LOCAL MEN AND THINGS.

By the courtesy of Mr. E. Hill, one of the chief London officials of the Great Central Railway Company, I had one day last week the opportunity of going over that company's new London station off the Marylebone-road. It is a fine, large, and commodious station, and if somewhat unpretentious from an architectural point of view, it is replete with every comfort and convenience. The offices are all well appointed, and travellers by this new line to the North will find no intricacies to worry and harass them. Facilities, in fact, are being perfected to enable passengers, with a minimum amount of trouble, to locate the particular train by which they desire to travel.

I was fortunate on my day of visit for a special train was run from Manchester, and, consequently, I was enabled to get an idea of what travelling will be like on the Great Central when the line opens. Mr. Hill, who piloted me on a tour of inspection, assured me that the train was an exact copy of what would be ordinarily run, and if that is so, it will make other lines sit up and tend to revolutionise railway travelling in England. It was a corridor train I inspected, lighted throughout with electricity, and most artistically and sumptuously fitted. No one could desire more comfortable third-class accommodation, while the first-class compartments are veritable beds of luxury, fit for kings and princes.

In a portion of the train I came across a bar and a most compact and daintily arranged kitchen, with a chef in charge, and I was informed that travellers can, en route, by merely touching an electric button, command anything in the eating and drinking line, from the modest chop and humble small Bass to the most recherche table d'hote and the finest cliquo. In fact, as far as I can see, travelling North by the Great Central Railway's new line will be a delightful and pleasant experience which I hope very early to be able to indulge in.

It cannot be said that the members and supporters of the South Islington Liberal and Radical Association mustered in very strong force at the public meeting, under the auspices, at the Thornhill-road Board School, last Friday. Seeing that addresses were announced, and given by Mr. F. S. Stevenson, M.P., and Mr. Heber Hart, LL.D., the candidate at the last election, the promoters had reason to expect a larger gathering. In view of the special efforts which are now being made to rally all classes of Radicals under the banner of the new leader, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, South Islington Radicalism may possess better chances of success in future. The primary object of the gathering was the election of the Barnsbury Ward Council of the Association, but the promoters evidently meant to kill other birds with the same stone, and a resolution expressing undivided satisfaction at the new leadership—from which Radicals evidently expect a great deal to result—was placed on record. As was only to be expected, seeing that a very important instalment of local self-government for London has proceeded from a Conservative Ministry, Mr. Stevenson, M.P., attempted to show some defects in its provisions, but he was not very successful. The main theme of Dr. Heber Hart's address was the need for a Liberal member of the division, but this point time alone will settle.

Brief, but businesslike, were the proceedings in connection with the second annual meeting of the Islington District of the Evangelical Lay Preachers' Association. Conspicuous success had again rewarded the activity of this undeniably useful body, for I gather from the report that last year 145 meetings were taken by the Association, of which 131 were adult meetings, with an aggregate attendance of about 5,500, and 14 children's services, attended by about 2,700, bringing the total attendance to about 8,200. As to financial matters, it may be mentioned that, although no appeal had been made, the timely receipt of special donations from friends interested in the work had enabled liabilities to be met, and to leave a balance in hand with which to start this year's work, in which I wish the society an enhanced measure of success.

Miss Kate Cherry and Madame Edith Hands deserve the thanks of the local musical community for the rare artistic excellence of the concert given last week under their auspices at the Highbury Athenæum. Their enterprise was fittingly crowned by a liberal measure of popular support, which will doubtless stimulate them in their future efforts. The vocalists had at their head that accomplished singer, Madame Clara Samuell, who retains her charm of voice undiminished. Nor were the executants less successful in their instrumental contributions, so that it will be seen what an enjoyable programme was placed before the gathering.

Very happy functions indeed have been associated with Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Barratt's golden wedding celebration at their very spacious head establishment, Wood-green; and nothing could exceed the cordiality of the relations which have evidently existed for a very long period between Mr. Barratt and the large body of employees. Last Thursday witnessed the commencement of the festive proceedings with a reception at the board-room, and on Saturday the men's banquet was held with the most unqualified success, under the presidency of Mr. G. W. Barratt. Charmingly-executed addresses, setting forth in apt and eloquent terms the high appreciation of the whole body of employees, with every good wish expressed for the close of their long and honourable career, were presented to Mr. and Mrs. Barratt, and the former's response was couched in touchingly graceful and heartfelt words. The festivities were fittingly continued on Monday.

That the Great Northern Central Hospital continues its immensely valuable work without any diminution of its scope was again manifested at the annual general meeting of governors, presided over by Sir John Dickson-Poynder, on Friday. As was only to be expected, under the circumstances, the zealous Committee of Management were able to report another year of strenuous and increasingly successful work; but they deplored the loss sustained both by the hospital and committee in the death of Mr. Murdoch, the chairman of the Committee of Management, in July last. I notice early steps will be taken to fittingly perpetuate his memory in the hospital in some permanent form. Everyone will endorse the committee's gratification at the acceptance of the appointment by Sir John Dickson-Poynder. The public will see with much satisfaction that the number of beds available has been raised from 107 to 134 in October last, enabling a large number of additional cases to be admitted. The total receipts in 1898 from all sources were £18,685 12s. 11d., and it is satisfactory to see that the annual subscriptions revealed an increase of £204 over 1897.

With one or two dissentient voices, the gathering held at the Northern Polytechnic-hall, Holloway-road, on Monday evening, in connection with the International Peace Crusade, was apparently of one mind, so the Rev. Prebendary Barlow's duties in the chair were of a light and easy character. A number of well-known public men were prevented from attending, including Messrs. Lough, Cohen, and Bartley, but my readers may recall the fact that the two latter hon. gentlemen have recently spoken on the subject in addresses to their constituents. Prebendary Barlow's address was marked by his wonted moderation, but the same high standard was hardly maintained subsequently, some of the speakers apparently ignoring the enormous difficulties which surround the subject. Lord Salisbury is essentially a peace Minister, and may be relied upon, as far as England is concerned, to do all he can to secure its maintenance. A motion was agreed to supporting the proposal of the Czar for an International Conference to discuss the most effective methods of promoting general peace, and so decrease the cost of international armaments. The proceedings will, of course, fulfil one good object in ventilating a subject which is admittingly becoming increasingly grave.

LANCE.

SCIENCE NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

PROFESSOR LIVIO VINCENZI, of Sassari, claims to have discovered a bacillus of whooping-cough.

BOILING paraffin is now applied to floors, especially those of hospitals, to make the wood impermeable, and unaffected by acids or alkalis. The treatment is considered effective from a hygienic point of view, and lasts for several years.

ACCORDING to a paper recently communicated to the Académie des Sciences, Paris, M. Phisalix has found that some kinds of mushroom afford a "vaccine" against the venom of snakes. The juice of the mushroom renders a person immune against vipers for a month or two.

M. HENRI LARIDAN, head gardener at Longpont, in the Aisne, France, has succeeded in grafting the tobacco plant on potato tubers. The process, which requires care, is fully described in *La Nature*. The handsome ornamental tobacco plant, Nicotiana colossea variegata, can be reared more easily in this way.

DR. W. KINNEAR, in the *Humanitarian*, advises people desirous of postponing old age to avoid all foods rich in earthy matter ("earth soils"), to eat much fruit, especially juicy uncooked apples, and to take every day two or three tumblerfuls of distilled water with ten or fifteen drops of diluted phosphoric acid in each glassful.

MESSRS. BURDICK AND HALL, of the electrical engineering department of Yale University, have invented an electric arc lamp for submarine use. It is enclosed in two watertight globes, and the mechanism that feeds the carbons is protected by a watertight brass case. Tests at 75ft. below the surface of the water are satisfactory.

IN *Das Wetter* Meinhardus relates that during a glaze frost in eastern and central Germany on October 20th a blade of grass at Potsdam was found to carry eight hundred times its own weight of ice. Frosts of this nature, the "verglas" of the French, are owing, it is thought, to rain falling on bodies at a temperature below the freezing point, and so freezing on them.

THE BIGGEST LOCOMOTIVE.

The Americans have now the "biggest thing" in locomotives, or, at least, they believe so. It is 115 tons in weight, its cylinders are 23in. in diameter, and have a stroke of 32in.; the driving wheels are 4ft. 9in. in diameter; the steam pressure is 200lb. on the square inch, and the heating surface is 3,322 square feet. The locomotive has a tractive power of 26½ tons, and it can haul 6,650 tons on a level railway. The engine was built for the Union Railway by the Carnegie Steel Company of Pittsburg.

OYSTERS AND DISEASE.

Professors Herdman and Boyce recently read a paper to the Royal Society on oysters and disease, from which it appears that there are several kinds of greenness in oysters. Essex and Marennes oysters, though greenish, are healthy; some Falmouth and American oysters contain copper, and are not so good to eat. By inoculating oysters they shew that the typhoid bacillus can remain in its body for ten days. Sea-water is inimical to the growth of typhoid bacilli. Washing infected oysters in a stream of clean sea-water caused the bacilli to diminish or disappear in from one to seven days.

PROTECTIVE MIMICRY.

Protective mimicry, that cunning device of Nature to preserve animals from their enemies, is well shewn in the eggs of certain fishes, notably the Californian shark, known as Gyropleurodus Francisci. The shark is of a sluggish habit, lurking among rocks, and its dark egg resembles a leaf of kelp or seaweed folded up, spirally. It is deposited among the beds of kelp, and clings to the leaves by the edges of the spirals. The young shark bursts open the end of the egg and swims away. Another shark's egg of the Pacific coast has tentacles, which clasp the seaweed and also imitate its appearance.

SCIENTIFIC BALLOONING.

Dr. Carl E. Myers, of Frankfort, New York State, has, it appears, made experiments with a flying balloon of the Danilewsky type for over ten years, and flown in many parts of the States. As was mentioned recently, this kind of flying machine is a combination of balloon or gas bag, as an atmospheric buoy, and a propelling mechanism worked by the aeronaut.

M. Janssen, the French astronomer, is arranging for balloon ascents from three stations, one in Europe, another in America, and a third in Siberia, to observe the November shooting stars next year. The balloons are to measure 50,000 to 60,000 cubic feet, and carry three men (one aeronaut and two observers), with electric lamps, chronometers, and star maps. They are to go up 10,000 feet. Free balloons are also to be sent up to test the high atmosphere.

THE SEAT OF THE SOUL.

What is the seat of the "soul," or highest intellectual faculties? Savages would say the heart or liver, cynics the stomach, witness Byron's "tocsin of the soul, the dinner-bell," and until recently some authors hinted of mysterious glands. Phrenologists prefer the front lobes of the brain; but some of the more advanced physiologists maintain that the back lobes have the highest intellectual value, which is a subversion of the popular notion, for most people look upon a fine brow as proof of high intellect and a large hind head as a sign of animalism. Dr. C. Clapham has given the arguments in favour of the posterior lobes in *Centralblatt für Anthropologie* and shews that man of all creatures has the most highly developed posterior lobes, and that the ablest men and races have them in the highest perfection. Idiots and confirmed lunatics have them imperfectly developed or in a bad state.

ELECTRICITY AND PLANT LIFE.

The fascinating subject of the action of electricity on plants attracted De Candolle as long ago as 1806, and recent electricians and botanists have given it much attention. Results have been variable. In experiments since 1886, Dr. E. H. Cook reports that constant and intermittent currents of high and low tension have had the general effect of increasing the development of seeds from 10 to 20 per cent., but that plant growth after germination has seemed to be little affected by low tension currents. With an electro-motive force of 25 to 40,000 volts, the increase in growth has been considerable and rapid. On a large scale, various experimenters have tried sinking in their gardens plates of copper and zinc and plates connected with a battery, but the most remarkable results seem to have been achieved with the "géomagnétifère," from atmospheric electricity. This apparatus is simply a lightning conductor set up in the middle of a field and connected below with a series of cross wires running under the soil near the roots of the plants. In France such a conductor 25ft. high was found to exert an influence over a radius of more than twenty yards, and a plot of ground within the area yielded 53 kilogrammes of potatoes against 35 kilogrammes from an exactly similar plot outside.

RADIANT ENERGY FROM HOT BODIES.

Metals when exposed to a high temperature become luminous. A low red heat is usually assumed at from 1,100deg. to 1,300deg. Fahr., while a dazzling white indicates from 2,500deg. to 3,000deg. Fahr. There is, however, great difficulty, says the *New Popular Educator*, in measuring these high temperatures with any degree of accuracy. Wedgwood's pyrometer is sometimes employed for the purpose. The air thermometer is, however, more reliable in its indications. A platinum vessel filled with air is exposed to the source of heat, and the expansion ascertained by suitable means; from this the temperature is easily deduced. If a powerful electric current be made to pass along a thin platinum wire, it will render it white-hot, and a considerable amount of light will be produced, shewing again the luminous effects of heat. We must not, however, suppose that heat is always accompanied by light, or light by heat. The electric lamp furnishes us with a very brilliant light and at the same time at intense heat, so that we have both the luminous and the calorific rays in a beam from it. If now we cause this beam to pass through a glass trough filled with a solution of alum, the luminous rays will pass on as before, but all or nearly all the heat will be intercepted. The alum solution serves, in fact, as a filter to remove the thermal rays. Now remove the glass trough, and substitute for it a slab of rock-salt covered with lamp-black, so that no light can penetrate it. On placing a differential thermometer, or thermo-electric pile, in the place where the luminous rays had previously been brought to a focus, we shall find that nearly all the heat has passed through the rock-salt, though the luminous rays have been intercepted. By suitable arrangements we may actually succeed in igniting various substances by means of the non-luminous heat. We see thus that the luminous and the heat-giving rays may be entirely separated from one another.

CIGARETTE SMOKING.

It is commonly believed that cigarette smoking is injurious to the respiratory organs, and the question recently came before the American Laryngological Society, where Dr. Mitchell combated the notion that tobacco smoke inhaled from cigarettes penetrates into the blood through the lungs. The smoke in general hardly descends below the larynx, and its irritating action is limited, though it can aggravate a pre-existing badness of the organs. At the same time, cigarettes, by encouraging inhalation of the smoke, are more injurious than pipes. The paper of the cigarette is not injurious, and opium is not used to adulterate the tobacco; for one thing, it is too expensive. The worst of tobacco is its bad effect on the nervous system, and hence children should not be allowed to smoke cigarettes.

"IT IS WORTH KNOWING" if you have a cough the quickest and simplest remedy—let alone its cheapness—is Keating's Cough Lozenges. One alone relieves cough, asthma, and bronchitis. As a Cough Remedy, they are simply unrivalled. Sold everywhere in tins, 13½d. each; free for stamps. Thomas Keating, Chemist, London.—ADVT.]

CLERKENWELL POLICE.

OBTAINING WATCHES BY FALSE PRETENCES.

William Garthwaite, 34, a clerk, of no fixed abode, was charged on a warrant for obtaining by false pretences from Hugo Baxharach, four gold watches, value £53, the property of Louis Weill and Co., of 11, Hatton-garden, Holborn.

Mr. W. Ricketts, jun., who prosecuted, said on 24th January, the prisoner went to the prosecutor's premises, and presented an order purporting to come from Mr. Coborn, jeweller, of Wilton-road, Pimlico, for four gold watches. The property was handed to Garthwaite, but it was afterwards discovered that at that time the prisoner was not in the service of Mr. Coborn. The prisoner, however, had managed to get possession of one of Mr. Coborn's order forms after he had been discharged from the latter's service.

Hugo Bacharach proved handing the prisoner four watches, and Mr. Coborn deposed to missing stationery from his office, adding that he did not give Garthwaite authority to receive watches from Weill and Co., neither did he authorise him to write the note referred to.

Detective Tunbridge arrested the prisoner at Plymouth.

In reply to the charge, Garthwaite said, "Quite right." The officer received two watches at Devonport, and saw a third watch there.

The prisoner was remanded.

A HOOLIGAN AT HOLLOWAY.

Thomas Brown, 22, a wheelwright, of Campbell-road, Holloway, was charged with assaulting Peter Higgins.

The complainant, a dyer, said early that morning he was a few yards from his own door in Caledonian-road, when the prisoner pounced upon him, striking him a severe blow in the face with something he had in his hand, and inflicting a nasty cut beneath the right eye. Complainant called "Police," and an officer ran after the prisoner. When Brown was captured he exclaimed, "I wish I had killed him." The complainant believed the prisoner's motive was robbery. Brown, as a fact, did snatch away his umbrella. Mr. Higgins further informed the magistrate that King's-cross was in a very bad state, and added, "I have been robbed more than once there."

Brown, on oath, denied the charge, and said he merely pushed against the complainant.

Detective Powell said the prisoner lived in a common lodging house, and belonged to a Hooligan gang of Holloway.

Mr. Bros sent the prisoner to gaol for two months.

ROBBING A DOMESTIC SERVANT.

Sarah Ann Wines, 16, of 1a, Beaconsfield-buildings, York-road, was charged on remand with stealing on 4th February £1 from a bedroom, at 23, Cordozo-road, Holloway, the property of Henry Watson, a salesman, and a waistcoat, value 12s., the property of Walter Brown, artist. The prisoner was employed at Mr. Watson's house.

Mr. Robinson, police-court missionary, interested himself on behalf of the prisoner, who was allowed to go away with her mother.

FELLOW PASSENGERS.

Harry Morgan, 21, a bank clerk, of St. Lawrence-road, Notting-hill, was charged with assaulting Frank Valentine Goddard at King's-cross (Metropolitan) Railway Station.

The complainant, Coroner's officer and Constable of the Ward of Aldgate, said he was a passenger by the 8.15 Great Northern train from Aldersgate-street the previous evening. In the same compartment of the train lying on the opposite side was the defendant, who became ill in the course of the journey. He pushed Morgan's head away from him, and the defendant afterwards opened the door of the compartment in the tunnel between Farringdon-street and King's-cross, and attempted to get out. The train was at a standstill. Complainant pulled the door to sharply, and the defendant threatened him to fight. At King's-cross Station complainant alighted. The defendant followed him up the platform, and he spoke to a porter, directing him to take Morgan's name and address. It was complainant's intention to summons the defendant for annoying him. Morgan then struck the complainant a blow in the face. As a result of Morgan's behaviour, the complainant's hat was damaged.

The defendant now offered a full apology to the complainant, and told the Magistrate that he had no recollection of what occurred the previous evening.

Mr. Bros said he would be satisfied if Morgan compensated the complainant. He ordered the defendant to be bound over to be of good behaviour for three months, and to pay 10s. costs.

STOLEN BOOTY.

Federick Felton, 42, a costermonger, of no fixed abode, was charged with being concerned with another man not in custody, in stealing from inside the shop, 116, High Holborn, a pair of boots, value 8s. 11d., the property of the Holborn Boot Company.

A man, not in custody, entered the shop and asked for a pair of boots. While the attendant's back was turned the man left the shop. The man was followed, when prisoner was noticed making off with a pair of boots in his possession. Prisoner was pursued and taken by the manager, who was struck by the man not in custody.

Prisoner said he was ashamed of himself. He was the worse for drink at the time. He had been 11 years in India, and when he had a drop he did not know what he did. He sold winkles and shrimps for a living.

Mr. Bros sent him to gaol for a month.

SUSPECTED.

Ernest John Ireland, 40, a painter, of 35a, Rawstorne-street, Clerkenwell, was charged with being a suspected person frequenting Goswell-road, supposed for the purpose of committing a felony.

Police-constable Hatton, 363 G, said that late on Monday evening he noticed the prisoner examining the lock of a stable-door in Goswell-road. The officer asked the prisoner what he was doing, and he said, "It's all right. I work for Charley Byford." The officer took him to a man who would have known him if he worked there, but the man did not know Ireland. Prisoner said he was at the door for another purpose, and the officer took him into custody.

Mr. Bros discharged the prisoner, nothing further being known against the prisoner.

ALLEGED BRUTAL ATTACK ON A WOMAN.

Job Stock, a stalwart carman, 55 years of age, was charged with a violent assault upon Catherine Bish, by kicking her and breaking her thigh bone.

Dr. Oliver, from the Hackney Infirmary, said the injured woman would not be able to attend for eight or nine weeks.

Mr. Fordham said he would take what evidence there was, so as to decide upon the remand.

Frederick Keenes, a railway servant, said that at 11 at night on the 18th February he was going along Morning-lane, when he saw a man and a woman jangling. The man (the prisoner) crossed over the road, and then returned and kicked the woman twice in the back. He (witness) went into his house, and a few minutes afterwards went to the Mehetabel-road, where he again saw the man and woman—still quarrelling. The prisoner knocked the woman down, and she screamed and could not get up. Several people who were about said the prisoner was a cowardly wretch, and considered that he ought to be locked up. The police ambulance was fetched, and the woman conveyed to the infirmary.

The prisoner denied kicking the woman, but admitted that he kicked at her. She kept following him about when he wanted to go home.

Mr. Fordham told the prisoner he would have to remand him from time to time until the poor woman was fit to come. It seemed to be an exceedingly bad assault. But if he could get good bail for £25, he might be released for a time.

THE PREVENTION OF CRIMES ACT.

Arthur Stephenson, 26, a kitchen porter, of Burton-crescent, was charged with failing to make his monthly report, he being a person subject to the Prevention of Crimes Act. Detective Liddle said that during the night the prisoner came to King's-cross Station, and the officer charged him with the offence of failing to make his report. He was remanded for evidence of conviction.

RIVAL "QUACKS."

Michael McAnns, 54, a herbalist, of Parkfield-stret, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Chapel-street, Clerkenwell. Police-constable 20 N Reserve said the prisoner was having an altercation with "another quack doctor." He was the worse for drink, and refused to go away at the officer's request. He was fined 5s.

MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES.

Elizabeth Bolton, 35, a nurse, of Fairbridge-road, Holloway, was charged with being drunk at Caledonian-road. She was discharged with a caution.

Margaret Hayes, 50, an artificial flower maker, of Warner-street, Barnsbury, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Chapel-street, Clerkenwell. Police-constable Whitty, 243 N, proved the offence, and prisoner was bound over for her future good behaviour.

Phœbe Martin, 32, married, of Charles-street, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Sonning-street. The offence having been proved, she was bound over for her future good behaviour.

Mary Martha Head, 40, married, of Copenhagen-street, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Upper-street. She was discharged.

CLERKENWELL COUNTY COURT

YESTERDAY, BEFORE HIS HONOUR JUDGE EDGE.

SUSPICIOUS BUT NOT FRAUD.

In the case of Rachael Coombes, widow, against John Marchant, Mr. Richard Edmonson was counsel for the applicant, Mrs. Thorngate, to discharge an order appointing a receiver of her property at 87, Rosoman-street.

Mr. Bassett Hopkins, barrister, appeared for the judgment creditor, and contended that the claim of Mrs. Thorngate was enshrowded in fraud.

The case had been adjourned on several occasions, and was heard and argued at considerable length.

In giving judgment, the Judge said the issue was undoubtedly one of fraud. Was the deed of gift a legal gift and not a mere sham? The onus of proof was put on those who disputed it. The case was full of suspicion, from beginning to end, but where fraud was alleged it must be proved conclusively, and the proof did not come to the extent of enabling him to declare the deed void. The deed of gift from father to daughter was kept secret, and never registered, that it might be produced—or that would have been the conclusion he should have come to but for hearing the evidence that day. The deed was left unstamped, but an explanation had been given of that, as it was because the parties grumbled at the expense they had been put to. He could not say that that was not true, but it was a very foolish thing to do. It should have been pointed out that the deed was of no use unless stamped in the Registry. It was a case that required investigating; but the result must be that the deed of 1893 stood, the application must be granted, and the Receiver discharged, but he allowed no costs.

CLAIM FOR GOODS.

Messrs. Heinrichs and Company, of 133 and 135, Old-street, claimed £16 9s. 9d. from G. A. Bryant, of 59, Malden-road, N.W., for goods sold and delivered.

Plaintiffs were represented by Messrs. Judge and Priestley, and a verdict was given for the amount claimed.

"CABS AS PANTECHNICONS."

James Elves, cab-proprietor, of 10, Gundulf-street, Kennington-road, v. Joseph Cox, of 118, Andover-road, Holloway.

Mr. H. E. Edmonds appeared for the plaintiff, who claimed £15, damages to the plaintiff's hackney carriage.

The defendant was represented by a carman named Archer.

Mr. Edmonds called evidence to the effect that as the plaintiff's cab was proceeding down Brunswick-square, on the 29th December last, the defendant's servant, leaving his proper side, attempted to cross between the cab and an omnibus, causing an accident and considerable damage to the plaintiff's cab, which had been repaired, and the action being brought to recover the damage in question.

A witness, who viewed the accident from an omnibus, supported the plaintiff's version of the matter; and the defendant's carman caused considerable laughter by re-calling the plaintiff and asking him if he sent out his cabs as pantechnicons, as he thought the man was doing a moving job.

Plaintiff said the horse and cab were valuable, and the man a good driver.

Defendant, replying to the Judge, said he had only laundry baskets in the van with him.

The Judge said it was the duty of the defendant to produce evidence that the accident was caused by the plaintiff's driver, and in the absence of that, he must credit the testimony which had been called for the plaintiff to show that the accident was caused through the fault of the defendant. He gave a verdict for plaintiff for 10 guineas, and costs.

HORNSEY CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The annual prize distribution and entertainment in connection with St. Mary's (Hornsey) Sunday-schools took place at the Hornsey National-hall, on Monday evening, when the rector, the Rev. Prebendary Jeakes, presided over a large attendance of parents, scholars, and friends. Commencing at eight o'clock, the first part of the programme was of a miscellaneous character, the various items contributed by Miss E. Bentley, Miss Peake, Messrs. A. B. and F. Purton, Mr. Hale, and Mr. Wetton being much appreciated and liberally applauded. Following this was a performance of the Children's Operetta by a number of the Sunday-school scholars. This proved most entertaining, and the young performers sustained their parts in a manner calculated to bring honour to themselves and credit to their painstaking instructress, Miss Thornton. The two scenes were laid, the one in the Royal Kitchen and the other at the Court of the Queen of Hearts. Miss Violet Thew made a very charming little Queen to Master Ivor Northope's King; Master V. Greenwald played the Knave, Miss Mary Swadling the Cook, and Master J. Bailey the Jester. The following were "small cards":—George Smith, Bertie Hughes, Fred. Prickett, Frank Sheppard, Edgar Bailey, Joe Heacock, George Pascoe, Percy Arnold, Sidney Mead, and Herbert Hadder; while Lily Harvey, Annie Bell, Annie Duke, Nellie Smith, Stella Ash, Jessie Ross, Catherine Bower, Violet Alexander, Lottie Hewitt, and Cissie Leggatt made very engaging little "nursery rhyme girls." The singing throughout was excellent, and the more so that each child appeared to put his or her whole heart into it.

Subsequently the Rector delivered the prizes, one to each child, in each class in each school as follows:—

Boys (Morning School).—Arthur W. Andrews, Albert Andrews, W. Bailey, A. Bailey, W. Clifton, J. Linnett, J. L. Purton, W. Ross, A. Scott, A. Stevens, and A. Heacock. Special Prize (presented by Mr. Northwood).—George Harvey. Afternoon School.—R. Birks, Albert Brown, Arthur Brown, George Cook, David Emes, L. Jenkins, H. Keeley, J. Linnett, H. Mills, J. Northorpe, Stanley Smith, and Alfred Stevens. Special Star Register Prizes.—John Linnett (presented by Mr. Purton), John L. Purton (presented by Mr. Winmill), and Alfred Stevens (presented by Rev. C. B. Welland).

Girls (Morning School).—Eleanor Chapman, Millie Gray, Mary Kidd, Florrie Martin, and Ethel Skinner. Afternoon School.—Violet Alexander, Eleanor Chapman, Tottie Curtice, Edith Edmonds, Rosie Grey, Cissie Leggatt, Cissie Martin, Florrie Martin, Mabel Smith, Daisy Methven, May North, Edith Smith, and Nellie Smith.

Infants (Afternoon School).—Olive Collins, Beatie Colquhoun, Louie Fensom, Violet Leggatt, Harry Behrens, Willie Duce, Harold Emes, Georgie Fensom, Freddy Townsend, Edie Hewett, May Leggatt, Charlie Fensom, and Teddie Leggatt.

Campsbourne (Morning School).—Ada Bailey, Eva Chameberlain, Florence Gear, Nellie Howard, Rose Ross, Edgar Bailey, Edgar Binns, Ralph Chamberlain, and Ernest Howell. Afternoon School.—Alice Binns, Annie Charvill, Maud Davies, Nellie Howard, Annie Newland, Daisy Page, Kate Piggott; Adelaide, George, Edith, and Nellie Shepherd; Edith Venables; Grace and Mabel Waldock; Edgar Bailey, Edgar Binns, Stanley Burton, Joseph Heacock, and Alfred Rawlings.

MILDMAY CLUB MEMBERS' CHILDREN'S PARTY.

It is no joke to undertake to entertain and refresh 1,700 children, but the executive committee of the club organised such an event with conspicuous success on two recent evenings. About 850 children were admitted each evening at 5.30. The interval till 7 o'clock was filled up by regaling the youngsters with cake, milk, oranges and sweets to repletion. The following ladies undertook this part of the work—Mesdames Smith, Lowe, Manley, Reeves, Wilson, Baker, Dobbins, Harvey, Willett, Maskall, Clarke, Brown, Moring, Paine, Greenwood, Bridges, Hood, Browning, Drake, Argyle, Mouse, Hibberston, and Shore. Mdlles. Maskall, Chaumond, Manley, Metcalf, Bolton, Willett, Goddard, Collings, Williams, Alexander, Browning, and Naudett. They also had charge of the children in the hall during the entertainment, assisted by Messrs. A. A. Smith, R. Browning, Moring, &c. These ladies and gentlemen seemed very happy at their work, because they were doing their utmost to make the children happy. The ambulance corp of the club rendered considerable aid in passing the children into the club hall, forming them up into a queue in the street, and by lining the corridors and steps, they were able to see that the happy youngsters did not crowd each other, or that the smallest did not fall down. So well was this done that not a hitch occurred, either evening. Sergeant James Lowe, the ambulance instructor and secretary, was in command, and it reflects credit upon him and his ambulance staff, of 20 men each night, that such perfect arrangements were made. The executive "turned on" the Lyric Musical Company to amuse the children. Mr. Watson is the manager of this very competent and talented company, and he put on his pantomime entitled, "The Babes in Clubland" ever since Christmas time. "The Babes in the Wood," as given by Mr. Watson's company, is the most successful production of its kind ever given in Clubdom. Staging effects, dress, acting and songs were more like what one would expect to see at a regular theatre. Mr. Watson spared no exertion to please the little ones. At the end of the capital performance, he set the youngsters singing all the popular songs of the day, and they enjoyed their part of the performance to the uttermost. The vigour with which they took up one song after another put their fathers and mothers "out of the running." Messrs. Roberts (secretary), Lloyd, Fisher, C. Browning, F. Austin (stage manager), J. Morrell and W. James of the Entertainment Committee, worked like Trojans on both evenings behind the curtain, and, like the Lyric Company, spared themselves not, in making the entertainment pass off with great success. A word as to the children. All the excellent points of the show were appreciated by them, and they showed their discrimination by encoring just where their elders would have done, had they been present. When the happy youngsters left, Mr. A. A. Smith, vice-president, and assistants saw that they did not go away empty-handed; bags of sweets and oranges were handed out to each. It reflects credit upon the members of the club, and their hard working committee, that they are willing to go to the expense of giving their children an annual treat, not wishing to selfishly keep all the good things of the club to themselves, but sharing them with their families. The Stock and Finance Committee provided 600lb of cake, 600lb. of sweets, 600 quarts of milk, 7,000 oranges and 190 gallons of ginger beer.

VOLUNTEER "SMOKER" AND PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The Tower Hamlets R.V.'s (D Company), annual smoker and distribution of prizes took place at headquarters, 112, Shaftesbury-street, N., last week, under the presidency of Captain L. S. Williams, Colour-Sergeant A. C. Berry occupying the vice-chair. During the evening there was songs by Mr. Charles Hatfall (tenor), Colour-Sergeant Berry, Colour-Sergeant Moore, comic readings by Mr. Dyer, Gunga Din and Snarleyow (Kipling). Also several gentlemen friends of Captain Williams gave songs and duets during the evening, and altogether a capital programme was gone through, ending with ventriloquial and musical sketch by Mr. Dacres Bishop. The following are the principal prize winners:—Shooting.—Ex-Colour-Sergeant T. G. Costin, 1st, also winner of Williams' Silver Challenge Cup; Sergeant A. J. Knights, 2nd; Sergeant T. W. Costin, 3rd; Drummer A. Costin, 4th; Sergeant A. Minks, 5th. Recruits shooting:—Private A. Stroud, 1st; J. Molyneaux, 2nd. Drill attendance prizes:—Corporal A. Wakely, 1st; Lance-Corporal P. Carter, 2nd; Lance-Corporal W. Driscoll, 3rd.

OUR SHORT STORY.

THE MARCHIONESS.

It was in Normandy last year, during the shooting season. I had had a long morning's sport, and noon found me footsore and weary in the vicinity of an old mill, somewhere between Mortagne and Condé-sur-l'Hoisne. It was a comfortable-looking place, and I determined to solicit the owner's hospitality.

The miller received me very courteously, and I was soon stretching my legs under the table and partaking of the most exquisite *déjeûner* that was ever placed before a hungry sportsman. There were trout from the mill stream, and partridges from the neighbouring moor, cooked to a turn and accompanied by some really excellent wine, not the *petit vin* of Normandy, but good mellow Bordeaux. This somewhat surprised me, but when at dessert the miller invited me to visit his gallery of family portraits I was perfectly bewildered.

"What," said I to myself, "a picture gallery in a mill!"

Of course I accepted his invitation, and found that the pictures really existed, and were fine ones, too. There were a dozen of them, representing Louis XIV. courtiers and marquises, and marchionesses of the times of Louis XV. and Louis XVI., the series being closed by a buxom-looking farmer's wife in a white sun-bonnet, next to a delicious little Marchioness.

Stopping before the two latter portraits, the miller said:

"These are mother and daughter."

He appeared to be amused at my surprised expression, and continued:

"Yes, sir, this countrywoman is my mother, and that pretty little Marchioness smiling there is my grandmother. It is a strange story. Everybody round about knows it, and I may as well tell it to you.

"As you have probably surmised from the age of these portraits, the scene is laid during the Terror. The father, mother and elder sister of yon little Marchioness were arrested, and soon afterwards judged and executed. The little Marchioness, my grandmother, sir, found safety only in flight. The poor orphan took refuge with one of the farmers of the family estate, whom she knew she could trust. This farmer was a young man—he was only about thirty years of age. He had known the little Marchioness from her babyhood, and was devotedly attached to her. In fact, to be frank with you, sir, in his heart of hearts he loved her.

"He was greatly troubled by the perilous position in which her presence placed him, but he could not turn the poor child away to be massacred by the savage revolutionists. He hid her in the cellar, and the mob vainly scoured the whole country in search of her. But a neighbour, a ferocious Jacobin, had marked the farmer's trouble, and, suspecting the reason for it, denounced him to the Revolutionary Committee.

"In a few minutes the house was surrounded by a horrible mob, howling for the death of the hated aristocrat. They battered in the front door and poured into the place. Ah! sir, it was a terrible moment."

Here the miller paused and mopped his brow, while his eyes glistened with excitement.

"The first room was empty," he went on. "They smashed everything in it they could lay hands upon and were about to break open the door of the next room, when it suddenly opened, and the Marchioness stood before them, beside the farmer, who was half dead with anguish and terror.

"For an instant the mob stopped short. But it was only for an instant. Shrieks of 'Down with the aristocrat! Kill her! Away with her! Burn her! Tear her to pieces!' arose, and the blood-thirsty brutes were about to rush forward, when the little Marchioness was suddenly struck by an inspiration. Ah! sir, it must have come from on high. She made signs to them that she wished to speak.

"'Citizens,' she began.

"Unaccustomed to hearing such an appellation from the mouth of a dainty aristocrat, the mob stopped. She profited by the pause, and continued:

"'Citizens, what do you want with me? Why are you incensed against me? What have I done to you? I am one of you—I am your sister!'

"Murmurs of approval and of protest were heard, but in the main the mob appeared to be astonished and suspicious.

"'She's fooling us, the aristocrat,' shrieked a woman, who, with her dishevelled hair, flushed face and crooked fingers, ready to claw the delicate girl's eyes out, looked like one of the Furies let loose.

"'No, no,' exclaimed the Marchioness earnestly. 'I swear to you that I am no longer an aristocrat, but a woman of the people. In proof of it, here is my future husband,' and she pointed to the farmer, who, too overcome to utter a word, would have bent his knee before the brave young girl, but she prevented him.

"Her remarkable presence of mind was their salvation. The fact that she was willing to marry a simple citizen caused a complete revulsion of feeling, and the wretches who a moment before had been lusting for her blood now applauded her.

"'We must be married under the Tree of Liberty,' she added, 'and, citizens, we invite you all to the wedding.'

"Another burst of applause followed this invitation. Friendly hands seized the little Marchioness and the farmer, and they were straightway shouldered and carried in triumph to the Tree of Liberty, escorted by the cheering mob, waving their pikes and scythes.

"The marriage took place, and the crowd, joining hands, danced the Carmagnole frantically around the newly-made husband and wife, and the festivities, with eating and drinking, were kept up till nightfall, when those of the revellers who were not too intoxicated escorted the couple back to the farm.

"As soon as they were alone the assumed familiarity of the farmer immediately vanished. Doffing his hat, he bent respectfully before the Marchioness, and with tears of gratitude in his eyes exclaimed:

"'Mademoiselle, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your sacrifice was our salvation. I beg you to pardon the liberties the critical position in which we were placed compelled me to take. It is, of course, my duty to render you your liberty, and I do so.'

"'Sacrifice! Liberty!' said the Marchioness, 'but I am free, and I have made no sacrifice. Don't you, then, understand that I love you?'

"And thus it was," concluded the miller, "that the little Marchioness became a poor farmer's wife, and the grandmother of an honest Norman miller."

[THE END.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

SIR,—Within the last few days a copy of the COUNCILLOR AND GUARDIAN, with the enclosed extract from the issue of that journal of November 26th, 1898, has reached me by post. I presume it has been sent me in consequence of my remarks on that society's modus operandi at the Guardian Board on the 16th inst., as reported in the ISLINGTON GAZETTE of the next day.

I trust, sir, you may be able to find space for its insertion in the GAZETTE, together with this note, in order that your readers may see that others beside myself hold views similar to my own with regard to that society, and are able to give chapter and verse to support their doing so. Up to the present time I have not heard of any reply being vouchsafed to that statement, and, that being so, I can come to no other conclusion than that it is, in the main, true. I can only regret that the majority of the Guardian Board decided to meet the representatives in conference of the society, which is entirely self-constituted, to consult with regard to our poor, and the treatment of them. I can only add that I shall decline to attend the conference, as I consider that the only outcome of it will be a much harsher treatment of the poor than is now meted out to them.

Thanking you by anticipation for the insertion of this note and the extract,

I am, &c.,

THOMAS FRANCIS STONELAKE.

156, New North-road,
February 25th, 1899.

P.S.—As I understand the conference is to be held in our Board-room after the meeting of next Thursday, March 2nd, perhaps some members of the Board who, apparently, by their remarks at the meeting on the 16th instant believe in the society, will not think it beneath them to endeavour to elicit a reply to the statement.—T.F.S.

[EXTRACT.]

We need not here traverse the old ground as to the utter impossibility of "organising charity," nor is it necessary to again show the abject failure of the society to repress mendicity, or to avert to its attempts to wreck the administration of the Poor-law by foisting on Boards of Guardians men who are charity organisers first, and Guardians a long way after. All these things are to be found in past issues of this journal, and are available to those who desire the information. It may, however, be helpful to the public and to those who are being urged to give financial support to the society, if we summarise some of the facts contained in our recent articles entitled "The Charity Organisation Society and its Finances." It may be explained that these articles were based on the society's last annual report, and were reproduced or commented upon in important London and provincial newspapers, but without drawing any sort of disclaimer from Mr. Loch:—

1. The total receipts for the year ended September 30th, 1897, were £19,462 15s. 5d. Of this sum £4,069 13s. was given as "donations," and £4,550 7s. 6d. as "subscriptions," equal to £8,620 0s. 6d.

2. Out of this £8,620 0s. 6d. Mr. Loch took £800, his two assistants £550, clerks £1,145 10s. 11d., "occasional" clerks, &c., £559 9s. 4d., rent of offices £334 5s., printing, advertising, &c., £1,094 16s. 3d., or a total expenditure at the society's head-quarters of £4,484 1s. 6d.—i.e., £414 8s. 6d. more than the whole of the annual donations, and only £66 6s. less than the entire annual subscriptions to the society!

3. In addition to these payments, £603 was spent in publications, District Committee "audit" £204 15s., district secretaries (presumably salaries) £2,235 2s. 2d., agents in training £117 8s. 2d., loss on the CHARITY ORGANISATION REVIEW £309 4s. 11d., money in hand and at the bank £1,243 13s. 9d., and £2,000 invested in New South Wales Stock!

4. Out of the total income of £19,462 15s. 5d., no less than £10,888 0s. 7d. was swallowed up in salaries, rent, office expenses, publications, district secretaries, agents in training, and money invested abroad. In regard to this investment, we have repeatedly asked Mr. Loch to inform us whether the donors of the £2,000 ever gave their sanction to the sinking of money sent for charitable purposes in New South Wales Stock. No answer, however, has been forthcoming!

5. The medical "reform" and convalescent working account of the society was credited with £876 17s. 8d. Out of this sum the secretary received as salary £250, the "almoner" £120, "clerkage" £140 0s. 4d., printing, postages, stationery, &c., £324 19s. 8d., cost of meeting £4 14s. 6d., balance in hand £37 3s. 6d. Therefore, practically the whole of the £876 17s. 8d. was swallowed up in shares, printers' bills, and one "meeting!"

6. The cost of passages of the society's emigrants during the past three years was £380 16s. 3d.—the working expenses for the same period were £486 8s. 4d.—in other words, it cost the society 25s. to spend each £1. For several years the emigration work has steadily declined, while the working expenses have as steadily increased.

7. 17,814 applications for relief were made to the society during the year. So objectionable are the society's methods regarded by the poorer classes, that 2,021 cases were absolutely withdrawn from their consideration. Of the 15,793 remaining cases, 8,269 applicants received no assistance whatever at the hands of the society—i.e., 50 per cent. of the poor were labelled as swindlers and imposters!

8. Of the 7,524 who were "assisted," 4,614 received the help of "institutions or local agencies," such as orders for hospitals, &c., 2,708 were helped by "individuals," and 193 cases were referred to Boards of Guardians!

9. The great work accomplished by the society during the year was the sending out of 10,181 "reports" to subscribers. It is apparently the main object of the society to show, in as many cases as possible, that applicants are undeserving of help in order to ease the consciences of the charitably disposed and to convince them that their donations for purposes of relief may just as well be expended in salaries and such other "incidentals" as have been referred to!

FATAL FALL FROM A SCAFFOLD AT PENTONVILLE.

Yesterday, Dr. George Danford Thomas held an inquest at the St. Pancras Coroner's Court, with reference to the death of William Foster, aged 47 years, a bricklayer, lately living at 66, Bemerton-street, Caledonian-road, who died from injuries received by falling from a scaffold at Rising-hill-street, Pentonville, on Friday last.

According to the evidence it appears that Messrs. John Ray and Sons, builders, of 111, King's-cross-road, were doing repairs to the houses at 18 and 20, Rising-hill-street, Pentonville. Deceased was engaged as bricklayer, and a scaffold was erected for the purpose of the work being carried out. On Friday afternoon deceased was on the scaffold, which was four boards wide, and guarded along the front by a guard pole. A noise was heard, and deceased was found to have fallen from the scaffold into the garden of the next house. Two boards that were overlapping fell with deceased. It was believed that deceased had shifted the boards to prevent bricks from falling on to the door-step of the house.

Dr. Pegg, of the Royal Free Hospital, stated that deceased on admittance was dead, having received fracture of the skull, fractured ribs, &c.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

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