

Whitefriars Journal.

No. 3.

DECEMBER, 1900.

PRIVATE
CIRCULATION.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1900.

In presenting an account of their stewardship, the Committee have to report that the past year has been one of the most prosperous in the annals of the Whitefriars Club.

At the last Annual Meeting, the membership had reached the limit of one hundred, prescribed by rule. In February, at a special meeting of members, the rule was amended and country members excluded from the hundred limit. As a result, the Committee were able to elect a large proportion of the candidates waiting election. At the present time the Club consists of one hundred town members, fifteen country members, and nine honorary members.

The following have been elected during the year :—

F. A. ATKINS Editor of "The Young Man."
R. D. BLUMENFELD Journalist.
C. W. BOYD Journalist.
WINSTON S. CHURCHILL, M.P. Journalist.
CHAS. H. COOK Angling Editor of "The Field."
PAUL CRESWICK Author.
W. J. FISHER Editor of the "Daily Chronicle."
ALFRED J. FULLER Art Editor.
WM. L. GANE Bibliophile.
J. R. GEARD Dramatic Critic.
REV. C. H. GRUNDY, M.A. Author.
WM. HILL News Editor of the "Westminster Gazette."
JOSEPH HOCKING Author.
ROBERT L. JEFFERSON Journalist and Traveller.
COULSON KERNAHAN Author.
ALBERT KINROSS Novelist and Journalist.
R. E. LEADER, B.A. Journalist.
THOMAS MASON Author.
W. ROBERTSON NICOLL, LL.D. Editor of "The British Weekly."
MAX PEMBERTON Author.
JOSEPH PENNELL Artist and Author.
G. W. SHELDON Author and Publisher.

There are now eighteen candidates waiting for election,

During the year we have lost two members by death—Friars Mills and Gwynne. Friar Mills had long passed the allotted span. The figure of this fine old member will not be easily forgotten. Summer and winter alike saw him each Friday night in the Club Room. An expert regarding pictures old and new, he loved best to speak of art, and he was a true friend to many a struggling artist. He had been a member of the Club for 31 years. Friar Gwynne was a distinguished member of the Club, and was well-known as one of the leading authorities on Oriental literature. For some years he acted as our Chaplain, and it was always a matter of deep regret to him when he was obliged to be absent from the weekly dinners.

During the twelve months thirty meetings have been held. Our guests have included Lord Selborne, Professor J. K. Laughton, Mr. Clive Holland, Mr. F. Frankfort Moore, Mr. Frederick Greenwood, Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. H. W. Massingham, Mr. John Bickerdyke, Dr. Parker, Mr. J. T. Grein, Mr. Max Pemberton, Mr. E. T. Cook, Sir George S. Robertson, Professor Skeat, Dr. Robertson Nicoll, Sir Martin Conway, Mr. Walter Crane, Mr. Barry Pain, Dr. Garnett, Lord Windsor, Lord Ronald Sutherland Gower, Sir Douglas Straight, Mr. Winston Churchill, "Ian Maclaren," Mr. E. C. Borchgrevink, Mr. Clement Scott, Mr. Wm. Archer, Mr. Arthur Severn, Sir Wemyss Reid, and Dr. Furnivall.

The following have been topics of conversation after dinner:— "South Africa," "Nelson in Literature," "Thomas Hardy's Novels," "The Books of the Year," "Yorick Yarns," "The Advantages and Disadvantages of the New Journalism," "Some Johnson Characteristics," "Fishing Stories," "Journalists and Preachers," "The Drama of To-day and To-morrow," "The Imperial Note in Literature," "Charles Dickens' Commemoration," "Problems in India," "Art in Literature," "The Grub Street of the Future," "Sports of Literary Men," "How to Make London Beautiful," "National Humour," "Carlyle, the Man and His Writings," "Novels with a Purpose," "Shakespeare Commemoration," "The Influence of Journalism on Politics," "War Correspondence," "Round the World on a Wheel," "The

Scot in Modern Fiction," "Towards the South Pole," "Has the Modern Stage Helped Public Morality?" "The Influence of Ruskin," "The Brontë Novels," and "The Quincentenary of Chaucer."

Several events of exceptional interest in the history of the Club have occurred during the twelve months. A most successful Christmas Entertainment took place under the Presidency of Friar Carruthers Gould. Ladies were present. A programme of Wassail music was carried out, under the direction of Friar Miles, by the Westminster Abbey Choir. M. Yves Guyot was a guest, and delivered a speech full of spirit and charm.

The Annual Dinner, held on January 24th at the Trocadero Restaurant, was presided over by Friar Sheriff Treloar, and speeches were delivered by Professor York Powell, Dr. Collins, Friars Senior, Steuart, and Cecil Harmsworth.

The Ladies' Banquet was held at the Hotel Cecil on May 4th, under the Chairmanship of Friar Max O'Rell. Among the guests were Lady Dorothy Neville, Lady Randolph Churchill, Lady Jeune, Mrs. Craigie, Madame Sarah Grand, and Miss Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler. The toast of the evening "Sovran Woman," proposed by Friar L. F. Austin, was responded to by Lady Randolph Churchill. Madame Sarah Grand proposed "Mere Man," which was acknowledged by the Chairman. The dinner was followed by a conversazione. The ladies expressed themselves delighted with the entertainment.

The Annual Pilgrimage, which took place on June 23rd, was to Shakespeare's country. A special train conveyed the party of 120 Friars and guests to Warwick, whence the party drove to Stratford-on-Avon. Here they were received by Sir Arthur Hodgson, who was accompanied by Lord Ronald Sutherland Gower. The places of interest were visited, and in the afternoon a garden party was given in honour of the Friars by Miss Marie Corelli. An incident of some interest in connection with the Pilgrimage was the presentation to the Trustees of the Shakespeare Memorial of a Bust of the Poet, the work of the American artist—Wm. Page, brother-in-law of Friar Stevens. Friar Sir William Treloar made the presentation, and Mr. Edgar Flower gratefully accepted

the gift on behalf of the Memorial Trustees. Letters expressing regret at absence were received from Sir Henry Irving and Mr. George Wyndham. Once again the Committee have to express their warm appreciation of the generous assistance afforded by Friars Browning and Lacy, and the Club is also indebted to these two Friars and Friar Perkins for a charming souvenir of the Pilgrimage.

July 14th was a red letter day in the history of the Club. Through the good offices of Friars Clodd and Shorter, Mr. George Meredith invited the Friars and their friends to visit him in his garden at Box Hill. Friar Robertson Nicoll acted as Chairman for the day. The party drove to Box Hill by coach, luncheon was provided at the Burford Bridge Hotel, and in the afternoon Mr. Meredith received the Friars at his beautiful home. The novelist, who was accompanied by his daughter, welcomed the party in his orchard, and a happy hour to be long remembered was spent in his company. It is not necessary to refer at greater length to the Burford Bridge visit, for a report was published in the second number of the Club Journal, with special contributions by Friars Coulson Kernahan and J. A. Steuart.

In September a party of Friars and guests paid a visit to Paris. A luncheon was given in honour of Monsieur Yves Guyot by Friar G. H. Perkins, and a most enjoyable time was spent.

An event, specially concerning members of the Committee, was a garden party given by Friar G. Manville Fenn early in July. The members of the Committee and their ladies were most hospitably entertained by Friar Fenn and his wife, and a good time was spent in the old world garden attached to Syon Lodge.

At the beginning of the summer a Sub-committee was appointed to consider whether better arrangements could be made for the accommodation of the Club. The Sub-committee's report not being of an encouraging character, the Committee resolved to re-decorate and improve the Club room, and this was carried out under the supervision of Friar Louis Kight and Friar J. Farlow Wilson.

The vexed question of "tips" has been considered by the Committee, and it is proposed to discuss the matter and seek the wishes of members thereon at the Annual Meeting. The Club

through the Committee make presents every Christmas to the servants who have charge of the Club Room, but the waiters at the weekly dinners do not share in this benefit.

During the year, the Committee made the experiment of issuing a little periodical called the "WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL" with the view of placing on record a report of the more important Club gatherings. Two numbers of the "JOURNAL" have been published. It was originally intended to issue the "JOURNAL" regularly, but the Committee did not feel justified in incurring the expense that would be involved, and further, they did not consider it advisable to depart from the rule that reporters should not be admitted to the Club meetings. Subject to the approval of the members, the Committee propose to issue the "JOURNAL" whenever special circumstances render it desirable. Copies will be posted free to all of the members.

A special event of the year is the publication of "The Whitefriars Chronicles," edited by Friar Heath Joyce. The matter of having the Chronicles written was first suggested in 1891, when Friar Thomas Archer offered to take charge of the book. It was resolved to bring out a guinea volume and subscriptions were received for 150 copies. Friar Archer fell ill and his death occurred before he had made much progress with the work, and the subscriptions received—£157 10s.—were handed to his widow. The matter remained in abeyance for some years until Friar T. Heath Joyce was asked, and very kindly undertook, to supervise the production of the volume. The Club owes sincere thanks to him for the time and trouble he has devoted to the work. An edition of 250 copies was printed at a cost of £34 2s. 2d., and thus far the sum of £18 7s. 6d. has been received in payment for copies subscribed for by members.

All subscriptions have been paid for the year. Including the balance brought forward, the Treasurer's statement of accounts shows that the income for the year has been £703 5s. 7d. and the expenditure £584 13s. 7d., leaving a balance in hand of £118 12s. od. Last year the balance was £116 10s. 7d., and the year before £27 12s. 10d. Early in the year the Treasurer was instructed to invest £100 of the Club funds.

During the year there have been 17 meetings of the Committee. The following is a record of Members' attendances :—

W. H. Boucher	14	Kenric B. Murray	9
A. G. Browning.....	9	Wm. Senior	8
R. Lee Campbell	13	B. F. Stevens	4
John Foster Fraser	2	Richard Whiteing	3
T. Heath Joyce	15		—
J. Louis Kight	5	G. H. Perkins.....	11
W. G. Lacy	10	A. Spurgeon	17
Robert Leighton	9	J. Farlow Wilson	16

Two members of the Committee, Friars Whiteing and Stevens, have been seriously ill during the year. Their colleagues are very glad to state that both are now better.

At the beginning of the current session, Friar J. Russell generously presented the Club with an album containing photographs of the scenes of the two Pilgrimages to Shakespeare's Country and to Burford Bridge, and also portraits of many of the Friars. It is the intention of Friar Russell to include in this album from time to time photographs of interest to the Club, and his kindness is greatly appreciated. Friar Russell has also presented to the Club a number of framed portraits of new Friars, and in due course he hopes to complete the gallery of the Brotherhood.

Among other gifts to the Club which the Committee have to acknowledge is a set of gavels contained in a box made from wood taken from Shakespeare's Church. We are indebted to Friar Lacy for this gift. A handsome loving cup has also been presented to the Club by our Hon. Chaplain, Friar Nelthropp.

The splendid *camaraderie* of the Friars is to the Committee one of the most delightful evidences of the Club's success. There could be no greater stimulus to the efforts of the Committee and the Honorary Officials, nor more convincing recognition of good work achieved.

ARTHUR SPURGEON, }
J. FARLOW WILSON, } *Hon. Secs.*

TREASURER'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1900.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1899 ...	116	10	7
," Members' Subscriptions ...	234	3	0
," Entrance Fees ...	46	4	0
," Annual Dinner at the Trocadero	... 67	2	6
," Restaurant ...	25	0	0
," Ladies' Night at the Hotel Cecil ...	124	19	0
," Pilgrimage to Stratford-on-Avon	36	15	0
," "Burford Bridge	... 4	0	0
," Club Journal Fund ...	18	7	6
," "Whitefriars Chronicles" ...	4	5	10
," C.I.V. Luncheon—Ballance	... 25	0	0
," Contribution towards re-decorating Club- room from the Proprietors of the Hotel	0	18	2
," Interest on deposit 0

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
By Cablegram to Friar E. F. Knight ...	2	4	0
," Christmas Presents to Hotel Servants ...	4	4	0
," Smoking Concert ...	3	13	6
," Printing Red Book, Club Journal, Circu- lars, Programmes, Tickets, etc. ...	81	16	8
," Literary Year Book ...	0	3	6
," Newspapers ...	5	8	4
," Artistes ...	47	19	0
," Hire of Piano ...	2	2	0
," Entertainment of Guests ...	12	10	9
," Annual Dinner at Trocadero Restaurant	25	13	9
," Rent of Club Room ...	80	0	0
," Claret for Loving Cup ...	2	1	6
," Ladies' Night at the Hotel Cecil ...	53	8	0
," Clemow—Piano and Printing ...	3	17	0
," Pilgrimage to Stratford-on-Avon ...	130	12	0
," Hon. Secretaries, Postage, Telegrams, etc. ...	8	15	6
," Three Cheque Books ...	0	6	3
," Pilgrimage to Burford Bridge ...	35	11	3
," Printing "Whitefriars Chronicles" ...	34	2	2
," Club Room, Furniture, New Fittings, and Re-decorating ...	50	4	5

At Bank on Deposit ...	£100	0	0
Cash due to Club at Bank ...	18	12	0
Total ...	£703	5	7

£	s.	d.
£703	5	7

*Audited and found Correct, Nov. 23rd, 1900,
GEORGE HENRY PERKINS, Hon. Treasurer.*

GEO. MANVILLE FENN, }
W. N. SHANSFIELD, }
Hon. Auditors.

CLUB NOTES.

Next Friday we are to have the pleasure of entertaining Mr. H. H. Pearse, the *Daily News* War Correspondent. Mr. Pearse was shut up in Ladysmith during the siege, and will doubtless have an interesting story to tell us after dinner. Friar Paul is the Chairman.

We are sorry to state that Friar E. F. Knight is about to undergo another serious operation. It is exactly a year ago since we cabled to him our sympathy on the occasion of his being wounded at the battle of Belmont. The wound has never healed, which Mr. Treves thinks is due to the presence of some foreign substance, such as a piece of khaki coat. This further operation will prevent our comrade from presiding at the dinner on December 14th, when General Sir Evelyn Wood is to be our guest. At the request of the Committee, Friar J. Bloundelle Burton has kindly consented to take his place. Friar Knight is at present staying at 29, Fork Crescent, Margate.

Friar Hall Caine is about to proceed to Rome for the winter. He will be passing through London in a few days, and proposes to attend the Club dinner next Friday, when he hopes to have the pleasure of meeting a number of his old friends, and to make the acquaintance of many of the new Friars.

Tickets are now ready for the Christmas Dinner, which, as already announced, will take place on Friday, December 21st, at the Trocadero Restaurant, under the Presidency of Friar Richard Whiteing. Ladies are cordially invited. In fact, this dinner is being organised especially in their honour. The price of the tickets is 6s. 6d. each. A capital entertainment is being arranged by Friar Dalgety Henderson. Full particulars will be given in a circular to be issued in a few days.

There will be no Club dinner on Friday, December 28th.

Members are reminded that a Club Luncheon is provided every day in the Club room between 12.45 and 2 o'clock, price 1s. 6d. Afternoon Tea is also served in the Club room at 4 o'clock. For further particulars members are referred to the Club Tariff.

After Christmas it is proposed by the Committee to revert to 6.30 as the hour for the weekly dinner.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BROTHERHOOD,