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DINNER TO LORD ULLSWATER.

January 27th, 1922.

Prior—FRIAR HARRY JONES.

Topic for Discussion—PARLIAMENT AND ITS FUTURE.

Among the Guests were: The Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Duke (President of the Probate and Admiralty Court), Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. H. V. M. Jones (St. Thomas' Hospital), Mr. A. W. Holland, Mr. Ernest Damant, Mr. Dearle, Mr. James Robinson, Mr. F. Vivash Robinson, Sir George Macrae, Mr. John Boon, Mr. H. D. Thompson, Mr. Frank Whinney, Mr. John Hinds, M.P., Mr. Philip Williams, Mr. John T. Lewis, Mr. L. W. Browne, Mr. Seaton Tiedeman, Mr. W. L. Bennett, Mr. W. P. Forbes (Managing Director *Central News*), Mr. C. W. Atkins and Mr. George Turnbull of its Parliamentary Staff, Mr. Geo. Lavington, Mr. T. H. Hull, Mr. B. W. Matz, Mr. F. F. Hobbs, Mr. Hedley Lewis, Mr. R. W. H. Wilkinson, Mr. G. M. Boughey (Secretary of the Royal Colonial Institute).

Prior Harry Jones, in proposing the toast of the Club's Guest, said they were honoured with the presence of one of the great parliamentary figures of the time. Only members who had sat below him and pressmen who had sat above him knew what the House of Commons owed to Lord Ullswater's zeal for its rights and privileges, to his buoyancy of spirit, his impartiality, his wisdom, the sunlight of his humour and the charm of his genial humanity. He was never a pedant, never a bondslave to rule and precedent. Many a menacing thundercloud had been dissolved by the flash of his kindly wit. A lover of country life, Lord Ullswater seemed

always to bring into the House a whiff of the open air and the tang of the wind on the heath. English to the core, just, tolerant, fair-minded, he incarnated the spirit and traditions of the historic assembly over which he ruled. A great Speaker, he was a great gentleman.

Lord Ullswater said that he had been asking himself for what possible reason the Whitefriars had desired to entertain a person of modest and retiring demeanour, who was not anxious to put himself forward and had, since he left the Chair, rather wished to go backward. By reason of these qualities he might have expected not to be very popular with the Press, who might prefer someone of a more pushful character. He could only say that he had endeavoured to do his duty in that state of life to which it had pleased God to call him. It was fortunate for himself if he happened to have some of the qualities suited to the particular duties it had fallen to his lot to perform—qualities which might almost be summed up in one word, Patience.

The customary phrase in the King's speech, "My relations with all Foreign Governments are friendly," supplied the description for his own relations with the Press: they had been friendly, for *officially* he had had none, or hardly any.

"Parliament and its Past" he could have more easily dealt with; the "Future of Parliament" was difficult to foretell. Of the House of Lords he really knew nothing; and as to its reform he had not yet formed any views, though he foresaw enormous difficulties in the way. If the House of Lords, or any portion of it, were in future to be based upon popular election, the House of Commons might be jealous and find itself embarrassed in dealing with a House built, like itself, on that foundation. If, on the contrary, the future House of Lords was to be a body of "Supermen," or men who thought they were Supermen (a sort of second Athenæum Club), he did not believe the country would stand it.

To endeavour to weaken the House of Lords would be futile, for it was already as weak as it could be; while "reforms" intended to strengthen it might raise up for the democratic chamber a serious rival and considerably alter the Constitution. It would be better for any reform to come from the House of Lords itself than from outside.

As for the House of Commons, the ex-Speaker emphasized the transitional character of its position at the moment. The two traditional parties were now split up into a number of groups, a circumstance due largely to the Irish Party, which had taught the country the advantage, for securing specific ends, of following an independent line. Personally, he regretted the emergence of the "group system," a fissiparous tendency largely assisted by "unofficial committees," the members of which were apt to consider questions from the point of view of their Committee, so that there was further splitting up. The difficulties produced by the War had not yet been overcome; and he could have wished for the continuance for some time longer of the Coalition system.

Parliament owed much to the criticism (at times very free) which the Press gave its proceedings. The Press also owed something to Parliament. Whatever might be its future, Parliament would serve a useful purpose, if, as on several occasions hitherto, it dispersed some of the phantoms started by the Press.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor confessed to having no particular satisfaction in the changes the House of Commons had experienced. He detested the "group system" and was not fond of Coalitions. The party system at least counteracted the exaggerated importance of individuals or groups of individuals.

Friar Robert Donald cited G. K. Chesterton and Hilaire Belloc as holding the opinion that the House of Commons had no future, but was dead and damned. The Second Ballot, or Proportional Representation, would avoid the evil accruing from the existence of a Government with a majority in the House, but elected by a minority of votes.

Sir Henry Duke said the "group system" was unsatisfactory and had been condemned wherever it had predominated. He did not like Coalitions, which paralyzed principle and conviction and had no natural friends—a great disadvantage in public life. He preferred the good old English system.

Friar Hamilton Fyffe considered Parliament a "wash-out." He did not remember a time when the party system had the great merits claimed for it. He doubted whether a return to it would remove the general distrust of Parliament. A better Upper Chamber than the present might, like the U.S. Senate, be a very stable element in the life of the country.

Sir George Macrae took comfort in the reflection that any future Parliament would not be as bad as Austria's in pre-war days, when there were twenty groups speaking twenty different languages!

Friar Silas Hocking did not regret his non-success in three elections, yet had such perfect faith in the honesty and integrity of every member of the House of Commons that it was impossible to believe any of them would vote against conviction or under pressure!

Friar Clement Shorter did not share the fears entertained of the group system. In any case, there was no alternative to the House of Commons; "better ballot boxes than bullets!"

DINNER TO SIR BASIL THOMSON, K.C.B.

February 10th, 1922.

Prior—Sir Ernest Wild, K.C., M.P.

Topic for Discussion—

THE VALUE OF THE SECRET SERVICE.

Among the Guests were: Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. E. V. Huxtable, Mr. George Harvey (Mayor of Holborn), Mr. E. R. Woodward, Mr. Albert Bennett, Mr. J. C. Gardner, Mr. G. L. Burton, Mr. Gordon Dabell, Mr. F. H. Stafford, Mr. J. H. Curle, Mr. J. P. Collins, Mr. Cecil Whiteley, Mr. George R. Sims, Sir William Tyrrell, K.C.M.G., Mr. C. R. McClure, Mr. John Gulland, Mr. F. Lindley Jones, Mr. T. Rothwell Haslam, Mr. G. R. Collingridge, Mr. C. Rudy, Mr. Harry Hodge, Col. A. D. Ackland, Mr. A. W. Ackland, Mr. D. C. H. d'Avigdor, Mr. Sole, Mr. Enesden, Mr. Leslie Mills, Mr. H. Davies, Mr. T. W. McAra, Mr. Macklow-Smith.

Prior Sir Ernest Wild proposed the health of Sir Basil Thomson, whom many present might recognize as an old friend. He had been Prime Minister of Tonga and Governor of Dartmoor and Wormwood Scrubbs prisons! As for his services to the State,

Sir Basil was much too efficient to have been allowed to remain at New Scotland Yard.

Sir Basil Thomson understood that the essence of "Secret Service" lay in its secrecy, a line not always drawn by people who served in it, particularly the ladies.

A distinguished staff officer predicted at the beginning of the War that we should start with the worst and end with the best Secret Service in Europe. He might have added with equal truth that the Germans would start with the best and end with the worst. For the Germans were thorough without imagination, while the English were *un*thorough with imagination.

At the beginning of the War everybody, all the unemployed in London, at least, wanted to go into the Secret Service. Many women had applied, but he had never found a really efficient woman spy. That was perhaps to the credit of the sex, for, though partly due to lack of knowledge, it was also partly due to a woman's natural compunction, which asserted itself at a point in the process of worming herself into another's confidence. The women spies of the enemy were the worst employed by any country. The conveyance of Russian troops through England—than which, from an evidential point of view, according to Mr. Asquith, nothing was ever better proved—was reported to the German staff by one of their agents. Some extremely ingenious person—could it have been a Whitefriar?—may have set the tale on foot to hearten our own people and discomfit the Germans. In a most important particular the enemy's service utterly failed, for Von Kluck admitted surprise when he found a British force in front of him.

The various scares in the early days of the War had given the Secret Service much trouble. Carrier Pigeons—it was positively dangerous to be seen in conversation with a pigeon. Wireless!—operate an old typewriter at an open window and arrest was imminent. Gun platforms!—every recently laid tennis court near London was assuredly one. And so on!

German spies working in this country had given the enemy but little information, and even that was more misleading than useful. When the Americans entered the War, they confessed at the outset that so far as Secret Service was concerned they had come to learn. They learned so well that at the end they had, if not the best,

one of the best services. And that result was not confined to the Intelligence Branch.

Friar Robert Donald thought it likely that what information the Germans obtained was the product of an analysis of our newspapers. He was glad to believe that the *agent provocateur* was a phase of Secret Service work absolutely alien to English instincts.

Mr. Cecil Whiteley, K.C., who had prosecuted many spies, recalled the case of the German officer who hanged himself in his cell before the conclusion of his trial, leaving a written message :—" I have had a perfectly fair trial," a most satisfactory avowal to all concerned in the case. One woman spy was the most efficient of all with whose cases he had had to do.

Friar G. R. Sims paid tribute to a certain " Eudosia," her tender care of the domestic pet, her linguistic accomplishments, and the cosmopolitan sympathy which enabled her, after her departure on the outbreak of war, to report herself (1) nursing German soldiers at Munich, (2) three months afterwards nursing English and French at Monte Carlo, and (3) once more in England, seeking admission to the Red Cross organization here. He told of a reprieved murderer whose acquaintance with German enabled him, while in prison, to render valuable " secret service " to this country, and who was rewarded by release. Spies were sometimes men who rendered the bravest of services to their country under the most harassing conditions.

Friar the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge gave as an example of " war scare " the case of the supposed enemy laying mines, who proved to be a coastguardsman laying lobster pots !

Friar Harry Jones's question as to the alleged employment of *agents provocateurs* in connection with industrial troubles drew from Sir Basil Thomson the assurance that such a functionary did not exist in this country, and never had existed.

Friar Salmon congratulated the " Secret Service " on the completeness of its information as to Communistic machinations.

DINNER TO VISCOUNT MILNER, G.C.M.G.

February 24th, 1922.

Prior—FRIAR SIR ARTHUR SPURGEON, J.P.

Topic for Discussion—THE FUTURE OF EGYPT.

Among the Guests were : Mr. J. A. Spender, Sir Francis Morgan Bryant, Mr. F. W. Goodenough, Mr. A. E. Broadbury, Mr. Gordon Dabell, Mr. Campbell Nelson, Mr. Gurney Nutting, Sir Maurice Bonham Carter, K.C.B., Major Crawford, Mr. Hew T. Fraser, Mr. Leslie Couper, C.M.G., Mr. Nevill Jodrell, Admiral Sir Arthur Limpus, Mr. Evelyn Wrench, Mr. L. H. C. Watson, Mr. R. Dymond, Mr. W. S. Anderson, Mr. A. F. King, Mr. A. P. Gaston, Mr. Seton Tiedeman, Mr. F. J. C. Hankinson, Mr. S. F. Higgins, Mr. R. G. Emery, Mr. James Johnston, Sir James Dundas-Grant, Mr. J. S. Willmore, Mr. M. Price Holmes, Sir Daniel Neylan, Mr. Robert Mayer, Mr. W. M. Gane, Mr. Gordon Piper, The Rev. A. R. Ingram, Mr. N. D. Power, Mr. E. W. Seymour, Mr. G. M. Boughey, O.B.E. (Secretary of Royal Colonial Institute), Sir Murdoch Macdonald, K.C.M.G., Dr. Cumming Grant, Mr. Sydney Shaylor, Mr. W. Graham, Dr. Rosenbach, Col. L. C. Adams, Sir Ernest Moir, Mr. Macklow-Smith and Dr. Croly.

The Prior (Sir Arthur Spurgeon) said they were honoured in having as their chief guest Lord Milner, a statesman who was known throughout the civilized world, a man who in his earlier days was not afraid to be known as one of the brethren of the pen. He was always a believer in publicity, and he had paid a particularly distinguished compliment to the Club in coming to speak on the important subject of " The Future of Egypt."

Lord Milner contrasted the condition of Egypt as he knew it 30 years ago with that which he and his friend Mr. Spender found when they visited the country in 1919 to advise the Government as to the best methods to adopt. The Egypt with which he was familiar in the late 'eighties and the early 'nineties was just beginning to turn the corner, after the terrible conditions which had existed before the British occupation, and was entering more or less into the ranks of civilized countries.

Having regard to the immense importance of Egypt to the world at large, and the special interest which Great Britain always

felt in the high road to the greatest part of our Empire, we had gone into Egypt, simply from our own choice, to put an end to the disturbances and establish authority. In these early days our occupation of Egypt was undoubtedly heartily welcomed by the great mass of the people. The misery and oppression under which they had suffered for years had at last reached a point so extreme that one of the most docile and easily governed peoples in the world had revolted. The misery and suffering had been so great and the relief obtained from the introduction of a civilized form of government was so immense that we governed Egypt in those days with an army of occupation of about 3,000 men with extraordinary ease.

The speaker visited Egypt on several occasions prior to 1919, and felt rather uneasy at the tone of public opinion in the country, especially the attitude of the Egyptians towards ourselves. In 1919 he was sent out at the head of a Government mission, and what he found when he reached there filled him with surprise. The condition of affairs presented a remarkable contrast to the Egypt with which he had been familiar 30 years ago. Our influence on the people was infinitely less —he would not say that it had gone.

Lord Milner was convinced that this estrangement had undoubtedly arisen through mistakes and misunderstandings. We had frankly to recognize that we had made mistakes and, if we did not have quite our own old domination of Egypt, we might preserve our vital interests by a friendly understanding with the people, whose political growth and independence we were prepared to recognize. That was the original idea of the proposals put forward by the mission of which he had the honour to be the head. After two years' knowledge these proposals had been subjected to severe criticisms, and had been put upon the shelf; but it was to something of the kind we were coming back to-day.

In the present circumstances Lord Milner thought the wisest thing to do was to back Lord Allenby. It was of great importance to get on good terms with the Egyptians. We could not allow Egypt to relapse into disorder and the state of affairs in 1882 to be reproduced. A Bolshevik Egypt would absolutely break the links which connect us with at least half of our Empire.

Major Evelyn Wrench considered that what had happened in Egypt during the last three years was symptomatic of what was

happening as regards all coloured peoples at present under the allegiance of the British Commonwealth. A mistake was made in not, immediately after the Armistice, making a generous offer to the Egyptian people; and even now nothing had been done, though the Commission of 1919 had reported.

Friar George Whale thought that Lord Milner had clearly demonstrated that British influence in any country was for good. We recognized that there was something greater than military force, which had in times past been the method of dealing with dependencies.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald, K.C.M.G., who wholly agreed with the report and recommendations of Lord Milner for dealing with the situation, said there was no doubt as to the extraordinary material progress in Egypt, largely due to the remarkable rise in the price of cotton.

Mr. J. A. Spender, from his observations in the later period dealt with by Lord Milner, entirely confirmed his analysis of the situation. To attempt to hold Egypt down by force would be discreditable and out of line with the whole British tradition. The Eastern races were not easily susceptible to the democratic formulæ which we had applied to the peoples of the West. In regard to Lord Milner's mission certain cardinal facts should be borne in mind. A large part of the opposition to the proposals had been founded on the belief that Egypt was part of the British Empire, and that the British Government were being asked to surrender one of the jewels of its crown. There had been a great change in Egyptian mentality and a higher efficiency during the last 20 years; and it might be that we should succeed in setting up a responsible government. It was our duty to make the experiment.

Friar Leslie Burgin considered that one of the great problems to be faced was that dealing with the fellaheen. There was a yeast at work now among uneducated populations. It was necessary that some alternative teaching should be given to the fellaheen, and very material indeed that the great mass of this class should not have some sort of resentment working in a narrow atmosphere.

Friar Fisher referred to an article in the *Fortnightly Review* which declared that the lower classes were getting more fit to govern, and the so-called governing classes were becoming more

unfit to govern. We had had for many years a system of popular education; but he did not think either that the Press was much better, or that Parliament was a much better instrument for governing the country than in past days.

Sir Maurice Bonham Carter maintained that the position of the fellaheen had improved out of all knowledge. If we left the country, and there was a serious prospect of a retrograde movement, there was a danger of the fellaheen falling back to their former position of almost slavery.

DINNER TO MR. CHARLES B. COCHRAN.

March 10*th*, 1922.

Prior—FRIAR DR. LESLIE BURGIN.

Topic for Discussion—

WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE THEATRE?

Among the Guests were: Mr. Gellatly, Mr. G. Oliver, Mr. S. R. Littlewood, Mr. E. Chas. Fache, Capt. Donelly Aitken, Mr. A. H. Rose, Mr. R. C. Watts, Mr. Leonard Hitch, Sir Herbert Morgan, Mr. Chance Newton ("Carados" of *Referee*), Mr. Richard Burton, Mr. D. M. Gane, Mr. Joseph Anthony, Mr. Robert Mayer, Mr. Gordon Piper, Mr. S. G. Hobbs, Mr. T. J. Brooke, Mr. W. Mackenize, Mr. R. H. Gillespie and Mr. MacDonald Rendle.

Prior Leslie Burgin thought that a happier choice could not have been made than in asking Mr. C. B. Cochran to introduce the subject for discussion. His name commanded great respect in stage life. Besides being emphatic, their Guest would doubtless be informative. The question at issue ought perhaps rather to have been worded: "Is there anything wrong with the Theatre?" He hoped Mr. Cochran would incidentally define that difficult word "impresario," and be able to assure them that it was not necessary to be extravagant in presentation in order to secure good box-office receipts. He himself believed that a good play would always command a good audience.

Mr. C. B. Cochran feared he was not particularly qualified to say what was wrong with the theatre. Until he read statements to the contrary, he had always believed it was going on all right. The theatre had suffered from the effects of the War ; and, perhaps more than any other industry, it was suffering from economic conditions.

People wanted good plays ; and good plays would pay. Though it was necessary to spend freely on revues, it was not necessary to spend a lot of money on good plays. The main point was to get the play. Managers really did read plays submitted to them, and, though their judgment was sometimes at fault, the plays of real merit that were not ultimately produced were few. He was sure the public would aways respond to a good play properly presented. Impresarioship he might describe as good showmanship. Its function was to draw attention to the attraction offered and exploit it (whether it were Shakespeare or performing fleas !) in the best possible manner.

There was a common tendency on the part of critics to disparage " light entertainments," and the most abused form was " Revue." That was to be regretted, for, in the absence of stock theatres, Revue was the only school of acting to-day ; only in it could young artists learn the essentials, the technique of their art. " Revue " was an unfortunate word. There was not much in a name ; but in this case the result was criticism from a wrong point of view. Unfortunately, men chosen as critics for certain qualifications were sent to appraise entertainments of a type which did not appeal to them. The best critic of a revue was a news reporter : he knew what appealed to the public.

Himself passionately fond of the theatre, Mr. Cochran did not think there was anything seriously wrong with it. It was a question of getting good plays. There had been stagnation during the War, both as regards writers and material ; but he was sure the theatre was in for a good time in the future.

Friar Clement Shorter believed that the theatre was as healthy as it had ever been. Certain individual writers even of the glorious Elizabethan days would have bored stiff a modern audience. But the theatre was crowded at which a play by the most acute intellect in the literary world to-day (Mr. John Galsworthy) was running, and " The Beggar's Opera " had been performed for hundreds of

nights in a remote suburb. Again, the vast disposition to-day to admire certain phases of the Celtic intellect found expression in the immense popularity of Sir James Barrie's plays. Revue, of course, was an entertainment for children; but most people were children at heart—and a good job, too!

Mr. S. R. Littlewood dissented from Mr. Cochran's statements about the critics. There was nothing they enjoyed more than a good revue; and they praised them, too. As for the drama, from one standpoint nothing, from another everything, was wrong with it. What was wrong with the theatre was the people who wanted to know what was wrong with it. Why should people be perpetually wanting to shy things at the theatre? It was a focus of publicity, representing all the movements going on. These all wanted to express themselves to audiences in the theatre, and if they did not get there they thought everything was wrong. In this way the theatre, which lived on publicity, both prospered and suffered by it.

From the practical point of view, he believed the theatre to be over-capitalized, over-self-conscious (largely on account of publicity) and over democratized by people wanting to express themselves in it and not achieving that end quickly enough. If only they could get a lot of people who were interested in the theatre for its own sake without making a movement of it or thinking they were going to improve the theatre in a week, they would get along much better. So he commended the new "amateur movement," in which people acted good plays for themselves.

Friar Benham suggested the allocation of theatrical cricicism to entire amateurs from whom the average individual would learn what appeal any particular play would make to him.

Mr. MacDonald Rendle did not believe in dramatic "critics." He had been a dramatic *reporter* in his time, and made it a rule always to sit out a performance. He did not think the public cared two-pennyworth of gin about dramatic criticism. Every manager went into the theatre to make money, not on any abstract principle of philanthropy—unless it paid him incidentally. It was once possible to see fairly competent people in two good dramas in one evening for sixpence: nowadays for these Revues (training schools for young actors!), the price had gone up to 24/- exclusive.

Friar Emile Cammaerts agreed that the English public in general were not much interested in literary plays. The way Shakespeare was produced in Germany was a lesson to all Europe. The strong prejudice in this country against State intervention had to be recognized. In France, the regular production of classical plays at the Comédie Française and the Odéon had undoubtedly done much to raise the standard of public taste. Given like opportunities in this country, would not the public respond ?

Mr. H. Chance Newton thanked God he wasn't a dramatic critic and had never called himself one. He was a " writer of theatrical notes." That was perhaps why he wasn't a " tired man " but kept his enthusiasm. Managers always complained about criticisms with which they disagreed, but had nothing to object to when nice things were said. The remedy was easy—copy David Garrick, who wrote his own notices ! or the tragedian in H. J. Byron's play, who " never read the ruffian's rude remarks." The criticism of to-day was mild compared with that once in vogue. " The foul-mouthed, gin-drinking harlot of the streets, Miss X." was an early-Victorian example. There was something wrong with the theatre *then !* The poor dramatic critic was a kind of Aunt Sally at whom everybody shied. The " extravagant praise " which " ruined young players " came as often from the managerially employed press agent as from the critic.

Friar Keighley Snowden (for ten years a dramatic critic) was conscious of a changed point of view as a theatre-goer. He wanted to find out, not what was wrong, but what was *right* with the theatre. Perhaps there was something wrong with the public. In a Government Report, perfectly competent men had stated that there never had been in our schools anything like proper teaching of English or English literature.

Mr. R. H. Gillespie complained of the difficulties created by outside interference, the perverted ingenuity of officialism, entertainment tax, and so on. He would be proud to have an artistic success that was also a commercial success, but under present conditions it was difficult.

DINNER TO THE RT. HON. LORD MESTON.

March 24th, 1922.

Prior—FRIAR BASIL MATHEWS.

Topic for Discussion—CAN WE SATISFY INDIA?

We regret to state that notes were not taken of this and several subsequent dinners. The intention was to leave the report to volunteers, but Friars were too preoccupied to play the part of scribe. This is the more to be regretted, as at the Dinner under notice, Friar Alex. McIntosh made his maiden speech after twenty-one years' membership, and did it well too. The whole evening was a success.

LADIES' DINNER.

May 5th, 1922.

Prior—SIR VINCENT EVANS.

(*Hostess*—MRS. JOHN CLARK.)

Club Guests—THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND (LORD HEWART), LADY HEWART, MISS LILLAH MCCARTHY, AND MISS ROSITA FORBES.

Among the Guests were : Mr. and Mrs. John Clark, Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Vincent Evans, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Lewis, Mr. Philip Williams, Mrs. Prichard, Mrs. Francis Aitken, Mrs. Henry A. Aitken, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gardner, Mr. Goldfinch Bate, Lt.-Col. J. M. Mitchell, Miss Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. William Paynter, Mr. Arthur Brentano, Mr. Arthur Brentano, Jun., Miss Brentano, Mrs. H. J. Brown, Mrs. A. Hervé Browning, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. C. Nielsen, Mr. C. J. Nelson, Mrs. G. B. Burgin, Mrs. Leslie Burgin, Mr. and Mrs. Hew Fraser, Mr. and Mrs.G. D. Hodge, Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Burgin, the Hon. Mrs. Gilbert Coleridge, Mr. J. A. Hawke, K.C., Mrs. Hawke, Mrs. A. B. Cooper, Mrs. Paul Creswick, Mrs. Robert Donald, Mrs. Cyril Gamon, Mr. and Mrs. Donald, Major and Mrs. Rigg, Mr. Harold Earnshaw, Mrs. Douglas M. Gane,

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Bell, Mrs. Irving Gane, Miss E. M. Gane, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. McClure, Miss Kammer, Mrs. Cecil Harmsworth, Mr. Desmond Harmsworth, Miss Harmsworth, Mrs. Hocking, Mr. John Salt, Mrs. H. K. Hudson, Mrs. and Mrs. Hare, Major Mills, Mrs. Kimmins, Lt. B. C. H. Kimmins, Miss A. C. Rennie, Dr. Frank Crane, Mrs. Crane, Mr. Frederick Chamberlain, Mr. Richard King, Lady Parker, Miss Power, Miss Brinton, Miss Danvers, Major C. Dingwall, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Maufe, Miss M. Carey, Mrs. Algernon Rose, Dr. and Mrs. Iredell, Mrs. Makower, Mrs, W. M. Saunders, Mr. A. E. Pauter, Mr. and Mrs. William Paterson, Mrs. Harold Shaylor, Miss Shaylor, Mr. and Mrs, S. J. Shaylor, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Elliott, Mrs. Oldham, Sir John Stavridi, Miss Audrey Vincent, Lady Hodder-Willliams, Mr. J. R. Pakeman, Mrs. Paine, Mr. A. S. M. Hutchinson, Sir Landon Ronald, Mr. and Mrs. Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. Koelsch, Miss Cayley, Miss Pullen, and Mr. Macklow-Smith.

Mr. Theobald Mathew, proposing the toast of " Literature and Law," said there had always been the utmost sympathy between the two. Thus, in quite early days the literate had been by law accorded the " benefit of clergy." Lawyers were constantly engaged in essentially literary occupations. Members of the Junior Bar composed the short historical narratives, crisp and concise, known as " statements of claim," on the one hand, and, on the other, those " statements of evidence " which were occasionally more or less works of fiction. As for the Senior Bar, the literary quality of some of the speeches delivered in the Royal Courts of Justice compared favourably with the great orations of the past.

Lawyers supplied newspapers with much of their raw material, though, in use, the " nastinesses " were sometimes more prominent than the " niceties " of the law. Mr. Mathew coupled the toast with the name of Lord Hewart, Lord Chief Justice, one who, in his youth devoted to the classics, in early manhood a journalist, became, in maturer years, a great advocate and parliamentarian, and a tower of strength to the Government of the day. The speaker was sure that in the crowded recollections of pleasant events in a notable career, few things could have gratified the Lord Chief Justice more than the unanimous approval with which his appointment to high judicial office was received by the legal profession.

The Lord Chief Justice replied to the toast " with some trepidation," reminding the Friars that the paralyzed Wyckliffe's

protestation, " I shall not die but live, and declares the works of the Friars," was followed almost immediately by that great churchman's death ! A second source of trepidation was that he knew so little about either literature or law. A famous judge had said that alphabetical order was not so good as chronological order, but was better than no order at all. If the toast had been " Law and Literature," it would at least have been alphabetical. Was there a dark suggestion in it that Literature preceded Law ? Was there Literature in the Garden of Eden ? Was there Law ? Was there discussion, for example, upon whether, to what extent, and in what circumstances a lady's clothes could be said to be necessary ? He was not sure. From Homer we knew that Law, in the early form of " dooms,' had a very early beginning, and also—if the passage was not corrupt—that a gentleman named Bellerophon knew something about writing. A valuable essay might be written upon the subject whether Law was or was not chronologically antecedent to Literature.

In happy early days, Lord Hewart had an old friend in Fleet Street, who was wont to make wise remarks on such topics. He would give a few examples. " The antithesis between Law and Literature is the least profound antithesis in history." " The present age produces little Literature and not very much Law." " It is a sound rule not to read anything (the evening papers excepted) that has not been published for at least a thousand years." And perhaps the evening papers were not really an exception to that rule. He said further that, " Literature so far resembles Law, that dislike of both is naturally strong in the human heart." Perhaps the resemblance might be carried further in that you could not really dislike either if you knew a little about it. Again : " Before you you can use a book, either in Literature or in Law, you must know something more than how to read." Finally, " There is a close connection between Literature and Law apart from the fact that some writers have not offended against the law of libel." James Anthony Froude, at the end of one of the " Lives of the Saints " had added the words : " That is all, and more than all, that is known among men of this servant of God." " That," added the Lord Chief Justice, with reference to these quotations, " is all, and more than all that I know concerning Literature and Law." But what, as the senior wrangler said after a perusal of " Paradise

Lost," does it all prove? Lord Hewart acknowledged he did not know: but, as they said in the House of Commons, " Enough of statistics ! "

Listening with confusion, to the kind personal reference made by Mr. Mathew, the Lord Chief Justice had been reminded of a gentleman who was declared to have been not only the most learned of jurists, and the most elequent of orators, but also a brilliant administrator and a paragon of public and private virtue. Was it really surprising that that distinguished man, Mucius Scævola, was murdered at the altar of Vesta ?

To be serious for one moment, and for one moment only, he ventured to recall, both with regard to Literature and Law some lines of the " The Grammarian's Funeral."

> Let me know all ! Prate not of most or least,
> Painful or easy !
> Yea, this in him was the peculiar grace
> That before living he learned how to live—
> No end to learning,
> Earn the means first—God surely will contrive
> Use for our earning.
> Others mistrust and say, " But time escapes :
> Live now or never ! "
> He said, " What's time ? Leave Now for dogs and apes !
> Man has Forever."

Friar Sir E. Hodder-Williams was thankful it was not considered necessary in these days, in spite of its title, to attempt, a facetious speech in proposing the toast of " Venturing Women"—a proper and fit toast for a Club associated with the great Street of Adventure. It was to be replied to by two of the most famous " venturing women " of the day, both of whom knew every step and stone in that Street which they all loved so well. They knew the agony of suspense, the sickness of hope deferred, and the cold mists of morning criticism; but surely also they knew the summit splendour and sunshine of world-success. What had kept up their courage during all these years but the childhood spirit which kept all young to the very journey's end which, " when the whistle blows," would enable all to face unafraid the greatest and most wonderful adventure of all ?

Miss Lillah McCarthy prefaced her reply by a rendering of J. Elroy Flecker's " Golden Journey to Samarkand," concluding with the lines :—

(The watchman, consoling the women)

" What would ye, ladies ? It was ever thus, men are unwise and curiously planned."

(A woman)

" They have their dreams, and do not think of us."

So it was, said Miss McCarthy, in the olden days : men adventured, and women waited. To-day, women were invited to join the caravan and sometimes, like Miss Rosita Forbes, they led one. Her own title to responding to the toast lay solely in the fact that she belonged to the profession of " venturing women." Actresses were always making " the Golden Journey to Samarkand," voyaging up and down, living sometimes in the days of Sophocles, sometimes in the days of Shakespeare, and sometimes in the spacious days of Shaw. In former ages they suffered many vicissitudes, the worst of all being to see their parts played by boys. Later, when they were allowed to play, decent burial was denied to their bones and, like Adrienne Lecouvreur, they were thrown to the dogs. In these days the demands laid upon them were less ungentle, but were still hard. She herself was once expected by the personnel of the Lord Chamberlain's office to be able, as Judith, to seduce Holofernes in a high-necked dress. Nevertheless " venturing women," one and all, were grateful to men for welcoming them and making them members of the caravan. Like the pilgrims, together

" We shall go, always a little further. It may be
Beyond that last blue mountain barred with snow,
Across that angry or that glimmering sea."

Miss Rosita Forbes disagreed with the statement that had been made to the effect that the phrase " Venturing Women " was tautologous. In simpler days, women were quite content to make two ends meet ; it was the men who wanted to tie them in a handsome bow. Nor did she think men were jealous of women's achievements. When women did go out adventuring (at least in her line of business) it was men who bade them Godspeed and welcomed them back.

As an instance of what might happen in their adventures, Miss Forbes related an experience of her own in Papua, where she was invited into the interior to attend a native feast "in honour of a baby." On the way, they were regaled with information as to the admirable effect of the Australian occupation and the marvellous work the missionaries were doing. When they arrived at the feast, however, they found a mistake had been made. The feast was not in honour of the birth of a baby: *The feast was the baby*. She did not know how adequately to express her gratitude for having been invited to such a delightful party in England as the Friars' Dinner. In the East she would have known exactly. She would have got up, loosened her belt, and uttered guttural sounds indicative of repletion.

Friar Sir Gilbert Parker proposed the toast "Our Overseas Visitors," coupling with it the name of Dr. Frank Crane, who had come over as a preacher of friendship.

Dr. Frank Crane expressed disappointment at having, so far, failed to find the typical Englishman presented on the American stage, monocled, with a drawl and a hollow chest. The typical Englishman, Frenchman, and German, he had sought them all, and had come to the conclusion that there was none.

The most interesting things he had found were not people, but a collection of Ghosts, of which, in the shape of dead ideas and lifeless beliefs, Europe had a wonderful assortment. Things were done, not for a reason, but for the ghost of a dead reason. In America they had, in imitation of the British House of Lords, established their Senate. Now, like the vermiform appendix of the human body, what once had performed a useful function was merely a point of sepsis.

The most distinguished ghost in the world to-day was that of Julius Caesar, who first conceived the idea of governing the whole world by a simple method, that of one nation licking all the rest. If they asked, how else was the world to be governed, the answer was simple: by the "Commonwealth of Nations." It was difficult to get rid of a ghost. Try to slap it, and your hand went through its face. The only thing to do was to let time and the winds of destiny blow it away. But we were growing out towards the light and away from these ghosts. He was glad to say that in America the air was a little thinner and purer. They could at least all

look forward to the time when men would more thoroughly scrutinize the bases of their thought and conduct.

Friar the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge proposed the health of " The Prior," regretting that as a Sassenach he was unable to do justice to the subject. Sir Vincent Evans, he said ,was a kind of ' key-industry ' in relation to the Welsh Colony in London.

Sir Vincent Evans, thanked the company for their cordial reception of the toast. A musical programme was rendered by Miss Margaret Balfour and other artistes.

DINNER TO "IAN HAY."

October 20th, 1922.

Prior—FRIAR G. B. BURGIN.

Topic for Discussion—THE TRUTH ABOUT AUTHORS.

Among the Guests were: Mr. S. G. Stubbs, Mr. J. Bruce Williamson, Señor don Juan Mendoza, Mr. Gordon Dabell, Mr. Emil Nielsen, Mr. Leonard Hitch, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Lionel Falck, Mr. C. R. McClure, Mr. Edward Tebbutt, Mr. J. M. Knox, Mr. S. J. Shaylor, Mr. H. J. Butler, Mr. R. F. L. Ogston, Dr. Lawson Smith, Mr. Douglas Newton and Mr. Patrick Cullinan.

Editorial Note.—This dinner also was not reported—for the same reason. The attendance was numerous, " Ian Hay " at his best, and the Prior, with a confidence born of long success, made a mistake of one word in reciting the " Ritual "—a mistake of which he was informed when leaving the Chair by five envious members who had long and patiently lain in wait for this joyous opportunity.

DINNER TO MR. HILAIRE BELLOC.

November 10th, 1922.

Prior—FRIAR HARRY JONES.

Topic for Discussion—
THE PUZZLE OF THE ELECTIONS.

Among the Guests were: Mr. John Gulland, of the Ministry of Labour, Mr. Wm. Bray, Mr. Arthur Porritt, Sir Duncan Kerly, K.C., Mr. Howard I'Anson, Señor Don M. Urriolagoitia, Mr. Ed. P. May,

of Mass., Mr. Emil Nielsen, Col. Bulkeley, C.M.G., D.S.O., Major A. H. Craig, D.S.O., M.C., Mr. Harold Bevir, Dr. P. A. T. Sneath, Mr. H. T. Butler, Mr. W. Mackenzie, Mr. H. F. Carhill, and Mr. O'Flaherty, London Editor of the *Chicago Daily News*.

The note regarding the dinner to Lord Meston also applies as to the absence of " copy." It should be added that Mr. Hilaire Belloc mistook the date of the dinner and his place was occupied by Friar George Whale, who without notice acquitted himself admirably. Mr. Belloc wrote three letters of copious regret and apology—none the less because he refused an engagement for another event in order to leave himself free, as he thought, for this dinner.

Opportunity may be taken here to congratulate Friar Whale on his recent marriage ; also Mrs. Whale for having won the heart of one who is affectionately liked and esteemed by all Friars for his geniality and wit.

DINNER TO HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL HARVEY, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

November 24th, 1922.

Prior—FRIAR CLEMENT SHORTER.

Topic for Discussion not announced beforehand.

Among the Guests were : The Rt. Hon. Augustine Birrell, K.C., Mr. William Graham, Mr. E. A. Broadberry, Commander Tuffill, C.B.E., Mr. G. F. Morris, Mr. F. W. Parsons, Mr. J. T. Hopkinson, Mr. Arthur P. Kingham, Sir L. Stanley Johnson, M.P., Mr. Gordon Selfridge, Mr. R. M. Freeman, Mr. John Dodge, Dr. Macdonald, Mr. R. H. Wild, Mr. P. D. Power, Mr. Dymoke Green, Commander G. M. Skinner, Mr. Ronald Freshwater, Mr. Frank Mannington, Mr. Glen, Mr. H. T. Butler, Mr. Hugh Spender and Mr. H. Macklow-Smith.

Editorial Note :—This is the last of our editorial excuses, at any rate, for the present number of *The Journal.* In the words of our gifted and energetic Secretary, who has gallantly come to my aid, " Colonel Harvey gave a general and humorous disquisition revolving around the idea of diversions."

THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

December 15*th*, 1922.

Prior—SIR ERNEST WILD, K.C., M.P.

Guests of Honour—LADY WILD, LADY ROBINSON, MISS EVA MOORE, AND MISS MONA CANAN.

Among the Friars and Guests were: Friar H. E. Alden: Mrs. Alden, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. James; Friar Percy Alden: Mrs. Percy Alden, Miss Margaret Alden, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Goodenough; Friar Goldfinch Bate: Mrs. Goldfinch Bate, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Palk, Mr. J. H. Watts; Friar W. Gurney Benham: Mrs. W. Gurney Benham; Friar G. B. Burgin: Mrs. G. B. Burgin; Friar Dr. Leslie Burgin: Mrs. Leslie Burgin, Miss G. Kilner, Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Burgin, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Burgin, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Johnson; Friar The Hon. Gilbert Coleridge: Hon. Mrs. Gilbert Coleridge; Friar C. D. Cross: Mrs. C. D. Cross; Friar Canon Wesley Dennis: Mrs. Wesley Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. P. Hughes Jones; Friar L. H. Falck: Mrs. L. H. Falck, Mrs. Dorothy Slinger, Mr. Lionel Flack, Miss Shelley Calton; Friar Cyril Gamon: Mrs. Gamon; Friar Harry Jones: Mrs. Harry Jones; Friar Lindley Jones: Mrs. Lindley Jones, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Stanley-Stone, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Seares, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lindley Jones, Miss Lindley Jones; Friar W. H. Kesteven: Miss P. Cooke; Friar John Lane: Mrs. Lane, Mrs. C. H. Hart, Mrs. Hensham, Mr. Benrimo, Mr. Dill-Sutherland; Friar A. D. Power: Sir George Lenthal Cheatle, K.C.B., C.V.O., F.R.C.S., Lady Cheatle, Lady Guggisberg, C.B.E., Miss L. D. Power, Mr. and Mrs. Ulric Hopton; Friar N. D. Power: Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Thornton, Lt.-Col. W. A. Greenley, D.S.O., C.M.G., Mrs. Greenley, Miss Power; Friar Algernon Rose: Mrs. Algernon Rose, Mrs. Makower, Miss Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gribble, Mr. T. Simpson Pedler, Miss Delepine; Friar Harold Shaylor: Mrs. Harold Shaylor, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie S. Mills; Friar Joseph Shaylor: Miss Shaylor, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Elliott, Miss Elliott; Friar H. J. Shepard; Friar Sir Arthur Spurgeon: Lady Spurgeon, Miss Edith Bestwick; The Hon. Secretary: Mr. and Mrs. Koelsch, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, Miss Pullen, Mr. Macklow-Smith and Mr. Arthur Meale.

The Prior introduced the toast, " The Spirit of Christmas," by quoting Ebenezer Scrooge's objurgation of the festival. His legal training had taught him not to ignore or underestimate the strength of an opponent's case. Four points in the case against Christmas were—(1) The climatic conditions, which as a rule differed very materially from those depicted on the conventional Christmas card. (2) The feeling that we were passing another milestone in the shortening journey of life. (3) The spectres of Quarter-Day and Income-Tax. (4) Subjection to blackmail in the form of tips—" One for him, and one for he ; But never, Oh never, a one for me."

But the case against Christmas could be effectually answered—answered by the exercise of the " higher thought," by the League of Nations spirit translated into practice (difficult though the translation might be) : in a word, by the spirit of Christ. Scrooge's nephew gave the keynote to the answer, when he described Christmas as a time for folks " to think of those below them ; " for the Christmas spirit impelled its votaries to make at least one home happier, one face brighter, and one heart merrier on Christmas Day. The attitude of Dives to Lazarus had undergone evolution since Christmas Day of one hundred years ago. Then it was an attitude of tyranny, as towards a beast of burden, a spirit enshrined upon the statute book in the Vagrancy Act of the fourth year of George IV and sometimes even now displayed. Good God ! to think of it : that a man having no bed and presuming to lodge in a tent, waggon or barn, or even in the open air, should be " a rogue and a vagabond." In any comparison, the pauper, in those days, had no chance with the pheasant.

The second phase in the evolution was that of patronage—possibly an even more contemptible one than the first, and largely based upon fear. Lazarus, no longer content with his sores and crutch, had begun to grumble and to organize. So Dives threw him a portion of the remnant of his meat, as a bone might be thrown to a dog, partly to pacify him as a sop to Cerberus, and partly to give himself a more comfortable mince-pie-and-milk-punch feeling, especially at Christmas time.

Finally, had come the neo-Georgian attitude, the spirit of comradeship. This might have been begotten to some extent by the fact that Dives was super-taxed, and the circumstance that Lazarus was represented in Parliament ! In any case, men of all creeds and

parties manifested the feeling that we were all fellow-travellers towards the grave, a feeling shown not only at Christmas time, but permeating the whole year. With most, the Spirit of Christmas was a social not a socialistic spirit. Thus, in the heart of every decent man and woman, there was a conviction that the treatment of the question of the unemployed, should not be merely by way of avoiding disturbance of the peace or rebellion, but a giving effect to the consciousness that we were all of one flesh and blood.

He commended the more humane treatment of criminals, and especially the greater leniency towards first offenders, now happily in vogue, making particular reference to the work of the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society. There might, of course, be a danger that, with the swing of the pendulum, from being brutal, we might become maudlin and sentimental, thinking too much of the criminal, and too little of the victim and the interests of society. It was, however, matter for congratulation that we had at least shed the spirit which treated Lazarus either with tyranny or with comtemptuous patronage. The Whitefriars sweetened their wine with sympathy for those who, broken by fortune, bowed the head and raised the glass to " The Spirit of Christmas."

Mr. S. R. Littlewood, as one " broken by fortune and dwelling in Alsatia," rose with diffidence to propose the toast of " The Ladies." He had been startled to find that a body he had imagined to be so expressly monastic, was entertaining those angelic beings. If they had to appear before a Recorder in paradise and answer for it, he supposed escape might be found through a legal quibble. For there was no agreement as to what constituted " a lady." " Lady," said one dictionary, " is a courtesy title, bestowed on the wives of knights, baronets, barons, viscounts, earls, and marquesses. It is also applied to any well-dressed woman ; *but this use of the word is a vulgarism.*" His own little daughter's definition at breakfast that morning was that " a lady is anyone who is not a gentleman," a profound answer which, he could not help reflecting, would be true, if all male creatures were everything they should be. On this particular matter we might learn a great deal from the stage, which did teach, as nothing else could, many indefinable things that were not explained by dictionaries, or out of the mouths of babes and sucklings. An undoubted " lady " was present that evening, his fellow-guest, Miss Eva Moore, a lady on the stage and off the stage,

who had broken down the old idea that a fine artist could not brighten society to their mutual benefit. Referring to the presence beside him of Mr. Jack Esmond who " would carry on her spirit and his father's, the speaker gave the toast, " The Ladies."

Miss Eva Moore did not quarrel with anything Mr. Littlewood had said ; if fact, she rather liked nice things to be said about her. It did us all good to know that people were thinking kindly about us, and saying nice things ; it added immensely to the joy of life, in which praise was a wonderful factor. She recalled how " long ago " Sir Arthur Pinero contributed largely to the enormous success of a play, by the praise be bestowed on the leading lady at the end of the first act of a new piece. During one of her early engagements in London, there was in the company, a dear and delightful old gentleman. " At least, I thought he was old ; when you are very young anything over twenty-five is very middle-aged. He had a charming smile and always a cheering word, and was very helpful and kind to me as a beginner. Next week my ' little girl ' will be making her first appearance in pantomine, and that same old gentleman will also be a member of the company, just the same as he was when I met him ' hundreds of years ago ' (George Sheldon), a living proof of what theatre life does for many of us, giving us continual youth and energy. I believe it was the variety of the work that brought this about. It is amazing the amount of things actresses are supposed to know and be able to do. Taking the chair for the League of Nations, supporting the Lunacy Bill or Divorce Reform, writing 5,000 words for a Christmas number ' on any subject you like,' these were samples of the requests that might come by telephone any morning, or, best of all, ' Oh, Miss Moore, you don't know me, but can you tell me where I can get a baby ? ' It is not vanity which causes us to accede to many of these requests, for it generally means that some collection is swelled by our presence and appeal. And it really is not much fun."

" Trying to speak is very nervous work, as I found particularly during a visit to Canada with my husband in 1920, when we were entertained practically everywhere by colleges, clubs and societies, and I was generally the only woman present. The welcome we had was simply wonderful ; and that is what I appreciate here to night, the warmth of the welcome the Whitefriars have given the ladies, and myself in particular. It is an enormous help to feel that

people like the Friars not only appreciate our professional work, but consider it worth while to invite us to their Christmas festival."

Friar the Hon. Gilbert Coleridge proposed the toast of "The Prior," who had made a fine figure in so many departments of life, so ably assisted, in many of them, by Lady Wild. Sir Ernest had even laid a small posy on the altar of the Muses. From the knowledge of him personally, from his whole career and from what he had said that night, they might be sure that in the post to which he had recently been appointed, their Prior would temper justice with mercy.

The Prior briefly explained to the Guests, that in general, the Whitefriars did not understand what it was to move votes of thanks to one another. In Anderton's Hotel in Fleet Street, where their less civilised gatherings were held, they never praised one another: rather they said uncivil things to one another—by way of kindness. He took that opportunity of tendering an apology for having done what no good Christmas chairman ought to do. He was afraid that in the greater part of his speech he had, as it was sometimes vulgarly called, "talked shop." By way of excuse, he might explain that the Whitefriars never had debates: they had conversations; and to these they invited only men who understood what they were talking about. Such Friars as the Prior called upon, then offered such remarks as they might deem relevant: if not relevant, they were not very well received. On that principle, having been exalted to the office of Prior for the evening, he had thought it useless to talk about things he did not understand, and had therefore "talked shop."

REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

The Annual Meeting was held at Anderton's Hotel on February 23rd, Friar Joseph Shaylor in the Chair. The report and Balance Sheet were presented and passed as follows :—

The Committee report that during the year 1922, there were ten events, namely eight dinners to Club Guests at Anderton's and the Ladies' dinners in May and at Christmas. The guests at the first named gatherings were :—The Rt. Hon. Lord Ullswater, Sir Basil Thomson, Viscount Milner, Charles B. Cochran, The Rt. Hon. Lord Meston, Major " Ian Hay " and the American Ambassador. The eighth Guest, Mr. Hilaire Belloc, was unfortunately prevented from attending, and the discussion for that evening was opened by Mr. George Whale. The topics discussed were :—" Parliament and its Future," " Our Secret Service System," " The Future of Egypt," " What's Wrong with the Theatre ? " " Can We Satisfy India ? " " The Truth about Authors." Colonel Harvey's subject was a literary diversion and the topic on Mr. Belloc's night was, " The Puzzle of the Elections."

The guests at the Ladies' Dinner in May were :—Miss Lillah McCarthy, Miss Rosita Forbes and Lord Hewart of Bury. The principal guest at the Christmas dinner was Miss Eva Moore.

The Committee record with deep regret the death of Lord Northcliffe, who had been a member of the Club for thirty years, and had continued to take an interest in it.

The Committee were re-elected with the exception that Friar St. John Adcock takes the place of Friar W. H. Helm, who has become a country member.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1922.

RECEIPTS

		£	s.	d.
To	Balance at Bank, November 23rd, 1921	167	0	5
,,	Subscriptions	214	4	0
,,	Entrance Fees	6	6	0
,,	Interest	8	4	3
,,	Dinner Receipts	187	19	3
		£583	13	11

EXPENDITURE

		£	s.	d.
By	Postage	17	10	7
,,	Stationery, etc.	34	3	1
,,	Journal	34	1	9
,,	Rent and Insurance	65	4	0
,,	Dinner Expenses	247	14	0
,,	List of Members	11	15	0
,,	Sundries	7	11	7
,,	Balance at Bank, 7th December, 1922	165	13	11
		£583	13	11

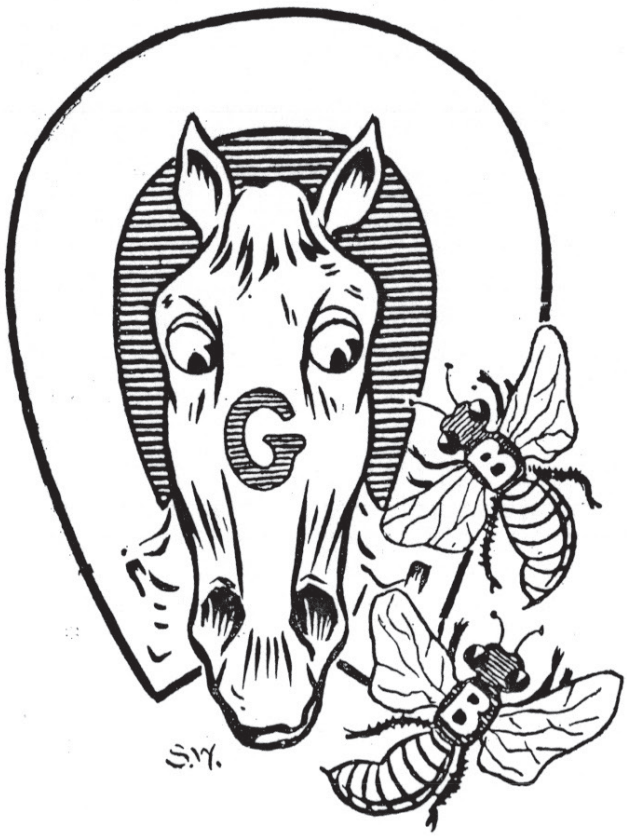
Audited and found correct,

ALGERNON ROSE
WALTER B. SLATER } *Hon. Auditors.*

5th January, 1923.

(*Signed*) A. D. POWER,
Hon. Treasurer,

7th December, 1922.



CLUB NOTES.

" Gents all," as Robert says on making his usual speech when receiving his Christmas " tip," I fear that this number of the Club Journal is more distinguished by what it does not contain than what is in it. Unfortunately, through stress of circumstance, I omitted to keep the Journal up to date as we went along. Then came the moving of my household gods and goddess, and a period of protracted anxiety as to where I was to find another home. When I again turned to the Journal after many moons, lo, a good deal of the " copy," as I have already explained, was not. I " talked the sun adown the skies," with my friend Friar Secretary Shansfield, and we sorrowfully agreed to do our best to minimise the misfortune which had so undeservedly overtaken men who are, or should be " constant in well doing."

" To resoom."

The death of Friar Robert Eadon Leader, at North Mount, Whetstone, removed a well-known figure in journalistic circles of the 'eighties and 'nineties.

Born in 1839, he became joint editor and proprietor, with his brother, of the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent*, a sturdy Liberal paper founded by his father, Robert Leader. He also played a prominent part in the affairs of the Press Association, and twice stood for a seat in Parliament in the Liberal interest. In 1893 Friar Leader retired from the editorship of the paper and came to London, where he entered the Press Gallery of the House of Commons. His later life was spent in retirement in the north of London, where he devoted much time to writing "A History of the Cutlers' Company in Hallamshire." Other works of interest were "Reminiscences of Old Sheffield," "Sheffield in the Eighteenth Century," and "Life of J. A. Roebuck, M.P." He was a past President of the British Archæological Association, and attended its meetings regularly.

* * * *

TWO AUTHORS WEDDED.

Friar George Whale and Miss S. C. W. Stephens.

A wedding of interest to the legal and literary world took place when Friar George Whale and Miss Sophia Charlotte Winifred Stephens, the author, were married at Essex Church, The Mall, Kensington.

Friar Whale became a solicitor in 1872, and practised in Woolwich, of which borough he was Mayor in 1908–9. He retired from practice in 1913. He unsuccessfully contested Marylebone in 1892 and Oxford City in 1906 and 1910 as a candidate for Parliament.

He was one of the founders of the Omar Khayyam and Pepys clubs, and is the author of "Greater London and its Government" and "Essays in Johnson Club Papers."

Miss Stephens has written and lectured on French literature and history. She edited "The Book of France" in 1915 in aid of French sufferers from the war, and "The Soul of Russia" in 1916.

With his customary geniality, Friar Clement K. Shorter represented the Friars on this auspicious occasion.

Friar Alexander Paul writes to Friar Secretary Shansfield, narrating his receipt of costly gifts which rival the jewels of "Tooting Common's" sepulchre:—"I have now gone into retirement,

as becomes a man of my years (I am now in my 72nd). The Lever Brothers comrades treated me handsomely, and gave us a fine send-off with costly presents—gold watch to me, silver rose bowl to Mrs. Paul and a brooch (amethyst and pearls), besides travelling stationery case from the Co-partners' Club, who gave to me, as their late Chairman, a Corona typewriter—a beautiful compact folding-up and portable machine—I daresay you have seen the thing. Now we hear that from the surplus of the presentation fund a luminous travelling clock is coming to Mrs. Paul and a silver cigarette case to myself.

* * * *

A BIRRELL STORY.

Mr. Birrell declares that the most embarrassing position in which he ever found himself was in a third-class railway carriage some years ago. Jumping in as the train was moving, he sat down hurriedly next a little girl in a shawl. He glanced at her after a minute or two and noticed that she was unhappy and regarding him with no great favour. Then it dawned on him that he was sitting upon her newspaper. "Here my dear," said the kindly Mr. Birrell at once, pulling it from under him, "I'm sorry."

Still the child did not seem satisfied; but she said nothing till the train stopped, when, rising to get out, she asked meekly, "Please sir, may I have my fried fish?"

* * * *

Friar Haldane Macfall writes me: "I have finished my big book on the After War, as the sequel to the book in the middle of the war: 'Germany at Bay.'

"Was very ill last summer, unfortunately for the book; but am fit and well again, though we don't get younger every day. That is, I think, why one watches with a strange affection over the footsteps of the young bloods who think."

And now, with a new session which has opened in the most auspicious way, I hope to capture our recalcitrant reporters, and make them do justice to the brilliant utterances of distinguished Friars.

G. B. B.

FRIAR JOSEPH SHAYLOR'S REPORT OF OUR BOOKS IN 1922.

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