

THE FREEMASON.

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

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

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

VOL. XXXVI. NO. 1453]

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1897.

[PRICE 3d.]

CONTENTS.		PAGE.
LEADERS—		
Approaching Festival of the R.M.B.I. ... ..	...	13
The Removal of the Boys' School ... ..	...	13
Consecration of the Jubilee Lodge, No. 2633, Brisbane, Queensland ... ..	...	14
Ball of the St. Marylebone Lodge, No. 1305 ... ..	...	15
New Year's Entertainment at the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls... ..	...	15
Charities' Association of North and Yorkshire ... ..	...	15
Consecration of the Toowong Chapter, No. 2306 ... ..	...	16
Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Lanarkshire ... ..	...	16
Craft Masonry ... ..	...	16
MASONIC NOTES—		
Consecration of Byfield Lodge, No. 2632 ... ..	...	19
Centenary of the Lodge of Virtue, No. 152 ... ..	...	19
New Year's Entertainment at the R.M.B.I. ... ..	...	19
Correspondence ... ..	...	20
Reviews ... ..	...	20
Craft Masonry... ..	...	21
Royal Arch ... ..	...	21
Lodge and Chapter of Instruction ... ..	...	22
Knights Templar ... ..	...	22
Cryptic Masonry ... ..	...	22
Secret Monitor ... ..	...	22
New Year's Entertainment to the Old People ... ..	...	22
Royal Masonic Institution for Girls ... ..	...	23
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys ... ..	...	23
Funeral of Bro. Deputy Salmon ... ..	...	23
Masonic and General Tidings ... ..	...	24

APPROACHING FESTIVAL OF THE R.M.B.I.

It is satisfactory to know that even during the brief Christmas holidays Bro. TERRY has not been letting the grass grow under his feet, but has succeeded in obtaining a few additions to his Board of Stewards for the forthcoming Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. These additions are very necessary. A few weeks hence the Festival will have taken place. On Wednesday, the 24th February, the Stewards and their friends will meet at Freemasons' Tavern, under the presidency of H.R.H. the Duke of CONNAUGHT, K.G., Past G. Master of England, Provincial G. Master of Sussex, and Dist. G. Master of Bombay, and we are all hoping and trusting that the aggregate of the Returns they have been so fortunate as to compile will amount to a very considerable sum, a sum sufficient to meet the very heavy expenditure of the Institution and admit, if possible, of some slight addition being made to the ranks of the annuitants. There are reasons why we should be hoping for such a result as this. It is not every year that one of our QUEEN'S sons is able to take upon himself the responsibility of presiding as Chairman at one of our Anniversary Festivals, while by a happy coincidence this necessarily rare event will occur during the year in which her Gracious Majesty will complete the 60th year of her reign. Then as regards the Duke himself, throughout his whole Masonic career he has taken the greatest interest in our Masonic Institutions. In 1878, his Royal Highness presided at the Boys' School Festival, when the Returns amounted to £10,142. In 1892, he acted as Chairman in behalf of the Girls' School, and again the total of the Donations and Subscriptions was slightly in excess of £10,000, a larger total being out of the question in this instance, as the Jubilee of the Benevolent Institution had been celebrated only a few months previously with enormous success. Thus his Royal Highness's Chairmanship next month will be, as it were, the completion of his responsibilities towards our Charitable Institutions, and for this reason, as well as for those previously stated, we trust the Craft generally will show its appreciation of the Duke's kindness by contributing an exceptionally large amount of donations and subscriptions. But hoping and trusting will not, of itself, ensure this result. We must all of us put our shoulders to the wheel, and if we cannot all of us act as Stewards or contribute, we can, at least, endeavour to influence others in one or other of these directions. A large accession of strength to the Board of Stewards is, indeed, most necessary. Last year it was stronger and the total of contributions in excess of

anything we have known at an ordinary Benevolent Festival, but the number of brethren who have given their services for this occasion does not at the present moment greatly exceed the half of what it was last year, while it is nearly 100 short of the number that acted in 1894, when the Returns were nearly £15,000. It is true that Bro. TERRY has made up some of the leeway we referred to in our former article on the subject, but he has still much to accomplish in order to raise his Board to a level with what it was in 1893 and 1894, to say nothing of what it was in the record year of 1895. We, therefore, address ourselves more particularly to those Provinces and lodges which have not as yet furnished representatives, to lose no time in nominating brethren who will have time and to spare to do good suit and service on this occasion in behalf of our "Old People."

As for the claims of the Benevolent Institution to the generous support of the English Craft, we have stated them at length in all our previous appeals. But in the case of a Charity of this kind, which depends almost entirely for its means on the voluntary contributions of the public we are addressing, there is no need that we should apologise for repeating them. The number of poor old brethren and poor old widows of brethren whom it supports is 442, of whom 200 are men in receipt of £40 per annum each and 242 widows receiving £32 per annum each, while in addition there are some 30 widows, each of whom receives for a term of five years the half of her late husband's annuity, that is to say, £20 per annum each; the total sum disbursed in annuities being in round figures some £16,300. To this must be added the expenses of management and the cost of maintaining the Asylum at Croydon, the total expenditure year by year being over rather than under £19,000. Towards this there is a permanent income, including the grants from Grand Lodge (£1600) and Grand Chapter (£150), of from £5000 to £5500. There is, therefore, a yearly deficiency of about £14,000 to be made good, and it is chiefly, if not entirely, upon the proceeds of its Anniversary Festival that the Institution has to depend for supplying this deficiency. Moreover, there is always a formidable array of candidates for the benefits of this Institution, while the number of annuities which fall vacant during the year are out of all proportion small by comparison. That the Committee of Management exercise a praiseworthy supervision over the expenditure is shown by the fact that during the year 1896 the invested capital has been augmented by the purchase of £7000 Stock, thereby permanently enlarging the income to the extent of the interest due and payable on that amount. But many such augmentations of income must be made before any appreciable reduction will be effected in the amount which has to be raised by voluntary subscription. We, therefore, renew our appeal for support in behalf of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, so that the Festival which is approaching, and will be held under the auspices of one of the QUEEN'S sons during the 60th year of her Majesty's reign—already by a few months the longest reign in English history—may be so far productive as to allow not only of the present expenditure being met, but also of some addition, however slight, being made to the number of annuitants, in commemoration of the 60th year of her Majesty's "record" reign.

THE REMOVAL OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The first step has been taken towards the removal of the Boys' School from its present site at Wood Green. The purchase of the new property at Bushey, Herts, is an accomplished fact, and therefore there is no longer any special reason why the discussion which has been carried on in these columns should be continued, at all events for the present. With the beginning of the New Year, what may be called the Festival Campaign was

entered upon in earnest, and it has become necessary that we should give our undivided attention to that particular Institution whose Festival is about to be celebrated. Thus the Benevolent Festival will take place on the 24th February and till then we must do our utmost to promote the success of that important anniversary. When this has come and gone the interests of the Girls' School, which will celebrate its 109th Anniversary on or about the second Wednesday in May, must be advocated to the utmost of our ability. Then will come the turn of the Boys' School, whose Festival is arranged for the last Wednesday in June, and then if our readers exhibit any desire for a revival of the recent discussion in connection with the second stage of the removal question, that is to say, with the erection of the new School buildings at Bushey, we see no just cause why their wishes should not be gratified. But till that time arrives, we must content ourselves with the publication of such news as reaches us from time to time respecting the Board, Court, and Council meetings of the Institution, the election of new pupils, the results of any public examinations in which sundry of "Our Boys" may have taken part. There is, however, one matter which cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed now, when we are on the point of closing, for the time being, a controversy which has already become wearisome and was fast becoming injurious to the interests of all our Masonic Charities. We allude to the speech which Bro. E. V. GREATBATCH, P.P.G.W. Staffordshire, is reported to have delivered at the installation meeting of the Menturia Lodge, No. 418, Hauley, on the 13th ult., in replying for the toast of "The Masonic Charities." As regards Bro. GREATBATCH'S claim to have been "the means of bringing about a considerable improvement" in the management of the Boys' School, we shall not concern ourselves about its validity. We remember that Bros. GREATBATCH and TUNNICLIFFE together attacked the School expenditure under the old régime, but it was the treatment of the boy MOTION that principally caused the downfall of the House Committee. But, seeing that the old régime has long since given place to the new, our interest in determining such a claim must be purely an academic one. It is, however, very different when we are told, on the authority of one who claims to have effected the improvement brought about by the substitution of the present for the late administration, that matters are now "almost as bad as ever they were." Such a statement as this, emanating as it does from one who claims to have taken a leading part in setting up the present management, cannot be allowed to pass uncontradicted. Everyone has spoken in terms of the highest commendation of the manner in which the Board of Management, from the date of its establishment onwards, has discharged its important duties; and, what is more to our purpose, the evidence in support of the justice of this commendation is as emphatic as the commendation itself is general. Thus as regards the education which the boys are now receiving, we have only to refer to the results of the different public examinations for which the boys are entered and compare them with the results obtained in the days of the old management in order to assure ourselves of the progress which the School has made educationally during the last half dozen years, while this assurance will be still further strengthened on reading the reports issued for the last three years by the gentlemen appointed by the Cambridge Syndicate to examine the School independently. Then, as regards the funds of the Institution, when the present Board of Management was established in 1890, the invested capital was £17,500; it now amounts to £58,814 12s. 5d., the difference in favour of the new management being £41,314 12s. 5d., while, to rightly estimate the financial success of the new system, we must add to this the £13,000 which has been paid for the new property at Bushey. But for this purchase the capital of the Institution would have been augmented during the last six years by no less than £54,314 13s. 5d., being at the rate of upwards of £9000 per annum for this brief period. Lastly, as regards the annual income of the Institution, during the four years from 1887 to 1890, both inclusive, the average income was £13,777 17s. 6d.; for the six years from 1891 to 1896, it has averaged £22,463 18s. 7d., or between £8000 and £9000 more than under the old system. Yet, in spite of all this evidence of progress and improvement, Bro. GREATBATCH has no hesitation

in declaring that matters are "almost as bad as ever they were." But Bro. GREATBATCH is not content with having made this unfounded and—coming from him—mischievous statement; he must needs go on to suggest that "the London Institutions should be left severely alone." But in the first place, there are no Masonic Institutions whose benefits are restricted to London brethren, their widows, and their children. The Institutions, which are located near London, are open to candidates from all those parts of the British Empire over which the United Grand Lodge of England exercises jurisdiction. Thus, according to the Lists of Subscribers issued in 1896, there were 262 children in the Girls' School at the commencement of that year, of whom 91 hailed from London, 171 from the Provinces and Colonies, and seven were pupil teachers retained for educational purposes. In the Boys' School there were at the same date, 278 children, of whom 84 hailed from London, and 194 from the Provinces and Abroad; while as regards the Benevolent Institution, there were 75 male annuitants out of 200, and 89 widow annuitants out of 242 hailing from London, while 125 men and 153 widows came from the Provinces and Abroad. Indeed, Staffordshire itself furnished five girls, six boys, and three annuitants to the totals in the three Institutions, so that to speak of them as London Institutions is, on the face of it, absurd. We trust those who have read Bro. GREATBATCH'S attack on our Charitable Institutions will look well into these figures, which we have extracted from statements and returns furnished to us from time to time by the Secretaries.

CONSECRATION OF THE JUBILEE LODGE, No. 2633, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND.

A new lodge under the Grand Lodge of England was consecrated at New Farm, Brisbane, on the 19th August, 1896, under highly favourable auspices. New Farm, being now practically a portion of Brisbane, there was every facility for the city brethren to be present, and there was accordingly a good attendance, including many brethren of the Scotch and Irish Constitutions. This being the 50th English lodge now alive in the district of Queensland, its founders very appropriately named it the Jubilee Lodge. The District Grand Master, Bro. the Hon. Augustus C. Gregory, C.M.G., &c., &c., who came attended by his Deputy, Bro. Barron L. Barnett, P.G.D. Eng., and a number of the Officers of the District Grand Lodge, took the chair at eight o'clock, and at once appointed, temporarily, the necessary officers, and briefly explained the object of the meeting. He then handed the gavel to his Deputy, and requested him to conduct the necessary ceremony.

In the few remarks, before proceeding further, Bro. BARNETT earnestly deprecated the opening of new lodges except where they were really required for the convenience of brethren in the neighbourhood, and added that it was only after close enquiry that the District Grand Master had satisfied himself of the necessity for the Jubilee Lodge that he had granted the provisional warrant.

The lodge was then opened in the Second and Third Degrees respectively, and the ceremony proceeded.

Bro. Rev. ALBANY C. HOGGINS, M.A., Past D.G. Chap., then delivered the following very interesting oration, which was listened to throughout with marked attention:

Brethren.—It is usual on these occasions when we meet together to consecrate a new temple dedicated to the culture of that spirit of brotherly love, which is the essential principle of Freemasonry, for the Chaplain to address to you a few words on the nature and principles of the Order. That office it is now my privilege to fill, and I propose to avail myself of the opportunity to say something to you on this essential principle, and your faith in this final motive for which Masonry has arisen, and on which its vitality depends. It is just 28 years since I heard a college friend, afterwards well-known as Professor Clifford, tell in our college hall his celebrated allegory of the Trilobites. He told us how far away in the misty past the Trilobites dwelt deep down in the murky vaults of the primeval ocean, how in the course of ages, when the power of vision had come dimly to them, one adventurous Trilobite found himself one day on the surface of the waters in the blaze of the midday sun; how descending to the dwellings of his tribe, he told them of the glorious sight he had seen, only to be put to death for lying; how long afterwards another having the same experience, confirmed his fellow's tale, and how him they also slew, this time for disturbing the Republic. Now, the point of the story to which I wish to draw your attention is that so long ago as this Professor Clifford recognised that even among Trilobites there must have existed something corresponding to a State. At the beginning of that wonderful change in our days of looking at philosophical and scientific questions which is connected with the great name of Darwin, though, centuries before, at Rome, Lucretius enunciated the same ideas, and they have never lacked witnesses in the ages between, at the beginning of this change, I say, and from a superficial realisation of the meaning of the phrase, "survival of the fittest," there grew up an idea that the history of progress was but the history of suffering and death, that "nature," red in tooth and claw, worked her way to perfection only through wholesale slaughter, only by the aid of starvation, disease, and mutual devastation. Now, we know that far away as eye of science can reach in the dim vistas of the ancient past, "when from oozy slime of marshy bed in twilight dim the first forefathers of the animal world slowly emerged," from the very beginning there were two competing passions that swayed his destinies—care for self and love for others of his kind. At first, no doubt, care for self overshadowed the second motive, but it died not for all that; it was there throughout, waiting only till more perfect forms should enable it to assert its power, and later on itself obtain the mastery. To progress

both these motives are needful. In the beginning the first perhaps chiefly; now certainly the second. And what is true of the animal world, is equally or still more true of that limited portion of it called humanity. In men, too, from the earliest dawn of history these two principles are found active and competing. Now in the noontide of the race, the time has come when the supremacy of the second is becoming as assured, as was that of the first in those early days of the childhood of the race. And now we can give names to the opposing principles. They are, in short, selfishness, and its contrary altruism. But for altruism I prefer to use the older word—religion. Selfishness then and religion are the two opposing principles. The one is the principle of deterioration, the other of advancement; to incline to the first would degrade us to the brutes, to cultivate the other will exalt us to perfect manhood. And this religion is the principle of Freemasonry, for religion from its practical side is but the principle of brotherly love, the direct antithesis of selfishness. I believe, therefore, in the antiquity of Freemasonry. Whether we can trace direct descent from King Solomon and the builders of the Jewish Temples, I do not care to enquire; our principle is far more ancient than that. Earliest history tells us everywhere of guilds and brotherhoods. Ancient Greece was full of them; from the Masters of these Greek lodges, it is said, that our word Bishop is derived. All Latin historians speak of the multitude of sodalities in the Roman Empire. It was the fraternities, the guilds of crafts and merchants and priests and soldiers, that carried men through the chaos that followed the break up of the Roman civilisation. Not only in the south were these found but also equally active and widespread were they in Scandinavia among the Teutonic peoples and in Saxon England, and recently they have been found in Russia and among all Slavonic races as well as in India and in Turkey. Such then is the principle that our Order enshrines, such we blazon forth in varied symbolism of quaint phrase and antique ceremonial. Masonry is religion. But yet Masonry is not a religion. Masonry deals with the race as it now is and teaches us those great principles—Brotherly love, Relief, and Truth—by which we may purify and ennoble all our relations with our fellows in the life that now is. But Masonry does more than this. Its last lesson is to teach us how to die, and tells us often of the heavenly lodge over which the Great Architect of the Universe eternally presides. Religion in the restricted and subjective sense deals with those more spiritual experiences to which these teachings lead—it is in this sense the complement of Masonry. Of this I cannot speak now, except that I may, perhaps, be allowed to say that to me, it seems that a man would have greatly misunderstood the whole teaching of Masonry who should speak of it as his only religion. It is his religion—Yes, indeed! and a very true religion too, but God forbid that it should be his only one, his only faith and creed. Only one more thought remains. I spoke of our work to-night as the consecration of a temple for the culture of that spirit of Masonry which I have called religion. But I spoke of no material temple. On one of our tracing boards is depicted what we call Jacob's ladder. It was on the arid stony plain of Syria that Jacob once lay down to rest, stretched on the hard ground covered only by his cloak with but a boulder for his pillow. There he dreamed—a ladder seemed to reach from earth to Heaven, and angels appeared ascending and descending upon it. When morning dawned he awoke and thinking that a Divine revelation had been accorded to him, he cried, "The Lord is in this place, and I knew it not. This is the house of God, and this is the gate of Heaven." What was this House of God? That dry unlovely Syrian plain? No glorious epic of sculptured stone with polished marbles dight and quivering with varied tones of light and sound from tinted window pane and sweet-tongued organ pipe—No, not this, but there, that bit of stony ground—anywhere—there is His temple where the brethren together dwell in unity and love. No house our feeble hands can rear can be too grand, can be grand enough to express our homage, our devotion to Him the Great Architect of the Universe, but while we build with all our strength and skill let us ever remember that His true Temple is the assemblage of those that love Him and love one another in Him and for His sake. That assemblage wherever it may be gathered, where brotherly love prevails, where each loves others better than himself, where man is true to himself and to his Maker—there is the true, the ideal Masons' Lodge, there is the House of God, there is the gate of Heaven.

The perfection of detail, and the generally impressive nature of the solemn service of consecration left nothing to be desired at the hands of Bro. BARNETT and his immediate assistant officers, the effect throughout being enhanced by appropriate music.

The lodge being consecrated, it was then constituted by the District Grand Master.

The first portion of the evening's ceremonial having been concluded the lodge was closed in the Third and resumed in the Second Degree.

Bro. John Fenwick, the District Grand Secretary, then took the chair as Installing Officer; the Master, Bro. James D. Reeve, P.M., being presented by the President of the District Board of General Purposes, Bro. Robert H. Mills. The new Master having been duly installed and saluted. Bro. Arthur W. Michael, P.D.S.G.W., with all due ceremony placed the officers of the lodge in their several chairs, the final addresses being delivered by the DISTRICT G. SECRETARY in a deeply impressive manner.

The general conduct of the two ceremonies elicited high praise from those who were experienced in Craft ceremonial, while those who witnessed them for the first time seemed to realise a new delight.

A cold collation followed, after which the loyal toasts of "The Queen and the Craft," "The M.W. the Grand Master," and "The District Grand Master" were duly honoured.

Bro. GREGORY himself proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the Jubilee Lodge."

"The Consecrating and Installing Officers," "The Visitors," and other regular toasts were heartily responded to, and the brethren separated well satisfied that a truly profitable Masonic evening had been enjoyed by all present.

BALL OF THE ST. MARYLEBONE LODGE,
No. 1305.

The popularity of this well-known and successful lodge was greatly enhanced by a ball which was held at the Criterion, Piccadilly-circus, on the 16th ult. The company present included the W.M., Bro. A. C. Bonham, and Mrs. Bonham; Bro. W. Humfrey, S.W., and party; Bros. W. Brett, J.W.; J. J. Pope, P.M., Sec.; L. Harcourt Coles, I.P.M.; F. C. Nurflet, P.M.; Bro. H. Ansell, P.M., and party; Bro. W. D. Schwarz, P.M., and party; Bro. E. White, P.M.; Bro. R. Wright, P.M., and party; Bro. and Mrs. W. J. Bennett; Bro. and Mrs. F. Hucklebridge; Bro. and Mrs. S. R. G. Chapman; Bro. and Mrs. A. Wheeler; Bro. E. C. Lane and party; Bro. H. Ricketts and party; Bros. W. H. Reid, W. A. Shaw, J. J. Gomm, Bro. A. Williams, P.M., and Mrs. Williams; Bros. R. Head, W. Henderson; Bro. T. Durrans and party; Bro. and Mrs. N. E. McQueen; Bros. C. J. Webb, A. Orram, Miss Pierpoint, Mrs. West, Bro. R. T. West, and others.

The hall presented an animated appearance when dancing commenced to the strains of J. Gardner's band, which was highly effective and much appreciated. A dispensation having been obtained, Masonic clothing was worn by the brethren, and their regalia, which, together with the charming dresses of the ladies, rendered the scene one of the brightest.

Shortly after 12 o'clock the company, which mustered upwards of 100, adjourned to a superb supper, which gave credit to the energetic manager, Bro. Mantell.

The W.M., Bro. A. C. Bonham, presided, having on his right his charming wife and on his left Miss Pierpoint, his wife's sister, another charming lady.

The toast list was appropriately short and a commendable example of brevity was set by the Worshipful Master.

In giving "The Queen and Craft," the W.M. said, the Queen, God bless her, and God preserve the Craft.

Bro. L. HARCOURT COLES, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M., Bro. Bonham," remarking that it needed no words of his to commend the toast to the company, as they were all proud of him as their Worshipful Master and they were glad to meet him on that happy occasion.

The toast was received with great enthusiasm, and

Bro. BONHAM, W.M., on rising to respond had an ovation. He thanked them from his heart for the cordial manner the toast had been received. He had prepared a speech but the I.P.M. had been so brief in his remarks that he was at a loss to know what to say. He had endeavoured to do his duty and it was a great honour and privilege to be the Master of such an important lodge, and to preside over such a grand assembly. When he was initiated he had no idea that he would ever be able to go through the chair, and he thought that every Mason should aspire to the chair of his mother lodge. That was the second ladies' entertainment they had had, and he hoped others would follow. Might he say they were not the selfish set some took them for. In referring to the three Institutions, he stated that many ladies were subscribers, which was a great assistance, and he trusted that they would always have their ardent support in the great cause of Charity.

Bro. E. C. LANE, in giving "The Ladies," said that he had been suddenly called upon to propose that important toast, because Bro. White, P.M., who had been the one selected, had been called away. When the brethren looked round and saw the charming ladies who had honoured them with their presence that night, it made their hearts glad. Man's life would be a very weary one without the fair sex. Ladies often said, and, perhaps, with good reason, that men were always out at Masonic lodges, and if that was so, it was only right that they should be entertained on every possible occasion in the Masonic world, as a slight return for when they were left alone. In the name of the St. Marylebone Lodge, he gave them a hearty welcome, and said they were delighted to have them there.

Mr. BERTIE FINCH, whose name was associated with the toast, responded for the ladies, and, for the time being, he adopted the *role* of a member of the gentler sex, and, on their behalf, thanked the company for the very hearty way the toast had been received. The male kind did not appear to be so fond of eating and drinking as they (the ladies) imagined they were, because they seemed to be anxious to get away to resume the dancing. They had enjoyed themselves very much, for which they thanked the good Worshipful Master and the members, and they would look forward with much pleasure to the next ladies' gathering.

The company then adjourned to the ball-room, where the dancing was continued until the time arrived for a most enjoyable entertainment to terminate a night of nights, which was carried out without the slightest hitch, and the W.M., Bro. Bonham, and the Committee, Bros. W. Humfrey, E. C. Lane, C. J. Webb, A. Wheeler, R. Wright, and J. J. Pope, Secretary, are to be congratulated upon its great success.

NEW YEAR'S ENTERTAINMENT AT THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The usual New Year's entertainment to the pupils who remain in the School during the Christmas holidays was given at the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls at St. John's Hill, Battersea Rise, on Monday evening, when Bro. Frank Richardson, P.G.D., Chairman for the month of the House Committee, presided. There was a large party of brethren and ladies who attended to assist in the amusements of the evening, among them being Bros. Sir John B. Monckton, W. G. Kentish, Bro. L. B. Aveling, Herbert Kentish, Bro. Alfred C. Spaul, Bro. H. A. Hunt and Mrs. Hunt, Bro. Eugene Monteuis, Louis E. Monteuis, Maud M. Banks, Arthur Banks, A. Sadler, Bro. Henry A. Tobias and Misses J. F. M., and E. B. Tobias, Col. A. B. Cook, A. L. FitzRoy Cook, Mrs. A. B. Cook, A. W. Oxford, Bro. Edward Terry, T. G. Bullen, James H. Matthews, Bro. R. Loveland Loveland, Bro. F. R. W. Hedges, Bro. W. T. Massey, Miss Massey, and Miss Mary Massey and M. W. Darke.

The company partook of tea and coffee at five p.m., and were afterwards treated to a Punch and Judy performance, which amused them very much. Dancing followed, until a ventriloquial exhibition was given by Mr. Fred Russell, which displayed exceptional talent on the part of the artist. It had the great merit of keeping the whole of the observers highly amused, and it won enthusiastic applause when its termination was regrettably witnessed.

Before the visitors left further refreshments were provided by the generosity of the House Committee, and more dancing was engaged in, the National Anthem concluding the proceedings of the day.

Visitors, House Committee, governess, matron, and children threw themselves thoroughly into the spirit of the entertainment, with the result that an unqualified success was produced.

CHARITIES' ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AND EAST YORKSHIRE.

REMOVAL OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

The following are the reasons which Bro. W. H. Cowper, P. Prov. G.W., Prov. Charity Representative N. and E. Yorkshire, gives in the address we referred to in our Notes of last week for his opposition to the proposed Removal of the Boys' School from Wood Green:

"That the case made out by the Board of Management in their special report—a copy of which each of you have received, and I hope read—was too weak to warrant the sacrifice of a large portion of the capital invested in the School at Wood Green.

That whilst admitting that the 13 acres in Lordship Lane, Wood Green, would not now be selected as the most eligible site for the School if we were about to build, it has not been conclusively shown that the present buildings and location are inconvenient, unsanitary, or unhealthy. See the medical officer's

report of June 16th, 1896, in which he states—"I have never seen these boys looking more healthy and happy."

That the plea of clayey soil does not deserve much consideration. Some of the most healthy towns are built entirely on clay, and Wood Green itself is one of the healthiest suburbs of London.

That the surroundings of the School are not bad, and are infinitely superior to the surroundings of many of our high-class schools in the large towns of the North.

That the two foregoing arguments have been grossly overworked and exaggerated, as is shown by the medical officer's report.

That the original resolution passed in 1892 was agreed to on the expectation that any removal would be effected without loss of capital. This understanding is ignored in 1896.

That the present Schools have cost about £100,000, and although the Board have made no statement as to what they can sell the estate for, it is generally admitted that the most sanguine cannot expect to get more than £50,000, and may be only £25,000 to £30,000. Hence there will be a loss of fully £50,000, and perhaps of £70,000 or £75,000—a most unjustifiable waste.

That, as a business man, I decline to give blank cheques to the most honestly disposed.

That if the scheme of the Board were sound it was worth submitting to the Subscribers generally for their opinion, and not merely to a meeting of a small number at a Quarterly Court.

That with the present improved and cheaper facilities for higher grade education it is a very doubtful policy to invest increased capital in building a larger school that would be costly to carry on.

That the present establishment ought to be utilised to its capacity consistent with health and comfort, and that further claims upon the Institution should be met by an increase in the grants allowed for boys educated in the district to which they belong."

CONSECRATION OF THE TOOWONG CHAPTER, No. 2306.

The occasion of the opening of a Royal Arch chapter in connection with the Toowong Lodge, No. 2306, Toowong, Queensland, recently, brought about a large gathering of Royal Arch Masons. The ceremony was ably carried out by Comp. B. L. Barnett, P.G. Soj. of Eng. and P.D.G.H., in the presence, and with the assistance of the Grand Superintendent, Comps. the Hon. A. C. Gregory, C.M.G.; John Fenwick, Dist. G.H.; A. W. Michael, Dist. G.S.E., as D.G.J.; and a large number of the members of District Grand Chapter and visiting companions.

The chapter having been opened, an eloquent and powerful address was delivered by the Consecrating Officer, Comp. BARNETT, who then proceeded with the impressive ritual of consecration as is usual under the English Constitutions. This finished, the officers designate were then appointed as follows: Comps. Harry Courtenay Luck, P.Z., Dist. G. Org., Z.; John Whitehead Stack, H.; George Nixon Burrows, J.; Uriah Ferguson, S.E.; Frederick Washington Smith, S.N.; Richard Gailey, Treas.; Reginald Victor Pines, Prin. Soj.; John Sewell, 1st Asst. Soj.; Harry Frederick Smith, 2nd Asst. Soj.; Victor Day, Stwd.; and Fred. Hobbs, Janitor.

The chapter room and the banquet room were both decorated with a profusion of flowers, in great variety, and the whole presented a picture which will not soon be forgotten.

The chapter starts under brilliant and favourable auspices, and will, it is hoped, form a strong link in the chain of chapters under the English Constitution in Queensland.

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF LANARKSHIRE.

The Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter over the Lower Ward of Lanarkshire, under the superintendence of Comp. Major F. W. Allan, paid its annual visit to Chapter Cathedral, No. 67, Glasgow, on Thursday evening, the 17th ult.

Prov. Grand Scribe E., Comp. JAMES BALFOUR, reported that the books of the chapter had been examined and all found in perfect order, and the chapter was in a sound and flourishing condition.

Comp. Major F. W. ALLAN congratulated the chapter on the report, and expressed his pleasure in being able to head the Provincial Grand Chapter deputation, as the members of Chapter 67, through their M.E.Z., Comp. Peacock, had asked him to perform a very pleasant duty for them by handing to Comp. William Watson Newton, their Past First Principal, a tangible token of the esteem in which all the companions held him. Comp. Newton had joined Craft Masonry some years ago in his native place—Carnarvon, where he had carried on his business as a slate merchant, but before he had time to gain any eminence in the Craft there, he found it necessary to remove to Glasgow, where he has come to stay. He then became a joining member of three lodges in the city, a member of the Correspondence Circle of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, and a companion of the Royal Arch Chapter 67. The companions very soon discovered his value, and in due time placed him at the head of affairs. He was then sent to Provincial Grand Chapter, of which he is now First Sojourner, and to Supreme Grand Chapter, where he at present holds the rank of First Grand Standard Bearer. Comp. Newton had by his wisdom, enthusiasm, and geniality done a great deal for the prosperity of Chapter 67, and the companions had then asked him (Major Allan) to present Comp. Newton, Immediate Past Principal Z., with a handsome P.Z. jewel, and to Mrs. Newton a marble time-piece and ornaments and a gold pendant set with pearls and diamonds.

These remarks were received with the utmost enthusiasm.

Comp. NEWTON, in the course of his reply, thanked the M.P. Superintendent for his laudatory remarks and the companions for their handsome presents. He had taken the chair of 67 determined to use his best efforts to promote the best interests of Royal Arch Masonry in general and the prosperity of Chapter Cathedral in particular. He had tried to make all its members take a lively interest in what was going on by making its meet-

ings businesslike, homely, and congenial, and from the presents before him he was persuaded that his efforts had not been in vain. He concluded by thanking them all for their many kindnesses at all times and more particularly on the present occasion.

The companions then adjourned to a cake and wine refreshment, when a pleasant evening was brought to a bright conclusion.

Craft Masonry.

Amity Lodge, No. 137.

The Festival of St. John the Evangelist falling this year on a Sunday, the annual meeting of the above lodge for the election of W.M. for the ensuing year was held on Monday, the 28th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Market-street, Poole, when there was a large attendance. The unanimous choice of the brethren fell upon Bro. J. H. Whadcoat, 1, and P.M. 19. He will succeed Bro. J. Alexander Clarke Chapin. During the meeting the Secretary, Bro. C. J. Woodford, P.M., announced that he had received from the newly-elected W.M., Bro. Whadcoat, a cheque for 50 guineas in aid of the funds of the Dorset Masonic Charities, of which Institution he now becomes a Life Governor. The contents of the Charity box were purchased by Bro. W. J. Bacon for £5, which sum will be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

York Lodge, No. 236.

A meeting of the above lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Duncombe-place, York, on the 21st ult., when there was a numerous attendance, presided over by the W.M., Bro. M. Bryson. The minutes of the last regular lodge and lodges of emergency having been read by the Secretary, Bro. A. Jones, P.M., and confirmed, the by-laws were read by Bro. Jones. Owing to the lamented death of Bro. Jos. Todd, it was necessary to elect a Treasurer in his place, and this was done by scroll, Bro. George Kirby, P.M., P.G.D.C., M.E.Z. 236, Reg. P.G. Chap., being appointed with much unanimity. Bro. Kirby, in acknowledging the honour conferred upon him, said that as a brother who had been 26 years associated with that lodge, he felt a deep interest in it, and he would endeavour to discharge the duties he had to undertake with satisfaction to the brethren. (Applause.) In conclusion, Bro. Kirby made a suitable reference to the great loss the lodge and province had sustained in the death of their ex-Treasurer, Bro. Todd. The election of W.M. for the ensuing year next took place by scroll, and amidst applause, the S.W., Bro. F. Sidney Gramshaw, M.D., was announced by the W.M. as selected for the chair of K.S. for the ensuing year. The W.M. elect expressed his heartfelt thanks, and trusted that the G.A.O.T.U. would give him strength and wisdom equal to the discharge of his duties. The Treasurer's appointment having been formally confirmed, and Bro. Jno. Hall having been re-elected Tyler, an Audit Committee was appointed on the motion of Bro. T. Sykes Rymer, P.M., &c., seconded by Bro. Geo. Balmford, P.M., P.P.G.O., as follows: Bros. J. Biscoombe, R. H. Oakley, O. Taylor, and W. Smith. On the proposition of the Secretary, seconded by Bro. Smith, the desirability of appointing a Librarian was discussed. It was shown that the documents and books in possession of the lodge were very valuable, and that a new arrangement as to cataloguing, &c., was necessary. After some remarks from Bros. Buckle, M.A., Major Barstow, T. G. Hodgson, G. Balmford, the W.M. elect, S. Border, the Treasurer, and J. R. Procter, a Committee of six was appointed to act along with the Treasurer for the purpose of dealing with the matter. On the motion of the W.M., seconded by Bros. Buckle, P.M., and Rymer, P.M., a vote of condolence with the friends of Bro. S. Maltby, P.M., deceased, was expressed. Other business having been transacted, the W.M. elect fixed his installation banquet for Monday, the 18th inst., at the Royal Station Hotel.

Shortly before the closing of the lodge, Bro. Major J. A. Barstow, P.M., P.S.G.W., asked the lodge to accept his portrait in Past Master's attire. In doing so he said: "Worshipful Master, officers, and brethren,—It is said that the besetting sin of youth is vanity, and when a man gets older avarice takes its place. Although I have got to that age when I, perhaps, ought to be avaricious, I have not put off the old man vanity. Acting on a hint which I received from our late lamented Treasurer, Bro. Todd, I have had the vanity to have my portrait taken, and avaricious of a small space on the wall of your banqueting-room, I venture to present it to the lodge, should you think it and its subject sufficiently worthy of that honour. (Applause.)"

Bro. Barstow was cordially thanked, on the proposition of the W.M., seconded by the W.M. elect.

The lodge was then closed.

Three Grand Principles Lodge, No. 441.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held in the Lodge Room, at the Lion Hotel, Cambridge, on Wednesday, the 4th inst., and was attended by about 80 brethren. The Prov. G.M. of Cambridgeshire (Bro. Col. R. Townley Caldwell), was present, together with the following brethren who had attained the rank of Installed Master, viz.: Bros. J. Bell, J. Vail, T. Watts, J. S. Youngman, J. Taylor, J. Sheldrick, F. Dewberry, J. F. Symonds, J. Royston, J. Fuller, H. E. Greef, J. Catling, and W. R. Roper, all of the lodge; A. E. Chaplin, W.M.; O. Papworth, W. Purchas, F. Piggott, W. P. Spalding, C. H. Banham, J. L. Rutter, and F. T. Mullett, all of 83; J. Constable, P.P.G. Std. Br. West Yorks; Rev. C. W. Groves; W. H. Francis, 859; and J. Turner, W.M. 2107. Bro. F. W. Potts was duly installed as W.M. for the ensuing year, the duties of Installing Master being efficiently discharged by Bro. Dr. W. R. Roper, the outgoing W.M. The charges were ably given by Bro. Joseph Royston, P.M. The following are the officers for the year—Bros. F. W. Potts, P.P.G. Stwd., W.M.; W. R. Roper, P.P.G. Stwd., I.P.M.; F. R. Leach, S.W.; L. Hosegood, P.G. Stwd., J.W.; T. Watts, P.M., P.G. Treas., Chap.; J. Taylor, P.M., P.P.G. Reg., Treas.; J. S. Youngman, P.M., P.P.J.G.W., Sec.; G. R. Barnes, S.D.; F. W. Miller, J.D.; F. Dewberry, P.M., P.G.D.C., D.C.; J. Royston, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., A.D.C.; W. H. Berridge, P.P.G. Org., Org.; W. T. Bowman, Std. Br.; G. F. Knowles, I.G.; J. Vail, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., H. E. Greef, P.M., P.P.G.S. of Wks., and F. Cole, P.P.G. Purst., Stwds.; and A. F. O. C. Hurry.

At the banquet which followed, the Prov. Grand Master, in responding to the toast of his health, said it had afforded him great pleasure to be present at the lodge and at banquet. It was a source of pleasure to him to attend all the lodges in the province, and in this respect probably he had an advantage over some Prov. Grand Masters, in having a small province to attend to so that he could go round and get in touch with all. He enjoyed himself in lodge during the installation, and was especially pleased at hearing the working tools given by the Installing Master, and the charges by Bro. J. Royston, P.M. It was a great pleasure to see so large and representative a gathering of the Masons of Cambridge at the installation meeting of No. 441. He took the opportunity of congratulating that lodge on being the first in the province to start a lodge of instruction. When he was a young Mason in search of instruction he had to go to the Emulation Lodge in London. But Cambridge Masons were now fortunate in having a lodge of instruction in their midst. It was a good thing, for young Masons especially, whether they were aspiring to the chair or not. There was much advantage in learning the work, so as to appreciate it in lodge, and it was also advantageous that those in office should learn it gradually, so that they might be ready when called upon to take higher duties. He trusted that this lodge of instruction would be well supported, and that it would be a great success.

Bros. Major O. Papworth, P.G. Sec., and T. Watts, P.G. Treas., responded for the other Prov. Grand Officers.

Bro. W. R. Roper gave the toast of "The W.M.," and said Bro. Potts had endeared himself to all the brethren by his amiability of character, and they all wished him a happy and prosperous year of office.

The W.M., in reply, said he hoped to requite their confidence by showing good work during the year. He concluded by proposing "The Health of the Past Masters," one of whom (Bro. Vial) had been a regular attendant at lodge for 35 years.

The Prov. Grand Master then, at the request of the W.M. and on behalf of the brethren, presented to the I.P.M., Bro. Dr. Roper, a Past Master's jewel as a token of good work done, of friendships made and friendships strengthened, and of the regard in which he was held—might he live long to wear it.

Bro. Dr. Roper said that whenever he pinned that beautiful jewel to his collar he should remember with feelings of gratitude the kindness which the brethren had always shown him.

Bro. J. Bell, the senior P.M., also made a feeling response, in which he alluded to their late Bro. J. F. Miller, whose funeral had taken place that day. He went on to speak of their indebtedness to music, and expressed a strong desire that they would maintain it in their ceremonies. He proceeded to speak of the higher teachings of Masonry, and said that if those were carried out they must be better citizens.

Other toasts followed, and the harmony of the evening was appreciably enhanced by some capital musical efforts, in which a number of the brethren took part.

Weyside Lodge, No. 1395.

A meeting of this lodge was held on the 22nd ultimo, at the Masonic Hall, Woking, when there were present Bros. Arthur H. Bowles, W.M.; W. Robinson, I.P.M.; A. F. Asher, P.M.; F. G. Pearce, J.W.; Gilbert H. White, Treas.; C. T. Tyler, Sec.; Chas. Beavis, H. H. Phipps, E. J. Scott, E. G. Baker, P.M. 476; G. G. Munro, G. S. Bowyer, J. H. W. Cleave, S. Boorman, I.G.; E. B. Smallpeice, Viscount Cranley, and John Smyth. Visitors: Bros. James H. Hawkins, 410, P.G.D.C.; H. J. Bidwell, 2120, P.P.G.D.C.; W. Askham, P.M. 2317; J. A. Braik, W.M. 2310; E. A. Brown, S.W. 2521; W. J. Hawkins, J.D. 2434, 1046; Edmund M. Miles, P.M. 2234; R. F. Gould, P.G.D.; J. M. Cleave, 256; Sir W. H. Abdy, P.M. 2342, P.G.D.; J. H. Salter, P.M. 2342; Geo. B. Lancaster, P.M. 1287; Robert Stevens; James Webb, W.M. 2120; F. Flood, P.M. 1149; J. Cawey Gage; H. Massey, P.M. 619, 1928; J. Blash, P.M., Sec. 1564; G. H. Armitage, W.M. 370; G. H. N. Bridges, P.M. 1216, P.P.G.D. Somersetshire; T. J. Ralling, P.G. Sec. Essex, P.A.G.D.C.; and J. C. Turner, P.P.S.G.W. Essex.

The W.M. raised to the Third Degree Bro. Viscount Cranley, eldest son of the Provincial Grand Master, the Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., and afterwards repeated the ceremony with Bro. John Smyth. Subsequently he initiated the Rev. Herbert West, B.A. When these ceremonies had been performed, a presentation was made on behalf of a member of the lodge—Bro. Roberts—of a beautiful portrait of the Earl of Onslow, and a vote of thanks to Bro. Roberts, proposed by the W.M. and seconded by the S.W., was passed for the gift. Before the proceedings of the lodge were terminated, the W.M. rose and said that a frivolous brother—not frivolous in the lodge, but frivolous at the banquet table—recently at one of the lodge suppers remarked to him on the subject of the smallness of the lodge Charity box, that considering the brethren of the lodge were very liberal to the Benevolent Fund, the box ought to be filled every time it went round. Taking that somewhat as a reproach, he (Bro. Bowles) determined to present the lodge with another Charity box in commemoration of the son of the Provincial Grand Master for Surrey taking his Three Degrees in Masonry during his year of office. He had known Viscount Cranley from his lordship's birth, but he never expected that he should have had the pleasure of initiating him in Freemasonry. However, such was the fact, and the box he then presented would commemorate it. He trusted it would be in the possession of the lodge many years, long even after Viscount Cranley became their Provincial Grand Master, and from the love they all had for his father they wished that the day might be far distant when that even happened.

The box was then presented. It was a handsome ebony box, with the Sacred Law in silver on the top, engraved "Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy." In front of the box was a silver plate, with the inscription: "Presented to the Weyside Lodge, No. 1395, by W. Bro. Arthur H. Bowles, W.M., on the occasion of the admission into Freemasonry of Viscount Cranley, son of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., Prov. G. Master of Surrey, 1896." In the panels at either end of the box was a silver plate with the Masonic emblems engraved. A vote of thanks, proposed by Bro. White, and seconded by the S.W., was accorded to the W.M. for the handsome present, and the box was sent round in lodge for contributions, and then handed to the Treasurer.

Supper followed the working of the lodge, the usual toasts being afterwards honoured.

Bro. Sir William Abdy responded for "The Grand Officers," and said the W.M. had been very hard upon him. He was the junior member of the Grand Lodge present on that occasion, besides being not a full-fledged Grand Officer, but one on whom past rank had been conferred. Nevertheless, he was very proud of his rank. He wished to make one observation. All the brethren who had the privilege either as Master, Past Masters, or Wardens, who had the privilege to attend Grand Lodge must have noticed when they were there the great dignity and harmony of the working, and if all who were privileged to attend Grand Lodge did so it would help them to carry on their work. There were circumstances of Masonic life when one always felt the power of Grand Lodge; there were occasions on which they saw how the spirit of Masonry was acting daily in promoting harmonious understanding and bringing about the successful issue of undertakings which might be in people's minds. There were occasions when they saw that outside Grand Lodge, and witnessed it with the greatest pleasure and almost with surprise. They had seen such that evening, and he said it without flattery to the W.M. or his officers. When he witnessed the work, first the dignified way in which he carried out his work, well knowing that he was master of it both in the raising and the initiation, and not only that, when he saw the wheels within wheels, how the Wardens and the Deacons did their work in assisting him, he thought the work was carried out grandly. He congratulated the W.M. and his officers both on his own work and also on that of his officers, and if their successors followed their example, they would do honour to the lodge and be a credit to Masonry. Few lodges he attended gave him such delight.

Bro. Arthur H. Bowles, W.M., in giving "The Provincial Grand Master," said the portrait of the Earl of Onslow presented that evening would be hung on the walls of the lodge. All members of the Province of Surrey knew that the noble earl's family had lived in the neighbourhood for over 200 years. His lordship was High Steward of the County, a Borough Councillor of one of the districts, and he had identified himself with Surrey, Guildford, and its immediate neighbourhood. He (Bro. Bowles) need say nothing to Surrey men to testify to the Earl of Onslow's qualities as a Surrey Mason; they all knew him, and he was beloved in their midst. He coupled with the toast, as time was very short, "The Deputy Prov. G.M. and the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. Hawkins, Prov. G.D. of C., responded, and said Viscount Cranley, who had been raised that evening, was born to a great heritage as well as to a great heritage in Masonry, because his father was greatly interested in it. He hoped Lord Cranley would follow Lord Onslow as a statesman in years to come, and also as a Mason of the Province of Surrey, although, as the W.M. said in the lodge, they all hoped it would be long before he occupied that position in the Craft.

Bro. Arthur H. Bowles, W.M., said before the visitors departed, as many were going to depart by the 10 p.m. train for London, he would bracket the next two toasts, "The Candidates that evening, the two brethren who had been raised," and "The Initiate." It was a unique position he had been in that evening, to see members of Church and State walk into Masonry on one and the same evening. It was the first time such a thing had occurred to him in his Masonic career of either introducing a noble lord and future statesman of the country and a clergyman of the Church into Masonry the same evening. He could assure Lord Cranley, as a diplomatist, he would carry with him the good wishes of every member of the Weyside Lodge, and the full assurance they could give him that when he went abroad he would find in foreign countries a great benefit in Masonry. To Bro. West he would say that, whilst hoping on behalf of the Weyside Lodge, that he appreciated Freemasonry as far as he could see it at present, as he went further he would appreciate it more. On behalf of the Weyside Lodge, he welcomed him in Masonry, and hoped he would long be a member of the lodge. He could not help looking forward into the dim future to see Bro. West perhaps as Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord Cranley as Pro Grand Master or Deputy Grand Master meeting and shaking hands, and congratulating each other that they met as Masons in the Weyside Lodge.

Bro. Viscount Cranley, in replying and thanking the W.M. and brethren for what the former had said of him, and the latter for so kindly endorsing it, said he had a message from his father to give the brethren, that he deeply regretted that reasons over which he had no control prevented him being among them. He only went out of his bed room the day before, and the doctor told him if he went out of the house he would not attend him any longer. His father was extremely sorry for he would have liked to meet so many friends. He (Lord Cranley) hoped he would live to deserve the many kind things the W.M. had said of him.

Bro. Smyth, also replied and said that although the First and Second Degrees were a

novelty to him, the First seeming very important, and the Second better, the Third was the most impressive he had ever gone through, and he thanked the W.M. for the way in which he administered the last, and all the officers and brethren of the lodge for their instruction.

Bro. West, the initiate, expressed his sincerest thanks for the way the W.M. had spoken of him. Now that he had passed the First Degree he felt proud he had become one of the brethren. He thoroughly believed that Masonry was a great power for good in the world, and he should always try to uphold and support it in the best possible way and be as good a Mason as he could.

The other toasts followed.

Farringdon Without Lodge, No. 1745.

This flourishing civic lodge met at the Viaduct Hotel on the 30th ult., when there were present, among others, Bros. J. M. Murphy, W.M.; Evans, S.W.; Witt, J.W.; H. J. Lardner, P.M., P.G.S., Treas.; J. D. Webb, J.D.; Dr. J. W. Hinton, M.A., P.P. G.O., Asst. Org.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.S., P.G. Std. Br.; J. Young, P.M.; T. Simpson, P.M.; G. Herbert, P.M.; E. Schultz, P.M.; N. P. Lardner, P.M.; C. Bachoffner, I.P.M.; J. W. Gaze, C.C., P.M.; Lile, C.C.; and W. Ramsey, P.M., P.P.G.D. (Hon. Member).

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. E. R. Clemmers was impressively raised to the Third Degree by the W.M. A ballot was then taken on behalf of Bro. H. Brooks Marshall, M.A., J.P., C.C., W.M. 1777, and it proved to be unanimous. It was resolved that a ball in connection with the lodge should be held early in the spring of next year.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. W. H. Jackson, P.M., Sec.; Dr. E. M. Lott, P.G.O. England, Org.; J. Strugnell, P.M.; H. Herbert, P.M.; and others.

The lodge was then closed, and the members and their visitors partook of an excellent banquet.

Among the visitors were Bros. Yates, 1366; McLachlan, 1607; Spalding, 1693; Sadler, 1706; Watchangel, 1828; the Rev. J. Barrass, 1928; and Brown, 2009.

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

The I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," congratulated Bro. J. M. Murphy upon his highly satisfactory working. He said that the W.M. was a constant attendant at lodges of instruction, and took a great interest in all Masonic matters. He trusted that those officers desirous of achieving a like success when their time arrived to fill the chair would profit by Bro. Murphy's example.

The W.M. having replied in a few modest words, then called upon the senior Past Master present to propose "The Health of the Joining Member." This having been done,

Bro. Marshall, who, on rising, was received with great applause, said that he had been deeply touched by the kind manner in which the proposer of the toast had mentioned the Masonic services, and expatiated on the social and benevolent qualities of his late revered father. He had to thank the members of the lodge for having received him as one of their number. He esteemed it as a very great honour to belong to a lodge that possessed so many distinguished brethren and influential citizens of the City of London. He was a very busy man, and could not promise to attend every meeting of the lodge, but they might rely upon him doing his best to further the cause of Masonry in general and the Farringdon Without Lodge in particular.

Bros. Bachoffner, H. J. Lardner, and T. Simpson responded on behalf of "The Past Masters," the utterances of the last named brother being quaint and humorous. Bros. Evans, Witt, and Webb, responded on behalf of "The Officers."

During the evening Bros. Dr. Hinton, J. Young, G. Herbert, W. Ramsey, and Sadler instrumentally and vocally entertained the brethren, the last-named has a tenor voice of good quality.

Trinity College Lodge, No. 1765.

The installation meeting of this lodge took place on Thursday, the 3rd inst., at Mandeville-place, W., the W.M., Bro. John Bennett, presiding, supported by Bros. H. V. Geary, P.M.; T. E. Biddlecombe, P.M.; C. J. Ozanne, P.M.; J. A. Hammond, P.M., Treas.; and J. B. Sarjeant, P.M., Sec. The other officers present were Bros. John Mills, S.W., W.M. elect; J. S. Eidmans, J.W.; M. Taylor, S.D.; Goodworth, J.D.; R. Sladdin, Org.; J. R. Hammon, Stwd.; W. Sarjeant, I.G.; and G. Harrison, Tyler. Among the members were Bros. O. Doherty, H. Harrison, D. J. New, A. W. Tickle, L. Meo, A. M. Cooper, G. C. Alcock, J. M. Patterson, W. S. Holder, and Sinclair Dunn. The visitors present included Bros. Graveley, P.M. 28, &c.; J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I. for Boys; F. J. East, W.M. 11; C. Davis, P.M. 1287; J. E. Shand, P.M. 1287; S. W. Timson, P.M. 781; W. G. Greig, 2319; C. Couchman, 1609; A. Warren, 878; E. Elmslie, 278; W. E. Jones, P. B. Black, 15; A. H. Jones, 278; W. H. Graveley, 898; R. E. Barnes, 871; F. H. Tate, 1563; F. James, 2163; and Geo. Watts, 1563.

The lodge being duly opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, Bro. O'Doherty presented the Auditors' report, which was accepted by the unanimous vote of the brethren. Bro. G. A. Grant, 700, was then proposed and elected a joining member and Mr. Hermann Wagner was initiated. Bro. J. A. Hammond, P.M., officiating as D.C., presented Bro. J. Mills, W.M. elect, for the benefit of installation, and he having assented to the charges and regulations, &c., the Board of Installed Masters was duly formed. Bro. Bennett, as Installing Officer, then inducted Bro. Mills into the chair of K.S., he performing the ceremony with admirable precision and great impressiveness. After the usual formalities, the W.M. appointed and invested the following officers—Bros. J. S. Eidmans, S.W.; M. Taylor, J.W.; J. A. Hammond, P.M., Treas.; J. B. Sarjeant, P.M., Sec.; W. G. W. Goodworth, S.D.; W. A. Sarjeant, J.D.; A. W. Tickle, I.G.; G. Callingham, D.C.; Robt. Sladdin, Org.; and George Harrison, Tyler. The addresses were delivered to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren respectively.

Other business having been transacted, the lodge was closed, and the brethren retired to refreshment.

The loyal toasts having been proposed and honoured, that of "The Grand Officers" followed.

Bro. J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B., gave a brief and eloquent response. After paying a high compliment to the Installing Officer, Bro. Bennett, for the excellence of his working, he referred to the Earl of Lathom and other Grand Officers with whom he had the honour to serve. He also spoke of the claims of the Masonic Charities, and hoped the Trinity College Lodge would send a Steward to the next Festival of the Boys' School.

The W.M. briefly replied to his toast, which was proposed by Bro. Bennett, I.P.M.

Bro. H. Wagner, replying to the toast of "The Initiate," expressed his sense of the privilege which had been conferred on him that evening.

For "The Visitors" Bro. Graveley, P.M., gave thanks for himself and his brother visitors for the hospitality extended to them, and congratulated the lodge on its good working, especially referring to the way in which Bro. Bennett had performed the installation ceremony.

Bro. Davis, P.M., also added a few words. For "The Past Masters" Bros. J. A. Hammond, J. B. Sarjeant, and Geary responded. The Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

Acacia Lodge, No. 2321.

A regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Bradford, on the 3rd ult. The W.M., Bro. S. A. Bailey, P.M., presided, and amongst the members present were Bros. S. Robinson, I.P.M.; A. Stephenson, P.M., P.P.G.D., D.C.; John Niven, P.M.; C. H. Ellis, P.M., Treas.; J. T. Last, P.M., Sec.; R. S. Hird, S.W.; J. W. Bland, J.W., as S.D.; W. Shaw Smith, as J.D.; J. S. Marsland, I.G.; F. Kinder, as Org.; and H. Holmes, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. F. J. Pickles, P.M. 258, P.P.G.D.C.; A. Butterworth, P.M. 1034; and J. Colten, 1648.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. The ballot was taken for Mr. W. H. Townend, which proved in his favour, and, being in attendance, he was initiated by the W.M., the working tools being explained by Bro. J. Niven, P.M., and the charge delivered by Bro. C. H. Ellis, P.M., Treas. Apologies were tendered for the unavoidable absence of a number of the brethren, after which the lodge was closed.

The brethren having supped together, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and a pleasant evening spent, the toasts being interspersed with songs and music.

NOVELTY THEATRE.—EVERY
EVERY EVENING at 7.30, and MONDAY,
WEDNESDAY, and SATURDAY, at 2, Grand Christmas
Pantomime, "RED RIDING HOOD." Miss V. St.
Lawrence, Miss Rose Moncriff, Mr. Newman Maurice,
the Etherdo Troupe, and other artistes. Grand Trans-
formation Scene and old-fashioned Harlequinade just to
please the children. Numbered seats from 1s. may now
be booked.—Manager, Mr. W. TYRRELL.

STAGE LADIES & GENTLEMEN
desirous of entering the Theatrical Profession in
Drama, Comedy, Comic Opera, or Music Hall, apply for
terms to

MR. CARLTON ST. AUBYN,
Late Manager Olympic Theatre, Royal Aquarium Theatre,
Theatre Royal, Scarborough, &c. (Letter for interview).

MR. CARLTON ST. AUBYN,
School of Dramatic Art, 87, New Oxford-street.

ANDERTON'S HOTEL & TAVERN
FLEET STREET, LONDON.

F. H. CLEMOW, Proprietor.

In connection with the Peacock Hotel, and Royal Hotel,
Boston, Lincolnshire.

The central position of Anderton's is unequalled for
Masonic Banquets, Public Dinners, Wedding Breakfasts,
Meetings of Creditors, Arbitrations, &c.

The RESTAURANT on Eastern Side of Hotel Entrance
is open to the public from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. for Breakfasts,
Luncheons, Teas, and Dinners.

The 2s. Hot Luncheon, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in Coffee
Room, unequalled.

Registered Address for Telegrams:—
CLEMOW, LONDON.

T. H. STEVENS'S
GAME, POULTRY, AND PROVISION
STORES,

65, HAYMARKET, LONDON, S.W.

SURREY FOWLS, YORK HAMS, AND CHOICE
OLD CHEDDAR CHEESE.

Clubs, Restaurants and Hotels supplied on the most
advantageous terms.

Prompt attention given to Country orders.
Telephone No. 35,299.

THE SHIP AND TURTLE.
Proprietor, Bro. C. J. PAINTER.

Best and oldest house in London for recherche
Masonic Banquets, Private Parties, and Dinners.
ASSEMBLY ROOMS FOR COMPANIES, &c.

OUR TURTLE "THE ELIXIR OF LIFE,"
Vide faculty.

Purveyors to H.R.H. Prince of Wales, H.I.M. Emperor
of Russia, Dukes of Saxe Gotha, Connaught, Cambridge,
and most of Crowned Heads of Europe.
Manager, Bro. E. ASHBY.

CANNON STREET HOTEL,
CANNON STREET, E.C.

RITTER & PUZEY, PROPRIETORS.

SPACIOUS AND COMMODIOUS ROOMS

FOR LARGE OR SMALL
MASONIC LODGES,

AND
BANQUETS,

MEETINGS, AUCTIONS, BALLS, CONCERTS, ARBITRA-
TIONS, CINDERELLAS, ETC.

W. G. FENELEY, MANAGER.

ESTABLISHED OVER A CENTURY.

OFFICE FURNITURE & IRON
SAFES (NEW AND SECONDHAND),
Largest Stock in London to select from.

Bricklayers, Plumbers, Painters, Paperhangers, Writers
and Engravers, Shopfitters, Carpets, Linoleums, Safes,
Gasfitters, Smiths, Blind Makers, Upholsterers, Licensed
Valuers, Sanitary Engineers, Insurance and General
Agents.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING & BELLS.

Estimates in all Departments. Iron Safes removed
for the Trade.

A. ARDLEY & SON,

Offices—17, GREAT ST. HELEN'S;
Workshops—3, Helmet-court;
Furniture Warehouses—10 and 27, Wormwood-street;
LONDON, E.C.

NEW MASONIC WORK.

AN EXACT REPRODUCTION

OF THE

MACNAB MASONIC MS.

OF A.D. 1722,

EDITED BY

BRO. WILLIAM WATSON (of Leeds),

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

BRO. WILLIAM JAMES HUGHAN

ALSO

Reduced Facsimile of portions of the MS.

The "New Articles" given in the Roll and all else of a
peculiar character are duly explained in Bro. Hughan's
Introduction.

Only 250 copies at 3s. 6d. each, post free.

LONDON:

GEORGE KENNING, 16, GREAT QUEEN STREET, W.C.

FISH, POULTRY, GAME, OYSTERS.

JOHN GOW, LIMITED

17, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.,

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

23, LONDON STREET, MARK LANE, 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.

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.

PHENIX FIRE OFFICE,

19, LOMBARD ST., & 57, CHARING CROSS,
LONDON.—Established 1782.

Lowest Current Rates | Assured free of all Liability
Liberal and Prompt Settlements | Electric Lighting Rules supplied
W. C. MACDONALD, } Joint
F. B. MACDONALD, } Secretaries.

BREE'S ROYAL HOTEL, JERSEY

Healthiest situation in St. Helier.
20 degrees cooler than the sea front.

BED AND BREAKFAST 5/6 AND 6/-.
FULL BOARD, ROOMS & SERVICE, 8/6 & 9/- per day.

Telegraphic Address—"BREES, JERSEY."

ONLY TWO COPIES LEFT.

4to. 440 pages. Cloth. Gilt Lettered.

HISTORY OF THE LODGE OF

EDINBURGH

(MARY'S CHAPEL, No. 1),

Embracing an account of the rise and progress of
Freemasonry in Scotland,

By DAVID MURRAY LYON,

Grand Secretary.

PRICE 63s.

YOUNG LADY DESIRES

ENGAGEMENT AS GOVERNESS.—English,
Elementary, French, Music, Drawing, and Needlework.
Two years' experience in teaching at Masonic School.—
G. A. P., 82 The Walton, Brecon.

EDUCATION AT THE SEASIDE.

THE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL,
LYTHAM, LANCs.

Principal—Rev. W. H. JOHNSON, B.A.

Select Boarding School for Boys.

Beautiful and Refined Home.

SCHOOL AND RECREATION GROUND FACE THE SEA.

Healthy and salubrious climate; south aspect.

English, Science and Art, Languages, Divinity, Music,
Shorthand, &c.

Thorough Commercial Education. Preparation for the
Universities. Sea Bathing. Liberal Board.

Special advantages for delicate Boys.

TERMS FROM 36 GUINEAS PER ANNUM.

MAYO'S CASTLE HOTEL,
EAST MOLESEY, HAMPTON COURT STATION.

BRO. JOHN MAYO, MASONIC TEMPLE.

Accommodation in the new wing for Banquets for any
number up to 120. Every convenience for Ladies' Gather-
ings. Spacious landing to river, whence Steam Launches
can start. Five Lodges meet here, and reference may
be made to the respective Masters as to the catering, &c.

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT
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 1332 Annuitants have received the benefits
of the Institution since its foundation in 1842 and 1849, 200
men and 242 widows are Annuitants at the present time.
30 widows, in addition, are receiving half their late
husband's annuity.

Amount paid Annually in Annuities £15,384
110 Candidates for next Election.

THE ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

Will be held at the
FREEMASONS' TAVERN, LONDON, W.C.,

On WEDNESDAY, 24th FEBRUARY, 1897.

Under the distinguished Presidency of
H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AND
STRATHEARN, K.G., &c., &c., M.W.P.G.M.,
R.W. Prov. G.M. for Sussex.

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

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

Telephone No. 6879.

Established 1808.

MATTHEWS, DREW, & CO.,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
STATIONERS, 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.

FOR ECONOMICAL AND
RESPECTABLE FUNERALS at stated charges.

To cover all expenses, exclusive of cemetery fees.

BRO. C. G. HATT,

UNDERTAKER,

82, HIGH STREET, KENSINGTON, W

CREMATION AND EMBALMING.

Distance no object.

Orders by post or telegrams promptly attended to.

Price Lists free on application.

THE MISSES

HAIDÉE & BLANCHE DE SOLLA
VOCAL DUETTISTS,

Accept Engagements for
MASONIC GATHERINGS, AT HOMES, &c.

Address:

Bro. ISIDORE DE SOLLA, 5, Harrington-square, London.

VOICE PRODUCTION AND
SINGING.

NEW AND IMPORTANT WORK,

Based on the true Italian method,

By Prof. CELLIER,

Showing How to Breathe, Produce and Preserve the Voice;
also How to Phrase and Sing with Ease, Good Taste, and
Effect.

Absolutely invaluable to all vocalists. Highly recom-
mended by eminent authorities.

Post free, 1s., from

THE TEMPLE PUBLISHING COMPANY,

"C," Selbourne Chambers, Bell-yard, Fleet-st., London,
W.C.

MONEY PROMPTLY ADVANCED
ON BILLS OF SALE,

And other Securities, at moderate interest, repayable by
instalments or otherwise.

Office Established 1856.

G. J. SHIPWAY,
3, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND.

ARMFIELD'S SOUTH PLACE HOTEL,

FINSBURY, LONDON, E.C.,
This new and handsomely-furnished Hotel is now FULLY LICENCED. Its position is central, and charges are moderate; the sanitation is perfect. Passenger lift to each floor.
SPECIAL CONVENIENCE FOR MASONIC LODGES, DINNERS AND CINDERELLAS.

GAIETY RESTAURANT, STRAND.

LUNCHEONS (HOT AND COLD)

At Popular Prices, in BUFFET and RESTAURANT (on First Floor),
also
Chops, Steaks, Joints, Entrées, &c., in the GRILL ROOM.

AFTERNOON TEA,

Consisting of Tea or Coffee, Cut Bread and Butter, Jam, Cake, Pastry, *ad lib.*, at 1s. per head, served from 4 till 6 in RESTAURANT (First Floor).

DINNERS IN RESTAURANT,

From 5.30 till 9, at fixed prices (3s. 6d. and 5s.) and à la Carte.

In this room

THE VIENNESE BAND

performs from 6 till 8.

Smoking after 7.45.

AMERICAN BAR.

THE GRILL ROOM

is open till 12.30.

PRIVATE DINING ROOMS for large and small Parties.

SPIERS & POND, Ltd., PROPRIETORS.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Established 1836.

LONDON: 1, MOORGATE STREET, E.C.
ABERDEEN: 1, UNION TERRACE.

INCOME AND FUNDS (1895).

Fire Premiums	...	...	...	£732,000
Life Premiums	...	...	...	239,000
Interest	...	...	...	172,000
Accumulated Funds	-	-	-	£4,671,000



SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1897.

Masonic Notes.

The first great Masonic function of the year took place at Longton on Thursday, the 7th instant, when the first stone of the Free Library and Technical Institute, which is about to be erected in that town, and will be known as the "Sutherland Institute," was laid with the customary ceremonial by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G. Master. His Royal Highness was assisted by his Grand Officers, and there were likewise present Bro. the Earl of Dartmouth, Prov. G. Master of Staffordshire, and the officers of his Prov. Grand Lodge, together with a numerous gathering of the members of neighbouring lodges and visiting brethren, while a large concourse of spectators was gathered from all parts of Staffordshire and watched with great interest the unusual proceedings. We hope to publish a full account in next week's issue.

The Byfield Lodge, No. 2632, will be consecrated on Monday, the 11th instant. The ceremony will be performed by the Grand Secretary, who will be assisted in his task by Bros. Geo. E. Fairchild, P.A.G. D.C., as S.W.; James Terry, P.G.S.B., as J.W.; the Ven. Archdeacon Stevens, G. Chaplain, as Chaplain; Frank Richardson, P.G.D., as D. of C.; and C. J. R. Tijou, P.A.G. Purst., as I.G. The principal officers designate are Bros. James Boulton, G.P., W.M.; W. Gladding, S.W.; and Flint, J.W. We doubt not that everything will pass off satisfactorily, and that as soon as it has found its feet—which it is likely to do very speedily under the auspices of so capable a Mason as Bro. James Boulton—it will prove itself a worthy constituent part of our Grand Lodge. It has our most cordial good wishes for its success.

The Lodge of Virtue, No. 152, Manchester, which celebrated the centenary of its constitution on Wednesday the 31st ult., was founded by the "Ancient," or "Atholl" Grand Lodge, the Warrant, No. 201, originally granted in July, 1777, to a body of brethren, authorising them to meet as a lodge at the Cock Inn, Stretford, near Manchester. But according to Lane's "Masonic Records," this lapsed about 1782 and the Warrant was re-granted to sundry brethren to meet at the Moseley Arms, Shude-hill, Manchester, on the 30th December, 1796. From that date forward the lodge has been in continuous working, having moved its quarters at pretty frequent intervals till the year 1864, when it migrated to its present home at the Freemasons' Hall, Cooper-street. Its number was in the Atholl days 201. After the Union in 1813, it became 250 on the roll of United Grand Lodge, and in 1832 and 1863 was changed successively to 177 and 152. The centenary meeting, which, we have said, took place on the 30th ult., was in all respects a success and we trust that the lodge may go on and prosper even to a greater extent than it has done in the past.

The New Year's entertainment to the inmates of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution—of which a full and particular account will be found in another part of our columns—took place on Wednesday, and, thanks to the energy and kindly supervision of the Secretary, proved a great success. The dinner, which was served under the direction of the Matron, was excellent, the wine excellent, the entertainment which followed the repast excellent, and the enjoyment of the old folks and their visitors unqualified. Bro. Terry, as usual, made a stirring speech, in which he earnestly appealed for support in behalf of an Institution which is doing such excellent service on so large a scale, and we trust the effects of his speech will be made apparent at the Festival on the 24th February by sundry substantial lists, or additions to lists, directly traceable to his remarks. We mention elsewhere that a considerable measure of support is needed in order to ensure the success of the Festival which is about to be held under the auspices of the Duke of Connaught, and Bro. Terry's speech is well calculated to enlist some of that support.

We have to acknowledge our indebtedness to Bro. J. M. McLeod, Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, for the very interesting particulars appended to the statement of income for 1896, which he kindly furnished last week for our article on "Masonic Benevolence in 1896." Some of these particulars are noted in our article on the "Removal of the Boys' School," which will be found in another column. But it is worth while mentioning that the total amount received by the Institution during the 10 years from 1887 to 1896, both inclusive, was £189,895 os. 9d., of which £55,111 9s. 4d., was received in respect of the years 1887 to 1890, which were under the old régime, and £134,783 11s. 5d. in respect of the six years of the new régime.

We are also informed that out of the income of £23,603 2s. for 1896, £8,175 2s. was expended in the purchase of additional Capital, while £3000 was paid as part of the purchase money of the new property at Bushey. But in addition to the ordinary income, there were received in respect of the "Scholarship Fund," donations amounting in all to £1604 9s. 6d. This sum, having been raised for a special purpose, quite distinct from the purposes to which the ordinary donations and subscriptions are devoted, has been very properly excluded from the Statement of Income for the past year. But the point we are chiefly desirous of emphasising in reference to the above particulars and the others cited in our leading article is that, in the face of such figures, it will only be a duty on the part of

Bro. Greatbatch that he should withdraw the reckless statement he is reported to have made in the Menturia Lodge on the 15th ult., to the effect that "matters are almost as bad as ever they were" in the management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

Apropos of the consecration of the Jubilee Lodge, No. 2633, Brisbane, a report of which appears in another column, we have much pleasure in drawing attention to the very substantial progress which is being made in English Masonry in Queensland, as many as three other Craft lodges having lately been constituted. The venerable but still energetic District Grand Master, The Honourable Aug. C. Gregory, C.M.G., &c., accompanied by his equally active District Grand Secretary seems to spare no pains in administering his government and in furthering the advancement of the Craft. They lately constituted a new lodge called Excelsior, No. 2624, at Mackay, the sugaropolis of Queenstown, some 700 miles from Brisbane under very favourable auspices, the D.G. Sec. acting as Consecrating and Installing Officer. This event happened at a time when three other Mackay lodges were holding their Annual Installation Meeting, and the occasion was utilised to finish up their Masonic Festivals by holding a Masonic Church Service.

This service was held in the Anglican Church. The brethren, being clothed in the school-house in the grounds, entered in procession, led by the choir singing an appropriate hymn. The service was truly Masonic throughout, the lessons being special, and the sermon by Bro. the Rev. Abel Turner, M.A., was an eloquent and impressive discourse, and well calculated to convince the large congregation of the beauty of our principles and the beneficent nature of its Institutions.

Again, in the months of August and September two other lodges were consecrated, namely, the Killarney, No. 2629, in the beautiful mountain district of that name, some 200 miles from the metropolis and the Hopeful, No. 2634, at Corinda, only a few miles out of town. The ceremonies in both cases were highly successful, the R.W.D.G. Master in each carrying out the ceremonies of consecration and constitution.

In our report of the Council meeting of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, it will be observed that our Yorkshire Provinces, despite the disagreement with Bro. Smithson in his action in supporting the removal of the Institution to Bushey, desire him to continue as their representative on the Board of Management. This is the more noteworthy, as it was the Province of North and East Ridings of Yorkshire which commenced the opposition to the removal.

The first meeting of the Board of Stewards for the approaching Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Thursday, when Bro. the Right Hon. Sir W. T. Marriott, Q.C., P.G.D., D.P.G.M. Sussex, was chosen President; Bro. Sir J. B. Monckton, P.G.W., Acting President; Bro. Lennox Browne, P.D.G.D.C., Hon. Treas.; and Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B., Hon. Sec. The usual preliminary arrangements were agreed to.

BRO. LORD WOLSELEY, Commander-in-Chief, has awarded the long service and good conduct medal to 215 non-commissioned officers and men of the regular army.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has sent a brace-and-a-half of pheasants to each of the members of Bro. Edward Terry's company who appeared at Sandringham on New Year's Day in "Love in Idleness" and the "Holly Tree Inn."

THE LEGAL MUSICAL SOCIETY, of which the Lord Chancellor (Bro. Lord Halsbury) is President, held its annual dinner at Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday evening. There was a numerous muster of guests, and after dinner an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was given.

LONDON STILL remains among the healthiest cities in England, notwithstanding that last week, according to the Registrar General's Returns, the mortality rose from 15.1 to 20.8, per 1000, that of the 33 great towns being 22.3. The death-rate at Brighton was above the average, and that of Croydon the most favourable but one.

THERE WAS the usual festive gathering at Drury Lane Theatre on Wednesday evening (Twelfth Night) after the performance of the pantomime, and Bro. James Fernandez, Master of the Drury Lane Fund, cut the Baddeley Cake. Before doing so, however, he made touching reference to the late Bro. Sir Augustus Harris and his large-hearted hospitality. Mutual good wishes for the New Year were afterwards exchanged amongst those present, and the health of Bro. Oscar Barrett was drunk with great cordiality.

Correspondence.

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

ARTICLES 189 AND 191.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The question raised by your correspondents is a very curious one, and it will be interesting if one of the Revisers of the Book of Constitutions will tell us what they intended Art. 191 to mean!

Previous to the 1883 revision the Rule was intelligible enough, especially if its history is followed.

In Williams' Const. of 1819 it is Rule 2 under the head "Of proposing members." No. 1 practically our 189, "No brother shall be admitted a member of a lodge without, &c." No. 2 is "A brother, initiated in a lodge, thereby becomes a member, without any further proposition or ballot, provided he express his wish to that effect on the day of his initiation."

In the Const. of 1855, Rule 13, under the head "Private Lodges" runs, "Every lodge must receive as a member, without further proposition or ballot, any brother initiated therein, provided such brother express his wish to that effect on the day of his initiation, to ascertain which the Master shall call his attention to this law, as no lodge should introduce into Masonry a person whom the brethren might consider unfit to be a member of their own lodge."

So it continued till the revision.

In "The revised Book of Constitutions critically considered and compared with the old edition," being a series of articles reprinted from the *Freemasons' Chronicle* in the form of a shilling pamphlet—a little work which I strongly recommend to all students of Masonic law—I find the following comment: "As regards No. 188 (N.B., the No. of 191 in the Draft revise)—An initiate may claim membership—it must be read side by side with Art. 13, p. 65, from which, on the surface, it does not appear to differ."

(Then follow 188 and 13, p. 65, in parallel columns).

"The insertion of the words 'except a serving brother,' may be thought necessary in order to give greater completeness, though the case is provided for under Rule No. 190. But the alteration of the clause 'provided such brother express his wish to that effect on the day of his initiation' into, 'unless such brother express his wish to the contrary on or before the day of his initiation' hardly appears to us to be a change for the better, as the latter—in our judgment at least—does not quite convey the same force as the clause for which it is to be substituted. The reason assigned is, in both cases, the same, namely, that a lodge should not introduce into Masonry a person whom it does not consider fit to be one of its members. But is not this end more likely to be secured by requiring that the candidate shall express a wish to become a member of the lodge wherein he is initiated rather than that he has no such wish? When a lodge knows the person it is about to initiate is anxious to become one of its members, the brethren will naturally be more careful to make themselves certain of his being worthy of being introduced into Masonry. If, on the other hand, they know beforehand that he does not wish to be one of themselves, it is on the cards that they may concern themselves less immediately as to his worthiness to be admitted to the Fraternity. For ourselves, we should leave this clause as it is, only altering the words 'on the day,' into 'on or before the day.'"

In the summary of Suggestions and Amendments not recommended by the Board of Gen. Purp. for adoption by Grand Lodge appears,

"188 To restore the old rule, with the addition 'on or before the day.'"

By the reports of the proceedings in Grand Lodge this amendment does not seem to have been pressed, and Law 191 seems to have been adopted as it now stands without any discussion.

In a series of Articles on the Revision in the *Freemason* it is said "No. 188 is surely an improvement on Art. 13, page 65 as it simply states that every lodge must receive as a member without further proposition or ballot, any brother initiated therein (save a serving brother, unless he express his wish to the contrary, on or before the day of his initiation. This is better than the old clause which required the W.M. to direct the attention of the candidate to the rule thereon, so as to know his intentions; a duty which has been frequently neglected, and in some lodges wholly ignored." (*Freemason*, Vol. XV. p. 596.)

From this, and from a report to the P.G.M. of Cornwall by a Committee appointed by him to examine and report on the proposed alterations, in which, amongst what the Committee deem to be improvements, is found "188 All initiates become members there and then, unless they intimate otherwise." (*Freemason*, Vol. XV. p. 595). It would seem as if it was supposed that the intention was that every initiation should involve the candidate at once joining the lodge, unless he at his initiation expressed a contrary wish; but it is not altogether clear that this was the intention of the Revisers, especially in view of the marginal note—"An initiate may claim membership." If, however, this is the correct interpretation, it would necessitate the payment of subscriptions to the lodge from the day of initiation—and this should always be enforced, especially as on initiation, unless he has declined membership, the E.A. has a vote.

The view suggested by your querists that 191 should be read to govern 189 is quite new to me, and appears untenable, especially looking at the places of the corresponding rules in the older books; and I think your correspondents will have no difficulty in coming to this conclusion if they refer to the debates in Grand Lodge, which they will find quoted in an article on "Resignation of Membership" in the *Freemason*, Vol. XXXIV. p. 303.

A brother who, having been a member of a lodge, has resigned, can, it is submitted, clearly re-join only under Art 189. This first joining the lodge exhausts his privilege under 191!

If the construction above put upon 191 be correct, and the fact of initiation makes the initiate, in the absence of express refusal on or before initiation, *ipso facto* a member of the lodge; it disposes of a query which the wording of the rule would otherwise seem to raise, viz., how long does the right to claim membership last?

The present wording is not altogether satisfactory.—Yours fraternally,
January 4th. LEX SCRIPTA.

A QUERY.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Rule 191 of the Book of Constitutions is so simple, that I cannot understand any query arising upon it. The rule protects the Craft from a lodge initiating a person whom it would not admit into its own lodge by insisting that membership follows initiation as a matter of course, unless the initiate desires the contrary. But the rule goes no further, and if in due course an initiate ceases his membership, I cannot think anyone would rule that the lodge was compelled to allow such a brother to rejoin if it did not want him.—Yours fraternally,

SCRIBE.

ELECTION OF W.M.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

A proceeding, which appears to have been within the knowledge of the provincial officials concerned, has occurred, and upon which I should like the views of your correspondent "Lex Scripta" or other like authority.

A Craft lodge elected its Master on the day named in its by-laws, but between that and the next regular meeting the W.M. elect resigned his position. An emergency meeting of the lodge was summoned, at which a second or new Master was elected, and on the regular lodge night the two sets of minutes came up. The emergency election of W.M. was confirmed, and he was installed. It would seem to me that Rule 130 of the Book of Constitution has not been carried out, and the election is bad. If this were legal, might not, under certain circumstances, two elections of W.M. take place, and the whole thing be fought out on confirmation of minutes?—Yours fraternally,

SCRIBE.

Reviews.

"HISTORIC NOTES OF ALL SOULS' LODGE, No. 170, WEYMOUTH, 1767-1895." With Illustrations. By Zillwood Milledge, J.P., C.A., F.R. Hist. S., P.M. 176, &c. With preface and introduction kindly written by W. Bro. Wm. Jas. Hughan, P.S.G.D. Eng. Dedicated by permission to Montague J. Guest, Esq. (P.S.G.D.), Prov. G.M. of Dorsetshire. Published by Sherren and Son, Weymouth, 1896.—We must confess to a certain feeling of disappointment on reading the earlier of these "Historic Notes," on a lodge which was warranted as far back as 1767, and which, prior to its translation to its present home in Weymouth, had existed for between 30 and 40 years at Tiverton, in the Province of Devon. But doubtless the records of the lodge during its sojourn in Devonshire experienced the same fate as its original warrant of constitution, which was destroyed "by a sudden and dreadful fire" that happened in Tiverton on the 13th June, 1794, as set forth in the authority granted by Bro. Sir C. W. Bampfylde, Bart., Prov. G.M. Devon, on the 18th January, 1804, for its removal into Dorsetshire, subject to the approval of the Grand Master of the latter province. Or, it may not have entered into Bro. Milledge's plan; to extend his researches into the period of its history antecedent to such removal. At all events, without something to guide us during the years that elapsed between 1794, when the warrant was destroyed by fire, and 1804, when the lodge removed from Tiverton to Weymouth, it is impossible to offer any opinion on the question referred to in Bro. Hughan's Preface about the continuity of the lodge from 1767. A centenary warrant was granted in 1867, and from this we are justified in inferring that this warrant was granted after the necessary evidence of continuous working had been produced and accepted as satisfactory by our Grand Lodge authorities. On the other hand, Bro. Lane, in his "Masonic Records," speaks of the Tiverton All Souls' Lodge of 1767 as having "lapsed," the last registry bearing date the 16th March, 1798. This latter view would seem to be in great measure confirmed by Bro. Milledge's statement at pp. 4, 5, "that the members of the 'Weymouth Lodge'—warranted in 1776 and erased in 1785—were the founders in Weymouth of the 'All Souls' Lodge,' as the warrant of 'All Souls' was by permission of the Provincial Grand Master of Devon, Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, removed in 1803 on the petition of members of the 'Weymouth' Lodge, from Tiverton to Weymouth, and the first meeting of 'All Souls' Lodge, Weymouth, 228, was held June 16th, 1804, at the 'King's Head' Inn." At all events there is nothing beyond this in Bro. Milledge's book to help us in our difficulty and the probability is that the explanation suggested by Bro. Hughan is the true one, that the Warrant was transferred "professedly to comply with the requirements of an Act of Parliament (39 George, III., Cap. 79, July 12th, 1799)," relating to Freemason's Lodges. But in saying that we have experienced this disappointment it must be distinctly understood that we are in no respect disappointed with the book Bro. Milledge has compiled. If, as regards the period between 1798 and 1804, Bro. Milledge finds himself under the necessity of saying "Story, God bless you! I have none to tell, sir," it in no wise detracts from the merit of his Notes from 1804 onwards. On the contrary, seeing that originally he was only invited by his lodge to compile a list or inventory of the many valuable gifts presented to it from time to time by members and others, the brethren of the lodge and Masonic students generally have good reason to be grateful to him for having enlarged the scope of his original commission and converted what would have been a mere list of articles with explanatory notes into a goodly volume of "Historic Notes," which are more than sufficiently ample to enable us to form an excellent idea of the career of the lodge during its existence on Dorsetshire soil and which, at the same time, are exceedingly interesting. Thus, while not losing sight of the task he was originally invited to perform, and recording under their proper dates and with all necessary particulars the gifts which have been presented to the lodge, Bro. Milledge sketches the progress of the lodge almost year by year, giving prominence to every circumstance of importance and noting carefully any influence it may have exercised on the fortunes of All Souls'. Especially careful is he to introduce us to the brethren who have rendered services of any moment, the result being that to a certain extent we find ourselves on terms of almost familiar acquaintance with the leading members, but particularly with such distinguished brethren as Bro. W. Williams, Bro. William Eliot, and Bro. William Tucker, who were successively Prov. Grand Masters of Dorsetshire. These three brethren were among the most loyal members of All Souls' Lodge, as they were likewise among those who helped most signally to advance its interests. Bro. Williams, from the active part he took in the events which followed the Union of the "Ancient" and "Modern" Societies of English Freemasons, and from the fact that it was he who compiled the first Book of Constitutions of United Grand Lodge, was in a position to see that the lodge was well posted in respect of what was being done, and thus it was that All Souls had many advantages over other Provincial lodges who, in days when locomotion was not as it is now, were often a good deal behindhand in their knowledge of current events. That portion of the book which treats of the lodge in Bro. Williams's time is consequently most interesting, the principal events in which he figured being the laying the foundation-stone of the Masonic Hall which belongs to the lodge and its dedication to the purposes of Freemasonry. Bro. Williams received from the lodge many proofs of the respect and affection in which he was held, and on his death in 1839 was succeeded as P.G.M. by Bro. Eliot, who had long served as his Deputy, and who also looked well after the interests and well-being of the lodge. In 1846 Bro. Eliot resigned, and was succeeded by Bro. William Tucker, who in 1853 was deprived of his office by the M.W.G.M., the Earl of Zetland, for having appeared in Prov. Grand Lodge wearing his clothing as Prov. Grand Master over the clothing of a Knight Templar. Bro. Tucker appears to have been an able ruler, and Bro. Milledge has done well to introduce so many of the addresses or charges which he delivered at the annual meetings of his Prov. Grand Lodge. Bro. Tucker was succeeded by Bro. H. Ralph Willett, of Wimborne, and shortly after this event we read of the presentation to the lodge by Captain W. King Hall, R.N., of the flag of truce which that officer had himself carried on the 16th August, 1854, on the capture of Bourasund. However, it is not necessary that we should do more in the way of giving our readers an insight into the contents of Bro. Milledge's most readable and valuable work. It would have been better, perhaps, had he broken his narrative up into sections. For instance, his first section might have taken us to the Union in 1813, the next to the renumbering of lodges in 1832, the third to the renumbering in 1863, and so on. Or, he might have made his sections coincident with the duration of each successive Prov. Grand Mastership. However, this is a small matter of detail, and in nowise detracts from the merits of his book as an historical account of an old lodge of high standing, which has been so fortunate as to number among its members several of the ablest and most influential Masons in Dorsetshire, as well as not a few whose fame has extended far beyond the narrow limits of so small a province. Bro. Milledge has, indeed, done his work most thoroughly and conscientiously, and the pleasure of perusing it is enhanced by the number of illustrations with which it is embellished, the place of honour as the frontispiece being assigned to a portrait of the present Prov. Grand Master, Bro. Montague J. Guest. Be it added, that as regards the style in which the book is presented to the public, that is, as regards what the printer and binder are responsible for, there is nothing to be desired. The exterior appearance of the volume is in every way worthy of its valuable contents.

Craft Masonry.

Radnor Lodge, No. 2587.

The installation meeting of this influential and most prosperous lodge was held on Wednesday, the 16th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Folkestone. The following members were present or sent letters of apology for absence: Bros. the Earl Amherst, Deputy G.M., Prov. G.M.; the Right Hon. the Earl of Radnor, W.M.; Viscount Folkestone; Lieut.-Col. W. Keily Westropp, S.W., W.M. elect; Lieut.-Col. E. J. Hamilton, J.W.; the Rev. J. E. Player, Chap.; Major-Gen. E. A. Wood, C.B.; Major-Gen. W. Jackson; Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. Bevan Edwards, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.P.; Captain C. Miller Layton, I.P.M.; Lieut.-Col. G. H. O'Malley, D.C.; Captain Lafone, A.D.C.; F. Hall, Treas.; Dr. W. L. Chubb, I.G.; Dr. A. J. De Butts, Dr. C. A. P. Osborne, Dr. C. E. Perry, Brigade-Surgeon E. D. Tomlinson, the Rev. C. Bosanquet, A. H. Gardner, Sec.; Lieut.-Gen. G. N. Boldero, C.B.; Dr. C. E. Fitzgerald; E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; J. S. Eastes, Dep. P.G.M.; Dr. F. Eastes, W. F. Larkins, Capt. W. H. Eccles, Major R. Blackall, R. Sivewright, D.P.W. India; W. S. Miller, the Rev. E. Kinloch Jones, E. Stow Thompson, M.A.; Dr. W. H. Sturges, Dr. Percy Dodd, Lieut. W. McGildouny, Capt. C. W. Tyler, H. Mackeson, Dr. Norton, Dr. A. E. Price, G. S. Wilks, Major J. Barrett-Lennard Nevinson, Major Henry Vere, Capt. C. L. Cotton, J. Creery, W. H. Norman, Capt. G. D. M. Hughes, W. W. Flint, C. J. Price, the Rev. E. V. E. Bryan, Dr. Fitzgerald, J. Risdon Davy, and H. B. Garling. There were also many visitors, including the Worshipful Masters of many lodges in the province.

The lodge having been opened, and the W.M., Bro. the Earl of Radnor, Prov. G.M. Wilts having received the honours due to his rank, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the Treasurer's accounts unanimously adopted. The noble Earl then installed Bro. Col. Westropp W.M. for the ensuing year. Needless to say the ceremony was carried through with all the grace and geniality for which the noble Earl is famous amongst his brethren, both in his own province and in Folkestone, and the W.M. elect installed into the chair of K.S. and the addresses given in a manner which called forth the admiration of every brother present. The W.M. then invested his officers as follows: Bros. Right Hon. the Earl of Radnor, Prov. G.M. Wilts, I.P.M.; Lieut.-Col. C. J. Hamilton, P.M. 2195, S.W.; E. T. Ward, J.W.; Rev. J. E. Player, P.M. 2237, P.P.G.C. Norfolk, P.S.G. Chap.; F. Hall, P.M. 709, P.P.G. Reg., Treas.; A. H. Gardner, Sec.; Dr. A. J. De Butts, S.D.; Dr. W. L. Chubb, P.M. 1436, J.D.; Lieut.-Col. G. H. O'Malley, P.P.G. Std. Br. Gibraltar, D.C.; Captain Lafone, A.D.C.; S. H. Greenstreet, P.M. 125, Org.; Captain W. Steward Miller, I.G.; Major J. Barrett-Lennard Nevinson, Dr. W. Howard Sturge, and E. Stow Thompson, Stwds.; and G. Butcher, Tyler.

The lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to Hotel Wampach for the banquet. Here they found the tables most artistically decorated with a wealth of choice plants and flowers, and every preparation made for the comfort and pleasure of the 60 or 70 brethren who were present. Grace was said by the Chaplain, Bro. Rev. J. E. Player. It was the generally expressed opinion of those best able to judge that a better dinner had never been served at any Masonic festival in the Province of Kent.

The usual toasts were gone through.

"The Queen and the Craft" was given by the Worshipful Master, as was also "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales."

The I.P.M., Bro. the Earl of Radnor, then gave the next toast, "The M.W. Pro G.M., the Earl of Lathom; the R.W. Dep. G.M., the Earl Amherst; and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past." He said he had known the Earl of Lathom and Earl Amherst for a great many years, and he could say that they were very good Masons and the best of good fellows. He had served with Bro. Earl Amherst in the House of Commons and since in the Lords. The Freemasons of this country were fortunate in having such able men at the head of the Craft; they were most worthy and most valued Deputies of their Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and he hoped they might long be spared to reign over them.

"The R.W. Prov. G. Master of Kent, the W. Deputy, and the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past," was proposed by the W.M., and responded to by Bro. Rev. J. E. Player, P.G.S. Chap., and Bro. Hall, P.P.G. Reg.

Bro. Hall spoke of the great services rendered to the Province of Kent, by their P.G. Master and his Deputy, Bro. Eastes, they having raised the province (though not a rich province, like, for example, West Yorkshire, or Surrey, or Middlesex), by their arduous labours to the front rank. He hoped their younger brethren who had been appointed to office would work hard and that in time they would attain to the highest offices in the lodge. The highest position in the lodge was open to every brother if he would only make himself worthy of it.

Bro. Rev. J. E. Player also responded. He said: When one had responded to the toast some score of times within a comparatively short period, it was rather difficult for one to find anything new to say. However, he thought he might be allowed to refer to the great treat they had had that afternoon in witnessing the very fine working of their Installing Master. They were all indebted to him for showing them a most perfect ceremony beautifully worked. He might say for his brother Provincial Grand Officers of Kent, that, their highest ambition was to make and keep themselves worthy of their most distinguished Prov. G. Master, Earl Amherst. He was the leader to whom they all looked, and he set them a noble example in all Masonic work, and hence it was a very great honour indeed to receive the coveted purple in this fortunate Province of Kent, and to serve under one whom they all revered, and who was now, they were proud to know, not only their Prov. G. Master, but also the Deputy Grand Master of England. He was sure their P.G.M. would be pleased to hear that the lodge he had consecrated a year ago had made such wonderful progress and that it was still growing vigorously.

The toast of the evening at an installation banquet is, of course, "The W.M." This was given by the I.P.M. He said he was glad of the opportunity of saying how indebted he was to his friend, Bro. Colonel Westropp, who had been his acting Master during the past year. It had been impossible for him with his numerous engagements to attend every lodge meeting, and, unfortunately, on one occasion when he came up specially from Longford to attend the lodge, he was unable to leave the house, owing to an attack of gout. He was glad to know that he had an efficient deputy, and that the lodge had prospered.

The toast was received with Kentish "fire."

The W.M., replying, said: Last year at our consecration we mustered 24; we have now reached the respectable number of 54, an increase, I venture to say, that has far and away exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine. Possibly, I may be lacking in that suave urbanity which some may deem so essentially necessary to the manners and deportment of a W.M. Still, in the equally important qualities of firmness and impartiality, I trust I shall not be found wanting; at any rate, it will be my aim to carry out the functions of my important trust at least with dignity and moderation. Supported as I am by a body of officers so able, so eminent, and so efficient, who take the keenest interest in Masonry, and are so zealous to promote the welfare of our lodge, I feel assured that the Radnor Lodge will, by our united exertions, secure for itself a fair reputation in the Province of Kent, a reputation founded and gained, as I hope it will be, not only by the excellent work within its walls, but that outside the door also there will exist among the members the spirit of true brotherly love—one of the grand principles on which our Order is founded—a love that will make itself known and felt in the outside world—not in words only, but in deeds also—by all those who come in contact with its members.

The next toast, "The Installing Master," was proposed by the W.M., who said: I can assure you, brethren, that a very great honour has been conferred upon the lodge to-day, an honour I shall remember as long as I am connected with Masonry—indeed, as long as I shall live. To you, Right Worshipful Sir, I would like to express my appreciation and sincere and heartfelt thanks for the cordial and courteous reception I have always met with as your Senior Warden. There can be no question as to the genuine interest you have taken in the new lodge, and I can testify to the good advice and sound judgment I have received while acting as your deputy, both personally and by letter, in every matter which might tend to its advancement and secure its success. I feel sure I am but expressing the feeling of every member of the lodge in saying we are much indebted for your presence amongst us to-night, knowing as we do the long distance you have come to do us that honour.

The toast was received with musical honours and much enthusiasm.

The Installing Master gracefully responded.

"The Masonic Charities" was proposed by the S.W., Bro. Col. C. J. Hamilton. Very few people outside the Masonic world, he said, knew what Masons had done an

were doing in the sacred cause of Charity. He spoke of their splendid Institutions for the widows and orphans—the Boys' School, the Girls' School, and the home for the old people—and expressed the hope that the number of votes would be largely increased in the Radnor Lodge during the coming year. The lodge already held a high position in the province, and he, as their Charity representative, meant to do everything in his power during his year of office for their noble Masonic Charities, and for the honour and good name of their lodge, and he would say to his brethren—*Bis dat qui cito dat.*

"The Sister Lodge and Visitors" was proposed by Bro. E. T. Ward. He spoke of the good feeling existing between the two Folkestone lodges, and gave the visitors a most hearty welcome.

The W.M. of Temple Lodge, Bro. H. G. Clements, and Bro. Drake, P.M. 2195, responded.

"The Officers of the Lodge" came next.

Bros. Dr. A. H. De Butts and Major Nevinson responded.

Delightful music was provided, the various speeches being mingled with songs, and much pleasure and profit the result.

Bro. Capt. Lafone journeyed from Woolwich to help with song, as well as to perform his duties as an officer of the lodge. Bro. Templar Saxe also sang, and Bros. Dr. Perry, H. G. Clements, and E. Stow Thompson. Bro. Greenstreet, P.M., the Organist of the lodge, accompanied.

It was the unanimous opinion of the brethren that the installation ceremony and the banquet and after proceedings at Hotel Wampach had been most successful and enjoyable, and that great credit was due to the Committee appointed to make all necessary arrangements.

Royal Arch.

Harmony Chapter, No. 244.

The regular meeting of this flourishing chapter was held at the Masonic Temple, St. Helier's, Jersey, on the 14th ultimo. Present: Comps. Dr. Maxwell Le Cronier, M.E.Z.; J. T. Baal, H.; Dr. A. C. Godfrey, J.; Peter Bois, P.Z., Treas.; P. G. Hamilton, P.Z., S.E.; F. J. Godfrey, P.Z., acting S.N.; J. Amy, acting P.S.; A. W. Godfrey, 1st A.S.; W. Gosling, 2nd A.S.; W. H. Hambly, Janitor; L. P. Hespéradox, P.Z.; Dr. J. Le Cronier, P.Z.; J. W. Hambly, P.Z.; J. C. Barrette, P.Z.; Major J. C. Raven, M.E.Z. 491; W. W. Richardson, H. 491; S. Gilley, P.Z. 491; J. B. Cummings, Rev. S. Stitt, Org.; and others.

The chapter being opened, the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ballot was taken for Bros. A. C. Walker, 244; W. Sharp, 244; O. Belk, 877; W. W. Alton, 877; and J. C. Gross, 1003, and proved unanimous in their favour, and Bro. A. C. Walker being present, the R.A. Degree was conferred upon him in a very impressive manner, the Principals giving the lectures. The officers were elected for the ensuing 12 months as follows: Comps. Dr. Maxwell Le Cronier, M.E.Z.; Dr. A. C. Godfrey, H.; C. E. Malet de Carteret, J.; Peter Bois, Treas.; P. G. Hamilton, S.E.; J. Amy, S.N.; A. W. Godfrey, P.S.; J. B. Cummings, 1st A.S.; W. Gosling, 2nd A.S.; Rev. S. S. Stitt, Org.; and W. H. Hambly, Janitor. The Auditors and Stewards were appointed, and arrangements made for the installation banquet. Bros. C. Baker, C. H. Wilson, Sec., and A. B. Harden, S.D., of 244, were proposed as candidates for the next meeting.

"Hearty good wishes" for the chapter having been accorded by the visitors, the convocation was closed, and the companions adjourned to the banquet-room, and sat down to an excellent supper, supplied by Comp. Hambly, the custodian of the temple, in his usual capital style.

The usual loyal and Royal Arch toasts were afterwards ably given by the M.E.Z.

The toast of "The Exaltée" having been admirably proposed by the M.E.Z., Comp. A. C. Walker, in reply, said that he was gratified and pleased at the way he had been received into the happy family around him. Ever since his initiation he had been in search of knowledge, and that evening he had made a very great jump—a greater one than he had any idea would be made in one evening. The sublimity of the ritual had made a lasting impression upon him, and was beyond his power of expression.

Other toasts were given in a cordial manner, well received, and enthusiastically responded to.

Some excellent singing and music enlivened the proceedings, which were most enjoyable.

The Janitor's toast brought to an end an evening all but too soon for those who were present.

From all appearances the M.E.Z. will have a most successful year of office, for at the March meeting seven exaltees are expected.

Buckingham Chapter, No. 591.

The annual convocation and installation of Principals and officers of this flourishing chapter was held on Wednesday evening, the 16th ult., at the Masonic Hall, Aylesbury. Present: Comps. J. W. Burgess, M.E.Z.; J. Bliss, H.; J. Williams, J.; J. J. Simcox, P.S.; H. H. Sherwin, 1st A.S.; T. Williams, S.E.; O. J. Grace, P.Z.; F. T. Edgington, P.Z.; E. T. Marshall, P.Z.; L. Poulton, P.Z.; G. Wilson, P.Z.; O. Hustler, A. Ball, J. Page, J. Reader, H. Taylor, H. Lomas, E. Brown, G. Makin, F. Payne, and J. Hodgkinson. Visitors: Comps. E. O. Burgess, P.Z. 1321; and E. J. Wick, 276.

Chapter having been opened, the minutes were read and confirmed. The balance-sheet was read and adopted and ordered to be entered on the minutes, the balance in the hands of the Treasurer being £146 19s. 3d. Comps. J. Bliss, J. Williams, and J. J. Simcox were then duly installed into the Principals' chairs respectively, the ceremony being ably performed by Comp. J. Williams, P.Z., S.E. The officers were then invested as follows: Comps. J. Williams, S.E.; Col. J. Herwood, Treas.; H. H. Sherwin, P.S.; A. Ball and J. Page, Asst. Sojs.; E. Mackrill, D.C.; and F. Payne, Janitor. Business being ended, the chapter was closed.

The companions afterwards dined together in the lower hall.

Zetland Chapter, No. 603.

The second meeting of this resuscitated chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Tofts, in Cleckheaton, on the 21st ultimo, and was equally successful as the previous meeting had been. Comp. S. H. Stocks, P.Z., M.E.Z., presided, the other chairs being filled as follows: Comps. T. J. Pickles, P.Z., P.P.G.P.S., H.; Wm. Allatt, P.Z., Prov. A.G.D.C., J.; J. T. Last, S.E.; Wm. Fielding, 448, S.N.; Richd. Hodgson, P.Z. 448, P.S.; S. Law, 1st A.S.; Wm. Sharp, 2nd A.S.; H. E. Hodgson, and J. Clough. Visitors: Comps. H. S. Holdsworth, P.Z. 448, P.P.G.P.S.; J. W. Monckman, P.Z. 600, P.P.G.P.S.; and A. Woodhead, 600.

The chapter having been opened, the companions were admitted and the minutes of the previous convocation were duly confirmed. Comp. F. Newsome, 208, was elected a joining member, after which the ballot was taken for Bro. John Thompson, Org. of the Zetland Lodge, No. 603, which resulted in his favour; sudden illness, however, prevented his attendance. Comp. Wm. S. Mortimer, P.M. 603, who had been elected at the previous meeting, being in attendance, was exalted to the Supreme Degree of a Royal Arch Mason by Comp. H. S. Holdsworth, P.P.G.P.S., who also gave the lecture. This being the election meeting, the ballot for the officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: Comps. S. H. Stocks (re-elected), M.E.Z.; William Sharp, H.; J. T. Last, J.; S. Law, Scribe E.; S. Mortimer, Scribe N.; J. Clough, P.S.; H. E. Hodgson, Treasurer; and F. Newsome, Janitor. Three candidates were proposed for exaltation at the next meeting. A resolution was passed that the future meetings of the chapter be held on the third Fridays in January, February, March, April, October, November, and December, the election of Principals being held at the December meeting and the installation at the meeting in January. Comp. Stocks, M.E.Z., stated that it afforded him considerable pleasure to announce that since the previous meeting Comp. S. Law had very generously presented the chapter with a set of Principals' and officers' collars and jewels, and Comp. Wm. Sharp in like manner had presented a new R.A. floor-cloth. These gifts were, in addition to the substantial financial assistance those companions had liberally rendered towards furnishing the chapter at its formation in 1886. Comp. Last proposed, and Comp. Hodgson

seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to Comps. Law and Sharp for their generous presents to the chapter, and that such resolution be recorded on the minutes.

The chapter was then closed, the closing addresses being given by Comp. Holdsworth, P.P.G.P.S.

After refreshment the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

In proposing the toast of "The Visiting Companions," Comp. Stocks, M.E.Z., stated how very grateful he felt for the assistance they had rendered in the conduct of the ceremonies that evening. The work had been most efficiently done, and he sincerely hoped the visiting companions would renew their visits to the chapter as frequently as they could conveniently do so, for he could assure them they would at all times be most heartily welcome.

Comp. Holdsworth, P.Z. 448, P.P.G.P.S., responded. He remarked that as their humble services had been appreciated, he assured the M.E.Z. it was an ample reward for any little trouble they might have been put to in coming to Cleckheaton. It was most gratifying to the visitors to find the chapter making such good progress, and they took it as a compliment that they had been invited to render some little assistance in the resuscitation of the chapter.

"The Candidate" was proposed by the M.E.Z., who expressed the pleasure it had given him to welcome as a member of the chapter such an experienced Mason as Comp. Mortimer.

The toast was cordially received and suitably acknowledged.

Comp. Last, in proposing "The Health of the M.E.Z.," congratulated Comp. Stocks upon having presided over another very successful meeting of the chapter.

Comp. Stocks, M.E.Z., thanked the companions for the cordial manner they had received the toast of his health. He was exceedingly gratified with the result of the two meetings that had been held, and he felt then that the future wellbeing of the chapter was assured, as they had amongst their members those who would be able in due course to get up and render the ceremonial duties of the chapter.

Other toasts followed, and a pleasant and eminently successful meeting terminated.

Lodges of Instruction.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 5th inst., at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. J. E. Thomas, W.M.; R. Eddie, S.W.; V. J. R. Longman, J.W.; W. Hancock, P.M., Preceptor; J. W. Clarke, P.G.P. Middx., Asst. Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; C. Smith, S.D.; E. J. Harrison, J.D.; S. Cload, I.G.; R. P. Upton, P.M.; A. Oliver, P.M.; W. Rapley, J. Birks, C. Nicole, A. F. Hardyment, A. C. Little, C. T. Rayner, W. F. Roberts, L. Danielsson, H. R. Bower, and G. Vexley.

The lodge was opened and the minutes read. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Rapley being the candidate. Bro. Hardyment gave the Ancient Charge. Bro. Harrison rehearsed the investiture of officers. Bro. Rapley took the chair and rehearsed the ceremony of passing, Bro. Danielsson being the candidate. Bro. Eddie was elected W.M. for the ensuing week and appointed the officers in rotation. The lodge was then closed.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

The usual weekly meeting was held at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, on Friday the 1st inst. Present: Comps. C. L. Plant, M.E.Z.; Wm. Dawson, H.; G. Benedetti, P.Z., J.; C. H. Stone, P.Z., S.E.; Jas. Addington, P.Z., S.N.; Stone, P.S.; Witty, Dunn, and Derham.

The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Witty personating the candidate. Comp. Wm. Dawson, H., was elected M.E.Z. for the next meeting. After customary congratulations with "Hearty good wishes" the chapter was closed.

Knights Templar.

Plains of Mamre Preceptory, No. 89.

On Saturday, the 12th ult., at Haworth, an assemblage took place for the purpose, amongst other business, of dedicating the new altar which has been presented by several knights to this preceptory. Amongst those present were Sir Knights Simeon Whiteley, E.P.; Jno. Wm. Hartley, E.P. elect.; Woodiwiss, Bracewell, Turner, P.P.; Chas. Whitaker, Kassel, Foulds, Rollinshaw, and Whitley. Also J. W. Monckman, Prov. Chancellor; Wm. Watson, Prov. 1st Constable; H. S. Holdsworth, P.G. Marshal, and Wm. Flockton, E.P. 114.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, the proceedings were commenced by a few brief introductory remarks by Sir Knight Wm. Watson. The ceremony was performed in a most impressive manner by the E.P., Sir Knight Whiteley, assisted by Sir Knights Chas. Whitaker, Turner, and Watson. This business having been disposed of, the E.P. elect, Sir Knight J. W. Hartley, was then formally presented by Sir Knight J. W. Monckman, Prov. Chancellor, and duly installed as Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year by E. Sir Knight S. Whiteley, the outgoing Preceptor, with his customary ability. The officers were then appointed as follows: Sir Knights William Woodiwiss, 1st Constable; John Bracewell, 2nd Constable; F. W. Turner, P.P., Chaplain; Charles Whitaker, P.P., Treasurer; John Spencer, P.P., Registrar; Jonas Pearson, Marshal; George Whitaker, Captain of Guards; Simeon Whiteley, P.P., Almoner; John Kassel, 1st Std. Br.; Edwin Foulds, 2nd Std. Br.; T. M. Rollinshaw, Herald; Robert Horsfall, Chamberlain, and Walter Whitley, Guard Without and Steward. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the following sir knights who had by their gifts furnished the altar: Sir Knights Simeon Whiteley, P.P., aims dish; Jno. Spencer and Chas. Whitaker, the two candlesticks; Wm. Watson, lettering for dossal and Templar cross, with agnus dei, for face of altar; Walter Whitley, brass cross; F. W. Turner, super altar; J. W. Hartley, dossal; Wm. Woodiwiss, altar cloth; and George Whitaker, aims bag. Several articles required to complete the furniture of the preceptory were provided by other sir knights. Apologies were received from the V.E. Prior, Sir Knight J. Dunning Kay, absent on account of illness; Sub-Prior, Sir Knight Harold Thomas, and others.

After the close of the preceptory, the sir knights adjourned to the refectory for refreshment, and passed a most enjoyable evening, and there was a unanimous feeling expressed by the sir knights that that preceptory, established in the ancient and classic village of Haworth may confidently look forward to a long and prosperous career.

Cryptic Masonry.

Grand Master's Council, No. 1.

A meeting of this council was held at the Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the 27th ult. Amongst those present were Bros. and Comps. W. A. Scurrah, T.I.M.; Major T. C. Walls, P.D.G.M., Recorder; H. J. Lardner, P.G.M., P.T.I.M.; J. Rowe, H. Briggs, and E. Mills, O.S.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the resignation of Bro. and Comp. H. Carmon was received with regret. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. and Comps. Baron de Ferrieres, P.T.I.M.; Lieut.-Col. G. Lambert, F.S.A., P.T.I.M.; G. Graveley, P.T.I.M.; R. L. Loveland, J.P., P.T.I.M.; the Rev. Dr. Lemon, P.G.C.; the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., J. J. Pakes, J. J. Thomas, B. Steward, Hays, G. Gregory, W. M. Stiles, Major P. Dunbar, G. Everett, and many others.

The council was then closed and the companions adjourned to dine at the Holborn Restaurant.

The only toast given was "The Queen and Cryptic Masonry."

Secret Monitor.

Royal Sussex Conclave, No. 10.

A meeting of this conclave was held on Saturday, the 12th ult., at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, when there were present Bros. E. Mitchell, G.C., P.G. Stwd., S.R.; A. Upton, P.G. Stwd., C.; John Mennich Mennich, Sec.; Tom Ryder, Stwd.; John Wood, G. Std., V.D.; A. H. Tester, V.D.; Lewis Beale, D.C.; C. J. Gallard, Guarder; Henry H. Hughes; H. Pearce, P.S.R.; and Chas. Fox Goode, P.S.R.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read by the Secretary, passed and signed by the Supreme Ruler. Apologies were read from the Grand Recorder and several brethren regretting absence. Communications from Grand Council were then read; also from Bro. John Marshall, of Manchester, Grand Visitor, regretting absence. The reports of the Visiting Deacon were taken. The Supreme Ruler then proceeded to take the ballot for Supreme Ruler for, and declared the unanimous election of Bro. Upton, C., as Supreme Ruler, 1897. The ballot was taken for Treasurer, and Bro. A. F. Lamette was re-elected Treasurer. The conclave elected Bro. H. H. Hughes, Sentinel; and Bro. Alf. Coe Asst. Sentinel. It was proposed, seconded, and passed, that a P.S.R.'s jewel be presented to Bro. Edward Mitchell, G.C., P.G. Stwd., Supreme Ruler, for his eminently valuable services as Supreme Ruler during his year of office. The conclave was closed.

George Andrew's Conclave, No. 11.

A meeting of the above conclave was held on Thursday, the 10th ult., at the White Swan Hotel, High-street, Deptford, when there were present Bros. A. T. Dealer, S.R.; W. Wright, C.; Vohmann, G.; J. J. Pakes, Sec.; Fricker, V.D.; Ball, Sentinel; and R. T. Stringer, P.S.R.

The conclave having been opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, Bro. W. W. Wright was installed S.R. for the ensuing year, and appointed and invested his officers. The usual Past Supreme Ruler's jewel was unanimously voted to Bro. A. T. Dealer, P.S.R., and the conclave closed.

The banquet which followed was in the usual good style for which this hotel is noted.

NEW YEAR'S ENTERTAINMENT TO THE OLD PEOPLE.

The annual entertainment to the annuitants of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution resident in the buildings at Croydon was given this year on Wednesday, the 6th inst., when the following visitors, friends, and supporters of the Institution journeyed from London and other parts to assist in the proceedings of the day:

Bro. Dr. H. J. Strong; Bro. John Newton, Mrs. Newton, and Miss Sandeman; Bro. David Hills, W.M. 185, and Mrs. Hills; Miss Walker; Bro. Charles Frederick Hogard; Bro. T. Hastings Miller, C.C.; Bro. Charles Kempton and Mrs. Kempton; Bro. Ben George; Bro. Phillip Woodman; Bro. George F. Cook and Mrs. Cook; Bro. J. J. Goode and Mrs. Goode; Bro. Hugh Cotter and Miss Harriet Cotter; Bro. J. Curtis, Mrs. Curtis, and Mrs. Jacques; Bro. A. Start and Mrs. Start; Bro. John Aldis and Mrs. Aldis; Bro. Wm. Thomas; Bro. Alex. Mullord, Mrs. Mullord, and Miss Nelly Mullord; Bro. W. H. Allaway and Mrs. Allaway; Miss Lillian Racker; Mrs. Catherine Curtis; Mrs. Sarah Jacques; Miss Kate Terry; Bro. H. Massey, Miss Massey, and Mrs. George Freeman (Nancy Massey); Bro. E. J. Anning, C.C., Mrs. Anning, and Miss Anning; Bro. John J. Pakes; Bro. C. J. Parish, W.M. 1288; Miss Mary L. Racker; Bro. W. J. Crutch and Miss Aida Crutch; Miss H. Sandeman; Bro. H. W. Clarke; Mrs. Terry; Bro. Dr. W. P. Warren and Mrs. Warren; Bro. Alfred Hickman and Mrs. Hickman; Bro. W. H. Hubbert; Mrs. Minnie Ben George; Mr. Sydney A. Nye, M.R.C.V.S.; and Dr. Waite.

On arriving at the Institution they were welcomed by Bro. James Terry, Miss Norris, the Matron, Bro. J. G. Stevens, and Mr. Horton, and immediately afterwards the residents were summoned by sound of bell to attend the dinner. Their arrival was speedy, and the lady visitors sat down with them to the repast, over which Dr. Strong presided, while vice-chairs were taken by Bros. J. Terry, John Newton, C. F. Hogard, T. Hastings Miller, and G. F. Cook.

At the close of the dinner, which was thoroughly enjoyed, the very few toasts proposed on these occasions were honoured, Bro. Dr. Strong proposing them.

"The Queen," of course, was the first, and in proposing the second—"The Founders of the Feast"—

Bro. Dr. STRONG said he might tell those visitors who had not before had the privilege of attending these annual dinners that they were provided by voluntary contributions, but the old supporters knew that the cost did not come out of the subscriptions to the Institution. One of the founders of the feast was Bro. Thomas Hastings Miller, who had contributed many years, and another was Bro. George Frederick Cook.

Bro. T. HASTINGS MILLER, replying, said this was not the first occasion on which he had had the privilege of responding to this toast, always so kindly proposed by Bro. Strong. He hoped it would not be the last occasion by many years he might attend such festivities. There was nothing in his life gave him greater pleasure than adding to the pleasure of the residents in this Institution. He now occupied a more important post in the Institution than he did two years ago, as he was now on the House Committee, and had the privilege of visiting the buildings and seeing the old friends enjoy themselves in their old age, looking, as they always did, the very essence of happiness and good health. Such a sight touched one's heart and did it good.

Bro. G. F. COOK, who also replied, said he could not do more than echo what had fallen from Bro. Hastings Miller.

Bro. Dr. STRONG next proposed "Success to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, long life to its inmates, to its Secretary, Bro. Terry, and its Matron, Miss Norris." Every one appreciated the efforts of Bro. Terry and Miss Norris, and success to the Institution was what they all desired. He contrasted the present dinners with those of 20 years ago when the room in which they were held was only half the size of the present room, and when the inmates of the Institution and the visitors were very hot and uncomfortable, and the brethren felt disposed to take off their coats. Now they can entertain more people, all of whom could thoroughly enjoy the meal.

Bro. JAMES TERRY, in acknowledging the toast, said Dr. Strong had dwelt on a page of ancient history, when both Dr. Strong and he were 28 years younger. He remembered well the difficulty he had in getting the dinner up when he had no means and no money for doing so. But he spoke to some friends, one of whom gave a piece of beef weighing 20lbs., and another gave turkeys, and another fowls, and others gave various provisions to satisfy the appetites they all brought with them. Since that time they had had many generous friends to help them in their work. In those days the room was smaller, and, as the doctor had put it, the brethren felt disposed to take off their coats on account of the heat. On the subject of Miss Norris he might say of that lady that although not a mother she took a motherly interest in the welfare of all the residents of the Institution, and what the Institution would do without its Matron he did not know. She was a peacemaker and a most trusted and valued officer of every supporter of the Institution, and of the House Committee and the General Committee.

As for himself he was very, very modest. Sometimes it caused him to blush to get up and address a meeting; but when he saw so many sitting down and enjoying themselves, he felt proud to tell all that the last year had been a record year of unprecedented success for the Institution. Nearly £26,000 had been received, an amount that had only been equalled once before—in 1892—when the Institution celebrated its jubilee, and the amount then got was not to be expected every year. He hoped he should have health and strength to carry on his duties as he trusted he had done ever since he came there 30 years ago. What was the position of the Institution at that time, and what was it now? At the former period they raised only £1800 to pay annuities; they were now paying £16400. The ladies had £15 pound a year each; they had now £32. The brethren had £20 a year; they now had £40. Their rooms then were occupied very differently to what they were now; there were no gas or coals found for them, and yet the annuitants managed on their £15 and £20 a year. He could not help thinking that with the increase of their annuities some of the ladies and brethren must have filled very large stockings, and if so, he hoped the surplus would be given back to the Institution. Of course, it would not be given elsewhere. He did not know whether any of the annuitants had thought of making him their universal legatee. If they had he would give them his card and address, and he could assure them the amount would be thankfully received and faithfully applied. He might inform the company that as the present New Year's entertainment was in the year of the Queen's record reign, the old folks had had not only the usual quantity of tea and sugar and tobacco presented to them, but through the kindness of Bro. and the Misses Cotter the quantity had been doubled, and a lady who was present had given to every gentleman annuitant two pairs of woollen socks to keep them warm. He expressed the hope that those who were visiting the Institution now for the first time would go round and see the annuitants' rooms, and afterwards persuade their husbands or sweethearts to take Stewardships for the next Festival on 24th February, when, the year being the Queen's record year, one of her Majesty's sons, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, would preside. The Institution required as much assistance as the Girls' and Boys' Schools. The good it did was incalculable. He had the advantage of going all over the country, and there he found it was the talk of the people how comfortably the annuitants of the Masonic Benevolent Institution lived. They said: "There is Mr. Jones; he does nothing; they say he belongs to some people they call hod masons or bricklayers, or something; but he is kept as a gentleman without doing any work at all." He had been all over England and heard this sort of thing, and he was happy to inform his hearers that the annuitants were very grateful for all they received and their prayer was that Freemasonry might long continue to flourish and that there might always be the money for those who might need a helping hand and that they might always be able to give them that comfort and repose which in their old age they were entitled to.

Bro. Dr. STRONG returned thanks for the toast of "The Chairman," which was proposed by Bro. JOHN NEWTON, and Bro. T. HASTINGS MILLER read a letter from Bro. J. A. Farnfield, the Treasurer of the Institution, regretting that he was too unwell to attend the gathering.

The annuitants and the ladies then retired, the latter paying visits to the residences of the former, while the brethren visitors who had attended to the wants of the diners partook of a separate meal, over which Bro. Thomas Hastings Miller presided.

After the dinner toasts were again proposed, "The Queen" being the first. Bro. T. HASTINGS MILLER proposed "Success to the R.M.B.I.," and said he supposed that to all present and to every Mason wherever he might be the Masonic Benevolent Institution was the first love. Knowing as he did what the Institution was for 27 years he had found that the first Stewardship a brother took up it was for this Institution. That was, to his mind, as it should be, without saying a word against the kindred Institutions, which he knew were doing wonderful work. For its next festival with the Duke of Connaught in the chair he prophesied a great success; they all desired and hoped it might be so. They could not be too strong in this Institution. Every year eligible and deserving candidates were coming forward, and the more that was given, the more ought to be put in. There was a great deal about Stewardships, but who got the Stewards? Bro. Terry, by his winning way, both in London and the provinces, and what he did was not only for the benefit of the Benevolent Institution, but for Masonry generally.

Bro. JAMES TERRY, in acknowledging the toast, said he was very much impressed by the Chairman's kindly observations, and to get rid of the personal part of them, he at once sincerely thanked him for his brotherly expressions. He hoped in years to come to repay them by a repetition of the conduct which for 32 years had met with the unabated and unbroken confidence of the subscribers to the Institution. During the past year the Benevolent Institution had received the highest amount given to it with the exception of its Jubilee year. In all branches it had made progress. He announced £20,000 as the ultimate result of the Festival. It had been about £19,000; but the lesser sum was accounted for by sums having been placed on the lists which came through associations and these amounts, about £2000, had not yet been drawn. The dividend account of the Institution had also been increased. Last year they invested for both funds nearly £9000; the Institution paid its way, and had a balance at the end of the year 1896, after investing about £9000, nearly £2000 to commence the new year. Therefore, he thought, they might congratulate the Institution on the position it had attained in 1896. He hoped that on February 24th, the Festival would prove eminently successful. It was a proud thing for the Queen to have a record reign; it was also a proud thing for a son of the Queen to consent to preside over the festival of this Institution in that year. Sussex, of which the Duke of Connaught was Provincial Grand Master, was waking up to the fact that it should make a great effort. He had reason to believe from a confidential communication that it would not be behind. The number of Stewards compared with what it was this time last year was something like 15 less; but it was now 245, and to-morrow at the meeting to elect officers he hoped it would be found they had 400 stewards. The candidates for the annuity unfortunately increased in number year by year. There would be 115 at next election. Vacancies created by death were eight men and 11 widows, and it was a serious concern for the Committee as to what steps should be taken to relieve so large a number of candidates when there were so few vacancies. A year ago five extra men were placed on the list; in 1892 there were 25 men and 25 widows who were still on the funds. With 115 candidates, all over 60 years of age, some approaching 70, it was a serious consideration for the Committee whether they could afford to put on additional annuitants. He could not anticipate what the Committee would decide, but he would ask such of the Committee as were present to bear in mind the question whether they could not reduce the number of candidates and the number of vacancies. That the Institution had a strong hold on the minds of the brethren of the northern parts of England was unmistakable. There they were convinced that this Institution was the one for them to support. Children in those provinces were kept by their own Institutions and in West Lancashire annuitants were allowed £20 a year until they got elected on the Benevolent Institution. He had not much more to say; this annual statement of his had sometimes been called his manifesto. He hoped the Duke of Connaught would visit the Institution prior to his chairmanship; he should try to get him to do so, and if he did they would have the advantage of hearing from his Royal Highness the following night something to show the good the Institution was doing. He (Bro. Terry) had already said that 32 years ago the Institution raised £1600 a year; it raised now £18,000. There were only 87 annuitants 32 years back; there were now 475. The increase in the

annuities he had already mentioned. The Secretary of one of the other Masonic Institutions, a friend of his, claimed that his Institution was the most progressive of the three. He (Bro. Terry) said in the presence of members of the Committee of the Benevolent Institution that if there was an Institution which was progressive during the last 30 years it was the Benevolent Institution. It was the youngest and it had endeavoured to progress on a firm basis. Of course, its invested capital was larger than that of the Boys' or the Girls' Institutions, but that was only reasonable. They had not to lay out £100,000 on building, or £30,000, or £40,000 on a memorial hall. Out of £60,000 got at the jubilee festival, £50,000 was invested, and consequently the Benevolent Institution was able to take on an additional 50 annuitants. It had never called for any withdrawal of a portion of the capital that had been invested since the Institution was established. When asked for his advice as to the best thing to do, his answer had always been that they should see that they had sufficient funds to pay with, without trenching on the investments. He trusted that they would never have to call upon investments.

Bro. T. HASTINGS MILLER responded to the toast of "The Charities;" and Bros. J. G. STEVENS and W. HORTON to that of "The Official Staff."

In the evening there was a charming entertainment.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The Quarterly Court of the Governors and Subscribers of this Institution was held on Thursday last, at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. J. H. Matthews, President of the Board of Benevolence, in the chair. There were also present Bros. A. W. Duret, Henry A. Tobias, T. W. Whitmarsh, H. Massey, C. H. Webb, E. M. Money, Hugh M. Gordon, and F. R. W. Hedges, Secretary.

After the minutes of the Court of October 8th, 1896, had been read and verified, the summaries of minutes of the General Committee for the quarter had been read for information, the following recommendation of the General Committee was adopted:

"That the six eligible Candidates remaining from the last Election, together with the 23 whose Petitions have been this day approved, be placed upon the List of Candidates for the April Election, and that 20 Vacancies be declared."

It was announced that the receipts of the Institution for the year 1896 were over £19,664.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS.

The regular meeting of the Council, due to be held on Christmas Day, was postponed to Friday, the 1st inst., as provided for by the Laws.

Bro. George E. Fairchild, P.A.G.D.C., was unanimously voted to the chair, and amongst those present were Bros. Dr. Mickley, Dr. Kempster, Jas. Stephens, W. A. Scurrah, Geo. Corble, J. Glass, H. A. Tobias, T. I. Bird, J. Leach Barrett, W. H. Saunders, W. S. Emden, and J. M. McLeod, Secretary.

After the usual routine business on the report of the Petitions Committee, 17 cases were accepted and the List for the Election in April was closed with 60 Candidates for 21 Vacancies.

Several resolutions expressing approval of the action in moving the School to Bushey were reported from Provincial Grand Lodges and other bodies.

It was also reported that the Province of North and East Ridings of Yorkshire had again nominated Bro. W. F. Smithson to be its representative on the Board of Management, and Bro. the Rev. W. Whitley was likewise nominated on behalf of the Province of Devonshire.

Much gratification was expressed at the announcement by the Secretary that the income of the Institution for the year just closed had reached the sum of £23,603 2s.—that being the third largest total in its history.

In the report of the Board of Management it was announced that Bro. Rowland Plumbe, the Grand Superintendent of Works for the year, had been appointed Consulting Architect to the Board in the matter of the erection of the new Schools at Bushey.

FUNERAL OF BRO. DEPUTY SALMON.

There was a large attendance at the Chingford Mount Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, at the funeral of the late Bro. Deputy Salmon. The coffin was covered by over 60 wreaths, including tributes of respect from the Alderman of the Ward, the Corporators of the Ward, Mr. C. M. Roche (the vestry clerk of St. Stephen's, Coleman-street), Bro. Ex-Sheriff Hand, and the churchwardens and sidesmen of St. Andrew's, Stoke Newington. Among those present at the graveside were the Rev. J. W. Pratt (vicar of St. Stephen, Coleman-street), Mr. F. F. Mackenzie (the Superintendent of Epping Forest), Mr. James Gannon (the Keeper of the Guildhall), Bro. Alderman Bell, Captain Alfred, C.C., Bro. Gabriel Lindo, C.C., Mr. H. H. Thompson, C.C., Mr. T. J. Woodrow, C.C., Mr. H. T. Gordon, C.C., Mr. G. J. Woodman, C.C., Mr. C. Wallington, C.C., a deputation of Masons, Mr. St. John K. Roche, Mr. S. Walker, Mr. Joseph Benson, Mr. W. H. West, Mr. A. Bell (Superintendent of Ilford Cemetery), Mr. Montagu, and the chairman (Mr. Randall), and a deputation of the officials of the United Kingdom Railway Servants' Association.

What is the British Workman's?

It is the Ideal Life Office—The Life Office of the People.

What its Business?

Life Assurance—Ordinary and Industrial.

What the Secret of its Wonderful Success?

The Equity and Liberality of its Terms.

What has it done?

It has Popularised and Perfected Life Assurance.

What its Annual Income?

It is rapidly approximating to Half-a-Million Sterling.

What its Rank?

Though only 30 years old, it stands with respect to Premium Income the tenth in a list of British Life Offices.

Masonic and General Tidings.

THE COMMITTEE of Management of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution will hold their regular monthly meeting at Freemasons' Hall on Wednesday, the 13th inst., at 4 p.m. The list of petitions to be placed on the list of candidates for the May election will, as usual, be a heavy one.

THE SURREY COUNTY BALL, has been arranged to be held at the County and Borough Halls, Guildford, on Wednesday next, the 23rd instant.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has consented to become the Patron of the Mens' Help Society, and has sent a donation of 10 guineas towards its funds.

IT IS RUMOURED that Count Deym, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London, will be recalled in order to fill a high post at Vienna, and that his place will be taken by Count Kalnoky.

THE SEASON in Dublin will commence on Wednesday, the 20th inst., when the Lord Lieutenant will hold his first levee at the Castle, and this will be followed later by the usual balls.

MR. W. R. McCONNELL, Q.C., Chairman of the County of London Sessions, has presented a handsome and massive silver loving cup to the Corporation of Belfast, in which city he was born.

BRO. THE MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS OF GRANBY have gone to Folkestone, his lordship having been confined to his room during the past month by severe illness, from which, though unable to walk, he is, we are glad to say, at length recovering.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN visited St. Mark's Middle School, Grove-road, Windsor, on Saturday evening last, and distributed a quantity of clothing sent by the Berks and Bucks Needlework Guild, of which Princess Henry of Battenberg is President, among the women whose children are cared for at the local *crèche*.

THE RIGHT HON. C. PELHAM VILLERS, the father of the House of Commons, completed his 95th year on Sunday last, having been born on the 3rd January, 1802. He has represented Wolverhampton in Parliament uninterruptedly since 1835, and was a candidate for Parliamentary honours for the first time in 1826, when George the Fourth was king.

THE YEAR that has just closed has been an unusually busy one at the Royal Mint, upwards of 25,000,000 more pieces having been struck off than in 1895. Sovereigns and half sovereigns to the number of 6,280,670 were coined, or rather more than a million in excess, and there were about a million more silver coins, but the greatest excess was in the bronze coinage, the excess of which over 1895 was 24,500,000.

THE ROYAL CARL ROSA COMPANY intend having a short season this year in London, lasting for only three weeks. They will appear at the Garrick Theatre, and their performances will include several of Wagner's operas and Donizetti's "La Figlia del Reggimento." The last time they appeared in London they gave only matinees, but in the approaching visit the performances will take place in the evening, and probably matinees on Saturdays.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that the special service at Whippingham Church—where the remains of the late Prince Henry of Battenberg are interred—will be held on Wednesday, the 20th inst.—the anniversary of his Royal Highness's death. There will be a numerous gathering of Royal personages on the occasion, and the Bishops of Winchester and Ripon will officiate, while the musical portions of the service will be under the direction of Bro. Sir Walter Parratt.

THE LATE SIR ALEXANDER MILNE, Bart., Admiral of the Fleet, was buried at Inveresk Church, near Musselburgh, on Saturday last, the coffin, which was shrouded in the Union Jack, having been borne from the residence by relays of Bluejackets. The Queen was represented by Admiral of the Fleet, Sir Edmund Commerell, V.C., and the German Emperor by Vice-Admiral Koester. At the same time a memorial service was held in St. Michael's Church, Charter-square, which was attended by the First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Chelmsford, Lord Cathcart, and others.

DR. GARNETT, of the Technical Education Board, reports that more work has been done this winter in connection with the higher branches of the lithographic and engraving arts than has ever been recorded before, and consequently that we are in a fair way of being able to dispense with the importation from foreign countries of Christmas cards and book illustrations. Much of this progress is due to the practical work done at the Bolt-court Technical Institute, which is continually enlarging the scope of its operations.

SEVERAL ACCIDENTS, some attended with fatal consequences, happened during the dense fog which prevailed in London during the greater part of Saturday last. At the Wandsworth Station of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, a collision occurred between two trains, but though several persons were greatly shaken, none were seriously injured. At Vauxhall, the driver of a van was thrown from his box by a collision and had his right shoulder dislocated, while at Ealing the driver of a van was killed through his van overturning in Gunnersbury-lane.

THE QUEEN has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Sir Joseph Chitty as a Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal, in succession to the Right Hon. Sir Edward Kay, resigned. Having taken a first class in honours in *literis humanioribus*, Sir Joseph Chitty entered Lincoln's Inn in 1856, took silk in 1874, and was raised to the bench as a judge in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice in 1881. Lord Justice Chitty, however, will be best remembered as the famous stroke of the Oxford crew in the inter-University race. He was also a member of the "Devil's Own," and rose to the rank of Major.

IN MEMORY OF BRO. SIR AUGUSTUS HARRIS.—Mr. Joseph Whitehead, of Vincent-square, Westminster, has been commissioned by Lady Harris to execute a memorial of the late Sir Augustus, to be placed over his tomb in Brompton Cemetery, and has prepared a design, which is now on view at the sculptor's studio. The monument will consist of a white marble pillar, surmounted by a life-size bust of the deceased. At one side of the pillar stands a female figure of Fame, crowning the bust with a wreath of laurel. On the other side is a trophy emblematic of Music and the Drama, the whole rising from a beautifully-moulded plinth. The monument will be completed in about six months.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, accompanied by the Princess Victoria and attended by Miss Knollys and Captain Holford, left Sandringham for Trentham Hall, Staffordshire, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland. As the visit was a private one, there was no official demonstration on the arrival of the Royal party, but the reception accorded to their Royal Highnesses by the large concourse of people who had gathered from the countryside about Trentham Station and along the road leading to the Hall was of a most enthusiastic nature. The Prince and Princess were met on their arrival by the Duke of Sutherland and were rapidly driven to his grace's residence. The weather was depressing throughout the whole day, but hopes are entertained that it will improve during the Royal visit.

"I DREAMT THAT I DWELT IN MARBLE HALLS" will be the pleasing fancy to every one who first crosses the threshold of the gorgeous Trocadero Restaurant, which now holds such a proud and enviable position in the "New London" starting into life round and about Piccadilly Circus. But instead of the "vassals and serfs" of the old song we shall find a warm and hospitable welcome from the courteous and spirited proprietors, Messrs. J. Lyons and Co., Limited, and the proverbial attention and personal comfort ever extended to the public by these well-known caterers and restaurateurs. The basement floor is devoted to the grill room, with the buffet, smoking, reading, and billiard rooms. The entrance floor is occupied by the grand restaurant, with its golden minstrel and great gallery in the style of Louis Quatorze, and attached to the gold hall and gallery is a splendid adjacent saloon in the style of Louis Quinze. Small but deliciously cosy dining rooms surround these splendid public rooms. The first floor of the new Trocadero is another welcome surprise, consisting as it does of a ball room, a banqueting hall in the Empire period—a most admirable reproduction—and an ante-room in the style of Louis Treize. On the gallery level, at the top of the grand staircase, will be found a reception room, again in the style of Louis Treize; a magnificent Masonic lodge in the period of Francois Premier, with, of course, the necessary ante-rooms for the comfort and convenience of the brethren of the Craft. Full particulars can be had on application at the Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF CONNAUGHT and their children have left Osborne on the conclusion of their visit to the Queen.

THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER has made known his intention of contributing £100 towards the establishment of an intermediate school at Hawarden.

THE WORSHIPFUL Company of Skinners have offered £100 a year for five years to the Yorkshire College, in aid of the Leather Department.

THE TSAR has appointed Prince Louis Napoleon Colonel of the Dragoon Regiment stationed in Nijni-Novgorod, to the colony of the 45th Dragoons at Sawerall.

THE PRINCESS LOUISE (Marchioness of Lorne), whose visit to Eaton Hall was postponed owing to indisposition, is reported to be in a fair way towards recovery.

THE LORD MAYOR has consented to preside at the anniversary festival of the Printers' Pension, Almshouse, and Orphan Asylum Corporation, on Tuesday, April 6th.

THE 2ND BATTALION of the Connaught Rangers, at present on service in Egypt will embark for India about the 7th February, its place in Egypt being taken by the 1st Lincolnshire from Malta.

THE COUNCIL of the Hunters' Improvement Society have notified the Commander-in-Chief that they intend offering at their Spring Show three prizes of £20, £10, and £5 respectively for officers' chargers.

MRS. GLADSTONE completed her 84th year on Saturday last. The Right Hon. W. E. and Mrs. Gladstone will arrive in London from Hawarden on the 20th instant and will leave for Cannes the following day on a visit to Lord Rendel.

BRO. PASSMORE EDWARDS has offered to provide a public library for the parish of St. George's-in-the-East at a cost of £5000. The Commissioners for Public Libraries are now engaged upon the purchase of a freehold for the site.

LIEUT.-COL. NEELD and the officers of the 17th Lancers gave a ball on Wednesday night at the Exhibition Buildings, York. The guests were over a thousand in number, and included Prince Adolphus of Teck and many old officers of the regiment.

BRO. FIELD-MARSHAL LORD ROBERTS has just given to the world the story of his experiences during 41 years' service in India, under the title of "Forty-one Years in India, from Subaltern to Commander-in-Chief," the publishers being Richard Bentley and Son.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that a public meeting will shortly be held for the purpose of raising a fund for the distribution among the sufferers by the recent bog slide in Ireland. The search for the missing bodies has been continued, but, up to Monday evening without success.

BRO. LORD BRASSEY, Governor of Victoria, is now on a visit to New Zealand, having arrived on Monday at Bluff Harbour in the latter colony on board his yacht, the Sunbeam, which, in spite of the very boisterous weather at the time prevailing, made a very rapid passage from Australia.

THE BROTHERS' COMPANY, of which Bro. Alderman Sir David Evans is the Master, have issued invitations to a dinner to be given at the Savoy Hotel on Thursday, the 21st inst. The Lord Mayor, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Ritchie, and Bro. Sheriff Rogers will be the principal guests on the occasion.

THE EARL AND COUNTESS BROWNLOW's guests at Bilton House, Grantham, have included the Earl of Lytton, the Countess of Ancaster, Bro. Viscount Valletort, Lord Jedburgh, and Lady Helen Kerr, Bro. the Hon. Orm Guest, Admiral the Hon. Walter, and Mrs. Carpenter, and Mr. George Leveson-Gower.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has graciously consented to lay the foundation-stone of the new buildings of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields, shortly after Easter, and it is understood that H.R.H. the Princess of Wales will probably accompany him. In the meantime, an influential meeting in aid of the funds is to be held at the Mansion House on Monday, the 1st prox.

LORD DELAMERE is again in Africa hunting lions and other big game. In a letter his lordship said he had just left Berbera, on the East Coast, with a huge caravan, for an unexplored region of Somaliland. He was in excellent health and spirits, and was now looking forward to good sport, which is the primary object of the expedition, but anticipates entering a country which may reveal much that is new and strange.

THE CUSTOMARY OFFERINGS of gold, frankincense, and myrrh were made, on behalf of the Queen, at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, on Wednesday, being the feast of the Epiphany, at the 11 a.m. service. Mr. E. H. Anson and the Hon. A. Fitz-Clarence, Gentlemen Ushers-in-Waiting, attended and presented the gifts, the Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal, the Rev. Edgar Sheppard, M.A., assisted by the Rev. J. W. Kempe, M.A., officiating.

MR. CHAPLIN, M.P., met with a severe accident in the hunting-field, on Tuesday, while out with the Meynell hounds, his horse putting his foot into a hole and throwing the honourable gentleman with such violence as to fracture two of his ribs. He is, however, progressing favourably, but it will probably be a fortnight before he can be moved from Trentham Hall, where he was a guest at the time.

RECENT EXHIBITION (1896) AWARDS.—Amongst the Gold Medal and other awards given at the late India and Ceylon Exhibition, London, and various other exhibitions, it is worthy of note that Maypole Soap has been foremost amongst those so favoured, having been awarded the following medals and diplomas: India and Ceylon Exhibition, London, bronze medal and diploma; Great Yarmouth Exhibition, gold medal; Middlesboro' Grand Trades and Arts Exhibition, diploma; East London Trade Industries and Arts Exhibition, diploma. Such successes as these are a pleasure to record, Maypole Soap being unique—it not only washes but dyes any colour—and is entirely of English manufacture and everything connected with it, even to the management, is English.

A SUGGESTION FOR FREEMASONS.

A BROTHER WRITES: "Dear Sir,—In looking through one of my back numbers of the *Freemason*, I was attracted by an article headed—'The British Homes Investment Corporation, Limited,' and I immediately saw what a help to some of our lodges such a Corporation (if used properly) might prove; in this way, by our lodges combining, we might become owners of our own temples, wherein some six lodges might meet, and thus save the heavy expense we are put to sometimes such as having to pay from two to three guineas for the use of one room in a town hall, and then, if for convenience sake, we want another room to dine in after the lodge meeting is over, we are respectfully requested to pay another two guineas. Now, say we meet eight times during the year, and during that time have three banquets, that means an outlay of £23 2s., at two guineas, but more, of course, if at three, and then you have not got the convenience of your own wine cellars, so that you might buy and store your own wine, and thus get a saving for the lodge by that means. If, therefore, one lodge is put to that expense, six must be put to £138 12s. for hire of rooms only, and to do away with this expense, I should think, if the Master and his principal officers were made trustees during their term of office, and the lodge empowered them to hold house property certificates of such value, that the six lodges at the expiration of five years might be able to get the desired building, and feel more comfortable in the knowledge that they had done that which would benefit the brethren who followed after them, besides having a place so constructed with the necessary ante-rooms adjoining, which would provide such privacy as we do not always get now. This is merely a rough idea, and I dare say many of your readers may be able to suggest much improvement in the shape of strong rooms, &c.—AN OLD P.M."—The Corporation has achieved great success and made remarkable progress, having extended its membership to every town and village in the United Kingdom—this is owing to the facilities it affords to its members of acquiring their own premises on equitable and advantageous terms. 'The Bonus Investment and House Property Certificates issued to December last reached nearly one million. This is marvellous progress, and it seems to us that a system which has produced such results since the registration of the Corporation in June, 1895, is to be greatly appreciated, and must give great satisfaction to Mr. M. Gregory, the founder, and also to the directors, representative staff, shareholders, and certificate holders. The head office of the British Home Investment Corporation is at 100, London Wall, E.C., where all particulars will be readily furnished to applicants.