

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. 1494]

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1897.

[PRICE 3d.]

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THE QUESTION OF DEGREES.

In our recent article on "Ars Quatuor Coronatorum," Volume X., Part 2, we mentioned the paper that was read by Bro. W. J. HUGHAN, P.G.D., at the lodge meeting on the 24th June, on "The Three Degrees of Freemasonry, especially in relation to the oldest known Records of the Master Mason's Ceremony," as being among the more important contents of the said Part. We had not space, however, to do more than express this opinion as well as our belief that in the discussion which followed the reading of the paper, the criticism of Bro. R. F. GOULD, P.G.D., was well nigh as elaborate as the essay which had evoked it. But this question of Degrees is, apart from the particular theories which may be adopted by particular brethren, one which is certain at all times to attract a large amount of attention and for this reason it seems desirable that we should describe the views which Bro. HUGHAN holds on the subject and the arguments he relies upon as justifying those views.

Bro. HUGHAN's opinion, briefly stated, is that only "one esoteric ceremony was known to and practised by our Masonic forefathers anterior to the Grand Lodge era." In this contention he claims the sympathy and support of Bro. D. MURRAY LYON, G. Sec. of Scotland. "Bro. D. MURRAY LYON and I," says Bro. HUGHAN, at the very commencement of his paper, "have laboured in this particular field of research for over 30 years, have made ourselves acquainted with all known minutes and records of the period, have discovered not a few important MSS., have been assisted by numerous willing and earnest students, especially in more recent times, and yet have failed to find aught that weakens our position." In the paragraph that follows, our respected brother is still more explicit. "In our judgment," he writes, "until the second decade of the last century, there was but the one simple ceremony; never were brethren required to leave the Lodge because a higher Degree was to be worked—for which they were not eligible—but whether Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, or Master Masons, all were equally entitled to be present, irrespective of any notion of Degrees whatever. In other words, so far as we can determine in the light of duly authenticated facts, *distinct and separate* Masonic Degrees are never met with, alluded to, or even probable prior to 1716-7 (*circa*)." Having stated his opinion thus clearly, and having explained that he uses the word "Degree" in the sense ascribed to it by Bro. GOULD, "as representing a rank secretly conferred," he proceeds to

examine "the arguments in support of the alleged antiquity of two or more distinct Masonic ceremonies." But before doing this, he quotes certain passages from Bro. GOULD'S "History of Freemasonry"—(1) "We are only made acquainted with the circumstance that there were Degrees in Masonry by a publication of 1723, from which, together with the scanty evidence yet brought to light, of slightly later date, we can alone determine with precision that a system of two Degrees was well established in 1723, and that a *third* ceremony, which eventually developed into a Degree, had come into use in 1724;" and (2) "there is no proof that more than a single Degree, by which I mean, secret form of reception was known to the Freemasons of the 17th century." With these statements he contrasts the more recent opinion expressed by their author, to the effect that "a plurality of Degrees being unknown before the era of Grand Lodges" is "a popular delusion." He next asks the question "As to the proof of the existence of two or more separate Degrees in England prior to the last century, where is it to be found?" and he answers this at once in the negative as regards the "Old Charges," in respect of which, and other early writings, he says, "Beyond such references as to 'words and signes of a Free Mason,' neither in these documents, nor in any other MSS., or printed works, during the period specified, either connected with Lodges, or partaking of a historical character, can we trace any regulations, customs, or practices, suggestive or indicative of a plurality of Degrees."

Bro. HUGHAN next gives his attention to the earliest extant minutes of initiation in England, beginning with that bearing date 20th May, 1641, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, when and where ROBERT MORAY, Quartermaster-General to the Scottish Army in England, was admitted a member of the Lodge of Edinburgh, and including the case of the antiquary, ELIAS ASHMOLE, who was "*made* a Freemason," with Colonel MAINWARING, at a lodge convened at Warrington on the 16th October, 1646. But, as regards all these minutes and other records to which he refers specifically, Bro. HUGHAN remarks: "I think it might fairly be taken for granted that had two or more Degrees been then worked, some entries or allusions thereto would be discovered in these invaluable Records, *but there are none*, and a similar silence is observed in '*Plot's Staffordshire*' of 1686, AUBREY'S note of 1691 respecting Sir CHRISTOPHER WREN'S 'adoption,' and in all other books and documents of the 17th century; such uniform testimony being wholly confirmatory of the only single, simple, esoteric ceremony of reception."

Lodge minutes of the earliest years of last century are taken next in order, and the conclusions which Bro. HUGHAN draws from a careful study of all passages relating to the admission of candidates is that at the period to which they relate, there was but one form or ceremony. Thus in the records of the "Company and Fellowship of Free Masons at a Lodge held at Alnwick," which are the oldest and extend from 1703 to 1757, there is not, he says, during the whole of that long period "even a solitary reference to Masonic Degrees, the 'admittances' (or initiations) from first to last being recorded in the customary manner." Next in chronological order is an endorsement on the "Scarborough MS.," relating to a "Private Lodge held at Scarb. 10th July, 1703," before "William Thompson, Esq., P'sident," to the effect that "The Severall P'sons whose names are hereunto subscribed were then admitted into the said fraternity"—the number of candidates being six. So in the minutes of the old Lodge of York, which afterwards styled itself

the "Grand Lodge of *all* England," there is nothing here nor in the Old Rules of the said Grand Lodge of the year 1725, not even a word to indicate that more than one ceremony was in use. As to Dr. DRAKE, however, in his celebrated speech as J.G.W., delivered at Merchants' Hall, York, on the 27th December, 1726, Bro. HUGHAN notes that "he refers to the possibility of the whole Earth being 'divided into E.P., F.C., and M.M.'" We are further told that "Other printed books of early last century (authorised or otherwise), preserve a sphinx-like silence as to degrees prior to A.D. 1723," though at the same time it is admitted as regards "Long Livers" of the year 1722, in the "Curious Introduction or Dedication 'to the Grand Master, &c., of the Most Antient and Most Honourable Fraternity of the Free Masons of Great Britain and Ireland,'" allusion is "made therein to Brethren, &c., of the higher class," whatever that may mean." Reference is also made to the "'Sloane MS.," vol. 3329, No. 24 (folios 142-3), entitled 'Narrative of the Free Masons' Words and Signs' (British Museum)," in which "Specific references" are made "to the 'Inter prinitices,' 'Fellow Craftes,' and the 'Masters,' as well as the peculiar secrets connected with the last two, the survival of a still older form being indicated by the one Oath at the end." Bro. HUGHAN concurs with Bro. Dr. BEGEMANN in ascribing the MS. to a date "between 1710 and 1725." Others of the same class are merely referred to, as "often to be met with subsequent to the publication of the 'Book of Constitutions,' A.D. 1723."

Bro. HUGHAN then passes, after noting sundry important matters bearing on the subject, to the earliest records in which references are made to different Degrees. These include the "manuscript volume preserved in the British Museum (*Add MS. 23,202*) relating to an Organisation established for 'True Lovers of Music and Architecture, on a Foundation which will be permanent' and entitled 'PHILO-MUSICÆ ET ARCHITECTURÆ SOCIETAS—APOLLINI,' the inaugural meeting of which was held on the 18th February, 1725 (*New Style*);" and also the minutes of a regular lodge, the first volume of whose records are complete "from its constitution on 2nd February, 1725 (*i.e.*, 1726 *New Style*)." For the perusal of and information respecting the minutes of this lodge, which was held at the Swan and Rummer, Finch Lane, London, Bro. HUGHAN acknowledges his indebtedness to Bro. ROBERT HUDSON and also for his introduction to the Masonic Hall Company, Stockton-on-Tees, and the permission thereby obtained to reproduce in facsimile that portion of the earliest minutes which are appended to the paper. Other references to Degrees are also given, the conclusion at which he arrives being thus described: "So far as *actual minutes of Lodges* are concerned, of which we have any particulars, *separate Degrees* cannot be dated farther back than 1724-5, or omitting the Records of the *Philo-Musicæ* organisation, not earlier than 1725, as quoted by me herein. As to Regulations or Bye-Laws of Lodges relating to the Master Mason's Ceremony, there are none as yet traced prior to 1729, if the simple rule as to the fee be accepted as such; but in a regular Code of Laws none have been discovered before the fourth decade of the last century. As respects the 'Book of Constitutions,' I consider the regulations of 1723, and the alteration agreed to in 1725, concerning the 'Making of Masters,' are alone sufficient to prove that the Three Degrees were known to the English Craft of that period; the uniform silence as to the trio of an earlier date suggesting that the ceremonies were arranged subsequent to the inauguration of the premier Grand Lodge."

Such is a brief sketch of the tenour of Bro. HUGHAN's valuable paper, though, in order to understand and appreciate it generally and in its several parts, the reader must carefully study it for himself in the pages of "Ars Quatuor Coronatorum," or as a separate reprint. The opinions expressed by Bro. GOULD and others in the discussion that followed must be reserved for description in another article.

THE ORIGIN OF FREEMASONRY.

One of the best of the many addresses on the Nature and Principles of Freemasonry, which for some time past it has been our privilege to read, will be found in the oration delivered by Bro. the Rev. P. H. DITCHFIELD at the consecration of the Victoria Lodge,

Windsor, as reported last week in these columns. It was longer than such addresses usually are, but not too long considering the able manner in which our brother treated his subject, nor do we doubt that the lessons which he strove to impress upon his audience will be taken to heart by them and fully appreciated. As regards the earlier part of the address in which he set himself to interpret the signs and symbols which are used in the consecration of the lodge, it is not necessary we should offer any remarks. These were correctly interpreted as they have been by other Chaplains. It is what followed this interpretation to which we are desirous of referring, and in which the orator pointed out that the lodge, born that day had "an ancient and honoured lineage, one whose lustre time has not diminished, and whose vitality age has not impaired." True, "its origin is veiled in the mists of bygone ages," but it is older it may be than King Solomon's Temple at Jerusalem, within whose portals Masonry is held to have sprung into being. It is not for the first time that we have been urged to look for the origin of Freemasonry "in the shadowy realms of ancient Egypt and Assyria," or to recognise as our first parents "the builders of the Pyramids and the carvers of the Sphinx." It is, of course, impossible to determine precisely a question of this character, but there cannot be any doubt as to the fact that "the principles which guide us to-day are the same that governed the minds and swayed the conduct of the fraternities of old, which in dark days and dangerous times preserved the light of wisdom and knowledge and placed the love of humanity as the guiding principle of their system." The philosophies of which we read in the history of ancient Greece and Rome, which derived much of their wisdom originally from Egypt, were neither more nor less than "moralities," all intended in their several ways and according to their several systems to promote the welfare of the nations. In later times these schools of philosophy became guilds or fraternities, and doubtless we are justified in associating with them the "*collegia opificum*" mentioned by Bro. DITCHFIELD as organisations which throughout the Roman Empire did so much beneficent work for their own community and the general body politic. It was also the guilds or fraternities "of Craftsmen, and merchants, and priests, and soldiers that carried men through the chaos that followed the wreck of the Roman civilisation. To them we owe our freedom, our municipal governments, our rights of citizenship, and that which gave them their chiefest glory—the principle of brotherhood and mutual trust—has been bequeathed to modern Masonry to be preserved by us as a precious heritage and handed down inviolate to our successors." How their descent from so remote a past has been effected it is impossible to tell, but there is nothing strange or incongruous, certainly nothing that should involve our Order in that ridicule which so many delight in levelling at us, in the association of our modern Freemasonry, which claims to be nothing more than a system of morality—a system which has at heart the good of man—with the moralities of the old world as set forth in the philosophies of Egypt, Greece, and Rome.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND.

Bro. Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, M.P., Prov. G.M., preside at the annual meeting of the above Prov. Grand Lodge, which was held at Egremont on Friday, the 15th instant. The attendance of brethren was exceedingly large, all the 21 lodges in the province being represented but two.

Among the Provincial Grand Officers elected for the ensuing year were the following:

Bro. Col. W. H. Atkinson	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" Dr. Samuel Braithwaite	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" the Rev. G. B. Armes	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" the Rev. H. D. Rawnsley	...	...
" R. J. Nelson	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" D. L. Thorpe	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" G. Dalrymple	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" J. Tolson	...	...	Prov. S.G.D.
" J. Jones	...	...	Prov. J.G.D.
" J. M. Briskel	...	...	Prov. G.S. of Wks.
" E. Jackson	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" W. Kewley	...	...	Prov. A.G.D.C.
" Isaac Maxwell	...	...	Prov. G.S.B.
" J. M. Clark	...	...	} Prov. G. S'd. Br.
" W. Matthews	...	...
" Henry Hallowell	...	...	Prov. G. Org.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST LANCASHIRE.

By command of Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl of Lathom, G.C.B., Pro G.M., Provincial G.M., the annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held on the 13th instant, at Cambridge Hall, Southport, when there was an attendance of about 800 representatives of the whole of the lodges in the province.

The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened, the roll-call showed that the whole of the lodges in the division were represented with one exception.

After the minutes of the previous meeting at Warrington had been confirmed, the P.G. Treasurer's statement was submitted and approved. From this financial account it appeared that the balance brought forward was £725. The sum of £837 had been received as fees from lodges, and £67 as fees of honour from Prov. G. Officers. The totals in connection with the Charities Fund were £383; the Prov. G. Lodge Fund, £651; the Fund of Benevolence, £657—amounting altogether to £1692. The balance at the end of the year was £833. The accounts of the Prov. G. Lodge also showed that the payment for the Charities Fund was £136; the Prov. G. Lodge Fund, £365; the Fund of Benevolence, £366—total, £850—the balances being £1692.

The PROV. G. SEC., in submitting his annual statement, said it was gratifying to be able to report a steady continuance in the prosperity of the province. The roll of members of the lodges in the province numbered 7603, whilst the initiates were 695 for the year. Three new lodges had been added to the roll, making a total of 117 in the province. The fees received during the last 12 months amounted to £837, being an increase of £38 over the preceding year. The Benevolence and Charity Committees had made grants amounting to £85 to brethren and widows of the province, while two boys, two girls, and a widow had been elected on the foundation of the London Masonic Institutions. He expressed regret at the loss the province had sustained by the death of Bro. J. de Bels Adam, P.P.G.W., whose generous gifts to Masonic Institutions had entitied him to over 800 votes annually. (Applause.) The local Charities had met with generous support, the working of the lodges continued most satisfactory, and he advocated a liberal support of the new West Lancashire Victoria Jubilee Benevolent Fund.

Bro. the Earl of LATHOM, Pro G.M., Prov. G.M., said he had again to congratulate that important province upon the admirable and gratifying report just read. It was always with deep thankfulness he heard that things were going on smoothly and that the province was working well and prospering. The report this year was extremely interesting in more than one way, and it was pleasing to note that the reports of irregularities in the working of some lodges had disappeared. In the first place, the report was interesting, because it gave a most admirable account of the working inside the lodges. On the question of the number of lodges in the province, he would repeat that he was ready to give his assent to the creation of new lodges where they were absolutely wanted, but he would not go beyond that. As far as the Charities were concerned, the report showed that they were very satisfactory, and he would come at once to the new charity, in which he took great interest—the West Lancashire Victoria Fund of Benevolence. It would meet a want long felt in the provinces. By founding this new charity he thought West Lancashire had set a good example. Their province had set a good example in charity in London, in the charities of West Lancashire itself, and now they had done so again in this new charity, which he hoped would be copied in the other divisions throughout the country. But let the province never cease to set a good example in keeping strictly to Masonic feelings. Proceeding to refer to outside Masonic services, he said that so far as processions relating to the laying of foundation or dedication stones, they were truly Masonic; but in regard to other demonstrations he did set his face against Masonic processions through the streets. Masonry was distinct from Forestry and Oddfellowship. At the great service in Southwark Cathedral not more than 40 or 50 brethren had to go outside the building to put on their Masonic clothing; and in the case of a proposed Masonic service likely to be soon held at St. Paul's, clothing within the precincts of the sacred edifice would be feasible. Regarding the Provincial Grand Secretary's suggestion that article 87 of the Book of Constitutions, should be altered so as to permit of the conferring of Past Provincial rank in the larger provinces, he thought there was force in Bro. Goodacre's contention, and he would bring the matter before the Grand Master. (Applause.)

On the motion of Bro. J. J. LAMBERT, P.G.S.B., P.P.G. Reg., seconded by Bro. FORRESTER, P.G. Std. Br., and supported by Bro. SLYMAN, the election as P.G. Treasurer of Bro. Charles Watson, P.M., was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Bro. J. D. MURRAY, Past G. Treas., a cordial vote of thanks was given to Bro. T. B. Newton, the retiring P.G. Treasurer, for his services in that office, and a similar compliment was paid to the honorary Auditors.

On the motion of the D.P.G.M., seconded by Bro. the Rev. T. B. SPENCER, P.G.C. England, it was unanimously resolved to vote the sum of 200 guineas in aid of the funds of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

The following Prov. Grand Officers were then appointed and invested for the ensuing year:

Bro. Dr. J. E. Dunn...	...	...	Prov. S.G.W.
" G. E. Marsden	...	...	Prov. J.G.W.
" Rev. F. C. Master	...	...	} Prov. G. Chaps.
" Rev. J. W. Willink	...	...
" C. Watson	...	...	Prov. G. Treas.
" T. E. Williams	...	...	Prov. G. Reg.
" J. Thompson	...	...	Prov. D.G. Reg.
" W. Goodacre	...	...	Prov. G. Sec.
" H. Round	...	...	} Prov. S.G.Ds.
" W. Smith	...	...
" H. F. Burrows	...	...
" E. Fletcher	...	...	} Prov. J.G.Ds.
" J. Murray	...	...
" A. A. Moss	...	...
" John Scott	...	...	Prov. G.S. of W.

Bro. E. Broadbent	...	...	Prov. G.D.C.
" W. C. Briggs	...	...	Prov. G.D.D.C.
" G. Jackson	...	...	} Prov. A.G.D Cs.
" J. White	...	...
" W. Bamber	...	...	} Prov. G.S.B.
" J. W. Clayton	...	...
" R. Christopher	...	...	Prov. D.G.S.B.
" J. Parry	...	...	} Prov. G. Std. Brs.
" W. H. Veers	...	...
" R. H. Pearson	...	...	Prov. G. Org.
" J. R. B. Pilkington	...	...	Prov. A.G. Sec.
" S. H. Jones	...	...	Prov. G. Purst.
" G. G. Cooke	...	...	Prov. A.G. Purst.
" W. B'got	...	...	} Prov. G. Stwds.
" J. Edwards	...	...
" M. J. McKinnell	...	...
" A. Naylor	...	...	} Prov. G. Tyler.
" J. Marsh	...	...
" W. H. Ball	...	...

In honour of the Jubilee of her Majesty's reign, the following were appointed to Past rank: Bros. A. G. King, J. B. Clarke, and J. F. Robertson, P.P.G. Registrars; C. W. Bayley, W. T. Overby, S. H. Perry, and C. A. Trevitt, P.P.G. Deacons; J. T. D. Harley, R. H. Robinson, J. H. Tyson, and D. Johnson, P.P.G.D.Cs; F. Burnett and J. Heald, P.P.A.G.D.Cs.; and George Balme and J. Houlding, P.P.G. Wardens.

A collection was then made on behalf of the Home for Gentlewomen, Southport, which realised upwards of £28, and the proceedings were brought to a close.

CONSECRATION OF THE BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS LODGE, No. 2667.

The progress of the Order in the peninsula of Wirral during the past year has been remarkable, and the record was emphasised on Saturday afternoon, the 9th inst., when the above lodge was consecrated with the impressive ceremonial peculiar to the occasion, at the Royal Rock Hotel, Rock Ferry, being instituted for the convenience of the brethren resident in the neighbourhood.

The consecration proceedings were conducted by Bro. the Right Hon. the Earl Egerton of Tatton, Prov. Grand Master, who was supported by a numerous gathering of his Present and Past Prov. Grand Officers, amongst these being—

Bros. His Honour Judge Sir Horatio Lloyd, D.P.G.M.; J. J. Lambert, P.G.D. of England, P.P.G.R. West Lancashire; J. C. Robinson, P.P.G.D.C. West Lancashire; Squire Chapman, P.P.G.D. West Lancashire; F. Broadsmith, P.S.G.W.; John Armstrong, P.J.G.W.; Rev. Charles H. Hylton Stewart, P.G. Chap.; John Clayton, Past G. Std. Br., P.P.S.G.W.; Rev. Charles Edwin Jackson, P.G. Chap.; R. Newhouse, P.G.S.B., P.G. Sec.; Colonel C. S. Dean, P.P.G.W.; H. Gordon Small, P.G.D.C.; Peter Davies, P.G. Std. Br.; W. Davidson, P.G. Std. Br.; L. Ellis, P.P.G.D.; J. K. Digges, P.P.A.G.D.C.; W. F. Robinson, P.A.G.D.C.; P. Jackson, P.P.G.D.; T. H. Annett, P.P.G. Treas.; W. R. Wass, P.P.D.G.D.C.; S. Sherratt, P.A.G.D.C.; Dr. C. S. Brewer, W.M. 2433; T. Chesworth, P.P.G.D.; W. Ramsey, P.G. Purst.; W. O. Callow, W.M. 2657; and T. E. Mason, P.P.G. Treas.

Besides these there also assembled in the lodge room before and during the ceremony a large number of W.Ms., P.Ms., and officers, and brethren from Liverpool, Birkenhead, New Brighton, and various parts of the Province of Cheshire.

The founders of the new lodge were Bro. the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., P.G.W. England; Colonel C. S. Dean, P.P.S.G.W.; Andrew H. Baird, I.P.M. 2433; Thomas Gladstone, W.M. 356 (I.C.); Henry F. Currie, 680; Max Isaac, P.M. 1070; James Cookson, P.P.G. Treas.; Dr. H. Laird Pearson, 2496; George Couvelas, 680; Edward Flamank, 786; G. de M. Mackirdy, 2289; E. W. Morrice, 680; Harry Turner, 2289; J. P. Griffith, 477; Lilley Ellis, P.M. 1289, P.P.S.G.D.; Walter C. Glover, 2375; John G. Forsyth, P.M. 1473; and T. Keene, 2433.

The ceremony of consecration was performed by the Provincial Grand Master, assisted by several prominent brethren, and in the course of the proceedings, an eloquent oration was delivered by Bro. C. Hylton Stewart, P.G.C., on the nature and principles of the Order.

Bro. STEWART, after referring to the ancient and honourable history and records of the Institution, expressed a hope that the lodge which was being consecrated that day according to the traditional ritual of the Order would be ever the home of those sacred principles which the brethren so deeply cherished. Masonry was a magnificent reality, being, as had been well said, "a light that shines in a dark place, a light that brings peace and joy to the disconsolate, and the light that shines into the heart of the widow and helps the fatherless."

The special music appertaining to the consecration proceedings, under the direction of Bro. John Forsyth, was sung with effectiveness by the Minster Vocal Quartette, consisting of Bros. C. Aspinall, Tom Barlow, W. H. Atkinson, and Fred Owens.

At the close of the consecrating work, Bro. H. Baird, I.P.M. 2433, was duly installed as the first W.M. of the lodge by Bro. J. Armstrong, P.J.G.W.

The following were invested as the officers: Bros. T. Gladstone, S.W.; G. de M. Mackirdy, J.W.; J. P. Griffith, Treas.; E. W. Morrice, Sec.; G. P. Couvelas, S.D.; J. Laird Pearson, J.D.; Max Isaac, D.C.; J. Forsyth, Org.; Edward Flamank, I.G.; Henry Turner and W. C. Gover, Stewards; and H. Du Chemin, Tyler. Bro. Max Isaac was chosen Charity representative.

Towards the close of the proceedings, the P.G.M. and D.P.G.M. were elected honorary members.

BRO. THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF PORTARLINGTON will entertain a large shooting party next week at Fmo Park, their seat in Queen's County, where game is reported to be very plentiful.

CONSECRATION OF THE RADNOR CHAPTER, No. 2587.

A new Royal Arch chapter in connection with the Radnor Lodge, No. 2587, was consecrated on the 15th inst., by Comp. the Right Hon. the Earl Amherst, G.H., and Grand Superintendent of Kent, assisted by Comps. J. S. Eastes, Prov. G.H.; F. W. Wright, Prov. G.J.; Alfred Spencer, Prov. G.S.E.; and Horatio Ward, P. Prov. G.J. There were present the following visitors: Comps. Thorpe, Drake, Barron, Terson, Best, Paterson, Brewster, Russell, Hire, Samsen, Kennett, Mercer, Spurgeon, Peden, Saunders, Westropp, Hart, Goddard, Kennett, and Hughes-Hallett.

The founders and first officers were as follows: Comps. Lieut.-Col. Hamilton, M.E.Z.; Rev. J. E. Player, M.A., H.; John Creery, J.; James Dickson Terson, P.Z.; Dr. A. J. de Butts, S.F.; Col. G. H. O'Malley, S.N.; Miller Layton, Treas.; E. T. Ward, P.S.; Capt. G. D. Marshall Hughes, 1st A.S.; and Wolde nar O. Kennett, D.C.

Hearty votes of thanks were unanimously voted to Comp. Earl Amherst and the Consecrating Officers; also to Comp. Horatio Ward for so kindly lending his beautiful gold vessels for the consecration ceremony.

Ten candidates were then proposed for the next meeting, and the chapter having been closed, the companions adjourned to the Hotel Wampach for the banquet.

In responding to the toast of "The Grand Officers," the Grand H. referred to the epidemic at Maidstone and said that he had directed the Treasurer, who was present (Comp. Russell), to send a cheque for £25 to the fund now being raised for the sufferers. He had no doubt this would be agreeable to the brethren of the province. He also alluded to the new east window in the chapter house at Canterbury, a noble work carried out by the Masons of Kent. He wished the new chapter all success, there was plenty of room in this prosperous town of Folkestone for two chapters, and he thought, judging from what he had seen that day, that the Radnor Chapter would prosper and be strong under the guidance of the experienced brethren who had founded it.

Craft Masonry.

Kent Lodge, No. 15.

The first meeting in the winter session of the above lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Wednesday, the 13th instant, Bro. Robert W. Bowers, F.R.H.S., W.M., presiding. The lodge having been opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, Messrs. H. Scott, A. Hutchison, A. Gilbert, D. C. Robinson, and Rev. W. T. Brown, B.A., were initiated, and Bros. A. G. Grantham, 65, and James Watts, 25, were elected joining members.

The business ended, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to Freemasons' Tavern to banquet.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

Bro. H. Scott responded for the toast of "The Initiates," and the manner in which he acquitted himself was commented upon by the W.M. and other speakers in the course of the evening.

Other toasts having been given, the Tyler's toast concluded a most enjoyable evening.

There was a goodly array of members and visitors present, among whom were Bros. J. Mason, P.G.S.B. Eng.; J. H. Hawkins, Ben Nathan, E. Osborne, J. N. Hoine, E. Loder, and many others.

St. Cuthbert's Lodge, No. 630.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Thursday, the 14th instant, at Howden, when Bro. G. C. Everingham, S.W., was duly installed by Bro. Anderton, P.P.G.W. N. and E. Yorks, in succession to Bro. Brindle. Amongst the distinguished visitors were Bros. M. T. Peck, P.G.D. Eng., P.G. Sec. N. and E. Yorks, and Hudson, P.G.D.C. Eng., P.G. Sec. Durham.

The brethren adjourned to Walsley's Hotel and partook of the customary banquet, which was served in Mrs. Walsley's usual good style.

The toasts were interspersed with songs, &c., from Bros. Baldwin, Turton, Twiney, Peck, and Constable.

Kennington Lodge, No. 1381.

This lodge resumed work on the 5th instant at the Horns Tavern, Kennington Park. Among those in attendance were Bros. James Berry, W.M.; H. Higgins, P.M.; S.W.; T. Davis, J.W.; R. La Feuillade, P.M., Treas.; J. N. Hearn, P.M., Sec.; Wolsey, S.D.; Sharpington, J.D.; Pohl, I.G.; A. Harris, Stwd.; George Everett, P.M., P.G. Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.S., P.G. Std. Br.; C. H. Kohler, P.M.; W. W. Westley, P.M.; H. Dennis, P.M.; A. Lundie, P.M.; Dr. Milsom, P.M.; Hopkins, Org.; and F. Reinardt, Tyler.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. W. C. Fowler was raised to the Third Degree. The ballot was then taken on behalf of Messrs. W. H. Robinson and C. J. Mold, and they were duly and impressively initiated by Bro. W. W. Westley, P.M. The lodge was then closed.

A banquet followed.

Bro. G. Everett, P.G. Treas., responded on behalf of "The Grand Officers." In the course of his interesting speech he touched upon the leading features of the great gathering at the Albert Hall, when the proceedings were graced by the presence of the M.W.G.M. He said that in all probability no greater assemblage of Masons of all classes and conditions would ever be again brought together. In concluding, he reminded his hearers that next year the Prince would preside over another great meeting, namely, the 100th anniversary of the Masonic Institution for Boys, when he hoped that the brethren would rally round their Most Worshipful Grand Master and bring up a large amount to enhance the prosperity of the School for all time.

In proposing "The Health of the Past Masters," the W.M. feelingly alluded to the death of the I.P.M., Bro. Colwell. He said that, unfortunately, their deceased brother had left his family in very poor circumstances, and he hoped that every exertion would be made to secure the election of two of his children, namely, a boy and a girl to the Masonic Institutions. He also mentioned the name of Bro. Westley, who had kindly officiated for him that day in the lodge, and had performed the ceremonies so well.

The toast was acknowledged by Bro. Dr. Milsom, P.M.

The toasts of "The Treasurer and Secretary" and "The Officers" were coupled with the names of Bros. R. La Feuillade, J. N. Hearn, and T. Davis.

During the evening Bros. Hopkins, A. Lundie, T. Davis, and W. Lingwood entertained the brethren, the fine tenor voice of the last-named brother being heard to great advantage in the ballads "Mary" and "Sally in our alley."

Duke of Connaught Lodge, No. 1558.

The installation meeting of this lodge, held at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, on the 14th inst., proved a great success. The past year has been a very prosperous and pleasant one under the Mastership of Bro. J. A. Shelton, who now hands over the reins of office to Bro. J. T. Parker, a jubilee Master in a double sense, having been initiated in the lodge in 1837, the Jubilee year, and attaining the chair in 1897. The members present were Bros. J. A. Shelton, W.M.; J. T. Parker, S.W., W.M.

elect; H. Havens, J.W.; T. Taylor, P.M., Treas.; F. V. Catt, P.M., Sec.; F. Lever, J.W.; J. W. Rattenbury, Org.; H. Lewis, I.G.; J. R. Smith, P.M.; F. T. Plummer, P.M.; G. Stokes, P.M.; A. Blenkarn, P.M., P.P.G. Treas.; and G. V. Rice, P.M. Visitors: Bros. J. Leach, 340; W. J. Rayson, S.W. 1108; C. Wise, P.M. 1156; E. Walker, P.M. 72; J. Coote, W.M. 2579; H. A. King, 1553; R. Carter, 249; S. Fraser, 2579; R. Tilling, P.M. 765; J. Morley, 2579; J. Hinds, 2579; C. L. Plant, I.P.M. 101; H. Humphreys, P.M. 2579; H. Cole, J.D. 2579; A. H. Jones, J.W. 206; W. C. Jones, S.W. 206; C. J. Chambers, 834; H. G. Holland, W.M. 2593; H. L. Diprose, P.M. 1853; R. C. Goodwin, 917; W. C. Smith, P.M. 902; J. Pointon, J.W. 1861; C. Sweeting, P.M. 700; G. W. Dawes, 1962; J. Sargent, D.C. 2331; W. J. Clark, 1531; W. J. Perrin, 1658; W. W. Lee, P.P.G.D. Middx.; and others.

Lodge was opened, the minutes confirmed, and a satisfactory audit report adopted, after which Bro. Taylor was raised to the Third Degree. The principal item on the agenda was next proceeded with, and Bro. Julian Thomas Parker, having been presented as W.M. elect by Bro. Blenkarn, P.M., D.C., was duly installed into the chair. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Shelton with all the precision and impressiveness which has hitherto characterised his Masonic work, and well deserved the high encomiums subsequently passed upon it. The following officers were invested: Bros. James Alf. Shelton, I.P.M.; H. Havens, S.W.; F. Lever, J.W.; T. Taylor, P.M., Treas.; F. V. Catt, P.M., Sec.; A. Blenkarn, P.M., P.P.G. Treas. Middx., D.C.; H. Lewis, S.D.; J. A. Gunstone, J.D.; G. B. Catt, I.G.; R. Ball and R. H. Whyman, Stwds.; J. W. Rattenbury, Org.; and H. Thomas, Tyler. Bro. Shelton, I.P.M., was the recipient of a handsome Past Master's jewel in appreciation of his services, which was presented by the W.M. in an appropriate speech, and acknowledged in an equally appropriate manner. On the proposition of the I.P.M., it was unanimously decided to acknowledge the services rendered to the lodge by Bro. T. Taylor, P.M., who has occupied the position of Treasurer for 12 years past, in an appropriate manner at the December meeting. The W.M. signified his intention of representing the lodge at the next Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and the lodge was closed.

After an excellent repast, served in the large hall, the customary toasts followed interspersed with selections from a lengthy musical programme.

"The Health of the Worshipful Master" was proposed by Bro. Shelton, I.P.M., who remarked that that was the first time he had had the pleasure of proposing the toast, although, in the ordinary course of events, he hoped to have several opportunities in the future. From the support meted out to their W.M., there was, doubtless, a prosperous and happy year in prospect. From the way in which Bro. Parker's work had been performed—and especially in the investiture of officers—they would have nothing to regret in having placed him in the chair. In view of the lengthy programme before them, he would set an example of short speeches, and ask the members to heartily drink the health of the W.M., wishing him health and strength, and several initiates of the right sort.

Bro. J. T. Parker, W.M., thanked the I.P.M. and brethren very heartily. He was pleased his health was sufficiently good to enable him to be present, as he had been ill for a long time, and was at one time afraid he should be unable to accept the position. If they would only give him work to do, he would endeavour, by attendance at lodges of instruction, to give them satisfaction, and properly impress the candidates. He thanked them very sincerely for the kind manner in which they had accepted the toast.

For "The Visitors" Bro. C. Wise, P.M., who responded first, said the W.M. had been installed in the best manner possible. The I.P.M. was a man who took pride in Masonry, and had carried out his duties and given satisfaction, as evidenced that night. The W.M. would maintain the reputation of the lodge with the same exactness and propriety as his predecessor.

Bro. E. Walker, P.M. 72, said he had great pleasure in being present on account of his long acquaintance and friendship with the W.M. He had previously been unable to visit them as his chapter met the same evening, but was glad to fulfil his promise to see the W.M. installed.

Bro. J. Coote, W.M. 2579, expressed his thanks, and mentioned that that was the first time he had returned thanks for the toast, which was probably owing to the fact that he was installed as W.M. on the preceding Saturday. The working was such as could never be forgotten, and he only hoped to approach it in some measure a year hence when he performed the same ceremony.

Bros. Humphreys, P.P.G.S.B.; Diprose, and Sweeting also replied.

The W.M. next gave "The Past Masters," and this having been suitably responded to by the Past Masters present, he proceeded to propose "The Health of the I.P.M." He said he wished to do all honour to the toast possible, although it required a brother with more eloquence than he possessed. He felt deeply the splendid manner in which the I.P.M. placed him in the chair. Bro. Shelton had been his principal support and was ever ready to render assistance. The members knew Bro. Shelton as a worthy brother, and also knew what good work he had done in the past. He (the W.M.) would simply ask them to fill their glasses and drink heartily to the health of the I.P.M., and wish him long life and prosperity to continue a credit to the lodge, and work with pleasure to himself.

Bro. J. A. Shelton, I.P.M., who met with a very cordial reception on rising to respond, said that if he had given them satisfaction in his work he was amply repaid. When he joined that lodge he made up his mind to work up in the ceremonies, and from the night of his initiation he had attended regularly at lodges of instruction. He only mentioned that to urge upon the younger members the necessity of doing so, as they never knew when they might be called upon to take office, and they should not accept that office unless they were able to perform the work. The past had been a good year for the lodge, since the time he was installed by Bro. Catt, P.M., who then came to the rescue in the absence of the I.P.M. He (the I.P.M.) had done all the work they had given him, and the manner in which he had been spoken of amply repaid him. He would not detain them longer but simply thank them one and all, and express the hope that he might be with them for years to come.

Bro. T. Taylor, P.M., Treas., responded for "The Treasurer and Secretary," and expressed his gratification at the sound financial condition of the lodge which he hoped would continue.

Bro. Catt, P.M., Sec., in replying, mentioned that Bro. Smith, a P.M. of the lodge, would be a candidate at the next Benevolent election and in view of the fact that the W.M. was to be a Steward at the approaching Festival, he hoped the case would be well supported.

"The Officers" was next given, being replied to by Bro. Havens, S.W., and others, and the Tyler's toast brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

Bros. Rattenbury and Taylor presided at the pianoforte, and the musical programme included selections by Miss Miriam Shelton (an accomplished daughter of the I.P.M.), Bros. Holland, P.M., Gunstone, and Fash, and Messrs. Hopkins, Phil Payne, and Parker. The Roumanian Mandoline Quartette also contributed some pleasant items.

Aldersgate Lodge, No. 1657.

A meeting was held on Monday, the 18th instant, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, E.C. Present: Bros. Thomas Briggs, W.M.; S. Septimus Croft, I.P.M.; H. N. Bennett, S.W.; Rupert Smyth, J.W.; George Kenning, P.M., Sec.; C. R. R. Hopper, S.D.; Arthur B. Hudson, P.M., J.D.; Edward Anderton, P.M., D. of C.; George Rawlinson, P.M., Steward; H. Thomas, Tyler; Matthew R. Webb, P.M.; Charles Radcliffe Leedham, and James Charles Hayes. Visitors: Bros. George Briggs, P.M. 1572, and F. Scanlon, 2533.

The minutes of the meeting held on March 15th were read and confirmed. Bro. C. R. Leedham was passed to the Second Degree by the W.M. The W.M. proposed, and Bro. George Kenning, P.M., seconded, that a letter of condolence be sent to the widow of the late Bro. John Larkin, P.M.

The lodge having been closed, the brethren dined together, under the genial presidency of the W.M.

Recitations and singing, contributed by Bros. George Briggs, F. Scanlon, Rupert Smyth, C. R. R. Hopper, and Arthur B. Hudson, greatly enhanced the pleasures of the evening.

Farringdon Without Lodge, No. 1745.

The first meeting of the season was held at the Viaduct Hotel, Holborn, on the 27th ult. Among those present were Bros. John Crans, W.M.; W. R. West, S.W.; J. D. West, S.D., as J.W.; H. J. Lardner, P.M., P.G.S., P.P.G.D.C. Surrey, Treas.; W. H. Jackson, P.M., Sec.; E. M. Lott, Mus. Doc., P.G. Org. Eng., Organist; J. W. Hinton, Mus. Doc., 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.; N. P. Lardner, P.M.; C. Bachhoffner, P.M.; and J. W. Gaze, C.C., P.M. 1768. Among the visitors were Bro. Major W. Williams, P.M.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. A vote of thanks was passed with acclamation to the Executive Committee for their exertions in carrying out so successfully the summer outing. Bro. H. J. Lardner acknowledged the compliment on behalf of himself and colleagues. The name of a candidate for initiation at the next meeting having been handed in, the lodge was closed.

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

During the evening the proceedings were enlivened by the instrumental and vocal efforts of Bros. E. M. Lott, J. W. Hinton, J. Young, A. E. Cook, and E. R. Ctemmens.

St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 2259.

The installation ceremony of this lodge took place at the Masonic Rooms, Thorne, on Wednesday, the 13th inst., when there were present Bros. Theo. Barber, W.M.; H. A. Fenton, S.W.; G. Eland, J.W.; B. Maskill, Treas.; J. Constable, Sec.; E. Simpson, J.D.; F. Turner, D.C.; W. Hallgarth, Almoner; W. P. Robotham, Org.; T. J. Smith, I.G.; R. Brew and T. R. Marsdin, Stwds.; Pine, Tyler; A. L. Peace, L. H. C. Ashlin, T. Tomlinson, F. Webb, C. Goldthorpe, H. C. White, and J. H. Pawson. Visitors: Bros. F. Buckland, W.M. 242; C. Fox, W. Chamberlain, T. Stanforth, and G. S. Tyack, all of 1482; J. H. Turner, J.W. 242; F. Hanson, 242; W. Baldwin, P.M. 708; J. Carthorn, P.M. 458; and others.

The installation was beautifully rendered by Bro. A. L. Peace, assisted by Bros. T. Barber and J. H. Pawson, Bro. Constable acting as D.C., and Bro. Webb sang the solo "Be thou faithful," accompanied by Bro. H. C. White, Org. 242. So that altogether Bro. H. A. Fenton, S.W., was duly and fully installed into the chair of K.S. in a most impressive manner. He afterwards invested his officers as follows: Bros. Barber, I.P.M.; G. Eland, S.W.; E. Hirst, J.W.; Rev. J. J. Littlewood, Chap.; B. Marshall, Treas.; J. Constable, P.P.G.S.B., Sec.; E. Simpson, S.D.; T. J. Smith, J.D.; W. P. Robotham, Org.; F. T. Turner, D.C.; J. Dugdale, S.B.; W. Hallgarth, Almoner; R. Brew, I.G.; T. R. Marsdin and T. Tomlinson, Stewards; and F. Pine, Tyler. Bro. Constable was re-elected Charity representative.

After a most pleasant gathering in lodge, the brethren adjourned to the Club Room, where a splendid banquet was provided, to which ample justice was done.

The usual Masonic toasts were given, interspersed with songs, &c., from Bros. Turner, 242; Hirst, Webb, Pawson, Baldwin, Robotham, Simpson, and Buckland—altogether a most pleasant afternoon was spent.

Kingswood Lodge, No. 2278.

The last meeting of the year was held at the Crown Hotel, Broxbourne, on Saturday, the 9th inst., and was attended by Bros. J. Gravatt, W.M.; E. Blinckhorn, P.M., I.P.M.; A. Ingram, S.W.; J. Petch, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; J. F. Bell, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Sec.; H. R. Bower, J.D.; F. Page, W.M. 1613, I.G.; J. G. Cobb, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., D.C.; A. A. Kelley, Org.; C. Nicole and D. Taylor, Stwds.; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D.; R. W. Nicole, P.M.; H. F. Facks, A. Palmer-Palmer, A. C. Little, F. H. Johnson, G. R. Redding, and Donald King. Visitors: Bros. J. Duncan, P.M. 59; G. Taylor, 1541; and S. Reichenheim, Grand Lodge of Germany.

The minutes having been confirmed, a ballot was taken for Bro. H. H. Broughton, who was unanimously elected a joining member. Two gentlemen were proposed as candidates for initiation, and this terminated the business of the meeting. The lodge was then closed.

An excellent dinner had been provided, to which the brethren, having had their appetites whetted by the fresh air and rural walks, did due justice.

The W.M. decided to limit the toast list as much as possible so that the programme which had been arranged by Bro. Nicole, P.M., might be carried out.

Bros. Kelly, Little, Redding, C. Nicole, King, Johnson, and D. Taylor contributed excellent songs. A duet, "Excelsior," was rendered in admirable style by Bros. Geo. Taylor and Little, also one by Bros. Redding and Kelly. Bro. Kelly accompanied throughout the evening.

The time to return to town arrived all too quickly, and the question was asked why the meetings should not be continued monthly throughout the year? Which proves that they are not dull or wearisome.

Lewisham Lodge, No. 2579.

This lodge which has just completed two years existence, held its installation meeting at the Holborn Restaurant, on the 9th inst. There was a numerous attendance of members and visitors, who were well rewarded for their visit by witnessing an excellent rendering of the installation ceremony by Bro. C. Lamb, I.P.M., who installed Bro. John Cote as his successor. The members present included Bros. C. Lamb, W.M.; J. Cote, S.W.; J. A. Shelton, J.W.; Rev. W. J. Salt, M.A., Chap.; H. Visger, Treas.; Edwd. Hall, Sec.; H. Lewis, S.D.; W. C. Tyler, J.D.; H. Cole, Christopher Sims, I.P.M.; W. T. Price Taylor, Frank Adams, P.M.; J. W. Dimsdale, C. W. Wilkes, and many others. Visitors: Bros. Walter Martin, A.G. Purst.; F. W. Hatch, 1601; J. Weaver, P.P.G. Org. Middx.; F. Lever, J.D. 1558; W. S. Hooper, W.M. 2488; T. Wall, 1155; W. E. Bush, 65; R. Colston, 1158; J. Westmoreland, W.M. 1259; W. Phillips, P.M. 1997; J. Pears, 1677; T. W. Conyers, 72; L. G. Peradon, 72; G. J. Fream, J.W. 548; I. Levy 1366; G. J. Ingram, S.W. 2469; H. Kemp, S.W. 862; A. Morris, 1648; A. J. Dottridge, P.M. 172; S. W. Fryett, 73; E. Preston, 2454; J. Irvine, P.M. 862; W. E. Dilley, P.M. 147; B. Wynne, P.M. 1855; S. K. Bawden, 2164; W. Campbell Everden, Org. 19; W. J. Huntley, 2332; W. C. Bell, 860; H. Warner, J.W. 1259; C. Spencer West, 2182; R. Hinderwell, S.D. 1259; W. W. Lee, P.P.G.D. Middx.; and others.

Lodge was opened and a dispensation read allowing the meeting to be held on this occasion at the Holborn Restaurant. The minutes were read, and the consideration of the Audit report was deferred until the next meeting. Bro. John Cote was presented for installation as W.M., and was duly installed by Bro. C. Lamb, who was invested with the collar of I.P.M. The following brethren were appointed and invested as officers: Bros. James A. Shelton, S.W.; Harry Lewis, J.W.; Rev. W. J. Salt, M.A., Chap.; Harman Visger, Treas.; Edward Hall, Sec.; Walter C. Tyler, S.D.; Henry Cole, J.D.; W. T. Price-Taylor, I.G.; J. W. Drysdale, D.C.; C. W. Wilkes, Org.; F. W. Quandt and John A. Laing, Stwds. The I.P.M. was invested with a Past Master's jewel in recognition of his services in the chair, the gift being acknowledged in an appropriate and appreciative manner. A notice of motion was then brought forward, having for its object the transference of the months of meeting from the summer to the winter. After considerable discussion, 21 members voted for the motion and 20 against, whilst several abstained from voting altogether.

The lodge was closed, and an adjournment made to the banquet, which was well served. At its conclusion a photograph of the room was taken by Messrs. Fradelle and Young, of Regent-street, the successful result of which was subsequently handed round for inspection and admiration.

The usual loyal toasts were then heartily honoured by all present.

Bro. C. Lamb, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M.," and said it afforded him the opportunity of congratulating Bro. Cote in a somewhat more public manner on the high position he had achieved in connection with such a lodge as theirs. It might not be generally known that it was to their present W.M. that the Lewisham Lodge mainly owed its existence, and this was a matter he (the I.P.M.) thought had not been properly recognised before. In Lewisham Bro. Cote saw some premises to let which he thought would make a Masonic Club, and after consultation, he thought this would be a good opportunity of carrying the idea into effect. Their W.M. kindly undertook to attend to the correspondence, and sought public support in the press, but there was not sufficient support forthcoming, but Bro. Cote then said—"Why not form a new lodge?" That idea was cordially received, and he gathered round him a few Masons who took the matter up, and the lodge was formed. There were some difficulties—partly local—but the W.M. gained his point, and in due time the warrant was granted. The result could be seen that evening, and few present had seen such a success in so short a time. There had been 29 initiates and 13 joining members, and the lodge now numbered 57 active members. This was a matter for congratulation, and he congratulated the W.M. accordingly. The W.M. was in a new position, and was, doubtless, nervous,

and he (the I.P.M.) could sympathise with him. In drinking the health of the W.M., they hoped he would have a successful year of office.

Bro. John Cote, W.M., in reply, said that when he stood up about two months earlier he had his mind and brain full of the subject, but the ovation he had received had almost overwhelmed him. He felt from the depths of his heart a sincere feeling of gratitude for their kindness in giving him that position. He did not think he deserved it. Whatever he had done had been with the best of intentions, and for the benefit of the lodge, and he had done his best to promote good feeling. He had also tried to make that meeting a success, and if he had done so he was more than repaid. He felt keenly the proud position in which that lodge had placed him after it had been in existence only two years. The I.P.M. had acquainted them with the fact that he (the W.M.) was the originator of the lodge, although he was not anxious to take all the glory. The first brethren he mentioned the matter to were Bros. Walter Tyler, Shelton, and Lewis, and there was no difficulty in finding others. On the present occasion he only desired to thank the brethren for placing him in that position, and to assure them that nothing would be wanting on his part—given health and strength—to promote the welfare of the lodge and its members. If there were any little differences he hoped they would sink and thus secure a happy and prosperous year during his term of office. He begged to thank them very sincerely for their kindness to him on this and past occasions.

Bro. J. Irvine, P.M. 862, in acknowledging "The Visitors," said it was always a pleasure to visit a lodge like this, for there was always some knowledge to be gained, however accomplished a brother might be. He must bear testimony to the working which was rendered second to none. He was pleased to see the lodge had been so prosperous having been present at its consecration.

Bros. Weaver, P.P.G. Org. Middx.; Westmoreland, W.M. 1259; and Dilley, P.M., also responded.

The W.M. next briefly proposed "The I.P.M.," and in response Bro. C. Lamb, I.P.M., said that having been a good deal in evidence that evening they would excuse the brevity of his remarks. He had been well supported and was pleased to know he had given them satisfaction. Having now become a Past Master he would continue to serve the lodge as far as lay in his power.

The W.M. in giving "The Masonic Charities," regretted the absence of Bro. McLeod on account of illness. He (the W.M.) was going up as Steward for the Boys' School to represent his mother lodge.

"The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers," were duly given before the brethren departed.

The musical programme and toast list contained portraits of the W.M., I.P.M., and Wardens, and amongst the artistes who assisted were Misses Jennie and Kate Cote (daughters of the W.M.), Madame Carlotta Ide, and Bros. Walter Paillips, Dilley, P.M., and Hall, Sec.

Victoria Lodge, No. 2671.

The first regular meeting of this newly-constituted lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Windsor, on Saturday, the 16th inst., when there were present Bros. E. Prince, P.M. 209, P.P.G.S. of W., W.M.; John F. Wolff, S.W.; J. Baynes, J.W.; E. C. Broquet, P.M. 209, P.P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; W. A. Cocks, P.M. 2163, Sec.; W. H. Reed, P.M. 382, S.D.; E. Marshall, P.M. 771, P.P.G. Std. Br., J.D.; W. P. Harvey, I.G.; W. A. Hurdy and Major E. J. Reed, Stwds.; and G. H. Powell, P.M., P.P. G.D., Tyler. Bros. A. Chappell, 382, and W. E. Nicholls, 946, were visitors.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the consecration meeting held on the 9th inst., recording the attendance of upwards of 100 brethren including six Grand Lodge Officers and many distinguished Provincial Officers, were read and confirmed. A ballot was taken for Messrs. W. J. Wilson and C. A. Starkey, candidates for initiation, and also for Bros. A. W. Hall, late of 203; J. J. Simcox, W.M. 1501, P.P.G. Org. Bucks; A. Moor, late of 569; and J. H. Groves, 45, as joining members, which was unanimously in favour of each. The W.M. invested Bro. Simcox with the collar of Org., and Bro. W. F. Harvey (who was absent from the previous meeting) with the collar of principal Steward. Messrs. Wilson and Starkey were then initiated by the W.M., who afterwards delivered the charge. The W.M. signified his wish to represent the lodge as Steward at the Centenary Festival of the Boys' School next year, and was promised cordial support. A circular was submitted from the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution asking for Stewards for their next festival. Letters and telegrams were read from the four other members of the lodge, expressing regret at their unavoidable absence.

After disposing of other routine matters, the lodge was closed and the brethren dined and spent a pleasant evening at the White Hart Hotel.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were subsequently given and honoured, interspersed with singing.

Mark Masonry.

Earl of Carnarvon Lodge, No. 211.

A meeting of this lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 30th ult., when there were present, among others, Bros. G. W. Larter, W.M.; E. W. Beard, S.W.; T. Rosedale, J.W.; F. N. Harding, J.O.; J. N. Frye, P.M., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.S.B., Sec.; G. Wales, S.D.; T. Strutt, J.D.; T. Baraganath, Steward; S. H. Parkhouse, P.M.; J. M. Huish, P.M.; P. Monson, P.M.; and H. J. Lardner, P.M., P.S.G.D. (hon. member). Visitors: Bros. R. Shaw, P.M. 8, and A. W. Thompson, 16.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken on behalf of Bro. Munshi Kashi Frasada, 2105, and, it being unanimous, he was duly advanced, the ceremony being well performed. The ballot was also taken for Bro. R. Shaw, P.M. 8, as a joining member. Bro. E. W. Beard, S.W., was elected W.M., subject to a dispensation being obtained from Grand Lodge. Bro. J. N. Frye, P.M., was unanimously re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. S. Ellis, Tyler. A vote of thanks was passed to the W.M. for his services during the past year, and a Past Master's jewel voted to him. The resignation of Bro. T. Rickwood, P.M., was received with regret.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. F. C. Frye, P.M.; Dr. H. Kiallmark, P.M., P.G.S.; and D. P. Cama, P.M.; after which the lodge was closed.

The W.M. presided most genially at the after proceedings, and a most agreeable evening was spent.

Knights Templar.

Mount Calvary Preceptory, D.

A meeting of this old preceptory was held at the Inns of Court Hotel, on the 8th inst. Among those present were Sir Knights Harris Hills, E.P.; Basil Stewart, C.; Major T. C. Walls, P.G.C. of Guards, P.E.P., Reg.; A. R. Carter, C. Host, Rev. R. C. Fillingham, P.E.P., Prelate; F. W. Driver, M.A., P.E.P.; H. J. Lardner, P.E.P.; G. Graveley, P.E.P.; L. Steele, P.E.P.; and C. Slater, P.E.P.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the ballot was taken on behalf of Comp. George Haysom, of No. 174, R.A.C., but he was unable to attend. Sir Knight Basil Stewart was unanimously elected E.P.; Sir Knight Lieut.-Col. F. J. Stohwasser, Treas.; and Sir Knights Carter and Bonney, Auditors. A Past Preceptor's jewel was voted to Sir Knight H. Hills. A vote of condolence was passed to the widow and family of the late Sir Knight W. Paas, P.E.P., P.G.B.B., and for many years the respected Treasurer of the Mount Calvary Preceptory, who died on the 16th ult. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Sir Knight Lieut.-Col. F. J. Stohwasser, J. Owen, E. F. Roberts, H. Schartau, T. Wood, W. Maple, and others. The name of Comp. Capt. George Carpenter, of the Fitzroy Chapter, was proposed for installation at the next meeting.

The chapter was then closed.

A banquet followed, at which the only toasts proposed were "The Queen," "The Grand Sovereign," "The Eminent Preceptor," and "The E.P. elect."

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NEXT ELECTION.

To the Subscribers of the

BRITISH ORPHAN ASYLUM,
SLOUGH.

The favour of your Votes and Interest are solicited on behalf of

ANNIE NUTTING,

Aged 7½ years,

Whose father only recently started in business as a Gold Lace-maker, became paralysed and died after a few weeks' illness, leaving a widow and three children, aged 5, 7½, and 9 years, unprovided for. One child was admitted into the Institution in January, 1897.

The case is strongly recommended by—

COOPER TRESS, Esq., Stamford-street, and Clapham Park.
C. LLOYD JONES, Esq., M.A., M.D., 174, Blackfriars-road, S.E.

Prof. G. B. HOWES, F.L.S., Roy. Coll. of Science.
N. N. SHERWOOD, Esq., Dunedin, Streatham-hill, S.W.
ED. KNIGHTS, Esq., 39, Effra-road, Brixton, S.W.
J. E. PONDER, Esq., of Sevenoaks, and 101, Aldersgate-street, E.C.

Messrs. GEORGE KENNING & SON, Little Britain, E.C.
JOHNSON BROOKS, Esq., Sec. United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution, 1, Adelaide-place, London Bridge, E.C., and

CHAS. E. STANTON, Esq., 15, Eastdown Park, Lewisham, S.E., by whom Proxies will be thankfully received, and by the Widow, Mrs. NUTTING, 50, Sandmere-road, Clapham, S.W.

First Application for Re-election.

ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS,
EARLSWOOD, REDHILL, SURREY.

NEXT ELECTION, OCTOBER, 1897.

The favour of your Votes and Interest is very earnestly solicited for the re-election of

TIMOTHY LAWRENCE,

as a part-payment case, £15 15s. a year. Father and Mother both dead. Left entirely dependent on brother, Mr. W. S. LAWRENCE, of 58, Raymond-road, Upton Park.

The case is strongly recommended by—

*GEORGE KENNING, Esq., Upper Sydenham.
Ald. J. H. BETHELL, J.P., Plashet-road, Upton Park.

Rev. E. N. POWELL, M.A., The Vicarage, Upton Park.

*A. R. PRICE, Esq., 1, Cowper's-court, Cornhill, E.C.

Rev. BENJAMIN WAUGH, Hatfield-road, St. Alban's.

*B. J. JACOB, Esq., 29, Pepy's-road, New Cross Gate, S.E.

*EDWIN HUGHES, Esq., 8, Vanbrugh Park, Blackheath, S.E.

Geo. DANNATT, Esq., "Ivydene," Westcombe Park-road, S.E.

*Rev. ROBERT NOBBS, 77, Windsor-road, Forest Gate.

*JAMES BILLS, Esq., 195/6, Aldersgate-street, E.C.

Those marked (*) will be pleased to receive proxies.

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R. PINK, late of Milford, Surrey, P.M. of the Royal Alfred Lodge, No. 777, P.P.G. Deacon of Surrey, having become Proprietress of an excellent SEASIDE HOME, in an exceptional position, close to the Sea, the Common, Clarence Pier, and Trams, grateful for past kindness, would be thankful for the patronage of the Brotherhood and friends. Excellent cuisine, and terms moderate.—"Holmleigh," Shaftesbury-road, Southsea.

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The following Brethren are members of the General Council:

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- Bro. Very Rev. Reynolds Hole, D.D., Dean of Rochester.
- Bro. Very Rev. A. P. Purey-Cust, D.D., P.G. Chaplain, Dean of York.
- Bro. Hon. and Very Rev. J. W. Leigh, D.D., Dean of Hereford, P. Prov. G. Chaplain Warwickshire.
- Bro. Ven. W. M. Sinclair, D.D., P.G. Chaplain, Archdeacon of London.
- Bro. Rev. Canon Tristram, D.D., D.P.G.M. Durham, P.G. Chaplain.
- Bro. Rev. John Robins, D.D., P.G. Chaplain.
- Bro. Rev. John Augustus Lloyd, P.G. Chaplain.
- Bro. Rev. O. M. Holden, M.A., P.G. Chap. Staffordshire.
- Bro. Rev. J. W. Horsley, M.A., Rector St. Peters, Walworth, S.E.
- Bro. Rev. J. Holme Pilkington, M.A., P.P.G. Chaplain Suffolk.
- Bro. Rev. Canon Moor, M.A., P.P.G. Chaplain Lincolnshire.
- Bro. Rev. Peter Royston, M.A., P.P.G. Chap. Northants and Hunts.
- Bro. Rev. H. M. Davey, M.A., P.M., P.P.G. Chaplain Sussex.
- Bro. Rev. W. E. Paige, M.A., P.M., P. Dist. G. Chap. Canterbury and Wellington, N.Z.
- Bro. Ven. Archdeacon of Essex, M.A., G. Chaplain 1897, P.P.G. Chaplain Essex.
- Bro. Aldm. Thomas M. Barron, P.P.G. Reg. Durham.
- Bro. Rev. Lord Theobald Butler, M.A., P.P.G. Organist Cambridgeshire.

The proposed new buildings are to consist of four wards for incurables, and 20 small houses of four rooms each, two of which will be for the reception of two poor brethren who have been Chaplains of Lodges. These two Masonic houses are to be named after and built as memorials of their late Royal Highnesses THE DUKE OF ALBANY and THE DUKE OF CLARENCE.

Two Clerical Brethren are now inmates of the temporary home—

Bro. Rev. W. D—, aged, incurable, was admitted January, 1896. He has been an inmate for 18 months. As there is no provision in the temporary home for the reception of ladies, he is separated from his aged wife. This Brother will be an applicant for election to the Clerical Masonic Almshouses when built.

Bro. Rev. C. W—, London Curate broken down from the effects of hard work, has had 12 months' care and nursing.

An earnest appeal is made to the Craft to support this work of Charity.

W. HENRY COOPER, P.M.

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On SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, at 3.30 p.m.,

When a SERMON will be preached by

THE VEN. ARCHDEACON OF ESSEX,
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The collections will be given to the Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys and Girls.

The brethren are invited to appear with orders and jewels, for wearing of which a dispensation will be obtained.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1897.

Masonic Notes.

A meeting of special interest of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland is to be held at the National Schools, Narborough, on Thursday, the 28th instant, by command of the R.W. Bro. the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers. The V.W. Bro. the Rev. C. Henton Wood, P.G.C., P.P.S.G.W., will be presented with Grand Lodge clothing as Past Grand Chaplain by the Province, and there is no lack of important business besides, the agenda paper issued by the esteemed Provincial Grand Secretary, Bro. Edward Holmes, P.P.S.G.W., being full of interesting items.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire was held on Thursday, the 14th instant, when Bro. George Beach, P.G. Std. Br., was appointed Dep. Prov. G.M., and Bro. F. G. Swinden, Prov. G. Secretary.

We have been favoured with copies of a letter and certain editorial comments, which recently appeared in the *Nelson Chronicle*, relating to the Nelson municipal elections. From these it appears that Bro. Henry Whittaker the W.M. of the lodge in Nelson, has taken exception to certain remarks of the editor of the aforesaid *Chronicle* as to brethren who are members of the lodge taking part in these local elections. There is no doubt about the paper having contained these remarks, for in the editorial comments which have reached us, Bro. Whittaker is referred to as having quoted from its issue of the 24th ultimo such passages as "Several of our allusions to that small, self-seeking clique of Freemasons who are so active at election times in thrusting themselves forward and clamouring for additional place, more power, and greater influence in the management of the town's affairs." Our contemporary allows that "it may be no fault of Freemasonry as an institution," and it adds "we are sure it is none of our correspondent's, the

Master of the Nelson Lodge" that "a small clique of place-hunters, each of the same political colour, thirsting after power and public office, is connected with them and that this same clique lose no opportunity of pushing themselves forward and propagating their fancied or real views" about their political opponents and their doings "in their own political organ."

With every readiness to accept this disclaimer, so far as it affects "Freemasonry as an institution," we must yet admit that Bro. Whittaker was justified in his exception. One of the passages quoted by him reads thus: "It was suggested to us the other day that two Freemasons represented Walterfield Ward, and now that poor Mr. Richard Smith is retiring, we suppose his seat is wanted for a third. All this, of course, is being done in the name of the Conservative party, forsooth, and yet another Freemason in the person of Mr. Wooliscroft, licensed victualler, has been dragged into the Bindley Ward contest in the name of the Conservative party. It ought rather to have been in that of a well-known clique." Other passages of a similar character are quoted by Bro. Whittaker; but this will suffice to show that he was justified, as we have said, in taking exception to the remarks of the *Nelson Chronicle*.

If these brethren, who put themselves forward as candidates for municipal office, did so on the ground that they were Freemasons and as representing the Masonic body, then our contemporary would have been justified in denouncing their conduct, for Masonry has nothing whatever to do with politics of any description, whether local or imperial. But when men become members of our Society, they do not throw aside their political or religious opinions. Within the lodge they are Freemasons and nothing more; outside the lodge they fulfil, or endeavour to fulfil, their several civil and religious duties in the manner they conceive to be right, but without any regard to their being Masons. It would be absurd indeed, and—still worse—destructive of the principles on which Freemasonry is based—if they did otherwise. Our contemporary appears to have forgotten—or more likely perhaps, never to have known—that there are staunch Liberals who are Masons, as well as Conservatives and conscientious nonconformists, and Hebrews who are members of our Order as well as Church of England men.

If, as we have said, the persons our contemporary refers to as having put themselves forward as candidates for office in this or that Ward of Nelson, have done so, or are doing so, on the ground that they are Freemasons, then they are acting in direct opposition to the principles of Freemasonry, which knows nothing of sectarian politics or religion. But there is nothing to show, nor has our contemporary attempted to prove, that they have done so. As far as we are able to judge from the matter we have received, the *Nelson Chronicle* has mixed up politics and Freemasonry without any justification, although he disclaims all idea of attacking "Freemasonry as an institution." Bro. Whittaker has done well in bringing him to book.

The *New Zealand Craftsman* for the 1st ult., contains an article, entitled "Uniformity of Working," from which it appears that since April, 1892, when the so-called Grand Lodge of New Zealand, adopted a resolution on the subject, "a large amount of confusion of working has arisen and spread, producing blends of the most unique character, and in some instances in direct opposition to the accepted working of any recognised form. Herculean efforts have occasionally been made in the institution of 'Lodges of Improvement,' but invariably the hopes of the promoters have been dispelled, and their well-meaning efforts upset." Hence the complaint which our contemporary appears to have inserted in one of its previous issues from Bro. Dr. Baldwin, of Auckland, who wrote to the effect that "Here in Auckland you see differences in every lodge you go to, and very annoying it is to find such differences." Very annoying it must be, and it will become still more so if the authorities of the so-called Grand Lodge of New Zealand do not take upon themselves, after consultation with the recognised experts, to formulate some kind of ritual that shall take the place among the lodges of the New Zealand Constitution of what is known here as "Emulation working."

On the 17th August a deputation from the so-called Grand Lodge of New Zealand, consisting of Bros. H. D. Bell, P.G.M.; H. J. Williams, P.D.G.M. and

Grand Superintendent of the Wellington District; R. C. Hamerton, P.G.W.; G. Wilson, P.G. Treas.; and R. Fletcher, P.M.; waited upon his Excellency Bro. the Earl of Ranfurley, Governor of New Zealand, at Government House, and presented his lordship with an address of welcome from the Grand Lodge of that body as the representative of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. The address, which was dated the 2nd August, 1897, and signed by the Grand Master (Bro. W. Barron), the Past Grand Master (Bro. H. D. Bell), the President of the Board of General Purposes (Bro. Alfred H. Burton), and the Grand Secretary (Bro. W. Ronaldson), was very graciously received by the Governor, who thanked the delegation very heartily for their kind wishes. His lordship mentioned incidentally that he was initiated at an early age in a lodge at Cambridge University, but had not since taken any active part in Freemasonry and that after having given the matter due consideration, he had resolved on not renewing his active connection with the Craft while resident in the Colony.

It is most creditable and a matter that cannot be made known too widely, that New Zealand Pacific Lodge, No. 2, is maintaining, with the assistance of the Craft in the Colony, the three children of the late Bro. Heighton, who was killed at the Torpedo Station, Shelly Bay, some years ago. The children have been placed in charge of a very worthy family at Ashurst, and in August, when they were visited by the W.M. of the Pacific Lodge, and the G. Superintendent of the District, were found to be most happy and comfortable, and making steady progress in their education, their moral training being made the subject of special attention.

We gather from the *Indian Masonic Review* that the Sind Masonic Benevolent Association, Karachi, cannot show quite as satisfactory an account for the year ending 30th June, 1897, as in the preceding year. In 1895-96 the receipts amounted to 1164 Rupees, in 1896-97 to 1065 Rupees. The expenditure in the former year was 1343 Rupees 13 Annas; in the latter 1129 Rupees 12 Annas, the diminution unfortunately being in the amounts expended on relief and the education and maintenance of children. There has also been a slight falling off in the invested capital, which amounted on the 1st July, 1895, to 17,301 Rupees; on the 1st July, 1896, to 17,530 Rupees; and on the 1st July, 1897, to 17,262 Rupees. But after all the falling off is not to be wondered at considering that "business and all other works" in Karachi were paralysed by the existence of the bubonic plague and the very large exodus from the city. During the period the Association has been in existence it has done excellent work, having expended on relief to widows and for the education of children up to June last 18,559 Rupees.

It seems that Bro. T. S. Parvin, the veteran Grand Secretary and Grand Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, has just entered upon the 51st year of his Grand Secretaryship and the 48th of his Grand Librarianship. From the very outset of his career as a Mason, he has worked most assiduously in promoting the work of the Order, and it is solely, at all events chiefly, to his efforts that the Grand Lodge of Iowa is indebted for its Masonic library, which is, beyond question, one of the finest and most complete libraries in existence. We cordially echo the hope expressed by several of our contemporaries that Bro. Parvin may be spared for many years to continue his splendid work.

With its issue for the month of September, our respected contemporary the *Freemasons' Repository*, of Providence, R.I., completed its 26th volume, and with it the 26th year of its existence. For 22 years of this period it has been edited by Bro. the Rev. H. W. Rugg, who, during the last 12 months, has fulfilled the rôle of publisher as well as that of editor. It has always been a most excellent, well-informed, and most ably-conducted Masonic periodical. Its information may always be relied upon, while its opinions—whether we agree with them or not—have been always expressed most courteously, and with every appearance of sincerity. We are glad to hear that since our Rev. Bro. Rugg has become publisher as well as editor, the *Freemasons' Repository* has strengthened its subscription list, and we trust that the *Repository* may continue on its present course of prosperity, as one of the ablest exponents of the principles and practice of Freemasonry, with which it is our privilege and pleasure to be associated.

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.

"A UNIQUE WORK OF CHARITY."

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Kindly allow me to call the attention of the Craft to the advertisement in this number of the *Freemason* making an appeal on behalf of the Home of St. Barnabas. I would especially ask the help and sympathy of all my clerical brethren. It was at first proposed to issue a general appeal to all the lodges in England the beginning of this year, but fearing anyone might think such an appeal likely to withdraw the smallest subscription from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund, it was determined to wait until all lodges were canvassed for subscriptions to that fund and had had ample time for sending in their contributions. I am well aware that objections are always made by some few brethren to help being given to any institution other than the purely Masonic Charities. Surely this is not in accordance with the broad spirit of Charity inculcated by the principles of our noble Order, and I confidently appeal to my brethren to support a brother who has devoted 40 years of his life to the extension of the Craft in different parts of the world. From many years of experience, I can assure your readers that the small provision now sought to be made for our clerical brethren will be a great boon to many who shrink from applying to a lodge or one of our Charities for support. A few years ago, before this Home of St. Barnabas was started, I, with the help of a few brethren, kept a poor and most deserving Masonic clergyman out of the workhouse, and provided for him till his death. There are many clergymen, too, who have not been able from poverty to keep up their subscriptions to a lodge, and so are not eligible for help from our Charities.—Yours fraternally,

W. HENRY COOPER, P.M., &c., &c.

Home of St. Barnabas,
East Grinstead.
19th October.

CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother

How frequently we hear of a Clearance Certificate when a brother resigns his lodge, but how very few have ever seen one. I should be very pleased if some brother could inform me where a copy of such certificate can be obtained.—Yours fraternally,

D.C.

Reviews.

"A PRIMER OF THE BIBLE, by W. H. Bennett, M.A., Sometime Fellow of St. John's College, Camb.," &c., &c. (*Methuen and Co.*, 36, Essex-street, London, W.C., 1897).—This handy and ably arranged volume is evidently the work of an enthusiastic Biblical scholar and expert, who is thoroughly "at home" with his subject and has spared no pains to present a digest, in brief, of the present condition of Biblical criticism, for the assistance and information of students, who have passed the preliminary stages of this important enquiry, and who need just such an accurate and condensed account of the history of the Old and New Testaments, written in a clear and intelligible manner, and forming a guide to further researches and more extended studies. The particulars as to the Jehovistic and Elohist documents or books, cannot fail to be of great interest to Royal Arch Masons, in particular, and the information supplied concerning the dates and character of the pre-Christian Apocrypha will be welcomed by members of some of the "Higher Degrees." Professor Bennett does not hesitate to express his opinions most decidedly, though not a few are far advanced compared with those prevalent some 50 years ago, but the work is not so much destructive in its tendency as constructive concerning the periods of composition and authority, so that the reverent reader will find that if he has some theories to give up there will be no lack of compensation, and may rise from a perusal of the Primer with a stronger faith than ever in the unity of the Bible. Every care appears to have been exercised in the preparation of this much-needed Biblical Guide, and it should have a large circulation. "Cranmer's Bible," however, is not a happy title for the famous "Great Bible" of 1539, familiar to all of us in the Psalter of the Prayer Book, as the Archbishop's was in no sense a Translation of any portion of that Version. The work extends to considerably over 200 pages and yet is only published at *half-a-crown*, so the price is much below that usually asked for such Treatises.

Craft Masonry.

Islington Lodge, No. 1471.

A very successful opening meeting was held on Thursday, the 14th instant, at the Cock Tavern, Highbury. It was attended by Bros. J. A. Blount, W.M.; D. C. Ritchie, I.P.M.; E. J. Harrison, S.W.; C. Isler, J.W.; S. Napper, P.M., Treas.; E. Blinkhorn, P.M., Sec.; C. Horst, S.D.; W. Taylor, J.D.; J. Amand, acting I.G.; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herts, D.C.; E. H. Bury, Org.; Couchman, Tyler; H. B. Harding, P.M.; R. Loomes, P.M.; A. Cox, P.M.; T. E. Newman, F. G. Bury, D. C. Attwater, G. Yexley, E. Yexley, J. R. White, J. H. Thurman, E. A. Wagstaff, G. A. Hopkins, T. A. Spotswood, A. Henning, L. Danielsson, W. F. Roberts, F. Simmonds, Fullbrook, Krische, Jauncey, and W. A. Goring. Bro. W. Hancock, P.M. 2191, was a visitor.

The business before the meeting was to ballot for and initiate Mr. Edward J. Bury, which ceremony was ably performed by Bro. E. Blinkhorn, P.M., by request of the friends of the candidate and by consent of the W.M. Three candidates for initiation were proposed and seconded, and, after reading the communications, the lodge was closed.

The after-dinner proceedings were of the usual harmonious character. Bro. Newman, as musical director, had arranged an interesting programme, songs being given by Bros. Attwater, Fullbrook, Isler, E. H. Bury, W. F. Roberts, and E. J. Bury, who also accompanied during the evening. The Tyler's toast and "Auld lang syne" terminated the proceedings.

Penge Lodge, No. 1815.

The installation of this lodge took place at Clarence Hall, Anerley, on the 13th inst., when Bro. Albert Edward Pridmore, was installed W.M. by Bro. Herbert Owen Budd, I.P.M., in a very able manner. The following were appointed officers for the year, viz., Bros. Geo. T. Crockford, S.W.; Wm. Peskett, J.W.; Henry Todd, Treas.; J. B. Crowe, Sec.; Wm. Atkinson, S.D.; Chas. G. Jones, J.D.; P. Betts, P.M., D.C.; B. W. Eyde, I.G.; F. K. Clarke, Stwd.; and E. L. Partridge, P.M., Tyler; who were all addressed very eloquently by the W.M. There were present a large number of visitors, amongst whom were several illustrious Masons.

The business of the lodge being ended, the brethren adjourned to the banquet, which proved a great success.

The several toasts were duly honoured in true Masonic fashion, and the brethren were treated to a varied entertainment which gave great satisfaction.

St. Ambrose Lodge, No. 1891.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. PHILIP PETHICK PERRY, P.M., TREAS.

A regular meeting of the above lodge was held at St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, W., on Tuesday, the 12th inst., when there were present Bros. W. Ham, W.M.; G. B. Spicer, S.W.; Ivor Davis, J.W.; P. P. Perry, P.M., Treas.; W. F. Bates, P.M., Sec.; G. May, S.D.; W. F. Morrington, J.D.; A. E. Gadd, I.G.; L. Lichtwitz, P.M.; F. W. Buxton, P.M., P.S.G.W. Berks; J. C. Conway, P.M.; E. J. Rix, T. Percy Buxton, F. Whicher, H. J. Thwaites, H. D. Poulter, S. J. Ling, F. Buck, F. Leeks, W. M. Cutcheon, H. W. Roach, H. Smith, Geo. Thatcher, A. Strutt, W. A. Hudson, H. K. Whiting, J. Burke, W. H. Page-Nash, G. Gelardi, H. Hudson, and H. Evenden, P.M., Tyler. Visitors: Bros. H. Saunton, P.M. 1423; T. A. Markland, W.M. 144; A. Schott, 1694; and E. T. Polkinghorne, of the George Washington Lodge, No. 82, States of Connecticut, U.S.A.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, Bro. H. D. Poulter was raised to the Third Degree. Messrs. H. K. Whiting and J. W. Burke were then initiated into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry. Bro. G. B. Spicer, S.W., was unanimously elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. P. P. Perry, re-elected Treas.; Bro. H. Evenden, Tyler; and Bros. Whiting, Burke, and Strutt, Auditors.

After the regular Masonic business of the lodge was completed, one of the most pleasing and interesting events in the annals of the lodge transpired. The Worshipful Master rose and said: Brethren,—A most pleasing duty devolves on me to-night. I am honoured by being the medium of presenting a very handsome testimonial to a very distinguished brother of our lodge from our Masonic brethren across the sea. I have been for some months in communication with the brethren of the Forest City Lodge, Cleveland, Ohio, the outcome of which has been my receiving this splendid embossed and illuminated testimonial, and in a subsequent letter receiving a valuable cheque, asking me to procure a suitable frame in which to enshrine it. This matter has been kept a profound secret, and, in presenting this to our brother, I am quite certain we shall take him and you, my brethren, unawares. The brother so marked out for this high honour this evening is our dear Bro. Past Master Perry, whose personal worth and charming manner has—as is evident from this signal token of regard from America—secured to himself hosts of friends among our brother cousins on the opposite side of the Atlantic. Those who, like myself and our Cleveland brothers, have been privileged intimately to know our Bro. Perry, are best conversant with his true worth, and can understand, as only we ourselves can, the spring that prompts this splendid offering. Bro. Perry, most of you know, is no ordinary man or Mason; he has served his country in important capacities. I first knew him when placed among London's distinguished citizens, who showed their sense of his quality by electing him member of the Borough of Fulham as their representative on the Metropolitan Board of Works—now the London County Council—and it is their misfortune that Bro. Perry is not at the present moment the representative in Parliament of that important borough, a position in the imperial assembly his abilities and qualifications eminently qualify him to fill. I can assure you many thousands in Fulham possess grateful recollections for what he did as Fulham's representative. I have now only to ask our distinguished brother's acceptance of this signal mark of esteem from our brethren in Ohio, and I but echo the sentiments of this lodge, when I say we feel grateful to our American brothers for delighting to honour a pillar of our lodge. We feel, also, we participate with him in this honour, and our deep gratitude goes out to the Masons of Forest City in that after a lapse of 20 years (since he took leave of them), his memory is still green and cherished even now, as this splendid emblem bears high witness. The resolution which I have now the pleasure of presenting you, reads as follows:

"HALL OF FOREST CITY LODGE, F. AND A.M.

"The following preamble and resolution was presented by Bro. Abner Royce, Cleveland, O., March 3rd, 1897.

"To the W.M., Wardens, and Brethren,

"Forest City Lodge, No. 388, F. and A.M.

"Whereas,—At a stated communication of this Lodge, held March 8th, A.D., 1869, A.L., 5869, a petition for Affiliation, accompanied by a dimit from Yeatman Lodge, No. 162, Cincinnati, O., and signed by Bro. Philip P. Perry, was received, and referred to a Committee of investigation, consisting of Bros. L. C. Mathews, A. C. Hogan, and Frank Wright. At the next stated communication, the Committee reported favourably, and Bro. Perry was duly elected a member of Forest City Lodge. For his faithful attendance and zeal, he was rewarded on December 12th, 1870, by being elected to the office of Junior Deacon, which office he filled to the satisfaction of the lodge until May, 1871, when he returned to his native city, London, England, and afterwards affiliated with St. Ambrose Lodge, 1891, F. and A.M. of London, England, whose members soon recognised his Masonic skill and devotion by electing him to office, culminated in his being elected to the high office of Worshipful Master, in which he was installed December 7th, 1889, and after serving one year with great credit to himself and pleasure to his lodge, he was elected Treasurer, which office he continues to hold. Therefore be it resolved that Worshipful Bro. Phillip P. Perry for his faithful devotion to our beloved Order be made and enrolled an Honorary Member of Forest City Lodge, No. 388, F. and A.M., at Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. And be it further resolved that the Secretary be instructed to send an engrossed copy of this Preamble and Resolution, under seal of the lodge, to Bro. Perry, through St. Ambrose Lodge, No. 1891, London, England. March 17th, Resolution carried unanimously.—S. S. WEST, Sec.

"GEO. W. LLOYD, W.M.

"EDSON B. BANDER, S.W.

"EDWARD DAVID, J.W."

Bro. Perry, who was deeply affected, replied as follows: Worshipful Master,—you truly said you were about to take myself and the brethren unawares, the secret has been kept most Masonically. I had not the slightest idea when I came to the lodge this evening that the brethren of my old lodge, the Forest City, entertained such an exalted opinion of my Masonic ability or that I was to be the recipient of so handsome a present. It is now 26 years since I returned to England and it has been a source of great regret to me that I have from various causes been unable to enjoy the privilege of meeting any of the brethren of Forest City Lodge. Words fail me to adequately express in a fitting manner my appreciation of the generous and kindly feelings which prompted them to confer so great an honour upon me. I thank them most heartily and you also, Worshipful Master, for the kind expression you have made use of in carrying out the wishes of our American brethren, and also members of St. Ambrose Lodge for the uniform kindness they have always shown me.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to dinner, after which the usual loyal Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

An excellent programme of music and recitations was rendered under the direction of Bro. H. J. Thwaites, Bros. J. Thatcher, W. M. Cutcheon, H. J. Thwaites, E. J. Rix, and others contributing the harmony.

Bro. F. Percy Buxton ably presided at the piano.

Willesden Lodge, No. 2489.

This successful lodge held its installation meeting by dispensation at the Trocadero Restaurant, on Monday, the 18th inst., when there was a good attendance and a most enjoyable evening was the result. The ceremonies of raising and installation as worked by Bro. Bartley Denniss were keenly enjoyed. The newly-installed W.M., Bro. C. J. Marrian, is an enthusiastic and hard working Mason and no small measure of the present success of the lodge is due to his indefatigable work as Secretary during, and since, its formation. The brethren in attendance included Bros. E. R. Bartley Denniss, P.P.G.W. Middx., W.M.; C. Butler, P.M.; C. J. Marrian, S.W.; F. W. Marrian, J.W.; F. W. Chant Hobrow, Treas.; W. Grant Greig, Sec.; J. J. Hanbury, S.D.; R. E. H. Fisher, J.D.; W. Webster, I.G.; E. B. Lemon and Stanley Gibbs, Stwds.; O. C. Robson, P.M.; W. Wellsman, P.M., D.C.; Stanley Machin, and Sydney Gibbs. Visitors: Bros. F. Murison, J. 1228; R. Morgan Olcott, 454; Kane, U.S.A.; C. Cowley, 2361; H. A. Miles, 63; J. Harvey, 2361; J. A. Adams, J.D. 2361; B. H. Darnes, S.D. 1982; F. Levy, S.D. 1261; C. J. Rith, jun., 65; H. T. Maclure, P.M. 176; H. C. Borradaile, P.M. 1343; H. Machin, S.W. 231; R. T. Wreathall, 2548; C. Pinkhans, 2361; E. Prendergast, P.M. 569; H. Wellsman, P.M. 1589; T. H. Carlton Levick, J.D. 2098; R. W. Ball, J.W. 2361; Capt. W. H. Glynn Smith, P.M. 1691, P.P. G. Reg. Middx.; A. W. Buckingham, 2310; F. S. Long, P.M. 494, P.P. G.D. Herts; A. B. Crisp, 1589; W. W. Lee, P.P.G.D.; and others.

The lodge was opened, the dispensation read, and the minutes confirmed. A candidate was then raised to the Third Degree and the full traditional history given. Bro. C. J. Marrian was next presented as W.M. elect, and was impressively and ably installed

by Bro. Bartley Dennis, P.P.G.W., I.P.M. The following officers were invested: Bros. Stanley Machin, S.W.; F. W. Marrian, J.W.; F. W. Chant Hobrow, Treas.; W. Grant Greig, Sec.; J. I. Hanbury, S.D.; R. E. H. Fisher, J.D.; Walter Wellsman, P.M., D.C.; G. R. Wood, Org.; W. F. Webster, I.G.; E. B. Lemon and C. Stanley Gibbs, Stwds.; and Whiteway, Tyler.

Lodge was closed, and the banquet was followed by the usual toasts.

Bro. E. R. Bartley Dennis, P.P.G.W. Middx., I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," said it was perhaps the most interesting period in the life of a Mason to be placed in the chair of King Solomon by the brethren of the lodge. Sometimes it was taken with fear, and sometimes with confidence. There was a class of Worshipful Masters who took the chair with great confidence, not because they were inflated with their own ability, but because they knew they had behind them the friendship and affection of every member. Their present W.M. belonged to that class, and knew he had done his best ever since his initiation to perfect himself and make himself worthy of the position he knew he would have to fill. Bro. Marrian was an experienced Mason as regards everything a Mason could learn before he occupied the chair; he had studied the ritual, and had served the lodge in the capacity of Secretary in a manner so admirable, that no Secretary could have done better. The W.M. was kindness itself, and also simplicity itself in the best of all senses. Genial and nice in his manner, that it made one feel he was doing an important favour when asking to do another a service. During the past year the work of Worshipful Master had been made easy by Bro. Marrian, by the manner in which he regulated everything. The members reciprocated the kind feelings and affection which the W.M. had always shown to every brother in the lodge, and in placing him in the chair, they felt they had a Master to fill it with the greatest possible credit, not only to the Willesden Lodge, but to the cause of Freemasonry. He was, in fact, the epitome of all that was excellent in Masonry, as far as a man could be, who had only been a Mason for a few years. That was the feeling with which they regarded their W.M. that night, and was no after-dinner flattery. During the coming year the lodge would go on and prosper, for the members were all united by one feeling. They had had good Past Masters, and the work could not be surpassed in any lodge, and whilst they had such P.M.s and brethren like their W.M., Masonry would prosper in the highest and best sense. When he (the I.P.M.) asked them to drink the W.M.'s health, there would not be one who would have the slightest diffidence in doing so, feeling sure, as they did, that everything that could be done for a lodge and for Freemasonry would be done by Bro. Marrian, whom they were proud and pleased to see in the chair.

Bro. C. J. Marrian, W.M., in reply, said he rose very diffidently to return thanks for the too flattering way in which the toast had been proposed and received. He was the first of the members to exchange the rosettes for the levels. They had hitherto been governed by experienced Past Masters—Bros. Robson, Sir Reginald Hanson, Butler, and Dennis. He should have to claim their indulgence in many ways during his year. The I.P.M. had spoken of him as if he had already learned all there was to learn about Masonry except the secrets of the Master's chair, and that was far from being true. He had studied and done what he could in a small way but he knew there was more and more to learn. The older a Mason got the more he found there was yet something to learn. That was the spirit in which he approached the Master's chair, and any work they gave him to do he would perform to the best of his ability. He was not anxious that members should be brought in simply for the sake of doing work. He would rather have no work than have any candidate admitted who would not be agreeable to every member. Some said their lodge had been exclusive, but there was no harm in that. They had at present the perfect number of 33 and he should be happy to see that increased to 34 or 35 if they were good men and true. The Secretary of the Boys' School had kindly accepted the offer of his services as Steward at the Centenary Festival, and he looked forward to have the support of the lodge. He would next turn to a more congenial topic, to propose "The I.P.M." Bro. Dennis, I.P.M., in stating the qualifications for the chair, said the W.M. must be "easy of address." How could he (the W.M.) be easy of address after listening to the silver tongue of the I.P.M. He almost felt ashamed to propose the toast after the eloquent manner in which the I.P.M. had performed a similar duty. They all knew how Bro. Dennis had conducted the affairs of the lodge during the past year, and that he had done everything possible for a Master of a lodge to do. The I.P.M. had worked hard to keep the lodge together, and would be much missed in the coming year. They saw by the jewels on his breast that that was not the first lodge in which the I.P.M.'s services had been recognised and appreciated. That was the fourth chair Bro. Dennis had filled, and he (the Worshipful Master) had much pleasure in their name to present the Immediate Past Master with a Past Master's jewel of the Willesden Lodge. In asking his acceptance they did so, not for its intrinsic value, but rather as an earnest of the affection and esteem in which he was held by every member.

Bro. E. R. Bartley Dennis, P.P.G.W. Middx., I.P.M., in responding, said it was a source of great gratification to him that in spite of his faults the members had been pleased. When they kindly asked him to be a founder he for the first time became acquainted with a body of men who represented the perfect spirit of Masonry as near as it was possible to be represented by any body of Freemasons in this country. They had imbued him with that spirit, and he had endeavoured to the best of his small ability to carry out his duties. Freemasonry was looked upon in different ways by different minds and different classes of men. It was a great misfortune to be cast amongst those who did not understand and appreciate their noble principles, but whenever a man's lot was cast amongst those who did understand and appreciate them he could not fail to see what an extreme advantage it was and he could but endeavour—though he might not succeed—to regulate his conduct according to Masonic line and rule. There was not a single member of the lodge who was not imbued with the real Masonic spirit, and whether so inclined before or not, once a brother had been present at their ceremonies he must feel the great benefit of Freemasonry. He thanked them sincerely for the fraternal spirit evinced towards him, and also for the kind encouragement given him during the year he had served as Master. He had endeavoured at the social board—which, to his mind, was an extremely important part of Freemasonry—to interest and amuse them. If he had succeeded, he was delighted. It was at the after-dinner gatherings that they made friendships, which they could in after years look back upon with pleasure. They had been kind enough to present him with a jewel, and amongst his jewels there was none he was more proud of, because it was that lodge which first imbued him with the true spirit of Freemasonry. No brother liked leaving the chair; but, if there was any consolation in his case, it was that he was succeeded by one who would carry on the traditions of the lodge as they had been carried on in past years. He knew they reciprocated his feelings, and he sincerely thanked them from the bottom of his heart.

Bro. Glynn Smith, P.P.G. Reg. Middx., responding for "The Visitors," said he could say with sincerity that they had had a great pleasure in attending. They had a great Masonic treat in seeing the able and impressive manner in which the installation ceremony was performed by a brother whom he had also seen in the Prov. Grand Lodge of Middlesex. They congratulated the W.M. on attaining the highest honour in the lodge. He thanked the lodge for an enjoyable evening, and for its magnificent hospitality.

Bros. Maclure, P.M. 176, and H. Machin, S.W. 231, also replied.

Bros. Robson, P.M., and Butler, P.M., having answered for "The Past Masters,"

Bro. Dennis, I.P.M., proposed "The Masonic Charities" in eloquent terms.

Bro. J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B., replied, lucidly placing before the brethren facts and figures relative to the Boys' Institution, and forcibly appealing for support for the forthcoming Centenary Festival.

"The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers" were given, and were followed by the Tyler's toast.

Bro. Reynolds Wood, Org., was ably assisted in the musical arrangements by Bros. Fred. Cozens and A. Johnson.

Royal Arch.

Old Concord Chapter, No. 172.

The October ordinary convocation of this chapter was held on Tuesday evening at the Holborn Restaurant, when there attended Comps. H. Tatton Sykes, M.E.Z.; Woolmer Williams, H.; William Hunt, J.; Carl F. Fleck, P.Z., Treas.; George King, P.Z., S.E.; James H. Hoare, S.N.; R. T. Godfrey, P.Z., as P.S.; F. W. Jordan, 1st A.S.; Henry R. Cope, P.Z.; Walter Ravison, Ernest Vaughan, Benjamin Stone, P. Douglas Norman, C. H. Balsey, Edwin H. Greene, and G. A. Couch-

man, Janitor. Visitors: Comps. Alfred L. Annett, P.Z. 180; H. Massey, P.Z. 619 and 1928; and H. Bertram, P.Z. 569.

Bros. Arthur Henry Burr and Edwin Henry Gilbert, both of the Old Concord Lodge, No. 172, were balloted for as candidates for exaltation, and the latter being in attendance was exalted in capital style by the Principals, officers, and Comp. Godfrey, P.Z.

The companions afterwards adjourned to a choice banquet, and honoured the usual loyal and R.A. toasts.

Comp. Godfrey, P.Z., proposed "The M.E.Z." At the previous meeting, when he had the pleasure of installing Comp. Tatton Sykes, he felt it a very great honour. Comp. Tatton Sykes also took it as such, and all companions looked at the position as the acme of their ambition. That evening the companions had seen the good working of the M.E.Z. He came with a grand record from the great old lodge, where a man must be super-excellent to obtain the post of W.M. Comp. Tatton Sykes was excellent in Craft working, and he had gone on increasing his excellence as he went through the chairs of the chapter. Coming as he did from such a lodge, what could the companions expect but that the work would be superby done? The chapter was promised some candidates, and the members expected that on those occasions they would see the work carried out with even greater perfection than it had been that evening.

Comp. H. Tatton Sykes, M.E.Z., replying, said he felt it a very great honour to be elected and to be placed in the First Principal's chair of the Old Concord Chapter. It was the acme of his ambition in his Masonic life to have the Third Degree completed, and, what was more, to have to complete the Third Degree to other exaltees of the chapter. He hoped he should be spared to the end of his term of office. At the next meeting he trusted he should give the mystical lecture complete. He was sorry he had not done it that evening, but he felt it would be better to let Comp. Godfrey do it perfectly than do it imperfectly himself. Time and circumstances were not given him for the purpose of performing the work as he should wish. He returned his hearty good wishes for all the kind things said by Comp. Godfrey concerning him, and also to the rest of the companions for the encouragement given to his small efforts. Before sitting down he would propose the toast of "The H. and J." It required very few words to extol the aptitude of Comp. Woolmer Williams in the performance of his part of the ceremony. They had already seen that at the installation of J. Comp. Woolmer Williams did his work in a thoroughly competent manner, and when he should be elected to occupy the proud position of the M.E.Z. he would not in any way go back on his former excellence of work. He hoped Comp. Williams would attain the M.E.Z.'s chair. He (Comp. Tatton Sykes) would be very sorry to vacate it; but still he should be pleased to see Comp. Woolmer Williams occupy it. With regard to Comp. Hunt, he might say that he and Comp. Hunt worked up together in the lodge. Whatever Comp. Hunt undertook he would do to his utmost ability; if he said he would do his work properly, they might count upon it he would.

Comps. Woolmer Williams, H., and William Hunt, J., having responded, Comp. H. Tatton Sykes, M.E.Z., proposed "The Exaltees." He said Comp. Gilbert came from the original stock—the Old Concord Lodge: long might it flourish, root and branch! Comp. Gilbert would try his utmost to go on; he would have to wait some time because he was not yet in the chair of a lodge, and he could not reach a Principal's chair in the chapter without being an Installed Master. There was no doubt he would progress, and most probably, if elected, would fulfil the minor offices in the chapter till he could take a Principal's.

Comp. Edwin Henry Gilbert, responding, said he felt very proud to be a companion among Royal Arch Masons. As regarded the ceremony of exaltation, it was very grand. He had heard people say, "When you get into the Arch you will find it very grand," and he had found it so. He trusted he should be a good member of the Old Concord Chapter.

Comps. Annett, Massey, and Bertram were all called upon to reply to the toast of "The Visitors."

Comp. Carl T. Fleck, P.Z., Treas., replying for himself to the toast of "The Treasurer and the Scribe E.," regretted that on account of having only just returned from the seaside, he was unable to be present at the working of the chapter. He had received a letter from Comp. Meierhoff, P.Z., in which that companion stated: "I am sorry to say that, owing to the state of my wife's health, I shall not be able to turn up at the chapter to-morrow." He had only just received that letter, or he should certainly have made an extra effort to be at the chapter earlier.

Comp. George King, P.Z., responded as S.E., and said he was pleased to find the chapter was in such a flourishing condition.

Comp. Cope, P.Z., responded to the toast of "The P.Z.s," and Comp. Godfrey to that of "The Officers."

The Janitor's toast closed the proceedings.

Selwyn Chapter, No. 1901.

The installation meeting of this flourishing chapter took place at the Montpelier Hotel, Choumert-road, Peckham, S.E., on Thursday, the 14th inst. There were present Comps. B. Morgan, M.E.Z.; Wm. Wills, H., M.E.Z. elect; W. H. Hook, P.Z., Treas.; Wm. Beecroft, J., H. elect; C. H. Stone, P.Z., S.E.; Thos. Grummant, P.Z., D.C.; R. Weddall Thomas, S.N.; A. H. Fraser, 1st A.S.; Thos. Bowler, Janitor; John Lightfoot, P.Z.; Edwin Gauntlett, P.Z.; H. Cornford, E. Aggleton, H. C. Turner, H. Hayward, J. Austin, H. Mills, and Jos. A. May. The visitors were Comps. H. Hardman, J. 1275; Geo. R. Langley, P.Z. 1326, P. Prov. G. Treas. Middx.; R. J. Voisey, P.Z., S.E. 1329; T. T. Willcox, P.Z. 975; Isaac Dunn, M.E.Z. 1611; Frank Swinford Smith, S.E. 2272; and Arthur Weston, 1572.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. Through the death of our highly respected Comp. T. W. Gay, J. elect, it was necessary to ballot for a companion to that office, as also the office of P.S. Comps. A. H. Fraser and H. Cornford respectively, were unanimously elected to those offices. Comp. C. H. Stone installed Comp. Wm. Wills into the chair of M.E.Z.; Comp. Wm. Wills installed Comp. Wm. Beecroft into the chair of H.; and Comp. T. Grummant installed Comp. A. H. Fraser into the chair of J. The ceremonies were performed in an exemplary manner. The M.E.Z. invested his officers as follows: Comps. W. H. Hook, P.Z., Treas.; C. H. Stone, P.Z., S.E.; Thos. Grummant, P.Z., D.C.; H. Cornford, P.S.; H. C. Turner, 2nd A.S.; E. Aggleton, Stwd.; and Thos. Bowler, Janitor. Comp. C. A. Adams, S.N. elect, and F. E. Pow, 1st A.S. elect, were absent through illness, consequently, their investiture was deferred until next convocation. The balance-sheet was presented and adopted, showing the chapter to be flourishing. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Comp. B. Morgan, I.P.Z., for presenting the chapter with a kneeling-stool, his second gift to the chapter. Comp. Morgan very suitably replied. It was resolved that a letter of condolence be sent to Mrs. Gay upon the loss of her husband, the esteemed Comp. T. W. Gay, J. elect, and a letter of sympathy with Comp. F. E. Pow in his illness, with the earnest desire of the companions for his speedy recovery.

The business of the chapter ended, it was closed, and the companions adjourned to an excellent banquet, supplied by Mrs. Pow, the wife of Comp. F. E. Pow, the proprietor, which was much appreciated, and for which she received special thanks.

The cloth removed, the M.E.Z. presented the loyal and Royal Arch toasts in becoming terms, which were royally received. Also that of "The G.H., the G.J., and the rest of the Grand Officers." The M.E.Z. remarked they deserved a most cordial recognition.

The toast of "The M.E.Z." was proposed by Comp. B. Morgan, I.P.Z., who stated that it was the first time he had the honour and privilege of placing such a well deserved toast before the chapter, for all who knew Comp. Wm. Wills in the Selwyn Lodge and the record year during his Mastership, would congratulate him upon his attaining so high a position in the chapter, and wish him and the chapter as equal success as in the lodge. He asked the companions to drink to the toast most cordially.

In reply, the M.E.Z. said he felt somewhat diffident on rising to respond for the first time as Z. of the chapter. It was certainly a position which required consideration and reflection, and he hoped at the end to merit all the kind words that had been said of him. Certainly, in the Craft he had had a most exceptional year of office as Master of the Selwyn Lodge, and he hoped to a degree that the same success would follow in the chapter, but depend upon it whoever offered themselves as candidates would be those of the right calibre and with a guarantee that they were worthy of such an exaltation. He would exert himself to the utmost for the welfare of the chapter now he had been exalted to so high and honourable a position, for which he most gratefully thanked them.

The toast of "H. and J." was given by the M.E.Z., who said they were co-Principals and worthy of the position to which they had been installed, which involved more responsibilities, more attention, and more work. Comp. Beecroft, H., had done

good and suitable service in the Craft, and the M.E.Z. had no doubt soon his services would be recognised in the Province of Essex. Comp. Fraser, J., had been placed in that exalted position through the lamented death of Comp. T. W. Gay, soon after passing the chair in the Selwyn Lodge, which he had done with great credit and satisfaction, and he had no doubt that his exertions would be exercised for the benefit of the Selwyn Chapter and to promote its prosperity.

The replies of Comps. Beecroft, H., and Fraser, J., were to the effect that they were indebted to the M.E.Z. for such flattering remarks and what he had spoken of them would be most assuredly carried out to their best endeavour, so as to redound to the credit of the chapter.

The M.E.Z. next proposed the toast of "Comp. B. Morgan, I.P.Z.," who had conducted the chapter through the year with every satisfaction and enjoyment. It had been rather unfortunate no candidate presenting himself, but that was in no wise disparaging to the I.P.Z., for all knew his capabilities and the manner he had rehearsed his duties in the Star Chapter of Instruction which would have redounded to the credit of the Selwyn Chapter. He had the greatest possible pleasure in presenting the P.Z.'s jewel unanimously voted him with the hope he would wear the same and honour the chapter for many years with his presence.

In reply, Comp. Morgan said he thanked the companions for their very many kindnesses bestowed. He was indeed proud to have been in so exalted a position and much regretted the absence of work, for he had given it his study and was prepared to carry out his duties faithfully and well. He wished the M.E.Z. every prosperity in the present year, with an influx of some sterling members. With regard to the handsome jewel, he felt he did not deserve it, although he had conscientiously carried out the duties. His best endeavours would be to promote the interests of the chapter, and his earnest hope was that the G.A.O.T.U. would spare him for many years to wear the jewel as the token of their appreciation.

In presenting the toast of "The Visitors," the M.E.Z. remarked it was one of exceeding importance, as there were some excellent companions present who deserved a cordial reception. It was comparatively a young chapter, but it ranked fairly well as regards its working among the chapters in South London. The one great regret was no work upon that occasion, but he hoped they would grace the chapter with their presence upon some future occasion when there would be some work. To Comp. Geo. R. Langley, the Selwyn Lodge owed a deep debt of gratitude for his noble exertions in the cause of the Benevolent Fund; also Comps. Voisey, Dunn, Wilcox, Hardman, Frank Swinford Smith, and Arthur Weston, who were present to cheer them with their delightful harmony. The chapter most cordially greeted them.

Comps. Isaac Dunn, G. R. Langley, Voisey, Wilcox, Hardman, F. S. Smith, and A. Weston replied, and remarked upon the excellent manner the installation had been carried out, but that was no wonder when they had among the officers and Principals of the chapter such companions as Comps. T. Grummant, P.Z., and C. H. Stone, P.Z.

Comp. Dunn specially stated the pleasure he had in visiting them, as he was M.E.Z. of the Rose, a neighbouring chapter.

Comp. G. R. Langley also thanked the M.E.Z. for his very kind allusions, and congratulated the chapter upon its work and the hearty manner in which the companions always supported him in any election to the various Institutions.

Comp. R. J. Voisey also paid a high compliment to the working and geniality displayed. He was indeed very pleased to be present again at the kind invitation of Comp. Gauntlett, P.Z., and note the progress of the chapter.

Comp. Wilcox also congratulated the M.E.Z. upon his proud position. He had known his working in the lodge, and he was immensely pleased to see the way in which he was appreciated. He and the M.E.Z. had been fast friends for many years.

Comp. H. Hardman also replied.

The M.E.Z. gave the toast of "The Past Principals," and dilated upon their excellences.

Comp. John Lightfoot, P.Z., said he felt it an honour to respond for the Past Principals. They all looked upon the M.E.Z. with great affection. Seven years ago, when he was Master of the lodge, he had a phenomenal success, and it was the desire and confidence of all that the chapter would be increased under his auspices.

The toast of "The Officers" received at the hands of the M.E.Z. that eulogy which it deserved.

Comps. Stone, S.E.; T. Grummant, P.Z., D. of C.; and Hy. Cornford, P.S., responded.

The Janitor's toast closed a very happy and successful meeting.

A capital programme of music was arranged by the M.E.Z., and efficiently carried out by Comp. F. S. Smith, ably assisted by Comps. Arthur Weston and C. H. Stone, P.Z.

Lion and Lamb Chapter, No. 192.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 20th instant, at Cannon-street Hotel. Present: Comps. T. E. Biddlecombe, M.E.Z.; W. H. Dunn, H.; F. Hughes, J.; F. D. R. Copestick, P.Z., S.E.; William Baker, 2nd A.S.; T. Cohu, P.Z., D. of C. and Steward; G. Couchman, Janitor; Dr. Dingle, P.Z.; S. M. Banker, P.Z.; Rev. T. Selby Henrey, John G. Robeson, Walter Fisher, Geo. K. Durrant, D. Ringrose, C. G. Diamond, and F. Hamlett. Visitors: Comps. George Mickley, P.Z., P.G.S.B., and George Powell, P.Z.

The minutes of the last convocation having been read and confirmed, the following companions were unanimously elected to their respective offices for the ensuing year: Comps. W. H. Dunn, M.E.Z.; F. Hughes, H.; Thos. W. Fisher, J.; F. D. Rees Copestick, P.Z., S.E.; R. Sarson, S.N.; George Kenning, P.Z., Treas.; G. Grant, P.S.; William Baker, 1st A.S.; Rev. T. Selby Henrey, 2nd A.S.; and G. Couchman, Janitor. Comp. H. Birdseye, P.Z. of the chapter, was elected as a re-joining member.

There being no further business, the chapter was closed, and the companions dined together under the able presidency of the M.E.Z.

The toast list was interspersed by some songs capably rendered by Comps. Walter Fisher, D. Ringrose, Geo. K. Durrant, F. Hughes, and F. G. Robeson, Comp. Biddlecombe accompanying them on the piano.

Mozart Chapter, No. 1929.

A meeting of this chapter was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Croydon, on the 27th ult. Among those present were Comps. Dr. Russell Beardmore, M.E.Z.; Major F. W. Richardson, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B., H.; Lieut.-Col. T. Tully, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B., as J.; and Major T. C. Walls, P.Z., P.D.G.D.C., S.E. Comp. H. J. Lardner, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B., was a visitor.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. Communications regretting inability to attend were received from Comps. James Boulton, P.Z., P.A.G.D.C.; R. A. Gowan, P.Z.; Cain, S.N.; and others. The chapter was then closed. A banquet followed.

Comp. Lieut.-Col. T. Tully, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B., responded on behalf of "The Provincial Grand Officers," and then proposed "The Health of the M.E.Z."

Comp. Dr. Beardmore, in responding, expressed his regret that for some time past no candidate had presented himself for exaltation. He ventured to hope that next year some members of the Mozart Lodge would take the opportunity of receiving the Degree in a chapter when promotion to office would be rapid. Personally, he enjoyed the meetings very much, and it would be to him a great source of regret if he were compelled to sever his connection with it.

Comp. Lardner replied to the toast of "The Visitors," in which he thoroughly endorsed the remarks of the First Principal as to the great enjoyment derived by attending the small but genial gatherings of the Mozart Chapter and its well served banquets.

The proceedings then terminated.

Lodges and Chapter of Instruction.

LA TOLERANCE LODGE, No. 538.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 20th inst., at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, W., when there were present Bros. H. Raphael, W.M.; J. Goldstein, S.W.; G. A. Sturgess, J.W.; J. Paul, P.M., Preceptor; T. W. Smale, P.M., Sec.; C. Pinnell, S.D.; A. Butcher, J.D.; B. Russell, I.G.; W. Proctor, Tyler; L. Genese, W.M. 2295; S. G. Cross, C. Lumley, J. Wyrman, and W. Bowden.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was rehearsed, Bro. Cross being the candidate. The ceremony of passing was rehearsed, Bro. Bowden being the candidate. Lodge was resumed, and Bro. Claude Lumley, 2323, was unanimously elected a member. The lodge was then closed.

WHITTINGTON LODGE, No. 862.

The usual weekly meeting of this lodge was held at the Red Lion, Poppin's Court, Fleet-street, on Wednesday, the 13th inst., when the following brethren were present Bros. Kemp, W.M.; Clarkson, S.W.; Collins, J.W.; Tilt, P.M., Sec.; Pauncefort, P.M., Preceptor; Kobelt, S.D.; Pate, J.D.; Scarlet, I.G.; Day, and Latham.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting were confirmed. The ceremony of raising was rehearsed, after which the W.M. closed down. All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

ISLINGTON LODGE, No. 1471.

The usual weekly meeting was held on Tuesday, the 19th instant, at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, when there were present Bros. A. F. Hardymont, W.M.; E. J. Harrison, S.W.; C. T. Rayner, J.W.; G. T. Peall, P.M., acting Preceptor; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D. Herbs, and J. Duncan, P.M., Secs.; S. Cload, S.D.; W. Oldrey, J.D.; L. Danielsson, I.G.; E. W. Braine, P.M.; C. Nicole, C. C. Renaud, C. Smith, A. L. Langton, T. A. Spencer, A. Goodman, C. Guttman, and F. H. Johnson.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed. The ceremony of initiation was then rehearsed, Bro. Langton being the candidate. The ancient charge was given. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Oldrey, who rehearsed the investiture of officers, and afterwards the ceremony of passing, Bro. Renaud being the candidate. Bro. T. A. Spencer was elected a member of the lodge. Bro. Harrison was elected W.M. for the ensuing week, and appointed the officers in rotation. The annual ballot for a Life Subscribership was then taken, 15 brethren participating, it falling to the lot of Bro. C. Smith, W.M. 1328. The lodge was then closed.

HUGH OWEN LODGE, No. 2593.

The usual weekly meeting was held at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, on Friday, the 15th instant, when the following were present: Bros. Ramsbottom, W.M.; Kobelt, S.W.; Reed, J.W.; Holland, P.M., Preceptor; Nicholls, Treas.; Soper, Sec.; Schrader, Org.; Ridgway, S.D.; Barnett, J.D.; Drake, I.G.; Hunt, and Glover.

The lodge was opened in due form, and the minutes of the last meeting confirmed. The ceremonies of initiation and of passing were rehearsed. All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Church-street, Camberwell, S.E., on Friday, the 15th instant. Present: Comps. Snelling, M.E.Z.; Derham, H.; Barr, J.; Thos. Grummant, P.Z., Preceptor; C. H. Stone, P.Z., S.E.; J. H. Cureton, P.Z., S.N.; Plant, P.S.; West, William Dawson, Hardman, Eckersall, W. H. Making, Bonner, H. C. Turner, and J. Loader.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Hardman personating the candidate. Comp. W. H. Making, P.S. 753, was elected a joining member. The chapter was placed at the disposal of the M.E.Z. of the Star Chapter for this (Friday) evening. Comp. Wm. Eckersall, M.E.Z. 1275, thanked the companions for their courtesy, and he hoped to gladly avail himself of the opportunity and should be supported by his co-Principals. The chapter was then closed.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. James Henry Matthews, President of the Board, occupied the President's chair; Bro. David Dixon Mercer, Senior Vice-President; and Bro. Charles Alexander Cottebrune, Junior Vice-President; were in the seats assigned to their respective positions. Bros. William Lake, Assistant Grand Secretary; William Dodd, George S. Recknell, and Henry Sadler, Grand Tyler; represented the department of the Grand Secretary; and the other brethren present were Bros. W. Vincent, H. Garrod, C. Doresa, G. R. Langley, G. B. Chapman, W. Fisher, C. J. R. Tijou, Jas. Bunker, H. Maudslay, Hugh M. Gordon, J. Newton, Robert A. Gowan, George Graveley, S. H. Goldschmidt, S. V. Abraham, H. Massey, W. Lipscomb, G. English, H. W. Wybourne, Benjamin Stocker, T. Rendell, J. J. Brettell, E. Gibberd, A. Monk, G. Driver, J. Watt, H. T. Lyon, W. Jeffery, W. T. Legg, S. E. Sargant, W. V. Fitzgerald, and A. Jones.

The Board first confirmed grants to the amount of £230 recommended at the previous meeting for the sanction of the Grand Master, after which it proceeded with the consideration of the new list of 30 cases. These were qualified through lodges in the Metropolitan area, and at Calcutta, Hong Kong, Birmingham, Enfield, Bristol, Hatfield, Elland, Petersfield, Chatham, Lymington, Amble, Taunton, Woolston, Chingford, Exmouth, Upper Mill, Kingsgrove, Harrow, Malta, Maldon, Gibraltar, Grand Lodge of Porto Rico, and Kingsbridge. In the course of the sitting, four of these were deferred, being incomplete, and one case was dismissed. The aggregate sum of £595—the grant of which was the result of the evening's deliberations—was distributed in the following proportions: Grand Lodge was recommended to grant £100 in one case, and £75 in another. The Grand Master was asked to approve of a gift of £40 to each of three petitioners; £30 to one, and £25 to another case; while in addition, immediate grants were made of £20 in nine instances, £10 in four, and £5 in five.

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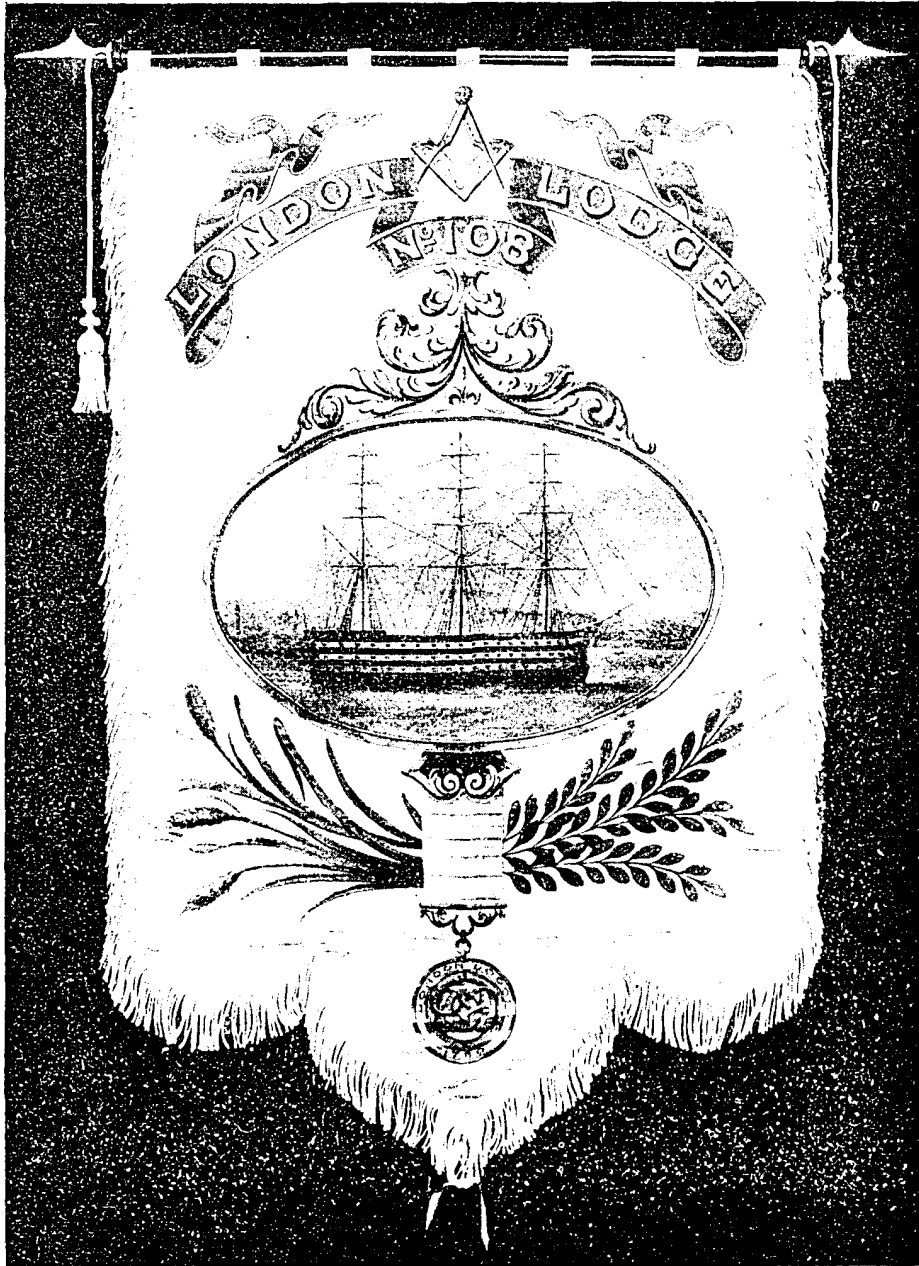
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BRETHREN who have made themselves acquainted with the valuable work on Freemasonry by Bro. Sadler, the G. Tyler, will remember his interesting references to Ship Lodges and his special remarks on the London Lodge, founded by Bro. Thomas Dunckerley, in the year 1760, on board H.M.S. Vanguard. The lodge has for many years met at the Ship and Turtle Tavern, and at a recent meeting the Treasurer of the lodge, Bro. E. B. Holloway, P.M., presented a handsome silk banner, manufactured by Bros. George Kenning and Son, on which a representation of the old Vanguard appears, with various Masonic devices and emblems.

This banner forms a striking and appropriate background to the W.M.'s chair. We are enabled, by the kindness of Bro. E. L. White, manager of the Photochrom Company, Cheap-side, to give an excellent reproduction of this banner, which is valued by the London Lodge, not only as a pleasant memorial of its peculiar origin, but also as another proof of their Treasurer's regard for the lodge, in which he is highly esteemed, and for which he has worked *con amore*, and with signal success, for many years.

Cricklewood Lodge, No. 2361.

This successful lodge—which has made substantial progress during the past year under the Mastership of Bro. Walter Ginger—held its installation meeting at the Frascati Restaurant, Oxford-street, on the 27th inst. There was a large attendance of members and visitors to witness the installation of Bro. A. H. Oldrey by Bro. James Stephens, D.G.D.C. The members present included Bros. W. Ginger, W.M.; A. H. Oldrey, S.W.; James Stephens, D.G.D.C., Sec.; Major J. R. Willing, J.W.; G. T. Peall, P.M.; Stanley Spooner, P.M.; J. A. Adams, S.D.; J. H. Haylor, J.D.; R. Haylor, D.C.; C. Pinkham, Steward; Corderoy-Sexton, Org.; and many others. Visitors: Bros. J. R. Cleave, P.P.G.D. Surrey; F. Charles, 2548; J. W. Hunt, I.G. 2548; R. T. Randell, 1641; H. Lewis, Treas. 1472; R. Paul, 192; R. Wrate, P.M. 1305; R. C. J. Ginger, S.D. 1820; W. Grant Geig, S.W. 2439; J. Bolton, P.M. 1790; C. A. Sanger, 1642; H. T. Adams, 1305; A. F. Hardyman, S.D. 1489; W. C. Smith, P.M. 902; W. F. Bush, 65; G. V. Welsh, I.G. 1612; F. O. Robertson, 1897; H. Powell, 1732; H. Nash, P.P.G.R. Cheshire; G. A. Duke, 1608; R. J. Campbell, P.M. 1489; W. W. Lee, P.P.G.D. Middx.; and others.

Lodge was opened, and the minutes confirmed. Bro. Jas. Stephens, Dep. G.D.C., then assumed the chair, and installed Bro. A. H. Oldrey as W.M. in a manner to be expected from a Grand Officer, and one who has performed the ceremony on so many previous occasions. The following officers were appointed: Bros. Walter Ginger, I.P.M.; S. W. Ball, S.W.; Maj. J. R. Willing, J.W.; James Stephens, P.M., Dep. G.D.C., Treas.; G. T. Peall, P.M., Sec.; J. A. Adams, S.D.; J. H. Haylor, J.D.; B. Haylor, I.G.; C. Pinkham, D.C.; A. W. Yates, and W. Garrett, Stwds.; Corderoy-Sexton, Org.; and Lee, Tyler. Letters of regret for non-attendance were received from the Grand Secretary and Bro. Sir John Monckton, the latter of whom expected to be present, but was detained in Committee, and sent apologies and good wishes to the W.M. The W.M. having signified his intention of serving as Steward for the Girls' School—the first Stewardship from this lodge for that Institution—a sum of 20 guineas was voted, on the proposition of Bro. Stephens, to be placed on the Stewards' list. A similar sum was given last year for the Boys' School on the list of the I.P.M. On the proposition of Bro. Ginger, I.P.M., seconded by Bro. Peall, P.M., Sec., a hearty vote of congratulation was passed to Bro. Stephens, Dep. G.D.C., on the high honour conferred upon him by the M.W.G.M. Bro. Stephens, Dep. G.D.C., briefly and appropriately returned thanks, and the lodge was closed.

The banquet which followed was well-served and was followed by the usual toasts.

Bro. James Stephens, Dep. G.D.C., in responding for "The Grand Officers," said he fully appreciated the opportunity afforded him of responding to the toast for the first time in the Cricklewood Lodge. It was true the heads of their Order were gentlemen holding high positions in social life and it was surprising that they found time to devote to the interests of the Craft. Some few years ago he witnessed the installation of the Earl of Lathom as W.M. of the Lancastrian lodge and it was surprising that one, holding such a high position in the State should find time to give to the Province of West Lancashire, where he was beloved and esteemed. The same observations applied to the Earl Amherst, Dep. G.M., who was also Prov. G.M. of Kent. The Grand Officers were those who had served the Craft faithfully and zealously, and had they not done so would not have been selected. As one of the working class of Masons—and without being egotistical, he had done a little in his time to further Freemasonry—it was pleasing to him to note that under the regime of their beloved Grand Secretary many of the working brethren had in recent years received Grand honours. He (Bro. Stephens) was one of those who believed in doing a thing well. When he joined Masonry he felt, as he felt now, that Masonry must be subservient to their business. That had been his motto, and he only took a lively interest in Freemasonry after his position had become assured. That was a growing and prosperous lodge, for they had paid £36 to Grand Lodge for dues recently, which showed they were doing well. He was proud he had been singled out for Grand Lodge honours, for Freemasonry was like the dominion of the Crown, on which the sun never sets, and they must remember there were only about 20 appointed annually, and perhaps 100,000 members. He appreciated their kind vote of congratulation in the lodge, and so

long as he was entrusted with their confidence, it would ever be his pleasing duty to serve them faithfully and well.

Bro. Walter Ginger, I.P.M., proposed "The Worshipful Master," and said it was needless for him to call to their minds what their W.M. had done in the past, for he had taken a prominent part in the working of the various offices in the lodge. The W.M. and he, with two others, were the first initiates in the lodge and not one of them had forgotten that memorable evening. Bro. Oldrey had been regular in attendance and had carried out his duties in an admirable manner. Under Bro. Oldrey they would have a good and right royal Masonic year and they felt sure he would give them a right royal Masonic treat in the working. They would all heartily drink to the health and prosperity of their W.M.

Bro. A. H. Oldrey, W.M., thanked the I.P.M. and brethren most sincerely. He assured them it would be his one endeavour to carry out the onerous duties pertaining to the office of W.M. to the best of his ability, to the credit of the lodge, and the satisfaction of the brethren. He would particularly thank their Treasurer, Bro. Stephens, for a few kind words he once said to him and which inspired him with the ambition to be Master. Those words were "Well done Bro. Oldrey, you are our coming W. Master." That fired him (the W.M.) with the ambition to attain the chair, and he now felt happy and proud he had gained that position. He had another ambition, which was to carry out his duties, and hear their Treasurer and all the brethren at the end of his year of office say—"Well done, Bro. Oldrey." He thanked them one and all most sincerely.

"The Health of the I.P.M." was next given by the W.M., who referred to the very satisfactory manner in which Bro. Walter Ginger, I.P.M., had carried out his duties, and the high esteem in which he was held by the members. The I.P.M. had been a pattern of what a true Mason should be, and he had had a most successful and record year. During the past year there had been 21 initiates and joining members. The I.P.M. had preached Masonry in the lodge, and practised it outside. It was, therefore, with great pleasure he presented Bro. Oldrey with a Past Master's jewel, as a small token of their high appreciation of his services. They hoped the I.P.M. would live for many years to grace their lodge with his presence, and give them the benefit of his assistance, and they also hoped to see his breast covered with the jewels he so well deserved.

Bro. W. Ginger, I.P.M., returned thanks for the kind language used by the W.M.—much more than he deserved—in reference to the work he had done. The credit was due to the officers who had surrounded him, for he had been fortunate in having officers who were thorough Masons, who had taken up their duties and carried them out with a strong hand. He had to thank one of the founders for proposing him and for impressing upon him the beauties of Masonry at his initiation. He then felt that to be a good Mason was to be a good man. They had been fortunate in that lodge in having good Masons who were Masons at heart. He had tried to do his best and hoped his year had been as successful as had been stated.

Bros. H. Nash, P.P.G. Reg. Cheshire, Wright, P.M. 1305, and Campbell, P.M. 1429, responded for "The Visitors."

"The Masonic Charities," was proposed by Bro. Peall, P.M., Sec.

Bro. J. Stephens, Dep. G.D.C., in reply, referred to the excellent work being done by those noble Institutions. The I.P.M. with the assistance of the brethren and a vote of 20 guineas from the lodge last year took up a goodly sum for the Boys' School. It was a capital suggestion that had been made to dispense with the dinner at the December meeting and do something for the Charities. The W.M. would represent the lodge at the Girls' School Festival next year, and he had much pleasure as Treasurer in proposing that 20 guineas should be voted to that list. The Girls' School was doing a grand work as evidenced by the remarkable successes achieved at the various examinations, and he asked the members to assist that excellent Institution by supporting the W.M.'s list to the best of their ability.

"The P.Ms., Treas., and Sec.," and "The Officers," were also given before the proceedings terminated.

The musical programme deserves a special word of praise, being a really first-class entertainment which was heartily appreciated. The artistes included Miss Ethel Winn, Miss Emily Foxcroft, and Bros. Herbert Emlin, Barry Lindon, Miles (Harp), Mr. Anthony Evans (Recitations), and Miss Philipps Keely (Accompanist).

Masonic and General Tidings.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, M.W.G.M., has given permission to hold a great Masonic service in St. Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, December the 2nd, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the completion of that noble edifice, the glory of the metropolis of the British Empire. The occasion will be one of peculiar interest to the Craft, because, according to popular tradition, Sir Christopher Wren was Master of the Lodge of Antiquities, the oldest Masonic body in England, which used to meet at an hostelry in the Church-yard during the building of the cathedral. It is believed, also, that many, if not all, of the workmen were members of the Order, because a contemporary of that time asserts that no ribald oaths or bad language were heard while the stately edifice was reared. Such self-restraint has been characteristic of Freemasonry in all times. Invitations are to be sent to lodges in and near London, and representatives from the provinces will also be welcomed. The Bishop of London has promised to preach the sermon, and the Grand Master, although unable through a previous engagement to be present himself, will be properly represented. The number of Freemasons likely to attend being very large, no tickets will be issued to the general public outside the Craft.

BRO. THE EARL OF ARRAN has arrived at Castle Gore, County Mayo, while the Countess of Arran is staying at Queen Anne's Mead, Windsor.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has intimated his intention of presenting to the Jockey Club a picture of his famous Derby winner, Persimmon.

LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS COMPANY (LIMITED).—Traffic receipts for the week ending Saturday week—£20,535 7s. 1d.; 1896, £18,544 10s. 1d.

THE "GAZETTE" of the 15th inst. announced that Parliament, which had already been prorogued to the 23rd inst., is further prorogued to Thursday, the 3rd December.

ON MONDAY next the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress will give an entertainment at the Mansion House to the girls of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls at Battersea Rise.

AN EXCEEDINGLY interesting addition has recently been made to the manuscripts in the British Museum in the shape of a copy of the log of Lord Nelson's ship Victory during his last commission, which included the battle of Trafalgar.

FIELD-MARSHAL BRO. LORD ROBERTS, V.C., and his daughter brought their visit to the Marquis and Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava at Clondeboye to a conclusion on Saturday last, when his lordship inspected the troops at Holywood, County Down, and Belfast.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY and her sister, the Princess Elizabeth of Waldeck-Pyrmont, visited the Queen at Balmoral on Saturday last, and remained to dinner, Lord James of Hereford and Bro. Sir Robert Collins having the honour to be invited on the same occasion.

THE INFANT SON of the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough was baptised at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, on Saturday morning last, in the presence of a numerous and fashionable congregation; his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales acting as one of the sponsors.

HER MAJESTY has accorded permission for the Nurses' Home and Cottage Hospital about to be erected at South Ascot as a Jubilee memorial by the parishes of Ascot, Cranbourne, Sunningdale, Sunninghall, and Winkfield to be called the Royal Victoria Cottage Nursing Home.

ON THURSDAY, the 28th inst., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, will lay the Diamond Jubilee Commemoration tablet of the new wing which is being added to the Rous Memorial Hospital at Newmarket. At his Royal Highness's request the ceremony will be of the simplest character possible.

A SPECIAL effort will be made at the annual dinner of the Butchers' Company, which will be held on Tuesday next, the 26th inst., to increase the funds of the institution, and those interested in its work may obtain all necessary information from Mr. T. G. Randall, the Master of the Company, England-lane, Hampstead.

THE KING OF SIAM arrived at Madrid on Saturday afternoon last, and was received at the station by the high officials of the capital as well as by a guard of honour. On reaching the Palace his Majesty was met and welcomed by the Queen Regent. The King and his officers have expressed a great desire to witness a bullfight.

WE REGRET to learn that the Grand Secretary has, for the past week, been confined to his room, by what threatened to be a rather serious attack of illness. It is a little doubtful if his medical adviser will permit him to take part in the Masonic function at Horsham to-morrow (Saturday), and we understand that, for some time to come, he will be compelled to deny himself the pleasure of enjoying the hospitality of the Craft.

MAIDSTONE EPIDEMIC.—Thursday, the 11th proximo, is the date arranged for the matinee, in aid of the above fund, at the Parkhurst Theatre, when a powerful programme will be provided, including Mr. Edward Compton and Company in the Screen Scene from "The School for Scandal."

AMONG THE MINISTERS who attended the Cabinet Council held at the Foreign Office on Saturday evening last were Bros. the Right Hon. A. Akers-Douglas, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lord Halsbury (Lord Chancellor), Lord Ashbourne (Lord Chancellor of Ireland), Lord George Hamilton, Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bart., and Sir M. White Ridley, Bart., who arrived late.

THE *Times* Ottawa Correspondent telegraphing on the 16th instant, says: "The Grand Master of the Freemasons of the Province of Quebec has issued a proclamation declaring the warrant of a new lodge established in Montreal under the authority of the Grand Orient of France irregular and illegal, and forbidding Quebec Masons to hold Masonic intercourse with the members of the French lodge."

THE RIFLE MATCH between the twenties of the two Counties of Middlesex and Lancashire was held at the ranges of the Robin Hood Rifles at Trent, which were lent by the Colonel Commandant for the occasion. The conditions were the same as for the National Challenge Shield, and at the close of the firing, Middlesex was found to be the winner by 27 points, the scores being, Middlesex, 1802; Lancashire, 1775.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE AS A NATIONAL MEMORIAL.—The Vestry of St. Martin-in-the-Fields have unanimously decided to join the Camberwell Vestry in the effort to acquire the Crystal Palace as a national memorial of the Diamond Jubilee. Messrs. G. Slatyer, F. Horner, and R. D. Coverley have been appointed to represent the Vestry at the forthcoming conference of London Vestries and District Boards to consider the matter.

THE QUEEN'S Diamond Jubilee presents, to the number of some 600, after having been carefully arranged, in accordance with her Majesty's wishes, by Bro. Sir Frederick Abel and Captain Sir Alfred Jephson, were opened for the inspection of a few select ticket-holders on Saturday last, and on Monday for that of the general public. They are on view in the North Galleries of the Imperial Institute, and will no doubt be visited by thousands of people.

TO-MORROW (Saturday) H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will visit Horsham for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone of the new buildings for Christ's Hospital at Stammerham. His Royal Highness will be received by the Duke of Cambridge, who is President of the School, and when the ceremony is over, luncheon will be served in a marquee on the ground. The boys, too, both from London and Hertford, will be present to witness the proceedings, and will be comfortably entertained.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES left Marlborough House on Monday afternoon for Quidenham Hall, Norfolk, as the guest of the Duke of Albemarle. Previous to his departure his Royal Highness visited the Imperial Institute privately, attended by Major-General Sir Stanley Clarke, for the purpose of inspecting the Queen's Diamond Jubilee presents and seeing that each gift and address had its proper precedence and position. The Prince expressed himself as thoroughly satisfied with the arrangements.

PARKHURST THEATRE.—On Monday next Messrs. Erskine and Macdonald's company will appear in that popular musical comedy, from the Duke of York's Theatre, "The Gay Parisienne," written by George Dance and composed by Ivan Caryll. We all remember with what delight we spent an evening with "The Gay Parisienne" and how irresistible "Sister Mary Jane's Top Note" proved as a laughter provoker. This play still runs as merrily as ever and makes life brighter and happier for the mere enjoyment of it.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT has resumed command of the troops at Aldershot on return from leave of absence.

THE DUCHESS OF ST. ALBANS and Lady Alexandra Beauclerk have arrived in Grosvenor-crescent from Bestwood Lodge.

PRINCE AND PRINCESS CHRISTIAN and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein have arrived at Cumberland Lodge for the winter.

BRO. THE MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS OF TWEEDDALE have this week been entertaining a large party of guests at Yester House.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, on hearing of the death of Dr. Vaughan, Dean of Llandaff, sent a telegram of condolence to the widow, Mrs. Vaughan.

A SUCCESSOR to the late Bro. Justice Cave has been found in Mr. Bigham, Q.C., M.P. for the Exchange Division of Liverpool, by whose elevation to the bench, the seat, of course, becomes vacant.

ORGAN RECITALS.—Bro. Edwin M. Lott, Mus. Doc., F.R.C.O., is giving a series of organ recitals every Tuesday at St. Sepulchre's Church, Holborn Viaduct, commencing at 1.10 p.m.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES and her daughter, the Princess Victoria, left Copenhagen early on Tuesday morning on their return to London *via* Portland. Nearly all the members of the Danish Royal Family accompanied their Royal Highnesses to the railway station.

A PORTION OF THE British Mediterranean Fleet, comprising the battleships *Revenge*, *Barfleur*, and *Camperdown*, and the cruisers *Cambrian* and *Dryad* arrived at Alexandria on Sunday last, and the English Colony are preparing to give entertainments and amusements to the officers and men.

THE PRINCIPAL guests at the Cutlers' Feast at Sheffield, on Thursday, the 4th prox., will include Bro. Sir M. Hicks-Beach, Bart., M.P. (Chancellor of the Exchequer), Sir F. Carrington, Bro. Rear-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, C.B., the Earl of Ava, Viscount Mountmorres, and Sir H. Macartney.

THE DUCHESS OF SUTHERLAND opened in the Waterloo Rooms, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, a sale under the auspices of the Scottish Home Industries' Association—a society which exists for the purpose of assisting the Crofters and poor people in the highlands and lowlands of Scotland.

THE QUEEN was represented at the funeral of Dean Vaughan, of Llandaff, by Major the Hon. C. Harbord, and, in evidence of her esteem for the deceased, sent a beautiful wreath, to which was attached a card bearing the following inscription in her Majesty's own handwriting: "A mark of sincere regret from Victoria R.I."

THE LORD MAYOR, in accordance with a custom established in his father's Mayoralty, entertained the Fruiterers' Company at dinner at the Mansion House on Tuesday, when his lordship was presented with a magnificent offering of fruit and a handsome loving-cup. A large company of guests were invited to do honour to the occasion.

SOME VERY serious fighting resulted from the recent attack by the Barebas on a British Hausa force, numbering 80, under the command of Captain Homfrey. The Hausas retired at night to Schalki, after having fought splendidly, the native loss being about 800 in killed and wounded, while only six Hausas were wounded. Our detachment was mistaken for a French force.

ON THE 14th inst. Bro. the Earl of Warwick, Prov. G.M. Essex, unveiled a pulpit in St. Mark's Church, Warwick, given by the Warwickshire Provincial Grand Lodge. Bro. Lord Leigh, the Prov. G.M., asked the acceptance of the gift on behalf of his Masonic brethren, who were present in large numbers. After the service a banquet took place in the County Hall, presided over by Bro. Lord Leigh.

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LONDON has decided to spend the sum of £235 in renovating and repairing the Lord Mayor's state coach and the harness; the coach in question is said to have been in use for 150 years and is a most gorgeous thing of its kind.

A MASONIC church service will be held on Sunday afternoon, the 31st inst., at St. Andrew's, Holborn Viaduct, in aid of the funds of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. The sermon will be preached by Bro. the Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., has been good enough to grant a dispensation to wear Masonic clothing. Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. of the Institution, will act as Director of Ceremonies.

THE LAW COURTS will be re-opened on Monday, when the Lord Chancellor (Bro. Lord Halsbury), will receive the Lord Mayor elect (Bro. Alderman Davies, M.P.), at the House of Lords at 11.15 a.m. At 11.45 there will be a special service at Westminster Abbey, places being reserved for the Judges and Officers of the Supreme Court who may attend. The Lord Chancellor's reception at the House of Lords will take place immediately after the service.

A VERY REPRESENTATIVE meeting of members of the National Skating Association was held at the National Skating Palace recently to arrange for the holding for the first time in England of the World's Amateur Championship in Figure Skating, which it is proposed to hold at the National Skating Palace, 7, Argyll-street, Regent-street, W., on account of its large skating area and seating accommodation. The members present were Messrs. Bell, Mann, Pollock, Jenkin, Monier Williams, Vandervell, Syers, Pretty, the Hon. A. Grosvenor, and Dr. Fowler.

ONE OF THE latest schemes we have heard of as being started to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee is one which the Igualdad Lodge, No. 653, Curacao, on the register of the Grand Lodge of England, has adopted in favour of establishing a "Victoria Fund," the sole object of which will be "to provide for children of the poor classes of solid instruction in the English and Spanish languages and other branches required to complete a good commercial education." It is proposed that the Fund shall be supported by voluntary and periodical subscriptions, and an appeal is being made to the lodges on the English register to support the scheme. It has our best wishes for its success.

THE TOWN of Windsor, which is situated about 45 miles north-west of Halifax, Nova Scotia, has been entirely destroyed by fire. The conflagration broke out in the business quarter of the town about midnight on Saturday last, and the high wind which prevailed at the time carried the burning cinders to the other parts, and in the end about seven-eighths of the whole place including all the churches, chapels, banks, and other public buildings, as well as private houses were destroyed. By this terrible catastrophe, some 3000 people are rendered homeless. The officer commanding the troops, the Lieutenant, Governor, and the Mayor of Halifax, all made for Windsor in order to render all the assistance in their power.

AT BLENHEIM PALACE on Wednesday afternoon the Duke of Marlborough presented to the Mayor, Mr. A. C. Miles, as representing the Corporation of Woodstock, a handsome gold mayoral chain and badge. The ceremony took place in the long library. The Duke was accompanied by the Duchesses and Lady Lilian Spencer Churchill, and the infant Marquis of Blandford was also in the room. The chain, which was placed on Mr. Miles's shoulders by the Duchess, bore the following inscription: "Presented by Charles Richard John, ninth Duke of Marlborough, to the borough of Woodstock in commemoration of the 60 years reign of her Majesty Queen Victoria, Empress of India, June, 1897. Audley Charles Miles, Mayor." The badge bears the arms of the Marlborough family and the borough of Woodstock. The chain and badge were designed and manufactured by George Kenning and Son, London.

NORFOLK COUNTY SCHOOL ESTATE, NORTH ELMHAM.—After being closed as an educational institution for the last two years, this property is now in the market, and will be sold by tender on Saturday, the 30th inst. This fact must be somewhat of a disappointment to the many influential county people who originally took great interest in the enterprise, the foundation-stone of the institution being laid, it will be remembered, by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in 1871. Although—according to the advertisement that appears in our columns—the building is also suitable for a convalescent home, sanatorium, orphanage, hydro, or other institution of a like character, it is not improbable that the property may be acquired and retained as an educational centre, as there are several persons who realise that the opportunity now offers for acquiring the school at a price that would ensure its financial success if re-opened and carried on on proper lines. Full particulars and plans are obtainable from Messrs. Leggett, Rubinstein, and Co., of 5, Raymond-buildings, Gray's Inn, W.C.