

WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL.

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

No. 16. Vol. III. JANUARY, 1912.

PRIVATE
CIRCULATION.

CLUB DIARY.

OCTOBER 20th.—*Club Guest*: MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER, M.A.
Prior: FRIAR ALFRED SUTRO. *Topic*: "The Promise of the Drama."

OCTOBER 27th.—*Club Guest*: MR. OSCAR BROWNING, M.A.
Prior: FRIAR G. B. BURGIN. *Topic*: "The Pleasures of Travel."

NOVEMBER 3rd.—*Club Guest*: PROFESSOR W. FLINDERS PETRIE, F.R.S. *Prior*: FRIAR SIR W. ROBERTSON NICOLL. *Topic*: "The Migrations of Nations."

NOVEMBER 10th.—*Club Guest*: SIR JOHN SIMON, K.C., M.P.
Prior: FRIAR SIR F. CARRUTHERS GOULD. *Topic*: "The Painful Prejudice against Lawyers."

NOVEMBER 17th.—HOUSE DINNER.

NOVEMBER 24th.—*Club Guest*: PROFESSOR SILVANUS P. THOMPSON, F.R.S. *Prior*: FRIAR EDWARD CLODD. *Topic*: "The Romance of Research."

DECEMBER 1st.—ANNUAL MEETING DINNER. *Prior*: FRIAR T. HEATH JOYCE.

DECEMBER 8th.—*Club Guest*: MR. THOMAS CATLING. *Prior*: FRIAR SILAS K. HOCKING. *Topic*: "Memories of Fleet Street."

DECEMBER 15th.—CHRISTMAS DINNER. *Prior*: FRIAR ANTHONY HOPE HAWKINS.

On October 20th, with Friar Alfred Sutro as Prior, Mr. Arthur Bouchier discussed "The Promise of the Drama," in a witty and practical address which he called "the idle thoughts of a busy mummer." He agreed with the Prior that the playwright had no business to use the stage as a pulpit. His aim should be "to present life in the terms of drama." The didactic effusions of various societies on Sunday evenings could interest a small coterie only, and no one, however enthusiastic in new movements, could call such productions a presentation of life.

The elementary ingredients of drama were three in number—love, rage and hate. Mr. Bouchier said that sufficient justice had not been done to Tom Robertson and the Bancrofts; Robertson's plays were very human; and the drama, if it is to live, has to be human. Robertson made his characters tell their story with a lucidity and simplicity not always to be found in the plays of to-day. If realism, continued the speaker, was to be the favourite hobby of the advanced playwrights of the future, he hoped those playwrights would wean themselves from the idea that they did best when treating unpleasant subjects. It was more difficult, certainly, to deal with pleasant subjects, but as a manager he always advised authors that it was not the absence of clothes, but the presence of innocence that gave charm to the Garden of Eden. Managers are wondering to-day how far the craze for psychology and introspection is going to lead the dramatist of 1912 and 1913—years which should prove mighty interesting in the annals of the stage. Would psychology give way to narrative, or would the play-writer find his Waterloo in undiluted psychology? He quite understood how fascinating it was to a dramatist who had evolved a society of people with extraordinary temperaments and who had placed them in extraordinary situations to work out their own salvation, to watch them in the process as the scientist watches the microbe under the microscope. But what is a fearsome joy to him is too often boredom to his audience, and his play soon vanishes. How simple and straightforward is that delightful piece of work, "Bunt Pulls the Strings," and also "Le Mariage de Mlle. Beulemans," and how the money has been, and is, rolling in to both of them in their two countries!

Again, continued Mr. Bouchier, the play which aimed at the reform of an abuse would assuredly fail unless it told a good human story. The Prior had blown his trumpet outside the walls of Jericho, but in attacking the peccadilloes of society he took good care to tell the story of the frivolous wife married to the solid—too solid—husband, and was not afraid to introduce a vein of comedy into a serious play. In the drama of psychology the writer was far too prone to keep his audience in the dark, forgetting that, within twelve hours, everybody who took an interest in plays would know his secret. Moreover, it was unwise to write parts to suit certain actors, since a good actor or actress of experience should be able to play any part for which

he or she was not physically unsuited. Actors of experience are of more value than actors of temperament.

Concluding, the speaker said the future of the drama was bright and full of hope. The production of plays is not far from perfect, and the *ensemble* at our leading theatres is equal to that in Paris and Berlin. Our players are more educated and more intelligent than their predecessors, and the writing of plays is attracting men with brains who have succeeded in other walks of literature. "But let me pray them, one and all," he ended, "to keep off the obstetric drama!"

The after-discussion centred largely upon Mr. Bouchier's parting remark. The Prior, while admitting that the successful playwright ought to keep his eye on the box-office, made an earnest defence of the psychological playwright, and contended that there were sex problems yet untouched that ought to be dealt with by the modern playwright as a duty to his fellows. Mr. Dion Clayton Calthrop referred to the useful work which had been done by the celebrated French dramatist Brieux; and Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, in a very effective and lively speech, supported the efforts of the various "stage societies" in their productions of plays that make the public think.

On October 27th, Friar Burgin in the chair, Mr. Oscar Browning opened a pleasant night of reminiscences of travel. He told us of visits to India, South Africa, the Near East, and nearer lands; and his choice of the best of these was Italy, with the Lebanon as next favourite. Preferring comfort to rough adventure, he was of opinion that the greater pace of to-day has not compensated, with its *trains de luxe*, for the loss of some old amenities.

The Prior, after complimenting the guest of the evening on his eloquent address, said: "You all know that lust for travel which gets into the blood at a very early age, the desire for strange lands, new scenes, something beyond our everyday experiences. I remember in my early youth making a compact with a schoolfellow that if I first got the chance of travelling, I was to take him with me. In after years, when I looked for him in order to carry out my share of the compact, I found him driving a cab and that he had all the travelling he wanted. I was going out to Constantinople, and when I got there was promptly

christened 'Le Nouveau Né,' on account of the confiding simplicity of my disposition.

"But what a new world it was! Rascally dragomans who tried to suffocate me with charcoal fumes; Greek cooks who brought me poisoned peaches when they cooked their accounts; horses to ride. A dragoman who wanted to get rid of me mounted me on a confirmed bolter. As I rode out, I noticed I was going under a telegraph wire which the Turkish soldiers had stretched across the road to hang their washing on. When I had gone half a mile, my horse bolted back to the stables, and as I neared them I found that my friend the dragoman had in the meantime lowered the wire so that it would cut me in two. It ripped the coat off my back as I dodged under it. Another time I was chased by wild dogs, who thought I should make more tender eating than dead mule. Little incidents like these all combine to add to the pleasures of travel."

Sir Francis Gould, who thought that when we talk of "the pleasures of travel" memory sponges out its trials, diverted the brethren with a scheme for a Christian Science Travel Bureau, in which he proposed to take the fees. People were to read places up and believe they had been there; he was of opinion that they would get more value for the money than by visiting them. Admiral C. F. Goodrich, U.S. Navy, told some good yarns. Lieut. George de Long, of the *Jeannette*, was once entertaining his sweetheart, like Othello, with tales of hairbreadth escapes, when her little brother broke in: "My! I'd like to go to sea." "Why, Johnny?" "So I could blow about it when I got home." Mr. Hamilton Fyfe thought the principal pleasure in travel was the little things that happen to one, and the best way to travel was to go on foot. Sir Henry Lunn said that he finds his own greatest pleasure in the study of character, and gave a string of bright stories to the point. Friars Torday, Helm, and Silas Hocking continued the conversation, Friar Helm maintaining that in Sterne's and Horace Walpole's day English people travelled in a truer spirit than now, and found more interest in it.

The Prior extended the Club's congratulations to Friar Joseph Hocking on his recovery from his long illness.

There was a large company on Nov. 3, when Professor Flinders Petrie led a discussion on "The Migrations of Nations." Friar Sir Robertson Nicoll sat in the Prior's chair.

Two main considerations were stated to mark the importance of the topic in human affairs. Historically, the period of settlement is brief, and no civilisation appears ever to have lasted 2,000 years in its integrity. Professor Petrie, in a sketch that covered most parts of the world and was full of suggestion, gave instances of migration and admixture occurring from all causes, remarking at the outset that migration is to be regarded as normal, settlement as exceptional, and that while the latter brings higher development—every addition to man's powers and knowledge—it involves the continual sacrifice of liberty. He cited migrations caused by tribal quest, by the quest of more liberty itself—the Iceland, New England, Mormon, Boer and other migrations, by slow infiltration—such as England has been subject to from the earliest times—and by the conquest of less civilised peoples; cases of culture mixture—India under the British rajah and under Alexander, of total extermination—the Tasmanians, with the South Sea Islanders to follow, of the swamping of whole peoples—Italy by the Goths, and of peaceful penetration—likely to be the rule of the future.

England subdues its conquerors. A French traveller, having visited all the British Colonies, said that he found a different type of man in each, and this was a true observation. Of the infiltrations which have enriched our stock at home, Professor Petrie named no fewer than twelve within historical time. Every one had helped to build up the country. Admixture is good, even in the East End, and it is always out of two races when they coalesce that a new and a stronger one takes rise. Of the Moors and the Goths he expressed the highest opinion. The howls of the conquered have misled us—archæology finds evidence that, when they overran Spain and Italy, they were the superior peoples. The Goths were better armed, equipped and organised than the decadent Romans, and had greater solidarity. Among problems of the day he discussed the future of China, and the changes in Russia due to that country's marvellous power of absorption. "I cannot," he said, "understand the newspaper without history, or history without the newspaper." As to China, where we are watching the break-up of a great military organisation, he was of opinion that the Chinese ideal is not to be despised, for it puts literature in the first place, the mechanical arts and sciences next, and force last. Like Lafcadio Hearn, he seemed inclined to think that a race which can "under-live" another may be the stronger.

After some remarks from Mr. E. S. Lewis, of St. Louis, U.S.A., Friar Foster Fraser talked concerning things seen in his travels, and Mr. Douglas Cockerell about the varied resistance of the negro, the Chinaman, and the Frenchman to absorption in Canada. Dr. William Wright (of the London Hospital) described the tombs of the Parisii at Driffeld, and said that there was no scientific evidence that white men in North America are coming to resemble the Red Indian, as previous speakers had believed. Friar Gaston produced the migration map in a new book, issued by the Cambridge Press, and gave an interesting account of his researches in Arizona, where figurings of the Llama (now found only in Thibet) would be discovered among ruins. Mr. Richardson Evans explained the weakness of the Eurasians as due to social atmosphere. He also urged, as against the under-living theory, that sociology and idealism bring a new historical factor into human history.

In reply to questions asked in the course of discussion, Professor Petrie said that he thought the remarkable Mexican art might possibly be traced to early China, and mentioned that the size of the human skull seems to be mainly a matter of temperature, not brain capacity, the Hindu skull being the smallest, and the Eskimo the largest.

On November 10th, "The Painful Prejudice against Lawyers" was humorously discussed in a debate led off by Sir John Simon, K.C., M.P. Friar Sir Francis Gould, in the chair, introduced the guest with the encouraging remark that, although in the hagiology of the British Isles it is doubtful that there is a lawyer saint, the Bretons have one described as

"Avocat et non larron,
Chose digne d'admiration :"

and in this "admiration" might perhaps be translated as "wonder."

Sir John Simon sought the reason of the prejudice. It could not be that lawyers defend a client they believe to be guilty, or journalists would share it. He supposed they were classed among necessary evils. They are more unpopular with people who consult them than with others, not because they expect to be paid—unlike doctors—but because they tell their clients the truth. It is a far more difficult thing to convince a client that there is

anything to be said on the other side than to persuade any judge or any jury of any proposition whatever. Yet lawyers keep secrets. There is no spectacle in professional life so admirable.

The Prior: "Journalists are certainly not popular with either judges or juries. Isn't there a cause of prejudice not mentioned yet? The Scotch story seems to suggest one. 'Weel, Sandy, what are ye gaun to be?' 'I've made up my mind to be a lawyer.' 'Hech, man, you'll need a conscience like a Kilmarnock bonnet.' 'What's that?' 'Weel, they're all made the same size, but they'll stretch.'"

Friar Leader cited a case in the will of James Green, cloth-worker, who in 1730 left bequests "provided that any of my children shall marry an attorney, scrivener, or any relation of such attorney or scrivener living at the time of such marriage—which God forbid!—then it's my express will that he, she, or they shall forfeit or lose his, her, or their legacies or bequests." Like Pope and Gay, he had probably had disastrous losses in the South Sea Gamble, of which a scrivener was the promoter.

Mr. George Elliot, K.C., found the possible secret of the prejudice in what was said by the judges in an action *tempus* Richard II., when a clergyman sued a gentleman who had called him a fool. They decided in favour of defendant, because they said, "a clergyman may be a very great fool, but a very good clergyman; but if this had been a lawyer, then indeed an action would lie."

Mr. Sidney Low said that as to keeping secrets, Sir John Simon had pointed out, with a certain amount of surprise, that lawyers are not guilty of conduct which would be discreditable in an East-End pawnbroker. But a journalist—when he can raise a dress coat—is actually asked to dinner at the houses of the wealthy, where there are quantities of plate and silver; and it is the glory of the profession that no special precautions are considered necessary. "I've known," said Mr. Low, "the humblest messenger from a newspaper office to be left alone unguarded, unwatched, with the umbrella stand. Yet if there is a profession which is never mentioned in the Courts without obloquy, it is that of the journalist."

A delightful address on "The Romance of Research," by Professor Silvanus Thompson, opened the debate on November 24th, under the Priorship of Friar Edward Clodd.

The eminent scientist was at pains to show us that no invention, and rarely a great discovery, has been made *per saltum*. Long research must first follow upon casual observation. All we know by means of the telescope was made possible, but certainly not implied, by the children of Janssen, a German spectacle maker, who amused themselves by looking through two lenses at a steeple; and long before we had the spectroscope, and began to know the chemistry of the stars, somebody noticed the prismatic value of a bit of rock crystal. To discover argon, it was necessary that Lord Rayleigh should work for four or five years on an observation made 200 years ago by Cavendish. There is a whole army of observers continually making and comparing star maps in every part of the world; and numberless chemists helped to procure a synthetic indigo, and are now on the way to make a synthetic indiarubber. As an exception, Professor Röntgen's discovery of the X-rays was casual and surprising. But a man of less knowledge and insight would not have understood what he saw by accident, or thought it worth attention. The greatest English discoverer we have had, Faraday, owed his eminence to a faculty of perception so rare that Professor Thompson was tempted to call it divination, using that word in a rational sense. He steeped himself in a set of facts, foresaw what should follow from these, and set himself to find it like a seer. At the age of thirty-seven, when on the high road to a fortune and social success, he determined that he would work no more for money, and shut himself up in his laboratory. Nobody had been able to produce an electric current mechanically, but he saw that it should be possible, and six weeks' work gave us the secret of the dynamo. Sir William Crookes has the same faculty, if not in the same degree, and it is a faculty not yet recognised, even by such a popular philosopher of the moment as M. Bergson, whom Professor Thompson does not admire without reserve. The address led to a plea for the endowment of research. Oxford spends £45,000 a year on scholarships in the classics, where there is nothing new to be found out, and some £2,000 on scholarships for research.

Friar Sir Francis Gould diagnosed a human development in the power of observation, pointing to the ill-observed facts that led old naturalists to say that the badger had shorter legs on one side than the other, that the pelican fed her young with her blood, and that the barnacle goose comes from the "barnacle tree." The Rev. H. N. Hutchinson said he believed that, if women

could be brought to take an interest in food values and hygiene, there is enough scientific knowledge to give us a transformed world. Probably there is also enough to carry us a long way beyond Darwin, as soon as the man of intuition arises to deal with it. By the Rev. Prebendary Reynolds a plea was urged for that reform of education which seeks to develop the special faculty of a child, science having lost immensely by the old and foolish notion of putting all children through the same mill.

Friars Torday, Coleridge, and Helm having spoken, Professor Thompson, in an eloquent reply, insisted especially upon the importance of astronomical discovery in changing all our old conceptions. Too many people will live on a flat earth, with Jerusalem as its centre, and an empty universe.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

At the annual meeting dinner on December 1st, to which no guests are admitted (Friar T. Heath Joyce in the chair), the brethren evinced a gravity befitting the momentous issues they had to discuss. The Prior feelingly alluded to the absence of Friar Senior and other Friars who, owing to ill-health, were unable to be present. Telegrams of regret were dispatched to various "Fathers of the Club," and, after fortifying their courage with draughts from the Loving Cup, which was passed round with appropriate ceremonies, the brethren settled down to the business of the evening.

The Committee presented the following annual report and balance sheet :—

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET, 1911.

In submitting a statement of the year's working of the Club, the Committee are gratified in being able to report that our progress continues on a satisfactory basis. Financially and socially the condition of the Club remains prosperous.

The Committee have to announce with much regret that the following three members of the Brotherhood have resigned during the year : Friars G. E. Fox, Reginald Geard, and W. R. Paterson.

During the twelve months the Committee have arranged in all twenty-four dinners. Six of these have been informal House Dinners, to which Club guests have not been invited. Our special guests at the weekly dinners have been : Sir G. Laurence Gomme, F.S.A., Sir Courtenay Ilbert, K.C.B., The Rt. Hon. Earl of

Selborne, G.C.M.G., Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Ernest Thompson Seton, Professor J. P. Mahaffy, C.V.O., Mr. Charles G. D. Roberts, Mr. Arthur Bouchier, Mr. Oscar Browning, Professor W. Flinders Petrie, Sir John Simon, K.C., M.P., and Professor Silvanus P. Thompson, F.R.S.

The after-dinner conversations on set subjects have continued to be an attractive feature of the Club's programme, and among the topics set down for discussion have been : "The Fascinations of Folk Lore," "How Parliaments Differ," "United South Africa," "The Psychology of the Criminal," "Wood Lore," "Conviviality, Ancient and Modern," "Wild Life in Nature," "The Promise of the Drama," "The Pleasures of Travel," "The Migrations of Nations," "The Painful Prejudice against Lawyers," "The Romance of Research."

In revival of an old practice, the annual dinner was held at Anderton's Hotel, on March 3rd. Friar Sir Ernest Clarke was the Prior. Mr. Rowland E. Prothero proposed the toast of "Literature."

The Ladies' Banquet, held at the Trocadero on April 28th, was presided over by Friar Walter Smith. The toast of "Literature" was proposed by J. Scott Stokes, Esq. Mrs. Florence L. Barclay responded. Friar Sir William Treloar, Bart., proposed "The Ladies," and Miss Janet E. Hogarth replied. Among the guests were many distinguished women writers.

The Committee have much pleasure in reporting to the Friars that their Club Rooms have been rearranged and decorated under the artistic supervision of Friar Sir F. Carruthers Gould; and they are again reminded that luncheon is served daily in the Club-room. Here, frank interchange of opinions is much indulged in and appreciated.

The subscriptions of town and country members have been received, and, including a balance brought forward of £93 7s. 8d., the receipts for the year amounted to £515 2s. 6d., the expenditure £402 13s. 7d., leaving a balance of £112 8s. 11d.

The *Whitefriars Journal*, which appears at irregular intervals under the able editorship of Friar G. B. Burgin, with Friar Keighley Snowden as sub-editor, contains a record of the events and proceedings of the Club.

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

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1910-1911.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank, 22nd November, 1910	...	93	7 8
" Interest on £300 London County Council	...	8	9 8
Stock (cost £290 16s.)	...	236	5 0
" Members' Subscriptions...	...	2	2 0
" Entrance Fee	...	43	16 0
" Christmas Dinner	...	31	4 0
" Ladies' Dinner	...	39	18 0
" Coronation Seats	...	46	2 8
" Summer Pilgrimage	...	13	17 6
" Refunded Account	...		
		<u>£515</u>	<u>2 6</u>

Audited and found correct (Nov. 22nd, 1911).

ALGERNON ROSE, }
A. D. POWER, } *Hon. Auditors.*

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
By Rent of Club Room	...	80	0 0
" Christmas Dinner	...	47	18 0
" Do. Crackers	...	5	11 3
" Ladies' Dinner	...	38	12 5
" Coronation Seats...	...	19	7 6
" Summer Pilgrimage	...	38	16 1
" Artistes	...	38	17 0
" Waiters' Gratuities	...	5	4 0
" Reporters	...	2	2 0
" General Printing	...	12	6 10
" Special Printing	...	56	8 5
" Club Journal	...	11	10 0
" List of Members	...	6	0 6
" Clerical Help	...	6	6 0
" Postages and Sundries	...	14	17 10
" Newspapers	...	2	4 0
" Furniture	...	4	8 6
" Club Guests	...	7	3 3
" Donation to the Children's Holiday Fund	...	5	0 0
" Balance at Bank, 17th November, 1911	...	112	8 11
		<u>£515</u>	<u>2 6</u>

EDWARD CLODD,

Hon. Treasurer.

A debate followed with reference to the Club investments. Friar F. J. Cross was rather concerned as to the wisdom of investing Club funds in L.C.C. stock, until it was pointed out to him that he had been one of the Committee which sanctioned the investment. The status of town and country members was definitely fixed. Then came the announcement of the retirement of the joint secretaries, Friars Joseph Shaylor and E. P. Gaston. Friar Shaylor resigns owing to the pressure of business cares and social duties. Friar Gaston, who had temporarily consented to help Friar Shaylor, resigns for the same reason. The retiring secretaries, in response to the universal expressions of regret at their departure from office, expressed their desire to be of every possible help to the Club in the future. Friar W. N. Shansfield had once more consented to take on the duties of secretary, and they felt that the Club could not do better than entrust its affairs to his capable hands.

An animated discussion ensued with reference to House and Guest dinners, and it was resolved that the matter should be brought up for discussion at a future meeting. The number of town members was increased to 125. This was done partly in consequence of the fresh definition of town and country members, and to make room for candidates, no resignations having taken place in the year. It was felt also that a small addition was desirable to strengthen the attendance at the dinners.

An evening devoted on December 7th to "Memories of Fleet Street" enabled the Brotherhood to pay some little honour to Friar Catling, who was their guest on that occasion; and Friar Silas Hocking presided. All who have read the charming book of reminiscences in which Friar Catling has assembled things quaint, romantic, and humorous, with a rare sense of their interest for the younger generation, will understand that he had no trouble in holding his audience's attention longer than the accustomed twenty minutes, and that he was applauded with more than common heartiness. One epigram will be remembered, coming from a Friar who looks back upon life rather than forward to it: "The world does not grow old. It is the young who make the world, and therefore the world must ever be young." Friar Sir Wm. Treloar followed with recollections of his own youth; and others called upon were Friars Leader, Keighley Snowden, Joseph Hocking, Keble Howard, and several guests of the evening.

Friar Leader reminded us that we are "Carmelites," and represent a body who for 300 years dominated Fleet Street. That street was then "The Whitefriars," a most picturesque and wandering thoroughfare; and Anderton's Hotel stands upon the site of the old Hoop and Horn hostelry, where some of our predecessors refreshed themselves on the sly. Referring to the fact that under the pavement of one of the courts off Whitefriars Street there is still to be found a bit of the old Prior's House, he expressed the hope, not more than half facetiously, that it might some day be excavated and become the scene of our gatherings.

Cordial messages from some of the older Friars, notably Friar Proctor, were read during the evening.

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

THE Christmas Dinner was held at the Trocadero on December 15th. Friar Anthony Hope Hawkins was the Prior of the night, and Mrs. Hawkins kindly officiated as hostess.

The Prior, in loyal phrases, gave "The King," and subsequently offered a cordial welcome to the guests of the Club.

The guests were :—

THE PRIOR—Mrs. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. Dion Clayton Calthrop, Mr. and Mrs. Pett Ridge, Mdle. Josée Schmidt and Mrs. Mary Gaunt. FRIAR A. ST. JOHN ADCOCK—Mrs. St. John Adcock. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Patterson, Miss Marion St. John Adcock. Miss Almey St. John Adcock, Mr. Sidney H. Webb. FRIAR ARCHIBALD. FRIAR GURNEY BENHAM—Mrs. Benham, Mr. and Mrs. Worthington Evans. FRIAR H. J. BROWN—Mrs. H. J. Brown, Miss Dora Brown, Miss Maude Brown, Mr. S. Schooling. FRIAR HERVÉ BROWNING—Miss Mary Browning, Miss Dorrit Neilsen, Miss Alice Neilsen, Mr. Emil Neilsen. FRIAR G. B. BURGIN—Mrs. G. B. Burgin, Professor and Mrs. Dalby. FRIAR SIR ERNEST CLARKE—Lady Clarke. FRIAR E. CLODD—Mrs. Kate Harvey. FRIAR DESMOND COKE—Lady Troubridge. FRIAR C. D. CROSS. FRIAR F. J. CROSS. FRIAR JAMES DRYSDALE—Mr. G. H. Muir, Mr. Harold Doré. FRIAR R. N. FAIRBANKS—Mrs. Arthur Philip, Mr. H. R. Stables, Dr. Ettie Sayer, Mrs. Foster Fraser, Miss Winifred James. FRIAR L. H. FALCK—Mrs. Falck, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Falck, Miss Dorothy Falck, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton, Mrs. Arthur Polak. FRIAR TOM GALLON—

Miss Nellie Tom Gallon, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Engelbach. FRIAR CHAS. GARVICE—Mrs. Garvice, Mr. and Mrs. Evans-Jackson. FRIAR E. P. GASTON—Mrs. Page Gaston. FRIAR LIONEL F. GOWING—Mrs. Gowing. FRIAR J. MORGAN DE GROOT—Mrs. J. Morgan de Groot. FRIAR HAMMERTON—Mrs. Hammerton. FRIAR W. H. HELM—Mrs. Helm, Mr. and Mrs. Frank May, Miss Helm. FRIAR JOHN HENDERSON—Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Howard Brooks, Miss Gilpin, Mr. Andrew Fuller. FRIAR JOSEPH HOCKING—Mrs. Hocking. FRIAR LINDLEY JONES—Mrs. Lindley Jones, Miss Lindley Jones, Mr. Edgar Lindley Jones, Mr. F. Lindley Jones, Mrs. Gilbert Wood, Miss Gilbert Wood, Mr. Percy Gilbert Wood, Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Brookhouse, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. B. Quennell, F.R.I.B.A., Miss Seares. FRIAR JOHN LANE—Mrs. Lane, Mrs. Talbot Clifton, Mr. H. J. Thaddeus, Mr. Hugh Childers. FRIAR ROBERT LEIGHTON—Mrs. Leighton. FRIAR W. ALGERNON LOCKER—Mrs. Locker, Mr. and Mrs. John Ravenshaw. FRIAR WARD MUIR—Mrs. Muir, Miss E. Towgood, Mr. Dixon Scott. FRIAR C. H. PERKINS—Mr. and Mrs. Sidney F. Boam, Mr. and Mrs. Laurance Harding, Mr. A. B. Garside, Mr. C. E. Fagan. FRIAR MOULTON PIPER—Mrs. Piper, Mr. Gordon Piper. FRIAR A. D. POWER—Miss Power, Miss L. D. Power, Mr. and Mrs. A. Wesley Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. St. J. Hornby, Mr. E. Bell, Mr. R. Spicer. FRIAR LEONARD REES—Mrs. Rees, Miss Rees, Mr. H. L. Rees, Mr. F. G. Bettany. FRIAR ALGERNON ROSE—Mrs. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. Max Leistner, Miss Agnes Wheldon. FRIAR A. MACCALLUM SCOTT—Mrs. Scott, Miss Helen McCall. FRIAR W. N. SHANSFIELD—Dr. and Mrs. Folliott, Dr. and Mrs. Rideal. FRIAR J. SHAYLOR—Mrs. Shaylor, Miss Shaylor, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Elliott. FRIAR CLEMENT SHORTER—Mrs. Clement Shorter. FRIAR W. B. SLATER—Mrs. Slater. FRIAR WALTER SMITH—Mrs. Walter Smith. FRIAR KEIGHLEY SNOWDEN—Mrs. Snowden, Miss Snowden, Mr. and Mrs. Goldfinch Bate. FRIAR ROBT. SOMMERVILLE—Mrs. Sommerville. FRIAR ALFRED SPENCER—Mrs. Spencer, Miss Violet Sefton Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Williams, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Thompson. FRIAR ARTHUR SPURGEON—Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Tatlow, Miss Edith Bestwick, Dr. Eric Bayley. FRIAR ALFRED SUTRO. FRIAR E. TORDAY—Mr. A. Macdonnell, Miss Anne Macdonnell.

In a speech, which the Prior aptly described as "a delightful mixture of humour and sincerity," Mr. Pett Ridge gave "The

Spirit of Christmas." In proposing the toast, Mr. Pett Ridge remarked that he hoped he exhibited all the coyness and hesitation considered necessary when a writing man stood up to speak in public. There were reminders of the passing years not restricted to the 25th December. To his great regret, he found that the press cutting agency no longer sent him notices referring to "a promising young novelist." (Laughter.) He would willingly pay a large sum in an increased subscription to obtain them. (Laughter.) The other evening near Euston Station he wanted a taxi-cab, and a small boy went to get it and brought it back. On returning, the boy was interfered with by a bigger youth. "You get away," the boy asserted; "they asked me to get the taxi-cab for the silly old fool." (Laughter.) Here they were assembled that evening, the young and old, and the fortunate medium-aged, close to a time of good nature—a period when dramatists would send their compliments to Mr. Redford, with a box of blue pencils. (Laughter.) Mr. Redford would wish them happy returns. (Laughter.) Railway porters would meet directors and give them tips. (Laughter.) Even the stern Whitefriars, after lonely months of exclusive feeding in the city, invited ladies to their Christmas gathering, to comment on the quality of the plum pudding provided at a public restaurant. (Laughter.) "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." Presents at this time of the year have an almost identical effect. (Laughter.) Husbands received from their wives boxes of excellent cigars at £4 the 100; wives received handsome sets of furs from Marshall and Snelgrove; perfect in every respect, except for the absence of the receipt stamp on the bills. (Laughter.) One need not be a Zadkiel or "Old Moore" to prophesy that in the leading articles would appear the words: "Peace on earth; good will to all men"—provided the quotation was not crowded out by war news. (Laughter.) Assuming that Christmas meant a time of friendship and amiability, it might be just as well to inquire whether we were always as civil as we might be to other nations. (Applause.) The fact was that what we looked upon in ourselves as a quality of pure patriotism, in other nations was rank impudence. (Laughter and applause.) Some years ago a party representing various nationalities at Homburg were bragging of the extent of their different countries' possessions. Howard Vincent mentioned the fact that Great Britain was a country on which the sun never set. An American lady—Miss Lee, a daughter of

General Lee—retorted: “Providence arranged that, for it knew that Great Britain was not to be trusted in the dark.” (Laughter.) What he liked about Christmas was that it was a time of increasing kindness to children, especially to youngsters handicapped in the race of life. Christmas in the poor districts he happened to know, and certainly loved, was to them a miraculous and unexpected period. A Moorish proverb stated, “To protect children is better than a pilgrimage or holy war.” He believed that this was the spirit of Christmas, and offered them with great confidence the toast of “The Spirit of Christmas.” (Applause.)

The Prior, in proposing “The Ladies,” emphasised the importance of the toast “while we were yet able to propose it.” If we looked around the world at the present time, it seemed to him that the toast was one they would not be able to propose in the future without grave question. (Laughter.) If he were suddenly asked what characteristic in woman caused us to set her apart and segregate her from the other guests, he should be puzzled to give an adequate reply. The Prior humorously predicted some of the changes which will accompany the extension of women’s sphere. He alluded to the possibility of that toast in the future assuming the form of a more simple and unified sentiment—it would be just “human beings.” (Laughter.) The toast would be proposed from that chair by a Prioress (laughter), and the eminent functionary behind the chair would be known as the “toast and water master,” owing to the improved dietetic habits of the country. (Laughter.) He coupled with the toast the name of Mrs. Mary Gaunt, who was so well known to them that nothing he could say could more than give her a most cordial welcome. We recognised in her a most worthy representative of all that was best in modern progress and literature. (Applause.) We recognised in her a spirit akin to another splendid writer, Miss Mary Kingsley. We were fortunate in having Mrs. Gaunt as a representative of the ladies that night. (Applause.)

Mrs. Mary Gaunt, who was enthusiastically received, said it was not so long ago when this toast was usually responded to by the youngest bachelor. (Laughter.) It afforded her pleasure to meet so many editors that evening. In her young days, she thought the editor was a terribly cross person who refused her youthful stories. When one of her Christmas stories was accepted for a big Australian weekly and she received £50, she began to

fancy herself as a writer. (Laughter.) Pursuing this reminiscent vein, Mrs. Gaunt related that in those early days in Australia she had a great idea to give to the world. She decided to call upon an editor, and, speechless and breathless on a very hot day, she arrived at the office. On entering the room she saw an elderly gentleman, wearing a pair of stern glasses. He looked at her solemnly and did not say anything. She looked upon him, and could hear her heart beat and the noise of the trams below. She could not think of anything to say, but suddenly remembering that it was the New Year, said, with a gasp, "Let me wish you a Happy New Year." (Laughter.) The editor replied: "Come, come, get to business; what do you want?" She rushed downstairs in a fright, and when she reached the street her great idea was lost to the world. She afterwards heard that she was a great favourite of that editor. She wondered how he would have received anyone who was not a favourite. (Laughter.) Editors in London had a great deal to thank that man for. When she came to London, wishing to make her fortune, she remembered her first experience and resolved to keep away from editors, who had been spared her importunities. (Laughter.) Literature was the one profession in which men and women stood on exactly the same footing. A woman writer might be sure of receiving the same amount as a man for her work. Therefore, when they drank to the ladies they backed their words with their deeds. (Applause.)

The concluding toast was "The Prior," proposed by Friar Arthur Spurgeon. Throughout the history of the Whitefriars Club, he said, we had been extremely fortunate in the men who had played a prominent part in the working of that venerable institution. Amongst the company were many who had helped the club in various ways for several years past. He paid a tribute to Friar Shaylor, who had served so faithfully and well as secretary for three years, and to whose generosity we were indebted for the charming booklets presented as souvenirs of a delightful evening. (Applause.) He also referred appreciatively to the assistance given to Friar Shaylor during the past year by Friar Gaston. The members were grateful to Friar Shansfield, who, after an interregnum of inactivity, had decided once again to be honorary secretary. (Applause.) He trusted that the members would rally to his support during the years to come. We might have good secretaries and other officers, but it was the long succession of Priors who had brought so much lustre to our ancient club.

(Applause.) Among them there was no one who had served us so well as Friar Anthony Hope Hawkins. (Applause.) It was a long time ago since he asked Mr. Hawkins to help them; he readily consented; and from that moment had been one of the pillars of the Order. (Applause.) On behalf of the club he thanked him most cordially for all his help, and particularly for presiding with such grace, wit, and humour as he had done on that occasion. (Applause.)

The toast was accorded musical honours.

The Prior tersely and genially acknowledged the compliment, expressing his delight at being once again with the club. To be praised by Friar Spurgeon in an assembly of Whitefriars was high praise indeed. Amongst the names Friar Spurgeon had most properly mentioned, modesty had prevented the Friar from alluding to his own. (Applause.) We all knew the great services Friar Spurgeon had rendered, and the unremitting effort and trouble he had always taken in the club's interests. It was impossible for anyone to be a member of the club without experiencing its good fellowship, and the total absence of jealousy amongst the members. (Applause.) In conclusion, he sincerely thanked them for their kindness on that occasion.

THE CHRISTMAS LUNCH.

ONE of the most successful functions of the Season was the lunch at Anderton's Hotel, in the Club Room, under the presidency of Friar Sir Francis Gould, on December 22nd, the occasion being the presentation of the annual "tips" to the Club servants, headed by Robert, the Club waiter, in a resplendent new uniform with brass buttons, which called forth the President's unqualified admiration. Among those present were Friars Spurgeon, Sommerville, Burgin, Farlow Wilson, Gaston, Perkins, Powell, Shansfield, Helm, Jerrold, Slater, Walter Smith, Shaylor, F. J. and C. D. Cross, and Clement Shorter, who looked in to wish everyone a happy Christmas, but could not stay. The following is a verbatim report of the speeches:—

The Head Waiter: "Gentlemen all, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year."

Robert: "Sir Francis Gould, Sir Francis, sir, and gentlemen all, I thank you very much for your great kindness, and I am

very much obliged. I wish you all a Happy Christmas, Long Life, and Prosperity." (Cheers.)

The Chef (in response to the Chairman's expression of surprise that we had survived another year under his care, and the statement that this is a season when it is our duty to forgive all our enemies): "Thank you, very much, Sir Francis, and gentlemen all; and allow me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, as I said last year."

The Head Chambermaid expressed in piquant terms great pleasure that her merits were adequately recognised, and wished everyone the compliments of the season.

The Head Porter: "The compliments of the season, gentlemen, same as last year."

CLUB NOTES.

A gifted traveller once wrote a book on Ireland. One chapter was headed: "Snakes in Ireland." The rest of the chapter was: "There are no snakes in Ireland."

This is intended to explain the paucity of the Club Notes. I have not recently received any communications from Friars as to their doings. I take it, the reason is mainly that

"Of their own merits, modest men are dumb";

but, as I have pointed out to Friars over and over again, this journal is for private circulation only, and the main object in eliciting information from them is that their brother Friars may know what they are doing. _____

Whilst I am referring to this subject, I may mention that I received some very interesting paragraphs for the last number of the journal. They were sent down to the printers, who promptly lost them. Consequently, I have been received with distinct coldness by several members when they (the members, not the paragraphs) appeared in the Club-room.

However, that is one of the many penalties of editing the journal. But if this exalted post has its drawbacks, it also has its recompenses. I was at a dinner in Rome this year among a colony of journalists, and the reporter for a paper wanted to know what I was the "rédacteur" of. When I told him that

I "rédacted" for *The Whitefriars Journal*, "the organ of a body of influential literary monks who dictated the policy of Europe," he was visibly impressed, and I was at once moved up to the top table.

Of course, this ought to have happened to Friar Keighley Snowden, who does all the work on the journal. I tried it for a session, with my nose glued to a note-book, and preserved many anecdotes to embalm in these columns. But it was hard work; I never got any dinner, I could not bring any guests; and everyone seemed so sorry for my labours, especially when they read the reports, that I induced Friar Snowden to help me. He takes out the back of an envelope, sizes up the speakers with one penetrating, parliamentary glance, and sends me those pithy reports which are the making of the journal. But he won't step into my shoes and do the editing himself.

And we don't want the "life stories" of Friars when we send out the customary post card. What we want is to know about the latest book they are doing, how many of them have won the Nobel prize, and so on.

Friar Sir Francis Gould told a nice little anecdote at the Club lunch the other day. A Scotsman made up his mind to commit suicide, and went into a shop for three-pennyworth of arsenic. "What do ye want three-pennyworth of arsenic for?" asked the chemist. "Twopence," said the would-be suicide.

There are other Club stories which have escaped my colleague. But the printers are waiting for "copy." Before I close what missionaries call this "heart to heart" talk, I should just like to say, on your behalf as well as my own, how much we are indebted to a busy man like Friar Shansfield for once more taking up the cares of office as secretary. We are all busy men nowadays, and "learned leisure" is a thing of the past. You

"Gentlemen Whitefriars, who sit at home at ease,
How little do you think upon"

the hard work involved in "running" a Club such as ours. Friars Shaylor and Gaston have done much for us. Let us all unite to make things as easy as we possibly can for their successor.

G. B. B.