

THE FREEMASON.

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

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

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

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THE FESTIVAL OF THE ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

We do not suppose that any of our readers will be surprised at the comparative smallness of the sum raised at Wednesday's Festival in behalf of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls; the surprise, if any is felt, will be that such a total was obtained by so limited a Board of Stewards. But we imagine there are few who will not experience, even if they do not give expression to it, a sense of dissatisfaction that the claims of the Girls' School, like those of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution in February, should not have received the amount of consideration they deserve. It is not necessary for us to adduce the reason for this. The reason is as well known to our readers as to ourselves. But our opinion is that the Craft should have made good the full amount of the year's deficiency, which amounts to about £11,500, but as the Craft has not done this, the Institution must help itself out of the money it has been holding in reserve against the contingency that has occurred. The gift of 1200 guineas presented by Mrs. HEATON, widow of the lamented Bro. GEORGE HEATON, who was so staunch a friend of all our Institutions, which came so opportunely at the last moment, and swelled the total to over £9500, will very materially assist in facilitating the task of the authorities, and will relieve the funds of the Institution of part of the pressure they have to meet. But though matters have turned out more favourably than we had reason to expect, we are none the less firmly persuaded that both the Girls' School and the Benevolent Institution should have been supported to the full extent of their absolute requirements, especially as this could have been done without detriment to the claims of the Boys' School at its approaching Centenary. Of one thing, however, we are fully certified, namely, that Bro. Sir REGINALD HANSON, Bart., P.G.W., who presided on Wednesday, and the Board of Stewards which worked so well to promote the success of his advocacy, deserve the thanks of the whole English Craft for the admirable manner in which they discharged their duties and responsibilities. London, in particular, has done its part splendidly, having contributed between one-half and two-thirds of the total sum obtained. Indeed, of the £19,000—there, or thereabouts—which has been raised for the two Festivals that have been held, it has given not far short of two-thirds—that is, nearly £12,000, while the Provinces, which have nearly three times as many lodges, have raised amongst them the other third. Still, there is always this consolation to fall back upon, namely, that Fortune might have been less considerate than she has been, and we trust that some compensation for the shortcomings of the present year will be found in a largely increased measure of support in 1899.

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS.

The festival in celebration of the 110th anniversary of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, London, on Wednesday last, under the presidency of Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., P.G.W., Treasurer of the Institution. Ladies sat down with the brethren to dinner.

Among the brethren who supported Sir Reginald Hanson were—
Bros. Sir F. Dixon Hartland, M.P.; R. Loveland-Loveland, Q.C.; John Strachan, Q.C., G. Reg.; Sir J. C. Dimsdale, P.G.T.; E. Terry, P.G.T.; Viscount Folkestone, J.G.W.; A. F. Godson, M.P., P.G.D.; Col. J. Peters, P.G.S.B.; Col. Clifford Probyn, G.T.; Maj. Woodwall, P.G.T.; Richard Eve, P.G.T.; Dr. J. Hogg, P.G.D.; Chas. Belton, P.D.G.D.C.; W. F. Lamonby, J. I. Ward, James Speller, Baron de Ferrieres, P.G.D.; C. E. Keyser, P.G.D.; Sir John W. Maclure, M.P., G. C. Kent, W. F. Smithson, P.G.D.; H. Smith, P.G.D.; Gerald Loder, M.P., Sir Forrest Fulton, his Honour Judge Masterman, Geo. E. Lake, A. Stewart Brown, P. A. Nairne, P.G.D.; James Terry, P.G.S.B., Sec. R. M.B.I.; Ralph Clutton, P.G.D.; A. C. Spaul, Sir J. B. Monckton, P.G.W.; H. A. Hunt, P.G.D.; Peter de Lande Long, P.G.D.; Stanley J. Attenborough, P.A.G.D.C.; Frank Richardson, P.G.D.; and W. G. Kentish, P.G. Std. Br.

At the close of the dinner, grace was sung, and the toasts were proposed.

Viscount FOLKESTONE responded to the toast of "Pro Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," and said as a Grand Officer he hoped to be enabled to fulfil his duties with due dignity.

Bro. Sir REGINALD HANSON, in giving the toast of "Success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls," said he would not disguise from the company that he had frequently taken the chair at meetings of many Charitable Institutions, but he felt in a way more difficult that night than he had ever felt before, because he now saw around him an assemblage of Masons who knew the duties of Charity, being so many who on several occasions had shown their appreciation of those duties by the noble manner in which they had supported the Girls' School and the other Masonic Institutions. He did not feel like a missionary in highways and byways; he felt he was speaking to the converted, and he did not want to speak to the company as he heard a bishop preach last Wednesday to a very large congregation, many members of which had never perhaps given anything to the Institution, and many who did not give anything—that bishop talked to the congregation of "the great blasphemy of the threepenny bit." It was a very strong thing for a bishop to say, but he (Sir Reginald Hanson) was quoting a bishop, although he was sure there was no Mason to whom it might be said, for Masons gave liberally according to their means; therefore it was no use his trying to convince them; they had been convinced many times before; they were convinced when they were initiated, at which time they were told that one of the duties of Masonry was "relief." He said this although the room was not absolutely "tiled." "Relief" and "Charity" were two of the great objects of the Masonic body, and nobly had the Masons responded to that call and recognised that duty. Still, the present was a year when, perhaps, if Masons could feel a little more strongly for the Girls' School than they had felt on previous occasions it would be as well that they should. They had had their very good jubilee of the Benevolent Institution and their centenary of the Girls' School when very large sums were collected; and they knew that very shortly a great effort was going to be made for a kindred Institution. No one grudged at all the very magnificent effort to be made for the Boys' School; but most of the brethren—every member of the Committee of the Girls was a Steward for the Boys' Festival—and he (Sir R. Hanson) had made himself a Patron; he wished to say there was no feeling of jealousy between them; but he must remind the company that girls did not eat quite so much as boys, but nearly as much money was required for rates and taxes, and so one was the same as the other, if not a trifle more. What they wanted this year was—and they hoped they were not asking too much—that enough should be got to enable them to pay their way. When they had paid their way he thought they might be happy. Mr. Micawber's sentiment was if your income was 20s., and you spent 19s. 6d. it was happiness; and the Boys' School had not forgotten the Girls' School, and they would be satisfied and would have reason to be satisfied. That was all he would say on that point. Of course, there was no contest between the three Institutions; their objects were all the same; but if with 20 shillings you spent 20 shillings and sixpence it was misery. He hoped the Girls' Institution would so balance their income and expenditure as to keep within bounds. If all the friends of the Girls' School would rally round them and enable them to balance income and expenditure this year the managers would be content, and would think that the Masons, in view of the magnificent gifts they were going to bestow in the centenary year—he merely suggested it—while they were doing as much as they could for the Boys, did not entirely lose sight of the Girls. The work done by the subscribers was carried out by the Committee; it was a very good and a very great work. A great

many of the company present had the pleasure of attending at the School last Monday when the prizes were distributed; he was there himself, and renewed his acquaintance with the School; and although he held the position of Treasurer of the Institution, and as such, was one of the Committee, he was not able to be often there; and he, therefore, could not be excused of self-avoidance when he said he never saw an Institution more carefully, or beautifully guarded than the Girls' School was by the number of excellent men who worked on the House Committee. The result was that it was one of the best Schools in the country. Anyone could see how well the children and all connected with the School were watched over when they looked at their smiling and happy faces, and it was a pleasure to him to find so many of the old pupils and old friends walking arm-in-arm with the children, going down to see them, renewing their relations with the School. The education of the children was not neglected; this was shown by the exceedingly satisfactory result testified to by the examiners, not examiners appointed by the Institution in order to make a very good statement to the patrons, but appointed by the University of Cambridge, the College of Preceptors, and other bodies, and they showed it was incontestable that the work done by the School was a real work. Recently, there had been Civil Service classes there. A great number of girls had passed successfully, some of them with honours, and it must be a matter of exceeding pleasure that in the recent Civil Service class one of the girls passed seventh, and this year one girl only just 16—and a very small 16 she was—passed second out of 357 and obtained one of the 15 appointments in the Civil Service. That was what they wanted to get in all the girls that passed through the Institution, and that was gratifying to the Committee and also to the excellent people who were in charge—Miss Buck, the Matron, Miss Redgrave, the Head Governess, and others—who took extreme care with the children. It was a great pleasure that these ladies were old pupils of the School and were carrying out the benefit and instruction they received in former days. He did not want to go into details, but the fixed income of the Institution was not equal to its requirements; it, therefore, looked to the brethren to make up the required sum now or a little later; he looked with confidence to Masons, brethren who had brought the School up to its present state of eminence and usefulness, to continue to support it, although their efforts this year were principally directed to the Centenary of the Boys' School.

Bro. F. R. W. HEDGES, Secretary, then announced the following

STEWARDS' LISTS

LONDON.		Lodge	£	s.	d.
Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., LL.D. (Chairman) including personal donation	£252	1762	9	0	
HOUSE COMMITTEE.					
Bro. Ralph Clutton	...	1155	Bro. Chas. Clark	...	15 15 0
Bro. Robt. Grey	...	1196	Paul Alliston	...	20 5 0
Bro. C. Hammerton	...	1259	Frank Adams	...	42 0 0
Bro. H. A. Hunt	...	1300	T. R. Porter	...	60 0 0
Bro. E. Lettsworth, F.S.A.	...	1382	Charles H. Cooper	...	10 10 0
Bro. Peter de Lande Long	...	1383	Alfred H. Bevan	...	362 5 0
Bro. R. Loveland Loveland, Q.C. (see Lodge 1869, Hants and I.W.)	...	1420	Henry S. Windsor	...	12 12 0
Bro. J. H. Matthews	...	1506	Luke Hansard	...	33 12 0
Bro. Sir J. Monckton, F.S.A. (see Lodge 2535)	...	1572	W. S. Whitaker	...	17 17 0
Bro. Col. J. Peters	...	1615	E. B. P'Anson	...	21 0 0
Bro. Frank Richardson	...	1658	H. B. Buckridge	...	47 5 0
Bro. A. C. Spaul	...	1671	T. W. Withers	...	137 11 0
Bro. Edward Terry	...	1687	Walter Adams	...	157 10 0
Lodge		1695	Robert Colsell	...	15 15 0
1 Bro. H. J. Pfungst	...	1708	W. J. Batho	...	58 5 6
2 Bro. F. S. Hanson	...	1805	James Young	...	31 10 0
Chapter		1829	W. H. Foot	...	37 5 6
2 Comp. E. Luxmoore Marshall (see also Mark Lodge 363)	...	1962	Spencer W. Morris	...	26 5 0
Lodge		1962	*J. C. Tilt	...	—
4 Bro. Wilson Crewdson	...	2127	Alfred B. Bennett (see also Lodge 44, Lancs., E.D.)	...	10 10 0
5 Bro. B. G. Gardner	...	2242	Richard S. Ellis	...	10 10 0
6 Bro. A. Farquhar	...	2361	A. H. Oldrey	...	130 0 0
Chapter		2408	Frederick H. Gervis, M.D.	...	51 9 0
7 Comp. W. J. Songhurst	...	2456	Leopold G. Gordon Robbins	...	42 0 0
Lodge		2489	Stanley Machin	...	34 14 0
8 Bro. A. W. Mellish	...	2512	Wm. Hunt (see Lodge 172)	...	—
14 Bro. Ernest A. Walker	...	2512	*T. Blanco White	...	—
18 Bro. Lieut.-Col. Clifford Probyn, J.P.	...	2524	Capt. F. C. Richmond-Parry	...	67 14 0
21 Bro. W. J. Lancaster	...	2535	Sir John Monckton, F.S.A. (see also H.C.)	...	—
23 Bro. A. A. Yeatman	...	2546	Ernest Westbrook	...	10 10 0
26 Bro. Col. Rawson-Trafford	...	2578	Major H. Vane Stow	...	10 10 0
29 Bro. David de Lara Cohen	...	2579	Edward Hall	...	80 6 6
45 Bro. Wm. Briggs	...	2581	Alderman Sir Joseph C. Dimdale	...	53 11 0
Chapter		2625	Jas. Tollworthy	...	42 0 0
58 Comp. John Smithes	...	2700	J. M. McLeod	...	246 15 0
Lodge		Emulation Lodge of Improvement.	Bro. W. G. Kentish	...	26 5 0
59 Bro. Daniel Mayer	...	Mark Lodge.	363 Bro. E. Luxmoore Marshall (see also Chap. 2)	...	42 0 0
91 Bro. E. B. Haselden	...	Girls' School Gen. Com. Dinner Club.	Bro. W. J. Mason	...	37 16 0
92 Bro. Wickham Nokes	...	Unattached	Bro. Major Eustace Anderson	...	10 10 0
172 Bro. Wm. Hunt (see also Lodge 2512)	...		*Stanley J. Attenborough	...	—
173 Bro. Edward Gilbert	...		William Bailey	...	27 6 0
192 *George Wetton	...		Chas. Belton, F.R.G.S.	...	21 0 0
197 His Honour Judge W. Masterman, D.C.L. (see also Lodge 1118 and Notts.)	...		*J. Bergmann	...	10 10 0
227 Bro. Thomas Adams	...		Arthur Betts	...	10 10 0
231 Bro. F. G. Ivey	...		G. R. Blades	...	10 10 0
235 Bro. John M. Courage	...		Henry Bown	...	10 10 0
259 Bro. Sidney H. Hargrove	...		H. T. Brickwell	...	10 10 0
619 Bro. E. Croft Wise	...		*Dr. A. Stewart Brown	...	—
700 Bro. H. Pamment	...		T. G. Bullen	...	43 1 0
720 Bro. William West	...		*J. W. Elvin	...	—
1017 Bro. Felix Heilbronn	...		*Thomas Fenn	...	—
1118 His Honour Judge Masterman, D.C.L. (see Lodge 197)	...		R. T. Fennell	...	21 0 0
1150 Bro. S. I. Nottley	...		*Viscount Folkestone, M.P.	...	—
1155 Bro. Thos. Hales	...		Sir Forrest Fulton, Q.C.	...	10 10 0
1155 Bro. F. Lewin	...		T. H. Gardiner	...	10 10 0
			George Graveley	...	15 15 0
			*F. R. W. Hedges	...	—
			Frank R. Kenning	...	151 1 0
			*W. R. King	...	—
			R. D. Longworth	...	10 10 0
			Horace B. Marshall, M.A., J.P., D.L.	...	21 0 0

Bro. Alderman W. Vaughan Morgan	£	s.	d.
Perceval A. Nairne	21	0	0
Joseph Odell	73	10	0
A. W. Orwin, M.D.	10	10	0
*Oscar Philippe	—	—	—
Fredk. Robinson	10	10	0
John Strachan, Q.C.	10	10	0
Thomas C. Tanner	26	5	0
A. J. Thomas	94	10	0
*P. G. W. Typke	—	—	—
James Willing, jun.	10	10	0
Fredk. Wright	10	10	0
Ladies and Lewises	—	—	—
Miss Violet Hanson	10	10	0
Harold Gordon Miller	5	5	0
Marriott Parkinson	26	5	0

PROVINCES.

BERKSHIRE.

Lodge						
414	Bro. A. H. Bull	...	...	28	7	0
574	„ C. E. Keyser (see					
	also Lodge 2518					
	Herts)	...	...	52	10	0
574	„ Reginald Maples	...	...	21	0	0

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

Lodge						
591	Bro. T. G. Parrott	...	2	2	0	
1501	„ James Williams	...	10	10	0	
Unattached						
	*Bro. James Stephens	...	—			
	„ J. C. Fitzroy Tower.	...	10	10	0	
	*Mrs. James Stephens	...	—			

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Lodge	859	Bro. W. J. Fernie	...	42	0	0
859	*W. J. Armitage	...	—	—	—	—

CHESHIRE.

Lodge	2619	Bro. Joseph Roby	...	15	15	0
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CORNWALL.

Lodge	1528	Bro. Lieut.-Col. G. J. Parkyn	...	11	11	0
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Unattached		Bro. Fleet-Paymaster J. A. Bell	...	10	10	0
		Sholto H. Hare	...	21	0	0

DERBYSHIRE.

Lodge	1055	Bro. Robt. Leech (see also Lodge 1219, Lancashire, E.D.)	...	10	10	0
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1739	*T. P. Hewitt	...	—	—	—	—
Unattached		Bro. E. S. Woodiwiss	...	10	10	0
		I. N. Woodiwiss	...	10	10	0

DEVONSHIRE.

DEVONSHIRE.			
Lodge			
70	Bro. F. B. Westlake	13	17

DORSETSHIRE.

Lodge	137	Bro. J. H. Whadcoat, J.P., C.C.	...	10	10	0
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DURHAM.

Northern Division		Bro. R. Hudson	...	57	15	0
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ESSEX.

Unattached		Bro. E. C. Lewis	...	10	10	0
		*J. Speller	...	—	—	—

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Lodge	702	Bro. A. S. Winterbotham	...	10	10	0
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Unattached		Bro. Baron De Ferrieres, J.P.	...	31	10	0
		R. V. Vassar-Smith	...	31	10	0
		Mrs. A. S. Winterbotham	...	5	5	0

HANTS AND ISLE OF WIGHT.

Lodge	1331	Bro. Sergeant-Major Tr. J. E. Caney	...	26	5	0
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1331	Bro. Sergeant-Major	Tr.			
	J. E. Caney	...	26	5	0
1331	„ *G. H. Atkinson	...	—		

Unattached		Bro. Richard Eve	...	31	10	0
		Norman Clinton	...	15	15	0

HERTFORDSHIRE.

Lodge	403	Bro. Horace J. Tuck	...	23	17	6
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404	George E. Lake	...	10	10	0
2323	Edgar C. Fisk	...	24	3	0
2353	O. P. T. Newmann	...	40	0	0
2518	C. E. Keyser (see also Lodge 574, Berks)	...	63	0	0

KENT.

Unattached		Bro. A. W. Duret	...	21	0	0
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LANCASHIRE (E.D.).

Lodge	44	Bro. Alfred B. Bennett (see also Lodge 2127, London)	...	42	0	0
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221	S. Rothwell	...	10	10	0
1032	A. J. Cunliffe	...	21	0	0
1219	Robt. Leech (see Lodge 1055, Derby)	...	—	—	—

Unattached		Bro. C. D. Cheetham	...	20	4	0
		Sir J. W. Maclure, Bart., M.P.	...	10	10	0

Lodge	LANCASHIRE (W.D.)	£	s.	d.
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Lodge	2360	Bro. Dr. Stopford	...	10	10	0
Unattached		Bro. Capt. C. H. Garnett	...	10	10	0

Lodge	778	Bro. Sir F. D. Dixon	...	—	—	—
		Hartland, Bart., M.P.	...	56	14	0

788	Wm. Dawson	...	10	10	0
1237	James M. Dexter	...	26	5	0

1293	Col. H. M. Gordon, J.P.	...	10	10	0
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Chapter	1293	Comp. Charles Fourn	...	57	15	0
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Lodge					
1310	Bro. M. McVey	31	10 0
2087	„ C. E. Wetton		...	119	2 0

2381	„ G. R. Langley	...	194	5	0
NORTHS AND HUNTS.					
Lodge					

1764	& 1911	Bro. H. Manfield	42	0	0
2684		Bro. Herbert I. Hankin...	10	10	0

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

Lodge	1764 & 1911	Bro. H. Manfield	...	42	0	0
2684	Bro. Herbert I. Hankin	...	10	10	0	

(see Lodge 197, London) ...	...	—
NORTH WALES.		

Unattached					
Bro. C. K. Benson	...	10	10	0	

Lodge	1764 & 1911	Bro. H. Manfield	...	42	0	0
2684	Bro. Herbert I. Hankin	...	10	10	0	

1895	„	E. J. Mellett	...	21	5	0
2414	„	Thos. Walker	...	17	9	0

SHROPSHIRE.

Unattached					
Bro. W. L. Southwell	...	36	15	0	
STAFFORDSHIRE.					

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2149	„	Thos. Taylor	...	78	15	0
2149	„	*Elijah Jones	...	—	—	—
2149	„	*A. F. Wenger	...	—	—	—

Unattached			
Right Hon. Lord Burton	21	0	0
Jas. T. Howson ...	10	10	0

	SUFFOLK.				
Lodge					
1083	Bro. T. E. Key	...	...	10	10 0

1903 Dist. 17. E. Key		in	in	10	10	0
Lodge		SURREY.				
2684 Bro. A. S. Tieson				10	0	0

403	Bro. A. S. Tipson	...	30	0	0
1347	„ T. Cookes	...	112	17	6
2095	„ J. M. Crosley	...	10	10	0
Unattached					

Unattached				
Bro. C. O. Burgess	...	10	10	0
„ *J. Ellinger	...	—		
*T. Smith		—		

SUMMARY OF THE PROVINCES.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Berkshire ...	101	17	0	Middlesex ...	506	11	0
Buckinghamshire ...	23	2	0	Northants and Hunts... ..	52	10	0
Cambridgeshire ...	42	0	0	North Wales ...	10	10	0
Cheshire ...	15	15	0	Oxfordshire ...	65	14	6
Cornwall ...	43	1	0	Shropshire ...	36	15	0
Derbyshire ...	31	10	0	Staffordshire ...	131	5	0
Devonshire ...	53	7	0	Suffolk ...	10	10	0
Dorsetshire ...	10	10	0	Surrey ...	163	17	6
Durham ...	57	15	0	Sussex ...	73	10	0
Essex ...	10	10	0	Warwickshire ...	42	0	0
Gloucestershire ...	78	15	0	Wiltshire ...	71	1	0
Hampshire and Isle of Wight ...	84	0	0	Gloucestershire ...	68	5	0
Hertfordshire ...	161	10	6	Yorkshire, North and East ...	78	15	0
Kent ...	21	0	0	Yorkshire, West ...	1470	0	0
Lancashire (East Division) ...	104	4	0	Guernsey and Alderney ...	10	10	0
Lancashire (West Division) ...	21	0	0	Foreign Station—Madras ...	10	10	0
122 STEWARDS—LONDON ...	£5850	8	0				
96 STEWARDS—PROVINCES AND ABROAD ...	3662	0	6				
GRAND TOTAL ...	£9512	8	6				

Bro. W. F. SMITHSON, P.G.D., wished to say a few words, and he was sure they would be received by one and all present with very great pleasure indeed. A little time ago, a brother in West Yorkshire, most warm-hearted and sympathetic to all the Masonic Institutions and other institutions outside the Masonic body, gave him a sum of money to be devoted to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. He deeply regretted to say that that brother had since gone to the Grand Lodge above; he deeply deplored it for many reasons. However, to carry out that brother's wishes, and his sincerest wishes, he was going to hand a certain amount of money to the Chairman and Treasurer which he knew the deceased brother would have been delighted had he been present to hand over himself. He might say that the amount he had determined to give was the amount which Bro. George Heaton, of West Yorkshire, gave him, and that large sum of money he wished it to be distinctly known that in order to keep the memory of Bro. George Heaton alive in connection with the Girls' School, the brethren of West Yorkshire had determined it should be given for perpetuity votes, to be called "The George Heaton Presentation Votes." He had received from the widow, Mrs. George Heaton, her fullest approbation that such should be the case, she having full sympathy with the Institution, and her name was entered as a lady Steward. It was with the greatest pride and pleasure he handed the money to the Chairman; it was the largest amount given by a single individual to that Institution. It afforded him great pleasure to hand over a draft at sight for 1200 guineas to supplement the amount announced by Bro. Hedges, and it went with the best wishes for the future prosperity of this Institution. (Loud applause.)

Bro. Sir REGINALD HANSON: Brethren, I need scarcely say that as Treasurer of this Institution I receive with the utmost gratitude on behalf of this Institution this munificent gift Bro. Smithson has just handed in, and I congratulate myself on having this amount of subscription which makes infinitely more than I anticipated.

Bro. Sir JOHN MONCKTON responded to the toast of "Success to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls." He said the brethren had done well that night. When he asked Sir R. Hanson to take the chair in a year which must be a year of famine, he told him that if they got £7000 he should be rather surprised. Bro. Hedges had announced £8252 8s. 6d. He did not care about the 8s. 6d. They knew what the late Mr. Mantalini said about the halfpenny. They ought to be very much satisfied with the result of the Festival, and he believed that before the end of the year the amount would be £10,000, which would be a very good contribution for this extraordinary year. Referring to the distribution of prizes at the School on Monday, he said a member of the softer sex electrified the immense audience by making a speech which would have been a credit to the House of Commons. She not only said the right thing, but she said it in the right voice. He had had half a dozen letters from ladies about it, in which they said they were very proud of their sister who spoke so well on that occasion. He would only add one word—"Thank you most heartily for all you have done for the Institution."

Bro. A. F. GODSON, Prov. G.M. for Worcestershire, proposed "The Chairman."

Bro. Sir REGINALD HANSON, in replying, said in taking the chair he had relied on the support of the old friends of the Institution, who he knew would not allow it to suffer in any material way. Any trouble he had had was very little, because the brethren on the Committee had worked double tides, and he had been more than repaid by the great success of the evening.

Bro. Sir REGINALD HANSON next proposed "The Kindred Charities," referring more particularly to the Boys' School Centenary of June 10th.

Bro. J. M. McLEOD, Sec. R.M.I. for Boys, responded and acknowledged the handsome way in which all the Committee of the Girls' School voluntarily assisted him in the Old Masonians Lodge list which was the second best of lay Stewards. He added that he was doing his best to make the Boys' School Centenary a success, and he congratulated the Girls' School on the presentation made by Bro. Smithson. He was sure all the brethren would come up to the scratch for the three Masonic Institutions.

The company afterwards adjourned to the Temple where a grand concert was given, the executants being Miss Clara Samuelli, Miss Florence Verning, the Westminster Singers (Bros. George May, Charles Ackerman, Harper Kearton, and W. H. Brereton), Bro. Fred. Upton (reciter), Bro. David Devant (conjurer), and Miss Dora Robinson (pianist and accompanist).

ANALYSIS OF THE RETURNS.

There were fewer Stewards on Wednesday than at the celebration of the Benevolent Festival in February last, but the totals that were announced on the two occasions approximate very closely. In February Bro. Terry announced 256 Stewards and £9443 2s., subsequently increased to £9766 17s. On Wednesday Bro. Hedges announced 217 Stewards and donations and subscriptions amounting to £8252 8s. 6d., which a few minutes later was augmented by the £1260 given by the widow of the late Bro. George Heaton, of West Yorkshire, to £9512 8s. 6d. Unfortunately, as in February last the Provinces were the weak point in the constitution of the Board of Stewards, and but for the opportune statement with which Bro. W. F. Smithson supplemented the Secretary's announcement, the total from them would only just have exceeded £2400.

Taking

LONDON

first we remark that it was represented by 122 Stewards, who among them accumulated the handsome total of £5850 8s., far and away the largest list being that of the Chairman, Bro. Alderman Sir Reginald Hanson, Bart., M.P., who not only made a personal donation of 240 guineas—40 guineas to complete one patronship and 200 guineas to make a second—but thanks to the hearty co-operation of the other members of the House Committee, who placed their own donations and collections on his list, was enabled to compile the grand total of £1762 9s. Next in order, but at a long interval, we have the list of Bro. Alfred H. Bevan, of the Friends in Council Lodge, No. 1383, amounting to £362 5s., and including in addition to his own personal donation of 50 guineas to complete his patronship, donations of 100 guineas each from Bros. Thomas F. Marson and F. Lincoln Bevan. Third in order of merit stands the list of Bro. J. M. McLeod, P.G.S.B., Secretary of the Boys' School, who represented the Old Masonians Lodge, No. 2700, which was only consecrated a short while since, and handed in the excellent sum of £246 15s. Then followed Bro. Lieut.-Colonel Clifford Probyn, G. Treas., who was Steward for the Old Dundee Lodge, No. 18, and compiled a list of £191 12s. 6d., in which was included his personal donation of £115 10s. to complete his Patronship. Bro. H. Pamment, Nelson Lodge, No. 700, stood next with £168, Bro. Walter Adams, Rothesay Lodge, No. 1687, being close up with £157 10s., and next to him Bro. Frank R. Kenning (Unattached), who served his 14th consecutive Stewardship on this occasion, and sent in a list of £151 1s., of which his own donation of £58 13s. to complete his Vice-Patronship, and £68 5s. from his father, Bro. George Kenning, in completion of his Patronship, formed part. The remaining three-figure lists were those of Bro. T. W. Withers, representing the Mizpah Lodge, No. 1671, for £137 11s.; and Bro. A. H. Oldrey, Cricklewood Lodge, No. 2361, for £130. Other good lists were those of Bro. W. Hunt, who acted for Old Concord Lodge, No. 172, and the Fulham Lodge, No. 2512, and is entered against the former for £87 3s.; Bro. Edward Hall, Lewisham Lodge, No. 2579, for £80 6s. 6d.; Bro. Percival A. Nairne, P.G.D., for £73 10s.—personal donation to complete his Vice-Patronship; and Bro. A. J. Thomas for £94 10s., his own donation, which with donations of 10 guineas on two other lists, completes his Patronship.

THE PROVINCES

succeeded in raising on a modest scale, the former being 96 in number and the make a better show as regards the number of those that have sent up Stewards than we expected, there being 31 that are represented and 15 absentees, but the Stewards are few, and the total of the donations and subscriptions which they latter £3662 0s. 6d. in amount.

The absentee Provinces comprise the following: Commencing with BEDFORDSHIRE (seven lodges), which was represented at the Benevolent Festival in February by a single Steward, whose list amounted to £33 13s., and which, we doubt not, will be found among the contributors to the Boys' School. In 1892 the Province raised £152 5s. for the Benevolent Institution and Girls' School; in 1893 it distributed £183 17s. 6d. among the three Charities; while in 1894 its total for the three Festivals reached £238 9s. In 1895 the Old People received £43 1s., and the Boys' School, £105; in 1896 the sum of £42 was apportioned between the Benevolent and this Institution; and last year £65 3s. was raised by two Stewards for the Benevolent Festival. BRISTOL (nine lodges) has done nothing since 1895, when it raised £10 10s. for the Old People and £107 8s. for the Boys' School. In 1894 it contributed £441 to this Institution, being at the rate of nearly £50 per lodge, and £16 16s. to the Boys' School, while in 1892 and 1891 it very generously supported the Boys' Institution, the sum of its contributions during the two years being £911. Let us hope that it will not be an absentee from the remaining Festival of the year. CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND (21 lodges) was represented on a small scale at the Benevolent Festival, an Unattached Steward being entered for £21; but this is not surprising, when we remember that in June, 1897, its Prov. G. Master, Bro. Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck, M.P., presided as Chairman at the Boys' School, and the province compiled the handsome total of £1260. At the Boys' School Festival in 1883, when the funds for erecting a Preparatory School were raised, it gave £1050; in 1888 it contributed £210 to the Girls' Centenary; in 1891, £265 13s. to the Boys' School; and in 1892, £420 to the Benevolent Jubilee. As regards HEREFORDSHIRE (five lodges), it is, to our regret, again among the absentees, as it has been, with one or two exceptions, ever since we commenced writing these analytical articles, but we believe it will be represented, and we trust liberally represented, at the Boys' School Centenary next month. LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND (14 lodges), is, no doubt, reserving itself for the Boys' School Centenary, when we doubt not it will give us a specimen of its quality. In 1892 it raised £388 10s. for the Benevolent Jubilee; in 1893, £267 10s. for the Boys' School; in 1894, £330 10s. for the Girls' School; in 1895, £300 6s. for the Benevolent Institution; in 1896, £231 for the Boys' School; and last year, £323 5s. for this Institution, together with sundry minor contributions at intervals. In the ordinary course, it would appear to have been the Old People's turn this year, but as it could not do justice to itself by supporting them and the Boys' School, it has elected to confine its attentions to the latter. LINCOLNSHIRE (24 lodges), took only a small part in the Festivals last year of the Old People and "Our Boys," but this is not to be wondered at after the great efforts it made in behalf of this School in 1896, when its Prov. G. Master, the Earl of Yarborough, acted as Chairman at its Festival and it raised the large sum of £1500. At the Girls' Centenary in 1888, it raised £202 2s. 6d.; at the Boys' Festival at Brighton in 1891, it figured for £118 11s. 2d.; and at the Benevolent Jubilee the following year, for £560 5s. MONMOUTHSHIRE (11 lodges), raised £346 10s. for this Institution in 1897, and, £246 3s. for the Benevolent Institution in 1896. In 1895, the Boys' School received £148 11s. 6d.; in 1894, this Institution was favoured to the extent of £297 11s. 6d.; and, in 1893, the Old People with £272 8s. 6d. Therefore, in the order of things the Boys' School will have its support at the centenary next month. NORFOLK (18 lodges), raised £110 5s. for this Institution in 1897, and, in 1896, £35 14s. for the Old People, and £105 for this Institution. In 1895, "Our Girls" were the favoured Charity, and received £202 5s., while "Our Boys" were the recipients of £134 13s. the preceding year. In 1893, £78 15s. was subscribed to this Institution, and, in 1892, £126 5s. to the Benevolent Jubilee. NORTHUMBERLAND (30 lodges), did not figure conspicuously either at last year's festivals or at those of 1896, the sum of £36 15s. to the Old People in the former case, and £52 10s. to this Institution in the latter being its only contributions. But, in 1895, it raised, per Bro. Richard Holmes, P.G.D., D.P., P.G.M., the splendid sum of £2315 5s. for this Institution, and a supplementary £186 18s. for the Boys' School, making the year's total £2502 3s. In 1891, it raised for the Boys' School £1364 4s., included in this sum being the £1050 paid for a Perpetual Presentation. We hope to see it next month occupying a worthy position among the supporters of the Boys' Centenary. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (18 lodges) which figured among the absentees in February last, subscribed last year £78 9s. to the Benevolent Institution and £230 15s. to the Boys' School, or together £309 4s.; while in 1896 the Schools were favoured, this Institution receiving £232 4s. and the Boys' School £163 2s. In 1895 £107 11s. 6d. was subscribed to the Old People and £166 19s. to "Our Boys." In 1894 the Province was unrepresented at all three Festivals, but in 1893 this Institution was benefited to the extent of £131 5s., and in 1892 both Schools were supported, £241 5s. 6d.

being raised, of which the Boys' School secured over £200. SOMERSETSHIRE (26 lodges) was represented at the Benevolent Festival in February by an Unattached Steward in the person of Bro. Lieut.-Col. A. Thrale-Perkins whose list amounted to £31 10s. Last year it raised £97 for our Boys, and in 1896 £123 18s. for this Institution, but in 1895, when Bro. Viscount Dungarvan, Prov. G. Master, presided as Chairman at the Benevolent Festival, it raised in all £1745 3s. 7d., of which £1657 17s. 6d. was in respect of his lordship's Chairmanship. In 1892 it figured at the Benevolent Jubilee for £613 10s., the whole year's contributions reaching £841 15s., while in 1888 it gave nearly £1000 to the Centenary Festival of the Girls' School. SOUTH WALES, EASTERN DIVISION (22 lodges), was an absentee in February as well as on Wednesday, but last year when Bro. Lord Llangatock was Chairman at the Festival of this Institution it raised no less than £1050, while in 1896 it gave £285 to the Old People; in 1895, £800 to this Institution; in 1894, £350 to the Boys' School; in 1893, £325 10s. to this Institution; and in 1892, £180 to the Benevolent Jubilee, and £321 15s. 6d. to "Our Boys." SOUTH WALES, WESTERN DIVISION (10 lodges), has taken no part in any Festival since 1896, when it subscribed £210 to this Institution. In 1895 the Boys' School was the recipient of £239 19s. 6d.; and in 1894 the Old People received £154 12s. In 1893 this School was favoured to the extent of £177 19s., and in 1892, the Boys' School, with £161 1s. 6d. We hope to find it well represented in support of the Boys' School next month. The other unrepresented Provinces are JERSEY (seven lodges) and the ISLE OF MAN (nine lodges), both of which are occasionally represented, the former as recently as February last, when, by the hands of Bro. Pugsley as Provincial Steward, it raised £130 12s. for the Old People, while the latter gave £26 5s. to the Boys' School and £27 6s. to this Institution in 1895, and larger amounts still at previous Anniversary gatherings. These Provinces, containing in all 231 lodges, had no part in the proceedings on Wednesday.

Turning to the represented Provinces, we come first of all to that of

BERKSHIRE,

which began the year by subscribing £163 16s. to the Benevolent Festival in February, three of its 16 lodges being represented, and the principal list being that of Bro. C. E. Keyser, of the Union Lodge, No. 414, Reading, for £121 16s. On Wednesday two of the same three lodges entered an appearance, while Bro. Keyser acted for No. 574, the total subscribed being £101 17s., of which the principal item was Bro. Keyser's £52 10s. In 1891, when it figured as a separate Province for the first time, it raised in all £385 1s., and in 1892, £954 11s. 6d., of which the large proportion of £661 9s. 6d. was raised for the Benevolent Jubilee. In 1893 it raised £724 7s.; in 1894, £583 13s. 6d.; and in 1895, £935 6s. 6d. In 1896 the total reached the still more considerable sum of £1019 19s. 6d., of which the Boys' School had the good fortune to secure £439 6s., the Benevolent Institution £343, and this Institution £229 8s. 6d. Last year the total was £825 16s. 6d., of which the Benevolent Institution received £455 3s. 6d., or appreciably more than one half. What next month's gathering will produce is, of course, a secret, but we have an idea that it will reach a figure, which will redound vastly to the credit of this excellent Province.

There are now as many as 19 lodges in the adjoining Province of

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE,

and on Wednesday two of these sent up Stewards, in addition to which there were two brethren—one of them being Bro. James Stephens—and Mrs. Stephens, Unattached, the total compiled by the five being £23 2s. In February the Returns amounted to £143 19s., so that the amount raised thus far during the present year is £167 1s. In 1897 the total was £489 17s. 6d., of which £250 8s. 6d., or more than half was subscribed to the Old People and the rest to the Schools. In 1896 the Old People was supported to the extent of £61 17s. 6d., only, but the Schools fared about equally well, "Our Boys" receiving £81 2s. 6d., and this Institution £186 11s., the year's aggregate being £429 11s. In 1895 the three Charities had £438 14s. 6d. shared amongst them, while in 1894 the Boys' School obtained no less than £429 15s. out of a total of £590. In 1893 the Province raised £479 10s., and in 1892, inclusive of £290 18s. for the Benevolent Jubilee, £705 15s. In 1891, when Bro. Earl Carrington, then Prov. Grand Master, presided as Chairman at the Festival of this Institution, Bucks subscribed £300, while the product for the whole year was £511 1s.—a most excellent total for a newly-organised Province.

One of the six lodges in

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

the Isaac Newton University Lodge, No. 859, Cambridgeshire—was represented by two Stewards whose joint list amounted to £42, while, in February, Bro. W. Briggs, Unattached, returned £10 10s., and, doubtless, we shall hear further from the Province next month. Last year, it raised £323 10s. 3d., the bulk of which was given to the Old People, while, in 1896, all three Institutions shared in the £364 5s., which was subscribed, the Boys' School obtaining £189, the Benevolent Institution £101 15s., and this Institution £73 10s. In 1895, £168 was apportioned unequally between the Schools, while, in 1893, all shared in the sum of £239 which was raised. The proceeds of the year 1893 amounted to £290 17s., and, in 1892, there was contributed to the Benevolent Jubilee £326 8s.

Only one of the 50 lodges on the roll of

CHESHIRE

—the New Brighton, No. 2619—figured in the Returns on Wednesday, and the amount of the list was only £15 15s. In February, an Unattached Steward, with a list of £10 10s., did duty for the Province, but doubtless the lodges are preparing for the Boys' Centenary next month, and hence the smallness of the subscriptions on this occasion and in February. In 1891 Cheshire took a leading part in the Boys' Festival and subscribed £1050, while the following year it raised £1988 for the Benevolent Jubilee. In 1893 and 1894 it busied itself in organising a Benevolent Institution of its own, towards the maintenance of which it subscribed over £3000. In 1895 Bro. Earl—then Lord—Egerton of Tatton took the chair at the Boys' School Festival, when the Province loyally backed up his lordship by raising £2000. In 1896 the total was small—only £237 6s.—and so it was last year, when it amounted to £270 7s., but these smaller figures are to be accounted for, as regards 1896, by what it had raised the preceding year, and, as regards 1897, by what, we trust, it is going to do during the present year.

At the Benevolent Festival in February an Unattached Steward, with a list of £6 5s., did duty for

CORNWALL

and its 30 lodges, and on Wednesday a lodge representative and two Unattached brethren—of whom one was a Steward in February, together subscribed £43 1s. Last year with Major Shanks as Steward at the Benevolent Festival, and Bro. Anderton, Prov. G. Secretary, at those of the two Schools—Mrs. Anderton being her husband's colleague for the Boys' School—the total compiled was £341 19s., while in 1896 the sum of £305 11s. was raised, the Benevolent Institution securing two-thirds and the Boys' School one-third. In 1895, when the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, Prov. G. Master, presided at the Festival of this Institution, the total raised in its behalf was £750, while the yield for the whole year was £789 18s. In 1894 the Province subscribed £241 10s. to the Schools, and in 1893 £225 15s. to the Boys' School, while in 1892, at the Benevolent Jubilee, over which Lord Mount Edgcumbe presided as Chairman, the total was £776 15s.

DERBYSHIRE

sent up four Stewards, of whom two were Unattached and the other two lodge representatives, the sum of their four lists being £31 10s. It took no part in the Benevolent Festival in February, but it distributed £513 0s. 6d. among the three Institutions in 1897, and in 1896, when his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, Prov. G. Master, presided at the Boys' School Festival, it raised the very handsome total of £1642 2s. In 1895 its figures stood at £550 6s.; in 1894, at £647 15s. 6d.; in 1893, at £1025 8s. 6d.; in 1892, at £1738 14s., of which £1362 was raised towards the Benevolent Jubilee; and in 1891, £980 7s.; the greatest part of the proceeds in this year and 1893 being in support of the Boys' School. This is a brilliant record for a Province which numbers only 27 lodges.

The same two brethren—Bros. F. B. Westlake and the Rev. A. H. M. Hare—represented

DEVONSHIRE,

with its 56 lodges, on this occasion as at the Benevolent Festival in February last, the only difference being that Bro. Hare, instead of standing on his own account, acted as Steward for the Torbay Lodge, No. 1358, Paignton. The two lists together amounted to £53 7s., while in February they made up £21. But, as we remarked in our Analysis of the Benevolent Returns, we look upon these lesser contributions as the promise of those larger amounts which await us in connection with next month's celebration. Last year the Province distributed £248 2s. 6d. among the three Institutions, while in the preceding year it confined its attention to the Schools, for which it raised sums amounting together to £199 10s. In 1895 it subscribed £226 16s.; in 1894, £135 12s.; and in 1893, £181 2s.; while in 1892, including £807 8s. 6d. subscribed to the Benevolent Jubilee, its contributions reached £923 8s. 6d.

DORSETSHIRE,

with its roll of 14 lodges, was situated on Wednesday just precisely as it was in February, having the same Bro. John H. Whadcoat, J.P., representing the same Lodge of Amity, No. 137, Poole, and handing in a list of equal amount—£10 10s. But, to judge from its past record, the Province will do at least as well during the present as in former years. Thus in 1892—the year of the Benevolent Jubilee—it raised £521 6s. for that Institution; in 1893 the Schools received between them a sum amounting to £233; while in 1894 the Benevolent and this Institution had the field to themselves, and shared between them £192 10s. In 1895, the Benevolent received £105 and the Boys' School £246 1s., making the year's total £351 1s. In 1896, the Benevolent Institution had the bulk of the support, receiving £160 10s., while the Girls' School was favoured with only £12 12s.; but last year all three shared in the contributions raised by the Province, but very unequally—the Benevolent receiving £137 11s.; this Institution, £72 9s.; and the Boys' School, £375.

The 37 lodges in

DURHAM

had a worthy representative in Bro. Robert Hudson, P.G.S.B., Prov. G. Sec., who, in his capacity of Provincial Steward, handed in a list of £57 15s., while in February the Province was entered for a donation of £52 10s., but without having any representative. In 1897 Durham was similarly included for a donation of £52 10s. to this Institution, but not without a Steward, its contributions to the Old People reaching the more important sum of £253 1s.—the proceeds of the year's work amounting to £305 11s. In 1896 the total stood at £566 10s.; in 1895, at £512 8s.; and in 1894, at £509 2s. In 1893 the Returns were on a lower scale, and totalled only £338 2s., but this in all probability was due to the greater and more successful efforts which the Province had made in 1892, when the sum of its contributions, including £720 5s. to the Benevolent Jubilee, was £1034 5s.

We have some difficulty in calling to mind the Festival at which

ESSEX

was represented by only two Unattached Stewards, with lists totalling £10 10s. only appended. It has 38 lodges on its roll, and in February it sent up four Stewards, of whom two were lodge representatives and two Unattached, the total of their lists being £149 13s. 6d. In 1892, it raised £2608 5s., of which £2318 2s. 6d. was subscribed to the Benevolent Jubilee. In 1893, its Prov. Grand Master—at the time Lord Brooke—presided at the Boys' School Festival, and again there was a heavy total, amounting to £2258 3s. 6d., of which £2155 6s. 6d. was in support of the favoured Charity. In 1894, the yield was £1123; in 1895, £1272 10s.; and in 1896, £1433 11s. 6d., of which £950 was raised for this Institution; while last year there was subscribed in all £833 18s. 6d., of which the Old People secured about half, while the remainder was shared between the Schools, in the proportion—speaking roughly—of three to one.

One of the 16 lodges in

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

was represented by Bro. A. S. Winterbotham, and Bros. the Baron de Ferrieres and R. V. Vassar-Smith, Dep. Prov. G. Master, and Mrs. Winterbotham were Stewards Unattached, the four lists amounting to £78 15s. In February Bro. Baron de Ferrieres, Unattached, handed in a list of £47 5s. In 1892, when Bro. Sir Michael E. Hicks-Beach, Bart., M.P., presided at the Boys' School Festival, the total subscribed was £1729 11s., of which £1645 11s. was in support of the Boys' School. In 1893 and 1894 there was comparative rest, the totals being £304 18s. for the former and £428 6s. 6d. for the latter year. In 1895 the higher sum of £598 19s. was reached; in 1896, £544 19s.; and in 1897, £675 18s., of which the Old People received £84 10s., this Institution £286 18s., and the Boys' School £304 10s.

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT,

which has 48 lodges on the roll, shows to greater advantage than it did in February, when an Unattached Steward raised a list of £36 15s. for the Old People. On Wednesday two lodges were represented by three Stewards, and Bros. Richard Eve, P.G. Treas., and another were Unattached, the total of the lists being £84. Last year the Province raised only £423 16s. 6d. for the three Institutions; in 1896, £1149 12s. 6d., of which the Old People were the recipients of £193 19s. 6d.; this Institution of £256 12s.; and the Boys' School of £606 1s. In 1895, including £516 8s. subscribed to the Boys' School, the total was £846 4s. 6d.; in 1894, £951 9s. 6d.; in 1893, slightly over £680; and in 1892, £1650 17s., of which £1345 19s. 7d. was raised for the Benevolent Jubilee. These amounts are in addition to what is subscribed to the Provincial Educational Institution, which is very generously supported.

HERTFORDSHIRE

was one of the few Provinces that made a goodly show of subscriptions at the Benevolent Festival in February, when six of its 22 lodges sent up Stewards, who, with three brethren Unattached, compiled the handsome total of £343 7s., the principal list being that of Bro. C. E. Keyser, who represented the Halsey Lodge, No. 1479, St. Albans, and handed in £115 10s. On Wednesday five of its lodges were entered, and the Stewards who acted for these, with Bro. G. E. Lake, raised amongst them £161 10s. 6d., Bro. Keyser's list being £63. In 1892—the year of the Benevolent Jubilee—it raised £2135 6s. 6d.; the following year, when Bro. C. E. Keyser took the chair at the Benevolent Festival, its contributions were again on a

large scale, amounting to £2106 14s. In 1894, they reached £958 6s. 4d.; in 1895, £1120 9s. 6d.; and in 1896, £1538 6s. 6d., of which the Benevolent Institution received £744 8s. 6d., this Institution, £295 3s., and the Boys' School £498 15s. Last year the aggregate was about £100 less, the total being £1434 7s., of which the Old People received £857 4s. 6d.; this Institution, £399 7s.; and the Boys' School, £174 15s. Such returns as these are eminently satisfactory, and we hope to find the record for the present year at least as considerable as that for any of its predecessors.

As in the case of Essex, so in that of

KENT,

we cannot call to mind the occasion when a single Unattached Steward with a list of £21, did duty for this important Province and its roll of 63 lodges, nor yet a year in which its contributions amounted to no more than £128 11s. 6d. for two out of the three Anniversary Festivals, the amount raised in February for the Old People, by the representatives of four of its lodges being only £107 11s. 6d. The reason for this is obvious that it is holding itself in reserve for the great event which is timed to come off on the 10th of next month. Last year the Province raised £852 2s., and, in 1896, only £798 18s. But, in 1895, when it purchased the Eastes Perpetual Presentation to the Boys' School, the year's total amounted to £2399 9s. 6d. In 1894, it was £1225 10s. 6d., and, in 1893, £2103 12s. 6d. But, in 1892, when the Benevolent Institution celebrated its Jubilee, it reached £3003 13s. 6d., and, in 1891, when Earl Amherst, Prov. G. Master, was Chairman at the Benevolent, it stood as high as £4018 5s. There are some very tall figures in this record of the last few years.

In February, one of the 111 lodges on the roll of

LANCASHIRE (E.D.)

with two brethren representing it, and Bro. C. D. Cheetham, Unattached, together subscribed £215 5s., of which Bro. Cheetham was responsible for all but £21. On Wednesday three lodges figured in the Returns, and Bro. C. D. Cheetham, Sir John MacLure, Bart., M.P., were Unattached, the total compiled by the five amounting to £104 4s. In 1897 the Province distributed £775 19s. among the three Institutions, the Old People being favoured to the extent of £464 9s., this Institution with £250 15s., and the Boys' School with the balance. In 1896 the Returns reached £912 9s., but in 1895 only £265 15s., the Province being engaged in a very successful effort in behalf of its own Educational and Benevolent Institution, for which it raised upwards of £4000. In 1894 the Returns totalled up to £772 7s. 6d., and in 1893 to about half that sum—£389 18s., but in 1892 it subscribed £2824 15s., and in 1891 £1278. We hope to hear of a successful contribution to the Boys' Centenary next month.

There are 118 lodges on the roll of

LANCASHIRE (W.D.),

of which two were represented at the Benevolent Festival, and their representatives, with Bro. Captain Garnett Unattached, together subscribed £36 10s. On Wednesday one lodge was represented, and the same Bro. Captain Garnett was again Unattached, the total of the two lists being £21. We may therefore assume that the Province is holding itself in readiness to contribute on a very large scale to the Boys' Centenary. In 1891, when the Earl of Lathom, Prov. G. Master, presided at the Boys' Festival, it raised the immense total of £6341 14s. 6d., of which £6126 14s. 6d. was in loyal support of his lordship's Chairmanship. In 1892 it raised £1679 14s. 6d., and in 1893, £792 18s. In 1894 the Earl of Lathom presided—at least his son, Lord Skelmersdale, did for him—at the Festival of this Institution, and the year's total was £2768 2s. 6d., of which £2500 was in respect of "Our Girls." In 1895 and 1896 the amounts were on a small scale, reaching only to £510 15s. 6d. in the former and to £530 13s. 6d. in the latter, while last year it was still smaller—£486 12s.

MIDDLESEX,

which now has 42 lodges, began the year well with a subscription of £273 17s. to the Benevolent Institution, there being eight lodges which helped to raise that sum. On Wednesday seven lodges and a Royal Arch Chapter together compiled £506 11s., the principal items being Bro. Langley's list of £194 5s. for the Bushey Park Lodge, No. 2381, and Bro. Wetton's of £119 2s. for the Electric Lodge, No. 2087. Last year the total was £1105 18s., of which the Old People received £352 11s.; this Institution, £260 8s.; and the Boys' School, £492 19s. In 1896, Bro. Lord George Hamilton, Prov. Grand Master, acted as Chairman at the Benevolent Festival, and the Province supported his lordship by raising the splendid sum of £3765 15s. 6d., the year's total amounting to £3967 15s. 6d. In 1895, the Returns reached only £493 8s.; in 1894, they totalled up £1043 17s. 6d.; in 1893, £630 18s.; and in 1892, £1619 15s. 6d., of which the Benevolent Jubilee absorbed £1315 9s.

Of the 16 lodges in

NORTHANTS AND HUNTS

three were represented by two Stewards, Bro. H. Manfield being Steward for the Eleanor Cross, No. 1764, and the De la Pré, No. 1911, both of Northampton, and Bro. H. J. Hankin for the St. Ivo Lodge, No. 2684, St. Ives, their lists amounting together to £52 10s. In February the sum of £110 5s. was raised for the Benevolent Institution, Bro. A. Cockerill, for the Pomfret Lodge, No. 360, Northampton, compiling a list of £78 15s., and Bro. Manfield, Unattached, one of £31 10s. In 1893, when the Earl of Euston, Prov. G. Master, presided as Chairman at the Festival of this Institution the Province backed up his lordship by subscribing £1050, the total for the whole year being £1107 10s. In 1894 the brethren were content with the smaller sum of £328 7s., while in 1895 the total was only £105, but in 1896 there was a re-action, and the sum of £183 15s. was subscribed, while in 1897 it reached £763 12s., the Benevolent Institution receiving £141 15s., this Institution £78 10s., and the Boys' School £543 7s.

An Unattached Steward, in the person of the veteran Bro. C. K. Benson, did duty as Unattached Steward for the 20 lodges on the roll of

NORTH WALES,

his list amounting to £10 10s. In February, however, the Province was one of the principal contributors, its two Stewards—Bro. Tuxford, representing two of its lodges, and Bro. J. Porter, Unattached—together raising £294. In 1892 the total subscribed was £495 12s.; in 1893, £474 18s.; in 1894, £400 17s. 6d.; in 1895, £302 8s., of which the Boys' School had the good fortune to secure £186 18s.; in 1896, £397 15s. 6d., the Boys' School taking £178 12s. 6d., this Institution, £84, and the Old People, £45 3s. Last year, though the Province was represented at all three Festivals, the total only reached £147.

After the very handsome manner in which the Province of

OXFORDSHIRE

supported its Prov. Grand Master, Bro. the Earl of Jersey, as Chairman at the Benevolent Festival in February, it would be unreasonable to expect a large contribution on this occasion, but three of its 12 lodges sent Stewards, who together compiled the sum of £65 14s. 6d. In February the amount subscribed was £595 12s. 6d., including the Chairman's Donation of 50 guineas, while the three Stewards of the Alfred Lodge, No. 340, raised £106 5s. and the five of Apollo University Lodge, No. 357, £82. In 1892 the total, including £428 7s. in respect of the

Benevolent Jubilee, was £661 19s. 6d.; in 1893, £440 6s. 6d.; in 1894, £312 1s.; in 1895, £382 18s. 6d.; and in 1896, £351 8s. 6d.; while last year it reached £476 1s. 6d., made up of £240 15s. 6d. to the Benevolent Institution, £51 7s. 6d. to this Institution, and £183 18s. 6d. to the Boys' School. This is a splendid record for a Province of such moderate strength.

SHROPSHIRE

and its 12 lodges were represented by an Unattached Steward—Bro. W. Lascelles Southwell, whose name has before now figured in these Returns—the sum standing to his credit being £36 15s. In February, the Prov. G. Master, Bro. Sir Olney Wakeman, Bart., and his Deputy, Bro. Rowland G. Venables, gave their services as Stewards, the sum of their lists being £89 5s. The Province was represented at all the three Festivals of last year, the total of its contributions being £286 13s., of which this Institution had the satisfaction of receiving £176 8s. The preceding year the total was £267 11s., and in 1895, £391 13s. In 1894 and 1893 the amounts were on a far smaller scale, and not unreasonably so, seeing that in the year of the Benevolent Jubilee its total, including £456 1s. subscribed on that occasion, was £615 16s. 6d., while in 1891 it raised in all £455 9s. 6d.

Tree of the 32 lodges in

STAFFORDSHIRE

had five representatives at Wednesday's gathering and in addition there were two brethren acting independently of lodge or chapter, and of these Lord Burton, the present S.G.W. of England was one. The seven lists amounted together to £131 5s. In February two lodges sent up Stewards to the Benevolent Festival, their lists—apparently personal donations—amounting to £21. In 1891, when the Boys' School had so successful a gathering at Brighton, the Province was entered for totals mounting together to £761 15s. 6d., while in 1892—the Benevolent Jubilee year—it raised £762 2s. In 1893 and 1894 the yearly totals were almost equally close, that in the former being £424 7s. 6d., and that in the latter £428 8s. In 1895 an aggregate was raised of £692 13s. 6d., and in 1896 £604 11s., while last year the figure was about midway between the two and reached £640, the Benevolent Institution obtaining £115 10s., this Institution £246 5s., and the Boys' School £278 5s. We shall hope to see Staffordshire acquitting itself with its accustomed liberality next month.

SUFFOLK

had an Unattached Steward at the Benevolent Festival in February, his list amounting to £31 10s., and one of its 22 lodges—No. 1983, at Southwold—returned £10 10s. on Wednesday. Last year it raised in all £401 4s., of which the Old People secured £173 14s., this Institution £227 10s., and the Boys' School the small balance of £31 10s. In 1896, £647 1s. was raised; in 1895, £851 13s. 6d.; in 1894, £809 5s.; in 1893, £533 9s. 6d.; and in 1892, £1419 4s., of which the Benevolent Jubilee absorbed no less than £1291 14s.

SURREY

with its roll of 43 lodges began the year by subscribing £308 14s. to the Benevolent Institution, a body of nine Stewards, of whom two were Unattached, taking part in the work, while the principal list was that of Bro. Tom Cookes of the Lorne Lodge, No. 1347, Sutton, for £165 18s. On Wednesday, three lodges were represented, among them being the same lodge No. 1347 with the same Bro. Cookes in charge of its interests. There were also three brethren Unattached and the amount raised was £163 17s. 6d., Bro. Cookes being responsible for £112 17s. 6d. In 1892, including its contributions to the Benevolent Jubilee, Surrey raised in all £2817 10s. 6d., and, in 1893, £913 3s. 6d. In 1894, the late Bro. Col. Money, C.B., Prov. G. Master, was Chairman at the Benevolent Festival and the Province raised £1399 2s., the year's total being £1673 4s. 6d. In 1895, it reached £1043 10s.; and, in 1896, £1068 4s.; while, in 1897, it stood at £1272 18s. 6d., the Benevolent Institution being benefited to the extent of £325 12s., the Girls' School to that of £622 7s. 6d., and the Boys' School £325 12s.

SUSSEX

was unrepresented at the Benevolent Festival in February, it being the first occasion for many years that it has figured as an absentee; but on Wednesday two of its 32 lodges sent up three Stewards, and there was a brother Unattached, the amount compiled by the four reaching £73 10s. But its record for many years past has been a good one. Thus in 1892 it raised in all £2227 4s., of which £1155 6s. was in respect of the Benevolent Jubilee, and £1072 5s. in support of the Duke of Connaught's Chairmanship at the Festival of this Institution. In 1893 the total was £1234 16s.; in 1894, £1277 10s.; in 1895, £1251 9s. 6d.; and in 1896, £1052. Last year the sum of £1498 4s. 6d. was subscribed, the Benevolent Institution, at the Festival of which the Duke of Connaught took the chair, obtaining £1263 2s. 6d.; this Institution, £205 0s. 6d.; and the Boys' School the small remainder. Doubtless we shall find it in its best form at the Boys' Centenary in June.

One of the 31 lodges in

WARWICKSHIRE

took part in Wednesday's proceedings, and will be found entered for £42, while in February, another lodge, but with three brethren to represent it, subscribed £31 10s. In 1897 the Province raised £493, of which £235 15s. was in support of the Old People, while in 1896 its contributions reached £981 13s., of which the Boys' School had the satisfaction of securing nearly one-half; in 1895 the Returns reached £1155, including a Life Presentation to the Boys' School (£525.) In 1894 the total was £637 5s. 3d.; in 1893, £530 7s. 6d.; and in 1892, £2410 4s., of which the Benevolent Institution had £2186 for its share. We doubt not the Province will take a prominent part in the Boys' Festival next month.

WILTSHIRE

was not represented at the Benevolent Festival in February, but on Wednesday the Stewards who acted for the Gooch Lodge, No. 1295, New Swindon—one of the 12 lodges on the roll of the Province—handed in a list of £71 1s. Last year it raised £205 for the Old People; in 1896, £310 for this Institution; and in 1895, £279 6s. for the Boys' School. In 1894 it subscribed £175 14s. 6d. to the Old People and £126 4s. to the Boys' School. In 1893 this Institution was the recipient of £185 17s. and the Boys' School of £110 5s., while in 1892 it raised the capital sum of £483 14s. for the Benevolent Jubilee. It has thus distributed its favours with tolerable impartiality among the three Charities, and we anticipate that it will do good service next month on behalf of the Boys' Centenary.

Of the 14 lodges in

WORCESTERSHIRE,

Stability, No. 564, Stourbridge, was the only one represented at the Benevolent Festival in February, the sum raised by its Steward being £27 6s. On Wednesday the Prov. Grand Master, Bro. A. F. Godson, M.P., entered an appearance on behalf of his Province with a list of £68 5s., of which 50 guineas was his own personal donation. The total raised by the Province in 1892 was £498 15s.; in 1893, £308 7s.; in 1894, £193 0s. 6d.; in 1895, £558; in 1896, £653 2s.; and in 1897, £753 18s., of which the Benevolent Institution was fortunate enough to secure £504.

Two out of the 34 lodges in

YORKSHIRE (N. AND E. RIDINGS)

took part in the celebration of Wednesday, but one of them—the Albert Victor, No. 2328, York—had three brethren to represent it, the total of the four lists being £78 15s. It was not included among the contributing Provinces at the Benevolent Festival in February, but it has done good work in the past and we doubt not it will be efficiently represented at the Centenary Festival of the Boys' School next month. Last year it was content with a subscription of £127 15s. to this Institution, but in 1896 it raised in all £1022 19s., of which the Old People received £900. In 1895 but little was done, but in 1894 the Returns amounted to £441 15s., and in 1893 to £424 4s., while in 1892 they stood at £733 4s., of which no less than £711 9s. was subscribed to the Benevolent Jubilee.

Of the 80 lodges in the Province of

YORKSHIRE (WEST RIDING)

there were 10 represented by as many Stewards and one Unattached, Mrs. George Heaton, the total they raised among them being £1470. Of this £1260 was the amount which the late lamented Bro. George Heaton, of Heckmondwike, had paid over to Bro. W. F. Smithson, with which to purchase a Perpetual Presentation, but it was not found possible to carry out this intention, and Bro. Heaton having died in the meantime, his widow very generously consented that the money should be paid over to the School, with a view to purchasing votes in perpetuity, if not a Perpetual Presentation. The total also included a donation from Bro. Henry Smith sufficient to complete his patronship. This with the £350 subscribed to the Benevolent Festival in February, gives a total of £1820 for the present year. What it will raise next month for the Boys' Centenary remains to be seen, but no doubt it will be something very considerable.

GUERNSEY AND ALDERNEY

is a small Province with only five lodges, and moreover is remote from the headquarters of Masonry. But in February it contributed, or rather one of its lodges—No. 168—contributed, by the hands of Bro. T. Pengelley, £78 15s., and on Wednesday its Prov. G. Master, Bro. J. Balfour Cockburn, was entered for a personal donation of £10 10s. The Province has been well represented in the past on occasions, and under so active and energetic a ruler as Bro. Cockburn will doubtless do well from time to time in the future.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Of these, Madras was represented by Bro. Surgeon Captain Kiddle, who has figured in these Returns on many previous occasions. We regret that there were not more representatives from Foreign Parts at the meeting on Wednesday.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

It only remains for us to express the hope that we have said nothing which can in any way be interpreted as an offence to Province lodge, or brother.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES AT THE GIRLS' SCHOOL.

On Monday last Lady Hanson attended at the Schools of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls at St. John's Hill, Battersea Rise, for the purpose of presenting the prizes to the successful competitors in the year's programme of studies. Her ladyship was accompanied by Bro. Sir Reginald Hanson, M.P., P.G.W., who was to preside at the 110th Anniversary Festival of the Institution on the Wednesday following, and by Miss Violet Hanson. They were met by the House Committee, of whom Bro. Sir John B. Monckton, P.G.W., is this month Chairman, among other members present being Bros. Frank Richardson, Peter de L. Long, J. H. Matthews, Ralph Clutton, H. A. Hunt, A. C. Spaul, Robert Grey, Charles Hammerton, W. G. Kentish, R. Loveland Loveland, E. Letchworth (G. Sec.), Thomas Fenn, Colonel Gordon, J. J. Thomas, James Stephens, and W. M. Bywater.

The visitors, most of whom were ladies, numbered over 400, and all space in the recesses on the ground floor of the elegant and commodious Alexandra Hall and in the galleries was fully occupied.

The proceedings commenced with the time-immemorial calisthenic exercises, which were witnessed by Lady Hanson and party from the gallery. After these exercises, which were loudly applauded, had been gone through, Lady Hanson and party left the gallery, and took seats on a dais on the ground floor behind the table on which the prizes were ranged. Some pianoforte music and some singing followed, and then the girls were marshalled in front of the dais.

Bro. Sir JOHN B. MONCKTON read the list of prize-winners, and each, in turn, received from Lady Hanson their rewards, as follows:

PRESENTED BY THE INSTITUTION.

Gold Medal for Proficiency (with £5 by the late Bro. William Winn)—Eleanor Groombridge.

Silver Medal for Good Conduct (with £5 by the late Bro. William Winn)—Ethel Davis.

Cambridge Local Examinations (37 entered, 31 passed).

Senior—Constance Green. Class II. Honours. Distinction in English (with £5 by Bro. D. P. Cama)—Eleanor Groombridge.

Junior—Agnes Anthony, Gladys Jones, Ethel Issard. Class III. Honours—Dorothy Dean.

Preliminary—Catherine Castle. Class III. Honours.

College of Preceptors Examination (37 entered, all passed)—Agnes Robinson and Eda Thompson.

Junior Forms—Dorcen Cox.

Civil Service Class—Edith Wilson.

Proficiency in Lower Classes—3rd, Doris Eagle; 4th Dorothea Roberts; 5th, Ida Davey and Mabel Abbott-Smith; and 6th, Christina Day.

Needlework—Elsie Kiplin, Alice Cash, Mary Maslen, and Mary Jowett.

PRESENTED BY FRIENDS OF THE INSTITUTION.

Religious Knowledge (Bro. Robert Grey)—Ethel Kemp, Agnes Robinson, and Edith Lloyd.

English Subjects (Pro. A. C. Spaul)—Constance Green.

Arithmetic and Mathematics (Bro. Thomas Fenn)—Ethel Issard and Catherine Castle.

Mental Arithmetic (Bro. G. W. Kentish)—Agnes Anthony, Gladys Jones, and Marion Taylor.

Music, 1st Prize (Bro. J. H. Matthews)—Jessie Richards (Senior Associated Board of Music).

Music, 2nd Prizes (The "Wentworth Little")—Gladys Jones (Senior A.B.M.), Clare Whetnam, Violet White, and Elsie Kiplin (Junior A.B.M.).

Music 3rd Prizes—Daisy Potter and Rosalie Sherman (Honours in Preliminary A.B.M.).

Singing (Mrs. Robert Brown)—Esther Roberts.
French (Bro. Eugene Monteuis)—Rose Davis.
French Special Prize (Bro. Oscar Philippe)—Ethel Issard.
Drawing (The "John Boyd")—Dorothy Dean, Jessie Richards, Muriel Cranfield, and Muriel Cape.
Shorthand and Type-writing (Bro. R. Loveland-Loveland)—Hetty Arkell.
Writing (The Misses Tobias)—Maud Wallden and Gladys Harding.
Drawing, Special Prize (Mrs. Henry A. Hunt)—Marjorie Pavay.
Good Conduct, First Prize (The Supreme Council, 33°)—Eleanor Blott.
Good Conduct, Second Prizes (Bro. Frank Richardson)—Rose Davies, Ina Crowther, and Grace Dodd.
The Best Prefect (Bro. E. Letchworth)—Selina Booth.
Order and Attention (Bro. Ralph Clutton)—Jessie Hicks, Hetty Har'kell, and Noel Platt.
Cookery, First Prizes (Bro. Henry A. Hunt)—Louie Smith and Dorothea G'llbee.
Cookery, Second Prizes (Mrs. Homewood Crawford)—Alice Wakefield and Alice Cash.
Usefulness in Domestic Duties (The "Yates") St. James's Lodge, No. 842—Emily Gardner, and Clara Jacobs.
Calisthenics and Deportment (Bro. Col. James Peters)—Selina Booth.
Swimming (Lady Monckton)—Ethel Goldring, Ethel Davis, and Grace Abbott.
Swimming, Special Prize (Bro. Sir John Monckton)—Violet White.
Amiability (Selected by her Schoolfellows) (Bro. John Faulkner)—Grace Abbott.

JUNIOR SCHOOL.

General Proficiency (Bro. Frank Richardson)—Victoria Griffiths.

Arithmetic (The "Henry Levander")—Margaret Callander.

Bro. Sir JOHN MONCKTON, at the close of the distribution, moved a vote of thanks to Lady Hanson. He said that before he made a very important announcement which the Matron had handed to him, and which had something to do with creature comforts he was sure the company would wish him to do something much nearer their hearts which was to thank Lady Hanson for so kindly coming amongst them to present the prizes. They had had many charming ladies who had presented the prizes in a charming manner, but in no more charming manner or more charming lady had they ever witnessed in that charming royal hall than the wife of the brother who was to take the chair at the festival of this Institution on next Wednesday. To-day was not a day for long speaking, but for enjoyment and long speaking was not conducive to enjoyment. He might say, as Chairman for the month of the House Committee, that they were very well satisfied with the performances that had been given this year. On behalf of himself and all the Governors, he presented their thanks to Lady Hanson, and asked the company to carry it with acclamation. (Loud applause).

Miss VIOLET HANSON acknowledged the compliment. She said her mother had desired her to say what very great pleasure it had given her to come down there and give away the prizes that day. Personally, she (Miss Hanson) had known the Institution a long time, having been connected with it, and by visiting it knew some of the girls for a long time past. It had always been a regret to her that a lady could not be a Freemason, because if they were allowed to be members of the Order they would take great interest in that and the other Masonic Institutions. She believed there had been one lady who was present in a Masonic lodge during Masonic business, and they were bound to make her a Freemason. (Laughter.) However, as ladies could not be Masons, the best they could do was to interest themselves in the good works of Masons. If all Masons were to bring their wives and daughters to see this and the other admirable Institutions, she was sure those wives and daughters would become Governors, and so the interests of the Institution would be advanced. (Hear, hear.) She would only add that she wished health and prosperity to the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls.

Bro. Sir JOHN B. MONCKTON then announced that refreshments were to be partaken of in the adjoining hall and class rooms, and at six o'clock musical and other entertainments would be proceeded with.

This programme was then carried out.

CONSECRATION OF THE HOLLINGWORTH LODGE, No. 2702.

The prosperity that has attended the existing four Craft lodges of Freemasons in Oldham, has led to the establishment of a fifth lodge. This has been called the Hollingworth Lodge, No. 2702, after Bro. H. L. Hollingworth, P.P.G.T. East Lancashire, than whom there is no more honoured or respected Mason in the district. The Hollingworth Lodge was consecrated on Thursday, the 12th inst., in the lodge room of the Freemasons' Hall, Union-street, Oldham, in the presence of a large and distinguished assembly of brethren from the Province of East Lancashire. The ceremony of consecration was performed by R.W. Bro. Col. Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie, Provincial Grand Master of East Lancashire, assisted by the W. Bro. C. R. N. Boswicke-Royds, Dep. Prov. G. Master of East Lancashire, and the other Grand Officers of the Provincial Lodge.

There were present the following Grand Officers:

Bros. Edw. Ashworth, P.G.D. Eng.; Jno. Barlow, P.J.G.W.; R. Frober P.P.G.S.B. W.T.; Harry Perry, P.J.G.D.; C. D. Cheetham, P.P.G.W.; Wm Craven, P. Asst. G. Sec.; Wm. Gray, P.A.G.D.C.; W. J. Milling, P.G.S.B.; Joseph Snape, P.J.G.D.; Fred. Coupe, P.G.S.B.; Rev. J. A. Lathom, Prov. G. Chap.; Geo. Lingard Vaughan, Prov. G. Reg.; S. Moore, Prov. G. Supt. of Works; Thos. Uttley, P.S.G.D.; C. E. Hindley, P.P.G.S.D.M.; James Newton, Prov. G. Sec.; Joseph Clifton, P.P.G. Org.; Rev. J. O. Jelly, P.P.G. Chap.; Henry Thomas, P.P.G.D.; Joseph Selby, P.G.D.C.; J. Mercer Jones, P.A.G.P.; W. T. Milton, P.A.G.D.C.; Jno. Harcastle, Prov. G.T.; Campbell, P.P.A.G.D.C. Cheshire; and E. H. Flower, Prov. G. Tyler.

The following visiting brethren also signed the Tyler's book.

Bros. W. H. Kershaw, P.M. 206; Jno. Chadwick, P.M. 277; Joseph Whitehead, W.M. 277; T. B. Wood, W.M. 407; Alf. J. Hinton, I.P.M. 277; Walter Potts, P.M. 407; Jno. W. Mellor, P.M. 854; Isaac Prockter, P.M. 277; S. Smith, I.P.M. 206; S. Roberts, P.M. 467; J. C. Varley, P.M. 277; Jno. Whitaker, P.M. 298; Thos. H. Hugh, P.M. 42; Sam Booth, W.M. 337; W. H. Howell, W.M. 2341; T. Townend, jun., W.M. 298; W. F. Burton, 1808; Alfred Edgar 277; Charles Bullough, 277; E. S. Lang, 2341; G. Buchanan, 1806; James Wrigley, 277; Jno. B. Fray, 2341; Alf. Broadbent, 1808; Jas. B. Wilkinson, William Vaughan, Geo. H. Braddock, Robt. Braddock, and James Whiphich, all of 277; Abraham Collinge, 467; Edwd. A. Mayall, Jno. Alker, Chas. Green, Jno. Armstrong, and Jno. Hawley, all of 277; Fred. Kenworthy, 467; Wm. Dodd, Jno. Johnston, Sidney Stott, Edwin Kent, and Wm.

Fox, all of 277; Orlando L. Kenworthy, 2341; Jas. Hy. Walker, 361; Jno. C. Hamer, 2701; J. Dronsfield, 1868; Joseph Jackson, 234; R. H. Baxter, 2320; and Jas. H. Farrar, 1218.

The following brethren, who are the founders of the new lodge, were present: Bros. Jno. W. Mellor, P.M. 854; H. L. Hollingworth, P.M., P.P.G.T., Abm. Clegg, P.P.S.G.W., Rev. Jno. Alker, Chap., Edwd. A. Isaac Procter, P.M., Wm. Dodd, J. C. Varley, P.M., and James Prestwich, all of 277.

The lodge having been opened in the three Degrees, the PROV. GRAND MASTER briefly addressed the brethren as to the motive of the meeting, and after the reading of the warrant and the approval of the officers named therein had been given,

The Prov. G. Chap., Bro. the Rev. J. A. LATHOM, delivered an oration. They were, he said, particularly reminded on occasions such as that of the far-reaching objects for which the Masonic art existed. They were assembled there to consecrate a new lodge and to witness the formation of another local agent for the promulgation of the noble principles of the Order. Even then, as they looked with hope and certainty to the vision of a successful life of the new lodge, they saw clearer those principles presented to them when they were taught their first lesson in Freemasonry. They then learned that Masonry was a beautiful system of morality veiled in allegory. Masonry was formed on the noblest principles of brotherly love and truth. Those principles they found as they went further formed the true centre and basis upon which all human wisdom and strength of character were to be erected. Continuing, he said the three great tenets of their profession were the practice of brotherly love, relief, and truth, and in conclusion prayed that the Divine Master of the Grand Lodge above might always guide and direct them.

The ceremony was then proceeded with in accordance with ancient custom, the Prov. Grand Master constituting the lodge in due form.

The musical portion of the ceremony, together with the anthems, "Behold how good" and "Glory to God on high," were given most impressively by Bros. O. L. Kenworthy, F. Burton, W. H. Kershaw, and J. Clifton, P.P.G.O.

The installation of the W.M. of the new lodge was then proceeded with, Bro. J. W. Mellor being installed into the ancient chair of K.S. by Bro. H. L. Hollingworth, P.P.G.T., assisted by Bros. the Rev. J. O. Jelly, P.P.G. Chap., and J. C. Varley, P.M. 277. Bro. I. Prockter was elected Treas., and Bro. C. Green, Tyler. The W.M. invested the following as his officers for the first year: Bros. James Prestwich, S.W.; H. L. Hollingworth, J.W.; J. C. Varley, Sec.; W. Dodd, S.D.; E. A. Mayall, J.D.; and the Rev. J. Alker, I.G.

A handsome banner was presented to the new lodge by Mrs. H. L. Hollingworth, and several other gifts were announced.

The Prov. G. Officers and visiting brethren then sat down to a banquet on the invitation of the founders. Bro. J. W. Mellor, W.M., occupied the chair, and later proposed "The Queen" and "The Prince of Wales, M.W. Grand Master of England."

Bro. A. CLEGG proposed "The Earl of Lathom, Pro G.M., and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past."

Bro. H. L. HOLLINGWORTH, in proposing "The R.W. Prov. G. Master of East Lancashire, Bro. Col. Le Gendre N. Starkie," said Bro. Starkie had ruled over the province 28 years, and during that long reign the number of lodges had increased from 74 to 113. That was due to some extent to the increase of the population, but to a larger extent to their having at the head of the province a brother whose zeal for the Order and interest for its good conduct and government could not be equalled. He emphasised the Prov. Grand Master's constant advice to exercise the greatest caution in the selection of only suitable candidates, and that it was more necessary to have an increase in quality than in numbers.

Bro. J. C. VARLEY proposed "The W. D.P.G.M. of East Lancashire, Bro. C. R. N. Beswicke-Royds, and the rest of the Prov. Grand Officers, Present and Past," coupling with the toast the names of Bros. J. Barton, Prov. J.G.W.; G. L. Vaughan, Prov. G. Reg.; and J. Snape, Prov. J.G.D.

In responding, Bro. BARTON advocated the adoption of the Emulation system of working.

Bros. VAUGHAN and SNAPE also responded.

Bro. CHEETHAM proposed "The W.M. of the Hollingworth Lodge," and remarked that if the lodge was conducted in a manner in keeping with the honoured Mason whose name it bore, they would never have cause to regret calling it after Bro. Hollingworth.

The W.M., in responding, said his acceptance of the chair was conditional on the lodge being named after Bro. Hollingworth. Nothing would be wanting on his part to make the new lodge a success.

The W.M. proposed "The Officers of the Hollingworth Lodge," to which Bro. Rev. J. ALKER, I.G., responded.

Bro. HOLLINGWORTH proposed "The Visiting Brethren."

Bros. Rev. J. O. JELLY, J. E. WHITEHEAD, W.M. 277; W. H. HARRELL, W.M. 2341; SAM BOOTH, W.M. 337; W. H. KERSHAW, P.M. 266; and T. B. Wood, W.M. 467, responded.

Bro. Rev. J. O. JELLY proposed "The Masonic Charities," and Bro. C. GREEN gave the Tyler's toast.

An excellent programme of music was rendered by Bros. O. L. Kenworthy, F. Burton, W. H. Kershaw, and J. Clifton, P.P.G.O., together with Bro. J. Dronsfield, who also contributed several recitations in dialect in his own inimitable style.

MASONIC SERVICE.

A Masonic service, under the auspices of the Penge Lodge, No. 1815, was held in the New Church, Waldegrave-road, Anerley, S.E., on the 15th instant, when a sermon was preached by Bro. the Rev. John Robbins, Chaplain of the lodge, from the text, Psalms c. 48, verses 12 to 14. Attention was well directed to the antiquity of the Craft and the munificence of its Charitable Institutions. The offertory was taken on behalf of the Masonic Charities. The lessons—II. Chron. 7 and Psalm 24—were read by Bro. R. Jackson, P.M. The hymns selected were "O, worship the King," "Guide me, O Thou Great Jehovah," and "Lead, kindly light." The choir, a contingent from the Normal College for the Blind, sang the anthems—"Hear my prayer" and "O for the wings of a dove"—the solos being most effective.

It being the first service of the kind held in the neighbourhood, despite the threatening aspect of the weather, it drew together a large congregation, the church being filled to its utmost capacity. The brethren, in white gloves, clothed with the various coloured aprons and insignia of the several Degrees, decorated with their jewels, &c., presented a somewhat novel and striking appearance.

The officers and members present included Bros. Albert E. Pridmore, W.M.; Budd, Treas.; Crowe, Sec.; G. T. Crockford, S.W.; W. Peskett, J.W.; W. Atkinson, S.D.; C. G. Jones, J.D.; W. Edge, I.G.; H. Leney, P.M.; Baker, P.M.; Dibble, P.M.; D. Parsons, J. S. Hamp, J. M. Thody, F. K. Clarke, J. Ellis, E. L. Hall, F. Godden, C. R. Hall, and E. Lewis Partridge.

The visiting brethren included Bros. E. E. Vinen, P.G.O. Middx.; E. Croft-Wise, W.M., and C. Neavington, P.M., of 619; J. Pike, C. T. Baier, J. Wright, W. Overbury, and E. H. Wheeler, of 1586; T. P. Warwick, J.W. 145; A. B. Clayton, J.D., and A. Wilson, 1686; P. Joslin and Johns, 452; A. H. Hawes and W. Jones, 720; R. H. Grey, 1977; W. G. Harrison and H. Wheeler, 1986; F. J. Ritson, W. Jones, J.W., and Oscar Jones, 2266; Rooks, P.M. 879; T. J. Perrett, 2202; G. Mathew, 2246; W. Fountain, 1178; and W. E. Davis, 1194.

GENERAL COMMITTEE OF GRAND LODGE AND BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE.

The quarterly meeting of the General Committee of Grand Lodge and the monthly meeting of the Board of Benevolence were held on Wednesday evening, at Freemasons' Hall. Bro. J. H. Matthews, President of the Board of Benevolence; Bro. D. D. Mercer, Senior Vice-President; and Bro. C. A. Cottebrune, Junior Vice-President, occupied the three chairs. Bro. E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; Bro. W. Lake, Asst. G. Sec.; Bro. W. Dodd, Bro. G. S. Recknell, and Bro. H. Sadler, G. Tyler, represented the Grand Secretary's department. There was a large attendance of brethren.

The agenda paper for next Grand Lodge was submitted to the Board of Masters, and the names of candidates for the Board of General Purposes for election at that meeting were given in, and of Scrutineers for the porch and of Scrutineers for the election were proposed and carried.

At the Board of Benevolence the brethren first confirmed recommendations to the Grand Master made at the April meeting to the amount of £200. The new list contained the names of 45 candidates for relief, who were qualified through lodges in the London District, and in Birkenhead, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Derby, Cambridge, Devonport (N.Z.), Louth, Worthington, Northwich, Stockton, Bristol, Maidenhead, Plymouth, Lancaster, Taunton, Lostwithiel, Brixham, Blackpool, Bangalore, Newfoundland, Bermuda, Hong Kong, Linslade, Harborne, Lowestoft, Ipswich, Oxford, and Nelson, N.Z. The total amount voted was £1155, and 40 cases were thus relieved. One petitioner had died since the petition was perfected, and four cases were deferred. One petitioner was recommended to Grand Lodge for £75 and five petitioners for £50 each. Six were recommended for the Grand Master's approval for £40 each, and 10 for £30 each. Twelve received £20 each, four £10 each, and two £5 each.

MASONIC CONVERSAZIONE AT BOURNEMOUTH.

The second annual conversazione in connection with Lodge Horsa, No. 2208, was held on Monday evening, the 9th inst., at the Masonic Hall, St. Michael's Rise, and was an unqualified success. The brethren were invited to introduce ladies, and this they did, with the result that there was a large number of the wives, sisters, and lady friends of Masons present. The hall was very prettily and artistically decorated by Bros. J. H. Williams, H. B. Harvey, and C. H. Ratsch, who also with Bro. W. Hogg lent various articles of vertu and bric-a-brac, special furniture, shrubs, flowers, &c. The brethren were all attired in Craft regalia, and the light blue assimilating with the many tints of the ladies' dresses created a very pretty effect among the artistic, not to say picturesque surroundings.

Bro. G. E. Bridge, the W.M. of the lodge, and Mrs. Bridge, received the company from seven to half-past, and a little later Bro. BRIDGE, addressing the company, and more particularly the ladies, extended to all a hearty welcome. As far as the ladies were concerned he was exceptionally glad to see so many present, for it showed that they took some interest in the great Order to which their male relatives and friends belonged. They were entitled to thanks for the unselfishness they displayed in allowing their husbands and brothers to leave their homes to attend lodge, and to carry out the important duties devolving upon them as Freemasons. Without for a moment disclosing any of the secrets of the Order he might say that its principles and tenets were such as to entitle it to the most profound respect from all right thinking persons, and was based upon the highest laws of philanthropy and benevolence.

A musical programme was gone through, under the direction of Bro. H. Holloway, Mus. Bac. Oxon, assisted by Madame Newling, Miss Marion Dyke, Bro. A. T. George, Mr. Seymour Burton, Bro. Adam Robertson, Mr. A. Browne, and Bro. G. E. Bridge, and was interspersed with a demonstration of the wonders of the induction coil, vacuum tubes, and Rontgen rays apparatus, by Bro. Niel Macgillicuddy, M.R.C.P., and the exhibition of a number of microscopical wonders lent by Bro. J. H. Williams and Mr. George Pearce. Light refreshments were served during the evening.

The company separated about 11 o'clock, each lady receiving on leaving the hall a dainty box of chocolates, tied with Masonic blue ribbon bearing the Horsa seal.

The following brethren acted as Stewards for the evening, and to their arrangements and their assiduity in attending to the comfort of the guests much of the success of the conversazione is due: Bros. J. J. Brazier, P.P.S.G.D.; C. Pearce, P.M.; H. Youngman, P.M.; H. W. G. Knight, H. B. Harvey, J. E. Marsden, G. W. Powell, H. T. Pottle, J. H. Williams, T. Cox, H. W. Francis, F. J. Evans-Vaughan, and W. Hankinson.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES honoured Sir Herbert and Lady Naylor-Leyland with his company at dinner on Friday, the 13th inst., at Hyde Park House. There were present to meet his Royal Highness the Russian Ambassador, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, the United States Ambassador and Mrs. Hay, Bro. the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, the Duchess of Manchester, Marquis and Marquise d'Hautpoul, Earl and Countess of Essex, Earl and Countess Spencer, Bro. Lord and Lady Algegon Lennox, Sir Edgar and Lady Helen Vincent, Bro. Lord William Beresford, Capt. and Lady Sarah Wilson, Hon. Humphry and Lady Feodorowna Sturt, Lord and Lady Lurgan, Lady Rosemore, Lord and Lady Brougham and Vaux, Hon. George and Mrs. Keppel, Sir Edward and Lady Sassoon, Bro. Alfred de Rothschild, Bro. Christopher Sykes, and Bro. Capt. Holford. Lady Naylor-Leyland gave a small dance afterwards.

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EDITED, ARRANGED, AND ANNOTATED BY

Wor. Bro. Rev. J. T. LAWRENCE, M.A.

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castle Emlyn, Tenby, Milford, &c., returning JUNE 1st.

THURSDAY, MAY 26th.—To CORK, KILLARNEY,
WATERFORD, Tipperary, Limerick, Maryborough,
Kilkenny, BELFAST, Armagh, Enniskillen, Larne, Giants'
Causeway, &c., allowing a fortnight; to NEWBURY,
Marlborough, Devizes, Trowbridge, Frome, Yeovil, DOR-
CHESTER, WEYMOUTH, &c., returning MAY 30th
(certain stations only); JUNE 2nd or 9th; to WESTON-
SUPER-MARE, Bridgewater, Taunton, Minehead, &c.,
returning JUNE 3rd or 10th; to Minehead, Lynton, Lyn-
mouth, BARNSTAPLE, ILLFRACOMBE, EXETER,
Torquay, PLYMOUTH, FALMOUTH, PENZANCE, &c.,
returning MAY 30th, JUNE 3rd or 10th; to Cirencester,
Gloucester, Cheltenham, &c., returning MAY 29th, 31st,
JUNE 2nd or 9th; and to Ross and Hereford, returning
JUNE 2nd or 9th.

FRIDAY, MAY 27th.—To BATH, BRISTOL, &c.,
returning MAY 30th, 31st, JUNE 2nd or 9th; to Chipping
Norton, Cheltenham, Worcester, Malvern, Hereford, &c.,
returning JUNE 2nd; to Market Drayton, Manchester,
CHESTER, Birkenhead, LIVERPOOL, &c., returning MAY
30th, JUNE 1st or 2nd; to SHREWSBURY, Welshpool,
Aberystwyth, Llangollen, Barmouth, Rhyl, Llandudno,
Bettws-y-Coed, Carnarvon, and other North Wales
stations, returning MAY 30th, JUNE 2nd, 6th, or 9th; and
to DOUGLAS (Isle of Man), to return any week-day to
JUNE 6th inclusive.

FRIDAY NIGHT, MAY 27th.—To Exeter, Plymouth,
Falmouth, Penzance, &c., returning MAY 30th, JUNE 3rd
or 10th.

SATURDAY, MAY 28th.—To OXFORD, Leamington,
BIRMINGHAM, Wolverhampton, &c., returning MAY
30th, JUNE 2nd or 9th; and to Douglas (Isle of Man), to
return any week-day up to JUNE 6th inclusive, and on
FRIDAY, JUNE 10th.

SATURDAY MIDNIGHT, MAY 28th.—To BATH,
BRISTOL, &c., returning MAY 30th, 31st, JUNE 2nd or
9th; and to Chepstow, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, &c.,
returning MAY 30th, JUNE 1st, 2nd or 9th.

WHIT SUNDAY.—To CIRENCESTER, Gloucester,
Cheltenham, &c., returning same day or MAY 31st, JUNE
2nd or 9th.

WHIT SUNDAY MIDNIGHT.—To OXFORD, Leam-
ington, BIRMINGHAM, Wolverhampton, &c., returning
MAY 30th, JUNE 2nd or 3rd.

WHIT MONDAY.—To READING, Pangbourne,
Goring, Didcot, Oxford, &c., returning same day; and
to BATH, BRISTOL, Weston, &c., returning same day or
MAY 31st, JUNE 2nd or 9th.

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Sligo, on May 26th, *via* Liverpool, and on May 27th, *via*
Morecambe, BELFAST, LONDONDERRY, &c., on
Thursday, May 26th, and to LONDONDERRY, *via*
Liverpool and *via* Morecambe, on Saturday, May 28th.
See special bills for times, fares, &c.

SCOTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 27th.

To GLASGOW, Greenock, Ayr, Kilmarnock, and the
G. & S.N. line, leaving St. Pancras at 10.5 p.m., and to
EDINBURGH, GLASGOW (N.B.), Stirling, Perth,
Dundee, Inverness, &c., for 4, 6, 8, or 16 days, leaving St.
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SATURDAY, MAY 28th.

To PRINCIPAL MIDLAND TOWNS and HOLIDAY
RESORTS, including MATLOCK, BUNTON, LIVER-
POOL, Blackpool, MORECAMBE, THE LAKE DIS-
TRICT, SCARBORO' and the North Eastern District,
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Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.),
&c. Passengers holding 4 days tickets return Tuesday,
31st May, 6 days tickets Thursday, 2nd June, 8 days
tickets Saturday, 4th June, and 16 days tickets on any
day up to and including Saturday, 11th June.

SATURDAY, MAY 28th (for 3, 6, and 8 days), from
LONDON (Woolwich Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich
(S.E.), Victoria (L.C. & D.), Ludgate-hill, Moorgate,
Aldersgate, Farringdon, and King's Cross (G.N.), to
LINCOLNSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE,
LANCASHIRE, YORKSHIRE, NORTH EASTERN DISTRICT,
&c.; also (for 1, 3, or 4 days) to Skegness, Sutton-on-
Sea, and Mablethorpe, from Moorgate, Aldersgate,
Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

WHIT MONDAY, MAY 30th, for one day to St. Albans,
Hertford, Wheathampstead, Harpenden, Luton, Dunstable,
Hitchin, Baldock, Royston, Cambridge, Biggleswade,
Sandy, Tempsford, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Peterboro',
Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, and Mablethorpe, from Moor-
gate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c.

THURSDAY NIGHT, 2ND JUNE, for 2 days to Man-
chester (Races) from Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon,
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EMULATION LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT,

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The Committee of the E.L. of I. have instructed me to give notice that there will be no meeting of this Lodge, on Friday, June 10th, this being the date fixed for the celebration of the Centenary Festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

J. RUSSELL, Secretary.

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Masonic Notes.

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1898.

The one thing that is uppermost in men's minds at the present time is the loss which the country has sustained through the death of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, four times Prime Minister of the Queen, and one of the greatest men that England has produced. We are forbidden by the rules of our Order to take part in political matters, but there is nothing which prevents us from expressing our sorrow at the death of the eminent Statesman, orator, and scholar who has just closed his long and brilliant career at Hawarden, surrounded by those whom he loved and who loved him so dearly and respected so highly. Nor is there any reason why we should not join with the rest of our fellow countrymen in tendering the ex-

pression of our deep sympathy to the widowed lady with whom he had been united in matrimony for upwards of half a century and the other members of the family. May they, as time passes, become more and more reconciled to the loss they have experienced.

* * *

We regret that we should have so far misunderstood the proposal which Bro. W. C. Parsons was to bring before the Governors and Subscribers of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution at their annual meeting to-day (Friday), as to have represented it as applying to two of the deferred annuities instead of to two of the vacancies occurring since the Committee met in February. But this point does not affect our argument that the change is undesirable. We admit that it will not extend the cost of maintaining the Institution, but should the motion be carried, it will affect the prospects of other candidates by placing two applicants on the establishment virtually without a ballot. This will, of course, diminish the number of vacancies available for the general competition.

* * *

It is impossible to glance through the Audited Statement of Account for the year 1897, which has been issued with the voting papers to the Governors and Subscribers to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, without expressing satisfaction at the financial proceedings of the past year and congratulating the Committee of Management on the successful manner in which they have discharged their duties. The Receipts, including the balance brought forward from 1896 in the Male Fund amounted to £17,666, and the Expenditure to £15,589; the balance remaining in hand at the close of the account being £2,577. As regards the Widows' Fund, the Receipts, including balance for 1896, reached £13,173, and the Expenditure £12,069; the balance remaining at the close of the year being £1,104. The Sustentation Fund also closed with a balance of about £3 less than it commenced with, the receipts and expenditure being on a small scale.

* * *

The Receipts for the Widows' Fund included £1963 for Dividends, £850 for Grants by Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, £7819 for Donations and Subscriptions, £971 for annual Subscriptions and proportion of Admission Fees to Royal Albert Hall, £1167. There was paid away £8284 for Annuities, £188 for Collector's Commission, £187 for Postages, &c., Printing and Stationery, £267, Office Salaries, £533, Gratuities to Unsuccessful Candidates, £135 10s., and Deposited at Call, £2000.

* * *

Taking the Male Fund Account and scrutinising the usual items of Receipt and Expenditure more closely, we remark that the Dividends amounted to £2640; the grants from Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter to £900; Donations to close on £9785; and Annual Subscriptions to £944, the other items being small. Of the Expenditure, £7748 was disbursed in Annuities; Postages, &c., £187; Printing and Stationery, &c., £266; Gratuities to Unsuccessful Candidates, £190 10s.; Office Salaries, £533; and Collectors' Commission, £245; the sum deposited at call being £6000.

* * *

We are also in a position to know the Permanent Income of each Fund, that of the Male Fund, amounting to close on £2996, composed of the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter grants, and the Dividends on Capital invested in Government and Municipal Funds. As regards the Widows' Fund, the Permanent Income is £2813, made up as in the case of the Male Fund of the grants from Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, and Dividends on Invested Capital; the total Permanent Income, including that of the Sustentation Fund, being nearly £5836, while, as we have again and again pointed out, the total expenditure falls very far short of £19,000.

* * *

The first part of the Girls' School Festival—the Distribution of Prizes—took place at the Institution, Battersea Rise, under very favourable conditions as regards weather, and consequently there was a very large muster of ladies and brethren to witness the interesting ceremony so gracefully performed by Lady Hanson, and the calisthenic exercises, for which the School enjoys so well-deserved a reputation. Everything passed off satisfactorily, and the friends and supporters of the Institution, but more especially the House Committee, which is chiefly responsible for the management, must have been delighted at the evidences they had of the value of the School and the services it renders to the orphan daughters of English Freemasons.

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 COMMITTEE OF THE SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

I trust that those brethren who were elected will feel that I had no personal objection to them, but proposed two First Principals, good, hard-working Masons, and one, to my knowledge, for several years one of the best workers of the ritual. I consider that as a number of distinguished Past Grand Officers are annually appointed by the Grand Principal, the members elected by Grand Chapter should be chosen from the rank and file of that body. Elections in the Grand Chapter are so rarely competitive, that very few voted for my candidates, but as the voting went on the warmth increased.

I did not think the matter of sufficient importance to raise the question, but I very much doubt the legality of the election taken by show of hands, and many think with me.—Yours, &c.,

HENRY LOVEGROVE.

FREEMASONRY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To the Editor of the "Freemason."

Dear Sir and Brother,

It is nearly a year ago since I promised to send your readers my impressions of Masonry in the Central District of South Africa. Many a time and oft have I attempted to fulfil this promise, but the exigencies of a busy life have prevented.

The first impression made on the "tenderfoot" (for so is the new comer called here) will be that Masonry is rather a benevolent, than a social, Institution. Very little time or money is spent on banquets and the like, and the receipts are used to maintain a fund which is frequently called upon to relieve the necessities of brethren in temporary or permanent distress. The communities being small, every case of distress becomes speedily known, and the sick brother is constantly visited and cared for by members of his lodge, and in the event of his death their fraternal kindness follows him to the portals of the grave.

There is, or has been, great cordiality existing between members of the three Constitutions in the Diamond Fields. The English are the most numerous, the Scotch the most lenient as to the qualification of candidates, and the Dutch the most regular in attendance at lodge.

The visitor from London will be struck with the novelty of the work done in the English lodges. There is one thing to be said of it, there is no sameness in it, for it is never a twice-told tale. Whenever a W.M. sees or hears anything in a Scotch or Dutch lodge that takes his particular fancy, he straightway introduces it into the next ceremony he conducts, with the result that the ritual becomes intensely polyglot and cosmopolitan. There is a degree of life and "go" in the working which will startle the visitor versed in Emulation working, and like the sailor's parrot, he will be continually exclaiming, "Wonder what they will do next." The District Grand Lodge in 1897 established a lodge of instruction so as to secure uniformity of work in the district. The matter was taken up warmly by some of the brethren and for a few meetings, excellent Emulation working was done in the three Kimberley lodges. Some of the old Past Masters, however, found themselves in the cold and demurred. They did not care to learn the new work and were, therefore, bitterly opposed to it. Others, higher in authority, used as they were to bits of Scotch and Dutch business (never elsewhere seen in English lodges), looked upon the changes as innovations in the Kimberley ritual, and so the polyglot ritual was re-established—except in the Cosmopolitan Lodge—and one of the best Emulation workers in South Africa during his year of office restored the Scotch-Dutch-go-as-you-please working and was heartily applauded by his seniors. The District Board of General Purposes in its report this year to the District Grand Lodge disposes of the lodge of instruction by saying that an effort was made to establish uniformity of work, but that brethren took no interest in the matter. Had the report been made by the outgoing Board it would have been surprising, but as it is the custom for the Board that is to be appointed to make out the annual report they, of course, could know nothing of it officially. You see, Alice in Wonderland is not unknown in this part of the world.

There is another innovation here in the appointment of D.G. Lodge Officers. These are promoted annually as in private lodges. This promotes a feeling of intense satisfaction and keen emulation in the minds of all. The active Mason has always something to look forward to, which will soothe his declining years. His ambition is not crushed by the approach of the sere and yellow time. There are always vistas of future greatness opening up before him. There are always Masonic heights to be climbed. Having worked his way to the chair of K.S. he may in time be honoured with the red collar of a D.G.S., afterwards to become a D.G.P. and so on—if he be a semi-immortal to the chair of D.S.G.W. The novel idea will probably be seized with avidity by Grand Lodge.

The last meeting of the D.G. Lodge was presided over by the District Deputy, W. Bro. D. J. Haarhoff, in the absence in search of health of the D.G.M. The proceedings passed off smoothly, except for a ripple of excitement caused by an edict of the D.G.M., to the effect that members of the English Constitution, while permitted to visit "foreign lodges," were forbidden to take any part whatever in any ceremony without a dispensation. It has hitherto been the custom for visiting brethren to be asked to give the working tools, charge, or some similar position of the ceremonies (as W.Ms. here very rarely do all the work themselves). Now, the visitor must refuse, or keep the lodge waiting till he can apply for, and have granted, a dispensation. I hope the edict will not disturb the friendly spirit which has existed throughout all the Constitutions working here. It probably will among those who take any interest in the Order, as a whole.

Royal Arch Masonry is not flourishing in the District. Five out of the eight Craft lodges have R.A. chapters, but three of the five are said to be working under the Grand Chapter of Scotland.

There is a Mark lodge with a fair number of members, a preceptory of K.T., which met this year for the first time since 1893, and a R.C. chapter which meets occasionally. So that the Order and its branches may be said to be pretty well represented in and about Kimberley.—Yours fraternally,

WILL E. CHAPMAN.

Kimberley, S.A.,
15th April.

Reviews.

"OFFICIAL DIRECTORY FOR THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF CORNWALL, 1898."—Bro. J. C. R. Crewes, the present Editor of this compact and ably-arranged Annual has done his work well and given particulars of considerable interest and utility to the province to date. It is now in its 27th year of publication, and was never more valuable than at the present time. The Analysis of the Annual Returns has long been

a feature of this Directory, as also the "Annals of the Cornish Craft" from 1751. There are 30 lodges on the Cornish roll, having 1925 members, being the largest return yet made. The initiations during 1897 numbered 160. The chapters run to 13 and the Mark lodges to 12. There are also a lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, a Rose Croix chapter, and one Knight Templar preceptory in the province. The Table of Votes for the Central Masonic Charities is very complete and shows a grand total of 4756 votes, which is creditable for the size of the province.

"FREEMASONS' CALENDAR AND DIRECTORY FOR THE PROVINCE OF DERBYSHIRE, 1898."—The Editor of this artistic Annual is Bro. Wm. Naylor, the esteemed Prov. G. Sec., the arrangement being similar to the previous issues. The Portrait Gallery this time is engaged for a "speaking likeness" of Sir Henry Howe Bamrose, Knt., M.P., the Prov. S.G.W. of Derbyshire for this year. There are 27 lodges having a total of some 1370 members, i.e., an average of 51 to each lodge. There are eight chapters of the Royal Arch and seven Mark lodges, besides other Masonic Bodies duly described, and a full Table of Votes for the Masonic Charities, numbering in all 2566, in addition to the large number of 1061 for the Mark Educational and Annuity Fund.

Craft Masonry.

St. George Lodge, No. 242.

The annual installation meeting of this lodge was held in the Masonic Rooms, Doncaster, on Friday, the 6th instant. Present: Bros. F. H. Buckland, W.M.; R. Bridge, I.P.M.; G. Smith, S.W.; T. W. Turner, J.W.; J. W. Hainsworth, Sec.; H. C. White, S.D.; H. Foster, J.D.; C. Reasbeck, I.G.; W. C. Wright, Steward; J. Mason and C. Richardson, Tylers; A. W. Fretwell, P.M.; J. H. Pawson, P.M., P.P.G.R.; C. Goldthorpe, P.M.; C. M. Hartley, P.M.; J. Fitzgerald, P.M.; J. Denison, C. Barrett, L. B. Castle, A. Bridge, Francis Duff, and J. W. Chapman. The visitors were Bros. J. V. Thomas, P.M. 1802, P.P.G.P.; Jno. Constable, P.M. 2237, P.P.G.S.B.; H. A. Fenton, W.M., S. H. C. Ashlin, P.M., G. Eland, S.W., and Thos. Barber, I.P.M., of 2259; Thos. Hodgson, 565; G. Milner, P.M. 1511, P.P.G.S.B.; J. Smith, Org. 1802; J. Franks, S.W. 1482; Jno. Kelley, W.M. 667; E. Simpson, 1221; C. Pascall, S.D. 2030; and others.

Bro. G. Smith, S.W., W.M. elect, was presented for the benefits of installation. The outgoing W.M. undertook the duty of Installing Master and did his work wonderfully well, giving both spirit and feeling to the many beautiful expressions of the ritual. The charges to the officers and brethren generally were given by Bro. Parson in a very appropriate manner. The following held office *pro tem.* during the installation ceremony—Bros. C. M. Hartley, S.W.; C. Goldthorpe, J.W.; A. W. Fretwell and J. Fitzgerald, Deacons; and J. Constable, I.G. The W.M. appointed his officers as follows: F. H. Buckland, I.P.M.; T. W. Turner, S.W.; F. Duff, J.W.; F. Rand, Treas.; J. Fitzgerald, Chap.; J. W. Hainsworth, Sec.; H. Foster, S.D.; C. Reasbeck, J.D.; J. H. Pawson, Org.; A. W. Fretwell, D.C.; C. Goldthorpe, Almoner and Charity Steward; W. C. Wright, I.G.; J. W. Chapman and W. Hunt, Stwds.; and J. Mason and C. Richardson, Tylers. Before the close of the ceremony the W.M. said he had a very pleasing duty to perform. In recognition of the services of Bro. Buckland during his year of office as W.M. the brethren had subscribed and purchased a Past Master's collar and silver jewel attached, and also a gold Past Master's jewel for decoration, and he, the W.M., had the greatest pleasure in investing Bro. Buckland with the collar and placing the jewel on his breast. That was done amidst great applause. Bro. Buckland, in response, thanked the brethren from the bottom of his heart, but words failed to express his feelings at the moment; he should never forget their kindness and the appreciation of his services more than repaid him for all he had done.

It is worthy of note here that Bro. Buckland having obtained a faculty has placed at his own expense in the noble edifice St. George's Church, Doncaster, a beautiful brass tablet in memory of the late George Hirst, the late Tyler of 242, who had held that office for many many years.

After the ceremony, the brethren adjourned to the banquet room where a splendid repast had been prepared by the Club Steward, Bro. Richardson. After which the usual Masonic toasts were given interspersed with music.

"The Queen and the Craft," "The Grand Lodge and H.R.H. the Grand Master," given by the W.M., and the National Anthem and "God bless the Prince of Wales," being sung.

The W.M. next gave "The R.W.P.G.M., Bro. Jackson, and the Prov. Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire," to which Bros. J. H. Pawson, P.P.G.R., and J. Constable, P.P.G.S.B., responded.

"The W.M." was given by Bro. Bentley the oldest Mason present.

The W.M. responded, and hoped the brethren would not regret the choice they had made in placing him in the honourable position he then held, he, himself, would do his best.

The other toasts were "The Installing Master," "The Visitors," "The Charities," and "The Officers of 242."

Songs were given by Bros. Pawson, Hainsworth, and Smith (Relford); recitations by Bros. Milner and Turner, and the band. Bros. Reasbeck (violin), Venus (flute), White (piano), and Duff (organ), played some splendid selections. Altogether it was one of the most pleasant installation days St. George's have ever seen.

Ubique Lodge, No. 1789.

Installation anniversaries of this lodge of the Royal Artillery are usually attended by a large number of distinguished brethren, and the gathering at the Criterion, Piccadilly, on the 9th inst. was no exception. Among the visitors were Bros. W. B. Beach, M.P., Prov. G.M. Hants and Isle of Wight; E. Letchworth, G. Sec.; R. F. Gould, P.G.D.; Dr. Clement Godson, P.G.D.; C. Hammerton, P.G.S.B.; W. Russell, A.G.D.C., Prov. G.T. Kent; A. Spencer, J.P., P.G.S.B.; A. C. Spaulf, P.G. Std. Br.; the Rev. H. W. Turner, Prov. G. Chap. Surrey; Gen. F. T. Lloyd, C.B.; F. A. Hazeland, P.J.G.W. Hong Kong; Maj. de Pinna; Capt. C. Reynolds, P.G.S.B. Hong Kong; and others.

The lodge was opened by the W.M., Bro. Capt. H. L. A. Jenkins, R.H.A., who having requested Bro. Lieut.-Col. J. F. Ritchie, R.A., P.D.G.S.B., to officiate as Installing Officer, the W.M. elect, Bro. Major (J.M.) R. H. Murdoch, R.A., S.W., was presented by Bro. Capt. W. A. Weston, P.S.G.D. Kent, and the ceremony of installation was carried out with the care and ability for which Bro. Colonel Ritchie is noted. The newly-installed Worshipful Master invested the following brethren as his officers: Bros. Captain H. L. A. Jenkins, R.H.A., I.P.M.; Quartermaster-Sergeant W. H. R. Prewer, R.A., S.W.; Major F. E. Cooper, R.A., P.M., P.J.G.W. Cheshire, J.W.; Rev. W. George Howard, M.A., Ch. F., Chap.; Lieut.-Col. J. F. Ritchie, R.A., P.M., P.D.G.S.B., Treas.; Lieut. (R.M.) J. Learmont, R.H.A., Sec.; Capt. A. B. Chamberlain, R.A., S.D.; Major J. W. Marsden Newton, R.A., J.D.; Capt. H. L. Powell, R.A., I.G.; Col. H. M. Hezler, C.B., late R.A., D.C.; Capt. S. H. Hooper, R.A., A.D.C.; Major H. B. Lewis-Barned, Kent Artillery, Org.; Sergeant-Major (W.O.) G. Roberts, R.A., Lieut. H. Coningham, R.A., and Capt. J. W. Ormiston, R.A., Stewards; and C. Warren, late R.A., Tyler. The Auditors elected were Bros. Lieut. W. Robson, R.A., Capt. M. D. B. H. R.A., and Warrant Officer W. H. Neville, R.A., and the Committee on Lodge Charities: Bros. Capt. C. E. Reynolds, Lieut.-Colonel Ritchie, Capt. Weston, and the I.P.M.

Grants of 25 guineas to the list of the Steward of the lodge, Bro. Capt. Jenkins, I.P.M., for the approaching Centenary of the R.M.I. for Boys, and of 10 guineas to the list of Bro. Capt. Weston, for the Centenary Charity, in recognition of Bro. Weston's zeal and ability during the recent successful election of the child O'Neill, were voted—this being Bro. Weston's fifth Stewardship in the cause of Masonic Charities, and with the presentation of a jewel to Bro. Capt. Jenkins, I.P.M., lodge was closed. About 50 of the brethren dined in the sumptuous Victoria Hall of the Criterion, and a strong contingent of the Royal Artillery Band executed a choice programme of music, under the conductorship of Bro. Conductor Robinson, which had been arranged by Bro. Major Lewis-Barned, the lodge Organist.

The Royal toasts were duly honoured. In proposing that of "The Grand Officers" the W.M. remarked that the Ubique Lodge now musters 190 members, including five Past Grand Officers and 27 Past Masters of, and belonging to it, but does not possess

THE KRONTHAL SPRINGS.

At the highest point of the Valley are situate the four Kronthal Springs which have made its name famous—viz., the Sources Kronthal, William, Bismarck, and the Stahl or Steel Spring. The first two are known throughout the German Empire as the most popular of table-waters, while the third which is of a similar character, now being developed, promises to become still more famous. The four Kronthal Springs are declared by competent experts to be capable of yielding over fifty million bottles a year without possibility of exhausting the supply. The Kronthal Springs have been famous for over three hundred years. Montanus described them and their wonderful properties in his new "Wasserschatz" (New Water Treasury) in the year 1593. Gerning also memorialised them in verse, and prophesied for them a great future.

THE KRONTHAL COMPANY.

And now, as was only natural, the vast resources of this wonderful health-giving valley have been organised by the formation of the Kronthal Company, Limited (which has been privately subscribed), and is one in which many of the most prominent and influential people of all ranks, both in this country and Germany, are actively interested.

THE DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS.

The Board of Directors is presided over by Mr. John E. Dudley Ryder, who is well known both in leading City and social circles.

The organisation and management of the Company's business has been entrusted to Mr. H. Maconochie—Vice-Chairman and Managing Director—whose name in the mineral-water world is too well known to need comment. Enough to say that Mr. Maconochie engineered Johannis both in England and America, from the date at which its sale was little more than 50,000 bottles a year until its output was nearly five millions from the time when it was merely leased by the Johannis Springs, Limited, with a capital of about £20,000, until it was sold to Apollinaris and Johannis, Limited, for something like £400,000.

After personally negotiating the sale of the German Apollinaris Company to the Apollinaris and Johannis Amalgamation, Mr. Maconochie relinquished his command for a twelve months' rest, and the large interest he has secured in the Kronthal Syndicate augurs well for its certain success under his experienced and intelligent guidance. The Kronthal Company's Offices in London are at 66 St. James's Street, S.W. Its secretary is Mr. J. C. Engelhard.

THE KRONTHAL WATERS, THEIR LABELS, AND THEIR QUALITIES.

THE "WILLIAM SPRING."

The Kronthal waters are bottled under the general name "Kronthal," but may be readily distinguished by the distinct colour of the label, thus: Kronthal—"Blue" Label—(source: William). An alkaline-gassed saline table-water, which may be drunk plain or blended with wines, spirits, fruit cordials, liqueurs or squashes, for which purpose it is admirably adapted. This is the table-water *par excellence*, and has probably no rival in the world.

THE "KRONTHAL" SPRING.

Kronthal—"Red" Label—(Source: Kronthal), a more highly mineralised saline table-water, most refreshing and palatable. The greatest benefits are derived from the use of this water alone or plain, without admixture of wine or spirits, but it may be mixed at discretion. It is prescribed by the medical faculty in cases of gout, rheumatism, and indigestion.

THE "STAHL" SPRING.

Kronthal—"Yellow" Label—(Stahl Spring)—a medicinal iron water of immense value in cases of anemia and chlorosis. Numerous visitors to the Springs each year take the water as a cure. It is also bottled and supplied by all chemists and drug stores—under the "Yellow" Label.

THE "BISMARCK SPRING."

Kronthal—Green Label—(Bismarck Spring). This Spring also produces one of the finest natural table-waters extant.

Every bottle of Kronthal Water is bottled *at the Spring*, and is guaranteed absolutely free from any foreign flavouring or addition whatever.

FROM THOUSANDS TO MILLIONS.

In 1875 the local sale of the water from the Kronthal Springs began, and in that year 95,000 bottles were sold. In the second year the number reached almost to 600,000 bottles. Soon the sale amounted to several millions of bottles annually, and this without resort to advertisement either in Germany or abroad. The Bottling-Houses have had to be continually enlarged, and are at the present time capable of supplying the great and growing demand which will arise for Kronthal Water both in England and the United States.

PRIZES AND ROYAL WARRANTS.

Kronthal Water has been awarded nineteen Gold Medals and First Prizes in Munich, Genoa, Ghent, Antwerp, Landau, Baden-Baden, Wiesbaden, Mainz, Rome, Brussels, Sydney, Chicago, and Frankfort-on-the-Main. Further it holds the Royal Warrant of H.I.H. the Empress Frederick, H.R.H. the Grand Duke of Baden, and H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, and many other royal personages.

THE LANCET SAYS:

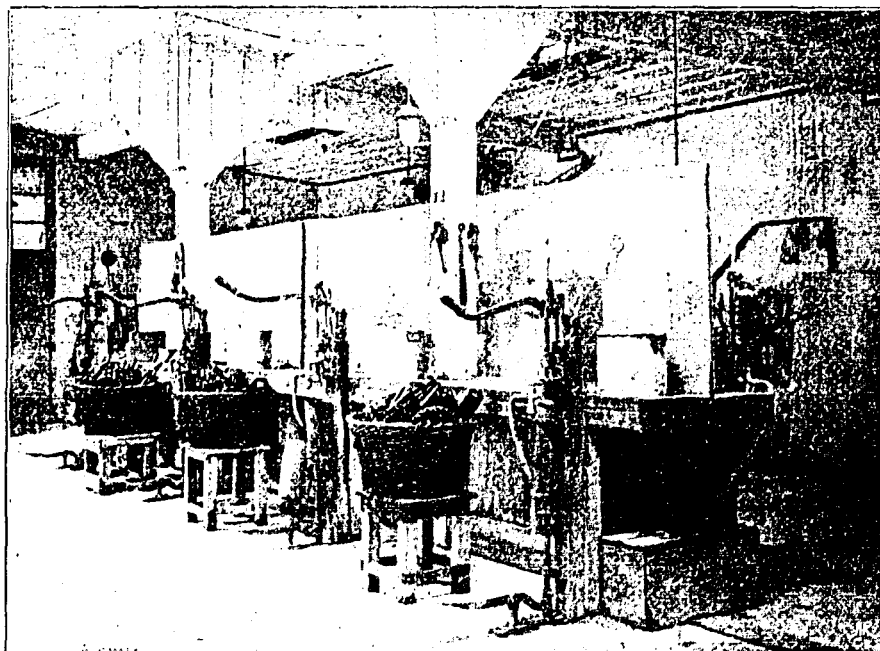
"Kronthal Water is derived from the Kronthal Springs in the Taunus district, Germany. The waters of the several springs are not identical in composition and character. Thus the degree and kind of "mineralisation" vary. One spring yields an alkaline saline water rich in saline matters, another a similar water but less saline, another an iron water, and another a pure effervescing water which is practically free from common salt. All the waters are now imported into this country in bottles, each being distinguished by a differently coloured label. No salt is added at any step of the bottling process. We have examined samples submitted to us, the first of which was marked with a blue and the second with a red label. The analysis of the sample labelled blue was as follows: total mineral matter 260.40 grains per gallon consisting of 189 grains of sodium chloride, 57.40 grains of calcium carbonate, and 14.00 grains of sodium carbonate. A pint of this water possesses an acid corrective power equal to 14 grains of bicarbonate of soda. The sample of water labelled red has a richer mineral value. The results of analysis were as follows: total mineral matter 327.6 grains per gallon, consisting of 266 grains of sodium chloride, 52.5 grains of calcium carbonate, and 9.1 grains of sodium carbonate. Its acid corrective power is equivalent to 12.5 grains of bicarbonate of soda per pint. Both waters possessed the pleasant soft and delicately saline characters of natural mineral water impregnated with its own natural carbonic acid gas. The waters are well adapted to dietetic requirements, especially as diluents on the table, and their composition is of decided merit since they are quite free, as we have found, from any kind of organic impurity. The addition of salt to natural mineral waters containing only a small proportion naturally is a very common recourse, which, however, is unnecessary and superfluous in the present instances. This is a point considerably in favour of waters intended for table use since greater purity is guaranteed by the omission of artificial additions. Our analysis established the purity of these waters."



MR. H. MACONOCHE.



"KRONTHAL" SPRINGS.



BOTTLING-ROOM AT KRONTHAL.

KRONTHAL AS A HEALTH RESORT.

Kronthal, as distinct from Kronberg, became famous as a health resort between 1820 and 1830, about which time the Medical Council permitted Dr. Küster to enclose the Springs and to build a Bathing-House. About the same time the Kurhaus was built.

M E S S R S.

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one Present G. Officer, a weakness amply recompensed, however, by the distinguished officers present to grace this anniversary, among whom he would couple with the toast Bro. Beach, M.P., who had torn himself from his duties in Parliament at this juncture in the affairs of nations, to honour and enjoy the society of the Royal Masonic gunners. Bro. Beach had for some 30 years ruled the conjoint Province of Isle of Wight and Hants, the most interesting and important of all Masonic provinces whether from a Royal, Imperial, Masonic, or artillery point of view—the Isle of Wight being the home of our Royal Mistress, the Solent enclosing Portsmouth the head quarters of the navy on which the nation relied for its line of defence, and Hants, including Aldershot, the head quarters of the army, these conjointly representing the strength and stability of the British Empire; while gunners rejoice that the first ruler of Bro. Beach's province, founder of Grand Lodge, Grand Secretary, and first introducer of Royalty into modern Masonry, was the artilleryman Bro. Thos. Dunckerly, master gunner of Admiral Boscawen's flagship.

Bro. W. W. B. Beach, M.P., Grand Master of Hants and Isle of Wight, who was warmly greeted both when alluded to by the W.M. and on rising to respond, said he had accepted the hospitality of the Ubique Lodge on former occasions, and with undiminished pleasure he found himself again among the gunner brethren and rejoiced to see the lodge so flourishing. Having entered Masonry at an early part of his life, he saw no reason to repent the high standard at which he rated Freemasonry when young. He was convinced that Freemasonry was a grand institution, and capable of affording great good to all who joined. The further he had advanced the more he had become convinced that his first judgment was good. This lodge had opportunity of proving all over the Empire through its members, that they had lessons entrusted to them of showing by their outer life that they appreciate those lessons, and that Freemasonry is more than a name, is a real and intrinsic Order. Freemasonry, also, has great Charities, but there is a personal Charity noble as these—that which man can show to man in time of distress by which they may be sure they have achieved one great walk of life and have done something also for their Order.

Bro. Lieut.-Colonel Ritchie, P.D.G.S.B., in proposing "The Health of the W.M.," said: The W.M. was so well known throughout the Royal Artillery that words were unnecessary to describe his excellent qualities. The W.M. had been for some years in the lodge, and had marked his career as a Mason by more than ordinary research into Masonic annals. From historian of his regiment, he had almost become the historian of artillery Masonry. The W.M. and himself were old comrades, and had worked for many years shoulder to shoulder for the good of their regiment, heartily and loyally. They gave up private interests for its service, and their sole object had been the regiment. The Ubique Lodge was lucky in getting so efficient a Master, whom it had been his proud privilege to install.

Bro. Major R. H. Murdoch, R.A., W.M., replied that words failed him to adequately express his feelings to the brethren. In attaining the chair he had their voices, when vacating the chair he would hope to have deserved their lives. It is a position of the highest distinction to preside in the Craft, especially in the lodge of the Royal Artillery. The 190 members represent every grade of officer, Warrant Officer, Master Gunners, and Staff Sergeants—from the Field-Marshal to the last joined Battery-Sergeant-Major, serving in all quarters of the globe and propagating the mystic art everywhere. This makes the position and cares of W.M. of the Ubique Lodge unique, and he would endeavour to exercise his high functions to the satisfaction of the brethren and the vast interests of the regimental lodge. If the brethren will give him four Degrees to work at each meeting there is no greater favour he can desire.

"The Immediate Past Master" was proposed by the W.M., who remarked that Masters resembled tea leaves, the strength and quality of which could only be tested after they have been in hot water, and during the reign of his predecessor it was not possible there could be even a ripple to disturb the peace and harmony of the lodge.

Bro. Capt. Jenkinson, in responding, thanked the brethren for the unfailing support they had given him during his momentous and prosperous year.

"The Installing Master" had introduced the W.M. into Masonry, and now had placed the cornerstone in the ablest and most impressive manner, for which the W.M. tendered his heartiest thanks.

Bro. Col. Ritchie, P.D.G.S.B., returned thanks, and expressed the hope that the roll of the lodge would exceed 200 during the W.M.'s year.

The toast of "The Past Masters" was responded to by Bro. Major Hansard, R.A. (who had been twice in the chair); Capt. Weston, P.S.G.D. Kent; and W. Shackleton, P.M.; that of "The Visitors" by Bro. Rev. H. W. Turner, M.A., G. Chap. Surrey, a *persona gratissima* in the Ubique; J. O. Cook, W.M. 913; and Hazeland, P.G.W. Hong Kong; and of "The Officers," by Bro. Prewer, S.W.; Maj. Cooper, J.W., P.J.G.W. Cheshire; and Capt. Cecil Reynolds, P.G.S.B. Hong Kong.

The markedly successful and happy evening closed with the toast of "All Poor and Distressed Masons," which was acknowledged by a generous addition to the Baker Column Fund.

Kingswood Lodge, No. 2278.

The first regular meeting of the season was held on Saturday, the 14th inst., the brethren attending being Bros. J. Gravatt, W.M.; E. Blinkhorn, I.P.M.; A. Ingram, S.W.; C. C. Renaud, J.W.; J. Petch, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., Treas.; J. F. Bell, P.P.G.S.B., Sec.; E. N. Benningfield, S.D.; H. R. Bower, J.D.; F. Page, P.M., I.G.; J. G. Cobb, P.M., P.P.G. Std. Br., D.C.; A. A. Kelly, Org.; C. Nicole and D. Taylor, Stwds.; T. Williams, Tyler; C. M. Coxon, P.M., P.P.G.D.; E. H. Moore, P.M., P.G.S.; R. W. Nicole, P.M.; A. Franklin, J. E. Little, A. Donald King, H. H. Broughton, J. H. Johnson, G. H. Redding, and S. Butler. Visitors: Bros. A. J. Clarke, P.M. 1609; M. Weiss, 45; H. R. Grice, 534; E. W. Collingridge, D.C. 1677; C. A. Hooper, P.M. 1613; W. Medwin, P.M. 1613; and G. Redding, P.M. 917.

The first business of the meeting was to take a ballot for Mr. Sydney Butler, which proving favourable he was duly initiated. Bro. A. Ingram was elected W.M. for the ensuing year; Bro. J. Petch, P.M., was re-elected Treasurer; Bro. C. M. Coxon was re-elected as the Lodge Representative on the Charity and Finance Committees of the Province; and Bro. T. Williams was re-elected Tyler. Bro. Weiss was proposed as a joining member of the lodge. The W.M. elect intimated his desire to represent the lodge as Steward at the Boys' Centenary Festival, the sum of three guineas was therefore voted as the lodge contribution to his list, and in a very short time a considerable sum was subscribed by the brethren.

After dinner the usual toast list was gone through, varied by an excellent programme of music, which had been arranged by Bro. R. W. Nicole. Songs were given by Bros. Johnson, King, Benningfield, G. Redding, A. C. Little, G. H. Redding, and Bower, which were ably accompanied by Bro. A. A. Kelly, Org., and a recitation was given by Bro. A. Clarke.

A very enjoyable evening was spent, and the W.M. may congratulate himself that the last meeting of his term of office was not the least successful of a very successful year.

Ravenscroft Lodge, No. 2331.

The installation meeting of the above lodge was held at the Red Lion, High Barnet, Herts, on Saturday, the 7th inst., when Bro. J. H. Catchpole was installed as W.M. by Bro. S. H. Wright, P.M., who worked the ceremony in such a perfect manner that it was a real treat to the brethren present. The W.M. (Bro. J. H. Catchpole) invested his officers as follows: Bros. E. Rawlinson, S.W.; J. Hume, J.W.; W. Curry, Treas.; A. T. Richardson, Sec.; H. H. Fearis, S.D.; G. Smith, P.M. 554, J.D.; R. E. Dingle, D.C.; J. J. Sargent, I.G.; Major C. T. Bowra, A.D.C.; J. Thom and W. H. Skinner, S.W.s; and J. Halle, Org.; and worked the ceremony of initiation, including the charges, in such an easy manner, as was mentioned by the visitor, Bro. Nelson, who responded at the banquet "That it was more like an old Past Master who had been in the chair several times."

The visitors present were Bros. W. J. James, P.M. 1708; J. C. Batho, 1708; W. J. Batho, W.M. 1708, &c.; W. Sycamore, P.M. 1288; C. S. Nelson, P.M. and W.M. 1702; J. L. Syme, 1305; F. W. Robinson, 218; E. W. Peterson, 1531; H. T. Adams, 1395; W. J. Lewis, 2362; W. J. Perrin, 1658; S. Morris, 1058; J. C. Emery, 1950; R. G. Minton, 1708; A. W. Newman, 179; and G. B. Wood, I.P.M. 2426, P.P.G.P. Herts. The members of the lodge present were Bros. G. Arnold, P.M.; J. Hudson, P.M.; J. H. Gunn, P.M.; M. Powell, I.P.M.; B. Stockman, W. H. Skinner, S. Smyth, F. Dowdall, W. L. Robinson, W. J. Royston, H. Sylvester, P. Sylvester, E. J. E. Fear, and G. G. Grammer.

Ordinance Lodge, No. 2399.

The above lodge held its installation meeting on Friday, the 13th inst., at the Masonic Temple, Mount Pleasant, Plumstead, when Bro. George Dyer, S.W. and W.M. elect, was installed into the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom. The lodge was opened by Bro. H. Crowdy, W.M., who concluded his year of office by initiating four candidates, Messrs. S. Crouch, G. W. Rennard, W. J. Gosden, and F. W. Holbrow. Bro. Capt. Woollett, P.M., P.G. Stwd., then, at the request of the W.M., undertook the office of Installing Officer, and in due course installed Bro. Dyer as above. The new W.M. invested his officers as follows: Bros. H. Crowdy, I.P.M.; J. Wheatley, S.W.; R. Rawlinson, J.W.; Capt. G. Penstone, Treas.; H. F. Furlong, Sec.; W. Steer, S.D.; E. Reynolds, J.D.; E. Woods, I.G.; W. Alwood, D.C.; A. Carter, R. Price, T. Davies, and B. Hubbard. The addresses were most impressively rendered and Bro. Woollett was awarded a hearty vote of thanks for his services, the same to be inscribed on the minutes of the lodge, for which he briefly returned thanks. Bro. Crowdy was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel to mark the appreciation of the brethren of his work as Master during his year of office and as a token of their esteem and regard for him personally, for which he returned his thanks. "Hearty good wishes" were tendered by the visitors present, and then the lodge was closed.

The banquet was partaken of in the handsomely decorated assembly room of the temple, and was well served, and among the other brethren present were Bros. Capt. G. Spinks, P.M. and P.M. 1536, P.P.S.G.W.; J. Bilton, P.M. and P.M. 1536; G. Ingle, P.M. and P.M. 1536; W. Sinnett, P.M., P.M. and Sec. 1536; C. Jolly, P.M., Hon. P.M. and Sec. 1472, P.M. and Sec. 2184, and P.P.A.G.D.C. Essex; J. Badlows, A. Carter, F. Widgery, W. Baker, W. Kenny, R. Price, H. Gm22, W. H. Turpin, W.M., A. McQueen, S.W., H. Jacobs, J.W., F. G. Dickson, Sec., and J. Rose, all of 13; H. Pamment, W.M. 700; W. Long, J.W. 700; J. O. Cook, W.M. 913; E. M. Taylor, J.W. 913; F. Morgan, J.W. 1472; F. Reed, W.M., A. Hill, S.W., and A. Simmonds, J.W. all of 1536; and A. Laker, W.M. 869.

The usual Grand Lodge toasts were proposed and honoured, that of "The D.G.M. and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past," was responded to by Bro. Capt. Woollett, who spoke reverently of those distinguished brethren who were the subject of the toast, then up spake

Bro. Crowdy, I.P.M., and he, in pleasing language, without at all too much fuss, asked the brethren to drink "The Health of the W.M." He said their esteemed Bro. Dyer would not only be a good worker and a credit to the lodge in that respect, but they would find him to be a courteous and genial Master and a friend to any member of the lodge. If they wanted to see the best qualities of a W.M. brought to the front give him plenty of work and they would then see that they had a W.M. prepared in every way to discharge the high and important duties of his exalted office to their satisfaction.

Bro. Dyer, who was received with cheers, acknowledged the graceful terms with which his health had been proposed and the hearty reception the brethren gave it. He felt he should not be wise in attempting that evening to express all that he felt at their ardent kindness, because any words of his, such at least as he could command at that moment, would be utterly inadequate for the purpose, but if he could not find words that night, he hoped, by a careful, if not an exemplary course of conduct in the future, and by his endeavours, during his year of office, to win their respect and show his gratitude by work, and so make up what he failed in words. That time 12 months he should have to leave the chair as many a good Mason and Master had done before him, and when he surrendered the unstained and unsullied warrant of the lodge into the keeping of his successor, might it be at the end of a year of office, as successful and pleasant as had ever lightened the labours and cheered the efforts of any of the excellent Masters who had gone before him!

The toast of "The Installing Officer" was then given, the W.M. in proposing it saying that every brother must have been impressed by the eloquent working of Bro. Woollett.

Bro. Woollett, in response, very briefly thanked the W.M. for his kind words, and could only say that both as a founder and as its Master he had always taken a deep interest in the welfare of the lodge, and if he had done the installation to their satisfaction he was only too pleased to have had the opportunity of working it.

The W.M. then did honour to "The Past Masters of, and belonging to the Lodge," a very proper way of putting it, for unfortunately "the Past Masters belonging" are in many lodges mere dummies, but in that district they were as much respected and held in as high estimation as the P.Ms. "of" the lodge. He knew now what the work of the Past Masters was and their immense utility in maintaining the structure and welfare of the lodge, and he had not the least doubt that before the end of his year of office he should know the truth of the old saying that the Past Masters "were the backbone of the lodge." Their good old friend Bro. Capt. G. Spinks still stuck to them and gave them the benefit of his invaluable advice on all occasions. He was pleased to see Bro. J. Bilton, P.M., and welcome him home again. Bro. Bilton had been in the hands of the Americans and Spaniards and came safely out of the fight. They were pleased to see their old friend Bro. C. Jolly, P.M., "belonging" and hon. member, and he asked them to drink the toast with a good fire, and they did.

Bro. Bilton, who had just returned from staff service in China, was well received, and his cheerful response to the toast was frequently applauded. He said, as they were all aware, it was some three years and a half since he left them to go to China, and now he was pleased and glad to be with them once again. He often wondered how they were going on during that time, but when he saw the *Freemason*, which he regularly received every week, he found out that at least once a year they were prospering and keeping up the prestige of the lodge for good work and good hospitality. When he left Hong Kong there were plenty of men of war there—French, Russian, and others—but ours were there, and all right, and nothing to be afraid of. (Cheers and laughter.) On their way home, just off Gibraltar, the ship he came home in was stopped by a Spanish gunboat, which fired at them two or three times, and then boarded them; but directly he told the Spanish captain that he must be at Plumstead and at the installation of the Ordinance Lodge, the captain said—"Go away, my boy." The captain of the steamer got into London two days before his time, and so he (Bro. Bilton) was with them that night, and hoped to be with them for many years to come.

Bro. Capt. Spinks said he was proud to be a Past Master of the lodge. It was his first appearance since the installation of Bro. Crowdy, 12 months ago; but he was one of those who had retired from active service, and it took a great deal of rest to knock him up. He wished the W.M. a successful year of office, and health to preside over an united and happy lodge.

Bros. Woollett, P.M.; Crowdy, P.M.; and other Past Masters also acknowledged the toast.

The toast of "The Visitors"—of whom there were some 18 present—having been proposed,

Bro. Turton expressed his regret at not being able to be present at the earlier working of the lodge, but was glad to be in time to hear the addresses so splendidly rendered by the Installing Officer. Their delivery was a lesson to him. He thanked them for their hospitality, and for the grand musical treat afforded them that night.

Bro. Pamment was more fortunate than Bro. Turton, for he had seen not only the initiation of the four candidates, but the whole of the ceremony of installation, and, as Bro. Turton said, it was a grand Masonic treat, and on behalf of the Nelson Lodge, he thanked them for their kind invitation and cordial reception.

Bro. J. Cook apologised for not attending their meetings through the past year. There was an old saying—"The King is dead; long live the King;" and it was so in Masonry; no sooner was one Master out of the chair than another was in. His own year of office was drawing to a close, but his lodge would, as their lodge had done that day, remove the old king and put another in his place. He heartily thanked them for their genial reception of the visitors.

Bro. Morgan and others also responded. "The Officers" were toasted, and the Tyler's toast filled up the measure of a most enjoyable function.

Bro. Fowler had charge of the musical arrangements, and the fine singing of Miss Nellie Beare, Miss Annie Cheal, Bros. Walford and Fowler, and Mr. Harry Leslie, and the euphonium solos of Bro. Parsons, added a rare charm to the proceedings. Bro. H. Furlong accompanied the singers on the piano admirably.

THE QUEEN entertained at her dinner party, at Windsor, on Wednesday last, the Duke of Connaught, Bro. Lord Wolsley, Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne, Princess Leiningen, Bro. Lord and Lady Wantage, Bro. Lord and Lady Brassey, Lieut.-Col. Murray, and Colonel Rowles.

MASONIC SERVICE AT ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE FIELDS.

Through the unfortunate mistake in our last issue, many brethren were uncertain as to the day appointed for this service, but a goodly number attended at 3.30 p.m. Of Grand and Past Grand Officers we noticed Bros. J. Woodall Woodall, P.G. Treas.; Dr. Kiallmark and Reginald Mure, G. Deacons; R. St. Aubyn Roumieu, P.G.S. of Wks.; Ernest Money, P.A.G.D.C.; Henry Lovegrove, P.G.S.B.; and J. H. Rutherglen, D.G.S.B.; while Bro. J. D. Langton, P.D.G.D.C., acted as Director of Ceremonies.

The prayers were said (shortened evensong) by Bro. the Rev. J. F. KITTO, M.A., and the lessons were read by Bros. the Rev. H. HENRI, M.A., Head Master of the Boys' School, and the Rev. R. J. SIMPSON, M.A., P.G. Chap.

Miss Bessie Spills sang two solos—"With Verdure Clad" and "O, Divine Redeemer"—Bro. James Connah presiding at the organ with great ability.

The sermon was preached by Bro. the Ven. ARCHDEACON OF LONDON, P.G. Chaplain.

Red Cross of Rome & Constantine.

Plantagenet Conclave, No. 2.

An emergency meeting of this conclave was held at the Holborn Restaurant, on Wednesday, the 11th inst. Present: Sir Knights Wm. Briggs, G.P., M.P.S.; W. J. Armitage, V.E.; R. H. Adie, S.G.; J. G. Marsh, P.G.A., H.P.; E. M. Money, P.G.P., Recorder; J. Briggs, Prefect; W. G. Miller, Herald; J. Culverwell, P.S.; H. J. Lardner, P.G.C. (Hon. P.S.); and A. Hill, No. 15, visitor.

The conclave having been opened, a ballot was taken for Bros. T. Hodgson, 2310; and S. Hare, 1954, as candidates; and also for Sir Knight F. A. Jewson, P.G.O., P.S. 122, as a joining member, all of whom were unanimously elected. Bros. H. Tipper (previously elected), and S. H. Hare, being present, were duly installed as knights of the Order, the ceremony being ably performed by the M.P.S., and the lecture of the Degree impressively rendered by the Viceroy.

The conclave was then closed, and the majority of the sir knights dined together.

Masonic and General Tidings.

THE DUKE OF YORK dined on Wednesday evening with the officers of the Royal Naval College at their mess at Greenwich. Sir Charles Cust was in attendance.

HER MAJESTY has graciously intimated to the East Cowes District Council her willingness to open the new road which has been constructed by her Majesty between the town and Whippingham.

IN CONSEQUENCE of the Marquis of Salisbury's residence in Arlington-street being at present in process of redecoration, the Prime Minister will give his official dinner to-morrow (Saturday) evening—the Queen's birthday—at the Hotel Cecil. Among his lordship's guests will be H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. A reception will afterwards be held at the Foreign Office, at which the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duke of Cambridge, and other members of the Royal Family will be present, and the guests are to be received (in the absence of Lady Salisbury) by Viscountess Cranborne, the Countess of Selborne, and Lady Gwendolen Cecil.

THE REMAINS of the late Duke of St. Albans were interred on Saturday last at Bestwood, near Nottingham. The Queen was represented by Captain Malcolm Drummond, and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales by Sir Stanley Clarke. The mourners included the Duchess of St. Albans, the Earl of Burford (the heir to the Dukedom), Lord Osborne Beauchamp, Lord Huddleston Beauchamp, Lady Louise Loder and Bro. Gerald Loder, M.P., Lady Myra Cavendish and Mr. Richard Cavendish, M.P., Lady Katherine Somerset, the Countess of Antrim, Lady Blake, and the Mayor of Nottingham (Alderman Fraser). The coffin was borne to the church by labourers on the Bestwood estate. The funeral service was conducted by the Bishop of Southwell, assisted by the Archdeacon of Nottingham.

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the interment at Bestwood, a memorial service was held at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace. The Prince of Wales, attended by Bro. Captain Holford and the Duke of York, with Sir Charles Cust in attendance, arrived shortly before half-past one, and occupied seats in the Lord Chamberlain's pew; and among others who attended were Bro. the Duke of Abercorn, the Duchess of Rutland, Bro. the Earl of Lathom, Countess Grey and Lady Victoria Grey, the Countess of Antrim, the Countess of Minto, Countess Manvers and Lady Mary Pierrepont, Bro. Earl Carrington, Viscount and Viscountess Halifax, Viscount Falkland, and others. The service was conducted by the Rev. Edgar Sheppard, M.A., Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal.

HIS HIGHNESS Prince Nicholas of Montenegro arrived at Charing Cross on Saturday evening last by special train from Dover, and met with a brilliant reception. He was attended by Captain Radovich and Captain Cerovitch (Aides-de-Camp), and accompanied by Sir Robert Kennedy, her Majesty's Minister at Cetinje; General Sir Charles Du Plat, one of her Majesty's Equerries (who met his Highness at Dover), and Mr. Raikes, of the Foreign Office. The Duke of York, who wore a naval uniform, attended by Sir Charles Cust, R.N., drove to Charing Cross to meet the Prince, and a guard of honour, composed of 100 men from the Grenadier Guards, was drawn up in front of the principal entrance. On his Highness alighting he was cordially received by the Duke of York, who conducted him along the line of the Grenadier Guards, and subsequently introduced him to Captain Alfred, in command. The Royal party, escorted by equerries-in-waiting, and a detachment of the 1st Life Guards, drove in the Queen's carriages to Buckingham Palace, and were saluted by the guard of honour which was mounted at the station. Shortly afterwards H.R.H. the Prince of Wales drove to the Palace to pay his respects to the distinguished visitor.

ON MONDAY HIS HIGHNESS and suit drove to Paddington Station, where they took train to Windsor, in order that the Prince might pay a visit to her Majesty. At the terminus he was met by the Duke of Connaught, attended by Major-General Sir John McNeill, V.C., and Major Egerton. Upon the arrival of the special train the Prince of Montenegro was warmly welcomed, and shook hands with the Duke of Connaught, Sir John McNeill, and Major Egerton, while the guard of honour presented arms and the band played the Montenegrin national air. The Prince who is of fine physical proportions and of dignified mien, was then escorted down the lines by the Duke of Connaught, his Highness saluting the colours as he passed. The Queen, accompanied by the Duchess of Connaught, Princess Henry of Battenberg, Princess Henry of Prussia, and attended by the Duchess of Roxburghe (Lady-in-Waiting), received his Highness at the head of the stairs of the Sovereign's entrance, the Gentlemen of the Royal Household being in attendance in the hall.

MM. JACQUESSON ET FILS have issued an exceedingly interesting pamphlet, entitled "A Tour in the Champagne Country," in which everything connected with their special system of viticulture and the manufacture of the wine for which this firm has been so famous is described in all the most important details. Nothing is omitted that can illustrate the process of manufacturing their wine, and to enhance the value of the description, the pamphlet is embellished with a series of views, beginning with the house of Mm. Jacquesson et Fils and their noted vintage at Pierry, and exhibiting successively the wine press, the cellars with wine in casks, the blending process, the shaking process, one of the bottling caves, &c. In addition, there is a list of the establishments—of Messrs. Spiers and Pond, the Victoria Wine Company, the Home and Colonial Stores, and others—at which their celebrated wines can be had; the London offices, at which the fullest information can be had direct from the firm of Jacquesson et Fils itself, being at 69 and 70, Mark-lane, E.C.

THE QUEEN leaves Windsor Castle to-night (Friday), for Balmoral, where her Majesty arrives to-morrow afternoon.

T.R.H. THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, Princess Victoria of Wales, and Princess Henry of Prussia and suite witnessed the performance of the opera—"Tristan und Isolde," at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on Saturday evening.

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed for a performance of the "Elijah" at the Alexandra Palace on Saturday afternoon, June 11th. Mr. George Ristley, of Bristol, will conduct, and in order to have a specially fine performance throughout, arrangements have been made to bring the Bristol Choral Society, consisting of between 600 and 700 voices, up for the occasion to assist the Alexandra Palace Choral Society, the joint number of the two Societies will be nearly 2000 strong. A fine orchestra of over 100 musicians is being engaged. The principal soloists will be Miss Esther Palliser, Mdlle. Giulia Ravegli, Mr. Herbert Grover, Mr. Andrew Black, and Mr. H. J. Baker will preside at the organ. Several novelties are in preparation during the forthcoming season, and on Whit Monday a trial experiment with a navigable balloon will be tried under the direction of Mr. Augusta Gaudron. Weather permitting, he believes confidently, from minor experiments which have already been made, that he will be able to steer the balloon round the district and bring it back to the grounds again. A huge programme of other out-door attractions is also in preparation for Whit Monday.

THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY announce that on Friday, the 27th inst. (for 4, 6, 8, and 16 days), cheap excursion trains will leave London (Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. and D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), Finsbury Park, &c.), for Northallerton, Darlington, Richmond, Durham, Newcastle Berwick, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Helensburgh, Dumbarton, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Dalnally, Oban, Fort William, Montrose, Aberdeen, Inverness and other stations in Scotland. Passengers holding four days tickets return on Tuesday, the 31st inst.; six days tickets on Thursday, the 2nd prox.; eight days tickets on Saturday, the 4th prox.; and 16 days tickets on any day up to, and including Saturday, the 11th prox. On Saturday, the 28th inst., cheap fast excursions (for three, six, and eight days) will also leave London (Woolwich (Arsenal and Dockyard), Greenwich (S.E.), Victoria (L.C. and D.), Ludgate Hill, Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross, &c.), for Cambridge, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Peterboro', Lynn, Norwich, Cromer, Yarmouth, Leicester, Spalding, Boston, Grimsby, Lincoln, Nottingham, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Derby, Burton, Burslem, Tutbury, Stoke, Newark, Chesterfield, Edwinstowe, Retford, Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham, Huddersfield, Manchester, Liverpool, Doncaster, York, Hull, Harrogate, Bridlington, Malton, Scarborough, Whitby, Stockton, Richmond, Darlington, Hartlepool, Durham, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Shields, Sunderland, Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, Accrington, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Bury, Rochdale, and other principal stations in the Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and North Eastern districts also (for one, three, or four days), to Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, and Mablethorpe, from Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c. Whit Monday, the 30th inst. (for one day), to St. Albans, Hertford, Wheathampstead, Harpenden, Luton, Dunstable, Hitchin, Baldock, Royston, Cambridge, Biggleswade, Sandy, Tempsford, St. Neots, Huntingdon, Peterboro', Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, and Mablethorpe, from Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross (G.N.), &c. Thursday night, the 2nd prox. (for two days) to Manchester (Races) from Moorgate, Aldersgate, Farringdon, King's Cross, &c.

THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY announce excursions on Wednesday night, May 25th, to Chepstow, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen, Milford, and other stations in South Wales, and on Thursday, May 26th, to Cork, Killarney, Waterford, Tipperary, Limerick, Belfast, Armagh, Giant's Causeway, Newbury, Yeovil, Dorchester, Weymouth, Weston-super-Mare, Taunton, Minehead, Lynton, Lynmouth, Ilfracombe, Exeter, Torquay, Plymouth, Penzance, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Hereford, &c. On Friday, May 27th, excursions will be run to Bath, Bristol, Cheltenham, Worcester, Malvern, Hereford, Shrewsbury, Aberystwyth, Barnmouth, Chester, Manchester, Rhyl, Llandudno, Carnarvon, Liverpool, Douglas (Isle of Man); and at Saturday mid-night to Bath, Bristol, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, &c. On Saturday, May 28th, excursions for Guernsey and Jersey will leave Paddington Station at 8.50 a.m. (daylight sea passage) and at 9.15 p.m. (night passage). On Whit Sunday a cheap train will run to Swindon, Cirencester, Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham, &c., and at midnight on Sunday an excursion will leave Paddington for Oxford, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, &c. On the Bank holiday cheap trains will be run to Reading, Pangbourne, Goring, Oxford, Bath, Bristol, Weston-super-Mare, &c., and on Whit Tuesday an express half-day excursion will be run to Oxford, Leamington, and Stratford-on-Avon. Excursions will be run to London from most of the principal stations, and cross country trips have also been arranged. The booking offices at the Paddington Station will be open all day on May 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th, so that passengers wishing to obtain tickets for any destination on the Great Western Railway can do so at their convenience. Ordinary tickets will be dated to suit the convenience of passengers.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.—Whitsuntide Holiday Arrangements.—Cheap Excursions from London.—The Midland Railway Company will run Cheap Excursions Trains from London to Dublin, Cork, Killarney, &c., for 16 days, *via* Liverpool, on Thursday, May 26th, and *via* Morecambe, on Friday, May 27th; also to Belfast, Londonderry, and Portrush for Giant's Causeway, *via* Barrow and *via* Liverpool, on Thursday, May 26th; to Londonderry, *via* Liverpool, or *via* Morecambe, on Saturday, May 28th, to return within 16 days as per bill of lading; on Friday, May 27th, to Liverpool, Southport, Blackpool, the Lake District, and Isle of Man, for 4, 8, 11, or 15 days; on Friday night, May 27th, to Carlisle, Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Helensburgh, Edinburgh, Greenock, Glasgow, Stirling, Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness, Ballater, &c., returning the following Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday, by which Third Class Return Tickets at a Single Ordinary fare for the double journey will also be issued, available for returning on any day within 16 days; on Saturday, May 28th, to Leicester, Nottingham, Newark, Lincoln, Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Burton, Derby, Manchester, Liverpool, Preston, Wigan, Blackpool, Blackburn, Bolton, Oldham, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Scarborough, Newcastle, the Furness District, Carlisle, &c., &c., returning the following Monday, Thursday, or Saturday; to Douglas (Isle of Man) for 10 days. On Whit-Monday, May 30th, to St. Albans, Harpenden, Luton, Bedford, Kettering, and Leicester, for one day; to Birmingham, for one, four, or five days; and to Manchester, for the Races, on Thursday (Midnight), June 2nd, returning Saturday, June 4th. Tickets for these trains for starting from St. Pancras Station can be obtained on the two days previous to the running of the trains at the Company's City and West-end Booking Office. Cheap daily and week-end excursions to Southend-on-Sea, as announced in Time Tables and Bills.

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