

THE FREEMASON.

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

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

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

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[PRICE 3d.]

THE FESTIVAL OF WEDNESDAY NEXT.

The first of the three great Anniversary Festivals of the year—that of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution—will be held at 'Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday next, under the presidency of Bro. CHARLES E. KEYSER, J.G.D., and though we cannot in reason hope that the total of the donations and subscriptions which it will be the privilege of the Secretary to announce in the course of the evening will be on as formidable a scale as in ordinary years, we are sanguine enough to believe that it will be worthy of the Chairman, of the Stewards who are backing him up so loyally, and the Executive officers of the Institution, who, as usual, have strained every nerve to raise what is necessary in order to make good the very considerable deficit which has annually to be provided. As regards the Chairman, it is hardly possible to speak in terms too eulogistic of the spirit which prompted him to undertake a responsibility which had been declined by so many, and, for his sake, apart from the interest we necessarily take in everything which is expected or intended to be of benefit to the Charity, we could have wished that the prospects for Wednesday next were more encouraging than they are. It is no light matter under the most favourable circumstances to accept the position of Chairman at one of our Masonic Festivals. The competition for support among the authorities of the three Charities, and the sum annually required for each of them is so considerable, that it is hardly to be wondered at if the more distinguished members of our Society should hesitate to give their services as Chairman, lest the Festival should turn out to be, comparatively speaking, a failure. In the case of this particular Anniversary it has been recognised throughout—as it was in the case of the Girls' School Festival in 1889—that it is almost hopeless to expect anything like an average Return, and the brother who offers himself at the last moment, when the many who had been solicited to preside have declined, is all the more worthy of being supported generously. However, we need not dwell longer on this point, because we are satisfied that the Chairman, the Stewards, and the Executive of the Institution will exert themselves as strenuously as if there had been no difficulties of an unusual character to contend with, nor will it be their fault if the large total of Returns ordinarily compiled is not announced at the approaching Festival.

We have said that, notwithstanding the difficulties we have dwelt upon, we are sanguine there will be a fairly good sum accumulated by the brethren who have volunteered their services as Stewards. The Board is upwards of 200 strong, and although some of the latest comers will probably be unable to do more than swell the general total by their personal contributions, there is a considerable proportion of them who have undertaken to represent lodges or chapters, and may be expected to render a very good account of their Stewardship. Both London and the Provinces are fairly represented, while the particular Province of Hertfordshire, with which the Chairman has been connected for the last 17 years, and of which he is a Past Provincial Grand Warden, notwithstanding the amount of its contributions to the Benevolent Jubilee last year, is bravely bestirring itself, and will make a better show than could have been expected. Our hopes, therefore, are in great measure justified, while there is undoubtedly a serious need for, at all events, such a total as will enable the Executive to get through the year without trenching upon the newly-invested capital. We have stated in former articles that the deficit to be made good must be set down at from £10,000 to £12,000, and we shall be well content—indeed, we shall regard it in the light of a signal triumph—if the lesser of these two sums is obtained. We must not lose sight of the two or three important facts connected with our Benevolent Institution which it devolved on us to mention in our report of the recent meeting of the Committee of Management. On that occasion it was announced that the lists of approved candidates for the two Funds contained the names of 117 Old People, namely, 60 brethren and 57 widows; and, at the same time, it was declared that the number of annuities which would be competed for at the annual meeting in May next, taking the immediate and the deferred together in each case, was 25—that is to say, 15 on the Male Fund and 10 on the Widows' Fund. From what has happened in former years we may anticipate that between now and the day of election other vacancies will occur, but under no circumstances can we look forward to the ultimate number of annuities reaching more than about 30. Thus, in spite of the recent additions to the establishment and the greater stringency of the qualifications, there will still be about 90 aged and indigent people for whom no present provision can be made. Is it not, under these circumstances, the duty of everybody to render all possible support to an Institution which, by providing annuities for 430 Old People, is doing so much in assisting worthy but unfortunate members of our Society and their widows; and which, if its permanent resources were greater than they are, would, in the course of time, be able to render still greater service?

GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

A quarterly communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland was held in the Freemasons' Hall, Edinburgh, on the 2nd inst., when there was a very large attendance of brethren from all parts to the number of about 400. In the absence of the Grand Master the throne was occupied by Bro. James Berry, Prov. Grand Master of Forfarshire. It was a fitting event on his retirement from the Grand Committee that Bro. Berry was present to preside at such an influential and important meeting of this grand body. His introductory remarks were very heartily received, and the support which he bespoke was cordially given; and the excellent manner in which the business all through the long meeting was conducted was a subject of general admiration.

A statement was submitted of the accounts of Grand Lodge for the year ending 24th November, from which it appeared that the income had been £5197, and the expenditure £4410. The sum of £1500, being half of the free income of Grand Lodge for 1890-91, had been paid over to the Annuity Fund. During the year there had been 5955 entrants to the Order. The funds and estate amounted to £32,897. The Committee of the Fund of Benevolence had during the year paid £651 in grants, and the fund now amounted to £6917. The Annuity Fund had paid £1090 in annuities, and now amounted to £20,790. This year £1393 falls to be paid to it as half of the free income of Grand Lodge.

A deputation appeared from Aberdeen, headed by Bro. Wilson, R.W.M., and were heartily welcomed from the throne.

Bro. WILSON thanked Grand Lodge for the enthusiastic reception, and then supported the nomination by the lodges of the province and the recommendation of Grand Lodge in favour of Bro. James H. Forshan to be Provincial Grand Master of the City of Aberdeen. In doing so, he spoke in highly eulogistic terms of Bro. Forshan as a Mason. The election of Bro. Forshan was unanimously agreed to by Grand Lodge.

A report was submitted from Bro. Dr. Middleton, Prov. Grand Master of Roxburgh and Selkirkshires, in which he stated that of the 10 lodges under that jurisdiction, four hold as lodge property the halls in which their Masonic work is transacted, while three others rent halls entirely unconnected with licensed premises. There was, he added, manifestly a growing desire among all the lodges to dissociate Freemasonry from hotels and taverns, and in preference to secure suitable premises of their own. A very creditable illustration of this had been afforded by Lodge No. 424, Hawick, which, greatly aided by the presence of the Grand Master, succeeded in raising last September by means of a bazaar and the subscriptions of its own members the not inconsiderable sum of £700, after clearing all expenses. Indications were also given that other lodges were moving in a similar direction.

The minutes of Grand Committee reported that the Grand Secretary had drawn their attention to the painting in the Board Room purporting to represent the installation of Burns as Poet Laureate of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, No. 2. This picture came into the possession of Grand Lodge in 1863 as a present from the family of the late Chevalier James Burnes. It was accepted without question as to whether the event portrayed therein was real or imaginary. The story of the inauguration was never challenged until 1873, when the present Grand Secretary, while preparing his "History of Freemasonry in Scotland," and after a minute examination of Canongate Kilwinning's record, formed the opinion that Burns was never elected to, and never held the office of, Poet Laureate of the lodge, and never was installed into such an office. His views having become known to its office-bearers, by their instructions the Secretary of the lodge questioned the soundness of his opinion, and laid a statement before him embodying alleged facts which he unfortunately accepted as true, and in his history modified the opinion which he had originally formed. In a printed correspondence between Bros. Allan Mackenzie, the historian of No. 2, and William Officer, Grand Secretary asserts that the statements made to him were unfounded, and that it is clearly established that the story of the installation of Burns as Poet Laureate is a myth. Attached to the original painting presented by the Burneses is the inscription: "The Inauguration of Robert Burns as Poet-Laureate of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning.—1st March, 1787." This date is accepted by the lodge as correct. In all statements and discussions in support of the story the minute of the meeting at which the event is alleged to have happened has been kept out of sight. It is as follows: "The lodge being duly constituted, it was reported that since last meeting R. Dalrymple, Esq.; F. T. Hammond, Esq.; R. A. Maitland, Esq., were Entered Apprentices; and the following brethren passed and raised: R. Sinclair, Esq.; A. McDonald, Esq.; C. B. Clive, Esq.; Captain Dalrymple; R. A. Maitland, Esq.; F. T. Hammond, Esq. Mr. Clavering, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Millar, Mr. Sime, and Mr. Gray, who all paid their fees to the Treasurer. No other business being before the meeting, the lodge adjourned." Grand Secretary submitted that, in the interests of truth as set against a fable, it is necessary that steps should be taken by Grand Committee to have the inscription on the picture amended. Thereupon Bro. Mackenzie said it would be well for Grand Committee to ascertain whether the event really took place or not, and questioned its right to alter the inscription on any painting bequeathed to Grand Lodge. He explained that the friendly correspondence between Bro. Officer and himself was, so far as he was concerned, undertaken on his own responsibility, and had not been officially recognised by Canongate Kilwinning, but that his history was only a compilation of some of its records. Further, that since Grand Secretary had brought the matter before Grand Committee he had seen a document which bore strong evidence of the installation having taken place,

and he knew that the Lodge No. 2 was in possession of other documentary evidence of a like nature.

The Grand Committee—Bros. William Officer, David Sneddon, and Allan Mackenzie—were appointed to consider and report upon the whole question; Bro. Officer, convener. This was approved.

It was reported from Grand Committee that Bro. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart had resigned his position of Provincial Grand Master of West Renfrew, and that the Provincial Grand Lodge had passed a resolution of regret and sympathy and of thanks for his 45 years' services. The Provincial Grand Lodge had recommended as his successor Bro. M. H. Shaw Stewart of Carnock, M.P., and on the recommendation of Grand Committee he was appointed accordingly.

On the motion of the GRAND MASTER, a special vote of thanks was enthusiastically passed to Bro. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart on his resignation.

Bro. M. H. Shaw Stewart was unanimously appointed Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West, and Bro. Christie, Stirling, to succeed him as Provincial Grand Master of Stirlingshire.

Charters were ordered to be issued for the new Lodges St. Gilbert, Dornoch, Sutherlandshire; Captain Speirs, Houston, Renfrewshire East; and Blairhoyle, Thornhill, Perthshire West.

The following brethren were elected members of Grand Committee, with the number of votes mentioned: Bros. C. Baxter, Edinburgh, 221; Major Black, Glasgow, 253; General Boswell, 247; Dr. Carmichael, Edinburgh, 219; J. Davidson, Edinburgh, 204; W. Denholm, Glasgow, 340; G. C. Douglas, Edinburgh, 262; C. Galletly, Glasgow, 338; J. Jack, Paisley, 189; C. C. Nisbet, Edinburgh, 200; J. Reid, Greenock, 269; Captain Sneddon, Cilmarnock, 340; Major Stewart of Mardestown, 259; and W. Drummond Young, artist, Edinburgh, 276.

DRURY LANE LODGE, No. 2127.

INSTALLATION OF BRO. HARRY NICHOLLS.

The installation meeting of this flourishing lodge was held on Tuesday, the 14th inst., in the saloon of Drury Lane Theatre, and more than ordinary interest attached to the proceedings owing to the providential recovery of the Worshipful Master elect, Bro. Harry Nicholls, from his long and serious illness. About 220 brethren attended, presided over by Bro. S. B. Bancroft. Among them were:—Bros. Edward Terry, Sir Augustus Harris, George Everett, Admiral Sir E. A. Inglefield, E. Letchworth, James Fernandez, General Sir J. C. Hay, J. C. Parkinson, C. E. Keyser, Thomas Fenn, Sir G. R. Prescott, Robert Grey, V. P. Freeman, J. Lewis Thomas, Sir J. R. Somers Vine, Col. Ritchie, Charles Barry, Col. A. B. Cook, Dr. R. Turtle Pigott, C. Martin, Sir G. T. Goldie, F. Mead, Sir F. Dixon Hartland, M.P.; C. F. Matier, Col. F. C. Wemyss, R. Clowes, J. H. Matthews, W. E. Chapman, Oscar Barrett, Frank Richardson, Henry Neville, Thomas Catling, J. C. Fleming, A. J. Caldicott, Walter Lestocq, James Weaver, T. H. Bolton, M.P.; Walter Ebbetts, W. J. Fisher, James Stephens, Major Graham, Herbert Campbell, Col. Peters, Henry Sutton, Gen. Hale Wortham, Charles Coote, Dr. Bateman, and Col. Ward, C.B.

Bro. Bancroft, in a most impressive style, installed Bro. Harry Nicholls as W.M., after which the following appointments were made: Bros. Thomas Catling, S.W.; Oscar Barrett, J.W.; Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G. Chap., Chap.; J. S. Fleming, Treas.; J. H. Matthews, P.D.G.D.C., Sec.; Henry Neville, S.D.; Will E. Chapman, J.D.; Walter Slaughter, Org.; and R. Goddard, Tyler.

After Bro. Bancroft had delivered the addresses, he was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel. Bro. Letchworth, G.S., was elected an honorary member of the lodge. Votes of condolence with Lord Lonsborough and others, were passed, and the assistance of the brethren was asked for the Masonic Institutions. The whole ceremony was of the most brilliant description, and when the lodge had been closed the brethren adjourned to Freemasons' Tavern, where a choice banquet awaited them. The usual toasts followed.

Bro. HARRY NICHOLLS, after giving the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," proposed that of "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," which, he said, was not only received with enthusiasm throughout Masonry, but nowhere with greater good-will than by the brethren of the Drury Lane Lodge, remembering as they did that the lodge comprised so many members of that profession to which his Royal Highness gave his countenance and support.

These toasts having been most cordially received,

Bro. JAMES FERNANDEZ, P.M., proposed the toast of "The M.W. Pro Grand Master," and said that the W.M. being wishful to reserve his power—or, he should say, having played a part with reserved force, he had trusted to him a toast which he had the gratification of knowing beforehand would be received with that cordiality which it warranted. It was a toast which carried with it its own hearty recommendation, and he was glad of this, because brevity with him under the circumstances was a matter of the greatest moment. He would therefore say how proud and delighted the Drury Lane Lodge were to welcome that night so many Grand Officers, present and past. They knew the Grand Officers were always anxious and eager by every means in their power to advance the interests and uphold the prestige of the Craft. He therefore, with all sincerity, proposed their health.

Bro. EDWARD TERRY, P.G. Treas., responded. He said he must confess he had not had the remotest idea that he would be placed in the seat of honour next to the W.M. that evening, or that he would be called upon to respond to any toast. He felt especially comforted when he looked down the list of Grand Officers and saw them present—many of them senior in rank, and he thought he might say in years, but particularly in rank to him. But he discovered on enquiry that the whole of his senior Grand Officers were members of the Drury Lane Lodge; therefore they did not feel bound to respond to that toast. That placed him in an awkward position—that honour thrust upon him. He happened to be a member of that profession of which their worthy Chairman was an ornament. He must attribute to that the fact that he was called upon to respond. He did not wish to delay the feast of pleasure. He might say that was his "night off," and he wanted to get as much pleasure as he could, and he would not derive much from his own play. If he was to introduce an excerpt from his own play, to be produced on Thursday evening (he did not wish to advertise it in any way.) It gave the Grand Officers great pleasure to be present at the Drury Lane Lodge, which had an unexampled prosperity almost in the annals of Freemasonry. It gave them especial pleasure to see their Bro. Harry Nicholls in the chair of King Solomon, and performing his duties, as he was sure he would be able to do in the best manner for the good of the lodge and of Freemasonry. They could only wish that his health would be thoroughly restored, and that he would be able many years to adorn the profession and the Craft to which he belonged. He was sure he was expressing the feelings of the Grand Officers when he uttered those remarks. Whenever they came to the Drury Lane Lodge they were received with friendliness and hospitality, and they hoped they might be perpetual guests. That was not selfish.

Bro. S. B. BANCROFT, I.P.M., then said he should take the cue so kindly given him by their P.M., Bro. Fernandez, and be brief. The brethren had, he was sure, already heard too much by far of his voice for him to trouble them with many more words. But those words, although they would be brief, would be very earnest, for they would be devoted to the W.M. In that assemblage of Masons he thought he might use the words, that under the protection of the G.A.O.T.U., Bro. Harry Nicholls had passed safely "through the valley of the shadow of

death." No words of his, no words that he could conceive or utter could express to the brethren one-thousandth part as much as he felt. Very briefly, but very earnestly he asked the brethren to drink to "The Health of the Worshipful Master." The recovery of his health was as great a gain to the public as it was a joy and delight to his brethren. With a warm heart and a full glass he asked them to drink to "The Long-continued health and strength of their W.M., Bro. Harry Nicholls."

Bro. HARRY NICHOLLS, W.M., who was received with hearty cheering on rising to respond, said he could not possibly find words to thank them for the manner in which they had received that toast? He could not tell them with what pleasure he had heard Bro. Bancroft propose the toast of "The W.M.," or had seen the brethren welcome it in such a hearty and fraternal manner. It was a remarkable thing to him that for the first time in his life he should be called upon to make a speech on a subject of which he knew something. He assured them that the subject of his health during the past few months had been one to which he had paid a considerable amount of attention. He did not think he ever took such an interest in anything in his life, but, unfortunately, he dared say the brethren would imagine from these premises that he approached the subject with a very vast amount of enthusiasm. So he did, but unfortunately he was unable to give expression to that enthusiasm. They all knew his business in life had been not so much to talk as to act, but they also knew there had been many times when there had been too much talking as well as times of too much acting. Of course he was not speaking of himself. He would like to copy the example of the American humourist, who, on having to make a speech, produced a great roll of manuscript, and said "I have come utterly unprepared to make a speech." But he (Bro. Harry Nicholls) had had, as the brethren would say, ample time in which to prepare one—exactly seven years since he obtained a collar of office. He had to face the fact that when a man had to speak on the subject of himself, seven years were not long enough. A man could not think enough of the nice things he would like to say of himself in so short a time as that. Although he was on the subject, and while he had been preparing his speech the last seven years he had been absolutely eloquent—that is to say at home—in the presence of the members of his family, or in other words, when there was nobody listening to him. But the brethren who knew him so well, would, he was sure, understand and appreciate his feelings if he told them of the delight and the pleasure with which he found himself in the position he was in that day. There was mixed up with it a certain feeling of sadness in having to deplore the absence of many to whom he was bound by more than Masonic ties. The first of these was his father. His father was present on his (Bro. H. Nicholls') initiation, saw his passing and raising, and it was his ambition to see his son placed in the chair of King Solomon, in the Drury Lane Lodge. That was not to be; he had been taken from them; and all that he (Bro. Nicholls) would be able to do that day to compensate himself in his



THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, BRO. HARRY NICHOLLS.

father's absence was to place on his apron the three levels his father wore for many years after he had been Master of his lodge. He would refer only to one other name, which was known to many of the brethren present, one whose genial and kind and friendly smile he still seemed to see, Bro. John Maclean. He (the W.M.) told them now that he had that day drunk to Bro. Maclean's memory in silence and alone. The absence of those they deplored should bring those who were still together even closer, and to keep them closer compatible with their callings in life. Those were not many, but they should make the most of them. Perhaps on the great event of the introduction of a Bill for Ireland, he might be allowed to quote from Ireland's great poet and say—

Ah! well may we hope when this brief life has gone,
To meet in some world of more permanent bliss,
For a smile, or a grasp of the hand, hast'ning on,
Is oft all we have of each other in this.

The opportunities, as he said, were not many; therefore, make the most of them; and he was addressing himself then to the younger members of the Order. Surely four grasps of the hand and four smiles of the lips would not be too much to tax the laziest Mason. He wanted to see the initiates in their proper order come forward to take their collars of office. He was afraid there had been a certain amount of dilatoriness in that; but he wanted them to understand that in Masonry, as in life, it behoved them all to do something to work honestly—honestly and well—to get to the front. A humdrum existence was no use to others, to themselves, or to any one in the world. There was a friend or ancestor of the great Edmund Kean—the name was Carey—and it was said of him—"He led a blameless life, and hanged himself in 17—" and something. He was afraid that was hardly an apt illustration, because even he did something to get talked about at the finish—at least he took a "line" to himself. However, he would detain them but a few minutes longer; but he could not sit down without telling them the pride that was at his heart that day in occupying such a position as W.M. of the Drury Lane Lodge, for it was a proud position to one who had had to make his way in life. Don't be alarmed; he was not going to tell them of his early bitterness, with trepidation in his pocket, and contrast it with the present with worthy Past Masters on his left. When he looked round he saw on each side of him many members of Grand Lodge, both Past and Present, his own officers whom he had the honour of appointing that day, many of them Past Masters, and two of them founders of the

the Drury Lane Lodge—Bros. Neville and Chapman—one of his oldest friends, Oscar Barrett. There were many there that day who had come from all parts of England to do him honour. He saw Bro. George Conquest, his old manager, under whose genial sway at the Grecian Theatre, he gained a knowledge of his business, and an experience of vast value to him since. There were others—the members of the Logic Club—of which he was proud to be a member, and to whom he owed a great deal, notably Bros. Fairchild and Fitzgerald; and, above all, there was one present to whom during the greatest trial of his life he owed a debt of gratitude he should never be able to repay—their Bro. Lestocq. There were some there with whom he had stood side by side, shoulder to shoulder, in order to win the applause or laughter of the public, and with whom he hoped to stand again for many years to come, but with nobody with more satisfaction than that delineator of Scotch character who had just left them—Caledonian's own comedian—Fitzherbert O'Skinner Cup-of-tea Campbell. With all of these advantages, and presiding that day over that brilliant gathering, was it not natural if he indulged himself in what they of the sock and buskin called "a little gas," and patted himself on the shoulders, and took himself by the hand and said "my dear Harry Nicholls, you are a very clever fellow?" Let him say to one and all, "I thank you, I thank you," and express to the Great Architect of the Universe his heartfelt thanks for restoring him in health and strength. He hoped to come among them for many years to come.

Bro. JOSEPH PARKINSON, P.G.D., proposed "The Visitors."

Bro. C. E. KEYSER, J.G.D., in responding, complimented the lodge on the admirable working which the brethren had witnessed in the performance of the installation. A similar compliment he also passed on the lodge's hospitality. Both spoke volumes, and accounted for the wonderful and exceptional prosperity of this young lodge.

Bro. WALTER LESTOCQ, P.M. 1319, who also responded, said that red-letter days came to the lives of everyone, and that day would be one of those occasions in his life, as he had been selected as one of the two to return thanks for the visitors of the Drury Lane Lodge. From the kind allusions to him made by Bro. Nicholls, the brethren could imagine why the honour had been thrust upon him. He could only say that to say "Thank you, brethren," was very easy, but to say "Thank you" with those tones and that earnestness which he was sure the visitors would wish him to convey was a very difficult task. The gratification of being present, and the greater gratification he felt in representing the visitors of Drury Lane Lodge, was enhanced when they were there to greet Bro. Harry Nicholls on being installed Master of the lodge, which they knew had been one of the ambitions of his later life, and which Bro. Nicholls thought that day was his Masonic crown. The work of the Drury Lane Lodge that year would be continued by him as it had been left that day by Bro. Bancroft, a Masonic fact. There were many present who had worked side by side with Bro. Nicholls to perfect themselves in the ritual, and they knew what zeal and earnestness and efficiency he brought to the work he started that day. The visitors were glad that Bro. Nicholls was with them and able to start his Masonic year, and, if he might be allowed to allude to it once more, it seemed almost strange, particularly to him—it was strange and hard for even him to realise that Bro. Nicholls was there then after his serious illness. They all thanked the G.A.O.T.U. that, with the aid of the best medical skill and the constant attention and devotion of a most loving wife, he was there to shed a lustre on the Drury Lane Lodge. It was the earnest wish of the visitors that the Drury Lane Lodge would be carried forward in the future as it had been in past years.

Bro. Sir F. DIXON HARTLAND, M.P., proposed "The Past Masters."

Bro. Sir AUGUSTUS HARRIS, P.M., P.G. Treas., replying, said it afforded him great pleasure to think that he had the opportunity of thanking the brethren for the very cordial way in which they had drank the health of the Past Masters. He felt very proud to belong to the noble army which, year by year, he hoped would increase, and would preserve the eminence which, up to the present had been kept, with the exception of his humble self. He felt that when a lodge could count among its Past Masters such men as Lord Lonsborough, Sir Edward Inglesfield, and Sir John Gorst; then in arts, such men as Bro. Bancroft, Bro. Fernandez, and Bro. Isaacs, one might be proud without being conceited at belonging to such a lodge, and all he could say on behalf of the Past Masters, he thanked the brethren most heartily for their kindness, and he trusted the Past Masters might meet them all many years to come.

Bro. HARRY NICHOLLS, W.M., in proposing "The Officers," said, that having arranged with the Secretary, to his own satisfaction, that he was not to speak any more that day, he yet found himself called upon now to make another speech. Under ordinary circumstances he should have wished to be excused, but under the exceptional circumstances, having so many brethren before him to whom he had had the pleasure of giving office, it came as a great pleasure to him. The officers comprised many men well known in Masonry, and not only in Masonry, but in his profession. There were first, of course, Bro. Catling, although not a member of the profession, a Past Master; and Oscar Barrett, of that accompanying profession of music which went hand in hand with the drama, he was J.W.; and there was Bro. Neville, S.D., a P.M., and a founder of Drury Lane Lodge; and Bro. Chapman, J.D., who was also a founder. He need hardly tell the brethren that he looked forward to a very pleasant year of office with such brethren under him, and he felt that the officers' duties would be performed in an exemplary manner, worthy of the traditions of the Drury Lane Lodge.

Bro. THOMAS CATLING, P.M., S.W., in reply, said that, with one solitary exception, he had attended every meeting of the lodge since he had the honour of being initiated in it, and he found there was a growing zeal in the lodge, and that zeal had been largely inspired and greatly encouraged by the brother who now occupied in it the chair of K.S. From the very first step Bro. Nicholls took in the lodge they had seen him steadily raising the standard of Masonic work—a high standard, he was sure—and every officer would feel it a thorough privilege and honour to follow it. He could assure the W.M. the officers would all strive to earn this testimony at the end of his year—that they had done their best for the lodge.

The Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

THE GRAND LODGE OF ULSTER.

By HENRY SADLER.

(Continued from page 71.)

The next letter in order of date is from Boardman to Harper on the 4th September, 1801, and begins as follows:

Dear Sir,

I am to acknowledge, which I do with very sincere thanks, the receipt of your kind letter by Mr. Graham, together with the accompanying packet containing the Grand Lodge accounts and correspondence. I am too well convinced of your knowledge and information on all Masonic subjects not to avail myself of the permission you are so obliging as to give me of applying to you for such instruction and elucidation as I may stand in need of in respect to the Craft.

The long and severe indisposition of our late Brother Corker, and the distracted state of this country for years back, have caused much irregularity to creep into the several lodges of this kingdom, and it will require much time and effort to correct the evil. By the accounts of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which

I send herewith, you will perceive what considerable arrears have accumulated, and you may judge what difficulties are to be encountered in endeavouring at their collection. Our rules and regulations are also very imperfect, and also contradictory, for which reason the Grand Lodge have appointed a Committee to revise them and prepare a correct edition of Ahiman Rezon. To do this effectually I am anxious to have the last and best edition published by you, together with any other Masonic publication which you may conceive likely to be at all serviceable to us in forming and perfecting a system of laws and regulations for the Order in Ireland.

Our Grand Secretary either has, or will, immediately make the official communications to your Grand Lodge with whom it has always been my most anxious wish that our Grand Lodge should preserve the strictest and most affectionate correspondence; the papers I send are for your private perusal.

Between the date of the letter last quoted and that of the one now under notice there is a gap of nearly 18 months; it is dated 9th of February, 1803, and contains the first hint of the storm evidently then brewing, as well as other matter probably new and possibly in some measure surprising to Masonic readers generally, as evincing the relative positions of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and the Grand Lodge of the Ancients in England. Other letters may have been received during the interval—if so I am unable to find them. On the very day this letter was written, the brother to whom it was addressed was expelled from Masonry by the Modern Grand Lodge "for countenancing and supporting a set of persons calling themselves Antient Masons." Harper had been a prominent, and a good member of both societies and for some years had been endeavouring to bring about an union and had held out hopes to the Moderns to that effect, but at this period the feeling, on the part of the general body of the Ancients, was strongly opposed to his desires, consequently he found it impossible to bring them to a successful termination and as he firmly declined to sever his connection with the body of which he was practically the ruler he was expelled from the rival community. This will explain the first paragraph of Boardman's letter.

I hope soon to have the pleasure of hearing that all matters between you and the Moderns are adjusted to your satisfaction. I very lately wrote to you on the subject, and also commissioned my worthy friend Lord Mount Norris with my sentiments, and entreated his interference with Lord Moira, which I sincerely hope may have a good effect.

At present I have a few questions to trouble you with, the answers to which will go a great way in determining my conduct in our Grand Lodge at its next meeting, when it is likely certain propositions will be submitted for the future regulation of its respective officers.

On the death of my late worthy Br. Corker, the offices of Dep. G. Treasurer and Dep. Secretary were separated, and a yearly salary and percentage allowed to the Dep. Treasurer—tho' this measure has been productive of the most solid benefits to the Order, yet jealousy or some other motive has excited some individuals to throw out such insinuations, as have compelled the present Dep. Treasurer to announce his determination of resigning. Now the favour I have to beg of you is that you will inform me, how the business of Treasurer is managed with you, and in what manner the labours of that office are compensated? I do not well understand from your printed accounts, whether the contributions from Lodges are annual dues at a stipulated rate from each Lodge, or an annual payment from each individual member. With us, each Lodge pays 10 shillings yearly, but the members contribute nothing to the Grand Lodge either on admission (except in the city of Dublin) or yearly, so that a lodge with only 10 members contributes equally with one of fifty. How is this regulated with you? I wish also very much to know what fees are payable on obtaining a new warrant or revising an old one (if you revive them), and how the sum paid on getting a warrant is appropriated?—What is charged for registering Brethren, and what on granting G. Lodge certificates, and how the sums paid on these occasions are applied?—Why have you two Secretaries, and are they allowed any, and what annual compensation from the Grand Lodge, or how else are they compensated for devoting their time and services to the Order?

There is "food for reflection" in this letter, emanating, though indirectly, from a Grand Lodge with an experience of upwards of 70 years at its back, yet seeking counsel and guidance from a Society many years its junior, numerically inferior, originally organised by a comparatively small number of artisans and others on a similar level and of the same nationality as the person now asking for advice and information. A possible explanation may be found in the long illness of Bro. Corker (for many years Deputy Grand Secretary), and the distracted state of the country during the latter part of the 18th century; but as Bro. Boardman had been Grand Treasurer since 1791, he does not seem to have previously exerted himself to any great extent to correct the "irregularities" he refers to.

Bro. Boardman's next letter is dated 14th March, 1803. Therein he says:

I return you many thanks for your very kind letter of the 19th ult., in which you were so kind as to give me the fullest and most satisfactory information respecting the subjects I wrote to you about. . . . I am mortified very much at the highly rash and improper proceedings of the Moderns—it is only to be accounted for by the mischievous and evil ascendancy of the expelled brother, whose conduct is so properly alluded to in your last Quarterly Communication. Still I think the Moderns will see their error, and have justice enough to make you every possible amends. I am very glad to find the Duke of Athol feels as he does upon the occasion. I daresay he speaks the sentiments of every Ancient Mason in Great Britain and Ireland. This will be delivered to you by my brother Graham, whom I have before introduced to the pleasure of your acquaintance as a most intelligent Mason. He is competent to give you the fullest history of our Masonic proceedings and situation here. You will find matters are not going on quite so smoothly as might be hoped for; but I entertain, no doubt, of seeing good will and regulated obedience to the Grand Lodge re-established.

During the two years subsequent to the date of the last letter, I find nothing in this correspondence which calls for special notice. Several letters were received by Bro. Harper in the interval, but they are mostly of a complimentary character, delivered by Bro. Graham in person, who seems to have had general instructions from Bro. Boardman to fully enlighten Bro. Harper as to the condition of Masonry in Ireland, and also to receive any information and advice which that brother might offer.

On the 10th August, 1805, a letter was written which, in my opinion, contains matter of sufficient historical value to merit preservation. A portion of it is as follows:

Independent of the satisfaction I always experience in having an opportunity to enquire after your health, I am induced thro' the medium of a Brother now going to London to trouble you with this in order to obtain your advice and assistance upon some Masonic affairs now under the consideration of our Grand Lodge.

The Royal Arch Degree has not as yet been recognised, or [brought] under the cognizance of the Grand Lodge of Ireland—hence much irregularities have arisen—to remedy which, a Committee have been appointed to prepare the necessary rules and regulations preliminary to the Grand Lodge taking that Degree

(To be continued.)

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1893.

Masonic Notes.

We are glad to find that further progress, albeit on a modest scale, has been made in strengthening the Board of Stewards for Wednesday's Festival. The net addition is 60, and we set down the Board as being 210 strong. The increase would have been greater but for the withdrawal from the list of several brethren who at the last moment found themselves unable to fulfil their undertaking to help the Institution on this occasion. Their withdrawals are greatly to be regretted. Of course, in many cases they are due to unavoidable circumstances, but there are some who cannot or will not see the harm they do by keeping their names on the Board till it is next to impossible to find others to take their places. The support of many a lodge and chapter has been lost—for the time being—by these delays.

If a brother seriously intends representing his lodge as Steward, let him carry his intention through to the very end, or let him withdraw in good time, so that his place may be taken by some other member. In such case the Secretary of the Institution will not find himself minus the support on which he had been led to reckon, which, in 99 cases out of 100, it is impossible for him, at two or three days', or two or three hours' notice, to make good.

There was, as usual, a very full attendance of brethren present at the installation meeting of the Drury Lane Lodge, No. 2127, on Tuesday. The purple of Grand Lodge was in great force, and everything passed off, as it invariably has done on these occasions, admirably. The manner in which the duties of the lodge were carried out was perfect, and the ceremony of installation as carried out by the retiring W.M., Bro. S. B. Bancroft, was perfect.

As regards the new W.M., Bro. Harry Nicholls, his reception was of the kindest and most cordial character. All who were present were aware that he had but lately recovered from a long and serious illness, and every one was delighted to find him once again at his post and ready to fulfil his duties if not sufficiently strong to be able to discharge them to his own satisfaction. Bro. Nicholls fully recognised the heartiness of his greeting, and his speech in acknowledging the toast of his health, though short, very eloquently expressed his thanks for his reception.

We have been favoured with a copy of the first number of a new Masonic journal for South Africa. It bears the title of "South African Masonic Record," and so far as we have had an opportunity of judging, bids fair to be a worthy addition to our periodical literature. It appears to be both well written and well edited.

Notwithstanding the objections that have been sometimes urged against the formation of so-called Class lodges, they multiply apace, and the success attending them sufficiently proves that they fill a legitimate place in Masonry. The last one of the kind was launched in connection with the Guildhall School of Music, and bears the name of that Institution. The ceremony brought together many brethren eminent in the profession, including Sir Joseph Barnby, the Principal of the school. Bro. Hastings Miller, P.G.S.B., was installed as first W.M. A full report will appear in our next.

We regret to learn that the Prov. Grand Master of Surrey, R.W. Bro. Col. Money, finds it necessary to leave England for a month or two on account of ill-health. We trust the change will have the desired effect, and that he will return perfectly restored. In the meantime the work of the Province will in no way suffer in the capable hands of the D.P.G.M., Bro. Fred. West.

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 it—within certain necessary limits—free discussion.]

ROYAL ARCH PROCEDURE.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The question of the exclusion of companions who are not installed Principals from chapters during the ceremony of opening, which was raised at the last Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter, will require careful consideration at the hands of the Committee of General Purposes before any change is made. There must be much stronger reasons for the present custom than were advanced by the companions at the Convocation, otherwise "exclusion" would not be universal, and have been the rule for such a long time as it evidently has been.

Comp. W. W. B. Beach said there was no particular secret divulged during the opening period. Is this so? If it is, then in this and other provinces the working must be totally different from that to which Comp. Beach is accustomed.

I cannot here explain myself further, but the next time I am in town I will see Comp. Letchworth, G.S.E., on the subject.—Yours fraternally,

C. D. HILL DRURY, M.D.,
Prov. G.H. Durham.

February 9th.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I think there is a great deal of truth in the remarks recently made by M.E. Comp. W. W. Beach, G.J., with regard to the exclusion of companions during the opening of a chapter, but to my mind there is another matter which militates far more seriously against the healthy spread of Royal Arch Masonry, and that is the vexatious 12 months' probation and the prohibitive fees for exaltation. If, as we are taught, the Royal Arch Degree is but a completion of the Third, why should a longer interval be required than is the case between the First and Second, or Second and Third, and a heavy fee charged for admission? I should like all Master Masons to attain this beautiful and supreme Degree, and feel sure many more would do so if they could look upon it really as a continuation of the Third, and could become eligible without such a long delay and by payment of a more moderate exaltation fee. Existing rates of subscription need not necessarily be altered.—Yours fraternally,

Z. ELECT 442.

THE PREFIX OF WORSHIPFUL.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

The correspondent who signed himself "Not a Steward," to a letter appearing in your last week's issue, takes great exception to the omission of the prefix W. (for Worshipful), to the names of the brethren who have been good enough to undertake the office of Steward in furtherance of the success of the Annual Festival of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, to be held on Friday, 24th inst., as per advertisement.

The advertisement in question was inserted by me, as Secretary of that lodge, and entirely on my own responsibility. I did not ostentatiously, nor indeed intentionally, omit the prefix, for the simple reason that it never occurred to me to insert it. I was not aware that the late Grand Secretary had ever laid it down as law that the prefix should be used in connection with the names of ordinary brethren who have not attained to Grand Lodge honours. Your correspondent may be absolutely right on the point; I do not pretend to be an authority on such matters, nor does this lodge. His concern for the dignity of the Stewards will, I feel sure, be allayed when I tell him that I am not aware of any Steward to these Festivals, during the six years I have had intimately to do with them, offering a single word of complaint on the subject. They are a body I feel greatly indebted to, and I am pleased to add that there is a thoroughly good understanding between us. If I do make a few slips or omissions in connection with these festivals, the work entailed, I am sure, excuses me in the eyes of the brethren who know anything about it.

In conclusion, if your correspondent will favour me with his name and address, it will afford me pleasure to send him a card of invitation to the festival.—Yours truly and fraternally,

W. G. KENTISH,

Secretary Emulation Lodge of Improvement,

15th February, 1893.



Craft Masonry.

METROPOLITAN MEETINGS.

Lodge of Fidelity (No. 3).—The installation meeting of this ancient lodge was held on Wednesday, the 8th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, when the brethren assembled in large numbers. The officers were Bros. H. S. Wellcome, W.M.; Arthur G. Sandberg, S.W.; R. J. Ward, P.M., acting J.W.; George Low, P.M., Treas.; Saml. R. Lovett, P.M., Sec.; George T. Cox, S.D.; John Cooper, J.D.; Frank Feller, I.G.; and Robert F. Potter, Tyler. Amongst the visitors present were Bros. R. C. Sutlow, P.G. Std. Br.; Shoppee, W.M. 5, P.G.S.; W. Ebbetts, P.M. 11, P.G.S.; Corderoy, P.M. 19; J. J. Wedgwood, P.M. 2397; W. H. Kirby, I.P.M. 1965; Morris, W.M. 231; Beards, 172; Hartman, 200; Wallace, P.M. 907; Neale, 404; A. Domier, Germany; Chandler, 5; E. Jessurun, 2397; Prof. Smith, M.D., 913; Cogon 1388; Greening, P.M. 1426; Baker, 1366; Lewis, P.M. 1150; Hislop, W.M. 1637; Chapman, P.M. 1257; Whitaker, P.M. 1572; Cowen, P.M. 1572; Streeter, 2157; Wattenhall, W.M. 2156; Jones, 907; Boden, 2168; Hart, 2146; Taylor, 2256; and Steggles, 2398.

The W.M. installed the Master elect, Bro. Dr. A. G. Sandberg, S.W., with a perfection of ritual which is seldom met with and the various addresses were rendered with every obtainable good effect in a most impressive and instructive manner. The addresses of the newly-installed Master to his officers upon their investiture were rendered with a fluency highly commendable, the appointments being: Bros. E. F. Fox, S.W.; George T. Cox, J.W.; George Low, P.M., Treas.; Samuel R. Lovett, P.M., Sec.; John Cooper, S.D.; Frank Feller, J.D.; Harold Murray, I.G.; A. W. G. Weeks, P.M., D.C.; R. S. Hart, Org.; and R. F. Potter, Tyler. Previous to the installation ceremony Bro. Faulkner was raised to the Third Degree and Bro. Hibberd initiated.

After the discussion of several matters of business, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to Freemasons' Tavern, where an excellent banquet awaited them.

The toasts of "The Queen" (with musical honours) and "The M.W.G.M." having been duly honoured, that of "The Pro G. Master, D.G. Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," was given, and in this connection the Worshipful Master made allusion to the eminent brother, one of that august body, on his right (Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, P.G. Std. Br.), who was justly celebrated far and near for his perfect knowledge of Craft Masonry. He therefore had a special pleasure in coupling his (Bro. Sudlow's) name with that of a-t.

Bro. R. Clay Sudlow, in responding for the Grand Officers, remarked that he was so often a guest of that hospitable lodge, that he felt more like one of their members than a visiting brother. He, however, regretted that there were no other representatives of Grand Lodge present to have enjoyed, as he had done, the excellent rendering of the work which had been given that evening. Undoubtedly the record of the whole year had been of a very high order, and a fitting keystone had been placed on the work that night by the impressive way in which the retiring Master, Bro. Wellcome, had installed his successor.

The next toast was proposed in adequate terms by the I.P.M., who requested the brethren to join him in wishing the W.M. "A Very Happy and Prosperous Year as head of the Fidelity Lodge." He reminded the brethren that the constitutions of Masonry provided that there should be one master, and from his point of view there could only be one, and in Bro. Sandberg he was confident the brethren would find a Master able and willing to undertake the management of that lodge on such lines as would ensure its continued honour and prosperity.

The toast was heartily supported.

Bro. Sandberg expressed his thanks in a few well chosen words, and then made a presentation of a richly jewelled bracelet to Bro. W. H. Kirby, I.P.M. 1965, and Preceptor of the Clarence Lodge of Instruction (for Mrs. Kirby), on behalf of the retiring W.M. and the officers of the lodge, as an expression of appreciation for his kind preceptorship in instructing them in their respective offices during the past year.

In acknowledging this handsome gift, Bro. Kirby very heartily thanked the W.M. and the officers for this kindly expression, and told them that whatever assistance he had been able to render them had been done with no thought of reward, but from the highest Masonic motive, namely, to aid freely all who might need such assistance as had been in his power to extend to them.

"The Health of the Installing Master" was next proposed, and the W.M. spoke highly of the endeavours Bro. Wellcome had made, and the numbers of rehearsals he had called, to make the brethren fully competent for the discharge of their various offices. He felt that a good year of work had just terminated, and he was also grateful to Bro. Wellcome for the manner in which he had that day installed him in the chair of K.S., and in concluding his remarks presented him with the Past Master's jewel, accompanied by every good wish that his life might be preserved, that he might wear it amongst them for many years to come.

Replying Bro. Wellcome expressed his thanks for the jewel, and said that in retiring from the office of Master of the lodge, he wished once more to express his thanks to the brethren for the very kind way in which they had supported him during the year, and especially to the officers who had so heartily co-operated with him on every occasion, and undoubtedly to this might mainly be attributed the successful work of the past year which had already been so kindly commented upon.

The Initiate had a hearty welcome extended to him, and Bro. Hibberd, in replying, stated that he had every belief Masonry would prove very pleasant to him. All the best of his friends were Masons, and it was their behaviour, sincerity and cordiality as good Masons, that had produced in him the desire to become a Mason himself. He hoped it would be his good fortune to enjoy many evenings amongst the good brethren he that day met for the first time.

The toast of "The Visitors" came next, and responses were made by Bros. Shoppee, Corderoy, Wedgwood, and Professor Smith, who each and all expressed the pleasure they had that day experienced both in the lodge meeting and at the banquet table afterwards.

The toast of "The Past Masters" received its usual hearty support, the Fidelity Lodge being specially strong in its list of Past Masters, and Bros. Low, Treas.; Loret, Sec.; S. Cochrane, and T. Barrett made replies.

In introducing the toast of "The Officers," the W.M. spoke in terms of confidence as to their ability and also intention to make good and active officers during the year, and this encouraged him to look forward with every anticipation of a pleasant year, at the termination of which he believed each of them would feel nothing had been left undone which could have been done to maintain a high standard in the records of Fidelity Lodge for the term of his mastership.

Bro. Cox, J.W., responded for "The Officers" and assured the W.M. it was his intention, and also that of the other officers, to continue the good work that had commenced under the direction of their late Master, and he felt that the opening 12 months would be as gratifying as those that had just terminated.

The Tyler's toast closed the proceedings.

Faith Lodge (No. 141).—A meeting of this lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on the 31st ult. Amongst those present were Bros. J. Cockram Taylor, W.M.; Trott, S.W.; White, J.W.; W. Carter, P.M., Treas.; W. Stuart, P.M., Sec.; Godfrey, S.D.; Gluckstein, I.G.; Edwin Hopwood, P.M., P.P. G.S.B.; C. Dairy, P.M.; Rumball, P.M.; Capt. T. C. Walls, P.M.; R. Jordan, P.M.; Hudson, P.M.; W. J. Hakim, P.M.; Langdale, P.M.; Welch, I.P.M.; and Sharpley, Org. Amongst the visitors were Bros. A. Lewis, 140; A. Schwerz, 835; T. Nest, 1310; and J. Bristow.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. C. Chappell was raised to the Third Degree, and Bro. J. Reichenberg passed to the Second Degree, both ceremonies being impressively performed. In consequence of the recent death of Bro. J. A. Green, P.M., the brethren were in mourning. A vote of condolence to his family was passed with many expressions of regret. A resolution was carried to increase the annual subscription. Subsequently a notice of motion was given to rescind same. A notice of motion was also given to decrease the number of meetings from seven to five.

The lodge was then closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet.

Upon the removal of the cloth the usual toasts were given.

The I.P.M., in giving "The W.M.," congratulated him upon the mastery way in which he had carried out his duties that evening. The Lodge of Faith had every reason to be proud of its W.M.

The W.M., in his reply, thanked the I.P.M. for the warmth of his expressions. He said that he considered it his duty as a representative of so old a lodge to do the work in a creditable manner. If the members were satisfied with his efforts he was amply repaid.

Bros. A. Lewis and J. Bristow responded on behalf of "The Visitors," Bro. W. J. Hakim for "The Past Masters" in an easy fluent speech, and Bros. Trott, White, and Godfrey for "The Officers."

During the evening Bros. Sharpley, Fawkes, and Langdale entertained the brethren.

Stability Lodge (No. 217).—The installation meeting of this very flourishing lodge was held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Tuesday, the 7th inst. Present: Bros. Owen, W.M.; J. T. Jones, S.W., W.M. elect; S. Hardiman, J.W.; J. Nixon, P.M., Sec.; S. R. Smith, S.D.; P. H. Garner, J.D.; W. L. Lyle, I.G.; J. H. Edwards, D.C.; W. Eekersall, P.M.; W. Gorrie, P.M.; H. Mansfield, P.M.; F. Woolmer, P.M.; J. T. Wright, P.M.; H. Lynn, P.M.; E. T. Baker, S. Leaman, L. Vague, J. A. Ayris, T. Landaker, H. Clowes, J. Elotham, H. Walter, J. Iiter, T. Lavenheim, J. Finch, G. Tennant, G. Say, J. Carleton, W. Woolfe, H. B. Hancock, Wm. Hy. Smith, H. J. Pain, E. Manzig, S. Maier, C. Phillips, F. J. Ostin, E. Cattermole, F. Colpeper, F. H. Bence, Job. S. Morris, and T. Bowler, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. W. C. Forman, 1716; D. Rose, P.M. 73; G. Gordon, 2310; P. H. Horley, J.W. 1139; C. H. St. John, S.W. 507; J. L. Van Gelder, 205; J. T. Wood, 879; P. Kingsbury, Stwd. 1558; H. Thom, 1839; and T. Taylor, Stwd. 45.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. J. T. Jones, S.W., W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. J. Owen to receive at the hands of Bro. H. Mansfield, P.M., the benefits of installation, which ceremony was performed in a complimentary manner, the addresses being rendered as became the Stability Lodge, which is noted for the working of that name. The W.M. next invested his officers as follows: Bros. S. A. Hardiman, S.W.; W. R. Smith, J.W.; S. P. Fisher, Treas.; J. Nixon, P.M., Sec.; P. H. Garner, S.D.; W. J. Lyle, J.D.; G. Say, D.C.; J. H. Edwards, I.G.; W. Gorrie, P.M., and J. R. Ayris, S.W.; S. Leaman, Org.; and T. Bowler, Tyler. Ten guineas were voted to the Girls' Institution, likewise the sum of £20, which had been given to the widow of Bro. France, a late Treasurer of the lodge, from the Benevolent Fund, and a petition was signed on her behalf to be presented to the Board of Benevolence. A very pleasing duty next devolved upon Bro. Lynn, P.M., ably supported by Bro. W. Eekersall, P.M., who, in an intellectual and comprehensive speech remarking upon the valuable services of the Secretary, in the name of the lodge presented Bro. Nixon, P.M. and Sec., with a purse of gold and a beautifully-framed testimonial bearing the following inscription: "Presented to P.M. Bro. J. Nixon with a purse of gold by the W.M., P.Ms., officers, and brethren of the Lodge of Stability, 217, as a slight recognition of his valuable services during 10 years he has held the office of Secretary, and to mark the very high esteem in which he has always been held by the brethren." The same was most graciously accepted by Bro. Nixon, P.M., in terms of high appreciation for all kindnesses rendered, and deep sympathy was shown with Bro. J. Addington, P.M., who had met with an accident.

The business of the lodge ended, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, ably presided over by the W.M., who, on the removal of the cloth, gave the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft" and "His Royal Highness the M.W.

Grand Master" in truly Masonic style, which were right royally received.

The toast of "The Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," was most suitably dilated upon by the W.M., who recommended it to the brethren, and specially to those who had not the privilege of visiting Grand Lodge, as one deserving their most hearty reception, on account of their admirable services rendered to the Craft.

Bro. Owen, I.P.M., next presented the toast of "The W.M.," which he considered the toast of the evening. He was sure he was one worthy of Stability Lodge, and would uphold its integrity, and pay the utmost attention to the working. He wished him a most successful year of office.

In reply, the W.M. stated the I.P.M. had remarked great things about him. He had been six years in office, and had arrived at the honourable position of W.M. Let him not boast who puts the armour on, but rather he who puts it off. He would endeavour to deserve all that had been so kindly said of him. One thing he was most anxious about, and that was the thorough knowledge of Stability working to be disseminated, and especially recommended the brethren to become more acquainted with its splendid ritual, particularly remarking upon the one common Brotherhood and the brightest gem that adorns a Mason. He trusted they would go on in the strict path of duty, and become more and more united. He most heartily thanked the brethren.

The Worshipful Master next gave the toast of "The I.P.M.," in terms of high praise. He had worked in an excellent manner, and above all had paid great attention to their noble Charities, and done all he possibly could for the benefit of Stability Lodge. He (the W.M.) had the greatest pleasure in pinning upon his breast the Past Master's jewel he so richly earned, and which had been unanimously voted him by the brethren, trusting he would live many years to wear it and adorn the Stability Lodge by his presence, and give the brethren the benefit of his wise counsel.

In reply, Bro. Owen most humbly thanked all for the valuable jewel, which he should highly prize to the last day of his life, and also for such kind remarks that had fallen from their W.M. He had endeavoured to maintain the dignity and integrity of the lodge.

The W.M. next proposed the toast of "The Installing Master, Bro. Marfleet, P.M.," who had done such splendid service that evening. Personally, he heartily thanked him for installing him in such an impressive manner. He must mention that Bro. Taylor, P.M., who would have ably assisted in the ceremony, was absent through illness, and they all wished his speedy recovery to health. Their Installing Master was well up in all the Degrees of Masonry, and one who always endeavoured to keep their landmarks straight and clear. He asked the brethren to drink the toast most cordially.

Bro. Marfleet most suitably replied, stating the great pleasure he always had in performing the ceremonies. He paid great tribute to the valuable services of Bro. Taylor, and also advocated to all the brethren the Stability form of working. He was grateful for such an appreciation of his services, and thanked the brethren for receiving him with such great kindness.

The toast of "The Visitors" received at the hands of the W.M. and brethren a most hearty greeting.

Bros. Rose, P.M. 73; Stone, S.W. 507; and Forman, 1716, responded.

The toast of "The Treasurer and Secretary" was, the W.M. stated, very important, and he had in those officers two excellent Masons. The Treasurer, though a young, untried brother, was well worthy of the proud position. The brethren all knew the worth and valuable services the Secretary had always rendered to the lodge.

In reply, the Treasurer said he hoped to prove himself worthy and would do his best for the lodge.

Bro. Nixon, Sec., said he could not again refrain from stating his gratitude for such a splendid testimonial, which he should prize through life. He had done his best for the lodge, and would continue the same, and so long as he was assisted by such excellent Past Masters, the lodge would be sure to flourish. From the bottom of his heart he thanked the brethren.

The toast of "The Officers" was given in terms of approval from the W.M. and heartily received.

The toast was responded to by the Wardens in appropriate terms.

The Tyler's toast closed a most eventful evening.

An excellent programme of music was presented, the artistes being Bros. Thom, Tom Taylor, Gorrie, Fisher, and Edwards.

Urban Lodge (No. 1196).—The installation meeting of this distinguished lodge took place on Tuesday, the 14th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, the members present being Bros. Oakshott, W.M.; C. Purdon Clarke, C.I.E., S.W., W.M. elect; Webb, J.W.; Mountford, I.G.; Horrocks; Hawksley, P.M.; Beck, P.M.; Heath, P.M.; Haycock, P.M.; Elkstein, P.M.; Manuel, P.M.; Tickle, P.M. and Treas.; and others. Visitors: Bros. Roberts, P.P.A.G.D.C. Staffordshire; Hy. Tipper, P.P.G. Reg. Herts; two or three brethren from Birmingham and many others.

The lodge was opened, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The balance-sheet was received and adopted. The W.M. vacated the chair in favour of Bro. Manuel, P.M., and a Board of Installed Masters having been formed, Bro. C. Purdon Clarke was installed into the chair in a very impressive manner, and the whole ceremony of installation, the investing of the officers, and the addresses were given in excellent form.

The brethren then retired to the Crown Room, where the usual banquet was provided.

The W.M. proposed the toasts in a felicitous way, and said, with regard to that of "The Grand Officers," he was very disappointed to inform the brethren that at the last moment he had received telegrams from Bro. Sir Philip Comliffe Owen, K.C.B., &c., P.G.D., and Bro. A. J. R. Trendell, C.M.G., A.G.D.C., expressing their deep regret at not being able to be present.

The toast of "The Visitors" was responded to by several, and when that of "The Officers" was proposed,

Bro. Fairchild, P.M. and Sec., apologised to the brethren for his seeming neglect of duty, but he felt that he could not refuse the invitation of Bro. Harry Nicholls, who had that evening been installed W.M. of the Drury Lane Lodge, and had therefore—although he had been on the premises—not been in the lodge.

The Tyler's toast concluded a very enjoyable evening.

Islington Lodge (No. 1471).—This prosperous North Metropolitan lodge held a very successful installation meeting at the Cock Tavern, Highbury, on the 9th inst., when Bro. C. M. Coxon was installed as W.M. in the presence of many members and well wishers. The members present included Bros. Harry Hunt, P.M.; S. Napper, P.M.; J. M. Scarlett, P.M., P.P.G.W. Essex; H. B. Harding, W.M.; C. M. Coxon, S.W.; R. Loomes, J.W.; E. Blinkhorn, P.M., Sec.; A. Cox, S.D.; J. A. Blount, I.G.; D. C. Ritchie, D.C.; H. S. Trego, Org.; A. C. Halestrap, P.M.; and many others. Visitors: Bros. C. E. Keyser, J.G.D.; M. Syer, 1658; J. M. McLeod, Sec. R.M.I.B.; G. T. C. Chretien, S.W. 1323; T. C. Winkworth, 1929; B. Smoothey, 2378; J. Petch, P.M., P.P. G.S.B.; R. P. Upton, J.D. 1328; R. Gregory, 2163; W. Hancock, W.M. 2191; W. E. Sutton, W.M. 1799; J. Westerby, P.M. 1615; C. P. Rosser, 1507; S. G. Turner, P.M. 1613; C. T. Smith, 1295; Tom Taylor, 45; W. Shurmur, P.M. 2374, P.P.G. Treas. Essex; J. R. Carter, 2374; T. Glass, J.W. 860; W. H. Waterman, S.W. 93; A. Bleick, 2374; D. Hills, J.D. 185; Cakebread; and W. W. Lee, W.M. 2381.

Lodge was opened, the minutes confirmed, and other business, which included an initiation, was transacted. Bro. Blinkhorn, P.M., then, in a very able manner, installed Bro. C. M. Coxon as W.M., and the following officers were appointed: Bros. R. Loomes, S.W.; A. Cox, J.W.; A. C. Halestrap, P.M., Treas.; E. Blinkhorn, P.M., Sec.; J. A. Blount, S.D.; D. C. Ritchie, J.D.; C. H. Stevenson, I.G.; C. Hiller, D. C.; and W. G. Hiller and E. J. Harrison, Stewards. A handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. H. B. Harding, I.P.M., by the W.M., on behalf of the lodge, and was suitably acknowledged. Bro. Halestrap, P.M., was elected a Trustee for the Benevolent Fund, and a sum of 10 guineas was voted to be placed on the list of the W.M. for the Boys' School. Bro. C. E. Keyser, J.G.D., having been asked by the W.M. to say a few words, expressed his regret that he could not stay to banquet. He had not visited the lodge with any idea of advocating the Chairmanship he had undertaken for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, but owing to his knowledge of the W.M. as an active and energetic member of the Kingswood Lodge in Herts, and as a great supporter of the Charities. Before he accepted the invitation to be present he knew the Worshipful Master and the lodge were pledged to support the Boys' School, and, as he (Bro. Keyser) was on the Committee of that Institution, he hoped the W.M. would take up a good list. As regards the Benevolent Institution it was the one which, although well supported, was the least able to meet the demand upon its resources. Last year there was an extraordinary festival, and £50,000 of the sum collected had been invested. This had enabled them to permanently increase the number of annuitants from 435 to 455, and he hoped in the future to see a further increase. There were now 118 applicants for election, and, stretching their powers to the utmost, they could only elect 25, six of whom would have to wait for actual vacancies, which would leave over 90 disappointed. He would therefore venture to appeal to the brethren never to forget the claims of the Benevolent Institution.

Lodge was closed, and after a well served repast, the usual toast list was proceeded with.

Bro. H. B. Harding, I.P.M., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," said they had been exceptionally fortunate in having a grand and exceptionally good body of Past Masters, each of whom had occupied the chair in a manner which would be a pride to any lodge in England. He was quite sure that at the present time they had a Worshipful Master who would go through his year with honour and credit to the lodge. He need not dilate upon Bro. Coxon's qualities, as they had all seen him in the minor offices, and therefore knew what to expect from him as their Worshipful Master.

Bro. C. M. Coxon, W.M., in response, said that of any honour likely to fall upon an ordinary Freemason, he thought there could be none which would give him greater satisfaction than that of receiving the unanimous vote of his brethren, and of being installed in the chair as W.M. of the lodge in which he first saw the light of Freemasonry. He could assure them that he did not fail to appreciate the honour conferred upon him in electing him to preside over them during the ensuing 12 months. He had attained the height of his ambition in the Islington Lodge. He had looked forward to the time when he should attain the position he then occupied, and he entered upon his duties with some misgivings. The present was a critical period in the lodge's existence, and a brother with more personal influence than himself might be able to fill the place with greater advantage to the lodge. However, he would do his best. They knew his heart was in Freemasonry, and that Freemasonry in his heart occupied the position which domestic ties demanded from most men. His name was the last upon a roll of distinguished Masters, and he should endeavour to uphold the credit of the lodge to the eminence it had been held by his predecessors. He felt the flattering remarks of the I.P.M. were not deserved, but he thanked that brother for the good feeling which prompted them, and the brethren generally for their more than kind reception.

"The Initiate" was heartily received, after which the W.M. proposed the toast of "The Visitors." Having warmly welcomed them, he referred to the fact that Bro. Wm. Shurmur, who is a P.P.G. Treasurer of Essex, is a candidate for election as Grand Treasurer in 1894. Some brethren of the lodge had been approached to support other candidates, but Islington Lodge could never be unfaithful to a Past Master, especially such a Past Master as Bro. Shurmur. They remembered the extraordinary gathering at his installation, and his successful year. He made an appeal to them—although perhaps he ought not—to strongly support Bro. Shurmur in his candidature. Bro. McLeod was also a visitor, and was doing splendid work for the Boys' School. He should couple the names of Bros. Shurmur, Sutton, and Hancock.

Bro. Wm. Shurmur, P.P.G. Treas. Essex, in response, expressed his gratitude to the W.M. for that opportunity of returning thanks for his kind remarks. It had been a source of great pleasure to see Bro. Coxon installed in the chair, and they congratulated Bro. Blinkhorn and the other members accordingly. He little thought some years ago that it would ever fall to his lot to respond in this lodge as a visitor, and, although he belonged to some 20 lodges and chapters and other Degrees, which occupied a great amount of time, he had always regretted resigning his membership. He had spent many happy hours in it, and acquired what little Masonic knowledge he possessed in the lodge of instruction. He was obliged to the W.M. for so kindly

alluding to his candidature for the office of Grand Treasurer. If it should be their pleasure to elect him to that distinguished position, he would earnestly endeavour to prove himself worthy of their confidence. His friends would be pleased to know that, although his Committee was but recently formed, they were receiving responses far beyond their most sanguine expectations, and that the number of brethren on his list exceeded many hundreds. He thanked them for their promised support.

Bro. W. Hancock, W.M. 2191, also replied.

Bros. Harding, P.M., and Blinkhorn, P.M., responded for "The Past Masters," the latter explaining the great pleasure it had afforded him to install Bro. Coxon, whom he initiated some 11 years ago.

Bro. J. M. McLeod, Sec. R.M.I.B., acknowledged "The Masonic Charities," and other toasts having been honoured, the Tyler's toast terminated the proceedings.

Under the direction of Bro. Trego, Org., the following brethren assisted in the musical arrangements: Bros. Tom Taylor, J. M. Scarlett, Winkworth, Stevenson, and others.

Kilburn Lodge (No. 1603).—The installation meeting of this very successful lodge was held at the Queen's Arms Hotel, Kilburn, on Thursday, the 26th ult. The W.M., Bro. G. Victor Wood, ably performed the ceremony of installation, receiving much deserved encomium from the influential and numerous visitors who attended to do honour to the incoming Master, Bro. James Stephens. Amongst the visitors—who numbered some 45 brethren—were Bros. George Everett, P.G. Treasurer; Charles E. Keyser, J.G.D.; Richard Clowes, P.G. Std. Br.; J. M. McLeod, P.P.S.G.W. Derbyshire, Sec. R.M.I.B.; J. J. Thomas, P.M. 759; Ferguson, P.M. 177; F. Foxley, P.M. 173; H. W. Davie, P.M. 173; W. Drew, W.M. 9; F. C. Smith, and others.

The officers appointed and invested were Bros. Geo. V. Wood, I.P.M.; G. A. Duke, S.W.; W. R. Playford, J.W.; Geo. Barclay, P.M., Treasurer; Sam Brooks, P.M., Secretary; A. S. Ginger, S.D.; C. Brisley, J.D.; L. Stern, I.G.; T. Muir, D.C.; H. J. Turner, P.M., and F. A. Smith, Stewards; and Edward Terry, Org.

The banquet was well served by Messrs. Baker, and a most enjoyable evening spent under the genial and ever-popular presidency of the experienced W.M.

After the usual loyal toasts, that of "The Grand Officers" was given by the W.M., who congratulated himself and the lodge upon having so distinguished a trio present.

Bro. George Everett, P.G. Treas., in responding said it afforded him much pleasure in once again attending a meeting of this lodge with which he had been associated from its foundation. He took especial pride in having served for nine years as its Treasurer, during which time and with the able co-operation of the worthy Secretary, Bro. S. Brooks, P.M., he had had the privilege of sending up larger sums of money to the three Institutions, and was glad to know that this good work was being continued and that the lodge was in such a flourishing condition.

Bro. Charles E. Keyser, in replying, took the opportunity of giving much useful information respecting the work and position of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and explained the circumstances under which he had felt constrained to accept the invitation to preside over its ensuing Anniversary Festival. As a young Grand Officer, but by no means an inexperienced Mason, he felt the difficulty of the position but he was glad to know that that lodge and its W.M. in particular were doing all they could to assist him in the undertaking.

Bro. Richard Clowes also replied in brief but pertinent terms, expressing the pleasure it gave himself and the other Grand Officers to assist in the working of the Craft.

The I.P.M., in giving the toast of "The Worshipful Master," alluded to the great zeal and energy displayed in every work undertaken by him, and felt sure that in that lodge, as in the many other lodges whose chairs he had occupied, nought but prosperity would attend his rule. He alluded in graceful language to the eminent service Bro. Stephens had rendered him on the previous Monday, when by his (the I.P.M.'s) enforced absence through domestic affliction, he had ably presided over and carried through to the delight and satisfaction of everybody a most highly successful ball.

The toast was most enthusiastically received, and

The Worshipful Master, in reply, said that he felt proud to occupy the position, and would do all in his power to continue to deserve the many kind expressions which had been conveyed to him on that occasion. He proceeded to propose the toast of "The Immediate Past Master and Installing Master," and said the lodge would never forget the splendid services rendered by Bro. Wood, whose working had been perfect, and the charm of whose manner when presiding over them had endeared him to one and all. Allusion had been made to the success of the ball which had fitly marked the close of a successful year of office, and the brethren knew that much of that success was due to the untiring energy of the I.P.M. The impressive manner in which the ceremony of that evening had been performed—under the most trying difficulties a man could be under—would live long in their memories, and none amongst the good array of Past Masters better or more worthily deserved the jewel which had been so unanimously voted by the lodge.

Bro. G. V. Wood, I.P.M., met with a most cordial reception, and, in brief and feeling terms, acknowledged the same, and thanked the brethren for their kindness. Although his recent bereavement had made the task a heavy one, he felt that his duty was with them that evening, and he was glad to receive this mark of their favour.

Bro. Sam. Brooks, P.M. and Sec., proposed the toast of "The Masonic Charities" in an eloquent speech.

Bro. McLeod, Sec. R.M.I.B., said his first duty was to thank the brethren, on behalf of his particular Institution, for the continued favours received from the Kilburn Lodge, and especially to the I.P.M. for his noble list at the last festival. But he was present on this occasion in the regrettable, but enforced absence of his good friend and colleague, Bro. Terry, to plead for their support at the next Festival of the Benevolent Institution. He felt pleasure in doing this, although the ground had been cut from under his feet by the eloquent speeches and matter conveyed to them by Bros. Keyser and Brooks. He then gave particulars of the working of the Institution—the many claims upon it at the present, and its prospects for the future—pointing out how essential it was that no serious decline in its income should follow the glorious results of the Jubilee

Celebration of 1892. The Craft, as well as the Institution, was to be congratulated upon the fact of so good a man as Bro. Keyser taking the chair at the Festival. The brethren had enjoyed a taste of his quality on that evening, for he ventured to think that no previous Chairman had worked so energetically, or pleaded so forcibly, and subscribed so liberally, before his Festival as that distinguished brother had done. They all knew the worth of the W.M., and it was not for him to dilate upon his good qualities. With his usual modesty, he had on the present occasion taken a "back seat," and with the sanction of the lodge, his wife would be Steward to represent it at the Festival. Those who had the privilege of enjoying the friendship of Mrs. Stephens knew she was the good wife of a good Mason, and ever ready to assist in the good objects of the Order. She had already in this field borne away the palm, having the largest list of any Lady Steward at the Festival of 1892, and he knew the brethren of the lodge would assist him, and place their popular W.M.—whose "retirement" was a bit "artful"—by enabling her to beat all former records at the approaching Festival. No doubt at that late hour Mrs. Stephens was enjoying the "sleep of peace," just commended to their notice by the artistes, and, although he was afraid the W.M. might not reach home until the small hours of the morning, all would be forgiven when a perusal of the figures on the list would express to its fair Steward the wish from the Kilburn Lodge—

"Oh! may our soft and soothing numbers
Wrap thee in sweeter, softer slumbers."

The toast of "The Visitors," &c., followed, and closed a very enjoyable evening.

The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. E. Terry, Org.

Brixton Lodge (No. 1949).—The installation meeting of this flourishing lodge was held at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, on Saturday, the 4th inst. The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. A. Jones, assisted by his officers, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. R. Poore, P.M., presented Bro. J. Bott, S.W., as W.M. elect, and he was impressively installed by the Worshipful Master in the presence of a large number of Installed Masters, after which the officers appointed were Bro. A. Jones, I.P.M.; J. J. Newland, S.W.; J. Hicks, J.W.; R. Poore, P.M., Treasurer; Henry Lovegrove, P.M. 1507, 1777, 1949, 2048, 2416, Secretary (for the 11th time); G. O. Daunt, S.D.; R. T. Rowman, P.M., J.D.; C. R. Cutter, I.G.; E. F. Gye, Org.; D. Hamilton, D.C.; F. E. Foulger and W. Inglis, Stewards; and R. Potter, Tyler.

At the conclusion of the business of the lodge 61 members and visitors sat down to the banquet. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

"The Health of the W.M." was well received, Bro. Bott having been a steady worker through the various offices in the lodge.

The brethren were equally as enthusiastic when "The Health of the I.P.M." was given, he being presented with a Past Master's jewel.

The toast of "The Past Masters" was responded to by Bro. H. Lovegrove, Secretary, the first Master, who expressed his pleasure at the progress of the lodge.

The toasts were interspersed with excellent music.

The jewel was manufactured by Bro. George Kenning.

West Ham Abbey Lodge (No. 2291).—The installation meeting of this growing lodge was held on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at the Town Hall, Stratford, under the presidency of Bro. E. Triggs, W.M., who was supported by Bros. J. Boulton, P.M.; A. Govier, P.M.; C. W. Carrell, P.M.; W. G. Norman, P.M.; A. Reed, S.W.; G. W. Kidd (Mayor of West Ham), J.W.; G. Hay, Treasurer; F. C. D. Fenn, Secretary; R. Fielder, S.D.; G. Gwinn, J.D.; W. Jones, D.C.; J. T. Pavitt, I.G. and Org.; Young and Mansfield, Stwds.; M. Gross, Tyler; Moloney, Horseman, Porter, Carter, McDowell, Ricketts, Bush, Aytton, Scrutton, Worland, Handley, Rockley, Turner, Single, Robertson, Burrow, Treid, Holland, Threlford, J. M. Smith, McDonald, Byford, Richardson, Taylor, Stone, T. J. Vallance, W. G. Reed, Courtney, Volckman, Lowry, Goodchild, Phillips, Druitt, Riche, Laver, Curtis, and others. Among the numerous visitors were the following: Bros. Brown, Lucking, Hussey, E. Smith, Thos. Black, Reed, Dr. Grogono, Davidson, Wooley, Michaelson, W. Triggs, T. G. Barnes, Metcalf, Duck, Fennell, Hills, F. Smith, Kempton, Mumford, Calver, Abrahams, Tucker, Poston, Powell, Reekie, J. R. Smith, Briscoe, Brannon, J. McLeod, Secretary R.M.I. for Boys, Joslin, Baily, Ralling, and others.

Lodge having been opened, Mr. F. Docksey was initiated. Bro. Alfred Reed, S.W., W.M. elect, was then presented to the W.M., and a Board of Installed Masters having been formed, he was duly installed in the chair of K.S., after which he invested the following officers: Bros. G. W. Kidd, S.W.; R. Fielder, J.W.; G. Hay, Treas.; F. C. D. Fenn, Sec.; G. Gwinn, S.D.; J. T. Pavitt, J.D.; H. Young, D.C.; W. Jones, I.G.; C. Mansfield and J. Byford, Stewards; and M. Gross, Tyler. Bro. Jas. Boulton, who acted as Installing Officer, then delivered the customary charges to the W.M., Wardens, and brethren, respectively. The ceremony was performed with admirable precision, and the addresses were enunciated with impressiveness. The Auditors' report, showing the respectable balance of £328 in favour of the lodge, was received and adopted. The W.M. having intimated his intention of going forward as Steward for the three Benevolent Institutions, the sum of 25 guineas were voted for the R.M.B.I. for Aged Freemasons, leaving the other two for further consideration. The sum of 10 guineas was also voted to Bro. G. W. Kidd, S.W., who also goes forward as Steward. The candidates for initiation were proposed.

All Masonic business being ended, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet in the Council Chamber, after which the usual loyal toasts were proposed and received in the manner peculiar to the Craft.

For "The Charities," Bro. J. McLeod responded, representing more particularly the Boys' Institution, his plea was more on their behalf, but his remarks generally referred to the duties of all Freemasons to do their best for the noble Charities in which they should all be interested.

The remaining toasts were duly honoured.

The Tyler's toast concluded a well-spent evening.

The proceedings of the evening were greatly enlivened by musical and choral efforts by various brethren.

Æsculapius Lodge (No. 2410).—The ordinary meeting took place at the Café Royal, Regent-street, on Wednesday, the 5th inst., when the W.M., Bro. Dep.-Inspector-Gen. Belgrave Ninnis, M.D., P.M., G. Std. Br., presided, supported by the following officers and brethren: Bros. Brindley James, P.M., I.P.M.; F. Ernest Pocock, M.D., P.M., S.W.; Jacob Pickett, M.D., J.W.; G. Danford Thomas, M.D., Treas.; Thomas Dutton, M.D., P.M., Sec.; Anthony Nutt, J.D.; Lennox Browne, P.M., P.P.S.G.W. Essex, D.C.; Frank Oldfield, P.M., I.G.; Edward H. Ezard, M.D., Org.; Henry W. Kiallmark, P.M., Steward; W. Ernest Dring, P.M.; E. S. Bell, John Davies, Lewis Lewis, H. G. Blackmore, C. Luxmore Drew, M.B., W. Arbuthnot Lane, M.S., J. Zactary, P.M. (California), and Frank W. Williams, P.M. 101.

The lodge was opened and the minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, after which Bro. Surgeon Captain R. Ashton Bostock, L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., 1971, was unanimously elected a joining member. Bro. M. Arbuthnot Lane, M.S. Lond., F.R.C.S. Eng., was raised to the Sublime Degree of a M.M. by the W.M. in a masterly manner.

After other routine business had been transacted, and several letters read of apology regretting non-attendance from members, the lodge was closed.

The brethren afterwards dined together, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given and replied to in suitable words.

Hiram Lodge (No. 2416).—The installation meeting was held at Freemasons' Hall, Bro. Henry Lovegrove, W.M., in the chair. The first business was the initiation of Mr. Reginald A. Rix, and then Bro. W. J. Ebbetts, acting D.C., presented Bro. F. R. Farrow, S.W., W.M. elect, and he was installed into the chair of K.S. by the retiring W.M. The officers elected were Bros. F. A. Powell, S.W.; W. T. Bonner, J.W.; T. E. Mundy, P.M., Treasurer; Henry Lovegrove, I.P.M., Secretary; G. Elkington, jun., S.D.; H. G. W. Drinkwater, J.D.; A. F. Wrightson, I.G.; J. O. Abbott, D. of C.; and G. Austin, Tyler. Bro. Lovegrove was presented with a set of miniature jewels in gold.

PROVINCIAL MEETINGS.

BARNARD CASTLE.

Barnard Lodge (No. 1230).—The annual meeting was held on Friday, the 3rd inst., at the Masonic Hall, when there was a large attendance of brethren and visitors, including several Provincial and Past Provincial Grand Officers, among whom were Bros. Dr. Hill Drury, Prov. S.G.W.; W. R. Staveley, Prov. J.G.W.; Sutcliffe, Prov. G. Treas.; T. Dunn, Prov. G.D.C.; Rev. Hartley Jennings, P.P.G. Chap.; T. R. Richardson, P.P.G. Reg.; W. Hobson, P.P.J.G.D.; T. Banks, P.P.D.G.D.C.; B. S. Beckwith, P.P.G. Std. Br.; D. Finlay, P.P.G.P.; W. Barlow, and others.

The lodge was opened, in the unavoidable absence of the W.M., by Bro. Gibson, I.P.M., and the minutes of the last regular meeting having been read and confirmed, Bro. Gibson presented Bro. J. R. Thompson, W.M. elect, to Bro. Dr. Hill Drury, Prov. S.G.W., to receive the benefit of installation. Bro. Hill Drury then proceeded with the ceremony, and in a painstaking manner placed Bro. Thompson in the chair. The W.M. then appointed his officers as follows: Bros. H. Dowdswell, I.P.M.; A. H. Sevier, M.B., S.W.; Rev. Hartley Jennings, J.W.; R. C. M. Cooke, Treas.; J. W. B. Heslop, Sec.; E. D. Walrond, M.A., S.D.; G. Kyle, J.D.; J. W. Douglas, I.G.; J. Hall, D.C.; J. M. Moore, Org.; G. W. Jackson and T. Rutherford, Stewards; and J. G. Welford, Tyler.

The ceremony being completed, hearty congratulations were then offered by the many visiting brethren, and the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the King's Head Hotel, where an excellent dinner was provided, and the evening spent in pleasure and harmony.

BARNESLEY.

Friendly Lodge (No. 1513).—The installation meeting was held on Thursday, the 2nd inst., at the Masonic Hall, when Bro. Charles Lingard, S.W., was duly installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The lodge was opened by the retiring W.M., Bro. W. Senior, in the presence of the following: Bros. C. Lingard, S.W.; J. H. Smith, J.W.; F. C. Browne, Sec.; J. Wood, S.D.; W. W. Hutchinson, J.D.; W. J. Frankland, D.C.; S. Squire, I.G.; Braithwaite, Org.; Nash, Webster, Sugden, and Atkinson, Stewards; Miller, P.M.; Lawrence, P.M.; W. R. Massie, P.M.; E. J. Massie, P.M.; Fincken, P.M.; J. H. Gratton, P.M.; A. W. Gratton, P.M.; S. Alderson, P.M.; Krakauze, Longley, Jagger, Deansfield, Fittin, Johnson, Nichols, Kymer, Watson, Overend, Lockwood, Horne, Williamson, Norfolk, Soar, Dowson, and Rogers, Tyler. Visitors: Bros. Gregson, 962; Footitt, 1805; Mason, 304, P.P.G. Treas.; Trevor, 2069; Slack, P.M. 910, P.P.G.D.C.; Gandy, 1462; Sykes, 1462; Normansell, 1462; Fearnley, 208; F. Massie, 1019; Billington, P.M. 1462; Taylor, W.M. 1462; H. G. E. Green, P.M. 1019, P.G. Sec.; Crawshaw, 242; Holmes, P.M. 2213; and Dixon, 139.

The chair was then assumed by Bro. W. R. Massie, P.M., P.P.G.D., and Bro. Charles Lingard being presented by Bros. J. H. Gratton, P.M., and E. J. Massie, P.M., he was duly installed. The following were appointed to office for the ensuing year: Bros. W. Senior, I.P.M.; J. H. Smith, S.W.; F. C. Browne, J.W.; T. W. Embleton, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., Treas.; J. Wood, Sec.; W. W. Hutchinson, S.D.; S. Squire, J.D.; W. J. Frankland, D.C.; H. Johnson, Org.; T. Braithwaite, I.G.; H. B. Nash, T. Webster, C. Sugden, and F. Atkinson, Stwds.; T. Rogers, Tyler; W. R. Massie, P.M., Almoner; and J. H. Gratton, P.M., Charity Steward.

A banquet was afterwards held, when the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were given, and the brethren passed a very pleasant evening.

BLACKLEY.

Wilton Lodge (No. 1077).—Owing to the great popularity of Bro. Sam Mills, S.W., W.M. elect, in this district, a very large number assembled to witness his installation on Monday, the 6th inst., at the Red Lion Hotel. The lodge was opened by Bro. T. W. Foxcroft, W.M., and the

minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. Richard Caldwell, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., a well-known student of Freemasonry, then took the chair, and Bro. S. Mills, W.M. elect, was presented to him by Bros. Thos. W. Foxcroft, when the ceremony of installation was proceeded with, and Bro. Mills was duly inducted into the chair of K.S. The working tools were presented by Bro. Foxcroft, in the unavoidable absence of Bro. Lloyd, P.M. Bro. C. W. Godby, P.M., addressed the W.M., Wardens, and brethren. The following officers were invested by the W.M.: Bros. Thos. W. Foxcroft, I.P.M.; J. Horsfield, S.W.; G. T. Lenard, J.W.; Sawyer, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; R. Winfield, Sec.; C. W. Godby, P.M., Chap.; H. M. Wilson, S.D.; R. H. Jackson, J.D.; Stopford, P.M., D.C.; A. Smith, Org.; F. Middleton, I.G.; Dr. Coutts, Dr. Dearden, Newton, and Whitcombe, Stewards; J. Hyde, Tyler; and C. W. Godby, P.M., Charity Representative. The following addressed the officers: Bros. R. H. Jackson, P.M.; C. W. Foxcroft, P.M.; R. Caldwell, P.M.; Thos. Stopford, P.M.; J. Howarth, P.M.; G. S. Smith, P.M.; J. W. Shaw, P.M.; and J. B. Kendal, P.M. The Auditors' report was presented and adopted. All other business being completed, the lodge was closed by the W.M.

At the banquet which subsequently followed, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were briefly given and responded to in a most enthusiastic manner.

During the evening the W.M. presented a most handsome Past Master's jewel to Bro. Foxcroft, I.P.M., as a token of esteem in which he was held by the brethren of the lodge.

The enjoyment of the evening was greatly enhanced by Bros. C. H. Beever, P.M., giving a lovely discourse on the fairy bells. "Here's to his Health" was very effectively rendered by Bro. Openshaw. Bro. J. D. Smith sang splendidly. Bro. Goldworth recited admirably, whilst Bro. Hamnett gave a most humorous sketch. Altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent.

The following brethren were present: T. W. Foxcroft, W.M.; J. W. Lloyd, P.M.; Samuel Mills, S.W.; John Horsfield, J.W.; J. T. Sawyer, P.M., P.P.G.S.B., Treas.; R. Winfield, Sec.; G. T. Lenard, H. M. Wilson, J.D.; R. H. Jackson, I.G.; Robt. Caldwell, P.M., P.P.G.S.B.; Thos. Stopford, P.M.; George Jackson, P.M.; J. B. Kendall, P.M.; J. W. Shaw, P.M.; J. Haworth, P.M.; John Hargreaves, P.M.; George Holford, P.M.; C. W. Godby, P.M.; W. J. Usher, T. Middleton, C. H. Coates, W. H. Duckworth, J. Kershaw, James Parkinson, Thos. Hall, H. Grey, H. G. Jackson, S. Diggle, R. H. Williams, W. Moneton, H. Whitcombe, G. Smith, E. Newton, F. V. Arden, C. Barrie Taylor, W. Richardson, W. F. Dearden, J. R. Coutts, N. Whittaker, John Openshaw, C. Slee, and W. H. Lowry. Visitors: Bros. C. H. Beever, W.M. 1375; James Hoslem; John Kay, P.M.; J. Waring, P.M.; A. H. Duffin, P.M.; J. W. Bromley; A. Hibbert; G. H. Needles, P.M.; J. Wainwright, P.M.; Thos. Warrell; J. R. Farrer; R. A. Daniel, P.M.; Fred. Stretch, W.M. 2359; S. Bamford, W.M. 1011; T. Hamnett; James Robinson, W.M. 1219; Peter Lawton, P.M.; J. Hulbert; W. B. Midgeley; T. Nesbitt; W. Botterby, W.M. 1633; E. Roberts, P.M.; G. S. Smith, P.M.; R. J. T. Sayers; Peter Jackson, P.M.; Fred. Hilton, I.P.M.; and Geo. Parker, W.M. 2083.

The jewel was manufactured by Bro. George Kenning.

CHINGFORD.

Warner Lodge (No. 2256).—The regular meeting was held on Tuesday, the 14th inst., at the Royal Forest Hotel, when there were present Bros. Jas. Speller, W.M.; G. Hurley, S.W.; W. Shurmur, J.W.; J. J. Briginshaw, I.P.M.; H. A. Allpass, Chaplain; R. Kershaw, Sec.; W. A. Finch, S.D.; Geo. Long, I.G.; C. G. Cutchey, P.M., D.C.; W. B. Whittingham, C.C.; N. Fortescue, C.C.; Rev. M. Rees, P.P.G.C.; F. Taylor, J. Bird, H. T. Dunnett, W. Latter, P.P.G.O.; C. MacColla, T. Scoresby-Jackson, P.P.S.G.D.; A. D. Stephens, W. A. Longmore, W. Finch, P.M.; H. H. Finch, J. Ellis, 1524; W. Harris, P.M. 1662; Gilbert Houghton, A. Holmes, and many others.

The lodge having been opened, Bro. H. H. Finch was raised to the Third Degree in a most impressive manner, and the lodge was closed, after which the brethren adjourned to banquet.

The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

Bro. Hurley, in proposing the toast of "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," stated that Bro. W. Shurmur, who had given so much satisfaction in the province as Treasurer, would be nominated for the office of Grand Treasurer in 1894, and that a very large and influential Committee was being formed to secure his election.

This announcement was received with great enthusiasm, and all the brethren promised to exert their utmost to secure his return.

The Tyler's toast concluded a very enjoyable evening.

CROYDON.

George Price Lodge (No. 2096).—A regular meeting of this lodge was held on Saturday, the 4th inst., at the Public Hall. The offices were filled by Bros. F. W. Leaver, W.M.; Thomas Whetford, acting S.W.; E. C. Leaver, J.W.; F. T. Kidpath, P.M., Treas.; J. D. Langton, P.M., Sec.; Wayte, S.D.; Hayward, J.D.; Jones, I.G.; Crew, D.C.; Fred. Cambridge, P.M., Org.; W. G. Goode, P.M., and Pearson, Stwds.; Lane, Tyler; J. H. Price, I.P.M.; and J. S. Fraser, P.M. The other members present were Bros. Hinton, C. W. Ridpath, Sheldon, Fielder, Hall, Gresham, W. T. Wilkinson, and H. A. Wilkinson. The visitors were Bros. Chas. A. Nicholas, P.M. 63; Colbron, P.M. 889; Burn, P.M. 858; J. H. Jacobs, 1803; John J. Jacobs, W.M. 1803; S. J. Notley, P.M. 1150; Berry, J.W. 1321; A. Lister, 1309; Wm. White, 1321; Charles O. Burgess, D.C. 2191; J. H. Muggridge, S.D. 1321; W. J. Harris, W.M. 1321; P. Collinson, J.W. 969; and Atkinson, P.M. 1645.

The lodge having been opened, the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed. Messrs. H. A. and W. T. Wilkinson were initiated, and Bro. W. Foster Gresham was passed to the Second Degree. A resolution was passed by a majority of 15 to 1 to change the days of meeting by leaving out the meeting now held in March and meeting in October instead, thus shortening the present long interval between the meetings, viz., from June to December. The W.M. was appointed the Steward of the lodge for the Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and 10 guineas was voted from the lodge funds to be placed on his Steward's list.

After other business had been transacted, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet.

An excellent programme of music was provided, under the direction of the Organist of the lodge, Bro. F. Cambridge, P.P.G. Org.

PETERSFIELD.

Lodge of Friendship (No. 928).—The installation meeting was held on Monday, the 6th inst., at the Masonic Hall, when there were present Bros. Rev. G. Andrew, P.G.C., W.M.; T. Mells, I.P.M.; W. B. Edgeler, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., Treas., S.W. *pro tem.*; H. H. Atkinson-Grimshaw, P.M., Sec. *pro tem.*; R. G. Cross, S.D.; C. Wills, P.M., I.G. *pro tem.*; W. Brightwell, Org.; T. G. Gammon and W. J. Chapman, Stwds.; J. J. Bettle, W.M. elect; H. Warren, H. M. Brownfield, H. B. Pullen-Bury, J. P. Cordery, D. H. Watney, C. F. Hulford, J. Parnell, W. J. Stubbington, and A. Head, Tyler. The following visitors were also present: Bros. W. Stewart, W.M. 1428; C. R. Hendy, Sec. 1069; T. Hall, 558; and H. Siebert, Org. 342.

The lodge was opened by Bro. Rev. G. Andrew, P.G.C., W.M., and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The retiring W.M., Bro. Rev. G. Andrew, P.G.C., most impressively installed Bro. J. J. Bettle as his successor in the chair of K.S. The newly-installed W.M. appointed and invested his officers as follows: Bros. Rev. G. Andrew, P.G.C., I.P.M.; D. H. Watney, S.W.; R. G. Cross, J.W.; W. B. Edgeler, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., Treas.; H. H. Atkinson-Grimshaw, P.M., Sec.; T. G. Gammon, S.D.; W. J. Chapman, I.D.; C. Wells, P.M., D.C.; J. Chadwick, I.G.; W. G. Boulard and H. M. Brownfield, Stewards; and A. Head, Tyler. A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Installing Master in appreciation of the efficient manner in which he had carried out the ceremony of installation.

At the close of the ceremony the brethren adjourned to the Dolphin Hotel, where the banquet was admirably served by the proprietor, Bro. C. Wells, P.M., D.C., at which the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and "Hearty good wishes" expressed to the W.M., who presided, for a successful year of office.

SALFORD.

Newall Lodge (No. 1134). The regular meeting of this lodge was held at Adelphi House, on Tuesday, the 7th inst. Bro. E. Webb, W.M., presided, and opened the lodge, every officer being at his post. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. A. R. Holden was passed, the ceremony being performed by the W.M. in a most perfect and impressive manner. The business being completed, the lodge was closed.

The following brethren were present: Bros. E. Webb, W.M.; G. S. Smith, I.P.M.; B. Eckersley, S.W.; C. Driver, J.W.; John Holroyd, P.M., P.P.G.S. of W., Treas.; John Waring, P.M., Sec.; H. Waterhouse, S.D.; John Ogden, J.D.; A. H. Duffin, P.M., D.C.; Martin, I.G.; J. Mainwaring, P.M.; J. Simpson, A. K. Boothroyd, W. H. Browne, Flett, Atkinson, J. M. Williams, John Green, and A. R. Holden. Visitors: Bros. Hume and A. L. Boothroyd.

SOUTHPORT.

Starkie Lodge (No. 1070).—The installation meeting of this lodge was held on Monday, the 6th inst., at the Masonic Rooms, when there were present Bros. John Fletcher, W.M.; Councillor Geo. Austerfield, S.W.; J. H. Barrow, P.M., P.P.G.D., Sec.; J. Hesketh, P.M., J.D.; James Platt, P.M., P.P.G.D.; W. Platt, P.P.G. Treas.; Rev. C. Hesketh Knowlys, P.M., P.P.G. Chap.; J. T. Callow, P.M., P.P.G. Treas.; J. Rigby, P.M.; G. Bailey, P.M.; J. Witham, P.M.; Albert Smith, C. E. Hiscock, and John C. Robinson, P.M., P.P.A.G.D.C. Visitors: Bros. S. R. Stott, P.M. 2325; W. J. Worden, P.M. 2325; W. Taylor, W.M.; W. Foulkes, P.M., P.P.A.G. Sec.; and Isaac Platts, P.M.

After the lodge had been opened and the minutes read, the W.M. elect, Bro. Geo. Austerfield, was presented to Bro. John Fletcher, the Installing Master, who performed the ceremony in a most efficient manner. The following brethren were then appointed and invested: Bros. Albert Smith, S.W.; John C. Robinson, J.W.; Rev. C. Hesketh Knowlys, Chap.; James Platt, Treas.; J. H. Barrow, Sec.; J. Rigby, S.D.; J. Hesketh, J.D.; W. Platt, Org.; G. Bailey, I.G.; and Geo. Rockliffe, Tyler.

After the sum of 20 guineas had been voted to Charity, the lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the banquet room, where a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Royal Arch.

Kennington Chapter (No. 1381).—This chapter met for the dispatch of business at the Horns Tavern, Kennington Park, on the 2nd instant. Amongst those in attendance were Comps. Dowling, M.E.Z.; Austin, H.; Sims, J.; Henry Higgins, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C., S.E.; Smith, S.N.; George Everett, P.Z., P.G. Treas., Treas.; Dennis, P.S.; Colwell, 2nd A.S.; Capt. Walls, P.Z.; C. H. Köhler, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B.; H. J. Lardner, P.Z., P.P.G. Std. Br.; and H. Salter, I.P.Z.

The minutes of the previous convocation having been read and confirmed, the election of Principals and officers for the year ensuing took place, with the following results: Comps. Austin, M.E.Z.; Sims, H.; Dennis, J.; H. Higgins, P.Z., S.E.; Smith, S.N.; Geo. Everett, P.Z., Treas.; Buxton, P.S.; Colwell, 1st A.S.; Lingley, 2nd A.S.; and Patrick, Janitor. A Past Principal's jewel was voted to the M.E.Z.

The conclave was then closed, and the companions adjourned to the banquet.

The usual loyal toasts were duly proposed. Comp. George Everett, P.G. Treas., responded on behalf of "The Grand Officers, Present and Past," in a neat and effective speech. "The M.E.Z." having been duly toasted, responded in appropriate terms.

Comps. Austin and Sims replied as "The Second and Third Principals."

"The Past Principals" was given in very kindly terms by the M.E.Z., who said that No. 1381 owed a great deal to the exertions of that talented body. Among so many it was difficult to choose one in particular, but as Comp. Lardner had been most indefatigable in assisting all the Principals and officers in their respective duties, he should couple his name with the toast.

This pledge having been duly honoured, Comp. Lardner acknowledged the compliment in a few modest words.

"The Scribe E. and Treasurer" followed.

In the absence of Comp. Higgins, S.E., who was indisposed, Comp. George Everett responded. He said he was very sorry to see that their old and respected friend and Companion Higgins was not at all well that evening. He was a most careful and painstaking officer, and it was a pleasure to work with him. Personally, he was always anxious to enhance the affairs of the Kennington Chapter, and the enjoyment of its members in every conceivable way. The toast of "The Officers" terminated the proceedings.

In the intervals of the toasts some excellent selections of music were given.

YORK.

Eboracum Chapter (No. 1611).—The installation meeting of this chapter was held at Freemasons' Hall, St. Saviourgate, on Tuesday, the 7th instant, when Comp. T. B. Whytehead was placed in the chair of M.E.Z. for the fourth time by Comp. J. Todd, P.Z. Comp. Whytehead then installed Comps. W. N. Cheeseman and Dr. Longford as H. and J. respectively, the other officers being invested as follows: Comps. J. Kay, S.E.; W. Storey, S.N.; G. Lamb, P.S.; T. G. P. Barlow, 1st A.S.; J. L. Spetch, 2nd A.S.; J. Blenkin, P.Z., Treas.; G. A. Chapman, Org.; A. Archer, Steward; and P. Pearson, Janitor. Bros. Dr. Buchanan, B. Kilvington, and Rev. E. Richardson were duly exalted, and a sum of £10 10s. was voted to the decoration fund of the Eboracum Lodge.

The chapter was then closed, the companions dining together in the banqueting room, under the presidency of the M.E.Z.

Mark Masonry.

Prince of Wales Lodge (No. 4).—The election meeting of this lodge was held at Mark Masons' Hall, on the 23rd ult., Bro. R. G. Brighten, P.M., P.G.I. of W. in the chair, supported by Bros. E. W. Lewcock, S.W.; H. Lovegrove, P.M., P.G.I. of W. and P.P.S.G.W. Middx. and Surrey, Treas.; Chas. Palmer, P.G.I.G., Sec.; Mash, P.M.; Axford, P.M.; and others.

Bro. Lewcock was elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. H. Lovegrove was re-elected Treasurer.

It was decided to remove the lodge, and a Committee were elected to settle on the place.

The brethren afterwards dined at the Holborn Restaurant.

LANCASTER.

Moore Lodge (No. 146).—The regular meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms on Monday, the 30th ult., when there were present Bros. James Ellershaw, W.M.; James Bennett, S.W.; and several Past Masters and officers.

After the preliminary business had been transacted, the ballot was taken for W.M. for the ensuing year, and resulted unanimously in favour of Bro. James Bennett, S.W. Bro. William Hall, P.M., P.P.S.G.W., was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Hamer, Tyler.

At the conclusion the brethren adjourned to supper, at the invitation of the W.M., and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. R. Grey, P.G.D., President of the Board, presided. The Senior Vice-President, Bro. James Brett, P.G.P., and the Junior Vice-President, Bro. C. A. Coltebrune, P.G.P., held their usual positions; the G. Sec., Bro. E. Letchworth; the Asst. G. Sec., Bro. A. A. Pendlebury; Bro. W. Dodd, and Bro. W. H. Lee represented Grand Secretary's office. The other brethren present were Bros. George Everett, J. E. Le Feuvre, W. M. Bywater, David D. Mercer, S. V. Abrahams, William Vincent, E. Vallentine, Henry Garrod, W. P. Brown, George A. Pickering, Charles Dairy, George Graveley, George R. Langley, S. H. Goldschmidt, T. W. Whitmarsh, A. C. Woodward, Walter Martin, James Bunker, S. R. Baskett, J. Charters White, Arthur Digby Green, Joseph Levey, H. W. Nicholson, J. B. Scriven, S. J. Weston, Geo. Allen, F. Wood, W. Belchamber, W. F. Lamony, G. W. Burridge, Alfred Pipe, Chatham Ellis, E. Canderlier, Leopold Weil, F. Tennant Pain, George A. Read, Philip Francis, D. T. Keene, E. C. Symmons, W. J. Trappett, J. H. Pullen, A. Mearning, W. H. Dresden, Ernest M. Coombe, William E. Wilby, Henry Kent, T. W. Smale, T. D. Long, John Matteys, F. P. Baxter, Frank E. Bailey, Thomas H. Hobbs, H. T. Wright, J. Cockram Taylor, William Grellier, Edward Humphry, A. F. Casperd, A. G. Beale, Francis J. Hannan, M.D.; W. T. Buck, Robert Jackson, Henry Slyman, C. J. Smith, Joseph Bruton, A. B. Norman, A. Lundie, C. Sweeting, A. G. Duck, Edwin Hill, H. Massey, and H. Sadler, G. Tyler.

The Board of Masters was first held, and the agenda paper for next Grand Lodge was submitted to the brethren. At the Board of Benevolence the brethren first confirmed grants recommended to the Grand Master to the amount of £500. There were 29 cases on the new list, which were qualified through lodges in London, Newport (I. of W.), New York, Aldershot, Falmouth, Cardiff, Chorley, Boston, Richmond, Great Stanmore, Secunderabad, Peterborough, Bombay, Uxbridge, Huddersfield, Ipswich, Rochford (Essex), Endbury (Suffolk), Hull, Brighton, and Combermere, N.S.W. Two of these cases were deferred, and one case was dismissed. The remaining cases were voted a total of £610. The amount was comprised of one recommendation to Grand Lodge for £60 and one for £50. The recommendations to the Grand Master were one of £40 and eight of £30 each. Five grants were made of £20 each, two of £15 each, three of £10 each, and two of £5 each.

THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED DUMFRIES MSS.

(Continued from page 80).

The Oath is not at the end in this branch, but inserted after the Edwin legend, and it is much more extensive than in the usual form. The text is not quite identical in both MSS., but, on the whole, they agree together. I give it from the Harris MS.: "These charges wch weel now rehearse to you, and all other the Charges, Secrets, and Mysteries belonging to Free Masonry, you shall faithfully and truly keep together with the Council of this Lodge or Chamber. You shall not for any Gift, Bribe or Reward, favour or Affection, directly or indirectly, for any Cause whatsoever divulge or disclose [the same] to either Father or Mother, Sister or Brother, Wife, Child, friend, Relation, or Stranger, or any other person whatsoever. So help you God, your Holy doom, and the Contents of this Book." Instead of the words or passages in italics, the Dumfries MS. reads as follows: Charges is missing—free masons—of ye Assembly or lodge, or any other lodge, or brother, or fellow—or disclose are missing—either is missing—brother or sister, son or daughter, wife, kindred, or relation—me—ye holy lord—sentence. There is another form of the oath at the end of the Buchanan MS.: "These charges that you have received you shall well and truly keepe, not disclosing the secrecy of our Lodge to man, woman, nor child: Sticke nor stone: thing moveable nor immoveable soe God you helpe and his holy Doome." You may also compare the Oath of the Sloane MS., No. 3329, where we read: "Your attenders shall bid you keep secret from Man, Woman, or Child, Stuck or Stone and never reveal it but to a brother or in a Lodge of Free-masons"; in the same Oath we find twice the words "directly or indirectly," that are also in the Oath of the Roberts print and the Harleian MS., No. 1942. The old word "hallidom" or "halidom" has been ill-treated by the scribes in most of the MSS., that have preserved the same, namely the Grand Lodge, Philipps No. 1, Killwinning, Cama, Dowland, York No. 6, Philipps No. 3, Stanley, Hub, Buchanan, Acheson-Haven, Melrose, Harris, Dumfries No. 3, Alnwick, Wren, Watson, Scarborough MSS., and the Spencer Family; it is also in the William Watson MS.

At the end of the Admonition, which is omitted in the Dumfries MS., the Harris MS. names the Holy Bible, the York MSS. Nos. 1, 2, and 5 having the holy Scripture, whilst the other MSS. cite only a Book.

There are some peculiarities in the Charges, for instance in the seventh, where we read: "Any fewer number than Seven (which number is Term'd a Lodge), or Six at the Least with the Consent of a Seventh tho' absent whose consent must appear under his Hand Writing to the Lodge to make any man a free mason."—In the eleventh Charge we meet with the word *lewis*, which Bro. Speth laid stress upon in the *Freemason* (1888, August 25th); but if we compare other manuscripts, we are immediately taught that it must be a mistake of a scribe for a *layer* or *rough layer*, who was called a *cowan* in Scotland. Perhaps the mysterious *loses* in the Melrose MS. is also nothing but an error for *layers*, for what is said there about the meaning of the word is almost the same as in the Harris MS. We read in the Melrose MS. as follows: "They (the prentices) that are lawfully taken, after they come out of their prentisshipe, ought not to be named *loses*, but they ought to be named *frie men* from their Mr or fellows, if they have their Mrs Discharge, and all other yt are not lawfully taken, are to be named *loses*." The Harris MS. reading: "a *Lewis* is such an one as hath served an Apprentissh to a Mason, but is not admitted afterwards according to this manner and custom of making Masons," i.e. not lawfully. Therefore *loses* are *layers*, as a *lewis* is a *layer*, for whom no mason shall make any Mould, Square, or Rule, and who shall not hew any Mould-stones within a Lodge or without, as we read in most of the MSS., while the Melrose MS. says that no mason shall let them know the privilege of the Compasses, Square, Level, and Plumb-rule, which is quite the same thing.—The 12th Charges deals very extensively with "Trespasses and Transgressions" and the manner of determining, redressing, correcting, and amending them.—The 22nd and the following Charges are superscribed "Practiser's" in the Harris MS., the Dumfries MS. not having a marginal note here.

After the Charges we find a second admonition, which agrees with that at the head of the Charges in the usual copies. But at the end there is quite a peculiar passage, that the person, which has been made, shall choose a mason of the Lodge, who is to instruct him in those Secrets which must never be committed to writing, which mason he must always call his Tutor. Then this Tutor shall take him into another room and show him the whole mistery, that at his return he may exercise with the rest of his fellow masons. We know these instructors from Scotch Lodge Records, where they are called *intenders* or *intendents*; in the Sloane MS., No. 3329, in the Oath they are named *attenders*.

It is a pity that I could not yet compare the Harris MS., No. 2, which does not seem to be a mere transcript of the Harris MS., No. 1, as I conclude from the particulars in the *Freemason* (1888, July 7th), but a copy from another document of the same branch.

W. BEGEMANN.

[This interesting communication respecting the lately discovered MSS. of the "Old Charges" was sent to Bro. W. J. Hugan, Torquay.—Ed. F.M.]

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

The annual ladies' night given by the Strong Man Lodge, No. 45, was celebrated on the 2nd inst., at the Guildhall Tavern, under the presidency of Bro. William F. Bruty, W.M. Previously to the principal entertainment of the day, the regular February meeting of the lodge was held, when the W.M. presided, and all the officers were in their places. Initiations, passings, and raisings had been wiped off at an emergency meeting a week earlier, so that there was nothing very special before the lodge in the shape of work. The brethren, however, did some very good business for Masonry, for Bro. Hunt, P.M., who is standing as Steward for the lodge at the next Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, announced his intention to do so, and solicited the support of the brethren with such excellent effect that in the course of the evening he got 40 guineas on his list. Bro. H. T. Nell, P.M. and Secretary, to whom a handsome diamond stud was recently presented for his services to the lodge, was also very active, and made great exertions on behalf of the comfort of the members and visitors.

The lodge work being concluded, the lodge was closed, and the brethren proceeded to meet the ladies in the reception room. Shortly afterwards dinner was served, when there were present the following brethren and ladies:—Bro. Bruty, W.M., Mrs. Bruty, and Miss Bruty; Bro. W. H. Liddall, I.P.M., and Mrs. Liddall; Bro. G. G. Symons, P.M., D.C.; Bro. W. A. S. Humphries, P.M., and Mrs. Humphries; Bro. E. H. Dove, P.M., and Mrs. Dove; Bro. W. Ball, P.M., and Mrs. Ball; Bros. H. T. Nell, P.M., Sec.; R. Hunt, P.M.; A. M. Whitby, S.W., and Mrs. A. M. Whitby; Bro. J. G. Cobb, J.W., P.P.G. Stwd. Herts, P.M. 2278; Bro. Sammes, S.D., and Mrs. Sammes; Bros. Langdon, J.D.; W. G. Mills, I.G.; Emerson, Org.; and Mrs. Emerson; Bro. B. S. Liddall, Treas., and Mrs. Liddall; Bros. L. B. Liddall, F. S. Liddall, and Miss Liddall; Bro. Tom Taylor, Stwd., and Mrs. Taylor; Bros. C.uer, Stwd.; Jenkinson; W. C. Virgo and Mrs. Virgo; Bro. E. Wareham, W.M. 1366, and Mrs. Wareham; Bro. Leyton and Miss Hewson, Bro. Henry Thorn and Mrs. Thorn; Bro. J. Medcalf and Mrs. Medcalf, Bro. Pridmore and Mrs. Pridmore, Bro. Broad and Mrs. Broad, Bros. Cassop; Pond Jones and Mrs. Pond Jones; Bros. Armfield, Ashford, T. Smith, Stafford, Inchbold and Mrs. Inchbold, Bro. Rees and Mrs. Rees, Bro. Thornicroft and Mrs. Thornicroft, Bro. Dennett and Mrs. Dennett, Bro. Preager Flint and Miss Flint, Bro. Read and Mrs. Read, Bros. H. Massey, Bristow and Mrs. Bristow, Bro. Harrison and Mrs. Harrison, Bro. Edmunds and Mrs. Edmunds, Bro. Delmes and Mrs. Delmes, Bro. Munday and Mrs. Munday, Bros. T. G. Mills, Bromley Hall, E. M. Hall, A. Hall, Durell and Mrs. Durell, Bro. Ockelford and Mrs. Ockelford, Bro. Vidler and Mrs. Vidler, Bros. Finch, Ingram and Mrs. Ingram, Bro. Burgess and Mrs. Burgess, Bros. W. T. Clark, Mannelle and Mrs. Mannelle, Mrs. Mannelle, senr., and Miss Mannelle, and Bro. and Mrs. Neave.

The dinner, which was of a very choice description, was served under the direction of Bro. James Marcham, Superintendent of the Guildhall Tavern, and was greatly enjoyed, it being admitted to be one of the nicest dinners the brethren and ladies had ever sat down to. The Stewards of the evening were unremittent in their attention, for the whole affair passed off most agreeably.

At the close of the dinner a musical entertainment of an exceptionally superior quality was provided, in which Bros. R. J. Harris, Henry Thom, Richard Evans, Madame Adeline Vaudrey, Bro. Tom Taylor, Miss Jessie Tillett, Miss Marie Stiven, and Bro. Tom Burgess took part, the several performances winning enthusiastic applause from the company.

The toasts were very few, the evening having been intended to be devoted to amusements more congenial to ladies than speech-making. But some speeches were delivered, and though short, they were appropriate and well arranged.

The **Worshipful Master**, in giving the toast of "The Queen and the Craft," said it would be received by the brethren and ladies as it was by the country at large—with enthusiasm, as they knew they had such a lady on the throne who was a pattern to all ladies.

The **Worshipful Master** next gave "The M.W.G.M., the Prince of Wales, K.G., &c.," the M.W. Pro Grand Master, the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past. It would not be interesting to tell the ladies the Masonic qualities of all these distinguished brethren, but he might say they did their duty, and Masons honoured them for so doing.

Bro. W. H. LIDDALL, I.P.M., proposed "The Health of the W.M., Bro. William Fassett Bruty," and in proposing it he said there was an old proverb—"That one ounce of discretion was worth a pound of wit"—and as he had no wit, he intended to use discretion. They all knew the reason he now rose: it was to propose the health of the **Worshipful Master**, and it needed no words of his to commend the toast to the company. Bro. Bruty was very popular with the brethren, who were all very pleased to be with him as his guests, for were it not for the W.M. they would not be able to have a ladies' night. He was sorry there was not a more able I.P.M. to propose the health of the W.M. However, he knew that the brethren and ladies would join with him in wishing him a pleasant year. A foreign divine once dining with Dr. Chambers was asked by the doctor if he would take some kippered salmon. The foreign divine asked what kippered meant, and Dr. Chambers said "preserved." When that foreign divine went away that evening he prayed that Dr. Chambers might be long kippered to the British Church. He (Bro. Liddall) was sure that all the brethren and ladies wished that Bro. Bruty would long be kippered to the Strong Man Lodge.

The toast having been enthusiastically drunk, Bro. W. F. Bruty, W.M., in acknowledging the toast, said he felt somewhat out of place there. However, he was better when he rose to return thanks for the kind manner in which Bro. Liddall proposed his health, and the very kind way in which the company received it. As had been said, "brevity was the soul of wit," and he should be very brief. He sincerely thanked them for drinking his health, and he trusted he should be "kippered" among the brethren for many years to come. They well knew he was a very dry subject at home; he wanted a great deal of wetting there. However, he was very pleased to be in the position he was

in that evening, presiding over such a numerous company. Two years ago when Bro. Dove, P.M., inaugurated their ladies' nights, he (Bro. Bruty) never anticipated that he would be presiding then over such a gathering. Some time ago it was thought the Strong Man Lodge and another lodge might join, and have a dance as well as a dinner, but from what he could see of the progress made in two years the Strong Man Lodge would be able to have a dance of its own. He sincerely trusted that the incoming W.M. and those who would follow him would take that from him (Bro. Bruty), and it was possible that next year the W.M. might have a dance as well as a concert.

After an interval of a quarter of an hour in the coffee-room the proceedings at the table were resumed, and the W.M. said there was one little thing not on the programme which would now be submitted to the company—the presentation of a mark of respect to the Treasurer of the lodge, and he would call on Bro. Symons to say a few words.

Bro. G. G. Symons, P.M., D.C., then rose and said he had just been suddenly called upon to present a token—very small in itself—of respect to their worthy Treasurer. He dared say the brethren were aware—and those who were not aware he would tell—that Bro. Liddall, the Treasurer, was the father of the lodge—the oldest member of the lodge. He could not tell them the date of the foundation of the lodge, but he might say it was considerably over 150 years. At the time the firing glass he was going to present to Bro. Liddall was made, the lodge was No. 53, but the number had since been altered, and it was now 45. He could not speak sufficiently of the excellent qualities of their worthy Treasurer; he especially knew him well. He (Bro. Symons) was an old member, but Bro. Liddall was an older. The brethren had made Bro. Liddall Treasurer of the lodge—an honour seldom passed to a member of a lodge who was not a P.M. But for the many kindnesses the brethren had experienced from Bro. Liddall—among the greatest of them being his introduction of three sons to the lodge—showing his appreciation of the lodge, the brethren made that presentation to him. Though the gift was small, it was well meant. It was not much in itself; but he had not any doubt that it would be prized by Bro. Liddall, as showing the brethren's feelings towards him; and he sincerely wished Bro. Liddall would live many years—that he would be many years "kippered," as the I.P.M. had said, to the Strong Man Lodge. Might he live long to be among them to think of that evening, and that that gift, though small, was handed to him with pleasure.

Bro. LIDDALL, Treasurer, having accepted the gift, said in accepting that glass, he could assure the brethren it would be a grand heirloom. He was father of the lodge—the oldest member; but there was a strange paradox about it. Now, just fancy—his wife was sitting alongside him; so, perhaps, she might pinch him; yet at the same time he was in his mother lodge. Being father of the lodge—what a grand thing it was for one of the members of the lodge to think that he was brought into the world the father instead of the mother into his mother lodge! Again, there was another thing; if they noticed the initials of his name—"B.S.L.," he had been B.S.L. all his life time, perhaps; yet let them reverse those letters, and what would they see? "L.S.B."—love, social, brethren. Such being the case, look, with what great pride he took that glass away. They might rest assured whenever he visited the lodge he should certainly bring it with him, so as to have a "fire" among the brethren. He thanked all the brethren, especially for the manner in which this token was given to him.

Bro. HUNT, P.M., said he had a very pleasing duty to perform, and that was to give what might be called the toast of the evening. That was the third year the lodge had been graced with the presence of the ladies. In giving that toast, he could assure the brethren it was one of the most agreeable duties that could have been placed in his hands; but still he felt he could not do justice to it. When he said the ladies came forward to support the Masonic Institutions, he felt indeed proud to be a Mason. The ladies they had always with them; might they always be with them! But it was very rarely they had their equivalent in Masonry. They had a large number with them that evening; he hoped it would not be the last time the ladies would honour them with their presence. There was one thing he might say with regard to the ladies, that we looked to them from our childhood to our death; whether as a parent, a wife, or a daughter they were dear to us, and he trusted the brethren always tried to do their duty towards them, though ladies were a little envious of them because Masons had their evenings to themselves; the ladies did not know what Masons did or how they did it. But as men they loved the ladies, as Masons they adored them. He trusted they had given the ladies a pleasant evening; it had been from the depth of their hearts. The ladies had passed through the W.M.'s chair in one night that evening, but it took most Masons years to do it. If the ladies had enjoyed themselves that evening the brethren hoped they would grace their meetings on future occasions, and that they would come as often as invitations were given them.

Bro. Ball, P.M., replied on behalf of the ladies. He had been astonished that night at one thing, the compliment with which Bro. Hunt, P.M., had proposed that toast. And yet he felt there was a certain amount of fitness when he (Bro. Ball) was called upon to respond to it. However Bro. Hunt might have to blush in his compliment, he (Bro. Ball) thought he had a great capacity for blushing still more. He never wore his Masonic apron more unworthily than that night; he never had more unworthy words than he had that night. He had been called upon to respond to the toast of the ladies, and he wore his apron feeling that he wore it unworthily, feeling he was not competent to respond to the toast in a manner fitting its importance. On the programme it was called "The Ladies' Banquet." That being the case, he, on behalf of the ladies, claimed that evening as their own; but when they were told that evening at that entertainment of a worthy brother who was "kippered," and when he had to consult the dictionary to see what the word "kippered" meant, and discovered that it meant "cured," and looking for "cured" he found it applied to bacon, and that bacon was never bacon until it was hung, he was assured that when that word "kippered" had been applied to the W.M. in the chair, they would not think he had been hung, and when he looked forward still and found "hung" meant to be "exalted," he saw it was a fitting word for the W.M. There was an advantage in speaking as the mouthpiece of the ladies, an advantage they had with the gentlemen. Many excuses were made to the ladies that Masonic meetings came on that had to be attended. The gentlemen told the ladies there were lodges of instruction they had to go to, and they heard about Shibboleths,

and about being initiated, and passed, and raised, and installed, and other things, and the ladies thought it must take a wonderful amount of preparation to make a Mason. But he, on behalf of the ladies, would tell the brethren that if it took all this time to make men Masons, the ladies were born Masons, and that was better. The ladies were proud to be there that night, and they were pleased to come, because they believed they had made it a pleasing and a happy meeting to the brethren. The ladies hoped on future occasions to be with them, and promised to come if they were asked.

This closed the programme of the evening, and "Auld Lang Syne" was joined in by all the company before they separated.

LADIES' NIGHT OF THE DUKE OF ALBANY LODGE.

A ladies' night, being the fourth of its kind in connection with the above lodge, was held on the 1st inst. at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell. The reception took place at 7 o'clock, and the ball was started punctually at 7.30, continuing till 9.30, when the company repaired to the banquet, which was served in the Pillar Hall, and certainly gave great credit to Mrs. Venables, the indefatigable Manageress.

After partaking of a capital repast, the W.M., Bro. HARVEY, in proposing "The Health of the Queen," said the toast was one which was always received with that enthusiasm which was justly due to a Sovereign from her subjects, but amongst no class or society was the toast more loyally received than that with which they as Masons had the honour and privilege of being associated. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

The W.M. then proposed "The Health of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," and said that they were much indebted to his Royal Highness for the great interest he took in Freemasonry. Under his ruling Masonry had flourished. Never had it held so high a standard as at the present time, and not only in Masonry, but in all philanthropic movements, he was ever ready and willing to carry out those great and noble principles upon which the Order was founded.

After the toast was duly and suitably honoured, The W.M. gave the toast of the evening—"The Ladies and Visitors." He dwelt upon the pleasure it gave the Duke of Albany members to entertain the ladies, and hoped he should have the pleasure of seeing them there again. Regarding the visitors, no lodge was more pleased to give their visitors a hearty welcome than the Duke of Albany.

Bro. WILSON, W.M. Sphinx Lodge (who by the way was one of the founders of the lodge, and evidently held in high estimation by the brethren), was called upon to respond for the ladies, and Bro. PEACOCK, P.M. 1928, for the visitors, both replying in most suitable terms.

Bro. BEAVEN, P.M., then proposed "The Health of the W.M.," which was enthusiastically received, after which the company repaired to the ball room to resume the second part of the programme, where the light fantastic was indulged in with much vigour.

Much credit is due to the officers of the lodge for the manner in which they assisted the W.M. in carrying out what proved the most successful night since the formation of this comparatively young and thriving lodge.

INTERESTING MASONIC PRESENTATION.

On Monday, the 6th inst., at the annual banquet of the Yarborough Lodge, No. 422, Gainsborough, Bro. F. J. Sowby, the retiring W.M., was presented by Bro. Alfred Kirk, P.Z., on behalf of the brethren of the lodge, with a handsome silver kettle, with a cradle, inscribed, in commemoration of the fact that a Lewis was born to him during his year of office (1892). A congratulatory address was delivered by Bro. KIRK, and Bro. Sowby replied in feeling terms.

The inscription runs as follows: "Presented to Worshipful Brother F. J. Sowby by brethren of the Yarborough Lodge, No. 422, Gainsborough, to commemorate the birth of a Lewis during his year as Worshipful Master. November, 1892."

EAST LANCASHIRE SYSTEMATIC MASONIC EDUCATIONAL AND BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The annual meeting of this Institution was held in Freemasons' Hall, Manchester, on Friday, 27th ult. There was a large attendance of brethren from all parts of the province, including Bros. Col. Starkie, Prov. Grand Master, President of the Institution; E. G. Harwood, P.P.G. Warden, Chairman of the General Committee; J. H. Sillitoe, P.G. Std. Br., Vice-Chairman; Jas. Heelis, P.P.G. Warden, Hon. Sec.; Wm. Jaffrey, P.P.G.D., Treasurer of the Institution; Jas. Newton, Prov. Asst. G. Sec., and Sec. of the Institution; John Chadwick, Prov. G. Sec.; A. Clegg, P.P.G. Warden; Jas. Walker, P.P.G. Warden; Fritz Reiss, Prov. S.G. Warden; A. H. Jefferis, Prov. J.G. Warden; W. Forrest, P.P.G.D.; the Rev. A. Salts, LL.D., P.P.G. Chap.; W. S. Weeks, P.P.G. Reg.; J. E. Lees, P.P.G. Treas.; J. Barker, P.P.G. Treas.; J. Hine, P.P.G. Warden; and others, representing about 70 lodges in the province.

The chair was occupied by the President, Bro. Col. Starkie, Prov. Grand Master. After some formal business, the Hon. Sec., Bro. Heelis read the Report of the General Committee for the year 1892, which showed that the total receipts amounted to £1544 18s. 2d. notwithstanding the fact that at the Jubilee Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged

Freemasons and Widows in February last upwards of £2600 was contributed by the lodges and brethren in the province. The receipts may be summarised as follows:

Donation from P.G. Lodge ...	100	0	0
" " " Chapter ...	31	10	0
" " " Mark Lodge ...	10	10	0
Donations & Subscriptions—Lodges, Chapters, Preceptories, &c. ...	731	13	8
Donations and Subscriptions— Individuals ...	294	18	0
	£1168	11	8
Interest on Investments and Bank Int.	376	6	6
	£1544	18	2

The grants for education and relief amount to £656 6s. 2d., or £102 13s. 8d. more than last year. Thirty-seven children have benefited during the year by grants for their education. Twenty-one brethren and widows have had grants made to them by the Relief Board, in addition to those relieved by the Almoners' Committee, 54 in number; so that altogether there have been 112 cases relieved by the Institution during the year. £241 10s. had been given by the Institution to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution in name of the President of the Institution. An investment of £320 in Railway Preference Stock has been made, raising the gross cost of the investments held by the Institution to £11,354 15s. 10d. The balance in bank at 31st Dec., 1892, was £737 1s. 7d., as against £528 18s. 3d. at beginning of the year. The committee acknowledged the services of the Minnehaha Minstrels for a performance in Manchester, in aid of the Institution. Dramatic performances for the Institution have been held in Bury, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Rochdale, as also a recital at Pendleton, and the Committee thanked all concerned for their efforts.

The report was unanimously adopted by the meeting. Thanks were given to the General Committee and the various Sub-Committees for their services. Bro. Wm. Jaffrey was re-elected Treasurer, and Bro. Jas. Heelis, Hon. Sec., and the thanks of the meeting were given them for their past services, as also to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the General Committee, Bros. E. G. Harwood and J. H. Sillitoe.

On the proposition of Bro. Sillitoe it was resolved that a Committee be appointed, for the purpose of considering the best means of establishing a more regular and systematic source of income.

A hearty vote of thanks to the President, Bro. Col. Starkie, terminated the proceedings.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE BRIXTON LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1949.

The annual festival of this flourishing lodge of instruction was held at the Prince Regent, Dulwich-road, Herne-hill, on Tuesday, the 24th ult., under the presidency of Bro. Arthur Blenkarn, P.M., Member of the Board of General Purposes, who was supported by the following brethren: Bros. Geo. Langley, P.M. 2381; W. H. Lee, P.M. 2381; H. Hooper, P.M., J.D. 2381; G. W. Castle, S.D. 2281; A. W. Fawkes, 2381; H. J. Lyrett, 2381; A. H. Lee, 2381; Stevens, 2381; A. Jones, W.M. 1949; J. Newland, J.W. 1949; J. Hicks, S.D. 1949; A. Haine, 1949; C. R. Cutler, 1949; W. Hooker, 1949; R. Bott, 1949; Gregory, P.M. 1962; Wood, 1446; Masters, 1446; Brown, 1446; Salter, 2266; F. Hill, P.M. 1563; S. W. S. Burridge, W.M. 1922; Williams, P.M. 295; Phillips, P.M. 1745; Hunt, 1539; Howard, 1539; Jones, 1760; Welch, 13; Nash, 1558; Nell, 913; Legg, 2331; and Stuart Lane, 1614.

A very excellent repast was provided by the worthy Host, Mr. Revill, and a cordial vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to him in reference thereto.

The customary loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed by the CHAIRMAN and duly honoured.

Bro. HOOPER, P.M., then stated that in consequence of the regretted absence of the worthy Preceptor, Bro. E. A. Francis, P.M., the toast of "The President" had been placed in his hands. He felt assured the brethren would receive it with enthusiasm, as they were well aware that a more worthy Mason or a better hearted man than their worthy President, Bro. Blenkarn, did not exist.

Bro. BLENKARN responded in kind'y terms, stating the pleasure it afforded him to be surrounded by so many old friends on that occasion.

The PRESIDENT then proposed "Success to the Brixton Lodge of Instruction," and said the members had done their best to make it a success, and in consequence the Brixton Lodge of Instruction was now one of the best on the Surrey side of the river. When he was first appointed to office and desirous of making himself acquainted with the ritual, he made his first visit to that lodge of instruction. His progress was such that the W.M. and Past Masters of his lodge were surprised at his efficiency in the various offices he was asked to carry out. A number of brethren who attended the lodge of instruction had passed the chair of their respective lodges, and installed their successors. He expressed his regret at the absence of Bro. Francis, the genial and competent Preceptor, and of Bro. Axford, the highly respected Treasurer. In Bro. Langley they had a very able and efficient Secretary, and the lodge of instruction was much indebted to him for his valuable services, also to the Assistant Secretary, Bro. G. W. Castle, his worthy coadjutor. He therefore asked the brethren to drink success to the lodge of instruction, coupled with the names of Bros. Langley and Castle.

Bro. LANGLEY stated he rose with a great deal of pleasure to respond to the toast, and, at the same time, with a deep sense of regret at the unavoidable absence of Bros. Francis and Axford. On behalf of the executive, he tendered sincere thanks for the manner in which the toast had been proposed and received, and expressed acknowledgments of the kind manner in which they were supported on all occasions. The lodge of instruction had had a very successful career, and, although they met on Tuesday evening the whole year through, the average attendance was about 17. In the interest of the lodge of instruction, he suggested the infusion of new blood into the secretarial department, he having held the office for eight years.

Bro. CASTLE, Asst. Sec., also responded, and urged the brethren to further efforts, that the number of members and the efficiency of the lodge of instruction might be fully maintained.

Bro. BLENKARN, in proposing "Success to the Brixton Lodge of Instruction Masonic Benevolent Association," pointed out the advantages of this and similar associations. He would not trouble the brethren with statistics, he would leave that in the hands of Bro. Hooper, who conducted the duties of Treasurer and Secretary to their great satisfaction, and with immense advantage to the Association, and he therefore coupled his name with the toast.

Bro. HOOPER, in responding, said he had been Secretary of the Association since its foundation, nearly 10 years since, and when he stated that the sum of £1705 had been paid to the central Masonic Charities through the Association, he felt sure it would be admitted to be a large sum from a lodge of instruction meeting with an average attendance of 17 members. He thanked the brethren for their kindness on all occasions, and pledged his services in the future as in the past.

"The Health of the Visitors" was then proposed by the PRESIDENT, coupled with the name of Bro. GREGORY, P.M., who expressed the pleasure it afforded him to be present and to support his old comrade of the London Rifle Brigade, Bro. Blenkarn, and to hear of the good work the lodge of instruction was doing in South London.

The toast of "The Mother Lodge" was then proposed, and was responded to by the W.M., Bro. A. JONES, in cordial terms, thus ending a very enjoyable evening, many of the brethren expressing themselves greatly obliged to Bros. Nash, Fawkes, Legg, Neel, and Stuart Lane for the vocal and instrumental talent displayed by them during the proceedings.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE CHAUCER LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1510.

The above lodge of instruction held their annual dinner at the Old White Hart Inn, High-street, Borough, S.E., on Tuesday evening, the 31st ult., and 56 brethren sat down to a most substantial banquet, served in most excellent style by the host, Mr. James Temple. Bro. Walter Wingham, P.M. 1540, occupied the chair, and Bro. F. W. Stamp, P.M. 1178, filled the vice-chair.

The brethren having done ample justice to the good things provided, the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured.

The CHAIRMAN then expressed his desire first to take wine with those on his right and left respectively, those in and above the chair, those below the chair, and the married and single brethren, which was responded to with great enthusiasm, the single brethren being met with shouts of laughter.

The principal toast of the evening was, of course, "Success to the Chaucer Lodge of Instruction," with which the CHAIRMAN coupled the name of the Preceptor, Bro. W. Roots, and in highly eulogistic terms set forth his many capabilities.

Bro. ROOTS very modestly responded, and gave a hearty welcome to all those in search of the mysterious truth.

The other toasts were "The Visitors," "The Officers," and "The Mother Lodge," all of which were duly responded to.

Bro. Mark Atwood, 1348, very efficiently presided at the piano, and the following brethren were the vocalists: Bros. F. W. Stamp, P.M.; F. W. Stevens, Alf. Atkins, Johnnie Osmond, Chapman, Malham, Collins, Fullwood, and others, the meeting being brought to a close by the entire company joining very heartily in "Auld Lang Syne."

Obituary.

BRO. L. F. B. DYKES, P.G.D.

With feelings of universal regret the Freemasons of Cumberland and Westmorland heard of the death of Bro. Lamplugh Frecheville Ballantine Dykes, P.D. P.G.M., P.G.D. of England, of Dovenby Hall, Cocker-mouth, on Sunday, the 5th inst., at Blackwell House, near Carlisle, where he had been residing for a few months past. Bro. Dykes had been in delicate health for some time, and that was the sole reason for his resigning the office of D.P.G.M. so recently as six months ago. Our late brother, though of late years a prominent member of the Craft, took no active part in its affairs until about a dozen years since, when he became a joining member of Skiddaw Lodge, No. 1002, Cocker-mouth, in which he served the offices of S.W. and W.M. in 1881-2. He was initiated in the Apollo Uni-

versity Lodge, Oxford, about the same time as H.R.H. the late Duke of Albany. In September, 1882, the Earl of Bective appointed him his Deputy for Cumberland and Westmorland, and his investiture, at the hands of his distinguished chief, took place at the annual meeting of the province in Carlisle, while it is safe to say that no more popular appointment was ever made in the northern province. Most energetic and enthusiastic in the performance of his duties, Bro. Dykes all at once became a working Mason in every sense of the word, for during his time of office he consecrated three new lodges, and also laid the corner-stones of two new churches in the county of Cumberland. During the Jubilee Celebrations, Bro. Dykes was the recipient of Grand Lodge honours, for he was made a Past Grand Deacon. In other walks of Masonry, he was a member of the Nicholson Royal Arch Chapter, No. 371; of the Faithful Mark Lodge, No. 229; and the Border Chapter, No. 102, A. and A. Rite. Further than this, our late brother possessed in an eminent degree the Masonic virtue of Charity. He likewise came of a good old Masonic stock, seeing that his father before him was a leading member of the Fraternity, many years ago; firstly, as D.P.G.M. to the great Statesman, Sir James Graham, when Cumberland was a separate province, and next as chief of the two counties from 1862 until his death in 1866, when he was succeeded by the present P.G.M., Lord Bective. The late Bro. Dykes was head of one of the oldest Cumberland families; indeed he could trace his descent from a period anterior to the Norman Conquest. Burke, in his work on Royal descents, mentions the Dykes family as springing from William the Conqueror, the Empress Matilda, Malcolm Canmore III., and David I. of Scotland. One of his ancestors was Parliamentary representative of Cumberland in the 15th century, and his father was member for Cocker-mouth from 1832 to 1836. Bro. Dykes was a boy of 12 at his father's death in 1866, and was educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, at both of which seats of learning he made very many life-long friends. Shortly after coming of age he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for his native county; next a Deputy Lieutenant, while in 1885-6 he was High Sheriff, like many of his ancestors. For many years he held a commission in the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry Cavalry, and at the time of his death was major in that old force. Sports of all kinds had no more ardent devotee. Cricket, perhaps, was his chief hobby, and he spent much time and money on the now defunct Cumberland County Club. He was a keen follower of the hounds, and had won the Point to Point Steeplechase in connection with the Cumberland Hunt. Add to this his stewardship, for several years, of Carlisle races. Amongst other public positions, Bro. Dykes was President of the Cocker-mouth Conservative Association. He was altogether a fine type of the English country gentleman, and his death, at the comparatively early age of 38, will be universally deplored. In 1879 he married Edith Georgina Howard-Brooke, sister of Lady Heron-Maxwell, and granddaughter of the late Sir H. Brooke, Bart., of Colebrooke, in Ireland. He leaves a son, Frecheville Hubert, born in 1881. The remains of Bro. Dykes were interred in the little churchyard of Bridekirk, near Cocker-mouth, where so many of his ancestors repose, on Thursday, the 9th instant. In spite of the heavy rain, there was a large concourse of mourners, foremost amongst whom, so far as numbers are concerned, were the tenantry of the estate, our deceased brother being a model landed proprietor.

BRO. THOMAS H. LEE.

The *Bundeburg* (Queensland) *Mail*, just to hand, contains the following:—"With much regret we announce the death of Mr. Thomas H. Lee, solicitor, which took place on Friday morning. For some time past his health had not been as satisfactory as could have been wished, and he was under the close medical attendance of Drs. Francis and Sugden. Mr. Lee was a native of Dublin, where he was educated and qualified for his profession. He arrived in Australia eight or nine years ago, during which time he was resident in Bundeburg, to which place he was very much attached. By his friendly, genial, unassuming manner and general urbanity he won many friends, and in business was equally esteemed. Mr. Lee had no relatives here but the last ministrations were performed by the Masonic Brotherhood, of which Order (Mulgrave Lodge No. 323, I.C.), he was an active member. His body was taken charge of by the Worshipful Master, Brother Patterson, on behalf of the lodge, and after being confined was removed to the Masonic Hall, where it lay until three o'clock on Sunday afternoon (Christmas Day), the hour appointed for the funeral. Past Master G. Knott, read the usual impressive Masonic funeral service preparatory to the removal of the body. Preceded by the town band, under Bandmaster George Brandin, playing the 'Dead March,' the funeral procession, consisting of a large number of brethren, representative of all three Constitutions, English, Irish, and Scotch, from both town and district, made its way to the cemetery in drenching rain. The Rev. J. Mackenzie, of the Presbyterian Church, officiated at the grave, after which Past Master Bro. G. Knott read the Masonic funeral service. The deceased gentleman was buried in private ground. Notwithstanding the severity of the weather the very large attendance, both on foot and in buggies, was a forcible indication of the great esteem in which the deceased was held." Mr. Thomas H. Lee was the son of the late Thomas H. Lee, M.D., of Dublin, and was a nephew of the late Patrick Reid, chairman of Arnott's, and of John H. Reid, the present chairman.



The next Council Meeting of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys will be held on Friday, the 24th inst.

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught has sent a donation of £10 to the funds of the Bethnal Green Free Library, which is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

A general meeting of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours was held on Monday evening, when Mr. Alfred Gilbert, R.A., was elected a honorary member.

Bro. Lord Carrington has granted a remission of 10 per cent. to his South Lincolnshire tenants. A few years ago he made a permanent reduction in the rents of 30 per cent.

The Queen has contributed a donation of £25, and the Duchess of Albany one of £10 10s., to the Esher Church Clock and Spire Fund, while her Majesty has also given £10 to the Curate Fund.

Lord Rothschild has been invited and accepted the invitation to preside at the festival dinner, which will be held at the Hôtel Métropole, on the 20th June next, in behalf of the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, City-road.

A grand banquet and ball, to celebrate the founding of the Sir Walter Raleigh Lodge, No. 2432, of which Bro. W. H. Bullock, P.M. 2128, is W.M., will be held at Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street, on Wednesday, the 22nd prox.

The Duchess of Albany, who, with her children, the Princess Alice and the Duke of Albany, has been on a visit to her sister, the Queen-Regent of the Netherlands, left the Hague on Monday evening, and arrived at Claremont the same evening.

The 21st Anniversary Festival of the Provident Surgical Appliance Society was celebrated at the Hôtel Métropole, on Monday evening, under the presidency of Mr. A. L. Stride. Bro. Lord Addington was one of the principal guests, and the donations and subscriptions amounted to £1181.

The Queen and Court will, according to present arrangements, return from Osborne to Windsor Castle to-day (Friday). Her Majesty will be accompanied by the Empress Frederick of Germany. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of York concluded their visit to the Queen on Monday and returned to Marlborough House.

Bro. Gabriel Lindo, C.C., we are pleased to learn, has considerably improved in health during the past few days. Under the orders of his medical men, he left London yesterday by the s.s. Orient, for Naples. He will be absent from England for about six weeks.

At the 59th ordinary general meeting of the London and South-Western Bank held recently, a resolution was unanimously carried that the sum of £1500 should be appropriated for the benefit of the widow of the late Bro. W. Herbage in acknowledgment of his faithful and valuable services for the past 17 years as joint general manager.

We are glad to state that Miss Edith Philbrick, daughter of Bro. Philbrick, Q.C., who was shot and terribly injured in August last by the man Manktlow, who, on his trial, was pronounced insane, is progressing slowly but surely towards recovery, and sanguine hopes are entertained of her ultimate restoration to health.

The royal yacht Osborne, which encountered heavy weather on its way down Channel, put into Plymouth on Sunday morning last, for the purpose of coaling, and has since proceeded to Gibraltar and Marseilles, at the latter of which it will, it is believed, embark the Prince and Princess of Wales and their daughters, the Princesses Victoria and Maud, for a short cruise in the Mediterranean.

The Earl of Southbrook presided at the last meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Institution, when it was decided to elect 130 additional pensioners at the annual meeting, on the 7th June next. This will raise the number of annuitants to 936, and the amount to be distributed in annuities to £19,624. The new annuitants will consist of 30 men, 25 married couples, and 50 females.

The annual ball given by the brethren of Arkwright Lodge, No. 1495, took place at the New Bath Hotel, Matlock, on Thursday, the 9th inst. There were upwards of 70 present, including Masons from all the adjoining towns, and these appeared in full regalia by special dispensation. Dancing commenced at 8.30 to the strains of Barnes' orchestra, and was maintained until 3 a.m. The M.C. was Bro. H. B. Boag, and the Stewards comprised the chief officers of the lodge.

Messrs. Charpentier and Co., Portsmouth, write to the Yost Typewriter Co., London, informing them that a specimen of typewriting executed on the Yost Typewriter by a young lady in Messrs. Charpentier's office, has been submitted to her Majesty, who has expressed her high approbation of the neatness of the work. The writing was the manuscript of a lecture on astronomy read before the Queen. Commenting on the incident, a Portsmouth evening paper remarks: "From this it will be seen that typewriting is not the dull mechanical process that many people think, but that it will vary from the blotted and blurred smudges to the cleanliness of the very best printing."

A Masonic conversazione and dance was the subject of considerable interest at Lowestoft recently, and in diverging from the beaten track of Masonic social gatherings, the brethren of Lodge Unity, No. 71, may fairly be credited with having scored a big success. Hitherto it has been the custom to give occasional balls under the auspices of this old and flourishing lodge, but as these gatherings have never met with liberal support and sympathy, it was a happy thought when the popular W.M., Bro. F. R. Freeman, and his staff of excellent officers resolved on the new departure. Not only was a much-appreciated entertainment the outcome, but the general result was a well-deserved reward for the effort expended in promoting it, and a justification for its repetition at no far distant date. It was the general opinion that the evening had been a huge success, and for this much credit is reflected upon Bros. J. R. Freeman, F. S. Smith, F. Spashett, and Bro. A. Barbor, who slaved like the proverbial nigger to insure it.

Bro. Thomas William Boord, M.P., has been appointed a director of the London and Provincial Bank, Limited.

Bro. Matthew R. Webb, J.P., has been elected to fill the vacancy on the court of assistants of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers' Company.

Bro. W. G. Higgins, P.M., was appointed Secretary of the City of Westminster Lodge by the W.M., Bro. W. H. Bott, at the installation meeting recently held.

The Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) has very kindly consented to the prizes to the successful competitors of the 4th Volunteer Battalion Essex Regiment, on Saturday next, the 25th inst.

Bro. James Stevens' lecture on the Ritual, Ceremonials, and Symbolical connection of the Craft Degrees, postponed from the 27th ult., is to be delivered in the Masonic Hall, New-street, Birmingham, on Friday evening, the 24th inst., at 7 p.m.

"The Old Masonians" have arranged an excellent programme of music for a social evening at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, to-night (Friday). On Monday, the 6th prox., a cinderella dance is to take place, to be followed on the 17th by a social concert.

A dinner was held at the Hôtel Métropole on the 10th inst., in aid of the Sick and Nursing Fund of the St. Pancras Almshouses, at which the chair was taken by the Earl of Dudley, and Bro. Sir J. Blundell Maple, M.P., and T. H. Bolton, M.P., were among the principal guests.

It is in contemplation to hold an exhibition of plants, flowers, and fruit, with heating apparatus and greenhouse appliances, in the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, in the month of August, under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, which offer prizes in the various classes of exhibits to the amount of about £400.

The annual dinner of the Hunterian Society was held at Wood's Hotel on Saturday evening last, under the presidency of Mr. Gordon Brown, who was supported by the President of the Royal College of Surgeons. Sympathetic reference was made to the recent death of Sir Richard Owen, who was three times President of the Society.

A grand Masonic ball was held in the Assembly Hall, Daventry, on Thursday, the 9th inst., to celebrate the installation for the year of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Whitford. The hall was very nicely decorated by Mr. T. Warren. Bro. J. J. Hart and Bro. F. Willoughby were M.C.'s. There were upwards of 160 present.

The Abbey Lodge of Westminster, No. 2030, has recently lost three members by death, viz.: Bros. Morgan, Thomson, and Green, each of whom had gained the regard and respect of the brethren of the lodge. Wreaths were sent by the lodge and several of the members attended at each of the ceremonies.

The Worshipful Master of the Tennant Lodge, No. 1992, with his officers and brethren, paid, by invitation, an official visit to the Royal Sussex Lodge of Hospitality, No. 187, Bristol, on Wednesday, the 8th inst. The Cardiff brethren received from the W.M., Bro. Petters, and his officers a fraternal greeting and hearty welcome. This being the first visitation of a Cardiff lodge to their Bristolian brethren, the Tennant Lodge must be congratulated on the success of the visitation.

The Duke and Duchess of Teck, with their daughter the Princess May and Prince Alexander, were present at a musical and dramatic performance at the Castle Assembly Rooms, Richmond, on the 10th instant, in aid of the Drinking Fountain Fund and of the Richmond branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Her Royal Highness the Duchess will distribute the prizes to the successful competitors of the 3rd Battalion East Surrey Volunteers at Kingston on Saturday next, the 25th instant.

A private full-dress ball was given on Wednesday, the 15th inst., by Bro. J. R. Wellington, of the Temperance Lodge, No. 169, at the Masonic Hall, Camberwell New-road, S.W., by the desire of several friends, and was supported by a large number of brethren from different lodges who consented to act as Stewards for him. Bro. Wellington, who has conducted the Naval and Horticultural Exhibition bands, personally conducted on this night a splendid band before an audience of about 150 persons, to the great satisfaction of all present and with credit, as usual, to himself. He had for his M.C., Bro. Remington, and the management was ably looked after by Bro. F. G. Chapman, of the Belgrave Lodge, No. 749.

CORNWALL MASONIC CHARITY ASSOCIATION.—The eighth annual meeting of the members of Cornwall Masonic Charity Association was held at Truro on Wednesday, the 8th inst., when it was reported that 217 guineas had been received during the past year. It was resolved to appropriate by ballot the sum of 220 guineas, and the following being successful are entitled to have their names forwarded as Life Governors or Life Subscribers to either of the Central Masonic Charities: Ten-guinea votes—Zetland Lodge, Saltash; Meridian Lodge, Millbrook; Loyal Victoria Lodge, Callington; Tregullow Lodge, St. Day; Cornubian Lodge, Hayle; Volubian Chapter, Falmouth; E. D. Anderton, John Jose. Five-guinea votes—Aaron Smith, W. H. Pinhay, and Mrs. T. H. Colensa, Falmouth; E. Carus-Wilson, jun., Truro; John H. Rowe and G. B. Pearce, Hayle; John Lobb, Christopher Mitchell, and R. H. Faull, Liskeard; J. Opie, Redruth; W. A. Bennett, Chacewater; the Rev. A. Hawken, M. Body, J. Vicary, and F. Trimmer, Launceston; John Duckett, Copsey, N. Phillips, Tom Davey, and John Price, Millbrook; J. de Cressy Treffry, Fowey; Rd. Matthews, T. H. Menadue, and A. J. Budge, Camborne; John Martyn, George H. Harris, H. Lander, and W. H. Ward, Wadebridge. The officers and Committee were thanked for their services, and re-elected.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Chest and Stomach Complaints.—The source and centre of almost every ailment is impurity of the blood; it lodges this poison, and disease departs. Holloway's Pills exercise the inestimable power of thoroughly cleansing each component part of the blood, and rendering this fluid fit to perform its important functions. They cope most successfully with chest diseases, stomach complaints, liver disorders, and many other maladies, which were once the besetting dangers of mankind at certain seasons in town and country. The directions for use enable every one to regulate the operation of these Pills with the greatest nicety. Chronic invalids, nervous sufferers, and all whom other treatment has failed to relieve, are respectfully invited to try Holloway's celebrated medicine, which will strengthen and cure them.—ADVT.

Bro. J. J. Thomas is to be installed as Supreme Ruler of the Horatio Shirley Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor at the Holborn Restaurant, on Wednesday next.

Bro. the Right Hon. Hugh C. E. Childers, who has been ordered by his medical advisers to take rest, has left London for Cannes, and is expected to return to town in April.

We are glad to hear that Bro. Lord Stalbridge is making slow but steady progress towards recovery from his recent attack of typhoid fever.

The officers of the 80th or South Staffordshire Regiment celebrated the centenary of the formation of the regiment at the Savoy Hotel, on Saturday evening last, prior to their departure for Egypt.

On Saturday last Mrs. Gladstone opened the new buildings which Miss Catherine Mary Phillimore has erected as a centre for women's work in connection with the Christ Church, Oxford Mission of St. Frideswide's, Poplar.

It is satisfactory to note that the recent Masonic ball at the Bath Saloons, Torquay, has resulted in a balance of 40 guineas, which has been handed to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons.

Perry and Co., Limited, Steel Pen Makers, announce a dividend on the Ordinary Shares, viz.: 12½ per cent. for the year and 2½ per cent. bonus, which is the same as last year. The same amount is also placed to the Reserve Account.

Bro. J. Willing, jun., the chairman of the Assessment Committee of the Strand Union, was on Friday, the 10th inst., presented by his colleagues with a very handsome silver salver, "as a token of respect and esteem on the occasion of his silver wedding."

We are glad to hear that Bro. the Earl of Lonsborough has been making such further progress towards convalescence that he is now able to sit for a few hours every day. As soon as his lordship is sufficiently strong to bear the journey, he will make a visit to the South of France.

After March 1st all amateur cyclists in France are to pay a tax of 10 francs per annum for each tricycle or bicycle they may own for recreation. Cycles employed for business purposes are to pay only five francs. It is estimated that the tax will bring in a million francs a year.

The Duke of Edinburgh has arranged to visit Exeter for the purpose of distributing the Volunteer Officers' decoration on Tuesday next, the 21st instant, on which occasion his Royal Highness will be entertained at a banquet in the evening by the Mayor and members of the City Council.

The results of the recent sale, when the Duchess of Teck and Princess May attended, have been that a further cheque for £100 has been paid towards the cot endowment "In Memoriam" of the late Duke of Clarence by the efforts of the little members of "The Children's Salon."

On Saturday last, at the Albert Institute, Windsor, the Princess Christian presented the medallions and certificates signed by her Royal Highness, which had been awarded to the male and female members of the Windsor centre of the St. John's Ambulance Association. The number of those who passed the examination being about 50.

No less than 12 lives were lost by the heavy sea which on Saturday, the 4th inst., swept the decks of the Allan Line Steamer, Pomeranian, which had left the Clyde for New York on the 27th ult., and returned after the disaster to Greenock on Saturday last. The lost included the captain, second and fourth officers, two quartermasters, two stewards and five passengers. The captain and a saloon passenger had both their legs broken, and succumbed to the injuries they received.

The annual dinner in aid of the French Hospital and Dispensary in London was held at the Hôtel Métropole on Saturday last, when among the toasts that were honoured was one, proposed by the Lord Mayor, "To the Health of M. Waddington, the French Ambassador," whose approaching departure was referred to in terms of great regret. The subscriptions and donations were announced as amounting to about £2500.

At a Provincial Grand Lodge Visitation of the St. Michael's Lodge, No. 63, Dumfries, on February 9th, Bro. James Smith, the historian of the Dumfries Lodges, was presented by the lodge with a handsome Past Master's jewel in appreciation of his services as R.W.M. of that lodge. The gift was made by the Dep. Prov. G.M., on behalf of the members of the lodge, and all united in expressing their pleasure and satisfaction with Bro. Smith's genial and able rule during his term of office.

Bro. Lord Balfour of Burleigh presided at the annual meeting of the London Fever Hospital on the 10th instant. The report showed that during the past year 748 patients had been admitted, of whom 593 were suffering from scarlet fever, 91 from German measles, 12 from diphtheria, and one from small-pox. The mortality from scarlet fever was as low as 1.9 per cent. The annual subscriptions amounted to £7106, or £1007 more than in the previous year. The report was adopted, and Bro. Lord Balfour was re-elected President for the ensuing year, while the committee, the hon. medical staff, and the other officers were cordially thanked for their services.

A PALESTINE EXHIBITION.—An extremely interesting and instructive exhibition is to be held at the Holborn Town Hall, on the 21st to the 24th, next week. It will illustrate Bible customs and manners of olden times and the present. There will be much to learn of Solomon's Temple, the second Temple, Ancient Jerusalem, &c. Eminent clerical lecturers and travellers will give frequent descriptions. Dioramas, panoramas, and curios, will present vivid pictures of life in the "changeless land." The object is twofold. To impart information to every visitor, and to dispense help and relief among the poor of the Holborn and surrounding district. When we mention the fact that our Bro. Henry Bevis is the manager and organiser, and draw attention to the object—a truly Masonic one—to help those who cannot help themselves, we feel sure that the Brotherhood will not let such a cause fail through want of sympathy and support.

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