

WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL.

Edited by
**FRIAR ROBERT
LEIGHTON.**

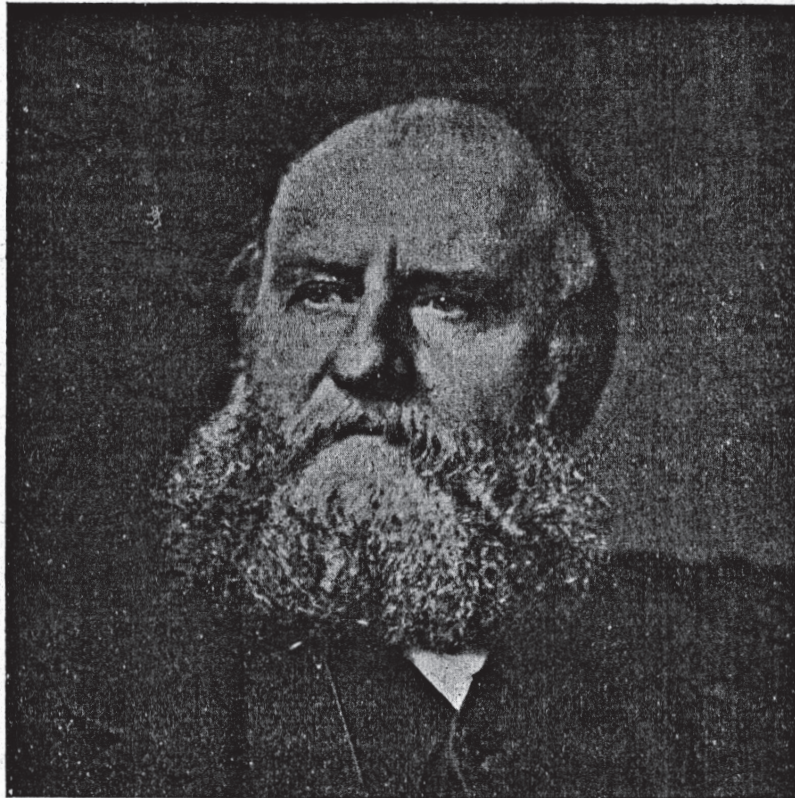
No. 1, Vol. III.

FEBRUARY, 1906.

PRIVATE
CIRCULATION.

CLUB DIARY.

THE first memorial wreath sent by the Brotherhood in the New Year was for Friar Harrison Weir, who died on January 3rd, at his country residence, Poplar Hall, Appledore, in the Kent



FRIAR HARRISON WEIR.

County, whose rural charms he had observed and recorded by pen and pencil during the long years of a strenuous working life. He was born in 1824, and from the age of nineteen was before the public as an artist, attaining in the 'fifties a reputation which was world-wide as a delineator of animal life and country scenes.

He not only loved his subjects, but had the great faculty of making others love them. There are thousands of elderly men and women in both hemispheres who can still remember the thrilling pleasure which Harrison Weir's birds and domestic animals gave them as children. His illustrations were for a score of years the principal features of the serial publications in which they appeared. For some years the Friars saw little of their old member; the last memorable occasion was when he received us on one of our annual pilgrimages at his then residence in the Sevenoaks district. Here he delighted us with the varieties of his lovely garden, and the favourites that remained of his once large collection of specimen breeds of fowls. Still later he came up to one of our Friday dinners, and thenceforth an occasional letter was received, showing that his heart was still warm with the Friars. The last communication was a note of hearty congratulation to Friar Spurgeon on the appointment of Friar Shansfield to the honorary secretaryship of the Club. An admirable appreciation of Harrison Weir, written by Friar Aaron Watson, appeared in the *Field*, January 6th.

WHAT we are fairly entitled, by a series of pleasant remembrances, to regard as "Whitefriars Weather" favoured us on the Annual Pilgrimage, June 24th. The trip was in every way delightful, the day one of glorious summer prime, the Thames all smiling and serene, the countryside gay with perfect foliage and flower-decked banks and meads. The travelling was just the combination of rapid train and easy down-stream boating which gives variety without the opportunity of weariness; and the company the happy blend of sex and suitability which always distinguishes these enjoyable outings in the off-season when Andertonian oratory is not the weekly habit. We went by train to Oxford, by the trim steam launch *Marlow* to Goring; thence by special homeward bound train to Paddington. These excursions are not arranged without much trouble, and this had not been spared by worthy Prior Browning, who, as a matter of fact, took a party of Friars over the ground some days before the pilgrimage and entertained them in his usual regal manner. The prospectors are, indeed, never tired of reminding one another that it was a rehearsal long to be remembered. For the guidance and entertainment of the party Friar Cook furnished an exquisite piece of literature, "The Cruise of the Way Smoothers," showing how "a brave little band of Friars, led by Brother Browning, did,

on a day in May, by watery highways, explore the wilder parts of Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and made smooth the path for the coming of the Gracious Order." Friar Cook loves Old Father Thames with the love of a lifetime, and his pages breathed the true river spirit. The perusal of the book in the outward train attuned the heart and stored the mind, so that we were all ready for Oxford City, Iffley the picturesque, Abingdon, Clifton Hampden, Hillingford, Wallingford, and Streatley. The Friar's photographs were an admirable selection. After landing here and there, and luncheon on board, the boat drew up at Friar Cook's landing stage at Willow Grange, and we were gracefully received by Mrs. Cook, Miss Cook, and Mr. Barry Cook, who assisted the master of the house in making us free of lawn, gardens, boathouse, trout lake, and the house itself. We dined well in a marquee overlooking the river, under the Prior's chairmanship, and amongst other toasts drank the healths of Friar Cook and his hospitable family. No thanks could be too hearty for their attention to the grateful pilgrims. The Friars and guests on this occasion numbered fifty-one.—WILLIAM SENIOR.

THE weekly dinners of the Club for the first half of the winter session were resumed on Friday, October 13th. In opening the proceedings, the Prior, F. Carruthers Gould, congratulated the Brotherhood in having secured, to fulfil the arduous office of honorary secretary, so admirable a Friar as their friend, W. N. Shansfield. The attendance on this occasion was a large one, the guest of the evening being the Earl of Lytton.

In responding to the toast of his health, Lord Lytton opened a conversation on "The Spirit of Modern Literature." He spoke of this as an era of criticism: most authors who were not engaged in making fiction employed their time in writing criticisms about those who did. He believed that in no previous period had criticism been more hotly pursued. But it was also an era of great productiveness and of avid reading, and particularly of fiction. It was pleasant to know that there were some naïve readers left among us. He said that it was once Mr. John Morley's fate to sit beside a young lady with whom he hardly conversed at all till near the end of dinner; he was absorbed by the conversation of the man of letters on his right. Then, suffering some qualms of conscience, he turned to his fair companion and asked, "Are you fond of reading?" "Oh, yes," she replied;

"and I am very much interested just now in So-and-so's Life of Charles I." To which Mr. Morley responded, "Ah, yes; a very good book. And when he comes to the death——" "Oh, please!" exclaimed the lady, "don't tell me any more; I haven't got as far as that yet! Don't tell me what happens!" Books, said Lord Lytton, should make our lives joyful. We had compensation for almost everything in life if we possessed good books, and he echoed with sincerity the saying of Cowley, "Few friends, few books, both true, both good, both delightful because true."

Dr. Emil Reich spoke earnestly in favour of a greater honesty and thoroughness in the reviewing of books, and was followed by Mr. Alfred F. Robbins, who spoke of the tastes of the democracy in literature.

Friar Richard Whiteing made one of his thoughtful speeches, and the conversation was continued by Friar Burgin, the Rev. William Fitchett, Mr. Cyrus Northrope (of Yale), and Friars Charles Garvice and Silas Hocking. The Prior maintained that there was no such thing as a spirit of literature. There was a spirit of the age in which an author lived, and it was that spirit which was incorporated in literature. There was also the spirit of environment. One book breathed the air of the moorlands, whilst another had a nasty flavour of patchouli. But he preferred the spirit of the moorland to the stink of patchouli. Lord Lytton's reply brought a very successful evening to a close.

THERE was a Nelson evening on October 20th, Admiral the Hon. Sir Edmund Fremantle being the Club guest. Friar Sir Ernest Clarke was in the Prior's chair. The top table was decorated with flags arranged by Friar Lacy in the order of Nelson's famous Trafalgar signals. A toast to the hero's memory was drunk from a huge bowl of punch provided by Friar Lacy.

Admiral Fremantle held the close attention of the Friars with a fervid patriotic speech in honour of Lord Nelson. Referring to Nelson as a master of tactics, he said nobody could assume for a moment that whatever formation was adopted by Nelson was not chosen from a full view of the requirements of the time. Nelson did not go by a plan and stick to it like Trochu. Neither did he throw his plan to the winds. But he was ever ready to alter it according to circumstances. He did not wait to form exact lines, but attacked at once. The result of this revising and adapting his plan was the bringing on of a decisive battle which

secured the peace of the world. Discussing the reasons for the enduring fame of Nelson, the speaker argued that it was not wholly due to the achievements of the man, but to his distinctive personality. Nelson was endowed with many virtues; but those virtues did not represent the whole of his character. It was the weaknesses and frailties of the popular hero which had endeared him to his country as much as his gallant achievements.

FRIAR J. BLOUNDELLE-BURTON contrasted Nelson with other naval commanders of his time. Admiral Eardley Wilmot spoke with a seaman's technical knowledge of the lessons of the battle of Trafalgar, and gave instances of the way in which Nelson endeared himself to the men under his command. Lieutenant Carlisle Bellairs, R.N., joined in the conversation with examples of Nelson's diplomacy and patriotism. Friar Algernon Locker (a descendant of Captain Locker, under whom Nelson served) and Mr. David Hannay also spoke, the latter referring more particularly to Nelson as a disciplinarian.

MR. J. SEYMOUR LUCAS, R.A., was the Club guest on October 27th. The Prior of the evening was Friar Cyril Davenport, and the after-dinner conversation related to the question, "Has Photography Helped Art?" Mr. Lucas argued that photography had done much to injure art. Modern miniatures showed that. The tendency of photography was to level down art to a common conventionalism. Owing to photography, modern pictures had too much detail, and the overcrowding of detail rather than the subduing of it militated against one's appreciation of the real beauty of a picture. The camera gave a literal portrayal in contradistinction to the mental perception of an artist. He deplored the supplanting of wood engraving by half-tone blocks. These objections were taken up and discussed by the Prior, Mr. Ward Muir, and Friars A. G. Browning, Gurney Benham, Moulton Piper, R. Fairbanks, the Rev. C. H. Grundy, and Albert Kinross.

"CRIME, and how to deal with it," was the topic of after-dinner talk on November 3rd, when Friar R. Newton Crane occupied the Prior's chair. The guest of the evening was Sir Robert Anderson, K.C.B., LL.D. Having narrated several of his

own experiences in dealing with habitual criminals, Sir Robert discussed the relative advantages of the reformatory and punitive methods, and he gave it as his opinion that if we introduced intelligent reform, and dealt with the criminal rather than the crime, in a single decade crimes in England would be reduced by half. He was very decidedly in favour of long sentences. The class of professional criminals was, after all, only a small one; but it was a class which had to be rigorously suppressed, and short terms of imprisonment were ineffectual.

SIR RALPH LITTLER, K.C., was in agreement with the opener on this point. Repeated short sentences, he averred, were not merely futile, but they were cruel to a degree. A short term of imprisonment did not break a criminal of bad habits, but merely improved his health and made him ready on release to commit fresh crimes. Mr. F. A. Bosanquet added considerably to the interest of the discussion by his remarks on the administration of the criminal law and the deterrent effect of punishment; and Mr. Thomas Holmes cast further light upon the subject from the point of view of a police court missionary. In a humorous speech Mr. George Elliot protested that the depreciation of short sentences showed an obliquity towards the junior Bar. If long sentences became general, and fourteen years the rule, a valuable asset would pass away for ever from the barrister. Poverty was the real cause of crime. Sir Robert Anderson in his reply maintained emphatically that the system of criminal law was wrong. He was convinced that if the criminal were dealt with instead of the crime, half the judges in this country would have to be pensioned and half the prisons closed.

THERE was an unusually large attendance at the dinner on November 10th, when, with Friar Arthur Spurgeon in the chair, the Bishop of London, as guest of the evening, opened an interesting discussion on "Life in the East End of London." In his introductory remarks the Prior suggested that members of the Club had a grievance against their guest because, as his celebrated balance sheet disclosed, he took so little interest in literature that his book bill amounted to a matter of only fifteen pounds a year; but the Bishop presently justified himself by explaining that most publishers sent him their books for nothing, hence

the pleasure of buying them was denied to him. Dr. Ingram said that what had particularly struck him whilst he was working amongst the poor of Stepney was their goodness to each other, their general cheerfulness, and their strong natural bias towards religion. He recalled, with other incidents, one that happened whilst he was engaged in an open-air argument with a secularist lecturer in Victoria Park. The large crowd listened attentively, evidently anxious that he should get the better of it, and when he was proceeding, "Now I admit——" an eager, imperative voice from the throng interrupted him with "Admit nothing!" He agreed that the scenes and people of Mr. Arthur Morrison's "Child of the Jago" might be found in the East End, but was sure they were not common there, consequently the book afforded no true picture of the life that was really lived in those parts; and he seriously endorsed the view of that Bishop who knew the East End, and, being appealed to by a timid Kensington mother as to the dangers her daughter would have to face if she went to work in a Bethnal Green settlement, said, "Oh, just let someone see her safely as far as Temple Bar, and she will be all right then." The speaking throughout was maintained at a high level, subsequent speakers including the Master of the Temple, Mr. Scott Lidgett, Mr. Silvester Horne, Mr. Percy Alden, Mr. Pett Ridge, Friar Richard Whiteing, and Dr. Hutchinson, M.P., who, in a few finely earnest and eloquent phrases, insisted on the uselessness of applying quack remedies to the problems of unemployment and overcrowding and the miseries of the poor; one must go right to the root of the matter; when the lords of the soil had all the power in their own hands they naturally made laws to their own advantage; but now, when the people governed themselves and had the power, the time was come to reform the land laws and nationalise the land; it was very little good crying "Back to the land!" till the people had the land to go back to.

IN his concluding speech, Dr. Ingram declared that the best antidote to the public-house was to arouse enthusiasm on some subject which kept people away from the tavern. He had instituted ambulance classes with this object. A poor woman had called upon him and upbraided the clergy generally because her husband came home drunk every night and knocked her about. His reply was that he would be pleased to make her husband's acquaintance and have a talk with him. A few weeks after-

wards the wife returned and thanked him, with tears in her eyes, for the reformation that had taken place. "Doesn't he spend his evenings at the public-house now?" asked the Bishop. "No, sir," said the woman; "since joining the ambulance class my Bill has no time for that now. He spends all his evenings bandaging the cat!"

A HOUSE DINNER was held on Friday, November 17th. There were no guests, and the proceedings were quite informal. Friar G. B. Burgin, who was in the chair, suggested that stories should be told, and in response there was a sequence of varied narratives from Friars MacCullum Scott, Arthur Spurgeon, Alexander Paul, Tom Gallon, Gilbert Coleridge, Robert Leighton, Algernon Rose, F. J. Cross, Alfred Miles, and Keighley Snowden.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER was the guest of the evening on November 24th, Friar Gilbert Coleridge acting as Prior. The subject of conversation was "The Influences of the Garden." Sir Michael spoke mainly of the joys of practical gardening. It was of no use to engage a gardener to do all the work. The garden which gave strength and pleasure was the one to which the possessor put his own hand. It was impossible to become intimate with the garden without enriching one's senses, and the garden, if understood aright, was a moral teacher of all the cardinal virtues. He, Sir Michael, had overheard two persons talking in a garden. "I wonder," said one, "why it is that So-and-so can grow these lovely things when he has no soil?" The other answered, "He does it through brains and love." The conversation was continued by Mr. Colin Phillip, R.W.S., Mr. Kingsbury, the Rev. H. N. Hutchinson, and Friars G. B. Burgin, Charles Garvice, Robert Leighton, Aaron Watson, and William Senior. In thanking the Club guest the Prior remarked that the Friars had had a display of good morals enlightened by good humour, and that when he returned to his country cottage in summer he intended to attack his garden as much for the benefit of his soul as for his body.

THE Club guest on December 1st was Mr. Henry Arthur Jones. Friar Reginald Geard was the Prior on the occasion. During dinner three new friars were introduced to the Brotherhood, namely, Bram Stoker, Alfred Sutro, and G. Thompson Hutchinson.

Mr. Henry Arthur Jones opened an interesting conversation on "The Drama and its Purpose." He argued that the drama should amuse by a representation of life. Amusement should be its chief purpose. Cultivated people might prefer to take their pleasures sadly when thinking on a higher plane, but even in Shakespeare's time there was a lot of tomfoolery, and with the increase of population the desire for tomfoolery had developed. He wished to restore the drama to the position of a fine art. Some of the means by which this could be achieved were the institution of subsidised national theatres, the improvement of acting as a profession, the publication of plays as literature, and the substitution of repertoire theatres in place of the deadly system of long runs. Mr. G. E. Morrison drew distinctions between the playwright and the dramatist, and advocated the recruiting of theatrical companies from the ranks of amateur actors. A practical speech from Mr. Mulholland was followed by a humorous one from Mr. Mostyn Pigott. Friar Alfred Sutro spoke with earnest eloquence on the dramatist's art, arguing that the theatre did something more than merely amuse, by conveying a moral idea. Mr. Sidney Dark continued the discussion, which was brought to a close by what was considered the best speech of the evening from Friar Bram Stoker. —————

THE Annual Meeting of the Club was held after dinner on Friday, December 8th, Friar T. Heath Joyce being in the chair. The Committee's Report and the Hon. Treasurer's Balance Sheet were submitted as follow :—

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET, 1905.

THE Committee have again the pleasure of presenting to the Brotherhood a satisfactory report of the year's working of the Club. In a social sense the Whitefriars enjoy a continuance of that popularity which has always distinguished them. Financially the Club remains prosperous.

It was with extreme regret that in March the Committee accepted Friar Arthur Spurgeon's resignation from the position of Honorary Secretary, which he had filled with such signal success. The skill with which he had guided the destinies of the Club, and the ability which he had exercised in binding the members together in good fellowship, made his abrupt retirement appear in the light of a calamity. Fortunately, however, Friar Spurgeon has continued, as a member of the Committee, to give his valuable aid in its counsels.

On the invitation of the Committee, Friar Leighton undertook to act as joint Honorary Secretary with Friar F. J. Cross. This arrangement was recognised as temporary, and at a meeting of the Committee, held on July 26th, Friar W. N. Shansfield was elected to the Hon. Secretaryship; Friar Cross, who had with gallantry and grace taken the chief responsibility, retiring on account of illness, from which he has since recovered.

During the past twelve months ten vacancies have occurred in the limited roll of one hundred town members, six being by transfer to the list of country members. These have been filled, the Brotherhood welcoming the following new Friars : J. Keighley Snowden, novelist and journalist ; H. A. Hinkson, novelist ; the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge, author and Assistant Master of the High Court ; Cyril Davenport, F.S.A., connoisseur and art critic ; Wilfred Whitten ("John o' London"), Acting Editor of *T. P.'s Weekly* ; Alfred Spencer (of Messrs. Hutchinson & Co.), editor and publisher ; W. Lindley Jones, editor of the "*Mercantile Guardian*," and writer on economic subjects ; Bram Stoker, barrister-at-law and novelist ; Alfred Sutro, author and dramatist ; and G. Thompson Hutchinson, editor and publisher.

There are at present sixteen candidates awaiting election as town members. We have now forty-one country members and eleven honorary members.

Our Friday evening meetings have lost none of their attractiveness. Since the publication of their last report the Committee have arranged in all twenty-seven dinners. Two of these were House Dinners, and one became a House Dinner through the absence of the Club Guest. One was a Shakespeare Commemoration evening. At the others special Club Guests have been present, and widely varied topics have been considered. The invited guests have been : Mr. Hector Macpherson, Count Plunkett, Mr. Augustine Birrell, K.C., Mr. Arnold White, Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey, Mr. D. Lloyd George, M.P., Sir Douglas Straight, Sir Edward Grey, Bart., M.P., Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bishop Welldon, Lord Avebury, Mr. Bram Stoker, Mr. J. Williams Benn, M.P., The Earl of Lytton, Admiral Sir Edmund Fremantle, G.C.B., Mr. J. Seymour Lucas, R.A., Sir Robert Anderson, the Bishop of London, Sir Michael Foster, and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones.

The topics discussed in conversation have been as follows : "The Modern Novel," "Books and How to Read Them," "Does the Royal Academy Represent the Art of the Nation ?" "Don Quixote," "Pressing Social Problems," "Is the Influence of

Journalism on the Wane ? " " The Future of Parliamentary Government," " Patriotism in Life and Literature," " The City Beautiful," " Public School Training," " The Study of Nature," " The Municipal Life of London," " The Spirit of Modern Literature," " Nelson and the Navy," " Has Photography Helped Art ? " " Crime, and How to Deal with it," " Life in the East End of London," " The Influences of the Garden," " The Drama and its Purpose."

The Annual Dinner, held at the Trocadero Restaurant on March 10th, with Friar F. Carruthers Gould as Prior, was a marked success. Sir Edward Grey, who was the special guest of the occasion, made a memorable speech in response to the toast of his health proposed by Friar Winston Churchill, M.P. Lord Rosebery also was present as a private guest.

Not less successful was the Annual Ladies' Banquet, which took place at the Hotel Cecil on May 5th. Friar Richard Whiteing occupied the Prior's Chair, and the guests of the evening were Mrs. J. R. Green, Mrs. Margaret L. Woods, Mrs. Alice Meynell, Madame Albanesi, Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, Mrs. James Stuart, Miss Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler, Miss L. Kemp-Welch, Miss Emma Brooke, Miss Beatrice Harraden, Miss Winifred Graham, Miss Florence Balgarnie, and Miss Alice and Miss Henriette Corkran. The toast of "Sovran Woman" was proposed by Friar Gilbert Coleridge, and the lady speakers were Mrs. James Stuart, Mrs. Wiggin, and Mrs. J. R. Green. On this occasion the Friars presented to Mrs. Arthur Spurgeon a diamond brooch as a token of their appreciation of her husband's services to the Club.

The Summer Outing of the Friars took the form of a cruise up the Thames from Goring to Oxford, personally conducted by Friar C. H. Cook, who prepared for the event a souvenir. Friar A. G. Browning was the Prior of the day.

In concluding this brief report of the year's work, the Committee cannot refrain from referring with pride to the continuance of that feeling of fraternal good fellowship which is and always has been a distinguishing characteristic of the Whitefriars Club.

All the Members have paid their Subscriptions for the year. Including 10s. 11d. brought forward, the receipts for the year amounted to £465 17s. 5d., and the Club expenditure to £464 7s. 1d., leaving the sum of £1 10s. 4d. balance at bank.

The statement of accounts has been duly audited by Friars G. Manville Fenn and A. Giraud Browning.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1904-1905.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward	...	0 10 11	By Rent of Club Room	...	80 0 0
" Interest on Investments	...	8 11 0	" Christmas Dinner	...	36 12 0
" Members' Subscriptions	...	260 8 0	" Annual Members' Dinner	...	23 16 6
" Entrance Fees	...	18 18 0	" Annual Ladies' Dinner	...	64 14 9
" Christmas Dinner	...	38 2 0	" Summer Pilgrimage	...	66 17 6
" Annual Members' Dinner	...	30 7 6	" Reporting	...	3 3 0
" Annual Ladies' Dinner	...	55 10 0	" Newspapers	...	1 9 2
" Summer Pilgrimage	...	52 10 0	" Cheques	...	0 4 2
" Friar Browning's Contribution to Cracker Fund	...	1 0 0	" Refreshments for Artistes	...	0 5 9
			" Toastmaster	...	2 2 0
			" Artistes	...	18 18 0
			" Guests	...	6 13 4
			" Receipt Book	...	0 4 6
			" Portraits (reframing and reducing)	...	18 13 9
			" Bouquet and Crackers	...	3 16 8
			" Printing Club Journal	...	25 12 0
			" Stationery, including Blocks	...	5 6 3
			" Red Book	...	6 0 0
			" Circulars, Dinner Cards, and General Printing	...	23 12 6
			" Special Programmes	...	9 15 6
			" Pilgrimage Booklet, Time Tables, and Menu	...	7 8 0
			" Postages of Dinner Cards and Journals	...	0 18 7
			" General Postages and Telegrams	...	16 4 9
			" Gratuities to Hotel. Servants, Waiters, &c.	...	8 1 0
			" "Who's Who?"	...	0 7 6
			" Due to Treasurer 18th November, 1904	...	33 9 11
			" Balance at Bank 21st November, 1905...	...	464 7 1
Total	...	£465 17 5	Total	...	£465 17 5

*Audited and found Correct, November 21st, 1905, G. M. FENN,
A. G. BROWNING.*

The WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL continues to make its appearance from time to time under the editorship of Friar Robert Leighton, who supplies a concise record of the proceedings of the Club.

The Committee desire to draw the attention of Friars to the luncheons served in the Club Room from one o'clock every day, excepting Saturdays and Sundays. There are some members who regard the luncheons as being more typical even than our Friday dinners. Possibly their appreciation is due to the circumstance that a small table admits of more general conversation. Certainly the talk is invariably bright and inspiring.

The Report having been accepted without discussion, the meeting proceeded to re-elect the Committee. Friar G. H. Perkins was unanimously re-elected as Honorary Treasurer, and Friar W. N. Shansfield as Honorary Secretary. The Loving Cup was passed round, and one of the quietest Annual Meetings in the Club's history came to a close with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

A LARGE company sat down at the Annual Christmas Dinner, which was held in the Empire Hall at the Trocadero Restaurant on Friday, December 15th. The proceedings were of a genial character. The Prior for the occasion was FRIAR WILLIAM SENIOR, who, with MRS. SENIOR, received the company in the Alexandra Room. The tables had been brightly decorated with piles of crackers, the pulling of which, after dinner, considerably added to the evening's merriment.

The Sub-Priors were Friars Silas K. Hocking, W. G. Lacy, Arthur Spurgeon, W. H. Helm, H. J. Brown, and Kenric B. Murray.

There were present the following Friars and Guests :—

THE PRIOR—Mrs. Senior, Miss Gertrude Kingston, Mrs. Konstan, Mr. Konstan, Miss Dean, Mr. Power. FRIAR F. A. ATKINS. FRIAR H. J. BROWN—Mrs. Brown. FRIAR A. G. BROWNING—Miss Browning, the Rev. H. N. Hutchinson, Mrs. Hutchinson. FRIAR G. B. BURGIN—Mrs. Burgin. FRIAR WILLIAM COLLEY—Mrs. Colley, Miss E. M. Colley, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rewcastle. FRIAR PAUL CRESWICK—Mrs. Creswick. FRIAR F. J. CROSS. FRIAR ROBERT DONALD—Mrs. Donald, Professor and Mrs. Dolby, Mr. Neil Turner, Miss Colbourn. FRIAR R. N. FAIRBANKS—Mrs. Fairbanks, Mr. and Mrs. Webster Glynes. FRIAR LOUIS FALCK'S

Guests—Mr. and Mrs. Osborn Walford, Miss Walford. FRIAR JOHN FOSTER FRASER—Mrs. Fraser. FRIAR TOM GALLON—Miss Nellie Gallon, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Engelbach, Mr. Malcolm Watson. FRIAR DOUGLAS M. GANE—Mrs. Gane. FRIAR CHARLES GARVICE—Mr. Angus Hamilton. FRIAR REGINALD GEARD—Mrs. Geard, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Castellain. FRIAR LIONEL F. GOWING—Mrs. Gowing, Miss Billington. FRIAR J. A. HAMMERTON—Mrs. Hammerton, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. McKenzie. FRIAR PAUL HASLUCK—Mrs. Hasluck, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Hasluck. FRIAR W. H. HELM—Mrs. and Miss Helm. FRIAR WILLIAM HILL—Mr. William Hill, Jr. FRIAR H. A. HINKSON—"Katherine Tynan." FRIAR JOSEPH HOCKING—Mrs. Hocking. FRIAR G. THOMPSON HUTCHINSON—Mrs. Hutchinson, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Riddell. FRIAR W. LINDLEY JONES—Mrs. Lindley Jones, Miss Lindley Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Scott, Mr. Walter Bates. FRIAR T. HEATH JOYCE—Mrs. Heath Joyce. FRIAR W. G. LACY—Miss Lacy, Miss K. Lacy, Dr. and Mrs. Allan, Miss Ortner, Mr. Alwyn Treherne, Mr. Frank Treherne, Mr. R. Fisher. FRIAR ROBERT LEIGHTON—Mrs. Leighton. FRIAR KENRIC B. MURRAY—Mrs. Lancashire, Mr. Richard A. Donald. FRIAR ALEXANDER PAUL—Mrs. Paul. FRIAR G. MOULTON PIPER—Mrs. Piper. FRIAR ALGERNON ROSE. FRIAR A. M. SCOTT—Mrs. Scott, Miss Scott. FRIAR JOSEPH SHAYLOR—Mrs. Shaylor. FRIAR CLEMENT SHORTER—Mrs. Clement Shorter, Mrs. J. M. Tuohy. FRIAR KEIGHLEY SNOWDEN—Mrs. Snowden, Miss Snowden. FRIAR ALFRED SPENCER—Mrs. Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Smith. FRIAR ARTHUR SPURGEON—Mrs. Spurgeon, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Rayner, Mr. A. Rayner, Miss Thorp, Miss Bertha Cockshott. THE HON. SEC.—Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Leigh Hughes. FRIAR A. MORESBY WHITE. FRIAR RICHARD WHITEING—Miss Alice Corkran. FRIAR J. FARLOW WILSON—Mrs. Snudden. FRIAR PHILIP WILSON—Mrs. Wilson.

On the removal of the cloth,

The PRIOR gave the loyal toast, mentioning the interesting fact that one of the most recent acts of the King was to send down to Friar Meredith the Order of Merit, as the famous novelist was unable to go to Buckingham Palace to receive it.

The toast was drunk with musical honours, led by Mr. Albert Garcia.

The musical programme was interesting throughout. Miss Winifred Marwood sang charmingly. Mr. Garcia gave artistically the "Largo al factotum" solo from the "Barbiere di Seville," and Baron de Pietrapertosa mandoline solos. Mr. Nelson Jack-

son and Mr. Harold Montagu provided ingenious humorous sketches.

The PRIOR, before giving the roll-call, observed that it was his duty, as well as his pleasure, as Prior to welcome their visitors to this family party. He had had to do with children for very many years—(laughter)—but he was sure a more beautiful family of daughters and bold, handsome sons than that which he had the privilege of being father of no fond parent could conceive. The PRIOR, in extending a cordial welcome, seized the opportunity to thank Mrs. Joyce for her drawing on the menu card.

FRIAR CHARLES GARVICE gave the toast of "The Spirit of Christmas." He did so in a speech which consisted largely of apt humorous stories, and created a good deal of amusement.

MR. SPENCER LEIGH HUGHES proposed the toast of "The Ladies." He said: "I am not going to make the miserable pretence of saying I know nothing about the ladies. I have studied them on every opportunity I have had in my short but well-spent career, and I find that the more you study them the more you are aware of your ignorance. There is a difficulty in talking on a theme of this sort, and there is also a redeeming feature. Some subjects you feel you could do justice to; there are several—this is one of them—you know you could not do justice to, nobody ever did do justice to, and nobody ever will." (Laughter.) "A man, then, is placed at the disadvantage of knowing he can never do justice to this subject. But a more miserable spectacle was seen when a man had to respond to the toast on behalf of women. Those dark days are gone now, and I am fortunate in being able to associate with it the name of Miss Gertrude Kingston, who has figured prominently on the stage and in literature, and is a practised speaker besides, so that if the toast be submitted to you in an unworthy manner you will know that Miss Kingston will make up for those deficiencies in the nature of her reply. It is said that wine-tasters, when they want to taste some special vintage, first nibble a little mouldy cheese; and I am in the humble but necessary position to-night of being a little bit of mouldy cheese." (Laughter and applause.)

MISS GERTRUDE KINGSTON, who was heartily welcomed, in the course of her reply said: "To speak frankly, I have the literary side of my profession very much at heart, and I sincerely grieve at the unliterary bent of most of the successful theatrical managers. The theatrical manager in London simply does not know literature when he sees it." (Laughter.) "Again and again I have said,

‘Let us at least, if we must lose our money, lose it with dignity and something for literature.’ I must be just, however, and say, further, that if it is the fault of the public and the managers it is the fault of the playwright too. Let me address to you one earnest word of entreaty. We have the finest and most prolific literature in the whole world, and we have the most laboured and least original stage plays. Let us beg you to turn your attention to the writing of plays. Where you can make hundreds by a successful book you can make thousands by a successful play”—(laughter)—“but let me venture to give you one piece of advice. Do not adapt your play from your novel, but write your play first, and elaborate your novel afterwards. It does not make a good thing of it to adapt a book because you invariably take too much for granted, and thus much remains unexplained to the audience. Ladies—instead of speaking for, I must speak to you—you who in the last year have made such artistic successes for yourselves, and such lucrative successes by your publications in fiction, let me beg of you in the interest of a theatre-going public that is degenerating into the vulgar habit of going four times to a performance on a revolving stage, to write for the theatre as boldly and as bravely as you write for the reading public. Believe me, the next person who tells the truth in a literary play upon the stage, and is not afraid to trust himself to young managers, is the man to make a success.” (Applause.)

FRIAR SPURGEON, in proposing the health of the Prior, said: “While I do not wish to introduce a discordant note into the melody of the evening, one cannot but remember that twelve months ago the toast of the evening was given by our good friend L. F. Austin, who was a member of this Club for many years; and it was a singular coincidence that the subject of his speech was a very curious Christmas he once spent with Sir Henry Irving out in the Wild West. Both these men have gone. While we think of these men of the past and drink to their memory silently, one feels a great satisfaction that we have such men left amongst us as we see assembled around our board, notably the good Friar who occupies the chair. Last Friday night we celebrated our Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting, and during all those years Friar Senior has been a member of the Whitefriars Club, and all the other Friars who had received him in membership had known he was not only a great Friar, but a great journalist. Not only proud of him as a great journalist, we like to think of him as a good friend. I remember very early in my association with

London, I had the pleasure and honour of being introduced to him by one of our late secretaries; and as the years have progressed, in sorrow and in joy, Friar Senior has been one of the best of comrades and one of the best of friends. When we drink to the health of our Prior, we couple with that the health of Mrs. Senior. During the past year she has had a serious illness, and in those dark and trying days the thoughts of the Friars were continually in the house at Hampstead. We rejoice to know that she is with us to-night." (Applause.)

The PRIOR, in reply, said: "During many years of intimate friendship with Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon, we have had reason to be grateful to Providence for giving us such friends, whose kindness never tires. In my paternal relation with this family party, I should like, if I may, to say three or four words about the spirit of Christmas, because there is such a thing. It is not merely a relic of the past. It is only the form of its celebration that has changed, not the spirit itself. I suppose the Christmas cult was at its height in the time that Dickens wrote his charming Christmas books. There was a glamour about it then that we have never had since. Then came the days when the illustrated papers published Christmas literature at the end of October and during the November fogs, and men were to be met who spoke of Christmas as a bygone institution. If you lived in the country you would find that the Christmas hymns are still sung, the Christmas chimes are still to be heard, and, best of all, especially in the homes of the poor, the Christmas gathering is just as much cherished as ever it was; and I repeat the old wish in the name of the Club as well as in my own paternal name—a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you! And if I might give you my opinion of the ideal which is associated with the spirit of Christmas I should say it is just this—the cultivation of spacious tolerance, which produces the habit also of kindliness, one with the other; and in all things, in great things as in small, at home and abroad, to make the best of everything." (Applause.)

The usual conversazione followed.

CLUB NOTES.

The names of the Club guests of the session will be familiar to all the Friars. Sir John Wolfe-Barry is one of the busiest men in the world. He has been on half a score Royal Commissions—for London Traffic, for the Port of London, for the Tube Railway, for Irish Public Works, and other enterprises. He designed the Tower Bridge, lent his name to Barry Docks, and has provided India and China with their principal lines of communication. He is Chairman of the City and Guilds of London Technical Institute, and—not forgetting philanthropy—presides over the City of Westminster Hospital.

No one can deny the variety of interest presented by the succession of Mr. George Grossmith, Mr. George Bernard Shaw, and Professor Joseph Wright. Mr. Grossmith has old journalistic associations, and this will add to his pleasure in giving us a visit, the attraction of which will be certain. Whether or not to some people Mr. Bernard Shaw may be the *enfant gâté* and to others the *enfant terrible* of the dramatic world, he has responded readily to the invitation of the Whitefriars to discuss one of the many topics that appeal to him. Professor Joseph Wright, as the editor of the English Dialect Dictionary, has accumulated stores of quaint wisdom, which, with the completion of that work, have brought him grateful recognition everywhere.

Announcement of the annual dinner at the Trocadero on March 2nd will, as usual, be made by special circular, but it may here be said that Field Marshal Sir George White, O.M., will be the principal guest, and Friar Anthony Hope, Prior. The brilliant and heroic defender of Ladysmith has a career which goes back to service in the Indian Mutiny. He gained the Victoria Cross in the march from Cabul to Khandahar; and Egypt and Burmah knew him before he became the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in India. But Ladysmith eclipsed all the rest. There will be other eminent guests, including Sir Spencer Walpole, and some good music.

Mr. Hueffer's book, "The Soul of London," suggested that this subtle impressionist writer should break from his usual retirement for an evening with the Brotherhood. The Prior of the evening is perhaps even better known to the public as "John o' London" than by his own name, because of the delight he has afforded

to thousands through the pages of *T. P.'s Weekly*. Lord Halsbury has for some time been desirous of paying the Friars a visit in response to their invitation, but the engagements of his strenuous life—in his eighty-second year—prevented him from opening the session as hoped. Hence the later date. Those Friars who have heard him in the Upper Chamber can best appreciate the pungent humour which “F. C. G.” has portrayed, as if by inspiration, in his inimitable cartoons. Some can remember, too, how the late Lord Salisbury used to relieve the tedium of dull debate by the exchange of private pleasantries on the woolsack—to the evident enjoyment of both.

Sir Ian Hamilton, Sir Algernon West, and the Hon. John Collier, apart from their distinctive reputations, have a bond of sympathy with the Brotherhood in that they have written books. Sir Ian, greatly occupied as he is always, protests against the idea of “set orations.” For that reason we may be sure that the discussion on March 30th will be bright and spirited. Sir Algernon West brought out his “Recollections” a few years ago. Since then, through his many activities, he must have gathered almost material for a second volume. The Hon. John Collier’s date comes, with special appropriateness, near the time of the Royal Academy exhibition.

Since the last issue of the Journal the Brotherhood has found among its number a peer—Sir Alfred Harmsworth has become Lord Northcliffe of Thanet. The General Election for the time being scattered Friars all over the country, but it brought some compensation. Five are M.P.s, and two of these hold office in the new Government. For the information of future historians the list is here given as follows:—Friar Winston Churchill, M.P. for North-West Manchester, Under-Secretary for the Colonies; Friar Walter Runciman, M.P. for Dewsbury, Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board; Friar Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P. for Gravesend; Friar Cecil Harmsworth, M.P. for the Droitwich Division of Worcestershire; and Friar A. E. W. Mason, M.P. for Coventry.

Luncheon is served in the Club Room daily, except Saturdays and Sundays, at a charge of 1s. 6d.

W. N. S.

