

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. 1303]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1894.

[PRICE 3d.]

AFTER-DINNER SPEAKING.

A great authority—we are not quite sure it may not have been the late Earl of BEACONSFIELD—once defined the art of after-dinner speaking as the art of saying nothing in a pleasant way. The truth of the definition may be readily admitted, but its applicability to the bulk of the after-dinner speeches we are called upon as Masons to listen to every time we attend a lodge meeting is a point on which we must decline to offer any direct opinion. In the first place, it would be an act of discourtesy to criticise what in most cases was never intended for criticism; and in the second place, if it were not discourteous, it would be exceedingly ill-advised. We should bring about our ears such a hornet's nest of criticisms that none would be rash enough to describe our later days as fearful. Every one would suddenly turn critic, if only that he might have the opportunity of saying unutterable things about the bold bad man, who had dared to say that Masonic after-dinner oratory was—we mean, who had ventured to suggest that the speeches which were delivered in the course of the evening were—exactly so; our meaning will be gathered from the remarks we offer.

We have already admitted the truth of the definition as laid down by the authority referred to, but its full force will not be wholly appreciated if we fail to bear in mind the time and circumstances under which this kind of speech is delivered. When a lodge and its guests have dined together more or less sumptuously, ancient usage or established custom—we are not prepared to say which of these is responsible for the arrangement—ordains that some among both the hosts and the guests shall deliver and the rest listen to a series of speeches in which certain set toasts—which are as immutable in character as ever were the laws of the Medes and Persians—are proposed and acknowledged. But these toasts have been honoured at all the lodge meetings—and they must be many thousands in number—which have been held in this country, at all events during the greater part of the last two centuries. Thus it will be difficult to bring home to us the charge of presumption or that we have in any way abused the privileges we enjoy as Speculative Masons, if we venture to suggest that it will be difficult, if not absolutely impossible, to say anything in connection with any one of these toasts which has not been said on many previous occasions. Again, the time when these speeches are delivered is just when the delicacies and dainties we have partaken of are about to undergo that beautiful process of assimilation which is known in the vulgar tongue as digestion. Lastly, as Englishmen—who have been irreverently but not inappropriately described as animals that dine—we have a right to expect that the period which follows immediately after dinner shall be sacred from all interruptions, by the ordinary cares and anxieties of life. Thus, whether we have regard to the antiquity of our toasts, which renders it impossible to say anything new about them; the work in which the organs of digestion are engaged when the toasts are honoured; the prescriptive right of all Englishmen who have had the good sense and good fortune to dine well, to his after-dinner *siesta*; or the many other reasons which might easily be furnished, if space permitted, there is every reason why the very true definition we have quoted as to the art of after-dinner speaking being the art of saying nothing in a pleasant way, should be religiously adhered to in Masonic circles. But what a marvellous idea it is which not a few among our Masonic after-dinner orators appear to have formed of the "nothing" intended by Lord BEACONSFIELD when he delivered himself—if it was he who uttered it—of his memorable dictum. His "nothing" was nothing more serious than a few light *jeux d'esprit* readily uttered and to the point; a happy compliment, a playful retort. But the "nothing" of many a Masonic after-dinner speaker will sometimes fill a column of this journal, and though when you have read it carefully through, you may be unable to discover nothing in it—by which, of course, we mean nothing more serious than the *jeux d'esprit*, the happy compliments, and so forth we have just mentioned—we are sorely afraid there is in truth more in it than meets the eye of the occasional reader; more, if we may be permitted to say so, which is calculated to make the process of assimilation a little less beautiful than Nature enjoins, or to render the *siesta* less absolutely free from care and worry than it is expected to be. We freely allow that the "nothing" we have in our minds at this moment is brought under our notice by the fraternal orator in the most pleasant manner he is able to command. His style of delivery may be a little jerky at times; occasionally, he abandons the main line of his argument, and introduces a few side issues which have little or nothing to do with the subject he is speaking upon. But in no case is his manner of speaking otherwise than pleasant; and the only fault we can conscientiously ascribe to the Masonic orator when engaged in giving voice to the beautiful thoughts which inspire him, is that his idea of the "nothing" which it is his duty to say is too formidable.

CONSECRATION OF THE WIRRAL LODGE,

No. 2496, AT BIRKENHEAD.

The consecration of the above lodge took place on Thursday, the 8th inst., in the Cloughton Music Hall, Birkenhead. The growth of the Order on the Cheshire side of the Mersey has been very rapid of late, and the necessity for further extension has been felt for some time. The brethren submitting their names to the Grand Lodge as founders of the new lodge were as follows: Bros. Thomas Shaw, P.M. 605, 1576; Thomas E. Tomlinson, P.M. 1013; James Gamlin, P.M. 605, P.P.J.G.D.; James T. Thompson, P.M. 477, P.G. Reg.; A. E. Coveney, P.M. 605; P. Duff, P.M. 605; C. N. Stewart, P.M. 2375; George Proudman, J.W. 1013; James Woodcock, 1289; Richard Powell, Stwd. 605; Joseph S. Mackintosh, 1013; A. H. Rigmaiden, 1393; James Smith, 605; A. Rutherford, 605; John Sampson, 537; and Thomas Adam, 605.

The consecrating ceremony was performed by Bro. Sir Horatio Lloyd, D.P.G.M., assisted by the following Provincial Grand Lodge Officers: Bros. G. H. Brown, P.P.G.D.C., acting Deputy Grand Master; Wm. Whiston, P.S.G.W.; A. G. Cumming, P.J.G.W.; Rev. C. Chetwynd Atkinson, P.G. Chap.; Richard Newhouse, P.G. Sec.; James Clarke, P.J.G.D.; James T. Thompson, P.G.R.; J. Armstrong, P.G. S. of W.; T. Wood, P.G.S.B.; Herbert Ellis, P.G. Org.; Dr. Napier, P.G.P.; James Salmon, P.P.S.G.W.; Joseph Sillitoe, P.P.G.D.; J. G. Adams, P.P.G.S.D.; J. Clayton, P.P.J.G.W.; James Cookson, P.P.G.T.; James Gamlin, P.P.J.G.D.; Peter Blackburne, P.G.T.; T. C. Thorburn, P.J.G.W.; J. R. Simm, P.P.G. Treas.; John C. Robinson, P.P.A.G.D.C. West Lancashire; T. Drinkwater, P.P.G.R. Cheshire; and Lilley Ellis, P.P.S.G.D.

Among the visitors present were: Bros. Rev. A. Hamilton King, W.M. 2375; J. Simpson, W.M. 2132; G. W. Makin, W.M. 1276; John Fraser, W.M. 605; J. W. Evans, W.M. 1576; Peter Davies, W.M. 1289; Joseph Scarratt, W.M. 477; John Taylor, I.P.M. 1126; John Watt, I.P.M. 605; Robert Robinson, I.P.M. 477; J. Clarke, P.M. 1576; and T. Walker, P.M. 1126.

An impressive oration on the principles of the Order, which we hope to find room for in a future issue, was delivered by the P.G. Chaplain, and the music incidental to the ceremony was furnished by the brethren of the Combermere Lodge, under the direction of Bro. Herbert Ellis, the P.G. Organist, Bro. H. G. Small, Prov. G.D.C. acting as D. of C. in a most efficient manner.

The dedication and constitution of the lodge having been completed, Bro. Thomas Shaw was installed as the first Worshipful Master by Bro. G. H. Brown, P. Prov. G.D.C. Having been duly installed, the newly-elected W.M. invested his officers for the ensuing year as follows: Bros. Thomas E. Tomlinson, P.M., S.W.; James Gamlin, P.M., P.P.J.G.D., J.W.; P. Duff, P.M., I.P.M.; J. T. Thompson, P.M., P.G. Reg., Treas.; Richard Powell, Sec.; A. E. Coveney, P.M., D.C.; George Proudman, S.D.; A. H. Rigmaiden, J.D.; James Woodcock, I.G.; C. N. Stewart, P.M., and John Sansom, Stwds.; and James S. Macintosh, Charity Representative.

Afterwards the installation banquet was held, the proceedings being diversified with toasts and musical items.

The lodge was furnished by Bro. George Kenning.

AIRE AND CALDER LODGE, No. 458, CASTLEFORD.

PRESENTATION OF A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WARRANT WHICH WAS DESTROYED IN THE DISASTROUS FIRE OF 28TH JANUARY, 1891.

The following address was delivered on the occasion by Bro. Wm. WATSON, P.M., &c:

Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brethren,—I have the honour to visit you this evening, by request of our distinguished and respected brother, the Right Worshipful Thomas William Tew, as his representative, for the purpose indicated on your lodge summons.

It is a matter of profound regret to all of us, that his continued ill-health, and that alone, prevents his attending on this interesting and auspicious occasion, and if not here in person, yet he is with us in spirit, for his heart and soul are filled with the desire to advance the welfare of your lodge, and of every lodge in the good old Craft.

Feelings of the deepest sympathy animated the brethren within your province, and far beyond it, on the occasion of that deplorable calamity which fell upon the Aire and Calder Lodge, No. 453, nearly three years ago—I mean the fire—and Bro. Tew's strong expressions of condolence must have been received by you with emotions of gratitude, coming as they did from him, not only as your Provincial Grand Master, but as from a true and well-tried friend, who had—and has never ceased to have—your prosperity and happiness at heart.

This evening it will be my duty to hand over to you a souvenir of that memorable occasion; but, before proceeding to the formal act of presentation, I will venture to offer for your information a few remarks on the subject of lodge warrants.

Anterior to the year 1717, there was—as you are aware—no Grand Lodge, and no supreme governing power in the Craft. Lodges there were, scattered sparsely over the face of the country, meeting and acting by their inherent and time immemorial right. How they originated, or whence they sprung, is not our purpose this evening to discuss or to conjecture.

A Grand Lodge having been founded in 1717, with its consequent organisation, it was obvious that lodges, in return for the advantages to be derived from union and intercommunication, must submit in some degree to supervision and control, more especially as the Grand Lodge was formed, and still exists largely, on the mutual and self-governing principle.

From that time to the present the founding of a new lodge has required the formal sanction of the Grand Master, he being the head and elected ruler of our Fraternity, and authority to meet was then granted, is now, and we trust ever will be, only after due consideration, to a petition from reputed, worthy, and accredited brethren.

Herein, brethren, let us remember, is one of those vitally important safeguards to the well-being of our ancient and honourable Society, for whilst the portals of the Temple of Freemasonry are held by wise and faithful sentinels we may calmly and securely enjoy the blessings of prosperity, fraternal love, and peace.

Down to a period not much anterior to A.D. 1740, warrants, as we now understand them, were not, it is believed, in general use.

Authority was granted to open a lodge, and instances are recorded of a certificate being signed by the Grand Master, that a lodge *had been* constituted.

In 1738 the first West Yorkshire warrant was granted for the senior lodge of this province, now the "Probiety," No. 61, and in this document but one brother's name appears as a founder; and for a considerable while afterwards the warrants issued were of a similar character. It was not until much later that warrants contained the designation of the Master and Wardens, and the names of seven founders.

Towards the close of last century came one of those social upheavals, the like of which no one living has experienced, followed by the appalling Revolution in France in 1792. At that period over every country in Europe was spread a meshwork of secret societies, many of which existed for the distinct and avowed purpose of disturbing or destroying the ruling governments; and even this country, blessed with institutions and freedom far in advance of any nation on the Continent, as it is now, did not escape from contagion by the prevailing epidemic.

An Act, therefore, was passed in the reign of George III., on the 12th July, 1799, which was designed in some measure to guard against the dangerous possibilities of the period, entitled, "An Act for the more effectual suppression of Societies established for seditious and treasonable purposes, and for better preventing treasonable and seditious practices."

It is a matter of history as to what societies this Act was directed against; sufficient for us to know, that the Society of Freemasons was specially excepted.

Stipulations, however, were made and are still in force, though often disregarded, providing for a return being made once a year, by each lodge, to the Clerk of the Peace, of the names, &c., of the members.

Owing to the rather dubious expression of a certain portion of this Act, the Grand Lodge entertained grave doubts as to the lawfulness of issuing new warrants. We have an instance of this in the case of the Pudsey brethren, who petitioned in 1805 for a new lodge, and received from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire, whose head-quarters were then at York, the following reply: "Resolved that the prayer of such petition cannot be complied with agreeable to the existing Act of Parliament, but if the petitioning brethren should be fortunate enough to meet with a dormant warrant, that then this Provincial Grand Lodge will not fail to transmit such latent document to the Grand Lodge in London," &c.

Notwithstanding the prospect of support, no lodge was formed, and the matter appears to have dropped.

Bro. John Lane, of Torquay, the world-wide known authority on lodges, their origin, and changes, believes he has traced no less than 46 lodges, which were really newly formed, during the period that Grand Lodge suspended the issue of new warrants.

These lodges were opened by means of the subterfuge or evasion above intimated, in every instance obtaining the number—and in some instances the warrant—of an expired or dormant lodge, with which it had no actual connection whatever.

In many cases warrants were carried from one locality to another, at long distances from each other, and we have examples where the ceremony of *consecration* was performed, which is a clear proof of the opinion which the authorities entertained of the ostensible "re-opening" (!).

The lodges alluded to were allowed to take up the same position on the Grand Lodge roll as the extinct ones, a proceeding which was manifestly unfair to the *genuine* old ones.

We have instances of this kind in Yorkshire, and more than one where such lodges, actually much under 100 years of existence, have, through the misapprehension of the facts by the authorities, succeeded in obtaining the *centenary warrant and the right to wear the distinctive jewel*.

Until a comparatively recent period, brethren who desired to open a lodge were granted a dispensation to do so. A sort of temporary authority until such time as a warrant could be issued; or perhaps what was nearer the fact, in actual practice—until they chose to apply for one. Thus between the authorised opening of a lodge and the issue of the warrant a considerable

lapse of time took place occasionally. There are at least two old lodges in West Yorkshire which still meet under their original "dispensations," not having obtained warrants.

As in the case of your own lodge, the formal opening of a lodge was not uncommonly antecedent, by a considerable space of time, to its consecration.

On the warrant of the Aire and Calder Lodge will be found the original number, 672, which was altered to 458 at the general closing up on the Grand Lodge roll in 1863. The warrant was dated March 26th, 1839, and signed by H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, G.M., countersigned by Lord Churchill, D.G.M., and W. H. White, Grand Secretary.

"H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex was the 6th son of His Majesty, King George III. Born Jan. 27, 1773, and initiated in the Royal York Lodge of Friendship at Berlin in 1798.

"The honorary rank of Past G.M. of England was conferred upon him in 1805 by the Grand Lodge of England, and on the 13th of May, 1812, he was appointed Deputy G.M. On the 13th April, 1813, he was elected Grand Master, in succession to his brother, the Prince Regent, afterwards George IV."

By his unbounded influence with the brethren, and that of his Royal brother, the Duke of York, the glorious union of the rival London Grand Lodges was finally completed in December, 1813, when he became Grand Master of the united Grand Lodges.

After a long and brilliant career, and filling many important offices, he died April 21st, 1843.

Lord Henry John Spencer Churchill, a descendant, I believe, of the great Duke of Marlborough, was J.G.W. April 27th, 1831; S.G.W. April 25th, 1832; President of the Board of General Purposes June 4th, 1834, and June 3rd, 1835; Deputy Grand Master, September, 1835, April, 1836, 1837, and 1838.

William Henry White was born 1778, and died April 5th, 1866; initiated April 15th, 1799; elected Master of his lodge December 15th, 1800, continuing in office until 1809. In 1810 he was appointed joint Grand Secretary with his father, William White. In 1813, joint Grand Secretary with Bro. Edward Harper, and in 1838 sole Grand Secretary, an office which he held until 1857.

The Masonic origin of your founders I have not investigated, but at no distant time, I trust, when the materials for your lodge history are being systematically compiled, doubtless some enterprising brother will obtain these particulars on your behalf.

On the 14th December, 1883, your late hall was dedicated by R.W. Bro. Tew, then D.P.G.M. of West Yorkshire. In the course of an eloquent address Bro. Tew thus expressed his view of the lodge warrant:

"Your warrant is made sacred, made venerable, and has been consecrated for the purposes of Freemasonry, for without it you could not hold a lodge. It is in your eyes a holy and a sacred document, the symbol of authority and of your allegiance to the Grand Lodge of England, and of your obligations in Freemasonry and to the G.A.O.T.U."

Holding this exalted, yet truly and justly Masonic, conviction of the importance of the warrant, you may rest assured that his sympathy awakened so strongly on the occasion of its loss has not yet subsided.

As I have already intimated, we all grieve deeply at the cause of his absence this evening.

His courteous bearing, kindly manner, and generous heart, but, above all, the strong and genuine affection which he entertains for the Craft and all his brethren cause him to be missed from the gatherings he loves so well.

May speedy restoration to health be his! May we soon join hands with him within the mystic circle as of old!

Worshipful Master, Wardens, and brethren, on behalf of R.W. Bro. Tew, I now hand over to you this beautiful and perfect facsimile of your old warrant, which has gone for ever.

You will join with me in saying that the workmanship is highly creditable to the artist, Mr. Garrison, of Goole. I need not ask you to cherish it for the sake of the giver.

It will serve to remind you of many happy by-gone hours, of many joyous associations with one who loved your lodge and loved to be with you. It will, as a speaking likeness of an old friend departed, be a memento of the origin of the lodge, and those who have since followed within your walls and sat under the authority of the warrant for many years.

Brethren, it will soon be our turn to depart also, and if we cannot hand down to our successors the old warrant as we received it, we can continue to practice the true principles of Freemasonry, to make our lodge an abode of harmony and brotherly love; to pass on to those who follow the memory of good thoughts, kindly words, and noble actions, which are indeed the soul of Masonry. For the beginning and the end, the foundation, the superstruction, and the crowning of our Masonic Temple are all comprised in that Divine injunction—"Fear God, honour the King, love thy neighbour as thyself."

(Signed) WM. WATSON, P.M., of Leeds,
P.P.G.S. of W., and Hon. Librarian of West Yorks.

January 26th, 1894.

LENOIR ALEXANDRE.—A Chevalier of the Legion d'Honneur, and conservator of French antiquities at Paris; was also a zealous and enlightened Freemason, and an antiquary and archaeologist of great reputation. He was born in 1761, and died in 1839. He was the founder of the "Musée Central," and saved many monuments and articles of antiquarian interest from destruction and oblivion. In 1777 the well-known Le Court de Gebelin had founded the "Couvents Philosophiques," and held one in 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1782, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1788, and 1789. In 1812 Bro. Lenoir resumed them by the delivery of eight lectures in eight meetings on the "Rapports qui existent entre les anciens Mystères des Egyptiens et des Grecs et ceux de la Franche Maçonnerie." These lectures, re-arranged, he published in 1814 at Paris, under the title "La Franche Maçonnerie rendue à sa véritable origine, ou l'Antiquité de la Franche Maçonnerie prouvée par l'explication des Mystères anciens et modernes." This work was illustrated by 10 plates. We are not compelled to accept all Bro. Lenoir's conclusions, many of which are more than doubtful, when we express our admiration of his industry and his ingenuity in developing his own theses. That some connection existed as between the Building Societies and Mysteries is, we think, probable; but it is equally, we apprehend, incontestable that Freemasonry cannot be properly said to be the continuation of the Mysteries. Many of Bro. Lenoir's explanations, both of the actual import of our symbols and their mysterious lore, have long since been given up by Masonic students, but his work remains as a monument of his Masonic sympathies and learning, and will always repay perusal.—*Kenning's Cyclopaedia of Freemasonry.*

Lodges and Chapters of Instruction.

ROBERT BURNS LODGE (No. 25).—A meeting was held on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at Frascati's, 30, Oxford-street, W. Present: Bros. W. Truman, W.M.; L. Henson, S.W.; L. Conradi, J.W.; F. Bonham, P.M., Sec.; F. Hewson, S.D.; F. S. Jarvis, J.D.; M. Myers, I.G.; F. Marx, Deputy Preceptor; J. Swift, J. Cizzio, J. J. Dixon, C. D. Lindsay, and M. M. Taylor.

The lodge was duly opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. J. Cizzio being the candidate. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Jarvis. Bro. Swift answered the questions leading to the Third Degree, and was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed, Bro. Swift being the candidate. The W.M. then re-occupied the chair, and resumed the lodge in the First Degree. Bro. L. Henson, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing fortnight (the annual dinner taking place on the 20th). All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

EGYPTIAN LODGE (No. 27).—A meeting was held at the Salutation Tavern, Newgate-street, E.C., on Tuesday, the 13th inst., when there were present Bros. A. E. Todd, W.M., and Treasurer; Brendle, S.W.; Johnson, J.W.; James Thom, P.M., Preceptor; Robert Douglas Smith, Sec.; John Thom, S.D.; Tom Hughes, J.D.; T. Welham, I.G.; John Bennett, Tegetmeier, Lecquire, Dunford Shubrook, Hills, T. Maidwell, R. J. Ham, W. Winn, J. A. Allatt, Aikman, Jenkins, Geo. Briggs, Crutchett W. Brett, Geo. Griffiths, Clayton, T. Wallman, H. Saunior, J. Davidson, F. J. Eedle, J. Eedle, J. Hill, T. C. Edmonds, Hall, and A. B. Norman.

The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Shubrook being the candidate. The lodge was called off and on. Bro. Hill, P.M., assisted by the brethren, worked the 4th Section of the Lecture. The W.M. rose for the first, second, and third times, and at the fourth time of rising the candidature of Bro. W. M. Stiles was very strongly brought to the notice of the brethren by the Preceptor, which was cordially taken up by all after several of the brethren had spoken in his favour. The lodge was then closed.

ST. LUKE'S LODGE (No. 144).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 19th inst., at the Victoria Tavern, Gertrude-street, Chelsea, when there were present Bros. Saunders, P.M., W.M.; H. A. Brook, S.W.; Tucker, P.M., J.W.; Carlstrom, Preceptor; Stutfield, Sec.; Ingram, S.D.; Beauchamp, J.D.; Holland, P.M., I.G.; Royle, Winsborrow, Bates, P.M.; and Thomas.

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. Royle being candidate. Bros. Royle and Winsborrow answered the questions leading to the Second Degree. The 1st and 2nd Sections of the First Lecture were worked by the Preceptor, assisted by the brethren. The W.M. rose for the first time, and the dues were collected. The W.M. rose for the second time, and Bro. Brook was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing week. The W.M. rose for the third time, and the lodge was closed.

ST. MICHAEL'S LODGE (No. 211).—A meeting was held on Monday, the 12th inst., at the Norland Arms, Addison-road North, W. Present: Bros. R. H. Catling, W.M.; G. Cockrell, Treas., S.W.; G. Copley, J.W.; G. E. Higginson, P.M., Preceptor; H. Lindfield, P.M., Sec.; A. G. Wedmore, S.D.; W. Wood, J.D.; L. P. L. Cordes, I.G.; G. Kirkham, T. Rayner, R. N. Larter, Dr. Harrison, H. R. Elkin, C. C. Barber, and J. Campbell. Visitor: Bro. W. G. Jennings.

The lodge was duly opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The initiation ceremony was then rehearsed, with Bro. Campbell acting as the candidate. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, and the 1st Section of the Lecture was worked by the Preceptor, assisted by the brethren. The lodge was then resumed to the First Degree. Bro. Cockrell was elected to fill the chair at the next meeting, and all Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE (No. 538).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 14th inst., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W., when there were present Bros. Fowles, P.M., W.M.; G. Hill, P.M., Treas., S.W.; Terry, J.W.; Paul, P.M., Preceptor; Willby, P.M., Sec.; Augspurg, S.D.; Sandland, J.D.; Tidy, I.G.; Osborne, P.M.; Thom, P.M.; Hemming, P.M.; Cross, Mason, Kraus, and Parker.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree. The 1st Section of the Lecture was worked by the W.M. The lodge being resumed in the First Degree, Bro. Cross was examined and entrusted, and in due course the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Cross being the candidate. The 3rd Section was worked by Bro. Hemming, P.M., and the 4th Section by Bro. Fowles, W.M. The W.M. rose for the first time, when Bro. Parker was elected a joining member. The W.M. rose for the second time, when Bro. Hill, P.M., S.W., was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed his officers in rotation. On the W.M. rising the third time, Bro. G. Griffiths was invited to work the installation ceremony on the second Wednesday in March. All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

CAMDEN LODGE (No. 704).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Friday, the 9th inst., at the Earl Russell, 2, Pancras-road, N.W., when there were present Bros. J. Simpson, W.M.; Parish, S.W.; Heatherington, J.W.; Murice, S.D.; Swift, J.D.; Rutherford, I.G.; Mulvey, P.M., Preceptor; G. Smith, G. Griffiths, W. Curry, and Austin.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Smith acting as candidate. Bro. Curry answered the questions leading to the Second Degree, and was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Curry acting as candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The W.M. rose for the first and second times, and it was proposed and

seconded that the S.W., Bro. Parish, be elected W.M. for the ensuing week—carried unanimously. The W.M. rose for the third time, and all Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

FINSBURY LODGE (No. 861).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at the Bell Hotel, Old Bailey, E.C., when there were present Bros. E. Greiner, W.M.; A. Bayfield, S.W.; C. Jones, J.W.; W. Pratt, S.D.; M. Krellwitz, J.D.; W. Jones, I.G.; H. Whitney, C. Bloxam, J. Knight, G. Greiner, J. Moss, W. Partridge, H. Ball, H. Robertson, W. Becroft and H. Groome.

The lodge having been opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, Bro. Whitney worked the 1st Section of the Lecture, Bro. Knight worked the 2nd Section of the Lecture, and Bro. Moss worked the 3rd Section of the Lecture. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Bloxam being candidate. Bro. Ball worked the 4th Section of the Lecture and Bro. Knight worked the 5th Section of the Lecture. The W.M. rose for the first time, and dues were collected. Bro. Robertson was duly elected a joining member. The W.M. rose for the second time, and Bro. Bayfield was elected to occupy the chair at the ensuing meeting, and appointed his officers in rotation. The W.M. rose for the third time, and all Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

RANELAGH LODGE (No. 834).—A meeting was held on Friday, the 16th inst., at the Six Bells Hotel, Hammersmith, when there were present Bros. H. Foreman, W.M. 1275, W.M.; Joseph Cox, S.W.; H. Scharien, J.W.; A. Williams, W.M. 834, Preceptor; F. Craggs, P.M., Sec.; T. Jobson, S.D.; W. Hinds, J.D.; F. Blackmore, I.G.; James Banks; Robert Reid; Edward Fox; R. Josey, P.M.; R. H. Williams, P.M., &c.; W. Hide, and H. Blackman.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was then opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Reid having offered himself as a candidate for raising, was examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the ceremony of raising rehearsed. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. R. H. Williams acting as candidate. Bro. Cox was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and the lodge was closed.

EBURY LODGE (No. 1348).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, the 17th inst., at the Grapes Tavern, 123, Borough High-street, S.E., when there were present Bros. H. Bullpitt, W.M.; Jacobs, P.M., S.W.; Morley, J.W.; Jas. O'Dea, Preceptor; S. Woodbury, Treas.; J. Osmond, Sec.; Bordman, S.D.; Featherstone, J.D.; Barnard, I.G.; Dunher, Tyler; Ware, G. Hammond, Sullivan, Atkin, Botterell, E. Roberts, Layton, E. Hattersley, Cook, Zucker, and Butcher.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree. Bro. Botterell having answered the questions leading to the Third Degree, was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Botterell being the candidate. The lodge was resumed in the First Degree, and then closed.

METROPOLITAN LODGE (No. 1507).—A meeting was held at the Moorgate, 15, Finsbury Pavement, on Monday, the 12th inst., when there were present: Bros. Ellenger, W.M.; Rice, S.W.; Saunders, J.W.; Hore, S.D.; Barry, J.D.; Custracht, I.G.; Scales, P.M., Treas.; Lewis, P.M., Deputy Preceptor; Johnson, Asst. Sec.; Griffiths, P.M.; Douglas, P.M.; Smith, P.M.; Edmunds, P.M.; Witham, Rosenberg, and Pongeton.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes read and confirmed. The lodge then opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Witham, having answered the questions, was entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree. Bro. Witham was then raised to the Degree of M.M. in a most admirable and perfect manner by the W.M., Bro. Ellenger. The lodge was then resumed to the First Degree. The W.M. then initiated Bro. Pogeton, thus giving further proof of his great skill and study in Masonry. The Master then rose the first time, when the dues were collected. The W.M. rose the second time, and Bro. Rice, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the next meeting. The W.M. then rose for the third time. Bro. Scales, P.M., Treas., then proposed that Bro. T. Charles Edmunds should become an honorary member, observing that Bro. Edmunds was one of the oldest members, and had always rendered the greatest service to the lodge of instruction, ever kind and courteous, and always ready to advise and instruct the younger members who were anxious to improve in the Masonic ritual. This proposition having been carried unanimously, Bro. Edmunds in a few well chosen words very earnestly thanked Bro. Scales and the brethren for their very great kindness to him. The lodge was then closed.

CHAUCER LODGE (No. 1540).—The usual weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Old White Hart Hotel, Borough, S.E., on Tuesday, the 20th inst. Present: Bros. J. O'Dea, W.M.; J. Osmond, S.W.; Boardman, J.W.; H. Bullpitt, S.D.; Featherstone, J.D.; Bate, P.M., I.G.; W. Roots, Preceptor; W. H. Bird, Sec.; Baumann, H. Ball, Eades, and Bousande.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The lodge was opened in the Second and Third Degrees, and afterwards resumed in the Second. Bro. Baumann was entrusted. The lodge was resumed in the Third Degree, and the ceremony of raising was rehearsed, Bro. Baumann acting as candidate. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. Bro. O'Dea vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Baumann, and the ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. O'Dea acting as candidate. Bro. O'Dea resumed the chair, and the lodge was resumed in the Second Degree. Bro. Roots rehearsed the 3rd Section of the Lecture. The lodge was resumed in the First Degree. The W.M. rose for the first time, and Bro. Osmond was unanimously elected W.M. for the 6th prox. Bro. Osmond returned thanks, and appointed his officers in rotation. A vote of thanks was accorded Bro. Baumann for working the initiation ceremony. The lodge was then closed.

The annual supper takes place on Tuesday, the 13th prox., at the Old White Hotel, Borough.

KENSINGTON LODGE (No. 1767).—A meeting was held on Tuesday, the 20th inst., at the Scarsdale Arms Hotel, Edwardes-square, Kensington, when there were present Bros. J. J. Mackay, W.M. 1767, W.M.; A. Williams, W.M. 834, S.W.; J. J. Rumbal, J.W.; R. H. Williams, P.M., &c., Dep. Preceptor; F. Craggs, P.M., Sec.; W. B. Neville, S.D.; James Clark, J.D.; J. G. Bean, I.G.; J. E. Gentle, J. H. Neville, E. J. Hiscock, and W. H. Dresden, P.M.

The lodge was duly opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Gentle acting as candidate. Bro. J. H. Neville having offered himself as a candidate for passing, he was examined and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of passing rehearsed. The lodge was resumed to the First Degree. Bro. A. Williams was elected W.M. for the next meeting, and the lodge was closed.

CREATON LODGE (No. 1791).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 8th inst., at the Bush Hotel, Shepherd's Bush, when there were present Bros. John Davies, P.M., W.M.; J. D. Phillips, S.W.; T. Kington, J.W.; R. Josey, P.M., acting Preceptor; F. Craggs, P.M., Sec. (*pro tem.*); R. H. Catling, S.D.; G. Milford, J.D.; C. Smith, I.G.; W. G. Jennings, G. W. T. Kirkham, and C. J. Jacobs.

The lodge was opened according to ancient custom. The lodge was opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Jennings offering himself as a candidate for raising, he was examined in the usual way, and entrusted. The lodge was opened in the Third Degree, and the ceremony rehearsed. The lodge was closed in the Third Degree. The 1st Section of the Second Lecture was worked by the W.M., assisted by the brethren. The lodge was closed in the Second Degree. Bro. Phillips was duly elected W.M. for the next meeting, and the lodge was closed.

HORNSEY CHAPTER (No. 890).—A convocation was held at the Prince of Wales Hotel, corner of Eastbourne-terrace and Bishop's-road, Paddington, W., on the 16th inst., when there were present Comps. J. Bailey, I.P.Z. 1602, M.E.Z.; W. Hillier, S34, H.; W. R. Flack, 1642, J.; H. Dehane, P.Z. 890, S.E.; T. Tutton, M.D., 38, S.N.; J. Crutenden, 779, P.S.; A. J. Turner, S.N. 1196, 1st A.S.; W. J. Ferguson, P.Z. 1056; J. R. Roberts, H. 1196; H. Armfield, 1642; W. R. Hatton, 1642; and J. Pickett, M.D., 419.

The chapter was declared open, and the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Pickett being the candidate. Comp. Ferguson, as an old P.Z., expressed himself highly gratified at the way the work had been done. The M.E.Z. having risen the usual number of times, "Hearty good wishes" were accorded, and the chapter was closed.

STAR CHAPTER (No. 1275).—The usual weekly meeting of the above was held at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, on Friday, the 16th inst., when there were present: Comps. Bannister, M.E.Z.; Grummant, H.; G. L. Moore, J.; F. Hilton, P.Z., Preceptor; R. J. Voisey, P.Z., Treas.; C. H. Stone, S.E.; Barr, S.N.; Lewis, P.S.; Coombs, Cureton, Hill, North, Salmon, Dawson, Mayo, H. G. Martin, and Elgar.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Cureton personating the candidate. Comp. Grummant, H., was elected M.E.Z. for the next meeting. Comp. R. J. Voisey, P.Z., thanked the companions for their further mark of confidence in re-electing him as Treasurer for the ensuing year. The chapter was then closed.

ANNUAL BALL OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH LODGE, No. 1182.

During an existence of about 27 years, the Duke of Edinburgh Lodge, No. 1182, has done very much to aid Masonic Charitable Institutions in the Province of West Lancashire, and one of the most helpful schemes in this direction has been an annual ball, organised and carried out by the members. The 23rd of the series of these pleasant festivals, again in aid of the West Lancashire, Hamer, and Alps Charities, took place on Thursday evening, the 15th inst., at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, where there was a gathering numbering nearly 200 ladies and gentlemen.

Bro. R. Tunnicliffe, W.M., was indefatigable in his efforts to make the social function enjoyable and successful, and his efforts were ably seconded by Bro. I. Grace, jun., Hon. Secretary and Treasurer; Bros. H. M. Molyneux, P.P.G.D.C., and W. Rawsthorne, P.M., M.C.'s; Bro. D. Lowthian, Captain of the Stewards, who included Bros. T. Rawsthorne, D. Robertson, T. Holme, R. Johnston, G. Edwards, T. R. Olver, Walter Allinson, R. Wright, T. Wright, H. Pennell, J. N. Cliffe, H. Smith, J. R. Williams, J. Cormack, W. J. Smyth, T. Mills, H. Brooks, F. Werner, L. Mackay, H. Mackay, W. Dodgson, W. J. Davidson, and W. B. Breakell.

The catering, under Bro. Mercanton's supervision, was carried out in the best style. Bro. E. Clayton's band supplied the music for the 20 dances on the programme.

The Prince of Wales, by command of the Queen, held the first Levee of the season, on her Majesty's behalf, at St. James's Palace on Monday. The Duke of Connaught, the Grand Duke of Hesse, the Duke of Fife, and Prince Louis of Battenberg were present, while in attendance on the Prince were Bros. the Marquis of Breadalbane (Lord Steward), Lord Carrington (Lord Chamberlain), and other High officers of State and members of the household. The diplomatic and general circles were numerously attended, and a large number of presentations, chiefly of officers of the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces, was made. The Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms were on duty under the command of Capt. Lord Vernon, and the Yeomen of the Guard also, under that of Bro. Lord Kensington (Captain).

ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

12, ST. SWITHIN'S LANE, LONDON, E.C.

General Accidents. | Personal Injuries.
Railway Accidents. | Deaths by Accident.

Prospectuses and every information forwarded Post Free on application to the MANAGER.

Telephone No. 2879. Established 1808.

MATTHEWS, DREW, & CO.,
WHOLESALE AND RETAILSTATIONERS, PRINTERS, LITHOGRAPHERS,
ACCOUNT BOOK MAKERS.

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED.

"THE PROFESSIONAL NOTE,"A High-class Vellum Paper, with Rough or Satin Surface.
SAMPLES ON APPLICATION.

Send for Illustrated Price List Free.

MATTHEWS, DREW, & COMPANY,

37 & 38, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

(Opposite Chancery Lane).

Law Writing Department—10, GRAY'S INN PLACE, W.C.

EADE'S GOUT & RHEUMATIC PILLS.

SUFFERED AGONY FOR 30 YEARS.

EADE'S PILLS. 30, Randall-street,
Bridge-road,
Battersea, S.W.

EADE'S PILLS. January 27th, 1892.

EADE'S PILLS. Dear Sir,—I feel it my duty to write
and give you great praise for introducing
such a valuable medicine as your Gout Pills.HAVING SUFFERED UNTOLD AGONY FOR THIRTY
YEARS,I can truly say I have never had anything to relieve my
pain (and it is pain indeed) so quickly
as your Pills. I used to lay in bed for
two or three months at a time, but nowRHEUMATISM. I not only get relief in a few hours, but
am able to get to work in less than a
week.—Yours truly,
W. LITTLEJOHN.

RHEUMATISM. Mr. G. Eade.

EADE'S GOUT & RHEUMATIC PILLS.

Prepared only by

GEORGE EADE, 72, Goswell Road, London, E.C.; and
Sold by all Chemists in Bottles, 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d.**EADE'S GOUT & RHEUMATIC PILLS****DR. FOX'S COUGH AND VOICE WAFERS.**

The Great Remedy for

COUGHS, COLDS, BRONCHITIS, INFLUENZA, HOARSENESS,
LOSS OF VOICE,

And all Affections of the Chest and Lungs,

Being prepared from Fruits and Herbs only, may be taken
with perfect safety by old and young.**DR. FOX'S COUGH & VOICE WAFERS**Are Sold everywhere, in tins 1s. 1½d. each, by Chemists
and Medicine Vendors. Sole Proprietor,

GEORGE EADE,

72, GOSWELL ROAD, LONDON.

A Tin sent free on receipt of stamps, or Postal Order.

FIRST PRIZE MEDALS.Adelaide Jubilee Exhibition, 1887; Sydney Cen-
tenary Exhibition, 1888.**MASONS' CERTIFICATES, &c.,**

FRAMED TO ANY DESIGN.

H. MORELL,

17 & 18, GREAT ST. ANDREW ST., BLOOMSBURY,
LONDON, W.C.Manufacturer and Importer of all kinds of Picture Frame and
Decorative Mouldings (Two Million feet always in stock). Every
requisite for the Trade and Exportation. Illustrated Book of
Patterns, 85 pages 4to demy, revised for 1891, post free
penny stamps.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS—RABBITRY, LONDON.

COALS. COALS. COALS.**COCKERELL'S (LIMITED),**
13, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

For Prices, see Daily Papers.

Trucks direct from the Colliery to every Railway Station.

WANTED.—A LOAN OF £500
for Two Years. Security given. Reply—
C. E. B. RUDD, 17 Pembury-road, Clapton, N.E.**ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION**

INSTITUTION

FOR

AGED FREEMASONS AND WIDOWS OF
FREEMASONS.

GRAND PATRON AND PRESIDENT:

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,
K.G., &c., M.W.G.M.

TREASURER:

JOHN A. FARNFIELD, Esq.

BANKERS:

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK (Bloomsbury
Branch), 214, High Holborn, London, W.C.Upwards of 1,420 Annuitants have received the benefits
of the Institution since its foundation in 1842. 193 Men
and 240 Widows are Annuitants at the present time.Amount paid Annually in Annuities £15,860
Permanent Income £3,600
Deficit £12,260

Nearly 130 Candidates for next election.

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

Will be held at the

FREEMASONS' TAVERN, LONDON, W.C.,

On WEDNESDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 1894,

Under the distinguished Presidency of

COL. GERARD NOEL MONEY, C.B.,

R.W. Prov. G.M. for Surrey.

Brethren are earnestly solicited to accept the Stewardship
upon this most important occasion, and to forward their
names as soon as possible, with full particulars, toJAMES TERRY (V.-Pat., P.G. Swd. Br.),
Secretary.

Office—4, Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

CIGARS! CIGARS! CIGARS!**E. SURREY** has a Large Assort-
ment of Havana, Indian, Manila, Mexican,
and British CIGARS always in stock in good condition. at
the Lowest Possible Figure. Price lists free on application.

Masonic Lodges and Banquets supplied on the best Terms

E. SURREY, Cigar Importer, 13, Great Queen-street,
London, W.C. (Facing Mark Masons' Hall).**FISH, POULTRY, GAME, OYSTERS.****JOHN GOW, LIMITED,**
86, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.

(late 17, New Broad Street, E.C.),

12, HONEY LANE MARKET, CHEAPSIDE, E.C.,

93, THEOBALD'S RD., HOLBORN, W.C.,

AND

86, HIGH STREET, PECKHAM, S.E.

JOHN GOW, Limited, always have on sale the Largest
Stock in London of the Very Best Quality at Lowest Prices.

HIGH-CLASS PROVISION STORES (NOW OPENED),

50, 51, and 52, OLD BROAD STREET, E.C.

THE "MANCHESTER" HOTEL,
ALDERSGATE-STREET, E.C.

FAMILY AND COMMERCIAL.

300 BEDS.

Immediately opposite the Aldersgate Station of the Metro-
politan Railway, and central and convenient for everywhere.**THE "BRISTOL" & "GLOUCESTER"
ROOMS**ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR MASONIC PURPOSES
AT REASONABLE TERMS.

FINE BANQUETING HALL.

Terms and all particulars on application to
Bro. F. G. NEWELL, Manager.**FRANK HASWELL,**
(ESTABLISHED 1817),SIGN AND GLASS WRITER TO
THE TRADE.

4, SOHO STREET, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

ARTISTIC WRITER TO THE FINE ARTS.

TESTIMONIALS AND HERALDIC WORK, &c.

Price 1s. Post Free, 1s. 1d.

THE MASTER MASON'S HAND-BOOK, by Bro. FRED. J. W. CROWE, with an
Introduction by Bro. W. J. HUGHAN, P.G.D., &c. The
Master Mason's Handbook is a compendium of all informa-
tion necessary to a knowledge of English Masonry, com-
prising—An Historical Sketch of Freemasonry—The Grand
Lodge: Its Origin and Constitution—Private Lodges,
Metropolitan and Provincial—Visiting Private Lodges—
Titles, their uses and abbreviations—The Great Masonic
Institutions—The "Higher" or additional Degrees, and
how to obtain them.

London: GEORGE KENNING, 16, Great Queen-st., W.C.

MINCING LANE SAFE DEPOSIT

MINCING LANE, LONDON.

Magnificent Security for valuables of all descriptions.

Separate Safes from £1:1:0 a Year.

Largest Safes in London.

FREDERICK WELLS, Manager.

GAIETY RESTAURANT,
STRAND.

THE

VIENNESE STRING BAND

WILL PLAY DURING

3s. 6d. DINNERS, 5s.

6 TO 8.30.

SEPARATE TABLES.

NO CHARGE FOR ATTENDANCE.

PARTRIDGE & COOPER
"THE" STATIONERS,

191 & 192, FLEET STREET, LONDON,

Would invite attention to their

LARGE AND WELL-SELECTED STOCK OF
GENERAL & FANCY STATIONERY,Suitable for presents, such as Inkstands, Stationery,
Cabinets, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Dressing Bags,
Travelling and Brief Bags, &c., all of which are enumer-
ated in their New Illustrated Catalogue, sent free on appli-
cation.**To Correspondents,**T. W. T.—We have heard the question raised before
but believe L. B. in the second and R. B. in the third to be
correct.The following communications, amongst others, unavoidably
stand over:CRAFT LODGES.—Lodge of Union, No. 38; Constitution, No.
55; Indefatigable, No. 237; Benevolent, No. 303; South-
ampton, No. 394; Palmsur, No. 715; St. Geo. 25's, No. 1093;
St. John's, No. 1247; Mount Edgecombe, No. 1440; Rose, No.
1194; Arcadia, No. 2321; and Duchess of York, No. 2452.ROYAL A.C.A. CHAPTERS.—Old Concord, No. 172; La France, No.
260; and Rowly, No. 1051.MARK LONGES.—Earl of Chester, No. 195; and Tristram, No. 346.
District Grand Lodge of Jamaica.
Prov. Grand Lodge of Herefordshire.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1894.

ELECTION OF GRAND TREASURER.The following circular has been issued by the Grand
Secretary to Worshipful Masters of lodges:

"W. Master,

"Your attendance is required, together with
your Wardens and Past Masters, at a Grand Lodge,
or Quarterly Communication, to be holden at this
place on Wednesday, the 7th of March next."For the convenience of provincial and other brethren
who desire to attend Grand Lodge solely for the pur-
pose of recording their votes for the election of Grand
Treasurer, Grand Lodge will be opened at two o'clock
p.m., when the minutes of the last Quarterly Com-
munication will be put for confirmation, immediately
after which the election of Grand Master will take
place."The voting cards for the election of Grand
Treasurer will be given out to the brethren before
entering Grand Lodge, and may be deposited in the
balloting boxes from two o'clock to a quarter past

seven o'clock when no more voting cards can be taken, and the ordinary business of Grand Lodge will be proceeded with.

"You are requested to make these arrangements known to all the members of your lodge who intend to be present, and have been returned by your lodge as qualified to attend.

"By command of the M.W. Grand Master.
"E. LETCHWORTH,
"G. Sec.

"Freemasons' Hall, W.C.,
"London, 16th February, 1894.

"N.B.—Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens must wear the regulation collar of their respective offices, and no brother can be admitted to the Grand Lodge unless he is properly clothed.

"Constitutions Art. 137:—

"The Master and Wardens of every Lodge in the London district shall after installation and investment respectively sign their names in a book at the Office of the Grand Secretary, and no Master, Past Master, or Warden of any London Lodge shall be entitled to enter the Grand Lodge unless he shall have previously signed his name in such book."

Masonic Notes.

The first of the great anniversary Festivals of the year will be held at Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday, the 28th instant, when Bro. Colonel Gerard N. Money, C.B., Prov. G. Master of Surrey, will plead the cause of our youngest Charity—the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Brothers and their Widows. We do not know that we can add anything material to what we have said already in behalf of this admirable Institution. The benefits it confers are well known, and the question which chiefly occupies our attention just now is not whether the Charity will find favour with those to whom the Chairman will appeal on Wednesday, but to what extent the Craft will be able to assist it, having regard to what it did for it in 1892, and to the other claims which will be brought to its notice before the close of the year.

We do not propose to say anything in the nature of a prophecy on this point, but we are sanguine that a substantial answer written in capital figures will be forthcoming. Bro. Terry's efforts to strengthen the Board of Stewards which will support the Chairman have been successful beyond expectation, the number of brethren and ladies whose services he has enlisted being upwards of 280. But the area throughout which these Stewards are distributed is less extensive than in ordinary years; the number of London lodges which have sent Stewards being less than one-fourth of the total, while but little more than one-half the provinces will take part in the celebration. We need hardly say these figures are considerably below the average.

However, though we are very far from expecting that the total of the Returns will be such as Bro. Terry was wont to announce, on an average, during the eight or 10 years preceding 1892, we are, as we have said, sanguine that a good result will be announced, one, at all events, that will enable the Committee of Management to tide over the year without touching the invested capital. But whatever may be the outcome of the efforts that have been made during the last few months, we shall have the satisfaction of knowing it will be the best that could be achieved under the circumstances. The Chairman and the Stewards, and particularly the Chairman's Province of Surrey, will do their utmost to secure a large return.

The installation of Bro. Frederick Mead, P.G.S.B., as First Principal of Chapitre La France, on Tuesday last, was an interesting Masonic event. Although the ceremonies of both lodge and chapter are worked in French, the offices are not entirely filled by brethren of that nationality. At the meeting of the lodge following the consecration Bro. Fenn distinguished himself and somewhat astonished his friends by the perfect manner in which he performed the ceremony of installation. The first chair of the chapter is now filled by an English brother, and, judging from the success of last Tuesday's ceremonial, Bro. Mead will prove as facile in the performance of Arch work as did Bro. Fenn in that of the lodge. We shall give a report of the proceedings next week.

The District Grand Lodge of Queensland at its Quarterly Communication, held in Freemasons' Hall, Brisbane, on the 6th December last, unanimously adopted, on the recommendation of its Board of General Purposes, a resolution expressive of its deep and sincere thankfulness "for the generous and fra-

ternal contribution of three hundred guineas by the United Grand Lodge of England to the Masonic Relief Fund in aid of brethren who have suffered by the disastrous floods of 1893."

Our faith in the saying "There is nothing new under the sun" has been somewhat rudely shaken during the past few days. According to the *Daily Telegraph*, the Dean of Segovia—"a learned priest and author of many works"—has been flogged by the Bishop of his diocese because he had dared to be a member of a lodge of Freemasons, the priests in attendance chanting the hymn "Miserere mei" while the flagellation was in progress. We are inclined to think the operative bishop in thus punishing his speculative brother priest has succeeded in the somewhat difficult task of establishing a precedent. We have never heard of a case of this kind before.

The Scots Lodge a short time since celebrated Burns' birthday right royally, and the brethren listened to a most eloquent speech on Burns as a Mason by Bro. James Gray, J.P., a P.M. He said it was on the 4th July, 1781, when only 22 years of age, that the poet was initiated in St. David's Lodge, Tarbolton, subsequently called the St. James, and ever afterwards continued to take a warm and deep practical interest in everything Masonic. The young poet-Mason worked steadily through the various offices of his lodge, and three years after his initiation filled, when only 25 years of age, the Deputy Master's chair; and performed its duties faithfully, brilliantly, and well. The spirit and principles of Masonry, as they unfolded themselves to him in all their charm of mystery and symbolic beauty, must have been an inspiring revelation to so poetic a nature as Burns'. Imbued with the deep religious spirit of his time so nobly embodied in "The Cottar's Saturday Night," and already grappling with the hidden mysteries of the Great Architect of the Universe, the wisdom and intellectual beauty of the teaching of Speculative Masonry, could not have been otherwise than fascinating to him.

One of Bro. Gray's happiest hits was his reference to the old saying that Scotsmen had three weaknesses—bawbees, Burns, and whisky. "Well," said Bro. Gray, "if Englishmen and our young Anglo-Scotsmen would only just take as naturally and as kindly to Scotland's national poet as they do to Scotland's national drink there would be nothing to complain of."

The Committee of the East Lancashire Hamer Benevolent Institution somewhat sharply censures the lodges in the Province which lie outside the Liverpool district for the apathy they exhibit in supporting this estimable Charity, there having been only 20 out of the 66 lodges thus situated which have contributed towards its Funds during 1893. We cannot say the censure is undeserved. The Institution may justly claim the support of all the lodges in the Province, and now that the expenditure is increasing, and likely to increase still further, it will need their help more than ever. We trust the report for the current year will show that the remarks by the Committee have had the effect of awakening the lodges referred to to a proper sense of their duty.

Correspondence.

THE MARK DEGREE IN 1777.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I have quite recently discovered that I have in my possession the first minute book of the Royal Arch Chapter of Friendship, No. 257, formerly No. 3, warranted 11th August, 1769. The book is written entirely in cipher, not a single letter being in ordinary writing. Many years ago when the Phoenix Lodge rooms were done up (the chapter is attached to that lodge, No. 257, Portsmouth), the book in question was thrown away as rubbish, as no one knew what it was about. It was picked up by Bro. Mark E. Frost, who kept it for some years, and about six years ago gave it to me, and from that day it has been in my custody without my having the remotest idea what it contained. About 10 days ago, and quite by accident, I discovered that the first page of what has hitherto been considered to be the first minute book of the chapter (commencing in June, 1787) had been pasted down to the front fly leaf, and that there was writing upon it. After considerable trouble I separated the pages, and found that the writing consisted of 19 lines in cipher. I then recollected the book given me by Bro. Frost, and upon comparing the writing found that the cipher used was exactly the same. The difficulty now was to find out what the gibberish was about, as not the remotest clue was given anywhere. I copied part of the first page and sent it to Bro. Hughan, but he was unable to decipher the writing, but told me that the cipher used

was a combination unusual in England. I may say it consists of squares, or parts of squares, angles, and triangles, some of the latter being enriched with a dash inwards from one angle. The triangles are always right angled ones, but letters depicted by angles only (that is by V-shaped characters) are always acute angles.

After wasting many hours in trying to work out a key to the problem without the least success, I showed the book to a brother who, quite by way of a guess, suggested that certain letters at the bottom of the first page might be the names of the three Principals. Knowing who the first Principals of the chapter were, I found that the number of letters in each line corresponded with the number of letters in each brother's name; the key was found. Here I had the translation of 18 different characters, and a word written in large characters and between inverted commas, which I decided to be "Friendship," the name of the chapter, gave me two additional letters, making a total of 20 with which to commence work. The rest was easy, but the reward was great. The book proved to be the first minute book of the chapter, containing minutes from 1st September, 1769, to 7th June, 1786.

Quite apart from its value as a chapter minute book, I think its contents will be recognised as being of the greatest historical importance. The very first minute tells us that Thomas Dunckerley was present; that he was a Mark Mason; and that he made the brethren present Mark Masons and Mark Masters. And it further appears that we are to thank him for the cipher used in the book. This reference to the Mark Degree is nearly eight years earlier than any other, the earliest mention of the Degree hitherto known being dated 9th August, 1777.

In November, 1770, we have mention of Excellent and Super-Excellent Masons. [Can any brother tell me the first mention of these Degrees in England?] And in October, 1778, we find Dunckerley giving the chapter permission to "make Knight Templars," and I fancy this is 13 months earlier than any other mention of them in England. (See Hughan's "Origin of the English Rite," page 68.) In the same minute the members are called "Companions" for the first time, being only eight months after the first use of that word in R.A. minutes of which we have any knowledge. (See "History of Freemasonry and Concordant Orders," page 601.)

The minutes are without exception of the greatest interest, and in my "History of the Phoenix Lodge," &c., now in the press, I shall give a complete translation of every one of them, and a facsimile of the first one, which contains the important reference to the Mark Degree. I may say that the Mark chosen by each brother is appended to his name.

The book has been submitted to Mr. Scott, Keeper of Manuscripts in the British Museum, and pronounced by him to be a genuine document. I have taken this precaution since the book is not produced from the proper custody, and, therefore, is not strictly first-class legal evidence; but as it can be traced to the chapter, the defect is not of much importance.—Yours fraternally,

ALEXANDER HOWELL.

109, High-street, Portsmouth,
February 17th.

Reviews.

"THE BRILLIANT TEXT BIBLE" (Oxford University Press Warehouse, Amen Corner, London: 33, East 17th-street, New York, and all Booksellers). This is unquestionably the smallest complete Bible ever printed, and is a most remarkable typographical curiosity. It is more than that, however, for so opaque is the paper, notwithstanding it being so thin, and so clear is the type, that the text is much easier read than many larger books. Miniature editions have appeared before, such as the "Thumb Bible" of the seventeenth century, and later, but such booklets have only contained portions of the Bible, whereas this extraordinary little volume gives the whole of the Old and New Testaments, as also coloured maps, and runs to over 1200 pages! Yet its size is only three-and-a-half inches by some two inches, and but a trifle over half an inch in thickness, its weight, bound in limp morocco being but 2½ oz. Surely this is a triumph of the printer's art, and should be as widely circulated as it so richly deserves. In the conferring of the Knight Templary and Rose Croix Degrees, this pocket edition of the "Volume of the Sacred Law," would be found both handy and useful, and so for the scriptural extracts in the Mark and Royal Arch ceremonies. We commend it most heartily to the Craft.

"JOTTINGS—A Magazine for collectors" (Accrington: Henry Garside, 201, Burnley-road).—This is a new candidate for the patronage of collectors of all kinds, its special aim being to gather, in a permanent form, available for handy use, information on all matters interesting to collectors. Certainly it may be said of magazines, as of other things,

"Still they come, and still they go."

This quarterly is both practical and readable, including several excellent articles on Coins, Crosses, Medals, Stamps, Pottery, Book Plates, Coats of Arms, and Sales. Illustrations are promised in subsequent issues, and to the extent that the Magazine is supported. The wider and larger its circulation, the more will be done to make it worthy of still larger support. We hope there is room for it, and, at all events, it makes a good claim for the hearty support of collectors and students of antiquities; it is well printed in quarto size, and will make a nice volume, when it comes to be bound. Copies will be sent post free for seven penny stamps, or will be forwarded to any part of the world, per free for 2s. 4d. per annum.



Craft Masonry.

METROPOLITAN MEETINGS.

Fidelity Lodge (No. 3).—A large number of brethren attended the installation meeting of this ancient centenary lodge held at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C., on Wednesday, the 14th inst., when Bro. Dr. A. G. Sandberg, W.M., installed Bro. G. Trenchard Cox as his successor in the chair. The brethren present included Bros. A. G. Sandberg, W.M.; G. Trenchard Cox, J.W.; G. Low, P.M., Treas.; S. R. Lovett, P.M., Sec.; J. Cooper, S.D.; H. Imray, I.G.; A. W. G. Wicks, D.C.; R. Sebastian Hart, Org.; W. A. Croach, P.M.; Henry S. Wellcome, P.M.; C. Challen, P.M.; A. H. Larcome, P.M.; W. C. Clark, P.M.; J. W. Squire, P.M.; G. Phillips, P.M.; F. McDougall, P.M.; J. Larkin, P.M.; and many others. Visitors: Bros. F. A. Phillbrick, O.C., G. Reg.; E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; R. Clay Sudlow, P.G.S.B.; J. McLeod, P.P.G.W. Derby, Sec. R.M.I.B.; W. Rignall, 1987; G. Bizard Abbott, I.P.M. 1385; R. Cranston, 1385; J. Brittan, P.P.G.W. Herts; Geo. Haynes, W.M. 1479; J. E. H. Scott, 174; J. H. Rutherglen, S.W. 1042; J. McL. Ramsford, 1383; W. H. Kempster, P.G. Stwd.; C. R. Ellis, P.M., Treas. 1982; J. H. Roach, 1579; J. Clarke, 901; T. J. Bolton, D.C. 1687; J. H. Pearson, P.M. 1507; F. J. W. Dillon, P.M. 174; A. Streeter, S.D. 2157; W. Baddeley, 2020; J. Sargeant Stacey, P.M. 1572; C. Gray, P.M. 1385; J. K. Hooper, 1426; W. T. Hoare, 1491; E. Culver, P.M. 63; J. F. Finter, S.W.; G. Millson, P.M. 1387; J. W. Dixon, P.M. 27; E. Wallace, P.M. 907; H. C. Jones, P.M. 2099; G. A. Corderoy, P.M. 19; H. Sadler, G. Tyler; F. C. Collingwood, W.M. 1385; Nathan Robinson, W.M. elect 55; A. Boden, I.G. 2168; W. W. Parkinson, 1329; W. W. Lee, I.P.M. 2381; and many others.

Lodge was opened, the minutes confirmed, and Bro. F. W. Gregory passed to the Second Degree. Bro. Geo. Trenchard Cox was then presented as W.M. elect, and received the benefits of installation at the hands of Bro. Dr. A. G. Sandberg. The following officers were invested: Bros. J. Cooper, S.W.; H. Imray, J.W.; Geo. Low, P.M., Treas.; Dr. S. R. Lovett, P.M., Sec.; C. Grant, S.D.; H. J. Gregory, J.D.; F. J. Sheppard, I.G.; A. W. G. Weeks, P.M., D.C.; and Sebastian Hart, P.M., Org. A sum of 10 guineas was voted to the Worshipful Master's list as Steward for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. Bro. H. S. Wellcome, P.M., reported that his Stewardship for the Boys' School at the last Festival realized 90 guineas, and Bro. J. Larkin, P.M., undertook to represent the lodge for the benefit of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

Lodge was then closed, and after a banquet had been enjoyed at Freemasons' Tavern, the customary toasts were honoured.

"The Queen and the Craft," and "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," were first given.

Bro. F. A. Phillbrick, O.C., G. Reg., replied for "The Grand Officers," and said he did so with some little disappointment and very great pleasure. In that lodge the compliment paid the Grand Officers was of signal significance, and he regretted very much that a Grand Officer who was his senior—Bro. Cochrane—the Grand Treasurer and a member of the lodge, was unfortunately unable to be present with them. Had the Grand Treasurer been present, he (Bro. Phillbrick) would have had the good fortune to listen to him replying. As, however, he could not hide himself behind the key of the Grand Registrar, he would indite what he could on the scroll of the Grand Registrar. For the distinguished names included in the toast he returned sincere thanks. There must be—one might say to the profane—something which was attractive in Masonry, which brought to it, and enlisted in its cause, and commanded the exertions and time of men distinguished for their station as those Grand Officers were. He need not to his brother Masons say a word of the attractions of Masonry. He need not in that—one of the ancient lodges—say what had been the attractions which for 140 years had bound together their predecessors, and now bound them, under the mystic tie; but this he could say on the part of the Grand Officers who were privileged to be present that night to witness one of their great annual ceremonies performed in the admirable way in which it had been by the Installing Master—that they felt that that old lodge had renewed its strength, and still went on in vigour, and they hoped it might long continue its prosperous and successful career.

Bro. Dr. A. G. Sandberg, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the Worshipful Master," and said he was quite sure he was only re-echoing the sentiments of the members when he said they possessed in the Master an excellent occupant of the chair. From personal knowledge of Bro. Trenchard Cox as a man and a Mason he was sure the choice of the brethren in selecting him to fill the chair reflected to the very highest degree upon their good judgment. He was mentioning to a mutual friend of the W.M. and himself that Bro. Cox was to be their Worshipful Master, and he said he knew nothing of Bro. Cox's good qualities as a Mason but he knew something of his good qualities as a man, and that he was a very good fellow. They agreed with that, and went further and thoroughly recognised his good qualities as a fellow craft and as a Mason. While Bro. Cox occupied the chair of the lodge its dignity would not suffer one iota.

Bro. G. Trenchard Cox, W.M., in briefly responding said he did not know how to reply to the I.P.M. for the eloquent terms in which he had proposed the toast. He was afraid the brethren would be disappointed, for following such a good Master as the I.P.M. he was timid to go through his duties. They had done him the honour of electing him and he would do his best to serve the lodge, knowing he would be supported by the I.P.M. and every Past Master. He would do the best he could to serve the interests of the lodge and show his appreciation of the honour conferred upon him.

The Worshipful Master then proposed "The Installing Master," and said they had heard from the Grand Register how the work had been done. The brethren must all have been gratified with the impressive rendering of the ceremony, and would feel a great pleasure in drinking the I.P.M.'s health. He had much pleasure in presenting Bro. Sandberg with a Past Master's jewel from the officers of the lodge.

Bro. Dr. A. G. Sandberg, I.P.M., thanked them from the bottom of his heart for the kind way in which his name had been received. He could only say his humble services were at their beck and call, and anything he could do to serve the dear old Lodge of Fidelity, he would do to the utmost of his power. He thanked them one and all, and thanked the officers very much for the handsome memento of one of the happiest years of his life.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.G.S.B., acknowledged "The Visitors," and said they all appreciated not only the work in the lodge, which, as the Grand Registrar had said, was most admirably performed, but also the splendid hospitality extended to them. Personally he scarcely felt a visitor, as he had visited the lodge so many times, and knew so many of the members. He always enjoyed his visits to the fullest extent, and for another pleasant evening for himself and some of the large number of visitors who would not respond, he returned hearty thanks.

Bros. Dr. W. H. Kempster, P.G. Stwd.; Haynes, W.M. 1479; Corderoy, P.M. 19; Stacey, E. A. Cox (one of three sons of the W.M. included amongst the visitors), and others also returned thanks.

Bro. J. M. McLeod, Sec. R.M.I.B., responded for "The Masonic Charities," and said he had not the opportunity on the present occasion of thanking the lodge for a Steward, but he was happy and contented in the double duty of replying for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. He was content because he recollected that some three years ago he made the acquaintance of that lodge and earnestly appealed for the Boys' School. That appeal bore good fruit, and Bro. Wellcome at the Boys' Festival, under the presidency of Lord Brooke, now the Earl of Warwick, took up a list of 90 guineas, which placed that lodge, as it deserved to be, high on the roll. Bro. Wellcome then set a good example by a personal gift of 50 guineas, for which he now tendered public, as he had already tendered his private, thanks. Having said so much for the Boys, he would say a word for the Benevolent Institution. The W.M. had told him to be brief, but to be brief in response to the Masonic Charities was a difficult matter. He had to make an appeal for the Benevolent Institution, and if his good friend and colleague, Bro. Terry, had been present, he could have given them full information. The Institution was dispensing above £16,000 per annum in providing annuities for the aged who could not help themselves. Many of those recipients were brethren who had been as happy and contented as those present that evening. Unlike the Educational Institutions, it was not restricted by age, for the older the applicant the more chance he or she stood of being elected; neither was there any restriction as to physical fitness. He trusted the traditions of that lodge would be carried out this year by sending up a good list for the Festival a fortnight hence. A successful Festival was necessary to prevent the necessity of entrenching upon the invested capital.

Bro. H. S. Wellcome, P.M., on behalf of "The Past Masters," returned thanks for the kind remarks of the W.M. In some lodges brethren gave up Masonic work when they passed the chair, but he hoped never to do that, for none of the Past Masters of that lodge ever would. He heartily assured the W.M. of their ready support if called upon. They were gratified at having such a brother to fill the chair, for they knew how devoted and efficient he had been and how true a Mason he was.

"The Treasurer and Secretary" and "The Officers" were given, and a pleasant evening terminated with the Tyler's toast.

A selection of music was given under the direction of Bro. Sebastian Hart, P.P.G.D. Surrey, Org., assisted by Madame Regina, Miss Alice Bardrick, and Bros. R. J. Ward, S. Masters, and Fred. H. Cozens.

St. John's Lodge (No. 90).—A meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 12th inst., at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, when there were present Bros. A. L. Reynolds, W.M.; C. Fox, S.W.; E. Hands, J.W.; J. H. Usmar, P.M., Treas.; F. W. Prior, P.M., Sec.; G. F. Garry, S.D.; C. T. Pulley, J.D.; F. M. Newton, P.M., D.C.; G. Freeman, I.G.; C. Oxford, A.D.C.; F. G. Hollis, Org.; R. W. Giddard, Tyler; W. P. Brown, P.M., P.G. Std. Br.; A. Tremearne, P.M., P.P. G.S.B. Surrey; and H. F. G. Weber, I.P.M. Visitors: Bros. F. P. Colliver, P.M. 194; and J. N. Frye, P.M., Sec. 1694.

The Worshipful Master initiated, in a most impressive manner, two members of the London Stock Exchange—Messrs. T. E. Dickinson and R. A. Barker. The charge, after initiation, was given by Bro. Prior, P.M. and Sec.

At the banquet the usual toasts were proposed and duly honoured.

Bro. Brown, P.M., P.G. Std. Br., returned thanks for "The Grand Officers" in his usual happy way; and Bro. Stephens and Newton for "The Past Masters."

Bro. Colliver, P.M. 194, in his merry little way, did justice to the toast of "The Visitors."

A musical treat, provided by the W.M., was afforded to those present by Bros. C. Fox, Hollis, Morris, A. J. Weber, and Coard.

Temple Lodge (No. 101).—The installation meeting of this distinguished and flourishing lodge was held at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, Leadenhall-street, on Tuesday, the 6th inst. In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. Hy. S. Foster, M.P., the chair was taken by Bro. T. E. Taylor, P.M., supported by Bros. Hy. Wood, S.W. and W.M. elect; F. Wint, J.W.; E. S. Lardner, P.M., G. Stwd., Sec.; C. Plant, S.D.; Wm. Binne, J.D.; B. Dowsett, acting I.G.; J. H. Wynne, P.M.; H. Brandon White, P.M.; Frank Williams, P.M.; J. Minter Flegg, P.M.; Harry Foster, M.P., I.P.M.; J. Sparks, P.M.; W. S. Tucker, E. Hall, H. Gaine, Hy. Eyre, A. Yorke Paten, H. O. Squire, W. H. Perry, H. Bruster, W. Cooper Keates, C. Lankster, J. B. Hardwicke, T. G. Mansell, H. B. Shillingford, Geo. Harrison, and A. Weston. The visitors were Bros. J. Etherington, 1310, P.P.J.G.D.; W. Paine, 2048; F. Dunn, P.M. 72; J. C. Harwar, 862; Sid. Hill, Org. 1217; J. Andrews,

P.M. 1986; W. T. Warner, W.M. 1297; C. H. Stone, W.M. 507; G. Hearn, P.M. and Sec. 107 (Ceylon); G. Thompson, I.G. 1744; W. H. Rivers, P.M. 1772; F. E. Goosey, 172; R. Cartwright; A. S. Ginger, S.W. 1658; W. B. Best, 723; Robert J. Voisey, P.M. 1329; F. Hilton, P.M. 1622; David Rose, P.M. 73; William Dawson, J.D. 1622; J. W. Blott, W.M. 742; E. Petley, I.G. 1672; Stephen Earl, J.W. 180; H. Squire, P.M. 1827; J. Hill, P.M. 1658; F. Gomer, 2095; C. E. Davis, 1329; 1329; and A. B. Friend, 1.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. E. Hall, was passed and Bro. W. A. Williams raised in a very perfect manner by Bro. T. E. Taylor. Bro. Harry Wood, S.W., and W.M. elect, was next presented by Bro. T. E. Taylor to Bro. E. Lardner, G. Stwd., to receive at his hands the benefit of installation, which ceremony was performed in a very masterly manner before a large Board of Installed Masters. The new W.M., Bro. Harry Wood, invested his officers as follows, perfectly and with great deliberation: Bros. Harry S. Foster, M.P., I.P.M.; F. Wint, S.W.; Chas. Plant, J.W.; J. H. Thomas, P.M., Treas. (by proxy) Edwin S. Lardner, G. Stwd., P.M., Sec.; Wm. Braint, S.D.; Benjamin Dowsett, J.D.; Harry Eyre, I.G.; H. B. Squire, P.M., Steward; Frank W. Williams, P.M., D.C.; and Potter, Tyler (by proxy). The three addresses were rendered most admirably by the Installing Master, Bro. E. Lardner, P.M., G. Stwd. Bro. F. Wint, S.W., announced he was representing the lodge at the Festival for the R.M.I.B., and the lodge granted five guineas on his list, and in all from the brethren he had the handsome sum of 55 guineas; also that Bro. F. W. Williams, P.M., D.C., was representing the lodge at the Festival of the R.M.I. for Girls. The sum of five guineas was granted from the lodge funds upon his list, thereby proving one of the great characteristics of the lodge—benevolence. The Auditors' report was received, adopted, and entered upon the minutes, which showed a handsome balance in the hands of the acting Treasurer, Bro. Lardner.

The business of the lodge ended, it was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a *recherche* banquet personally superintended by Bro. Ashby, the able manager.

The cloth having been removed, the regular loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and duly honoured.

The W.M., in proposing the toast of "The Pro G.M., Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," remarked that it needed very few words to commend it to those brethren who had the privilege of attending Grand Lodge to hear their excellent work, which redounded great credit. He would ask Bro. Lardner, P.M., to kindly respond.

In reply, Bro. E. Lardner, G.S., said that being the only humble representative of Grand Lodge, it gave him great pleasure to respond to a toast so worthy. With regard to the Grand Officers, it was a Masonic treat always to hear Lord Lathom, Pro G.M., carry out his duties and uphold the prestige of the Craft; also the Earl of Mount Edgumbe, Deputy G.M., perform his duties, and particularly when presiding at any of the Charity Festivals. He would say, although a younger member of Grand Lodge, how delighted he was to associate his name with those of the Grand Officers, and most heartily thanked the brethren on their behalf.

The toast of "The W.M." was next presented by Bro. Harry S. Foster, M.P., I.P.M., in most eloquent terms, remarking although no longer W.M. he was once more entrusted with the gavel, and he felt that one purpose above all things, and one duty above all others, was to wish him health and God speed during his year of office. He would say as a very unworthy P.M., being able to judge and knowing the duties of the chair, that he was confident the W.M. would carry them out as efficiently as the other offices he had already filled. In welcoming the W.M., he was sure that the efficiency of the working would be fully maintained and the affairs of the lodge safely guided. He would assure the W.M. that he would have the most hearty support of the Past Masters, and the officers would render him every help. Once more wishing him God speed during the coming year, and pledging the Past Masters and officers to render him all the assistance in their power.

The W.M. (after receiving quite an ovation), in reply, most heartily thanked the brethren for their kind wishes in terms so ably presented by Bro. H. Foster, I.P.M. Six years ago that night he was proposed by Bro. F. W. Williams, P.M., and seconded by Bro. Flegg, P.M., and he then looked forward to some day reaching the chair of W.M., which now was realised by their unanimous vote. He trusted he should fully maintain its dignity and the prestige of the lodge. For such a reception he was very grateful.

The W.M. next presented the toast of "The I.P.M." in eulogistic terms. They all knew the many duties he was called upon to perform and with what ability he carried them out, no matter in what sphere. It gave him (the W.M.) the greatest possible pleasure to pin the Past Master's jewel upon his breast, which had been unanimously voted by the brethren, hoping he might live many years to wear it, and to the honour of the Craft.

In reply, Bro. Foster, I.P.M., said it had often been remarked by the visitors that that was a lodge of harmony and the past year certainly had been one of perfect harmony, a true exemplification upon which the Craft was founded, and which, it always acted upon, would be a blessing to all. He felt very deeply the kindness of the brethren in voting him the jewel which he should always wear with pride. The first chair he had filled as W.M. was that of the Temple Lodge, and he felt it a great honour indeed. He regretted his absence from the lodge through his many engagements, and would now thank the Past Masters, and particularly brother Secretary for their able assistance during the past year, and tendered his most grateful thanks. The welfare of the Temple Lodge was always near his heart and anything he could do to promote its welfare he would always be most happy.

The W.M. presented the toast of "The Visitors," which he considered the toast of the evening, in very appreciable terms.

Bros. Friend, Heard, and E. C. Davis responded, and dilated upon the excellent work, harmony, and hospitality of the lodge.

The toast of "The Past Masters" the W.M. gave in excellent terms, remarking they were the mainstay of the lodge, and would ask two of the joints of the vertebrae to respond in the persons of Bros. Taylor and White.

Bro. Taylor, in response, remarked as the song "England expects every man to do his duty," so the Past Masters had adopted it, as they were bound to, as their motto, and would continue to do so.

Bro. White also spoke as to the kindly relation of one and all.

The W.M. next proposed "The Officers." Bro. Lardner, G. Stwd., Sec., thanked the brethren for the honour of being once more Secretary to such a lodge. He had only its best interests at heart, and while such good feeling was shown, and such cordiality existed, and he had the privilege of being its Secretary, so long they might count upon his most hearty support. He also paid a high tribute to the Treasurer, who was slowly recovering.

Bros. F. Wint, S.W., and F. W. Williams, P.M., also ably responded.

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

A capital programme of music was carried out under the able management of Bro. Arthur Weston, most efficiently assisted by Misses Ethel Winn and Kathleen Hope, and Bros. J. B. Hardwicke, H. S. Foster, M.P., and Fred. W. Stephens.

Domestic Lodge (No. 177).—A meeting of this lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Friday, the 9th inst. Bro. John Barnett, W.M., presiding, when there were present Bros. Wigmore, S.W.; G. Gardner, P.P.G.S.B. Bucks, J.W.; G. Everett, P.G.T., Treas.; W. Morris, Sec.; T. J. Hobbs, S.D.; J. Stephens, P.G.D. Bucks, J.D.; Adley, D.C.; Piper, P.M.; Ferguson, P.M.; N. Salmon, P.M.; Pierpoint, P.M.; Clark, Smith, Newell, Hanes, Davis, Eccleston, Butley, Newell, Banham, Farmer Fisher, Brown, and Murrell.

The lodge having been opened and minutes read and confirmed, Bro. Newell was passed to the Degree of F.C. in a most exemplary manner by Bro. Barnett, W.M. The ballot was then taken, and proving in favour of Bro. Owen, he was initiated by Bro. Piper, I.P.M., in a very earnest and impressive manner.

Business being ended the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned for refreshment, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and after some excellent singing, the evening was brought to a successful close.

Westbourne Lodge (No. 733).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place on the 15th inst., at the Holborn Restaurant, when the following members attended: Bros. R. J. Rogers, W.M.; J. W. Belsham, I.P.M.; A. Arrowsmith, S.W.; W. H. Faircloth, J.W.; J. Welford, P.M., Treas.; S. R. Walker, P.M., Sec.; W. M. Roberts, S.D.; C. Brown, J.D.; W. Clark, Org.; C. A. Cottebrune, P.M., P.G.P.; J. W. Curtis, P.M.; L. Ascott, P.M.; W. Burton, P.M.; T. W. Allen, P.M.; and others. Visitors: Bros. F. R. H. Good, P.M. 781; E. P. Reed, D.C. 2021; F. Bouts, P.M. 1695; J. W. Mogford, J.D. 2362; E. Clare, I.P.M. 805; E. Rogers, W.M. 1642, P.G. Steward; B. Stone, P.M. 65; B. Dowell, J.D. 101; J. Stephens, P.S.G.D. Bucks; W. Middlewick, I.P.M. 1793; A. Ellenden, 1623; J. C. Conway, I.P.M. 1891; J. Avory, P.M. 511; H. Campbell, S.D. 742; F. J. Denton, P.M. 25; H. Windeatt, W.M. 1793; W. J. Bennett, 1716; J. Barrett, 2021; T. Golds, 704; B. R. Thomas, 511; G. Lander, 1897; A. J. Golding, 59; W. J. Bathe, 2454; W. Walker, 1894; J. R. Davis, 491; W. W. Lee, I.P.M. 2381; and others.

The preliminary business was speedily disposed of, and Bro. R. J. Rogers, W.M., then installed Bro. A. Arrowsmith as his successor in the chair of K.S. in an able manner. The officers' collars were allotted as follows: Bros. W. H. Faircloth, S.W.; W. M. Roberts, J.W.; J. Welford, P.M., Treas.; S. R. Walker, P.M., Sec.; C. T. Brown, S.D.; F. Wortham, J.D.; G. Weaver, I.G.; J. J. Hough and A. Bench, Stewards; W. Clark, Org.; C. A. Cottebrune, P.M., P.G.P., D.C.; J. Bonney, A.D.C.; and S. Ellis, Tyler. The I.P.M. was presented with a Past Master's jewel and collar in recognition of his services as Master during a very successful year of office.

Lodge was closed, and an adjournment made to the Venetian Chamber, where ample justice was done to a well-served banquet.

The usual toasts were briefly proposed by the W.M., and well received.

Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, P.G.P., in replying for "The Grand Officers," said he was appointed a member of that body in 1872, since when he had responded for that toast in that lodge. It was 35 years since he occupied the chair of the Westbourne Lodge, and the present occasion was the 36th installation meeting. He was afraid he should not be present that night owing to ill-health, but the Secretary had written asking him to attend if possible. He was pleased to see the Worshipful Master installed, as he had known him many years, and he wished him a prosperous and happy year of office.

Bro. R. J. Rogers, I.P.M., in submitting "The Health of the W.M.," assured the brethren that Bro. Arrowsmith would show them he was capable of doing any work provided for him. They would make allowances that evening for a little nervousness, but on future occasions he would acquit himself well. Having worked with the W.M. on many occasions, he could vouch for him doing what he could for the lodge. Bro. Arrowsmith would, in fact, prove a most genial and kind W.M.

Bro. A. Arrowsmith, W.M., returned thanks, and said he would certainly do all that lay in his power for the prosperity of the lodge. He had always had its interests at heart from the time he was initiated. It was perfectly correct as Bro. Cottebrune had told them, that it was 12 years since his lamented brother occupied the chair of S.W., and that he would have been the W.M. in the following February. It gave him the greatest satisfaction to be installed that evening, because he knew it was his brother's ambition to fill the same post.

The W.M. then gave "The Installing Master, Bro. Rogers," with whom, he said, he had worked for many years in that lodge, and whose health it afforded him pleasure to propose.

Bro. R. J. Rogers, I.P.M., in response, said it was indeed a gratification to be received as he had been that evening. He thanked the W.M. for the kind way in which he proposed the toast, and the brethren for its hearty reception. He had only done his duty as far as lay in his power, which every brother should do who occupied the Master's chair.

He had had a very pleasant year of office. There had been 14 initiates, and there would have been two initiated that evening but unfortunately they were not proposed in time. It would, however, be a pleasure to him to see them initiated during the present Master's year. He had to thank them for the kind assistance he had received from every member individually during his year. Every brother had tried to help him and he hoped the same support would be extended to the present W.M. during his term of office.

Bro. H. Windeatt, W.M. 1793, on behalf of "The Visitors," returned thanks for their reception. He had attended the lodge for several years, and witnessed its prosperity, and trusted the W.M. would have a prosperous reign. They always felt in visiting other lodges that they should emulate the good work they saw, and carry back to their own lodge the best they had witnessed.

Bro. E. Rogers, P.G. Stwd., expressed the pleasure it had afforded him to visit the lodge and see the good working and the fraternal good-feeling amongst the members.

Bro. J. Stephens, Prov. S.G.D. Bucks, said he had not been a frequent visitor of late, as he had had other duties commanding his attention. There was no lodge where he had received a more kindly and fraternal reception. Bro. Welford P.M., Treasurer, had told him this was his 25th installation meeting, and that spoke well for the lodge. The heart and soul of the W.M. was in Masonry, and he would strive hard for the success and prosperity of the lodge, which they hoped would be as successful in the future as it had been in the past.

"The Past Masters" and other toasts were afterwards given.

Bro. W. Clark, Org., arranged the musical programme, and was assisted by Miss Emily Foxcroft, Miss Mackey, Mr. Mackey, Professor Valls (ventriloquist), and Bros. Barry Lindon and G. Goddard.

Temperance-in-the-East Lodge (No. 898).—The first meeting of the year took place on the 31st ult., at the Assembly Rooms, Newby-place, Poplar. Bro. W. Bigg, W.M., occupied the chair, there being present Bros. H. Rogers, P.M.; G. Graveley, P.M.; J. J. Carter, P.M.; F. W. Pulsford, P.M.; J. C. Armstrong, P.M.; G. Shearman, P.M.; A. G. Duck, P.M.; J. Williams, P.M.; J. Byford, jun., Treas.; C. W. Smith, Sec.; Williams, S.W.; S. Craze, J.W.; T. Ringrose, I.P.M.; Rainham, P.A.G. Sec. Essex, S.D.; W. T. Legg, J.D.; W. Bussey, I.G.; W. G. Puttick, Org.; J. J. Olley and J. Baker, Stwds.; W. Baker, Tyler; Cue, R. Franklin, R. Thomas, Evan Smith, W. Proctor, W. F. Day, J. Corbett, F. G. Dickson, T. Church, W. H. Darton, J. Byford, W. H. Graveley, G. Lemon, S. Mills, A. H. Rutter, C. Johnson, J. W. Dunn, G. Muson, G. T. Bridger, F. Rosenthal, W. Hanston, E. Horsey, W. Jesse, F. Wallace, C. T. Hendry, W. Skipper, W. Adcock, J. P. Martin, J. J. Lowman, A. Aves, W. Baker, W. Shipp, T. Barnes, E. Stather, H. R. Baxter, W. Boaz, J. H. Milton, W. G. Bailey, J. R. Gillis, W. C. Gray, C. Haysom, F. Day, J. D. Tyler, and others. Visitors: Bros. A. C. Hugh, P.M. 2184; J. C. Conry, 2291; G. Parrett, P.M. 1259; H. W. Freestone, 1326; A. Thosden, P.M. 1472; F. J. Southgate and F. F. Framford, 1805; E. Green, 1472; W. Fraser, 1227; J. Regan, 77; J. Mills, 1765; and W. Chalmers, 72.

The lodge being opened, the minutes were read and confirmed, after which Bros. Bridger and Burns were raised to the Sublime Degree of M.M., and Mr. W. Baker was initiated.

Other Masonic business having been transacted, the lodge was duly closed, and the brethren adjourned to refreshment.

The loyal toasts were in the wonted Masonic manner received with enthusiasm, as was also that of "The Grand Officers."

Bro. Duck proposed "The Health of the W.M." in his most genial way, and complimented him on the continued growth and prosperity of the lodge during his year of office.

Bro. Bigg briefly responded.

For "The Past Masters" Bros. Graveley, Williams, and Carter replied.

Bros. Hugh, P.M. 2184, and G. Parrett, P.M. 1259, replied for "The Visitors," and expressed their thanks for the hospitality accorded to them, and their gratification in witnessing the admirable working of the ceremonies, largely assisted as they were by music.

For "The Officers" replies were made by Bros. Williams, S.W.; Ringrose, Baker, Burdett, and Puttick, the energetic Organist, to whom much is due, in conjunction with Bro. Duck, P.M., for the musical arrangements in the lodge of instruction.

During the evening the speeches were interspersed with the vocal performances of various brethren, among whom were Bros. Parrett, Legg, Wallace, Church, and others.

Islington Lodge (No. 1471).—The installation meeting took place on Thursday, the 5th inst., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, Bro. C. M. Coxon, P.M., Prov. G.D. Herts, presiding. There was a good attendance of brethren, including Bros. J. M. Scarlett, P.M., P.P.G.W. Essex; H. Cox, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W. Herts; J. L. Mather, P.A.G.D.C.; A. C. Halestrap, P.M.; E. Blenkhorn, P.M., Sec.; S. Napper, P.M.; H. B. Harding, I.P.M.; G. A. Hopkins, G. Vexley, D. C. Attwater, W. Jarvis, T. W. Brown, P. Simmonds, J. Amand, W. J. Barnes, P. Faber, W. Pannell, F. Meyer, F. W. White, E. H. Bury, A. Pope, B. Bridgwater, T. E. Newman, and others. The visitors were Bros. J. R. Carter, 2374; N. Pearce, 2278; T. H. Lloyd, 2374; H. French Bromhead, W.M. 1662; W. Shurmur, P.P.G.T. Essex; W. Banks, Org. 1365; W. D. Church, P.M. 1368; W. E. Sutton, Prov. D.G.D.C. Essex; F. L. Steib, S.D. 55; A. Cook, P.M. 1366; J. Petch, P.P.G.S.B. Herts; F. Cakebread, 1178; W. Wright, P.M. 1572; J. T. Frost, 157; H. Dade, 1385; G. J. Westfield, P.P.G. Std. Br. Essex; W. Hancock, P.M. 2191; and R. P. Upton, J.W. 2328.

The first business, after the confirmation of the minutes, was to ballot for Mr. Thomas S. Hughes, a candidate for initiation, and this proving unanimous, he was duly initiated. Bro. Scarlett, P.M., as D.C., then presented to the W.M. Bro. Reuben Loomes, S.W., W.M. elect, for the benefit of installation. He having been placed in the chair, appointed and invested the following officers: Bros. A. Cox, S.W.; J. A. Blount, J.W.; A. C. Halestrap, P.M., Treas. (re-elected); E. Blenkhorn, P.M., Sec. (re-appointed); D. C. Ritchie, S.D.; E. J. Harrison, J.D.; C. Isler, I.G.;

S. Napper, P.M., D.C.; C. Horst and W. Taylor, Stwds.; and G. Couchman, Tyler. The Installing Master, Bro. Coxon, then gave the addresses in a manner which elicited the applause of the brethren. The W.M. having intimated his intention of acting as a Steward at the approaching Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, the sum of 10 guineas was unanimously voted to his list. He having presented new collars to the lodge, a vote of thanks was passed to him, the same to be recorded on the minutes. A Past Master's jewel was then presented to the Installing Master, in appreciation of his conduct in the chair during the past year. Bro. Coxon briefly expressed his thanks to the brethren for their valued gift. A candidate was proposed for initiation, and the lodge was closed.

After an excellent banquet had been partaken of, the customary toasts were proposed and duly honoured.

In replying to that of "The Grand Officers," Bro. J. L. Mather, P.A.G.D.C., said that unfortunately illness had prevented his being present at the previous installation meeting, so that all he had seen of the I.P.M. was his work of that evening, upon which he congratulated him. He was pleased to be present on that occasion, for he had watched Bro. Loomes' career in the lodge, and was convinced that he would make a good Master. He hoped to have the pleasure of being present at many more installations in the the Islington Lodge, of which he had the honour of being the first Master.

The W.M., in reply to the toast of his health, thanked the Past Masters, officers, and brethren for the reception they had given him. He felt somewhat strange in his new position, but had no doubt he should soon acquire confidence in himself. He trusted to be able to carry out the duties in a manner satisfactory to the brethren, and should be very pleased if they would find him plenty of work to do during his year of office.

"The Health of the Initiate" was proposed, for which Bro. T. S. Hughes returned thanks saying that he should never forget the impressive ceremony through which he had passed.

In reply to the toast of "The Visitors," Bro. Shurmur P.P.G. Treas. Essex, who was very cordially received, said how gratified he was to see Bro. Loomes installed in the chair of the Islington Lodge. He had long been associated with him in lodge and chapter, and felt assured that he would discharge the duties of W.M. in a manner worthy of the lodge. He was sure the visitors would unite in felicitating the I.P.M. on the manner in which he had performed his duties in the lodge.

Bro. H. French Bromhead, W.M. 1662, said he had enjoyed himself very much that evening, both Masonically and in the fourth degree. He believed the career of the W.M. would bring credit and honour to the lodge as well as himself. He considered it all important that a W.M. should instal his successor. Sometimes, however, it was performed by deputy, sometimes perfunctorily, but that night admirably. He concluded by inviting the W.M. and Wardens to be present at the consecration of a new lodge, of which he was to be the first Master.

Bro. Westfield, P.P.G.S.B. Essex, expressed himself as very pleased with that, his first visit to the lodge.

The W.M. then proposed "The Installing Master."

Bro. Coxon, I.P.M., briefly replied.

"The Masonic Charities" and "The Past Masters" were replied to by Bro. Scarlett, P.M.

"The Treasurer and Secretary" and "The Officers of the Lodge" completed the toast list.

A very good programme had been arranged by Bro. T. E. Newman, in which Bros. Lloyd, Attwater, Bury, Amand, Isler, and Fred. Stephens took part, and the Tyler's toast brought a very successful evening to a close.

Ubique Lodge (No. 1789).—The quarterly meeting was held at the Criterion, Piccadilly, on the 12th, inst., with Bro. Major Hansard, R.A., W.M., in the chair, and about fifty brethren present, including Bros. General King, and Colonels Spragge, Ritchie, and others. The proceedings were of exceptional interest, Major O'Neill, R.A., was initiated: Bros. Major Churchward, and Lieut. Cheke, R.A., were passed; Bros. Captain Grierson, Lieut. Van Stranbenzee, and Staff-Sergeant Cameron raised; and Bros. Captains Inglis and Pickup, R.A., added to the roll of the lodge as joining members.

The Ubique Corps or Royal Artillery is everywhere distinguished by the ability of its members and their conscientious discharge of duty, and the lodge amply illustrated these characteristics of the corps on this occasion by the very able manner in which its W.M., Bro. Major Hansard exercised the Three Degrees without fault or fatigue.

Interest, however, culminated in the double ballot for W.M. elect for the ensuing year. The first ballot having returned Bro. Hansard, W.M., and Bro. Arnold at the head of the poll with 12 votes for each; and on a second ballot, the numbers were: Hansard, 21; Arnold, 15; thus resulting in the re-election of the W.M. It appears that since the foundation of the Ubique Lodge there has been only one previous instance of the W.M. being elected for two years in succession, viz.: in the case of Past Master, Bro. Lieut.-Col. J. T. Ritchie, R.A. In responding to the hearty congratulations of the assembled brethren, the Worshipful Master, Bro. Major Hansard, suitably expressed his appreciation of the exceptional distinction conferred upon him.

It is, perhaps, not necessary to add that the genial and beneficent aspects of Freemasonry were fully sustained in the banquet which followed the labours of the day, and in the contributions to the "broken column."

Creaton Lodge (No. 1791).—This flourishing and ever progressive lodge held its installation meeting at Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, the 8th inst., when there were present Bros. G. E. Higginson, W.M.; A. Love, I.P.M.; G. B. Johnston, S.W., W.M. elect; A. S. Wolter, P.M., acting J.W.; R. N. Larter, S.D.; J. Fryer, J.D.; P. G. Sturges, I.G.; J. Kift, Org.; A. B. Jupp, Asst. Org.; J. G. Moore, Stwd.; J. J. Cattle, P.M., Sec.; E. Austin, P.M., Treas.; A. J. Taylor, P.M.; R. H. Rogers, P.M.; J. Williams, P.M.; C. Rawley Cross, P.M.; J. Nielson, P.M.; J. Campbell Johnstone, R. Symmons, A. G. Wedmore, G. Tremeer, K. Slater, C. Williams, J. Sansom, B. Brett, H. Ridgley, F. S. Thomas, G. Hood, W. Russell, C. Marshall, E. C. Langley, C. H. Pedell, J. Taylor, W. Noel, R. J. Willder, J. Jupp, T. S. Melville, and J. Purnell. Visitors: Bros. R. H. Williams, P.M., P.P.G.D. Middx.; G. D. Crawford, P.M.; A. Gilbert, P.M.; F. Frye, P.M.; A. Holmes, P.M.; G. English, 901; H. F. E. Harrison, 2012; C.

P.M. 15.40; A. W. Burrell, 2033; M. C. Gossett, P.M. 66; and C. Gross, M.D., W.M. 2033.

The lodge having been opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, the ballot—taken in favour of Bros. James Startin, M.R.C.S. Eng., 2394; and H. J. Sharpe, M.R.C.S. Eng.; and Messrs. Herbert William Nix, B.A., M.B., B.C. Camb., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.; and John Roulledge Bosworth, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Edin.—proving unanimous, Bros. H. S. Simpson, and James Crooks, were past to the Second Degree, and Messrs. Nix and Bosworth were duly admitted and initiated, the W.M. even surpassing his usual masterly style in the performance of these ceremonies. The lodge voted 10 guineas to the Worshipful Master's list as Steward for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and two guineas for a poor medical brother. The W.M. announced that the Grand Chapter had granted the petition, which bore 19 signatures, in favour of the Esculapian Chapter. Letters and telegrams of apology for non-attendance were read from Bros. Belgrave Ninnis, M.D., I.P.M.; G. Danford Thomas, M.D., Treas.; Frank Oldfield, J.D.; and Professor G. H. Philipson, M.D., D.C.L., &c.

The lodge was then closed. The brethren afterwards dined together, and spent a pleasant social evening.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS.

DARWEN.

Lodge of Harmony and Industry (No. 38).—The annual meeting of this lodge, for the installation of W.M., and to celebrate the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, was held at the Masonic Rooms, on Thursday, the 8th inst. There was a large and influential gathering, including a numerous attendance of Past Masters and of visitors from the neighbouring lodges. After the formal opening of the lodge, and the confirmation of the minutes, the chair was taken by Bro. Franklin Thomas, 345, P.P.G. Reg. Oxfordshire, and P.P.S.G.W. East Lancs., as installing Master. The W.M. elect, Bro. Stubbs, was presented in due form, and, after the usual preliminaries, was installed into the chair by Bro. Thomas, with all the formalities of the Craft, and proclaimed, after which the ceremony was completed. The W.M. then appointed his officers, and they were invested, with appropriate addresses, by Bro. Wardley, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C. This is the 32nd occasion upon which Bro. Franklin Thomas has, year by year, without intermission, installed the successive Worshipful Masters. He is not a member of the lodge, and among its own members there are Past Masters fully competent to perform the ceremony of installation in as efficient a manner as they manifest in the ceremonies of the Three Craft Degrees, and in the Royal Arch; but they, and each of the Masters elect, year by year, express their unwillingness that a custom which has been observed for such an unusual length of time, should be discontinued, and Bro. Franklin Thomas never hesitates to accept an invitation so cordially offered as that of the lodge. It is highly probable that this case is without a parallel in the Craft, and it is one which, perhaps, will interest a considerable number of the readers of the *Freemason*. In 1892 the members of the lodge presented to Bro. Thomas a quarter-size portrait of himself, in full Masonic costume, as Provincial Senior Grand Warden, in recognition of his 30 years' services, and on the 8th inst. a replica of this portrait, in a smaller size, was placed upon the walls of their own lodge room, with a suitable inscription, recording in brief the interesting circumstance mentioned above, of which it is intended to be a memento.

MANCHESTER.

Arthur Sullivan Lodge (No. 2156).—The regular meeting was held on Wednesday, the 14th inst., at the Old Boar's Head. Bro. John Hulme, W.M., opened the lodge, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Wm. Booth, P.M., P.P.G.D. of C., at this stage, resumed the chair, and gave a prefect treat to the brethren assembled by performing the ceremony of raising in a most effective and impressive manner, after which the lodge was closed by the W.M. The ceremonies are all conducted with full musical service, which is a great pleasure to listen to.

Palatine Lodge (No. 247).—The regular meeting was held on Friday, the 10th inst., at the Palatine Hotel, Bro. Hubert J. Owen, W.M., presided. The minutes of the installation meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken for Bro. G. E. Preece, which proved favourable. The ballot was taken for three gentlemen, all being favourable they were initiated by the W.M., Bros. Fred. Broadsmith, P.M., P.P.G. Reg., I.P.M., and Harry Perry, P.M., whilst Bro. George Graham, J.W., gave the antient charge. "Hearty good wishes" were expressed by the visitors present, and the lodge was closed.

The following brethren were present: Bros. Hubert J. Owen, W.M.; Fred. Broadsmith, P.P.G.R., I.P.M.; W. J. Fawcus, S.W.; G. Graham, J.W.; John Newton, Sec.; Wm. Spencer, S.D.; J. Sharples, J.D.; Thos. Hill, I.G.; G. Thornton, G. L. Mills, J. W. Cook, G. S. Smith, P.M., P.G.O.; J. Hardwicke-Marsh, P.M.; Harry Perry, D.C.; George W. Owen, and Joseph Walker. Bro. G. E. Prince, 71, was a visitor.

NEWMARKET.

Etheldreda Lodge (No. 2107).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place at the White Hart Hotel on the 15th inst., when Bro. A. H. Ruston, W.M., was succeeded in the chair of K.S. by Bro. the Rev. L. R. Tuttielt, Prov. G. Chap. The duties of Installing Master were ably discharged by Bro. B. Chennell, P.P.S.G.W. The attendance included Bro. J. H. Gray, Deputy Prov. G.M., and other Provincial Grand Officers. Bro. L. R. Tuttielt, W.M., afterwards appointed and invested the officers for the year as follows: Bros. A. H. Ruston, P.P.G.P., I.P.M.; J. A. Dawson, P.P.G.P., S.W.; J. Turner, P.P.G. Org., J.W.; W. Hutchinson, P.P.G.S. of Wks., Chap.; Thomas Jennings, jun., P.P.J.G.W., Treas.; B. Chennell, P.P.S.G.W., Sec.; J. G. Chennell, S.D.; G. O. Mead, J.D.; W. B. Sheppard, P.P.A.G. D.C.; A. W. Aldrich, Org.; A. F. Briggs, I.G.; B. Chennell, Stwd.; and C. A. Stearne, Tyler. At the close of the lodge, the brethren adjourned to banquet.

WESTHAM.

Hadrian Lodge (No. 2483).—The usual monthly meeting of this—the baby—lodge of Sussex, was held on Wednesday, the 14th inst. Bro. Major E. Stillwell occupied the chair and opened the lodge. Bro. Nicholson was then passed. The W.M. then vacated the chair which was taken by the I.P.M., Bro. W. E. Morrison, who initiated Mr. E. R. Hookery into the mysteries of Freemasonry.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned for supper, where the usual toasts were proposed and duly honoured, that of "The Visitors" being responded to by Bro. J. Catford, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br. Devon. Before the lodge was closed two gentlemen were proposed for initiation and Bro. Catford as a joining member.

WYVENHOE.

Colne Lodge (No. 2477).—The fourth regular meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at the headquarters of the lodge, the Greyhound Hotel, when there was a large attendance of brethren. These included Bros. Claude Egerton-Green, W.M.; Gustavus Pratt, S.W.; Turner Ennew, J.W.; Capt. Ham, S.W.; J. Turff, acting J.D.; J. Harlow, I.G.; and others. Among the visitors were Bros. T. J. Ralling, Prov. Grand Sec.; Joseph Bowdell, W.M.; and several members of the Lodge of Hope, Brightonsea, and others.

The agenda was a very long one, viz., 12 raisings, four passings, and four initiations, all of which were carried out in a very able manner by the W.M., and although the business began at five o'clock, it was not concluded (with half-an-hour's interval) till 10.45. Before the lodge was closed the W.M. said they had a brother present to whom they were all much indebted, as it was he who performed in so able a manner at a minute's notice the consecration ceremony of that lodge.

At the dinner which followed that interesting meeting, Bro. Ralling in sounding the gavel broke a sounding board, and he had now the pleasure of asking Bro. Ralling's acceptance of that sounding board, upon which they had placed an inscription. He trusted Bro. Ralling would not look upon the intrinsic value of that little gift, as it in no way conveyed the measure of the esteem in which they all held him, but he hoped it would be to him an interesting memento of an interesting Masonic event in the province with the fortunes of which he had been so long identified. The W.M. then read the inscription, which is on a silver plate, as follows: "This sounding board was broken on the occasion of the consecration of the Colne Lodge, No. 2477, at Wyvenhoe, 24th October, 1893, by the Consecrating Officer, W. Bro. Thos. J. Ralling, P.A.G.D.C. Eng., Prov. G. Sec., and subsequently presented to him as a memento, by the lodge."

Bro. Ralling in accepting the gift said he should value it very highly as an evidence of the good feeling towards himself of the members of the Colne Lodge, in the welfare of which he should always take a deep interest.

Royal Arch.

Urban Chapter (No. 1196).—A convocation of this chapter was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Friday, the 2nd inst., when there were present, Comps. Fred. Eckstein, M.E.Z.; J. R. Roberts, H.; F. R. Farrow, J.; Robert Manuel, I.P.Z.; J. Pearson, P.Z., Treas.; G. Nelson Watts, P.Z., S.E.; T. Drew Bear, P.Z.; and A. J. Turner, S.N. Visitors: Comps. B. E. Blasby, P.Z. 875; H. Dehane, P.Z. 890, &c.; W. Eckstein, 95; R. E. H. Giffin, P.Z. 1572; J. Stephens, P.Z. 890; and S. Wells, P.Z. Adelaide No. 1., South Australia.

The chapter was opened, and the minutes of the last convocation were read by Comp. G. N. Watts, S.E., confirmed by the companions, and signed by the M.E.Z. The M.E.Z. announced that Bro. Charles Butler, P.M. 1196, was that evening a candidate for exaltation into Royal Arch Masonry. The ballot was then taken for Bro. C. Butler, and proved to be unanimously in his favour. The M.E.Z. then requested Comp. Robert Manuel to act as First Principal, and to exalt Bro. Charles Butler to the Supreme Degree of Royal Arch Mason. The historical, symbolical, and mystical portions of the Degree were respectively rendered by Comps. F. R. Farrow, J.; and J. R. Roberts, H., the M.E.Z. in the chair. Thereon Comp. Fred. Eckstein resumed the First Principal's chair, and the chapter was closed.

The companions then adjourned to Freemasons' Tavern for refreshment, after which the genial M.E.Z., Comp. Fred. Eckstein, humorously proposed the usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts, which were duly honoured.

Comp. Charles Butler in responding to the toast of "The Exalte," expressed his sense of the beauty of the ritual, and assured the companions how much he had been impressed by the ceremony.

All the visitors responded to the toast of their health, they bore eloquent testimony to the excellence of the work done in the chapter itself, and to the fact, also, that the rites of hospitality at the festive board had been worthily sustained.

Songs were given by Comps. Fred. Eckstein, M.E.Z.; G. Nelson Watts, P.Z., S.E.; Robert Manuel, I.P.Z.; and J. Stephens, P.Z. 890.

The companions separated after a convocation that was loyal to the best traditions alike of loyal working and bright and cheery social intercourse.

Star Chapter (No. 1275).—The installation meeting of the above chapter was held at the Guildhall Tavern, on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., when there were present, Comps. C. N. McIntyre North, M.E.Z.; C. Meierhoff, H.; F. Hilton, P.Z., acting J.; T. Grummant, P.Z., acting S.N.; C. H. Stone, acting P.S.; W. H. Smith, 1st A.S.; Edwards, 2nd A.S.; C. W. Williams, S.E.; J. Addington, P.Z.; C. Fleck, P.Z.; W. F. Crooke, P.Z.; G. Beredetti, P.Z.; Makeham, Fry, Targett, and Barr. Visitors: Comps. William Cock, P.Z. 1297, 2005, M.E.Z. 2272, P.G.S.N. Essex; Dewsnap, P.Z. 188, 837; and Kipps, P.Z. 79.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed, Bro. Urbane Lindsey, 92, was approved and elected as a candidate, and Bro. George Wyatt, 1359, was exalted. Comp. C. N. McIntyre North, the outgoing M.E.Z., installed as his successor Comp. C. Meierhoff in the chair of Z., who, in his turn, installed and invested the following: Comps. C. H. Stone, J.; T. Grummant, P.Z., Treas.; C. W. Williams, P.Z., S.E.; W. H. Smith, P.S.;

J. H. Edwards, 1st A.S.; and J. Stuart Targett, 2nd A.S. The investiture of Comp. G. H. Martin, H. elect, being absent on the Continent, and Comp. W. Eckersall, S.N. elect, on account of illness, were deferred. On the motion of Comp. Carl Fleck a jewel was presented to the I.P.Z. for his services during the past year. The M.E.Z. in placing it on his breast said it needed no remarks on his part to remind the companions of the perfect manner in which the I.P.Z. had worked the ceremonies and sustained the reputation of the chapter; the jewel was a fitting acknowledgment of the close of the most successful year the companions had witnessed for a very long time. The S.E. having announced a most satisfactory result of the audit, on the motion of Comp. F. Hilton, P.Z., and C. Fleck, P.Z., was entered in the minutes.

The chapter was closed, and the brethren adjourned for their well-earned refreshment.

The usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts having been given and received in the usual enthusiastic manner, Comp. McIntyre North, I.P.Z., rose to propose "The Health of the M.E.Z.," and said the future of the chapter was well assured under the rule of a companion noted for his good qualities, tact, and *savoir faire*. During the last year he (the I.P.Z.) had been fortunate in exalting three excellent candidates, and he was pleased to know that, owing to the genial influence of the M.E.Z., more candidates were coming forward. He trusted that the year to come would be even more successful than the one that was past, and he wished their M.E.Z. a very prosperous year.

Comp. Meierhoff, M.E.Z., in briefly replying, said he little knew how many good qualities had lain dormant in his breast until he heard the long list enumerated by the I.P.Z. He would now try and cultivate them, he hoped for and looked forward to plenty of work and a happy year of office.

The M.E.Z. then proposed the most important toast of the evening, "The Health of the Exalte." He felt sure he was the right sort, and would do credit to the recommendation of those who proposed him. His friend, Bro. Lindsey, who had that evening been elected, was prevented by his engagements from being in time, but he would be ready for the next meeting.

The exalte, Comp. G. Wyatt, thanked the M.E.Z. and the companions for their hearty welcome to the Royal Arch, and Comp. North, who some 12 months ago raised him in his mother lodge, and that evening had exalted him in the chapter. He trusted he would do credit to the principles of the Order, and would do all he could to further the interests of the chapter.

The "Health of the Visitors," was then given by the M.E.Z.

Comp. Kipps, P.Z. 79, said he could hardly be considered as a visitor. As an honorary member, he always made a point of attending the installation banquets, and he was pleased to see, after years of inaction, candidates exalted at that and the previous installation.

Comp. Dr. William Cock, P.G.S.N. Essex, said he was almost afraid that they had coupled the wrong man with the toast; it was one of his weaknesses that he was unable to make a speech. He had been almost afraid that he would not have been in time to be present at the excellent working of which he had heard so much, and he was very glad he was early enough to hear the whole of the R.A. ritual worked in the chapter. It was a great treat to visit different chapters and see the different workings, and the rendering of the ritual given that evening by Comp. North ably sustained the great reputation of the Star Chapter. The M.E.Z. was the new central star of the chapter, and he congratulated him on being encircled by so many other bright stars, who, like Comps. Grummant, Stone, Hilton, and McIntyre North were each a Masonic world in themselves. The refreshment, like the labour, was excellent, and he hoped his friend, Comp. Grummant, would not forget him in the future.

Comp. Dewsnap, P.Z., in returning thanks, said all had heard of the good working of the Star Chapter. He had not been disappointed, but had been more than satisfied, and he trusted that the companions would have plenty of work, a good year, and every prosperity.

The M.E.Z., in proposing "The Health of H. and J.," said that Comp. Martin was unfortunately away on the Continent, but his heart, no doubt, was with Comp. Stone. The J. was well-known as having done more work than anyone else in the chapter. He was one of those useful members who were indispensable to the good working of a chapter, and now he was off the shelf the chapter would benefit by his more extended sphere of action.

Comp. C. H. Stone, J., in response, said it was to him a proud position to return thanks as J. in his mother chapter, after waiting nearly six years. Two months ago he had a serious illness, from which he had recovered, through the mercy of the G.A.O.F.U., and he took the opportunity of publicly thanking the many companions and brethren for the gratifying expressions of sympathy he had received on all hands, and hoped he would be spared for years to come as a member of that chapter.

In response to the toast of "The Past Principals," Comp. F. Hilton returned thanks. He said that owing to the unfortunate location the chapter had no work to do for some years, although good work had been done by its members in the Old Concord, Rose, and other chapters, but during the five meetings they had held in their new place, they had five exaltees of excellent quality, who, if they attended the chapter of instruction, of which he was the Preceptor, would speedily become qualified to fill the most important positions.

Comp. T. Grummant, P.Z., as Treasurer, was in a happy and an unhappy position. The M.E.Z. had called him the grasping Treasurer, but he had, as a rule, nothing to grasp. That was the unhappy position he had hitherto occupied; now he was in a happy position, for while at the last audit there was a normal deficiency of some £2, that year he had a nice little balance in hand, and there was the certainty of his being able to grasp something more in the future if he could only moderate the desires of the S.E.

Comp. Williams, S.E., thanked the companions very heartily, as the oldest P.Z. and S.E. from the commencement of the chapter, and he hoped he would be spared for many years to benefit the chapter by filling the proud position he still occupied, to help with advice and encouragement, and by doing everything he could to promote the prosperity of the companions.

"The Health of the Officers" was then given.

Comp. W. H. Smith, P.S., said he would endeavour to say a few words in response to a toast he had not expected to reply to, as he relied on Comp. W. Eckersall

being present to do so, who, however, was too ill, and he was sure they all hoped their true-hearted friend and companion would be with them next time, steady in principle, patient in sickness and sorrow, sympathetic with the misfortune of others. The void caused by his absence was an eloquent testimony of the esteem in which he was held. With regard to himself and assistants, they hoped, by patience and perseverance, to do credit to the offices to which they had been appointed.

Comps. Edwards and Targett also replied.

During the evening the Exaltée elect, Bro. Lindsey, and Bro. Tinney, P.M. 1319, by their vocal abilities, made the "moments wing their way with pleasure" until the Janitor's toast, like the curfew bell, warned the hearers that the day was far spent, the hour of parting was at hand, and that another P.Z. had been added to the muster-roll of the Star Chapter.

Mark Masonry.

MANCHESTER.

St. Andrew's Lodge (No. 34).—The installation meeting was held on Tuesday, the 13th instant, at Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street. There was the largest attendance there has been for some years past. The chair was taken by Bro. G. S. Smith, W.M., P.G. Org. The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Joseph Truelove Richardson, P.M., P.P.G. I. of W., resumed the chair for the purpose of installing Bro. G. A. Myers, S.W., W.M. elect, which ceremony was effectively rendered. Bro. J. M. Sinclair, P.M., P.P.G.M.O., addressed the W.M., Bro. Richardson the rest.

The following brethren were present: Bros. G. S. Smith, Prov. G. Org., W.M.; G. A. Myers, S.W.; J. M. Veal, M.O.; J. M. Sinclair, P.M., P.P.G.M.O., Treas.; Samuel Kelly, P.M., P.G.S. Eng.; W. M. Nicholl, P.M., P.G.D. Eng., Sec.; Joseph Truelove Richardson, P.M., P.P.G. I. of W.; Clare Edgar Towell, P.M., P.P.G.S.O.; J. Walker, J.O.; J. Hardwicke-Marsh, Chap.; J. Sharples, R. of M.; J. Laurisch, S.D.; J. Lawrenson, J.D.; J. Ormrod, I.G.; and A. E. Locke, Stwd. Bro. Charles Heywood, P.M., P.P.G.M.O., was a visitor.

GUERNSEY.

Sarnian Lodge (No. 425).—We are glad to chronicle the steady progress of this young lodge. The installation meeting took place on Monday evening, the 12th inst., at the Masonic Hall, Le Marchant-street, and for the first time in its history, the lodge was enabled to supply sufficient of its own Past Masters, to form the usual board. Bro. Lovell, a very zealous and energetic brother, was placed in the chair of A. and the following were appointed officers: Bro. Le Page, S.W.; Rowcliffe, J.W.; J. B. Nickols, M.O.; Mellish, S.O.; Le Masurier, J.O.; De Jersey, Treas.; Geraghty, Sec.; Lainé, S.D.; De Tausserand, J.D.; and Richard, I.G. Bro. T. M. Richard was invested I.P.M., and Bro. Balfour Cockburn was the Installing Master.

Knights Templar.

WEYMOUTH.

All Souls' Preceptory (No. 31).—The installation meeting of this old preceptory was held at the Masonic Hall, on Thursday afternoon, the 15th inst., the following, amongst others, being present: Sir Knights Sir R. N. Howard, Prov. Prior; Col. Skene, G. J. G. Gregory, G. B. Welsford, H. G. B. Frampton, Zillwood Milledge, E.P. elect; Rev. F. Monday, J. A. Sherren, Dr. Browning, S. S. Milledge, and F. W. Hettye.

The usual routine business having been transacted, the installation ceremony was ably performed by Sir Knight H. Tizard George, and the following officers were appointed by the E.P., Sir Knight Zillwood Milledge: Sir Knights Rev. F. Monday, Constable; W. B. Morgan, Marshal; Col. Skene, Chap.; H. Tizard George, Reg.; Dr. Allan McLean, Treas. (re-elected); J. A. Sherren, Sub-Marshal; Dr. Browning, 1st S.B. (Beau.); H. J. Groves, 2nd S.B. (Vex. Bel.); F. W. Hettye, Capt. of Guards and Herald; and S. S. Milledge, Chamberlain.

Regrets at non-attendance were received from Sir Knights J. E. Le Fenve, F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., Pelly Hooper, W. M. Heath, J. H. Groves, W. E. Brennan, Russell Patey, W. Watts, Allan McLean, and others.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the sir knights dined together under the presidency of the E.P., the usual loyal and Templar toasts being given, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

This preceptory has a number of energetic and well-read sir knights, and there is every probability it will increase in numbers.

Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Mount Calvary Chapter (No. 3).—A meeting of this chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Golden-square, on the 9th inst. Among those present were Bros. G. Pigache, M.W.S.; G. Grimwood, J.P., Prelate; Nelson Prower, M.A., 30°, 2nd General; W. Paas, P.M.W.S., 30°, Treas.; Captain T. C. Walls, P.M.W.S., Recorder; L. Steele, 30°, Grand Marshal; W. Maple, Raphael; Corrie Jackson, Herald; Dr. Lott, 31°, Org.; E. Roberts, Asst. Org.; T. W. Coffin, M.D., 30°, P.M.W.S.; G. A. Berkeley, P.M.W.S.; G. Graveley, 30°, P.M.W.S.; F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M.W.S.; H. J. Lardner, 30°, P.M.W.S.; Lieut.-Col. F. J. Stohwasser, 30°, P.M.W.S.; Dr. Hinton, M.A.; V. Jagielski, M.D.; and Capt. A. E. Baldwin, Ill. Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., 33°, and Ex. Bro. Bonny were visitors.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. Ben Johnson and Christopher Slater were impressively perfected by Ill. Bro. Lieut.-Col. F. J. Stohwasser, 30°, I.P.M.W.S. A letter was read from the widow of the late Ill. Bro. Dr. Ace, 30°, P.M.W.S., thanking the chapter for its vote of condolence. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. Major W. B. Williamson, J.P., 30°, 1st General; Major J. E. Anderson,

30°, P.M.W.S.; C. Tayleur, M.A., P.M.W.S.; Francis Smith, J. Moore Smith, J. Speller, A. W. Humphreys, W. Fisher, W. J. Mason, M.D., and many others.

The chapter was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Café Royal, where an excellent banquet was served. Upon the removal of the cloth the usual toasts followed.

Ill. Bro. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., 33°, responded fluently on behalf of "The Supreme Grand Council," and in the course of his speech congratulated the newly perfected brethren upon having received the Degree in so old a chapter, and by so admirable an exponent of the ritual as Bro. Lieut.-Col. Stohwasser.

Ill. Bros. Dr. Coffin and Stohwasser responded for "The Past Sovereigns," and the latter was presented with a Past Sovereign's jewel.

During the evening a musical entertainment was given by Bro. F. Egbert Roberts and other talented vocalists, kindly assisted by the instrumental efforts of Bros. Dr. Lott and Dr. Hinton.

The proceedings did not terminate till a late hour.

LADIES' NIGHT OF THE STRONG MAN LODGE, No. 45.

For the fourth year in succession this old lodge, which was established in 1733, held its Ladies' Night with even greater success than attended its predecessors. So popular have these annual gatherings become that it was found it would be impossible to have this year's meeting at the old rendezvous of the lodge, the Guildhall Tavern, and the brethren were compelled to go outside the City boundary for a room where the large number of brethren and ladies who were to be entertained could be conveniently accommodated. They therefore selected the Holborn Restaurant, where the Royal Venetian Chamber afforded sufficient space for the company. Through the energy and tact of the W.M., Bros. Whitby, the Secretary, H. T. Nell, Hunt, P.M., Cobb, S.W., and many other brethren, the tables were admirably arranged, and while the attendance of the brethren, their wives, sisters, and daughters was very large, no one was inconvenienced. To the brethren, through whose instrumentality such a favourable issue of their efforts was due, it must have been extremely gratifying to hear a generally-expressed opinion that it was one of the most delightful entertainments the company had ever taken part in.

The following is a full list of the brethren and ladies who attended: Bro. A. M. and Mrs. Whitby; Bro. A. and Mrs. Whitby; Mrs. Elston; Miss Whitby; Bros. L. B. Liddall, A. B. Liddall, Tait; Miss Fenn; Mrs. Fenn; Mrs. B. S. Liddall; Bro. W. H. and Mrs. Liddall; Bro. Cassap; Miss Liddall; Bro. F. S. Liddall; Bro. and Mrs. Larter; Bro. Thorncroft; Bro. and Mrs. Grove; Bro. and Mrs. Durrell; Bro. and Mrs. Barrett; Bro. and Mrs. Ockelford; Bro. J. W. Langdon; Bro. Mrs., and Miss Preager; Bro. and Mrs. Bray; Bro. and Mrs. Inchbold; Bro. and Mrs. Rees; Bro. and Mrs. Burgess; Bro. Tom and Mrs. Taylor; Bro. and Mrs. Virgo; Bro. H. R. and Mrs. Medcalf; Bro. W. and Mrs. Medcalf; Mrs. Saunders; Bro. and Mrs. Vidler; Mrs. Dawson; Bro. and Mrs. Emerson; Mrs. Palmer; Bro. Edmunds; Bro. and Mrs. Selmes; Bro. and Miss Bristow; Bro. and Mrs. Birch; Bro. Ashford; Bro. and Mrs. Bromley Hall; Bro. A. Hall; Bro. and Mrs. Hooker; Bro. E. M. Hall; Miss Hall; Bros. J. Heath, G. Manuelle, Bro. and Mrs. Pond Jones; Bro., Mrs., and Miss Armfield; Bro. and Mrs. Sedgwick; Bro. and Mrs. Jenkinson; Bro. and Mrs. Cuer; Bro. and Mrs. Rake; Bro. and Mrs. Cundick; Bro. Flint; Bro. and Mrs. Dalton; Mrs. Fowler; Miss Flint; Bro. and Mrs. Milton; Bro. and Mrs. Ingram; Bro. and Mrs. Palmer; Bros. Bird, Coxon, Cobb; Mrs. Bruckwell; Mrs. Charleston; Bro. Sharp; Bro. and Mrs. Reed; Bro. and Mrs. Clarke; Bro. and Mrs. Barnard; Bro. and Mrs. Sammes; Bro. and Mrs. Schweitzer; Bro. and Mrs. Hunt; Bro. and Mrs. Munday; Bro. and Mrs. Nell; Bro. G. G. and Miss Symons; Bro. H. Massey; Miss Alice Motterway; Bro. Barry Lindon; Miss Louise Jenkins; and Bros. R. B. Hopkins and Ager Grover.

After dinner the following selection of music was beautifully performed: Song, "Venezia," Miss Alice Motterway; song, "Wonders of the deep," Bro. Barry Lindon; humorous song, "And the verdict was?" Bro. Tom Taylor; song, "Rory, darlin'," Miss Louise Jenkins; silver bells, "For you," Bro. R. B. Hopkins; song, "Take a pair of sparkling eyes," Bro. Ager Grover; humorous song, "The stammering sweethearts," Bro. Tom Burgess; song, "Faithful ever," Miss Alice Motterway; song, "Big Ben," Bro. Barry Lindon; humorous song, "Masquerade ball," Bro. Tom Taylor; song, "Ashore," Miss Louise Jenkins; silver bells, "The chimes," Bro. R. B. Hopkins; song, "The dream of my heart," Bro. Ager Grover; and humorous song, "Jacob Strauss," Bro. Tom Burgess.

Bro. W. Emerson acted as accompanist, and the musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. Tom Taylor.

The speeches were very few.

Bro. GEORGE SYMONS proposed "The Health of the W.M.," to which Bro. WHITBY responded, assuring the brethren that he had the interest of the lodge at heart.

Bro. HUNT, P.M., proposed "The Ladies," and said he felt a very heavy responsibility rested upon him. The toast was the ladies, and if it was not for the ladies the receivers of the toast would not be present. The ladies were somewhat of an innovation in Freemasonry; ladies' nights used not to be given by the brethren, but they were now pretty general, and they

were very highly appreciated, especially by the ladies, who, generally speaking, enjoyed themselves very much. He could assure the ladies that the brethren of the Strong Man Lodge were delighted to see them amongst them. He hoped that annually they would make an endeavour to be with the brethren at these gatherings. When they got ladies among them it showed that it was not all ladies who thought Masons bad; some ladies differed as to good and bad Masons. But if the ladies considered they would find that Masons had very much to be thankful for—thankful to the ladies for. They had the Queen as the Patron of the Craft, and the Baroness Burdett Coutts was a strong supporter. Many ladies were philanthropic donors to everything that was good, and their names were not wanting on the list of supporters of the Masonic Order. Ladies were very much connected with Freemasonry, if not directly, they were indirectly. Many ladies were recipients of Masonic liberality. Some had fallen into deep distress, and they were grateful recipients of Masonic Charity. They had only to look round and see the Benevolent Institution, and they would find no one more grateful than a lady. Then there were little girls left orphans; they were little ladies in their way. Masons had the proud position of taking care of many of these; they protected them, clothed, educated, and supported them, and gave them a start in life. He said without fear of contradiction that Masons at least might claim that they did for the gentler sex as much as they did for themselves. He could assure the ladies that there was nothing to be ashamed of in seeing their husbands or brothers Masons. If they were kept out at night, the ladies might rely on it they had plenty of work to do. They worked very hard for the poor, and when they could get them into the Institutions they were only too glad, but it cost a lot of work. The ladies should remember that when Masons came home they were much cheered when they found the wife or the sister pleased to see them.

Bro. COBB, S.W., replied, and assured the brethren on behalf of the ladies, that they were only sorry there were not more of these gatherings. They would always be pleased to be present at them, seeing they were so well received. Those who had been at former gatherings were much more pleased at the present meeting.

The W.M. proposed "The Health of Bro. Nell, P.M., and Secretary," who had worked very hard for the success of these gatherings, and without whom they would not have been enjoying themselves so much that night.

Bro. NELL said, in response, that it gave him great pleasure to promote the interests of Masonry in general, and of the Strong Man Lodge in particular. That night had been as successful as—he thought more successful than—any of the previous gatherings. The W.M. intimated that he (Bro. Nell) had had all the work to do. He had had some of it to do, but Bros. Emerson and Taylor had worked very hard in getting the music. As long as he was Secretary he hoped he should try to do his duty, and he would ask the ladies to assist him. He sent out post cards with all the notices, asking the brethren to reply whether they would come or not, and how many they would bring. Very few responded. An answer gave great facility towards making proper arrangements, as it enabled the managers to make their calculations. In future he hoped the ladies would take care that answers were sent.

The company then dispersed.

MASONIC CHARITIES IN WEST LANCASHIRE

A meeting of those charged with the management of the West Lancashire Hamer Benevolent Institution for Aged and Distressed Freemasons was held on the 16th instant at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, Liverpool, under the presidency of Bro. R. G. Bradley, P.M. 249. There was a numerous attendance, and in the course of the proceedings an annuity of £26 was granted to each of six applicants.

The 20th annual report of the Executive Committee (of which Bro. J. R. Bottomley is the Hon. Secretary and Bro. T. J. Jarman the Hon. Treasurer) is as follows: The Provincial Grand Secretary in his last report informed you that the number of Freemasons in this province now total 7160, being an increase on the previous year of 403, but, notwithstanding this increase in the number of our members, the donations and subscriptions to this Institution are only £9 over the amount received last year. We are sorry to receive so little support from lodges outside the Liverpool district, as out of 66 lodges so situated, only 20 have subscribed to our funds, whilst, on the other hand, only one lodge out of the 41 town lodges failed to make us some contribution. We do not expect these country lodges to give so largely as town lodges, but we certainly do think that every member ought to contribute at least the modest sum of half-a-crown a year, in addition to what may be granted from the funds of the lodge. But whilst our income is standing still, our expenditure is gradually increasing, and during the past year has amounted to £236, distributed amongst 13 poor Masons, against £165 to 10 distressed Freemasons in the previous year. From the increased number of our members (which during the past nine years amount to 2572) we may in future years expect more calls for assistance from this excellent Institution than has hitherto been made. It is therefore but prudent to prepare to meet any applications which may be made by those who are in distress. As we have alluded to the many lodges who have not assisted, so we must, on the other hand, express our thanks to

such lodges as 823, 1182, 1387, 1473, and 2215; but the lodge which has made the largest contribution ever received is the Kirkdale Lodge, No. 1756, and, although not made in the exact style in which we should like to see it (half-a-crown from each member), yet we are content, and trust they will continue their liberal contributions. We also desire to thank all the other lodges which are regular and consistent givers according to their means, and who, when the time comes to ask our aid, may do so without scruple and without diffidence.

On the same day, under the presidency of Bro. Capt. J. D. Murray, Past Grand Treasurer, a meeting of the Governors of the West Lancashire Alpass Benevolent Institution for Distressed Widows of Freemasons was also held at the Masonic Hall, Hope-street, when the applications of 15 candidates were considered, the result being that all the appeals were granted, the gross sum thus voted in annuities being £263, the individual grants ranging from £12 to £26.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The General Committee of Grand Lodge and the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. Robert Grey, President of the Board of Benevolence, was in the President's chair; Bro. James Brett in the Senior Vice-President's chair; and Bro. C. J. R. Tijou, A.G.P., in the unavoidable absence of Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, through illness, was in the Junior Vice-President's chair. The other brethren who attended were Bros. E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; A. A. Pendlebury, A.G. Sec.; W. Dodd, Neville Green, and G. S. Recknell (from the Grand Secretary's office); Henry Garrod, Geo. R. Langley, David D. Mercer, Wm. Vincent, S. H. Goldschmidt, S. Valentine, Wm. Fisher, S. V. Abraham, W. M. Bywater, J. H. Matthews, C. Dairy, Wm. P. Brown, Robert A. Gowan, James Bunker, Rev. J. S. Brownrigg, P. H. Walterlow, Walter Martin, C. F. Hogard, J. Gadsder, E. Valeriani, C. M. C. Ellis, J. M. Ellinger, C. Sheppard, C. D. Hoblyn, O. C. Robin, E. Apelt, J. Pickett, J. W. Burgess, A. Lefeber, J. Brindley James, William Carey, W. Boyce, G. Skegg, J. Mitchell, G. Ransford, J. C. Radford, J. Lott, C. E. Coolling, F. G. Howard, Robert Gresley Hall, H. Harbottle, Henry A. Tobias, J. Cruse, G. C. Hughes, E. Killman, J. Hambleton, W. H. Toye, Alfred W. Bush, R. J. Vincent, F. Thomas Rushton, C. Henry Stone, James E. Carter, J. H. Whadcoat, W. Wood, T. Ball, Henry J. Thrower, H. Massey, and Henry Sadler, G. Tyler.

At the General Committee of Grand Lodge the agenda paper of Grand Lodge of March 7th was laid before the brethren, and the form of summons for the meeting, which was in a special form on account of the numerous brethren who are expected to attend for the election of Grand Treasurer, was agreed to. It is proposed to open Grand Lodge at 2 p.m. of that day, when the minutes will be read, and the election of Grand Master and Grand Treasurer will be proceeded with, and Grand Lodge will be called off till 7 p.m., and the poll for Grand Treasurer will be open till 7.15 p.m., after which no further ballot papers will be received. Everyone who attends must be properly clothed Masonically, and must sign, as is usual, at the Quarterly Communications. When the Board of Masters was closed, the Board of Benevolence was opened, and the recommendations to the Grand Master made at last monthly meeting to the amount of £370 were confirmed. There were 41 cases on the new list, which were qualified by lodges in the metropolitan district, and at Croydon, Totnes, Malton, Liverpool, Burslem, Burton, Petersfield, San Fernando (Trinidad), Ivybridge, Peterborough, Gateshead, Northampton, Birmingham, Hulme, Jersey, Salisbury, Gibraltar, Aspatia, and Enfield. Two petitions were withdrawn, three deferred, and one was dismissed. The remainder were awarded a total sum of £720. There was one recommendation to Grand Lodge for £50; three petitions were recommended to the Grand Master for £40 each, and five for £30 each; and there were fifteen grants of £20 each, nine of £10 each, and two for £6 each.

"THE OLD MASONIANS."

On Friday, last week, the above Association of "old boys" of our Institution at Wood Green gave a concert at Anderton's Hotel, which was unanimously considered the most successful yet held this season. It took the form of a "ladies' night," and was presided over by Bro. J. M. McLeod, President of the Association, who was accompanied by Mrs. McLeod and his two sons. A company of about 200 ladies and gentlemen were present, and included Bro. Mason, Bro. Mather, and Miss Harkom (Matron of the School).

The CHAIRMAN, in opening, drew attention to the benevolent objects of the Association, and of the good work being done by its members. He also stated that that evening had been originally fixed for the concert annually given in aid of the Benevolent and Grant Fund, but this year the members intended giving a dramatic performance in April, when he hoped all friends would rally round and support the society.

The programme, which had been specially arranged by Mr. Langford Palmer, was a varied one. Miss Hamilton Smith gave a fine delivery of "The Three Fishers," and "Annie Laurie," and also contributed a most effective mandoline solo; Miss C. Philipps Keeley, R.A.M., besides accompanying the songs, gave a banjo solo which met with much applause; Miss Blanche Gough's songs, "Killarney," "Titania's Cradle," and

"Where Love is Kind," were most artistically rendered and Miss Monica Lawless again favoured the society with two of her charming whistling solos. We are pleased to say that the two last ladies are sisters to old boys. Mr. C. P. O'Doherty's (joint Hon. Sec.) songs were well rendered, Mr. C. Terry gave a spirited recitation, and Mr. Ned Lavestre caused much amusement by his humorous contributions. Mr. Langford Palmer in his numerous selections proved himself to be a humourist of the first order, his many songs were given with great characteristic comicality, and elicited the greatest laughter. The programme concluded with the musical sketch "Cups and Saucers," rendered by Miss Hamilton Smith and Mr. Langford Palmer, much to the satisfaction of the audience.

At the conclusion, Mr. R. S. CHANDLER, Hon. Treasurer, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his kindness in presiding.

Bro. McLEOD suitably replied, and announced that the association would hold a Cinderella dance on March 2nd, and trusted it would be a success.

The evening altogether was a most pleasant one, and reflected great credit to the Stewards, Messrs. Uwins, Packer, Gough, O'Doherty, Barnes, Scurr, and Bro. Williams.

Our Portrait Gallery of Worshipful Masters.



BRO. A. ARROWSMITH,

whose portrait appears in our Gallery of Worshipful Masters this week, was initiated in the Westbourne Lodge, No. 733, in 1880. After filling the various offices leading up to the Chair he was installed Worshipful Master on Thursday, the 15th instant. He has served as Steward for the three Institutions—one each for the "Boys" and "Girls," and twice for the "Benevolent," and is a Life Governor of each.

NORTH LONDON MASONIC BALL.

The final meeting of the Committee of the North London Masonic Ball was held on Tuesday evening, the 20th inst., at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, when the balance sheet of the ninth annual ball was adopted. This showed a profit of £73 10s., or 14 life subscriptions to the Masonic Charities, making a total of nearly £300 subscribed to the Charitable Institutions during the last four years, a result which must be considered immensely satisfactory.

After the meeting the Committee dined with their friends, when Bro. HERBERT SPRAKE, President, referred to the successful issue of this year's ball, and the interest which must universally be taken in the work of the Masonic Institutions.

Bro. THOMAS GLASS, Treas., in replying for the Executive, thanked those brethren who had worked with him on the Ball Committee.

Bro. CAPT. LURCOTT, Sec., in reply, to a special toast assured the brethren of the gratification it afforded him to render any assistance in connection with the ball, and referred to the highly successful results of the last four years.

The members of the Committee present were Bros. Herbert Sprake, President; Thomas Glass, Treas.; G. Cook, E. W. Davies, C. W. Davies, A. Holder, A. Humphreys, F. J. Humphreys, Lambert Perry, J. Potter, and Capt. Lurcott, Sec.

The toast of "The Visitors" brought a pleasant evening to a close.

ANNUAL SUPPER OF THE ZETLAND LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 511.

The members and friends of this lodge held their annual supper at the Holborn Restaurant, on Saturday, the 17th inst., which was in every way a success. The President, Bro. Mulvey, P.M., occupied the post of honour in his usual masterly and kindly way, whilst Bro. Marx, P.M., undertook the duties of Vice-Chair, assisted by Bro. Hazel, P.M., and several of the members.

A great feature of the evening was the presentation of a splendidly-fitted travelling bag, mounted in silver, to Bro. Mulvey, P.M., the Preceptor, also a very fine tantalus and cigar-cabinet combined, in oak, mounted in silver, and fully charged, to Bro. J. P. Painter, the Hon. Sec., both of whom are indefatigable in Freemasonry in general, and this lodge of instruction in particular, and they richly merited these tokens of the esteem in which they are both held by every member of the lodge.

The presentation was made by Bro. E. STYLES, P.M., on behalf of the members, in his usual affable manner.

After the supper was over, the brethren settled themselves down to enjoy the harmony contributed by Bro. Engel, whose masterly manipulation of the pianoforte was highly appreciated by all.

The following brethren also acquitted themselves in an admirable manner: Bros. Styles, P.M.; E. Loder, C. Gammon, J. Ward, G. Clampitt Goldfinch, and Conrade, and added greatly to the success of the evening.

After the usual toasts had been duly honoured, and the musical portion of the programme exhausted, the meeting terminated, all having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Order of the Secret Monitor.

Zacharie Conclave (No. 9).—A meeting was held on the 16th inst., at the Holborn Restaurant. Present: Bros. Sir Thomas Wright, P.G. Stwd., S.R.; H. E. Strange Saunders, G.; H. W. Kiallmark, P.G.S.B., Treas.; Chas. M. Jessop, P.G.C., Sec.; W. Amor, Sentinel; W. C. Canton, P.G.G.; and W. J. Spratling, G.R.

The minutes of the installation meeting were read and confirmed. W. Bro. Frederic Marshall, P.G.R., being a member of the conclave, was nominated for the office of Grand Steward. R.W. Bro. G. Danford Thomas, P.G.V., was elected by ballot for the office of S.R. in October next. W. Bro. H. W. Kiallmark was elected also by ballot for the office of Treasurer, and Bro. Wm. Amor, on show of hands, to the office of Sentinel. Two brethren were nominated as Auditors. The Secretary regretted the unavoidable absence, on account of public duty, of Bros. Belgrave Ninnis and G. Danford Thomas.

The brethren afterwards dined together.

Scotland.

KILWINNING.

Mother Lodge Kilwinning (No. 0).—This ancient lodge held its regular monthly communication in their new and commodious buildings, Kilwinning. In the unavoidable absence of Bro. the Hon. Thomas Cochrane, M.P., M.W.G.M., and P.G.M. for Ayrshire, Bro. W. Scott, J.P., D.M., presided. He was assisted in his duties by Bros. G. Jack, S.M.; James Boyd, S.W.; Wm. Greig, acting J.W.; Laurence Matheson, Sec.; George Muir, Treas.; Rev. A. W. M'Kinlay, Chap., and various other office-bearers. The lodge was opened in due form, the business tabled for discussion was then proceeded with. Thereafter, on the proposal of Bro. Scott, Bro. T. R. Richards, of St. David's, 123, Tarbelton, Burns' Mother Lodge, was affiliated as a member of the lodge. Bro. Richards had the honour of being the first obligated on the handsome new altar presented by Bro. Cochrane.

The altar is oblong, rising three steps from the base. On the front panel is the seal of the Mother Lodge; on the right the Cochrane arms, with the inscription: "The Honourable Thomas Cochrane, M.P., M.W.G.M., of Mother Lodge, 1893;" on the left panel is the inscription: "William, Lord Cochrane, Grand Warden of Mother Lodge, 1674;" while on the band above the panels, is a wreath of thistles with compass and square. On the eastern panel is the inscription: "Presented by the Honourable Thomas Cochrane, M.P., M.W.G.M., and P.G.M. for Ayrshire, 21st December, 1893." On the top of the altar is the foundation stone of the old lodge, with a brass plate, inlaid, and bearing the following inscription in Latin: "Mother Kilwinning, laid 24th March, A.D. 1779, the Right Honourable Archibald, eleventh Earl of Eglintoun, Most Worshipful Grand Master; John Allan Depute Master; Robert Laughlan, Secretary; recovered at the removal of the old lodge, and placed in the altar of Mother Kilwinning, 21st December, 1893; The Honourable Thomas Cochrane, M.P., M.W.G.M., and P.G.M. for Ayrshire; William Scott, J.P., D.M.; Laurence Matheson, Secretary.

The following chairs were also presented to the lodge: The Master's chair by Bro. D. R. Clarke, M.A., Glasgow; the I.P.M.'s chair, by Bro. Major F. W. Allan, Glasgow; the D.M.'s chair, by Bro. W. H. D. Cleminson, of Ashgrove; the S.D.'s chair, by Bro. R. C. King, town-clerk, Kilwinning; and the J.D.'s chair, by Bro. Wm. Lambert Shaw, Glasgow. On each chair is carved the badge of office, while on the back is the name of the donor. The altar and chairs are made of dark oak, and form a very handsome collection of Masonic furniture. Some of the furniture of the old lodge is still in use. While the lodge is not completely furnished, the S.W.'s and J.W.'s chairs are promised by Bro. J. B. Wilson, architect, Glasgow. The Warden's columns have been presented by Bro. Galbraith, Glasgow, and the handsome set of working tools by Bro. Agar, Consul of the Argentine Republic, Glasgow.

This old lodge is now housed in a manner befitting its ancient and honourable history, and while there are a few requisites necessary to make it replete, no doubt the vast number of her sons scattered over the wide world will lend a helping hand in accomplishing this worthy object. The handsome premises were duly consecrated by Bro. the Hon. Thomas Cochrane, in December last.



The Fishmongers' Company have made a donation of 50 guineas towards the support of the East-end Emigration Fund, 44, Newark-street, Stepney, E.

The Emperor William of Germany visited Fredericksrich, the residence of Prince Bismarck, on Monday, and dined with the illustrious statesman.

Bro. the Duke of Abercorn gave a small dinner party at Hampden House on Monday, the guests being especially invited to meet Captain Selous, the well-known South African explorer.

The Duke of York has very kindly consented to preside at a festival dinner which will be held on Friday, the 1st June, in aid of the general and extension funds of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

The Prime Minister entertained the members of the Cabinet at dinner at his official residence in Downing-street on Saturday, the 17th inst., among those present being Bros. Lord Herschell, Sir G. O. Trevelyan, Bart., and G. J. Shaw-Lefevre.

To-morrow (Saturday) the Prince of Wales will open the Battersea Polytechnic, the ceremony having been timed to take place at noon, while the Duke of York has arranged to open the new building of the National Dental Hospital, Great Portland-street.

The Grand Duke of Hesse, accompanied by Princess Alice of Hesse and Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg and Princess Alice of Battenberg, visited the Prince of Wales at Marlborough House on Wednesday, and stayed to luncheon.

A presentation in the shape of a Tantalus liqueur stand, the case of which was of solid silver, was made to Bro. Sir A. Harris, on Saturday last, in the saloon of the Princess's Theatre, by the "Life of Pleasure" company. The duty of presenting the stand devolved on Mr. Henry Neville, who warmly congratulated Bro. Sir A. Harris on his recovery from a long and serious illness.

The members of the Honourable Irish Society, to which is entrusted the administration of the Corporation of London's estates in Ulster, were sworn in before Bro. Lord Mayor Tyler on Wednesday. Mr. Alderman Faudel Phillips being sworn as Governor, Bro. Deputy Rogers as Deputy Governor, and Bros. Aldermen Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., Vaughan Morgan, and Treloar as members.

Bro. Lord Mayor Tyler presided at a meeting of the British Committee of the Antwerp Exhibition, which was held at the Mansion House on Wednesday, among those present being Sir Albert Rollit, M.P., President of the London Chamber of Commerce, Sir George Birchwood, Sir Charles M. Kennedy, Bro. Wallis H. Harris, and Major Flood Page.

The testimonial to Bro. Kube now exceeds £100, and the presentation will therefore shortly be made. The proposal (not a particularly wise one) to spend the amount upon a new piano has been dropped, for the veteran pianist already has a Broadwood grand which will assuredly last his allotted time. Instead the subscription will be handed him by cheque, so that he can do with it what he likes. For the Kube jubilee concert, which Mr. Vert is organising, next May, Senor Sarasate, Mr. Lloyd, and we believe also Mr. Irving, have accepted invitations to take part.

The first annual meeting of the Royal Naval Fund founded in connection with the Royal Naval Exhibition of 1891 was held at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, on Monday. The Prince of Wales presided, and there were present Bro. Lord George Hamilton, M.P., Admiral of the Fleet Sir G. Phipps Hornby, Admirals Sir H. S. Stewart, Bro. Sir G. O. Willis, Sir William Dowell, and others, while apologies for non-attendance were received from the Duke of York, and others. The report, which was unanimously adopted, showed that the number of cases investigated in 1893 was 65, of which 41 had been relieved by grants. After a vote of thanks to the Prince had been proposed and carried, the proceedings terminated.

The annual meeting of the Richmond Royal Hospital was held under the presidency of the Duke of Teck on Saturday last, when it was announced that at the dinner held in behalf of the Princess May Ward, at which the Duke of Cambridge presided, and the Duchesses of Teck and York were present, resulted in a sum of £1871 being raised. This had been further increased by donations of £20 from the Queen and other gifts, as well as by £1000 from Mr. Charrington for the founding of the Hilda May Cot, to £3832. It was thereupon resolved that the Princess May Children's Ward and an isolation ward should be erected at a cost of £2665, and the meeting pledged itself to use its utmost efforts to raise the further sum of £3000 required.

Bro. SIR J. B. MONCKTON'S TRIP.—Although the Town Clerk does not admit that he is ill, and performs his duties at the Guildhall as usual, there is no doubt that the doctors are right in urging him to take a sea voyage. He has for some time suffered from insomnia and loss of appetite, and is evidently considerably below par. Having abstained from taking a holiday for some years, he has doubtless found the work and worry connected with the Royal Commission tell upon him, and is in urgent need of rest and change. He will continue at the Guildhall till the end of next week, and will then start probably in a P. and O. vessel for the Mediterranean and Red Sea. He will not land, but will spend the whole time on the sea. We hope Sir John will have a very pleasant holiday, and will come back strengthened and invigorated.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR SLAVERY TO EXIST under the protecting shadow of the British flag, for it is the opinion of every Englishman that liberty of speech and freedom of action is the birth-right of every man. "Britons never shall be slaves" is one of the most popular of our national songs. In a similar manner men cannot remain bound by the tyrannical shackles of disease if they will place themselves under the healing influence of Holloway's Pills and Ointment. Their success in all parts of the world is now a familiar story, and it is only necessary to say here there is no known disorder that cannot be speedily cured or relieved by them.

Bro. the Earl of Dunraven will preside as Chairman at the 26th Anniversary Banquet at the Royal Colonial Institute, which will be held at the Hôtel Métropole, on Wednesday, the 7th prox.

It is announced that the National Challenge Trophy, which was won by the Scottish 20 at Bisley last summer, will be handed over to the Lord Provost and Magistrates of Edinburgh, with the usual military observances, on Saturday, the 17th prox.

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.

The Carpenters' Company are arranging for another short course of six lectures on matters connected with building, to be delivered at their hall in London Wall on Wednesday evenings. Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., and Bro. Lord Claud Hamilton have consented to take the chair for the series.

Bro. the Duke of Fife will occupy the chair at the 30th Anniversary Festival to be held at the Hôtel Métropole on Saturday, the 3rd prox., in aid of the Homes for Little Boys, which have been established on the Cottage system, at Farningham and Swanley, Kent. A numerous and influential array of Stewards will support his Grace on the occasion.

A ball will be held at the Cannon-street Hotel on Monday, the 5th prox., in aid of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The band of the City Police and Mr. Cohen's quadrille band have been engaged for the occasion, and every effort has been made to secure success. The ball takes place under the patronage of the Duke of York, Bro. the Duke of Portland, the Duke of Westminster, and other influential personages.

The 15th Annual Exhibition of the Shire Horse Society was opened at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Tuesday, and will close this (Friday) evening. The entries were 475, as compared with 507 in 1893, 561 in 1892, and 407 in 1891. Among the exhibitors were the Queen, the Prince of Wales, Lord Belper, Bro. Lord Egerton of Tatton, Bro. Lord Hothfield, Sir Walter Gilbey, Lord Londoun, Lord Macclesfield, and others.

The 24th annual grand ball in aid of the funds of the Metropolitan and City Police Orphanage, will take place on Thursday, April 26th, at the Cannon Street Hotel, under the distinguished patronage and presence of Bro. the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and Under-Sheriffs. Two ball rooms with suites of apartments have been engaged for the evening, and will be under the management of Thomas Butler, Esq., and others.

There exist in Berlin no fewer than 1156 clubs or societies, most of which have pleasure for their object. Some of them are very old, the Ressource Club dating from 1794, the Gessellschaft der Freunde from 1792, and another Ressource from 1784. Some of these clubs have comical names; for example, "Bee" and "Prudence"; the club of former hussars of the German Army calls itself "Through, Through," a stenographic club, "Paalanx." There is a "Camaroon" club, and a club of "Jolly Bald-heads."

MAGAZINE STATISTICS.—From "The Newspaper Press Directory" for 1894, we find that there are now published in the United Kingdom 2061 magazines, of which more than 471 are of a decidedly religious character. Comparing 1894 with 1860 (the first year that any complete list of magazines was published), we find that in that year there was only 405 of such publications in existence, 162 of which were religious magazines. Almost every branch of science and thought is represented, and it is curious to note that already the latest cult—Theosophy—has no less than five publications devoted to its advocacy.

There was an interesting gathering at the Cannon-street Hotel on Thursday, the 15th inst., when the British judges who represented the United Kingdom at the World's Fair, Chicago, invited Bro. Sir H. Trueman Wood, M.A., to a friendly dinner in recognition of his kindness and attention to them, and in appreciation of his excellent qualities as an administrator. The fine arts and manufactures were well represented, nearly all the judges residing in this country having signified their intention of being present, although a few were prevented by illness. Mr. J. F. Atkinson, of Sheffield (Master Cutler in the exhibition year), was expected to preside, but was prevented by sudden illness. Mr. G. Shaw accordingly occupied the chair. After the dinner the Chairman, in the name of the Council of Judges, presented to Bro. Sir H. T. Wood a silver tankard in a case, with appropriate inscription, as a souvenir of the occasion. The remainder of the evening was devoted to harmony and social intercourse.

The annual ball and Bohemian concert of the Burdett-Coutts Lodge, No. 1278, was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, on Wednesday, the 14th inst., and was a most successful gathering of brethren and friends. Dancing commenced at 9 precisely, Bros. Perkins, P.M., and Strickling being M.C.'s. The chair was taken at the same time in the smoking room, at which several well-known artistes and brethren contributed to a most excellent programme. Punctually at 12 the company adjourned to supper, covers being laid for 220, which was served in a manner which gave universal satisfaction. The W.M., Bro. W. H. Toye—supported by Bros. T. Arter, I.P.M.; G. Ward Verry, Sec.; Crutch, Treas.; J. J. Hall, S.W.; and F. Gildersleeve, J.W.—gave the usual toasts, and met with a very enthusiastic reception. Bro. Arte, I.P.M., gave the toast of "The Health of the Worshipful Master," and Bro. Corbett responded for "The Ladies" in the course of a humorous speech. The company then adjourned to the ball room where dancing continued until 6.30, when the company separated, thus bringing to a conclusion one of the most successful balls ever held in connection with the Burdett-Coutts Lodge. The arrangements of the evening were in the hands of the Stewards: Bros. F. Toye, F. Islip, H. Lloyd, C. Calaghan, and Dr. Haskins, Organist. Layton's quadrille band supplied the music in the ball room.

Twelfth Annual Edition of Explanatory Book, sent gratis and post free, gives reliable information how to make money quickly by Stocks and Shares. Highest and lowest prices for past years.—Address, G. Evans and Co., Stock-brokers, 11, Poultry, London, E.C.

The will of the late Earl of Bective, Prov. Grand Master of Cumberland and Westmorland, has been sworn of the gross value at £775,657, and the net value at £594,319.

Bro. the Rev. T. Selby Henrey, the curate of St. Botolph, Aldersgate, gave the address on Sunday at the weekly service for the inmates of the Printer's Almshouses, Wood Green.

The third of the series of Fancy Dress Balls under the management of Bro. Sir Augustus Harris will take place at the Royal Opéra House, Covent Garden, on Wednesday next, the 28th inst.

Bro. Sir Augustus Harris has now returned to town from Hastings quite recovered from his illness, and is daily rehearsing "The World," which is to be produced at the Princess's Theatre to-morrow (Saturday).

Mr. Thomas H. Staples, the Chairman, presided at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the London Tavern Company. A dividend of 5 per cent. was declared, while the most satisfactory statements were made regarding not only the prospects, but also the prestige and reputation of the Albion.

At the installation as W.M. of Bro. George Rawlinson, Aldersgate Lodge, No. 1657, on Monday, it was mentioned that it was the 120th time of the performance of the ceremony by the Installing Master, Bro. Sir John Monckton, P.G.W., who, as hon. member of the lodge, has for several years done the installation. Bro. Alderman Dimsdale was present and was very well received.

The annual ball of the New North London Philanthropic Society took place on Thursday evening, the 15th instant, and was a great success. Nearly 300 attended, and the handsome hall, brilliantly illuminated with the electric light, together with the many splendid costumes, formed an animated picture that was well worth seeing. We noticed a number of the Craft there to support Bros. W. Ofield, the President, and Mr. W. Piper, the Hon. Sec. Amongst the brethren present were Bros. R. Maskall, G. Ring, A. Underwood, and G. Berry.

Were it not that actors are notoriously very earnest Freemasons, there might be a suspicion of levity in the circumstance of a pronounced low comedian discharging the functions of a Worshipful Master. "Society's Clowns" can, however, on occasions assume an unexpected gravity; and no Freemason certainly could cavil at the manner in which Mr. Harry Nicholls, forgetting his "alter ego" of the boards, has acquitted himself during the past year as the august president of the Drury Lane Lodge. The Masonic ritual is specially adapted to the trained elocution and histrionic gifts of actors; and it might be said that it is never so impressively delivered as at lodges of which actors are officers. —*Newcastle Chronicle*.

Pessimists are always telling us that every year the world is growing wickeder and more corrupt. This, however, we note, is in no sense the opinion of Mr. George Williams, whose right to pronounce a dictum on the subject no one is likely to have the presumption to call in question. Asked by a pressman how the young men of to-day compare with the young men of previous generations, he has declared that those to be found in the great houses in the City are of an altogether better type than those employed when he commenced business life 53 years ago. "There is a much higher tone about them; there is not so much intemperance or immorality as there was; and as regards industry, honesty, punctuality, and trustworthiness, an all-round improvement is apparent." —*City Press*.

NEW MASONIC HALL AT TREDEGAR.—On Thursday, the 5th inst., the Masonic Hall at Tredegar was opened. The new hall is an imposing structure of classical design, and was erected under the superintendence of Messrs. James and Morgan, Charles-street-chambers, Cardiff, the architects. The ground floor contains the area reserved for the post office. The first floor is occupied by the Masonic hall, which has been embellished with Masonic emblems by Mr. Tom Williams, of Tredegar. The contractor was Mr. Edward Morgan, of Tredegar, and Mr. H. Bessel, Bristol, supplied the furnishings. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. Brown, of The Willows, wife of Dr. G. A. Brown, J.P., the W.M. elect. At the close of the ceremony Bro. T. Morgan, the retiring W.M., presented Mrs. Brown with an elegant gold brooch in the form of a key on behalf of the Masonic brotherhood. In the afternoon St. George's Lodge, No. 1098, Tredegar, held its installation meeting, when Bro. G. A. Brown, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., was installed W.M., and invested his officers. A banquet took place at the Castle Hotel.

The report of the Directors of the Crystal Palace District Gas Company for the half year ended 31st of December, to be presented to the shareholders at their meeting on the 23rd inst., shows that the result of the half year's working gives a balance to the credit of revenue account of £13,186 10s. 10d., sufficient to pay the dividends of £14,875 and to carry forward the sum of £3311 10s. 10d. to the next half year. As compared with the corresponding half year of 1892, there has been a decrease of 2.99 per cent. on the quantity of gas sold, but an increase in the sale of coke, tar, &c. In announcing the retirement, in consequence of failing health, of their late Secretary, Bro. Magnus Ohren, after 38 years' faithful service, the Directors state that in consideration of his valuable services they have awarded him a retiring pension of £500 per annum, and that a resolution confirming this award will be submitted to the meeting of shareholders. The report also notes that Bro. Charles M. Ohren, who has been an officer of the company for the past 26 years, has been appointed by the Directors as Secretary, and intimates that it will be for the shareholders to fix his salary in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Clauses Act, 1845.

Mr. Passmore Edwards on Thursday laid the foundation-stone of a new wing of West Ham Hospital. The present hospital, of 32 beds, built only six years ago, has been found altogether inadequate for the necessities of the West Ham district, which increases in population at the rate of 11,000 or 12,000 every year. Accidents, largely on account of the increasing use of machinery in large factories, have correspondingly increased in number. Hence the primary necessity for the new wing of 24 beds, which will be built at the expense of Mr. Passmore Edwards.