

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.

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NEXT WEDNESDAY'S FESTIVAL.

The 101st Anniversary Festival in behalf of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, will be held at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, on Wednesday, the 28th instant, Bro. CHARLES E. KEYSER, J.P., P.G.D., will occupy the chair and will be supported by a Board of Stewards numbering about 250 ladies and brethren. No special efforts that we are aware of have been made in behalf of this annual fixture, the principal reason being that the Benevolent and Girls' Institutions, which reaped but a moderate harvest of donations and subscriptions last year in consequence of the overwhelming attractions of the Boys' Centenary, might have the field left entirely open to them to make up their lost ground. Moreover, a very urgent appeal for funds after the splendid result of last year's Festival would have seemed out of place. Nevertheless, the fact of there being a Board already organised, of the strength we have mentioned, shows that "Our Boys" are not being forgotten, and we hope we shall be in a position to report next week that Wednesday's gathering has been successful to the extent of providing as nearly as may be the amount required to cover the year's expenditure. The bulk of what was raised in 1898 was subscribed towards a special object—that of erecting the new School premises at Bushey—and must be held in reserve in order to meet that object, so that there is little, if any, difference between what is needed for the current 1899, and in ordinary years. That the Chairman and his Stewards will, both individually and collectively, do their level best in order to obtain the supplies may be taken for granted, and we doubt not the lodges and Provinces that are represented will be equally zealous.

The preliminary meeting at the Institution, Wood Green, will take place during the afternoon of Tuesday next, when Mrs. CHARLES E. KEYSER will distribute the prizes to the successful pupils and reports will be furnished of the educational progress made by the School generally. As we have remarked in our former articles on this Festival, these reports testify unequivocally to the excellence of the work that is being done by the Institution, while the statements of account furnished year by year bear equally emphatic testimony to the able manner in which the Board of Management discharge their duties and responsibilities. Under these circumstances, we trust the Craft will respond to the appeals which the Stewards have been addressing to them during the last few weeks, and furnish what is needed with a generous hand.

THE WESTERN DIVISION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

It is evident, from the printed Report of the Proceedings of the District Grand Lodge of South Africa (W.D.) at its annual Communication, at Woodstock, on the 21st March last, and the several Appendices thereto, that the past year has been one of steady, but substantial, progress. This, perhaps, is not to be wondered at, seeing that Bro. the Very Rev. C. W. BARNETT-CLARKE, Dean of Cape Town, who is the District Grand Master, is one of the ablest and most zealous of English Craftsmen. It is not a large District that he presides over, the number of lodges under his jurisdiction being only 15; but whether we have regard to the manner in which they discharge their duties or the benevolent funds they have established for different purposes, we find that everything is, and, since 1890, when our Very Rev. Brother was appointed to office, has been, going on most satisfactorily. The reports of the several lodges bear testimony to the excellence of the work that is being done, there being only one case in which the visiting District Grand Officer, after briefly commending the lodge for the manner in which the officers did their work, and the members generally for their evident desire to increase their Masonic knowledge, appears to have thought it necessary to address a warning to the brethren generally as to the "extreme caution which should always be exercised in the admission of gentlemen to our Order, pointing out that the admission of a new member was no light matter, but one requiring care and foresight, lest unwittingly one should come amongst us who might later bring dishonour and not credit upon the Craft." The District Grand Master's address was brief, and for the most part he appears to have contented himself with referring to the loss sustained by the whole Craft through the lamented death of the Earl of LATHOM, and to that of the District itself by the deaths of two prominent brethren; and "exhorting the brethren to promote discipline and punctuality, and to live up to the high standard so fully insisted upon in Craft teachings." He also, after the appointment and investiture of the new Dist. Grand Officers and the conclusion of the other business of Dist. Grand Lodge, expressed his thanks to the W. Master and members of the Woodstock Lodge "for the use of their Temple and hospitable reception," and extended a hearty welcome to the Secretary of the Boys' School and Bro. SPELLER, who at the time were on a visit to South Africa.

The District Board of General Purposes refer in their report to the part taken by the Dist. Grand Master, his officers, and the brethren in laying the foundation stone (1) of St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Observatory-road; and (2) of St. Luke's Church, Salt River; to the attendance, on the invitation of the Dist. Grand Master, of the brethren at a Masonic service in St. George's Cathedral, Capetown; and to the presentation to the R.W. and Very Rev. brother of a life-size portrait in oils of himself and a gold watch and chain, which had been subscribed for by the lodges, chapters, and brethren in the District. The Board also exhorted the brethren to give a continued and increasing support to the different Funds established in the District. As for these Funds, the Dist. Grand Lodge General Fund shows an adverse balance of over £18, but this appears to be due to certain extra expenditure, and, no doubt, the Account will be found to be satisfactorily adjusted at the close of the current year. The Dist. Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund, which opened with a balance of £1017, on the 1st January, 1898, closed on the 31st December with 2

reduced balance of £462. but this appears to be due to the payment to the Pension Fund of £500 and other smaller payments of a similar character. The District Joint Benevolent Fund closed with a balance of £151, owing to the receipt of £135, as its share of the Fund raised to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, while the Festival Pension Fund closed with a balance of nearly £826. There is also an Education Fund, which at the close of 1898 was providing for the Education of 31 boys and 33 girls. As for the statistical returns, it appears that the aggregate of subscribing members for the 15 lodges in the District was 959 on the 31st December, 1898, as compared with 845 on the corresponding day of the preceding year, the increase being 114. The strongest lodges are the British Lodge, No. 334, with 123 members; the Wynberg, No. 2577, with 83; the Metropolitan, No. 2538, with 79; the Phoenix, No. 1860, with 78; and the Woodstock, No. 2379, with 75; the average number per lodge being within a minute fraction of 64. We congratulate the District Grand Master, the lodges and brethren of the Western Division of South Africa, on the success of their proceedings during the year 1898, and trust that future annual reports may be at least as gratifying as the one we have made the subject of these remarks.

FREEMASONRY IN THE TRANSVAAL.

There is probably no country in which English Freemasonry has established itself that has taken so kindly to the Craft and made such rapid progress in developing its Masonic resources as the Transvaal. The circumstances have been the reverse of favourable. A determined attempt, and one which we sincerely hope will prove successful, is being made to bring to an end the political differences which have so long prevailed. Yet, in spite of these differences, English Masonry has advanced "by leaps and bounds," and, what is still more creditable to the brethren, the lodges and their members have been throughout, so far as we are aware, on the friendliest possible terms. There are at the present time 24 lodges, including one working under a Provisional Charter from the Dist. G. Master—for which as yet no regular warrant has been granted by his Royal Highness the M.W. Grand Master—on the roll of the Dist. Grand Lodge. Of these only one—the Transvaal, No. 1737, Pretoria, which was warranted in 1878—has a career extending further back than 1889; so that in the course of the last 10 years not fewer than 23 lodges have been started in the District, over which Bro. GEORGE RICHARDS so ably presides as Dist. G. Master. This brother's patent of appointment dates from 1st January, 1895, since when the number of lodges has been exactly doubled, and, if we estimate the number of subscribing members per lodge at 50, we have an aggregate of 1200, as compared with the 50 enrolled as a lodge 10 years ago. Other evidences exist in the shape of chapters and Benevolent organisations of the progress which has been made, but, while we do not lose sight of these, they do not immediately concern us at this moment.

The annual communication of the Grand Lodge of this flourishing District was held at Freemasons' Hall, Johannesburg, on the 25th April last. In the unavoidable absence of the District Grand Master, who has been on a visit to England, Bro. CHARLES ABURROW, Dep. Dist. G. Master, presided, and was well supported by the District Grand Officers and the representatives of the private lodges. But though absent, the District Grand Master had been kept, by his Deputy and the District Grand Secretary, *au courant* of what was passing and found himself in a position to express a favourable opinion of the state of the Craft in his jurisdiction, which in the letter regretting his detention in England on private business, he attributed "as much to the evident desire of the brethren generally to act up to and maintain the high traditions of our Order as to the zeal and ability of the District Grand Officers, who, through a year of almost unprecedented depression and drawbacks, have so well and ably controlled and guided the work of the District Grand Lodge." The report of the District Board of General Purposes, though referring here and there to sundry irregularities—which appear to have been easily adjusted when the explanations called for

were furnished—is on the whole satisfactory, the matters on which the greatest stress is laid being the organisation of a "Central Masonic Relief Fund to be applied in special cases not referable to the Benevolent Fund of the District Grand Lodge or of local lodges," and "only to be employed when called for by special or urgent circumstances in the relief of unattached brethren (or their families) under the English Constitution;" and the collection "of the outstanding amounts due to the Transvaal Masonic Educational Institute." In both cases a certain amount of success appears to have resulted, and as the objects for which both Funds have been established are praiseworthy, we trust that further efforts will be still more successful. The Board further suggested that a grant of £50 should be made to the District Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund, and that the Reserve Fund of the District Grand Lodge should be augmented from £50 to £200, the whole sum to be placed "on fixed deposit." These recommendations were unanimously adopted, and after the District Grand Treasurer's statements of account had been adopted, and some appropriate remarks had been addressed to the meeting by the Acting District Grand Master, who had previously appointed and invested the District Grand Officers for the ensuing year, the proceedings terminated. We trust that a year hence it may be our privilege to receive a report as favourable.

CONSECRATION OF THE ALDERMASTON LODGE, No. 2760.

About two months since, a party of brethren drove from Newbury for the purpose of holding a lodge of instruction in the picturesque village of Aldermaston, and the visit was attended with so much enjoyment and success, that the suggestion was made that the foundation of a summer lodge in this delightful part of the country would prove acceptable to the brethren of the Province of Berks generally, and to those of the Reading and Newbury lodges specially. Happily, the idea met the approval of the genial squire of Aldermaston, Bro. Charles E. Keyser, who further promised his support to the project, the ultimate success of which, therefore, became a foregone conclusion. Anything Bro. Keyser takes in hand is carried out with an amount of earnestness and liberality which renders failure well-nigh impossible, and this is specially the case as regards his active and prominent association with Masonry. It is no exaggeration to say that among the thousands of energetic Masons to be found throughout the length and breadth of the land, no member of the Craft can possibly work harder, or serve the cause of the Masonic Charities with more princely generosity than Bro. Keyser, who is simply beloved by a host of Masons in all parts of the country. This cannot be a matter of surprise, even to the uninitiated, when we explain that Bro. Keyser has, in the course of his distinguished and honourable career, been installed Worshipful Master of no less than eight or nine lodges, three of which he has practically founded, one bearing his own name as its registered title in the roll of the Grand Lodge of England—the "Charles Edward Keyser" Lodge. Nor is this all. Bro. Keyser holds the high and responsible position of Treasurer to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and some time since gave the magnificent donation of 5000 guineas towards the cost of erecting a chapel in connection with the new Masonic School buildings in progress at Bushey. Next week Bro. Keyser will preside at a great Festival, to be held at Brighton, on behalf of the current expenses of the School. No wonder, then, that the proposal to found a lodge under the very shadow of his stately home—Aldermaston Court—should have proved popular, or that he should have been unanimously nominated as its first Master.

The great reputation Bro. Keyser had won as a Mason during his residence in Hertfordshire has been more than sustained since his settlement in Berkshire, where his liberality and activity in the more ordinary paths of duty—both public and private—are too well-known and acknowledged to need further reference now. It must, indeed, have been gratifying to him to find himself so quickly and readily supported by a body of between 30 and 40 founders—at once an assurance of the success and stability of the lodge. The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, having granted the necessary warrant for the constitution of the lodge, arrangements were promptly made for the consecration ceremony, which took place under the most favourable auspices on Monday afternoon, when charming summer weather prevailed; and the pretty village of Aldermaston, with its gabled ivy-covered dwellings and lovely surroundings, looked particularly fresh and beautiful after the welcome rain which fell during the preceding night.

Most of the Reading and Newbury brethren drove in two-horse brakes to what may accurately be described as the half-way house, the Hind's Head Hotel, at the foot of the village street, a roomy and comfortable house, which in by-gone days has been the scene of much local festivity. Here the county families were in the old days wont to assemble at stated times, and enjoy a dance; and the capacious apartment in which these gatherings were occasionally held is the identical room in which on Monday was consecrated with solemn rites and ceremonies the Aldermaston Lodge, No. 2760 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of England.

The brethren arrived between three and four o'clock, and the afternoon's ceremonies were proceeded with in rigid accordance with the ancient landmarks and usages of the Masonic Order.

The attendance included :

Bros. the Deputy Prov. G.M., J. T. Morland, P.G.D. Eng.; Thomas F. Halsey, M.P., Prov. G.M. Herts; Charles E. Keyser, P.G.D. Eng., Treas. R.M.I.B.; Richard Eve, Past G. Treas., President of the Board of Governors of the Boys' School; J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.; Henry Sadler, G. Tyler; James Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I.; S. G. Kirchhoffer, P.D.G.D.C. Eng.; J. W. Martin, P.A.G.D.C. Eng.; C. O. Burgess, P.S.G.W.; W. Bonny, P.J. G.W.; Rev. J. L. Turbutt, P.G. Chap.; F. F. Penruddock, P.G. Chap.; W. B. Biddles, P.J.G.D.; S. Knight, jun., P.A.G.D.C.; D. Wilton, P.G. Std. Br.; Vernon Knowles, P.G. Org.; E. H. Simmons, P. Asst. G. Sec.; A. H. Bull, P.G. Stwd.; J. F. Stevens, P.G. Tyler; and others.

The Past Provincial Grand Officers also present included :

Bros. J. F. Ferguson, P.P.S.G.W.; E. Margrett, P.P.S.G.W.; W. Ravenscroft, P.P.S.G.W.; W. G. Flanagan, P.P.J.G.W.; W. H. Belcher, P.P.G. Reg.; S. Knight, P.P.S.G.D.; W. G. Millar, P.P.S.G.D.; W. Fenton, P.P.G. Supt. Wks.; E. Prince, P.P.G. Supt. Wks.; W. W. Ridley, P.P.A.G.D.C.; Capt. E. S. Heard, P.P.G.S.B.; and G. J. Cosburn, P.P.A.G. Purst.

The other brethren present were :

Bros. Col. Gerald C. Ricardo, W.M. 574; W. E. Kington, W.M. 771; E. J. Lewis, W.M. 1101; Rev. E. R. Adams, J. J. Simcox, P.G. Treas. Bucks; C. Fleck, T. S. Cambridge, J. Wright, W. J. Langley, D. Haslam, jun., E. O. Farrer, T. H. White, T. Rowland Kent, E. Langston, W. G. Crombie, L. W. Fleck, F. Tunbridge, Sidney Smith, P.M. 209; J. Stradling, E. Turner, G. F. Murrell, C. Wells, W.M. 2323; B. Mills, Malcolm Boyle, C. Nightingale, J. Atleet, G. H. R. Holder, Wilfred Kearton, Percy Coward, S. P. Burton, Everett, and others.

The Consecrating Officer, Bro. J. T. Morland, presided, and the Wardens' chairs were occupied respectively by the Provincial Senior and Junior Grand Wardens, Bros. Burgess and Bonny; Bro. Martin, Prov. G. Sec., officiated as Secretary; Bro. S. Knight, jun., as Director of Ceremonies; and Bro. Margrett, as I.G.

The CONSECrating OFFICER addressed the brethren in reference to the auspicious event of the day, and called upon the Rev. F. F. Penruddock, who offered up prayer, after which the Prov. G. Sec. read the petition and warrant, the latter bearing the signature of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, as Grand Master of the Order.

Bro. Rev. F. F. PENRUDDOCK, of Windsor, Prov. G. Chap., then delivered the following able oration, which was listened to with deep attention :

Brethren, we are gathered together here, amidst these happy surroundings, to consecrate to the service of the Great Architect of the Universe another Temple. A new start, a fresh departure, another step into the great unknown, must, it would seem to me, set all of us thinking. It would seem to me a time, at which we may well cast forwards and backwards in thought—backwards to that great past which the history of Freemasonry brings to us, forwards in cheerful hope, with happy augury for the future. It will only be a glimpse backward and a thought for the future that I would venture on this occasion to put before you. Backwards as we carry our thoughts to past Masonic history, it is natural to ask ourselves what was the main idea in the minds of those great men, our Masonic forefathers in this land, as banded together by sacred and secret signs, they set themselves to the great task of raising throughout the length and breadth of the land monuments which remain to this day and testify to their power and skill as operative Masons of the very first order? You will answer, that they, at least, had caught something of the spirit of our Grand Master Hiram, that their one idea was to leave such monuments here that the minds of thinking men might as they saw them insensibly revert to the G.A.O.T.U. You will answer that they were in the main animated by the desire to communicate happiness to their fellow men, and to witness to the truth of the Almighty as He has revealed Himself to us in the Volume of the Sacred Law. You will say that they were animated by those three great principles, which have been translated for us into simple terms—"Brotherly love, relief, and truth." These are, as I would venture to call them, the Divine principles which have made Freemasonry great. We are nearing the end of a most eventful century, a century, the latter years of which have seen an immense advance in the number of Freemasons and in the number of Masonic lodges, not only in this and other lands, but in all the Dependencies of the British Empire. It is natural then that we should ask ourselves "What of the future?" That lies in higher hands than ours; but surely you will say that this future can only be secured by keeping to the ancient landmarks that have made Freemasonry great. A fraternity of men that departs from its ancient tradition in main principles must be on the down grade; because such departure is bound, as it seems to me, to lead to dissension, and separation, and separation means weakness. In this connection that was a valuable object lesson in that order that was read emanating from the Grand Lodge of England, excommunicating the Grand Lodge of Peru, because the Volume of the Sacred Law had been removed from their altar; and the sequel that came after some months, reinstating the said G. Lodge because the Bible had been restored to its proper place, and was recognised as the standard of truth. It is then, as we believe, these principles being kept inviolate, which will render our Masonic foundations for ever sure, and Freemasonry will be kept, as we believe, great in the future, by being very careful that those whom we admit to the privileges of our brotherhood shall be those who will keep ever to the front the principles on which the Order is founded. Here, then, we have come to consecrate this lodge, this temple not made of inanimate stone, but of living stones, and here there is, as we believe, full surety that the principles that have made Masonry what it is will be kept to the fore in the future. Surely it is a good omen for the future, I would say it without a touch of flattery, but as a statement of fact, that everyone here will acknowledge, that the brother who will preside over your lodge has been inspired with that great principle of brotherly love, which has led him, having the power, to put into practice the second great principle, "relief," and be so noble a patron of what we call our Masonic Charities. And again, going only to the second name on the list of your officers, the name of your I.P.M., that alone would be sufficient testimony that here in this new Temple the principle of Charity will be interpreted aright. Surely it is a good promise for the future, without going on to say nice things, as one might very easily, and with much personal gratification, without going further in your list of Founders than this, surely it is a good omen that he who will preside over you has so nobly shown his Masonic spirit. This new lodge will be, I understand, what is called a summer lodge. It will meet at that time of the year when this beautiful world of the Great Architect's specially appeals to us, as it does now, in all the glory of a "leafy June." It will give the weary and worn brother opportunity in wholesome recreation and social intercourse, to re-create and stimulate those powers which the Almighty has given to us for His service. Meetings such as will be held here will help to rub off all "excesses," and bring men nearer to one another by the bond of human kindness. Masonry strikes a blow against that selfishness and materialism which lives only for the present, because it is of the essence of Masonry to make a man look to others more than to self, to make a man look to another world rather than this for perfect happiness. Let "brotherly love, relief, and truth" ever reign here. May this new lodge flourish, and bear other witness to that great truth of "the Brotherhood of Man," which Freemasonry strives to inculcate!

The musical brethren (Bros. Percy Coward, Wilfred Kearton, Malcolm Boyle, and Bertram Mills, from St. George's Chapel, Windsor) then rendered an anthem, Bro. Vernon Knowles presiding at the organ. The dedication prayer was offered, and the remainder of the impressive ceremony proceeded according to the ancient ritual, closing with another finely sung anthem ("Glory to God in the highest") and the Benediction.

The next item on the lengthy programme was the installation of Bro. C. E. Keyser, of Aldermaston Court, as the first W.M. of the lodge, the ceremony, like that of the consecration itself, being carried out with great efficiency and impressiveness by the able and much-respected D.P.G.M., Bro. J. T. Morland, who expressed the regret felt by the brethren generally that another engagement prevented the attendance of the Prov. G.M., Lord Wantage, V.C.

The newly-installed W.M. appointed and installed his officers for the ensuing year as follows: Bros. Edward Margrett, P.M. 1101, P.G.W. Berks and Bucks, I.P.M.; T. S. Cambridge, S.W.; J. Wright, J.W.; Rev. E. R. Adams, P.P.G.C. Sussex, Chap.; Lieut.-Col. G. C. Ricardo, W.M. 574, Treas.; W. Bonny, P.M. 414, Prov. J.G.W., Sec.; A. H. Bull, Prov. G. Stwd., S.D.; W. G. Crombie, J.D.; E. Prince, P.M. 209 and 2671, P.P.S.G.W., D.C.; F. Tunbridge, I.G.; Vernon Knowles, Org.; T. R. Kent and W. J. Langley, Stewards; and J. F. Stevens, Tyler.

The Grand Lodge Officers present, and also the Provincial Grand Officers, who had actively assisted in the consecration ceremony were thanked by the W.M. and unanimously elected honorary members of the lodge.

At six o'clock the business was brought to a conclusion, having occupied about two hours.

By the kind permission of the W.M., the installation banquet was served in a marquee erected beneath the leafy shade of one or two of the noble trees which adorn the park.

The catering had been entrusted to Bro. Wright, and afforded entire satisfaction, while the day's arrangements generally devolved upon the Secretary, Bro. W. Bonny, P.M., who had spared no effort to ensure a thoroughly successful result.

Grace was beautifully sung by the glee party from Windsor, and the customary toasts were subsequently proposed and honoured.

The W.M., who presided, supported by the Grand Officers, successively proposed the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft," and "The M.W. the Grand Master of England, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G.," which were drunk with loyal enthusiasm, and the National Anthem and "God bless the Prince of Wales" were respectively sung.

The next toast submitted by the W.M. was that of "The M.W. the Pro Grand Master, the Earl Amherst; the R.W. the Deputy Grand Master, the Earl of Warwick; and the Grand Officers of England, Present and Past." (Cheers.) The W.M. congratulated the brethren upon being honoured with such a representative body of Grand Officers, and he especially thanked his friend Bro. Halsey, Prov. G.M. of Hertfordshire, who had at great inconvenience to himself travelled to Aldermaston to take part in the day's functions. He regarded Bro. Halsey's presence as a great personal compliment. He also thanked Bros. Eve, Morland, Kirchhoffer, Martin, Terry, McLeod, and Sadler for having honoured them by attending, and bore his personal testimony to the great amount of hard work which these various brethren had performed for the good and advancement of Masonry. (Cheers.)

Bro. T. F. HALSEY, M.P., in the course of his reply, said he felt a special pleasure in responding to the invitation of his esteemed friend and brother, the newly-installed W.M., because no one could testify more than he could to the excellent work which had been performed by Bro. Keyser in founding and assisting to keep up lodges in different parts of the country. What Bro. Keyser was now doing in the Province of Berkshire in promoting the well-being and success of Masonry himself, and its noble charities, and in stirring up others with the same object, he had been doing for many years in the Province of Hertfordshire and elsewhere. (Cheers.) The success of the candidates for the different Charities from the Hertfordshire Province had been mainly due to the energy, skill, and liberality of Bro. Keyser; and they could fully rely upon similar service from him in the Province of Berkshire. (Cheers.) The speaker heartily congratulated the brethren of the newly-founded lodge upon having commenced under such favourable auspices, and with such an able and liberal-hearted a W.M. as Bro. Keyser. (Cheers.)

Bro. RICHARD EVE made an eloquent response, and described the newly-installed W.M. as a splendid brother for work; indeed, he had never known a Mason who could perform the duties of the chair in all its varied forms as Bro. Keyser could. He (Bro. Eve) regarded it as a great honour to be an officer of the Grand Lodge of England, which represented a brotherhood of men who carried out the great principles of brotherly love, relief, and truth to an extent and completeness equalled by no other institution in the world. (Cheers.) He felt that the Grand Lodge of England had still a great future before it. It was not only increasing rapidly in numbers, but also in influence, and its capacity for good and justice and right was continuing to expand. (Cheers.) They had no differences because they were agreed upon one common basis of action, and they rejoiced in the fact that all kinds and all classes of men could be embraced by their organisation, which had already done so much for humanity, and which was destined to do more in that direction than any other body in the world. (Cheers.)

The W.M. then gave the toast of "The R.W. the Provincial Grand Master of Berkshire, Lord Wantage, V.C., K.C.B., P.G.W. of England, and the Provincial Grand Officers of Berkshire, Present and Past, and also the Consecrating Officers." (Cheers.) Bro. Keyser said they must all feel very sorry that Lord Wantage had been unable to attend, as they had no doubt he would have greatly enjoyed taking part in the first lodge consecration in the province since his appointment as P.G. Master, and realised the success likely to result therefrom. (Hear, hear.) He then referred in grateful and eulogistic terms to the Deputy P.G.M., Bro. Morland, who had so ably conducted the ceremonies of the day. Bro. Morland had been in charge of the province for many years, and he was deservedly held by the whole of the brethren in most affectionate regard. (Hear and cheers.) The W.M. also thanked the rest of the Provincial Grand Officers who had so ably assisted in the interesting function which they had witnessed that afternoon.

The DEP. PROV. G.M. replied in graceful terms, and reciprocated the expressions of regret at the unavoidable absence of the Provincial Grand Master, whom they hoped, however, to have the pleasure of seeing in the chair at the forthcoming Provincial Grand Lodge at Sandhurst. (Hear,

hear.) He felt that it had been a great privilege to have had the honour to have consecrated several lodges in the province, including the Downshire, the Ascot, the Victoria, and the Aldermaston, to say nothing of several Royal Arch Chapters. (Cheers.) In conclusion, Bro. Morland proposed "The Health of the newly-installed Worshipful Master," who, he observed, had filled a similar position on no less than nine previous occasions, and there was scarcely a point that arose in connection with Masonry that Bro. Keyser was not perfectly well qualified to deal with. He (Bro. Morland) felt that it was impossible for any lodge to start under better auspices than the lodge which it had been his privilege to consecrate that day. (Cheers.)

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER suitably acknowledged the compliment, observing that with 34 founders they had a strong lodge to begin with, and had already attained their object, namely, to provide a summer lodge that would keep up the continuity of the work between the lodges at Reading and Newbury. They mainly wished that that new lodge should become, as it were, an accessory to the strong lodges existing in the two towns mentioned and fill up the gap caused by the customary recess during the summer months. He hoped the Aldermaston Lodge would prove popular, and afford opportunities to some of the brethren to reach the chair sooner than they could possibly do in the neighbouring lodges, where there was always a constant flow of initiates. (Hear and cheers.)

"The Health of the Visitors" was proposed by the WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

The toast was responded to by Bros. J. M. McLEOD and W. RAVENSCROFT.

The WORSHIPFUL MASTER suitably proposed "The Health of the Officers of the Lodge."

Bros. T. S. CAMBRIDGE and Colonel GERALD RICARDO appropriately returned thanks.

Bro. STEVENS then gave the Tyler's toast, after which the company rose, and adjourned to the terrace, where the Glee Party from Windsor favoured the brethren with a choice selection of vocal music, which was highly appreciated.

Towards 10 o'clock the visitors bade adieu to Bro. Keyser and the rest of the Aldermaston brethren, and departed homewards, having spent the afternoon and evening most enjoyably.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SUFFOLK.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Lecture Hall, Woodbridge, on Friday, the 16th inst., under the banner of the Doric Lodge, No. 81, when there was a very large gathering of brethren from all parts of the province.

The Prov. Grand Master, Lord Henniker, P.S.G.W., P.P.S.G.W., had hoped to preside; but at the last moment, owing to the state of his health, his medical adviser proscribed his attendance. In his absence Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, 1224, P.G.C., D.P.G.M., presided, and was supported on his right by Bro. J. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I. The other Present and Past Prov. G. Officers in attendance were—

Bros. E. M. U. Adnams, 1983, P.S.G.W.; N. Tracy, 376, P.P.G. Std. Br. Eng., P.G. Sec.; G. F. Hawkins, 1224, P.S.G.D.; John Talbot, 225, P.P.G.S.B.; A. Tighe-Gregory, 81, P.P.G.C.; G. Abbott, 225, P.P.G.S.B.; S. R. Anness, 376, P.P.S.G.W.; E. Dorling, 959, P.P.G. Sec.; A. W. Cobbold, 81, P.P.J.G.W.; H. J. Riches, 1663, P.G. Steward; Thos. Thwaites, 376, P.P.G.S. of W.; Geo. Booth, 81, P.P.G.P.; W. H. Cook, 225, P.P.A.G.P.; W. Brooke, 81, P.P.G.R.; C. W. Harper, 1663, P.P.G. Std. Br.; T. Grimwood, 81, P.P.G.R.; F. R. Freeman, 71, P.P.G. Std. Br.; T. A. Woodroffe, 305, P.S.G.W.; R. Tidbury, 114, P.P.G. Std. Br.; C. E. Tempest, 114, P.P.J.G.D.; E. W. Moore, 388, P.P.A.G. D.C.; G. C. Carlisle, 1592, P.G.S.B.; C. H. U. Haward, 332, P.G. Treas.; C. Oliver, P.M. 1008; C. T. Townsend, 259, P.P.S.G.W.; C. G. Hayward, 114, P.P.G.R.; A. Barnes, 81, P.P.G.S.B.; J. B. Marchant, 1663, P.P.G.P.; J. M. Harvey, W.M. 2727, P.P.S.G.W.; J. Holme Pilkington, 535, P.P.G.C.; Henry Finer, 1799, P.P.A.G.P. Essex; G. P. Prince, 225, P.P.G. Std. Br.; A. W. Cook, 225, P.P.G.P.; W. J. Whitehead, 225, P.G.P.; F. W. Gross, 81, P.P.G. Reg.; F. C. Peacock, 516, P.G.S.; J. A. Pettit, 225, P.P.A.G.D.C.; E. Smith, 81, P.P.G.P.; C. G. Havell, 2371, P.P.G. Org.; T. Housecroft, 81, P.P.G.C.; E. J. Robertson, 959, P.P.G.S. of W.; W. Cocks, 555, P.P.J.G.D.; Thomas Stevenson, 388, P.G. Steward; E. P. Youell, 81, P.P.S.G.W.; J. M. Canova, 1983, P.P.S.G.W.; J. O. Green, 388, P.P.A.G.D.C.; P. Morriss, 388, P.P.S. G.W.; C. J. N. Row, 1224, P.P.A.G.D.C.; C. Brown, 936, P.P.G.D.C. Middx.; H. Rix, 1452, P.G.S. of W.; R. Barker, 388, P.A.G.D.C.; R. F. B. Coling, 1983, P.G.S.; R. J. Carthew, 81, P.J.G.W.; C. H. White, 1983, P.P.S.G.W.; J. M. Franks, 376, P.G.D.C.; J. L. Currie, 114, P.P.J.G.D.; and W. H. Mann, 929, P.P.J.G.D.

The following were also present:

J. Symes, 71; T. Horne, 71; F. Hood, S.W., 71; A. H. Hunt, I.P.M. 71; A. G. Emms, 71; Geo. Booth, jun., P.M. and Sec. 81; Arthur Hayward, 81; Chas. Wood, 81; W. T. Thornton, I.P.M. 81; G. Shipman, 81; F. W. Hopson, Org. 81; H. W. Hart, 81; A. J. Hayward, 81; W. J. Miles, 81; Rev. A. Robbs, J.W. 81; H. Godfrey, 81; F. E. Fisk, 81; E. H. Hopson, 81; Jas. Price, Org. 114; P. F. Wainwright, P.M. 114; R. H. B. Preston, 118; G. W. Senton, W.M. 225; H. J. Brook, J.W. 225; Robt. Miller, J.D. 225; John Thompson, Org. 225; S. Skerritt, P.M. 225; W. H. Cook, P.M. 225; J. W. B. King, P. 225; E. B. Lewcock, P.S. 225; H. B. Clarke, 225; J. Pye, 225; W. Elliss, 225; I. Girling, 225; W. Cole, 225; F. G. Fisk, 225; H. Flory, 225; T. Turner, 225; W. R. Ives, 225; J. Foyster, P.M. 305; A. McQueen, S.W. 305; R. Norman, 305; T. R. Francis, P.M. 332; T. Cook, 332; Geo. Stephenson, J.W. 332; Jas. Whittle, 332; A. Seabourne, P.M. 332; W. H. Brown, W.M. 376; Buckingham Bird, jun., P.M. 376; T. C. Hayward, 376; J. W. B. King, P.M. 376; J. Newman, 388; W. G. Gale, 388; Geo. Andrews, P.M. and Sec. 388; J. L. Wickens, 388; A. Sharpe, 388; R. Breton, 388; W. Philipps, 516; H. C. Harper, 516; A. D. Botwright, I.W. 929; J. E. Scales, P.M. 929; R. M. Hudson, 929; H. Martin, P.M. 929; G. H. Garrett, W.M. 936; G. T. Roper, 936; F. T. Cooper, 936; E. Butcher, P.M. and Sec. 936; C. A. Ward, 936; T. E. Key, J.W. 936; W. Watson, W.M. 959; Edward Hills, I.P.M. 959; R. H. Unworth, P.M. 959; A. G. Carter, 959; G. Guld, 959; C. H. Eullen, P.M. 1008; F. E. Dunn, 1224; E. C. Titcomb, W.M. 1452; F. Wright, W.M. 1631; W. B. Cockrill, J.W. 1631; J. Durrant, P.M. 1631; E. A. Onyon, W.M. 1663; H. Rix, S.W. 1663; W. Hunt, Treas. 1663; J. T. Page, P.M. 1663; G. W. Greeve, 1663; W. Turner, 1663; H. Skuffham, 1663; Martin Sedgwick, W.M. 1823; D. F. Glazin, 1823; Geo. Gage, 1983; G. H. Jackson, P.M. 2371; H. T. Horner, 2371; F. A. Brooke, J.W. 2371; T. Whittle, 2371; and P. Cooper, 2371.

The brethren having assembled under their respective banners, the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened in due form, and the roll of Provincial Grand Officers and lodges called, after which Bro. Joseph Foyster, 305, was unanimously elected Prov. G. Treasurer; while Bros. C. E. Tempest, 114, P.P.J.G.D., A. A. Bennett, 959, P.P.G. Reg., and T. Edgar Mayhew were re-elected Provincial Grand Auditors.

The D.P.G.M., on behalf of the P.G.M., Bro. Lord Henniker, then appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing year, as follows:

Bro. the Earl of Stradbroke, W.M. 388, S.G.W. (*in absentia*)... Prov. S.G.W.
 " G. H. Garrett, W.M. 936 ... Prov. J.G.W.
 " Rev. J. H. H. Mostyn Sedgwick, W.M. 1823... } Prov. G. Chaps.
 " Rev. A. Robbs, J.W. 81 ... }
 " Joseph Foyster, 305 ... } Prov. G. Treas.
 " F. C. Peacock, P.M. 516 ... } Prov. G. Reg.
 " N. Tracy, P.M. 376, P.G. Std. Br. ... } Prov. G. Sec.
 " A. A. Seabourne, W.M. 332 ... } Prov. S.G.D.
 " C. Oliver, P.M. 1008 ... } Prov. J.G.D.
 " R. H. Unworth, P.M. 959 ... } Prov. G.S. of Wks.
 " J. M. Franks, P.M. 376, P.P.J.G.D. ... } Prov. G. D. of C.
 " G. Booth, jun., P.M. 81 ... } Prov. A.G.D. of C.
 " J. W. B. King, P.M. 376 ... } Prov. G.S.B.
 " P. F. Wainwright, P.M. 114 ... }
 " J. F. Page, P.M. 1663 ... } Prov. G. Std. Brs.
 " James Price, Org. 114 ... }
 " A. Spalding, P.M. 376 ... } Prov. G. Org.
 " H. Martin, P.M. 929 ... } Prov. Asst. G. Sec.
 " G. H. Jackson, P.M. 2371 ... } Prov. G. Purst.
 " W. T. Thornton, I.P.M. 81 ... } Prov. Asst. G. Purst.
 " S. Skerritt, P.M. 225 ... }
 " J. Hardwick, P.M. 959... } Prov. G. Stwds.
 " W. B. Syer... } Prov. G. Tyler.

The report of the Board of General Purposes having been presented and adopted, a very satisfactory statement was submitted in connection with the Suffolk Masonic Charity Association.

The brethren then formed into procession in lodge order, and marched through the Thoro'fare and Church-street to the parish church, where a bright and brief service took place. Bro. the Rev. T. Housecroft, Rector of Woodbridge, intoned the prayers; Bro. the Rev. A. Robbs read the lesson; and the Prov. G. Chaplain, Bro. the Rev. J. H. H. Sedgwick, preached, and made a fervent appeal in support of the nursing and accident fund of the Woodbridge Dispensary. The anthem was "Seek ye the Lord" (Roberts), in which Bro. F. W. Hopson, organist of Woodbridge parish church, effectively rendered the solo; while the Prov. G. Organist, Bro. James Price, ably presided at the organ.

After the Benediction the brethren returned to the Lecture Hall to conclude the business of the province, and, before separating, the DEP. PROV. G. MASTER congratulated the brethren on the highly satisfactory state of the several lodges, and the generous support which the province had given to the Masonic Charities.

After votes of thanks had been passed to the brethren of the Doric Lodge, to the Rector of Woodbridge, to the Prov. G. Chaplain, to the Prov. G. Secretary (Bro. N. Tracy), and the Prov. G. D. of C. (Bro. J. M. Franks), the lodge was closed.

Subsequently a considerable number of Provincial officers and brethren sat down to the banquet at the Bull Hotel, under the presidency of the Dep. G. Master, Bro. the Rev. C. J. Martyn, after which the usual Masonic toasts were enthusiastically honoured.

CONSECRATION OF THE EXCELSIOR CHAPTER, No. 1155.

The Excelsior Chapter, No. 1155, was consecrated on Thursday, the 15th inst., in the Masonic Temple of the Holborn Restaurant, in the presence of a numerous body of Royal Arch Masons. The Consecrating Officer, Comp. E. Letchworth, Grand Scribe E., was assisted by Comps. Ralph Gooding, M.D., P.A.G. Soj., as H.; Rev. J. Studholme Brownrigg, M.A., G. Supt. Bucks, as J.; H. A. Tobias, P.G. Std. Br., as N.; and Frank Richardson, G.D.C., as D.C.

The founders of the new chapter are Comps. A. A. Frigout, P.Z. 25; W. G. Simmons, M.E.Z. 169; T. Bugler, H. 879; Thomas Hales, 169; F. Lewin, 169; R. W. Pembroke, 169; W. B. Tomlinson, 879; R. McGregor, 243; J. E. Williams, 169; and W. Weeden, 2040.

The visitors present included—

Comps. Alan de Tatton Egerton, P.G.S. Cheshire; Edward H. Ezard, M.E.Z. 25; Chas. Ellison, 25; W. R. J. McLean, 25; J. H. Witty, 1247; Vivian Orchard, M.E.Z. 1293; A. E. Kipps, 879; J. W. Steven, 1665; R. W. Goddard, P.Z. 174; Dr. H. W. Roberts, P.Z. 1293, P.P.G.J. Middx.; F. W. Harvey, 25; George Brown, P.Z. 140; H. Kendal Ward, 25; W. J. Charles, 22; Percy Shore, 25; George White, 2030; H. Sadler, G. Janitor; Walter Martin, P.A.G.D.C.; J. S. Pointon, 1901; W. J. Kipps, P.Z. 79; F. Stallard, 538; L. J. de Walley, 879; W. H. Elphinstone Stone, J.; Col. F. W. Frigout, P.Z. 25; W. W. Lee, P.Z. 1524; and others.

The chapter was opened and a hymn sung, after which the CONSECRATING PRINCIPAL, addressing the companions, said it would not be necessary for him to occupy their time for many moments with words of his own on the present occasion. They were all aware of the purpose for which they had met together, viz., to constitute a new Royal Arch Chapter to be attached to a very old and distinguished lodge—the Excelsior Lodge—and he felt sure he was only expressing the feelings of all present when he wished the new chapter a very successful career, in every respect worthy of the lodge to which it was attached. He sincerely trusted it would be the means of advancing the best interests of Royal Arch Masonry in the metropolis.

The Companions of the new chapter signified their approval of the Officers nominated in the Charter, and an eloquent oration having been delivered by Bro. Rev. J. S. BROWNRIFF, G. Supt. Bucks, the Excelsior Chapter was dedicated and constituted with the customary solemn formalities.

Comps. A. A. Frigout, W. G. Simmons, and T. Bugler were inducted

into the chairs of M.E.Z., H., and J. respectively, and the following officers were invested: Comps. Thos. Hales, S.E.; F. Lewin, S.N.; R. W. Pembroke, Treas.; W. B. Tomlinson, P. Soj.; R. McGregor, 1st Asst. Soj.; J. E. Williams, 2nd Asst. Soj.; and G. Alfd. Bill, Janitor.

The Consecrating Officers were unanimously elected hon. members on the proposition of the M.E.Z., seconded by the H., and Comp. LETCHWORTH, G.S.E., made suitable acknowledgments for himself and colleagues. A similar compliment was conferred upon Comps. W. R. J. McLean and W. Kipps for kind assistance in the musical arrangements for the ceremony. Two brethren were proposed for exaltation, and the chapter was closed.

After an excellent banquet the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were heartily honoured.

Comp. the Rev. J. STUDIOLME BROWNRIGG G. Supt. Bicks replied for "The Grand Officers," and said that as he grew older the difficulty of responding to this toast increased. If anyone would arrange some varieties in the way of response it would be a great benefit, for he could bring some startling novelty before them. Unfortunately there was a sort of common-placeness about the toast—not on the part of the G. Officers however. It would be a grand innovation, and they would be justified in making the youngest return thanks, for he would be sure to have something new to say. He (Comp. Brownrigg) would tell them the old story, that they were pleased to come amongst them, and grateful for the reception given them. He would next offer for their acceptance the toast of "The M.E.Z." He was perfectly confident that the distinguished companion who presided over them would conduct the chapter in the coming year with ability, and in years to come would be a P.Z. who would say that however well his successors had done, they had not quite come up to that memorable first year. He liked that tradition to be cherished in a chapter, and he hoped that for many years the M.E.Z. would have the opportunity of making that remark. He hoped the companions would work up to the example set them by the M.E.Z., whose health they would heartily drink.

Comp. A. A. FRIGOUT, P.Z. 25, M.E.Z., said the complimentary remarks of Comp. Brownrigg were not merited. He did not pose as a very excellent worker in Royal Arch Freemasonry. That he had performed the ceremonies was true; that he had succeeded in a very moderate degree was also true; and that he would endeavour to give the companions satisfaction and do credit to himself, of course went without saying. No one could have been placed in a similar position without appreciating the great honour thrust upon him. Their chapter was a very small one at present, but in the course of a few years there was more than a strong likelihood that they would be strong. He was not in favour of large bodies in Craft or Arch, believing that the family party was more sociable. If they could add to their present number of 10, until it became 25 or 30, that would be ample, but it rested with the members to do that. So far as he was concerned, he would do his best to introduce new members; but they might rest assured that he would not introduce anyone without very careful consideration. It was well known in Freemasonry that sometimes one member created dissension, and he sincerely hoped, and said it with kindness, that they would be careful of the names submitted to the Three Principals. He would not further detain them except to express his sincere thanks to Comp. Brownrigg for the very complimentary remarks in which he had proposed the toast, and the companions for the kind manner in which they had received it.

The M.E.Z. then proposed "The Consecrating Principals," and referred to the splendid manner in which the consecration ceremony had been performed, and expressed the indebtedness of the members to them for giving them the benefit of their services. Before Comp. Letchworth left he expressed his regret at his inability to remain with them owing to a previous appointment.

Comp. RALPH GOODING, M.D., P.A.G.S., having returned thanks, said it had been an extreme pleasure to attend, and call into existence a new chapter to be added to the roll. They had had some wise and pointed remarks made in the chapter by the distinguished Comp. Brownrigg, who wisely said that no higher name than "Excelsior" could be given to any chapter. To an old Mason the consecration of a new lodge or chapter was not merely adding another unit to the grand old roll. It was not merely the bringing in of some 20 or 30 new members; but it was to work out those grand principles for which they had been established as lodges or chapters, and to carry out which they had been called into the great cause of Freemasonry. If that was the earnest wish and desire of that new chapter, the work of the Consecrating Officers was not only satisfactory to themselves, but would be satisfactory to the Order. He was glad to see the M.E.Z. in the chair, for as he well knew the traditions of the Robert Burns Chapter, he could have no misgivings as to the way in which the work would be performed here. He congratulated the chapter on the brilliant assembly present for the great launching they had had and he could only repeat the wish expressed by the Grand Scribe E. that the chapter would have a great future before it and carry out those principles of fraternal affection and charity, as the members had done in other lodges and chapters.

Comp. H. A. TOBIAS, P.G. Std. Br., also responded.

Comp. W. J. KIPPS, P.Z. 79, proposed "The H. and J.," and in reply, Comp. W. G. SIMMONS, M.E.Z. 169, H., said he would endeavour to forward the interests of the chapter and perform the duties of his chair. They knew he always endeavoured, whilst in office, to do his duty, for he considered it wrong to take any post without the ability to perform the duties. He was pleased to tell them that the M.E.Z. had presented the chapter with a handsome charity box. They would appreciate his kindness and liberally contribute to the box at every meeting.

Comp. THOS. BUGLER, H. 879, J., having replied,

The M.E.Z. proposed "The Visitors," which was acknowledged by Comps. WALTER MARTIN, P.A.G.D.C., and V. ORCHARD, M.E.Z. 1293.

Comp. Dr. H. W. ROBERTS, P.P.G.J. Middx, answered for "The Masonic Charities," which was submitted by Comp. TOBIAS, after which the M.E.Z. gave the concluding toast, "The Officers."

Comp. THOS. HALES, Scribe E., in response, thanked the M.E.Z. for the honour conferred upon him by coupling his name, and hoped to give satisfaction in the performance of his duties.

Comp. W. R. J. McLean, Mus. Bac., S.N. 25, directed the musical arrangements, which were admirably carried out in the ceremony, and a capital programme was provided after the banquet. Amongst those who assisted were Comps. Chas. Ellison, Kendal Ward, W. J. Kipps, A.R.A., and A. E. Kipps.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK, attended by Sir Charles Cust, returned to London on Sunday evening from Bagshot Park.

CONSECRATION OF THE CONOVIVUM CHAPTER,
No. 2569.

On Saturday afternoon, the 17th inst., the above chapter was consecrated at the Masonic Lodge Room, Colwyn Bay. The petitioners for the chapter were: Comps. J. G. Tuxford, P.Z., P.G.S.E.; G. L. Woodley, P.Z.; H. A. Steer, P.Z.; B. Ayres Moore, P.Z.; Ephraim Wood, R. Arthur Pritchard, Owen Rowland, J. L. Mayger, A. Sumner, James Porter, P.G.S.B.; J. H. Ellis, and Kenneth McEwen.

The consecration ceremony was performed by Comp. the Hon. Alan de Tatton Egerton, M.P., G. Supt. of Cheshire, as M.E.Z., assisted by Comps. John Ernest Greaves, Lord Lieut. of Carnarvonshire, G. Supt. N. Wales, as H.; Lieut.-Col. C. H. Rees, Prov. G. Principal N. Wales, as J.; and Edward Roberts, P.Z., P.G.S.N., as D. of C.

The installation of principals followed by Comp. Broadsmith, P.P.G.H., and the election and investiture of the rest of the officers: Comps. J. G. Tuxford, M.E.Z.; H. A. Steer, H.; R. Arthur-Pritchard, J.; James Porter, Scribe E.; Owen Rowland, Scribe N.; A. Sumner, P. Soj.; and J. L. Mayger, Treas.

Among the visitors were:

Comps. T. Westlake Morgan, P.P.G. Org.; William Peers, P.Z., P.P.G.J. Cheshire; Robert Owen, P.Z. 384, P.G. Reg.; Donald Cameron, P.Z., P.G. Treas.; Thomas Owen, M.E.Z. 988; W. Charles Logan, P.Z., P.P.G.S.W.; B. Ayres Moore, P.Z. 171; J. O. Morris, H. 606; John Williams, P.Z., P.P. G.O.; Walter A. Foster, H. 384; and J. W. Fendick, P.G.J. North Wales.

The consecration banquet was afterwards held at the Imperial Hotel.

BLANK PAPERS.

'Tis but a blank and worthless leaf;
No writing there we find;
'Tis only fit to be destroyed,
And scattered to the wind.

Yet pause awhile, and bring it near
Where the warm firelight glows;
Look now—behold, by chemic art,
The writing slowly grows.

Clear and distinct thus, aye, 'twill be,
Exposed to heat and light;
Removed from thence, and cold again,
It vanishes from sight.

Thus many a heart a blank appears,
Where hidden unconfessed,
Unknown to all, God's writing there
Indelibly impressed.

Waits but the Spirit's heat and light,
In His good time revealed,
To show what wondrous power and love
Were for awhile concealed.

Oh! never may our hearts grown cold,
The sacred fire obscure,
God grant its vivifying grace
May cleanse, and make us pure!

F. W. DRIVER, M.A., P.M.,

62, Lancaster-road,
Notting-hill, W.

The Craft Abroad.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF THE ARGENTINE
REPUBLIC.

The quarterly meeting of this Dist. G. Lodge was held on April 24th in the Masonic Rooms at Prince George's Hall, Buenos Ayres, the R.W. Dist. G. Master, Bro. Charles Trevor Mold, being in the chair.

The Dist. G. Lodge was opened at 8 p.m. in due form, with the following officers and members present:

Bros. H. S. Chappell, D.D.G.M.; J. B. Baker, D.S.G.W.; G. Nelson, D.J.G.W.; F. J. Morphy, P.D.D.G.M., and W. G. Davis, P.D.S.W., acting D.G. Chaps.; F. R. Hancock, P.D.S.G.W., D.G. Treas.; E. J. Klix, P.D.J.G.W., acting P.D.B.G.P.; J. C. Clark, D.G. Sec.; A. R. Leighton, D.S.G.D.; A. E. Rugerom, D.J.G.D.; T. Barkas, acting D.G. Supt. of Works; F. Coulon, D.G. Reg., acting D.G.D. of C.; W. J. Hodge, P.D.J.G.W., acting D.A.G.D. of C.; J. Miller, D.G. Std. Br.; W. Fleury, D.G.S.B.; W. J. Corrales, P.D.J.G.W., acting D.G.S.B.; A. Cozens, D.G. Org.; R. Marshall, P.D.G. Supt. of Works, acting D.G.A. Sec.; E. M. Simpson, D.G.P.; G. H. Millichamp and F. C. Marty, D.G. Stwds.; T. Troughton, P.D.G. Org., acting D.G. Stwd.; E. S. S. Contuner, D.G. Tyler, F. Bradbury, P.D.A.G.P.; J. Russell, P.M.; C. L. Edwards, J.W. 617; G. H. Newell, S.W. 1025; T. R. Wood, W.M. 2329; G. H. Clarke, S.W. 2329; E. Danvers, J.W. 2329; A. Eaton, W.M. 2459; H. Marrs, S.W. 2459; and P. Cowper, W.M. 2517. Visitors: 12 brethren from Lodge No. 617, 15 from Lodge No. 1025, 17 from Lodge No. 2329, nine from Lodge No. 2459, 12 from Lodge No. 2517, and nine from lodges not belonging to this district, say 24 officers, 10 members, and 74 visitors, in all 108 present.

The minutes of the preceding regular meeting, which was held at Rosario de Santa Fe, were read by the Dist. G. Secretary, and confirmed. Correspondence was then read, and the general business transacted, after which the Dist. G. Lodge was closed at 8.45 p.m.

The brethren then adjourned to the banqueting hall in the same building, where, after an excellent supper, the rest of the evening was devoted to speeches and songs. The greatest harmony and good feeling prevailed, and it is unanimously hoped that this autumn festival, which was started at the centenary meeting last year, may now be held annually, as a most efficient means of inviting the members of the lodges in the district.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1899.

Masonic Notes.

In announcing that the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent was held at Sevenoaks one day last week, under the presidency of Bro. Earl Amherst, the *Daily Telegraph* remarked that "his lordship has now continuously held the office of Grand Master of the Province of Kent for 40 years—a record." Our contemporary does not appear to be aware that there are two Provincial Grand Masters of older standing than Earl Amherst, who have continuously presided over the Craft in their respective Provinces, namely, Lord Leigh, who was appointed Prov. Grand Master of Warwickshire on the 1st August, 1852; and his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., who was appointed Prov. Grand Master of Derbyshire on the 9th May, 1858. Doubtless, also, in former days there were Prov. Grand Masters who held office continuously for 40 years and upwards.

It is a happy coincidence that the annual meeting of the Prov. Grand Mark Lodge of Cheshire should have been held a few days after the Quarterly Communication of Mark Grand Lodge, at which a resolution was adopted declaring a certain Mark lodge which meets in the Ashton district, and styles itself a United Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, "spurious and clandestine." As we said in our article of last week, we have no sympathy whatever with this lodge, and shall be glad when we hear that it has ceased to trouble the authorities of Mark Grand Lodge. From what passed at the Provincial meeting at Stockport on the 10th instant, it is clear that the Cheshire Mark brethren are resolved that the edict of Mark Grand Lodge shall be carried out in no perfunctory manner, and that everything will be done to put an end to irregularities for which there is not the shadow of an excuse. The career of the Mark Degree since 1856 has happily been free for the most part from troubles of this kind—at all events, since the union of the lodges of English and Scottish origin under the supreme authority of Mark Grand Lodge; nor, from the enlightened manner in which the Degree is administered, is there the slightest reason why the smoothness of this career should be disturbed.

We are pleased also to note that Bro. Richard Nowhouse, as Prov. G. Mark Secretary, mentioned that in his capacity of Prov. G. Secretary of the Craft Prov. Grand Lodge of Cheshire he had received a communication from Bro. Edward Letchworth, G. Secretary of United Grand Lodge, requesting him "to make inquiries from the several Craft lodges in the eastern division of Cheshire, which are alleged to have opened their lodge on a Sunday to further the proceedings of the Ashton Mark Lodge, and thus being parties to a grave irregularity, that the conduct of the several lodges so offending may be brought before the Board of General Purposes of the Craft."

We regret to say that what is called "A Masonic Service" will be held at the Parish Church, Hornsey, on Sunday, the 25th instant, "in aid of the Church Tower Building Fund," and that "a dispensation has been obtained from the M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, for the brethren to appear in Craft or Royal Arch clothing." There cannot be the slightest objection to the brethren of the Alexandra Palace Lodge, No. 1541, doing all in their power to assist in strengthening the Hornsey Church Tower Building Fund. But this appears to us to be one of those cases against which the recent Grand Lodge circular of the 25th May, which was published in the *Freemason* of the 3rd inst., is directed. It may be that the dispensation was granted before the issue of the circular, or there may be special circumstances which render it desirable that in this particular case a dispensation should be granted. But it hardly looks well to set at naught the instructions contained in a circular which was issued so recently.

There is one remark in the letter we published last week from Bro. Emra Holmes with which, while we are referring to the subject of the attendance of brethren at church in their Masonic clothing, we are glad to express our hearty concurrence. "I believe," says Bro. Holmes in the concluding paragraph of his letter, "the public profession of religion in this way," that is, by the attendance at Divine service of the Provincial Grand Lodge on the occasion of its annual meetings, "did an immense amount of good." Our implacable enemies, the Roman Catholic priesthood, declare that we Freemasons are a godless body, and this attendance at Divine service gives the lie direct to that absurd charge. But it is one thing to attend church to demonstrate our respect for religion and another to permit ourselves to be used as a kind of advertisement in behalf of some local charity.

In reply to the question with which Bro. "T. May, 754," concluded his letter of last week—"What is the etiquette or rule in those matters?" that is as to the publication of lodge proceedings. We beg to state that the publication of "the proceedings of any lodge or any part thereof," "without the consent of the Grand Master, or Provincial or District Grand Masters" is forbidden by the Book of Constitutions. As regards the illustration, which appeared in *Black and White* of the 9th instant, and in this journal last week—of the installation at Preston of the Earl of Lathom, as Prov. G. Master of West Lancashire, we need say no more than that illustrations have been published of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (1) on the occasion of his being present in Grand Lodge in 1869 and having conferred

upon him the rank of Past G. Master; and (2) on that of his installation as M.W. Grand Master in the Royal Albert Hall in April, 1875. These illustrations, as they disclose no Masonic secrets, are quite harmless.

The address delivered by R.W. Bro. the Hon. Sir H. Thoby Prinsep, Dist. Grand Master of Bengal, at the Quarterly Communication of this Dist. Grand Lodge, on the 21st March last, is, on the whole, pleasant reading. After paying a compliment to Bro. H. M. Rustomjee, Past A.G.D.C. England, Dist. G. Secretary, for the zealous manner in which he discharged the duties of his office, as evidenced more particularly by the punctuality with which the lodges send in their returns and dues, the Dist. G. Master expressed his satisfaction at the increased number of lodges in the District, there being now as many as 44 on the roll, with an aggregate of 1234 subscribing members, there being a substantial increase in this respect, though the average membership per lodge is not quite so high. Of the whole number of lodges, there are 20 with 30 members and upwards, the strongest being Star in the East Lodge, No. 67, Calcutta, with 63 members, and the next the Lodge of Saint John, No. 486, Calcutta, with 53 members.

The District Grand Master further reported that he had "no complaints of any breach of harmony" and that "the brotherly feeling on which we justly pride ourselves" was being "maintained everywhere." He also referred with satisfaction to the financial state of the different District Grand Lodge Funds, of the Bengal Masonic Educational Association, and the Masonic Hall Building Fund, there being in respect of the last named, more than enough to meet the cost of the site, though the purchase account had not been closed in consequence of the depressed state of the money market preventing them from realising their securities. But no further steps had been taken towards erecting the Hall as the amount of the donations and subscriptions received was small compared with the 15,000 rupees which it had been agreed should be the minimum in hand before making any move in this direction.

As regards the visitations he had made to several lodges, the Dist. G. Master declared that many acts of omission and commission had come under his notice to which he had contented himself with calling attention, as the condition of the lodges was generally to his satisfaction. The point on which he laid the greatest stress was the omission of W. Masters to see that their lodge By-laws were duly enforced, while in one instance he found "that the Lodge had incurred for its current expenses a considerable debt to its Charity Fund, thus using money which had been expressly subscribed only for Charitable purposes, and which could not properly be otherwise appropriated."

The District Grand Treasurer's accounts for the quarter to 28th February last showed in every case a balance to the good—on the General Fund of 5072 rupees; on the Masonic Hall Sustentation Fund of 4841 rupees; on the Musical Instrument Fund of 440 rupees; and on the Fund of Benevolence of 3616 rupees, in addition to a sum of 3000 rupees in Government Securities. On the recommendation of the District Board of General Purposes, a sum of 4000 rupees was ordered to be transferred to the Masonic Hall Building Fund, namely, 2000 rupees from the General Fund and 2000 rupees from the Freemasons' Hall Fund.

It was also resolved on the recommendation of the District Board, that "The District Grand Master may present medals to Brethren who had rendered valuable help" to the Bengal Masonic Association; a gold medal to be annually awarded at the March Quarterly Communication of District Grand Lodge "to the Donors who shall have presented to, or the Stewards who shall have collected the largest amount for, the Bengal Masonic Association during the preceding calendar year, provided that the amount presented or collected is not less than 1000 rupees;" and two silver medals for amounts presented or collected of not less than 500 rupees. We trust the new rule will be attended with successful results.

A recent number of the *Masonic Review*, of Cincinnati, contains a highly interesting sketch of the Masonic career of Bro. George W. Atkinson, who was initiated in Kanawha Lodge, No. 20, W. Virginia, in September, 1866, and presided over the Craft in that State as M.W. Grand Master during the years 1876 and 1877. In 1885 he was elected G. Secretary, and has acquitted himself most creditably in that office ever since. Bro. Atkinson is also Governor of West Virginia, and is highly esteemed in public and private life as well as by the brethren of his State.

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 SPURIOUS AND CLANDESTINE GRAND LODGE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I was a Mark Mason before 1870. Am I then a *spurious* one? The title of one and the other leave nothing for choice as regards *posposity*—where, then, is the consistency? I agree with you that it would have been better to let the Ashton body work out its success or extinction, for, after all, whatever rights the present Mark Grand Lodge possesses, it could only have acquired them from such as I take the Ashton brethren to be, viz., members of Mark lodges formerly existing; and as antiquity has always been a sore point in Freemasonry generally, this is dangerous ground. I do not for a moment deny the rights of the Grand Mark Lodge in its recent action; at the same time, I cannot help thinking that course ill-advised. As you say, these very brethren were recognised in 1870, and, therefore, cannot be spurious now—in fact, the less said about it the better.

I may add that I am in no way connected (as you will know) with the "Grand Lodge" for the Ashton District. All I know about it is from the papers, and I regret that so many of the public dailies have referred to and commented on the matter, which, in my opinion, was to be expected.

I observe something new to me in your quotation, "they open in the Three Degrees, and then go through this Degree of Mark Master Mason?"

What! in *Grand Lodge*? The old system was to work in the *Second Degree Craft lodge*, and there are lodges in which this is still the practice. I suggest that the word "*Sunday*" preceding that quotation may be similarly incorrect? Lodges I refer to *never* meet for that purpose on a Sunday.—Yours fraternally,

HISTORICUS.

June 18th.

THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

Permit me to express my entire concurrence with the view of Bro. T. May as expressed in his letter published in your issue of June 17th. The picture given in *Black and White* is more than a breach of Masonic courtesy, and I said so to several brethren at the time it was published. I doubt, however, whether Bro. May is quite right as to his snap-shot theory. If he looks at the picture again he will see that the brethren are all facing him and not the dais—i.e., they were facing the brother who took the picture and were evidently posed for the purpose. Does not this imply that the photograph was taken deliberately and with the authority of the Provincial Grand Master, whom, I presume, occupies the chair. Something wrong somewhere!—Yours fraternally,

HENRY LASHMORE,

P.M. 394. P.P.S.G.D. Hants and the Isle of Wight.

Southampton.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

It is with great pleasure I have to inform you that the Right Hon. the Earl of Dartmouth, R.W. Prov. G.M. Staffordshire, has most kindly consented to preside at the 112th Anniversary Festival of this Institution, to be held on Wednesday, the 9th May, 1900, and I shall esteem it a favour if you will kindly make this gratifying fact as widely known as possible.—I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. W. F. HEDGES, Sec.

5, Freemasons' Hall, London, W.C.

June 21.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. James Henry Matthews, President, in the chair. Bro. D. D. Mercer, S.V.P., and Bro. Henry Garrod, J.V.P., occupied their respective positions at the Board. Bros. Edward Letchworth, G. Secretary; W. Lake, Asst. G. Secretary; W. Dodd, G. S. Recknell, and Henry Sadler, G.T., represented the Grand Secretary's department. The other brethren who attended were

Bros. Charles J. R. Tijou, Henry A. Tobias, Walter Martin, George Graveley, F. W. Hancock, W. Fisher, E. W. Nightingale, W. Kipps, S. H. Goldschmidt, C. Pulman, Lewis Lazarus, E. M. Money, Charles Henry Stone, John Strachan, Q.C., G. Registrar, John Erlinger, Walter N. Glazier, P.M. 34; C. H. Webb, P.M. 174; A. G. Sandberg, P.M. 3; Robert G. H. Goffin, P.M. 1572; James Whitaker Burgess, P.M. 1325; E. T. Mackrill, P.M. 591; Frederick Ashby, W.M. 1421; Harry Pearce, P.M. 1524; J. Seaton, P.M. 1829; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1928; R. W. Ker, I.P.M. 194; R. J. Coates, W.M. 890; J. Austin, P.M. 1158; J. H. Collingridge, P.M. 1677; G. J. Farrington, W.M. 2705; D. Dupcar, W.M. 147; Jas. F. W. Morris, W.M. 1050; and R. W. Barber, P.M. 198.

The brethren first confirmed those grants which at the May meeting were referred to the Grand Master to approve to the extent of £260. There were 23 cases on the new list, which were qualified through lodges in the London area, and at Devonport, N.Z., Siacup, Lucknow, Starcross, New Malton, Carlisle, Welchpool, Frome, Shaftesbury, Kobe (Japan), Cairo, Lancaster, Manchester, Aylesbury, Rhyl, Byculia, and Bellary. Five of the petitions were dismissed, and three were deferred. The remainder were voted a total of £515. Two cases were recommended to Grand Lodge for £75 each, and two for £50 each. Two were recommended for the Grand Master's approval for £40 each, and four for £30 each. Two petitions received £20 each, two £10 each, and one £5.

THE NEW BUILDINGS that have recently been completed at the London Hospital Medical College will be opened on Tuesday, the 18th July, by Viscount Knutsford. The inauguration will be followed by the distribution of prizes to the students and nursing probationers, in the Library of the Medical College, by Viscount and Viscountess Knutsford.

SUMMER OUTING OF THE QUATUOR CORONATI LODGE.

Many lodges are in the habit of spending a day once a year in the country, and these excursions are deservedly looked forward to by the members. Few, however, if indeed any, provide such an annual treat for their members as does the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, extending over four days, and taking the brethren far afield to some city of Masonic interest. From the 15th to the 18th of this month this lodge of literati has been feasting its eyes on the beauty of Devonshire and Dartmoor, gladdening its heart by contact with the brethren of that province, and acquiring fresh knowledge by its inspection of the most notable buildings and municipal records of Exeter. A party of 36 brethren left Waterloo Station on the Thursday by the 3 p.m. train, arriving at Exeter shortly before 7 o'clock. The journey was most comfortably made in saloon carriages, and the tedium of travel lightened by tea, which was served in the carriage at Salisbury. At Exeter some 24 brethren of the extended Correspondence Circle, who had made their way there independently, joined them, and they were met and welcomed at the station by the foremost Exeter brethren, who, under the guidance in chief of Bro. J. Gould, had been for weeks preparing for their reception.

Among the members were such well-known Masons as Bros. C. Purdon Clarke, C.I.E., the W.M.; Hamon le Strange, Prov. G.M. Norfolk; R. Hudson, P.G.S.B.; W. J. Hughan, P.G.D.; W. F. Lamonby, P. Dep. G.M. Victoria; J. Lane, P.A.G.D.C.; J. E. Le Feuvre, P.G.D.; H. Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.; Col. Pratt Saunders, Prov. G.M. Wicklow and Wexford; T. J. Ralling, P.A.G.D.C.; G. W. Speth, P.A.G.D.C.; J. J. Thomas, P.G. Std. Br.; H. Tipper, P.G.P.; Dr. W. J. Chetwode Crawley, P.G.D. of Ireland; F. J. W. Crowe, Dr. W. W. Westcott, and many others; whilst the wild field covered by the membership of the lodge may be inadequately gauged by the fact that among the brethren were some hailing from Ireland, Yarmouth, Hastings, Gosport, Torrington, Birmingham, Torquay, Berwick, Liskeard, Tynemouth, Selby, Stroud, Nottingham, Southampton, Hunstanton, West Bromwich, Witney, Retford, Colchester, Ludlow, Stoke, and, of course, London and its immediate vicinity. Moreover, many of the Exeter brethren, for this occasion, acting as hosts, were in reality also members of the lodge.

The headquarters were the Rougemont Hotel, Exeter, where, after settling down, dinner was served. The Masonic Institute having made all the visitors members *pro tem.*, many of them spent the remainder of the evening there in company with their Exeter brethren.

Friday was a busy day. After a nine o'clock breakfast, a move was made to the ancient Gild Hall, where the brethren were received by the Town Clerk, Mr. Shorto, who had caused the city regalia to be set forth on the table, around which the brethren seated themselves, whilst he, in a most interesting and eloquent address, rapidly glanced at the history of Exeter, and exhibited and explained some of the remarkable old documents and charters in the possession of the Corporation. So interested were both lecturer and audience, that the appointment at the Cathedral was almost forgotten, but finally a move was made in that direction. Here the brethren were taken in charge by the Rev. Canon Edmonds, who, in the Chapter House delivered an eloquent address upon the history of the sacred fane, and then conducted the party through it, calling attention to its most remarkable features. Two more eloquent and capable *ciceroni* it would be hard to find than Mr. Shorto and the Canon, and the brethren were glad to be able to entertain them both at lunch. Indeed, Mr. Shorto, although not a Mason, found himself in such good company that he was kind enough to dine with the brethren also, and accompany them throughout the afternoon, and also to Dartmoor on the following day. After lunch the old castle and gardens of Rougemont were visited, and under the guidance of Bro. Gould and Mr. Shorto, many other points of interest in the city.

After dinner a special meeting of the four Exeter lodges, under the banner of the senior lodge, St. John the Baptist, No. 39, was held in the large supper room of the hotel, the chair being occupied by Bro. Gould, and those of the Wardens and I.P.M. by the other three Masters. The visitors were received in procession, being joined by Bro. Col. Davie, P.A.G.D.C., Dep. Prov. G. Master, and speeches of warm welcome to Exeter and Devonshire were delivered by him and by Bro. Gould, and replied to by Bros. Purdon Clarke, W.M., Hamon le Strange, and Col. Pratt Saunders. Bro. Speth conveyed a special message to the lodge which had been entrusted to him for that purpose by Bro. Sir James C. Meredith, Dep. G. Master of Ireland.

From thence a move was made to the ball-room, where the rest of the evening was passed in the enjoyment of unrestrained fraternal communion, and the delights of an excellent programme of music supplied by the Exeter brethren, good tobacco and a moderate allowance of some inspiring liquid, most welcome after a hard day's work, not being forgotten. In view of a still more arduous day to follow, the closing hour had been fixed at 11 p.m., which arrived all too soon, and the party broke up after loyally singing the National Anthem.

Saturday's breakfast was as early as 7 o'clock, and 8 a.m. found the brethren at St. David's Station, where the Great Western Railway had provided a special train, which conveyed them and some hundred Exeter brethren to Bovey Tracey, on the border of Dartmoor. Eight well horsed and appointed brakes were waiting, and soon the party was all on board and bound for the wilds of this beautiful district. Each carriage was supplied with a large sketch map of the route to be followed, with every natural and artificial feature of interest distinctly marked, an arrangement which much conduced to the comfort of the brethren. But all the complicated arrangements of this day were so perfect, the organisation so admirable, the provision so thoughtful, that were all to be detailed this account would run to too great a length; let it simply be said that even the provisioning of such an army of hungry tourists, miles from any good hotel, was no light matter, and would have taxed the resources of the A.C.D. And yet it was by no means the greatest of the difficulties, all of which were successfully surmounted.

The first halt was made at Hensbury Gate, where Mr. F. S. Amery, of Druid, Ashburton, was kindly awaiting the brethren in order to explain one of the numerous hut circles found on the moor. The alarmingly steep

descent into Widdicombe having been safely negotiated, a rest was made to examine the church there, known as the Cathedral of the Moor, now much too large for the population, but which had not been too large at the time the mines in the neighbourhood were being worked. Then on across the moor to beautiful Dartmeet, with its old bridge and still older rude bridge composed of piles of boulders with flat slabs of granite laid across. At Two Bridges a stop of an hour and a half was made for luncheon, which was ready spread out in a large shed, having been sent on ahead from Exeter.

After lunch the inevitable photographer performed his mission, and some of the more energetic walked up the valley to inspect the primeval forest of stunted oaks known as Wistman's Wood. Here the party was joined by Mr. Hansford Worth, who had driven over from Lydford to act as instructor later on.

A fresh start having been made, the next pause was shortly before Merivale Bridge was reached, where on the bare hill side is a marvellous collection of hut circles, sacred circles, parallel rows of stones, kistvaens, and menhirs, which were all duly explained by Mr. Worth, the Secretary of the Dartmoor Exploration Committee. The steep descent to Merivale Bridge was made on foot, although practice had now made the most timid and inexperienced quite ready to go anywhere behind such teams and drivers as were supplied to them.

Finally the long line of coaches drew up in the town of Tavistock, where, after partaking of tea at the hotel, a move was made to the station, where the L. and S.W. Railway had provided a special train, which brought the brethren back to Exeter by 7 o'clock, having in the 11 hours since starting skirted the Moor by train on its eastern side, driven 28 miles across it, and skirted it again on its north edge by train. A long day, truly, but a most enjoyable one, even the weather, so uncertain a quantity on the wild, bleak moor, having been all that could be wished. The trip was one long triumph of organisation, of which the brethren in charge have every right to be proud, not a hitch of any kind, and time kept almost to a minute throughout.

After dinner the visitors were "at home" to the Exeter brethren, and entertained them at a smoking concert in the ball-room. A few speeches were made, but not many, music and conversation being rightly given the preference. It was, however, necessary to thank the Exeter brethren for all their kindness, which was done by the W.M. and Bro. Speth, and acknowledged by Bro. John Stocker, the Prov. G. Sec. A most gratifying event, and totally unexpected, was the appearance of our venerable Bro. Canon Tristram, of Durham, whose presence in the city was not known previously, but who, when he heard that his co-members of the Quatuor Coronati were receiving their hosts, felt he could not do better than join them.

The feature of the musical entertainment was the charming hand-bell ringing of Bro. Tipper. We in London know it well, but it came as a revelation to Exeter. Once more the fatal hour of 11 p.m. approached all too soon, and the brethren joined heartily in Auld Lang Syne and the National Anthem, separating with reluctance, mutually pleased with each other.

Sunday, the 18th, opened with a small instalment of the much wanted rain. After attending morning service in the Cathedral, an early lunch was partaken of, and at 2.5 the train moved out of the station on its way to London bearing with it the majority of the visitors, the parting "God speed" of the many Exeter brethren crowding the platform ringing in their ears. Tea was taken on board once more at Salisbury, and town was reached at 6.45 p.m., where final farewells were exchanged on Waterloo platform, with a unanimous expression of opinion that the Exeter outing of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge could not be beaten, and was equal to the best of its predecessors.

Surely, quite apart from the gratification of the participants, such gatherings of the Craft must be conducive to the good of the Fraternity as a whole, and the wonder is that more are not undertaken. For three days brethren from all parts of these Islands have sat side by side, wandered in loving companionship through the city and country, made new friends right and left, learnt to know and appreciate each other, played alternately the equally delighted parts of host and guest. Why is the Quatuor Coronati the only lodge which annually provides such an opportunity?

Craft Masonry.

St. Luke's Lodge, No. 225.

On Wednesday, the 14th instant, the final meeting of the summer session of the above lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall, Soane-street, Ipswich. Bro. George W. Senton, W.M., was in the chair of K.S., and was supported by Bros. W. Rumsby, I.P.M.; J. A. Pettitt, acting S.W., in place of Bro. Hugh Burton, who was laid aside by sickness; H. J. Brook, J.W.; G. Powell Price, Sec.; A. W. Cook, D.C.; John Thompson, Org.; S. Sparkes, S.D.; R. Miller, J.D.; T. Whiteside, I.G.; E. B. Lewcock, Taylor and Christie, Stwds.; W. J. Whitehead, P.M.; and a large attendance of brethren including Bros. Hills, Unsworth, and Kemp. Visitors: Bros. Pearce, Carter, and Odiam, all of 959; Ward, 376; and H. R. P. Hodgson, 712. After the lodge had been opened and the routine business transacted, Bro. W. J. Whitehead performed the ceremony of raising Bro. H. B. Clarke (Managing Editor *Ipswich Journal*), similar ceremonies being performed by Bro. Pettitt to Bro. F. G. Fisk, and Bro. Rumsby to Bro. H. R. P. Hodgson. The latter was performed by St. Luke's by special request of the Lindsey Lodge, No. 712, Louth. Bro. G. W. Senton gave the secrets, working tools, and historical portion of the ceremony in a most impressive manner.

After the closing of the lodge, the remainder of the evening was devoted to banquet and harmony.

Blackheath Lodge, No. 1320.

The election meeting of this highly successful lodge was held at the Bridge House Hotel on Thursday, the 15th inst. Present: Bros. G. Hobley, W.M.; E. A. Rice, I.P.M.; Wal. R. King, S.W.; H. Cornford, J.W.; W. H. Morson, P.M., Treas.; H. A. Stunt, P.M., Sec.; Thos. Tucker, S.D.; H. Tempest, J.D.; A. Heskell, I.G.; J. Hooper, P.M., D.C.; R. Brown, Stwd.; J. Whiteman, Tyler; T. R. Cass, P.M.; A. W. Le Cren, P.M.; H. W. Parker, J. P. Bliss, D. T. Birkbeck, F. Houlton, H. A. Ellis, A. Smith, and C. Martin. The visitors were Bros. J. R. Wilkes, St. Lawrence, 641, Montreal; W. J. Newstead, I.G. 1973; Frank Swinford, W.M. 2272, Prov. G. Org.; W. S. Masters, 2346; F. G. Murray, 1820; J. Miller, 879; A. B. Wastie, 2473; W. H. Harper, P.M. 2182; A. Taylor, 217; Geo. Thompson, P.M. 1744; Wm. Dawson, P.M. 1622; and C. H. Stone, P.M. 507, S.W. 1641. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. H. A. Ellis was passed in a perfect manner by the W.M. The election of W.M. for the ensuing year took place and was unanimous in favour of Bro. Wal. R. King, S.W.; also for

that of Treasurer, which was also unanimous in favour of Bro. W. H. Morson, P.M. Bro. J. Whiteman was elected Tyler. The W.M. was highly congratulated upon the very successful and enjoyable summer outing, which consisted of an up-river trip from Windsor to Great Marlow. The W.M. very suitably acknowledged the compliment, and stated he had been ably supported by the indefatigable Secretary, Bro. Stunt, P.M., and also a large body of Stewards, which he highly appreciated, and heartily thanked them.

The business of the lodge ended, it was closed, and the brethren adjourned to a capital supper, supplied by the worthy host, Bro. Callingham.

The cloth removed, the W.M. gave the customary loyal and Masonic toasts, which were duly honoured.

The W.M. next proposed the toast of "The Grand Officers," which was cordially responded to.

Bro. E. A. Rice next rose and said it gave him most peculiar pleasure to propose the toast of "The W.M.," whom he had known for the past 11 years, and he had found him a most staunch friend and a good man. All had witnessed his excellent work, and he asked the brethren to drink to his health, and also that of his wife, and wish them long life and happiness.

Bro. T. Hobley, W.M., in some well-chosen and pertinent remarks, most cordially thanked the brethren for so hearty a greeting.

The W.M. next proposed the toast of "The W.M. elect, Bro. Wal. King," who was an excellent worker, and he congratulated him upon his unanimous election. All knew his capabilities, and he hoped the brethren would introduce worthy men and true, that the W.M. elect might have a most successful year. All regretted his absence from the summer outing, as he certainly missed a great treat, but all knew it was on account of his professional duties. He would ask the brethren to drink most cordially to the toast.

In reply, Bro. King said it was the proudest moment of his life, for he was not married, and even if he were, it would to him not be more so than that of being elected W.M. of his mother lodge. From the time of his initiation he had always been most kindly received, although he was almost an entire stranger, knowing only his respected brother-in-law, Bro. Rice, P.M., and Bro. Cass, P.M., whose genial voice he heard, and he at once felt at home; and he trusted that feeling would exist as long as he lived. He hoped the coming year would be as happy as the past. He had endeavoured to perform his duty, had attended every meeting of the lodge, and now had reached that very honourable position. There had never been a jarring note during his association with the lodge and he hoped that that good fortune would continue as long as the lodge lasted. He thanked them for the high honour bestowed upon him, which was an epoch in any brother's life, to be chosen head of so worthy a lodge, and for such cordiality shown.

The W.M. next presented the toast of "The Visitors," giving them all a very hearty welcome, especially his friend Bro. Wilkes, from Montreal, who was now visiting an English lodge for the first time, and also Bro. Dawson, the worthy Preceptor of the Blackheath Lodge of Instruction.

The toast was most ably responded to by Bros. Wilkes, Stone, Frank Swinford, and George Thompson.

The toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary" received at the hands of the W.M. well-merited praise for efficient services, and was duly responded to by Bro. H. A. Stunt, P.M., Sec., who especially remarked upon the successful outing which was well carried out by the W.M., and also commented on the great cordiality shown throughout. The W.M. had worked with great zeal and he was sure the W.M. elect would be as zealous in all he undertook. Bro. Cass, P.M., had had during his year a ladies' night which was most successful, but the river trip was not in any measure behind that. He hoped that the same good fellowship would exist and he should endeavour at all times to create that hearty feeling in the lodge.

The W.M. gave the toast of "The Past Masters" in eulogistic terms, which was ably replied to by Bros. Rice, Le Cren, and Cass.

That of "The Officers" was ably proposed in kindly terms, and most cordially responded to by the S. and J. Wardens.

The Tyler's toast closed a very happy meeting. Some excellent harmony was given by Bros. Parker, Frank Swinford, Jos. Hay, H. A. Stunt, Wilkes, and Arth. Taylor. Bro. W. Harper ably presided at the piano.

Royal Wharfedale Lodge, No. 1108.

On the 16th instant, the above lodge observed the Festival of St. John, and commemorated the 33rd anniversary of consecration, in the presence of a numerous gathering of members and visiting brethren from the Leeds, Bradford, Harrogate, and Ilkley lodges. The W.M. elect was Bro. F. F. Coupland, who was duly installed by Bro. Wm. Laycock, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., assisted by Bro. Strain, P.M. Subsequently the newly-installed Master invested his officers for the year as follows: Bros. R. C. Williamson, I.P.M.; F. C. Dawson, S.W.; William A. Walker, J.W.; Wm. Laycock, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; J. T. Spink, Sec.; H. Pepper, S.D.; W. E. Walker, J.D.; R. Muschamp, I.G.; A. Suttle, P.M., Chap.; W. E. Turner, P.M., D.C.; A. Walker, P.M., P.P.G.D., Org.; J. C. Collings and F. Mudd, Stewards; and J. Mason, Tyler.

Subsequently the members and visiting brethren commemorated the Festival of St. John and the 33rd anniversary of the consecration of the lodge, which has been twice visited by Royalty, and which has, in consequence, the requisite warrant for using the word "Royal" as a prefix to its name.

The banquet was held at the Black Bull Hotel.

Anglo-American Lodge, No. 2191.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Tuesday last at the Hotel Cecil, London, under the Worshipful Mastership of Bro. Charles G. Rotter. There was a company of brethren present, consisting of, besides the W.M., Bros. Charles O. Burgess, I.P.M.; J. W. Elvin, S.W.; A. H. P. Snow, J.W.; Frederick Kedge, P.M., Treas.; F. Jackson, P.M., Sec.; C. T. Atkinson, S.D.; William James Harvey, J.D.; Walter Hancock, P.M., D. of C.; W. H. Martin Burgess, I.G.; W. A. Kitto, Org.; John Skinner, P.M.; J. J. Woolley, P.M.; W. B. Swannell, W. Steverfon, Frank E. Baker, George J. Craven, James Rowe, John O. Hickman, M. S. Lincoln, G. S. Stainton, C. E. Cottrell, W. McWilliam, A. Goodman, C. Gaumanns, A. Paget, George Wintle, and Robert John Wood. The visitors were Bros. P. Hardy, S.D. 2105; Pam Rothernerts, 2545; H. W. Couzens, 261; G. H. Foa, P.M. 1614; John Paul, P.M. 1287; W. D. Courtney, 2030; W. J. Purser, 1348; W. Spearing, P.M. 1512, P.P.G.S. Middx.; F. A. Goss, 2738; Walter Rien, 1973, P.P.G. Supt. Wks. Kent; W. H. Kidson, W.M. 2611; William Kedge, 749; William Bshop, 2395; G. H. Wavell, P.M. 862; W. Goring, 1471; Charles P. Cotes, 1744; T. Jeston White, 860; W. G. Adcock, P.M. 2202; Charles Corby, P.M. 957; F. W. Garnham, W.M. 946; John Durno, M.D., 2381; J. M. Wilson, 1708; George Roberts, S.D. 755; Charles Coram, W.M. 2552; Henry Yates, P.M. 2305; John G. Shearman, 1997; Bernard Abrahams, S.W. 534; B. R. Maltby, W.M. 2562; Ed. Lane, J.W. 1305; Turle Lee, 2264; A. Delaup, 1506; C. Sansom Taylor, 766; W. J. Thomas, 133; George Isaac, 160; A. Tacagrie, 2395; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1728; and J. Franklin Clive, 1319.

The first business after the opening of the lodge and the reading and confirmation of the minutes was the passing of Bro. J. O. Hickman to the Second Degree, which ceremony was well performed by Bro. Rotter, W.M. Following upon this came the installation of the new W.M., and this duty was assigned to Bro. C. O. Burgess, P.M., who in excellent style installed Bro. J. W. Elvin, P.M. 538, &c., one of the few Patrons of all three of the Masonic Institutions, as the 13th Master of the Anglo-American Lodge. Bro. Rotter was invested as I.P.M. During the installation Bro. Hancock, P.M., discharged the duties of Director of Ceremonies. The brethren invested as officers of the lodge for the new W.M.'s year were: Bros. A. H. P. Snow, S.W.; G. T. Atkinson, J.W.; F. Kedge, P.M., Treas.; F. Jackson, P.M., Sec.; W. J. Harvey, S.D.; W. H. M. Burgess, J.D.; W. H. M. Burgess, J.D.; W. H. Kitto, I.G.; W. Hancock, P.M., D.C.; W. Stevenson, Org.; W. H. M. Fenn, W. H. Swannell, and C. Guttman, Stewards; and R. F. Potter, P.M., Tyler. When the ceremony had been completed, the new W.M. Master initiated Mr. Samuel C. Hillis into Freemasonry, and gave the brethren evidence that a year of excellent work was before the lodge. The new officers also did their work admirably. The balance-sheet, which showed over £100 in hand, was adopted, and then the lodge was closed, and a charming banquet was partaken of.

The toasts were interspersed with some lovely vocal music by Bros. Franklin Clive, Arthur Grover, Henry Yates, and George Schneider, under the direction of Bro. Henry Yates, P.M. Bro. Turle Lee presided at the piano, and Mr. A. W. Payne performed on the violin.

Bro. Charles J. Rotter, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," said Bro. Elvin had been well known to members of the lodge for years as the Master who was coming on in this lodge, and as the Master and Past Master of many other lodges; he was known as a brother eminently qualified to hold the distinguished position in which he had been installed that evening. Among the visitors he was sure there were many who had known his work associated with something doing good in Masonry; there was nothing in the benevolent work of Masonry in which he did not exercise himself. There were few men so well qualified to rule a lodge, few who united those rare qualities which were necessary in a Master of a lodge. Bro. Elvin possessed those qualities—a rare degree not only inside a lodge but outside as well. Every one felt the charm of his personality; he had won the esteem and affection of all who came in contact with him. He wished him a successful and happy year of office, and long life and happiness.

Bro. J. W. Elvin, W.M., in acknowledging the toast, which was most heartily drunk, said he did not feel very well and the brethren must pardon him for not speaking much; but from the bottom of his heart he was glad to see the brethren around him. He should try during his year to keep the lodge up to the position it had attained to, and, if possible, he would endeavour to improve it. (Applause.)

Bro. J. W. Elvin, W.M., in proposing "The I.P.M.," Bro. Rotter, said one of the toasts all lodges delighted to honour was the toast of the retiring Master. That evening they had the pleasure to honour P.M. Rotter, who had had a very good year of office. He had now the honour to pin upon Bro. Rotter's breast a Past Master's jewel as a little memento of his Mastership. Bro. Rotter would know that the members of the Anglo-American Lodge thoroughly appreciated the work he had done during his year. The brethren of the lodge had much pleasure in presenting him with that jewel, and he expressed the earnest wish that Bro. Rotter might be at his left during his year because he knew if the I.P.M. turned up others also would turn up, and make the lodge the success they all wished it to be.

Bro. Charles G. Rotter, I.P.M., responding, said it was with a sense of deep gratefulness he rose to reply to the toast which the W.M. had proposed in such flattering terms. He might congratulate himself on his year of office, for it had been a most pleasant one all round; there had been nothing to mar it, and all the brethren had that same feeling. If it should be in his power to contribute to such another year, he should be most happy to do so. The jewel the brethren had given him he should treasure most highly. It would remind him in future years of many pleasant hours he had spent among the brethren, and when that feeling came over him it would be accompanied by his best wishes for all the brethren.

Bro. J. W. Elvin, W.M., in proposing "The Initiate," sincerely trusted that the Anglo-American Lodge would have a lot of as good brethren as the brother who had been initiated that evening. He hoped Bro. Hillis would find in the brethren those who in after years he would prize among his dearest friends. Bro. Skinner, P.M., was one who had been initiated a short time before him; he had followed Bro. Skinner in Masonry; they had worked together, and gone on through life together as friends; and he was glad to say they continued to support each other in what each would like to do.

Bro. Hillis, in reply, said he felt the lodge had conferred upon him a very high honour indeed in receiving him into the Brotherhood; but he also felt that there was a duty devolving upon him, which was to do all he could to uphold the lustre of the ancient Craft, and he sincerely wished that anything he might do, whatever should happen, that he should, although the youngest brother of the Craft, not be the least worthy. It was needless for him to try to explain his feelings, for all the brethren had gone through the mill; but it had occurred to him that if there were more Masons in the world there would be no necessity to call forth a Peace Conference at the Hague.

Bros. W. H. Kidson, Rien, Abrahams, Thomas (Australia), Paul, and Massey responded to the toast of "The Visitors," in proposing which Bro. Elvin, W.M., said he hoped the visitors would carry back with them pleasant reminiscences of the evening.

Bro. J. W. Elvin, W.M., in proposing "The P.M.s., the Treasurer, and the Secretary," said there were 12 P.M.s. in the lodge now. The P.M.s. had tried to make the lodge go, and they had made it go. They had left no stone unturned to keep the lodge in the same state as it was in now.

Bros. Woolley, Kedge, Jackson, and Hancock responded; after which "The Officers" was the toast honoured and replied to, and the Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

Barnet Lodge, No. 2509.

The installation meeting of this lodge took place on the 8th inst., at the Assembly Rooms, New Barnet, in the presence of a large number of members and visitors. This lodge commenced its career under the most auspicious circumstances, and with the careful guidance of the Secretary of the Boys' Institution, Bro. McLeod, as its first W. Master, and has steadily advanced in membership, and, what is of more consequence (in remembering the fact of the existence of our three Institutions), has never failed to send representatives to their Festivals.

Amongst those present were Bros. Witthaus, W.M.; W. Baddeley, P.M., S.W., W.M. elect; H. T. Matthews, P.M., J.W.; Rev. G. E. Gardner, M.A., Chaplain; R. Cranston, P.M., Treas.; F. S. Plowright, P.M., Sec.; W. Fitch, S.D.; F. Attree, J.D.; J. Rainsford, P.M., I.G.; Dr. Loughton and W. Wood, Stewards; Falconer, P.M.; Witthaus, P.M.; J. Marchand, P.M.; Gabell, Lockwood, Walsh, Cribb, Letts, Cameron, Hamilton, Winn, Owen, and Goddard, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.; F. R. W. Hedges, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.G.; E. Rawlinson, W.M. 2331; F. G. Mason, P.M. 1385, P.G.W. Herts; W. Noble, P.M. 1538; J. P. Matthews, P.M. 1491; F. C. Collingwood, P.M. 1385, P.G.S.B. Herts; J. Wilson, 25; H. Cripp, 1694; A. Firman, 9; and F. Davidson, 289.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, after which the W.M. passed Bro. J. W. Owen. The next business was installing the W.M. elect, Bro. W. Baddeley, but as he has already passed the chair of one of our oldest lodges the ceremony was necessarily short. At the conclusion the W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows, the number of Past Masters among them being very noticeable: Bros. F. E. Witthaus, I.P.M.; H. T. Matthews, P.M. 1910, S.W.; F. S. Plowright, P.M. 103, J.W.; Rev. G. E. Gardner, M.A., Chap.; Robert Cranston, P.M., W.M. 1385, Treas.; W. H. Cannon, Sec.; W. Fitch, S.D.; F. Attree, J.D.; J. Adolph Witthaus, P.M., D. of C.; J. McLeod Rainsford, P.M. 1385, I.G.; Dr. W. Roughton, and W. Wood, Stwds.; and R. W. Goddard, P.M., Tyler. The W.M. then presented to the outgoing W.M. the Past Master's jewel which had been voted him by the lodge, and there being no other business the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to an excellent repast.

The W.M., in proposing the toasts was commendably brief, an example which ought to be more generally followed. The W.M. expressed his intention of again going up as Steward for the Boys, although it was only at the last year's Festival he qualified as a Vice-Patron.

Bro. McLeod responded to the toast of "The Masonic Charities" in his usual fluent manner.

The musical entertainment under the direction of Bro. Herbert Cripp was especially attractive, a very hearty reception being given to Miss Emily Foxcroft, who was in good voice.

Bro. Baddeley, who thus enters upon his Mastership of the Barnet Lodge under such favourable auspices, was initiated, passed, and raised, and subsequently exalted to the Royal Arch, during his residence in Sydney, New South Wales. On returning to England, he became, in 1892, a joining member of the Gladsmuir Lodge, No. 1385, High Barnet, and at the annual meeting of the Prov. G. Lodge of Hertfordshire, in 1897, had conferred upon him the collar of Prov. G. Steward. In 1894 he became a *four-der*, and, as stated above, is the present W.M. of the Barnet Lodge, No. 2509, which, though meeting in New Barnet, Herts, is within the limits of the metropolitan district. About the same time he joined the Robert Burns Lodge, No. 25, and last year served as W.M. In Royal Arch Masonry he is H. of the Gladsmuir Lodge, No. 1385, of which he was elected a member in 1892; H. of the Robert Burns Chapter, No. 25; and occupies the same chair in the Bedford Chapter, No. 157. He is the present W.M. of the Gladsmuir Mark Lodge, No. 367, and had the rank of Prov. S.G. Deacon in the Province of Herts conferred on him last year. He also holds office in the Prince Frederick William Lodge, No. 258, and the Watford Lodge, No. 241, of the same Degree, while in November last he was installed W.C.N. of the Gladsmuir Lodge of

Royal Ark Mariners, moored to the Gladsmuir Mark Lodge. In 1894 he was perfected Rose Croix, 18°, in the Camden Chapter, No. 132, and assisted in founding the Camden Preceptory of Knights Templar, No. 163, and holds office in both these bodies. He is also a Knight of Malta, and a member of the Allied Degrees, so that, since his return to England, he has devoted a great amount of zeal and activity in connection with the several branches of our Society. Lastly, he has done excellent service to all our Institutions, being a Vice-Patron of the Benevolent and Boys' Institutions and a Vice-President of the R.M. Institution for Girls, in addition to having given his services as Steward at as many as 14 different Festivals.

Secret Monitor.

GRAND COUNCIL.

The grand festival in connection with this Order was held at the Hotel Cecil, Strand, on Wednesday, the 21st instant, when Bro. I. Zacharie, P.G.S.R., occupied the chair of G. Supreme Ruler, in the absence of Bro. the Earl of Warwick. Amongst others present were—

Bros. J. Lewis Thomas, P.G.S.R.; Harry Tipper, P.G.B.B.; John Read, P.G.S.; G. W. Mugliston, M.D., P.G.C.; C. Shelton, P.G.G.; J. J. Pakes, P.G.V.; G. Harley Thomas, P.G.S.B.; Henry Pearce, P.G.V.D.; J. Kay, P.G.S.; J. Bastone, P.G.G.; J. Tickle, P.G.T.; J. A. Thilthorpe, P.G. Std. Br.; G. Richards, P.G.V.; D. Warliker, P.G.S.; Frank E. Lemon, P.G.S.B.; Richard Eve, P.G.T.; J. R. Reep, G.C.; J. Songhurst, G. Std. Br.; J. W. Gooding, G. Gd.; W. J. Spratling, G. Recorder; E. Jessurun, F. C. Van Duzer, Brokenshire, H. T. Grundy, A. W. Chapman, John Lusty, F. J. Eedle, and others.

After a convocation of the Grand Council, the Grand Conclave was opened in due form, and the Grand Officers entered in procession.

The roll of the conclaves was called and the minutes were confirmed. Bro the Earl of Warwick was then proclaimed as G. Supreme Ruler for the ensuing year.

The following Grand Officers were announced as appointed for the ensuing year:

- M.W. Bro. The Right Hon. the Earl of Warwick (Deputy G.M. in the Craft, and Prov. G.M. of Essex) ... G.S.R.
- " " Issachar Zacharie, M.D. ... I.P.G.S.R.
- R.W. Bro. His Honour Judge F. A. Philbrick, Q.C. ... D.R.O.
- " " The Right Hon. the Earl of Halsbury (Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain) ... G. Chancellor.
- " " Geo. T. Wm. Mugliston, M.D., P.G.C., P.S.R. 10 ... G. Treasurer.
- " " C. E. Keyser, J.P., P.G.V. 5 ... G. Chamberlain.
- " " Deputy Inspector - General Belgrave Ninnis, M.D., R.N., P.S.R. 9 ... G. Guide.
- " " Frederick West, P.G.C., 1 (D.P.G.M. of Surrey) ... P.G. Guide.
- " " W. J. Spratling, B.Sc., P.P.G. Treas. Middx., P.S.R. 2 and 8 ... G. Recorder.
- " " Harry Tipper, P.G.B.B., P.S.R. 5 ... } G. Visitors.
- " " His Honour Judge Jas. Copley Moyle, P.G.C., P.S.R. 28 ... }
- " " George Richards, P.G.C., P.S.R. 22 (District Grand Master of the Transvaal) ... P.G. Visitor.
- V.W. Bro. J. J. C. Turner, P.G. Std., S.R. 29 ... G. Std. Br.
- " " A. J. Cooper-Oakley, P.G. Std., P.S.R. 14 ... P.G. Std. Br.
- R.W. Bro. J. J. Thomas, P.G.V., P.S.R. 5 and 8 ... G. Dir. Cer.
- V.W. Bro. W. B. Boyes, P.G. Std., P.S.R. 22 ... P.G. Dir. Cer.
- " " Henry Taylor Grundy, S.R. 26 ... G. Bow Br.
- " " J. W. Bradley, P.G. Std., P.S.R. 15 ... P.G. Bow Br.
- " " A. G. Boswell, P.G. Std., S.R. 5 ... G. Gdr.
- " " R. G. Bevington, P.G. Std., S.R. 30 ... P.G. Gdr.
- " " Arthur W. Chapman, P.G. Std., 8 ... }
- " " A. C. Dandridge, P.G. Std., P.S.R. 11 ... } G. Councillors.
- " " Cecil Holliday, Sec. B. G. Stwds. 1898 No. 19 ... }
- " " J. Mennich Mennich, S.R. 10 ... }
- Bro. T. C. Edmonds, 1 ... G. Sentinel.

The following Grand Stewards were invested: Bros. Jno. Lusty, 1; C. F. Roundell, 2; Ernest Brown and Ruthven Finlayson, 5; S. K. Cama, 8; F. C. Van Duzer, 9; Richard Willard and Joseph Henry Smith, 10; Rudolf Graf, 11; B. E. Smith, 14; Richard James Kelly, 15; Arthur W. Chapman, 16; C. W. P. Douglas de Fenzi, 18 and 19; T. Sheppard, 21; W. B. Boyes, 22; C. L. Nelson, P.G. Gdr., 23; Robert Gibson, 25; A. Kirkland, 26; Herbert Edward Wilkins, 28; Fredk. H. Bright and F. J. Eedle, 29; and Jas. Thompson, 30.

The following motion was then unanimously carried, after it had been strongly supported by Bros. BASTONE, ZACHARIE, SPRATLING, and THOMAS: "That this Grand Conclave gives its hearty support to the proposal of a Secret Monitor Benevolent Fund Festival, to be held in the autumn, and to which ladies may be invited." By this means it was hoped to form the nucleus of a Benevolent Fund, the details of which would be settled at a later date.

Numerous letters of regret were announced, and Grand Conclave was closed.

A banquet followed, at which Bro. I. Zacharie, P.G.S.R., presided, and several toasts were honoured.

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

In proposing "The Earl of Warwick, G. Supreme Ruler," Bro. ZACHARIE said they all deeply regretted his absence. They were proud of him as their G.S.R., for he did all he could to elevate the Order.

Bro. J. LEWIS THOMAS, P.G.S.R., next gave "The Health of Bro. I. Zacharie, P.G.S.R.," who founded the Order in England, and but for whose energy and enthusiasm he was afraid it would not have existed. There was no need to go into the past history of the Order, how it started from a very small beginning, and how Bro. Zacharie gave up his house, and his great hospitality to its benefit. They all condoled with Bro. Zacharie in his own family bereavement, and were glad to see him present, for they knew his enthusiasm for the Order.

Bro. I. ZACHARIE, P.G.S.R., returned thanks. It afforded him great pleasure to be present and meet so many old and faithful friends. He had no idea of being present owing to ill health, but when he understood that the G.S.R. could not attend, he determined to do so, and felt that new life had been instilled into him by the meeting. It was true he brought this Order into England with the assistance of Bro. Lewis Thomas, and he was therefore proud of its progress. It was also true they had passed through an ordeal which he was glad to say was now settled, perhaps not to his own satisfaction, but he hoped to the satisfaction of the members. He trusted the day would not be far distant when those who had seceded would come knocking at the door to ask for admission. He congratulated the Order upon the removal of the Festival to the Hotel Cecil, for they were perfectly satisfied, and personally he had never sat down to a better Masonic banquet. He hoped that during the next twelve months they would enrol men who would assist in giving the Order a position of wider influence.

"The Health of Bro. J. Lewis Thomas, P.G.S.R.," was next submitted, and in his response Bro. THOMAS mentioned that he was a Steward for the next Festival of the Mark Benevolent Fund, and he hoped all Secret Monitors would give him their cordial support.

Bro. R. EVE, P.G. Treas., replying to the toast of his health, said he regarded the proposition carried in Grand Conclave as a valuable addition to the great work of Charity.

Bro. Dr. G. T. W. MUGLSTON, G. Treas., responded for "The Grand Officers," and said his election was an honour conferred upon his conclave. There was no doubt that this Order was one of the grandest in existence, for it taught them the love they should have for one another, to help each other, and give help and assistance where possible.

Bros. GEO. RICHARDS, P.G.V. (South Africa), and HARLEY THOMAS also replied.

Bro. J. TICKLE, P.G.T., whose health was next drunk, expressed his gratification at seeing Bro. Zacharie in such good health as had enabled him to preside. The Order had lost nothing from the fact that Bro. Zacharie had once more presided over their festival. They were honoured by having a peer of the realm as their G.S.R., but he regretted he did not more often come amongst them. As far as the proposed Benevolent Fund Festival was concerned, there must be more spirit infused into the movement; and if the Earl of Warwick could be induced to take the chair and be accompanied by the Countess the affair would be a success.

Other toasts were given and the proceedings terminated.

Bro. Harry Tipper, G.V., as usual, provided an excellent programme of music and was deservedly encored for his finished rendering of hand bell solos. Other artists were Miss Bessie Spells, Miss F. E. Tipper, Miss G. Tipper, Messrs. B. Albert, and W. W. Sadler.

Royal Arch.

Ubique Chapter, No. 1789.

The installation meeting of the above chapter took place on Monday, the 12th instant, at the Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, when Comps. J. D. Vicary was installed as M.E.Z.; and H. T. Lyon as J.; the H. elect, Comp. E. W. Lewis, being unable to attend.

The chapter was opened by Comps. W. Shackleton, M.E.Z.; Capt. R. J. Wishart, P.Z., &c., H.; and E. H. Lewis, J., and the minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed, Comp. A. Penfold, P.Z. 13, 913, and 1472, P.P. 1st A.G.S. Kent, by special request, assumed the chair as Installing Officer, and in faultless form installed the above-mentioned M.E.Z. and J. The following officers were then invested: Comps. Capt. R. J. Wishart, R.A., P.Z., Scribe E.; Major J. W. Newton, R.A., Scribe N.; Major A. C. Boileau, R.A., Treas.; Capt. J. W. Ormiston, P.S.; G. Townsend, 1st Asst. Soj.; Capt. W. A. Nicholson, 2nd Asst. Soj.; Capt. C. E. Reynolds, D.C.; and C. Warren, Janitor. Comp. Shackleton, I.P.Z., was presented with a P.Z.'s jewel for his services as M.E.Z. during the past year, and Comp. Penfold was rewarded with a vote of thanks for his services as Installing Officer, and then the chapter was closed.

Among the other companions present were Comps. Capt. H. L. Jenkinson, R.A.; Col. H. M. Hozier, C.B., R.A.; Sergt.-Major R. F. Cockrane, R.A.; J. Rickard, R.A.; C. Jolly, P.Z. and S.E. 1472 and 2184, P.P.G.S.B. Essex; E. B. Hobson, P.Z. 913, P.P.G.O. Kent; and R. F. Smith.

An excellent banquet having been enjoyed, the usual loyal and Grand Chapter toasts were proposed, and drunk most loyally.

The I.P.Z., Comp. Shackleton, then proposed the toast of "The M.E.Z." He said, as they were well aware, that Comp. Vicary had been placed in the important and distinguished position as their M.E.Z. that day, and he felt sure the companions of the chapter were proud to have such a good Mason to preside over them. He felt sure that their M.E.Z. would, as Comp. Penfold said when he placed him (Comp. Vicary) in the chair, "do all he could to promote the prosperity and harmony of the chapter," and he asked them to drink the toast most cordially.

The M.E.Z. briefly responded, thanking the companions for their reception of the toast, and assuring them that he should endeavour to do the work of his office to the best of his ability.

Comp. Hobson, who had acted as H. through the ceremony, in response to the toast of "The Second and Third Principals," said that he had innocently stepped into a prominent position that night. He had very great pleasure in being present, and had enjoyed himself immensely. He, however, did not anticipate the honour of having his health drunk, and the response to it was to him a task to do justice to. He always had felt a deep interest in the welfare of the chapter, and heartily wished it every prosperity.

Comp. Lyon thanked the companions for the honour they had conferred upon him by electing him to the high position he now occupied. He should have liked to have been present earlier, but had to be present at the installation of Bro. Sir R. Hudson in a Middlesex lodge. He congratulated the chapter on its having secured Comp. Boileau

as its Treasurer, and felt sure that in his hands the financial position of the lodge was safe.

Comp. Penfold, in response to a hearty reception of his name as "Installing Officer," said he was pleased at all times to do anything that lay in his power for the advantage of Royal Arch Masonry, and always took an interest in the success of their chapter, and he trusted that its present prosperity would continue "till time should be no more." He had had for many years the honour of installing the Principals of their chapter, and trusted to have the power to do it for many years to come. He did not think it right that one companion should always do the work, but still, as long as they wished him to perform the ceremony and he was able to do it, he would do it with all the pleasure in the world.

Comp. Jolly responded for "The Visitors."

"The Officers" were toasted, and then the proceedings, which had been most pleasurable, terminated.

Jordan Chapter, No. 1402.

An emergency meeting of this newly-constituted chapter was held at the Masonic Temple, Torquay, on the 19th instant. Comp. John Lane, P.A.G.D.C. Eng., presided, with Comps. T. H. Wills, Prov. 1st A.G.S., and W. Winget, Prov. G. Treas. as Second and Third Principals.

Four honorary members were elected in the persons of Comps. Sir Stafford Northcote, Prov. G. Supt.; W. J. Hughan, P.A.G. Soj. Eng.; G. C. Davie, P.G. Std. Br. Eng., Prov. G.H.; and J. Stocker, P.A.G.D.C. Eng., Prov. G.S.E. Fourteen candidates were then elected, and 10 exalted, four companions being elected as joining members. There were several visitors, and the proceedings were very successful, not to say brilliant.

FREEMASONRY IN THE WEST INDIES.

We are indebted to Bro. R. J. Clinckett, P.M., Past D.G.S.W. Barbados, for the following:

The installation meeting of that young, but flourishing lodge St. Michael, No. 2253, E.C., was held at their lodge building on Tuesday, the 16th ult., at 5.30 p.m. Owing to the absence in Europe of Bro. J. P. d'Albugunque, the W.M., the chair was filled by the I.P.M., Bro. V. Hauschell.

After the usual formalities, Mr. Arthur de Saubrigue, M.I.C.E., was duly initiated, and on his retirement from the lodge it was duly passed and raised as prescribed for the installation service. The chair was then taken by Bro. John Locke, D.G.M., who then installed Bro. L. Evan Boxill, the retiring S.W., in the chair of K.S., as the W.M. for the ensuing twelve months. The junior officers having been severally invested by the W.M., Bro. R. J. Clinckett gave the addresses to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren.

After congratulations from the W. Masters of the Albion and Victoria Lodges, the brethren adjourned to the banqueting room where the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were offered and drunk with enthusiasm, whilst several of the brethren enlivened the proceedings with songs and piano music, &c.

The lodge numbers among its members Bros. his Excellency Sir James Shaw-Hay, K.C.M.G., the Governor of the Island; Locke, D.G.M.; Robert Haynes, Dep. D.G.M.; many of the principal officials, leading merchants and proprietors, and others, and is destined to do a good deal of work for the Craft in the future, regard being had to the social status of its members which tends to attract men in the higher walks of life in the Island, who may otherwise have kept aloof.

THE MARQUIS OF BUTE has sent £500 to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Hospital Fund for London.

HER MAJESTY has intimated her intention to open in person the new block of buildings at the Hospital for Consumption at Ventnor, now in course of erection, and to be dedicated to the memory of the late Prince Henry of Battenberg. Her Majesty will probably drive through the island from Osborne.

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SAMPLES AND PRICE LIST SENT ON APPLICATION.

Masonic and General Tidings.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF FIFE arrived in town from Sandringham on Monday evening.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY witnessed the performance of "Don Giovanni" at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on Monday evening.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY'S BAZAAR, which was opened by Princess Christian at Claremont, resulted in £720 2s. 5d. being realised for the Esher Rectory Purchase Fund.

BRO. SIR HENRY HARBEN, J.P., will preside at the distribution of prizes by Lady Harben at the Sailors' Orphan Girls' School and Home, Fitzjohn's-avenue, on Tuesday, the 18th prox.

THE HANDSOME gold badge presented by Bro. Sir Robert Hargreaves Rogers to the Cripplegate Ward Club—vide Saturday's *City Press*—was made by Messrs. George Kenning and Son, of Little Britain.

BRO. ALDERMAN SIR WHITTAKER ELLIS, Bart., will preside on Tuesday, the 4th prox., at the opening by Lady Ellis of the Jubilee Wing of the infirmary at the Princess Mary Village Homes, Adleston.

BRO. ALDERMAN AND SHERIFF ALLISTON, Mrs. Alliston, and Bro. Colonel and Sheriff Probyn, L.C.C., will attend the concert to be given by Lady William Lennox's orchestra at the People's Palace on Thursday, 29th inst., in aid of the Bethnal Green Free Library.

ON SUNDAY the Duke of Cambridge visited the Duke of York's School, Chelsea, to unveil a new east window, which has been placed in the chapel by old boys in memory of comrades who either "fell in battle or died on active service for sovereign and country."

THE MAYOR OF HASTINGS has received an intimation from the Duke of Connaught that his Royal Highness will visit Hastings about the end of October in connection with the meeting of Sussex Freemasons. The Town Council have decided to present the Duke with an address of welcome.

ON MONDAY the Duke of Connaught entered upon the 32nd year of his military career, his first commission—as a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers—having been granted on June 19th, 1868. His subsequent regimental service was in the Royal Artillery, Rifle Brigade, 7th Hussars, and again in the Rifle Brigade. He became major-general in 1880, and general in 1893.

AT THE annual communication of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, the Board of General Purposes recommended that the rank of Past Deputy Grand Master be conferred on Bros. Lord Onslow and Sir John Gorst, and that of Past Grand Warden on Bro. Dr. Lennox Browne, in recognition of their services in the negotiations with the Grand Lodge of England on the question of recognition of the New Zealand Constitution. Bro. R. J. Seddon, the Premier, was elected Past Grand Master.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES left Ascot Heath House on Saturday morning ast for Bagshot Park, to visit the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. The Prince lunched with their Royal Highnesses, and afterwards returned to London. In the evening, attended by Bro. Captain Holford, he presided at the annual regimental dinner of the Gordon Highlanders, of which he is the Colonel-in-Chief, at the Hotel Métropole.

THE LORD MAYOR (Bro. Alderman Sir J. V. Moore) and the Lady Mayoress, who were accompanied by Bros. Alderman and Sheriff Alliston and Colonel and Sheriff Probyn, attended a garden fete on Saturday last in the grounds of the Royal Normal College for the Blind, at Norwood. The members of the civic party, with Mrs. Alliston, Mrs. Probyn, Bro. Alderman Newton and Mrs. Newton, and others, previously lunched with Bro. Alderman Treloar at Grangemount, Upper Norwood.

WE ARE asked to state that at the inspection of the Metropolitan Volunteers on Saturday, the 8th prox., by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, stands for the accommodation of members of the Houses of Lords and Commons, members of the Corps Diplomatique, her Majesty's Judges, officials of the War Office and Admiralty, families of officers of the Regular and Auxiliary forces taking part in the review, members of the London County Council, and others will be erected on the Horse Guards' Parade in rear of the saluting base.

THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY and her daughter Princess Alice take a great interest in London and its antiquities, and on Saturday last spent a day among the old churches which are the glory of the city. The first halt was made at St. Bride's, Fleet-street, where the party was received by the vicar, Bro. E. C. Hawkins, whence they went to St. Martin's, Ludgate; St. Mary-le-Bow; St. Margaret's, Lothbury; St. Swithin's, London-stone; St. Helen's, Bishopsgate; All Hallows, Barking; St. Giles's, Cripplegate, where lie the bones of Milton and Sir Martin Frobisher; St. Bartholomew the Great; and the Charterhouse.

TO-MORROW (Saturday), T.R.H. the Prince and Princess of Wales proceed to West Kensington to lay, in the Queen's name, the foundation of the new buildings for the Post Office Savings Bank Department, which are to be erected in the neighbourhood of Olympia. The ceremony will be a semi-State affair. The Prince and Princess will drive from Marlborough House by way of the Mall, Constitution Hill, and Brompton-road, and will be escorted by a mounted detachment of Household troops. The Duke of Norfolk, as Postmaster-General, will formally receive their Royal Highnesses, and will present an address, to which the Prince will make reply.

A CONGRATULATORY DINNER will be given by members of the lodges and chapters in the province of Surrey to the R.W. Bro. the Hon. Justice Bucknill, P.P.G.W. Surrey, Past G.W. Eng., on his appointment as one of her Majesty's judges, on Thursday evening, the 29th inst., at the Cafe Royal, Regent-street. The chair will be taken by R.W. Bro. the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., Prov. G.M., and it is hoped that the members of the province will support their Prov. G. Master on this occasion. The dinner tickets will be 25s. each inclusive, and may be obtained from either of the Honorary Secretaries, but the accommodation being limited, tickets will be forwarded in the order in which application is made.—Bros. J. D. Langton, P.P.G.W. Surrey, P. Dep. G.D.C., 12, New-inn, Strand, W.C., and J. O'Connell, P.P.G.D. Surrey, Ely Cottage, East-street, Epsom.

IN THE SPANISH CHAMBER we have been witnessing a strange and original procedure. Various Parliaments have seized upon various pretexts for invalidating elections, but there can rarely have been a more remarkable proposal than that for refusing Senor Morayta's admission to the Cortes because he avowed a connection with Freemasonry. In England it would be deemed almost grotesque, and even in Catholic Spain, where Freemasonry is regarded by sober citizens almost as an eighth deadly sin, the proposal did not prevail. But it was deemed worthy of serious debate, and the Premier revealed the strength of his character, as well as his capacity for leadership, by formally refusing to give either an opinion or a vote on the subject. Senor Morayta was hard put to it to disprove the complicity of Freemasonry in the loss of the Philippines, but that had no business to weigh with a Ministry which has tamely acquiesced in the voluntary cession of the Carolines, and is now rumoured to be meditating a sale of the Canaries.

MONTE CARLO COMPLETE.—English visitors to Monte Carlo will be glad to find that Messrs. Beroist and Fourault, of the Princes' Restaurant, Piccadilly, have provided for their comfort at this fashionable Mediterranean resort. The restaurant which they and their friends have opened has already been patronised by members of many European Royal families, and by the most distinguished men and women of all countries who have lately been sojourning there, including T.R.H. the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge. Taken as a business enterprise, it may be regarded favourably, because the Piccadilly concern, under the same management, has been steadily paying 10 per cent. ever since it commenced. What will interest the great majority of travellers is the fact that a centre of refined comfort, such as they have learned to appreciate in Piccadilly, has been established in Monte Carlo. The company now forming to exploit this intends to increase and improve its accommodation by building a new hotel capable of receiving 400 guests. "The Hermitage Hotel and Restaurant" is the title adopted.

BRO. THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF BEDFORD left town on Tuesday for Woburn Abbey.

BRO. J. RENWICK SEAGER has revised and greatly enlarged his "Notes on Registration," a new edition of which will appear very shortly.

THE COUNTESS OF BECTIVE will open on Tuesday the "Marriott Homes" which have been erected at 301, Holloway-road in connection with the Church Army.

PRINCESS LOUISE, Marchioness of Lorne, has consented to distribute badges and certificates to Queen's nurses at Kensington Palace on Wednesday, the 5th prox., at 3.30 p.m.

ACCORDING TO THE DESIGNS of Mr. Charles H. M. Mileham, architect, of 1, Lincoln's-inn-fields, a floral hall and a conservatory are about to be erected in the Round Garden at Walton-on-the-Naze.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, with Baroness von Egloffstein and Major Evan Martin in attendance, presided over the annual summer sale, at the Royal School of Art Needlework, Windsor, of which her Royal Highness is president.

THE INTERNATIONAL RIFLE MATCH at The Hague was won by the Swiss team, the British five being at the bottom of the list. Sergeant Wallingford, however, secured the gold medal for the best score in the lying position.

THE MARRIAGE of Bro. the Marquis of Tullibardine, D.S.O., Royal Horse Guards, and Miss Katharine Ramsay, daughter of Sir James and Lady Ramsay, of Bamf, Perthshire, will take place at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on 20th July.

MESSRS. GAZE AND SONS have just issued an ingenious guide to a thousand tours, from 1 to 1000 shillings. Having settled how much he can afford, the holiday-maker may see at a glance where he may go, by what route he may travel, and how long his holiday may last.

THE GUNBOAT Excellent is now being prepared at Portsmouth for the reception of a new 12-inch gun and mounting, manufactured by Armstrong and Co., Elswick. The gun is 41ft long (6ft longer than the present 12-inch guns), and the mounting revolves so as to allow the gun to be trained in a circle.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, as Grand President of the League of Mercy, has been pleased to appoint Bro. Lord Pirbright to be President of the Guildford district of Surrey, to include Pirbright and Bisley. H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, as Lady Grand President, has graciously appointed Lady Pirbright to be Lady President of the same district.

THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.—The Girdlers' Company have offered an annual scholarship of 19 guineas to the Guildhall School of Music, the scholarship to be applied as the Principal (Bro. Professor W. H. Cummings) thinks fit. The other literary companies which have not given scholarships are being invited to do so in the interests of the school.

TUESDAY WAS the 62nd anniversary of her Majesty Queen Victoria's accession to the Crown, that event having taken place on June 20, 1837, on the death of her uncle, King William IV. The only other Monarch in this country whose reign at all approaches this length was King George III., who occupied the throne for 59 years 11 months and some days.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK arrived in Oxford on Monday evening on a private visit to the Dean of Christchurch and Mrs. Paget. This is the first occasion on which their Royal Highnesses have been to the University city, and from the station to Christchurch the streets were thronged with citizens, the Royal visitors being enthusiastically cheered.

BRO. THE DUKE OF PORTLAND presided over a meeting held at Nottingham with a view of establishing in the county a sanatorium for the treatment of consumptives. His Grace said that it was their bounden duty to do what they could to further the aim; and discoveries of scientists, more especially as by doing so they would most probably be saving the lives of many thousands of their fellow men.

AMID surroundings of the most auspicious character, the new Bedford County Hospital was opened by the Duke of Bedford on the 21st instant. Bishop Macrorie, representing the Lord Bishop of the diocese, conducted a specially arranged order of service. Among those present were the Duchess of Bedford, Lord and Lady St. John of Bletsoe, Lady Isabella Whitbread, and Sir Frederick Howard.

WITH FEW exceptions the members of the London County Council and its chief officials attended the dinner held on the 21st inst. in the Hotel Cecil, to which, with a number of other guests, they had been invited by its chairman, Lord Welby. Bro. the Lord Mayor, who, on account of another engagement, had to leave early, sat at Lord Welby's right hand, and there were also present the Sheriffs of London, Mr. Leonard Courtney, M.P., Lord Reay, Lord Tweedmouth, Mr. S. Buxton, M.P., and Bro. R. D. M. Littler, Q.C.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, attended by Captain Holford, left Marlborough House on Tuesday morning for Maidstone to visit the 60th annual exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. His Royal Highness was present at the general meeting of the Society, when for the fourth time he was formally elected President for the ensuing year. At its termination the Prince presented badges of honorary membership of the Society to the representatives of agriculture of France and Germany. His Royal Highness afterwards lunched with the members of the Council.

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES PRINCE AND PRINCESS CHRISTIAN OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN honoured Earl and Countess Stanhope by their presence at dinner on Tuesday evening in Grosvenor-place, among those present to meet their Royal Highnesses being the Duchess of Somerset, Bro. the Earl and Countess of Dartmouth, the Countess of Jersey and Lady Mary Villiers, Earl and Countess Bathurst, Viscount and Viscountess Morpeth, the Earl of Mansfield, the Ladies Stanhope, the Hon. E. D. Loch, and the Hon. Guy Baring.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK occupied their second day in Oxford in visiting various colleges. They were accompanied by the Dean of Christ Church and Mrs. Paget. Magdalen, All Souls, and the Bodleian Library having been visited, a move was then made to Christ Church for luncheon, after which their Royal Highnesses visited New College, the Taylorian buildings, St. John's, Corpus, Oriel, and Merton Colleges, the latter causing special interest by the beauty of its buildings and its associations. At dinner, at the Deanery, Bro. Lord Kitchener of Khartoum and Bro. the Right Hon. Cecil Rhodes were amongst the guests.

BY COMMAND of the Queen a levee was held on Monday afternoon at St. James's Palace by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on behalf of her Majesty. Presentations to his Royal Highness were, by the Queen's pleasure, considered as equivalent to presentations to her Majesty. The Grand Duke Michael of Russia was present, and the Royal circle also included the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of York, the Duke of Cambridge, and Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein. The members of the Royal households were in attendance, and the Gentlemen-at-Arms and the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty.

NEW FOUNDATION DAY was celebrated on the 21st inst. at Mill-hill School, amongst the benefactors of which is Sir W. H. Wills, who has recently offered for competition a leaving scholarship of the value of £70, tenable for three years, and has provided the School with a new laboratory, a new library, and an additional class-room. The prizes were distributed by Mr. Justice Cozens-Hardy, and Sir W. H. Wills and Mr. Carvell Williams, M.P., were also present. The Wills Leaving Scholarship of £70 was won this year by G. C. E. Simpson, and the second Governors' Leaving Scholarship of £20 by A. W. Hayward.

PEOPLE who are fond of the pleasant sea trips by the New Palace steamers will be interested to learn that this company's magnificent steamer La Marguerite—having undergone a thorough overhaul in her machinery during the last few months—made her steam trial trip on Tuesday last, with such satisfactory results, that it may be safely asserted her reputation as one of the fastest and most popular pleasure steamers running from the Thames will be greatly increased during the present season. Her first sailing will be on the 28th instant, at 7.10 a.m., from Tilbury (a special train from Fenchurch-street Station at 6.15 a.m.), when she will make her usual trip to Margate and Boulogne and back in the day, allowing passengers three and a half hours on shore at Boulogne. She will repeat the same trip every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday during the season, whilst on Tuesdays she will run to Margate and Ostend and back, and on Sundays to Southend, Margate, and back.