breast said he only hoped while life lasted it would give him the greatest possible pleasure to wear it. In reply, Bro. Johnson, I.P.M., said the past year had been one of the pleasantest in his life. He was deeply sensible of the honour done him. He had tried to do his best for that old and notable lodge, and must again thank all the officers who had rendered him such able assistance. It would ever be his aim to do his utmost for the lodge, as all the brethren well knew. Bro. Dale, P.M., announced that he was standing as Steward for the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and it was unanimously resolved to place the sum of 20 guineas upon his list; likewise the sum of 10 guineas was voted to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The W.M. gave in the name of a candidate well known to himself for initiation at the next meeting, which augurs well for the lodge.

The business of the lodge ended, the brethren adjourned to an excellent repast, which was highly appreciated.

On the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were most efficiently given by the W.M., and as loyally received.

In giving the toast of "The M.W. Pro G.M., Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," the W.M. remarked it was one which always was received with the greatest pleasure, as their duties were onerous and were always carried out most efficiently.

The W.M. next presented the toast of "The Initiate," who had paid marked attention and seemed much impressed with the beautiful ceremony, and he felt confident in placing the toast before the brethren that the initiate would ultimately develop into a good and true Mason.

In reply, the initiate most heartily thanked the brethren for the honour done in receiving him into that worshipful body, and he hoped to fully carry out all that he had promised.

The next toast was presented by the I.P.M., that of "The Worshipful Master." In proposing the toast, Bro. E. H. Johnson said the brethren well knew why he was entrusted with the gavel for the first time in that capacity, and he would say that no W.M. ever entered upon his duties with greater *alacrity*, which was evidenced by the investiture of officers, the first step as regards the duties of the chair, and gave the brethren of the good old Lodge of Temperance the greatest pleasure to have such an one to guide over its destinies for the current year. The opinion of all was that at the end of the year the W.M. would have acquitted himself as ably as his predecessors, and he could confidently

state from experience, the more that was known of the W.M. the more the brethren would be attached to him.

Bro. Ladd, W.M., thanked the brethren most sincerely for the hearty response which had been given to the toast of his health. He hoped he might be pardoned if he seemed to strike one note of discord upon such an occasion, but so much had been said in eulogising him. However, he would do his level best to perform his duties to the utmost of his ability, which, of course, would go without saying. He could not expect to arrive at that acme of perfection as some, but, at any rate, he did hope his endeavours would be to aim at such. He most heartily thanked the brethren.

The Worshipful Master next gave the toast of "The Installing Master," and he was afraid he could not do him justice, for it needed no words from him to commend it, as all the brethren had witnessed his admirable rendering of the installation ceremony, which had given such entire satisfaction. He had left behind such a standard of excellence as he (the W.M.) hoped to attain. He would ask the brethren, as he was confident they would do, to drink to the toast most cordially, which was most heartily responded to.

In reply, Bro. E. H. Johnson stated he was much touched with such expressions, too flattering, but his resolve had been from the moment that he was placed in such a proud position as the W.M. of the good old Lodge of Temperance, to do his level best, which he was grateful to the brethren in testifying in such a manner. His endeavour would be to keep up the prestige of the lodge, which was handed down year by year. He had been styled an old fossil already, but he would assure the brethren such was not the case for he was still an officer, and his greatest aim would be to do his utmost for the lodge. The splendid jewel with which he had been decorated that evening he most heartily thanked the brethren for, and he hoped for many years to wear it, which would recall many happy reminiscences of the good old Lodge of Temperance.

The toast of "The Visitors" received at the hands of the W.M. a most hearty and cordial reception, and was very ably responded to by Bros. Hathersich, I.P.M. 548, and C. H. Stone, 507, who remarked upon the excellence of the working and cordial reception to the visitors. Bro. Stone paid a high tribute to the I.P.M., whom he had known from a young lad, and hoped he should instal his successor as ably in a short time. Likewise commending the brethren of this famous lodge upon their benevolence, which was the first duty of them as Freemasons.

The toast of "The Officers" was given in excellent terms and responded to most efficiently by them all, each promising his very utmost to promote the best interests of the lodge.

The toast of "The Past Masters" was most efficiently presented by the W.M., and as efficiently responded to by Bro. J. T. Moss, P.M.

The Tyler's toast closed a most happy and intellectual meeting.

Bro. Cockton ably presided at the piano, and Bros. Moore, Scrivener, Dale, Biggs, Johnson, and Mason added greatly to the harmony.

Lodge of Industry (No. 186).—This centenary lodge held its installation meeting on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Geo. Fox Spencer, W.M., in the chair. Besides the officers the Past Masters present were Bros. S. M. Banker, J. W. Grover, J. B. Hunt Sherring, D. J. Robinson, Nicholas Cornvill, W. H. Hook, Treas.; W. S. Page, Sec.; and W. W. Westley, D.C. Visitors: Bros. F. J. Carter, 1543; Rd. Sinclair, 91; J. Brittain, P.M. 1385, P.P.G.W. Herts; W. J. James, W.M. 1708; G. J. Austin, P.M. 1708; Geo. Samuel, J.D. 1708; W. Harper, Stwd. 1304; C. E. Codins, W.M. 23, G. Stwd.; J. H. Moggridge, J.W. 1321; C. A. Legg, 2331; W. A. Buxton, 1538; A. Stuart Morin, 708, Prov. J.G.W. Middx.; J. M. McLeod, P.P.S.G.W. Derby, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys; F. J. Sheppard, 3; H. Cotton, 1791; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1328, 160; and C. Woodrow P.M. 1708.

Bro. Spencer raised Bro. Gittins to the Third Degree, and afterwards installed Bro. E. Apelt, S.W., as Master of the lodge, performing all the work in an admirable manner. Bro. Spencer was invested as I.P.M., and the other collars were conferred upon Bros. T. M. Wood, S.W.; S. Earl, J.W.; W. H. Hook, P.M., Treas.; W. S. Page, P.M., Sec.; A. J. Newton, S.D.; G. Smith, J.D.; W. W. Westley, P.M., D.C.; J. D. Phillips, I.G.; S. Cartwright, Org.; W. Stewart and C. Smith, Stwds.; and C. Sheppard, Tyler. A Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. Spencer, and unquestionably it was well deserved.

The banquet was served at the Holborn Restaurant, and when the speeches were delivered they were interspersed with serious and comic singing by respectively Miss Ethel Winn, Mrs. Buxton, Mr. John W. Josey, and Mr. Fred Searle.

Bro. Spencer proposed "The W.M.," and stated that he and Bro. Apelt had worked up as officers together in the lodge, and he had had an opportunity of watching the zealous and assiduous manner in which Bro. Apelt had filled the various offices he had been called upon to fill. From what he had seen of him he was sure that during his year of office he would acquit himself in a way which would bring credit to himself and satisfaction to the brethren of the lodge. The W.M. had that happy, genial spirit in him which would endear him to the brethren.

Bro. Apelt, W.M., in reply, said that day was one of the pleasantest days of his life, and it would never be effaced from his memory. He was not generally ambitious, but he was distinctly aroused at his initiation, which was done by Bro. Banker. Sitting at the banquet table, Bro. Banker confidently told him that many years would pass before he was so near that chair again. Those years had passed, and he was now proud to be W.M. of the Industry Lodge. Shortly after his initiation, another brother—Sherring—encouraged him, and now he hoped that having worked, he would occupy the chair with credit.

Bro. Apelt next proposed "The I.P.M.," a toast which was received with the greatest enthusiasm. Bro. Apelt said that Bro. Spencer had done his best for the Lodge of Industry, which had every reason to be thankful to him. As Installing Master he had done his work nobly and well, and he could assure the brethren below the chair that the ceremony was one to be remembered. He should always think of it, and the day as a red-letter day in his life.

Bro. Spencer, I.P.M., cordially returned thanks. The W.M. had been kind enough to speak of what he (Bro.

Spencer) had done for the lodge. The brethren knew he laboured under the disadvantage of living far away from headquarters; nevertheless he had endeavoured to do his best for the lodge, and if he had failed in doing what he had intended to do he hoped they would excuse him.

Bro. April then proposed "The Charities," and expressed his desire that all the brethren should go and see them. He himself saw a good deal of the Boys in the Green Lanes at Wood Green, when out for their constitutional, and he could say how well they behaved themselves. They seemed very happy after winning a match, not only for the honour of it, but because they got extra jam at tea.

Bro. J. M. McLeod responded, and gave an excellent report of the Boys' School. Every care was taken by the Institutions to spend the funds judiciously, efficiently, and with economy. The boys had won all their football matches this season, and perhaps on that account the jam bills had increased. He did not know whether the subscribers would complain; and if they did he should refer them to the W.M. of the Industry Lodge. Bro. McLeod proceeded to say that there was a great improvement in all the Institutions of late years. With regard to the Boys' School there was undoubtedly a great improvement in the education and in the morale; the boys were better educated, clothed and fed, and he wished any brother would go down and see the Institution. All the Institutions deserved support and sympathy.

Bros. Stewart Brown, Brittain, and Jeans, responded to the toast of "The Visitors," and Bros. Page and Westley to that of "The Past Masters."

The other toasts were also honoured before the brethren separated.

Israel Lodge (No. 205).—This ancient and prosperous lodge held its installation meeting at Cannon-street Hotel, on Tuesday, the 23rd instant. There was a large and influential gathering of brethren present to witness the installation of Bro. I. H. Gluckstein as W.M. The members present included Bros. J. Levy, W.M.; I. H. Gluckstein, S.W.; B. Marcus, J.W.; A. M. Cohen, P.M.; Treas.: C. F. Hogard, P.M.; P.G.S.B., Sec.: J. Dancyger, S.D.; J. Berlyn, J.D.; L. Norden, P.M.; H. M. Harris, P.M.; S. Dancyger, P.M.; I. P. Cohen, P.M.; A. Bassington, P.M.; H. J. Phillips, P.M.; S. M. Harris, P.M.; J. A. Gartley, P.M.; M. I. Emanuel, P.M.; and many others. Visitors: Bros. G. Everett, P.G. Treas.; J. L. Mather, P.A.G.D.C.; R. Clowes, P.G.S.B.; T. Eisenman, W.M. 185; J. E. Hambleton, W.M. 1319; H. Angel, W.M. 2398; J. Barnett, W.M. 177; F. W. Harding, W.M. 1617; L. M. Myers, P.M. 188; I. B. Joel, W.M. 2265; A. Jones, 188; T. Rayner, 2432; J. Thom, P.M. 2331; W. Bailey, 1425; W. J. Vallentine, P.M. 1017; W. J. Hillyer, J.W. 2099; F. Larner, P.M. 858; D. A. Woolf, 185; S. T. James, 1457; C. A. Blake, 2394; L. Levy, W.M. elect 185; F. Green, 65; R. P. Clowes, W.M. 2201; J. Citron, 1416; W. W. Lee, P.M. 2381; W. Wright, P.M., P.P.G. Org. Middx.; and others.

Lodge was opened and the minutes confirmed, after which the Auditor's report, showing substantial balances on the lodge and Benevolent Funds, was received and adopted. Bro. H. J. Phillips, P.M., assumed the chair, and in an able and impressive manner installed Bro. I. H. Gluckstein as Worshipful Master. The following officers were appointed and invested: Bros. J. Levy, I.P.M.; B. Marcus, S.W.; J. Dancyger, J.W.; Abraham Mark Cohen, P.M., Treas.; C. F. Hogard, P.M., P.G. Std. Br., Sec.; John Berlyn, S.D.; James Noble Smith, J.D.; H. M. Harris, P.M., Director of Ceremonies; Isaac Rosalky, I.G.; George Lichtenfield, Asst. Dir. of Cers.; Joseph Marcus and Joseph Trenner, Stwds.; and Morley, Tyler. The newly-installed W.M. signified his intention of representing the lodge at the next festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and a sum of 10 guineas was voted to his list from the lodge funds. This amount was further increased by a subscription of five guineas from the S.W. Several letters expressing regret for non-attendance were received, and lodge was closed.

After banquet the usual toasts were given, the W.M. expressed his intention of adhering to the rule of brief speeches.

Bro. Geo. Everett, P.G. Treas., in replying for "The Grand Officers," said the toast was always received with the greatest kindness and cordiality, and this fact was much appreciated by the Grand Officers. Those brethren did all they could to promote the interests of the Order, and it was a pleasure to them to visit lodges and assist in any way in carrying out the great principles of the Craft. He was pleased and gratified to be present as he had been invited for several years past by their popular friend, Bro. Hogard. He had been unable to attend until that night, but thought he could not have chosen a better evening, for the ceremony of installation had never been more beautifully performed than Bro. Phillips. He could further say he had never heard the officers invested in a more able and perfect manner than by the W.M. that evening. Bro. Gluckstein had started well and there was no doubt that under his sway the lodge would have a happy and prosperous year. They had all spent a happy evening, and not only the Grand Officers, but all the guests would carry away pleasant recollections of their visit.

Bro. J. Levy, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and said that everyone connected with the lodge who had known Bro. Gluckstein from the day when he (the I.P.M.) had the pleasure of proposing him as a member, knew how well he had always carried out every duty placed upon him. They all hoped the Great Architect would spare him for many years with health and strength to be with them in the lodge.

Bro. I. H. Gluckstein, W.M., said he would thank them in the fewest and sincerest words at his disposal for the reception given the toast, which he did not think he deserved. He would try during his year to do the work in a manner not only creditable to Freemasonry, but also to himself, and would leave no stone unturned to merit their approbation.

"The Masonic Charities and the Lodge Benevolent Fund" was next given by the W.M., who remarked that during the past year about £200 had been given to brethren in distress from the latter fund, which still retained a balance of £955.

Bro. A. M. Cohen, P.M., as President of the Fund, replied, and in response to an appeal made by him to the members to raise the fund to four figures, the necessary amount was immediately forthcoming to complete a balance in hand of £1000.

Bro. T. Eisenman, W.M. 185, acknowledged the toast of "The Visitors," and said he felt he had been accorded a special honour in being called upon to respond in the presence of a large array of visiting brethren. He was not vain enough to think the honour a personal one. He thanked them especially on behalf of the Lodge of Tranquillity, whose W.M. he was. There was evidently an arrangement initiated some years ago that the Worshipful Masters of a few lodges in the City should invite each other to their respective meetings. The W.M. had that evening made an allusion to these as sister lodges, but he hoped to be forgiven if he said he did not believe the term was quite correct, for Masonry, as they understood it, had neither sister nor brother, all being joined in one common fraternity, having one common interest at heart—Fraternity and Charity. He congratulated the W.M. most heartily on being installed into the chair of that lodge, the working of which could not be surpassed by any lodge in existence. The pleasure he had derived from the festive board was nothing compared to the knowledge he had gained in the lodge. He complimented the lodge on completing the centenary of its existence, for it was not an honour accorded to many to wear the centenary jewel.

Bro. J. Barnett, W.M. 177, also replied, and said that whatever experience a Mason possessed, he could not be present at such a meeting as the present without gaining some information. The pleasure and gratification of being present was increased by the fact that he was connected with the W.M. in Masonic work in another direction. The admiration he felt for the masterly way in which the W.M. commenced to carry on his duties was confirmed by the acclamations of the brethren, and would be conveyed by him to another quarter. He wished the W.M. a happy and prosperous year of office, knowing him to be able to conduct the affairs of that old lodge with dignity and decorum.

Bro. L. Myers, P.M. 188, having also responded, the W.M. gave "The Installing Master and Past Masters," and said he did not think he could add anything to the eulogistic remarks respecting Bro. Phillips, P.M., the Installing Master. He would not have the pleasure of investing the I.P.M. with the Past Master's jewel that evening, as the brethren had subscribed to supplement it with a diamond, the setting of which had not been completed in time for presentation.

Bro. H. J. Phillips, P.M., said that following the excellent example of the W.M., he would briefly thank them all for their kindness.

Bro. J. Levy, I.P.M., replied, after which Bro. A. M. Cohen, P.M., Treas., responded for "The Treasurer and Secretary," and congratulated the lodge on the progress being made. He always liked to give credit where it was due, and must attribute that progress to the hard work and success of the Secretary.

Bro. C. F. Hogard, P.G.S.B., said that however arduous his duties had been as Secretary of the lodge of 90 members, his work had been a labour of love. He was proud to do anything he could for that, his mother lodge, and was pleased at the progress made for many years past and the position it occupied at the present time.

"The Officers" and the Tylers toast concluded the proceedings.

Bro. W. Wright, P.P.G. Org. Middx., was assisted in the musical arrangements by Mrs. N. Posner (Medalist R.A.M.) Miss Frances Littaur, and Bros. R. Evans and W. H. Noel.

Royal Savoy Lodge (No. 1744).—The installation meeting of this important lodge was held at the Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, on the 22nd ult., Bro. Capt. C. J. Knightley, W.M., presiding. There were present Bros. G. Morley, S.W.; W. M. Stiles, P.M., Treas.; A. H. Cole, Sec.; T. Jefferies, J.D.; J. Pratt, I.G.; W. A. Scurrah, P.M., D.C.; G. Comley, and George Thompson, Stwds.; C. H. Holland, P.M.; R. Ross, P.M.; S. J. Ross, Langley J. Fletcher, J. H. Adecock, A. B. Fox, T. Nicholson, W. Jennings, J. Greenfield, P.M., A. George, W. H. Smith, E. P. Waymouth, A. Berg, W. Baker, J. Morris, J. Bishop, C. P. Coles, J. M. Ellison, A. Shepherd, W. A. G. Wykes, C. W. Harwood, R. C. Kynaston, R. T. West, and R. Whiting, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. Sam. Cochrane, G. Treas.; J. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; W. Williams, 1986; T. Templeman, 963; S. Lucas, P.M. 2395; T. C. Edmunds, P.M. 1507; C. Wise, P.M. 1158; W. Fenn, P.G.D., Surrey; W. Dawson, 1622; T. H. Salmon, 1475; R. Beswick, S.W. 11; T. Hurdle, 15; J. T. Saunders, J.W. 1507; A. Bentley, Sec. 1815; G. W. Lewis, P.M. 2206; J. Irvine, P.M. 862; S. R. Lovell, P.M. 3; F. O. Tubbey, 207; J. Kilvington, P.M. 1799; F. Tomlin, W.M. elect 1363; A. H. Smith, P.M. 901; H. Herbert, S.W. 1745; G. Smith, S.D. 554; L. Ascott, P.M. 733; G. Wallace, P.M. 907; G. H. Stansall, 2206; A. H. Scurrah, I.P.M. 2206; J. C. Tegetmeier, 1929; H. Jones, P.M. 299; G. R. Langley, P.M. 2381; R. Bartholomew, 144; S. E. Storr, 144; F. Douglass-Norman, 172; R. Wells, 704, and others.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed and the Auditor's report adopted, the W.M. elect, Bro. George Morley, was presented and installed into the chair by Bro. W. M. Stiles in a most impressive manner. The following brethren were appointed and invested officers for the ensuing year: Bros. A. H. Coles, S.W.; T. Jefferies, J.W.; W. M. Stiles, P.M., Treas.; Capt. C. J. Knightley, I.P.M., Sec.; J. Pratt, S.D.; G. Comley, J.D.; W. A. Scurrah, P.M., D.C.; George Thompson, I.G.; G. Rice and J. Bishop, Stwds.; J. C. Smith, P.M., Org.; and R. Whiting, Tyler. The delivery of the usual addresses was ably rendered by Bro. W. M. Stiles, for which he received the hearty congratulations of the members and visitors. The new W.M. then initiated Mr. A. Shepherd in good style. A Past Master's jewel was presented to the I.P.M., Bro. Capt. C. J. Knightley, and acknowledged by him in suitable terms. The Secretary reported the death of Bro. A. Davis, who was buried the previous Wednesday, and it was resolved that a letter of condolence should be sent to his mother. A gentleman having been proposed for initiation at the next meeting, the lodge was then closed, and the members adjourned to a superb banquet, which gave great credit to the establishment, and was ably served under the personal superintendence of Bro. Bertini. The W.M. gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly honoured.

In responding for "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," Bro. Sam. Cochrane, G. Treas., who was enthusiastically received, said: the W.M. in announcing my name called me the Past Grand Treasurer. I hope to live to be the Past Grand Treasurer, and I also hope that the Grand Treasurer at that time will be somebody whom we all know,

I return you my sincere thanks for your kindness in proposing the toast of the Grand Officers, and for the reception you have given Bro. Terry and myself as representing them. It is the wish of the Grand Officers to work in unison with the whole Craft. They are always perfectly satisfied that at your social boards this toast is always the first drunk and always heartily received. I think Bro. Terry should have responded to this toast because he is a Grand Officer by the ordinary course of events, he was appointed by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, I was placed there by yourselves as your representative. As a Grand Officer, I return you my thanks for your kindness in the past, and ask you to oblige me in the future, and to remember that there is a candidate for Grand Treasurer in the field whose name is well known in the City of London. There are, however, many brethren working as hard as they possibly can for somebody else, and I have been asked many times—"Are you not going to vote for So-and-so?" But I was looking in the Charity books to-day to see the relative position of Bro. So-and-so and Bro. W. M. Stiles, and I see that while the former has two votes for the Old People, the latter has 133. Do you mean to tell me that the man who only holds two votes is more eminent in Freemasonry than the man who holds 133, and has spent the principal part of his life in the cause of Freemasonry? It is now for you of the Blue to exercise your right; and I ask you not to vote for anybody you do not know, and I ask the visitors here to-night more especially—for I know every member of the Royal Savoy will go for Bro. W. M. Stiles—to ask their friends to come to Grand Lodge on the 7th March next to vote for W. Mason Stiles. We were both in the field for the Grand Treasurership of England last year, and when he very kindly withdrew in my favour, his friends being my friends also, I was enabled to attain the position I now hold, and of which I am so justly proud. We know that Bro. Stiles will have a large amount of support from South and West London, but I would remind the brethren that they must be present at Grand Lodge in March to record their vote, for they will find that his opponent will get great support from the provinces. There are many hundreds of votes promised, but how many are recorded. That is why I ask the visitors more especially to come themselves and bring as many friends as they can and vote for Bro. W. M. Stiles. I thank you very much for allowing me to visit your lodge for the first time, and I assure you that if your kindness is extended to me in the future I shall be here.

In eloquent terms the W.M. gave the toast of "The Masonic Charities," coupled with the name of Bro. James Terry, Sec. R.M.B.I., who in reply said: At this period of the year the Secretaries of the three Charities are making great efforts in order to make the success of the Festivals as great as they can possibly be made. To-night your Secretary announced he had received invitations from the three Institutions, and I regret to say I did not hear the slightest response for either of them. The Girls' does not take place till May, the Boys' the last Wednesday in June, but the Festival of the Old People will take place in five weeks' time. There is therefore not much time left for a brother who takes the position of Steward. In February, 1893, we only received £8400 and we paid £16,000 in annuities, we are therefore looking forward to the 1894 Festival to see what will be the result of the efforts of our Board. The coming Festival will be presided over by a very worthy man—Bro. Col. Noel Money—one who has gained the esteem of the whole Craft. I venture to hope that on this occasion there will be a Steward from the old Royal Savoy. I remember some 16 years ago when I had the honour of consecrating this lodge in order to instal the brethren named in the warrant, I had a goodly list from the brethren, and I am sure you are not degenerating. Our list of candidates is now closed, no more can be received for the election in May. There are 125 candidates and we have only 22 vacancies, and with no funds you will at once see that it becomes a question of how we are to live during the ensuing 12 months. Then let us, brethren, with one heart and voice say that we will do our best for the Old People. We know that we are taught in our lectures our duty to the aged is "To bear the heat and burden of the day which they by reason of their age ought to be exempt from, and assist them in time of need so as to render the close of their days happy and comfortable." That is enjoined upon us by the teachings of the Craft and I am perfectly certain that you will kindly support me in my efforts to provide funds for these candidates, all of whom are without means, and most of them are over 70 years of age. You have never refused me in the past, and I do earnestly hope and trust you will not do so this year. I thank you for permitting me to respond to this toast at this early part of the evening, and I assure you that all the efforts that have been made by this lodge are highly appreciated by the members of my Committee.

Bro. W. A. Scurrah, P.M., said that after such an appeal, which he could not resist, he would go up as a Steward for the Old People, and he hoped the members would give him good support.

Bro. Captain C. J. Knightley, I.P.M., in giving "The Health of the W.M.," said that from his work that night, the W.M. had shown what it would be in the future. He had passed the chair in another lodge, and he was well qualified for anything he might have to do. He was a good and estimable friend, and the members would stick by him, and he hoped he might live for very many years to be associated with them.

Bro. Morley, W.M., in responding, stated that he appreciated having been elected to preside over them, and he would do his best to satisfy them all for the trust they had reposed in him. He had served every office in the Craft, and he hoped to have a prosperous year of office, with plenty of initiates, which he should look upon as an honour, and in conclusion he trusted that when he left the chair the members would be satisfied with the little he might have done to promote the interests of the lodge.

The W.M., in proposing "The Installing Master and Past Masters," said that the Installing Master, Bro. W. M. Stiles, did not require any introduction as he was so well known in the Craft, for which he had worked so hard. His rendering that night of the installing ceremony was perfect, and referring to the office of Grand Treasurer, he felt sure that when he was elected to that high office he would be the right man in the right place. The other Past Masters had done good service, not forgetting the I.P.M., Bro. Capt. Knightley, whose year of office had been a great success, and Bro. W. A. Scurrah, who was ever ready to assist in any way.

Bro. W. M. Stiles, P.M., responded. As senior Past Master of the lodge he was pleased to have installed Bro.

Mordey, who was an old and dear friend of his. He appreciated the remarks of the Grand Treasurer, and it was kind of him to make a point of attending that evening to speak on behalf of his candidature for the office of Grand Treasurer. He was working so hard to gain that high position, that he was growing quite bald. He was one of the first to help make that office an annual election, and he intended to win and so maintain the right of the masses, the Blue, to elect for that, and the only, office at Grand Lodge. He had many friends both in the Metropolis and the provinces, who had testified their willingness to do their utmost to ensure his election. He thanked Bro. Terry for his presence that evening, and for his assurance that he would use his great influence in his campaign.

Bros. Holland and Ross having replied, Bro. Captain Knightley also responded. He thanked the brethren for their great kindness while he was their W.M., a year of happiness which he should never forget, and he honoured the jewel presented to him that evening. He took that opportunity to record how very much he appreciated the great service rendered him by Bro. W. M. Stiles, of which he could not speak too highly, and no one could have a better friend. He hoped the Blues would stand firm and elect Bro. Stiles—one of the Blue. Many had to thank him for what they knew of the ritual, and he had worked hard in that direction for many years. He was glad to have heard from the lips of the two Grand Officers present—Bros. Cochrane and Terry—that they were both supporting the cause of their very old and dear friend, W. M. Stiles.

In eloquent terms, Bro. W. A. Scurrah, P.M., also replied, remarking that Bro. Stiles was a good old English Freemason, and no one was more deserving of high honours. The collar that he was wearing round his neck was evidence of what he had done for Masonry, and he hoped before long to greet him as the Grand Treasurer of England.

The toast of "The Initiate" was given most appropriately, and suitably responded to.

At the request of the W.M., Bro. W. M. Stiles gave "The Visitors" in cordial terms. They were noted for the way in which they treated their guests. They had many distinguished and a good array of visitors, who had made that evening the success it was, and they were all heartily welcome.

Bro. G. R. Langley, P.M., responded. He congratulated the W.M. on his excellent working. It had also been his pleasure to see him installed W.M. of the Honor Oak Lodge. Referring to the office of Grand Treasurer, he said that all friends of Bro. Stiles must work their very hardest. He was strong in South and East London, and large numbers would certainly go to the poll. He hoped that West and North London would muster in strength on the first Wednesday in March, and so make Bro. Stiles' election a certainty.

Bro. Fenn, P.P.G.D. Surrey, also replied, observing that he was glad to see the lodge, which was an important one, so prosperous. He was pleased that Bro. Stiles was receiving such great support, as no better man could be found for the office he was seeking.

Bros. J. Irvine, P.M.; C. Wise, P.M.; L. Ascott, P.M.; Wisbeck, and W. Williams also made suitable responses, bearing testimony to the excellent working and the lavish hospitality of the members, and with wishes for Bro. Stiles' success.

The other toasts were "The Treasurer and Secretary" and "The Officers," to which several good speeches were made in reply by Bros. W. M. Stiles, Treas.; Capt. Knightley, Sec.; A. H. Cole, S.W.; T. Jefferies, J.W.; J. Pratt, S.D.; Comley, J.D.; Scurrah, D.C.; G. Thompson, I.G.; and J. Bishop, Stwd.

The Tyler's toast closed a very happy and pleasant evening, and one that will long be remembered by the members and the numerous visitors.

The vocal entertainment was carried out by Bros. G. Thompson, Bartley, Cole, and Capt. Knightley.

Empire Lodge (No. 2108).—The installation meeting of this important and highly distinguished lodge was held at the Criterion on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., when there were present Bros. Jameson, W.M.; E. Warden Denniss, S.W.; Hermann Klein, J.W.; E. Harding, I.P.M.; Lennox Browne, P.M.; W. Clifford, S.D.; D. Kempe, J.D.; F. G. Mellows, I.G.; A. J. R. Trendell, C.M.G., P.M.; Andrew Miller, P.M.; Sijmond Sinauer, P.M.; A. Harvey, and E. Cremieu-Javal. Visitors: Bros. Sir Chas. Euan Smith, K.C.M.G.; Geo. Read, P.M.; A. Wiggins, P.M.; H. Tipper, P.M. 185, 2090, &c.; H. Jameson, and others.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for the election of Mr. W. T. Key, which having proved unanimous in his favour, the W.M. initiated Mr. Key in an impressive manner. The W.M. having vacated the chair, Bro. Lennox Browne, P.M. and Treasurer, proceeded to install the W.M. elect, Bro. E. Warden Denniss, into the chair of K.S. in his usually excellent manner. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. Hermann Klein, S.W.; W. Clifford, J.W.; Lennox Browne, P.M. and Treas.; Harding, P.M., as Sec.; D. Kempe, S.D.; F. G. Mellows, J.D.; Cooke, I.G.; S. Sinauer, D.C.; and Ernest Turner, Stwd.

The brethren adjourned to a sumptuous banquet, after which the following toasts were proposed by the W.M., who, both in the investiture of officers and as chairman at the banquet, showed an excellent command of language and performed his duties in such an admirable manner that for so young a man and Mason elicited from those present a well deserved tribute of praise.

In proposing the first toast, the W.M. said that the position he occupied was one he had long looked forward to, and that he was very pleased and gratified that the first toast he had the honour to propose was that of "Her Majesty Victoria, Queen of England, and Empress of India." Not able to be a Freemason herself, yet had been very pleased to see that her sons and grandsons were members of our Order.

After the toast of "The Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," Bro. the Rev. Studholme Brownrigg responded in a few words for "The Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. Jameson, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," said he felt sure that the lodge had done the right thing in placing Bro. Denniss in the chair. The manner in which he had always performed every office he had been appointed to in the lodge was not only a sufficient augury of the fulfilment of his duties in the chair, but the excellent way in which he had invested his officers was proof that he would not be found wanting.

The Initiate said, in response, that he felt most grateful to the members for electing him a member of their lodge. That although he had left it late in life before he had joined their distinguished Society, yet he believed he had made that evening a step in the right direction, and it was his loss that he had not joined before.

Bro. Sir Charles Euan Smith, in response to the toast of "The Visitors," expressed himself highly delighted at being present at the installation meeting of the lodge. He was very sorry to say that in consequence of his so frequently moving about in different parts of the world he never had the opportunity of taking office in a lodge and becoming the Master. He had found Masonry all over the world, even among savages, and the Mohammedans appeared to him to be the only ones who did not go in for Masonry, although he had found one who returned him the grip. He was also pleased to be present that evening to witness the initiation of a very old friend in Bro. Key, whom he had known for many years and highly respected him.

Bro. Trendell, who responded, as well as Bro. Jameson, for "The Past Masters," referred in very feeling terms to the severe illness of their much respected first Master of the lodge, Bro. Sir P. Cunliffe Owen, who was still in a very dangerous condition at Lowestoft.

The Treasurer and Secretary both expressed the great desire to do all they possibly could for the benefit of the lodge, as did the S.W., in responding for "The Officers."

During the evening an excellent selection of music was rendered, under the direction of Bro. Hermann Klein, by Bros. Eugene Oudin and Courtice Pounds, and Miss Huddleston and Miss Rayner. Bro. Harry Tipper's playing on the hand bells elicited great applause. Bro. Wilhelm Ganz, P.G.O., saying it was perfection and most refined.

The Tyler's toast put the finishing touch to a most enjoyable evening.

Cordwainer Ward Lodge (No. 2241).—A meeting of this lodge was held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Wednesday, the 17th ult. Bro. J. R. Reep, W.M., presided, and there were present Bros. F. W. Potter, S.W.; W. T. Buck, P.M., as J.W.; H. J. Adams, P.G.S.B., Treas.; H. Lovegrove, Sec.; C. J. Wilkinson-Pimbury, D. Cowan, J. F. Hepburn, P.M., C.C., and others.

The only business before the lodge was the raising of Bro. Bauer, and the ceremony was well performed.

Hiram Lodge (No. 2416).—Architects and surveyors held high festival on Wednesday, the 24th ultimo, when the third W.M. was installed. The proceedings commenced with the W.M., Bro. F. R. Farrow, initiating Messrs. W. H. White, O. Sacks, and E. A. Vickers. Bro. M. Garbutt was elected a joining member. Bro. H. Lovegrove, P.M., presented Bro. Frederick Atkinson Powell, W.M. elect, and he was duly installed into the chair of K.S. by the retiring W.M. The officers invested were as follows: Bros. H. T. Bonner, S.W.; G. Elkington, P.M., J.W.; F. R. Farrow, I.P.M. and Treas.; H. Lovegrove, P.M., Sec.; H. G. W. Drinkwater, S.D.; A. F. Wrightson, J.D.; W. West, I.G.; S. Jackson, Org.; W. Heslis, D.C.; H. J. Pain, Steward; and G. Austin, Tyler.

After the completion of the business, 51 members and visitors dined at Freemasons' Tavern, the musical arrangements being excellently managed by Bros. F. Bevan, E. Dalzell, and Walton Coward.

The visitors present were Bros. C. Martin, P.A.G.D.C.; R. Willoughby, St. Brain, T. Blashill, E. Stimson, F. J. Perks, E. W. Lewcock, J. S. Terry, S. Richardson, E. M. Monev, R. Evans, W. Kirkland, C. Fruen, J. H. Richardson, H. Hill, C. A. Powell, and others.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS.

BARNET.

Gladsmuir Lodge (No. 1385).—The installation meeting was held at the Red Lion Hotel, on Friday, the 26th ult., when there was a full attendance of members and visitors in honour of the occasion. Bro. G. Blizard Abbott, W.M., presided, and among those present were Bros. R. Fisher Young, P.M., D.C., P.P.G.D., and John Brittain, P.M., P.P.G.W., who acted as S.W. and J.W. respectively; F. Thompson, S.W.; F. C. Collingwood, J.W., and W.M. elect; Charles Gray, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Sec.; W. Lewis, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., acting D.C.; R. W. Oldfield, S.D.; W. H. G. Ball, P.M. 45, J.D.; Anneveld, I.G.; Marshall, A.D.C.; Haskins, Org.; Tibbatts, Stwd.; J. E. Cussans, P.M., P.P.G.W.; J. W. Baxter, P.M., P.P.G.R.; S. Tryon, P.M., P.P.G. Supt. of Works; J. P. Euerby, P.M., P.P.G.P.; R. W. Goddard, P.M. 65, Tyler; Mason, Spicer, Cranston, Witthaus, Inglis, H. C. Grimwade, J. Grimwade, Baddeley, Humby, Dade, Attree, and Billson. Visitors: Bros. Charles Bullock, Prov. G. Sec.; J. D. Langton, P.P.G.W. Surrey; Woods, P.P.G.S. of Wks. Kent; O. Wigginton, W.M. 403; J. H. Hughes, W.M. 404; Hunt, P.M. 194; Imray, 3; Tamburini, S.W. 1719; E. Apelt, W.M. 186; Witthaus, J. Probert, 340; Bishop, and others.

Lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, a Past Master's jewel was unanimously voted to the retiring W.M. in recognition of his services during the past year. A ballot was taken for a Life Governorship to one of the Masonic Institutions, and was won by Bro. Dade. Bro. F. C. Collingwood, J.W. and W.M. elect, was then presented by Bro. W. Lewis, P.M., D.C., to receive at the hands of the W.M. the benefit of installation, and was regularly installed according to ancient custom, and proclaimed and saluted. The following brethren were then appointed, and, in the majority of cases, invested with the insignia of their respective offices, namely, Bros. R. W. Oldfield, S.W.; W. H. G. Ball, J.W.; W. K. Hopkin, P.M., Treas. (elected); C. Gray, P.M., Sec.; Anneveld, S.D.; Tibbatts, J.D.; Marshall, I.G.; Mason, A.D. of C.; Spicer and Fairland, Stewards; Haskins, Org.; and R. W. Goddard, Tyler. Bro. Abbott, I.P.M., having, after a few graceful and complimentary remarks by the newly-installed W.M., been presented with the Past Master's jewel previously voted to him, and having acknowledged the gift, the trustees, officers, and Committee of the Gladsmuir Benevolent Fund were elected, and Bro. Hopkin, P.M., Treasurer, was chosen to serve on the Board of Finance of Prov. G. Lodge, and Bro. Gray, P.M., Sec., on the Hertfordshire Masonic Charity Association.

Lodge was closed with the accustomed formalities, and the brethren dined together under the presidency of Bro. Collingwood, W.M.

After dinner the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were honoured, those of the new "W.M." and "The Visitors" being received with the greatest enthusiasm.

In the course of the proceedings it was announced that the W.M. had undertaken to represent the lodge at the approaching Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and there is good reason to believe that he will be in a position to return a goodly total of donations and subscriptions to that Charity.

BRADFORD.

Acacia Lodge (No. 2321).—This lodge met on Thursday, the 18th ult., when Bro. J. T. Last, W.M., was supported by Bros. John Niven, I.P.M.; A. Stephenson, P.M., P.P.G.D.C.; S. A. Bailey, P.M., Treas.; Joseph Wilson, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., Chap.; S. A. Auty, P.M., Charity Representative; E. Pearson Peterson, P.M., Sec.; C. H. Ellis, S.W.; S. Robinson, J.W.; John Morton, S.D.; A. J. Boyle, as J.D.; A. E. Harris, I.G.; H. Holmes, Tyler; R. S. Hird, J. A. Drake, S. of W.; R. J. Marsland, R. C. Douglas, Wm. Docksey, and Joseph S. Hedley. Visitor: Bro. Reuben Williamson, P.M. 521, P.P.G.D.

After the lodge had been opened, and the preliminary business disposed of, Bros. Douglas, Docksey, and Hedley were respectively passed to the Second Degree by Bros. Niven, P.M.; Peterson, P.M.; and Auty, P.M. The working tools were explained by Bro. Robinson, J.W., and the charge was delivered by Bro. Ellis, S.W. Apologies were tendered for the absence of several brethren, and after "Hearty good wishes" the lodge was closed, and the brethren proceeded to refreshment, after which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and a pleasant evening spent, harmony and recitations being contributed by Bros. Docksey, Last, Harris, and Wilson, until the Tyler's toast dispersed the brethren.

CHERTSEY.

The Abbey Lodge (No. 2120).—The installation meeting of this well-known lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, the 10th ult., and there was an exceedingly large muster of members and visitors, the latter numbering 22, which included Bros. Col. G. Noel Money, C.B., P.G.M.; the Rev. E. R. Parr, M.A., P.M. 979 and 321, P.P.G.C. Cheshire; G. D. Lister, P.M. 307, P.P.S.G.W.; B. Latter Tandy, 1280, P.P.S.G.W. Essex; J. B. S. Lancaster, P.M. 2317, P.P.G.S.B.; and C. T. Tyler, P.M. 1395, P.P.S.G.D.

Owing to the recent indisposition of the outgoing W.M., Bro. W. Dix, the installation ceremony was conducted by Bro. H. J. Bidwell, P.G.D.C., Sec. Bro. Welch afterwards invested the following as officers of the lodge: Bros. Dix, I.P.M.; James Webb, S.W.; T. Dix, J.W.; H. C. Leigh Bennett, P.P.S.G.W., Treas.; H. J. Bidwell, P.G.D.C., Sec.; F. Harper, S.D.; W. Brooks, J.D.; A. McCormick, I.G.; A. G. Hutchins, D.C.; T. D. Fisher, Org.; H. G. Nesmyth and C. Head, Stwds.; and G. J. Mason, Tyler.

In addition to those already mentioned the members of the lodge present were Bros. E. T. Madeley, P.M.; A. W. Crewdson, P.M.; W. H. Gardener, P.M.; C. Gardener, Winkworth, R. J. Hunt, T. J. Rawlings, E. Squire, Joseph Hunt, C. J. Nesmyth, W. Bates, W. Tranter, A. Reed, George Fletcher, Colman, Brown, Hill, Wenham, and Althorp. The visitors not enumerated above included Bros. H. Ledger, 2342; H. Beardshaw, 1228; A. H. Gale, 2317; John Hoey, P.M. 2317; H. W. Gloster, 2317; T. Elliott, 1564; Edward Head, 1681; Gilbert H. White, W.M. 1395; A. G. Jackman, 2317; J. Norden, 879; S. C. Knight, 1395; C. F. Passmore, W.M. 2317; W. F. Larkin, 1900; H. J. Bragg, 382; A. W. Gerrard, W.M. 1415; James Hopps, 1900 and Grace, 177.

A grand banquet, which was served by Bro. G. J. Mason in his best style, afterwards took place.

ECCLES.

Victoria Lodge (No. 1345).—This lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Thursday, the 18th ult., there being present: Bros. W. Broughton, W.M.; W. Pearson, S.W.; J. Ambler, J.W.; T. Wood, I.P.M.; J. Lees, P.M., Prov. G.S., Treas.; W. Corner, P.M., P.D.P.G.D.C., Sec.; W. H. Jackson, J.D.; T. McClelland, P.M.; A. Grundy, H. Hunter, W. H. Budgen, J. R. Pews, J. Martindale, G. Broughton, J. Douzer, J. W. Wharmby, and W. W. Beebe, Org. The visitors present were: Bros. S. Luke, 2363; W. L. Rooke, 2275; T. Hilton, P.M., P.G.D.C.; T. Ball, P.M., 1213; W. Bowden, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; A. Jackson, S.W., 1613; Geo. F. Carr, P.M. 1542, P.P.G. Org.; W. J. Allitt, P.M. 993 and 1633; W. Howard, 1147; T. G. Cooper, 1633; H. J. Crellin, 581; J. G. Henson, 581; James Booth, P.M. 1213; and C. E. Hindley, P.M., P.P.S.G.D.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed Bro. A. Grundy was raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M. by Bro. McClelland, P.M., in a very effective manner. Bro. W. Pearson, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M., and the lodge was closed.

At the social board Bro. Broughton, W.M., on behalf of himself and brethren of the lodge, presented to Bro. Corner a valuable gold watch in recognition of his services as secretary for a period of 10 years, and in presenting this token of the esteem in which Bro. Corner was held by the brethren, said that as Master of the lodge, it was a great pleasure to him on that the last occasion during his year of office at which he would be able to preside as W.M. that he had such a pleasurable duty to perform, and he trusted that Bro. Corner would long be spared to wear the watch, which he then handed to him. The inner plate bore the following inscription: "Presented to Bro. W. Corner, jun., P.M., P.P.D.G.D.C., by the brethren of the Victoria Lodge, 1345, in token of the high esteem in which he is held by them, Jan. 18, 1894." Upon the outer case was to be recorded another event of permanent interest to the lodge, viz., the presentation of a banner, by Bro. Lees, P.M., Treas., the case for which had been given by the W.M.

Bros. Lees, P.M.; McClelland, P.M.; and T. Wood, P.M., having spoken in eulogistic terms of Bro. Corner, and expressed their pleasure at seeing his valuable services to some extent recognised by the brethren,

Bro. Corner, in reply, said that at no time had he felt it so difficult to respond to a toast. He had on one occasion tried to compile a speech but had failed so completely that he made up his mind never to repeat the experiment.

Guided, however, by the feelings of his heart as a Mason, and bearing in mind that beautiful ritual, he thought that as a Mason he could take it that the gift which he had the highest honour in accepting was given to him with the best wishes of the brethren of the Victoria Lodge, and that he should treasure it as a beautiful token of their regard for him, and especially valued their expression of good-will towards his children and home.

The banner was manufactured by Bro. George Kenning.

HAMPTON COURT.

Hemming Lodge (No. 1512).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Greyhound Hotel, on the 18th ult. Among those present were Bros. W. Fisher, I.P.M., P.G. Treas., in the chair; J. W. Clark, S.W., W.M. elect; H. Robinson, J.W.; J. C. Jessett, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; Capt. T. C. Walls, P.M., P.P.G.W., G. Stwd., Sec.; Trotter, S.D.; Hopkins, J.D.; G. J. Tagg, I.G.; G. Ransford, P.M., D.C.; C. Wheatley, Stwd.; H. J. Jones, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br.; W. Spearing, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; H. Wheatley, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C.; A. F. Scholding, P.M.; and H. H. Room, P.M., P.G. Sec. (Hon. Member.) Among the numerous visitors were Bros. Edgell, W.M. 889; Gomme, W.M. 946; Duncan, P.M. 59; Oliver, P.M. 820; H. D. Smith, P.M. 2045; Nash, P.M. 1769; Bidwell, P.M. 2120; Birks, 95; Gloss, 860; Dennis, 1275; Neal, 1348; Potter, 1693; Allen, 1733; Alderton, 1981; Abell, 2032; C. Ransford, 2432; and others.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bros. Wetton and Dixon were raised to the Third Degree. Bro. J. W. Clarke having been presented was duly and impressively installed into the chair of K.S. by Bro. Fisher. The following appointments and investments were made: Bros. H. Robinson, S.W.; E. H. Trotter, J.W.; J. C. Jessett, P.M., Treas.; Captain Walls, P.M., Sec.; W. Hopkins, S.D.; G. J. Tagg, J.D.; P. Cromin, I.G.; G. Ransford, P.M., D.C.; C. Wheatley, A.D.C.; A. F. Scholding, P.M., H. Gale, C. F. Davis, and R. Carter, Stwds.; and J. Gilbert, P.G.T., Tyler. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. A vote of thanks was passed to the Installing Officer. Since the last meeting of the lodge Bro. R. Eales, P.M., P.G.P., an old initiate, has died. Out of respect for his memory the lodge was in mourning. A vote of condolence to the widow and family of nine children, was passed with many individual expressions of regret. A vote of sympathy to the I.P.M., Bro. John Smith, too ill to attend the lodge, and a vote of condolence to him upon the loss of his wife, were also passed. The presentation to him of a Past Master's jewel and collar of office was necessarily postponed. The W.M. having been elected to represent the lodge as Steward for the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, a notice of motion was given by the Treasurer to vote a sum of not less than £5 5s. to his list. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. R. H. Thrupp, D.P.G.M.; R. W. Forge, P.P.G.D.C.; J. Smith, I.P.M.; E. Clark, P.M.; P. Cromin, and others. The lodge was then closed.

A well-served banquet having been partaken of, the usual toasts followed.

Bro. H. H. Room having given some interesting details of the prosperous state of Masonry in the province, touched upon the most vexed question of Provincial Grand Lodge honours. It was, he remarked, a most difficult matter for the chief of a province to select worthy Masons for certain positions. It was very certain that all could not be Wardens and Deacons. As Masonry progressed, and he was pleased to say that in Middlesex it was making great strides, the difficulties would increase. In concluding his remarks, he said that he was always pleased to visit number 1512, because the true spirit of harmony and Masonry appeared to thoroughly prevail within its councils. He was sorry that the lodge had lost one of its Past Masters, one of those brethren who, when the lowest position in the Provincial Grand Lodge was offered to him, cheerfully accepted it. If he (the speaker) could be of any assistance in securing the election of one or two children of the deceased to the Institution in October next, the lodge might command him.

Bro. Jessett proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master." He said that Bro. Clarke was an initiate of the lodge, and had thoroughly discharged all the minor offices to the satisfaction, not only of the respective Masters who had appointed him to office, but to the credit of the lodge. He had generously made the lodge the present of a die of the arms of the lodge, and had provided the menus and a most excellent programme of instrumental and vocal music. He augured for him a most pleasant and successful year of office.

The Worshipful Master, in reply, briefly said that he would do his best to make the lodge happy during his year. He hoped to have at least three initiates, and he trusted to be well supported by the Past Masters and officers.

The toast of "The Visitors" followed, and was replied by Bros. Edgell, Gomme, Duncan, and Oliver.

"The Health of the Past Masters" was coupled with the name of Bro. A. F. Scholding, who responded in a humorous vein.

Bro. J. C. Jessett, P.M., acknowledged the toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary." He said that the work of a large lodge like No. 1512 was by no means light. He had a great deal of correspondence, but it was nothing to be compared with that of the Secretary. The brethren generally would be conferring a favour upon him and his colleague if they would kindly respond with alacrity to the demands of the Treasurer's key.

Bro. G. Ransford, P.M., responded to the toast of "The Masonic Charities," and Bros. Robinson and Trotter for "The Officers."

A varied musical programme was presented, in which Miss J. Hudson, L.A.M., Bros. Powley, Abell, and Messrs. A. Gurney, A.C.O., Richer, and Fell, particularly distinguished themselves. The lady's selection on the violin was greatly appreciated.

LEEDS.

Excelsior Lodge (No. 1042).—The monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Great George-street, on Thursday, the 18th ult., when the following brethren were present: Bros. J. B. Mays, W.M.; J. W. Blackburn, I.P.M.; H. Banks, S.W.; R. J. Smith, J.W.; R. Waide, Sec.; F. C. Nettleton, Asst. Sec.; A. H. Dougill, S.D.; J. E. Davenport, J.D.; T. Thorp,

P.M., D.C.; E. Crosby, P.M., Org.; G. Tooley, I.G.; H. Whitfield and V. R. Morley, Stwds.; J. H. Newton, Tyler; H. Cowbrough, P.M., Prov. J.G.D.; W. Grisdale, J. Wallace, J. A. Milne, J. W. Hargreaves, and C. Grosvenor. Visitors: Bros. H. Bonser, P.M. 2412, Prov. G. Std. Br., and J. Pulman, 561.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and signed. There being no other business the by-laws were read, at the conclusion of which a brief discussion as to the advisability of the by-laws being revised took place at the instance of Bro. R. J. Smith, J.W., but no definite decision was arrived at. It was resolved to order 30 copies of the report of the recent installation of the Provincial Grand Master for sale amongst the brethren.

"Hearty good wishes" having been tendered by the visiting brethren, the lodge was closed, and an adjournment to the banquet room took place, when the remainder of the evening was spent in a very agreeable manner, songs and recitations being contributed by Bros. Bonser, Morley, Davenport, Crosby, Dougill, Milne, and Smith.

SOUTHEAST.

Priory Lodge (No. 1000).—A meeting was held on Thursday, the 18th ult., at the Middleton Hotel, when there were present Bros. A. Vandevord, W.M.; C. W. Barnard, S.W.; F. J. Cumine, J.W.; Rev. T. W. Herbert, P.M., Chap.; F. Wood, P.M., Treas.; C. Floyd, P.M., Sec.; E. J. Bowmaker, S.D.; R. J. Smith, J.D.; G. R. Dawson, P.M., D.C.; C. H. Bowmaker, I.G.; W. Elam, Steward; A. Martin, Tyler; A. Lucking, P.M., P.G.P.; J. W. Harris, P.M., P.P.A.G.C.; W. E. Bridgland, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; B. Thomas, P.M.; W. T. Darke, T. A. Browning, E. H. Taylor, F. J. Wood, P. E. Beard, G. Reed, A. Prevost, J. G. Jarvis, E. M. Kemp, W. M. Burton, E. G. Fletcher, P. J. Burdett, and J. Pritchard. Visitors: Bros. Hon. O. G. Lambart, P.M. 1400; F. Goodham, W.M. 1817; J. Berry, 1817; G. P. Manuelle, 115; and G. Jacob, 898.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Apologies were read from Bros. Philbrick, G. Reg.; E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; F. R. W. Hedges, Sec. R.M.I.G.; W. J. Ralling, P.G. Sec.; Major Rasch, M.P., and others. Bro. P. E. Beard was passed to the Degree of F.C., and alterations of by-laws were confirmed, after which the Auditors' report was received and adopted. Bro. F. Wood, P.M., was elected as Charity Representative, and, upon the proposition of Bro. A. Lucking, P.M., £10 10s. was voted the R.M.I.B., to be placed upon the list of Bro. C. Barnard, W.M., who has consented to act as Steward. The installation ceremony was performed by Bro. A. Vandevord, I.P.M., in an exceptional manner, and for which he received the unanimous thanks of all present. The W.M., after returning thanks for the honour bestowed, appointed and invested his officers.

Lodge was then closed, when the brethren, 36 in number, sat down to an excellent banquet, served in good style by Host Bro. J. Pritchard.

Royal Arch.

DONCASTER.

St. Magdalen Chapter (No. 242).—The monthly meeting of this chapter was held on the 26th ult., at the Nether Hall, when there were present: Comps. F. D. Walker, P.Z., acting M.E.Z.; S. Pegler, H.; F. Webb, J.; F. J. Forth, S.E.; C. H. Woodhouse, S.N.; J. Constable, P.S.; G. Wilkie, M.E.Z.; W. Fretwell, and others.

The only business was the election of officers for the ensuing year, when the following appointments were made: Comps. S. Pegler, M.E.Z.; F. Webb, H.; J. Constable, J.; C. Goldthorpe, S.E.; C. Woodhouse, S.N.; W. Chambers, P.S.; and J. Mason, janitor. The installation will take place on the 23rd inst.

Mark Masonry.

Prince of Wales Lodge (No. 4).—The election meeting was held at Mark Masons' Hall, on the 23rd ult. Bro. Edwin W. Lewcock presided, and there were present Bros. C. J. Axford, P.M., &c., as S.W.; F. A. Powell, J.W.; J. Hill, M.O.; R. Willoughby, J.O.; A. Love, I.G.; H. Lovegrove, Treas.; and C. Pulman, Sec.

Bro. J. W. Mash was unanimously elected W.M.; Bro. H. Lovegrove, P.M., P.G.I. of W., was re-elected Treasurer; and Bro. E. J. Mills, Tyler. It being the turn of this lodge to recommend a brother for Grand Steward, Bro. E. W. Lewcock, W.M., was unanimously selected.

The brethren dined at the Holborn Restaurant.

BRADFORD.

Old York Lodge (T.I.).—A regular meeting was held on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., at Freemasons' Hall, Salem-street. Present: Bros. T. E. Greenough, W.M.; F. D. Harrison, S.W.; J. T. Last, J.W.; S. A. Auty, Chap.; G. Althorp, P.M., P.P.G.W., Treas.; Thos. Norfolk, P.M., Sec.; S. Whiteley, P.M., Org.; James Dewhurst, P.M.; G. Martin, as M.O.; Michael Hayes, S.O.; R. H. Bonser, J.O.; G. C. Gamble, S.D.; J. Hill, J.D.; J. Pratt, I.G.; John Hill, Tyler; Joseph Clifford, C. Cromack, John Cromack, John Ingleby, and A. W. Pullin.

After the lodge had been opened by the W.M., the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and Bro. W. F. Schutte, J.W. 2330, who had been previously elected, was duly advanced to the Degree of a M.M. by the W.M., assisted by Bro. Whiteley, who described the symbolism of the Degree, and the working tools were explained by Bro. Harrison, S.W., and the charge delivered by Bro. Norfolk, P.M., Sec.

Apologies were tendered for the absence of a number of the brethren, after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

The usual Masonic toasts were honoured, and a pleasant evening spent.

Bros. Whiteley, Greenough, Gamble, and Pullan contributed songs and solos to the harmony of the evening.

CHORLTON-CUM-HARDY.

Chorlton Lodge (No. 394).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, on Wednesday, the 24th ult. In the absence of Bro. F. G. Goodacre, W.M., the lodge was opened by Bro. W. B. Webster, P.M., and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the balance-sheet was approved. Bro. Chas. Heywood, P.M., then took the chair as Installing Master; Bros. J. J. Lambert, as S.W., and G. S. Smith, as J.W. Bro. Saml. Locke was presented by Bro. Webster, and was duly installed into the chair. Upon the re-entrance of the brethren, Bro. Locke was proclaimed and saluted. We were very pleased to see Bro. Lockett, the newly-installed W.M., invest and address his officers for the ensuing year, whilst the W.M., Bro. Chas. Heywood, excelled himself in the whole of the installation, and the brethren present all acknowledged they had witnessed a great treat seldom to be met with. At the close of the business "Hearty good wishes" were expressed from Provincial and Mark Lodge, and the lodge was closed.

The following brethren were present: Bros. Sam. Locke, J. J. Lambert, P.M., P.P.G.R.; Chas. Heywood, P.P.G. M.O.; W. Webster, P.M., P.P.G.S.D.; Fred. Renshaw, S.D.; W. Jordan, J.D.; R. Critchley, I.G.; J. H. Wells, S.W.; H. Nall, J.W.; J. G. Bally, J. Crompton, Sec.; and W. Chesshyre, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. John Hardwicke-Marsh, St. Andrew Chapter; and G. S. Smith, P.M.

HUDDERSFIELD.

Truth Lodge (No. 187).—The regular monthly meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Fitzwilliam-street, on Friday, the 26th ult. The lodge was opened in the presence of Bros. W. E. Smithies, I.P.M., as W.M.; G. Jackson, S.W.; A. Armitage, J.W.; G. Marshall, P.M., Treas.; A. Rowe, Sec.; J. Naylor, M.O.; T. G. Howell, S.O.; K. Williamson, P.M., as J.O.; J. Brook, S.D. and Org.; S. A. Radcliffe, J.D.; C. Nicholson, P.M., Tyler; and John Barker, P.M., P.G.I. of W., D.P. G.M.

After the minutes had been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Bro. R. F. Rogerson, 1301, which proved unanimous. The chair was then taken by Bro. J. Barker, D.P.G.M., who advanced Bro. Rogerson to the Honourable Degree of M.M.M. The W.M., Bro. J. F. Dyson then entered the lodge, and, in a few well-chosen words, apologised for his absence, and thanked Bro. Barker for taking the ceremony.

This having been replied to, the lodge was closed, the D.P.G.M. giving the parting address to the brethren.

TWICKENHAM.

Sir Francis Burdett Lodge (No. 181).—This lodge met at the Albany Hotel on the 17th ult. Among those present were Bros. E. W. Davis, P.G.S.O., W.M.; W. Fisher, P.M., P.G. Stwd., Treasurer, acting Secretary; George Everett, M.O.; R. W. Forge, I.G.; J. T. Briggs, P.M., P.G. Std. Br.; H. Higgins, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; C. H. Köhler, P.M., P.A.G.D.C.; W. J. Porter, P.M.; W. Thomas, P.M., P.P.G.O.; and others.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. In consequence of the resignation of the Senior and Junior Wardens through pressure of other engagements, Bro. E. W. Davis was unanimously re-elected W.M.; Bro. W. Fisher, P.M., Treasurer; and Bro. G. Harrison, Tyler. A Past Master's jewel was voted to Bro. E. W. Davis. The report of the Audit Committee was received, adopted, and ordered to be entered on the minutes. The resignations of Bros. Woodruffe, H. Von Joel, and Pentelow were received with regret. Bro. A. J. R. Simmonds, P.M., and the Secretary sent letters of apology for non-attendance, the latter brother's first absence in 17 years.

The lodge was then closed, and a banquet followed.

The W.M., as usual, presided most ably and genially, but as there were no advances nor visitors present the proceedings were short of their usual formality. The feast of reason and the flow of soul were, however, well to the fore.

WHITEHAVEN.

Fletcher Lodge (No. 213).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 26th ult., when Bro. Dr. J. F. Muir, S.W., was installed W.M. by Bro. Spencer Broadbent, W.M., assisted by Bro. Geo. Dalrymple, P.M., and the following were invested officers: Bros. Geo. Starkey, S.W.; J. M. Clarke, J.W.; J. A. Fowler, M.O.; Edwd. Pattinson, S.O.; Robt. Shepherd, J.O.; Rev. Jas. Anderson, P.M., Chap., and Treas.; H. Burns, P.M., R. of M., and Sec.; James Lachlan, S.D.; J. Walker, J.D.; D. H. Cook, Org., and I.G.; and Thos. Richardson, Tyler. There were also present Bros. Thos. Atkinson, P.M.; J. Casson, W. H. Bewlay, W. D. P. Field, and others.

With a vote of thanks to the Installing Masters, and "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed, and, at the invitation of Bro. Muir, P.M., the brethren dined in the banquet hall, where a pleasant evening was spent.

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE (No. 144).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 29th ult., at the Victoria Tavern, Gertrude-street, Chelsea, when there were present Bros. Thomas, W.M.; Bradley, S.W.; Ingram, J.W.; Carlstrom, Preceptor; Stutfield, Sec.; Tucker, S.D.; Beauchamp, J.D.; McLellan, I.G.; Holland, P.M.; Bates, P.M.; Saunders, P.M.; Austin, Marriott-Matthews, Ollive, Smith, Markland, and Palmer.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Austin being candidate. The lodge was called off and on. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Markland being the candidate. The 1st Section of the Second Lecture was worked by the W.M., assisted by the brethren. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The W.M. rose for the first time, and Bros. Holland and Palmer were elected joining members of the lodge, and the dues were collected. The W.M. rose for the second time, and Bro. Bradley was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week. The W.M. rose for the third time, and the lodge was closed.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE (No. 538).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 24th ult., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W., when there were present Bros. R. Sandland, W.M.; J. Mason, S.W.; A. Terry, J.W.; J. Paul, Preceptor; G. Hill, Treas.; W. E. Wilby, Sec.; Geo. Ridout, S.D.; E. Luke J.D.; J. Kraus, I.G.; W. Scurrah, P.M.; W. M. Stiles, P.M.; Frank Osborne, P.M.; J. Thom, P.M.; Cross, Sturgess, Schafer, Truman, and Dukas.

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, and then resumed in the First. The 2nd Section of the Lecture was worked by the S.W., Bro. Mason. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. A. Schafer being the candidate. The 4th Section was worked by the Preceptor, and the 5th by Bro. Thom. The W.M. rose for the first time, when Bros. Schafer, Stiles, and Dukas were elected joining members of the lodge. The W.M. rose for the second time, when Bro. Mason was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. The W.M. rose for the third time, and all Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

WESTBOURNE LODGE (No. 733).—A meeting was held at the Prince Alfred Hotel, Queen's-road, Bayswater, on the 24th ult. Present: Bros. G. Weaver, W.M.; S. Manne, S.W.; W. Ingram, J.W.; J. J. Hough, Treas.; R. J. Rogers, W.M. 733, S.D.; H. Bonney, J.D.; H. H. Bagnall, I.G.; H. Dehane, P.M. 1543, Preceptor; W. Bushy, J. R. Davis, and J. W. Norris.

Lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, with Bro. Bushy as candidate. After the usual preliminaries, the lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, with Bro. Davis as candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. Bro. Manne was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and appointed his officers in rotation. A vote of thanks was passed, to be entered on the minutes, to Bro. Weaver for the admirable manner he had rehearsed the duties of the chair for the first time in this lodge of instruction, which compliment was duly acknowledged, and, after "Hearty good wishes," the lodge was closed.

TESTIMONIAL TO BRO CHARLES TRUSCOTT.

We are glad to learn from a circular issued to the members of the Prov. Grand Lodge of Cornwall that a movement is on foot to recognise the services of a brother whose claims on their gratitude are many and strong. It is, of course, of supreme importance that the Stewards and those who organise the Charity associations and other necessary means of collecting subscriptions should work with all energy for the objects they have in view, and it is no less imperative, in view of the methods now adopted by each province to secure its full share of voting power, that the Charity Representative should be a thoroughly methodic and business man. Such a representative Cornwall has been fortunate enough to possess in the person of Bro. Charles Truscott, who, after 12 years' successful work, has now retired from the position. Following as he did a brother of the calibre of Bro. W. J. Hughan, who was in the same office for an exactly similar period, and had worked with that zeal and energy which characterises all his undertakings, and whose yearly record of success in carrying his cases was unmarked by a single failure, the path of Bro. Truscott was not an easy one, but it was at once seen by those whose regular attendance at the elections gave them the best means of judging that the Cornwall Representative possessed a natural aptitude for the work, and we have reason to believe that on many occasions to his skill and tact in negotiating with the representatives of other provinces many candidates from the province owe their success. Such devotion to the work, often at the cost of much time and expense, deserves recognition, and we trust the brethren of Cornwall will make the presentation a worthy and substantial one.

Many of those from other provinces who have been for so many years associated with Bro. Truscott at the elections will, we feel sure, also be glad of an opportunity to show their regard and esteem for him.

A Committee from Bro. Truscott's mother lodge, Peace and Harmony, No. 496, St. Austell, has been formed, and the movement is receiving the cordial support of the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, Bro. Anderton, P.G. Sec.; and Bro. B. F. Edyvean, Bro. Truscott's successor as Charity Representative.

EAST LANCASHIRE SYSTEMATIC MASONIC EDUCATIONAL AND BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual general meeting of this Institution was held in Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, on Friday, the 26th ult. Bro. Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, Prov. G.M., President of the Institution, presided, supported by Bros. J. H. Sillitoe, Chairman; J. T. Newbold, Vice-Chairman; W. Jaffrey, Treas.; J. James Heelis, Hon. Sec.; James Newton, Sec.; John Chadwick, Prov. G. Sec.; and nearly 100 donors and subscribers.

After reading the minutes of the previous annual meeting, the report of the Audit and Finance Committee, together with the Treasurer's balance-sheet, were presented, and, both of them being of such a favourable nature, they were adopted, and passed with acclamation.

Fifteen brethren were elected upon the General Committee, and the President nominated five others, after which votes of thanks were passed to the General Committee, Sub-Committee, and Almoners.

Bro. W. Jaffrey, after being cordially thanked for his past services, was re-elected Treasurer.

Bro. James Heelis was also thanked in very eulogistic terms, and again elected Hon. Sec.

The Finance and Audit Committee was re-elected, and 12 brethren were also elected to form a Committee for the purpose of visiting the various lodges in the province in order to promote the interests of the Institution.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. J. H. Sillitoe, Chairman, and Bro. J. T. Newbold, Vice-Chairman.

A most successful and harmonious meeting was concluded by Bro. SILLITOE proposing a vote of thanks to their esteemed President, Bro. Col. Starkie, which was received with loud applause.

In reply, Bro. Col. STARKIE expressed the great pleasure it had always been to him to preside over the annual meeting of that Institution, and congratulated all concerned upon the continued success which had attended their endeavours.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. JOHN GLASS, P.P.G.S. of W. ESSEX.

At a meeting of the Committee Dinner Club of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, held at the Holborn Restaurant on the 26th ult. under the presidency of Bro. Willis H. Wilson, a testimonial was presented to Bro. J. Glass, P.M., by Bro. R. Eve, P.G. Treas., on behalf of the members. The gift took the form of a handsome silver tea and coffee service bearing the following inscription: "Presented by the members of the Committee Dinner Club of the R.M.I. Boys to W. Bro. John Glass, P.M., P.Z., P.P.G. Supt. Wks. Essex, Vice-President of the Institution, 26th January, 1894, in recognition of valuable services rendered to Club as Hon. Treasurer and Secretary 1890-1893."

The Chairman, Bro. W. H. Wilson, was supported by Bros. Geo. Everett, P.G. Treas.; R. Eve, P.G. Treas.; J. Willing, jun., J. J. Thomas, Geo. Fairchild, J. Stephens, Rev. Hebb, Geo. Gardner, J. M. McLeod (Hon. Treas. and Sec.), W. Maple, H. Pritchard, G. Cook, G. H. Glass, J. Glass, and many others.

After dinner the preliminary toasts were disposed of, and Bro. GEO. EVERETT, P.G. Treas., in a few preliminary remarks explained the reason for the unusual number present that evening to honour Bro. Glass. When a dark cloud, which had happily been now entirely dispelled, hung over the Boys' School, it was to be expected that that Club, which was so closely associated, would suffer, and it then looked as though the ship was sinking. An opinion was expressed that the Club should come to an end, but some thought different, particularly Bro. John Glass, who stepped into the breach, and became Hon. Treasurer and Secretary. Bro. Glass gave them entire satisfaction for two years, and infused quite new life into the Club, which had been going on swimmingly ever since. When Bro. McLeod was elected Secretary of the Boys' School, it was felt it would be well to go back to the old order, and that he should occupy the position that the Secretary of the Institution had always been accustomed to. They felt they could not let Bro. Glass depart from office without showing some appreciation of his many good services by making him a little presentation. He (Bro. Everett) was in a position to ask Bro. Eve, the Chairman of the Board of Management, to present a silver tea and coffee service weighing 60 ounces, in a nicely arranged case with a suitable inscription to Bro. Glass.

Bro. R. EVE, P.G. Treas., expressed the pleasure he felt in having been selected by the contributors to this testimonial to be their mouthpiece. He felt that Bro. Glass was well entitled to all they could do for him, and he was certain there was no brother present connected with the Dinner Club but had the liveliest feeling of fraternal regard for him. They could not express all they felt towards Bro. Glass, because he came out at a time when the right thing was required to be done at the right time, and a success had been the result. It would have been a sad thing for a Society like theirs, which had existed for a quarter of a century, to have collapsed, but they knew the stuff of which Bro. Glass was made, and the gathering that day was a proof of his success. Bro. Glass was a thorough good man, a splendid Mason, and a capable worker in everything he undertook. They had had an opportunity of judging of his merits before they considered them with reference to that Club, and they knew there was no more devoted worker to the interests of the Boys' School than he. In opening the box, he (Bro. Eve) was delighted with the appearance of the contents, which formed a very pretty little present. They trusted to see Bro. Glass's burly form with them for many years to come, for strong as he was in body he was stronger in mind and heart. They felt the existence of the Club was due to him as its strong preserver, and that they could not do better than express in a tangible form their high appreciation of his services. They hoped he would be surrounded for many years by his family of boys and girls, who would follow the example so worthily set them, and also trusted that when with his wife they were drinking tea or coffee from the vessels his thoughts would go to the donors.

Bro. JOHN GLASS, P.P.G.S. of W. Essex, in acknowledging the gift, said the fulness of his heart would prevent him giving expression to the feelings that overwhelmed him on that occasion. That he deserved that kindness on their part he was too old to believe, by which he meant their goodness of heart was far beyond his deserts. It did not make his

heart less grateful for that expression of their kindness and generosity towards him for performing a duty he undertook to do, and performed in a humble way, being fortunate enough to receive the support of many of his good friends and brother Masons. It would be the greatest ingratitude if he were to attempt to make a long speech. He could not help thinking that on an occasion of this character one might review the history as shortly as possible, of this Club and its connection with that great reform which took place in the Boys' Institution a few years ago. When they started upon that question they were met and told by brethren, for whom he had the greatest regard and esteem, that they were doing a wrong thing. He thought the result spoke for itself. He appealed to the brethren to consider the position of that Institution which they had nearest to their hearts, and their greatest possible regard, and which it was the object of that Club to promote. When the enquiry into the Institution was instituted they found the condition of things with regard to the Boys such as to necessitate a change, and he appealed with the greatest confidence to the condition of the School at the present moment. This Club took its part in that reform, and in its promotion and carrying out, and he felt that whatever sins of omission might be recorded against the Provisional Management Committee, the active members had a very large balance to their credit for their work, for a more united, hard working Committee he never met. It was not known generally that this Club had a history worthy of its association with the Institution. He had never had the opportunity of saying before, but he now asked permission to refer to the conduct of Bro. Binckes, who was so highly respected. When Bro. Binckes left the Institution and severed his connection with it he showed a true Masonic spirit at heart. He had received a letter from that brother which proved the saying that one never ascertained the best qualities of a man until one crossed swords with him. He then discovered some charms of character he had not observed before, and the letter he received on Bro. Binckes leaving the Club proved that he left it with the very best feelings towards it and the members of the Provisional Management Committee. They had now a Club which would regard its first duty and charge to care for the well being of the R.M.I. for Boys, which was the first principle and object of the Club. They had in the person of Bro. McLeod—the Secretary and Treasurer—one who would not lack in his duty to the Institution, and who was a worthy successor to the post. He felt extremely grateful to the brethren for the kind expressions used towards himself, and thanked them most heartily and kindly for their generous present. This handsome testimonial presented to him would, if God was willing to preserve him, be treasured by him for many years, and would be a heirloom in his family for generations to come.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE BRIXTON LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1919.

The annual festival of this well known lodge of instruction was held at the Prince Regent, Dulwich-road, Herne Hill, on the 23rd ult., when about 40 sat down to an excellent dinner, provided in good style by Messrs. Revell and Son. The President was Bro. John Ellinger, W.M. 2222, and there were also present Bros. D. D. Mercer, P.G.P.; E. A. Francis, P.M. 183, Preceptor; C. Axford, P.M. 2048, P.P.D.G.D.C. Middx.; G. R. Langley, P.M. 2381, Prov. S.G.D. Middx.; G. W. Castle, S.W. 2381; H. Hooper, P.M. 1986; A. Blenkarn, P.M. 2381, 1588, 1922; J. N. Bate, P.M. 72; J. C. Manning, W.M. 1928; S. W. S. Burridge, I.P.M. 1922; J. J. Newland, W.M. elect 1949; J. Hicks, J.W. 1949; Stanley, 435; Clout, 1269; Broughton, 1269; Syrett, 2381; Joel, 2381; Scott, 2381; Brown, 1446; Masters, 1446; Wood, 1446; Stevens, 2234; R. Bott, 1949; Salter, 2266; Wortley, 2222; Burgess, 45; Pearce, 2272; Morris, 1558; Cutler, 1949; A. Haine, 1949; Wilson, 1949; Hooker, 1949; Douglas, 159; Wheeler, 2266; W. M. Stiles, P.M. 1507; and R. T. West, 1744.

The PRESIDENT gave the usual loyal and Masonic toasts with a few appropriate remarks.

In responding for "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," Bro. MERCER stated that it was always a pleasure to respond to the toast. He took that opportunity to thank the lodge for supporting the case of Doris Eagle, who he hoped would be successful at the Girls' election in April next.

Bro. E. A. FRANCIS, P.M., proposed "The Health of the President, Bro. Ellinger." He said that he was a good fellow, an ardent worker, and a regular attendant at their lodge of instruction. It should be the aim of every Mason to become a good worker.

The toast was drunk with acclamation.

Bro. ELLINGER, in reply, said that he felt somewhat small in occupying the chair that evening, surrounded as he was by so many good and distinguished members of the Craft. He had attended many meetings at that house where he had gained Masonic knowledge. It had also been his good fortune to have been under Bro. W. M. Stiles, one of the best Preceptors in the Metropolis.

Bro. LANGLEY, P.M., Sec., proposed "The Visitors," to whom he gave a hearty welcome. He was glad that Bro. W. M. Stiles, with his many Masonic engagements, had made a point of attending that evening. He was well known to them, and his qualifications were of the highest, and for what he had done for Freemasonry and the Charities he was deserving of high honours, which he hoped he would get by his being elected as Grand Treasurer of England in March

next. He coupled with the toast the names of Bros. Stiles, Burgess, and Norris, whom he asked to respond.

Bro. W. M. STILES, on rising to reply, received quite an ovation. He said that he was pleased to be present that evening. As an ancient Preceptor, he had met some of his best friends in lodges of instruction. He hoped their lodge would continue its prosperity, whose benevolent fund had done great service. He appreciated the kind remarks of Bro. Langley as to his candidature for the office of Grand Treasurer. He had visited many lodges in South London who had all stated that they would go solid for him. He had an uphill fight, but he meant to win if hard work would do it. It was the height of his ambition to be elected by a large majority, which would show that the Blues would insist on an annual election for Grand Treasurer.

Bros. BURGESS, MORRIS, and MERCER also replied in suitable terms, the latter observing that Bro. Stiles' success was not certain unless those who had promised their support made a point of attending the first Wednesday in March to record their votes.

The PRESIDENT gave the toast—"Success to the Brixton Lodge of Instruction," remarking that there was no better lodge of instruction in South London, which was conducted on good principles. He urged those who were not already members to join at once and become regular attendants, and he was pleased to couple with the toast the name of Bro. E. A. Francis, their able Preceptor.

Bro. FRANCIS, who was well received, stated in reply that he was gratified to see such a gathering, it showed that the lodge was taking deep root in South London, and would grow to a healthy tree, but it would be no fault of his or of their energetic Secretary, Bro. Langley, if the lodge fell to the ground. Many of the members were excellent workers, and the mother lodge ought to be proud of the good workmen they sent from that lodge of instruction. He, as their Preceptor, was proud of this, and he hoped the past would be continued in the future.

Bros. C. AXFORD, P.M., Treas.; LANGLEY, P.M., Sec.; and CASTLE, Asst. Sec., also responded in appropriate terms.

The next toast was "The Benevolent Association of the Brixton Lodge of Instruction" coupled with the name of the Secretary, Bro. H. Hooper, P.M., who, it was stated had rendered good service.

Bro. HOOPER responded. He said that since the formation of the Association they had paid the large amount of 1800 guineas to the Masonic Charities, being 700 guineas for the Old People, 650 guineas for the Boys, and 450 guineas for the Girls.

Bro. FRANCIS, President of the Association, stated that he thought the three Institutions should recognise in some way the efforts of the Secretaries of Benevolent Associations.

The PRESIDENT gave "The Mother Lodge, the Brixton Lodge," which was responded to in eloquent terms by Bro. J. J. NEWLAND, the W.M. elect, and thus ended a most happy and successful evening.

Bros. Ciro, Blenkarn, and Burgess vocally and otherwise entertained the brethren, but great praise is due to the latter, who rendered his four songs with marked effect.

A MASONIC CHURCH SERVICE,

The pretty old City church of St. James, Garlickhithe, presented an unusually animated appearance on Thursday evening, the 25th ult., on the occasion, a very rare, if not unprecedented one in the City of London, of a Masonic church service in aid of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, attended by a large number of brethren in full Masonic clothing, for the wearing of which a special dispensation had been granted by the Grand Master.

The service was promoted by the Whittington Lodge and Chapter, No. 862, and was conducted by Bro. the Rev. H. D. Macnamara, with whom were Bro. the Rev. D. H. Heywood, and Bro. the Rev. L. H. Smith, Chaplain Spectacle Makers' Company; among the worshippers being Bros. Col. Davies Sewell, P.G. S.B.; C. H. Oliver, P.G.P.; J. W. Monmouth; G. Mason, P.S.G.D. Middlesex; and James Weaver, P.M. 862.

The preacher was Bro. the Rev. Dr. COOPER-SMITH, P.G. Chap., Rector of Basingstoke, who took his text Acts, chap. 7, 26th verse, "Sirs, ye are brethren." He dwelt on the brotherhood of the early Christians, and pointed out that Freemasons and Christians met here on common ground. Admission to the Craft was only for those who held a belief in God, and the unbeliever was rigidly excluded. Masonry had, it was true, in some countries been abused, but it was a misconception to suppose that its principles contained anything inconsistent with religion, for its essential features were belief in God and loyalty to established law. It recognised the brotherhood of all humanity, and therefore more especially that of their own people. In conclusion, he appealed for support for an Institution that so worthily carried out this principle, the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, an appeal which, it is gratifying to state, met with a substantial response.

It may be well to add that if any brethren who were unable to be present on account of the weather desire to forward their contributions they will be gladly received by the following brethren: Bros. H. Kemp, 7, Thavies Inn, E.C.; Pauncefort, 16, Little New-street, E.C.; or Tyler, 48, Waterloo-road, S.E.

Our Portrait Gallery of Worshipful Masters.



BRO. JOHN HUNT, P.M. 139,

W.M. White Rose of York Lodge, No. 2491, Sheffield.

It will be within the recollection of our readers that in November last the Prov. Grand Master of West Yorkshire, Bro. the Right Hon. W. Lawies Jackson, M.P., consecrated the White Rose of York Lodge at Sheffield in that prosperous province. A full report of the proceedings on that interesting occasion appeared in the *Freemason* of December 9th, 1893. To-day we have great pleasure in presenting a portrait of the first Worshipful Master of the new lodge, Bro. John Hunt, who was also, it is almost needless to say, one of its most prominent founders. Bro. Hunt, who is a native of Sheffield has for more than 30 years been connected with the staple trade of that city, and has by his perseverance, energy, and business capacity gradually risen from a junior post to that of managing director of the Hallamshire Steel and File Company, Limited, a position which he now fills with eminent ability. The success of the concern with whose interests Bro. Hunt has identified himself, may be gauged by the circumstance that during the last 20 years, since its incorporation in fact, this flourishing company has paid dividends averaging the very satisfactory sum of 7½ per cent. Bro. Hunt was initiated in Britannia Lodge, No. 139, Sheffield, on the 23rd September, 1875, and after serving in all the subordinate offices except that of Inner Guard, became Master in 1886. At that time the affairs of the Britannia Lodge were in a highly flourishing condition, its muster roll showing a membership of 118. During Bro. Hunt's year that success was maintained, no less than seven additional names being placed upon its register. In January, 1878, Bro. Hunt joined the Royal Arch, being exalted in Paradise Chapter on the 21st of that month. Here, too, he made his influence felt, for after doing excellent service in that most important office, Scribe E., his companions recognised his merit, and placed him in the successive chairs of H., J., and Z. Not content with adding eight new members during his occupancy of the supreme chair, Comp. Hunt also introduced music at the ceremonies and thus increased their success, and largely added to the attendance. In 1890, Bro. Hunt received the collar of Prov. G. Steward, and the following year the Prov. G. Master, Bro. T. W. Tew, still further marked his approval of Bro. Hunt by conferring upon him the office of Prov. G. Deacon. It will be seen then, that the career of the brother whose portrait we present has been of an eminently practical and useful character, and the esteem in which he is held among the Craft in Sheffield is shown not only by their selecting him as W.M. of the new lodge, but also by their providing so liberally for its wants that Bro. Hunt and his officers actually start their undertaking without debt or encumbrance. That Bro. Hunt is fully conscious of his responsibilities and duties is evidenced by the brief address which he gave to his brethren on their first meeting after consecration. Bro. Hunt is a Life Governor of all the three Masonic Charities, having served the office of Steward twice on behalf of the Girls' School and once each in the interest of the other two Institutions. We prognosticate success to the new lodge under Bro. John Hunt's fostering care, and we trust he will not consider that his obligations cease or that his duties are completed when his term of office expires; but that he will continue from year to year to watch over the interests of the White Rose of York Lodge, which has spread its sails to the breeze under circumstances so exceptionally interesting and favourable.

LADIES' BANQUET OF THE MOLESEY LODGE, No. 2473.

The founders of the Molesey Lodge, No. 2473, which was consecrated in June last, have speedily determined that an annual ladies' night shall be one of its distinguished features, and if the succeeding ventures are as

successful as the entertainment held at the Hotel Windsor, Victoria-street, S.W., on the 24th ult., a large share of popularity will be in store for the lodge in the future. Every arrangement possible for the comfort of the guests had been made, a *recherché* repast was admirably served, whilst the few *post prandial* speeches were interspersed with numerous musical and humorous selections. Bro. J. D. Langton, P.P.G.W. Surrey, the W.M., was assisted by the following Stewards: Bros. Lane Campbell, W. Dennis, H. J. Keen, H. H. Leigh, C. Morrell, and Homer Price, and the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. E. L. Berry, was assiduous in his exertions for the pleasure and enjoyment of the company present.

After dessert "The Queen and the Craft" was given, followed by "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., and the rest of the Royal Family."

In alluding to "The Grand Officers," the W.M. said they had hoped to entertain a very important member of Grand Lodge that evening—Bro. Philbrick, Q.C., Grand Reg.—but unfortunately that distinguished brother was unable to leave his home through an attack of illness.

Bro. S. HEWETT, acting I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," and said that Bro. Langton, by inaugurating a ladies' banquet, had set an example which succeeding Masters would follow.

Bro. J. D. LANGTON, P.P.G.W. Surrey, W.M., returned thanks for the kindly proposition and reception of the toast. It was a very great pleasure for him to be the first W.M. of that lodge, and, although their lodge was not one year old, they were a very prosperous and very happy body. He never had a more enjoyable time during his Masonic career than in filling the chair and presiding over their meeting that night. One of their first ideas when they started the lodge was a ladies' meeting in the course of the year, and he thought they might congratulate themselves on the successful gathering that evening. Every brother present had enjoyed himself most thoroughly, and had had much pleasure in introducing the ladies.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER then proceeded to propose "The Ladies," which, he said, was a difficult toast to give as it should be given—for few had words at their command to introduce it in the language it deserved. He was sure the ladies would take it from him that the brethren were delighted to be honoured with their presence. He believed that in some quarters Masonry had been made an excuse for Masons being out after nine, or even 10 o'clock at night—the excuse being that they had been detained at their lodge. That was, no doubt, a truthful excuse in every case, for a brother had no other desire than to hurry home at the first possible moment. He was for some time in America, where in the Western part brethren coming from outlying districts, took two or three days to get to the lodge. The American brethren thus had an excuse which they could not possibly have in this country. He thought these ladies' gatherings were excellent institutions, one of the first he had the pleasure of attending being at the Emblematic Lodge, presided over by his friend, Bro. Homer Price. The thorough success of that meeting made him feel that in any lodge it would be his pleasure to help any suggestion of the kind. Their first trial in the Molesey Lodge had been a success. He would ask the brethren to drink the toast of the ladies, and would ask Bro. Berry, their genial Secretary, who had done everything he could for their comfort, to respond.

Bro. E. L. BERRY, Sec., in a humorous speech replied to the toast, concluding with the suggestion for a trip up the river in the summer.

Bro. C. O. BURGESS, S.W., proposed "The Visitors," and thanked them heartily for their presence. He was glad to see Bro. George Gardner, a very important brother in Masonry, and should couple his name to reply, together with Bro. Price.

Bro. GEO. GARDNER, P.P.G.S.B. Bucks, returned thanks, and assured the members that all present had enjoyed themselves. He had taken a great deal of interest in Freemasonry, and the lodges he belonged to had always studied the ladies and endeavoured to entertain them. He was glad to see that young lodge doing what it could in that direction, and also that the W.M. was supported by the whole of his officers.

Bro. HOMER PRICE, also responded, and congratulated the lodge on the successful evening.

Amongst those who assisted in the musical programme, and materially contributed to the hearty enjoyment of all present were Miss Edith Serpell (soprano), Bros. Herbert Emlyn (tenor), Stuart Walker (baritone), Fred. W. Stephens (humorous), E. L. Berry, Sec., Bruce Smith (humorous sketch), and W. E. Goodwins (piano), and Mr. F. R. Broadbridge (prestidigitateur).

The company present included Bro. and Mrs. J. D. Langton; Bro. and Mrs. S. Hewett; Bro. C. O. Burgess; Bro. and Mrs. H. White; Bro. Homer Price; Bro. and Mrs. Dennis; Bro. and Mrs. J. W. Martell; Bro. and Mrs. E. Lane Campbell; Bro. H. H. Leigh; Bro. and Mrs. Geo. Gardner; Bro. Dr. A. Nutt; Bro. and Mrs. J. R. Cleave; Bros. C. G. Sherwood, H. J. Keen, and A. Cogliati; Mrs. Russell; Bro. J. Rowe; Miss Edwards; Bro. and Mrs. F. W. Buxton; Bro. and Mrs. G. H. Foan; Bro. and Mrs. C. Morrell; Bro. E. L. Berry; Mrs. Keen; Miss Davies; Bros. T. Whitford and J. Woodward; Bro. and Mrs. T. Warren; Bro. and Mrs. J. H. Moggridge; Bro. and Mrs. W. Hoggins; Bros. W. E. Goodwins, W. W. Lee, and others.

Bro. Dr. Anthony Nutt has recovered from his recent attack of influenza, and has returned to town from Brighton.



Through the kindness of Bro. James R. Perfect, the proprietor and manager of the Parkhurst Theatre, the whole of the boys of our Masonic School will be enabled to witness the performance of the pantomime of "Aladdin," on Monday afternoon next, 5th inst.

Bro. Horace Brooks Marshall will preside at the annual meeting of the News-vendors' Benevolent and Provident Institution, to be held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Tuesday, when three pensioners will be elected.

The twenty-sixth annual dinner of the Goldsmiths' and Jewellers' Annuity and Asylum Institution will take place at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, on Wednesday, 28th inst., Col. Howard Vincent, C.B., M.P., will preside.

A dramatic performance of "Hamlet" was given in St. George's Hall, Regent-street, on Tuesday, by Mr. E. Glossop Sach, assisted by the Shakespeare Reading Society, in aid of the funds of the Home of Rest for Horses.

It has been arranged that the Royal Military Tournament for the present year shall be held, as usual, at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, the period chosen for this popular gathering being from the 31st May to the 14th June.

Bro. W. Kuhe, P.G. Org., announces that he will give an English Ballad Concert in the Dome, Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on Tuesday next, the 6th inst. Among the artistes will be found Mdlle. Antoinette Trebelli, Mr. Santley, Miss Fanny Davies (solo pianoforte), and Lady Hallé (Madame Nerude), solo violin.

Under the auspices of the brethren of Bangor and the district, a Masonic Charity Ball will be held at the George Hotel, near that city, on Monday next. The movement is under distinguished Masonic patronage, and members will appear in Masonic clothing, while the military will attend in their respective uniforms. It promises to be a brilliant affair.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes has promised that if the patrol party under Colonel Gould-Adams, which has gone out to seek for the bodies of Major Wilson's party is successful in finding them he will bear the cost of conveying the remains to Zimbabwe, as well as of their burial and the erection to their memory of a monument.

At the meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday, its Finance Committee recommended that a sum of £57,000, receivable under the Local Taxation Act, should be applied during the year ending 31st March, 1895, to the purposes of technical education, and, after much discussion, the recommendation was adopted.

On the occasion of the installation meeting of the Perseverance Lodge, No. 213 at Norwich, a handsome enlarged portrait of the retiring W.M., Bro. Caleb Rust, was presented to him through Bro. T. C. R. King, P.M., Treasurer of the lodge, by Bro. H. Sexton. Many influential brethren were present to testify their appreciation of the interesting event.

Bro. T. W. Tew, P.P.G.M. of West Yorkshire, on the 25th ult., laid the foundation-stone of new buildings which are being erected in Ropegate, Pontefract, for the brethren of the St. Oswald Lodge. The buildings will be of modern classical structure, of red brick, with terra-cotta panelling, and stone facings. There will be a caretaker's house adjoining the whole work, costing £1000, apart from the price of the site. Bro. J. H. Greaves, J.W., is the architect. After the ceremony the members of the Craft and brethren from other lodges were entertained at a banquet by Bro. Tew, P.P.G.M., at the Elephant Hotel.

A WORD ABOUT KID GLOVES.—These goods, at first glance, seem easy enough of acquisition, but there is the mistake! Real kid, or goat skin, is not abundant in the market, especially in the manufactured state, and yet how wide the difference between it and "sheep skin"—the ordinary article of commerce. To appreciators of the real thing we can cordially recommend Bro. A. Jugla, of 24, Coventry-street, all of whose kid gloves are warranted genuine, and, moreover, are manufactured on the London premises, so that in his instance there is but one profit between the maker and the purchaser.

OLD MASONIANS.—On Friday, the 26th ult., the Old Masonians held another of their pleasant evenings at Anderton's Hotel, and a very fair company assembled. An excellent programme, under the direction of Mr. R. E. Barnes (who took the chair), was presented. The following is a list of the artistes: Messrs. C. Bond, W. J. Packer, and C. P. O'Doherty (sentimental); Messrs. Harry Hawkes, Alf. Rogers, Arthur Melrose, and C. A. Coules (comic); Bro. R. H. Williams (recitation). Mr. J. E. Fisher presided at the piano. Mr. Ellis Stanyon kept the audience much interested and amused for upwards of half-an-hour by his marvellous sleight of hand feats, which were warmly applauded. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought to a close a very enjoyable evening.

The mortal remains of the late Sir Gerald Portal were interred in the mortuary chapel at Laverstoke, near Overton, Hants, on Tuesday. Wreaths were sent by the Prince of Wales—"as a mark of sincere regard and admiration"—the Earl of Rosebery, the Duke of Norfolk, Bro. the Duke of Abercorn, Bro. Lord Frederick Hamilton, M.P., Bro. Sir Algernon and Lady Borthwick, Bro. Sir E. Lawson, Sir Francis Grenfell—on behalf of the English officers of the Egyptian Army—Bro. and Mrs. Wyndham S. Portal, and many other friends and admirers of the deceased; while among those who attended the funeral were Lady Alice Portal (the widow), Lady Edmund Portal (her sister), Mr. Melville Portal (the father of the deceased), Bro. the Hon. Evelyn Hubbard, Bro. Wyndham S. Portal, Miss Portal, and Miss K. Portal, and other members of the Portal family. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Winchester, assisted by the Rev. Canon Awdry and the Rev. C. P. Berryman.

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We are glad to hear that the condition of Bro. Earl Cowper, who has been suffering from a severe attack of gout, has greatly improved of late, though it will be some time before his lordship will be able to leave his room.

Arrangements have been made by which the Oxford and Cambridge Athletic Sports will be held at the Queen's Club, West Kensington, on the 17th March, the day fixed for the Inter-University Boat Race.

The condition of the Czar of Russia, which was reported in the early part of the week to be extremely critical, has since greatly improved, and though the bronchitis remains, his Majesty's state is nearly normal.

The Duke of Connaught commanding the troops at Aldershot has been granted leave of absence during the present month, the command during this period devolving upon Major-General Gregorie, commanding the 1st Infantry Brigade.

On Monday next the Duke and Duchess of Teck will honour with their presence a dramatic entertainment which will be given at the Star and Garter Hotel, Richmond, in aid of the Woolwich Branch of the Soldiers' Institute, and another charity.

By direction of the Princess of Wales, a sum of £9 10s. 8d., being a further donation from the proceeds of the sale of Canon Fleming's sermon—"Recognition in Eternity," has been forwarded to the Secretary of the British Home for Incurables.

Thanks to a generous gift of £5000 on the part of Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, the National Society for the Employment of Epileptics, which was formally inaugurated at a meeting held last year at the Mansion House, has been enabled to open its first colony, a farm having been purchased at Chalfont St. Peter's, Bucks.

On Wednesday night, the 24th ult., the annual ball under the auspices of the Constance Lodge, No. 2135, was held in the Town Hall, Consett. As usual, there was a brilliant and select assembly, the attendance, however, not being so large as on some former occasions. The hall had been very prettily decorated. Dancing commenced shortly after eight o'clock to the strains of Mr. Smith's Military band.

The *Gazette* of Tuesday evening contained an announcement to the effect that her Majesty the Queen in Council had been pleased to give her consent to the contract of marriage between her grandchildren, the Grand Duke of Hesse Darmstadt, and the Princess Victoria Melita, second daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh (Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha).

The Registrar-General's returns for last week show a satisfactory decrease in the maladies which have latterly caused so much mortality in London. The deaths of only nine persons from scarlet fever and 41 from influenza were recorded, whilst the general death-rate for the Metropolis has fallen 29.5 a fortnight since to 23.7 the previous week, and then to 19.8. The mortality in Brighton is returned at 22.8 per 1000, and in Croydon at 17.7.

The Earl of Elgin, the new Viceroy of India, was formally installed in office at Government House, Calcutta, on Saturday last, and immediately afterwards the Marquis of Lansdowne, the ex-Viceroy, left Calcutta on board the Warren Hastings. He was accompanied to the place of embarkment by Lord Elgin, and the streets through which he passed were lined with troops, while the European and native population who had assembled along the line of route were very enthusiastic in their farewell cheers.

Her Majesty the Queen held a Council at Osborne on Monday, when Sir William Harcourt, M.P., acting as Lord President; Bro. the Marquis of Breadalbane, Lord Seward; General Sir Henry Ponsonby and Major-General Sir John Cowell attended, and Sir Philip Currie, G.C.B., her Majesty's newly-appointed Ambassador to Constantinople was introduced and sworn in a member of the Privy Council. Sir Charles Lennox Peel was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Great Eastern Railway Company was held at the Cannon-street Hotel, on Tuesday, under the presidency of Bro. Lord Claud Hamilton. The report showed a balance of net revenue in favour of the company amounting to £122,789, as compared with one of £260,035 for the corresponding period of 1892, and a dividend of 1½ per cent. per annum was recommended. Satisfactory reasons were given for the very great falling off in the revenue, and, after some discussion, the report was unanimously agreed to.

Bro. Lord Mayor Taylor has granted the use of the Guildhall on Tuesday, the 13th inst., when the Princess Mary, Duchess of Teck, will distribute the prizes of the Post Office Volunteers, of which the Duke of Teck is honorary Colonel. After the distribution his lordship will entertain the Duke and Duchess at dinner at the Mansion House. On Saturday, the 17th inst., his lordship will present, at the Mansion House, the prizes awarded at the ninth competition in the French language and literature by the National Society of French Masters.

TESTIMONIAL TO SIR JOHN B. MONCKTON.—The numerous friends of Sir John B. Monckton will, we are sure, be gratified to learn that the movement started in the City for recognising in some permanent way the services rendered by him as Town Clerk during the past 20 years has been received in all quarters with the utmost favour. It is suggested to offer to the Corporation a marble bust of Sir John for exhibition at Guildhall, and to present some agreeable souvenir to Lady Monckton. The commission for the bust has been given to Mr. J. A. Raemakers. Those who have already either sent or promised donations include the Lord Mayor and the members of the Court of Aldermen, and upwards of 100 Masonic, civic, and private friends. With the Lord Mayor's permission, Mr. W. J. Soulsby is acting as hon. Secretary of the presentation fund.—*City Press*.

THE MILLIONAIRE has often envied the toiling labourer his hearty appetite and sturdy health. He would gladly have sacrificed a large amount of his wealth in exchange for these blessings. Although money is a necessary article to possess in order to obtain the means of existence, it cannot purchase love, friendship, or immunity from the dangers and pangs of disease. Even ten thousand pounds per annum may be earned at too great a sacrifice if we risk our health and happiness during its accumulation. Holloway's Pills can give strength to the most delicate. They are the precious key which open the door leading to the smiling valley of health. They purify the system, and give the essentials of strength for the blood.

The Duke of Westminster was re-elected President of the Cheshire Chamber of Agriculture at the annual meeting held at Crewe on Monday.

Princess Christian came to town on Thursday, and attended a meeting of the British Nurse's Association, returning to Windsor in the afternoon.

To *Good-Will*, the second number of which has just appeared, Bro. the Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth is contributing a series of articles on "The Common Faith of the People."

Detroit Lodge, No. 6, has over 2700 members, and is the largest lodge of any kind in existence, has paid its own death losses of \$202,000, and \$6460 towards the deaths of other lodges in Michigan.

The largest lodge in New England is John Endicott of Salem, with 729 members, followed by Beacon Lodge of Boston, with 723. Silver City of Connecticut has 591 members, and Waltham of Waltham 590.

Mr. Passmore Edwards has generously undertaken to erect at his own cost the Caxton Convalescent Home for the special benefit of the men employed in the printing and accessory trades. The offer was made by Mr. Edwards through Mr. C. J. Drummond.

Brethren are invited to send for the list of Masonic Books published at the office of the *Freemason*. Many works of interest both to the Masonic student and general reader have recently been added, and the publisher will gladly forward a copy to any address on receipt of a post-card.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, attended by Commander the Hon. Seymour Fortescue, left Sandringham on Thursday morning, about 11 o'clock, and drove to Wolverton, proceeding by the 11.22 Great Eastern Railway express to St. Pancras, and thence to Marlborough House.

It is announced that Lord Iveagh has practically concluded the purchase of Elvedon, the seat of the late Bro. the Maharajah Duleep Singh for £150,100. In 1876 his highness declined an offer of £500,000, when in accordance with his instruction, an attempt was made to sell the property.

The aged inmates of the Clock and Watchmakers' Asylum, New Southgate, were entertained the other afternoon by the chairman, Mr. R. H. Halford, at the customary winter dinner, which was followed as usual by a musical entertainment. Mrs. Spring, who has built and endowed a home in memory of her husband, was amongst the guests on the occasion.

To-morrow (Saturday), the 3rd inst., the installation meeting of the Brixton Lodge will be held at the Horns Tavern, when Bro. J. J. Newland will be installed W.M. A testimonial will be presented to Bro. Henry Lovegrove, senior P.M., on his retirement from the office of Secretary, which he has filled for so many years.

The annual Masonic ball took place at the Assembly Rooms, Cork, on the 26th ult. The ball was very largely attended, and proved most successful in every respect. The hall in which the dance was held was handsomely decorated, and those present were entertained at supper, the wines for which were supplied from the old-established firm of Messrs. M. D. Daly and Sons, Academy-street, and gave general satisfaction.

The annual ball of that most deserving institution—the New North London Philanthropic Society—will take place at the Holborn Town Hall, on Thursday, the 15th inst. We wish it every success. Many a poor home has been cheered during the late bitter weather by the timely gifts of this society. Tickets can be obtained of the Hon. Sec., Mr. W. Piper, 20, Cullford-road, N.; or the President, Bro. W. Ofield, 69, Rushton-street, N.

The Princess Louise, Marchioness of Lorne, and the Princess Henry of Battenberg, crossed from East Cowes to Portsmouth in the Royal Yacht *Alberta*, on Tuesday, and, after luncheon with the Earl and Countess of Clanwilliam, visited the Town Hall, for the purpose of being present at the annual meeting of the Borough of Portsmouth Association for Nursing the Sick Poor. The Princess Henry returned to Osborne, but the Princess Louise proceeded to London.

The report of the Royal Commission on the proposed Teaching University of London has now been signed, and will shortly be published. It is rumoured (says the *Laurel*) that the recommendations will include a reconstruction of the existing University of London; increased powers to the teachers in the London colleges and medical schools; a division of students into metropolitan and provincial, with some alterations with regard to examinations; a combination with the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England to give a suitable pass degree to London medical students; and the appointment of a statutory commission with powers to carry out these recommendations.

The marriage of the Grand Duke of Hesse and Princess Victoria Melita of Coburg-Gotha will take place at Coburg in the third week in April, but the actual date of the ceremony has yet to be settled. Her Majesty the Queen will travel direct from Florence by special train to Coburg, where she will be the guest of the Duke and Duchess for several days, and will attend the nuptials of her Royal grandson and grand-daughter. The German Emperor and the Prince of Wales are expected to be present at the wedding, which will be solemnised in the private chapel at the Coburg Palace, and will be a brilliant and imposing function. The arrangements for the reception and entertainment of the Queen and of the numerous other illustrious guests invited to the marriage festivities are already being outlined by the Ducal Court officials.

Although only in its fourth season, the Post Office Musical Society is making excellent progress. Thursday evening found its members banded together at the Queen's Hall, under the conductorship of Mr. Sydney Buckley. The work chosen for performance was Handel's "Messiah," an oratorio which, at any rate, presented no unfamiliar difficulties. Naturally enough there were moments when weakness of attack—a common failing with a vocal body whose experience has not been long—was to be noted. But, speaking generally, the choir sang with good tone, discreet vigour, and creditable accuracy. Among the soloists were such well-known performers as Miss Anna Williams, Miss Marian Mackenzie, and Mr. Bantock Pierpoint, artists whose rendering of the well-known airs won the favour of a large and appreciative audience.