Crouch End Branch—19, The Broadway. MANOR FARM DAIRY, LIMITED. Chief Office—Manor Farm, Highgate.

DEATH OF THE REV ROBERT SPEARS.

The death is announced of the Rev. Robert Spears, minister of the Unitarian Christian Church, Highgate. Mr. Spears was one of the best known ministers in the Unitarian denomination, his whole life having been devoted to the spread of the religious views held by that body. The greater part of his ministry has been in London, but he previously held pastorates at Sunderland and Stockton-on-Tees. For nearly seven years he filled the office of secretary of the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, whose central offices are in Essex-hall, Essex-street, Strand. In 1876 he became the founder and editor of "The Christian Life," a weekly newspaper published at Essex Hall. He remained the editor to the day of his death, which took place on Saturday in his 74th year, after an illness of about two months. His activities in the furtherance of the Unitarian cause were multitudinous and unremitting. He was the author of a Unitarian handbook, which was a repertory of scriptural texts and arguments in favour of Unitarian doctrine. His name was well known and respected among members of his religious body, not only in this country, but in America. He was the founder, and many years editor, of "The Christian Freeman," a monthly Unitarian magazine. Through his instrumentality, many thousands of the works of Dr. Channing have been put into circulation in cheap editions.

In this week's "Christian Life" appears an exhaustive and deeply interesting obituary notice—it has been written by one who has been associated for sixteen years with Mr. Spears in the editorship of his paper—from which we are enabled to give several extracts, but before doing so it is interesting to note the "most interesting piece of autibiography" he wrote in 1891, when there had fallen under his notice complaints of certain ministers in the Unitarian body that they felt their "usefulness handicapped by the name." In that article which was written "in no egotistical spirit, but from a profound assurance that we would be committing a great mistake if we ever entertained the idea of hauling down our denominational flag," he said:—

"For forty years I have borne no name but that of a Unitarian minister; and if I had other forty to live, or to live life over again, no other profession would be mine, whatever office or honour or emolument might be within my reach. I was once asked by a deputation from a Congregational church, one of some mark, to take charge of their church. The deputation told me that they were as much Unitarian as myself. My reply was, I must always call my teaching Unitarian. This closed the negotiation. I call a spade a spade: and it will be found by experience, that however people in general dislike the name Unitarian, they dislike 'dodging' with names still more."

It is in his own autobiography that Mr. Spears tells how he came to Highgate. He wrote:—"My removal to Highgate five years ago was necessitated by the founding, in conjunction with Miss Matilda Sharpe, of Channing House School. It was only right that a Unitarian Church should exist there, with some eighty pupils from Unitarian families. The hall which we built became too small for our congregation, so in 1890 we opened a fine building that is now frequently nearly filled with worshippers; and the hall is turned into a free reading room and library, one of the most successful institutions of the kind in London. We declare in large letters, on both buildings, that we are Unitarians; notwithstanding this, the members of all sects and parties gather round our thirty tables; a more pleasing sight than our reading-room it would be difficult to meet with. In view of these facts, I am amazed that any of our people should shun the name Unitarian, or imagine that it impairs their usefulness."

Here is how the rev. gentleman himself sums the whole matter up:—"Forty years ago I entered on my duties with a sense I was called to some work of this kind, and yet I felt I had no special aptitudes, had no college or ministerial training, no family prestige, and with the disadvantage of a northern dialect or brogue. Others have no such disadvantages to struggle against. An open door to usefulness, much more so than I have ever known, may be theirs. I have said, and repeat the words, if I had life to live over again, it would be done with the old name, 'a Unitarian minister,' and nothing I know of would win me from that straight line of duty. I have not simply founded or recovered to life a dozen churches, and established nine Sunday schools and some journals, and helped into existence two or three other useful institutions; but I could tell how, with the help of God, I have been the means of sorrows lessened, of joys heightened, of lives made more bright and pure, of hearts made more strong, of homes made happier, and of gratitude expressed a thousand times for our gospel of Unitarianism. I do not deny that other ministers, and ministers of Unitarian churches, have done more good work, but I do protest against the idea that the Unitarian name stands in the way of religious and social usefulness. I submit these things most humbly to those who would prefer to extinguish the Unitarian name."

This is the manner in which the writer of the notes in the "Christian Life" speaks of the rev. gentleman:—"His personality was as interesting as his life labours were important. His enthusiasm in any work he undertook was contagious; his sincerity and unselfishness won admiration which expressed itself in moral and material support of his projects. The genuineness of his whole character made a deep impression upon all who had to do with him. It seemed to beam forth like light from his frank, manly, and open countenance. His genial, happy, cheerful demeanour was an outcome of the optimism which he had learned from Jesus Christ. He seemed to bring sunshine into every circle which he entered. and noting the fine contour of his head, one concluded at once that in some one or other sphere of activity he would be a man of commanding influence. The conclusion was verified by the fact. His home life was admirable and beautiful. In his earthly dwelling he 'walked with a perfect heart.' It was a dwelling of uninterrupted peace, harmony, and love. To wife and family he was in every important sense a tower of strength and comfort. His energy and persistency of purpose may sometimes have been regarded by some as indicative of an overbearing temper. This was a great mistake. Whilst firmly holding his own opinions, he had the sincerest respect for the opinions of others, however they might differ from his own, so long as they were held honestly."

ASSAULT ON A TRAM CONDUCTOR.

Before Mr. Cluer, at North London, Charles Little, 23, horsekeeper, of Hampden-road, Upper Holloway, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting Thomas Alston, a tramcar conductor, of Hornsey-road.—Prosecutor said that prisoner was a passenger in his car on Saturday evening. He commenced singing, and was asked to desist or leave the car. He then used bad language, and was put out. Later on prisoner came upon the car and struck him (prosecutor) behind the left ear, at the same time, remarking, "You are one of the old servants."—Mr. Cluer: What did he mean?—The conductor: I was in the strike, and he was one of the horsekeepers.—Prisoner: I was not working for the company until after the strike, and then at the Kingsland-road Granary. Prisoner declared that he was doing no harm. He did have a glass or two, and it was true he was humming a song. He did not use bad language. He asked why the conductor allowed him on the car and sold him a return ticket if he was drunk?—Mr. Cluer: Probably the symptoms were not developed when you got on.—Prisoner: And he knocked me off the car and drove on. I waited for him until he came back, and asked him for his badge number. He said "You can't have it," and then tried to push me off again. Here perhaps a blow was struck, but the conductor was not marked.—Mr. Cluer: It must be clearly impressed upon all, that if there is a trade dispute between employers and men, no man has a right to obstruct his fellow worker as a consequence. I believe all that the conductor has said, and that you behaved badly. Pay 40s., or go to gaol for 14 days.

Obstructions on the Public Highway.—At the Lord Mayor's Court on Monday, before the Common Serjeant and a common jury, Mr. Philip Christopher Sayers, manager of a firm of auctioneers and surveyors, of 1, Eton-villas West, Alexandra-grove, Finchley, recovered from Mr. George Talbot, contractor, £30 for personal injuries sustained in consequence of defendant's negligence. On the evening of November 3rd plaintiff was hurrying along Mansion House-place to catch a train at Broad-street Station, when he came in contact with some obstruction, and fell to the ground. That obstruction was a plank that had been put in position across two drain pipes in front of some works, and the negligence was that no light was placed on any of the woodwork, and that the whole of the narrow passage excepting the footway was blocked up. Plaintiff was seriously injured, sustaining a slight concussion of the brain, and a severe contusion of the knee. He was away from business for about a month, and for some time afterwards suffered inconvenience by reason of the injury to his knee. His salary at the rate of £300 a year was paid by his employers during his absence, but he had lost commission. He claimed the money thus lost, and whatever the jury thought he was entitled to for the pain and suffering he had undergone.—The defence was that the thoroughfare was sufficiently lighted.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Mr. Littler, C.B., Q.C., presided over the meeting of the Middlesex County Council, when there were present Mr. Montagu Sharpe, vice-chairman, Lord Jersey, Sir F. Dixon-Hartland, M.P., Messrs. H. C. Stephens, M.P., C. F. Cory-Wright, H. Burt, T. Fraser Black, A. M. Forbes, E. C. Price, A. Johnston, J. W. Ford, W. T. Paulin, H. Nield, C. Deakin, J. C. Barfield, J. A. Adams, W. Regester, W. P. Wood, etc.

A DEATH.

At the commencement of the business the Chairman said he was sure he was expressing the feelings of Councillors when he said they had heard with regret since their last meeting of the death of their excellent colleague, Mr. J. Warburton of Hendon. Subsequently on the proposition of Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Wright, and supported by the Chairman, a vote of condolence was passed with the relations.

THE DAY OF ELECTION.

Edmonton District Council wrote asking that the election day should be Saturday, 25th March, instead of Monday, 27th March, in their particular district.

In some discussion it was pointed out that a similar demand was refused last year, and as there was no request from the Board of Guardians to make a like alteration, to accede to the desire would mean that the elections would, in Edmonton, be spread over two days.

Mr. Nield said that in his district a most advanced member of the District Council stated that heavier polls were recorded when elections were not held on Saturday. To fix a Saturday meant to practically disfranchise the shopkeepers.—Not agreed to.

FINANCE.

The Chairman cordially welcomed Sir F. Dixon-Hartland, chairman of the Finance Committee, on his return in restored health.

There not being sufficient money in the Bank to meet accounts ordered for payment, it was resolved to instruct the Clerk to press the Guardians of Edmonton and Brentford Unions for payment, they owing respectively £13,325 and £5,455 in respect of the rate made in October last.

LOANS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Hendon and other District Councils having inquired if the County Council were prepared to lend to them certain sums under the powers conferred by the Middlesex Act of 1898, the Finance Committee mentioned that they had referred the subject to a sub-committee for consideration and report.

ESTIMATES.

At the request of the Highways Committee the Finance Committee submitted the following estimates for the year ending 31st March 1900:—Maintenance of main roads, £65,000 (same as last year); £8,000 as a contribution to highways not main roads (an excess of £1,000 over the 1898 estimate); £2,000 for repairs to county bridges; and £6,000 for main road footpaths (an increase of £1,000).

APPOINTMENTS.

On the recommendation of the Highways Committee the following appointments were made:—Mr. Wm. Ashbee, assistant surveyor to the Acton District Council; and Mr. Thomas Luff Perkins, surveyor under the Bristol sanitary authority, to be assistant or divisional surveyors at a salary of £250 (175 applications were received); Mr. Annett Hibbert, of Canterbury, to be draughtsman in the County Surveyor's department at a salary of £175 (17 applications); and Mr. C. H. Bradshaw, of Tottenham, to be general indoor assistant in the County Surveyor's department at a salary of £130 (60 applications).

OPEN SPACES.

On the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee the Council conditionally agreed to contribute towards the acquisition of open spaces as follows:—£2,000 to lay out the "Chestnuts" Estate, St. Anne's-road, Tottenham; and £1,000 towards the acquisition of ten acres of land in Chiswick. Applications from Ealing and Willesden are still under the consideration of the committee.

COUNTY COUNCIL POWERS.

The Council, on the advice of the Parliamentary Committee, asked Mr. County Alderman Bigwood to introduce in the present session, a Bill (authorising County Councils to promote Bills in Parliament) similar to that which he had already endeavoured to get passed in previous years.

LIGHT RAILWAYS.

The Parliamentary Committee reported that a special committee had had an interview with a London County Council sub-committee in order to discuss the question of the light railway schemes affecting the two counties. Subsequently the London sub-committee addressed a letter to the Clerk of the County Council of Middlesex stating that the time had arrived when the two County Councils should consider whether they should not themselves proceed to take steps to carry out the provisions of the Light Railways Act, 1896, so far as concerned their respective counties. The committee having carefully considered the whole subject, recommended the adoption of a resolution to the effect that the County Council should avail themselves of the provisions of the Act, and that it should be referred to the committee to report as to how to give effect to the resolution in the best interests of the county, and having special regard to such schemes as seemed required in the near future.—Moved by Mr. Bigwood, and carried.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

At the request of the Technical Education Committee, the Finance Committee submitted an estimate, which was passed, for £15,450, to carry on the work of technical education for the year ending 31st March, 1900. This amount compared with £12,700 for the year ending the 31st inst. The principal items making up the £15,450 were as follows: £6,000 local committees: £3,000 salaries and travelling expenses of lecturers; and special grants to local committees for centralized work, £2,000.

THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

In accordance with notice, the Chairman moved "That a committee be appointed, consisting of chairmen and vice-chairmen of all the committees of the Council, together with three other aldermen and three other Councillors, to consider and report whether any, and, if so what alteration should be made in the selection of members of the several committees." Mr. Littler said that his resolution meant that the committee would watch the effect of the scheme agreed to in May last on the proposition of the Vice-Chairman. If the plan worked satisfactorily the committee would say so, and there the matter would end; if on the other side it worked unsatisfactorily the committee would make suggestions, and a better method would be found for 1900.

Mr. Burt regarded the proposal as an interference with the rights of representatives from the Parliamentary division. The principle of equal representation on those committees had been adopted, and the members from the several divisions did not want any control by a committee. Besides, the representatives could better tell whom they would prefer and who would better represent them than could a committee of the representatives of other divisions.

The Chairman (interposing) thought Mr. Burt was at the present moment beating the air. The appointment of a committee committed the Council to nothing.

Mr. Burt: I think it does, and I shall oppose the motion as an interference with the rights of the representatives of the Parliamentary divisions.

Mr. Stephens felt that to appoint a committee to investigate and report on a particular matter was in itself a mark of dissatisfaction. For himself he was pleased with the arrangement which Hornsey had adopted in the past. He believed that was the feeling of a great number of members, and that was why the Council had determined to adopt in all the Parliamentary divisions a similar plan, the representatives of each division meeting together for the purpose of making selections.

The Chairman said there had been dissatisfaction, and one member who had resigned had, he believed, done so on account of not being chosen on any committee.

Mr. Hardy: No, sir, Mr. Chancellor has resigned because of ill-health.

Mr. Wood pointed out that the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the committees were mostly drawn from the western portion of the county. Therefore, with the northern and eastern divisions not fairly represented, it was not a body to form a committee of selection.

Mr. Nield agreed that the northern portion, with considerably over half the population of the county, did not get equitable treatment in this matter. He had no designs on a chair, or even a vice-chair, but the representatives of the northern part with three vice-chairs were not fairly represented. True, they had Mr. Littler, but he being chairman of the Council was placed out of action. On the other hand they had Mr. Regester holding five positions and reminding one of the "Lord High Admiral of Everything." (Laughter). He should certainly like to see a re-arrangement of the chairs and vice-chairs.

Lord Jersey thought they could not divide the county into quarters in this way. When they came on the Council they came as the representatives of the county as a whole, and strongly he advocated the choice of the committees being with the Council.

It having been agreed to make the committee more representative—to include chairmen and vice-chairmen of committees and three representatives from each Parliamentary division—and not to appoint it until after the next annual meeting, the motion was carried by 31 votes to eight.

THE PROVISION OF POLYTECHNICS.

In accordance with notice given by Mr. Adams, and signed by nine members, including Messrs. Burt, Nield, and Johnston, he moved "That the following resolution of the County Council relating to the Willesden Polytechnic extension, passed at the meeting of the Council on the 26th day of January, 1899, be, and is hereby rescinded.—'Willesden Polytechnic extension.—' That the County Council agree to contribute two-thirds (not exceeding £6,166 13s. 4d. of the cost of the extension of the Willesden Polytechnic, provided that the remaining one-third be contributed from other sources.'" Mr. Adams, in moving his motion, said this question affected the whole of the districts in the county. At Willesden they had 865 class entries at the beginning of the year. The buildings in which the classes were conducted were overcrowded, and if the sanitary inspector were to inspect the buildings they would be in a difficult position. He would have no difficulty in justifying the expenditure in Willesden. This year there was to be £15,000 spent on technical education, and if it was to be distributed as before then Willesden would not get anything like its fair share. What Willesden asked was for an enlargement of the building only.

Mr. H. Burt in seconding, said the motion it was sought to rescind represented a new departure, and was ill-conceived and unjust. It was quite new to say that if a district put down a sovereign then the Council would put down two. That was the grandiloquent way in which Mr. Regester came to Hornsey a few months ago. He (Mr. Burt) would put the matter on a county basis, and not as affecting any particular district. The Government in giving the money wished that it should be used for the purposes of technical education, and that could only properly be given in a home—centralized in populated districts. Now there was a considerable amount of waste in the county, and some restriction should be placed upon the lectures, and the whole question of technical education properly considered. They claimed that the money belonged to the districts, but as it was a great deal of money was frittered away in lectures at Board schools situated in sparsely populated districts.

Mr. Regester, chairman of the Technical Education Committee, admitted that the Willesden Polytechnic was far too small. Members did not appreciate the great cost of running polytechnics. There would not be enough to run one, and they wanted to run four. They had the nucleus of one at Tottenham, and the nucleus of another at Willesden. They had just bought a building at Chiswick, and another one was wanted at Hornsey. He went to Hornsey, as Mr. Burt had said, as a missionary to persuade them that education was needed, and that the Council might help them. His committee was at the division of the ways. He asked "Were they going to put up a lot of small buildings or four polytechnics with education classes, pupil teacher centres, and a strong social centre?" (Hear, hear). There was not the ghost of self-help in Willesden. In London prizes were given by local gentlemen, but in Willesden that was being done out of the Science and Art grant. A little while ago his committee were asked to pay for the teas for persons invited to the polytechnic to make it known. This they refused to do, and sent it back. He had seen Dr. Gamett, the chief of the London Technical Education Committee, and he had obtained some figures from him. For instance, in Woolwich and Plumstead there was a population of 100,000, which was about the same as Hornsey and South Hornsey, and Willesden. They must remember that when this technical education grant was gone they could not levy a rate, but the District Councils might do so, he believed, up to a penny in the pound. The whole thing was now done by the county. At Woolwich, Mr. Regester was understood to say, the expenditure ran into about £10,000 a year. He believed that the County Council should spend all the money from this grant for technical education. (Hear, hear). The committee would consider the whole matter, and he moved an amendment asking them to report upon the question of the provision and endowment of polytechnics in the county. If that was passed he would promise them a full report. (Applause).

Mr. Wood seconded the amendment, and said without a polytechnic at all at Hornsey they had nearly 800 students. Hornsey was a thickly populated district, with a very large proportion of working men. A great injustice was being done to Hornsey by asking them to contribute a third of the cost of a building. They, the local committee, of which he was the chairman, went to the District Council, and they said that the County Council had a large sum of money which they must spend before the District Council helped them. So that, between the two, they were between the devil and the deep sea. (Laughter).

Mr. Fraser Black asked if the committee would not consider if all the grant should not be spent for this purpose? They were held up as being the most miserable Council on this subject of technical education, they devoting the smallest amount to it of any such bodies.

The Chairman: And who waste less than any other?

Mr. Fraser Black: Many people think that Middlesex has wasted a great deal.

The Chairman thought the amendment left it open.

The amendment was thereupon agreed to unanimously, the resolution not even being put.

THE MUZZLING ORDER.

Notice of the following motion had been given: "That in the opinion of this Council the Order as to the muzzling of dogs in the county of Middlesex should be rescinded, considering that the Order has been rescinded in other counties adjoining, and no real benefit can result unless the whole of Great Britain is subject to the same legislation, and that this recommendation be sent to the President of the Board of Agriculture."

The motion was withdrawn on the Vice-Chairman announcing that he had a letter from the Board stating that they must decline to withdraw the Order.

MUSWELL HILL WARD.

On the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee it was agreed to form in the Hornsey urban district a new polling station for the purposes of Parliamentary elections. In fact, it was determined to form Muswell Hill Ward into a separate polling district, the place of polling being at or near St. James's Schools, Fortis Green, the district being as follows:—"That part of the urban district of Hornsey which lies north of the Highgate polling district, and west of an imaginary line commencing at the boundary of the district at the eastermost corner of St. James's, Clerkenwell, parish, detached, thence running in a south-westerly direction along the foot of the southern side of the embankment of the Alexandra Palace branch of the Great Northern Railway to St. James's-lane, thence in a southerly direction to the north-east corner of the Highgate polling district."

INCREASE OF GUARDIANS.

On the recommendation of the joint committee of Essex, Herts, and Middlesex as to the Edmonton Union, it was agreed that the following alterations should be made in the number of Guardians at, and after the date of the next triennial elections: Hornsey to have nine instead of seven; Tottenham to have eight instead of seven; and Wood Green to have four instead of three.

COUNTY RATE BASIS.

The county rate basis was fixed at £4,038,037, the net increase being £140,268. In the Edmonton Union the county rate basis will be as follows:—Hornsey, £457,213 (increase of £8,868); South Hornsey, £92,293 (decrease of (£749); Tottenham £339,920 (increase of £8,521); Wood Green, £155,427 (increase of £1,318), etc.

VIOLENT SCENE ON STAMFORD HILL.

At North London George Morris, 28, painter, of North-grove, St. Ann's-road, Tottenham, was charged with assaulting P.-c. 192 N. and Marshall Bagge, 22, carpenter, of Shrubbery-road, West Green, was charged with attempting to rescue Morris from lawful custody.—P.-c. 192 N stated that at 12.30 a.m. he was on duty on Stamford Hill when he saw prisoner Morris, who was drunk and disorderly. As he was making use of obscene language, and would not go away, witness took him into custody. Bagge at once attempted to effect a rescue, but Police-constable Ruegg came up and arrested him. The first prisoner then became very violent, threw witness down, kicked him in the chest, and endeavoured to clutch him. A passer-by blew witness's whistle, and other assistance arrived. Bagge was then removed by two constables to the station, but Morris still continued violent, and it took five constables to get him to the station. Previous to that he had to be held on the ground for 20 minutes.—Morris said he was a respectable man, and had never been in trouble before.—Mr. Fordham fined Bagge 20s., but he told Morris that he was a most violent fellow, and he sent him to prison for a month, with hard labour.—Morris clung to the dock, and begged the magistrate to give him the chance of paying a fine.—The magistrate declined.—It took four officers to remove him.

While under the influence of chloroform, administered preparatory to an operation at the Metropolitan Hospital, in Kingsland-road, Charles Balls, 54, of Green-lanes, suddenly succumbed, artificial respiration being resorted to in vain. "Natural causes" was the verdict returned at the inquiry.

PRESENTATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. G. O. BARRATT.

Festivities in connection with Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Barratt's golden wedding celebrations were continued on Saturday, when a banquet was given in the main show room at the head establishment at Wood Green by the male employees. Mr. G. W. Barratt presided over a large company, there being in the vice-chairs Messrs. F. Barratt, J. Stennett, S. G. Riskey, A. Scarisbrick, and H. Fairweather. The banquet at an end and loyalty honoured, Mr. M'Namara gave "Our guests—Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Barratt," and in doing so re-echoed the sentiment to be found at the head of the illuminated address about to be presented to Mr. G. O. Barratt that "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." They had assembled to record their appreciation of the many victories Mr. and Mrs. Barratt had won in many hard-fought trade battles. (Applause). They came there to tender their congratulations on that happy event of half a century ago, and on the unique success which had crowned Mr. Barratt's career. (Applause). He had cut out his own path on the principle of honesty, and hedged it with energy and perseverance, traits which were ever inseparable from success in life. (Applause). But behind all this there had been an influence which had frequently led a man to success. Mr. Barratt had had a good and devoted wife, whose advice was always forthcoming at the right time and place, and they saw the same good traits of character in the personalities of all the members of their family. (Applause). Then came the presentation of the framed and illuminated address, which was signed by about 160 employees. In it the hope was expressed that Mr. and Mrs. Barratt might long enjoy the fruits of those lives jointly spent, and rejoicing that they (the signatorees) had so long worked for one who by his own well-directed efforts and by his manifold inventions in confectionery had raised his house to such a high position of popularity, while he (Mr. Barratt) was himself the acknowledged "king of confectioners."—Mr. Barratt, on rising to reply, was received with great cordiality, and addressing his "fellow workers," named some of those whom he saw around him who had worked with him for 40, 36, 35, 28 years and like long periods. His heart was full, and they must not expect a speech from him, but he trusted that all the old servants would continue with the firm as long as he lived, and even after that—(applause)—and that they would then rally round the younger branches of the family. He assured them that he should highly treasure their presentation, both on the part of Mrs. Barratt and himself. (Renewed applause).—The Chairman genially gave "The Employees," wishing all a happy 1899, and Mr. Scarisbrick and Mr. Wakelin replied. The former in an interesting manner eulogised the abilities of the several members of the firm, but while doing that did not forget "the father of the confectionery world," as represented in the guest of the evening.—"The Firm" having been submitted, the Chairman, in answer, hinted at further extensions at Wood Green in the near future.—Other toasts followed.

On Monday the women employees entertained Mr. and Mrs. Barratt. At the banquet Mrs. Stennett presided, supported by Mesdames G. W. Barratt, Mrs. Frank Barratt, and Mrs. Albert Barratt. "Our Guests" were toasted on the proposition of Miss Maud Skeats, and an illuminated address was presented to Mrs. Barratt by Mrs. Green. This address, after some congratulatory expressions, went on to say:—"We fully realise that had it not been for the unceasing perseverance and valuable assistance rendered by you to your husband in the earlier days of the business, which we feel sure he must greatly appreciate, the firm we work for would not have attained its present position, and no doubt though not actively engaged in the business, you still have the welfare of us all at heart. We trust you and your respected husband, the founder of the firm, may be spared to enjoy the mutual affection and confidence that have so brightly characterised your long and happy married life."—With this ceremony the golden wedding celebrations, which have passed off most happily, were brought to a termination.

EDMONTON BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting of the Edmonton Board of Guardians was held on Wednesday, those present being the Revs. D. Fotheringham, J.P. (chairman), S. J. Smith (vice-chairman), E. W. Kempe, G. H. Hodson, F. B. Johnston, and W. W. Haines, Mrs. Short, Mrs. Macy, Mrs. Beasley, Messrs. Wrampling, Green, Broadbank, Betts, Pelling, Toyne, Sanders, Piercy, Pascoe, Robinson, Lynch, Beadle, Hayes, Cole, Ball, Moors, Botterell, Ward, McGee, Ainsley, and Jolly.

APPOINTMENTS.

The Board appointed Mr. W. Inns, the present poor-rate collector for Enfield, to the extra office of vaccination officer for the parish; and promoted Mr. J. Granills, labour master at the Edmonton House, to be relieving officer for Enfield in the place of Mr. Chamberlain, deceased.

CHASE FARM SCHOOLS.

Dr. Barnardo wrote stating that from a visit he recently paid to the Chase Farm Schools, and making all allowances for the special care that had been taken on the appearance of the children in view of the visit of H. M. Inspector, he came away with an excellent impression of the institution. Notwithstanding his opinion was strongly against the system of barrack schools, he was bound to say everything he witnessed was admirable.

The Chairman remarked that this was one of the highest testimonials to the schools he had been privileged to read.

FISHER LADS.

A report was handed in by the Chairman, who with Mr. Jolly and the Clerk had visited Grimsby by order of the Board to inquire into the conditions under which lads apprenticed to the fishing trades lived and worked. The report stated that on the whole the Board need have no hesitation in apprenticing boys to the trade. It was attended with a certain degree of danger, but not more so than many other occupations pursued on land. There was only one abatement from the pleasure of all they saw and heard and that was that it was necessary to labour at sea on the Lord's day, but when in port the crews had their Sundays to themselves.

INCREASE OF MEMBERS.

The Middlesex County Council wrote consenting to the application of the Board for an increase in the number of members for the parishes of Hornsey, Tottenham, and Wood Green.

There was no other business of general interest.

TEN YEARS FOR FINSBURY PARK BURGLARS.

At the Middlesex Sessions on Saturday, John Kennedy, 63, and Charles Anderson, 54, both of whom described themselves as "labourers," were charged with burglary. According to the evidence of Mr. Reid, of Wilberforce-road, Finsbury Park, he went for a Sunday stroll, and on his return found his door fastened. Wondering at this he forced it open. Then he saw that two coats were gone from the hallway. Grasping the situation Mr. Reid sent his wife for the police, and himself awaited events. They came in the persons of Kennedy and Anderson, who descended the stairs wearing the missing coats. On seeing Mr. Reid, Kennedy raised a formidable jemmy, but the householder was too quick, and knocking the ruffian down he wrenched the weapon from him. Then Anderson tried to make a rush, but finding the jemmy in Mr. Reid's hand too hard to tackle, and seeing that the door was fast, beat a retreat to the darkness of the back kitchen. When the police had taken the would-be robbers off it was found that considerable property was packed, though Mr. Reid's timely arrival prevented its removal. The claims of Kennedy and Anderson to the title of labourers was only justified by the police by the amount of hard labour they have performed. Kennedy first began to work "hard" for Her Majesty in 1859, when he went to penal servitude for six years, in 1864 he had seven years, in 1877 fourteen years, and in 1895 three years. Anderson commenced at ten years of age, in 1855, with three months, and went on to terms of three years, five years, ten years, five years (four times running) respectively. Mr. Littler, Q.C., sent each of them to penal servitude again for ten years, to be followed by five years' police supervision.

A Harringay Action.—At the Clerkenwell County Court last week before His Honour Judge Edge, Joseph John Evans and his wife, Harriett Evans, brought an action against John Alexander Barker, 142, Wightman-road, Harringay, to recover the sum of £6 9s. odd, being the balance due to them for the supply of food, etc., to defendant and his wife from June 20th to September 24th, 1898. Mr. Thomas Clarke (Messrs. Edgar Robins and Clarke) appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. Overend was counsel for defendant. Defendant denied his liability, and set up a counter claim of £3 3s. for rent, £2 12s. as an unpaid grocery account to Mr. R. Beeston, Wightman-road Stores, Hornsey. After the case had been gone into very fully, His Honour said there would be a verdict for plaintiffs for the full amount claimed, and for the defendant on the counter-claim for one guinea, for three weeks' rent.

FINSBURY CHORAL ASSOCIATION.

This season's second subscription concert, held under the auspices of the Finsbury Choral Association, proved a decided success, a crowded and enthusiastic audience assembling in the spacious hall of the Northern Polytechnic Institute. Beethoven's cantata "The Ruins of Athens," and the third act of Wagner's "Lohengrin," formed the meritorious programme. The cantata is undoubtedly the legitimate work for a choral society, but to treat opera without acting seemed distinctly a novelty. The result was, however, highly satisfactory. In the cantata the artistes were Miss Marie Duma, Mr. Philip Brozel, and Mr. Henry Bailey, and they being one and all in excellent voice a sufficient guarantee is at once given that the solos were successfully interpreted. The overture was finely played, and the duet, "Gone is the glory," was grandly rendered by Madame Duma and Mr. Henry Bailey, while so well did the choir acquit themselves in the chorus of Dervishes, that a repetition was demanded. Mr. Bailey's qualities as a vocalist were well displayed in the trying recitative, "No more in Athens may the Muses flourish," and the choristers again did themselves infinite credit in their rendering of the chorus, "Where freedom had triumphed no mortal refuses." The cantata was given to the close with a high degree of excellence, the last passages were grandly given. Mr. Bailey's air, "While to the sacred Nile, the crown of Athens' splendour," and the choir's effort "Hail mighty music, hail!" were both given with due effect. In "Lohengrin" the choir took only a small part, the heaviest part of the task falling on Madame Duma and Mr. Brozel, but what Mr. Bailey had to do he did well. It is needless to go into details, but it may be stated that the famous bridal song "Faithful and true, we lead ye forth," was given with the desired effect by the choir, and the charming duet, "The blissful strain is o'er," was rendered by Madame Duma and Mr. Brozel, who imparted into it the desired measure of passionate intensity and dramatic breadth. Mr. Bailey's splendid voice was heard to eminent advantage in the third scene, while Mr. Brozel scored his greatest success in the descriptive air "In distant land by ways remote and hidden." As in the cantata so in "Lohengrin," the wind instruments were too prominent, although, perhaps, the composer's style provided an excuse for their excessive vigour. Throughout the entire performance the "strings" were admirable, both as regards delicacy of tone and expression. Scarcely too much praise can be accorded to the conductor, Mr. Cunningham Woods, M.A., who ably led the entire performance.

CROUCH END SOCIAL UNION.

In thanking Dr. McClure at the conclusion of his lecture on "Comets and Shooting Stars," given before the members on Tuesday evening, the Rev. A. Rowland, LL.B., B.A., who presided, said the evident knowledge of the subject was only equalled by the explicitness in imparting it, and the description was most apt. Commencing with a detailed reference to telescopes, observatories, and telescopic photography, the lecturer enumerated the superstitious fears with which comets were until quite recently regarded by the common people, and showed how, on the configuration and groupings of heavenly bodies, the science of astrology was founded. The orbit of comets is, in shape, either a parabola, hyperbola, or an ellipse; they cross and re-cross the orbit of Jupiter, and they reappear at practically regular intervals. In illustrating the last fact he particularised what is known as Halley's comet, which was seen in 1885, had previously been seen in 1809, and so backwards every 75 or 76 years until the eleventh century. A lantern slide was shown representing Bayeux tapestry worked by Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror, in which is depicted the wonder and consternation experienced by a group of Normans on the comet becoming visible in 1066. Comets in this orbit always present their head to the sun, owing, it is thought, to electrical repulsion between that body and the tail. The earth has passed through tails of comets, the most recent occasion being in 1861, and no detrimental results were noticed. What would happen if the head of a comet and the earth collided was conjectured by the lecturer—oscillation on impact, a luminosity many times greater than sunlight, and then liquefaction of the earth, subsequent events interesting us no more. Meteors and thunderbolts were next dealt with, and then the various showers of shooting stars which have occurred, the last display being in 1866. The lecturer explained by a diagram that these displays are caused by the earth, when moving in its orbit, meeting these constellations moving in their orbit, and ploughing its way through them. At the conclusion of the lecture Mr. Muir announced that the entries for the Eisteddfod had reached the unexpected total of 180.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL FRANCHISE.

The Local Government Committee of the London County Council, after a deliberation of over two years, has brought up a report providing for the extension of the County Council and other franchises so as to include all electors qualified to vote at Parliamentary and local elections, except non-occupying freeholders. The report concluded by a recommendation referring the matter to the Parliamentary Committee, but as the report itself stated that, in the opinion of the solicitor, the Council had no power to spend money in promoting a Bill, Mr. Westacott very properly moved last week that the Government should be approached, and asked to introduce a Bill this session. If the Government do this, and pass it into law, 80,000 voters will be added to the County Council register of electors, the bulk of whom are certainly of "Moderate" opinions. There is one thing in this connection to which we must draw attention. The County Council proposes, whilst enfranchising the service voters and the lodgers, to disfranchise the non-resident freeholders, of whom there are 8,000 in London. Mr. Hayter, who moved an amendment to defeat this proposition, was unfortunately outvoted, but the facts are as he stated, viz., that Parliament is not likely to disfranchise persons it enfranchised as recently as five years ago, and that the principle that taxation and representation should go together, is a liberal and fair one. It certainly is inconsistent with Liberal politics that, while it is sought to impose direct taxation upon owners of land, it should also be proposed to deprive them of a voice in the election of those who will spend the money they contribute, directly or indirectly, to the cost of local government. Happily, the present Government are not likely to tolerate anything as inequitable as the disfranchisement of a whole class, for no better reason than that their political views do not coincide with "Progressive" ideas.

GLEANINGS.

£5,676 four per cent. debenture stock in the Hornsey Gas Company has this week been sold by public auction for £6,933.

The pulpit of the Finsbury Park Congregational Church was last Sunday occupied by the Rev. Silas Hocking, the Rev. Ll. Parsons having been ordered rest at Bournemouth.

It is stated that the position of the new station to be opened by the Great Northern Railway Company, between Church End and East Finchley, will be somewhere near the Convent.

The Finchley District Council have pledged themselves to a scheme of artizans' dwellings. The recommendation, adopted by eight votes to three against, provides for thirty houses near Squire's-lane to be let, one portion at 8s. 6d. and the other at 7s. 6d. per week, each according to the size and accommodation.

The return of the Hornsey-road Baths for the week ending 25th February, 1899, were:—Bathers, 1,751; washers, 625; receipts, £36 14s. 11½d., corresponding with £37 19s. 1½d. in the same period of last year. The total receipts since April 1st have been £4,194 4s. 6d., against £3,776 17s. 5½d. in the same period of 1898.

Mr. Henry Burt was amongst those present at the special court of the Plumbers' Company held in the Guildhall, when a well-deserved compliment was paid to Sir Hugh Owen, the late secretary of the Local Government Board, he being presented with the freedom of that guild in recognition of his conspicuously successful public services.

At the North London Police-court George Saunders, 49, master carman, of Park-avenue, Edmonton, was charged with stealing 14 deal boards, value £1, the property of William Andrews, a builder, of Bounds Green-road, Wood Green, and Mr. Fordham committed accused, who was defended by Mr. C. V. Young, for trial. Bail in £25 was accepted.

"Accidental death" was the verdict returned by the jury who inquired into the deaths of the two children whose bodies were found in a house in St. John's-parade, Hendon, after the fire which broke out on February 11th. The jury expressed the opinion that it was essential the District Council should increase their fire appliances and means of coping with outbreaks.

On Friday the members of the Scribblers' Club held a "miscellaneous" meeting, when several interesting readings were given. Amongst others Mr. Alex. Moeller read an essay by J. K. Jerome, "On being hard up"; Mr. George Archer read "A Meditation on a Broomstick," by Jonathan Swift; and Mr. Tracey "The Celestial Railroad," by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

North London properties are in excellent demand. Under the hammer a long leasehold estate in Palace-road, Crouch End, comprising 21 villa residences held at £147 ground rent, and producing £659 per annum, fetched £6,770, while two leasehold shops in High-street, Stoke Newington, held for 51 years at a ground rent of £30, and let at £175 per annum, obtained £2,900.

"Shifts for a living amongst animals," was the title of an interesting science lecture, delivered by Professor W. B. Bottomley, M.A., F.L.S., in the Finsbury Park Congregational Church, on Tuesday evening. A description was given in an entertaining manner of a few of the many wonderful methods by which animals escape from the intensity of the struggle for existence.

With the thousandth number of the "Girl's Own Paper," published this week, is given a coloured plate, "A Sacrifice of Vanities," from the academy painting by Margaret Dicksee, and a portrait gallery of over a hundred contributors to the "Girl's Own Paper," in which appear photographs of a queen, a princess, and many well-known writers of prose, poetry, and music.

At the Essex Quarter Sessions, Ellen Thomas, 36, who described herself as a lunatic attendant of Enkel-street, Seven Sisters-road, Holloway, was sent to penal servitude for three years for stealing a gold chain, a gold bracelet, and other articles, value £3, the property of Maria Louisa Roper, under circumstances already reported. A number of previous convictions were proved against prisoner.

Dr. Danford Thomas on Friday evening last held an inquiry with reference to the death of Edward Watkins, 61, of 46, Schofield-road, who was found by a milk carrier lying on the pavement in Mount View-road, Crouch Hill. Dr. Dove, who was summoned, pronounced life extinct, and gave the opinion that deceased died from syncope in mounting the hill. "Death from natural causes" was the verdict returned.

On Monday at a meeting of the North Middlesex Photographic Society, Mr. F. A. Bridge gave a lecture on "Holland," illustrated by numerous excellent slides. He interspersed his descriptions with many anecdotes and reminiscences, and kept the audience attentive and amused. He recommended the country for those who would like a holiday abroad. A hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer concluded the proceedings.

At an extraordinary meeting of the Islington Vestry on Friday, the Rev. Preb. Barlow presiding, the annual contracts were entered into, and the tender of Messrs. Wenham and Waters, Ltd., of Croydon, in the sum of £3,082, for the general engineering work in connection with the scheme for the enlargement of Hornsey-road Baths was accepted after discussion, Mr. Tomkins moving an amendment to refer the matter back to the committee.

Monday evening was, in connection with the Mount View Congregational Literary Society, what is known as a "Ladies' Evening," the principal portion of the time being taken up with a very excellent performance of Roeckel's "The Gitana," the solos being taken by Miss E C Grierson, Mrs Richards, Page, Misses Annie Macleod, E. Gregson, Kenneth, and Heywood. Miss Stockwell conducted, and Miss Gregson officiated as accompanist. Other very pleasing items were violin solos by the Misses K. Lloyd Jones, E. Lloyd Jones, and a recitation by Miss Binns.

The Works Committee of the Islington Vestry have agreed to favour the proposal to construct a railway from the Archway Tavern, at Highgate, along the Archway and Great Northern roads to the Manor Farm, at the bottom of the North Hill, Highgate, across fields to Hendon, and thence down the Edgware-road to Hampstead. Application was made to the Islington Vestry by the Light Railway Commissioners for sanction because half a mile of this railway will be within the boundaries of Islington; and as it is considered that this new line will be of advantage to the parish, the proposal, if the Vestry are of the same opinion as the committee, is not to be opposed. The overhead trolly system is to be adopted along the Archway-road.

NOTES ON SPORT.

FOOTBALL.

Stroud Green Board School.—The first team had a very keen fight with Oldfield-road. During the first half Oldfield had the benefit of the breeze, but a run down by Sidney Parrington ended in the ball being rushed through. The game continued very level, and both goalkeepers had plenty to do, but nothing further was scored, and Stroud Green won by 1 to 0. By this win they are rendered almost certain winners of the Finsbury Senior Shield, and also earn the right to participate in the competition for the Individual Schools Championship Shield. In this latter competition they meet Plasket-lane, the East Ham champions, at East Ham to-morrow.

Lucerne v. St. Peter's.—This North London league match was played on the ground of the latter club at Hornsey. Though playing with a stiff breeze behind them in the first half the St. Peter's could make no impression on the Lucerne defence, half-time arriving without any score. On resuming, the Lucerne quickly asserted themselves, their half-backs repeatedly placing the ball with their forwards with the result that they scored four times in quick succession, and completely outplaying their opponents, won by four goals to nil. The right full back played a great game for the home side. Lucerne: Main, Tarring, Young, Tereday, Smyth, Davies, P. Crump, G. Crump, Tipping, Wixcey, and Blake.

Hornsey Malvern v. Ferme Park Institute. Played at East Finchley on Saturday. The Malvern kicked up hill first half; but owing to a slight wind in their favour were placed on a fairly even footing. The left wing of the home team was exceptionally good, and it was from this quarter of the field the danger lay, the outside man especially giving the visitors' custodian considerable trouble. It was from this wing that Ferme Park scored after about 25 minutes' play. A few minutes later the Malvern's forwards took a smart run up the field, and equalised with rather a tame shot from the right. Half-time score stood 1-1. In the second half the ball was carried up and down the field, and although each side conceded corners neither scored, and the game ended in a draw 1-1.

Hornsey Rise v. National Ramblers.—The Rise gained a decisive victory last Saturday at the expense of the Ramblers on the latter's ground at Stamford Hill, in the North-West London Alliance, by four goals to one. The homesters looked a heavy set of players, and it seemed as if they would have an easy time with their lighter opponents. For the first fifteen minutes the Hornsey backs were busily defending, but subsequently the Rise broke away, and their centre, getting the ball, raced down the field, and a goal appeared imminent, but nothing resulted. Just before the interval, however, Hendy scored for the visitors. The game had not been long in progress when Hornsey put on goal No. 2, and soon after a third. Play ruled pretty even after this, till Brett with a splendid shot secured a further goal for the visitors. The Rise now began to slacken, but the homesters played hard and scored. Time arrived with the Ramblers still pressing, but nothing further resulting Hornsey Rise won as above stated. For the winners Allan at half-back played splendidly, while Brett showed improved form. To-day (Saturday) Hornsey Rise meet the Gresham at East Finchley in the North-West London Alliance.

Muswell Hill v. Mount View.—Finchley Cup (semi-final).—Played last Saturday, and the third in succession that Muswell Hill were fighting a cup semi-final, but the above took place on their own enclosure at Hornsey. The ground was rather soft and heavy, but a good game resulted. The sides were as under:—Muswell Hill, J. Stamper (goal); W. Prichard, P. Hawke, (backs); R. Smith, J. Corben, F. Buckler (half-backs); H. Baxter, F. Harvey, P. Windett, F. Wheaton, J. Casey, (forwards). Mount View, J. Halford (goal); G. Grant, C. Baines (backs); H. Watson, F. Roberts, L. Roberts (half-backs); L. Miryless, E. Ayling, W. Hutchinson, J. Stewart, J. Lethbridge (forwards). Referee, Mr. G. A. Bond. The home team having been photographed, Mount View started the game with a rush into Muswell's quarters. This was repulsed in fine style by Hawke. Baxter made a fine run, first beating L. Roberts and then Baines, and ending up with a beautiful centre, which Wheaton converted with a pretty low shot. After a spell of attacking Ayling sent in a swift cross shot which beat Stamper and equalised matters. As the interval approached Muswell were seen to greater advantage, and a nice long pass forward by Baxter enabled Wheaton to dart past the backs and score a well deserved goal. At half-time the score was Muswell Hill, two goals; Mount View, 1 goal. After changing ends the result was never in doubt, as not many minutes had elapsed before Windett got through and scored with a terrific shot, thus putting Muswell Hill three up. Baxter was responsible for several well-judged centres, and it was from one of these that Wheaton added the fourth goal. Harvey also scored with a low cross shot. Later Wheaton rushed a sixth goal, but the referee ruled that he handled and disallowed the point. Result:—Muswell Hill, 5 goals; Mount View, 1 goal. Muswell Hill's record to date is as follows:—Played 25; won 19; lost 2; drawn 4; goals 61-22. They meet Hendon this (Saturday) afternoon at Nightingale-lane.

Notices.

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