

# WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL.

*Edited by*  
**FRIAR ROBERT  
LEIGHTON.**

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No. 7, VOL. II.

DECEMBER, 1904.

PRIVATE  
CIRCULATION.

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## CLUB DIARY.

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THE White Friars held their annual summer outing on Saturday, June 25th, making a pilgrimage to Dickens' country. Friar Robert Leighton acted as Prior for the day. Meeting at Holborn railway station in somewhat gloomy weather, the pilgrims travelled by train to Sole Street whence they drove to Rochester, breaking the journey at Cobham to inspect the Dickens' relics in the Leather Bottle and to visit Cobham church. They had lunch in the Bull Hotel, Rochester, and at the proposal of the Prior drank to the immortal memory of Charles Dickens. Rain showers interspersed to some extent with the excellent programme arranged by the sub-committee, but the various points of interest in the city were duly visited—the Castle, the Cathedral, the House of the Seven Poor Travellers, the Nun's House, and the Deanery Rose Garden. The Dean was ill, but Mrs. Hole received us on his behalf and we revelled in roses. Tea was taken in the Gordon Hotel and then we drove by Dickens' favourite walk to Maidstone where we dined at the Royal Star, having the Mayor and Mayoress as guests. A beautifully illustrated souvenir of the pilgrimage had been prepared by Friar T. Heath Joyce, whose literary notes were of extreme value and whose personal guidance added greatly to the success of the occasion.

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A BRILLIANT and highly successful evening marked the commencement of the session on October 7th. Friar William Senior was in the chair and was in his best form. The sub-priors were Friars Fenn, Joyce and Browning. Friar Richard Whiteing was looking remarkably well, and Friar Mackenzie Bell made his appearance and was welcomed after a long absence. Dean Lefroy, who opened the conversation, "In Defence of Mountaineering," attributed the position he had attained largely to the lessons he had learned as a pressman on the *Irish Times*, and his health to the holidays he had spent mountaineering. He described, with

that eloquence which fills cathedrals and paralyses frivolity in sacred fanes, the exhilaration which fills the mountain climber and the lessons he learns of patience, vigilance and *cameraderie*. The conversation was continued by Mr. Fisher Unwin and Friar Harold Spender, who agreed with the Dean, and by Friars Carruthers Gould, Clement Shorter, and Silas Hocking, who dissented. A most enjoyable evening resulted from the clash of wit which was thus engendered.

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WITH Friar John Bloundelle Burton as Prior, the Brethren met in solemn assembly on October 14th to discuss their dinner and the Club portraits. To this conversation no stranger was admitted. The subject was too serious to brook their presence. The ball was set rolling by the Honorary Secretary, who explained the position of difficulty in regard to the multiplication of portraits and the impossibility of giving them all places on the walls of the Club Room. He told of the reforms that were contemplated, and was followed by Friars Clement Shorter, Charles Pearce, William Senior, Alexander Paul, J. A. Hammerton, Heath Joyce, Douglas Gane and others, and some valuable suggestions resulted from the discussion.

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ON the evening of October 21st the Friars and Guests enjoyed a most successful dinner which partook somewhat of the character of a Nelson celebration. Friar George Manville Fenn was in the chair, and behind him the Union Jack was displayed, while Friar Lacy had kindly arranged, in flags, the signal, "England expects every man to do his duty." Friar Browning placed churchwarden pipes and Player's Navy Cut tobacco on the tables. Mr. Nelson Jackson, Mr. Harrison Hill, and Mr. Harold Wilde, of the Albert Hall concerts, contributed to the entertainment, Mr. Sidney F. Hill acting as accompanist. It was a great evening.

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UNDER the presidency of Friar Coulson Kernahan the evening of October 28th was devoted to a conversation on the question: "Are the People of England Really Musical?" initiated by the guest of the evening, Sir Frederick Bridge. Whatever might be said of the people of to-day, Sir Frederick contended that our ancestors were really musical, certainly during the seventeenth century, when a writer on manners went so far as to declare that "whom God loves not, love not music." Sir Frederick referred in terms of high praise to the composers of the Stuart period, and

dwelt especially on the wonders of Purcell's music. He sketched the history of music down to the present day, referring to the weak points in our present musical system, and suggesting how it might be improved. He was followed by Friars Alfred Miles, W. G. Lacy, Osman Edwards, and Charles Baker; Messrs. Findon, Seccombe, and other guests also contributed to the discussion.

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PERHAPS the most successful weekly dinner of the Autumn Session was that presided over by Friar F. Carruthers Gould on November 4th. The invited guest of the evening, Professor Hubert von Herkomer, R.A., was unfortunately prevented from being present, being detained in Germany; but he had thoughtfully sent to the Prior the address which he had prepared on the topic, "The Art of the Machine." Referring to the artistic possibilities of the machine, Professor Herkomer denied that limitless repetition of one article was contrary to art. If an engraved or etched plate is printed hundreds of times, he asked, and each proof or print accepted as a work of art, why not so in the case of a lady's hat pin? Rarity alone is no art quality. The desire for things pleasing to the eye has increased with the population and that desire can only be satisfied in a practical way if machinery can be employed and a quantity produced. The machine can produce an article capable of charming the most artistic taste—an article that shall have a similar charm to one made by hand. Design is all important, and it is chiefly in the matter of design that the present output of cheap articles fails. Mr. Herkomer gave instances of the value of the machine in the artistic production of fabrics, metal work, and wood-carving, and he concluded by maintaining that through machinery the wealth of the country is increased and poverty decreased. "Art—true art—is not shut off by the machine, but by the man who employs it. Change that wrong man for the right one, and the artistic possibilities of the machine will soon become apparent, and the result will prove to be an education, a delight and a force."

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MR. CARL HENTSCHEL spoke of the application of machinery to engraving, and supported the arguments of Professor Herkomer in regard to the man behind the machine. Mr. A. G. Gardiner, editor of the *Daily News*, continued the discussion and was followed by Friar Moulton Piper, who spoke of the value of colour

in art productions, and Friar the Rev. C. H. Grundy, who was earnest in his denunciation of the deification of the machine. Friar J. M. Dent referred to the machine as the handmaid of Art, and Mr. Cyril Davenport regretted the decay of wood-engraving. The Prior reviewed the arguments of the previous speakers and spoke eloquently in favour of the democracy of art, averring that repetition does not sin against the canons of art, and that what was to be aimed at was the best for the many.

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“THE Theatre and the Crowd” formed the subject of conversation at the dinner on November 11th, when Friar Osman Edwards was the Prior, and Mr. A. B. Walkley the Club guest. Mr. Walkley entered into a philosophical analysis of the crowd. When humanity gathered in numbers, he said, it raised its emotional and lowered its intellectual pitch, and this fact had to be taken into account by the dramatist. He maintained that the struggle of conscious will against obstacle was the essence of drama, and it was upon this definition that he based his general argument. In discussing the points touched by the opener, Mr. W. B. Yeats made an impressively mystical speech, Mr. J. T. Grein was earnestly strenuous, and Mr. Walter Emanuel was disappointingly brief. There were good speeches from Mr. G. E. Morrison, of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and Mr. J. B. Mulholland, the pioneer of the suburban theatre movement, and Friars Alfred Miles and Moresby White also spoke, the latter drawing some interesting parallels between the work of the actor on the stage and the work of the barrister in the criminal courts.

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FRIAR F. FRANKFORT MOORE presided at the dinner on November 18th. There was no Club guest, and instead of discussing a set subject the Friars and their friends told stories. Prizes for the best two stories were offered by Friars Browning and Lacy, and these were carried off by the Prior and Mr. F. W. Pethick Lawrence, who had come as the guest of Friar A. M. Scott. Among those who contributed to the general hilarity were Friars Foster Fraser, G. Manville Fenn, Macullum Scott, J. A. Hammerton, Arthur Spurgeon, R. N. Fairbanks, W. H. Helm, and Sir Henry Bergne.

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THE REV. A. JESSOPP, D.D., was the guest of the Club on November 25th, Friar Sir Ernest Clarke being in the chair. Dr. Jessopp opened a discussion on “Village Life and Town Life,”

speaking more particularly on the salutary effect of education upon the peasantry of East Anglia and of the decay of old customs such as those which in former times attended the celebration of May Day and Harvest Home. He touched also upon the question of the morals of the country people and of an observable laxity in religious observance. Friar Whiteing regretted that education had the effect of stripping rural life of its simplicity, and that increasing knowledge of the great world beyond the village green tended to excite ambitions which could not be satisfied. Sir Richard Farrant spoke at length from statistics on the housing of the working classes in town and country, and Dr. F. J. Furnivall and Dr. Ackerman, of New York, also contributed to the conversation. In a forcible speech, Friar F. Carruthers Gould earnestly advocated the breaking up of large agricultural estates into small holdings, and he made some convincing arguments on the morals of rural populations.

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FRIAR J. A. HAMMERTON occupied the Prior's chair on December 2nd, and there was a large gathering of Friars and guests to listen to an eloquent address by Mr. Churton Collins on "The Use and Abuse of Criticism." Mr. Collins argued with keen discrimination on the aims and duties of the true critic. Literature, he said, was at present in a low state, but while there were few writers of actual genius there had been a decided levelling up of literary quality. He deplored the facts that editors seemed to consider reviewing the easiest form of journalistic work and that the tyro in literary work took to criticism as he might take to drink. He considered that there was need for more honesty in the reviewing of books; a need, also, for a stronger moral courage. Criticism was not doing its duty when novels of an objectionable character were noticed in the public press. He recommended the reviewer to seek for higher aims and to avert the tendency to degrade instead of elevating the public taste in literature. The speeches which followed that of Mr. Collins were on a high intellectual plane. Friar Clement Shorter made his best speech of the session in recommending that the critic's duty is entirely to ignore bad literature and to notice only such books as are essentially worthy. Mr. Spencer Wilkinson gave his expert views on literary criticism, and among other speakers were Friars J. A. Steuart, W. H. Helm, and Alfred H. Miles.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

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THE annual business meeting of the Club was held after dinner on December 9th, Friar A. G. Browning conducting the proceedings, which were marked by joviality and good fellowship.

After the reading and passing of the Hon. Secretary's minutes of the last annual meeting, the following report of the Committee was accepted without discussion :—

### Annual Report.

Once again the Committee have the agreeable duty of presenting to the Brotherhood their report of the year's working of the Club.

Our progress during the past twelve months, socially and financially, has continued to be entirely satisfactory, and there are very few changes in the constitution and membership to record.

The Committee have deeply to regret the death of a Friar whose name added distinction to our list of eminent members. The late Sir Henry M. Stanley was not a frequent attendant at our gatherings, but he took a warm interest in the welfare of the Club, and, on the few occasions of his appearance in our midst, he contributed largely to our entertainment.

During the year, seven vacancies have occurred in the limited roll of one hundred town members ; in some instances through retirement, in some by transference to the list of country members. These vacancies have been promptly filled, and the Brotherhood have welcomed the following new Friars : Tom Gallon, the author of many novels whose tenderness and quiet humour have won for him a high position in letters ; F. Frankfort Moore, whose quick Irish wit has enlivened the proceedings at many of our weekly dinners ; Alexander Graham-Simpson, Percy L. Parker, Arthur Mee, Thomas MacCallum Scott, and Leonard Rees—all of them prominent journalists ; and Walter Runciman, M.P., who was elected a country member.

There are at present fifteen candidates awaiting election as town members.

Early in the spring session, Friar Richard Whiteing found that his engagements and the condition of his health did not permit him to take so active a part as he had hitherto taken in the life of the Club, and the Committee received with very great regret his reluctant resignation. But the loss of a Friar so greatly loved and respected would have been irreparable, and the Committee felt that they were fulfilling what would be the unanimous wish of the Club in electing Friar Whiteing an honorary member.

The White Friars are never slow to congratulate brethren who attain to distinction and fame in their several spheres outside the cloisters, and they appreciate the honour which His Majesty has conferred upon one of their number in creating Friar Alfred Harmsworth a Baronet.

During the past twelve months the Committee have arranged in all twenty-seven dinners. Two of these were House Dinners, to which no guests were invited, two were followed by smoking concerts, and at one the Friars and their private guests told stories. At the others special Club Guests have been present and set topics have been discussed. The invited guests have been Lord Alverston, the Dean of Norwich, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., M.P., Sir Frederick Bridge, Sir August Manns, Sir H. H. Johnston, Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. Max Beerbohm, Mr. A. Chichele Plowden, Mr. Henry Newbolt, Professor Herkomer, Mr. A. T. Quiller Couch, Mr. Arthur Diosy, the Rev. J. M. Bacon, Mr. A. B. Walkley, the Rev. Dr. Jessopp, and Mr. J. Churton Collins.

The topics discussed in after-dinner conversation have been as follows: "What can we Learn from Japan?" "The Curse of Uniformity in Costume," "Stands Scotland Where it Did?" "The Gods of Muscle—False and True," "Is Bohemianism of Advantage to Letters and the Arts?" "The Relations of Editors and Contributors," "Travel Reminiscences," "The Influence of Art Upon Life," "The Uses and Abuses of Modern Burlesque," "The Revival of Romance in Literature," "What are the Dominating Influences in Literary Production?" "The Conquest of the Air," "Shakespeare and his Art," "In Defence of Mountaineering," "Are the People of England Really Musical?" "The Art of the Machine," "The Theatre and the Crowd," "Village Life and Town Life," and "The Use and Abuse of Criticism."

The Christmas Dinner was held on the 18th of December at the Trocadero Restaurant, when Friar Anthony Hope Hawkins

acted as Prior for the evening, bringing with him Mrs. Hope Hawkins, who assisted him charmingly in the reception of guests. "The Spirit of Christmas" was proposed by Friar the Rev. C. H. Grundy, Friar A. E. W. Mason proposed the toast of "The Ladies," and "The Health of the Prior and Prioress" was proposed by Friar Carruthers Gould.

The Annual Dinner took place on February 19th at the same hostelry under the presidency of Friar Richard Whiteing. The guests of the evening were Sir George Otto Trevelyan, Bart., and Chevalier G. Marconi, and the company numbered 128 Friars and friends. To the toast of "Literature and Science," proposed in felicitous terms by Mr. L. F. Austin, Sir George Trevelyan and Signor Marconi both responded in memorable speeches. Mr. J. Comyns Carr gave the toast of "The Club."

Equally successful was the Annual Ladies' Banquet, held at the Hotel Cecil on April 29th, when the Prior's chair was occupied by the ever popular Friar A. E. W. Mason. On this occasion the Committee had invited as special Club guests ten ladies eminent in literature and art, namely, Mrs. Flora Annie Steel—who responded to the Prior's toast of "Women, Literature, and Art"—Miss Elizabeth Robins, Miss Violet Hunt, Mrs. K. C. Thurston, Mrs. Henry de la Pasture, Mrs. Gertrude Atherton, Mrs. Campbell Praed, Miss Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Mrs. Ernest Normand, and Lady Violet Greville. The toast of "The Club," given by Mrs. Leighton, was acknowledged by Friar Arthur Spurgeon.

Our Annual Pilgrimage, which was to Dickens' country and took place on June 25th, was somewhat marred by showery weather, but the drive from Sole Street to Cobham and onward by Rochester to Maidstone was nevertheless enjoyed by a large party of Friars and their guests. Visits were paid to the beautiful rose garden of the late Dean Hole and to the various scenes associated with Charles Dickens. The pilgrimage was admirably planned by Friar Heath Joyce, who had prepared for the occasion an artistic souvenir with a useful literary guide. Friar Robert Leighton acted as Prior.

All the members have paid their subscriptions for the year. Including £89 16s. 11d. brought forward, the receipts for the year amounted to £595 17s. 10d., and the Club expenditure to £536 12s. 9d. Early in the year, in accordance with the instructions of the last Annual Meeting, the Committee purchased £100 (nominal) County Council Stock for £92 15s. This brought the

total outlay for the year to £629 7s. 9d., leaving the sum of £33 9s. 11d. due to the Treasurer.

The statement of accounts has been duly audited by Friars G. Manville Fenn and W. N. Shansfield, the auditors appointed at the Annual Meeting.

The WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL continues to make its occasional appearance under the editorship of Friar Robert Leighton. There are some Friars who would wish to see the little periodical so expanded as to include original contributions from members ; but the aim of the JOURNAL is merely to furnish a brief record of the work of the Club and not to aspire to the character of a literary magazine.

At the House Dinner on October 14th, Friar Bloundelle Burton in the chair, the question of the re-arrangement of the portraits in the newly-decorated Club Room was discussed, and it was determined that the photographs should be reproduced on "a smaller scale and grouped in oblong frames. This plan will admit of a larger number of portraits being hung upon the walls, while all will be more easily seen.

The Committee desire again to draw attention to the luncheons served in the Club Room from one o'clock each day excepting Saturdays and Sundays. These are appreciated, not alone for material reasons, but also because of the exhilarating conversations which are to be enjoyed at the table and the warm fraternal spirit which invariably prevails. Friar F. Carruthers Gould is seldom absent from the President's chair, and he is usually well supported by members who happen to be in the neighbourhood at lunch time.

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On the passing of the report and the Treasurer's statement of accounts, all the officers and the Committee were unanimously re-elected. The speeches of Friars William Senior and G. B. Burgin, in proposing and seconding the re-election of Friar Arthur Spurgeon, and the election of Friar J. F. Cross as his helpmate, were admirably turned, and they expressed the full-hearted feeling of the Brotherhood. Friar Spurgeon's response indicated no diminution, but rather an increase, in his ardour for the welfare of the Club, and he gave confident promise that the programme for the coming session would exceed all records in popularity and interest. During the evening the loving cup was passed round the table, and we separated feeling that the meeting had been one of pure enjoyment.

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1903-1904.

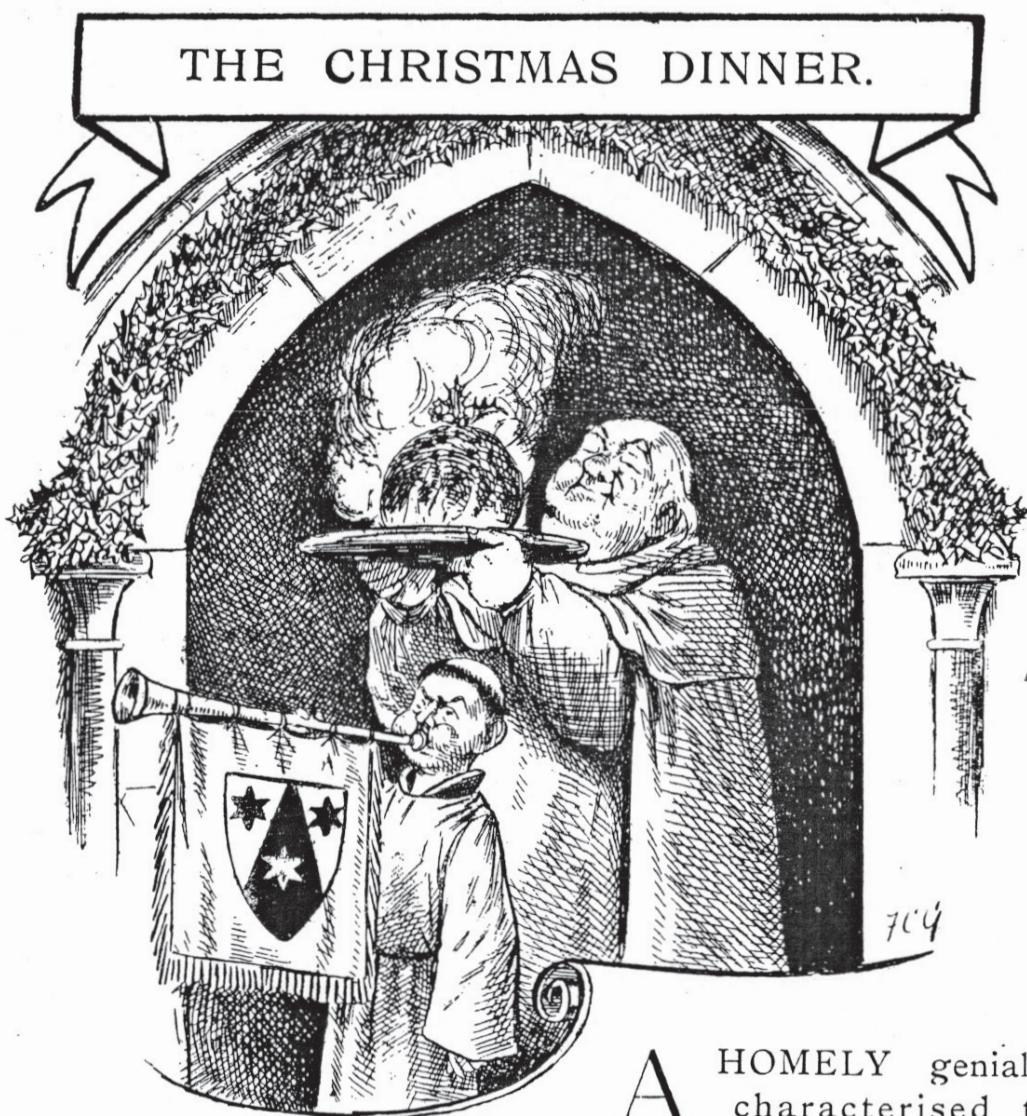
## RECEIPTS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance brought forward	... 89 16 11	By Rent of Club Room	... 80 0 0
," Interest on Investments	... 7 2 10	," Christmas Dinner	... 51 3 0
," Members' Subscriptions...	... 238 7 1	," Annual Members' Dinner	... 38 0 2
," Entrance Fees	... 25 4 0	," Annual Ladies' Dinner	... 71 14 4
," Christmas Dinner	... 51 18 0	," Summer Pilgrimage	... 79 5 7
," Annual Members' Dinner	... 45 7 6	," Printing Club Journal	... 23 18 0
," Annual Ladies' Dinner	... 60 7 6	," Stationery (including block of special design by Friar F. Carruthers Gould)	... 9 9 0
," Summer Pilgrimage	... 77 14 0	," Red Book for 1904	... 5 10 0
	595 17 10	," Circulars, Dinner Cards and General Printing	31 0 2
Due to Treasurer	... 33 9 11	," Special Programmes	... 13 7 0
		," Pilgrimage Booklet	... 13 0 9
		," Copyright Fee	... 1 1 0
		," Postage of Journals and Dinner Cards	... 3 19 6
		," Cheque Books	... 0 8 4
		," Gratuities to Hotel Servants, Waiters, etc.	8 19 6
		," Toastmaster	... 3 3 0
		," General Postage and Telegrams	... 6 6 0
		," Club Guests	... 8 18 11
		," Old Friars' Night	... 4 4 9
		," Artistes	... 45 13 6
		," Refreshments for Artistes	... 4 1 6
		," Blue Hungarian Band	... 6 16 6
		," Newspapers	... 1 10 4
		," Reporting for Club Journal	... 2 2 0
		," Tickets Returned...	... 0 12 0
		," Investment in London County Council Stock (£100)	... 92 15 0
		," Redecoration of Club Room	... 21 9 6
		," "Who's Who"	... 0 7 6
		," Cash at the Bank	... 0 10 11
Total ...	... 629 7 9	Total ...	£629 7 9

*Audited and found Correct, November 18th, 1904,*  
 G. M. FENN,  
 W. N. SHANSFIELD, } *Hon. Auditors.*

GEORGE HENRY PERKINS,  
 Hon. Treasurer.

## THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.



A HOMELY geniality characterised the Christmas Dinner,

held at the Trocadero Restaurant, on December 16th. There were no special club guests ; everybody present knew everybody else, and, as one of the speakers remarked, the occasion was more like a family re-union than a club function.

FRIAR ARTHUR SPURGEON was Prior for the evening, assisted by Mrs. Spurgeon, to whom a handsome bouquet of white roses and white lilac was presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Friar G. H. Perkins. The Prior and prioress received the company in the Alexandra Room. Dinner was held in the Empire Hall, the tables being seasonably decorated and made bright with crackers.

The Sub-Priors were Friars A. G. Browning, F. Carruthers Gould, William Senior, T. Heath Joyce, and G. B. Burgin.

There were present the following Friars and Guests :—

FRIAR CHARLES BAKER. FRIAR A. G. BROWNING—Miss Browning, Miss Mary Browning, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Shadwell. FRIAR H. J.

BROWN—Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Thompson. FRIAR G. B. BURGIN—Mrs. Burgin. FRIAR EDWARD CLODD—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pearce and Miss Pearce. FRIAR R. NEWTON CRANE. FRIAR F. J. CROSS. FRIAR C. D. CROSS. FRIAR WM. COLLEY—Mrs. Colley, Mr. and Mrs. J. Newcastle. FRIAR OSMAN EDWARDS—Mrs. Edwards. FRIAR LOUIS H. FALCK—Mrs. Falck, Miss Violet Falck, Mr. Osborn Walford, Miss Lily Walford. FRIAR G. MANVILLE FENN. FRIAR JOHN FOSTER FRASER—Mrs. Fraser. FRIAR HENRY FRITH. FRIAR F. CARRUTHERS GOULD—Mrs. Gould, Mr. Alec. Gould, Mr. Norman Gould, Miss Gould, Miss Frances Gould, Miss Walters. FRIAR LIONEL GOWING—Mrs. Gowing. FRIAR J. R. GEARD—Mrs. Geard, Miss Nora Geard, Mr. Newton. FRIAR J. A. HAMMERTON—Mrs. Hammerton. FRIAR SILAS K. HOCKING—Mrs. Hocking, Miss Hocking, and Miss Lloyd. FRIAR CLIVE HOLLAND—Mrs. Holland, Mr. and Mrs. F. Whitehead. FRIAR T. HEATH JOYCE—Mrs. Joyce. FRIAR T. ATHOL JOYCE. FRIAR ALBERT KINROSS—Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Candler. FRIAR W. G. LACY—Miss Lacy, Miss K. Lacy, Miss Viva Ortner, Dr. and Mrs. Allan, Mr. Nelson Jackson. FRIAR ROBERT LEIGHTON—Mrs. Leighton. FRIAR F. S. A. LOWNDES—Mrs. Belloc Lowndes, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Conner, Mr. Edgar Jepson, Mrs. Perrin. FRIAR A. H. MILES. FRIAR G. MOULTON PIPER—Mrs. Piper, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Meyjes. FRIAR G. H. PERKINS—Lieut. Doorley. FRIAR CHAS. E. PEARCE—Mrs. Pearce. FRIAR GEO. RICKS—Mrs. Ricks, Miss Ricks, Mr. Sprague. FRIAR ALGERNON S. ROSE—Mr. and Mrs. Challen. FRIAR CLEMENT K. SHORTER—Mrs. Shorter. FRIAR REV. S. N. SEDGWICK. FRIAR H. WOOD SMITH—Mrs. Wood Smith. FRIAR WALTER SMITH—Mrs. Smith, Mr. W. C. Smith, Miss H. J. Smith, Miss Annette Smith, Mr. B. F. Bates. FRIAR JOSEPH SHAYLOR—Mrs. Shaylor, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hanson. FRIAR A. M. SCOTT—Mrs. Scott, Miss Scott. FRIAR WM. SENIOR—Mrs. Senior, Mr. and Mrs. F. Moy Thomas. FRIAR PHILIP WILSON—Mrs. Wilson. FRIAR A. MORESBY WHITE. FRIAR RICHARD WHITEING. THE PRIOR—Mrs. Spurgeon, Mr. L. F. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Rayner.

When the volley-firing of crackers had ceased and the accompanying merriment had temporarily subsided, the toast of "The King" was honoured and the PRIOR read the Roll Call of Welcome. The speeches which followed were interspersed with songs by Miss Winifred Siddons and Mr. Albert Garcia, and by humorous and dramatic sketches cleverly rendered by Mr. Nelson Jackson.

### The Spirit of Christmas.

MR. L. F. AUSTIN, in proposing "The Spirit of Christmas," said: Confronted with a request from the Prior for some "real old Christmas flavours," I suddenly remembered a certain Christmas dinner in the city of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. If you take an extensive layer of soot, sprinkle it tastefully with snow,

mix, and serve cold—quite cold—you will have the Pittsburg landscape in the depth of winter. The scene of this anecdote is laid at the Monongehela Hotel—good name, Monongehela—capital test of your articulation after a Christmas dinner. (Laughter.) A venerable negro—very like Uncle Ned in the old song—who had no wool on the top of his head, the place where the wool ought to grow—brought to my room the inevitable can of iced water. There was something sinister about him—something in his eye more than natural. I said, “Take away the iced water. I want a bath.” “You want what?” “I want a bath.” He looked at me in a dazed sort of way till I began to think that the ingredients of the Pittsburg landscape were so persistent that baths had gone out. I said, “I want a bath—b-a-t-h.” “Oh, you mean a *beth*.” (Laughter.) I felt that the English tongue, as I understood it, had been put to shame. But that was only the beginning of the horrid drama. The dinner was given by a distinguished personage to a considerable party making a little tour in America. He was the soul of hospitality, as he was the soul of some other things, and he desired to give us a gorgeous spread which would soften the pangs of exile. No delicacy was forgotten. Real old Christmas puddings were commanded all across the sea from real old England. But as we sat hungry and expectant at the table, the first dish appeared and bore no resemblance to anything we had ever seen or heard of, and the next was like unto it, and so on—a procession of horrors, “horror on horror’s head.” There was nothing fit to eat—except cold ham. (Laughter.) I have never eaten so much cold ham in my life, and I have never seen it since without a flood of mingled emotions. (Laughter.) It was plain to me that a real-old-fashioned demon in the ebony shape of Uncle Ned had played the deuce with the cookery, with the express purpose of flouting the Spirit of Christmas and reducing us poor innocent wandering strangers to the depths of despair. But he did not succeed. Even when those real old Christmas puddings—so old that I believe they originally adorned the larder of Alfred the Great—even when they came up in a huge tureen—(laughter)—even when they were served up as soup—we greeted this crowning stroke of infernal cunning with such a burst of laughter as must have reached the ears of Charles Dickens in the Elysian Fields. Let me add, with reluctance—for I hate to give pain to one I revere as much as I do Mr. Carruthers Gould—this was not a teetotal banquet. (“Oh!”) Had he been there, with his strong convictions of total abstinence—(laughter)—which he

has recently illustrated in such a masterly manner to the joy of all of us, and to the edification of all of us, though, perhaps, the edification is less than the joy—(laughter)—that is a matter of pure metaphysics, Mr. Prior, into which I will not go—but had he been there he would have drawn such pictures of the scene as would have been of the greatest service to himself and Sir Wilfrid Lawson in that campaign they are conducting together. As fast as a bottle was opened, it was whisked away by some minion of Uncle Ned, and we saw no more of it; and yet we were pursued for weeks by newspaper paragraphs deplored, in the interests of sobriety, the quantity of liquor consumed at Pittsburg, although Uncle Ned had most of it. (Laughter.) I hope I have shown that our conduct under these adverse conditions was one of the most striking indications of the Spirit of Christmas that are recorded in history. (Hear, hear.) Another experience takes me back a great many years to the night when an enthusiastic lad sat entranced in the gallery of the old Theatre Royal, at Liverpool, listening to Charles Dickens reading "The Christmas Carol." (Hear, hear.) The memory of that reading remains with me vividly to this hour. I still see Bob Cratchit carrying Tiny Tim on his shoulder. I still hear the conversation between Mr. Scrooge, in a most excited state of entirely new benevolence, at his window on Christmas morning, and the boy in the street below, on the subject of the prize turkey—the big one—at the poulters round the corner. "Go and buy it," cried Mr. Scrooge. "Walker," said the boy. And I believed—such was the magic of that great master of illusion—I believed that I knew these people, that I listened to their voices, and even felt a pang of envy because I was not the boy who earned Mr. Scrooge's half-crown by running to order the prize turkey. Mr. Prior, it is the memory of Charles Dickens which is the true Spirit of Christmas in our literature, and in our gatherings at this time; for it is to his humane genius we instinctively turn when we call up the associations of kindly humour and good fellowship which surround this festival. (Applause.)

FRIAR F. CARRUTHERS GOULD, proposing "The Ladies," said it was a matter of great regret to him that the toast was not put into younger and more inexperienced hands. (Laughter.) He supposed the Committee thought it hardly safe to put it into younger hands, for "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." It would be wiser to put it into the hands of one who knew too much rather than of one who knew too little. (Laughter.) It would



The Christmas Dinner at the Trocadero Restaurant, December 16th, 1904.

be unnatural of him to have refused when he thought of the debt of gratitude they as White Friars owed to their wives for allowing them to be Friars at all. It was true the White Friars told their wives they belonged to an ancient religious celibate order ; he did not think they believed it. He did not know whether they believed in those beautiful programmes they left ostentatiously about, showing the things they were going to discuss—"What is the influence of the jawbone on human history," and things of that sort. (Laughter.) There were two occasions on which they might ask that their wives, and women generally, should believe in them. One was when, on the ladies' night, they offered burnt offerings and poured out libations on the shrine of the superior intellect of woman ; the other occasion when they were genuinely honest was the Christmas dinner, a sort of domestic passion play of the Whitefriars Club. He was genuine now when, in the presence of Mrs. Foster Fraser, whom her husband—in spite of the fact of his being a Conservative candidate, possibly for all he knew a Tariff Reformer—dumped into this country years ago. (Laughter.) And in spite of Friar Pearson, whose *Standard* was floating o'er him, or being floated—(hear, hear, and laughter)—he was genuine when he said that dumping had been beneficent to them all, for no one had been more welcome at all their gatherings than Mrs. Foster Fraser. (Applause.) Mr. Foster Fraser started some years ago, ostensibly to go round the world on a bicycle, but having an intelligent anticipation of things likely to happen, and knowing that matrimony is a matter of weal or woe, he took his wheel round, and so escaped woe for all his life. (Hear, hear.) For if Othello could win Desdemona by fictitious stories of absolutely nebulous adventures, it was only reasonable Mr. Foster Fraser should have succeeded with all the stories of his hairbreadth 'scapes—added to which he believed that during the whole of the trip he had never killed a single human being. (Laughter and applause.)

MRS. FOSTER FRASER, in reply, said they were glad the White Friars had once more put aside the earnestness of their order, and invited the wives and their good friends to gather round their Christmas table. Each year she looked forward to this occasion with keen interest and pleasure, and she was sure that others shared these anticipations. These Christmas dinners always seemed more like big family re-unions than Club functions. There was a geniality about them that one did not find at other club dinners. (Hear, hear.) Each year the White Friars selected one

of their number to arrange a kind of presentation bouquet—basket, she might say—of oratorical flowers for the ladies, and asked one of them to receive it. It was a great deal easier to give than to receive. [(Laughter.) She thought they could express their fondness, admiration, and appreciation of the Club and their hospitality better if they could do it individually. It was too much of a responsibility for one. Mr. Gould was capable—he was even experienced—(laughter)—and he had put so many fragrant blossoms into the basket, and he had given them so gracefully, that more than one, she felt, should rise to thank him and all the Brotherhood of Friars for their kindness. They hoped the spirit of Christmas had not made Mr. Gould over-indulgent. (Laughter.) They were sure that he was sufficiently frivolous not to mean every word that he said. (Laughter and applause.)

FRIAR R. NEWTON CRANE, in submitting the toast of "The Prior," said he thought they could say to his face the good things about him they so frequently said behind his back. They were entirely selfish when they drank to his health and wished him long life and prosperity. They were selfish because they were conscious of the fact that whatever they were individually as Friars, or whatever influence the White Friars had acquired as a body, was largely owing to the Prior of the evening. (Hear, hear.) He did not know whether the Prior had instituted this order in prehistoric times or not—he had a suspicion he did—he did not know whether he instituted Christmas—he was willing to believe he had that on his conscience—(laughter)—but he did know that it was largely owing to his cheerful, genial influence that Christmas was celebrated by the White Friars. They would agree with him that a great measure of the joy and pleasure they annually got out of this delightful celebration was due to their Chairman. To-night's gathering they had thoroughly appreciated, as they had Christmas gatherings in the past, and for what they had heretofore enjoyed, and were enjoying in the present, and for what they hoped to enjoy in the future they had the Prior to thank, and, therefore, in their own selfish interests, but at the same time gratefully and enthusiastically, they wished him long life and increasing happiness. (Applause.)

THE PRIOR, in reply, said they rejoiced to have Friar Newton Crane, a distinguished member of the American Bar and the English Bar, in their ranks. They were glad to have him in their midst that night. (Hear, hear.) Speaking for himself, the interests of this Club were very dear to his heart, and if, by any effort of his, he had promoted the welfare of the Brotherhood, he was more

than amply rewarded. He rejoiced to know that during the year that was to come he should not be working single-handed in regard to the organisation of the Club, for at their last annual meeting the members elected Friar Cross as Joint Hon. Secretary, and he was only speaking the sentiment of them all when he said there were good and sunshiny times before the Whitefriars Club when they had "Sunny Jim" as one of their hon. secretaries. (Hear, hear.) They were glad to know that other past secretaries were present. Friar Henry Frith was always welcome at White Friars' gatherings. (Applause.) Friar Heath Joyce was also one of his predecessors in office, and they rejoiced that his wife was with him to-night, because he believed that she was practically co-secretary during his term of office. (Applause.) The Whitefriars Club certainly owed much to these men and to Mrs. Joyce, because she introduced many new features into the Club organisation, all of which tended to the harmony, good feeling, and satisfaction of the Brotherhood. (Hear, hear.) He remembered when he was in the Cave of the Winds at Niagara Falls some years ago he felt overpowered with the majesty of the scene. A honeymoon couple were behind him, and he heard the bridegroom say to the bride, "Oh, Daisy, isn't it nice?" (Laughter.) Those were perhaps mellifluous accents which were in accord with the honeymoon, but he felt to-night equally impressed, and also equally unable adequately to express his thanks to them. During the six years he had had the honour to be their secretary he had realised, times and oft, the kindness of the members, and, he might add, the kindness and the smiles of the members' wives and those ladies who honoured them frequently at their Whitefriars gatherings. The Prior extended to the company, for Mrs. Spurgeon and himself, good wishes for the season. (Applause.)

A conversazione followed the dinner, and the proceedings came to a close with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."



## CLUB NOTES.

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ONCE more it is our privilege and pleasure to wish all the Brethren a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS for 1905 are due on Monday next. Cheques should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Friar G. H. Perkins, 39, Christchurch Avenue, Brondesbury, N.W.

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THE first Club dinner in the New Year will be held on Friday, January 6th, when Friar Anthony Hope is to open a conversation on "The Modern Novel." Friar Richard Whiteing will officiate as Prior. I hope we shall start 1905 with a most successful evening. The Prior's Guests will include Mr. Maurice Hewlett, whose new book, "The Road in Tuscany," has added another leaf to his laurel wreath of fame; and Dr. Emil Reich, the Hungarian lecturer, who has won for himself a great position in the English literary world.

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ON the following Friday, Scotland will be to the fore. Friar Dr. Robertson Nicoll will be in the chair, and the Club Guest will be Mr. Hector Macpherson. The topic selected is the title of the Club Guest's latest work, "Books and How to Read Them." Mr. Macpherson is the Editor of the *Edinburgh Evening News*, and has written much on philosophy.

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ON January 20th we are to have an Art night. Count Plunkett, who is to be the Club Guest, will introduce a discussion on "Does the Royal Academy Represent the Art of the Nation"? Count Plunkett, who will make a special journey from Dublin to be present on the occasion, is a recognised authority on Art. He has paid many visits to the Art centres of Europe, and his study of Botticelli, published four years ago, placed him in the front rank of Art critics. Friar Clive Holland will preside.

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It is just three hundred years since Cervantes wrote "Don Quixote." It is fitting that a literary club should celebrate the tercentenary of the publication of this wonderful book, and I am glad to announce that Mr. Augustine Birrell, K.C., has accepted

the invitation of the Committee to give us a "Quixotic" address on January 27th. It is obvious that the ordinary procedure must be suspended on this occasion. Friar Clement Shorter is to be Prior, and he will be supported by Mr. Fitzmaurice Kelly, Major Martin Sharp Hume, and other authorities on Spanish Literature.

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ON February 3rd Sir John Gorst, K.C., the distinguished member for Cambridge University, is to be the Club Guest, and Friar Max Pemberton, who is a Cambridge M.A., will preside. The topic put down for conversation is "Pressing Social Problems," which was suggested to the Committee by an able article recently published under this title by Friar Richard Whiteing. Sir John Gorst has shown a keen and eager interest in all questions affecting the commonweal of the people, and I am quite sure a very cordial welcome will be accorded him by the Brotherhood.

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ON the following Friday, February 10th, there will be a break in the "Guest" nights, and the Friars will meet at a house dinner under the chairmanship of Friar R. Lee Campbell. It will rejoice all the Brethren to know that Friar Campbell has quite recovered from his long and critical illness, and is now rapidly gaining strength in the country.

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MR. J. ST. LOE STRACHEY, the brilliant editor of *The Spectator*, is to be the Club Guest on February 17th, with Friar Robert Donald as Prior. Few men are more qualified to open the subject arranged for discussion—"Is the Influence of Journalism on the Wane?" It is generally admitted that these are critical times for journals and journalists, and an interesting pronouncement may be expected from Mr. St. Loe Strachey.

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"Stands Parliament Where it Did?" is a question often asked in the Press and on the platform. Mr. D. Lloyd-George, M.P., will try to give an answer on February 24th, when he will also attempt to cast the horoscope of the future. The Prior for the night will be Friar Winston Churchill, M.P.

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ON March 3rd the Club Guest will be Sir Douglas Straight, the Editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and the topic of conversation—"Patriotism in Life and Literature." The Prior will be Friar E.

F. Knight, who recently returned from the Far East, where he has been acting as special War Correspondent of the *Morning Post*.

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THE Annual Dinner will be held in the Empire Hall of the Trocadero Restaurant on Friday, March 10th, under the priorship of Friar F. Carruthers Gould. The principal guest will be Sir Edward Grey, Bart., M.P., whose high reputation as a Parliamentarian and statesman justify the high esteem in which he is held by all sections of his fellow-countrymen. His favourite recreation is that which Izaak Walton claimed as natural to the "contemplative man," and his brilliant contribution to the Haddon Hall Library has been accepted in both hemispheres as one of the classics in Angling literature.

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SIR PHILIP BURNE-JONES will open a talk on "The City Beautiful" on March 17th, when the Prior will be Friar Sir William Treloar. Sir Philip Burne-Jones, as becometh the son of his father, takes a keen interest in the æsthetic aspect of London, and has written much on the beautifying of our smoke-begrimed Metropolis. Friar H. G. Wells, who has dreamed many dreams concerning London, will take part in the discussion.

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ON March 24th, Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K.C., M.P., is to be the Guest of the Club, and the topic "The Influence of Argument" will be considered very appropriate for one of the most distinguished advocates at the English Bar. The Prior for the night will be Friar R. Newton Crane, who, as the Friars know, is Counsel to the American Embassy.

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ON March 31st Bishop Welldon is to be the Club Guest, and the subject of the after-dinner talk will be "Public School Training." As he was at one time Master of Dulwich College, and subsequently the Headmaster at Harrow School, Bishop Welldon has an intimate knowledge of public school life, and will be able to speak from experience as to the advantages and drawbacks of public school training. Friar C. Arthur Pearson, an old Winchester boy, will preside. Was it not Carlyle who said: "There is no law upon the Statute-book, there is no usage of the Constitution, no portion of the Legislature or Government, which is more distinctly or more essentially connected with the well-being of England than our Public Schools"?

“THE STUDY OF NATURE” is the fascinating topic arranged for April 7th, when Lord Avebury is to be the Club Guest, with Friar William Senior as Prior. It will be admitted that in Subject, Guest, and Prior we have a very happy combination. Lord Avebury stands first in his particular domain, and Friar Senior, as editor of *The Field*, takes the keenest interest in all matters affecting the study of nature.

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OUR usual Shakespeare Commemoration dinner will be of special importance next April, owing to the movement for establishing a permanent Shakespeare Memorial in London. Mr. George Wyndham, M.P., has promised to be the Club Guest, providing affairs of State will permit of his attendance, and Friar A. E. W. Mason will preside. The Chief Secretary for Ireland is one of the foremost Shakespeare scholars of the day, and no better selection could have been made for the Guest of Honour at our Commemoration dinner to be held on April 14th.

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THERE will be no meeting on Good Friday, April 21st, but on the following Friday Mr. J. Williams Benn, M.P., Chairman of the London County Council, will open a conversation on “The Municipal Life of London,” with Friar Alexander Paul in the chair.

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THE session will be brought to a close by the Annual Ladies’ Banquet to be held on May 5th, under the presidency of Friar Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P. Particulars as to Club Guests, etc., will be given later, but I may state that the Victoria Room at the Hotel Cecil has again been engaged by the Committee for the Dinner, and the Grand Hall for the Reception and Conversazione.

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JUST before Christmas I received the following touching letter from Friar Harrison Weir: “Dear Friar Spurgeon,—In reply to your kindly notice, I am very sorry to say I shall not be able to come to the White Friars’ Christmas Dinner. I have been somewhat seriously ill for months, and am now slowly losing strength, so that I have to rest nearly the whole time I am ‘up.’ The last dinner I attended (with much pleasure to myself) was that at which I was the Guest of the Club, and it is my belief that I shall never be able to come to another. Some time ago my brush was laid down—‘for ever.’ My work is done. May you all be very

happy is the sincere wish of Yours Friarly, Harrison Weir."—On behalf of the Club I sent a suitable reply to the veteran Friar, who is now in his 81st year.

WE were hoping Lord Rosebery would have been our Guest one Friday next Session, but that pleasure is not to be ours at present. In a very kind personal letter received a few weeks back he said: "I have struggled, but in vain. I might aspire to be a wit among lords, but I still shrink from being a lord among wits." Very complimentary this to the Friars, but hardly satisfying. It is possible Lord Rosebery will come and dine with us one night free from any obligation to make a speech. I am sure if he will do this he will find the Friars in their refectory are not more formidable than the Peers in the Gilded Chamber.

PROFESSOR ARMINIUS VAMBERY, the renowned traveller and linguist, was also invited to be our Guest next session. He sent the following interesting letter which I think worthy of a corner in our JOURNAL: "Budapest University, December 8th, 1904.—Dear Sir,—May I ask you to have the kindness to convey my best thanks to the Committee of the Whitefriars Club for the honour they have done me in inviting me to be their guest at dinner, which I would gladly accept, if age, distance, and other hindrances would not bar my way. Having seen a good deal of English hospitality, my regret is the greater when I consider that, on the whole surface of God's earth, I do not know any place where I feel more at home than in the society of Englishmen, in the country which I regard as my second home, and with whose interests I became so closely bound nearly half a century ago.—Yours faithfully, A. Vambery."

FRIAR MACKENZIE BELL has written a letter cordially thanking the Brethren for their resolution of sympathy passed at the Annual Meeting. The Friars will be glad to know that he is making satisfactory progress after the surgical operation which he had to undergo a few weeks back.

I AM glad to say Friar William Boucher has kindly undertaken to design the card for the Annual Dinner. In his quiet retreat at Berkhamsted he is making excellent progress towards complete recovery from his long illness. A few Friars entertained him to

dinner at Berkhamsted on December 9th. Writing to me this week he says : "I have never received anything but kindness from the Friars. Health and prosperity to them !"

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MAY I suggest it will conduce to the interest of our Friday night "conversations" if Friars will make it clear to their guests that party politics and religious controversy are strictly barred, and that five minutes is the time limit for all speeches other than those made by the Club Guest ?

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FRIAR ROBERT HARPER, of Chicago, who has attended two of our recent dinners, reports that the Quadrangle Club, which he instituted some few years ago in connection with his University on the model of the Whitefriars, is now in a most flourishing condition. It has become a residential club. Friar Harper hopes that if any White Friar should chance to be in Chicago he will pay a visit to the Quadrangle, where he will be warmly welcomed.

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THE Sub-Committee, consisting of Friars T. Heath Joyce, G. H. Perkins, F. J. Cross and Charles Pearce, charged with the re-arrangement of the Club Portrait Gallery, have made excellent progress with the task assigned to them.

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IN future dinner cards are to be sent to my colleague in the secretariat, Friar F. J. Cross. He has kindly undertaken the responsibility of all the arrangements connected with the Friday night dinners. Friars will greatly facilitate his work if cards are sent as early as possible in the week.

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SINCE the Annual Meeting Friar W. G. Lacy has expressed a wish to withdraw from the Committee, and Friar G. B. Burgin has been elected to take his place. In accepting the post, Friar Burgin wrote : "It is with the greatest possible pleasure that I have received your cordial letter informing me that I have been asked to fill the vacant position in the Whitefriars Club Committee. If I have hesitated to accept the position it is because of the difficulties which surround it, but the pleasure of being associated with you and the other members of the Committee is so great that it has conquered my misgivings."—As Friar F. J. Cross is now an *ex-officio* member, his son, Friar Duncan Cross, has been appointed to take his place as an elected member of the Committee.