

WHITEFRIARS JOURNAL.

Edited by
**FRIAR ROBERT
LEIGHTON.**

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PRIVATE
CIRCULATION.

CLUB DIARY.

SINCE the last number of the JOURNAL was published the Friars have been deprived of one of their members by the death of William Boucher, who joined the Club in 1895. In recent years Friar Boucher was not a frequent attendant at the weekly dinners, and he seldom took a prominent part in the proceedings. He was at one time, however, a member of the Executive Committee, and was always willing to contribute his clever drawings for the decoration of special programmes and menu cards. As an artist, he will be best remembered for etchings of Dendy Sadler's paintings, which had a great vogue, both in this country and the United States. For 25 years he was cartoonist for *Judy*. He illustrated many books of fiction, notably some of R. L. Stevenson's writings, and his work in this direction, particularly in mediæval subjects, was marked by vigour, refinement, and technical accuracy of line and detail.

IN the early weeks of the session the Club programme was somewhat disturbed by the General Election, and House dinners took the place of the more formal weekly meetings. On January 5th Friar W. G. Lacy presided over a happy gathering of Friars, providing an excellent musical entertainment, and, with his customary generosity, adding cigars and punch as an incentive to hilarity. On the following two Friday evenings Friar Senior and Friar F. J. Farlow Wilson acted as Prior to small companies of the Brethren.

FRIAR ROBERT DONALD occupied the Prior's chair on January 26th, when Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B., was the Club guest. There was a full meeting of forty-two Friars and guests. Replying to the toast of his health, Sir John opened a conversation on "The Laying Out of London," introducing valuable statistics to show

how three millions of people following their various occupations in the central area were moved backward and forward by conveyances of some kind. In twenty years the railways, which now totalled 630 miles in the area of Greater London, had spent, by way of improving accommodation for daily passengers, the sum of £120,000,000. Against this the municipalities during the same period had only spent on the improvement of streets the sum of £7,000,000. There was great need, he argued, for an improvement in the arterial thoroughfares of London in order to obviate congestion of traffic. The vehicles passing given points at a given hour had been carefully counted. In Oxford Street 1,347 vehicles passed a certain spot, in Cheapside 1,322, in Piccadilly 1,359, at the Marble Arch 3,000 conveyances went by, in an hour. In all these streets very little improvement had been effected during forty years. As a remedy, Sir John suggested that there should be two great bisecting avenues, 140 feet wide, running east and west and north and south, dividing the population into four parts, and endeavoured to show that the scheme, if costly, would be of incalculable benefit to the metropolis.

The discussion was opened by Mr. Ebenezer Howard, the inventor of the Garden City, who was followed by Friar Walter Runciman, M.P., Sir Clifton Robinson, Mr. Edgar Harper, Mr. Conrad Cook, and Friars Harold Spender, Lee Campbell, and Robert Donald.

WITH Mr. George Grossmith as Club guest, and Friar F. Frankfort Moore as Prior, it followed as a natural consequence that there should be a merry evening on February 2nd. Mr. Grossmith provoked the Friars to many a burst of hearty laughter by his speech on the subject "Is Humour on the Wane?" and he made a good point by contrasting the popular songs of a generation ago with the more genuinely humorous songs of the present time. Such songs as "Slap-bang" "Champagne Charlie," and "Tommy, Make Room for Your Uncle," were flat and meaningless in comparison with the songs to be heard any nights in our contemporary comic operas. He referred to the humour to be found in present-day fiction and in the comic papers. Humour, he averred, was certainly not on the wane. Friar F. Carruthers Gould made some apt definitions of humour, arguing that it had its essence in incongruity. The character of humour had altered, perhaps; and

higher education had demanded a greater subtlety in the elements of comedy, but humour and the sense of humour could not diminish or die, because they are a part of human nature. This view was concurred in by other speakers, including Mr. Mostyn Piggott, Mr. Clarence Rook, Mr. Constant Huntington, and Friars Alfred Sutro, G. B. Burgin, Angelo Lewis, William Senior, and Keighley Snowdon.

ON February 9th a dinner of the real old-fashioned sort took place. Friar Algernon Rose, who occupied the Prior's chair, opened the postprandial proceedings by giving an interesting historical review of the sanctuary of Alsatia and of the industries and the notable inhabitants of Whitefriars, including Gerbier, Shadwell, Banister, and Britton. The Friars afterwards told stories, and Friar Charles Braid sang a folk song to his own accompaniment on the piano.

MR. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW was the Club guest on February 16th, and there was an unusually large attendance, the company numbering about ninety. Friar Clement K. Shorter acted as Prior for the evening. The topic of conversation was, "Should Theatres Be Municipalised?" Mr. Shaw said Yes. He declared that he had nothing more to say, and at once proceeded to make a singularly fluent speech, full of paradox and epigram. He spoke of actor-managers and of the percentage of profit accruing from successful plays. The stage movement, he said, was analogous to the literary movement. When he began writing it was at a time when everybody, owing to free education, was becoming literary. That was a very different thing from becoming educated, so the man who wrote for educated people did not take with the general public. Mr. Sutro could do other things than *The Walls of Jericho*, and an endowed theatre therefore became a necessity for Mr. Sutro and himself, Mr. Shaw. The municipalised stage would not interfere with ordinary theatrical enterprise or the popularity of musical comedy; but the London County Council should endow a theatre for the support of the serious play. When the best serious plays could be enjoyed in Vienna at a charge of three-pence admission to the gallery, owing to a subsidy, he did not see why the same thing should not obtain in London. In Vienna, his, Mr. Shaw's, plays did not draw. Why? Because they were

too good to be popular. So they were placed in the classical répertoire, and in that way given a hearing. He wanted to see classical plays, plays as good as his own, played frequently in London.

Friar Alfred Sutro moved that the after-dinner proceedings should be extended beyond the usual time, and this being agreed to, the discussion was continued by Mr. G. E. Morrison, Mr. J. B. Mulholland, Mr. Mostyn Piggott, Dr. Kimmins, Mr. Fredk. Whelan, the Rev. F. A. Russell, and Friars Richard Whiteing, Robert Donald, and Gilbert Coleridge. The arguments and remarks of these various speakers were carefully reviewed by Mr. Bernard Shaw in a long and amusing speech. Referring to the remark that Dickens could not have written a good play, he disagreed, he said, because Dickens was nothing if not dramatic. To say that Dickens's characters were not dramatic on the stage was absurd. Why, several of his, Mr. Shaw's, best characters in his most successful plays had been cribbed from Dickens. His last words to all playwrights when hard up for ideas or characters were, "Go to the Dickens!"

PROFESSOR JOSEPH WRIGHT, LL.D., was the guest of the Club on February 23rd, when the Prior of the evening was Friar Edward Clodd. Professor Wright delivered a learned and instructive address on the question, "Should Dialect be Fostered?" illustrating many of his points as to the origin and pronunciation of words by blackboard analysis. His explanation of the historical evolution of various words was deeply interesting, and he laid emphasis upon the statement that from a historical point of view dialect is of infinitely greater value than the written literary language. If no history had been written, close study of dialect would enable us to-day to discover with fair accuracy the races which had landed in Great Britain in early times and contributed to the character of our common speech. The Prior having added some remarks on the topic, Friar R. E. Leader spoke humorously in the Yorkshire dialect, maintaining that English was correctly spoken and pronounced only in Yorkshire. Friar Carruthers Gould, speaking in his native Devon tongue, protested that Friar Leader was wrong, and that the only correct tongue was that of the West Country, of which he gave examples, as, for instance, if a Devonian wished to imply that a person was imbecile he said that he was "not zactly,"

and politely stopped there. For a man who was drunk the form of expression was that he had "been overtook." Friar Keighley Snowden, who referred to the use of dialect in fiction, told some anecdotes in the Yorkshire vernacular, and Friar Graham-Simpson spoke in the Northumbrian. Other speakers were Friars Gilbert Coleridge, J. A. Hammerton, T. Heath Joyce, and Algernon Rose.

THERE was a House dinner on March 9th, under the Priorship of Friar F. J. Cross. The company adjourned to the Club room immediately after coffee and sat round the fire telling stories. Mr. David Williamson, who was the only guest, told some good anecdotes.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

THE Annual Dinner of the Club was held at the Trocadero Restaurant on Friday, March 2nd, when the Prior of the evening, FRIAR A. E. W. MASON, M.P., had upon his right and left the guests of the Club, FIELD-MARSHAL SIR GEORGE WHITE, V.C., O.M., and SIR SPENCER WALPOLE, K.C.B. The Sub-Priors were Friars William Senior, F. Carruthers Gould, Reginald Geard, and W. G. Lacy, and the following members and guests were present :—

THE PRIOR (FRIAR A. E. W. MASON, M.P.); FRIAR A. ST. JOHN ADCOCK; FRIAR W. GURNEY BENHAM; FRIAR A. G. BROWNING, Mr. Wynford Dewhurst, Mr. Wayland Kershaw, F.S.A., Mr. A. Hervé Browning; FRIAR HENRY J. BROWN, Mr. G. W. Jacobs (Philadelphia); FRIAR G. B. BURGIN, Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P.; FRIAR J. BLOUNDELLE BURTON, Major H. W. White; FRIAR SIR ERNEST CLARKE; FRIAR EDWARD CLODD, Mr. G. M. Trevelyan, Mr. A. Roger Ackerley; FRIAR C. D. CROSS; FRIAR F. J. CROSS; FRIAR R. N. FAIRBANKS, Mr. D. W. Macdonald; FRIAR L. H. FALCK, Mr. Arthur Polak, Mr. George Chillingworth; FRIAR ERNEST FOSTER; FRIAR J. FOSTER FRASER, The Earl of Ronaldshay; FRIAR W. L. GANE, Mr. C. L. Minchin, Mr. A. J. Bird; FRIAR REGINALD GEARD, Mr. Owen Green; FRIAR F. CARRUTHERS GOULD, Mr. F. H. Carruthers Gould; FRIAR J. A. HAMMERTON; FRIAR PAUL HASLUCK; FRIAR H. A. HINKSON, Mr. Martin Egan; FRIAR CLIVE HOLLAND; FRIAR G. THOMPSON HUTCHINSON, Mr. W. Edsall Munt, Mr. Benjamin

Stephenson; FRIAR W. LINDLEY JONES, The Hon. Sir John Cockburn, K.C.M.G., Mr. F. Hilary Jones; FRIAR W. G. LACY, Mr. Edmund Smith, Dr. Allan, Mr. H. J. Baker; FRIAR R.



LEIGHTON, Mr. A. P. Watt; FRIAR F. A. MACKENZIE; FRIAR SIR GILBERT PARKER; FRIAR C. E. PEARCE; FRIAR G. H. PERKINS; FRIAR COMMANDER ROBINSON, Mr. F. Englefield, Mr. F. C. Begg; FRIAR ALGERNON ROSE, Dr. Vincent Dickinson;

FRIAR WILLIAM SENIOR, Mr. Desmond Coke ; THE HON. SECRETARY ; FRIAR J. SHAYLOR, Mr. W. H. Nicholls ; FRIAR ALFRED SPENCER, Mr. W. Lurcott, Mr. P. Lurcott ; FRIAR HAROLD SPENDER, The Consul-General of the Hellenes ; FRIAR ARTHUR SPURGEON, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. Malcolm Morris ; FRIAR ALFRED SUTRO, Mr. R. D. Blumenfeld ; FRIAR RICHARD WHITEING, Dr. Emil Reich.

The humorous sketch on the cover of the menu, to which Sir George White referred, showed "How a Noble White Knight Feasted With a White Fryer on a Fry Day." The figures represented the guests of the evening. The Knight in white armour with uplifted fork was placing a whiting in the steaming pan which the comfortable friar held before the fire. The design was by Friar W. Gurney Benham. The musical programme was exceptionally interesting. Mr. Albert Garcia sang Bizet's Torea-dor's Song and the recitative and aria "Eri tu" from "Un Ballo in Maschera," while Mr. Harrison Hill was successful with an impromptu song after Sir George White's speech and with comic, romantic, and historic fragments.

On the removal of the cloth, the PRIOR gave "The King" and the roll-call of welcome.

LITERATURE AND THE ARTS.

FRIAR CARRUTHERS GOULD, in proposing the toast of "Literature and the Arts," said : "There is a similarity between the Whitefriars to-day and the Whitefriars of old. Whereas they fostered literature and the arts, so do we attempt to do so to-day. There is another note of harmony. We are entertaining to-night as our distinguished guest a man of war and a distinguished Government official. The Carmelites of old and other Friars used occasionally to entertain them—both men of war and Government officials—because when the knights in armour came riding up to the gates of the abbey they were generally hospitably treated—probably not from an entirely disinterested motive. If they were not, they sometimes walked away with any portable property they could get hold of." (Laughter.) "To-day our entertainment is more sincere. When we honour our distinguished guests, we have no treasures of any kind—not even literary treasures. There are a good many people who look back to the Middle Ages and say the twentieth century is dull by comparison. The brightness, the

happiness, of life does not depend on the colour of the clothes." ("Hear, hear.") "We are apt to look back through stained-glass windows on any prospect in the past. I remember going with one of our Friars—Friar Athol Joyce—into the British Museum, and he showed me, in a mediæval case, an implement. It was a blend of an oyster knife, a sardine opener, and a lobster pick." (Laughter.) "It was explained to me that this was used by the good people of old, when a knight had been unhorsed, to 'open him up,' so that they could get at his vital or business parts." (Laughter.) "One of them standing over him would cry to a comrade, 'Hi, Bill! come here and lend us your oyster knife, and let's open up this bloomin' old stag-beetle!'" (Laughter.) "A good deal of that sort of thing went on in the old days of chivalry. You cannot call us decadent nowadays, with a Labour member in the most democratic of the Parliaments quoting Shakespeare, and another, a navvy, embellishing his speech with passages from Southey." (Laughter.) "Never was there a time when the knowledge and appreciation of art was wider and more broadspread than it is to-day. In everything that enters into our daily life, we have more art introduced than we ever had before. We have recognised the great national value of an art education, and I am sure you will not think I am bringing it down to too low a plane when I say the art education of this country has been an immense advantage to all of us." (Laughter and applause.)

The toast, with the health of the guests whose names were associated with it, was drunk with enthusiasm.

SIR GEORGE WHITE'S SPEECH.

FIELD-MARSHAL SIR GEORGE WHITE, received with acclamation on rising to reply, said: "I thank you very much for your kindly reception, for no miserable soldier ever stood in a position that required it more. I came here with my mind a blank with regard to the subjects on which I was to address you, but with that thoughtful kindness which I am sure is a leading characteristic of your Order, I find a picture on the back of my card which I fondly hoped represents me in that martial figure sitting down with a bâton in his left hand." (Laughter.) "I wish to confess that I could recognise no likeness to myself in that manly figure. (Laughter.) "Looking further, as some of you may have done in former days, I found an absolutely truthful presentment of myself

in the frying-pan"—(laughter)—"and I can only hope that the last stage of this attempt may not land me in the fire. During an active career, which has now closed but which extended over more than half a century, I have found myself in some tight places, but I can confidently say that I never yet felt so utterly out of my element as I do in standing up to talk to you—accomplished artists, learned literati—on the subject of the toast which has been coupled with my name. With regard to art and science, science is the goddess on whose behalf you gentlemen have been holding us up to the execrations of the public for not worshipping at her shrine as soldiers with sufficient devotion. It is on her account that we have been over and over again thrown into the crucible, and then, when in a state of flux, we have been stirred there by your too-often cruel stylus"—("No")—"which has eaten into our very hearts as into wax." (Laughter.) "What has been the effect of thus putting us into the crucible? The thousands with which we went into the crucible have come out thousands in perhaps a slightly altered form, whilst the thousands of other nations remodelled in the last few years have come out millions." ("Hear, hear.") "I will say this—and I do not care where it is repeated—though our thousands are officered by men who are wranglers, and every one of these thousands is a master of arts, they cannot hold their own in the stress of modern warfare against millions." (Applause.) "We have the highest moral authority that it is wisdom for the man with five thousand to sit down and count the cost before he moves against him who has ten thousand. That sum has been done by the highest possible authority, who has commanded more of our thousands than any other Englishman, and he has given his answer to that sum with no uncertain sound.

OUR ARMY AND THE PRESS.

Our thousands in no way—I hope I am not doing wrong in speaking as a soldier—our thousands in no way represent the power and prestige of England." ("Hear, hear.") "The question is, Can we order our forces as if we were certain of a lasting and assured peace? My belief is that peace, beautiful as it is as an ideal, is in our days merely the dream of a visionary, and that war—red-handed war—is the experience of men, and will be the experience of men, as long as human passions turn this earth into the hell that it sometimes is." ("Hear, hear.") "There can be nothing more

palpably extravagant than entering upon war with means inadequate to the end. I fondly believe that England, if she enters on war again, will enter on it as she always has, I believe—only to conquer peace; that is, to compel those against whom she is compelled to fight to comply with conditions which are compatible with peace with honour and with the balance of power on which our national existence depends. Our own little sea-girt isle may be perfectly safe, and have the grandest ships that ever floated on the sea, and the most splendid men, who certainly have not neglected to worship the goddess of science, but have applied it in the most practical and efficient way to their ships, and who have trained themselves for the great mission which they have undertaken with a zeal which is all their own. If, I say, they can save us, our coasts are immune from an invasion, our fleet in its numerical strength worthily represents England, but our few land forces do not worthily represent the forty millions of our population. To conquer peace it is necessary to deal the compelling blow on land. Lord Nelson wrote to Lady Hamilton that he hoped to be able to bring the united fleet to action to win a victory which would be the forerunner of a lasting peace. As regards the decisive victory, Lord Nelson's anticipations were more than fulfilled, but how about the peace? The battle of Trafalgar was fought in 1805, and there was no peace till 1815. It was then in consequence of a series of land actions, and was finally won by land forces on the field of Waterloo. As long as man's vital organisations were on land, it was on land only that that decisive blow could be struck. I must ask you to excuse me if I, as a soldier, have wandered from the particular line that was indicated to me before I got up, and have spoken to you of what is nearest to my heart." ("Hear, hear.") "I will at all events come back to where I started from, and say we men of action, whether we be soldiers or sailors, envy you the completeness with which you men of letters can do your own work. We are dependent on the assistance of others. Each one of you suffices for his own reputation, and makes his appeal direct to his fellow-men. Ours may be the thronged street, and the acclamation of the crowd for an hour, but it fades as the very day on which it occurs." ("No.") "Your reputation goes on and increases, and even we in our profession are entirely dependent on you for any little reputation we may have." ("No.") "We look first to the journalist, and

afterwards to the historian, and it is in proportion to the skill, the sympathy, and the kindness with which you draft our records that there is any duration to the little reputation that we may have achieved. Your echoes roll from soul to soul, and grow for ever and ever." (Applause.)

IS LITERATURE DECADENT ?

SIR SPENCER WALPOLE, rising also to reply, said : " May I demur from one statement to which we have just listened ? We have been told our land forces do not worthily represent the forty millions of the population. My answer to that statement is, look at the gallant Field-Marshal." (Loud applause.) " He has rendered services to his country which make him welcome at any audience of Englishmen. I am charged, however unworthily in this assembly, with responding for " Literature and the Arts." Friar Gould has spoken hopefully of the position of literature and the arts. I have been engaged with my neighbours in a conversation on the mediocrity of the present age." (Laughter.) " Take literature. Certainly in one respect literature suffers in modern times. I do not know if it has ever occurred to you how terribly the sister arts have purloined our possessions. There was a time when the man of letters was supposed to be a man of knowledge." (" Hear, hear.") " Knowledge, *scientia*, science is now entirely the monopoly of men of science. There was a time, again, when men of letters were supposed to be under the protection of the Muses. Now every young lady who strums a piano thinks that she is under the special protection of these goddesses, while we writers should be considered intolerable prigs if we were to invoke them to our own assistance." (Laughter and " Hear, hear.") " Is literature decadent ? In quantity, certainly, I suppose, there has never been a time in the world's history when so large a production of literature has taken place. As to quality, are you quite sure that we are decadent ? I recollect there is an interesting passage in the ' Life of Macaulay,' in which he, writing in 1850 to his sister—I hardly like quoting Macaulay in the presence of his nephew—said that it was a remarkable thing, in an age when science and invention had been so productive, that in the preceding twenty-five years no book had been written which would be read or recollected at the end of the nineteenth century. And yet Thackeray, Dickens, Tennyson, and Browning, Ruskin, and Carlyle—even

Macaulay himself—are still read ; and if such a man as Macaulay could be so wrong in his predictions, is it not possible that the Cassandras of the present age may be in so high an eminence themselves that they cannot see the mountains above them ? ” (Laughter.) “ At the Royal Academy we are apt to compare the average quality with the great Masters with which we are familiar, but there was no period in history when supreme works of art were generally produced. I submit to you that whether art is decadent or non-decadent, there is one art which has never stood so high, and that is the art of caricature.” (“Hear, hear.”) “I delight in the pictures of Gilray, Rawlinson, Doyle, Leech, and Tenniel, but in the infinite variety of production, in the marvellous vitality of execution, they do not excel—I doubt whether they approach—the great caricaturist of our own time.” (Applause.) “Whether he is pondering over the ‘Chronicles of the Fourteenth Century,’ to find illustrations of the twentieth, or whether he is reading a new meaning into that most delightful of all modern books, ‘Alice in Wonderland,’ he is always original, always new, and always genial and kindly.” (Applause.)

It was at this juncture that Mr. Harrison Hill entertained the company with the following :—

Air “Tommy Atkins.”

IMPROMPTU VERSE TO FIELD-MARSHAL SIR GEORGE WHITE, V.C., O.M.

Sir,—The great and gallant soldier by your side,
Whom every Briton here regards with pride,
Has told us, with due modesty and grace,
He feels, 'mong men of letters, out of place ;
But, upon this Menu there are letters four
That point to gallant deeds he did of yore,
I need hardly mention them, for they are V.C., O.M.
What need, ye men of letters, any more ?

He's a gallant man of letters,
And a great Field-Marshal he,
And in his company to-night
It's proud we are to be ;
He has brought us Peace with Honour,
And he is our guest to-night,
So here's your health, Field Marshal,
From these Friars of Orders White.

FRIAR SIR GILBERT PARKER, M.P., giving the toast of “The Whitefriars' Club,” said : “Friar Gould suggested that we were

re-incarnating in our modest personalities the ancient hospitality and characteristics of the Whitefriars. He said we had no treasures left, and that the Field-Marshal had nothing he could find to take away with him. You know he takes away the thing that is of most value to every one of us. He has stolen our hearts"—(applause)—"and I hope he will never return them." ("Hear, hear.") "The Field-Marshal has referred to a drawing which appears on the toast-list. If you will refer to it, you will find that the White Knight is holding up something on a fork to toast, and who should it be but my friend Whiteing?" (Laughter.) "He has finished a great book to-night. Honestly, I think we all know a good thing when we have it. There is no better representative of the Whitefriars' Club, and the literature which it loves, than our friend here"—("Hear, hear")—"whom I know we all wish to congratulate on an accomplishment we are certain will be at once infinitely to his credit and infinitely to the credit of the profession to which he belongs." (Applause.) The toast was coupled with the name of the Prior, to whose accession to Parliament the speaker referred in felicitous terms.

The PRIOR, in the course of his reply, said: "Sir George White, speaking with his usual modesty, said that the journalists were the makers of the soldier's fame, and on the historian renown depended. We cannot accept that statement with regard to Sir George White. He is the maker of his own fame." (Applause.) "When all questions of partiality and sentiment have died down in the long time to come, the defence of Ladysmith will be remembered with warmth as one of the greatest achievements in the annals of the English army." (Applause.) "When things have fitted themselves into their true proportions there will be added, not by any historian, but by his own actions, the name of yet another Irishman to the long and imperishable scroll of fame." (Applause.)

At the conclusion of the formal proceedings, the Friars and their guests adjourned to the reception room, where tea and coffee were served to the accompaniment of general conversation.

FRIAR WILFRED WHITTEN charmed a goodly company of the Brethren on March 16th with an uncommonly graceful and literary speech from the chair in introducing the guest of the evening,

Mr. Ford Madox Hueffer. The topic of conversation was drawn from the question, "Has London a Soul?" Mr. Hueffer treated his subject from a somewhat frivolous and irresponsible standpoint, speaking of County Councils, music halls, and municipal buildings. As the Prior afterwards remarked, it was the unexpected which had happened: the guest had aimed at a soul and had hit a town hall. Dr. Selfe Bennet continued the talk on the same utilitarian lines, but Friar G. B. Burgin redeemed it from the commonplace by a vigorous speech, in which he referred feelingly to the glamour of London and to the associations and atmosphere which constitute the soul of this Queen of Cities. Mr. Francis Gribble, Mr. Clarence Rook, the Rev. R. C. Fillingham, Mr. James Grieg, and Mr. F. R. Coulson were among the guests who contributed to the debate, in which they were joined by Friars W. H. Helm, Charles Garvice, Osman Edwards, Algernon Rose, and Alexander Paul.

THERE was a large attendance at the Dinner on March 23rd, when Lord Halsbury was the Club guest. Friar Max Pemberton, who presided, introduced Lord Halsbury in a speech on the mingling streams of law and literature. All the most distinguished lawyers, he said, had been neighbours of the *littérateurs* of Alsatia. In the Temple Shakespeare had produced his *Twelfth Night*. It was in the Temple that Cowper, the poet, had first brooded over the law and a pretty cousin. The Friars welcomed Lord Halsbury, not only because he was a great lawyer, and a distinguished member of the Upper House, but also on account of his being the president of the Royal Society of Literature. Lord Halsbury's address on "The Influence of Literature upon Life" was full of sly humour. He made fun of the definitions of literature contained in the Copyright Acts, according to which literature was presumably represented by the London Directory, penny dreadfuls, Chinese cartoons, and medical advertisements. He spoke of the influence of "The Sorrows of Werther" and of Schiller's "Robbers," which had turned half the young men of Germany into highwaymen. He referred to the influence of Wesley, Ogden, and Jeremy Taylor as preachers, and made some hits at modern fiction where "very pretty women convert very good people." He dwelt at some length upon the effect of Lord Byron's work. The best literature, he said, had the highest and noblest influence.

When good writing formed part of the intellectual food of a nation—as did that of the philosopher Bacon or the poet Shakespeare—it made better Englishmen than if it had not existed.

Friar Dr. Robertson Nicoll discussing some of the points of Lord Halsbury's address, contended that the influence of literature was within the mind. We all lived two lives. One life was that of the imagination and feeling, and the other life that of the circumstances by which we were surrounded. Byron, who had been alluded to by Lord Halsbury, had certainly been, in a literary sense, a powerful poet. But did he lead people to believe in literature? No; not like Keats nor Shelley. Yet he kindled a general fire. He exalted the feelings and the emotions. The modern ardour of poetry was due to Byron. He carried over Europe the pageant of a burning heart. Sir Horace Plunkett, Judge Adams, and Mr. Harry Furniss carried on the conversation, in which Friar Grundy also joined.

On the adjournment to the Club room, Mr. Charles Bertram, who was a guest of the Prior, gave an impromptu conjuring entertainment with a pack of cards, his confederates being Dr. Robertson Nicoll and Friar St. John Adcock. The diversion lasted fully an hour.

CLUB NOTES.

THE pressure of candidates for admission to the Order continues. By good fortune two vacancies occurred this year through a couple of Friars taking up country residences, which will still enable them to come amongst us frequently. The Committee elected Mr. H. Hamilton Fyfe, Editor of the *Daily Mirror*, who is known also as a novelist and critic, and was for some years in a confidential position on the *Times* staff. At the same time they added to the roll a prominent Omar Khayyamite—Mr. Robert A. Hudson, of Dean's Yard, bibliophile and editor of antiquarian books, who has on several occasions been a guest. Three country members were also elected: Mr. Walter Jerrold, grandson of the immortal Douglas, and himself an author and editor of wide

appreciation ; Mr. Frederick Whelan, founder of the Stage Society ; Mr. Alfred Gibson, athletic editor of the *Morning Leader* ; and Mr. F. R. Coulson, whose articles brighten the pages of the *Manchester Daily Despatch*. There are still some fifteen candidates waiting for openings in the town list.

ALTHOUGH it is premature to make a definite statement on the subject, there is every reason to hope that the summer excursion may be on the first Saturday in July to Hindhead. In that event Friar Spurgeon will be the Prior, and there will be a special train to Haslemere. Lady Conan Doyle has kindly invited the party to tea at Undershaw, and several other visits to celebrities at home are not unlikely.

FRIARS are reminded that they should keep Friday, April 27th, for the Ladies' Annual Dinner, to be held at the Trocadero. The acceptances by eminent women writers promise a gathering of special interest. His Excellency the American Ambassador will support Friar Newton Crane (the Prior) in the defence of "Mere Man."

THE late Friar Boucher had not been able, owing to failing health, to come to any of the gatherings for a couple of years past. Among the older members of the Brotherhood he was, however, in warm regard. He had the true spirit of comradeship. Three of those who had known him best—Friars Lee Campbell, Pearce, and Miles—attended the funeral at Berkhamsted. Mrs. Boucher has written to me to say how grateful she is for the many manifestations of sympathy coming from within the Club, and for the beautiful wreath which was sent on behalf of the Committee.

W. N. S.