

WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL.

Edited by
**FRIAR ROBERT
LEIGHTON.**

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PRIVATE
CIRCULATION.

CLUB DIARY.

MANY of the older Friars will remember Colonel A. E. Hawes, who was a prominent member of the Club in the early 'seventies and who was largely instrumental in instituting, on the model of the Whitefriars, the Bohemian Club of San Francisco. In an interesting letter addressed to Friar H. J. Brown, Colonel Hawes sends greetings to the White Friars, and refers with especial affection to the late Crawford Wilson. "I do not know if I have ever told you," he writes, "that the founder of the Whitefriars, who was still living when I joined, was until his death an honorary member of the Bohemian Club of San Francisco. According to my recollection, he was either the first honorary member, or possibly the second, elected to that club. I well remember that it was in 1873, and the President of the Bohemians was a most genial man—an actor named Henry Edwards. At that time members, honorary or otherwise, were elected in open meeting. It was customary for the proposer to make an appeal to the members, stating the qualifications of the candidate. Harry Edwards came down from the chair, and made a most eloquent and persuasive speech, declaring that his friend, Crawford Wilson, was not only most distinguished and noted for his ability, but was 'the best fellow in England.' Whereupon he was elected; and if your club rooms at Anderton's are in the same condition as when I last saw them, an old list of the Bohemian Club members is still on the wall. . . . I am pleased to say that the Bohemians still flourish, and that they have originated a form of play—the Forest Drama—which I believe to be unique. It is the feature of the annual mid-summer High Jinks, held in a stately grove of sequoias, about seventy-five miles from San Francisco. I observe in your autumn programme the names of a few Friars who may possibly remember me, and if there are such, pray give them the kindest wishes from me."

ALTHOUGH the White Friars hold no periodical high jinks in the form of forest drama in stately groves, they yet know how to make a midsummer outing enjoyable, and the summer recess of 1908 was brightened by a pilgrimage into Wiltshire, the Friars and their ladies spending a memorable day in inspecting the beauties of Salisbury Cathedral, the ancient druidical circle of Stonehenge, and the treasures of Wilton House.

THE weekly dinners of the Club were resumed for the winter session on Friday, October 16th, under the Priorship of Friar W. H. Helm. The Club guest was Mr. Andrew Lang, who, in responding to the toast of his health, opened a conversational debate on the subject of "Spooks." He defined a spook as the after-image of a dream or a nocturnal hallucination—a phantom. He was sceptical as to the possibility of a spirit appearing visible to mortal eyes. It was impossible for a ghost to prove its own existence. Playfully reviewing the subject and illustrating his remarks with anecdote, he concluded that there were undoubtedly certain faculties in the human mind which psychical research had revealed and which had yet to be explained away. Mr. Lang had suggested that ghostly appearances might be attributed to telepathy, or to a species of wireless telegraphy; but Friar Whiteing, in continuing the discussion, considered that there was no analogy between telegraphy and brain waves. There were myriad cells in the human brain constantly receiving impressions from the outside world, and there were abnormalities of the human mind which had never been satisfactorily interpreted. The Rev. E. C. Owen, of Harrow, Mr. McNeill, Friars Sir F. C. Gould, Athol Joyce, Rev. C. H. Grundy, Dr. Robertson Nicoll, Albert Kinross, Wilfred Whitten and Lee Campbell joined in the conversation, and the debate was carefully summed up by the guest of the evening.

COLONEL J. B. SEELY, M.P., was the guest of the Club on October 23rd, when the Prior's chair was occupied by Friar Sir Gilbert Parker. The topic set down for discussion was "What the Colonies Mean to Us." In the course of an impressive address, Colonel Seely made apt comparisons of the trend of energy existing in the various British Colonies, but the main point of his argument was that the people who lived in the British Empire enjoyed more happiness and freedom than they could enjoy in any

other State. Every additional territory we possessed made the people who lived in it, owing to the system of government, happier than they otherwise would be. The Empire had been singularly blessed in the heroic energy and common sense displayed by young Englishmen who had been sent out to remote parts to preserve order. If those who said that Empire was mixed up with shaky companies would look at the self-sacrificing devotion of such men they would alter their opinions. Something dreadful happened every day in the Empire, and only such officials as himself at the Colonial Office could appreciate the real merits of many obscure civil servants and brave soldiers who averted calamities, and received little thanks in return, their reward being the sense of having done their duty. But the government in different parts was suited admirably to local requirements. In South Africa there was Roman and Dutch Law, in Cyprus Turkish law, in Mauritius French law, whilst in Trinidad the government was founded on the common law of Spain. Again, the constitution of Canada completely differed from that of Australia, and between the Crown and the self-governing Colonies there were many varieties of administration. Therefore, as the administration of the British Empire was peculiarly adapted to its requirements, it had a better chance of surviving than had the Roman or any other empire preceding it, because of its greater freedom. General Hood, Commander of the Forces in Australia, next spoke to the same purpose. He was followed in turn by Mr. Gardiner, of the "Daily News," Lord Ronaldshay, M.P., Friar Mostyn Pigott, Mr. Sidney Low, Friar Richard Whiteing and the Prior.

ON October 30th the Friars and a large number of distinguished guests met to do honour to Friar William Senior, in celebration of his Jubilee in Journalism. Friar Robert Donald officiated as Prior.

In proposing the toast of the evening, Friar Richard Whiteing said that the Club guest had begun very early his literary career, and the most remarkable thing that had happened during the fifty years which had since passed had not been the change which had taken place in Senior himself so much as in journalism. Literature had gone out of journalism, and a good deal of journalism had got into literature. There was no time nowadays for literature. They had a totally new set of readers and a new kind of journalism. It was Caliban beginning to take

notice. The mass of newspaper readers had been brought up by the Board Schools, and it was necessary to teach them largely by picture or their sense of impression. The new journalism was something to be understood. It was not understood at present. Was it literature? Literature without a sense of proportion was not literature. The old journalism was literary even when most matter-of-fact, and William Senior represented the honourable literature of the past. It had been his peculiar function to go anywhere at a moment's notice, and describe some event happening in town or country in a readable way. He was one of those men who could make the description of a cattle show a piece of literature. He had gone into journalism as a cabin boy in the good old way, and had come out of it a captain. Nowadays journalism had become so subdivided that what literature there was in it was done by the outside hired hand. Formerly a newspaper staff was equal to every demand made on it. As a comrade and a friend William Senior had always been reliable. He was the same Senior in the Whitefriars Club as he had been on the "Daily News."

The health of Friar Senior having been drunk with musical honours,

Friar Senior said that he could not express adequately the gratitude he felt, and there was something uncanny in the thought that his jubilee could not happen again. Looking back along the vista of half a century, he traced his career from the time when the editor of a country paper inserted his first poem, beginning with the words "The silvery moon shines forth serene and bright." Blessed with a strong constitution and a great love of nature, a fund of good humour, an excellent wife, children and grandchildren, his life had been an exceedingly happy one. He had had excellent employers and colleagues, troops of friends, and had nothing to complain about;—so that he could sum up all his feelings in those well-remembered lines, "Not more than others I deserve, yet God hath given me more."

Friar Senior's reminiscences were listened to with great interest, and, as this was a special meeting, a musical programme followed.

FRIAR SIR FRANCIS CARRUTHERS GOULD was Prior at the dinner on November 6th, the guest of the evening being the Right Hon. Sydney Buxton, the Postmaster-General. The Prior, in introducing Mr. Buxton, said that he was a keen naturalist

and sportsman, and as he belonged to a family of philanthropists he was a fitting man to talk about "The Recreations of a Busy Man," since it would be difficult to find a busier. The Club guest in reply protested that the topic of the evening was not his choice. It seemed to him that the recreations of a busy man implied two separate existences—when he was in office at work, and when he was out of office amusing himself. All M.P.s considered themselves busy men, but there were gradations in the act of being busy. He believed that he was reputed to be a busy man, although he had never written a novel, had never contributed to a magazine nor sent a letter to the papers. As a responsible official at the Post Office he could say that all the Little Peddlingtonians throughout the country thought that they could run the Post Office better than could the Government officials themselves. Those people who were out of office invariably thought they were busy. It was only when one was in office that one actually was busy. Regarding recreation opinions differed. Some of his constituents wanted to attend a funeral, so they wrote to the Great Eastern Railway to know if the Company, if they attended in a body, would make a reduction as for a pleasure excursion. There were two forms of recreation—armchair and outdoor. Sitting down and doing nothing was a lost art. He himself began a holiday by reading novels. Then he turned to history and biography, to such books as "The Life of Lord Randolph Churchill." He considered that the popularity of the postcard was doing an irreparable injury to future biographies, because the great charm in good biographies was the insertion of carefully written letters. As regards outdoor recreation he had found there was nothing to be compared to fly-fishing. It was so absolutely absorbing. By fishing he did not imply so much the catching of fish as trying to catch them. The man who always caught fish was a fishmonger. Golf, he considered, improved one's vocabulary in the wrong direction—it led to much strong language. He doubted if it was a good thing to be too active in one's recreations. Strenuous recreations were perhaps a mistake in a busy world.

The other speakers who contributed to the evening's conversation were Friar Harold Spender, Friar Sir Robert Hunter, Mr. Rowley, Friar the Rev. F. A. Russell, the Rev. Wesley Dennis, Friar Bram Stoker and the Prior.

ON November 13th there was an informal House Dinner, presided over by Friar Charles E. Pearce.

ONE of the most successful weekly dinners of the session was that of November 20th, when Sir Robert Hart, G.C.M.G., was the guest of the Club. Friar Edward Clodd was Prior for the evening, and in inviting the guest to open a conversation on the appropriate topic of "China and the Chinese" he delivered a gracious message from Friar George Meredith, who said that he regarded Sir Robert Hart with the deepest respect, because he had influenced the East with all that was best in the West.

Sir Robert Hart said that when he went to China in 1854 the Taiping Rebellion was giving trouble, and after it was over and the Mandarins returned home they were surprised to find that so many dues had been honestly collected and distributed. The coast was then infested by pirates. At Ningpo twenty-eight Canton vessels had appeared, and some British ships were sent to blow them up. After the Chinese junks had submitted to the authorities they were converted into the first Chinese navy, but only fourteen of them were put into commission. The rest went on with piracy as usual. At that time convoying vessels was a profitable trade, and there were dangers of many kinds to avert. All foreigners were about to be killed on one occasion at the place where he resided, and his servants left. Some Portuguese vessels were driven into the Ningpo River and destroyed. At the nick of time a French corvette arrived from South America and saved the situation. The circumstance was accidental, and he often thought how, when his career was spoken about, everyone is more or less a creature of circumstance. He was then transferred to Canton and to Sir Harry Parkes, and was present at the first experiments made with the electric telegraph between the Porcelain Pagoda and the Jetty at Canton. Sir Harry Parkes was at one end of the line with a Mandarin, and he (Sir Robert Hart) with the Viceroy of Canton at the other. But the answers given to the questions arranged beforehand had nothing to do with the inquiries made. The sceptical Chinese made such replies purposely in order to puzzle the Europeans, and confirm their disbelief in any barbarian invention, because the Chinamen held that everything that could be invented had been produced ages ago in their own country. Thus, gunpowder was invented in China long before it was discovered in Europe. But it had never been used for killing. The Chinaman had employed it solely for fireworks and harmless crackers. Printing, again, had been in vogue in China long before Caxton had appeared in the West. A great Chinese teacher had appeared 500 years B.C. He was Confucius. When asked

if there was a God, he replied that he did not know, but he advised his questioners to act as if God existed and they were in His presence. Confucian ethics, as looked upon and acted up to by the Chinese, were in many ways superior to the ethics of Christianity. The Chinaman said : "When you want to do anything, you call in force. We abominate that sort of thing. Reason is what we look to." Yet, when a Chinaman was unreasonable, he could be very unreasonable indeed. He (Sir Robert Hart) spent seven weeks in the Legation at the time of the Boxer rising, and if the Chinese had chosen to push home their attack they could have finished the Europeans easily in fifteen minutes.

Formerly, in China, the only way of rising to the front was by examination, and the man of brains was the most powerful. The educated Chinaman had very clear views concerning might and right. Right, he considered, was unchangeable, whilst might was changeable according to circumstances. Whilst following the ethics of Confucius the thoughtful Chinaman regarded the European advocacy of might as an act of retrogression in civilisation. But, owing to that influence, the Chinese examinations had now been modified, and Western ideas were being adopted. The military spirit was being cultivated. It would not be aroused for a generation or more, because in China things went slowly. Even then, the Chinaman would not be against the world. The nation was making itself strong because it was necessary in self-defence. Happily for the world, it would be a long time before China got away from Confucian ethics. The Emperor was dead. He was a man of gentle nature. The Empress also was dead. She was a woman of extraordinary ability. What the new Emperor would do it was difficult to say, but his father was likely to carry on friendship with the other Powers for the advancement of the Chinese nation. Railways, telegraphs, the postal system and the publication of newspapers were advancing. If China was treated in a kind and sympathetic way the West had nothing to fear from that quarter. But the four hundred millions would some day be a very great nation.

Sir Robert Hart spoke with great fluency on many matters relating to China, and he was followed by Sir Alfred Lyall, who contributed sympathetically to the conversation. Other speakers were Mr. Collins, Friar Mackenzie, Mr. Macartney, Friar Foster Fraser, Friar Osman Edwards; the Prior summing up before Sir Robert Hart concluded a memorable evening by briefly replying to various questions which had been put during the evening.

SIR RENNELL RODD, K.C.M.G., was the guest of the evening on November 27th, when Friar Clement K. Shorter occupied the Prior's chair. The subject of conversation was "The Message of Greece and Rome To-day," and in his opening address Sir Rennell Rodd spoke with learning and literary grace of the divers influences of Greece and Rome upon modern civilisation, and of our indebtedness to classical times in art, literature and government. His audience were so much in agreement with the truths he expressed that there was little room for discussion, and the conversation turned largely upon the subject of Democracy. Among those who contributed to it were Mr. George Whale, the Rev. W. J. Street, and Friars Richard Whiteing, Gilbert Coleridge, G. B. Burgin, Desmond Coke, Wilfred Whitten, R. Leighton and the Rev. C. H. Grundy.

DR. CHALMERS MITCHELL, F.R.S., Secretary of the Royal Zoological Society, was the guest of the Club on December 4th, the Prior being Friar Wilfred Whitten. Dr. Mitchell's subject was "The Duration of Life," and he gave many interesting examples of the varying measure of life given to different sentient beings. Apart from bacteria, which might live for a few minutes, rotifers passed the whole cycle of their existence within forty to fifty hours, plant-lice of quite elaborate construction averaged a life of one month, the working bee or drone lived only a few months, while a queen ant belonging to Lord Avebury had lived thirteen years, and a common cockroach might live twenty years. Grasshoppers were good for seventeen years, whilst many fish die within twelve months, although a pike would live up to one hundred years, and the tortoise a hundred and fifty years. Singing birds seldom exceeded twelve years, and pheasants or fowls fourteen years, whilst birds of prey and parrots would live upwards of a hundred and fifty years. In mammals the duration of life was less. Mice would live four or five years, guinea-pigs and rabbits seven years, sheep and goats fourteen or fifteen years, cattle and horses twenty-five to forty years, and the rhinoceros and elephant were reputed to live as much as two centuries, but in confinement they had never reached more than from thirty to forty years, the maximum in army elephants being fifty to sixty years. Man occasionally lived one hundred years, and, generally speaking, his death was a mere accident. The speaker then entered into a discussion as to the possibility of eliminating disease. It was as possible to

exterminate noxious microbes as it had been to exterminate wolves in England, but if disease were wholly eliminated it would cause people to acquiesce in and after a certain time to long for death, and this possibility offered a wide field for discussion. Friar Sir F. Carruthers Gould, debating the subject, asked why it was that people lived so long in Scotland. He conjectured that it was because of an economical desire to avoid funeral expenses. Other speakers were Mr. Lewis Hind, Friar Charles Garvice, Mr. Jephson, and Mr. Stephen Reynolds.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Club was held after dinner on December 11th, Friar G. H. Perkins being in the chair. The following report and balance sheet were presented:—

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

THE Committee have once again the pleasing duty of submitting to the brotherhood a satisfactory report of the year's working of the Club.

Our financial condition remains eminently sound, and our progress socially continues to be marked by the harmony which has always been a distinct characteristic of the fraternity.

The Committee are especially gratified at being able to refer to the happy circumstance that there has not been any death in the circle during the year.

One vacancy in the limited roll of one hundred town members has occurred by resignation, and has been filled by the election of Mr. E. C. Bentley, of the Editorial Staff of the "Daily News."

Two new country members have also been welcomed into our midst, namely, Mr. Ward Muir and Mr. William Archbald.

During the twelve months the Committee have arranged in all 22 dinners; four of these have been informal House Dinners, to which Club guests have not been invited. Our special guests at the weekly dinners have been: The Lord Bishop of Hereford, Mr. Granville Barker, the Hon. Maurice Baring, Mr. Justice Neville, Professor Silvanus Thompson, Mr. W. Pett Ridge, Mr. Rudolph C. Lehmann, M.P., General Sir William Butler, Mr. Andrew Lang, Colonel Seely, M.P., Mr. Sydney Buxton, M.P. (the Postmaster-General), Sir Robert Hart, Sir Rennell Rodd, and Dr. Chalmers Mitchell.

A special and interesting event was the dinner of October 30th,

when the Friars and a numerous and distinguished company met to do honour to Friar William Senior on the occasion of his jubilee as a journalist.

Among the topics set down for after-dinner discussion have been: "Literature in Schools"; "The Reform of the Theatre"; "Newspapers in War Time"; "The Garden City"; "Science and the Man in the Street"; "London in Shadow and Sunshine"; "The Lighter Side of Recreation"; "A Plea for the Peasant"; "Spooks"; "What the Colonies Mean to Us"; "The Recreations of a Busy Man"; "China and the Chinese"; "The Message of Greece and Rome To-day"; "The-Duration of Life."

The Annual Dinner of the Club was held at the Trocadero Restaurant on February 28th, when the Right Hon. George Wyndham, M.P., was the guest of the evening. Friar William Senior was Prior.

The Ladies' Banquet was held at the same hostelry on May 1st, under the Priorship of the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge. The Bishop of Ripon spoke to the toast of "Sovran Woman," to which Lady Grove responded. Mrs. Percy Dearmer also spoke.

The Summer Outing this year took the form of a Pilgrimage to Salisbury and Stonehenge, and, by the kindness of Lord Pembroke, the company were permitted to pay a visit to Wilton House.

The subscriptions of all town members have been paid for the year. Including a balance brought forward of £78 19s. 5d., the receipts for the year amounted to £563 16s. 4d. The expenditure amounted to £464 8s. 11d., leaving a balance at the bank of £99 7s. 5d.

The Committee greatly regret that, owing to the pressure of professional engagements, Friar W. N. Shansfield is not seeking re-election as Hon. Secretary.

The Committee have, therefore, approached Friar Joseph Shaylor, one of the most highly esteemed members of the Club, inviting him to fill the breach, and they are glad to announce that Friar Shaylor has expressed his willingness to be nominated at the Annual Business Meeting on December 11th. In a Club of busy men such as the Whitefriars it is not easy to discover one who has the time to undertake the service, and the Committee appreciate very greatly Friar Shaylor's self-sacrificing spirit in consenting to become Friar Shansfield's successor. They feel very sure that he will perform the delicate duties with tact and enthusiasm, and they cordially and unanimously recommend his election.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1907-1908.

RECEIPTS.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To balance brought forward	...	...	...	By Rent of Club Room	...	...	...
," Interest on Investment (£300 London County	...	...	...	," Christmas Dinner	...	...	...
Council Stock, purchased for £290 16s.)	...	8	11	" Crackers, etc.	...	...	...
," Members' Subscriptions, 1908	...	252	0	" Members' Dinner...	...	...	...
" " " 1909	...	...	4	" Ladies' Dinner	...	...	...
" Entrance Fees, 1908	...	...	4	" Summer Pilgrimage	...	...	...
" " " 1909	...	...	4	" Artistes	...	...	...
" Christmas Dinner, 1907	...	60	1	" Club Guests	...	...	...
" Annual Dinner	...	29	5	" Club Journals	...	...	...
" Ladies' Dinner	...	63	7	" General Printing	...	...	...
" Summer Pilgrimage	...	56	17	" Gratuities to Waiters, etc.	...	...	...
				" Postage and Sundries	...	...	...
				" Reporters	...	...	...
				" Russell & Son	...	...	...
				" Special Printing for Dinners	...	...	...
				" Cheque Book	...	...	...
				" Balance at Bank, November 23rd, 1908	...	...	...
					99	7	5
					£563	16	4

Audited and found correct (Nov. 29th, 1908).

ALGERNON S. ROSE.
F. A. ATKINS.

EDWARD CLODD,

The Club Luncheons, which take place daily in the Club Room, continue to be popular with Friars whose occupations draw them to the neighbourhood of Fleet Street at the luncheon hour, and the attendance does not diminish, while Friar Sir Francis Gould presides with his customary geniality.

The "Whitefriars Journal" appears at irregular intervals as a record of the Club's proceedings, under the editorship of Friar Leighton.

In tendering this survey of the year's work, the Committee desire to express their satisfaction at the spirit of comradeship which continues to distinguish the Whitefriars Club.

The report having been duly accepted, the meeting proceeded with the business of the re-election of the Committee and officers, the one important change being the retirement of Friar Shansfield and the election of Friar Joseph Shaylor as Hon. Secretary. Friar Shaylor's acceptance of the office was greeted with musical honours.

On behalf of the Club, Friar Arthur Spurgeon then, in an eloquent speech, made a presentation of a handsome timepiece to Friar W. N. Shansfield, and the meeting merged in conviviality.

CHRISTMAS DINNER.

THE Christmas Dinner of the White Friars was held, as usual, at the Trocadero Restaurant. The date was Friday, the 18th of December. Friar Sir W. P. Treloar, Bart., was the genial Prior on the occasion, but, to the great regret of the company, Lady Treloar was absent through illness. The dining tables were appropriately decorated with foliage and Christmas crackers, and a pretty booklet calendar was presented to each Friar and guest. During the evening there were musical interludes, and Mr. Ernest Mills gave entertainment with some of his clever lightning sketches. There were present the following Friars and guests:—

THE PRIOR—Mr. T. R. Treloar, Mr. Rough, Mrs. Rough, Mr. Victor Luscombe, Miss Herault. FRIAR E. C. BENTLEY—Mrs. Bentley. FRIAR H. J. BROWN—Mrs. H. J. Brown, Mr. H. C. Hill, Mrs. H. C. Hill. FRIAR HERVÉ BROWNING—Mr. H. C. Witherby, Mrs. Witherby. FRIAR G. B. BURGIN—Mrs. Burgin. FRIAR SIR ERNEST CLARKE—Lady Clarke. FRIAR THOMAS CATLING—Miss

Catling, Miss Minnie Catling. FRIAR EDWARD CLODD—Mr. Arthur Day, Mrs. Arthur Day, Miss Dorothy Day, Mr. C. W. Graham, Mrs. C. W. Graham. FRIAR WILLIAM COLLEY—Mrs. Colley, Miss Neville Colley, Mr. Joseph Rewcastle, Mrs. Rewcastle, Mr. Donald Rewcastle. FRIAR THE HON. GILBERT COLE-RIDGE—Hon. Mrs. Coleridge, Dr. Alfred Tubby, M.S., Mrs. Tubby. FRIAR F. J. CROSS. FRIAR C. D. CROSS. FRIAR JAMES DRYSDALE—Mr. John Lamb. FRIAR R. N. FAIRBANKS—Mrs. Fairbanks, Mr. Curtis Brown, Mrs. Curtis Brown. FRIAR FOSTER FRASER—Mrs. Foster Fraser, Miss Violet Hunt. FRIAR TOM GALLON—Miss Nellie Tom-Gallon. FRIAR REGINALD GEARD—Mrs. Reginald Geard, Miss Nora Geard, Miss Crowe, Miss N. Crowe, Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. Yeates, Mr. Lloyd. FRIAR LIONEL F. GOWING—Mrs. Gowing. FRIAR THE REV. C. H. GRUNDY—Mr. C. A. Heimann, Mrs. C. A. Heimann, Miss Ella Grundy. FRIAR H. A. HINKSON—Lady Lindsay, Mrs. Blackwell, Miss Agatha Mayo, “Katharine Tynan,” Lord Killanin. FRIAR SILAS HOCKING—Mrs. Hocking, Miss Hocking, Mr. A. V. Hocking, Mr. Rowland Conder, Mrs. R. Conder. FRIAR CHARLES GARVICE—Mrs. Garvice, Miss Garvice, Mr. Francis Gribble, Mrs. Gribble, Mr. Lacon Watson, Mrs. Watson, Mr. Horace Wyndham. FRIAR WALTER JERROLD—Mrs. Walter Jerrold. FRIAR LINDLEY JONES—Mr. C. T. Brookhouse, Mrs. Brookhouse, Mr. R. W. James, Mrs. James, Mrs. Lindley Jones, Miss Feares. FRIAR C. W. KIMMINS—Mrs. C. W. Kimmings, Miss Alice C. Rennie. FRIAR W. G. LACY—Mrs. W. G. Lacy. FRIAR ROBERT LEIGHTON—Mrs. Leighton. FRIAR ALGERNON LOCKER—Mrs. Locker, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Philip Williams, Mrs. Philip Williams. FRIAR F. A. MCKENZIE—Mrs. F. A. McKenzie. FRIAR A. MACKINTOSH—Mrs. Mackintosh. FRIAR G. H. PERKINS. FRIAR A. D. POWER—Mr. Norman Danvers Power, Miss L. D. Power. FRIAR ALGERNON ROSE—Mrs. Algernon Rose, Mr. Reginald Bennett, Mrs. Reginald Bennett, Mr. Robert Machray, Miss Wheldon. FRIAR F. A. RUSSELL—Mrs. Russell, Mr. William MacWhirter, Miss MacWhirter. FRIAR WILLIAM SENIOR—Mrs. Senior. FRIAR W. N. SHANSFIELD—Dr. Savill, Dr. Agnes Savill, Mr. Harold Gorst, Mrs. Harold Gorst, Mr. W. Kesteven. FRIAR W. B. SLATER—Mrs. W. B. Slater, Miss Slater, Mr. H. T. Butler, Mrs. H. T. Butler. FRIAR ALFRED SPENCER—Mrs. Alfred Spencer, Miss V. Sefton Spencer, Mr. Leonard Tubbs, Mrs. Leonard Tubbs, Mr. Lurcott, Mrs. Lurcott, Mr. G. W. Thompson, Mrs. G. W. Thompson, Mr. Constant Huntington. FRIAR WALTER SMITH—M. le Comte Serge Fleury. FRIAR ARTHUR SPURGEON—

Mrs. Spurgeon, Mr. W. G. Rayner, Mrs. Rayner, Miss Rayner. FRIAR RICHARD WHITEING—Miss Marcelle Hincks. FRIAR J. FARLOW WILSON—Mrs. Snudden, Miss Snudden. THE HON. SECRETARY—Mrs. J. Shaylor.

Friars Clodd, Garvice, Geard, Hinkson, Silas Hocking, Lindley Jones and Spencer were Sub-Priors.

After the King's health had been honoured and the artillery of crackers had subsided, Friar the Rev. F. A. Russell proposed

"The Spirit of Christmas."

FRIAR RUSSELL said: "It is very difficult to do justice to this toast when one remembers the men, standing high upon the hills of vision and deep in the light of the Eternal, who have wedded adequate speech with adequate thought, and so immortalised it. We cannot ever speak about the Spirit of Christmas without remembering two great Londoners—Charles Dickens, who shows in his 'Christmas Carol' the glorious spirit making the selfish man unselfish, the miserable man happy, and giving golden hours to the man who is deep in despair; and Robert Browning, who reveals a charity in 'Christmas Eve and Easter Day' as broad as the love of God and vast as the needs of man. When the twentieth century has given place to the twenty-first, and a utilitarian age has regained its imagination, Robert Browning may have his true place in the Temple of Fame, and he will be remembered as an immortal member of the Church of the Spirit which the theologians have not yet recognised. (Hear, hear.) One cannot forget in this company one man who in a little story—and sometimes a little story may convey a great deal—I mean Bret Harte—(hear, hear)—told how rough Californian miners risked their lives to bring Santa Claus that a little child might feel again the spirit of Christmas. We cannot indulge too much in the joy and privilege of living under these great masters at this time, for the spirit of Christmas is a spirit of infinite hope, of absolute unselfishness, and of infinite goodwill. (Applause.) Who can speak to the spirit of Christmas? Ever since a Galilean man and woman, nourished under the influence of prophecy, held their Baby as high as heaven and felt that God had become a baby to save the world, preachers have preached about it, poets have written about it, artists have painted the story, it has come to us through the music of song, and it has changed civilisation. (Applause.) Will you allow a churchman to say that the spirit of Christmas has stirred the heart of civilisation? It has created

an inspiration of peace in Europe for two thousand years, and it has filled man's poor experience with the tidal swell of the Infinite. I heard a story the other day from a brilliant doctor, who rather favoured the idea of a Special Infinite—the sort of thing you find to-day in the books of women who stand on precipices—(laughter)—and write very epigrammatically but not very wisely. (Laughter and hear, hear.) My friend the doctor attended a poor man, a Fifeshire fisherman, who had been carried out in his boat into the North Sea during a gale and picked up by a fishing smack. 'What did you do, Sandy,' asked the doctor, 'when you found yourself adrift in the boat?' 'I prayed,' said the fisherman. 'What did you pray about?' pursued the doctor. 'Why,' said the fisherman in reply, 'I put it tae Him whether it behoved Him in His wisdom and goodness to kill an auld, honest body in a boat.' (Hear, hear.) Said the doctor, 'As the man spoke, scales fell from my eyes. He saved me from an almighty brute—that is all you can call a Special Infinite—when the world is in the hand of an Infinite of Love.' (Applause.) The cynic may point to war and ask whether, when the Russians flew at the Japs and the Japs responded, and murder became universal, one believed in the spirit of Christmas then. That is moral chaos. A story is told by an American of genius about the great Civil War, in which chums from the same university, acquaintances out of the same social circle, were ranged on opposite sides and busied in destroying each other. One day, after a severe struggle in which every force of war had been used and death had been omnipotent over the field, and many were wounded, there was an armistice; and as the morning dawned and those brave men—and there were brave men on both sides—were for the moment quiet, in the midst of the stillness a bird rose singing a song that touched every heart. 'I first thought,' said the writer, 'that the song was a rebuke, that the bird was telling the story of the wiser spirit beneath and above us, that it was announcing the harmonies that rebuked our strife. Then I saw that the dying, shivering song of exquisite melody and unspeakable rapture was a prophecy of the time to be.' (Applause.) And so let us, however clouded may be the sky immediately above us, think of the wide horizon, linked as it is with love; for the message is still going forth, and there will come a time, perhaps centuries hence—a time looked for by every good man of genius and by every thinking man—when one brotherhood will bind all men together, and the spirit of joy will be the possession of the world.' (Applause.)

"The Ladies."

FRIAR DR. KIMMINS, in proposing "The Ladies," said: "One has to treat this toast very seriously. A present-day committee would never dream of giving it to a funny man. They would not. They look out for some grave, sedate, serious person, who can be trusted to say the right thing, especially at this time. I was warned by the Secretary in the most solemn terms not to treat on any of the burning questions of the day. He said if I did I should banish the spirit of Christmas. I will not deal with those problems, but I will say this: Whatever part woman is destined to play in the future in the great affairs of life, whether in administration or further in the realms of higher education, in which she has already won such splendid laurels—(hear, hear)—I do hope that nothing will ever destroy or even impair that glorious, daring literary power which she has at the present moment, that fearlessness of any consequences which never baffles her, that glorious feeling that she will shrink at nothing whatever, that delightful complexity of personal equation which is one of the crowning glories of womanhood. In a company like this it would be mere impertinence in me to describe what women have done, and are doing, for literature; but there is one department in which we all recognise and value her splendid services—that is, the department of medicine—(applause)—and it is a peculiar pleasure to associate with this toast, in the person of Dr. Agnes Savill, so distinguished a member of a glorious profession."

(Applause.)

DR. AGNES SAVILL, enthusiastically welcomed on rising to reply, said: "I asked one or two friends what on earth I was to say to-night, and, as usual, I got no help from them. I was told that I should, at any rate, be witty and amusing. You will have seen by now that it is not my temperament, nor does it belong to my profession to be witty and amusing, nor does it belong to my country: I am a Scotchwoman. (Laughter.) I rapidly made a muster of all the jokes I could think of connected with my profession—for we do have a great many jokes in the out-patients' departments of hospitals. The only one I could remember was about rheumatism and red flannel—(laughter)—and, try as I might, I could not bring that story in. It had absolutely nothing to do with Christmas or the Whitefriars Club. I tried again to think how I could bring it in while Dr. Kimmens was making jokes, but it was quite impossible, and I cannot give you that joke to-night; but when it came to talking of women as Friar Kimmens

did, I at once got an idea for my few remarks—the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. (Laughter and hear, hear.) I am going to use that old proverb. I think it is only a half-truth. All proverbs are only half-truths. The mother may bring up her babe well on milk from the Walker Gardens Laboratory; she may have an ideal nursery, like the 'Daily Mail' Ideal Home nursery; yet she may not in the least be a good ruler or a true ruler of the world. Deny it who will, the Press rules the world to-day—those who produce literature of any description, and more especially, I think, the daily Press. The German idealistic philosopher, the last of the long line, the great Hegel, has said that ideas have hands and feet. (Hear, hear.) It is said that the poet sees visions and translates those visions into verse. After him comes the philosopher, who puts those ideas into logic. There they would stay; people would never translate those ideas into action. Who bring those ideas to the people, and bring them to the mothers? The members of the Whitefriars Club, who, though in numbers comparatively small as compared with the women or the mothers, have infinitely greater power. Ladies! there is not one of us present who ever wished to be a man—(laughter)—but I do think that many have wished to be an editor or a writer. To them it is given to wield a great power. In acknowledging this toast for the ladies, I beg to say that from our hearts, in all sincerity, we thank those who are our joint rulers and comrades in this world's battle." (Applause.)

"The Prior."

FRIAR ARTHUR SPURGEON proposed the health of the Prior in cordial terms. Incidentally he alluded to the prosperity of the Club, which he said was now in full tide. At the last annual meeting a balance in hand of something like £400 was reported. He continued: "I think, also, that we are to be congratulated on the fact that, although Friar Shansfield is no longer our Honorary Secretary, we gave him a most handsome presentation last Friday night as a token of our gratitude for the three years' work he has put into the Club. (Applause.) We have an able successor in Friar Joseph Shaylor, and allow me to take the opportunity of wishing him God speed in the work he has undertaken. (Applause.) As has been observed on many occasions, the consistent characteristic of the Whitefriars Club is the spirit of brotherhood. Friar Treloar represents the commerce of the City of London. Literature is well represented here to-night.

There was a time when I attached more importance to literature than I do now; but, having gone into the market-place, I now see something of the majesty of commerce. (Hear, hear.) In days gone by commerce held a much more distinguished position in the world than it does to-day, and literature was not spoken of with much reverence when a man, tired and weary, could write, 'Oh, that mine enemy would write a book!' (Laughter.) Now every man who writes thinks himself a god in the world in which he lives. But the men who live in commerce occupy a position which is not altogether to be despised, and it is because Sir William Treloar occupies a high and distinguished position in the City of London as one of our merchant princes, whose probity is so well known, that we greet him in the first place as our Prior to-night. (Applause.) Then he has written a book. He once wrote a history of Ludgate Hill which passed into numerous editions, and, I believe, is now out of print. So it is in the joint capacity of commercial man and author that I ask you to drink his health to-night. The Whitefriars Club has contained many distinguished men. We have Cabinet Ministers—they are rather common with us: we have two—(laughter)—but we have produced only one Lord Mayor. Sir William Treloar has been one of the most notable Lord Mayors of recent times. (Hear, hear.) In various ways he has been a shining light in the City of London. He is spoken of as the handsome Alderman. A lady who was ill was going to be seen by a specialist, and she was very anxious to know what was the matter with her. She arranged with her sister to stand behind a screen in the dining-room when the specialist and the family doctor came down. When they came into the room the family doctor said, 'Well, and what do you think of her?' Said the specialist, 'I think she is about the ugliest woman I ever saw.' 'Oh!' said the family doctor, 'wait until you have seen her sister.' (Laughter.) A story like that would never be told about the Prior. He is not only a good-looking man; he is a man of genuine heart; he is known as the children's friend." (Applause.)

THE PRIOR, in the course of a humorous speech in reply, said: "I am very proud and pleased to be Prior this evening. I am delighted whenever I have an opportunity to come amongst the Friars. I always recognise the comradeship which exists in this Club. I am only sorry I have not been able to attend more frequently, but I have been in other walks of life. As Friar Spurgeon said, I was once Lord Mayor, and when I was Lord

Mayor I mixed with all sorts and conditions of people. I hobnobbed with Cabinet Ministers and Royal personages, who were very kind—almost loving—to me; but I have met some of them since in Pall Mall, and they do not even know who I am. (Laughter.) That does not occur in the Whitefriars Club. (Applause.) If you know a man there, you do know him, and you know him because he is what he is or who he is, and not because of his position. (Hear, hear.) I am delighted to be here to-night. I thank you all very much for your kindness to me, and I wish you a very merry Christmas." (Applause.)

The company then adjourned to the Alexandra Room for tea and coffee and conversation, and a most enjoyable and successful evening was brought to a close with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

CLUB NOTES.

THE SPRING SESSION of the Club will commence on Friday, January 29th, when the guest of the evening will be Mr. Rufus Isaacs, K.C., M.P., the topic for discussion being "The Ethics of Cross-examination."

FRIARS will be pleased to learn that two vacancies in the town membership by transfer to the country list have enabled the election of Mr. H. G. Gardiner, editor of the "Daily News," and of Mr. G. E. Morrison, dramatic critic of the "Morning Post," to the roll of members.

AN interesting programme has been prepared by the Committee, and notices will be forwarded to members in due course.

A SPECIAL Christmas luncheon was held in the clubroom on Wednesday, 23rd December, at which sixteen Friars were present. Friar Sir F. C. Gould, who presided, distributed Christmas boxes to the hotel servants.

THE customary collection for the newsboys was made at Christmas time by Friars F. J. Cross, W. G. Lacy, and Hervé Browning. The amount collected was £18 6s., and after a deduction for expenses a cheque for £16 10s. was sent to Miss Synge for the benefit of the boys.

J. S.

