

THE FREEMASON.

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

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

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

VOL. XXXV. NO. 1448.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1896.

[PRICE 3D.]

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THE APPROACHING FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

The time has come when it is necessary that we should bring prominently before the notice of the Craft the position of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, its undoubted claims upon the generous support of the Craft, and the prospects which await it in the near future, when its next Anniversary Festival will be celebrated. As to its position, we need say little more than that at the present time it stands committed to an expenditure in respect of annuities amounting to upwards of £16,300, while its total expenditure, including cost of management and the maintenance of the Asylum, is fully £19,000. This, in short, is the sum—which it is one of the principal duties of the Committee of Management to raise annually, and it is hardly necessary to add that it is a duty which taxes to the uttermost the ability and energy of that Committee, and for this important reason. The permanent income of the Institution from all sources does not amount to much more than about £5500, of which £1600 represents the grants from Grand Lodge and £150 those from Grand Chapter to the Male and Widows' Fund respectively. In other words, there is not far short of £14,000 to be raised annually by the voluntary subscriptions of the lodges and brethren and their friends. As regards the claims of the Institution upon the Craft generally, it is possible to state them quite as clearly and emphatically. There are 200 aged and indigent brethren on the Male Fund, and 242 widows of brethren in similar distressed circumstances on the Widows' Fund, while according to the Committee's report presented at the annual meeting in May last, there are 30 widows receiving each of them a moiety of her late husband's annuity. Thus the total number of aged people in a state of poverty more or less absolute, who have been elected to receive the benefits dispensed by this Institution is 472, and the amount annually distributed amongst these is, as we have before said, about £16,300. As regards the prospects awaiting it in the near future, let us, in the first place, state that the next Anniversary Festival in aid of the funds of this most deserving Charity will take place, as usual, in the great hall of the Freemasons' Tavern, on Wednesday, the 24th February, 1897, and that his Royal Highness the Duke of CONNAUGHT, K.G., M.W. Past Grand Master of England, R.W. Prov. Grand Master of Sussex, and R.W. Dist. Grand Master of Bombay, has graciously

consented to preside on the occasion. Of course, during the recess—that is to say, since the beginning of July last—Bro. JAMES TERRY, P.G.S.B., the indefatigable Secretary of the Institution, has been hard at work soliciting the services of brethren to act as Stewards in behalf of lodges, chapters, and Provinces, and in this very onerous duty he has been ably assisted by his small, but competent, staff. But our readers must kindly bear in mind that there are three Secretaries of Institutions who are constantly traversing the country in all directions, and visiting the lodges and chapters in the London district, for the purpose of enlisting brethren as Stewards, and, as the claims of all these three Institutions upon the support of the Craft are indisputable, and as the requirements of all three are becoming almost annually larger and still more large, they must not—indeed, they will not—be surprised at the ever-increasing difficulty which all three Secretaries experience in obtaining the requisite assistance. More especially will they recognise the extent of this difficulty when we invite them to bear in mind that the ground they traverse is annually the same; the lodges and chapters they visit the same; and, we regret to add, the brethren they are compelled to look to for help too often the same. The contributions of the 40 or 50 new lodges, and the 15 or 20 new chapters created year by year, even if they were all composed of wealthy members, and all in a position to render help, would go but a very small way towards completing the sum which must be obtained annually in order to keep the Institutions in a state of efficiency. Hence it will not surprise our readers, though it will undoubtedly cause them a strong feeling of regret, to learn that Bro. TERRY, though he has put precisely the same amount of energy into his work as in past years, and has been to the full as loyally and as ably backed up by his staff, has not been quite as successful as usual in obtaining the services of members for the Board of Stewards for the approaching Festival. There are, it is true, a goodly number already enrolled, and doubtless between now and Christmas there will be sundry additions to that number, but to state the case briefly, his Board is from 40 to 50 short of what it was at the corresponding period of last year. This is not a very pleasant position to be confronted with, when the Festival is due some 12 weeks hence, and the Christmas holidays form a not inconsiderable portion of that period. We appeal, therefore, most earnestly to the Provinces, lodges, and chapters which are not yet represented on the Board of Stewards to commission each of them some one of its members to act as its representative at the Benevolent Festival in February. Let them bear in mind what we have said, firstly as to the present position of the Institution with an annual expenditure of about £19,000, of which £16,300 is distributed in annuities alone, and a permanent income amounting at the very outside to some £5500. Let them bear in mind the benefits it confers upon some 470 aged brethren and widows who without its help would be in a state of poverty and distress, with nothing to look forward to but the workhouse. Let them also remember that though as year by year the older and more decrepit of the annuitants die off, and are replaced by others who have been found worthy, there has not for many years past been an election, at which from 70 or 80 to 100 old people of both sexes have not been compelled to stand aside and wait for at least another year to win election, because the resources of the Institution are a long way from being equal to the very heavy demands which are being continuously made upon them; and that, too, notwithstanding the frequent enlargements of the establishment which have been made from time to time

It is very painful to know that every year there are about two-thirds—and sometimes even three-fourths—of the approved candidates who must be sent away unprovided for for this reason. We trust, therefore, that as the time for holding that Festival, on which the Institution is almost entirely dependent for its means, approaches, we shall hear that Bro. TERRY has obtained such an accession to his Board of Stewards as will relieve him and the Committee of Management from all anxiety as to next year's income being sufficient to defray the year's expenditure. We trust, also, that if anything in the nature of an additional incentive to support is needed the brethren will bear in mind that this will be the third occasion on which his Royal Highness the Duke of CONNAUGHT has presided at a Festival of one of our Institutions. The first was in 1878, when his Royal Highness occupied the chair on behalf of the Boys' School. The second was in 1892, when this Institution held its Jubilee, and the Duke gave his services in aid of the Girls' School. But though on these occasions the totals received were considerable, they were not—owing to circumstances which everyone allows were unavoidable—on such a scale as all of us would wish to see resulting from the advocacy of a Royal Chairman. Let them remember, too, that next year her Majesty will complete a reign of 60 years, and that the relief of the aged poor and their widows, who have seen better days, has always received her deepest sympathy. We trust, therefore, that for the sake of the Institutions, for the ever-pressing claims of the poor candidates, and thirdly as a mark of respect to the QUEEN on the 60th year of her reign, and to the Duke of CONNAUGHT on the occasion of his third Chairmanship, that the lodges and brethren both in London and the country, will put their shoulders to the wheel and raise such a total as will make the year 1897 memorable in the annals of Masonic Benevolence.

THE PROVINCE OF SUSSEX.

It is to be regretted that the Duke of CONNAUGHT was unable to attend the recent annual meeting of his Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex, and the more so as the cause of his absence was illness. Great preparations had been made for his Royal Highness's reception. There was an unusually strong muster of the brethren, and the worthy people of Hastings, where the meeting was held, had made preparations for giving him a hearty welcome on the occasion of his visit to that ancient port. Moreover, the Duke, as Prov. Grand Master, could not have been otherwise than deeply gratified by the very favourable reports that were submitted of the proceedings of the lodges under his rule during the past year, the praiseworthy attention they had given to their duties, and their generally prosperous condition. Sussex has, indeed, fared well under the government of its present chief. During the ten years that have elapsed since the Duke's installation in office, six new lodges have been added to the Provincial roll, and this augmentation of numbers might and would have been still greater, had not his Royal Highness proclaimed his intention of not recommending to the M.W.G. Master that warrants should be granted to proposed new lodges unless there were reasonable grounds, amounting almost to a certainty, that they would be able to maintain themselves in a state of efficiency and without detriment to the interests of lodges already constituted. There is yet a third reason for regretting the absence of the Prov. G. Master on this particular occasion. As we have stated in the preceding article, his Royal Highness has very graciously consented to preside as Chairman at the Anniversary Festival, which will be held in February next, on behalf of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and it is most desirable that, as a mark of respect to him and for the sake of the Institution itself, there should be an ample return of Donations and Subscriptions. As we have further stated in the same article, this will be the third time he has presided on such an occasion, but it is a strange fact, which is, no doubt, capable of being explained, that neither at the Boys' School Festival in 1878, nor at that of the Girls' School in 1892, at the celebration of both of which his Royal Highness was the President, did the returns approach the

average annual total. But in 1897 the QUEEN will celebrate the completion of the 60th year of her glorious reign—the longest in the annals of this country—and it seems only in accordance with the fitness of things that on such an occasion, when the QUEEN'S son is presiding at the festival of an Institution in which her Majesty has always taken the greatest interest, and of which she is a Vice-Patron, the total of the Donations and Subscriptions should be higher than in less memorable years. However, Sussex is a Province which, for a long time past, has shown itself a consistent and hearty supporter of all our Institutions. Even, in 1892, when it already stood committed to a larger subscription than usual in support of the Benevolent Jubilee, no sooner was it known that it was his Royal Highness's intention to preside at the Girls' School Festival in that year, than steps were taken to support his Chairmanship: with the result that after contributing over £1150 to the aforesaid Jubilee, the Province raised some £1025 for the Girls' School. And as the Province has been similarly generous on other prominent occasions, we are confident it will do its utmost in order to render its Prov. Grand Master's Chairmanship in February next a conspicuous success.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.

The Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of England was held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Provincial Grand Master for Hants and the Isle of Wight, presided. Bros. Admiral A. Hastings Markham acted as Deputy Grand Master; Dr. Balfour Cockburn, as Past Grand Master; A. Akers-Douglas, M.P., P.G.W., as Senior Grand Warden; and Major-General Wimburn Lawrie, P.G.W., as Junior Grand Warden. Among other brethren present were Bros. R. Loveland Loveland, R. Horton Smith, Q.C., E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; W. M. Stiles, P.G. Treas.; R. Eve, P.G. Treas.; Geo. Everett, P.G. Treas.; S. Cochrane, P.G. Treas.; W. H. Bailey, G. Treas.; T. Fenn, Past President Board of General Purposes; Robert Grey, Past President Board of Benevolence; W. Lake, Asst. G. Sec.; R. Clay Sudlow, P.G.D.; Rev. C. J. Martyn, P.G.C.; and H. Lovegrove, G.S.B.

After Grand Lodge had been opened in form, and the minutes of the September Communication had been read by the GRAND SECRETARY, and confirmed,

Bro. GEORGE LANCELOT EYLES, P.G. Steward, P.M. 197, on rising to nominate the Prince of Wales as M.W.G.M. for the ensuing year said, Right Worshipful Grand Master in the chair, it is my privilege to-night to give notice that at the next meeting of Grand Lodge I shall have the honour of proposing his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for election as Grand Master of our Order. This is an easy and pleasing task. We all realise and appreciate the good his Royal Highness has done for Freemasonry. The proposal I shall have to make on the next occasion is one which I am sure will find a response in every Masonic heart.

Bro. JAMES STEPHENS, W.M. 2308, in nominating Bro. Alderman Vaughan Morgan for Grand Treasurer for the year, said, he might perhaps be excused if he told the brethren that this was his maiden effort at addressing Grand Lodge, and he hoped they would extend towards him that forbearance and indulgence which was so characteristic of one Mason to another. He had the honour of nominating for the distinguished office of Grand Treasurer, the Worshipful Bro. Alderman Vaughan Morgan. (Applause.) He felt it somewhat unnecessary to dilate on the many claims of the worthy brother to the office, and thought he ought simply to make the proposition, and he felt there were sufficient brethren present who were there two years ago, who would give a ready acceptance to the proposal he had the honour to make. Bro. Vaughan Morgan had been a Mason for thirty years. He was initiated in the year 1865, in the Burlington Lodge, No. 93, in which lodge he has served the office of W.M. on three occasions. He was also a P.Z. of the Prince of Wales's Chapter, and this year W.M. of the Cordwainers' Lodge. Bro. Vaughan Morgan's name was one honoured in the City of London, and was a household word with regard to the subject of charity, which the M.W. Grand Master, when presiding on the day when he was first installed, said was the watchword of Freemasonry. (Hear, hear.) Bro. Vaughan Morgan had fully recognised this, and had nobly and grandly associated himself with it, not only in respect of the Masonic Institutions, of which he was a Vice-Patron, but with other Institutions; indeed, his charity knew no bounds. Not only in these lands, but elsewhere abroad, wherever assistance was asked his name was always down for alleviating distress, and he (Bro. Stephens) felt sure the brethren would do justice to Bro. Vaughan Morgan, and give him their hearty support. It would be in the recollection of the brethren that two years ago Bro. Vaughan Morgan sought the position of Grand Treasurer and had to accept defeat at the hands of a brother dear to him (Bro. Stephens) and to the hearts of all present—William Mason Stiles. The first to congratulate Bro. Stiles on the occasion of his election was Bro. Alderman Vaughan Morgan, who advanced to his side and said, "I congratulate you." Such a brother was one who would do honour to the position of Grand Treasurer, and discharge the duties of the office

with credit to himself and honour to the Craft. Last year Bro. Bailey, of the Province of Staffordshire, was adopted as the brother to be nominated for the office, and Bro. Vaughan Morgan, who had, on the election of Bro. Stiles polled 1,000 votes, and had the position in his hand, with the generosity which was characteristic of him, said: "I recognise the claim of the Provinces; the position has been held so many years by London brethren; we ought to recognise the Provinces," and he retired in favour of their good friend Bro. Bailey, thereby avoiding what they all deplored, a contest. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) That showed the true Masonic spirit of the man; he accepted defeat with honour one year, and last year he retired in a self-denying manner. He (Bro. Stephens) therefore asked the brethren to recognise that kindly disposition of Bro. Vaughan Morgan and elect him. He had some knowledge of their good friend and Bro. Stiles; he had a warm corner in his heart, and he said he would never leave his old opponent until he had seen him attain the position of Grand Treasurer. That was a good trait in Bro. Stiles. (Cries of "Time.") With the greatest confidence possible, therefore, he submitted for the acceptance of Grand Lodge the name of Bro. Vaughan Morgan. (Applause.)

Bro. WILLIAM WOODWARD, P.M. 1920, said he rose with very much pleasure indeed to nominate for the high position of Grand Treasurer his old friend and brother, Major Clifford Probyn. He would not weary Grand Lodge by any eulogy of his brother for the simple reason that he believed the majority of the brethren present were fully acquainted with the characteristics of Major Clifford Probyn and his fitness for the position. But it was necessary he should give the brethren, briefly at all events, a list of some of the Masonic work carried on by him during his Masonic career. Firstly he was a subscribing member of 10 lodges, and of those lodges he had been a founder of six, the two most recent being the Lodge of the School Board for London and the Lodge of the London County Council. ("Oh, oh," and loud laughter.) He was very pleased at this recognition. (Renewed cries of "Oh, oh," and derisive laughter.) It was one of the qualifications of Bro. Probyn for the office. In addition to being founder of the lodges he had mentioned, Bro. Major Clifford Probyn was also a full subscribing member of many other Masonic Degrees, and as regarded the Masonic Charities, without wearying Grand Lodge he would tell them. Bro. Probyn was Vice-President with four Stewardships, of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, Vice-Patron, with six Stewardships, of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and Vice-President, with four Stewardships, of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. That was a brief resumé of the Masonic work (and he thought the brethren would agree with him, excellent Masonic work) of their Bro. Major Clifford Probyn. He would not weary the brethren with the brother's social qualifications, those were known to all of them, but he would conclude with this that he was a splendid type of a true Freemason and of an English gentleman, and he, therefore, with very much pleasure, concluded with nominating him for Grand Treasurer. (Hear, hear.)

Bro. BEACH then announced the appointment by the Prince of Wales of Bro. James Henry Matthews, P. Dep. G.D.C., as President of the Board of Benevolence. (Cheers.)

Bro. Matthews was then invested.

Bro. BEACH then said the next business was a communication from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, that in consideration of the loyal and faithful services of the late President of the Board of General Purposes, Bro. Thomas Fenn, and of the late President of the Board of Benevolence, Bro. Robert Grey, the Most Worshipful Grand Master had thought proper to confer upon those brethren the rank of Past Grand Warden. (Applause.) He was sure the applause which followed the announcement ratified the appointment and was a testimony of the approval of Grand Lodge of the recognition of the eminent services which those two brethren had rendered to the Craft and to Grand Lodge. (Renewed applause.)

Bros. Fenn and Grey then advanced to the throne and shook hands with Bro. Beach on their appointment.

Bro. BEACH announced that Bro. D. D. Mercer had been re-elected Senior Vice-President of the Board of Benevolence, and Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, Junior Vice-President.

Bro. BEACH then declared the following brethren duly elected Past Masters to serve on the Board of Benevolence: Bros. George Graveley, 898; Walter Martin, 879; G. R. Langley, 2381; George B. Chapman, 27; Charles Dairy, 141; William Fisher, 834; James Bunker, 1158; William Vincent, 1104; Simon H. Goldschmidt, 1329; Robert A. Gowan, 2029; William Kipps, 1275; and E. Nightingale, 87.

The report of the Board of Benevolence for September, October, and November having been read by the GRAND SECRETARY.

On the motion of Bro. ROBERT GREY, seconded by Bro. D. D. MERCER, the following recommendation of grants were confirmed:

| | |
|---|---------|
| A brother of the High Cross Lodge, No. 754, London | £75 0 0 |
| A brother of the De Warren Lodge, No. 1302, Halifax | 100 0 0 |
| The widow of a brother of the British Union Lodge, No. 114, Ipswich | 100 0 0 |
| A brother of the Lebanon Lodge, No. 1326, Feltham | 100 0 0 |
| The widow of a brother of the Lodge Brotherly Love, No. 329, Yeovil | 50 0 0 |

On the motion of Bro. LOVELAND LOVELAND, seconded by Bro. J. J. THOMAS, the report of the Board of General Purposes, as published in these columns last week, was taken as read. The same brethren moved and seconded that it be received and entered on the minutes.

Bro. S. R. BASKETT, P.M. 1367, thereupon rose, and said it was with some diffidence that he took what he was afraid was an unusual course, that of moving that this report be not received, but he wished to do so in the most courteous way he could. He desired to put to the President of the Board of General Purposes, through the Acting Grand Master, of which he had given Bro. Loveland Loveland previous notice, a question, without going into details, with regard to certain correspondence, which related to a certain important letter from the District Grand Lodge of Otago and Southland, New Zealand. The question was whether such letter had been received by the President of the Board of General Purposes, and by the Board, and if not, why not? if it had been received, why was it not on the minutes? At the same time, it was a very important letter, and one which, he thought, certainly should have come before the Board, if it had not already done so. The President had been so courteous to him in the matter, that he felt a little hesitation in pressing the question, and he should like rather to leave it to him to say if, in his opinion, it was a question that should not be pressed. He would not press it; but having given notice of it, he was there that night to do so.

Bro. R. LOVELAND LOVELAND, in reply, said Bro. Baskett had written to him on a subject which he probably knew more about than he (Bro.

Loveland), and he referred to a letter of the 28th November, 1896, in the *Freemason*, signed "Lex Scripta." He (Bro. Loveland) did not know who "Lex Scripta" was; Bro. Baskett might know. The letter said "At the Special Meeting in July, Grand Lodge was asked to request the Grand Master to take such steps for the recognition of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, and for the establishment of fraternal good feeling with our New Zealand brethren, as he may consider consistent with the honour of this Grand Lodge, and with just consideration for those lodges which may desire to retain their connection with the Grand Lodge of England." Grand Lodge passed that by a very large majority. Since that, at the last meeting of the Board of General Purposes, Bro. Lamsonby, a friend of Bro. Baskett, asked the same question that Bro. Baskett asked, and he (Bro. Loveland) gave him the same answer he gave to Bro. Baskett, that at that time he (Bro. Loveland) never heard or knew of a letter being sent to him. On making inquiry, he found it was wrongly directed to him as President, because the Grand Master having the matter in hand, the Board could not have it in hand until the Grand Master had dealt with it. It was left for the Grand Master to take such steps for the recognition as he might be advised. Therefore, that was sent to the legal adviser of the Board, Bro. Philbrick, the Grand Registrar. He did not see the letter; he did not read it, and that being so, he could not give any information. But a letter had been sent to the Grand Master. Bro. Baskett had a letter in which he referred to the circumstances of the precedent set by Grand Lodge in the time of the Earl of Zetland in the Canada case. When the Grand Master had determined it would then be laid before Grand Lodge to ratify and confirm what the Grand Master did.

Bro. S. R. BASKETT said the answer was so satisfactory that he would ask leave to withdraw his amendment.

The amendment having been, by leave, withdrawn, the report was received and ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Bro. BEACH said a letter had been received from the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. It would be in the recollection of Grand Lodge that contributions were being made for a scholarship for that Institution, and it was for the purpose of that it was desired to call it "The Grand Lodge Scholarship." If that met with the approval of Grand Lodge he thought they could not do better than assent to it.

This was unanimously agreed to.

Bro. RICHARD HORTON SMITH, Q.C., Deputy Grand Registrar, brought forward the appeal by Bro. Edward H. Gibbon, P.M. 2119, Queensland, against the ruling of the District Grand Master that a motion was in order, and could be put to the Quarterly Communication, to excise from the minutes a resolution actually come to at the preceding meeting of District Grand Lodge, although no notice of such motion had been given. It seemed to him and the Grand Registrar that that appeal might be decided by the rules of the District Grand Lodge about which the controversy arose on the salaries of the District and Assistant District Grand Secretaries. The seventh rule of the District Grand Lodge, which was, of course, sanctioned by the Grand Master, provided "that the salaries of the District Grand Secretary and other paid officers of the District Grand Lodge shall be determined annually at the Communication in March." That was absolute; it must be done then and at no other time. At the Communication in March of the present year a motion was put and carried, that the honorarium of the District Grand Secretary should be £125, and £50 to the Assistant Grand Secretary. That was perfectly regular, and was obligatory. At the Communication in June the controversy arose, and motions were made and carried, of which no notice had been given, reducing the salaries. It had been admitted that the minutes of the March Communication were correct. An appeal was made to the District Grand Master, who held that the motion was in order although notice of it had not been given. Against that ruling the present appeal was brought. The appeal would be allowed and the District Grand Lodge be directed to enter on their minutes a simple confirmation of this part of the resolution come to in March.

The motion was carried, and Grand Lodge was closed in form.

Royal Arch.

Fidelity Chapter, No. 3.

A meeting of this chapter was held on the 6th inst., at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, when there were present, among others, Comps. Larcomb, M.E.Z.; Capt. T. C. Walls, P.Z., P.D.G.D.C.; H. Mapleton; J.W. J. Collens, P.Z., P.P.G.S.N.; S.E.; H. J. Lardner, P.Z., P.P.G.S.B.; S.N.; J. Heming, P.Z., Treas.; Nash, 1st A.S.; Radcliffe, P.Z.; Larter, and Goddard, Janitor.

The minutes of the previous convocation were read and confirmed. The following members were unanimously elected respectively Principals and officers for the year ensuing: Comps. Capt. Walls, M.E.Z.; Mapleton, H.; H. J. Lardner, J.; Collens, S.E.; Lieut.-Col. Hart, S.N.; Heming, Treas.; Nash, P.S.; Birch and Pratt, Asst. Sojs.; Larter, D.C.; and Goddard, Janitor. A Past Principal's jewel was voted to the M.E.Z. The report of the Audit Committee was received and adopted. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Comps. Stephens, 1 P.Z.; F. Graves, P.Z.; Weeks, P.Z.; F. McDougal, P.Z.; C. Greenwood, P.Z.; Birch, P.Z.; and others. The Chapter was then closed.

A banquet followed. A few toasts were given.

Comp. Radcliffe proposed "The Health of the M.E.Z." In the course of his remarks he stated that he personally regretted that their First Principal had had no candidates during his year of office. An old chapter like No. 3, possessing as it did certain privileges, should not languish for want of candidates. However, their M.E.Z. had presided over them both in and out of the chapter in a most able and genial manner, and on leaving the chair he would take with him the most "heartily good wishes" from all, and might he be spared long to wear the jewel which would be presented to him at the next meeting.

The M.E.Z. briefly acknowledged the compliment.

In giving the toast of "The S.E., Treasurer, and Officers," the M.E.Z. expressed his great acknowledgments to those worthy companions.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE DUCHESS OF YORK being unable to be present at the annual bazaar at the Grosvenor Hall, in aid of the work carried on by the Sisters at St. Saviour's Priory, Hackney-road, sent a large contribution of pottery, &c., for sale.

THE LORD MAYOR and Sheriffs of London were entertained at dinner by the Loriners' Company at the Trocadero on Wednesday evening, the chair being occupied by Bro. Sir H. A. Isaacs.

THE NEW PRESIDENT of the Royal Academy, Sir E. J. Poynter, was entertained at dinner on Wednesday evening by the President and Committee of the Royal Society; Club, among the guests being Bro. Archdeacon Stevens, the Danish Minister, the Swedish and Norwegian Minister, Sir Edwin Arnold, and several Royal Academicians.

GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, &c.

The Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales, and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown, was held on Tuesday evening, at Mark Masons' Hall. B. o. Viscount Dungarvan, Deputy Grand Master, presided. Bro. W. W. B. Beach, was Past Grand Master, and Lord Bolton, acted as Deputy Grand Master. Bros. Frank Richardson, G. Reg., acted as S.G.W., and Sir Reginald Hanson as J.G.W.; Dr. Balfour Cockburn, G.M.O.; Charles Belton, G.S.O.; and W. E. M. Tomlinson, G.J.O. Bros. Clifford Probyn, G. Treas.; C. F. Matier, G. Sec.; Major Woodall, George Everett, Dr. Turtle Pigott, Col. A. B. Cook, R. Berridge, R. Clowes, Dr. Godson, J. Thornhill Morland, J. S. Cumberland, and Richard Eve, were among many other brethren who were present.

After Grand Lodge had been opened, and the minutes of the last Quarterly Communication read and confirmed, the report of the General Board, as published in the *Freemason* last week, was taken as read, and ordered to be received and entered on the minutes.

Bro. R. LOVELAND LOVELAND, President of the General Board, moved—"That the thanks of Grand Lodge be presented to the M.W. Pro Grand Master the Earl of Euston, and the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Viscount Dungarvan, for the very beautiful gilt table in Grand Lodge, on which the consecrating jewels are to be placed." He was sure the Grand Lodge would receive the gift with acclamation.

Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, G. Reg., seconded the motion, which was then put and carried.

Bro. Viscount DUNGARVAN: Brethren,—On behalf of the Pro Grand Master and myself, I may say you have done us a high honour in accepting this gift which you see before you to-night.

Bro. R. LOVELAND LOVELAND moved a vote of thanks to Bro. Captain George Henry Hearn, P.G. Stwd., P. Dist. G.W. Bombay, for presenting to Grand Lodge two magnificent trophies of Chinese spears, which the brethren had seen at the entrance of Grand Lodge.

Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON seconded.

The motion was carried.

Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, G. Reg., moved a vote of thanks to Bro. R. Loveland Loveland, the President of the General Board, for the very handsome trophies of Japanese adzes, tomahawks, and ancient knives which he had presented to Grand Lodge and which were then hanging up outside the Grand Lodge. He moved that vote with very great pleasure, because those gifts added very much to the completeness of the building.

Bro. CHARLES BELTON seconded the vote.

The motion was put and carried.

A grant of £25 was made to a brother.

Bro. GEORGE HENRY PARKE, P.G. Stwd., P.P.G.W. Lancashire and West Yorkshire, then rose and said: Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, I rise to ask you to do me the honour to accept from me the portrait of the Most Worshipful the Earl of Lathom, Past Grand Master of this Order. It is quite unnecessary for me to say anything about Brother the Earl of Lathom, because he is so well known to us. Wherever Masonry exists the name of the Earl of Lathom is revered and beloved, and I may say with regard to the Province of Lancashire, to which he has been so long attached, the seed sown by his ruling and guiding hand has already borne great fruit, and I can assure the brethren that all Masons of Lancashire hold him in the greatest love and esteem. It is quite unnecessary for me to say more, Right Worshipful Dep. G. Master, than to ask you to honour me by accepting this portrait to hang on these walls and to further adorn, I may say, this beautiful hall. (Applause.)

Bro. Viscount DUNGARVAN said: Bro. Parke, I have the great pleasure on behalf of Grand Lodge to thank you for this handsome portrait of Lord Lathom. I am sure I am only expressing the feelings of every Mark Mason in the provinces and of every Mark Mason in London, when I say we are very grateful indeed for the portrait of so distinguished a Mason as Lord Lathom, one that is so well beloved and respected in London as elsewhere. We give you our most hearty thanks for the gift.

On the motion of Bro. R. LOVELAND LOVELAND, seconded by Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, the report of the General Board was then adopted.

Bro. Dr. ORWIN said: Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, it is with much pleasure that I rise to nominate his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, for election as Grand Master for the ensuing year. I am sure his name is engraved on the hearts of all Masons, more especially of the Mark Masons for the deep interest he takes in our Order. It is known to all present, and under these circumstances it is unnecessary for me to say anything more. I therefore nominate his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for election as our Grand Master for the ensuing year. (Applause.)

Bro. Major CLIFFORD PROBYN, G. Treas.: Right Worshipful Grand Master,—I rise to nominate for the post of Grand Treasurer of the Mark Degree Bro. George Henry Parke, P.M., P.Z., P.P.S.G.W. (Craft) West Yorkshire. I need hardly dilate upon his excellence for the office, neither need I recommend him to you, because his past career in Masonry speaks for itself. He is a Patron of the Institutions for Girls, Boys, and Old People, and has served 15 Stewardships. In the Mark he is a P.M., a founder, a P.P.G.W. of Lancashire, present Grand Warden of West Yorkshire, Chairman of the Provincial Charity Committee, Patron of the Mark Benevolent Fund, and has served four Stewardships. He is a Past Grand Steward of England, Prov. Grand Officer in K.T., and acting officer in the Rose Croix and other Degrees.

Bro. H. J. LARDNER nominated Bro. Capt. Thomas Charles Walls—a name known to most of the brethren, having been nominated twice before. After recounting Bro. Walls' services, Bro. Lardner remarked that he thought the time had come for recognising those services, and this year would grant him the honour he now sought.

Grand Lodge was then closed in form.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DERBYSHIRE

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Masonic Hall, Derby, on Wednesday, the 25th ult., for the transaction of the general business of the province. In the absence of the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. the Duke of Devonshire, K.G., the proceedings were presided over by the Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Bro. H. C. Okeover, P.G.W. Upwards of 200 brethren were present, and the greatest interest was taken in the function by Masons throughout the county.

After the transaction of the usual preliminary business, the annual written reports of the Worshipful Masters of lodges were read, and they showed not only that the province was in a very satisfactory and prosperous condition, but that the contributions to the various Masonic Charities had been of a very handsome character.

Bro. Sir JOHN SMITH, P.P.S.G.W., who received hearty congratulations from the brethren upon his recovery from his recent severe illness, presented the report of the Masonic Hall Committee, which detailed the work which has recently been carried out in renovating the premises, both inside and outside. It was also proposed, the report added, very shortly to carpet the lower hall.

The report of the Charity Committee was presented by Bro. PERCY WALLIS, P.P.S.G.W., who has always taken a deep and enthusiastic interest in the Charities of the Craft. The report stated that, owing very largely to the fact that the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. the Duke of Devonshire, presided at the anniversary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys at Brighton, the efforts of the brethren had been largely concentrated on that Charity during the year, with the result that the sum of £1642 2s. was contributed towards the funds of the Institution.

Bro. H. E. DIAMOND, P.P.J.G.W., the representative of the province on the Board of Management of the Boys' School, stated that the work of the School had been much hampered by a lack of accommodation. Twenty-five years ago there were only 83 boys educated there; now there were 250. With the numbers growing in this way it was absolutely necessary that they should have larger premises, and though there had been dissentients to the scheme which the Board had adopted, it was hoped that the Board would have the unanimous support of the Province of Derbyshire.

Bro. Sir THOMAS ROE said that from what he had heard he believed the time had arrived when some further extension of the accommodation at the School was absolutely necessary. He was glad to hear that the Board were acting energetically in the matter, and he believed that the Derbyshire brethren would recognise that something ought to be done to enable them to educate the boys at the School as they ought to be educated.

Bro. J. B. COULSON, P.P.S.G.W., afterwards presented the report of the Audit Committee, which showed a very substantial balance to the credit of the province. Each of these reports was unanimously adopted.

The Committee of Management of the Masonic Hall, and the representatives of the Provincial Grand Lodge on the Charity Committee were re-elected, after which the Deputy Grand Master appointed and invested the P.G. Officers for the ensuing year as follows:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Bro. Sir Thomas Roe | ... | ... | Prov. S.G.W. |
| " C. J. Jackson | ... | ... | Prov. J.G.W. |
| " Rev. James Given | ... | ... | Prov. G. Chaps. |
| " Rev. S. C. Hayward | ... | ... | |
| " J. E. Russell (elected) | ... | ... | Prov. G. Treas. |
| " W. W. Heywood | ... | ... | Prov. G. Reg. |
| " W. Naylor | ... | ... | Prov. G. Sec. |
| " C. F. Wardley | ... | ... | Prov. S.G.D. |
| " J. Hindle | ... | ... | Prov. J.G.D. |
| " R. Hall | ... | ... | Prov. G.S. of W. |
| " W. Hart | ... | ... | Prov. G.D.C. |
| " W. H. Smedley | ... | ... | Prov. A.G.D.C. |
| " Booth Waddington | ... | ... | Prov. G.S.B. |
| " W. Campbell | ... | ... | Prov. G. Std. Brs. |
| " S. J. Parkill | ... | ... | |
| " A. Day | ... | ... | Prov. G. Org. |
| " J. Cutting | ... | ... | Prov. A.G. Sec. |
| " W. Gaskell | ... | ... | Prov. G. Purst. |
| " J. Stuart | ... | ... | Prov. A.G. Purst. |
| " F. E. Leech | ... | ... | Prov. G. Stewards. |
| " L. H. Bryson | ... | ... | |
| " W. J. Piper, jun. | ... | ... | |
| " F. H. Gandy | ... | ... | |
| " A. W. Allen | ... | ... | Prov. G. Tyler. |
| " S. B. Smith | ... | ... | |
| " A. Slinn | ... | ... | |
| " W. J. Drinkwater | ... | ... | Prov. A.G. Tyler. |

After this, Past Prov. Grand rank was conferred on three members of Prov. Grand Lodge in commemoration of the 21st installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., as Grand Master, viz.: Bros. E. C. Milligan, 1235; T. N. Turner, 506; and James Cutting, 253.

There were two nominations for the post of Prov. G. Treasurer—Bro. J. E. Russell, P.M. 1085, proposed by Bro. W. H. MARSDEN, P.G. Std. Br. Eng., P.P.S.G.W., and seconded by Bro. Percy Wallis, P.P.S.G.W.; and Bro. R. Thornley, P.M. 654, proposed by Bro. S. TAYLOR, P.P.G. Reg., seconded by Bro. J. WHITEHEAD, P.P.G.D.C. The voting was by ballot, Bro. Russell being elected.

Bro. W. H. MARSDEN, P.G. Std. Br. Eng., P.P.S.G.W.—before the lodge closed—made a brief statement respecting the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. The Board of Management, he said, had purchased for £13,000 an important estate at Bushey, and by a resolution of the Quarterly Court they were actually committed to the removal of the Institution unless a certain sum was paid as forfeit. The opinions of experts had been procured as to the state of the soil, the drainage, &c., and they had pronounced the situation to be perfect in every respect. The price was not outrageous, something like £200 an acre, and everything considered, it was looked upon as a very good bargain. The Board had committed themselves to this scheme, but they could do very little without the support of the brethren in the country, who had the right to say whether the proposals met with their approbation or not. The representative of that

province, Bro. Diamond, had been all along of opinion, from actual contact with the School, that the scheme was not only desirable but absolutely necessary, and he might point out that with an income of something like £20,000 a year and an expenditure of about £12,000, the Board had been able to save a capital sum of £60,000. It was very satisfactory to know that there were as many as 280 boys in the School, but it was unsatisfactory to know that there were 20 boys or more outside owing to want of accommodation in the Institution itself. The governing body were determined to pursue a policy of progress—their object was to get cheaper land, reduce taxation and expenditure, and provide accommodation for 500 children instead of for less than 300. He would propose in conclusion—"That this P.G.L. begs to express its confidence in the governing body of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and its approval of their policy."

Bro. E. HORNE, P.M., P.P.G. Reg., seconded, and the resolution was carried with cordial unanimity.

Bro. DIAMOND thanked the brethren for their support on behalf of the Board of Management of the Institution.

Bro. OKEOVER, Deputy P.G.M., said it was always usual for him to say a few words before the brethren parted, and he was very happy indeed to see that the affairs of the province—Masonically—were proceeding on satisfactory lines. When he looked back year after year he could not but note that their record had been one steady advance—not by leaps and bounds, but from a low standard they had risen steadily in the true principles and foundations of the Craft. Every brother who had heard the reports of the different lodges must feel grateful and thankful, for they were all of a most harmonious character, and they all showed a most satisfactory spirit in supporting the great Masonic Charities. The only regret he had in being present that day was the fact that the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. the Duke of Devonshire, was not able to attend also. They all knew however, that he sympathised with them in every respect, and especially in regard to the great Institutions—the Boys' and Girls' Schools and the other Masonic Charities. Whatever they decided to do in the promotion of education, he was sure would receive the cordial support of their Grand Master. In regard to the Boys' School, the brethren of the province must look back with great pleasure to the annual gathering at Brighton last summer—it was not merely a very large sum of money which was handed over to the funds of the Institution, but it was given with a true Masonic spirit and also with a desire to support the Prov. Grand Master in his high office. As Masonry progressed by degrees in this province, he was sure the brethren would always keep the true principles of the Craft before them—and what were these principles with regard to their great Institutions? It was their duty to do as much good to their brethren as lay in their power, and where necessary to see that their offspring were brought up in good and wholesome ways, and that everything possible was done to give them a fair and good start in life. With respect to the many other things connected with the province, he was glad to see that everything was progressing in a prosperous and a happy manner, and also that great care was exercised by the lodges as to whom they admitted to the honourable position of brother Masons. This he considered to be one of the principal reasons for the success of the province. In conclusion, he referred to the way in which the Stewards and the Charity Committee had exerted themselves in the past, specially mentioning the names of Bros. Percy Wallis and J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B. He also expressed the pleasure that all the brethren felt at seeing Bro. Sir John Smith amongst them again after his recent severe illness.

Afterwards a sumptuous banquet was served in the Lower Hall, when the usual Masonic toast list was gone through. The musical programme was a very enjoyable one.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SUSSEX.

The annual meeting of this Provincial Grand Lodge was held at the Town Hall, Hastings, on Wednesday, the 25th ult. The inhabitants of the town, no less than the members of the Craft, experienced great disappointment, however, owing to the absence of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, the Prov. Grand Master, who, unfortunately, was prevented by indisposition from visiting the premier Cinque Port, and presiding at the annual gathering. Arrangements had been made by the Mayor and Corporation to receive the Royal Duke in state at the Warrior-square Station, and the 2nd Cinque Ports Artillery Volunteers and the 1st Cinque Ports Rifle Volunteers had been ordered to parade to form guards of honour at the railway station and Town Hall respectively, and it was intended to escort his Royal Highness to the Town Hall.

In the neighbourhood of Warrior-square Station there was a good display of bunting, and at Silverhill, the St. Matthew's Company of the Church Lads' Brigade mustered in good numbers under the command of Captain Sekington, assisted by Lieutenant Urry, with the intention of also forming a guard of honour at Warrior-square Station, the Duke being the Hon. Colonel Commandant of the organisation. Many of the inhabitants had assembled in the streets to give a hearty welcome to the Duke, and were much disappointed when the news arrived that he was unable to be present. It need scarcely be said the brethren also deeply regretted the unavoidable absence of their Prov. Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Lodge was opened by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Bro. the Right Hon. Sir W. T. Marriott, Q.C., P.G.D., who was supported by the following Provincial Grand Officers, viz.: Bro. E. W. Stillwell, Prov. S.G.W.; Bro. B. Burfield, Prov. J.G.W.; Bro. J. H. Langford Sainsbury, Prov. G. Chaplain; Bro. J. M. Reed, Prov. G. Treasurer; Bro. R. Percy Clowes, Prov. G. Registrar; Bro. V. P. Freeman, Prov. G. Secretary; Bro. J. H. Whatford, Prov. S.G. Deacon; Bro. W. A. Raper, Prov. J.G. Deacon; Bro. J. W. Broad, Prov. G.S. of W.; Bro. J. J. Clarke, Prov. G.D. of C.; Bro. G. Randell, Prov. Asst. G.D. of C.; Bro. J. Howe, Prov. G. Sword B.; Bro. A. J. Carpenter, Prov. G. Asst. Secretary; Bro. G. Fowler, Prov. G. Pursuivant; Bro. H. W. G. Abell, Bro. S. Denman, Bro. J. Turton, and Bro. B. F. Meadows, Prov. G. Stewards; Bro. George Cole, P.P.G.O., Acting Prov. G. Organist; and Bro. H. H. Hughes, Prov. G. Tyler. There was a very large attendance of Prov. G. Officers, Past Prov. G. Officers, and other brethren.

Addressing the assembled brethren, Bro. Sir WILLIAM MARRIOTT, the Deputy Prov. G.M., said he was sure they would all regret to hear that his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Prov. G.M., was suffering from an attack of bronchitis, and thereby prevented from being present. They would all realise that no one regretted his absence more than the Duke himself, who, for the last four days had abstained from undertaking his duties

and pleasures, and had reserved himself, hoping to be better and able to preside at the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge. Acting, however, upon medical advice, he had been compelled to relinquish his visit, and had telegraphed to him (Sir William) to that effect. Colonel Egerton had also informed him of the Duke's indisposition, and also said it was the wish of his Royal Highness to take the first opportunity possible of holding another meeting at Hastings, and of endeavouring to be present. (Applause).

On the proposition of Bro. Sir WILLIAM MARRIOTT, seconded by Bro. E. R. CURRIE, a telegram was sent to the Duke, in the name of the assembled brethren, expressing their deep regret at the illness of their popular Prov. Grand Master, and wishing him a speedy recovery.

The customary reports of the Board of Finance and Charities Committee were read and adopted, and a vote of confidence in the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and approval of the removal of the School from Wood Green to Bushey, was unanimously adopted.

The DEPUTY PROV. GRAND MASTER then said it had been the intention of the Duke of Connaught to address the brethren, and he was happy to say that Colonel Egerton had handed him the address, which was read as follows:

It gives me great pleasure to be present at this meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in the ancient town of Hastings—a name which for nearly a thousand years has been closely associated with some of the most stirring epochs of British history. It is, I believe, 28 years since the last meeting of the Provincial Lodge was held in this town. During the year, the new lodge at Shoreham, the formation of which I told you I had recommended at our last meeting, was duly consecrated by the Rev. E. R. Currie, Dean of Battle and Past Grand Chaplain: He undertook the duty of performing the ceremony at very short notice, and I thank him for the services he rendered. I am glad to hear that all the petitioners became subscribing members, and that the new lodge has made very satisfactory progress without interfering with any of the other lodges. The Hadrian Lodge, which was consecrated at Pevensey, has been compelled to leave the locality and has removed to Bexhill, where I trust that in improved quarters and with superior surroundings it may have a career of prosperity commensurate with that of the flourishing town in which it has taken up its abode. I find from the statistics an increase in the number of registered members of 40. This is partly owing to the new lodge, which accounts for 27, but, independently of that, there is still an addition of 13, which, considering the number of resignations, &c., I consider is quite satisfactory. You are aware that I have undertaken to preside at the Annual Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Aged Freemasons and Widows of Freemasons in February next. Although the contributions to the Masonic Institutions from this province for the last few years have been much above the average, and I understand that many brethren have already pledged themselves to support the Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys in 1898, I feel sure that by the energy of the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge Charities Committee—Bro. J. M. Reed—and the assistance of my brethren I may be able to show an amount for this province which will be creditable and satisfactory. You will have heard from the letter read from the Grand Secretary that, in commemoration of the fact that our Grand Master has now presided over us for twenty-one years, I am empowered to appoint three brethren to Past Rank in Provincial Grand Lodge, and I have decided to appoint one as Past Provincial Senior Warden, one as Past Provincial Junior Warden, and one as Past Provincial Grand Registrar. For the first I have selected a brother who is an old Mason, and has elected to take up his residence in Brighton, where he has passed the chair of one of the lodges; he has been an officer in Her Majesty's army, and served through the Crimean war. For the second I have selected a brother who is probably one of the oldest, if not the oldest Mason, in the room, although he has only, during the last few years, taken an active part in the working, and is now Worshipful Master of one of our lodges. He also has served Her Majesty as a Volunteer, was in command of the 1st Sussex Artillery Volunteers, and has received the decoration for long service. For the third I have selected a brother from the oldest of the lodges consecrated in Sussex, which has completed its centenary, who, although not a very old Mason, has put a lot of Masonic work into a short period. He is professionally entitled to the appointment, and I believe that he will consider the office as an incentive to future exertions in Masonry, and that we shall continue to have his services. I propose that the meeting next year shall be held at Brighton. I have to thank the Masons of Hastings for the trouble they have taken to provide accommodation for this large assemblage of brethren, and hope that next year, which is to be historical in the records of England, may be one of increased prosperity to Masonry in this province.

The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year, and those present were invested with the insignia of their respective offices:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Bro. A. Lloyd, P.M. 56, 1725 | ... | Prov. S.G.W. |
| " B. E. Meadows, P.M., 1842 | ... | Prov. J.G.W. |
| " Rev. A. J. W. Crosse, W.M. 341 | ... | Prov. G. Chaps. |
| " Rev. Seymour Penzer, Chap. 1821 | ... | |
| " J. M. Read, P.M. 732 | ... | Prov. G. Treas. |
| " H. L. Staffarth, P.M. 1726 | ... | Prov. G. Reg. |
| " V. P. Freeman, P.M. 315, 732 | ... | Prov. G. Sec. |
| " F. C. Parsons, P.M. 271 | ... | Prov. S.G.Ds. |
| " J. Turton, P.M. 811 | ... | |
| " S. Denman, P.M. 732 | ... | Prov. J.G.Ds. |
| " H. Sutton, P.M. 2434 | ... | |
| " J. A. Skinner, P.M. 1110 | ... | Prov. G.S. of W. |
| " O. Embling, P.M. 1821 | ... | Prov. G.D.C. |
| " H. W. Gabell, P.M. 1797 | ... | Prov. D.G.D.C. |
| " W. Deman, P.M. 38 | ... | Prov. A.G.D.C. |
| " J. Flinn, P.M. 1829 | ... | Prov. G.S.B. |
| " W. S. Allen, P.M. 40... | ... | Prov. G. Std. Brs. |
| " C. W. West, P.M. 2187 | ... | |
| " Chapman Marshall, P.M. 2201 | ... | Prov. G. Org. |
| " J. J. Freeman, J.W. 2261 | ... | Prov. A.G. Sec. |
| " F. Carter, P.M. 851 | ... | Prov. G. Purst. |
| " J. B. Foster, 1184 | ... | Prov. A.G. Purst. |
| " W. S. Stone, P.M. 811 | ... | Prov. G. Stwds. |
| " B. W. Drury, P.M. 315 | ... | |
| " L. J. Jeffery, P.M. 916 | ... | |
| " R. Gallier, P.M. 1141 | ... | |
| " T. J. Budd Budd, P.M. 1619 | ... | |
| " W. E. Hughes, P.M. 1947 | ... | |

Past rank was conferred on the following—Bros. Major W. H. Beaumont, P.M. 1466, P.P.S.G.W.; Col. H. Tester, W.M. 1636, P. Prov. J.G.W.; and H. Montague Williams, P.M. 271, P.P.G. Reg.

The lodge having been closed, the brethren adjourned to the Queen's Hotel, where they sat down to a banquet under the presidency of the Deputy Prov. Grand Master.

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



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1896.

Masonic Notes.

The regular Quarterly Communication of United Grand Lodge was held on Wednesday, the 2nd inst., when the programme of business, as published in our issue of last week, was considered. It is to be regretted that there should have been two nominations for the office of Grand Treasurer for 1897-8, more especially as, with a view to avoiding the excitement of a contested election, Bro. Alderman Vaughan Morgan refused to allow himself to be put in nomination last year, and when the meeting for election came round in March, Bro. W. H. Bailey was returned as the unanimous choice of Grand Lodge.

In addition, however, to the business as announced, two other matters were brought to the notice of Grand

Lodge. One of them was based on a message from his Royal Highness the M.W.G. Master, to the effect that in consideration of the services rendered by Bro. Thomas Fenn, Past President of the Board of General Purposes, and Bro. Robert Grey, who has been President of the Board of Benevolence during the last ten years, he (the M.W.G. Master) had been pleased to confer upon those brethren the rank of Past Grand Warden. The announcement was received with the heartiest applause which was renewed when those brethren advanced to the dais and were congratulated by the Acting G.M. We respectfully add our congratulations to those of R.W. Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P.; never were honours bestowed on worthier brethren.

The other was the announcement from the chair that the M.W.G.M. had been pleased to appoint Bro. J. H. Matthews, Past Dep. G.D.C., to be President of the Board of Benevolence, *vice* Bro. Robt. Grey, who had expressed a wish not to be re-appointed, and was no longer, therefore, in office. This was also received with the heartiest applause, which was renewed again and again after the Acting Grand Master (Bro. Beach) had invested Bro. Matthews with the insignia of his office. We congratulate Bro. Matthews, and have every confidence that he will exhibit the same courtesy, tact, and judgment as his predecessor. He will have a hard task to follow in the footsteps of Bro. Grey, but we doubt not he will strive his utmost to emulate him.

The Quarterly Communication of Mark Grand Lodge was held, as announced, on Tuesday, the 1st instant. The proceedings, as will be seen from our report elsewhere, were not of a character to cause much excitement. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was nominated for the 12th time as M.W.G. Master, while Bros. George H. Parke, Past Prov. G. Warden of Lancashire and West Yorkshire, and Capt. T. C. Walls, were nominated for the office of Grand Treasurer, this being the third year in succession the latter has been a candidate for the post. Votes of thanks were passed by acclamation to the donors of sundry gifts, while the Report of the General Board was adopted.

The winter half-yearly meeting of Great Priory of the Temple will be held at Mark Masons' Hall, on Friday, the 11th inst., at 4.45 for 5 p.m., for the transaction of business, after which the Grand Master will hold, under the banner of the Holy Sanctuary Preceptory, a Priory of the Order of Malta, to which any Knight Templar who shall have signified his desire, may be admitted. At 7 p.m. a banquet will be served at Freemasons' Tavern; application to be made for tickets, price one guinea each, to the Great Vice-Chancellor, Mark Masons' Hall, Great Queen-street, W.C., not later than Monday, the 7th inst.

The report of the Council, which will be submitted to Great Priory, contains a *resumé* of the proceedings at the annual conference of the Great Priorities of England and Ireland, and the Chapter General of Scotland, which was held in Dublin on the 17th April last, under the presidency of the V.E. Knight R. W. Shekleton, G.C.T. From the account given of the various subjects discussed at this conference it appears that, as regards the designation of the governing body in each country, the delegates from England and Ireland resolved to recommend that their present designation of Great Priory shall be retained as well as the present designations of the Great Officers, while the Scottish delegates arrived at a similar determination in respect of their present designations of Chapter General and the Office Bearers.

The other resolutions arrived at were "that it should be recommended that the appointments of Knight Commander and Knight Grand Cross should be made, and the patents signed, by the Grand Master in each country, and not by the Sovereign of the United Order;" "that each Governing Body shall be recommended to retain its present grades and modes of investiture;" and that, as regards the number of petitioners for a Charter for a new Preceptory or Priory, the Scottish delegates should recommend to their Chapter General to adopt the same rule as in England and Ireland, and "to allow a Priory to be opened by seven, or five, if one of them was a member of Grand Council."

It is to be regretted that last week, in reckoning the Prov. G. Lodges which passed resolutions approving the policy of the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, we should have taken no

account of Cambridgeshire, which met on Monday, the 23rd ult., and expressed itself strongly in favour of the removal. If to this we add Sussex, which passed a similar resolution at its annual meeting, at Hastings, on the 25th ult., and the Provincial Grand Chapter of Essex, which so expressed itself at its annual meeting, we have six Provincial Grand Lodges and one Provincial Grand Chapter which between the 7th and 28th of last month declared in favour of the Board of Management. As regards Northumberland and East Lancashire—taking the resolutions passed by their Charities Committees respectively as our guide—we find the former in favour and the latter in opposition.

The minutes of the regular Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Northern China, held at the Masonic Hall, Shanghai, on the 22nd September, contain a full and particular and, at the same time, a highly-interesting, account of the installation by R.W. Bro. Cornelius Thorne, Past District Grand Master, of Bro. Lewis Moore as District Grand Master, in succession to the late Bro. W. Irwin Miller. There appears to have been a very full attendance not only of the District Grand Lodge Officers and representatives of the lodges on the roll, but also of visitors, prominent among the latter being the District Deputy Grand Master under the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, U.S.A., and the principal officers of the Scotch, American, and German lodges at Shanghai. The ceremony was performed by Bro. C. Thorne, Past District Grand Master, and the District Grand Officers, whom Bro. Moore, as the Deputy of the late Bro. Miller, had invested previously on the latter's behalf, were re-appointed. The newly-installed District Grand Master then delivered an appropriate address, and after he had received the congratulations of those present on his appointment and investiture, the proceedings were brought to a conclusion.

There were several points on which the new Dist. Grand Master laid very considerable stress. As regards the distinguishing characteristic of Freemasonry—Charity—he urged upon the brethren to practice it to the utmost of their ability. At the same time he took the opportunity of pointing out that very many of those who applied for help were impostors. He therefore advised them to hand over their donations or subscriptions to the District Masonic Charity Fund, the officers of which would not only thankfully receive them, but at the same time take care that they were applied to the relief of those who were genuinely in distress.

Another point he referred to was the importance of the officers of a lodge attending and fulfilling their duties. He pointed out how deeply an able and energetic W.M. must feel any neglect of this kind, and reminded his hearers that "officers are expected and told when invested that they should be regular and punctual in their attendance."

There were two other points to which he drew attention—(1) the very great number of brethren in Shanghai who have ceased to be subscribing members of lodges; and, (2) the necessity for observing silence as to the weaknesses and indiscretions of brethren. As regards the non-affiliates, he said it was a mistake for them to suppose that because they had taken their degrees and subscribed for a year or two, they had done their Masonic duty. They ought, he said, to remain members as long as their circumstances might fairly warrant, and he urged upon those who belong to this class to lose no time in rejoining a lodge.

It is clear from these few particulars, that the new Dist. G. Master of Northern China has entered upon his duties in a just spirit and with a desire to do what in him lies to promote the welfare of the lodges under his charge. We trust the brethren will loyally support him in these endeavours, and that no long time hence we shall find that Freemasonry in Northern China is stronger numerically, and even more prosperous than it has been under his predecessor, Bro. Cornelius Thorne who was in office from 1877 to 1886, and was the Installing Master at this meeting, and Bro. W. Irwin Miller, who succeeded Bro. Thorne and died in the early part of the present year.

At the half-yearly convocation of the District Grand Chapter of Bengal, held at Freemasons' Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 11th September, a letter was read from Comp. Sir H. Thoby Prinsep, announcing that he had resigned the office of Grand Superintendent. A resolution expressing the regret of the Provincial Grand Chapter at the resignation was carried by acclamation.

Correspondence.

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

THE NEW ZEALAND QUESTION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I was not aware until reading the above headline in your last week's issue that there was any longer any "question" about New Zealand. Grand Lodge of England having recognised the Grand Lodge of New Zealand, I should not have supposed that there was anything more to be said about it. However, a correspondent of yours seems to think there is. He has plainly been perusing the report of a meeting, held on October 1st at the Freemasons' Hall in Dunedin, at which Bro. T. S. Graham, a District Grand Master under the English Constitution, presided. Those who know anything at all about the real cause of the miserable squabble in New Zealand, now so happily ended I trust and believe, are well aware that the whole trouble originated with Bro. Graham and his allies, who by their dictatorial and unmasonic course in their provinces prevented an almost unanimous movement for a local Grand Lodge. It would seem that these brethren have not altered, and do not intend to alter, their tactics, for anything more unmasonic than some of the sentiments and expressions used by them I have never read. So far as the Grand Lodge of England is concerned, however, we have nothing to do with this, and our brethren across the sea must settle their own disputes.

I do not know what your correspondent means by using the word "loyal" as distinguishing the lodges who have not joined the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. It infers that those who have done so are disloyal, and to this I distinctly demur. If they are disloyal, then I fear there is no such thing as a loyal lodge in the wide world, since every Grand Lodge has had an origin at some period, and has been formed by lodges holding under other Constitutions.

I do not know why the agenda paper of Grand Lodge contains the announcement that since the last Quarterly Communication a warrant has been granted for a lodge at Christchurch. Doubtless the Grand Secretary can readily explain this, as, of course after the confirmation of the Special Lodge minutes at the last Quarterly Communication, any issue of a warrant for a lodge in New Zealand would be an invasion of friendly territory.—Yours fraternally,

Nov. 30.

T. B. WHYTEHEAD.

A SUGGESTION.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

It has occurred to me and one or two other brethren that it would be a splendid answer to the denunciations of the Pope and other Roman Catholic divines if the Freemasons of this country would unite to celebrate the 60 years' reign of H.M. Gracious Majesty next year by a Masonic thanksgiving service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Lord Mayor might be asked to attend in State, and I feel sure that a vast number of brethren from all parts of the kingdom would be glad to join.

I would suggest that the Grand Chaplains, Present and Past, be asked to arrange the details of the service, there are plenty of musical brethren amongst the Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and Chapels Royal Choirs who would be responsible for the musical part, and the offertory, which ought to be a good one, should be given to the fund for clearing the hospitals from debt.—I remain, yours fraternally,

P.M.

November 28th.

Reviews.

"PHOTO CHRISTMAS CARDS."—Mr. A. B. Hughes, of 3, Spor Hill, Upper Norwood, S.E., has struck out a path for himself by publishing a series of photographic gems, handsomely mounted, at 6s. per dozen, post free (or slightly more in proportion for smaller quantities). They comprise views of Switzerland, Norway, North Wales, and Devon and Cornwall. The tasteful mounts, in grey and gold, set off the pictures most effectively, and, as all the views have been taken from spots most favoured by artists, the lovely cards appeal to a still wider range than the restricted period of Christmas and the New Year. They only require different mounts to suit any time, and they would make elegant bijou pictures in frames. The sets of each country furnish charming views for the drawing-room, and all those sent us are choice specimens of the photographic art.

PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ESSEX.

The annual meeting of the above Provincial Grand Chapter was held in the Masonic Hall attached to the Roebuck Hotel, Buckhurst Hill, on Saturday, the 28th ult., excellent arrangements for the meeting having been made by the Ixion Chapter, No. 2501.

Comp. his Honour Judge Philbrick, Q.C., presided, and was supported by Comps. Robert Martin, Prov. G.H.; A. G. Hayman, Prov. G.J.; Thos. J. Ralling, P.G.S.B. Eng., Prov. G.S.E.; H. E. Dehane, Prov. G.P.S.; Andrew Durrant, Prov. G. Treas.; Jas. Pinder, Prov. A.G. Soj.; J. G. Renshaw, Prov. G.S.B.; A. Lucking, P.A.G.D.C. Eng., Prov. G.D.C.; F. S. Guy, Prov. A.G.S.E.; James Boulton, A.G.D.C. Eng.; C. J. R. Tijou, A.G.D.C. Eng.; George Graveley, A.G.D.C. Eng.; W. Ernest Dring, P.P.G.H.; Millner Jutsum, P.P.G.H.; J. J. C. Turner, P.P.G.J.; Wm. Shurmur, P.P.G.J.; F. A. White, P.P.G.J.; John Glass, P.P.G.J.; William Gayton, P.P.G.R.; J. H. Salter, P.P.G.P.S.; James Speller, P.P.G.S.; George Cowell, P.P.A.G.S.; Rev. Thos. Lloyd, M.E.Z. 2005; Rev. Wm. Quennell, J. 214; J. Wilson, P.P.A.G.S.; George Corble, P.P.A.G.S.E.; H. French Bromhead, P.Z. 2501; George Thomas Peall, P.Z. 2501; Thos. Humphreys, P.P.A.G.S.; H. J. Skingley, H. 51; Jno. Spencer, S.E. 1437; J. S. Hammond, 1437; J. R. Carter, S.E. 2501; A. F. Lay, M.E.Z. 2501; W. Howard Flanders, S.N. 1024; E. H. Bailey, P.S. 453; and others.

The minutes of the last annual Provincial Grand Chapter (held at Maldon) having been read and confirmed, letters and telegrams were read from several companions unavoidably prevented attending. The roll of chapters was called and all were found to be represented.

The report of the Board of General Purposes was presented by Comp. J. J. C. TURNER, who also moved its adoption. It commenced by heartily congratulating the Grand Superintendent upon his appointment to a County Court Judgeship since the chapter last met, and expressing a hope that his honour might live long to enjoy the same. The accounts had been audited, and showed a balance in hand of £22 14s. 2d. The consecration

of the Victorian Chapter brought up the roll of chapters to 13, with a membership of 325, as against 304 last year. The Board recommended a grant of £10 10s. to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

Comp. A. G. HAYMAN, Prov. G.J., seconded the motion for the adoption of the report. Referring to a grant made last year to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys' Scholarship Fund, he said he should be glad to know whether that fund had been a success.

Comp. JOHN GLASS, P.P.G.J., said as a member of the Board of that Fund he should like to explain that the project had been most successful, and amounted to no less a sum than £1600. (Hear, hear.) The Board were exceedingly obliged to the Essex Provincial Grand Chapter for the grant they made, for although a small one, it was given at a time when they needed encouragement, and the effect of it was to induce other Masonic bodies to give their assistance, the Grand Lodge of England granting 200 guineas. (Applause.) Only yesterday the Governors had met and elected the first boy to the benefits of the Fund. (Hear, hear.) He was a boy who had won other scholarships and prizes, and this further scholarship would enable him to pursue those studies for which he was so eminently qualified. (Applause.)

The motion for the adoption of the report was then put and carried.

The next business was the election of three members to serve on the Board of General Purposes for the ensuing year, and as only the required number had been nominated, the GRAND SUPERINTENDENT declared them elected as follows: Comps. G. H. Finch, P.Z. 2005, P.P.G.J.; John J. C. Turner, P.Z. 51, P.P.G.J., and Francis A. White, P.Z. 1437, P.P.G.J.

The GRAND SUPERINTENDENT then addressed the companions. He tendered his hearty thanks to the members of the Board of General Purposes for the kindly feeling that prompted their congratulations on the appointment he had had the honour to receive from the Crown, and also the companions for the cordial way in which they had ratified the same. (Hear, hear.) To one who had lived as long as he had, it was a gratification to feel that an appointment like that he had received met with the approval of his fellows. (Applause.) The pleasure, like all earthly pleasures, was mixed with some alloy—the alloy in this instance being that his duties took him from Essex, and that he was unable to see so frequently as heretofore the kind faces, or receive the grip of the hand of those he had lived amongst, and who he so highly esteemed. (Hear, hear.) Whether, however, he was east, west, north, or south, he should never forget the county from which he derived his birth and infant nurture, and in which he had such valued friends and companions. (Applause.) As regards their province, they now numbered 13 chapters, and were now meeting under the banner of the youngest of them. It was not often that young people just setting up housekeeping could afford to entertain many guests—(laughter)—and he thought it showed how vigorous a child the baby chapter was that it had undertaken the responsibility of entertaining Prov. Grand Chapter that day. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to know that the state of the province was most satisfactory—their chapters were all working ones, and though their numbers appeared small in comparison with the Craft province, they must recollect that in the R.A. they had the very élite of the Craft, the chapter being the House of Lords and the blue brethren the House of Commons. (Laughter and hear, hear.) On this account it behoved them to be even more careful whom they admitted into their ranks. Considering that they were in a county whose staple industry—agriculture—had suffered most acutely for an unprecedented term of depression, he had been struck with wonder at the tenacity with which the lodges and chapters had carried out the true principles of the Craft, and whenever called upon had nobly come forward in support of the great Charities of the Order. They had no coal fields, iron fields, or other great industries to help them, but if wheat once more went up to 40s. a quarter he was sure that Freemasonry would share in agricultural prosperity. (Applause.) He was not well versed in the statistics of life insurance, but he thought when they considered they had most of them arrived at a time of life when they did not mind admitting that they were "middle-aged"—(laughter)—it was most satisfactory to find that the losses by death had only amounted to 3 per cent. It was a cause for thankfulness that they had been spared once more to meet at this annual gathering, which they all so much looked forward to—spared in good health and full of Masonic ardour—and he trusted that by the goodness of the Most High they should all meet again another year, and be able to congratulate themselves as they could that day on the peace and prosperity of R.A. Masonry in Essex. (Much applause.)

The companions then proceeded to the election of a Provincial Grand Treasurer, and Comp. Andrew Durrant was unanimously re-elected for the fourteenth time.

The Grand Superintendent then proceeded to appoint and invest his officers for the ensuing year as under:—

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------------------|
| Comp. J. H. Salter, M.E.Z. 1024 | ... | ... | Prov. G.H. |
| " H. French Bromhead, P.Z. 2501 | ... | ... | Prov. G.J. |
| " T. J. Ralling, P.Z. and S.E. 51, P.G.S.B. | ... | ... | |
| Eng. (14th year) | ... | ... | Prov. G.S.E. |
| " A. J. H. Ward, M.E.Z. 51 | ... | ... | Prov. G.S.N. |
| " G. T. Peall, I.P.Z. 2501 | ... | ... | Prov. G. Reg. |
| " Walter T. Christian, H. 453 | ... | ... | Prov. G.P.S. |
| " John Byford, M.E.Z. 2374 | ... | ... | Prov. 1st A.G.S. |
| " J. J. Briginshaw, I.P.Z. 2256 | ... | ... | Prov. 2nd A.G.S. |
| " C. Jolly, M.E.Z. 2184 | ... | ... | Prov. G.S.B. |
| " F. J. Cumine, H. 1000 | ... | ... | Prov. G. Std. Br. |
| " A. Lucking, P.Z., Treas. 1000, P.A.G.D.C. | ... | ... | |
| Eng. (14th year) | ... | ... | Prov. G.D.C. |
| " Thomas Ringrose, H. 2184 | ... | ... | Prov. A.G.D.C. |
| " G. E. Gratton, Org. 2501 | ... | ... | Prov. G. Org. |
| " H. J. Skingley, H. 51 | ... | ... | Prov. A.G.S.E. |
| " A. W. Martin | ... | ... | Prov. G. Janitor. |

Comp. F. A. WHITE said most of the companions were aware that the Management Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys had, after long and careful deliberation, decided to remove the School from Wood Green to a site, selected from amongst several, at Bushey, in Herts. The anxiety of the Board had been to obtain a site which was sufficiently in the country and yet easy of access from London, and in this, he thought, they had been eminently successful. Although the project had really been decided on, the hands of the Board would be materially strengthened if a favourable opinion was sent to them from a representative body like the present. He, therefore, begged to move—"This Provincial Grand Chapter desires to record its hearty approval of the decision of the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys to remove the School to a more healthy and suitable site at Bushey, Herts, and trusts that in its new home the School will attain to, if possible, greater prosperity than in the past."

Comp. H. E. DEHANE seconded the motion.

Comp. MILLNER JUTSUM said, whilst not wishing to introduce anything like discord into their happy meeting, he must dissent from the resolution. He thought that the removal was quite unnecessary. (Hear, hear.)

Comp. GEORGE CORBLE said he was one of two on the Board of Management who had dared to oppose the removal of the School. The resolution spoke of a more healthy site; if companions had noticed the reports of the medical officers they would find that the School had, owing to the care of the Board of recent years, shown a very clear bill of health. However, the majority of the Board differed from him, and he, as in duty bound, bowed to their decision; and he intended to do his best to help the Board in the task they had undertaken. (Hear, hear.) There was no doubt that it was a good site which had been secured.

The GRAND SUPERINTENDENT said as one of a Committee selected to inquire into the condition of the School some years ago he might say he believed that the feeling was unanimous with them that there were many objections to the present site, and that if the original promoters could have foreseen what had happened they would never have placed the School there. (Hear, hear.) The Committee of Investigation was a strong one; it embraced the late Bro. John Derby Allcroft, Bros. Sir Reginald Hanson; Samuel Pope, Q.C.; Malcolm, of Leeds; Coe Perkins, of Somerset; and Wylie, of Liverpool; and their inquiry was a most exhaustive one, and whilst he was glad to hear from Bro. Corble that the School could show a clean bill of health, he was bound to say that had not always been the case, for they found a low type of illness pervading the establishment. (Hear, hear.) It was well known that the School would celebrate its centenary in 1898, and no doubt the Board of Management of the Institution would appeal to the brethren to mark that period in some special way. Therefore he thought they had acted wisely in embracing the opportunity to put forward their scheme for the removal of the School. It must be borne in mind that the present Board took up the management at a time of trouble; that they had by their efforts raised the status of the School to its present position; and in reference to suggestions that had been made, he would say that he was sure the Craft would not wish to see the education of the sons of their brethren placed in the hands of others. (Hear, hear.) The School was maintained by Masons, and the brethren would demand that Masons only should have the control of it. (Applause.) The great Charitable Institutions of the Order were the outward and visible signs of the beneficent results of the working of the Order, and he trusted that they would continue to flourish. (Applause.)

The resolution was then put and carried *nem con.*

About 60 companions afterwards dined together at the Roebuck Hotel, under the genial presidency of the Grand Superintendent.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF EAST LANCASHIRE.

The half-yearly meeting of the above Provincial Grand Lodge was held in the Royal Technical Institute, Peel Park, Salford, on the 26th ultimo. The P.G.M., Bro. Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie, P.G.W. Eng., occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance of Present and Past Prov. Grand Officers, including—

Bros. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, D.P.G.M.; H. Smith, P.D.P.G.M. West Yorkshire; E. Ashworth, P.G.D., P.P.G.W.; J. Chadwick, P.G.S.B.; J. H. Sillitoe, P.G. Std. Br., P.P.G.W.; J. J. Meakin, P.P.S.G.W.; C. D. Cheetham, P.J. G.W.; the Rev. J. W. Challenor, P.G. Chap.; the Rev. J. A. Latham, P.G. Chap.; S. H. Shorrocks, P.G.T.; S. F. Butcher, P.G. Reg.; G. L. Vaughan, P.D.G.-Reg.; J. Newton, P.G. Sec.; S. Catlow, P.S.G.D.; H. J. Cutter, P.S.G.D.; C. S. Allott, P.S.G.D.; H. Lord, P.G. Supt. of Wks.; J. Beardmore, P.G.D.C.; Eli Winterbottom, P.G.D.C.; J. C. Whitham, P.A.G.D.C.; J. S. Horn, P.A.G.D.C.; H. Walmsley, P.A.G.D.C.; and others.

Prov. Grand Lodge having been opened, the roll of lodges of the province was called. There were only two lodges not represented, viz., Nos. 266 and 2193.

The minutes of the annual meeting held in May last were taken as read and confirmed.

Bro. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds was then presented to the P.G.M. by Bro. J. J. Meakin and installed D.P.G.M. by Bro. H. Smith, P.D.P.G.M. West Yorkshire, and the proclamation was read by Bro. J. BEARDMORE, P.G.D.C. The D.P.G.M. was then saluted in ancient form.

In accordance with the warrant from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, M.W.G.M., empowering P.G. Masters to bestow P.P.G. honours among the lodges of the various provinces to the extent of one honour to each 10 lodges, the P.G.M., who became entitled to distribute 11 such honours, then invested the following:

| | | |
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| Bro. R. Thompson, P.M. 2829 | ... | P. Prov. S.G.W. |
| " J. Kershaw, P.M. 300 | ... | P. Prov. J.G.W. |
| " George Kenyon, P.M. 1055 | ... | P. Prov. J.G.W. |
| " T. H. Schofield, P.M. 163 | ... | P. Prov. G. Reg. |
| " J. H. Wraith, P.M. 381 | ... | P. Prov. J.G.D. |
| " George Grant, W.M. 1504 | ... | P. Prov. J.G.D. |
| " John Preece, P.M. 1144 | ... | P. Prov. J.G.D. |
| " Richard Mottram, 1773 | ... | P. Prov. G.S.W. |
| " Buckley Carr, P.M. 1161 | ... | P. Prov. G.D.C. |
| " J. Sharrocks, P.M. 126 | ... | P. Prov. G.D.C. |
| " B. Lumb, P.M. 288 | ... | P. Prov. G. Std. Br. |

On the proposition of the P.G.M., seconded by the D.P.G.M., a vote of condolence to the family of the late Bro. George Mellor, P.D.P.G.M., was unanimously agreed to, and the P.G. Secretary was instructed to draw up a suitable letter conveying the same.

Bro. BESWICKE-ROYDS, the D.P.G.M., was then elected a trustee in the stead of the late Bro. George Mellor.

Bros. J. H. Lord, 274; W. Craven, 1633; and G. C. Goodfellow, 1030, were elected Auditors of the P.G. Treasurer's accounts.

The report of the Charity Committee was read and confirmed.

On the motion of Bro. BESWICKE-ROYDS, seconded by Bro. SILLITOE, it was resolved: "That by-law 22 be altered so as to provide that a copy

of every lodge summons issued shall be forwarded to the Dep. Provincial Grand Master as well as to the Provincial Grand Secretary."

On the motion of Bro. BESWICKE-ROYDS, seconded by Bro. T. J. HOOPER, and supported by Bro. Dr. SALT, it was resolved: "That the sum of £10 be granted from the P.G. Lodge funds towards the restoration of the monument in Littleborough churchyard, erected to the memory of Bro. Lawrence Newhall, a former D.P.G.M. of the province.

An invitation was received from Bolton to hold the next P.G. Lodge meeting at that town, which the P.G.M. said should receive due consideration.

The Prov. Grand Lodge was then closed.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

The annual meeting of the above Prov. Grand Lodge was held in the Assembly Rooms, Alnwick, on Tuesday afternoon, the 24th ultimo, when there was a very large attendance of brethren from the various lodges in the province. It is many years since the Prov. Grand Lodge met at Alnwick, and when it was known by the Alnwick brethren that the annual meeting would be under the banner of their lodge they determined to do their utmost to make the meeting a success. Arrangements were early in progress, and committees were formed for the purpose of carrying out the necessary details, which were most complete and perfect in every way, and gave great satisfaction to the assembled brethren. By the kind permission of Bro. Lord Percy, the Assembly Rooms were placed at the disposal of the lodge, and this, for the time being, was transformed into a Masonic Temple, additional space being acquired by the erection of a large marquee in the Market Place. The arrangements were all carried out under the supervision of the W.M. of the Alnwick Lodge, Bro. A. H. Henderson, and his officers, and proved most acceptable to all.

In the unavoidable absence of the Prov. G. Master, Bro. the Right Hon. Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., M.P., the chair was taken by the Deputy Prov. G.M., Bro. Alderman Richard Henry Holmes, P.G.D. Eng.

The Prov. G. Lodge having been opened in form, the acting P.G.M. announced the receipt of a letter and telegram from Sir Matthew White Ridley, P.G.M., who, he was sorry to say, was unable to be with them.

The telegram from the P.G.M. was as follows: "Hearty greeting to Provincial Grand Lodge, and sincere regrets. I cannot leave London. Express my profound disappointment.—Ridley." (Applause.)

Bro. A. E. Burdon, P.P.G.W., acted as Deputy P.G.M.

The various reports and the roll of lodges were given.

The appointment and investiture of the Past Provincial Grand Officers to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the installation of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as Grand Master, took place as follows: Bros. George A. Allan, 991, P.P.S.G.W.; Thomas J. Armstrong, 24, P.P.S.G.W.; and William Dorman, 406, P.P.S.G.D. (Applause.)

The following were appointed and invested as the Provincial Grand Officers for the ensuing year:

| | | |
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| Bro. Dr. Alex. J. Main, 1167 | ... | Prov. S.G.W. |
| " H. A. Peters, 393 | ... | Prov. J.G.W. |
| " Rev. Arthur Llewelyn Curry, 2497 | ... | Prov. G. Chap. |
| " Ralph Carr (re-elected) | ... | Prov. G. Treas. |
| " Thomas O. Robson, 2260 | ... | Prov. G. Reg. |
| " F. H. Corder, B.A. (re-appointed) | ... | Prov. G. Sec. |
| " Wm. Spicer, 1363 | ... | Prov. S.G.D. |
| " Isaac Black, 2327 | ... | Prov. J.G.D. |
| " John Tweedy, 659 | ... | Prov. G.S. of W. |
| " J. Straker Wilson (re-appointed) | ... | Prov. G.D.C. |
| " Frank Palmer, 685 | ... | Prov. A.G.D.C. |
| " Vincent L. Raven, 1427 | ... | Prov. G.S.B. |
| " John A. A. Armstrong, 1664 | ... | Prov. G. Std. Brs. |
| " Charlton | ... | Prov. A.G. Sec. |
| " R. W. Cummings, 431 | ... | Prov. G. Org. |
| " C. H. Sherlock, 1863 | ... | Prov. G. Purst. |
| " Thomas Appleby, 616 | ... | Prov. A.G. Purst. |
| " Edward Purvis, 1879 | ... | Prov. G. Tyler. |
| " Joshua Curry | ... | |

The Acting P.G.M., Bro. Ald. R. H. HOLMES, addressing Provincial Grand Lodge, made a fitting reference to the unavoidable absence of the P.G.M., Bro. Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., through the discharge of the duties of his high office which detained him in London. He was sure they all regretted his absence very much. (Applause.) He knew how deeply all the brethren of the province sympathised with their Prov. Grand Master and Lady Ridley in the lamented death of Miss Ridley during the past year. He had, on behalf of the Prov. Grand Master, to express to them all the sincere thanks of Lady Ridley and himself for the sympathy the brethren of the lodges of the province extended to them at the trying time of their great bereavement. The lodges in the province had sent their condolences, and the Newcastle and down-river lodges, the Carville, and at Tynemouth, had sent an address of condolence signed by the Masters of the several lodges. For all of these their esteemed Prov. Grand Master, Sir Matthew White Ridley, and Lady Ridley desired to thank them. It needed no words of his to express the deep attachment of the brethren to Sir Matthew and Lady Ridley and their family. (Applause.) During the past year they had also lost by death, among other brethren, Bro. Thomas Anderson, for many years Treasurer of the province, and Bro. Faraday Spence, a P.P.S.G.W. It was a source of satisfaction to them all that Masonry in the province was in a flourishing state, which he hoped would long continue. (Applause.) He mentioned that their next annual meeting would be held under the care of St. Peter's Lodge, No. 481, Newcastle. (Applause.)

The banquet was held in the Corn Exchange, where splendid and perfect arrangements had been made by Bro. W. T. Hindmarsh, P.M.

During the banquet a choice selection of music was splendidly played by Messrs. Robinson and Woodage's band.

The removal of the cloth was followed by the usual loyal and Masonic toasts, which in turn received due honours.

Interspersed between the toasts was an excellent programme of vocal music, consisting of glee, songs, &c., most acceptably performed by Bros. C. F. Moore, J.W.; G. W. Moore, Org.; A. Moir, Stwd.; R. B. Robson, J.D.; and D. Macaulay (Scotch pipes).

The banquet finished at 9.30, the whole affair having passed off most satisfactorily.

A large number of brethren were also entertained at the Star Hotel, where they were catered for by Bro. T. Horne in his well-known excellent style.

ANNUAL SUPPER OF THE EVENING STAR LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 1719.

The annual supper of the above lodge of instruction was held on Tuesday evening, the 24th ult., at St. George's Hall, Catford. Bro. James Speller, the Preceptor of the lodge, presided, and Bro. James Gibbs acted as Vice-Chairman. Among the other brethren present were Bros. R. A. Brangwin, C. Couchman, J. Coote, Roland Cook, F. Hughes, P.M.; J. H. Laing, P.M.; E. Richards, J. Roberts, J. W. Sanders, Walter Tyler, T. C. Ward, George W. Beste, W. Shurmur, H. E. Cockell, B. Bramble, Maunders, Alfred Dandridge, Spencer West, Harrett Dummett, C. Meiertoff, E. Croft Wise, H. Massey, N. Fortescue, R. Pierpoint, J. Fillman, F. Stephens, G. R. Hoare, W. H. Gardner, H. B. Brooman, Alfred Calk, J. H. Maunders, F. Humphreys, G. Ledson, F. Martin Hale, F. J. Holdsworth, A. Haynes, A. Featherstone, F. J. Hunsford, Edwin H. Oxenham, A. M. Ohren, H. Marshall, T. H. Ward, T. R. Roberts, F. Madge, H. Lewis, W. S. Hunter, M. Delman, O. Bruster, J. Eckford, E. Paul, R. Moarse, A. Reichenstein, H. Pynegar, W. Rayment Richards, J. H. Boston, A. Bollyeald, H. Blake, W. C. Brownfield, J. Ward, Robert Sarson, S. Reichenstein, John A. Laing, E. Dines, C. Weem, Alfred Maines, and Alfred Balfour.

The supper provided for the refreshment of the brethren was of a most bountiful description, and all the arrangements deserved the highest praise. In the course of the evening, Bro. Speller bestowed richly-deserved praise on Bros. Laing, the well-known florists of Catford, who had decorated the hall and tables with beautiful flowers and evergreens.

The toasts which followed the supper were interspersed with a musical and elocutionary entertainment by Bros. G. W. Beste, Alfred Dandridge, F. Stephens, H. E. Cockell, B. Bramble, Maunders, Spencer West, C. Couchman, and Aubrey Ohren, Bro. J. H. Maunders accompanying. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Bro. C. Spencer West.

Bro. W. SHURMUR, P.P.G. Treas. Essex, proposed "The Chairman," who, he said, was a P.P.G.D. Essex, and in him they had a notable example of what might be achieved by patience and industry. Bro. Speller was acknowledged as an authority on all the Degrees of Craft Masonry, and was recognised as an excellent Installing Master. Those brethren who had attained to the full crown and development in the career of a Master in the Royal Arch, and had had the privilege of hearing Bro. Speller, would acknowledge that he was a faithful exponent of that most beautiful of all Masonic ritual. They frequently saw brethren very diligent students of Freemasonry when they were approaching the chair, and regularly attending lodges of instruction, but after they had passed through their year of office, so far as lodges of instruction were concerned, they were conspicuous by their absence. That principle did not apply to Bro. Speller, because he had a love for Freemasonry, and was actuated by a desire to help any brother who wished to acquire sufficient Masonic knowledge to enable him intelligently to carry out any office which might be entrusted to him. The brethren of the Evening Star Lodge of Instruction were to be congratulated on having secured the services of such a thoroughly good Mason for their Preceptor. Bro. Speller did not content himself with working the ritual, but, like Dr. Primrose, practised that which he preached. He was a very liberal supporter of the Masonic eleemosynary Institutions, and had the right of wearing the tri-collar, which indicated that he was a Vice-Patron of all three Institutions, and that meant that he had contributed a minimum of 100 guineas to each. He (Bro. Shurmur) knew of no friend in the Masonic world whom he more respected than Bro. Speller; he had never heard any one speak one ill-word of Bro. Speller, and he was sure that the longer the brethren knew him the more they would appreciate him.

Bro. JAMES SPELLER, in reply said, Bro. Shurmur had said many kind words of him, some of which he did not think he deserved; but he confessed to being pleased to be connected with the Evening Star Lodge of Instruction. What slight duties he had to perform always came to him as a work of happiness and a labour of love, and he hoped he should be spared many years to keep in association with that lodge. He thanked both Bro. Shurmur and the brethren for the kindness they had evinced to him.

Bro. JAMES SPELLER, afterwards said the next toast was "The Evening Star Lodge of Instruction." If the members of that lodge were only asking for the good wishes for the success of the lodge they had that night by the good attendance had their reward. In speaking of this lodge of instruction it was very gratifying to have to announce that since the lodge had sprung into existence it had made wonderful leaps and bounds; more particularly they had noticed at their last two meetings what had been very encouraging. In the case of the brother, the hard working Secretary, the I.P.M. of the United Pilgrim Lodge he initiated and immediately got him to attend the Evening Star Lodge of Instruction. Here he became I.G., S. and J.D., and S. and J.W., ultimately reaching the W.M.'s chair. Although, that good brother had only been initiated six or seven months it was their happiness and privilege to listen to him work the ceremony of initiation in a most exemplary manner. Not only did he perform this ceremony but he delivered the Ancient Charge. A fortnight or three weeks ago a young member who had been recently initiated in a powerful lodge in Lewisham, was attending the Evening Star, and when the roll call was gone through one brother was absent. They asked the young brother whether he would work the Second Degree on the second Saturday of the month. He consented. He opened the lodge, asked the questions leading from the First to the Second Degree very satisfactorily, opened the lodge in the Second Degree, and to the great surprise of the brethren, rendered the passing in a very careful and painstaking manner. These facts were very encouraging.

Bro. G. W. BESTE, Secretary, responded, and said the successes narrated by Bro. Speller were enough to encourage any brother. The young brethren referred to would put many W.Ms. in their own lodges to the blush. So long as the Evening Star had young members coming forward ready to fill the chair the success of the Evening Star Lodge of Instruction must be assured.

Bro. JAMES SPELLER proposed "The Vice-Chairman." Unfortunately Bro. Gibbs was not present, but they had in his place Bro. Hunter, P.M., who was one of the founders of this lodge of instruction. Bro. Hunter was also one of the persevering brethren, who applied to have the sanction of Lodge No. 1719. Through appealing to Bro. Magnus Ohren, who was a good old Mason and a Grand Lodge Officer, he was successful, and the brethren owed him a debt of gratitude for meeting Saturday after Saturday.

Bro. HUNTER, in reply, said the lodge started in a very humble way indeed. He did not put himself forward as the originator of the scheme, but he looked round the table and saw so many distinguished brethren that he thought the Evening Star Lodge of Instruction might find in that circumstance encouragement to go forward. He was sorry Bro. Gibbs was not present. It really must have been illness that kept him away. Bro. Walter King was also absent, or he (Bro. Hunter) would not have been in the vice chair. The lodge started as a Masonic club, and P.Ms. would take any office that was going. So, as P.M., he was asked to take the chair. Of course he did it—in the First, Second, and Third Degrees. The next thing they had to do was to find a Preceptor after they got sanction to form the Evening Star Lodge of Instruction. They were very fortunate in finding Bro. Speller. As soon as they got him, all their troubles came to an end, and ever since all the brethren seemed to be very happy together. They hoped soon to work the Sections in addition to the ceremonies. He was really astonished to see so many distinguished Masons present, but he could say that from whatever part brethren came to them they would be always most happy to see them. As Bro. Speller had said, it was extremely encouraging to see young Masons come forward and do the work. The P.Ms. did not want to occupy the chair; they were only too glad to see the young members do the work, and they themselves only went in as a stop-gap.

Bro. R. PIERPOINT, P.M. 749, in responding to the toast of "The Visitors," said it was a pleasure to him to be present, and also a privilege. It was a privilege also to be called upon as one of the visitors to say a few words. They would, however, be very few, but they were from the heart. He had wintered and summered with Bro. Speller sixteen years; he had met him in Masonry in many lodges but he had never spent a more pleasant evening than that. To see Bro. Speller in the position of President was a pleasure; the next was to see the many faces familiar in other spheres, but whom before he did not know to be Masons. Bro. Speller took it as a great compliment to see such a representative body of the Craft assembled under his banner. He (Bro. Pierpoint) had always had pleasure in attending lodges of instruction—not so much perhaps of late years since he had passed the chair, as Bro. Shurmur had said—for he was not now quite so active as he used to be. But he would say it was lodges of instruction that made brethren able to work and do their duty with credit to his lodge and himself and the Craft generally. No brother who joined the Evening Star Lodge would ever regret it. The worthy President had provided them with a good repast. In his (Bro. Pierpoint's) mother lodge they had three full and three off nights, but the supper nights were the most enjoyable. Many Metropolitan lodges had lodges of instruction working under their banner, and the brethren of the mother lodges knew hardly anything about them. Of the lodge he belonged to over 20 years, he ventured to think there was not a fourth of the members knew there was a lodge of instruction in existence working under it. He thought it his duty when he was W.M. to visit that lodge of instruction to see how it was getting on. He went with his officers to the Surrey Masonic Hall, the officers of the evening vacated their chairs, and he and his officers presided. In the end he invited the brethren to the mother lodge; they accepted the invitation, and the consequence was that it established and cemented a brotherly feeling between the mother lodge and the lodge of instruction which had existed up to the present day.

Bros. BLAKE, HAINES, CAINK, FEATHERSTONE, and HOLDSWORTH also replied.

The toasts of "The Musical Brethren" and "The Stewards" followed before the brethren separated.

ANNUAL SUPPER OF THE ST. JOHN'S LODGE OF INSTRUCTION, No. 167.

On Thursday evening, the 19th ult., this well-known and highly successful lodge of instruction held its annual meeting and banquet at the Court House, Harlesden, when there was a goodly array of brethren present, including Bros. William Mason Stiles, P.M. 1807, P.G. Treas.; J. M. McLeod, P.M., P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.; Hillier, P.M. 1366 and 2090; C. Penny, P.M. 1637, Treas.; F. S. Priest, W.M. 1637, Secretary; W. B. Neville, P.M. 1767, and Stephen Hussey, P.M. 1637, Stwds.; Arthur Williams, P.M. 2090 and 834; W. Roche Playford, P.M. 1608; W. R. Hatton, P.M. 2246; W. C. Tebitt, P.M. 2045; George Hayford, I.P.M. 2045; E. J. Davis, R.M. 120; Robert Hendry, P.M. 1767; W. Dresden, P.M. 1602; M. Rosenberg, P.M. 1425; Henry Foale, P.M. 1767 and 1642; C. Ortnier, Coomber, Richardson, J. Cohen, George Brown, P. D. Miller, A. J. Clayton, Jennings, S. Jones, Dr. Alf. Jones, J. T. Fripp, H. Cross, W. H. Thomas, Thomas Parker, Arthur Jones, George Chapman, T. G. Playford, Pendon, Hiscock, Moore, Woods, Battrum, Catt, J. Bonney, Poole, Coleman, Moss, and Jesse Smith.

Previous to the banquet, Bro. Hillier, P.M., worked the ceremony of installation, and duly installed Bro. Stephen Hussey, who appointed and invested his officers, after which Bro. Hillier gave the addresses in a very able and impressive manner.

The banquet was served in the fine large Court Room, and the loyal toasts of "The Queen" and "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales" were duly honoured.

The toast of "The Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," was replied to by Bro. Mason Stiles, P.M., P.G. Treas., in a very able and appropriate manner.

The toast of "The Chairman and Installing Master" was proposed by Bro. ARTHUR WILLIAMS, P.M.

Bro. W. HILLIER responded.

The toast of "The Masonic Charities" was acknowledged by Bro. J. M. McLEOD, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B., who set forth the claims of the three Institutions in a most able manner, sincerely thanking the brethren for the noble work they had done in the past in so liberally supporting the Institutions, which in three years amounted to no less a sum than about £290, and trusted the same generosity might be bestowed upon them in the future, and closed a most eloquent speech with an appeal for Stewards for the forthcoming Boys' School Festival.

The toast of "Success to St. John's Lodge of Instruction" was proposed by Bro. J. M. McLEOD, P.G.S.B., Sec. R.M.I.B.

The toast was acknowledged by Bro. W. ROCHE-PLAYFORD, P.M., and the SECRETARY.

The toast of "The Treasurer and Stewards" was responded to by Bros. C. PENNY, P.M., Treas.; NEVILLE, P.M., and HUSSEY, P.M., Stewards; and Bro. G. CHAPMAN, the popular Secretary of St. John's Benevolent Association.

The musical arrangements were of high-class character. Bro. C. Ortnier rendered in his usual manner "The queen of the earth" and "The Bedouin's love song;" Bro. Henry Cross gave two excellent songs—"True till death," and "Mary of Audley Gray;" Madame Eliza Thomas Rack, "Little Johnnie Porter" and another excellent song; Mrs. Henry Cross, "Daddy" and "She

were a wreath of roses;" Bro. G. Brown, "The star of Bethlehem;" Bro. G. Chapman, "Thy sentinel;" Bro. Stephen Hussey, the grand old song entitled "Old folks at home;" while Bro. Tebbin sang "God bless the Prince of Wales."

Bro. C. Winterbourne, R.C.M., acted as accompanist in his usual excellent style, and a most successful and enjoyable evening was brought to a close with the Tyler's toast, and with the earnest hope that the lodge of instruction has entered upon a year of renewed prosperity and success.

The meetings are held every Thursday evening at 7.30, at the Court House, Harlesden, close to Willesden Junction Station, when brethren wishing to join will receive a hearty welcome.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

Success of a pronounced character still attends the Examinations that the pupils of this well-ordered School are subjected to. Eleven were entered recently for the Examination in Practical Music of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and Royal College of Music, with the following gratifying and most satisfactory result:

SENIOR EXAMINATION—FIVE PASSED—Gwendoline Robson (Honours), Constance Green, Ethel Davis, Mabel Messenger, and Muriel Smith.

JUNIOR EXAMINATION—SIX PASSED—Beatrice Turner (Honours), Dorothy Dean, Gladys Jones, Eliza Pether, Jessie Richards, and Marguerite Hickman.

REMOVAL OF THE BOYS' SCHOOL.

We have received and have much pleasure in publishing the following letters to the Secretary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys:

9, St. George's Place, Brighton,
November 29, 1896.

Dear Bro. McLeod,

At the meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex on Wednesday last, on the recommendation of the Board of Finance and of General Purposes, the following resolution was approved:

"Your Board desires to express its entire confidence in the brethren who constitute the Managing Committee of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, and feels sure that a removal of the School would never have been contemplated unless such removal was absolutely imperative."

Yours truly,
(Signed) V. P. FREEMAN.

Wincock Lodge, Colchester,
30th November, 1896.

J. M. McLeod, Esq.,
Sec. Boys' School.

Dear Sir and Companion,—

At the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Essex, held at Buckhurst Hill on Saturday last, the subjoined resolution was proposed by Ex. Comp. F. A. White, P.Z. 1437, P.P.G.J., seconded by Ex. Comp. H. E. Dehane, M.E.Z. 276, P.P.G.P.S., and carried *nem. con.*

Two companions spoke against the resolution, but no hands were held up in opposition.

I am, dear Sir and Companion,

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

(Signed) THOS. RALLING, Prov. G.S.E.

"This Provincial Grand Chapter desires to record the hearty approval of the decision of the Board of Management of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys to remove the School to a more healthy and suitable site at Bushey, Herts, and trusts that in its new home the School will attain to, if possible, greater prosperity than in the past."

Craft Masonry.

Sphinx Lodge, No. 1329.

The installation meeting of this far-famed South London lodge was held at the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, on Saturday, the 21st ult. Present: Bros. G. J. Allen, W.M.; R. Elgar, S.W., W.M. elect; W. G. Andrews, J.W.; Wm. Andrews, sen., Treas.; R. J. Voisey, P.M., Sec.; G. R. Scivyn, S.D.; B. T. Whitehead, J.D.; R. J. Pitt, Org.; H. W. Phillips and E. A. Carter, Stwds.; Perceval A. Nairne, P.G.D., D.C.; G. Harrison, Tyler; J. Hernaman, P.M.; Thos. E. Webb, P.M.; Chas. Wilson, P.M.; David D. Mercer, P.G.P.; S. H. Goldschmidt, P.M.; Jas. A. Thornhill, P.M.; J. C. Reynolds, P.M.; H. Falkner, W. J. Falkner, C. E. Jones, W. T. Snell, M. Tooley, A. J. Morris, H. King, E. Young, Wm. Hock, J. Shuttle, F. S. Sutter, A. E. Mallinson, T. Bain, W. J. Vaughan, W. H. Webb, E. J. Sewel, J. W. Bell, C. Murns, Wm. Allard, sen., Wm. Allard, jun., C. Wheeler, and W. Fath. The visitors were Bros. W. J. Day, 1790; J. A. Anderson, S.D. 1818; F. Lewis, Org. 2147; J. W. Green, 498 Japan (S.C.); J. Cooper, 1815; W. Simmonds, Stwd. 1922; W. D. Haywood, W.M. 296; Thos. Wm. Gay, P.M. 1901; W. T. Knight, P.M. 445, Prov. J.G.W. Norths; David Rose, P.M. 73; Thos. Nettleship, W.M. 1641; E. Gauntlett, P.M. late 1901; W. G. Cannon, Prov. G. Std. Br. Bucks; J. Loader, P.M. 1622; Vin T. Murché, P.M. 2513; J. C. Osterstock, P.M. 1185; W. Briant, S.W., W.M. elect 1641; R. C. Kline, W.M. 2266; E. Greville, 1641; E. G. Feild, Sec. 1362; T. R. Cass, P.M. 1320; J. J. White, P.M. and Sec. 2513; J. W. Folkard, P.M. 2345; R. C. Davis, P.M. 2236; Thos. Grumant, P.M. and Sec. 1559; Jas. Addington, P.M. 217; G. W. Townsend, 700; J. Nowa Kowski, P.M. 534; J. T. Galloway, 1598; Louis Achard; R. W. Bennis, I.P.M. 749; E. A. Rice, S.W. 1320; R. Trill, P.M. 1320; A. Andrews, 534; P. Noble, 1706; A. C. Doughty, S.W. 1287; and S. P. Edwin, 1815.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Bros. W. J. and H. Falkner were passed and Mr. Edwin J. Sewel, for whom a ballot was taken, which proved unanimous, was duly initiated by the W.M. in a very creditable manner. Bro. R. Elgar, S.W., W.M. elect, was presented by Bro. R. J. Voisey, P.M., to the W.M., to receive at his hands the benefit of installation, who addressed the brethren and obligated the W.M. elect. A large Board of Installed Masters, to the number of 37, was formed, and Bro. Robert Elgar installed into the chair of K.S. in a most impressive and faultless manner by Bro. R. J. Voisey, P.M., who also rehearsed the three addresses perfectly. The new W.M. invested his officers very commendably as follows: Bros. G. J. Allen, I.P.M.; W. Y. Andrews, S.W.; C. R. Scriven, P.M.; J. W.; W. Andrews, Treas.; R. J. Voisey, P.M., Sec.; B. T. Whitehead, S.D.; G. Coote, J.D.; P. A. Nairne, P.G.D., D.C.; W. D. Edwards, I.G.; H. W. Phillips, E. C. Jones, and W. T. Snell, A.D.C., Stewards; Robert J. Pitt, L.R.A.M., Org.; and G. Harrison, Tyler. Bro. R. Elgar, W.M., then rose and, in very becoming terms, presented, in the name of the lodge, the handsome Past Master's jewel to Bro. G. J. Allen, I.P.M., who most cordially and suitably replied. The Auditors presented

their report, which was received and adopted, showing the lodge to be financially sound. Bro. R. J. Voisey, P.M., next moved—"That the sum of five guineas be voted from the Charity funds, and placed upon the W.M.'s list as Steward to the forthcoming Festival of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution." This was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Lodge closed, the brethren adjourned to an excellent banquet, provided by Mrs. Venables in her customary superb style.

The cloth removed, the W.M. presented the toast of "Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen and the Craft" in most befitting terms, dilating on her excellences, longest, illustrious, and beneficent reign.

In giving "The M.W.G.M., H.R.H. the Prince of Wales," the W.M. stated his Royal Highness was a most ardent worker, taking a deep interest in the Craft, and observed that whatever form the commemoration of the 60th year of the reign of her Majesty took, he had no doubt but that their Grand Master would be taking a most active part.

The toasts were drunk most loyally.

The toast of "The Pro G.M., D.G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," the W.M. remarked, was one deserving their hearty thanks for their zeal and energy bestowed on behalf of the cause of Freemasonry. The Sphinx Lodge was indeed proud to have as members two such valued and esteemed brethren as Bro. Nairne, P.G.D.—a member for 26 years—and also Bro. D. D. Mercer—a member for over 20 years. In those two Grand Officers the Craft had greatly benefited by their valuable services, and many a widow, the fatherless, and decayed brethren had cause to be deeply grateful to Bro. Nairne for his noble work for their noble Institutions. The lodge was honoured indeed by having two such estimable brethren as its members.

The toast was drunk most cordially.

In reply, Bro. Nairne said he was only too glad to reply for the Grand Officers, as they had every confidence in their leaders, who carried out their various duties with thorough efficiency. There were few, if any, that did so more than Bro. Mercer, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Benevolence. He was indeed honoured in being the father of the lodge, in which he should take pride as long as he lived. The day preceding he had celebrated the thirty-fourth anniversary of his being a Freemason, of which also he was proud, and the initiate had just congratulated him upon such an event, and also wished him another thirty-four years. That of course he could not look for, but still he could hope for it. So long as the Great Architect gave him health and strength he should hope to continue in the Sphinx Lodge, and he would also thank the brethren for the great kindness always shown him.

Bro. Mercer stated that he had been very busily engaged indeed, but still he loved it, and felt it a great honour to be so employed, which he did not mind in the least. He, too, was very proud to be coupled with the Grand Officers, and he would thank Bro. Nairne for his very kind remarks towards him, which work was certainly dearest to his heart.

Bro. Allen, P.M., next presented what he considered the toast of the evening, that of "The Worshipful Master, Bro. Robert Elgar," which he said would be received with acclamation by every member of the Sphinx Lodge. All knew his estimable worth, and the manner he had discharged his duties already was a convincing proof. His work in the lodge for several years as its Secretary was unique, and when appointed S.W. the duties had been carried out faultlessly. He was resolved in his own mind that at the end of the year the one universal remark would be that he was one of the best Masters in the Sphinx Lodge.

Bro. Elgar, W.M., who, on rising, received quite an ovation, said he thanked the I.P.M. for his most flattering remarks in proposing it and the approbation with which it was received by the brethren. It was indeed a great honour to be W.M. of such a lodge, and he was proud of being its twenty-seventh Master. He had looked forward and worked most anxiously for the last twelve years to attain to the position, and it was his resolve to discharge his duties with credit to himself and their satisfaction. He hoped at the end of his year of office it would be said he had filled the chair with the same lustre, brilliancy, and honour as the 26 Masters who had preceded him, and if that had been accomplished he should be more than grateful.

The toast of "Installing Master, Bro. R. J. Voisey, P.M.," was next proposed by the W.M., who stated the intense pleasure it gave him to be installed by such an esteemed friend. Ever since he (the W.M.) was initiated Bro. Voisey had watched over him and assisted him to the fullest degree. All had been delighted with his rendering of the beautiful ceremony and it was the earnest desire of the brethren that he might live for many years as member of the Sphinx Lodge, and assist in discharging the duties in the future as heretofore, for all highly appreciated his services and admired him.

Bro. Voisey, in reply, said he was much obliged for the kind reception of the toast, and he was very glad to earn their approbation, but he thought while he was praised for the ceremony of installation, it would have been rehearsed better by Bros. Nairne or Allen, I.P.M. However, he was very proud indeed of installing the W.M., one of his closest friends, who had been one of the most successful scholars that had placed themselves under his tuition. He had had many scholars who had made good Masters, and the present he was convinced would be no exception. He most heartily thanked the brethren for such a cordial greeting.

The W.M. next presented the toast of "The Initiate" in commendable terms having been introduced by the esteemed Bros. J. Hernaman, P.M., and R. J. Voisey, P.M.

Bro. E. J. Sewel, in reply, said he thanked his sponsors for their kind introduction. He knew nothing at present, but had been deeply impressed with the beautiful ritual, and was indeed doubly proud of belonging to such a great Fraternity with such beautiful sentiments, and trusted he should prove as worthy a brother as any could wish.

The toast of "The Visitors" was most ably and forcibly given by the W.M., giving a hearty welcome to them, and also for the honour bestowed upon the lodge by the presence of so many distinguished brethren.

This was most pertinently responded to by Bros. T. Nettleship, W.M. 1641; W. D. Haywood, W.M. 2096; R. C. Klyne, W.M. 2266; W. T. Knight, Prov. J.G.W. (Northumberland); W. G. Cannon, Prov. G. Std. Br. Bucks; and J. W. Green, 498 (Japan).

The toast of "The Past Masters" received at the hands of the Worshipful Master its just meed of praise, and was duly responded to by Bro. J. G. Allen, I.P.M.

The Worshipful Master having given "The Officers," which was replied to by Bro. W. G. Andrews, S.W., the Tyler's toast closed a very happy and eventful evening.

An excellent programme of music was arranged by Bro. R. J. Pitt, L.R.A.M., ably assisted by The Uteperan Quartette, Miss Annie Swinfen, Miss Annie Wilson, Bros. Ager Grover, Mr. Musgrove Tufnail, Noble, and S. P. Edwin. Miss A. Wilkin and Bro. R. J. Pitt ably presided at the piano.

Addiscombe Lodge, No. 1556.

The installation meeting of this lodge was held at the Public Hall, Croydon, on Saturday, the 14th ultimo. Upwards of 70 of the brethren attended, and the gathering was rendered unique by the fact that the outgoing Mayor of Croydon (Bro. F. T. Edridge) was raised and the incoming Mayor (Mr. Martin Luther Moss) was initiated on the occasion. Present: Bros. Sydney G. Edridge, P.M. 538, P.J.G.W., W.M.; A. Young Hyland, W.M. elect, S.W.; John N. Newnham, J.W.; Dr. H. G. Thompson, P.M., P.P.G.W., Treas.; A. Lambert, P.M., P.P.G.D., Sec.; Joseph Harrison, G. Stwd. Eng., S.D.; Alfred Pusy Keith, I.G.; W. H. Lascelles, D.C.; R. E. Grundy, Stwd.; John Chumley, P.M., P.P.G.D.; W. G. Fenn, P.M., P.P.G.D.; Dr. S. Parsons Smith, P.M., P.P.G.D.; Henry Burgess, P.M., P.P.G.S.; F. T. Edridge (Deputy Mayor of Croydon); L. A. Richardson, I.P.M. 157; J. J. Allen, T. W. Dobson, John Ains, J. Stovell, Geo. Frisch, H. Berney, J. Lascelles, A. C. Oswald, E. Mawdesley (Town Clerk of Croydon), Dr. J. L. Webster, and S. A. Ransom. Visitors: Bros. F. West, Dep. P.G.M.; Chas. T. Tyler, P.M. 1395, Prov. G. Sec.; A. T. Layton, P.G.S. Eng.; Fred. Foss, P.M. 1556; W. J. Day, P.M. 1790; Wm. Gunner, P.M. 1720; Richd. Durnell, P.M. 1223; W. Liddall, P.M. 157; W. P. Wilton, W.M. 47; E. W. Nightingale, P.M. 87; Dr. Walter Grippar, P.M. 1826, P.S.G.D.; Walter Hammond, 709; F. Fehr, 172; R. O. Hearson, P.M. 1475, P.P.G.P. Bedfordshire; Dr. T. R. Adams, P.M. 63; S. L. Rymer, 1616; F. S. Long, P.M. 484; G. Rawlinson, P.M. 1657; W. A. Hayward, P.M. 2096; C. W. Noehmer, P.M. 238; and many others.

The lodge having been opened, Bros. F. T. Edridge and A. C. Oswald were raised to the Degree of M.M., and Mr. Martin Luther Moss (Mayor of Croydon) was initiated by the W.M., Bro. Sydney Edridge, P.M., P.J.G.W., in a very impressive manner. Bro. A. Young Hyland, S.W., W.M. elect, was then presented to the W.M. to receive at his hands the benefit of installation, and the ceremony was admirably performed, the beautiful charges being well rendered. The newly-installed Master then

invested his officers as follows: Bros. S. Edridge, I.P.M.; J. M. Newnam, S.W.; J. Harrison, J.W.; Dr. H. G. Thompson, Treas.; Alfreed Lambert, Sec.; A. Pusey Keith, S.D.; W. H. Lascelles, J.D.; R. F. Grundy, I.G.; J. A. Stovell, D.C.; S. A. Ransom, Stwd.; and T. Bowler, Tyler.

The W.M. presented his banner to the lodge, and then a jewel to the I.P.M. in a few chosen words, after which the lodge was closed.

At the conclusion of the banquet which followed, the usual loyal toasts were duly proposed and responded to.

The W.M. then proposed "The Health of the R.W. Prov. G.M., Bro. the Earl of Onslow, G.C.M.G., and the W. Bro. West, P.G.D., Dep. Prov. G.M.," in eulogistic terms.

Bro. West, in responding, expressed his regret at the absence of the Prov. Grand Master, and, in thanking the brethren, he said he was glad to see around him so many distinguished members. The Addiscombe Lodge appeared to him to be a very fair recruiting ground for the province, and he must add that no one more deserved the honour recently conferred upon him than their late W.M., Bro. Edridge, not only for the excellent way he did the ritual, but also for his Charity and hospitality. He also had initiated that evening a second Chief Magistrate of Croydon.

Bro. Chas. T. Tyler, P.M., Prov. G. Sec., regretted that he had not attended that lodge until its 21st birthday, but he wished it every prosperity, and from the banners he saw around that hall and the list of P.M.'s, he was sure that future W.M.s. would emulate their predecessors.

Bro. S. Edridge, I.P.M., then proposed the toast of "The Worshipful Master," and in doing so wished him God-speed and plenty of work to do during his year of office, also assuring him of the loyal support of the members of the Addiscombe Lodge.

The W.M., in returning thanks, said that he felt very proud of the honour conferred upon him by the confidence the brethren had reposed in him, without which he would never have accepted the office.

The I.P.M. next proposed the toast of "The Initiate," which had been entrusted to him, and said that every great tree required renewing sap from time to time—the sap was new blood to infuse into our constitutions, new recruits for it. In their Mayor they had one whom they appreciated, and who would doubtless do honour to the lodge and to all the Masonic Institutions.

The Mayor (Bro. Martin Luther Moss) replied: You will not expect a speech. My experience so far in Masonry is very slight. However, I have reverence for the Craft, and hope to come up to some of the expectations expressed by the I.P.M. Therefore you will perhaps permit me to express my opinions more clearly on a future occasion.

The W.M., in proposing "The Health of the Past Masters," stated that no W.M. could have done more for the Craft than had Bro. Edridge—his hospitality had been unbounded. On the occasion of the recent visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales, he did not forget "the Old People," he gave them the opportunity of comfortably viewing the M.W.G.M.'s and his gracious Consort, and not only this, he provided them with good cheer, and later on in the evening a tea and entertainment in their own Institution; all admired the kindly way in which it was done. Then, they knew what he had done for the lodge, the increase in its members and its funds. Might he live many years and never see a decrease! In conclusion he coupled the toast with the names of Bros. Chumley, P.M. and Dr. Parsons Smith, P.M.

The I.P.M., in returning thanks, said you have heard me so often that I must now be silent, but my silence must not be taken as any want of interest.

Bro. Chumley, P.M., said his best services were always at the disposal of the Addiscombe Lodge.

Bro. Dr. Parsons Smith, P.M. said that as one of the founders and the oldest P.M., he believed he had attended every installation of the Addiscombe Lodge. From small beginnings in early days it had gone on and prospered and was worthy of being in the front rank of Masonry. He was sure that those of the fossils who were left would always be ready to fill a gap if required.

The toast of "The Visitors" was replied to by Bros. Rymer and Hammond in suitable terms.

The Secretary, Bro. A. Lambert, who is evidently extremely popular stated in reply to his health being proposed that he could only thank them heartily and assure them that although the work was tenfold heavier than when he took the office, he meant sticking to it; his services were a labour of love.

The Tyler's toast terminated a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Eccleston Lodge, No. 1624.

The installation meeting of this prosperous lodge was held at the Criterion on Wednesday, the 18th ult. There was a large attendance of members and visitors as follows: Bros. W. B. Pugh, W.M.; F. Arnold, I.P.M.; Thomas Salter, S.W. W.M. elect; T. Smith, J. W. Isaac Isaacs, P.M., Treasurer; A. J. Beckham, P.M., Sec.; Geo. Lane, S.D.; W. E. Lane, J.D.; E. J. Baddale, I.G.; C. Taylor, P.M., D.C.; J. Leigh, Org.; W. J. Hellyar, A.D.C.; T. Shepherd, Tyler; R. Biddle, P.M.; A. J. Bignold, P.M.; W. Weston, P.M.; E. G. Hooper, P.M.; F. Chilcott, R. B. Hannart, F. W. Middleditch, W. J. Barnes, J. Perry, James Cooper, A. W. Deacon, W. J. Norman, C. King, P. Baker, E. Nice, J. N. Dawson, Charles Naylor, P.P.G.S.W. Jersey; J. C. Rouse, J. H. Parry, Geo. Raisen, C. J. Poppett, J. Craigen, C. P. Wyatt, C. Watkins, J. Morris, C. Arnold, H. Cuff, Geo. Messenger, J. W. Lincker, Seth Bull, Geo. Charlton, A. Denore, E. Wilcox, John Jones, and W. Follett; Prof. F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M. 45; John Wade, J.W. 860; J. W. Simeons, J.D. 103; J. A. Battersby, 1767; Hy. Full, 742; E. Powell, P.M. 1024; E. Newland, P.M. 834; J. R. Cleave, P.G.J.D., Surrey, 2473; W. H. Butler, 1687; Thos. Prior, P.M. 765; G. Spice, S.D. 103; E. D. Crouch, P.M. 857; C. Woodrow, P.M. 1708; F. B. Baxter, P.M. 1216; H. G. Holland, W.M. 2054; E. R. Painter, 766; A. Barrett, 2550; A. W. Jones, 1216; G. Scannan, 1287; G. T. Finlay, W.M. 1623; R. H. Burnham; H. E. Herman, I.P.M. 2501; and Jas. Connah, Org. 2425.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Bro. T. Salter, S.W. and W.M. elect was presented by Bro. Taylor, P.M., D.C., and was installed in a most admirable manner by Bro. F. Arnold, I.P.M. The investiture of officers then took place as follows: Bros. W. B. Pugh, I.P.M.; T. Smith, S.W.; Geo. Lane, J.W.; Isaac Isaacs, P.M., Treas.; A. J. Beckham, P.M., Sec.; W. E. Lane, S.D.; E. J. Baddale, J.D.; W. J. Hellyar, P.M., I.G.; C. Taylor, P.M., D.C.; J. Leigh, Org.; J. Whalen, A.D.C.; J. Craigen and A. W. Deacon, Stewards; T. Shepherd, Tyler; and E. Nice, Asst. Tyler. The three addresses by the Installing Master were delivered in masterly style, and received the warm approbation of the brethren.

The lodge was closed, and the brethren adjourned to the Victoria Hall, where an excellent banquet was provided.

The usual loyal toasts were given and heartily responded to by the brethren.

"The M.W. Pro G.M., the Deputy G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," was ably and tersely put by the W.M., who said their services were too well known and appreciated by Freemasons to require any eulogiums on his part.

The toast was duly honoured.

The I.P.M. gave the toast of the evening—"The Health of the W.M." In the course of his remarks, he said that the lodge was indeed proud of their new and highly esteemed W.M. Upon strong pressure being brought to bear upon him, he had consented at his advanced age to undertake the arduous and important duties of his important office. His high qualifications, experience, and energy—an example to the younger brethren—were well known and appreciated by all. In the name of the lodge, he wished him a happy and prosperous year of office, with plenty of work, which he would undoubtedly accomplish most successfully. He begged to assure him, as I.P.M., of his sincere respect and admiration.

The toast was most enthusiastically received.

The W.M., in reply, said he heartily thanked the I.P.M. and the brethren for the warm expressions of their regard. He had, in fact, at first doubted whether he ought to undertake the dignified post that had been assigned to him, feeling that he ought to retire in favour of a younger man, but he was so strongly urged by the Past Masters, and the influential brethren of the lodge, that he yielded to their solicitations, and consented to become their W.M. for the ensuing year. He could assure the brethren that their unanimous kindness was fully appreciated by him, and should his present good health be maintained, he would do his utmost to justify the choice they had made. The W.M. then said that it was a pleasing duty to him to present the Past Master's jewel voted by the lodge to the I.P.M., and trusted that that mark of appreciation of his services would be for many years worn by him. He gave his health in a few well-chosen words.

The I.P.M. replied, thanking the brethren for the honour conferred upon him.

The next toast was that of "The Installing Master," coupled with the Past Masters of the lodge. The W.M. said that he was sure that the way in which the Installing Master performed his duty, must have been highly appreciated by all present. As to the Past Masters, their services were too well-known to all for any needless details.

The toast was well received and responded to by the I.P.M. and the Past Masters. Then came "The Visitors," "The Treasurer and Secretary," and "The Officers," all of which received merited honour, and were duly acknowledged.

The Tyler's toast terminated this brilliant and successful meeting.

The musical entertainment was under the direction of the Organist, Bro. J. Leigh. The artistes were Miss Spells, Bros. Webb, T. Best-Folkes, and Prof. F. W. Driver, who recited an original poem. The accompanist was Bro. F. Kinke.

Earl of Carnarvon Lodge, No. 1641.

The installation meeting of this important lodge was held on Thursday, 12th ult., at Ladbrooke Hall, Notting Hill, W., in the presence of a goodly number of members and visitors as follows: Bros. J. M. Huish, W.M.; J. H. Rutherglen, I.P.M.; H. Foskett, S.W.; J. French, J.W.; S. H. Parkhouse, P.M., Treasurer; R. C. Green, P.M., Secretary; E. M. Lander, P.M., D.C.; W. H. Wadham, S.D.; W. R. Hatton, P.M., J.D.; J. S. Adkins, P.M., P.P.G.R. Wales, I.G.; C. A. Sanger, Organist; H. Hart, A.D.C.; W. H. Handover, and S. Ransom, Stewards; John Bull, Tyler; Dr. Pocock, P.G.D.C.; J. Woodmason, P.D.G.D.C. Middlesex, P.M.; E. Rogers, P.G. Stwd., P.M.; G. Davies, P.M.; H. Holmes, P.G.D. Herts., P.M.; Dr. O. W. Roberts, Hy. Dallaway, Dr. Forbes Ross, J. P. Williams, T. H. Chocque, P. D. Mullen, Edward Lee, Tilney Rising, B.A., E. W. Beard, F. T. Chinchin, W. C. Elms, G. Fuelling, J. W. Ingledew, C. J. Bush, H. Armfield, Fredk. King, Thos. Gray, G. W. Passingham, Dr. Searson, W. A. Thomson, Leslie Sandring, T. K. Bennett and Herbert Jones. Visitors: Bros. W. J. Mason, 1328, P.P.G.D. Surrey; Prof. F. W. Driver, M.A., P.M. 45, P.Z. 742; W. S. Hatton, J.W. 2246; H. Hatton, 2246; G. Briggs, P.M. 1572, P.Z.; W. J. Millington, W.M. 2246; G. English, J.W. 901; David Hills, W.M. 185; E. Edwards, 1891; J. Gillingham, P.M. 1238; Geo. Britton, P.M. 22; W. B. Neville, P.M. 1769; Jubal Webb, P.M. 55; F. L. Chandler, P.P.G. Purst., P.M. 1749; J. Leonard, De Goode Hoop, Cape Town, S. Africa; Wm. Chambers Leete, 1974; E. E. Hodgkins, 907; W. G. Holland, S.W. 2593; F. G. Fullings, 1679; Wm. Bragg, 2361; H. J. Dyer, 1365; H. Curlice, 1733; Thos. Barnes, 1963; W. J. Stratton, P.M. 753; W. Middlewick, 1793; and Aubrey Garston, 18.

The lodge was opened and the minutes were read and confirmed. Dr. Forbes Ross was passed to the degree of F.C., by the W.M. The W.M. elect, Bro. H. Foskett, S.W., was then installed by Bro. S. H. Parkhouse, Treasurer, in a most impressive manner, after which the following officers were appointed: Bros. J. M. Huish, I.P.M.; John French, S.W.; W. R. Hatton, J.W.; S. H. Parkhouse, P.M., Treasurer; Reuben C. Green, P.M., Secretary; H. Hart, S.D.; W. H. Handover, J.D.; E. M. Lander, P.M., D.C.; H. Holmes, P.M., A.D.C.; C. A. Sanger, Organist; S. Ransom, I.G.; S. K. Bennett and Dr. O. W. Roberts, Stewards; and John Bull, Tyler. The addresses which were splendidly delivered were given by Bros. Parkhouse, Rutherglen, and Davies.

The lodge was then closed. The efficiency of the officers and the thorough manner in which the minute details of the working were carried out deserved high commendation.

The banquet was excellent, and was partaken of in the large hall, under the genial presidency of the W.M.

The usual loyal toasts of "The Queen and the Craft" and "The Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; the Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Lathom; the Dep. Grand Master, the Earl Amherst; and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," were received with all due honour.

The I.P.M. gave "The Health of the W.M." in a feeling manner, stating that the W.M. and he had been comrades together in Masonry, and had progressed side by side.

The brethren warmly responded to the toast.

When the W.M. rose to reply he received a most enthusiastic ovation. He thanked the I.P.M. for the kind manner in which he had spoken of him; that he (the W.M.) thoroughly reciprocated the kind sentiments entertained by his friend and brother, the I.P.M., and, in affixing the Past Master's jewel on his breast, said it was indeed a pleasure to him as W.M. to evince in such a satisfactory manner the high esteem in which he was held by the brethren and himself.

In reply, the I.P.M., Bro. Huish, said he thanked the brethren for the handsome jewel and for the great kindness he had received from all the members of the lodge during his year of office.

The toast of "The Visitors" commended itself to the brethren. It was responded to by several brethren, one of whom was Bro. J. Leonard, hailing from Cape Town.

The next toast was that of "The Treasurer and Secretary," ably responded to by Bros. Parkhouse and Reuben Green.

"The Past Masters," "The Officers," and the Tyler's toast brought this brilliant and delightful meeting to a close.

The selection of music was under the able direction of Bro. Fredk. King, and gave general satisfaction.

Aldersgate Lodge, No. 1657.

PRESENTATION TO BRO. W. R. BRUNSKILL BRISCOE, S.W.

A meeting was held on Monday, the 30th ultimo, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street. Present: Bros. Septimus Croft, W.M.; James Shotter, I.P.M.; W. R. B. Briscoe, S.W.; Thos. Briggs, J.W.; George Kenning, P.M., Sec.; H. R. Bennett, S.D.; Rupert Smyth, J.D.; Edward Anderton, P.M., D.C.; C. R. R. Hopper, I.G.; Arthur B. Hudson, P.M.; Matthew R. Webb, P.M.; George Rawlinson, P.M.; and E. F. B. Fuller, P.M.

The brethren met together for the purpose of presenting an emblazoned testimonial to Bro. W. R. Brunskill Briscoe, S.W., as follows:

At a meeting of the above lodge, held on Monday, the 16th ultimo, at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, the following resolution was proposed by the Worshipful Master, Bro. Septimus Croft, seconded by the Treasurer, Bro. Samuel White, P.M., and carried unanimously: "The brethren of the Aldersgate Lodge, No. 1657, deeply regret that circumstances will prevent Brother Senior Warden William Richard Brunskill Briscoe from accepting the office of Worshipful Master of this lodge, after having so admirably filled the junior offices, and wish to congratulate him upon his appointment in Egypt, and beg to assure him that their good will and brotherly love will follow him wherever he may be—Bros. Septimus Croft, W.M.; James Shotter, I.P.M.; Thos. Briggs, J.W.; Samuel White, P.M., Treas.; George Kenning, P.M. 192 and 1657, P. Prov. G.D. Middx., Sec.; Henry Nicholas Bennett, S.D.; Rupert Smyth, J.D.; Clarence Raymond Richard Hopper, I.G.; Edward Anderton, P.M., D.C.; Alderman Sir Joseph Renals, Bart., P.M.; Arthur B. Hudson, P.M.; Matthew R. Webb, J.P., P.M.; John Larkin, P.M.; George Rawlinson, P.M.; W. S. Chapman, E. Campbell Pailpot, Ralph Langton, Samuel George Clayton Sansom, W. Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, F.S.A., P.J.G.W.; the Rev. P. M. Holden, P.P.G. Chap. Middx.; W. Bro. his Honour Judge F. A. Pailbrick, P.G.D., G. Reg.; and J. Gordon Langton, P.M. 96.

The W.M., Bro. Septimus Croft, recalled the circumstances under which the resolution, as set out above, had been passed, and read the terms of it to the brethren. They had thought that it would be pleasant to have a special meeting of the lodge, at which to make the presentation to Bro. Briscoe, and to give him another opportunity of bidding them farewell. He and Bro. Briscoe had been at school together, and had known each other from boyhood. As Worshipful Master he had been very glad to have the assistance of Bro. Briscoe as his principal officer. He had attended steadily to his duties, and they had all hoped that in due course Bro. Briscoe would have succeeded himself as W.M. But professional reasons had caused their brother to decide to take up his residence in Egypt; the brethren of the lodge desired to give him God-speed, to assure him that he had their hearty goodwill, and to wish him health, happiness, and prosperity, and a safe return. For that purpose they had sought to express their feelings in the terms of the resolution. Though absent, Bro. Briscoe would not be forgotten at their meetings, and if he took with him that beautifully-emblazoned testimonial, he would have something wherewith to remind himself of what, he hoped, had been to Bro. Briscoe a happy association with the lodge. He begged Bro. Briscoe to accept the testimonial as a mark of their sincere regard and brotherly love.

Bro. Thomas Briggs, J.W. and W.M. elect, desired to add a few words to what had been so well said by the W.M. In common with all the members of the lodge, he deeply regretted that they were losing their S.W., and that Bro. Briscoe had just missed the important position of W.M. He himself would have been proud to serve under him in that position, and glad to wait his due turn. Still he hoped that the change of circumstances would be to the advantage of their brother; they wished him all happiness and prosperity, and would be always glad to see him amongst them upon his revisiting this country. With great pleasure he endorsed all the good wishes of the W.M.

Bro. Briscoe, in replying, said that it was impossible for him adequately to thank the W.M. and the brethren for all their kindness. They had added to his obligations by being so good as to attend there that day, no doubt at some personal inconvenience, to do him the honour of presenting to him that most handsome testimonial. It was in itself perfect in taste and artistic merits. Whenever he felt a bit homesick it would do him good to look at it, especially seeing that it took the idealised and beautiful form of the summons by which they were called to their happy meetings. As to the language of the resolution, and the generous terms in which the Worshipful Master and Bro. Briggs had referred to him, he knew that he was quite unworthy of it, but after taking off the large discount made necessary by their kindness and generosity, he should always be proud to believe and to cling to the belief that he had been so fortunate as to secure a large measure of their goodwill. He was very proud of his association with that distinguished lodge, and he was specially gratified to see present his friend Bro. Fuller, who had done him the honour of proposing him for membership of the lodge. Throughout his association with it he had experienced nothing but brotherly kindness from all; he was under special obligations to the W.M., such obligations as had grown from year to year with the course of their old-standing friendship; to him he gave his heartfelt thanks, as also to all the brethren, from that glorious and distinguished band of Past Masters, of whom they were so proud, down to their newest initiate, whom they were glad to welcome. He desired to mention in particular Bro. White, their stand-by as Treasurer, and Bro. Kenning, to whom they owed so much for undertaking the duties of Secretary and helping them at a period of great difficulty, and in reference to that he must bring to their affectionate remembrance the name of dear Bro. Jolliffe, the unselfish friend of all. It was, of course, a matter of disappointment to him that he had not achieved the highest dignity of the lodge, but his withdrawal had brought forward a most capable W.M. elect in the person of Bro. Briggs, who would both do and look the post admirably. He should always follow the fortunes of the lodge with interest and sympathy, and since he was allowed to retain his membership as a country member, he hoped from time to time to be amongst them. All this kindness made him feel very grateful and very humble—to all of them, to his old friend the W.M., to the seniors of the lodge, to his brother officers, and all the members he bade a grateful farewell and wished them all happiness and prosperity.

Royal Arch.

Prudence Chapter, No. 2069,

When, in 1884, the Prudence Lodge was formed in Leeds, a new departure was made in West Yorkshire Freemasonry. Though the reproach of being "gluttonous" and "wine-bibbers," under which the Masonic body had so long and so undeservedly suffered, may be said at this period to have passed away, yet the promoters determined to show that a lodge might not only exist, but might also flourish exceedingly, notwithstanding that its members, like the followers of Jonadab, the son of Rechab, were forbidden the use of alcoholic refreshment. In other words, they decided to try the experiment of conducting a lodge on temperance principles. Looked askance at by some, and condemned by others, they yet kept steadily on their way, and they have proved to demonstration that the consumption of spirituous liquors is by no means essential to the well-being of a Masonic community. From the first Prudence Lodge has been a success. It has even undergone that sincerest form of flattery—imitation; for in 1889, Acacia Lodge, No. 2321, Bradford, was set on foot on exactly the same lines. It should in fairness be added that in both instances the abstinence is only exacted whilst the brethren are within the four walls of the building. They may, or may not be so-called teetotallers, in any case; outside the lodge they are entirely free and unfettered. In 1892, the members finding their position assured, applied for, and obtained a Royal Arch charter, and Prudence Chapter, conducted on the same principles, was founded in that year. The chapter has not, perhaps, met with such full measure of success as the lodge, though there are indications of brighter days in the near future. It would be interesting to inquire why, in many instances, not one-half, and never more than two-thirds of the members of a Craft lodge become Royal Arch Masons, but it is too large a subject to open out here. Perhaps correspondence in the columns of the *Freemason* might throw light upon it. Be that as it may, quoting from the official calendar, whilst the Prudence Lodge numbers 41 members, the chapter of that name only shows 15. From the success of the annual meeting which was held at the Masonic Hall, Great George-street, Leeds, on Saturday, the 28th ult., and the hopeful, not to say confident tone then manifested, it may be inferred, however, that the companions are in good heart, and are determined both to win as well as to deserve success.

The chapter was opened by the three Principals—Comps. C. Middleton, M.E.Z.; F. G. Dimery, H.; and B. Sykes Bailey, J.—assisted by Comps. C. Letch Mason, P.Z., P.P.G.H.; T. Atkinson, P.Z., P.G.S.; Tudor Trevor, P.Z., P.P.G.D.C.; W. Smith, P.Z., 1042, P.G. Treas.; and E. Wailes Smith, M.E.Z. 289. Amongst other companions afterwards present were Comps. C. Scriven, S.E.; James Buckley, S.N.; A. Butterworth, P.S.; Joseph Matthewman and J. C. Kirk, acting 1st and 2nd Asst. Sojs.; J. H. Newton, Janitor; J. O. Hall and Robt. Turton. There were several visitors in addition to these named, amongst whom were Comps. A. Turner, 387; Robt. Tasker, 1042; and H. Banks, 1042.

The first business, after the reading and confirmation of the minutes, was the exaltation of Bro. W. H. Rendell, 2069, for whom a successful ballot had been taken at a previous meeting. The ceremony was most reverently conducted by Comp. C. Letch Mason, P.P.G.H., the work of P.S. being entrusted to Comp. A. Butterworth, who rendering of that somewhat trying part won universal admiration. As other important business impended, the lectures were postponed, but Comp. Mason gave to the newly-exalted brother a brief epitome of portions of them. The companions having retired, the installation of the elected Principals took place. Comp. F. G. Dimery succeeded Comp. C. Middleton as M.E.Z., whilst Comps. B. S. Bailey and C. Scriven were placed in the chairs of H. and J. respectively. The other officers invested were Comps. Joseph Matthewman, S.E.; James Buckley, S.N.; A. Butterworth, P.S.; J. C. Kirk, 1st A.S. and Treas.; T. A. Hall, 2nd A.S.; and J. H. Newton, Janitor.

The proceedings being ended and the chapter closed, the companions withdrew to refreshment. Comp. Dimery, M.E.Z. presided, and was supported by Comps. E. S. Bailey and C. Scriven H. and J. After "The Health of the Queen," the usual Masonic toasts were given.

"The Principals of the Prudence Chapter" was proposed by Comp. Tudor Trevor, P.Z., who, though a founder, through removal to the South of England, had not for some years visited the chapter.

Comp. Trevor had a most hearty reception, and expressed the pleasure he experienced in being again present amongst them. He congratulated Comp. Dimery upon his rapid promotion, and was delighted to find that the chapter was prospering. He complimented them upon the recent acquisitions to membership, and expressed his gratification that those companions for whom he had acted as sponsor had shown themselves so worthy of the trust imposed in them. He believed that Prudence Chapter had a great future before it, and enjoined upon the companions application, diligence and regular attendance, for by these means their interest in this beautiful degree would be stimulated, and their appreciation of Royal Arch Masonry increased.

Comp. Dimery, M.E.Z., replied, as did Comps. B. S. Bailey, H., and C. Scriven, J., after which Comp. C. Middleton, P.Z., gave "The Visitors."

Comps. E. W. Smith, M.E.Z. 289; R. Tasker, 1042; and Alfred Turner, 387, responded.

Other toasts were "The Past Principals," and "The Officers." The former, Comp. T. Atkinson, P.Z., and the latter Comp. Josh. Matthewman, S.E., and others acknowledged.

When the time of departure arrived it was admitted all round that it was one of the most successful meetings Prudence Chapter had yet seen, and that it augured well for the coming year.

Obituary.

BRO. GAMBLE, W.M. 2086.

Dacre Lodge, No. 2086 (which meets at Stevenage), has sustained a severe loss by the death of its W.M., Bro. Gamble, who commenced his year of office last June. Our deceased brother held a unique position in the esteem and respect of all who had the pleasure of coming in contact with him and this was emphasised on Wednesday, the 11th ult., when he was laid to rest in Hitchin Cemetery. The funeral service was held in the Parish Church, which was densely packed. A bearer party was furnished by N.C. Officers of the 12th Hussars, in which regiment he served with distinction in the last Afghan War, especially at the affair of Ali Musjid, the firing party was furnished by the Herts Yeomanry, of which he was Squadron-Sergeant-Major. The Herts Yeomanry and Rifle Volunteers followed in large numbers. Under dispensation from the Prov. G. Master of Hertfordshire 15 brethren took part in the procession, craped clothing being worn. Brethren of the Hitchin Lodge and companions of the Hitchin Chapter also followed. An immense concourse of his fellow townspeople lined the route.

Our Portrait Gallery.

BRO. JOHN TWEEDY, P.M. No. 659,

who was invested with the collar of Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works by the V.W. Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Northumberland (Bro. Ald. R. H. Holmes, J.P.), who presided at the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland, held at Alnwick, on the 24th ult., was well deserving of such honour, and he received the hearty congratulations of his many Masonic friends. Bro. Tweedy is a most enthusiastic Mason. On his relinquishment of the office of W.M. in the Blagdon Lodge, he was presented by the brethren with a beautiful Past Master's jewel, as a mark of respect and esteem. He is at present one of the trustees of the Blagdon Lodge, and a member of the finance committee, and secretary to the building fund for the proposed Masonic



Hall at Blyth. In Royal Arch Masonry, Bro. Tweedy has taken a very great interest. Joining the Tyne Chapter, No. 991, he served in several offices; he was also one of the founders of the Blagdon Chapter and has served for two years as an officer in the Prov. G. Royal Arch Chapter of Northumberland, he having been twice invested by the Grand Superintendent of the province (Comp. the Right Hon. Sir W. Ridley, Bart., M.P.); and he is at present Director of Ceremonies in the Blagdon Royal Arch Chapter. Bro. Tweedy is a frequent visitor to other lodges, and was one of the party of 26 Freemasons belonging to Newcastle and district who visited Ireland four years ago. This was the first international visit of English Freemasons to Ireland, and the visitors received a most hearty and hospitable reception from the Irish brethren. The lodge visited by the party was Lodge of Israel, No. 126, on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, the meeting being held in the Freemasons' Hall, Dublin, Bro. G. Metcalfe being the then W.M. Bro. Tweedy is also a member of the Industry Lodge of Mark Masons at Gateshead, and is well-known amongst the brethren in the province. He is 48 years of age, and carries on the business of a printer and publisher at Blyth.

WORTH KNOWING.

"I've wandered much this weary mortal round, and Sage Experience bids me this declare,"

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Masonic and General Tidings.

THE CORPORATION of the City of London has voted 100 guineas to the Marine Society in aid of the funds for the training ship Warspite.

BRO. THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN has left Adare House for Dublin, in order to preside at the meetings of the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding in Dublin.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF Saxe-Coburg Gotha brought their visit to the Queen at Windsor Castle to a conclusion on Tuesday, and returned to Clarence House.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Bart., M.P., had the honour of dining with the Queen at Windsor Castle on Wednesday evening, and remained there for the night.

THE GOLDSMITHS' COMPANY have granted £25, the Clothworkers' Company £50, and the Mercers' Company £10, towards the British and Foreign Blind Association, 51, Cambridge Square, Hyde Park.

MRS. WALLACE, in the unavoidable absence, through illness, of Mrs. Burne Jones, opened, on Tuesday evening, the new public library which has been erected in Gordon Road, Nunhead, by the Camberwell Vestry, from funds provided by Bro. Passmore Edwards.

THE DUCHESS OF YORK sent a number of handsome pincushions and other embroidered articles as a help to the bazaar which was held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, in the Westminster Town Hall, in aid of the Society for the Home Teaching of the Blind.

THE MEMBERS of the Elizabethan Stage Society gave a representation of Shakespeare's comedy of "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," in Merchant Taylors' Hall, Threadneedle-street, on Saturday afternoon last, the company having very courteously placed it at their disposal for the purpose.

THE VICEROY OF INDIA turned the first sod of the Tapti Valley Railway on Tuesday, in the presence of Bro. Lord Sandhurst, Governor of Bombay, and a large concourse of spectators. His Excellency expressed himself, in the course of his speech, as being in favour of railway extension by private enterprise.

THE LORD MAYOR, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Alderman Sheriff Ritchie, Sheriff Bro. R. H. Rogers, and the under Sheriffs, visited the Headquarters of the London Rifle Brigade in Bunhill-row on Saturday evening last for the purpose of distributing the prizes won by the members during the past year.

THE BIRMINGHAM AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION SOCIETY, of which Bro. the Earl of Warwick is the President, held its 48th annual show, which opened in favourable weather, on Saturday last, among the winners being the Queen, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Bro. the Duke of Portland, the Duke of Marlborough, Bro. Lord Wantage, and others.

THERE WAS a crowded audience at the celebration of the silver jubilee of the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, on Saturday last, among those present being the Lord-Lieutenant and the Countess Cadogan, the Chief Secretary, Bro. Gerald Balfour and Lady Betty Balfour, Bro. Lord Roberts, and others. Dr. Villiers Stanford conducted the performance.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT in his report on the military manoeuvres in the neighbourhood of Aldershot, in August and September, speaks very highly of the conduct, discipline, and willingness of the Militia, and also of the general health of the whole of the troops, the number of sick admitted to the hospital being only 671 out of a total of 29,152, being at the rate of only two-and-a-half per cent.

ACCORDING TO THE RETURNS recently issued by the Board of Trade as to the casuals caused by railway accidents during the first six months of the present year, three persons were killed in accidents to trains, rolling stock and permanent way, and 103 injured, as compared with 10 and 100 during the corresponding period of 1895. As regards the whole of the kingdom, 469 were killed and 2631 injured, being less in the former case by 9 and in the latter by 716.

A SPECIAL COURT of the Burgers' Company was held at the Albion Tavern, Aldersgate-street, on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of the Master (Mr. C. H. Devey), when Mr. Gilbert, R.A., was presented with the freedom and livery of the Company, and expressed his thanks for the honour done him. The Company's annual dinner to the Lord Mayor and City Sheriffs was subsequently held, among the guests being Bro. Sir Frederick Abel, Sir Frank Lockwood, M.P., and Major-General Sim.

H.R.H. THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S birthday on Tuesday was kept with the customary honours in London and Windsor as well as at Sandringham. Flags floated over Marlborough House and bells were rung, while a Royal Salute was fired in the Long Walk, Windsor. At Sandringham between 400 and 500 children were entertained at tea in the Estate Schools, the Royal party and their guests visiting the little ones during the repast. At King's Lynn, the Royal Warrant holders had their annual dinner in honour of the occasion.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL presided at a meeting held in Middle Temple Hall on Tuesday on behalf of the Barristers' Benevolent Institution, among the members present being the Solicitor-General, Bro. Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P., Bro. Sir Frank Lockwood, Q.C., M.P., Bro. Judge Lumley Smith, and others. The annual report was adopted and the Committee of Management for the ensuing year elected, but general regret was expressed, that out of the large number of barristers in practice throughout the country only 780 were found to give any support to the Institution.

THE Imperial Institute Journal announces that the Executive Council, in accepting the resignation of Bro. Sir J. R. Somers Vine, C.M.G., the Assistant Secretary and General Sub-director, passed the following resolution: "The Executive Council, on the termination of Sir Somers Vine's connection with the Institute as Assistant Secretary and General Sub-director, desire to place on record their sense of the great administrative ability and the indefatigable zeal and energy which he has for so many years devoted to the interests of the Imperial Institute." The resolution was signed by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales (President), and Bro. Lord Herschell (Chairman of Council).

HAVANA CIGARS, 1894 CROP.—It is well known that the 1894 crop is one of the best Havana has produced in recent years, and is held in high esteem by connoisseurs. The demand for cigars of this crop is brisk, the chance of securing those of good quality of other crops being very rare. The 1895 was not a satisfactory crop at all. The 1896 is small, and has been principally used for cigar wrappers. As to 1897 the prospects are, by all accounts, unfavourable. It will therefore be good news to smokers that they can obtain cigars of the 1894 crop carefully selected and well conditioned from one of the leading houses in the trade—Spiers and Pond—who hold one of the largest and finest stocks in the kingdom. Spiers and Pond have just issued, in an elegant form, an illustrated list of Havana cigars, 1894 crop, which has been produced regardless of cost, and is indeed a work of art. It can be asserted without hesitation, that such a list of any one fine crop has seldom—if ever—been offered to the public. In it a fine selection of this famous crop, comprising most of the leading brands, is carefully and faithfully depicted, the illustrations representing the exact size and general appearance of each cigar. No better guide to intending purchasers could possibly be devised.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY FUND.—Last week a meeting of the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund was held at the Mansion House, the Earl of Strafford presiding. It was stated that the annual general meeting of representatives of the contributing congregations would take place at Guildhall on the 14th inst., under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. It was decided to recommend the names of Mr. Bonsor, M.P., the Hon. Sydney Holland, and Bishop Barry for addition to the Council to fill vacancies which had arisen during the year. Bro. Archdeacon Sinclair, who mentioned that he had been in communication with the Bishop-Designate of London on the subject, moved that Sunday, June 20th, being the Queen's Accession Day, should be recommended as "Hospital Sunday" next year. The Rev. E. E. Jenkins, ex-president of the Wesleyan Conference, seconded the resolution, which was cordially supported by Cardinal Vaughan and the Chief Rabbi, and carried unanimously. Bro. Archdeacon Sinclair said if either St. Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey happened to be closed that day in view of the preparations for a Royal Commemorative service, the collections might be made there on a subsequent Sunday. A vote of thanks to Lord Strafford for presiding closed the proceedings.

ANONYMOUS DONORS have recently sent £1000, and two sums of £500 each, to the Bishop of Wakefield, to be devoted to ecclesiastical purposes in his lordship's diocese.

THE ANTI-MASONIC CONGRESS at Lyons has ended in a riot. The resolutions of the congress, under the guise of Christian democracy, were directed against Freemasonry and Jewish intervention.

A MORNING PERFORMANCE was given at the Tivoli on Monday afternoon in aid of the fund for raising a memorial to the late Bro. Sir Augustus Harris. There was a large audience, and for the most part the entertainment was of good quality.

MONDAY BEING ST. ANDREW'S DAY, the Caledonian Society and other Scottish societies in London diverted themselves, as usual, to the celebration of the day set apart in the Calendar to their patron saint, and acquitted themselves well in the hospitality they showed to their guests.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HERBERT KITCHENER, Sirdar of the Egyptian army, arrived in Cairo from England on Monday morning, bringing with him the Victorian Order which her Majesty has been pleased to confer on Slatin Pasha for his services during the recent campaign.

MR. CONYNGHAM GREENE, the new British Agent to the Transvaal Republic, reached Pretoria on Tuesday, and in the course of the afternoon had an interview with President Kruger, upon whom he is said to have made a very favourable impression. Mr. Greene met with a very cordial reception.

THE will and codicil of Bro. Charles Sadler, of the Mitre Hotel, Hampden Court, who died on October 15th, were proved on the 21st inst., by Mr. John Draper Sadler, the son, Mr. Alfred Goodman, and Mr. John Drewett, the executors, the value of the personal estate amounting to £8244 13s. 5d.

WE REGRET TO HEAR that during the severe cold weather that recently prevailed in London, sundry deaths occurred from syncope consequent upon exposure to the cold. From different parts of the country the news is to the effect that the weather has been very severe, while in Lincolnshire there has been a good deal of ice.

ORDER OF THE TEMPLE.—The annual provincial meeting of the united Provinces of Kent and Surrey will be held on Wednesday, the 23rd inst., at Mark Masons' Hall, under the banner of the Lullingstone Preceptory. The Provincial Prior, the Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow, will preside. A dinner will take place at close of meeting at Freemasons' Tavern.

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS.—The Earl of Clarendon, Lord Lieutenant of Herts, Lord Hyde, and 40 other gentlemen were on Tuesday initiated as honorary members of the Ancient Order of Foresters, at Watford, in the presence of a large number of members of Court Star of Hertfordshire. Bro. Halsey, M.P., was present, and with Earl Clarendon spoke on friendly society topics.

AMONG THE GUESTS whom Bro. the Earl and Countess of Warwick were entertaining at Warwick Castle last week were the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar, the Duchess of Manchester, Bro. the Marquis and Marchioness of Hertford, the Earl and Countess of Aylesford, Lady Randolph Churchill, Bro. Lord and Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox, Bro. Lord and Lady Carnarvon, Mr. Henry Chaplin, M.P., Mr. James Lowther, M.P., and Bro. Christopher Sykes.

THE DUCHESS OF SAXE-COBURG GOtha and the Princess Henry of Battenberg recently visited the workhouse in Windsor, which is situated near the Bishopsgate. They were conducted over the several wards by the Master and Matron and conversed pleasantly with several of the inmates. Before leaving, they wrote their names in the Visitors' Book, which contains the signatures of the Queen, the Prince Consort, the Queen of Prussia, and others.

THERE WAS A LARGE ATTENDANCE at the meeting held under the presidency of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, in the Board Room of Charing Cross Hospital, on Saturday last, for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken to raise the sum of £100,000 with a view to placing the hospital on a sound financial basis, and enabling it to enlarge its premises. Among those present were Bros. Lord Wantage and Lord Glenesk, the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., Sir Charles Hall, Q.C., M.P., Bro. Sir Douglas Straight, Bro. Major Clifford Probyn, and Bro. E. Terry.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, the Princess Victoria, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, left Blenheim Palace, on the conclusion of their visit to the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, on Saturday last. The Royal party drove under an escort of the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, of which the Prince is Hon. Colonel, to Oxford, the Woodstock troop giving place to the Oxford troop, at Yarnton, a village midway between Blenheim and Oxford. At Oxford station, a guard of honour 100 strong, of the University Rifle Volunteers, was drawn up and presented arms upon the arrival of their Royal Highnesses. The streets through which the Royal cortege passed were thronged with spectators, who cheered their Royal Highnesses most heartily.

THE HAND-IN-HAND INSURANCE.—The honourable and steady course of English Insurance Companies is marked this year by the completion of the second century of this Society. Started in 1696 with the most modest surroundings, its useful work is shown by the well-known trade-mark—the hands clasped together in a firm grip—which has now been an indication of loyalty for 200 years. The Hand-in-Hand survives alone of all societies for protection against fire on the "mutual" system, by which profits, instead of going to shareholders, are returned to the insured, who can thus mostly reckon on being let off altogether from premiums every sixth year. The members whose lives are insured can elect between substantial additions to their policies, or material reduction of payments to the Society, while in all cases the directors have made such ample reserves as to provide for every claim that can possibly arise, and maintain the present most satisfactory rate of progress.

The fifth National Cycle Show, which is now open at the Crystal Palace, will be by far the largest and finest collection of cycles and accessories ever brought together, and certainly in no other building in the world could they be displayed to such advantage. To such proportions has the show grown that the capacities of the Crystal Palace are taxed to the utmost, and for the first time in connection with these shows the galleries have to be called into requisition. A new lift has, however, been erected, thus saving visitors the necessity of ascending the stairs. The military band will discourse sweet music there each afternoon. The total number of exhibitors is 370, and comprises the cream of the trade, both as regards makers of the complete cycle and makers of accessories such as saddles, gear cases, bells, lamps, &c. The principal feature of the show is, without doubt, the large number of ladies' cycles. These are to be seen in hundreds, most beautifully enamelled in all colours, and elaborately fitted and finished; arranged as they are to the best advantage on handsomely furnished stalls, and interspersed here and there with palms and ferns, they form a very pleasing sight; in fact, the coup d'œil from the gallery looking down the quarter mile of promenade is alone worth a visit to the show. The exhibition will remain open till Saturday, the 12th inst., and in addition a whole round of entertainments has been arranged by the management. There will be a special variety show every evening next week at eight o'clock. Visitors cycling to the Palace can store their machines in safety at the Central Transept entrance for the nominal sum of twopence.

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