

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;
HON. JAMES HOZIER, M.W. GRAND MASTER OF SCOTLAND; AND THE GRAND MASTERS
OF MANY FOREIGN GRAND LODGES.

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WITHDRAWAL FROM FESTIVAL STEWARDSHIP.

Most of our readers are able to form a tolerably fair idea of the labours devolving on the Secretaries of our Institutions in connection with one of their most important duties—that of organising the Boards of Stewards for successive Anniversary Festivals. They need only to glance from time to time at the reports of provincial and private lodge and chapter meetings, which are published in our columns, and they will become aware that, during the period which commences some time in September, when the lodges are beginning to resume their labours after the mid-summer holidays, and the end of the following June or thereabouts, when the Festival campaign is over, these brethren are to be met with here, there, and everywhere, soliciting support for the Charities they respectively represent, or expressing thanks for support already given. We imagine there are few who envy them the discharge of these duties, however much they may in time become reconciled to it by the hearty welcome they are certain to meet with, and the success which sooner or later invariably attends their advocacy. They, of course, enjoy opportunities which are not given to people who are less ubiquitous than themselves of renewing old acquaintances and forming new ones, which in time, perhaps, may ripen into lifelong friendships. They not only enjoy a large amount of personal popularity, but they are looked up to as the representatives of Institutions which are beloved of all loyal English Craftsmen. Unfortunately, the personal and official popularity these hearty welcomes everywhere indicate form only one side of the picture and the other side is by no means so attractive. This constant journeying from London to all parts of the country, after the duties of the office have been arranged for, at all seasons of the year and in all weathers, involves no small amount of bodily fatigue and not unfrequently of personal discomfort, so that many of us are inclined to wonder how these brethren can be constantly fulfilling their arduous duties and as constantly come up smiling when they are done.

But exacting as is this part of the duty which annually falls to the lot of these brethren, it is a hundredfold less exacting than the task which meets a Secretary when the day appointed for a particular Festival is fast approaching, and he finds himself under the disagreeable necessity of attempting to please everybody. Till then everything has gone smoothly enough. His appeals for support on behalf of the Institution he represents have been listened to favourably, and the Board of Stewards is

a fairly numerous one and pretty impartially distributed between town and country, the representatives of the latter at the same time hailing from a goodly proportion of the Provinces. It may be, indeed, that the responses to his appeal have met with more than the average amount of success, and that, as at the recent Benevolent Festival, a larger Board of Stewards has been obtained than at any previous Festival, the Jubilee and Centenary Festivals alone excepted. Nothing, in fact, remains to be done beyond arranging for the celebration in the Hall that has been chosen, and as the Stewards have been requested by special circular to send in their names for seats a clear fortnight before the day appointed, it might reasonably be supposed that this remaining part of the work of preparation would be carried out with comparative ease. Unfortunately, it is the reverse of the case. It is now that all the worry and trouble begin. Brethren who have had their names on the Board almost from the very beginning intimate their intention of withdrawing. It was for one of the other Institutions, they write, or for the next or another year, they proposed to serve, and all the Secretary can do is to accept the apology, and strike the names from the list. If the brethren are Unattached, no great harm is done; it means the loss of some Stewards and their personal donations, but nothing more. If, however, one has undertaken to represent a lodge or chapter, the withdrawal is harmful, for the Secretary has little or no time in which to enlist the services of another brother and the lodge or chapter from which he looked to obtain contributions goes unrepresented. But the chief trouble is connected with the allotment of seats. We have said that a circular is issued in which a day is fixed for the return of those who intend being present at the celebration and the Secretary may consider himself fortunate if one half of the Board return the stamped postcard which has been forwarded to each for the purpose. In the case of the recent Benevolent Festival, the limit fixed for the return was 13th February—the day appointed for the Festival being the 27th of that month—and brethren were not only requested to furnish the desired information by the day stated “to enable the Board of Stewards to ballot for seats at the Tables on the day of the Festival,” but they were also cautioned in a footnote, that “should the postcard not be returned, it will be taken that you will NOT REQUIRE ANY SEATS BE RESERVED.” When the seats are at length allotted, the unfortunate Secretary's troubles and anxiety are increased and intensified, those who cause the greatest amount of worry being, in the majority of cases, the very Stewards who have omitted to send in their return and who lose no time in making known to him their dissatisfaction with the seats assigned to them. They seem to ignore the fact that it is not in the power of a Secretary to enlarge the dimensions of a hall at will, so that it may be made to accommodate 200, 400, or 600, as circumstances may render necessary; and that if, as was the case last month, the Hall was not large enough to accommodate intending diners, overflow meetings must be arranged, so that space and a dinner may be found for everybody. The result is that occasionally further withdrawals take place, because some, who have not troubled themselves to do what they have been asked, are not pleased with the seats arranged for them in the Hall itself, and because it has been found necessary to relegate them to one of the overflow rooms.

No doubt these petty troubles will be renewed year by year, so long as Anniversary Festivals continue to be held, and in the

long run, perhaps, no great amount of harm is done to the interests of our Institutions. What, however, we do most seriously exclaim against is not only the withdrawal by a Steward from his Stewardship, which, even to the very last moment, he may be strictly entitled to do, but that he should likewise take upon himself to withdraw the list of subscriptions he has succeeded in compiling for the Institution. He may withdraw himself from the Stewardship, and cancel his own intended donation, but we do not see that he is justified in cancelling the donations made and promised by others, and it may be by the body he undertook to represent. These were not made or promised to him personally, but to the Institution he thought of serving; and yet there are several cases of this kind happening every now and then. In our opinion a Steward who does this exceeds his powers.

MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE.

II.—THE GRAND LODGE.

[COMMUNICATED.]

We will now turn from the Grand Master to Grand Lodge, and discuss its prerogatives and privileges. It is not our province to discuss its history, and the only such reference that need be made, is that all historic rights and privileges have been preserved, and at no time in history has that august body been more firmly consolidated than it is at this moment. Its decisions are not only unhesitatingly accepted by those under its jurisdiction, but are looked for with interest and quoted as good law, even by those who preside over foreign jurisdictions.

We may premise that a considerable number of the functions of Grand Lodge are delegated to the Board of General Purposes, a body to which we shall allude hereafter.

Grand Lodge is most interesting to the ordinary Freemason, as being the final court of appeal. It is within the right of any brother "who feels aggrieved by the decision of a Provincial or District Grand Master, a District Grand Lodge or of any Board or Committee" (Article 217), to appeal or argue his cause in person before Grand Lodge.

The absence of any specific mention of Provincial Grand Lodge from the Article quoted may strike the reader, but the truth is that a Provincial Grand Lodge has few, if any, executive powers, against the misuse of which there is ever likely to be any occasion to appeal, whereas a District Grand Lodge can both erase lodges and expel brethren (Article 106). When it is considered how easy it is to appeal it is surprising that there should be so few. Absolutely no cost is entailed, and the procedure (Article 217) is simplicity itself. The fact speaks volumes for the tact and wisdom of the subordinate rulers, and for the loyalty and good feeling of the rank and file. The great majority of dissatisfied brethren appear to be content when they have received an "opinion," one way or another, from some brother of eminence in their own lodge or within their own immediate Masonic circle. Every brother who reads these lines will at once be able to recall the old Past Master to whom he instinctively turns when needing Masonic advice. Most of the members of the lodge have, possibly, not read the Book of Constitutions, whereas the P.M. in question has, and thus acquires a reputation as the Solon of the lodge.

Again, the Grand Secretary and the Grand Registrar between them are unofficially consulted in many cases that would otherwise engage the attention of Grand Lodge, and are always glad to elucidate some knotty point of Masonic law or give advice upon disputed points of discipline. The opinions thus given are not, of course, law in the same sense that an actual decision of Grand Lodge is, but he would be an extremely litigious and sanguine brother who tried to get behind an opinion of the two officers named.

Too much praise cannot be given to them for the patient care and attention they bestow on the very voluminous correspondence which generally accompanies an appeal. Grand Lodge appreciates it, as may be gathered from the fact that the Grand Registrar's exposition and summary of the facts and his statement of the law are, almost in every case, acted upon. In the rare case of Grand Lodge choosing its own path in opposition to the Grand Registrar, it has usually been in the direction of allowing mercy to prevail over justice.

We will consider Grand Lodge first of all as to its constitution, and then as regards its legislative and executive powers.

Article 4 claims for Grand Lodge a tolerably extensive prerogative, but it must be remembered that Grand Lodge is the author of Article 4, and, moreover, it concludes with the significant expression "always taking care that the ancient Landmarks

be preserved." Reduced to plain English, this saving clause might be paraphrased thus, "always taking care that the prerogative of the Grand Master be not infringed."

As we have pointed out in a previous article, no one knows exactly where the prerogative in question begins and where it ends. An analogy exists in our monarchical constitution where legislation may take the form of an act of Crown, Lords, and Commons—or may be by Royal Warrant or by virtue of an order in Council.

Happily, the necessity for exact definition does not exist. As already pointed out, there are many executive functions conceded to the prerogative, and its exercise in these matters is admitted without question, and discussion or anything further may be left till occasion arises.

Grand Lodge consists of nominees of the Grand Master and an elective element, or rather a representative one. The latter is by far the stronger. There are approximately 2000 lodges on the register—excluding those erased—and these send up 6000 delegates. Adding the Past Masters, say an average of three to each lodge, we find the non-official element comprises 12,000 members, whereas at the close of last year there were living only 582 officers, past and present, of Grand Lodge, or a proportion say of 5 per cent.

Modest as this proportion of the nominated members, Grand Lodge views with jealous care any proposal to add to it by the creation of new offices, witness its attitude towards the proposal some few years ago to create a "Grand Chancellor" as the principal legal adviser. Grand Lodge, however, does not control appointments to past rank. Article 7 deals with appointments to both present and past rank, and it reserves to itself the right to make such "by vote duly confirmed," in addition to the right possessed by the Grand Master. The right to degrade any officer is expressly reserved to Grand Lodge by Article 24, which entrusts the initiative to the Grand Master, but the actual decision to Grand Lodge. Instances of degradation are of the rarest possible occurrence, the latest one which occurs to the writer's recollection being the case of Bro. Sir Robert Stout, a New Zealand brother, who received past rank in 1887. He was concerned in the establishment in the Colony of a lodge working under the Grand Orient of France. The fact that that body was out of the pale of Masonic recognition came up in the course of argument on the subject, but an act of invasion does not necessarily depend upon the character of the invaded. That the Grand Orient was concerned was, however, quite sufficient for the majority of those who voted on the subject, and Bro. Stout was accordingly deposed. His defence was ingenious. He contended that the Grand Orient being [declared to be a non-Masonic body, had nothing more to do with the Grand Lodge of England than a lodge of Good Templars. It was, however, pointed out that the latter body had never engaged the attention of Grand Lodge, whereas the former had. It might have assisted the accused brother had he thought of it, to have quoted a decision of Grand Lodge, dated June, 1872, of which the preamble ran: "That while this Grand Lodge recognises the private right of every brother to belong to any extraneous Masonic organisation he may choose . . ."

The decision then went on to specify some of the extraneous Masonic organisations in the following terms:

"The spurious Orders of Rome and Constantine, the schismatic body styling itself the Grand Mark Lodge of England . . ."

"Invasion" has always been a tender subject with Grand Lodge. Though not laid down anywhere, the principle has always been acted upon that invasions by the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland are to be regarded as different from invasions by other foreign Grand Lodges. In the terms under which recognition is accorded to the several Grand Lodges into which our Colonies have from time to time formed themselves the limits of territorial jurisdiction have always been carefully laid down. Within the limits of the United Kingdom English, Scotch, and Irish lodges keep to their own ground, but in the Districts it would be hard to say whose property the territory is, and so the three Constitutions named work harmoniously side by side. As a matter of courtesy, the last comer seeks permission from the Constitutions already in possession, which is, of course, never refused.

The jurisdiction of Grand Lodge extends over every lodge in the world working under an English warrant, whether geographically situated in the midst of an alien jurisdiction or not. Special legislation has had to be provided of late years to deal with the growing demand for autonomy. We shall later examine the procedure under which such questions may be legitimately discussed. But when it has been granted, the rights of those lodges which desire to retain their connection with the Grand Lodge of England are always most jealously preserved. Thus

in Canada there are three lodges, numbered 374, 440, and 640, meeting at Montreal, and Lodge Combermere still meets in the very heart of the Victorian Constitution, whilst the Cambrian Lodge, No. 656, has triumphed over all its enemies, and meets under a warrant which has been the subject of the most interesting chemical experiment ever sanctioned by the authorities. A number of English lodges meet in New Zealand, but it will not be surprising if in course of time they became absorbed into the local Grand Lodge. The latter are still subject, in the first instance, to District Grand Lodges, but those first-named, together with 52 other lodges in various parts of the world, make their returns direct to the Grand Secretary.

With these few prefatory remarks, we shall next discuss the legislative and executive functions of the Grand Lodge and the Board.

MASONIC JOTTINGS DURING THE SIEGE OF LADYSMITH.

- Oct. 26th.—Dundee Column arrived safely.
 Oct. 28th.—Boers cut off water supply.
 Oct. 30th.—Boers began to shell the town.
 Nov. 2nd.—Boers cut telegraph and railway lines.
 Nov. 9th.—Royal salute of 21 guns fired with live shell, in honour of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's birthday.
 Nov. 20th.—Klip River County Lodge, No. 2401.
 Nov. 25th.—Ladysmith Lodge of M.M.M., No. 528.
 Nov. 29th.—Klip River County Lodge, No. 2401.
 Nov. 30th.—Bro. Jones "At Home."
 Dec. 4th.—Ladysmith Lodge of M.M.M., No. 528. — Regular Meeting.
 Dec. 18th.—Klip River County Lodge, No. 2401.—Regular Meeting.
 Dec. 23rd.—Ladysmith Lodge of M.M.M., No. 528.
 Jan. 22nd.—Klip River County Lodge, No. 2401.—Regular Meeting.— No meeting; no room available.
 Feb. 19th.—Klip River County Lodge, No. 2401.—Regular Meeting.
 Mar. 5th.—Ladysmith Lodge of M.M.M., No. 528. — Regular Meeting.
 Relieved February 28th.

The Klip River County Lodge, No. 2401, met at Ladysmith on Monday, the 20th November, 1899, being the 29th day of the siege. The attendance was not so large as was anticipated, owing, no doubt, to many brethren being absent on "outpost duty," and to the fact that the town had been heavily shelled by the Boers just previous to the meeting. Amongst those present were W. Bro. Capt. G. Hearn, P.M., P.G.S.B. of England, in the chair; Bros. R. King, J.W.; Dr. Rouillard, S.D.; Burrow, J.D.; C. J. Jones, I.G.; and C. Lewis, Tyler. Amongst the visitors were the following brethren: Bros. Lieut. Waters, S.D. Natalia Lodge, No. 1665; J. Wallace Bradley, S.W. Addington Lodge, No. 1937; John Gorton, Transvaal Lodge, No. 1747; Stanley W. Sutton, S.V. Prince Alfred Lodge, No. 956; W. Udal, St. Cuthberga Lodge, No. 622; and F. A. Barrett, St. Andrew's in the East Lodge, No. 702 (S.C.). Mr. Thomas Cairns was duly elected for initiation, but was unavoidably prevented from being present. A vote of condolence was passed to the parents of the late Bro. Hendley, who was killed at the engagement at Eland's Laagte, and also a vote of sympathy to Bro. A. C. McLachlan (Lieutenant 13th Hussars), who was severely wounded at the Battle of Talana Hill on the 20th October. "Hearty good wishes" were given by the visiting brethren, and the brethren having sung the National Anthem, the lodge was closed.

An emergency meeting of the Ladysmith Lodge of M.M.M., No. 528, was held on Saturday, the 25th day of November (the 27th day of the siege), for the purpose of advancing two candidates—Bro. Butler, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly, Maritzburg, and Bro. W. Udal, of Cape Town. The W.M., W. Bro. Capt. G. Hearn, P.A.G.D. of C., presided, and was supported by Bros. R. King, as S.W.; T. Wallace Bradley, Dist. G. Sec., as J.W.; C. J. Jones, T. B. Surgeson, C. Lewis, H. R. Burrow, Military Lodge, No. 54; J. S. Dunn, of Johannesburg, Love and Honour Lodge; and others. The candidates were duly "advanced," and there being no other business, the lodge was closed.

On Wednesday, the 29th November, an emergency meeting of the Klip River County Lodge, No. 2401, took place at Ladysmith. The lodge rooms having been taken over by the Military, Bro. C. J. Jones, the landlord of the Royal Hotel, kindly placed his premises at the disposal of the brethren, and here amongst the devastation caused by Boer shells—no less than five 6-inch shells have struck the hotel, and unhappily on one occasion killing one of the visitors—took place one of the most unique proceedings in the annals of Modern Masonry, viz., the initiation of a gentleman aged 55 into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry on the 31st day of the siege, in the presence of about 50 brethren, nearly all of whom were wearing the uniform of her Gracious Majesty the Queen. W. Bro. T. Clegg presided, and was supported by W. Bro. Capt. G. Hearn, P.G.S.B. of Eng.; Bros. R. King, W. H. Miller, C. J. Jones, H. R. Burrow, Ronald Bailie, J. Fleming, C. Lewis, and the Rev. Duncan McVarish, and among the visitors were Bros. T. C. Dunn, Love and Honour Lodge, No. 73; O. Davis, Newcastle Lodge, No. 578; W. Udal, St. Cuthberga Lodge, No. 602; Capt. Lang Sims, Goodwill Lodge, No. 711; F. J. Greenwood, Bute Lodge, No. 960; J. Gillman and E. Button, Prince Alfred Lodge, No. 956; F. Davenport, Royal Edward Lodge, No. 892; Major Pitchford Butler, F. G. Waters, S.D., and Dr. Buntine, Natalia Lodge, No. 1665; E. J. W. Ashe, Capt. A. Hair, and G. W. Neveill, Skelmersdale Lodge, No. 1729; J. Wallace Bradley, S.W. Addington Lodge, No. 1937; J. R. Gorton, Transvaal Lodge, No. 2313; A. J. Knox, I.P.M., Capt. Ritchie, S.W., D. Brown, jun., and S. A. Brown, Duguza Lodge, No.

2461; C. J. Wilson, P.M. Biggarsberg Unity Lodge, No. 2084; F. E. Foxon, S.W. Ixopo Lodge, No. 2515; Major C. Savile, Royal Artillery, St. John and St. Paul Lodge, No. 349; McClellan, I.G. Umbazi; and the following brethren of lodges under the Scotch Constitution—Bros. Capt. Sparks, Rothsay Lodge, No. 712; Capt. A. Lyle, P.M. St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 701; Laing and W. Chalmers, Douglas Lodge, No. 799. The lodge having been opened, the W.M. in the chair gave a hearty greeting to the visitors, and said how pleased the Klip River County Lodge were to see so many visitors present, not only was nearly every lodge in the district represented, but lodges from all parts of the world. The ceremony of initiation having been most impressively performed, "Hearty good wishes" being tendered by the visiting brethren, the lodge was closed, "God save the Queen" having been sung, thus bringing to a close a meeting that is not likely to be forgotten by those brethren who had the good fortune to be present.

Bro. C. J. Jones, mine host of the Royal Hotel, celebrated his birthday on Thursday, November 30th, St. Andrew's Day, by inviting his Masonic friends and several laymen to an "at home." Liquor of any sort in Ladysmith is now at a premium, and in fact money will not procure it, however Bro. Jones had managed to save sufficient champagne, brandy, and beer from Boer shell to entertain all his friends, and needless to say there were a goodly number present. Alas there was no whisky, and as one poor forlorn gentleman hailing from North of the Tweed, remarked, how was he to make a speech and drink a toast on St. Andrew's Day on a brandy and soda; but strange to relate he managed to do both. "The Queen" having been drunk, Bro. Jones' toast was given with Highland honours. Several excellent songs were sung between the toasts, a piper of the Gordon Highlanders being in attendance. Early hours being the order of the day. "Auld Lang Syne" was sung at 9.30.

On November 8th, a telegram was sent by Bro. Sir George White, V.C., G.C.B. (by carrier pigeon to Maritzburg), to the M.W. the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, wishing him many happy returns of his birthday, and informing him, that punctually at noon the next day, a Royal salute of 21 guns would be fired with "live shell" into the Boer lines. This was accordingly done by the Naval Brigade, and must have somewhat astonished our friends, the Boers. At the termination of the salute, three cheers were given by Captain the Honble. — Lambton, R.N., commanding the Naval Brigade, which was carried on by the troops right round the heights; a really unique experience in Royal salutes. On November 18th, was received, by native runner, the following telegram: "Sandringham, Many thanks congratulations, wish you all success. Albert Edward."

Under somewhat unusual circumstances, the newly-formed Ladysmith Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 528, held its regular meeting on Monday, the 4th day of December, 1899, being the 36th day of the siege. The Masonic Hall having been taken over by the Military authorities, Bro. Jones again placed his hotel—the Royal—at the disposal of the brethren, or to be more accurate, all the hotel that Boer shell had left standing. In consequence of an order issued by Bro. Sir George White, V.C., G.C.B., commanding the troops, that all inhabitants be in their houses and all lights extinguished by 8.30 p.m., the meeting was called for 7 p.m.; but owing to exigencies of the service, it was nearly 7.30 before most of the brethren arrived. The chair was taken by the W.M., W. Bro. Capt. G. Hearn, P.M., P.A.G.D. of Cer., who was supported by W. Bro. J. Wallace Bradley, Dist. G. Sec.; Bros. R. King, Dr. Rouillard, W. Udal, C. Lewis, C. J. Jones, W. H. Miller, and P. J. H. Butler, and amongst the visitors were Bros. Jno. Gillman, Dist. G. Supt. of Works, Treas. Natalia Lodge, No. 252; Bro. Capt. Ashe, Thistle Mark Lodge (S.C.); Major Savile, Royal Artillery, Keystone Lodge, No. 107, Malta; Major Whickham (Indian Staff Corps), and Wickham (Indian Ordnance), of Malet and Chisel Lodge, No. 134, Poona; and others. Bros. O. Davis, of Ingogo, T. J. Greenwood, of Johannesburg, S. W. Sutton, of Maritzburg, were duly elected, and had the honour of being "advanced" to the Honble. Degree of M.M.M., under circumstances peculiar, to say the least of it, "since the formation of the Order, etc.," and the ordinary routine work of the lodge was completed ere the "curfew bell" began to ring.

The second regular meeting, since the commencement of the siege of Ladysmith, took place at the Royal Hotel, on Monday, the 18th December. W. Bro. G. Clegg, P.M., took the chair, and was supported by the following members of the lodge: W. Bro. Capt. G. Hearn, P.M., P.G.S.B. of Eng.; Bros. R. King, Wm. Miller, C. J. Jones, A. G. Smith, H. R. Burrow, J. F. Fleming, and Chas. Lewis. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Lieut. J. H. Lang Sims, Goodwill Lodge, No. 711; Captain Waterman (5th Lancers), P.M., P.D.G.D. of C. Bengal; P. J. H. Butler, E. W. Wodehouse and Major Pickford, Dist. G. Org., Natalia Lodge, No. 1665; Capt. E. Lucas, P.M. Carnarvon Lodge, No. 1648; Capt. A. Hair, Skelmersdale Lodge, No. 1729; J. R. Gorton, Transvaal Lodge, No. 1747; Commander Tatum (Natal Naval Volunteers), and J. Wallace Bradley, S.W. Addington Lodge, No. 1937; J. A. McClellan, Umlazi Lodge, No. 1937; A. F. Wickham, P.M. Malwa Lodge, No. 1994; L. H. S. Jones, P.M., and O. Davis, Newcastle Lodge; A. M. Holloway, Johannesburg Lodge, No. 2313; Major Whickham, P.M. Quetta, No. 2333; Dr. A. W. Hornabrook, Corona Lodge, No. 2731; Capt. Foxon, S.W. Ixopo Lodge, No. 2515; Squadron-Sergt.-Major Hurst, 5th Dragoon Guards, (Charity) Lodge, No. 570, Irish Constitution; Captain Currie, Depute Master; and W. T. Rochester, St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 701, S.C. The lodge having been opened, and the minutes read and confirmed, the W.M. feelingly alluded to the sad occurrence that had happened early that morning, viz., the bursting of a 6-in. Boer shell in the lines of the Natal Carabineers, whilst the men were "at stables," killing five of them and wounding six, 12 horses were also killed. A vote of condolence was passed to the relatives of the late Bro. Miller, Innisfail Lodge, No. 58, Manitoba, and of sympathy to Bro. Gillam, who was severely wounded. The ballot was then taken for Mr. Reid, of Ladysmith, and he was duly inducted into the mysteries of Freemasonry. Bro. Lieut. Lang Sims, Volunteer Staff Officer, and Lieut. Hornabrook, Volunteer Medical Staff, were then passed to the Second Degree. The Rev. Duncan McVarish, who should also have been "passed," having to read the funeral service over the men who had been killed that morning, was consequently unable to be present. Bro. Major-General Sir Archibald Hunter, D.S.O., K.C.B., Chief of the Staff, and several other brethren sent letters of apology for not being able to be present. The lodge was subsequently closed. "Hearty good wishes" having been given by the various visiting brethren, and the brethren having sung the National Anthem.

An emergency meeting of the Ladysmith Lodge of M.M.M., No. 528, was held on Saturday, the 23rd December, being the 54th day of the siege. W. Bro. Capt. G. Hearn, P.M., P.A.G.D. of Cer., W.M., presided, and was supported by the following members of the lodge: Bros. J. Wallace Bradley, Dist. G. Secretary; Dr. Rouillard, Robert King, J. B. Surgeson, Chas. Lewis, S. W. Sutton, W. H. Miller, W. Udal, O. Davis, and the following visitors: Bros. Jno. Gillman, Natalia Lodge, No. 252, Dist. G.I. of Wks.; Major St. Clair Savile, (R.A.), Ramsay Lodge (Malta), No. 248; A. F. Wickham, Mallet and Chisel Lodge (Poona), No. 134; J. S. Dunn, Love and Honour Lodge, No. 94; and Captains Lyle and Currie, Thistle Lodge, No. 269 (S.C.). Bros. Alec Maurice Holloway, M.M. of the Johannesburg Lodge, No. 2313, and A. McClellan, Umlazi Lodge, No. 1976, were duly elected, and advanced to the Degree of a M.M.M. Letters of apology were read from several brethren for non-attendance. The W.M. said he had to announce, with great regret, that since the last meeting the Boers had managed to put a shell into the new Masonic Temple they were building, which had caused considerable damage. There being no other business the lodge was closed, the brethren singing the National Anthem.

It was found impossible to hold the regular meeting of the Klip River County Lodge in January, as the Royal Hotel had been taken over by the military. The February regular meeting was held in the usual place of meeting, viz., the old Wesleyan Chapel, on the 19th February, being the 113th day of the siege. The attendance was not so numerous as on previous occasions, owing to the great number of brethren who were on the sick list. W. Bro. Capt. Hearn, P.M., P.G.S.B. Eng., presided, being supported by Bros. King, W. H. Miller, Chas. Lewis, H. R. Burrow Ward, A. G. Smith, F. Reid, and Thos. Cairns. Amongst the visitors were Bros. Captain Waterman, 5th Lancers, P.M., H. Tatham, Major Watkins Pikford, and Lieut. Walters, of the Natalia Lodge, No. 1665; Thos. Langton, Prince Alfred Lodge, No. 756; J. Wallace Bradley, Addington Lodge, No. 1937; W. Bro. Chas. Wilson and W. G. Wilton, Biggarsberg Unity, No. 2084; P. Sharpe, St. Fergus, No. 466 (S.C.); A. Thomas, Victoria, No. 832; J. Maley, Malwa, No. 139; M. H. Tyler, Quetta, No. 2333; J. Tocher, P.M. Mayo, No. 1406; J. Moore, Bangalore, No. 1043; F. E. Foxon, Ixopo, No. 2515; Jno. Adams, Aldershot Camp, No. 1331; and others. The lodge having been opened, and some routine work completed, the W.M. in the chair said he would ask W. Bro. Captain Waterman to take his place, as he had to return to camp on duty. W. Bro. Captain Waterman then passed Bros. the Rev. D. McVarish, Thos. Cairns, and F. Reid. W. Bro. Surgeon J. Tocher then took the chair, and raised Bro. Lieut. Lang-Sims to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. Several candidates having been proposed, the lodge was closed, the National Anthem having been sung, and every brother sincerely wishing that this was the last lodge meeting during the siege of Ladysmith.

CONSECRATION OF THE ELMETE LODGE OF ROYAL ARK MARINERS AT LEEDS.

Following closely upon the formation of the new Mark lodge at Haworth in West Yorkshire, we now chronicle the consecration of the Elmete Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners at Leeds. The Degrees associated with the Mark naturally advance *pari passu* with it, and the condition of matters at the present moment in this relation stands forth in startling contrast to that which was exhibited only a few years ago. In West Yorkshire there are now four flourishing Ark Mariner lodges, whilst the Allied Degrees, having two organisations, are making very satisfactory progress. It is possible there may be differences of opinion as to the use or value of these so-called side Degrees, and their origin may, and sometimes doubtless is, challenged, but there can be no question as to their increasing popularity. The Elmete Lodge has sprung from the Copley Mark Lodge, No. 111, but hopes to draw members from the sister lodge, St. Chad, 374, also in Leeds, and from the neighbouring towns of Wakefield, Castleford, Dewsbury, and Batley.

The consecration of the new lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, Carlton Hill, on Wednesday, the 21st instant, and was very well attended. The founders were seven in number, comprising the R.W. Prov. G. Mark Master, Bro. C. Letch Mason; his Deputy, Bro. John Barker; and Bros. B. Sykes Bailey, P.M., R. J. Smith, P.M., T. A. Withey, F. Hinchliffe, and C. Grosvenor.

Amongst other brethren present were Bros. J. Leech Atherton, P.C.N.; G. H. Parke, Member of Council; T. Norfolk, C.N.; Joseph Mathewman, Prov. G. Sec.; T. G. Howell, C.N. elect; A. J. Terry, W. S. Milligan, Joseph Smith, and George Whitaker.

Previous to the consecration a lodge was opened by dispensation for the purpose of elevating a number of candidates who were wishful to become members. There were 17 names on the circular, and of these 11 were in attendance. The ceremony was conducted by Bro. J. L. Atherton as W.C.N., Bro. B. S. Bailey taking the chair of J., and Bro. R. J. Smith that of S. Bros. A. J. Terry and T. G. Howell acted as Deacons, and Bro. G. Whitaker took the post of Guardian. The candidates were Bros. W. Flockton, W.M.; J. E. Cawthorn, J.O.; Geo. Tooley, S.D.; R. Tasker, J.D.; H. Appleyard, and F. T. Wheeler, all of Copley, No. 111; W. W. Clayton, P.M.; M. A. Brigg, P.M.; and J. W. Smith, S.W., St. Chad, No. 374; and G. H. Schofield, P.M., and A. G. Mabin, P.M., Legiolium, No. 457, Castleford.

Notwithstanding the number of candidates, the ceremony was conducted with the reverence and decorum which the language of this beautiful Degree demands, and Bro. Atherton and his officers discharged their duties most efficiently.

With seven founders and the 11 newly elevated brethren, the Elmete Lodge had a membership of 18, and the Prov. Grand Master at once proceeded to consecrate it. He was most ably assisted by Bro. J. Leech Atherton, who acted as Chaplain, and Bro. Thos. Norfolk, who efficiently discharged the duty of D. of Ceres. The usual perambulations were made, the bearers of the corn, wine, oil, and salt, being Bros. G. H. Parke, A. J. Terry, T. G. Howell, and W. S. Milligan.

After solemnly dedicating and constituting the lodge, the PROV. GRAND MASTER made a few observations to the brethren. He took occasion to remind them how little is known as to the history and origin of Freemasonry. "Freemasonry," continued Bro. Mason, "traditionally goes back to the earliest ages, is associated with the very dawn of civilisation, is the fountain of light or knowledge, and is professedly traced in the mysteries or religious ceremonies of the Egyptians, Tyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, and early Christians. Traditionally and with some show of historical probability, it claims all this, but when it comes to evidence; when we examine facts, search old documents and, discarding romantic theories, apply the light of reason and common sense we are forced to the conclusion that there is no historical evidence that Freemasonry as a society existed previous to, say, the 14th century. If this is so with regard to what we commonly call the Craft, what can be said for the Royal Arch, the Mark, the Royal Ark Mariners, and the Allied Degrees? All, it seems to me, date their commencement from (at the earliest) 1740. Even the Royal Arch, so far as the latest researches go, cannot show an origin or an existence even previous to that time. But it may be said 'has tradition no value?' According to the Grand Lodge Calendar St. Alban formed a lodge in Britain in A.D. 287; King Athelstan granted the Freemasons a charter in 926, and a Grand Lodge was formed at York, under Prince Edwin, in that same year. This is tradition. Take it for what it is worth. Many instances of extraordinary traditional stories might be culled from Rabbinical and other writers, but *cui bono?* Traditions they are, and traditions they must apparently remain. And so with much of our Freemasonry: we must accept the fact that it is largely founded on tradition. But need we reject it on that account? By no means. Let the origin be what it may, the definition as an ethical system is maintained—it is a peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols; it teaches the common humanity of man and inculcates that excellent gift of Charity which thinketh no evil. Brethren, we have all of us I do not doubt, been impressed by the sublime language and sublimer teachings which are found in our Masonic ceremonies. When you become better acquainted with this Degree you will, I think, bear me out, that its lessons are beautiful, and the words in which they are conveyed are in the highest degree poetical and soul-inspiring. We will not then inquire too closely into the history of those Degrees other than the Craft. They exist; and we accept them, and depend upon it, we may profit greatly by carrying out their principles. The Royal Ark Mariners Degree is worked and organised by the Grand Mark Lodge of England, and each Royal Ark Mariners lodge must be attached to or affiliated with some lodge of the Mark Degree. To be a Royal Ark Mariner you must first be a Mark Mason. This is a *sine qua non*, the reason for which is not quite clear. Like many other things in relation to the Degree, it is left to conjecture. If some explanation of subjects like these, and an authoritative statement of the history of the formation—or shall I say revival?—of this Degree were put forth, I do not doubt it would be eagerly sought and read. Until comparatively recently there was only one Royal Ark Mariners lodge in West Yorkshire—at Sheffield. Some few years ago I consecrated one at Halifax and another, which was attached to the *Old York Lodge* at Bradford. This last, like its parent lodge, has flourished exceedingly, and I have no hesitation in saying that largely to the success and enthusiasm of the Bradford Ark Mariners has the formation of the *Elmete Lodge* resulted. And that brings me to the name, which again presents difficulties. There is much that is traditional about the so-called kingdom or district of Elmete. We have, however, names existing to-day with which the word is associated, as Loidis in Elmete, Barwick in Elmete, Sherburn in Elmete, and doubtless others; but when we inquire into particulars of Elmete we find them scanty indeed. The version of its history which is flattering to Leeds, but the authenticity of which I do not vouch for, is that Elmete was a district which may be roughly described as the valley of the Aire from Bingley to its junction with the Ouse: that at the time when the blue-eyed Saxons ravaged the land, driving into the mountain fastnesses the ill-fated Britons, Elmete for years maintained its independence, was ruled by its own king, and, what is more, maintained its Christian religion. The capital of this district was Loidis, or Leeds, and this independence lasted until the days of Athelstan. Barwick in Elmete, according to Dr. Whitaker, was the seat of the Northumbrian kings, founded as such probably after the conquest by the great Edwin himself, to whom, according to Masonic tradition, King Athelstan granted a Masonic charter. At Sherburn in Elmete Athelstan is said to have had a palace, but with Leeds there appears to be no existing association either with the Saxon kings or with the still earlier British rulers. The invasion and gradual spread of the Saxons commenced about 450 A.D., and continued more or less for 150 years. During this period, according to the version alluded to, Elmete continued independent, and whilst the heathen marauders pulled down churches, burnt monasteries, and generally played havoc with the Christian religion, Elmete maintained its worship and protected its sacred shrines. This happy condition of affairs must have continued much longer, for Athelstan's period does not commence until some 300 years later. This is a pleasant story, but difficult to substantiate. Like many matters in Freemasonry, it, too, must be taken for what it is worth. But that there was a district called Elmete, and probably a town or fort in it called Loidis, there seems no reason to disbelieve. Whether the Loidis of old stood on the site of the Leeds of to-day is a matter for conjecture. Let us, however, give ourselves the benefit of the doubt; let us believe that Leeds in those far-away days upheld the Cross of Christ when all around was Pagan darkness, and let us keep alive the name of the district which is said for years to have maintained itself a peaceful oasis in a desert of crime and bloodshed. As peace, love, and harmony ever should be characteristic of Masonic communities, so I think Elmete should ever remind us that we are expected to maintain that brotherly intercourse and that freedom from strife and dissension which must have prevailed in the old British kingdom bearing that ancient name."

The next business was the installation of the first W.C.N. of the new lodge. Bro. C. Letch Mason having intimated his willingness to accept the position, the brethren eagerly took advantage of his offer. Bro. Atherton, as Installing Master, at once took the chair, the W.C.N. designate being presented by Bro. G. H. Parke. Bro. Mason being a P.W.C.N., the ceremony was of the briefest, and, in a few hearty and well-chosen words, Bro. Atherton placed Bro. Mason in the chair of N., wishing him every prosperity. Bro. Mason was then proclaimed and saluted.

Bro. J. W. Smith was unanimously elected Treasurer. The officers for the year were appointed and invested as follows: Bros. B. S. Bailey, J.; Robert J. Smith, S.; the Rev. T. C. Smyth, D.D., P.C.N., Chap.; J. W. Smith, Treas.; T. A. Withey, Scribe; Alfred J. Terry, S.D.; Wm.

Flockton, J.D.; W. W. Clayton, D. of C.; G. H. Schofield, Guardian; J. Elston Cawthorn, Steward; and T. F. Wheeler, Warder. Bro. T. C. Smythe, D.D., was unable to be present.

After a hearty vote of thanks, proposed from the chair, and carried by acclamation, to Bros Atherton, Norfolk, Whitaker, and others, who had given the *Elmete* brethren such able and valuable assistance during the evening, the lodge was closed.

The usual Masonic dinner and regulation toasts, &c., followed, and the brethren separated after a most agreeable evening.

Scotland.

GLASGOW PRINCE ROSE CROIX CHAPTER, No 11.

The annual meeting was held at the Masonic Hall, Glasgow, on Tuesday, the 20th inst., Comp. Major F. W. Allan, M.W.S., presiding, when two aspirants were admitted members of the Order. Election of office bearers for ensuing year took place, Comp. Allan being re-elected for another year.

There was a good attendance, among the visitors being Comps. L. Mackersy, J. T. Stewart, and Sir James Buchanan, Bart., of the 33rd Supreme Council of Scotland.

The M.W.S. presented to the chapter a handsome loving cup, salver, and salt cellar.

After the ceremony, the companions dined in the Windsor Hotel, the M.W.S. presiding, and Comp. J. Dalrymple Duncan, P.M.W.S., Croupier.

LADIES' NIGHT OF THE VICTORIA LODGE, No. 2671.

The second annual event of this description in connection with the above lodge took place at the White Hart Hotel, Windsor, on Saturday, the 17th inst., after a regular meeting of the lodge at the Masonic Hall.

The brethren and their visitors, to the number of 75 (36 ladies and 39 gentlemen), assembled in the Shakespeare Room of the hotel, and were received, at 5.30 p.m., by the W.M., Bro. E. C. Broquet, and Mrs. Broquet, and at six p.m. sat down to a banquet in the Victoria Hall, which was served in the excellent style for which the proprietor, Bro. J. C. Lake, is so noted.

At its conclusion, grace, "Laudi Spirituali," was excellently sung by the artistes present, after which the W.M., in a fluent and able speech, proposed the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," commenting on the anxiety which her Majesty has lately been called upon to undergo, owing to the deplorable war in South Africa, and alluding to the deep sympathy existing between her and her subjects all over the world.

The National Anthem was then sung, Miss Stella Maris ably acting as soloist, and all present heartily joining in the refrain, as they had done previously in the cheers with which the toast was received.

The next toast, that of "The Worshipful Master," was proposed by Bro. E. PRINCE, P.M. and Sec., who referred to the thoroughly efficient manner in which Bro. Broquet discharged his duties in the lodge, thus winning the good will and esteem of every one of its members, and to the active interest shown by him in connection with the arrangements made for this gathering, which appeared to have resulted most successfully. He stated that the W.M. had spared neither time, trouble, nor expense in promoting the comfort and enjoyment of those present, but had, at his own cost, provided the beautiful and choice floral offerings, consisting of sprays and "button holes," which the ladies and gentlemen were then wearing; that he had also engaged the splendid band of Messrs. Dyson and Sons, which had discoursed sweet music during the dinner, aiding digestion; and that, beyond all this, the handsome cutglass bottle of perfume, handed to each lady, was presented by him as a souvenir of the occasion. He had thus shown, by his exceptional ability, in and out of the lodge, as well as by his unbounded generosity that, as W.M. of the Victoria Lodge, he was, undoubtedly, the right man in the right place. After alluding to the influence, good, bad, or indifferent, which can be exercised over a married man by his wife, and which, in Bro. Broquet's case, was evidently of a beneficial character, Bro. Prince begged to associate Mrs. Broquet's name with the toast, and concluded by wishing them and their family long life, continued happiness, health and prosperity.

On rising to respond, the W.M. met with a most cordial reception. He thanked the officers and brethren for their hearty support on that and all other occasions, and stated that he had made up his mind to do his level best to make that a red-letter day in the annals of the lodge, and that he saw no reason to doubt that the "ladies' evening" would become an annual event. After expressing his thanks, on behalf of Mrs. Broquet and himself, for the kind manner in which the toast had been proposed and received, and for the enthusiastic reception accorded to them, he proposed the toast of the evening—"The Ladies"—expressing his gratification at seeing so many gathered together to do honour to the lodge and to him.

Bro. A. Moss responded for the ladies in a humorous and highly appropriate manner, returning thanks, on their behalf, for the hospitality shown them, claiming to be considered one of them for the time being, and remarking that there was something in common between ladies and Freemasons, inasmuch as they all wore aprons.

This ended the toast list, and coffee was partaken of in the Shakespeare Room, whilst the tables were being cleared away and the Victoria Hall rearranged, in drawing-room fashion, for a concert, which commenced with an overture by Messrs. Dyson's band and was followed by a most excellent programme of vocal music, rendered by the talented artistes Miss Stella Maris, Miss Louise Weaver, Bro. C. A. Starkey, Bro. Sam Masters, Bro. Tom Powley, and Bro. Harold Montague, with an additional song, admirably contributed, by one of the visitors, Bro. Fred Clements.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of the accomplished Organist of the lodge, Bro. A. W. Hall, jun., who acted as accompanist throughout, and who, in the course of the evening, received, in conjunction with the other artistes, a hearty vote of thanks, which was proposed by the W.M.

The company present consisted of the W.M., Bro. E. C. Broquet, P.M. 209, P. Prov. G. Std. Br., accompanied by Mrs. Broquet; Bro. R. J. Ball, P.M. 209, P. Prov. G. Reg.; Mrs. Flecknal, Miss Youde, Bro. Edwards, Mrs. Edwards, Bro. Jenkins and Mrs. Jenkins; Bro. Prickett and Mrs. Prickett; and Mr. Cooke and Mrs. Cooke. Also Bro. J. W. Martin, P.A.G.D.C. Eng., Prov. G. Sec., and Mr. F. W. Martin; Bro. D'Avarel; Bro. W. H. Barney and Mrs. Barney; Bro. S. W. Bowles and Mrs. Bowles; Bro. E. G. Carter, Mrs. Carter, and Miss

Wakefield; Bro. F. Clements; Bro. W. A. Cocks, P.M. 2163, S.W., and Mrs. Cocks; Bro. C. F. Dyson, P.M. 771, P.P.S.G.D., and Mrs. Dyson; Bro. A. Foyer, P.M. 382; Bro. A. W. Hall, sen., Prov. G. Org., Mrs. Hall, and Miss Hall; Bro. A. W. Hall, jun., Org., Miss Hutcheson, and Mr. G. L. Hall; Bro. A. A. Hardy, P.M. 2163, S.D., and Miss Hardy; Bro. W. A. Hardy, W.M. 87, I.G. and Mrs. Hardy; Bro. J. H. Harding, Mrs. Harding, and Miss Woollett, Bro. W. L. James; Bro. A. C. Layton, P.M. 771, P.P.G.S.B., and Mrs. Layton; Bro. E. Marshall, P.M. 771, P.P.G. Std. Br., Treas., and Mrs. Marshall; Bro. Sam Masters and Mrs. Masters; Bro. H. Montague; Bro. A. Moos and Miss Lawrence; Bro. J. M. Payne and Mrs. Payne; Bro. E. Prince, P.M. 209 and 2671, P.P.G. Supt. of Works, Sec., Mrs. Prince, and Miss Prince; Bro. Tom Powley; Bro. W. H. Reed, P.M. 382, J.W., Mrs. Reed, Miss L. Reed, and Miss Maggie Reed; Bro. E. Reed, Mrs. E. Reed, Mr. F. Reed, and Mrs. F. Reed; Bro. W. L. Rose; Bro. C. A. Starkey and Mrs. Starkey; Bro. E. A. Stickland and Mrs. Stickland; Bro. S. E. Young, Miss Stella Maris, Miss Louise Weaver, and Bro. H. Burton, Tyler.

The brethren who acted as special Stewards during the evening were Bros. A. Foyer, A. W. Hall, sen., W. H. Barney, C. A. Starkey, and J. M. Payne.

Full Masonic clothing and jewels were worn by the brethren, a dispensation for the purpose having been obtained from the Prov. G. Master of Berkshire.

THE ANNUAL SUPPER OF THE EARL OF LATHOM LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1922.

The annual supper of this highly successful lodge took place at the Station Hotel, Camberwell New-road, S.E., on Wednesday, the 21st inst., under the able presidency of Bro. E. J. S. Ware, W.M. 1922, supported by Bros. Hy. Cornford, I.P.M. 1922, Dep. Preceptor; Wm. Hill, S.D. 1512, Treas.; T. R. Cass, P.M. 1320; F. G. Messent, 1922; L. S. Shipton, Asst. Sec. 1922; S. Shipton, 1922; Pearson, 1922; H. A. Stunt, P.M. and Sec. 1320, P.M. 1641; Cohen, P.M. 1658; Moore, 1658; Rugg, 1658; B. Cohen, 1658; Dawson, 1658; Riches, S.D. 1922; A. R. Jackson, J.W. 1922; R. Sobel, 1622; A. G. Pocock, 1922; C. N. Wedge, 1922; J. N. Taylor, Org. 1922; H. Heath, 1922; N. W. Harris, I.G. 1922; P. Twitchin, 1320; J. Chubb, 1706; Papworth, R. Taylor, P.M. 2148; Faull, 101; Chapman, J.W. 101; Proctor, 101; West, 1641; Strevens, 2272; Young, 1563; Hy. Singer, 1512; Sisman, 1658; and Chas. Hy. Stone, W.M. 1641 and P.M. 507.

After the excellent repast which had been provided by Bro. Sisman, the worthy host, and personally superintended by him, the Bro. PRESIDENT presented the toast of "The Queen and the Craft" in well-chosen remarks, dilating upon her excellent character, and regretting that the closing years of her illustrious reign should be marred by the present war in the cause of justice.

The toast was received right royally.

Also that of "H.R.H. the M.W.G.M. and the rest of his' Grand Officers" given in the same excellent terms, with the earnest hope that he would live for many years to be the Grand Master.

Bro. Hy. CORNFORD, I.P.M. 1922, Dep. Preceptor and Secretary of the lodge of instruction, next proposed "The Health of Bro. E. J. S. Ware, W.M. 1922, and President of the Evening." All were proud to see him in that position for he was a very worthy brother and one and all looked up to him with great respect. The lodge of instruction had much to thank him for, inasmuch as he was the indefatigable Assistant Secretary, and to his exertions much of its success was due. Bro. Ware was doing excellent work in the mother lodge and was ably supported by his officers who were emulating the W.M. to the fullest.

The toast was drunk in bumpers.

In reply, Bro. WARE, President, thanked the brethren for their kind reception of the toast of his health. His motto was that anything he had to do and took in hand was done to the best of his ability. As the Assistant Secretary of the Earl of Lathom Lodge of Instruction, he was only too pleased to work in so good a cause as Freemasonry in general, and that lodge in particular. One thing that he was specially delighted in was the able assistance that was given from kindred lodges, thereby showing that the excellent work of the lodge was appreciated by them. For their hearty reception he most cordially thanked them.

Bro. T. R. CASS, P.M. 1320, proposed the toast of the evening—that of "Success to the Earl of Lathom Lodge of Instruction"—and gave a long account of the ancient history of the lodge and some of the vicissitudes through which it had passed. He and the esteemed Treasurer, Bro. W. Hill, with a few others had by indomitable perseverance pledged themselves to support it some few years ago, and by their persistency they now saw it in its very flourishing condition. Certainly its present position was greatly brought about by and through the assiduity of Bro. H. Cornford, the worthy Secretary and Deputy Preceptor, who was a tower of strength in organisation in Freemasonry, ably assisted by their President and Bro. Wm. Hill, Treasurer, one of the early pioneers. He hoped that it would continue to have such worthy officers maintaining its prestige and continue its round of usefulness in South London.

The toast was ably responded to by Bro. Hy. CORNFORD, Secretary, who, among his remarks, stated that he was a member of the mother lodge for two years before he knew it had a lodge of instruction working under its name. He had in the meantime joined the Blackheath Lodge of Instruction, a highly successful lodge, held at the Stirling Castle, under an excellent Preceptor, Bro. William Dawson, P.M., and Bro. T. R. Cass, P.M., was its Treasurer. The Earl of Lathom Lodge of Instruction had been in its present home five years, and had done excellent service. Through its Benevolent Associations several hundred pounds had been forwarded to the various Masonic Institutions, and during the present year from the subscriptions had been balloted two Life Subscriptions, besides a donation of £2 to the *Daily Telegraph* Widows' and Orphans' Fund. That to him was the sincerity of their religion—Benevolence—and rendered by Heaven-born Charity was an honour to the nature from whence it sprang. The average, too, for the year—16—was very gratifying, considering the lodge met every Wednesday night throughout the year. He was proud to be the Secretary, and especially when he saw the good results; he should not flag one iota in his duty. It was one of the best in South London, and he should endeavour by all in his power to maintain its present high position.

The Bro. PRESIDENT next presented the toast of "Bro. C. Plant, P.M. 101, Preceptor," who was a master in the art, and one of the ablest of Preceptors. He had been most assiduous in his duties, which were arduous, but he had the power of ably imparting the splendid ritual, and he had seen the fruits of his labours. Their best thanks were due to him from the lodge of instruction.

Bro. Hy. CORNFORD, P.M., Dep. Preceptor, ably replied, and apologised for the unavoidable absence of Bro. Plant on account of other Masonic business.

The toast of "The Visitors" was cordially given and responded to, as also "The Officers of the Lodge."

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

Some capital harmony was given by Bros. Stunt, Singer, Stone, Messent, Shipton, Young, Harcourt West (recitation—a new patriotic poem—which was loudly cheered), Artur Court, and Fred Rain. Bro. J. N. Taylor, Org. 1922, ably presided at the piano.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1900.

Masonic Notes.

We understand that his Royal Highness, the M.W. Grand Master has been pleased to select Bro. Viscount Templeton, who has already won high distinction in the ranks of the Irish Craft as a G. Warden of its Grand Lodge, as his Senior Grand Warden for the ensuing year. We hear also that the Grand Master intends conferring the rank of Past G. Deacon upon the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London—Bro. Alderman Sir A. Newton, Bart.; and that the Head Master of the Boys' School will be one of the Grand Deacons. This latter item of news will delight the Board of Management of the Institution, and more especially Bro. J. M. McLeod, the Secretary, who has so often and so highly eulogised the important services rendered by our Rev. Bro. Hebb.

We are glad to be in a position to announce that the day for laying the foundation-stone of the new School buildings at Bushey of the Royal Masonic

Institution for Boys has been fixed, and that on Saturday, the 12th May, the stone will be laid, with full Masonic ceremonial, by the Duke of Connaught, K.G., M.W. Past G.M., Prov. G.M. of Sussex, and District G.M. of Bombay, acting on behalf of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., M.W.G.M. There will, of course, be a grand gathering of the Craft on so auspicious an occasion, and as considerable progress will have been made with the work, his Royal Highness and those who may have the privilege of being present, will be able to form some idea of the extent and character of the new School.

It seems difficult to realise that it is barely 37 years since a similar ceremony was performed by the later Bro. Algernon Perkins, Past G. Warden, in the presence of the officers and members of United Grand Lodge, "specially summoned for the occasion," in respect of the existing handsome pile of buildings at Wood Green. This happened on the 8th August, 1863, and there must be still living many brethren—prominent among them being Bro. Frederick Binckes, who had then held the office of Secretary of the Institution for about two years—who were present at the gathering. The building then in course of erection and which has since been enlarged to its present dimensions, was intended for the accommodation of 100 boys, the number on the establishment at the time being 70. This School was opened by the then Dep. G. Master—the Earl de Grey and Ripon—on the 8th July, 1865, but what was then all open country has since been covered with bricks and mortar, and as the buildings themselves were no longer large enough for the requirements of the Institution, a move to some other locality became necessary, and the Grove Park Estate, of some 66 acres, at Bushey, near Watford, in the county of Hertford, was purchased for £13,000. The new buildings will accommodate 400 boys, and should the necessity arise, premises can be erected for an additional 100. We have no doubt the approaching ceremony will pass off—as most of our Masonic functions do—successfully.

It may safely be affirmed that the account of the Masonic doings in Ladysmith during the siege which will be found elsewhere, and for which we are indebted to the kindness of Bro. Capt. G. Hearn, Past G.S.B. of England, is about the most interesting it has been our good fortune to publish. Some time ago we gave a report of the laying of the foundation stone of a new Masonic Hall in the now famous town by Bro. Wesley Francis, Dist. G. Master of Natal, and a little later of the consecration of the Ladysmith Mark Lodge, No. 528, of which our respected correspondent was installed the first W. Master. But these events occurred during the latter half of last September, when, though the political outlook was serious, war had not been declared by the Boer Republics. The doings we now record have taken place since the outbreak of the war, and the most interesting of them during the siege which was so fortunately raised by General Sir Redvers Buller a few weeks since.

It is not, of course, the first time that meetings such as those so vividly described by Bro. Hearn have taken place to the accompaniment of the roar of cannon and the rattle of musketry either in besieged towns or in the lines of besieging armies, but we doubt if a lodge meeting ever before took place in a building that was exposed at the time to the fire of the enemy, or that during the proceedings the place of meeting was wrecked by a shell and one of the visiting brethren killed. However, our Ladysmith brethren do not appear to have been deterred from their Masonic duties either by the deadly fire of the enemy's "Long Toms" or the bullets of their Mauser rifles; and now that the Boer armies have retired towards their own frontier we shall, doubtless, hear more of the Masonic gatherings of the brethren in Natal.

The list, which appears in another column, of the additions made during the week to the total of the Donations and Subscriptions announced at the recent Benevolent Festival, will be the last of its kind we shall publish, and any further amounts that may be forwarded will be entered in the reprint of the Report and Analysis, which will be issued in due course. In the meantime, as we remarked last week, it must be a source of satisfaction to the Committee of Management and the Secretary to have had so large an increase to report, the total as originally announced being £20,220 16s., while the augmented total stands at £21,744 16s. 6d., the excess of the latter amount over the former being £1524 0s. 6d. There was more than

the usual array of lists outstanding on the night of the Festival; but both last year and this the Benevolent Institution has been extremely fortunate in the amount of the additions it has had occasion to acknowledge.

We are pleased to be in a position to announce that the total of the contributions received from all sources towards the Masonic Service held in St. Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on the 4th February last, in aid of the Widows and Orphans of Scottish Soldiers who have died on service in South Africa, reached a gross total of about £620, and that after deducting expenses, the nett sum received to the 21st instant, was £540. There are still some contributions outstanding, which will raise this total by a further £15 or £20.

The Secretary of the Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No. 1—Bro. R. W. Hawks—has received letters from Bro. the Hon. James Hozier, M.P., M.W. G. Master Mason of Scotland, and Bro. General J. G. Corson Smith, Past G.M. of Illinois, acknowledging, with thanks, bound copies of the order of Divine Service which were sent them as memorials of the gathering, Bro. General Smith's letter containing also a small contribution to the Fund as a mark of his sympathy with his "Brether Scots." Bro. Hawks has also been favoured with a letter from Bro. Major the Hon. North Dalrymple Hamilton, who was seriously wounded at the battle of Belmont, expressive of his gratitude to the lodge, of which he is a member, for the sympathy expressed for him in his wounded condition.

It is no news that Mark Masonry is in a flourishing state; but the fact is emphasised by the reports we published last week of the consecration of two lodges of this Degree in localities as far removed from each other as Haworth, in the Province of West Yorkshire, and Howrah, in the District of Bengal. Taking the Bengal lodge first, as it stands first in the order of numerical seniority, we find that it was inaugurated on Tuesday, the 13th February, the leading founders including Bro. H. M. Rustomjee, the District Grand Mark Secretary, who is a tower of strength in all the branches of Masonry in his District. The ceremony of consecration was performed by Bro. E. G. Sinclair, Past District Grand Warden, and the lodge having been constituted as the *Orient Lodge, No. 531*, Bro. H. M. Rustomjee was installed in the chair of A. as the first W.M., nor have we the slightest doubt that under his able and experienced guidance the new lodge will speedily find itself established on a firm basis. Lodge Orient augments the number of Mark lodges under the rule of Bro. the Hon. Mr. Justice Burkitt, District G.M.M., to 20.

In the case of the Brontë Lodge, No. 535, Haworth, the ceremony of consecration was performed by Bro. C. Letch Mason, Prov. Grand Mark Master of West Yorkshire, who was assisted in his important duties by Bro. G. H. Parke, Past Grand Treas., P. Prov. G.W., in the absence through illness of Bro. John Barker, D.P.G.M.M., and other officers of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, and when the lodge had been constituted, Bro. Mason delivered a highly interesting address explanatory of the reasons which had led to the selection of Brontë as the name for the new lodge. Bro. H. S. Holdsworth, P.G. Std. Br., P. Prov. G.W., was subsequently installed as the first W.M., and the officers for the year having been appointed and invested and the Prov. Grand Master having expressed his sincere wishes for the well-being of a lodge which had started on its career under such favourable auspices, lodge was closed, and the brethren dined together in honour of the event. We trust the hope and expectations of the founders and their well-wishers may be realised to the fullest extent.

We acknowledge with thanks copy of the minutes of the Proceedings of the Dist. Grand Lodge of Northern China at the regular communication which was held at the Masonic Hall, Shanghai, on the 6th January last, under the presidency of Bro. Lewis Moore, Dist. G. Master. There appears to have been a full attendance of brethren, and, in addition, a number of visitors from the Scottish and Massachusetts Constitutions, the former including the Master and Wardens of Cosmopolitan Lodge, No. 428, and the latter Bro. A. W. Danforth, Dist. Dep. G.M., and members of Ancient Landmark Lodge, No. 1. In the course of his address the Dist. G. Master reviewed the chief events of the past year, and warmly congratulated the brethren on the progress that had been made. He had visited the lodges and found them one and all performing their duties satisfactorily. He expressed regret at the absence of Bro. C. Thorne, Past. Dist. G.M., without whose attendance Masonry in Northern China, he remarked, did not seem to be itself. He hoped, however, that it would not be long before his health was restored and they should again have the pleasure of greeting their respected brother. New District Grand Officers for the ensuing year were appointed, and, on the motion of the District Grand Master, 250 Taels, being one half of the balance in hand, were voted to the South African War Fund.

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.

THE LAST DISTRICT GRAND MASTER OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

In your issue of 13th January appears a paragraph on the above subject, referring to a previous letter by Bro. Lamony. Your Christmas number has not yet reached me, but as one on the spot, and who knows something of the facts, let me say that Bro. Lamony is right. Lord Carrington never served as District Grand Master, much less as the last Dist. G.M. He was not installed, and I think he never did anything whatever after his patent came out in January, I think, 1888.

He was not installed G.M. of New South Wales Grand Lodge until September, and I hold letters from the last Dep. Dist. Grand Master just prior to September, in which he as "Acting District Grand Master will see that" &c., &c.

You do not consider the matter of any great importance: well, in the first place, your journal is looked upon as a record of Freemasonry, and, therefore, truthful in important matters. I trust that you will place the matter correctly, as Wor. Bro. Lamony has done in the last paragraph of his letter on page 8 of January 6th, and say Lord Carrington was the last District Grand Master Designate of New South Wales. Your paper may then be referred to in years to come as a truthful record of one of the phases of District Grand Lodge in New South Wales.—Yours fraternally,

G. ROBINSON, P.M.,
Cambrian Lodge of Australia,
No. 656 (E.C.).

Sydney, February 16th.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL CLOTHING.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

My attention has been called to a letter on the above subject, in your last issue, from my good friend and brother S. R. Baskett.

I think I can throw some light on what actually transpired at the last Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge.

R.W. Bro. Lieut.-Gen. Laurie, M.P., the presiding officer, most certainly wore a Grand Master's apron and gauntlets, also a chain collar, but I could not distinguish the jewel suspended from the collar.

After Grand Lodge, I mentioned the subject to a distinguished Grand Officer, who informed me that Bro. Laurie had worn the clothing of a Grand Master, which he was correct in doing, as acting Grand Master.]

All the same, I may be pardoned, if I differ from this opinion, because Bro. Laurie, being a Deputy of the M.W. Grand Master, ought to have worn the clothing of his rank, namely, that of R.W. Provincial Grand Master of the Western Division of South Wales, as, for instance, when the R.W. the Deputy Grand Master presides he wears his own clothing, not that of Grand Master. Besides, the long line of Provincial Grand Masters who have time after time occupied the throne, have always worn the insignia of their rank, not that of Grand Master.

The incident which occurred recently in Grand Lodge was clearly an innovation, whoever was responsible for it.

In regard to the discussion on the general point at issue, arising out of the Grand Director of Ceremonies' circular, I may, perhaps, be permitted to add that it seems, to say the least of it, somewhat ungracious, that those of us who have borne the heat and burden of long years at home and abroad, should be ranked with merely "honorary" officers of Foreign and Colonial Grand Lodges, the majority of who never belonged to a private lodge in such constitutions, and many of whom had never even been in the localities of the Grand Lodges that honoured them.

To quote the written words of a distinguished English and Colonial Mason and an ex-Governor of an Australian Colony, the circular and order in question "seems quite outside the spirit of the times."

I have also yet to learn that any of the brethren, now in this country, holding English and Colonial Past Grand rank, claim precedence in this country by virtue of their superior colonial status.—Fraternally yours,

W. F. LAMONBY.

March 27th.

Masonic Notes and Queries.

THE LODGE No. 12.

1123]

In common with the ever-increasing band of Masonic students, I have been much interested in Bro. Gould's able address on the early history of the "Fortitude and Old Cumberland" Lodge, No. 12, which undoubtedly, through its predecessors, was one of the *Four Old Lodges*, or more, that formed the first Grand Lodge ever established in this or any other country. An excellent report appears in the *Freemason* for March 17th, and it deserves very careful reading, the facts narrated being peculiar and important in relation to the present No. 12, it having been relegated from the original *third* of the historic quartette to a number corresponding with the year of its needless "constitution" (1723). I think it a very happy suggestion of Bro. Gould's, and one that should be adopted, that the *trio* of the existing founders should celebrate St. John the Baptist's Day together annually. It was on that Festival in 1717 that the premier Grand Lodge was established, and, therefore, what could be more appropriate than that Lodges Nos. 2, 4, and 12 should unite once a year in commemoration of the exceedingly wise and truly Masonic achievement of their predecessors early last century? The antiquity of Lodge No. 12, through their brethren of 1717 and earlier, appears to me proved, and, therefore, it seems to me likely that if the Board of General Purposes were petitioned accordingly, the members of the Calendar Committee would recommend that No. 12 should have the letters "T.I." placed after its name, &c., in lieu of A.D. 1723. I cannot, however, follow Bro. Gould in his statement that "of the three living lodges who now share the glory of having founded and established the Premier Grand Lodge of the world, it is the only one of them which has never ceased for a single instant to occupy a place on her roll." The "Lodge of Antiquity" has never been off the roll any more than the original No. 3, now No. 12. The majority of its members left the Grand Lodge 1779-89; but the minority remained, and not only continued as a lodge, but duly made the requisite payments to "Charity" and "Hall" Funds during that period.

W. J. HUGHAN.

Reviews.

AN ENGLISH TOAST—Song—Words by Frederick Gales; Music by Francis H. Reynolds, Hutchings and Romer, 39 Great Marlborough Street, London, W. This is one of the numerous patriotic songs which have been inspired by the War in South Africa. The words possess considerable merit and stamp Mr. Gales at once as a capital songwriter, while Mr. Francis H. Reynolds, in his music has succeeded in faithfully and very admirably interpreting the sentiments conveyed by Mr. Gales's verse. There is, indeed, a capital ring about both words and music, and we doubt not "An English Toast" will be greatly appreciated by the public.

Craft Masonry.

United Pilgrims Lodge, No. 507.

The installation meeting of this well known and flourishing lodge was held at the Bridge House Hotel, London Bridge, on Thursday, the 22nd inst. Present: Bros. R. A. Brangwin, W.M.; A. W. Brewer, S.W. and W.M. elect; T. R. Roberts, J.W.; Geo. Beste, P.M., Treas.; Wm. Lipscomb, P.M., Sec.; W. E. Dean, J.D.; F. W. Madge, I.G.; Chas. Hy. Stone, P.M., D.C.; W. C. Chaney, P.M., and Wallace Smith, Stwds.; Sidwell Jones, Org.; Geo. Harrison, Tyler; Chas. Wm. Stone, P.M.; J. S. Terry, P.M.; B. Gilson, P.M.; J. W. Watts, P.M.; F. T. Tebbutt, C. Woodward, A. Holmes Dallimore, W. Moreton, and Jas. Smith. The visitors were Bros. F. K. Clarke, 1815; S. Ainsworth, 509; E. C. West, 2182; Owen Tod, 2182; T. C. Ward, 1617; W. Brewer, J.D. 1853; William Baker, P.M. 192; A. Collins, J.W. 1962; S. Reikenheim, 2579; S. Morly, P.M. 1853; R. W. Carter, J.D. 22; C. Spencer West, 2182; and Egbert Robert, P.M. 1623.

The minutes of the previous meeting and emergency meeting of the 9th inst. were read and confirmed. Bros. C. W. Woodward, W. T. Moreton, and A. Holmes-Dallimore were raised to the Sublime Degree in an exemplary manner by the W.M. Bro. C. H. Stone, P.M., D.C., next presented Bro. A. W. Brewer, S.W., to Bro. Geo. W. Beste, P.M., Treas., to receive from him the benefit of installation, which ceremony was performed most perfectly. Bro. A. W. Brewer, W.M., invested his officers as follows: Bros. R. A. Brangwin, I.P.M.; T. R. Roberts, S.W.; F. W. Madge, J.W.; G. W. Beste, P.M., Treas.; W. Lipscomb, P.M., Sec.; W. E. Dean, S.D.; Wallace Smith, J.D.; Chas. Woodward, I.G.; Chas. Hy. Stone, P.M., D.C.; W. C. Chaney, P.M., J. S. Terry, P.M., and F. T. Tebbutt, Stwds.; Sidwell Jones, Org.; and Geo. Harrison, Tyler. The three addresses were admirably rendered by the Installing Master, Bro. G. W. Beste, P.M. The Auditor's report was presented, which showed the lodge to be in a thoroughly sound financial position, there being no liabilities and a substantial sum at the bank, in fact a better position than it had been in for years, which redounded greatly to the excellent management. A sum of 20 guineas was voted to the list of Bro. R. A. Brangwin, I.P.M., who represents the lodge at the coming Festival of the Gills, and for which he heartily thanked the brethren for their beneficence. The W.M., in a few well-chosen and highly-merited remarks, presented the Past Master's jewel to Bro. R. A. Brangwin, the I.P.M., for the excellent services he had rendered to the lodge. Bro. Brangwin, I.P.M., accepted the same with very much pleasure, which he esteemed a great honour. Several communications were read, one or two of which were of a highly complimentary character, congratulating the W.M. on the lodge's sound position.

The business ended, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, supplied by Bro. Callingham, the worthy proprietor, and to which ample justice was accorded.

The cloth removed the W.M., in graceful terms, gave the loyal and Masonic toasts, which were very loyally honoured.

The W.M., in proposing "The Pro G.M., the Deputy G.M., and the rest of the G. Officers, Present and Past," remarked they were always ready to render their best service for the good of the Craft, and for which they deserved admiration.

Bro. R. A. Brangwin, I.P.M., next presented the toast of the evening—that of "The W.M."—which was a very pleasant duty indeed. All were gratified at seeing the worthy son of a worthy sire placed in that proud position. It showed he had been brought up in the right way, for he was setting his father an example, and it was hoped that in due course the lodge to which the father belonged would elect him to the same honoured position. He asked the brethren to drink most cordially to the toast.

The W.M., in reply, tendered his hearty thanks for the manner the toast had been proposed and received. He had been initiated some six years previously, and in that short time had gained the summit. In the various offices that he had filled he had endeavoured to do his very best, and now that he was the W.M. he trusted that the honour would never be misplaced.

Bro. A. W. Brewer, W.M., next presented the toast of "Bro. Brangwin, I.P.M.," in most becoming terms. He had had a very successful year of office, which redounded very much to his own personal endeavours, and with great credit to the lodge. The earnest wish of the brethren was that Bro. Brangwin might long be spared to be with them in the lodge.

In reply, Bro. R. A. Brangwin very heartily thanked the brethren for so cordially receiving the remarks that had fallen from the W.M. Ever since his initiation he had taken a deep interest in Freemasonry which he loved. He knew that those who followed and carried out its tenets were happier and better men. It taught the great lesson of the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God and promoted kindly feelings and brotherly love. He paid a high compliment to Bro. G. Beste, P.M., the respected Treasurer, his father in Freemasonry who had initiated him five years previously. He hoped that as a P.M. he should still be able to be of some service to the United Pilgrims Lodge.

The toast of "The Visitors" was next presented by the W.M. in most cordial terms, giving them all a hearty greeting.

In reply, Bro. William Baker, P.M. 192, heartily thanked the W.M. and brethren for such a pleasant evening. He had been struck at the admirable manner the I.P.M. had worked the ceremony of raising, and that of the Installing Master, Bro. Geo. Beste, P.M., could not be surpassed. The whole of the working in the lodge was carried out perfectly, and it certainly was a great treat to witness such. He was present at the very kind invitation of Bro. Gilson, P.M.; he felt quite at home and thanked them all for so kind a reception.

Bros. Morly, P.M.; Roberts, P.M.; Brewer (the worthy father of the W.M.); Ward, Ainsworth, and Clarke also ably replied.

The W.M. next gave the most important toast, that of "The Installing Master, Treasurer, Secretary and Past Masters," who were the pillars and support of the lodge. There was not one but that was capable and willing to render any service to the lodge. The W.M. was delighted to see Bro. Watts, a very old P.M., present, who had been unable to attend for some years through various causes. He also paid high eulogiums on Bro. G. Beste, Installing Master and Treasurer, and Bro. Wm. Lipscomb, the valuable Secretary, who certainly was the right man in the right place. The W.M. desired the brethren to drink most cordially to the health of the Past Masters.

Bro. J. W. Watts, P.M., in reply, regretted his long absence from the lodge, which was unavoidable, and he thanked the brethren for so warm and cordial a reception. That day was the 25th anniversary of his initiation and the 21st anniversary of his installing his successor. He had a great love and esteem for the lodge, and should never lose interest in it. His services were only to be commanded, and he would do his utmost for the lodge, and he trusted that it would go on and prosper as heretofore.

The W.M. next proposed the toast of "The Officers" in complimentary terms, which was very ably responded to by Bro. T. R. Roberts, S.W., assuring the W.M. that the officers were only too delighted to perform their duties to the utmost.

The Tyler's toast brought to conclusion a very happy meeting.

An excellent programme of music was arranged by Bro. Sidwell Jones, Organist of the lodge, ably assisted by Miss Ella Johnson, Mr. Percy Taring, and Bros. Geo. W. Beste, Sidwell Jones, Egbert Roberts, Fred Cozens, and Holmes-Dallimore (ventriloquial sketch). The very able accompanist was Bro. Fred Cozens.

Dobie Lodge, No. 889.

The installation meeting of this lodge—one of the strongest in the Province of Surrey—was held on the 20th instant, at Kingston-on-Thames, and was attended by a larger number of members and visiting brethren than has before been recorded. Bro. W. J. Wells, the outgoing W.M., had had a busy year of work, and he finished up well by performing the ceremony of installation throughout in a very efficient and praiseworthy manner. Bro. George Cowen, B.A., M.D., was the W.M. elect, and when he had been duly installed into the chair of K.S. he appointed and invested the following officers to assist him: Bros. W. J. Wells, I.P.M.; C. T. Lewis, S.W.; W. Salt, J.W.; John Drewett, P.P.A.G.P., Treas.; W. Drewett, P.P.G. Std. Br., Sec.; T. Welham, S.D.; C. L. Johnson, J.D.; T. H. Goodwin, I.G.; J. R. Abbott, Org.; A. Watkin, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., D.C.; J. R. Richardson, H. W. Packham, and H. Wakely, Stewards; and Murrells, Tyler. The Installing Master then closed his duties by eloquently delivering the three charges; he fully deserved the praise bestowed on him later in the evening, and also the remarks made by the W.M. when presenting him with the jewel voted by the lodge.

On the reading of the communication from Grand Lodge respecting the distress in South Africa, a sum of five guineas was voted to the fund, after which the lodge was closed.

The banquet was held at the Kingston Hotel, where Bro. Mauday served an excellent repast to a party of 75.

After dinner the usual toasts were proposed.

Bro. J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B., responded for "The Grand Lodge Officers and the Masonic Charities," in one of his brilliant little speeches. He referred to the liberal support which the Dobie Lodge had always given to the Charities, and expressed his personal obligations for the help he had received, coupled with the hope that at the approaching Festival the W.M. would have a good list. To show the part which the Dobie Lodge plays in Charity, it was mentioned by Bro. W. Drewett, P.M., that the father of the lodge is a Vice-Patron of all Three Institutions, that in 1895, while the average contribution of the Surrey lodges to the Centenary Fund of the Boys' School was £81 7s. 9d.; the Dobie sent £126 2s.; that in 1899 the lodge voted nearly £40 from its funds for Charitable purposes, and two Stewards went up with £91 6s. and £105 2s. 6d. respectively, for the R.M.B.I. and Girls' School.

There were no special features in the speeches made after Bro. McLeod had spoken, more attention being given to the entertainment of the large party by the musical brethren who contributed to the programme.

City of London Lodge, No. 901.

The installation meeting of this important lodge took place at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham-street, on the 19th inst., and was well attended by the members and a large number of visitors. Present: Bros. Joseph Hatton, W.M.; Wm. H. Haylock, S.W., W.M. elect; E. Beadle, J.W.; H. Harbord, P.M., Treas.; W. R. Haylock, P.M., Sec.; W. Reeve, S.D.; W. Grant, J.D.; T. Leete, D.C.; J. F. Haskins, P.P.G. Org. Essex and Herts, Org.; A. Ginger, P.M.; R. Gillard, P.M.; F. Eade, P.M.; G. M. Gross, P.M.; A. T. Yardley, G. English, P.M.; A. H. Smith, P.M.; R. W. Dohing, I.P.M.; B. Cohen, H. Carpenter, G. Smith, W. Goodchild, A. Lidgate, W. Whittenbury, A. Cooper, Dr. S. Walshe Owen, M. B. Cohen, A. A. Stewart, J. G. West, W. L. Quin, J. Knope, C. A. Harrison, T. Dally, A. R. Fome, D. Mills, W. H. White, F. Hall, G. Bailey, W. Bridgen, W. Quainton, A. Britton, C. Riley, W. J. Jeffries, W. Chandler, F. C. Dearling, and T. C. Edmonds, P.M., Tyler. Visitors: Bros. A. E. Purkis, W.M. 1314; G. H. Burns, W.M. 1687; R. P. Brett, W.M. 558; A. H. Hickman, P.M. 221; G. Vears, P.M. 145; A. Wood, P.M. 1185; Tom Davies, P.M. 1381; A. Payne, I.G. 1314; A. Bench, 1512; J. R. Casey, 2417; W. E. Rickards, 1693; J. F. Markham, 199; A. E. Sayer, 1950; R. Day, 1861; W. Laing, 933; W. B. Broad, 79; J. Moncreff, 2696; R. W. Carter, 28; G. Walkley, 1471; A. C. Crisp, 1622; F. Wright, 1622; R. M. H. Griffith, 1677; and R. T. West, 1744.

The lodge was opened and the minutes of the last meeting having been read, the report of the audit committee was adopted. The W.M., Bro. Hatton, then passed Bros. W. J. Jeffries and W. Chandler, to the Second Degree. The W.M. read a letter from the Grand Secretary on behalf of the Transvaal War Masonic Relief Fund, and the substantial sum of 20 guineas was unanimously voted from the lodge funds. The W.M. elect, Bro. Wm. Henry Haylock, was then presented by Bro. R. Gillard, P.M., and installed into the chair by Bro. J. Hatton. The new W.M. afterwards appointed and invested the following as his officers: Bros. J. Hatton, I.P.M.; E. Beadle, S.W.; W. Reeves, J.W.; H. Harbord, P.M., Treas.; W. R. Haylock, P.M., Sec.; W. Grant, S.D.; T. Leete, J.D.; G. Smith, I.G.; H. Carpenter, D.C.; J. F. Haskins, Org.; E. Venner, P.M.; F. Uffelman, A. Lidgate, Dr. S. Walshe Owen, and A. E. Cooper, Stwds.; and T. C. Edmonds, P.M., Tyler. The usual addresses were given by Bro. Joseph Hatton in a manner that was faultless, and he deserves the highest praise for the excellent way he carried out the whole of the installation ceremony. Two gentlemen were proposed for initiation at the next meeting, and other business followed, after which the lodge was closed, and the brethren partook of a substantial banquet.

As a preface to the toasts the W.M., Bro. W. H. Haylock, stated that his speeches would be brief, as they had a lengthy musical programme to get through.

The W.M. gave "The Queen and the Craft," and afterwards "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," which were duly honoured.

At the request of the W.M., Bro. H. Harbord, P.M., proposed "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," observing that they were all indebted to them, and were all worthy men and true, and many of them had rendered distinguished service in the Craft.

"The Health of the W.M., Bro. W. H. Haylock," was proposed by Bro. J. Hatton, I.P.M., who stated that no words from him were necessary to commend the toast as the W.M. was so well-known to them all. He regretted the absence of the two gentlemen who were to have been initiated that evening, as it prevented them seeing the working of the ritual by the W.M. He had watched his Masonic career with much interest, and he wished him a prosperous and happy year of office.

The toast was drunk with acclamation.

The W.M. met with a great ovation on rising to respond. In thanking them for the hearty way the toast had been received, he said that words failed him to express adequately what he thought. In following the good I.P.M., Bro. Hatton, he had a difficult task, but anyway he would do his utmost if possible to excel him, and at the expiration of his term of office, he hoped his efforts would be satisfactory to them all.

The W.M. proposed "The I.P.M. and Installing Master, Bro. Hatton," and said that during his year of office his excellent working of the ritual had given every satisfaction, and his rendering of the beautiful ceremony of installation was perfect, showing that he had Masonry at heart. On behalf of the lodge it was his privilege and pleasure to present him with a Past Master's jewel as a small return for his great services, and none was more worthy of it, and might the Great Architect give him health and strength to be there for many years. He also had the honour to present him on behalf of his (the I.P.M.) officers, while he was in the chair, with a Past Master's collar and jewel.

The jewel from the lodge bore the following inscription: "Presented by the City of London Lodge, No. 901, to Bro. Joseph Hatton, P.M., in appreciation of the admirable manner in which he discharged the duties of W.M. 19th March, 1900."

Bro. Joseph Hatton, I.P.M., who was enthusiastically received, thanked them for the way the toast had been received, and said that that was a red letter day in his Masonic career. For many years he had the lodge at heart, and during the time he was Secretary he did his best to promote the interests of their good lodge, and he hoped he had done so as Master. He was proud of his happy year of office, because he had had plenty of work to do, which had been a great pleasure to him. He appreciated their kindness in presenting him with a Past Master's jewel, which he should ever prize, and he tendered his sincere thanks to his officers for their great assistance, and for the collar and jewel he had received from them.

In submitting the toast of "The Visitors," the W.M. observed that the members were always gratified to have plenty of guests, and he hoped that those who had honoured the lodge with their presence did not regret their visits, and would come again and again. On behalf of the lodge he extended them a hearty welcome, and he coupled with the toast the names of Bros. A. E. Purkis, W.M. 1314; G. Herbert-Burns, W.M. 1687; Alfred Wood, P.M.; A. H. Hickman, P.M.; F. Davies, P.M.; R. M. H. Griffith, and R. T. West.

In response, Bro. A. E. Purkis stated that the visitors had been kindly received and well entertained. He had watched the W.M.'s career with much interest, and he was pleased to have had the honour of seeing him installed, as he felt confident that he would be able to well carry out the onerous duties of W.M. of their important lodge.

Bro. G. Herbert-Burns stated that he heartily endorsed every word of Bro. Purkis' speech, and he might add that the lodge should be proud of its officers. He had attended many lodges but had never seen the installation ceremony better rendered, and they had had a great treat. The I.P.M., Bro. Hatton, had excelled himself, and if the W.M. could follow in his steps and do likewise he would be a proud man, and maintain the traditions of his father, who was an esteemed Past Master and Secretary of the lodge. The hospitality of the members was lavish, the musical entertainment of the very best, and he might say that had been one of the most delightful evenings he had ever spent in Masonry.

Bro. A. H. Hickman, P.M., said he had had the privilege of attending the lodge for many years, and he was delighted to see the W.M. installed, as he was present at his initiation in the lodge.



THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER.

Bros. Tom Davies, P.M.; A. Wood, P.M.; R. W. Carter, and R. M. H. Griffith also acknowledged the toast in some excellent speeches, eulogising the good work and hospitality of the lodge, and expressing thanks for so cordial a welcome to the visitors.

Bro. R. T. West also responded.

The W.M. gave "The Past Masters," and said he was honoured by having such a goodly array of them present. He mentioned each by name and the great things they had done for the lodge, which could not do without them, and with their assistance he hoped to be able to carry out his duties.

Bro. A. Ginger, P.M., said that he supposed he had been called upon to respond because he was the oldest Past Master of the lodge, of which he had been a member for 37 years, all of which had happy recollections, and it he could be of any service to the W.M. he would be glad. He had come a long way that day to see the W.M. installed and he did not regret it, as he had been well paid for his journey by the excellent working he had witnessed.

Bro. G. M. Gross, P.M., said that as the W.M. had told them he gave him his first collar in Masonry and he had not disgraced his choice. He hoped the members would be pleased with him, as he felt they would, and their wish was that he would have a very happy and prosperous year of office.

Bro. Robert Gillard, P.M., also responded, and said that Bro. R. M. H. Griffith in his very eloquent speech, in response to the toast of the visitors, mentioned that he had his son at the front, and so had he (Bro. Gillard.) He had lately received a letter from him in which he said he was "on the eve of going into action. I will write again if I live, if I don't I could not die a more glorious death."

Bros. F. Eade, P.M., and G. English, P.M., acknowledged the toast, bearing

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testimony to the excellent working of the I.P.M., Bro. Hatton, and his very successful year of office, and congratulating the W.M.

In giving "The Treasurer and Secretary" the W.M. stated that they were both esteemed officers and he could not speak too highly of them, and their services were very much appreciated, and they both responded in very appropriate terms.

The W.M. gave "The Officers," and Bros. E. Beadle, S.W., and W. Reeves, J.W., responded, and the Tyler's toast brought to an end a very happy and successful meeting.

The musical arrangements were under the able direction of Bro. J. F. Haskins, P.P.G. Org. Herts and Essex, in which the following contributed to the harmony of the evening: Miss Emily Foxcroft, Miss Claribel Hyde, Bros. Wm. Clifford, Robert Grice, Sidney Gandy, and Charles Butler, but special mention should be made of Miss Emily Foxcroft for her sweet and exquisite singing. The accompanists were Miss Beatrice Cowley and Bro. Haskins.

During the banquet the band of the Second Tower Hamlets Royal Engineers (Volunteers), by kind permission of W. Whetherly, Lieut.-Col. Commanding, of which the Secretary, Bro. W. R. Haylock, P.M., is the bandmaster, performed a beautiful selection of music, which was much appreciated, and deservedly applauded.

Hemming Lodge, No. 1512.

A meeting of this lodge was held at the Greyhound Hotel, Hampton Court, on the 22nd ult. Among those present were Bros. H. Gale, W.M.; C. F. Davis, S.W.; H. Webster, J.W.; J. C. Jessett, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.P.G.W., P.G. Std. Br., Sec.; G. Ransford, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., D. of C.; H. Wheatley, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., A. Z. Schultze, and R. S. Fox, Stwds.; A. S. Aspinall, Org.; W. Spearing, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; C. Whitley, I.P.M.; and J. Gilbert, Tyler. Bros. A. Giet, 144, and F. Gatsman, 2400, were visitors.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Bros. Marchmont, Wright, and Aspinall were raised to the Third Degree by the I.P.M. in a most impressive manner. Communications regretting inability to attend were received from Bros. Hill, S.D.; C. Boyce, J.D.; W. Fisher, P.M., P.G.T., A.G.P.; P. Cronin, P.M.; W. Hopkins, A.G.P. Middx.; and others. The lodge was then closed. Refreshment followed labour.

Upon the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and Craft toasts were duly honoured.

Bro. Charles Wheatley responded on behalf of "The Provincial G. Officers." "The Health of the W.M." was given in happy terms by the I.P.M.

The W.M., in reply, expressed his regret that in consequence of recent illness he had not been able to give that attention to his duties which the position of W.M. demanded. After the recess he hoped to be able to discharge any duty that might be required of him. The work that evening had been most admirably performed by the I.P.M. Bro. C. Wheatley's work throughout the year had been very onerous, but it had been exceedingly well carried out.

The toast of "The Visitors" followed. In reply, Bros. Giet and Gatsman respectively endorsed the W.M.'s praise of the I.P.M.'s working. They also expressed their high appreciation of the hospitality of the lodge, and the vocal selections that they had been favoured with.

"The Health of the Past Masters" was coupled with the names of Bros. C. Wheatley and G. Ransford, and "The Officers" with Bros. Jessett, P.M., Treas.; C. F. Davis, S.W.; and H. Webster, J.W., who respectively responded.

During the evening some excellent vocal selections were given by Bros. J. Chilcott, A. S. Aspinall, C. Bench, R. S. Fox, and others.

Lodge of Prosperity, No. 65.

The installation meeting of this old and flourishing lodge was held in the Masonic Temple of the Holborn Restaurant on Thursday, the 22nd instant. Present: Bros. W. M. Graham, W.M.; J. Smart, S.W., W.M. elect; J. Huckell, J.W.; Harriss, P.M., Sec.; J. Dobbs, S.D.; W. J. Downes, J.D.; G. Schader, P.M., D.C.; O. W. Rix, G. Shephard, G. Chivers, and H. T. Brooks, Stewards; Ferry, P.M.; Rich, P.M.; Harlow, P.M.; Thomas, P.M.; Greig, P.M.; Kinipple, P.M.; Spencer, P.M.; and a full attendance of members. The visitors numbered about 50, and included Bros. T. Thomson, P.M. 1597; W. Thomson, P.M. 1597; H. A. Smith, P.M. 1705; J. D. Lidbury, P.M. 2346 and 2484; W. B. Inder, P.M. 1288; D. Niven, P.M. 27; T. Hobley, P.M. 1320; J. Brown, P.M. 1446; T. A. Tidy, W.M. 538; J. Loftus, P.M. 1306; C. Coram, P.M. 2552; J. Young, P.M. 1745; E. Lambert, W.M. 163; W. H. Latham, W.M. 1962; M. W. Samson, W.M. 1607; W. J. Lancaster, 21; A. Marshall, 21; H. Davan Wetton, J.D. 2737, P.P.G. Org.; and others.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted, and the sum of five guineas was voted in response to an application from Grand Lodge on behalf of the brethren in South Africa. Bros. Evans, Twait, Fuller, and Cameron were then duly passed to the Second Degree. A ballot was taken for Messrs. W. W. Evans and C. P. Oxley, which proved unanimous, and these gentlemen were duly initiated. Bro. J. Smart was then presented by Bro. Harlow, P.M., to the W.M., Bro. W. M. Graham, to receive from him the benefit of installation, which ceremony was performed before a Board of 30 Installed Masters in a manner quite up to the traditions of this lodge, which is saying a good deal. The new W.M. then appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing year as follows: Bro. J. Huckell, S.W.; J. Dobbs, J.W.; J. Roberts, P.M., P.P.G.S.W. Cornwall, Treas.; H. J. Harriss, P.M., Sec.; W. J. Downes, S.D.; O. W. Rix, J.D.; G. W. Shephard, J.D.; G. Schader, P.M., D.C.; G. Chivers, A.D.C.; J. Maurice, H. T. Crookes, J. Chambers, T. White, and C. H. Fuller, Stwds.; H. Townsend, Organist; and W. Lane, Tyler. The three addresses were then most admirably given by the Installing Master. A Committee was appointed to carry out the arrangements for the summer festival, after which the lodge was closed.

The brethren then adjourned to the Venetian Room, where about 150 members and visitors enjoyed a most excellent banquet, at the conclusion of which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and enthusiastically received.

Bro. W. M. Graham, I.P.M., then proposed the toast of "The W.M.," as he remarked, with great confidence, having seen the careful and perfect manner in which Bro. Smart had performed the duties of the various offices which he had filled, and he felt sure that when his year in the chair was at an end the members would agree that he was fully entitled to rank with the excellent workers, a large number of whom were still Past Masters of the lodge.

Bro. J. Smart, the W.M., replied that he was fully alive to the honour which had been conferred upon him and expressed himself confident that he would have the support of his officers and the brethren in carrying on the work in a creditable manner. He called upon the brethren to assist him in supporting the Masonic Charities, and expressed a wish that a brother might come forward who would undertake to form a benevolent association in connection with the lodge.

The W.M. then proposed "The I.P.M. and Installing Master," and paid him a just tribute in saying that his work not only during the installation ceremony but during the past year had been excellent. The W.M. had great pleasure in presenting him with a Past Master's jewel and collar in the name of the members of the lodge, and in order to mark their appreciation of his services he had also the pleasure of presenting him with a microscope in case, together with the necessary fittings.

The I.P.M., Bro. Graham, thanked the W.M. and brethren for their very handsome present. He was very glad that they had allowed him to choose it, as having been taught to extend his researches, &c., he could not imagine anything more suitable than a microscope. He hoped to spend many pleasant evenings at home with it; but he should never cease his interest in the lodge, to which he hoped to give his best services for many years to come.

The toast of "The Initiates" was then cordially given and received, and suitably responded to.

"The Visitors" were next welcomed with the warmth always extended to them in this lodge.

Bros. T. Hanson, W. Thomson, H. A. Smith, and W. J. Lancaster suitably responded.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, the toasts of "The Past Masters" and "The Treasurer and Secretary" were combined.

Bro. Ferry, P.M., responded for his colleagues. Bro. Harriss, P.M., Sec., thanked the W.M. and brethren for himself, and regretted that the Treasurer, Bro. Roberts, P.M., was unable to be present, being on the Continent for the benefit of his health.

The W.M. again expressed his confidence in the officers he had appointed. Bro. J. Huckell, S.W., replied that he was sure they would all do their best for the good of the lodge.

The usual Tyler's toast brought to a close a most enjoyable evening. A capital programme of music was provided by Miss Mary Lund, Madame Rina Robinson, and Bros. John Coates, Arthur Walenn, and Charles Frood. Bro. H. Townsend, Organist of the lodge, rendered good service at the piano.

Royal Leek Lodge, No. 1849.

The installation meeting of the above lodge was held at the Masonic Hall, Bangor, on Thursday, the 5th inst. There was an unusually large gathering of brethren, among whom were several Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge officers, including the following, viz: Bros. Col. Henry Platt, C.B., P.G.D., Dep. Prov. G.M.; Col. Hunter, P.G.D., G. Rep. Greece to England; J. Lloyd Griffith, P.G.D. Cerms., P. Prov. S.G.W.; Edward Roberts, Dep. G. Swd. Br., P. Prov. S.G.W., Prov. G. Sec.; Henry Kneeshaw, P. Prov. S.G.W.; T. Lloyd Kyllin, P. Prov. G. Chap.; Thos. Edwards, P. Prov. G. Chap.; R. Hughes Pritchard, P. Prov. G. Reg.; R. G. Thomas, P. Prov. G. Supt. Wks.; H. Grey Edwards, P. Prov. J.G.D.; D. Wynn Williams, P. Prov. J.G.D.; Robert Owen, P. Prov. J.G.D.; Caradoc Rowland, P. Prov. J.G.D., Prov. G. Asst. Sec.; E. J. Lloyd, P. Prov. J.G.D.; W. P. Matthews, Prov. G.D. Cerms.; W. A. Foster, P. Prov. G. Swd. Br.; W. Guest, P. Prov. G. Swd. Br.; T. E. Jones, P. Prov. G. Swd. Br.; W. A. Dew, P. Prov. A.G.D. Cerms.; R. A. Gregory, P. Prov. A.G.D. Cerms.; R. W. Newton, P. Prov. A.G.D. Cerms.; John Williams, P. Prov. G. Org.; F. Barlow, P. Prov. G. Org.; Walter M. Williams, P. Prov. G. Purst.; Wm. Jones, P. Prov. G. Purst.; David Williams, P. Prov. G. Stwd.; and a large number of visitors from the following lodges in the province, viz, Nos. 384, 597, 606, 1113, 1143, 1309, 1488, 1674, and 2569, and from Lodge No. 2269, Bombay, Lodge No. 549, and Irish Lodges Nos. 407 and 588.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes were confirmed, and after other business and the election of several joining members had been dealt with, Bro. T. Westlake Morgan, the W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. David Williams, P.M., to the Installing Master, Bro. Col. H. Platt, C.B., D.P.G.M., and was in an able manner duly installed W.M. of the lodge before an Installed Board of some three dozen Past Masters. The W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. W. Douglas Jones, I.P.M.; J. A. Rodway, S.W.; H. A. Stenning, J.W.; David Morgan, Chap.; T. Lloyd Kyllin, Treas.; W. Price Smith, P.M., Sec.; F. Bellis, S.D.; W. Bulkeley Hughes Hunter, J.D.; W. A. Dew, D.C.; W. E. Scott Hall, A.D.C.; H. J. Roberts, I.G.; J. A. James, Stwd.; and T. Powis, Tyler. The addresses were impressively delivered by Bros. J. Lloyd Griffith, H. Grey Edwards, and W. P. Matthews. The W.M. then, in eulogistic terms, presented the I.P.M. and Bro. David Williams with Past Master's jewels. The I.P.M. and Bro. Williams returned thanks. The report of the Audit Committee was adopted.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. Lord Harlech, Prov. G.M.; Col. the Hon. W. E. Sackville West, Lord Bishop of Bangor, Canon Brownrigg, W. S. Penley, Eric Platt, G. Farren, Col. Gordon Warren, F. M. Lockwood, H. Lowndes, J. Armstrong, and others, and after the proposition of several joining members and candidate, the lodge was closed.

After the brethren had partaken of an excellent banquet, provided at the Castle Hotel, which reflected the highest credit on that establishment, under the personal superintendence of Bro. Eustance, the W.M. proposed "The Queen and the Craft," which was enthusiastically received.

The W.M. next gave "H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M.," and "The Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. Col. Hunter, P.G.D., replied. The toast of "The W.M." was proposed by the I.P.M., who expressed himself confident that the lodge would, under the guidance and care of the W.M., flourish with greater success in the future than it had done in the past.

The W.M., in reply, thanked the I.P.M. for the kind expressions he had used in proposing the toast, and the brethren for the manner they had received it, and assured them that nothing should be wanting on his part to promote the success and welfare of the lodge, and he expressed his gratification at the honour paid to him by the presence of several Grand Officers and of such a large number of Provincial Grand Officers.

The toast of "The Installing Master, I.P.M., and Past Masters," was next proposed and heartily received, and responded to.

Bro. R. Hughes Pritchard, in proposing the toast of "The Visitors," mentioned that the lodge was at all times pleased to receive them, and it was beneficial to brethren to visit other lodges, to ensure more unanimity and harmonious working throughout the province.

Bros. Bennett (Bombay) and Matthews responded. "The Charities" was proposed by Bro. Stenning.

The W.M. proposed the toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary."

Bros. Lloyd Kyllin and Price Smith responded. Bro. Rodway replied for "The Officers."

The Tyler's toast brought a very successful evening to a close. During the evening a selection of music was given by a string band, under the direction of Mr. McElwee, Bandmaster of the Royal Anglesy Engineers.

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Earl of Mornington Lodge, No. 2000.

The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Café Royal, Regent-street, W., on Friday, the 23rd inst., when, in the absence of the W.M., Bro. William Turner, in South Africa, Bro. R. S. Fairbank, I.P.M., presided, who was supported by Bros. H. T. Taylor, S.W.; A. Dawson Jones, J.W.; W. A. Bowser, P.M., Sec.; J. Davidson, S.D.; G. Budd, as J.D.; and W. W. Szlumper, I.G. There were also present Bros. J. Pollard, P.M.; R. Lake, P.M.; H. L. Sarson, R. J. Probyn-Williams, W. A. Bird, J. H. Dallas, F. A. H. Walsh, H. M. Allom, J. F. W. Silk, M.D.; A. R. Woodbridge, H. F. Tod, J. Hamilton, E. Dickens, and T. Bowler, Tyler.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February having been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported that, in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting, he had sent letters of condolence to the widow and the brother of their late lamented brother and P.M., J. H. Lavies, and had also sent a wreath in name of the lodge. Letters from Mrs. Lavies and Bro. Harry B. Lavies, gratefully acknowledging the sympathy shown by the lodge, were read. Bro. Hunter F. Tod, M.B., was elected a joining member of the lodge, and, having been introduced, was heartily welcomed by the I.P.M. on behalf of the brethren. Bros. Hugh M. Allom and Algernon R. Woodbridge were then separately raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason by the I.P.M., Bro. Fairbank, who also gave the traditional history and explanation of the working tools. The repeated ceremonies were performed in a most able and impressive manner. The sum of £10 10s. was voted to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, also £2 2s. to the South African Masonic Relief Fund recently started by Grand Lodge, and the members were invited to supplement these donations by personal subscriptions, an appeal which will, doubtless, be responded to, as is customary in this lodge. Three brethren were proposed for election as joining members, and one gentleman was proposed for initiation. The Secretary, Bro. Bowser, P.M., gave notice of his intention to propose an alteration in the by-laws; and, after apologies for non-attendance had been read, and some other formal business transacted, the lodge was closed.

In consequence of the recent death of Bro. J. H. Lavies, P.M., the usual banquet was postponed.

London County Council Lodge, No. 2603.

The installation meeting of this lodge, now four years old, was held on Wednesday evening at the Hotel Cecil, under the Worshipful Mastership of Bro. George S. Elliott. Nearly 100 brethren were present, and among them were: Bros. Edward White, P.M. 177, S.W.; H. Percy Harris, J.W.; R. M. Beachcroft, P.M., Treas.; C. A. Cornwall, Sec.; T. H. W. Idris, S.D.; W. Haydon, P.M., D.C.; James Kift, Org.; Alfred Spencer, Stwd.; Nathan Robinson, P.M.; W. M. Dindin, Heneage, Legge, W. J. Stewart, J. R. Seager, T. A. W. Galt, F. Bryan, Ambrose Pomeroy, Richard Partridge, Goddard Clarke, R. N. Alexander, C. J. Stewart, H. A. Harben, F. L. Blakey, Morris Abrahams, W. J. Wettenhall, Urquhart, E. Riley, P.M., T. E. K. Stansfield, and F. W. Smith. The Grand Officers present were: Bros. the Earl of Onslow, Prov. G.M. Surrey; George Everett, P.G.T.; Sir George D. Harris, P.G.D.; Harry Price, P.G. Std. Br.; Rowland Plumbe, P.G. Supt. of Wks.; H. L. Florence, G. Supt. of Wks.; Richard Horton Smith, O.C., P.G. Reg.; Ralph Gooding, M.D., P.G.D.; Henry Clarke, A.G.D.C.; H. S. Clutton, J.G.D.; N. M. Simmonds, P.P. G. Std. Br. Suffolk; Geo. Richards, Dist. G.M. Transvaal; Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale, P.G.T.; Lieut.-General Wimburn Laurie, Prov. G. Master South Wales (W.D.); H. W. Kiallmark, P.G.D.; Lieut.-Col. Clifford Probyn, P.G.T.; and R. J. Mure, P.G.D. The visitors were Bros. W. J. Ferguson, P.M. 177; Ernest Whitehead, 2146; James W. Wilson, W.M. 2728; Sydney Whitehead, 2145; Robert G. Robinson, W.M. 1531; G. A. Robinson, W.M. 55; William Elliott, 749; Frederick Elliott, 749; R. G. Young, 2416; H. Massey, P.M. 619 and 1928; Nicholas Hanhart, 2408; Henry Northcroft, 33 and 46; James Boyton, W.M. 1426; John Williams, P.M. 1791; A. E. Oswald, P.M. 2469; B. A. Smith, P.M. 523; W. W. Walkley, 1622; Baron D. Barnett, P.M. 1668; Alfred H. Larcome, 3; George Scott Miller, 2264; Robert H. Head, W.M. 1305; Frank Laurens, W.M. 1566; W. R. Maxwell, 1584; F. T. Davies, Sec. 2771; Charles Challen, 3; A. Saxon Snell, 33; H. T. Dudman, 2150; A. Craddock, W.M. 2150; Walter Dennis, P.M. 2473; D. J. Ross, P.M. 362; Henry Potter, W.M. 1622; W. R. McConnell, P.M. 1610; George B. Crook, 1305; R. W. Walker, 1107; William Curry, I.P.M. 435; T. H. Brooke Hitching, P.M. 1540; Charles C. Critchett, W.M. 6; H. R. S. Pulman, P.M. 3; W. H. Quayle Jones, W.M. 1871; George R. H. Stringer, 2698; J. Thomley, 704; and Albert Southall, 1359.

The work of the evening consisted of raising Bro. Dr. Frederick Bryan to the Third Degree, and installing Bro. Edward White, S.W., W.M. elect, as Worshipful Master. Both these ceremonies were performed by Bro. George S. Elliott, W.M., and after Bro. White had been placed in the chair, Bro. George S. Elliott was invested as I.P.M. The other brethren invested were Bros. H. P. Harris, P.M., as S.W.; T. H. W. Idris, J.W.; R. M. Beachcroft, P.M., Treas.; Goddard Clarke, Sec.; W. Haydon, P.M., S.D.; A. Spencer, J.D.; W. J. Dindin, I.G.; T. A. Organ, D.C.; James Kift, Org.; and R. W. Edgley, P.M., Tyler. After the Auditors' report had been adopted, 10 guineas were voted to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's South African Masonic Relief Fund, and this concluded the business of the evening.

An excellent banquet followed, and the usual toasts were honoured with true Masonic heartiness. The speeches introducing them, and the replies to the toasts, were interspersed with some capital vocal music, under the direction of Bro. James Kift, by Miss Emily Foxcroft, and Bros. W. R. Maxwell and Arthur Strugnell.

Bro. Lieut.-Col. J. Wimburn Laurie, having responded for the toast of "The Grand Officers,"

Bro. George Richards, Dist. G. Master of the Transvaal, was loudly called for. In replying to the toast he said it was now some three years ago, on his previous visit to this country, he was fortunate enough, through the kindness of Sir George Harris, who was then installed as Master of the London County Council Lodge, to be a guest of the lodge. It was an additional charm to him now to find his name had not been allowed to slip altogether from the brethren's memory, and that Sir George Harris had given him another opportunity to be among the members of the London County Council Lodge. It had been both an instructive and a pleasant evening; instructive because he had been able to witness the installation ceremony very well performed, and pleasant in that there had been exhibited that true spirit of fraternal union which existed between the Freemasons of England and the brethren of the Colonies. He trusted he might be allowed in that interesting connection to give a statement of the position and progress of Freemasonry in that part of her Majesty's dominions—(hear, hear)—South Africa, where, 23 years ago he first saw the light of Masonry, and where all his Masonic honours were gained. There were four distinct constitutions in South Africa, English, Scotch, Irish, and Dutch. The Dutch raised the banner of Freemasonry there 120 or 130 years ago. In Cape Town they founded their first lodge. The Dutch had 18 lodges under the Grand Lodge of the Netherlands. The English had five District Grand Lodges in South Africa, one in the Central Division, one in the Eastern Division, and one in the Western Division, one in Natal, and one in the Transvaal. The Western Division was under the presidency of the Rev. Charles William Barnett Clarke, and had its head quarters at Cape Town, with some 15 lodges. It covered a very large and wide area. To these 15 lodges brethren had very often to travel many miles of wild country. Their days of meeting were fixed at or near the full moon, showing that our brethren were mindful of the Masonic ritual, and had great dependence on that light which is from above. The brethren out in that South African District stood second to none in loyalty to the Crown, and their one desire was to preserve pure and unadulterated the ancient institutions of Masonry. As in the course of the evening the G.M.'s South African Masonic Relief Fund had been spoken of, and his Royal Highness's message thereupon mentioned, he must

acknowledge the most excellent support it had had, and he could assure the brethren that Charity was no ideal thing in Masonry. There was also no better appeal to the Charity of the Craft than on behalf of the loyal and distressed brethren in South Africa. Take his own district, the Transvaal with its 25 lodges with some 2000 brethren; he was well within the truth when he said that four-fifths of them were loyal to the Queen and the Craft. Now, those brethren who had been in a decent condition, living with their wives and families, and able to earn their bread and keep their homes in comfort and educate and bring up their children properly, were suddenly and without a word of warning hounded and thrust out of their country, unable to take anything but what they stood up in, and leaving their houses, homes, and everything that could make life pleasant, and were subject to every indignity and insult enough to make one's blood run cold; afterwards having to live on the charity of their brethren. The fund started for their relief was a subject dear to his heart. It was kind of the Grand Master to send a message to Grand Lodge, and Grand Lodge made a magnificent response, and the cheerful assistance of the brethren of lodges and provinces was coming in every day. It showed that there was one chain which bound the brethren together, and he knew he should not look in vain for support. The question was what amount would be required. That depended on circumstances. He hoped it would not be long before peace was restored, and happiness, concord and prosperity established. If more was required from Grand Lodge than it had already granted it could be appealed to again. He thought some 3000 brethren would require relief; but he could assure the brethren that whatever individuals, lodges, or provinces gave would be thankfully received and faithfully applied.

Bro. G. S. Elliott, I.P.M., proposed "The W.M.," who, he said, was the right man in the right place. Bro. White had acted as Secretary of the lodge since its foundation, and a better Secretary it could not have had. He had been unanimously elected to the chair, and he would make as good a Master as he had made a Secretary.

Bro. E. White, W.M., replying, said that when he was for the first time in his life elected Master of a lodge he thought it the proudest moment of his life, but he thought that night was the proudest he had ever experienced. He was proud to occupy any office; but he was prouder to be Master of the London County Council Lodge, the establishment of which showed that, however the members of the Council might differ from each other, their differences never followed them into Freemasonry.

Bro. Elliott, I.P.M., responding to the toast of "The Past Masters," and acknowledging the gift of a Past Master's jewel which was presented to him, expressed the pride he felt at having been the W.M. of that lodge. He had tried to fulfil the obligations he took 12 months ago—to carry out impartially and to the best of his ability the duties he then took upon himself. He was glad that the brethren were satisfied with the way in which he had occupied the high office of W.M.

Bros. Reginald Mure, Potter, and Critchett replied to the toast of "The Visitors."

The other toasts followed.

St. Nicholas Lodge, No. 2259.

The bi-monthly meeting of this lodge was held on Wednesday, the 21st inst. Present: Bros. E. Hirst, W.M.; G. Eland, I.P.M.; E. Simpson, S.W.; T. J. Smith, J.W.; E. Donkin, Treas.; J. Constable, Sec.; E. Maskill, S.D.; Theo Barber, P.M., D. of C.; J. Acaster, I.G.; F. Pine, Tyler; H. A. Fenton, P.M.; C. F. Budds, and T. R. S. Marsdin.

Lodge being opened, Bro. Constable read the circular from Grand Lodge, and from Bro. Richards, Dist. G. Master of the Transvaal, as well as the touching and appropriate article from the *Freemason* on the distress prevailing in South Africa amongst the brethren suffering from the effects of the terrible war. Although only a small lodge, not situated in the midst of wealth and affluence, still the very commendable sum of £10 15s was collected among the members present, to be supplemented by subscriptions from the absentees.

The brethren afterwards adjourned to the club room, where a convivial hour was spent.

Mark Masonry.

Earl of Carnarvon Lodge, No. 211.

The installation meeting of this highly successful lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, E.C., on the 28th ult., and was well attended. Among those present were Bros. J. Rosedale, W.M.; F. N. Hardinge, J.W., Master elect; Wales, M.O.; Strutt, S.O.; Willshire, J.O.; J. N. Frye, P.M., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.S.B., Sec.; R. Shaw, P.M., S.D.; P. Beard, D.C.; Barton and Johnstone, Stwds.; P. Mason, P.M.; J. Huish, P.M.; Larter, P.M.; and E. Beard, I.P.M. Bros. S. Pollitzer, P.M.; E. J. Day, P.M.; and S. V. Abrahams were visitors.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Hardinge having been presented was installed by Bro. J. Rosedale in a most admirable manner. The officers appointed and invested were Bros. Wales, S.W.; Strutt, J.W.; Willshire, M.O.; Baragownethy, S.O.; Douse, J.O.; J. N. Frye, P.M., Treas.; Major T. C. Walls, P.M., Sec.; R. Shaw, P.M., S.D.; P. Beard, D.C.; Barton, I.G.; Johnstone, D.C.; P. Gayer, H. Warmington, and C. J. Burt, Stwds.; and C. Patrick, Tyler. A vote of thanks was passed to the Installing Master, and he was presented with a Past Master's jewel. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Bros. F. C. Frye, P.M.; S. Parkhouse, P.M.; Surgeon-Lieut.-Col. Kiallmark, P.M., P.G.S.; and others. The lodge was then closed.

A banquet followed.

Bro. R. Shaw responded on behalf of "The Grand Officers." "The Health of the W.M." was given by Bro. E. Beard, acting I.P.M. He said that from what he had seen of the W.M.'s working in the minor offices of the lodge he had no doubt that the more important work of the chair would be well performed. The lodge, as shown by the balance sheet that night, was in a sound financial and prosperous condition. He wished the W.M. every success.

The W.M., in reply, said that in the persons of the proposer of the toast and the I.P.M., Bro. Rosedale, the lodge had had two good Masters. If he could only equal their excellent efforts he should consider himself a fortunate man. He regretted that the last named had been compelled to leave in consequence of a family bereavement, as otherwise he should have liked personally to thank him for so ably installing him. He felt proud of being the Master of No. 211, and no effort on his part would be wanting to render his occupancy of the chair an agreeable one to the brethren.

The toast of "The Visitors" followed, and was briefly responded to by Bros. Pollitzer, Day, and Abrahams.

"The Past Masters" was coupled with the names of Bros. Beard and Larter. In giving "The Treasurer and Secretary," the W.M. was very laudatory in his remarks. He said that Bro. J. N. Frye's management of the funds could not be too highly praised, apart from which he was a most genial man and an excellent Mason.

Bro. Frye having replied in a humorous vein, "The Health of the Officers" terminated the proceedings.

The W.M. had generously provided an admirably-arranged musical entertainment. The numerous items were greatly appreciated and, in every instance the artistes were asked for encores.



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Borough of Greenwich Lodge, No. 332.

The installation meeting of the above lodge took place on Tuesday, the 13th inst., at the King William the Fourth Hotel, Bro. G. Burney's handsome and comfortable hostelry at East Greenwich. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Charles M. Challoner, P.M. 323, &c., who, after advancing a candidate, proceeded to install his successor, Bro. Frank Lever, which he did in a faultless and impressive manner. The W.M. then invested the following officers, the majority of whom were present: Bros. Challoner, I.P.M.; H. Jacobs, S.W.; J. W. Rozier, J.W.; T. Hinds, M.O.; J. Hinds, S.O.; W. P. Broad, J.O.; G. P. Carter, P.M., P.P.G.J.W., Treas. and Asst. Sec.; H. Watts, S.D.; F. F. Marrable, J.D.; G. Burney, P.M., &c., I.G.; and T. Purday, Tyler. The installing officer then concluded his work by giving the addresses admirably. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his work that day, and was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel for services rendered the lodge during his year of office.

Among the other brethren were Bros. A. T. Bateman, P.M., P.M. 309, P.P.G.M.O.; H. Roberts, P.M., P.P.G. In. of Works; W. H. Burney, P.M., P.P.G.D.; G. Benny, P.M.; C. Jolly, P.M., 226, P.P.G.J.D.; and others.

The banquet was, as usual at this well-appointed establishment, splendidly served, and of the choicest foods and wines procurable. Bro. George deserves the hearty appreciation his efforts met with, and looked happy.

The usual loyal Grand, Mark, Provincial, and complimentary toasts were given and heartily received, some excellent singing by two young artistes enlivening the proceedings greatly. The whole affair was most enjoyable.

Royal Arch.

Farringdon Without Chapter, No. 1745.

A meeting of this chapter was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 26th ult. Among those in attendance were: Comps. F. Weinel, M.E.Z.; J. Young, P.Z.; as H.; J. D. Webb, J.; Major T. C. Walls, P.A.G.D.C., S.E.; G. Newell, S.N.; Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., P.S.; T. Simpson, P.Z.; and Dr. J. W. Hinton, P.P.G.O., P.Z. 74 (Hon. Mem.).

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Comps. H. B. Marshall, J.P., M.A., C.C., H.; H. J. Lardner, P.P.G.S., P.Z., Treas.; G. Herbert, P.Z., and others. The chapter was then closed. A banquet followed.

The M.E.Z. was exceedingly good in his remarks. His expressions as to the great wave of loyalty that had flowed in every country where the English flag was respected were particularly happy. Britain, he said, was engaged in a great struggle, and her sons from every land were assisting her most bravely, most nobly, and most disinterestedly to achieve a victorious result. He also spoke of many distinguished Masons who were at the front, notably Lords Roberts, Kitchener, and Methuen, and Sir Charles Warren.

The toast of "The M.E.Z." followed, and was given in very flattering terms by Comp. T. Simpson, who particularly eulogised the First Principal on the manner in which he had spoken of the Queen and those distinguished soldiers and Masons who were fighting her battles. He then went on to say that the M.E.Z. was an excellent worker in the Craft, and as Preceptor of a lodge of instruction he had been most useful, energetic, and successful.

The M.E.Z. having briefly replied gave the toast of "The H. and J." In submitting this toast he regretted that the Second Principal was unable to be present that evening. Comp. H. B. Marshall, like his late respected father, was a great supporter, not only of the Charities in connection with Masonry, but of many others in London and elsewhere. The Third Principal was W.M. of the mother lodge, and was doing good work there.

Comp. Webb having replied, the toast of "The Past Principals" was coupled with the names of Comps. Young and Simpson, who replied.

"The Health of the Officers" was coupled with the names of Comps. Newell and the Rev. R. C. Fillingham.

During the evening some excellent vocal selections were given, and Professor Cross gave several readings on phonology with practical illustrations.

Instruction.

PROSPERITY LODGE, No. 65.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, the 28th inst., at the Whittington, 5 and 7, Moor-lane, E.C. Present: Bros. P. O'Doherty, W.M.; J. G. Robeson, P.M., S.W.; H. A. Baxter, J.W.; Jas. Smith, P.M., Treas.; H. T. Meadows, P.M., Sec.; O. W. Rix, S.D.; W. J. Lockett, J.D.; D. Harlow, P.M., Preceptor; W. J. Fishleigh, I.G.; William Baker, P.M., Asst. Preceptor; Jas. Brown, P.M.; J. J. Lamigeon, P.M.; W. L. Barker, P.M.; T. Stokes, P.M., W.M. 192; W. G. Read, P. Leach, W. Gernon, H. Palmer, F. H. Farr, Jas. Collins, and B. T. Mills. Joining members: Bros. H. Butcher, Clissold, No. 2551, and J. Hess, Metropolitan, No. 1507.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed. The W.M. then opened in the Second Degree, and Bro. Stokes, acting as candidate for the Third Degree, answered the usual questions, and was entrusted. The lodge was then opened in the Third Degree, and Bro. Stokes raised to the Degree of M.M. The brethren then went through Masonic drill, and the W.M. closed down in the Third and Second Degrees respectively. At the usual risings Bros. Butcher and Hess were proposed as joining members, and unanimously elected. Bro. Robeson was elected to occupy the chair next Wednesday evening. On the proposition of the Treasurer, Bro. James Smith, P.M., seconded by Bro. William Baker, P.M., the sum of five guineas was voted from the lodge funds, to be placed on the list of Bro. J. Brown, P.M. 1436, who is representing the lodge at the next annual Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. A well deserved meed of praise was given by the Preceptor, and heartily endorsed by the brethren present, to the W.M., Bro. Patrick O'Doherty, for his able working of the Third Degree for the first time (including the traditional history), which was rendered in such a perfect manner that could not well be surpassed by many brethren much his senior in Freemasonry. The lodge was then closed, and the meeting adjourned.

HORNSEY CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT.

A meeting was held on the 23rd inst., at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Bishop's-rd., Paddington, when there were present Comps. F. R. Farrow, M.E.Z. 1196, M.E.Z.; H. S. Thwaites, H. 1196, H.; R. Manuel, P.Z. 1196, J.; Hochane, P.Z. 890, Scribe E.; G. N. Watts, P.Z. 1196, Scribe N.; A. J. Turner, P.Z. 1196, P.S.; H. Armfield, P.S. 1642, 1st A.S.; H. Foskett, J. 185, Stwd.; A. L. Butters, P.S. 890; J. M. Huish, S.N. 185; C. Webster, S.N. 1642; and F. Marchant, 2nd A.S. 890. Visitor: Comp. J. H. Byrne, 1196. The chapter was opened, the companions were admitted, and the minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Webster acting as the candidate. Comp. Byrne was elected a member, and acknowledged the compliment. The W.M. rose the usual number of times, "Hearty good wishes" were accorded, and the chapter closed.

STAR CHAPTER, No. 1275.

A meeting was held on Friday, the 23rd instant, at the Stirling Castle Hotel, Clutch-street, Camberwell, S.E. Present: Comps. J. H. Cureton, P.Z., M.E.Z.; Hy. Cornford, H.; J. Block, J.; Morris, Scribe N.; Everett, P.S.; Thomas Grummant, P.Z., Preceptor; Dawson, Cass, and Hopkins.

The minutes of the last convocation were read and confirmed. The ceremony of exaltation was rehearsed, Comp. Hopkins personating the candidate. Comp. Hy. Cornford, J. 1901 and 1329, was elected M.E.Z. for to-night (Friday). Comp. Hopkins,

1381, was elected a joining member, and duly responded. The M.E.Z. rose the usual number of times, and the chapter was closed.

The annual supper will take place at the Montpelier Hotel, Choumert-road, Peckham (Comp. Pow, Proprietor), on Wednesday, the 25th prox. Companions will be welcomed.

CHOUGH LODGE, No. 2264.

CELEBRATION DINNER.

At the regular meeting held on Friday, the 23rd instant, at the Forest Hill Hotel Stanstead-road, Forest Hill, S.E., the ceremonies of consecration and installation were rehearsed by Bro. James Terry, P.G.S.B. Eng., P.P.S.G.W. Norths and Hunts, Sec. R.M.B.I., &c. The brethren assembled to do honour to the occasion numbered about 130, a circumstance unique in the annals of Freemasonry in South London, at least.

Bro. Terry assumed the chair, and appointed his officers: Bros. J. Pointon, P.M. 1861, S.W.; C. G. Jones, J.W.; H. Peirce, P.M. 1899, Sec.; and Wm. Callingham, W.M. elect 1599, as I.G. The lodge was opened in the Three Degrees, and the ceremony of consecration proceeded with in a most exemplary manner, which was listened to with rapt attention, and made a lasting impression on the brethren. The lodge having been dedicated and constituted, it was resumed in the Second Degree, and the ceremony of installation proceeded, with Bro. H. E. Francis, P.P.S.G.D. Surrey, being installed, who invested his officers as follows: Bros. T. R. Roberts, S.W. 507, S.W.; C. G. Jones, J.W.; W. A. Jarvis, Treas.; H. Peirce, P.M., Sec.; W. Sarjeant, S.D.; Bailey, J.D.; and W. Callingham, I.G. The three addresses were most ably rendered by the Consecrating Officer, Bro. James Terry. The W.M. rose the usual number of times. A very large number was added to the roll of members. Bros. Jas. Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.B.I., and Lovegrove, P.G.S.B., were elected hon. members of the lodge, having attended the lodge as Consecrating Officers, and thereby conferring an honour upon it. In reply, Bro. Terry tendered his most hearty and sincere thanks. He had known the W.M., Bro. Francis, for 35 years in the Percy Lodge of Instruction as a most ardent Freemason. He was only too pleased to be of service to the brethren in rendering the beautiful ceremonies, which were most instructive and interesting. He had installed over 1000 Masters into the chair. For the great compliment in electing him an hon. member he was thankful, and he hoped the lodge would have a most successful career under such able guidance, and whenever his services were required, if possible, he should only be too pleased to accede to their request. Bro. Lovegrove also thanked the brethren for the honour done him. He was detained somewhat on his journey which caused him to be somewhat late, but, nevertheless, he was delighted to be able to assist Bro. Terry, with whom he worked 20 years ago in the same ceremony, which he had heard many times since, but he found that Bro. Terry lost none of his ability and accuracy in the rendering of it. Bros. Alf Haines, W.M. 2264, and J. W. Dewsnap, P.M. and Sec. 2264, were also elected hon. members for their great kindness and able assistance rendered in granting the warrant for the lodge of instruction to work under. Bros. Haines and Dewsnap most ably replied, and thanked the brethren for the honour done them. Also Bros. Frank Swinford, P. Prov. G. Org. Middx., and Alf Hawkins were elected hon. members for so kindly and gratuitously giving their service in the conducting the music. Bros. Swinford and Hawkins likewise acknowledged the honour done them, and proffered their services most willingly.

The lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banqueting hall, where appeared a Fairyland, the palms, table decorations, and the floriculture being profuse, provided gratuitously by Bros. J. and H. Laing, Stanstead-road, Forest-hill, for which they received the hearty thanks of the lodge. The banquet was supplied by Bro. Nicholls, of Upper Norwood, which gave immense satisfaction, the whole being personally superintended by him and Bro. Jarvis, the worthy host, who is to be highly commended for the handsome manner he catered for the brethren.

The banquet ended, Bro. Frances gave the loyal and Masonic toasts in loving and sympathetic terms to her Majesty and in thankful recognition of the valuable services rendered by H.R.H. the G.M.

In presenting the toast of "The Grand Officers of England, the Pro G.M., the Dep. G.M., and the rest of them," the Bro. President said they were all imbued with one idea, that of promoting the happiness of the brethren to the honour and benefit of the Craft.

In reply, Bro. Lovegrove, P.G.S.B., said it was an honour to respond for the House of Peers, and those brethren who were selected did their best for the welfare of the Craft. He had made it a point of attending all the great Masonic functions and was proud of being the only brother South of the Trent who attended a most important Masonic function in Edinburgh some time ago, and for which he held a commemoration jewel. He would suggest to the brethren of the Chough Lodge of Instruction the practical way of showing their gratitude to Bro. Terry for his great kindness—was to found a Charitable Association and the funds to be forwarded to the Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons. He thanked them most heartily for being allowed to respond for the Grand Officers. All knew how extremely popular the Prov. G. Master, Earl Amherst was in the Province of Kent, and also the Earl of Warwick in the Province of Warwickshire.

Bro. T. R. Roberts, S.W. 507, next rose and proposed the toast of "W. Bro. Frances, the President for the Evening and Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction." It was exceedingly fortunate that the brethren had been able to secure the services of so worthy a brother as Preceptor. Their chief aim was to perfect themselves in the ritual of the beautiful ceremonies, and in Bro. Frances was summed up not only that perfect knowledge but the power of imparting it, which was not given to all. He believed the Chough Lodge had a great future before it and the brethren hoped that the Preceptor might have many years before him and witness the result of his labour of love to the lodge. The brethren wished to show their gratitude, and heartily thank him for attending week after week in all weathers, for so kindly giving to them the fruits of his labours, and he asked them to rise and drink most cordially to the toast.

Bro. Frances, on rising, received an ovation, said that he heartily thanked the brethren for their kind feelings shown, which were thoroughly reciprocated. He had been many years connected with Freemasonry and there was a time that he had been somewhat of a distinguished Freemason, but now personally he would almost say he was an extinguished one. However, as the brethren had thought fit to honour him as Preceptor he should do his utmost not only to teach the ritual, but the principles which underlie it. When the lodge was about to be founded it was a *sine qua non* that a Charitable Association should be founded, which had proved very successful. He congratulated the brethren upon their attendance and the great attention they had paid to the ceremonies, and he believed it would become one of the best lodges of instruction that side of the water. Many other lodges had done nobly and well, but if possible it was a laudable ambition to try and eclipse them, as too much could not be done in the cause of Freemasonry. He earnestly hoped that the brethren and himself might live many more years to see that noble work carried out.

The toast of "Success to the Chough Lodge of Instruction," was next presented by Bro. Jas. Terry, P.G.S.B., who stated that it was already doing good suit and service. It had been established about two or three months, and had already a roll of 50 members, with 250 attendances, giving an average of 16 to 18 per meeting, which was highly gratifying. They had in the worthy Preceptor a capital speaker, and a practical teacher, and those who were in search of Masonic knowledge could not do better than place themselves under his kind care. He would couple with the toast the names of the indefatigable Secretaries, Bros. Peirce and Easty, and with all heartiness and sincerity gave, long life and prosperity to the Chough Lodge of Instruction.

At this juncture Bro. Terry was about to leave, when Bro. Peirce, P.M., Sec., handed him the sum of 10 guineas, being two ballots in the R.M. Benevolent Institution, for which Bro. Terry most gratefully acknowledged on behalf of the Institution, and said a receipt forthwith would be forwarded for the same.

Bro. Peirce on behalf of himself most cordially thanked the brethren for such a reception. What he had done was with an earnest that the lodge should be a success, which it was already proving. It could not fail under such a Preceptor and Treasurer. Bro. Jarvis had been most liberal to the lodge and had done all he possibly could for their comfort and happiness. He tendered the heartiest thanks of the brethren to Bro. Laing who had so handsomely decorated with beautiful flowers at no charge to the lodge, also to the artistes who had so voluntarily given their services, and further conduced to their harmony. And last—the most important of all—was to heartily thank the brethren of the mother lodge for granting the warrant to enable them to work. He personally thanked the W.M., Bro. Harris, and Bro. Dewsnap, the worthy Secretary of that lodge, who were present that evening. The idea of the Chough Lodge of Instruction had been first mentioned to the late estimable Bro. Walter Martin, P.G.P., and he undertook to obtain the warrant. It had been willed otherwise by the Great Architect for him to

witness the result of his labours, but the brethren would ever have him in their loving memory. He hoped that the Chough Lodge would never have cause to regret having granted the warrant.

Bro. Easty, co-Sec., thankfully responded, and said he had done his utmost to assist so estimable a colleague.

The toast of "The Visitors" was most ably presented by the Bro. President, and duly responded to by Bro. Dewsnap, who apologised for Bro. Haines, W.M. 2264, having had to leave on account of distance, but he would say that a very careful watch would be kept over the doings of the lodge of instruction that it should be carried out in a perfect manner. It would be the desire of the W.M. and Secretary of the mother lodge to visit as often as possible to witness for themselves, but he felt that the Chough Lodge would never regret granting the warrant. He heartily thanked the brethren for their very kind expressions towards him.

Bros. Pearson (Australia), Ingram, Geo. Beste, and Budd, P.M., Treas. 1815, also very ably responded.

An excellent programme of music was arranged, the artistes being Mr. Robert Debonnaire, Mr. F. G. Read, Bros. Arthur Sarjeant, Arthur Withers, Frank Swinford, and Spencer West (flautist). The able accompanists were Bros. Swinford, Hawkins, and Sarjeant.

The greatest possible thanks were due to Bros. Peirce, Easty, and Jarvis for their indefatigable exertions, so ably assisted by Bros. Roberts and Jones, in making the meeting an unbounded success.

The Chough Lodge of Instruction, No. 2264, meets every Friday evening, at 7.30, at the Forest Hill Hotel, Stanstead-road, Forest Hill (two minutes from Station L. B. and S. C. Railway).

The founders present were Bros. H. E. Francis, P.P.S.G.D. Surrey, Preceptor; H. Peirce, P.M. 1599, Sec.; W. A. Jarvis, 1599, Treas.; Wm. Keen, 1599; W. Callingham, W.M. elect 1599; W. Sarjeant, 1765; T. R. Roberts, S.W. 507; F. W. Madge, J.W. 507; C. G. Jones, J.W. 1815; and A. Sarjeant, Org.

There were also present Bros. Jas. Speller, P.P.G.D. Essex; F. Eedle, P.P.S. G.W. Essex; Frank Swinford, P.P.C. Org. Middx.; J. W. Dewsnap, P.M. 2264; F. Smith, P.M. 569; T. West, P.M. 1815; E. C. Wise, P.M. 619; W. C. Chaney, P.M. 507; O. Rose, P.M. 1591; J. H. Laing, P.M. 2469; G. J. Ingram, P.M. 2499; F. Robinson, W.M. elect 1309; A. W. Cain, P.M. 179; G. P. Nightingale, P.M. 193; G. Beste, P.M. 507; W. Budd, P.M. and Treas. 1815; G. Taker, P.M. and Sec. 1599; Wm. Wills, P.M. 1901; J. Vian, 27; H. A. Baxter, J.W. 2750; J. W. Brading, 30; R. Macgregor, Stwd. 1155; J. G. Eaton, 2411; C. E. Walbourn, 1360; C. Woodward, I.G. 507; E. Richards, S.D. 2369; A. B. Clayton, J.W. 1686; M. C. Sage, 2266; J. Cole, 2795; C. W. Bailey, 1839; W. D. Kirkpatrick, 1571; W. Peskett, W.M. 1815; W. J. Alford, 1901; W. T. Feldon, S.D. 2579; E. G. Price, 1703; H. J. Parkin, 1815; E. J. Orpin, 1815; E. Shackle, 534; D. R. Gray, 507; A. A. Atkinson, 2063; W. Colman, 1815; A. J. Verrall, 1540; E. Singer, 879; J. M. Nett, 212; C. Coggin, I.G. 2127; A. Keen, 1599; A. Pusey, Stwd. 179; J. H. Pearson, 159, Melbourne; W. Chapman, J.D. 2625; Dr. Halliwell, S.D. 1426; W. T. Burgess, J.D. 2191; W. Beecroft, P.M. 1158 and 2442; J. Johnson, 1815; G. Dunwoody, 1815; H. Aldridge, 1815; Haines, W.M. 2264; F. G. Pacey, I.G. 2309; W. H. Atkinson, 197; C. Spencer West, 2182; E. C. West, 2182; F. Walker, 2795; A. A. Carter, 1601; P. Morratt, 1601; A. Reichenheim, J.D. 2579; H. A. Weston, 1815; R. Bell, 862; J. B. Crowe, Sec. 1815; A. C. Hawkins, 1309; C. Frohlich, S.W. 2264; G. P. Clements, 1601; J. Marchant, 1815; W. Brannon, 1915; H. P. Easty, Sec. 1599; C. H. Clatworthy, 565; W. Macdonald, 1815; C. Partridge, P.M. 1686; A. Manners, B. W. Hedge, G. Upward, 1815; A. S. Buss, 1815; A. E. Grey, 1815; J. Allen, 1539; W. Baker, P.M. 1815; W. Forest, 1815; C. Barker, 1815; H. Leney, P.M. 1815; H. A. Trimmer, 177; G. Williams, 1815; F. J. Ruse, P.M. 65; R. White, 1669; E. Clough, 2077; M. Hart, 179; G. Ridge, 890; J. Freeman, 55; J. Bailey, 948; Chas. Hy. Stone, W.M. 1641, P.M. 507; and others.

THE RECENT BENEVOLENT FESTIVAL.

The following new lists and additions to lists have been received since last week:

LONDON.		£	s.	d.	
Lodge					
59	Bro. H. A. Tobias, additional ...	...	1	1	0
	(raising his list to £74 11s.)				
1693	" A. White, additional ...	...	26	5	0
	(raising his list to £110 5s.)				
1728	" W. G. Smith, additional ...	...	2	2	0
	(raising his list to £66 3s.)				
THE PROVINCES.					
BERKSHIRE.					
Lodge					
414	Bro. W. Haynes, additional ...	...	1	1	0
	(raising his list to £43 1s.)				
771	" W. E. Kington, additional ...	...	5	5	0
	(raising his list to £23 11s.)				
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.					
2421	Bro. George Darlington, additional ...	...	31	10	0
	(raising his list to £52 10s.)				
2421	" T. C. Collingwood, new list ...	...	10	10	0
2421	" W. Yeo, additional ...	...	3	13	6
	(raising his list to £220 10s.)				
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.					
	Bro. C. Williams, new Steward and list ...	...	26	5	0
HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT.					
1883	Bro. S. Crane, additional ...	...	5	5	0
	(raising his list to £28 5s.)				
HERTFORDSHIRE.					
404	Bro. E. R. Harby ...	...	1	1	0
	(raising his list to £64 1s.)				
WARWICKSHIRE.					
43	Bro. H. Jacobs, new Steward and list ...	...	10	10	0
WILTSHIRE.					
Province					
	Bro. W. C. Powning, additional ...	...	5	5	0
	(raising his list to £136 10s.)				
WORCESTERSHIRE.					
Lodge					
2724	Bro. T. R. Bayliss, new Steward and list ...	...	10	10	0
	Sums under £1 ...	...	11	6	

LADIES' NIGHT OF THE LEBANON LODGE,
No. 1326.

This flourishing provincial lodge, whose meetings are held at the Railway Hotel, Feltham, Middlesex, celebrated their first ladies' night at the Holborn Restaurant on Saturday, the 17th instant, when upwards of 50 brethren and their lady friends occupied the Gordon Room, under the presidency of the W.M., Bro. Gordon Larnier, supported by, amongst others, the following: Mrs. Gordon

Larnier; Bro. F. and Mrs. Dunstan and Miss G. Dunstan; Bro. T. W., Mrs., and Miss Alderman; Bro. and Mrs. Burton; Bro. and Mrs. Holland; Bro. and Mrs. Brooke; Bro. and Mrs. Russell; the Masters Russell and Miss Bate-man; Bro. and Mrs. Gunn; Bro. and Miss Terry; Bro. and Mrs. Michel; Bro. Scargill; Bro. and Mrs. H. Willsmer; Bro. Wyatt; Bro. Dr. and Mrs. Panting; and Bro. and Mrs. Brambridge.

The usual loyal and other toasts were duly honoured.

During the evening vocal and instrumental contributions were given by Miss G. Dunstan, Miss W. Alderman, Bros. Michel, Gunn, T. W. Alderman, Russell, and Dunstan, and Messrs. King, Cronin, and Russell, jun.

Congratulations were tendered by Bro. BURTON, S.W., to Bro. Gordon Larnier for having so successfully arranged matters connected with this, the first, ladies' night of the lodge, intimating that it was his intention at the first meeting of the lodge to propose that a vote of thanks be accorded him, the same to be recorded on the minutes.

Allied Masonic Degrees.

Metropolitan Council (T.I.).

A meeting of this council was held at Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the 23rd ult. Among the officers in attendance were Bros. Basil Stewart, W.M.; A. W. Humphreys, S.W.; George Araveley, P.M., as J.W.; and Major T. C. Walls, P.M., P.G.C., Sec.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported that he had been in communication with the Grand Secretary as to the future meetings of the council, and authority had been kindly given to allow the meetings for the present to be held on the same days as the Grand Masters' Council (Cryptic), viz., the last Fridays in February, September, and November. The installation to be in September. Bro. A. W. Humphreys, S.W., was accordingly elected W.M.; Bro. G. Powell, P.M., Treasurer; and Bro. Mills, Tyler. A vote of thanks was passed to the W.M. and a jewel voted to him. The Secretary reported, with regret, that the state of health of Bro. Powell, P.M., Treas., was serious in the extreme. Communications regretting inability to attend were received from Bros. Baron de Ferrieres, P.M.; R. L. Loveland, Q.C., P.M.; H. J. Lardner, P.M.; J. V. Sherrin, the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, M.A., Conductor; T. L. Pewtress, J.D.; and others. The council was closed.

The members dined with the brethren of the Grand Masters' Council (Cryptic), at the Holborn Restaurant.

During the proceedings, the respective healths of "The W.M." and "The Master elect," were duly proposed and honoured.

Obituary.

BRO. ALDERMAN C. H. LOW, OF BRISTOL.

It is with much regret we announce the death of Bro. Alderman Charles Hoskins Low, who died at his residence, Towerhurst, Leigh Woods, at 6.30 on Sunday morning, the 11th instant. Bro. Low first entered municipal life in January, 1875, and was made Alderman in May, 1891. He filled the position of Chairman of the Sanitary Committee from 1876-1881, and was a member of the Docks Committee from 1873 until 1893, being Chairman for the previous 10 years. Bro. Low was noted for the conscientiousness with which he performed his public and private duties, and it was this, combined with his great business experience and capacity, which made him a prominent figure in local business circles. He had always taken a great interest in his work as a director of the Bristol Tramways and Carriage Company and the Gloucester Tramways Company, being on the board of the former nearly 23 years. He was Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in 1865, and was a director of the Western Wagon and Property Company, and Chairman of the Bristol and Clifton Building Society. In Masonic circles the Alderman was greatly esteemed. He was the oldest P.M. of the Royal Sussex Lodge of Hospitality, No. 187, his son, Bro. H. Percy Low, being the present Master. The remains of the late Alderman were interred on the following Wednesday afternoon at Long Ashton, and the funeral was largely attended. The number of gentlemen in town who were dressed in mourning was of itself noticeable, but the fact that crape bows were tied on the whips of all the tramcar, bus, cab, and mail-coach drivers of the Bristol Tramways Company, while the electric car men wore crape on their arms, could not fail to attract the attention of the public, and make them aware that a funeral of more than ordinary importance was taking place. Nearly all the houses on the Leigh Woods side of the Suspension Bridge had their blinds drawn, and also several houses in Clifton. The first part of the burial service was conducted at St. Mary's, Leigh Woods. The coffin, which was of metal, with elm shell and polished oak exterior, with brass fittings, bore the inscription: "Charles Hoskins Low, died 11th March, 1900, aged 68 years." It was met at the church door by the officiating clergy, the Rev. J. Gamble (vicar of St. Mary's, Leigh Woods) and the Rev. H. Vaughan, of Wraxall. At the conclusion of the service, Beethoven's Funeral March was played, and the cortege then proceeded to Long Ashton. There was a long line of carriages, numbering over 40, including those of the Mayor and the Sheriff, who were unable to be present. The following represented the Royal Sussex Lodge: Bros. E. B. Colthurst, P.M., P.P.G.W.; H. R. James, P.M., P.P.G.W.; Rev. J. Fountaine, P.M., P.G.C.; H. A. Benham, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; A. Petter, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; H. H. Townsend, I.P.M.; E. H. Stock, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; H. M. Stock, J.D.; William Brown, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; E. A. Barnett, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; C. E. Barry, P.M., P.P.G.S.B. and H. A. Hood Daniel, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.

BRO. W. H. KIDSON.

We very much regret having to record the death of Bro. W. H. Kidson, M.L.S.B., which occurred at his residence, 2, Angell Park Gardens, S.W., on Saturday, the 24th instant. Bro. Kidson was the first initiate of the Avondale Lodge, and this year held the collar of S.D. He was a founder and Past Master of the London School Board Lodge, in which lodge he distinguished himself by careful, accurate, and painstaking working. He was exalted in the Avondale Royal Arch Chapter, and in office at the time of his death. He also belonged to the A. and A. Rite, being a member of the Alleyn Chapter, Rose Croix, where he also held the office of Herald. As a popular member of the London School Board, he was well known and respected. Politically, a hard-working Conservative, he was always ready to give his time, abilities, and means in furtherance of the cause, with a happy genius for making friends. It is to be feared that his death was due to his indefatigable exertions in connection with Bro. R. Lang-Sims, Hon. Organising Sec., for the success of the Brixton Gala and Torchlight Procession on the 14th and 15th inst., in aid of the soldiers' and sailors' widows and orphans, when he caught a severe chill, followed by pneumonia and complications; it is therefore no exaggeration to say that Bro. Kidson lost his life in his devotion and loyalty to his Queen and country. His loss will be very much felt, not only by his political and personal friends in the South of London, but especially by those of his Masonic brethren who had the pleasure and privilege of being associated with him in the various Degrees of the Order to which he belonged, and in which he was universally respected.

Science, Art, and the Drama.

CACAO CULTURE IN ECUADOR.

(Continued).

As soon as the pods begin to ripen they are removed with pruning knives, very sharp, and attached to the ends of long poles, which are lengthened by joints as often as required. As the twigs are very tough the blow with this instrument must be strong and well aimed, and the labourers must be experienced, on account of the particular skill that is required, and the fatigue that attends handling heavy poles, sometimes 30 feet high, with the face continually upturned. Whenever they can be reached the pods are cut off with a machete. A good deal of cacao is lost by the carelessness of the labourer, and his disinclination to deal with the pods in the upper branches. The pods are heaped in piles by one set of labourers, while another cuts them open and extracts the contents. A sharp pruning knife is used, and the seeds are often damaged through carelessness. For extracting the gummy substance and the seeds an implement made of an ox rib is used. The drying is done on open platforms made of split bamboo and palms, where the cacao is exposed to the sun during three or four days, and, in order that it may dry uniformly and well, labourers are employed to tread it out with bare feet. If not well dried the bean is apt to ferment; and if excessively dried, it shrinks and finally turns black. The dryers are provided with covers for protection against rain. Attempts have been made to introduce drying machinery (steam), but, at present, not one plantation in Ecuador uses it. When dried in the primitive fashion stated a great deal of pulp still adhering to the grain, the cacao is put into sacks and sent to Guayaquil to be sold in its natural state. Some merchants, it is said, attempt to deceive the buyer by washing an inferior bean in achiote, which gives the skin the appearance of first-class cacao, but this practice is severely condemned by honest merchants and is seldom followed, nor is reddish earth used in Ecuador as it is elsewhere for the purpose of preserving the grain from decomposition and of increasing its weight. Reaching Guayaquil the cacao is subjected to the cleaning process. Splinters, dirt, and defective beans are eliminated, and the adhering clusters of beans broken apart and dried several times before shipment. During this process the cacao loses four to five per cent. in weight. The sacks for foreign shipment contain from 60 to 70 kilogrammes (132 to 154 lbs.) net. The largest portion of the crop is bought in advance by Guayaquil merchants engaged in this business, who lend considerable sums of money during the year for current expenses of cacao estates. Large capital is necessary, and the number of merchants engaged in the business is limited. The profits of a plantation depend chiefly on the quality of the land, management, and proximity to market; but it may be reckoned approximately at from 40 to 50 per cent. per annum on the capital invested, which will continue for an indefinite period, cacao trees lasting for several generations. The price of land varies greatly and depends on the caprice or need of the seller. Land adapted to cacao cultivation covers an area of some 19,600 square miles in the coast provinces of Ecuador. A very small proportion of available land is now under cultivation, although there are large tracts adjoining important estates. The chief impediment to the rapid development of cacao plantations in Ecuador, is the system of "peonage consuetos," or slavery in all but name, which is in vogue, whereby labourers are bought and sold openly for debts. The production of cacao in Ecuador has been increasing since 1836, and the crop in this year is expected to be nearly 30,000 tons, the chief producing province being Los Rios, these following in the order of their importance: Guayas, El Oro, Manavi, and Esmeraldas.

PIETRO TORREGIANO.

(Continued).

Vasari states that Torregiano for his works, received such noble rewards, that if he had not been a proud, inconsiderate, ungovernable man, he might have lived in great felicity, and made a good end; but the contrary happened, for leaving England and settling in Spain, after several performances there he was accused of being a heretic. In a passion he had broken an image of the Virgin that he had just carved. Cumberland, in his Anecdotes of Spanish Painters, relates this story at large. "Torregiano had undertaken to carve a Madonna and child of the natural size at the order of a Spanish grandee; it was to be made after the model of one which he had already executed, and a promise was given him of a reward proportioned to the merit of his work. His employer was the Duke d'Arcas, one of the first grandees of Spain; and Torregiano, who conceived highly of his generosity, and well knew what his own talents could perform, was determined to outdo his former work. He had passed a great part of his life in travelling from kingdom to kingdom, in search of employment, and flattering himself with the hope that he had now found a resting place after all his labours, the ingenious artist with much pains and application completed the work, and presented to his employer a matchless piece of sculpture, the utmost effort of his art. The grandee surveyed the striking performance with great delight and reverence, applauded Torregiano to the skies, and impatient to possess himself of the enchanting work, forthwith sent to demand it. At the same time, to set off his generosity with a better display, he loaded two lacqueys with the money; the bulk was promising, but when the sculptor turned out the bags, and found the specie nothing but a parcel of brass maravedis, amounting only to 30 ducats, vexation upon the sudden disappointment of his hopes, and just resentment for what he considered as an insult to his merit so transported him, that snatching up his mallet in a rage, and not regarding the perfection (or what was to him of more fatal consequence) the sacred character of the image he had made, he broke it suddenly to pieces, and dismissed the lacqueys, with their load of farthings, to tell the tale. They executed their errand too well. The grandee, in his turn, fired with shame, vexation, and revenge, and assuming, or, perhaps, conceiving, horror for the sacrilegious nature of the act, presented himself before the Inquisition, and impeached the artist at that terrible tribunal. It was in vain that Torregiano urged the right of an author over his own creation. Reason pleaded at his side, but superstition sat in judgment—the decree was death with torture. It is supposed that Torregiano's case was aggravated in the eyes of the Holy Office by his having been resident in England and employed by King Henry VIII. The execution was indeed respited, but the artist became melancholy mad, and starved himself to death at Seville in 1522, in the 50th year of his age.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

After a long and successful run, from Christmas to the present time, the pantomime of "Jack and the Beanstalk" has been withdrawn. It has been staged with great liberality under the able direction of Arthur Collins, by whose experienced management the previous pantomimes produced have been so popular. "Jack and the Beanstalk" has been called the children's pantomime, and it is essentially so in the way in which the old familiar story has been treated. It appeals to the youthful minds of the visitors, who are pleased to recall the days when they were so delighted with the simple nursery legends. The musical director, Mr. Glover, has furnished some very effective music, founded on the popular melodies of the day. With a wise discretion, he has, for the sake of giving impressive grandeur to the processions, drawn largely on Wagner's music, especially that of the Lohengrin. The scenery is by Bruce Smith, Perkins, Harford, and others, and serves well to illustrate the incidents of the story. The characters are in the hands of the old-established favourites, who are so well known to the playgoing public. Mr. Dan Leno is Dame Trot; Mr. Herbert Campbell is the overgrown child, Bobbie. It may easily be understood how largely they contribute to the comic element. Miss Violet Cameron takes the part of Jack, and by her beautiful singing makes the character interesting. Messrs. Queen and Le Brun, who, in a dual capacity, represent the Cow, manage to furnish much fun by the antics of the animal. The Princess, Prince Racket, and Marjorie are undertaken by Misses Mabel Nelson, Rita Presano, and Mollie Lowell. The grand scene of the Land of Harmony at the end of Part I is very magnificent, and the introduction of the Aërial Troupe of the Grigolatis tends very materially to heighten the effect. Taking the production as a whole, we are not surprised at the deserved success it has achieved.

GENERAL NOTES.

Of the many different sorts and sizes of the members of the monkey tribe there are none to compare with the marmosets or tamarins in smallness of size, gentleness of disposition, and general beauty. To this group belong about 21 different species, of which seven are considered as true marmosets and the other 14 as tamarins. Their differences are really so slight that a dividing line between them is not easily to be drawn. One of the latter division is named the Pinché monkey. It is, as are all its near relatives, a pretty little animal, and is most confiding in its nature if properly treated. The Pinché monkey, and, indeed, all the members of the marmoset or tamarin group, are inhabitants of South America, where they are found in the more tropical parts of the country. Their haunts are in the thickest forests, and, as a rule, they keep to the branches of the highest trees. They go about in small troops, and rarely come to the lower branches or to the ground. If, however, they do venture to descend from their lofty abodes, they are always on the "qui vive!" and being of an extremely nervous disposition, scamper back through the branches with most wonderful agility on the least sign of danger. The Pinché monkey is more common on the sea coast than inland. Its food consists chiefly of fruit, but is varied, occasionally, with insects, birds' eggs, and even young birds.

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About a fortnight ago, Mr. August Manns, the veteran conductor of the Crystal Palace orchestra, celebrated his 75th birthday, and was the recipient of numerous tokens of esteem and congratulations from all quarters of the globe. At the Palace he was greeted with a prolonged outburst of applause when he appeared on the platform to conduct the concert. The occasion was also rendered doubly interesting by the performance of a newly-discovered orchestral suite by Tschaikowsky, "La Belle au Bois Dormante."

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It is pleasant to know that the new theatre in Great Queen-street is, at last, very near completion. It has been long talked about, and one wondered when Bro. Penley was going to take up his permanent abode with us. We call the theatre new, because there is nothing in it of the old Novelty except the outer walls. We have spent many interesting evenings there. It was there, for instance, that "Nita's First" had its original London production, there, that Solomon's comic opera "Polly" was first seen and heard. Among the most notable of all pieces produced here was "Ibsen's Doll's House," in which Miss Abchurch made her fame. Rumour states that Bro. Penley will open his new theatre with a revival of "A little ray of Sunshine," which had such a long and successful run some time ago at the Royalty Theatre. We heartily trust that prosperity may attend Bro. Penley.

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Mr. Newman has considerably changed his plans of his "London Musical Festival," with the result that the spirited enterprise is less than ever like what we generally understand by the name. Choral performances are entirely out of the bill, so that the six concerts will differ in no respect from those usually given under Mr. Wood's direction, save for the presence of Mr. Chevillard and the Lamoureux orchestra. Mr. Newman probably knows what the public want, and their preferences are to him a law. The programmes promise the appearance of Mme. Albani, Miss Blauvelt, Mme. Marchesi, Miss Butt, Mr. Ysaye, &c., and the instrumental works, including six marked "first time," are drawn from Bach (two), Beethoven (six), Wagner (seven), Tschaikowsky (two) by Schumann, Max Bruch, Weber, Berlioz, Brahms, Schubert, Saint-Saons, contribute one each, and Mendelssohn is left altogether out in the cold, with Haydn and Mozart to keep him company.

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The "Bayreuther Blätter" states that between July 1st, 1898, and the same date in the year following there were 1342 representations of Wagnerian operas in the German tongue, being an increase of 110 as compared with 1897-8. Only 183 performances in foreign languages took place: In France, 58; in England, 39; in Belgium, 33; in America, 15; in Sweden, 14; in Holland, 13; in Italy, 8; in Spain, 5. The opera most frequently performed during the 12 months was "Tannhauser" (280), next came "Lohengrin" (277), and the others in the following order: "Flying Dutchman" (168), "Mastersingers" (136), "Walkyrie" (126), "Rheingold" (88), "Götterdämmerung" (79), "Siegfried" (77), "Rienzi" (61), "Tristram" (47). From these figures it appears that there were 786 performances of works in the composer's early manner as against 553 representations of the latter music-dramas. In the first list only four works figure, and in the second are six.