

WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL.

Edited by
**FRIAR G. B.
BURGIN.**

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PRIVATE
CIRCULATION.

CLUB DIARY.

OCTOBER 28th.—*Club Guest*: MR. W. F. MONYPENNY (The Biographer of Lord Beaconsfield). *Prior*: FRIAR A. G. GARDINER. *Topic*: "The Romance of Disraeli's Youth."

NOVEMBER 4th.—*Club Guest*: THE RT. HON. SIR SAMUEL EVANS (President of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division). *Prior*: FRIAR R. NEWTON CRANE. *Topic*: "Lawyers, Juries, and the Truth."

NOVEMBER 11th.—HOUSE DINNER.

NOVEMBER 18th.—*Club Guest*: SIR COURTENAY ILBERT, K.C.B., K.C.S.I. (Clerk of the House of Commons). *Prior*: FRIAR SIR ROBERT HUDSON. *Topic*: "How Parliaments Differ." (*Postponed.*)

NOVEMBER 25th.—*Club Guest*: THE RT. HON. SIR GEORGE REID, K.C.M.G. (High Commissioner for the Australian Commonwealth). *Prior*: FRIAR ROBERT DONALD. *Topic*: "The Future of Australia."

DECEMBER 2nd.—*Club Guest*: THE RT. HON. EARL OF SELBORNE, G.C.M.G. *Prior*: THE RT. HON. WALTER RUNCIMAN, M.P. *Topic*: "United South Africa." (*Postponed.*)

DECEMBER 9th.—ANNUAL MEETING DINNER. *Prior*: FRIAR T. HEATH JOYCE.

DECEMBER 16th.—CHRISTMAS DINNER.

THE Autumn Session did not begin before October 28, and was unfortunately deprived of two interesting nights by the General Election.

Mr. W. F. Monypenny, the biographer of Lord Beaconsfield, was the first guest, speaking on "The Romance of Disraeli's Youth." Friar A. G. Gardiner was the Prior. In his view, the romantic element in Disraeli was that of temperament and character—he was a fascinating and astonishing character on the stage of life. Mr. Monypenny, without attempting a psychological analysis, which he did not allow to be the business of a

biographer, accepted that appreciation. How did an extraordinary and fantastic personage, with his frills and fopperies, his vituperativeness and swashbuckling, his lack of every quality one associates with statesmanship, come to be Prime Minister of England? Mr. Monypenny was content if his book increased the mystery. But in Disraeli's complexity he found the strands of an iron will, a very firm grasp of the essential facts of life, and a vivacity that caused R. L. Stevenson, a very good judge of such matters, to describe him in old age as "one of the very brightest and best-preserved youths of the time." Too much had been made of his "early Jewish environment." The elder Disraeli was a literary recluse, little associated with members of his synagogue. The friends of the family were the Merediths, the Osbornes, Mr. Murray's grandfather and father—none of them Jews. The great man's sister was a particularly devout member of the Church of England. His Orientalism was in the blood, and came out mainly in the later novels, "Coningsby" and "Tancred," as it did in his whole political policy and career. There had been also a great deal of nonsense written about the difficulties he had to overcome, due, it was said, to his Jewish birth and his "obscure origin." His difficulties were mainly of his own creation—*i.e.*, inherent in his character—his affectations, eccentricities, and extravagances.

Friar Whiteing, fixing upon this career as the sole instance of a man of letters becoming Prime Minister of England, pointed out that Disraeli belonged to the period of the great Romantics—of Scott, Hugo, and Dumas—and saw life as a series of splendid epic opportunities. Hence the Berlin Treaty, the conception of India as a potentiality in European politics, and the irregular and daring purchase of the Suez Canal shares. These things were in line with his imaginative achievements in the novels, and should redeem imaginative literature in the eyes of what are called practical men.

Mr. John Murray, recalling Disraeli's association with the great publishing house he represents, said that his father was impressed most with the young author's power to break down the reserve and gain the confidence of difficult men. With this went a great courage to face rebuffs and debts, and a rare far-sightedness.

Friar Sir Robertson Nicoll thought Disraeli very fortunate in having shilling editions issued long before other novelists. The Suez Canal purchase was suggested to him by the late Frederick

Greenwood, and the influence of William Godwin's "Political Justice" was traceable in the early novels.

Friar Kinross commended to English publishers the practice of the French, to entrust the biographies of flamboyant public men to writers familiar with psychology. Figures like Beaconsfield and Irving should be handled by novelists like Meredith, Maurice Hewlett, or Anthony Hope.

Friar Grundy, Mr. Philip Morel, and Friar Shorter continued the discussion, the latter complaining that Mr. Monypenny had given us in his book far too little about Henrietta.

WITH Friar Newton Crane in the chair, the Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel Evans, President of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division, opened on November 4 a discussion on "Lawyers, Juries, and the Truth." It was a night of stories. Having defined the functions of judge, jury, and counsel, Sir Samuel Evans told us something of the difficulty of ascertaining the truth in courts of law. They never found it. They had the honest witness who is intelligent, the honest witness who is stupid, the honest witness who is untruthful because he cannot help it, and the dishonest witness. Once when Erskine had to tackle a witness who was stupid, he noted that the man was foppishly attired, and began by saying, very politely: "Mr. So-and-So, before I ask you any questions in cross-examination, would you like to adjust your neck-cloth?" The man thanked him and did so; and from that moment he was in Erskine's hands. In his own experience, there was the case of an old man sued for breach of promise of marriage by a woman who had got a friend of hers to write letters purporting to be his. In all these letters, there were three words misspelled. Sir Samuel concocted a letter in which these words occurred, dictated it to the friend, and found she spelled the words as in the alleged correspondence—"Satarday," "faithfully," and "mariage." Result: verdict for the defendant. The plaintiff being prosecuted, her friend denied the letters one by one, but among them the dictated letter! So they were both imprisoned. Juries proceed by various methods. In a case of murder that he defended, a juror said on retiring: "Well, I'm not going to find guilty." "Why?" they all asked. "Oh, the judge has been much too hard on Mr. Effans." Well, there was some sense in that; the judge had treated the case as if it were a commercial action. Another Welsh juryman was

asked: "How in the world did you find a verdict of 'Not guilty'?" "Wasn't it right?" said he. "I don't think so; why did you return it?" "Well," said the man, "Mr. Effans said quite plainly that the man was *not* guilty, and the judge didn't say quite plainly that he *wass*." Nevertheless, our methods in this country commend themselves all over the world, and in no country are people tried more fairly.

Mr. George Elliott, K.C., and Mr. Plowden both avowed mistrust of juries. In Mr. Plowden's opinion, there is nothing they cannot be got to say. As a young barrister, burning with zeal and trembling with funk, he admired them; but his sympathies had since gone out to the autocrat in a police court, whom he would like to see invested with unbounded powers. He was an anarchist in these matters. Since you never find the truth, he would abolish courts of appeal; there is no more reason why a court of appeal should be right than any other. You never will find the truth; what you want in this world is a decision. And if there must still be juries, let greater pains be taken to select them. We have special juries in civil cases, why not in criminal?

Friar Sir F. Carruthers Gould said the individual juryman was too often an unwashed scoundrel, but he had a respect for him in the aggregate. It embodied that spirit of compromise, perhaps, which prevailed in everything from the Creation down to the (Veto) Conference. Mr. Ellis Griffiths, K.C., M.P., Friar Sir Robertson Nicoll, and Mr. G. H. Radford, M.P., followed with other anecdotes and commentaries.

ON November 25th the Rt. Hon. Sir George Reid, K.C.M.G., High Commissioner for the Australian Commonwealth, talked about "The Future of Australia," Friar Donald presiding. With unusual humour and mother wit, he sketched the history and the ill-known resources of the Southern Continent, surprising the fraternity with some wonderful facts. The warmth and largeness of Sir George's personality made an impression of the pleasantest kind, and his peroration, an eloquent and unaffected appeal for "the pioneers who provided this heritage for the British race," was eminently patriotic.

Dr. McCall, the Agent-General for Tasmania, supplemented him; and other speakers of the night were Friars Gould, Whitten and Helm, with Mr. R. Macmillan, the Rev. Dr. Fleming, and Mr. Van Wickenen.

LADIES' BANQUET.

THE Ladies' Banquet was held at the Trocadero on Friday, December 16th, and was one of the most successful functions which the Club has ever held. Friar A. E. W. Mason was Prior.

The guests were :—

THE PRIOR—Miss Violet Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Dion Clayton Calthrop. FRIAR H. J. BROWN—Mrs. H. J. Brown, Miss D. Brown, Miss M. Brown. FRIAR A. HERVÉ BROWNING—Miss Dorothy Monckton, Miss Hilda Fear. FRIAR G. B. BURGIN—Mrs. G. B. Burgin, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Burgin, Mr. Harold Burgin, Mr. Leslie Burgin, Miss Burgin, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Cooper, Miss Kilner. FRIAR T. CATLING—Mrs. Catling, Miss Catling. FRIAR E. CLODD—Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Graham, Mrs. Edith Watkins. FRIAR DESMOND COKE—Miss Netta Syrett. FRIAR F. J. CROSS. FRIAR LEWIS H. FALCK—Mrs. Falck, Miss Dorothy Falck, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cumberland, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Polok. FRIAR FOSTER FRASER—Mrs. Foster Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brittain, Mr. and Mrs. Ratan Tata. FRIAR TOM GALLON—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gallon, Miss Kitty Gallon, Miss Nellie Tom-Gallon, Mr. and Mrs. Engelbach. FRIAR E. P. GASTON—Mrs. Gaston, Mr. and Mrs. L. Upcott-Gill. FRIAR DR. J. MORGAN DE GROOT—Mrs. Morgan de Groot. FRIAR JOHN HENDERSON—Mrs. John Henderson, Miss Gilpin. FRIAR H. A. HINKSON—Mrs. H. A. Hinkson, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tindall. FRIAR G. THOMPSON HUTCHINSON—Mrs. G. T. Hutchinson, Mr. Walter Hutchinson, Miss Hutchinson, Miss Rae Hutchinson, Mr. and Mrs. Yonge Fox. FRIAR WALTER JERROLD—Mrs. Clare Jerrold. FRIAR ROBERT LEIGHTON—Mrs. Leighton, the Countess Anna Hamel de Manin, Mr. Constant Huntington. FRIAR W. ALGERNON LOCKER—Mrs. Locker, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Williams. FRIAR F. A. MACKENZIE—Mrs. Mackenzie. FRIAR G. E. MORRISON—Miss Mollie Morrison. FRIAR WARD MUIR—Mrs. Walter Muir. FRIAR P. L. PARKER—Mrs. P. L. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Russell James. FRIAR G. H. PERKINS—Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Boan, Mr. C. Fagan, Miss Fuller. FRIAR S. J. PRYOR—Mr. Robert Love, Mrs. Love. FRIAR S. N. SEDGWICK—Mrs. Sedgwick, Miss Girling, Dr. Hall. FRIAR W. N. SHANSFIELD—

Miss E. Folliott. FRIAR HAROLD SHAYLOR—Mrs. Harold Shaylor, Mr. H. E. Alden, Mrs. H. E. Alden, Miss Rose Brown. FRIAR CLEMENT K. SHORTER—Mrs. Clement K. Shorter, Mrs. Thompson, Miss Thompson. FRIAR W. B. SLATER—Mrs. Slater, Miss Slater, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Butler. FRIAR WALTER SMITH—Mrs. Walter Smith. FRIAR KEIGHLEY SNOWDEN—Mrs. Snowden, Miss Snowden, Mr. Augustus Spencer, Miss Mildred Thompson. FRIAR R. SOMERVILLE—Mrs. Somerville, Captain F. H. Shaw, Mrs. Shaw. FRIAR ALFRED SPENCER—Mrs. Alfred Spencer, Miss Daphne Gamage, Mr. Eric Milton, Mr. and Mrs. T. Riddell, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Thompson. FRIAR A. SPURGEON—Mrs. Spurgeon. FRIAR E. TORDAY. FRIAR J. HODDER WILLIAMS—Mrs. Hodder Williams, Miss Jane T. Stoddart. THE HON. SECRETARY—Mrs. Joseph Shaylor, Miss Shaylor, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Elliott, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. E. Dawson (Gertrude Robbins).

Beginning the brief toast list, the PRIOR loyally gave "The King," the National Anthem following, with Miss Ethelwyn Weager as soloist.

THE PRIOR, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, announced that Mr. Anthony Hope Hawkins, who was to have presided on that occasion, was prevented by sickness in his family, with whom they all sympathised. We are glad to know, he added, that the sickness has diminished, and danger is averted. (Applause.)

The formula of the Order was then read by the PRIOR, who proposed "Prosperity to the Whitefriars Club."

An enthusiastic reception was accorded FRIAR G. B. BURGIN on rising to propose "The Spirit of Christmas"—a heartiness in keeping with his conception of Yuletide celebration.

FRIAR BURGIN said: "I must frankly confess that I was not prepared for the interest—complimentary and otherwise—taken in this speech by my brother Friars. One of them has written to me to say that if I dare allude to 'that young scoundrel, Tiny Tim,' he will throw bread at me—(laughter); another does not want a Chesterton-cum-Belloc disquisition on 'The Spirit of Christmas'—(laughter); another declares that if I dare to drag in the name of Dickens, with his 'immoral convivialities,' he will drag me out by the scruff of the neck—(laughter); and yet another has even called my attention to the American millionaire, who, on giving a banquet to his friends, addressed them in the following fashion: 'Gentlemen, I am informed that several of you intend to slop over in my honour, and I think it only fair

to tell you that I have consulted my electrician, and he has arranged his apparatus so that no speech shall exceed five minutes. If it does, he will touch a button, and an unobtrusive undertaker will be in readiness to remove the body without any fuss.' (Laughter.)

"In this difficulty, I consulted my old friend Robert, our lunch waiter, who is *the* great authority on after-dinner speaking at Anderton's. 'Never mind the gent as asks for coffee just as you've started, sir,' he said. 'That's what puts me out when I return thanks for our annual tips. Last time, just as I began my address to the lunch chairman, Sir Francis Gould, one gent called out in a harbitray manner, "Coffee, Robert," and made me say, "Sir Robert Gould, Sir Robert, sir," instead of "Sir Francis Gould, Sir Francis, sir"; and that took all the steam out of me, and I had to do a bolt.'

"But, ladies and gentlemen, metaphorically speaking, all this time I have been getting up steam, and I scorn to 'do a bolt.' My text this evening—and the sermon will be a very short one—is 'The Spirit of Christmas'—that Spirit which brings us here year after year, weary travellers who have plodded on through life's sandy desert, cheered by the prospect of this green oasis beneath the stately palms of the Trocadero. Here, even bare-footed, tonsured Friars are permitted for one evening at least to bask in the smiles of beauty, to throw away all cares and troubles. For twelve months, we have fought the good fight. To-night we are at peace with all the world. Outside in the desert darkness lie those who have fallen by the way. Here and there, is a vacant chair to remind us of one who has gone 'beyond these voices.' But to-night sorrow has no place in our hearts. I see before me a throng of women and men who have done much by their work, their lives, to add to the beauty of this wonderful world. And behind the chair of every man and woman stands an invisible form, 'The Spirit of Christmas,' laden with gifts for the coming year, gifts which each of you will distribute throughout the world, gifts for which the world will be the happier and the wiser.

"Unfortunately of late years, the preparations for Christmas have gradually become more and more artificial. Who does not remember the Christmas cards of our youth—a snow-surrounded house on the outside, with a coach load of revellers struggling through the snow, and inside a joyous party dancing what the old lady called a 'mignonette.' (Laughter.) Such cards gave us

infinitely more pleasure than their successors which depict anæmic young women in hobble skirts and no winter wraps, and the remainder of their costume—what there is of it—left to the imagination. (Laughter.) Even Nature herself becomes so confused by these cards that she mixes up the Seasons. Where are the mummers of the good old coaching days, the yule logs, the holly and the mistletoe? Only last year, I asked a small boy why he did not kiss a very pretty girl who sat expectantly waiting beneath the mistletoe, and he said: 'Yes! And have the old birds asking me my intentions. Not much!' (Laughter.)

"A novelist once—not the novelist in *Punch*—

"'N is for novelist—ghastly side!

And the stripes of his trousers much too wide.'—

"A novelist once wrote a wonderful story, wherein three Hindoos recovered the moonstone which had been stolen from the forehead of their idol. I see many here to-night who recover jewels not from the foreheads of idols, but from the waste places of the world—'jewels which sparkle on the stretched forefinger of all time'—jewels of sympathy, of charity—jewels which the Spirit of Christmas lifts with kindly hands and places on their own foreheads, so that wherever they go, whatever they do, they make a sunshine in a shady place, a light which helps those who follow after. And when at the end of the year these jewels are perhaps a little dimmed by constant use, their light less clear, you all come here to meet the Spirit of Christmas, who places gentle hands upon your brows, and once more sends you forth to illumine that world which you so greatly adorn. Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you 'The Spirit of Christmas.' " (Applause.)

In giving "The Ladies," the PRIOR alluded to the difficulty of handling the topic in the face of present day controversies. He frankly admitted that he did not know anything about women. He gave the sex the credit of being keen-sighted; they saw all that was going on and a good deal more. (Laughter.) Men only saw half what was going on—especially at matinées. (Laughter.) He was particularly fortunate in being able to associate with the toast the name of Miss Gertrude Robbins, who had found a new sphere for women's activities. (Applause.) She was closely associated with those successful efforts to make the peasants of our country retain their home spirit, and spread their folk lore wider than the locality in which it had sprung. For what Miss

Robins had accomplished in respect to the Buckinghamshire players, we offer our heartiest congratulations and thanks. (Applause.)

MISS GERTRUDE ROBINS, who was enthusiastically received, vivaciously replied. Women she divided into three classes: Those born chatty, those who achieve chattiness, and those, like herself, who had chattiness thrust upon them. (Laughter.) Her chattiness had been thrust upon her so skilfully by a most able official of the Club. Talk about the persuasiveness of women; it was nothing to compare with that of the Whitefriars Club. She was still wondering what she had done to have this duty thrown upon her; she had never written a novel or been to prison. (Laughter.) With apologies to Mr. Burgin, she would say in the words of Tiny Tim: "God bless us all." In our little village on the hill-top, Miss Robins proceeded, we recently had a joyous outbreak with our village players. We opened the season with a light comedy, dealing with the mysterious disappearance of two pheasants. That was a subject well within the ken of the villagers; as a matter of fact, the way in which the pheasants disappeared was what they called a local industry. (Laughter.) Miss Robins gave some entertaining glimpses behind the scenes of her rustic playhouse at Naphill. In conclusion, she said: "Mr. Mason has expressed some very kind things about me, and I am very grateful to him. He has stated that he knows nothing about women. In the long range of his books, he has quite proved that he has a full knowledge of femininity; he has understood and forgives us for being women. Some time ago I was acting in a new play, and for the first time the playwright was satisfied with the production. 'My dear,' he said, 'you have done me proud.' Friars, may I say in the name of myself and ladies: 'My dears, you have done us proud.'" (Laughter and applause.)

The concluding toast, that of "The Prior," was submitted by FRIAR ARTHUR SPURGEON, who congratulated the Club in having secured so able a substitute for Mr. Anthony Hope. The composite character of Prior Mason required to be dealt with by several Friars. Prior Mason was a man of many parts. For instance, there was the actor and dramatist; this part of the toast should be dealt with by Friar Morrison, one of the ablest dramatic critics in our City. (Applause.) Then we had the Prior as author; this part of the toast could only be done justice to by that accomplished literary critic, Friar Clement Shorter.

The political aspect of his career, he suggested, should be dealt with by Friar Foster Fraser. (Applause.) One could not but rejoice that, at a critical moment of his career, Prior Mason decided to abandon politics, and devote himself to literature and the stage. There were men in Parliament who were literary, and who at the same time distinguished themselves, more or less, as politicians. Prior Mason had resisted all these blandishments which were so common in the political world; he was now delighting them with his dramas and books. (Applause.) Might he live long to write more books like "The Four Feathers," which had made his name distinguished throughout the wide world. (Applause.) In conclusion, the Friar paid a tribute to Prior Mason's attributes "as a man." "He has long been connected with our brotherhood which he so richly adorns. We hope that the good spirit which characterises all his public actions will long be abundant, and we shall rejoice in having him as one of our brothers." (Applause.)

The PRIOR, who was warmly greeted, disclaimed any desire to hear the eulogies of four of the Friars, as had been suggested by Friar Spurgeon. He had already been treated in a spirit of great kindness by all the gentlemen mentioned. To one certainly he owed a great deal, and that was to Mr. Clement Shorter. (Applause.) Mr. Clement Shorter some years ago was one of the first to give him real encouragement, offering the paper over which he presided as an opening for a serial. That serial happened to be a book called "Clementina." (Applause.) The inception of that book was greatly due to Mr. Shorter. Mr. Foster Fraser had given him a great reputation in the days when he was a member of Parliament, by depicting the careless ease with which he lingered on the benches of the House of Commons when orations of a not very interesting kind were being delivered. (Laughter.) In conclusion, the PRIOR thanked the company for the cordiality of their reception.

After an exceedingly interesting musical programme, contributed by Miss Ethelwyn Weager and Messrs. Walter Churcher and Farkoa, etc., the Friars and their guests adjourned to the Alexandra Room for coffee and conversation and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

THE LATE FRIAR SACHS.

THE Friars have sustained a sad loss during the last year by the death of Friar E. T. Sachs, whose unaffected geniality and caustic, though kindly, humour will be much missed in our Brotherhood, in which he has been a noteworthy figure for six-and-twenty years. Friar Sachs was a man of striking individuality, and had seen many and varied sides of life. In the 'seventies, he had been dispatched to the Far East by an enterprising purveyor of "freaks" in search of Darwin's "missing link." This, however, proved too severe a task even for the skill and energy of Friar Sachs, and, financial supplies failing, he had to work his way home through Java and Sumatra by giving displays of conjuring—an art in which he was an adept. His book on legerdemain is well known, while in conjunction with Friar Angelo Lewis (Professor Hoffman) he would frequently delight and mystify the Brethren at our old-time smoking concerts.

On his return to England, Friar Sachs joined the staff of the *Sunday Times* and *Land and Water*, becoming the assistant editor of the latter paper, and writing mainly on athletic subjects.

He was well versed in all kinds of sport, and for a while was handicapper to the London Athletic Club; but his especial interest at that time was centred in the game of lacrosse. Indeed, it was mainly through his efforts that a Canadian team visited England, and that the game became generally popular. He contributed a sporting column for some years to the *Graphic* and eventually joined the staff of the *Field*, to which paper he rendered yeoman's service. Amongst other hobbies, Friar Sachs was an enthusiastic collector of old china, bric-à-brac, and old furniture, and his articles on those subjects in the *Queen* were greatly appreciated; for he had the happy gift of writing, even on technical subjects, in a clear and simple style, so that his articles were not merely valuable to the specialist, but always interesting to the general reader.

A man of many parts, Friar Sachs will be deeply regretted by a large circle of friends, while his place in journalism, to which he is a distinct loss, will not be readily filled. He married Miss Ada Holland, the well-known artist, whose charming personality has been so pleasant a feature at our ladies' gatherings.

CLUB NOTES.

I COME before you as an editorial fraud. The sub-editor, who insists on remaining "synonymous," has done all the work and I have lolled at my ease, hugely enjoying myself whilst he laboured. He, being only mortal, has cut short the reports.

Last year, I tried to give the most interesting anecdotes in the many delightful speeches which were delivered at the Club dinners. Those speakers whose anecdotes appeared, highly approved of my discrimination; those whose anecdotes failed to appear, were not angry but grieved. One Friar said that if I ever made a speech and he had to report it, "he'd show me——!" May Allah change his heart.

Up to the present issue, Friars have obdurately refused to tell me of their doings, on the ground that

"Of their own merits modest men are dumb,"

and it has needed all my powers of persuasion, assisted by an active bombardment of post cards, to convince them that their retiring modesty is unfair to themselves and to the Club. In fact, they only yielded when I said that there was a natural desire on the part of every one to know how they had "helped to make history in 1910."

Which reminds me. A comparatively unknown Friar once helped a celebrated Friar on with his overcoat. "Thus do I help to make history," said the insignificant one. "D—n your impudence!" quoth the celebrated Friar.

I have thought it better to print the Club programme for the season in its entirety. As a matter of fact, the political situation robbed us of two of our best dinners. The Club rules prohibit the discussion of politics. This is hard upon some of us, particularly at lunch time.

The lunch table, under the informal presidency of Friar Sir Francis Gould, is one of the most interesting features of the

Club. We always have a chatty little lunch, hear all that is going on, and "swap anecdotes."

With regard to these anecdotes. Country members may be glad to hear that two of the best this season have been told by Friar A—— and Friar S——.

For reasons of courtesy, Friar A——'s was not mentioned at the dinner to the High Commissioner for the Australian Commonwealth. An Australian once boasted to an American of the superior physique of the Australian race. "Yes," said the American, "yes. You must remember that your ancestors were all carefully selected by the best judges."

Friar S——'s anecdote also deals with Australia. A keeper at the Zoo showed a kangaroo to a young man from the country. "What's that?" asked the yokel. "That," said the keeper, "is a native of Australia." "You don't say so!" cried his horrified hearer. "Why, my sister married one of those."

All Friars will greatly rejoice to hear that Friar Arthur Spurgeon has recovered from his recent illness.

The punishment fits the crime. I once wrote a novel called "The Shutters of Silence." The other day, a dear old lady asked to be introduced to the author of "The Domes of Silence."

Friar A. M. Scott has not written any books this year, but has taken unto wife the charming daughter of the Emeritus Rector of Glasgow High School. He became an M.P. a fortnight ago. Friars will heartily congratulate him on both achievements.

By the way, several prospective "Friarettes," including twins, have been added to the Club waiting list this year. So mote it be.

Friar Frankfort Moore writes me from his rustic seclusion at Lewes: "In June, a novel called "The Laird of Craig Athol"; in October, a volume of poetical plays, "The Dis-

coverer " and " In the Queen's Room "; in November, " The Life of Oliver Goldsmith "; and in December, " The Common-sense Collector." That is my total of books, if the Friars are interested in that sort of thing. Other incidents include the making of a new pergola and a long herbaceous border on a new principle, the beginning of a rock garden, and the planting of peach trees under a glass sheltering roof only. These are the real incidents of life in the country, demanding discussion, deliberation, and decision. The excitement over anything herbaceous here is intense."

Friar S. N. Sedgwick has written " The Young People's Microscope Book," " In Nature's Nursery," and has produced the village opera of " The Bullfighters."

Friar Warwick Deeping's books for this year are " The Rust of Rome " and " The Lame Englishman."

Friar Clement Shorter's year's work falls far short of his intentions. The list includes " Highways and Byways of Buckinghamshire," " Napoleon in his own Defence," and the " Complete Poems of Emily Bronte," edited in conjunction with Friar Sir W. Robertson Nicoll.

Rumours are also afloat of Friar Shorter's intention to undertake a life of the man who wrote: " There's night and day, brother, both sweet things; sun, moon, and stars, brother, all sweet things; there's likewise a wind on the heath. Life is very sweet, brother; who would wish to die? "

Friar Keighley Snowden has published a veracious and incriminating book of boys' mischief, and is now bringing out a novel, called " The Equal Marriage."

Friar Desmond Coke, in addition to a novel, is responsible for a play which—— But, no. He has our sympathy.

Friar Sir Ernest Clarke has written voluminously throughout the year, and in November was elected president of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries.

Friar Sir Robert Hudson has been engaged (twice in one year) in "saving his country" or "dismembering the Empire," according to the party views entertained by the Friars. These labours have left him no time for anything else.

Absent-minded Friars are requested not to smoke pipes on Ladies' Nights.

Friar J. M. Dent had hoped to get Chesterton's "Appreciations of Dickens" out this year; but there has been a good deal of "procrastitution" about the matter, and the book will not be ready until the end of January.

Friar J. A. Steuart's new novel will begin in one of the magazines in the spring, when

"A young man's fancy
Lightly turns to Jane or Nancy,"
and run for twelve months.

Here is a letter from a vagrom Friar, W. R. Paterson ("Benjamin Swift"):

"I published nothing (thank the Lord!) during 1910, but went voyaging, voyaging, and voyaging. I went to Elba and to Corsica, to Algiers and to Athens, to Teneriffe and to New York, only to find the truth of these lines of Richepin:—

"Songe que voyager ne t'a conduit a rien,

.

Quels mondes on découvre en restant sur le quai!"

The first edition of Friar Coulson Kernahan's "Dreams Dead Earnest and Half Jest" was exhausted before publication, and the second edition is now ready. "Sorrow and Song," "Wise Men and a Fool," and "An Author in the Territorials," have also been re-issued in a new edition.

Friar C. H. Cook has done no work worthy of mention in the Club journal, but has on the stocks "an immense book of

twenty volumes relating to the Origin of Beads and the Early History of Salome."

Friar Alfred H. Miles, besides many other activities, has published "Original Poems, Ballads, and Tales in Verse." Who does not remember the lines "To Mary Shakespeare" he once recited at a Whitefriars dinner?

"O mother of our smiles and tears,
Across the river of the years,
As on a moonpath of the sea,
Our loving thoughts flow out to thee."

Friar Tom Gallon has been busy with numerous serials, short stories, and a very successful novel, "The Rogue's Heiress." Friar Haldane McFall's eight huge Art volumes will begin to appear in January. Friar Morgan de Groot's absorbing "The Affair on the Bridge" shows an increasing mastery of the technique of his art. Friar Robert Leighton is responsible for "Dogs and All About Them," "Kiddie of the Camp," "Memoirs of Princess Caroline Murat," "Co-ee," and "The Cleverest Chap in the School." Friar G. B. Burgin has perpetrated three novels, "The King of Four Corners," "Diana of Dreams," and "This Son of Adam." Friar Charles E. Pearce has two novels to his credit, "Love Besieged" and "The Bungalow Under the Lake," which is dedicated to Friar A. Paul. Friar Silas Hocking has written "Who Shall Judge?" His new story, "The Third Man," starts next month as a serial. Friar J. A. Hammerton has edited the "Charles Dickens Library" and "The Fine Art Scott."

I am indebted to Friar Farlow Wilson for the following document:—

"The inaugural dinner of the Whitefriars Club was held on February 21st, 1863, Henry N. Barnett in the chair, and Tom Hood in the vice-chair. The following forty gentlemen constituted the Club:—Thomas Archer, Chas. Bacon, Edward Baker, E. C. Barnes, Wm. Belford, H. N. Barnett, J. Bennett, Wm. Boys, Chas. Braid, Wm. Brunton, Chas. Cooper, Dillon Croker, Wm. Cummings, Edward Draper, W. J. Fielding, Robert Hartford, Tom Hood, Joseph Knight, Malcolm Laing, G. Painter, G. H. Palmer, Watts Phillips, Wm. Sawyer, G. M. Simpson,

G. B. Snell, Thos. Spencer, J. Ashby Sterry, Barry Sullivan, Jas. Sutherland, W. B. Tegetmeir, Lewis Thomas, Moy Thomas, Gordon Thomson, Francis Turner, Godfrey Turner, Chas. Williams, Howell W. Williams, Nicholas Wood, J. Crawford Wilson."

Among the additional members elected at the first annual meeting were William Black, Charles Reade, Douglas Straight, and William Senior.

The "Annual Lunch" at the Club Room on December 23rd—a lunch which is ostensibly held for the "tipping" of the Club retainers—was a most enjoyable affair, with Friar Sir Carruthers Gould in his customary chair of office. He was nobly supported by Friars Helm, Heath Joyce, Farlow Wilson, Arthur Spurgeon, Walter Smith, Robert Leighton, F. J. Cross, C. Duncan Cross, R. Sommerville, Walter Jerrold, G. E. Morrison, G. B. Burgin, E. P. Gaston, C. H. Grundy, G. H. Perkins, W. Senior, H. J. Brown, Joseph Shaylor, and W. N. Shansfield.

The following speeches were received with much applause:—

Robert, the Club waiter: "Sir Francis Gould and Gentlemen all, I am much obliged to you for your kindness, and I wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year." (Aside: "I knew I'd get it wrong again.")

The Porter: "I wish all you gentlemen the compliments of the season and sensible weather, which we are having."

Chambermaid: "I thank you one and all for your kindness, gentlemen, and I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

Robert, the Club waiter, was then solemnly sworn in by the President to look after the Christmas presents to the Club (Sugar-caster, Friar Gaston; "Who's Who," Friar Shaylor; ash trays, Friar Perkins), and the proceedings terminated.

Friar Grundy sadly confesses that all he has done this year is to write two articles for the *Sunday at Home*.

Friar W. Gurney Benham, the popular ex-Mayor of Colchester, "where the oysters come from" and the Friars go to at oyster time, is responsible for *Cassell's Dictionary of Poetical Quotations* and some verse contributions to various publications.

Friar H. A. Hinkson's new novel, *The Considine Luck*, is running serially. He is also engaged in writing an historical romance of the Marlborough campaign.

The Brethren will see in another part of the Journal a tribute to the late Friar Sachs, from the pen of Friar Heath Joyce. Mrs. Sachs assisted her husband in much of his work of late years, and she may feel assured that all Friars unite in tendering a most sincere and heartfelt sympathy to her in her great sorrow.

Some catastrophies are so great, that words can do little or nothing to mitigate them. Still, at the risk of re-opening a grievous wound, I cannot refrain, on behalf of my fellow Friars and myself, from expressing our heartfelt sympathy with Friar and Mrs. Burnett Smith ("Annie Swan") on the untimely loss of their highly gifted and promising son.

White Friars will be glad to learn that Friar Joseph Shaylor is to have the assistance of Friar E. Page Gaston as joint hon. secretary. Friar Shaylor has earned the gratitude of all the members for the courtesy and *bonhomie* with which, busy man though he is, he has discharged the duties during the last couple of years. With the increasing calls upon his time, however, he now finds it necessary to have the co-operation of another Friar. Friar Gaston already enjoys the friendship of many members of the Club, and his election as joint hon. secretary will bring him that of the others.

G. B. B.