THEY SAY

That there is a merry note from St. Luke's which conjures up a lot of smiling faces and speeches of goodwill and general contentment, notwithstanding losses in the past and looming in the future so far as Vestry administration is concerned. This note says that Mr. Enos Howes, J.P., the chairman of the Vestry, and Messrs. T. H. Easterling and M. Manns (the churchwardens of the parish), will be pleased to meet Mr. So and So to dine in the Throne-room of the Holborn Restaurant on Monday, the 13th March next, at 6.30 p.m. Sir Thomas Lipton really must come to this function. He is one of the most important ratepayers, and will be all at home with County Councillor Allan Baker, who is great alike on America and tea.

That before a prisoner is committed for trial a statutory caution is administered, as follows: "You may now make a statement. You are not bound to say anything; but what you do say will be taken down in writing, and may be used in evidence against you at your trial." This kind of caution ought to be administered to some of our free-of-speech vestrymen who say hard—and not always undeserved—things of their neighbours. Because it may be that those neighbours, with an idea of revenge, may send along their shorthand clerks to "take down in writing" what is said "to be used in evidence against them." At Tuesday's meeting of the St. Luke's Vestry, the question of the congested traffic in the lower end of Goswell-road was one of the subjects for discussion. It was shown that nearly double the number of vehicles passed over that part of the road south of Bastwick-street than was caused with Goswell-road north of Bastwick-street. And the explanation was not far to seek, as everybody who goes up and down that way knows. The brewers, the Post-office people, and Carter Paterson's are the owners of the chief contributors to the congested traffic. The Vestry was tolerant with regard to these because (as Mr. William Howes said) they are our own ratepayers. But (and this brings me to the gist of this paragraph) there was a gentleman in the ratepayers' gallery industriously taking notes. And he, when questioned as to who and what he was, answered "A representative of Carter Paterson's!" So you see what an unguarded speech by one of those vestrymen might have brought! Moral, do as they do in Islington—make all visitors to the gallery write their names and addresses in a book provided for that purpose.

That death has carried off one of the most talked of of St. Luke's vestrymen, in the person of Mr. Michael Dominick Walsh. Poor old soul! He was 72 years of age, but as youthful in his manners as many only half that age. He was conspicuous in the Vestry by his notes of interrogation. He was always wanting to know; he was always criticising expenditure; and was so unsparing in his description of people, that if it were taken seriously he would have been involved in several actions for slander. But he did it without malice, and with an absolute sense of duty; though there was a suspicion now and then that there was a prompter. However, he has gone, and suddenly too. A fortnight ago he was well. He attended the Vestry meeting, joked over the tea table, went into the St. Luke's Workhouse next door to listen to an entertainment, and three days afterwards was dead! R.I.P.

That tramway conductors should be provided with padded clothing. The latest form of calling the conductor's attention to a passenger who wants to alight is to poke him with a stick or umbrella. One old chap I saw give the conductor a punch in the ribs—"Here, pull up; I am past my house!"

That when one is assailed on all hands with indignant comments on our Vestry extravagance, one is apt to say "a plague on both your houses." Our GAZETTE is not responsible for the increase in the rates. We have always tried to keep them down. But the all powerful but irresponsible vestryman can put them up sky high; and, if he happens to be a lodger never be one halfpenny the worse. However, there is a crumb of comfort in the fact that if we have to pay 6s. 2d. in the £, the ratepayers at Chiswick are at present paying 9s.

That although Britannia rules the waves, her sons are not the wisest of men. If they are, they do not at all times show it. There is wisdom in economy. And some will reply that there is such a thing as false economy. For instance, one sees the old gas lamp flickering side by side with the modern electric light, and wonders why the two? The supposition is, of course, that the powers that be are afraid the big fellow will play them false, and leave them in darkness. Our good friend, Herbert Sprake, has lately been to France—not to settle the Dreyfus case, but to see his sons comfortably quartered scholastically. He brings back a story of singular economy. In one of the small villages they turn down the lights after a certain hour at night; and then if any wine-bibbers or other disorderlies create a disturbance, out comes the lamplighter as well as the police—the former to turn up the lights whilst the latter in some fashion or other make peace.

That what is one man's loss is very often another man's gain. We have lost many of the good offices of the genial Herbert Sprake, of Collin's Music-hall, though his heart is alway with us. But he talks of transferring his time and his talents to the parochial work of Stoke Newington. Lucky Stoke Newington! And still they come. Mr. Christopher B. Melluish, who was 23 years a member of the South Hornsey Local Board (11 years chairman); 11 years a member of the School Board (9 years vice chairman), and 9 years a member of the Middlesex County Council, has also intimated his intention of seeking a seat on the Stoke Newington Vestry. Doubly fortunate Stoke Newington. For these be men who do know what are the responsibilities of local administrators, and will not play ducks and drakes with the ratepayers' money. Since hearing of the aforesaid the Rev. Prebendary Shelford has gone round smiling.

That Mr. Gibbs, who was for years the assistant surveyor to the St. Luke's, and for another long period chief surveyor pro tem; but who in the end was supplemented by another gentleman who got the majority of the votes of the Board, has got almost as good a position under the City sewers; and herewith he is congratulated.

That it is not quite correct to say that the water-carts only come out on wet days; but it is a fact that they do not come out—dust or no dust—until a stated period of the year. Oh, yes, I know they might be out without my seeing them; but it is, perhaps, because of the dust that has been flying about. On a bright, dry, gusty day, the water-cart ought to be as much in readiness as the snow plough.

That the invitation ball of the new North London Philanthropic Society, caused no little stir on Wednesday night. The footway outside the Clerkenwell Town-hall was blocked with a crowd of men and women folk, interested in toilettes of the new North London ladies. And right well did they look. Pretty faces and pretty dresses, and proud fathers and husbands and beaus looking proud of them. The object of the ball was to give pleasure and get money, at both of which Secretary Piper is an adept. Last year the society distributed £225 in bread and coals, besides giving 2s. 6d. a week each to four pensioners. This year they are increasing their pensions to six. The way they got the money at the ball was this—Free ticket, but be prepared for an attack by half a dozen dainty maidens who, with ball programmes will say in effect, "Your money or your life." Who could resist them? They were the Misses Piper, Drury, Griffin, Lewin, Pickard, and Wright; and proved themselves worthy of the service. The dance was most enjoyable, because of the good music of Mr. C. R. Townley's "Grosvenor" band, and the courtesy and zeal of the M.C., Mr. W. Williams. Of course, there was a supper, for Messrs. Beale were responsible for the edibles and Mr. Loder, of Bridport-place, for the drinks. (Both excellent.) President R. Maskall was in the chair, and with him Mr. J. Lowles, M.P., and vice-presidents G. Ring, F. Read, and George Mortlock, with Treasurer G. Pickard. They toasted the society, with a neat speech of congratulation and encouragement from the M.P.; and they toasted each other in most pleasant fashion. The stewards included Messrs. Allen, Belcher, Bradshaw, Benley, Case, Davis, Fowler, Goode, Harward, Herve, Howell, Huggett, Le Maitre, Lee, Loder, Matthews, sen. and jun., Meadmore, Meredith, Miller, Newell, Wickhalls, Noel, Owen, Parker, Persihardo, Ratcliff, Roper, Sandle, Scott, Swinyard, Underwood, Winch, Wootton, and Wright, jun., all good workers in the good cause, who may be congratulated upon their latest flutter.

ST. THOMAS CHARTERHOUSE OLD BOYS.

The fourth annual festival of the Old Boys' Club was celebrated with a dinner at the Manchester Hotel, partaken of by upwards of 100 enthusiastic young and old "Old Boys." Several old and distinguished ex-pupils, amongst them Major Potter, Dr. J. J. Pilley, W. Mortimer, &c., sent telegrams of congratulation and regret at enforced absence. The head-master (Mr. C. Smith) of the schools presided, and gave all a most cordial welcome. In proposing the "loyal" toast, the Chairman said the remembrance of distinguished royal favours, shown to the schools in the past, made all old scholars particularly loyal. The opening of one branch of the schools by the late revered Prince Consort, who was accompanied by his son, the Prince of Wales, clad in his little kilts, the reception at Windsor Royal Park of the pupils of the schools by her Majesty herself, were facts not likely to be forgotten. Mr. Middleton Chapman proposed prosperity to the "Old Boys' Club," and dwelt at some length upon the functions of old boys' clubs. Mr. Albert A. Sainsbury (a noted old St. Thomas' boy), replied in a telling, and withal facetious speech. Mr. J. Woods, who joined the school at the very opening of the institution, detailed briefly, but forcibly and humorously, school life at St. Thomas' in the pre-historic days. The characteristics of some of the head-masters were amusingly delineated. Mr. W. J. Wood's toast of "Prosperity to the school and its head-master," was replied to at some length by Mr. C. Smith, who deplored that fact that the school often got confounded by another lesser light holding out at a small town in Surrey (Godalming). The speaker, who has been identified with the school for 31 years, referred to some of the recent successes of the schools, stating that 10 out of 12 Worrall Scholarships had been taken by pupils, both of the Christ Hospital local scholarships, both of the Saddlers' (value £90 each); three out of six of the City Foundation Scholarships, several intermediate and junior London County Council Scholarships—there being only one school in London that had equalled it in the matter of securing London County Council's Intermediate Scholarships (value £200 each). Following this toast, was one of the most pleasant functions of the evening's proceedings, viz., the presentation to the gold and silver medallists of the year, William D. Tomkins (gold), and Herbert M. Winslow (silver), being the fortunate winners of the much coveted rewards. The chairman, in performing the ceremony, said it could never be known to the full what latent intellect had been developed by the competition for the medals. The donor of the gold medal, Mr. W. J. Darnell, of Kingsland, himself an ex-pupil, had set an example which deserved copying. The speaker trusted that the medallists in their turn would be enabled to be givers of gold medals. Mr. C. Smith believed that the two prize winners, however affluent they might become, would reckon their medals as among their most valued possessions. Master D. Tomkins, in a very neat little reply, expressed his gratitude for the great care bestowed upon him throughout his pupilage. Mr. George Price (head-master of Westbourne-road Board School, Barnsbury), and formerly an assistant in the schools, in a very graceful manner proposed the toast of "The Visitors," coupling with the same the names of Dr. Stack, Mr. A. E. Taylor, and also the names of two Indian gentlemen who are having a long sojourn in the country, studying our educational system. One of the two last-mentioned gentlemen, in a very forcible speech, alluded to the pleasure and knowledge he had derived by his sojourn amongst us. The toast, "The Health of the Chairman," was given by Mr. F. Beveridge (of FREEMAN'S JOURNAL), the first medallist of the school, a gentleman who has ever evinced a living interest in all that concerns his alma mater. Mr. J. Wallis, F.R.G.S., the head of the upper school, in a complimentary speech, proposed "The Health of the Vice-Chairman," alluding particularly to the interest he induced others to take in the welfare of the Old Boys' Club. Mr. Woods suitably responded. A host of talent, musical and otherwise, enlivened the evening's proceedings. Mr. Edward Paulton, worthy son of a clever father (Mr. Harry Paulton), assisted by P. Ferguson, B. C. Hastwell Ballard, F. Leeks, A. Abbott, H. Sainsbury, W. Clarke made the evening's entertainment a memorable one. Mr. W. Clement-Purdie rendered admirable service as accompanist.

HORNSEY RISE GUILD PLEASANT HOURS.

On Saturday last, the hall was filled with members and friends. The programme was under the direction of Mr. Cresshull and his friends from Goswell-road. Mr. Scott France presided. Mr. F. D. Cresshull acted as accompanist, and played a selection from "La Poupee." Mr. Hawkins gave a sympathetic rendering of "True till Death," and the "Shipwrecked Captain" found an enjoyable chronicler in Mr. S. Pepler. Miss Daisy Gay sang with expression "Asthore" and "Ora Pro Nobis;" the duet, "Rialto," was skilfully played by the Cresshull Mandoline Party. Mr. S. Howard sang "What ho," receiving an encore, which he honoured. Mr. Donald Keir sang with power, "Off to Philadelphia;" Mr. Neilson gave the tale of "Macdougall's Sister;" and Mr. Dickens played "The Outpost" as a mandoline solo. Mr. Arthur Carslake was humorous in his singing of "I'll have 'em," and in response to an encore, sang "That's what married life is." The sketch which closed the concert was admirably played by members of the Cecilian Dramatic Society. The characters were taken by Misses Philip and Wilkinson and Messrs. T. A. and G. Tippett and J. and F. Reed.

WOMEN WHO DRESS WELL.

ECONOMICAL AND REFINED WOMEN.

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ISLINGTON GUARDIANS.

Yesterday the Board met at the offices, St. John's-road, Upper Holloway, Mr. G. S. ELLIOTT presiding. There were present, Messrs. Cheesley, Doherty, Fricker, Yeoman, J. Williams, Walker, Neale, Stonelake, Bryen, Lambert, Tomkins, Davies, Dearing, Boulton, Miss Farmer, Miss Hill, Miss Varley, Mrs. Barrett, and Mrs. Leonard Marshall.

ILLNESS OF MR. BAILEY.

Mr. FRICKER said the Board would regret to hear that Mr. Bailey had been very ill. He was now at Hastings, and he (the speaker) moved that a letter of sympathy be sent to him.

Miss FARMER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

FINANCE.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, it was agreed that cheques be drawn in payment of accounts amounting to £4881 18s. 4d.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

A letter was read from the Guardians of Camberwell, enclosing a resolution suggesting that the power to provide housing accommodation for the working-classes should be transferred from the London County Council to the municipalities when created.

Miss CLARKE moved, "That Islington concur in the suggestion," but the resolution was not carried.

The letter was simply acknowledged.

PURCHASE OF VACCINATION STATION.

A letter was read from the Electric Lighting Committee of the Islington Vestry, asking the price the Guardians want for the property at 36, Newington-green-road.

Mr. J. W. WILLIAMS said the committee were willing to purchase the vaccination station for £200.

It was agreed to refer the matter to a committee of three, Messrs. Dearing, Tomkins, and Fricker, to view and report to the Guardians as to its value.

MR. ALLINGHAM'S SALARY.

The Local Government Board wrote declining to sanction the proposed increase in Mr. Allingham's (second clerk) salary, and the Guardians unanimously agreed that the Board should be asked to reconsider their decision.

NEW INFIRMARY, HIGHGATE-HILL. THE GUARDIANS DECIDE TO GENERATE THEIR OWN ELECTRIC LIGHT.

A report was received from the Highgate-hill Infirmary Committee enclosing reports on electric lighting by Mr. J. Enright, electrical engineer, and from the Electricity Department of the Islington Vestry.

Mr. Enright reported that for the lighting of the infirmary they would require the equivalent of 2,300 sixteen candle-power lamps. As, however, not more than two-thirds of the 2,300 would be in use at one time, they would have to provide current for 1,700 sixteen candle-power lamps. With regard to providing for 1,700 sixteen candle-power glow lamps, as one horse-power gives energy for about nine such lamps, an engine of 190 B.H.P., with a dynamo of corresponding output, would suffice. But, as during great part of both night and day only a very small number of lights would be required, it is clearly not economical to run a large engine for so few lamps. Hence it would be well to use a storage battery in connection with a smaller engine. During times of light load the engine will be used to charge the battery, and during the period of heavy load engine and battery co-operate, while during the period from 11 o'clock p.m. till about 11 o'clock a.m., the battery alone will take the load, and as a battery when charged requires no further attention, the wages of a night attendant will be saved.

After considering the matter carefully, he decided that the best plant for their purpose would be an engine of 185 B.H.P., with a storage battery of about 1,000 ampere hours. Should you in the future require to increase the plant, the engine will be always large enough, and any increment required can very easily be obtained by adding to the battery.

Estimate of Plant.—Engine and dynamo, £1,050; engine and dynamo, £1,050; erecting engines, &c., £150; cables, £200; battery, £650; contingencies, £100; total, £3,180.

Yearly Charges.—Interest on £3,420 at 2¾ per cent., £94 1s.; depreciation, sinking fund at 3 per cent., £103 12s.; wages, &c., £160; oil, waste, and sundries, £100; total £456 13s.

Each sixteen candle-power lamp will require about 36 units per year, and accordingly 2,500 will require a total of 90,000; dividing £456 13s. by this number we get 1.21d. or slightly less than 1¼d. per unit.

There is no allowance for coal in the estimate. The consumption of fuel when used for electric lighting only, varies from ½d. upwards and taking into account that the boilers should be kept going for other requirements of the institution he considered ½d. per unit a liberal allowance to make for coal which brings the total price up 1¾d. At all events it can safely be taken as well within 2d. per unit.

He was bound to point out that lighting is not the only use which could be made of the plant. The laundry machines could be worked by electric motors, and very considerable was the lessening of the expenditure made possible by being able to transmit energy by a flexible conductor, instead of having to cut away and disfigure walls and ceilings by setting belts and shaftings. Then ventilation could be well accomplished by electrically operated fans, lifts may be worked, &c. It must be remembered that the more of such work done electrically the lower the price per unit becomes. That appeared quite clear when one reflected that the engine if used for lighting only would stand idle for nearly 18 hours out of the 24.

Since your capital will be buried in the engine, it is clearly wise to get out of it all it is capable of doing for the establishment. If in public supply electric stations use could be found for the work the engines could do during the 24 hours, electric energy could be had for one-quarter of the present price. The total estimate, Mr. Enright put down as £5,920.

The Electricity Committee of the Vestry reported that they were prepared to supply the light required at a uniform charge of 4d. per unit for all current, subject to an agreement being entered into for a period of two years.

The Highgate Building Committee recommended that the Guardians generate their own electricity.

Mr. DEARING, in moving the adoption of the report, said the members had given the matter great attention, and he thought they had brought up a very satisfactory report, both as regarded the Board and the ratepayers. As would be seen, they would be able to generate their own electricity at something like 2d. per unit. At first the Vestry offered to supply the light at 7d. and 4d. per unit, and now they came forward with an offer for a uniform charge, 4d. Consequently, by having their own electric lighting installation instead of going to the Vestry, there would be a saving to the ratepayers of 50 per cent. When the matter first came before the Board, Mr. Williams said the cost would be £30,000, but they found that it would only cost £6,000.

Mr. TOMKINS seconded, and said that comparing Mr. Enright's report with a private one he had received from an electrical engineer, he thought it was a most reliable one. Some months ago it was thrown broad-cast about the parish that the cost of generating their own light would be £30,000, and double the price at which the Vestry could supply it. He was insulted in the Vestry by the chairman of the Electricity Committee, who, when he asserted that that committee had treated the Building Committee with scant courtesy, said he told lies. He would apologise to the electricity department of the Vestry by again repeating the statement. (Laughter.) There was no doubt about it that by generating their own light instead of going to the Vestry, there would be a saving to the ratepayers of 100 per cent.

Miss FARMER moved, as an amendment, "That the Vestry have the contract for two years, providing they supply the current at 4d. per unit." She contended that if they generated their own light, there would be other expenses not mentioned in the report. They would have to employ a resident electrical engineer, for one thing, and she was also very doubtful if the money for the works could be borrowed at 2¾ per cent. They really ought to consider the matter very seriously, for once put the light at Highgate-hill, they would want it at St. John's-road and Cornwallis-road. [Hear, hear and cries of "Why not."]

Mr. J. W. WILLIAMS seconded, and said that the statement that the installation would cost £30,000 was based on the assumption that 10,000 lights would be required. [Cries of "Who told you such a thing" and uproar.] Proceeding, the speaker criticised the report, and contended that the cost had been underestimated. In a year or two, the Vestry would be able to supply the light as cheaply as they could make it.

Mr. DOHERTY said that Mr. Williams and Miss Farmer had treated the Board to a lamentable exhibition that morning. (Laughter and "Oh, oh.") The Building Committee had gone carefully into the matter, and they were fully convinced that laying down their own electrical works would mean a saving to the parish of 50 per cent. Would Miss Farmer and Mr. Williams go to the ratepayers and justify their action in supporting a policy which would mean such an increased cost.

Mr. STONELAKE said that in a certain book they read of a Daniel come to judgment, and now they had a Lizzie Farmer and a Williams come to judgment. (Loud laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN—Are you sure that sentence is in the book you refer to? (Laughter.)

Mr. STONELAKE (proceeding) asserted that Miss Farmer and Mr. Williams were the mouth-pieces of a party in the Vestry who desired, at all costs, to provide additional work for the working man. They cared nothing about the ratepayers as long as their own party was served. The interests of the ratepayers were a secondary consideration compared with increasing work and raising the wages of the workmen to an exorbitant extent.

Mr. BRYEN, as an ordinary everyday business man, was convinced that it was far cheaper to generate their own electricity than to have it from the Vestry. Everything had been considered in the estimates, and when the loans were repaid the cost per unit for the light would not exceed 1d. Mr. Williams and Miss Farmer asserted that extra staff would be needed, and that an electrical engineer would be required. That was so, but the staff and engineer would be required even if they had the light from the Vestry. The advantage of having their own light would be (1), no administration expenses; (2), no heavy staff to pay; (3), no unproductive mains.

Miss CLARKE contended that there would be no loss to the ratepayers by the Guardians having their electric light from the Vestry. Both bodies were representatives of the ratepayers, and consequently it would be only like taking money from one pocket and putting it into the other. (Loud laughter.) The Board had not had sufficient time to consider the report, and she moved, "That the debate be adjourned for a week."

Miss VARLEY seconded, but on the motion being put, it was lost.

Mr. LAMBERT expressed satisfaction that Mr. Bryen's views had changed on the matter, and then went on to point out that the Vestry, by Act of Parliament, could not give the Guardians special terms over other users of the light. With regard to an electrical engineer they would be bound to have one, whether they generated their own light or had it from the Vestry.

Miss VARLEY—I would like to ask the electrical engineer, but he is not here, as I consider he ought to be, how long the dynamos will last.

Mr. DEARING—You can ask your brother. He knows all about it. (Laughter.)

Mrs. LEONARD MARSHALL said it seemed to her that those who had opposed the motion knew least about it. (Hear, hear.) Those who had taken the trouble to go into the matter were fully convinced that the recommendation of the committee was the cheapest and best arrangement.

The amendment, on being put, was lost, only Miss Farmer, Miss Clarke, Mr. Neale, and Mr. J. W. Williams voting for it.

The recommendation of the committee was then agreed to.

Miss FARMER—I give notice of motion to rescind.

Mr. TOMKINS—I hope Miss Farmer will not do that, as the work will be delayed.

The CHAIRMAN—If I was chairman of the committee I would not take much notice of that, but give orders for the work to be proceeded with. (Laughter.)

Mr. DEARING—That's all right; the work will be well in hand by next week. (Hear, hear.)

SYMPATHY FOR MISS HILL.

The CHAIRMAN announced that Miss Hill had written that she would have attended the Board that morning, but was prevented owing to the sudden death of her brother.

It was unanimously agreed to send her a letter of sympathy.

The Board adjourned.

EVANGELICAL LAY PREACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ISLINGTON DISTRICT.

There was a numerous attendance at Salter's-hall Baptist Chapel, Baxter-road, on Wednesday evening, on the occasion of the second annual meeting under the auspices of the above Association; and the proceedings revealed the substantial progress which had been made, and the success which had crowned the efforts of those connected with the organisation. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Alfred A. Savage, and during the proceedings several solos were melodiously rendered by the members of the Christian Singers' Union.

The second annual report submitted by the hon. secretary, Mr. George Angus, for the year ended 31st December last, stated that whereas in 1897 48 meetings were addressed, reaching an estimated audience of 2,600, last year 145 meetings were taken by the Association, of which 131 were adult meetings, with an aggregate attendance of about 5,800, and 14 children's services, giving an attendance of about 2,700; total attendance at the services about 8,500. The Association was able to help the Mission conducted by Mr. Telford at Crete-street Baptist Chapel. The secretary represented the Association at the annual meeting of the Islington Chapel Open-air Mission; and a circular letter was sent by the committee to the members inviting them to attend the North London Convention at St. Peter's Church, St. Peter's-street. Those who were able to respond were helped and encouraged by the able and forceful addresses delivered by ministers of various denominations. As showing the need and usefulness of such an Association as the Evangelical Lay Preachers' Association, letters of thanks and appreciation have from time to time been received. With regard to financial matters, no appeal had been made, but through the timely receipt of special donations from friends interested in the work, liabilities had been met, leaving a balance in hand. The committee solicited continued support. There had been an increase in the membership for the past year.

Mr. George Morrison moved the adoption of the report, and this was seconded by Mr. S. H. Ablett, hon. secretary of the Parent Society, and both referred to the excellence of the organisation with which they were connected, and the need for increased support being afforded it.

Other speeches followed, and the proceedings closed with the usual votes of thanks.

SMOKING CONCERT AT THE "MONARCH" HOTEL.

On Wednesday evening a highly successful smoking concert was held at the "Monarch" Hotel, Hornsey-road (proprietor, Mr. Spreadborough), in connection with final heat of an excellently-contested billiard handicap. The handicap originally comprised 32 entries, and the issue on Wednesday evening was left between Mr. S. Shea (rec. 55) and Mr. Dave Muncy (rec. 50), the former proving successful after an exciting contest, by 11 points only, the winner being heartily congratulated. The third and fourth prizes fell respectively to Messrs. W. Ladd and C. Carter. The handicapper, marker, and referee was our old friend, "General" Booth, who in this three-fold capacity gave the utmost satisfaction to all those concerned. The excitement of billiards over, the company adjourned to the spacious assembly-room, where an excellent Bohemian concert was held, under the presidency during the evening of Mr. H. P. Spreadborough, Mr. H. Lavers, Mr. J. Dickens, Mr. W. Saunders, and "General" Booth. Mr. Cecil Forbes was the efficient musical director, Mr. John Brittain a model pianist, and the following artistes elicited the warm commendation of the large gathering:—Mr. John Brittain Mr. Herbert Vanstone (recitation), Mr. Ted Rachow, Mr. George Dowling, Mr. Cecil Forbes, Mr. Gus Elliott, Mr. Keys (clarionet), Mr. Will Drew, Mr. Fred Bell, Mr. Arthur Ranger (cornet), Mr. Charles Exudier, Mr. Charles Stevenson, Mr. H. P. Spreadborough, Mr. Fred Bangle, Miss Clara Westbrook, and Mr. Walter Culmer.

POLLING STATION FOR MUSWELL HILL.

At the meeting of the Middlesex County Council yesterday, the General Purposes Committee, having considered a petition signed by electors of the Muswell-hill Ward of the Hornsey urban district, asking for a polling station for Parliamentary elections within that ward, recommended that the terms of the petition be acceded to, and the Council therefore passed a resolution redetermining the area of the Highgate polling district, and constituting Muswell-hill Ward—before a part of the Highgate polling district—a separate polling district.

On Saturday, at the Northern Polytechnic Institute, Holloway-road, the People's Concert Society will give their usual weekly concert. The programme will include, besides solos, trios for pianoforte and strings, Beethoven's E Flat Op. 11, and Saint Saens in F. Violin, Miss Lucy Stone; violoncello, Mr. Clyde Twelvetrees; and pianoforte, Mr. H. V. Hamilton. The vocalists are Mrs. Dorothy Howard and Mr. T. B. Evison's Choir (mixed voices), who will sing part-songs, madrigals, &c.

International Peace Crusade.—A town's meeting for Islington will be held at the Polytechnic-hall, Holloway-road, next Monday, at 8 p.m., to further the aims of the peace movement. The vicar of the parish, as chairman of the Vestry, will preside, and be supported by many of the local clergy representing all the religious denominations, and members of the various public bodies have also promised to attend. The committee making the arrangements is entirely non-political, and comprises members of various local societies and bodies, who feel that the strong feeling existing in Islington in favour of any proposals for minimising the horrors and possibility of war in future should be expressed at a public gathering. Any further particulars can be had of the honorary secretaries, Northampton-house, St. Paul's-road, N.

FERME PARK BAPTIST CHURCH.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING LAST NIGHT.

ILLNESS OF THE REV. CHARLES BROWN.

The tenth anniversary in connection with Ferme-park Baptist Church, was commenced on Sunday last, when special sermons were preached in the morning by the pastor, the Rev. Charles Brown, and in the evening by the Rev. Medley, M.A., of Regent's-park College. The building was packed at each service, and affording valuable confirmation of the fact that a more commodious chapel is urgently needed if the church, as a religious community, is to carry out the work now lying at its hand.

Last evening about 150 members and friends met in the schoolroom and partook of tea, enjoying the while the opportunity for social intercourse.

Subsequently, a public meeting was held in the chapel. Mr. Dix Lewis, J.P., presided and he was supported by the Rev. C. W. Vick secretary of the Baptist Association, Mr. James Hurford, Mr. Porter, Mr. Wemberton, and others.

After a hymn and prayer offered by the Rev John Kelly.

The Secretary read a letter from the pastor, the Rev. Charles Brown, in which it was stated that he was confined to his bedroom by influenza, but he hoped to be able to take the service on Sunday. He was greatly disappointed, seeing that that was the first anniversary he had been absent from since the church was opened. Mr. Porter also read a letter from the Rev. J. Hilton Stowell, of Mount-view, who regretted that he could not keep his engagement that night. His family had been plunged into grief by the loss of Mrs. Stowell's brother at sea, and they were setting out for South Wales in consequence.

The Church Secretary read the tenth annual report, which stated that in the first annual report of the church the prayer was uttered that the church might become a beacon to wayfarers and a home for the disciples of the Lonely One of Nazareth. The fact that in 9½ years, ending December, 1898, 735 persons were received into Christian fellowship, of which number 506 remained to this day, was proof that part of the prayer at least had been answered. A large number still had passed through the building and taken some part in the public services. At that, the tenth, anniversary, all were looking forward to the passing of the next few months when the time should come for the opening of the new and larger building in course of erection for public worship. The church roll showed a net increase of 43 during the past year, the total membership being 506; 19 joined the church on first profession of faith, and 60 were received by transfer. 10 more were removed from the books for want of information, and one member had been called to higher service. Through the blessing of God, their pastor had been sustained in health and vigour, and the church prayed for a continued blessing upon both him and his wife and family. In accepting invitations to service elsewhere, they would ask him to remember that none listened to him with greater pleasure and profit than his own people. After thankful allusion to the pastor's care for children on Sabbath mornings, the report went on to say that five scholars had joined the church from the Sunday-school at Ferme-park, and seven from the Sunday-school at Campsbourne Mission. The International Bible Reading Association had a membership of 442 in the two schools. During the year the schools had contributed £75 odd to the missionary funds, including the support of a native evangelist on the Congo, and nearly £20 towards the funds of the Kingsdown Orphanage It was very gratifying to be able to say that the Missionary Society Auxiliary had contributed to the parent society a larger sum than in any previous year, the contribution for 1898 being £247. The collectors were asked to gather in the subscriptions as early as possible in order that the Ferme-park auxiliary might take its full share in the task of raising the parent society's annual income to £100,000, towards which greater efforts are now being made. The leading feature of the financial reports was an increase in the various general accounts, and the receipt of £1,534 towards the erection of the new building, as against £914 in 1897. The total sum contributed to all funds amounted to £3,040 in 1898, as compared with £2,390 in 1897. "Progress" was the one word in which the work of the past year might be summarised (Applause.)

The Chairman said he came that night with a message from the pastor and deacons of Park Chapel of brotherliness; and he hoped that there might be no rivalry between the two churches except that of seeing which could do the most good. He also had to express for himself and for his church, the high esteem in which they held the pastor of Ferme-park. He had been delighted with the report presented, and congratulated the church on the progress made. He feared that too often people looked upon their church as something of a polytechnic, a place where people might meet each other and get fresh introductions; it must, however, be remembered that whatever secular work a church entered upon, it should only be as a means to an end. Old associations and institutions now had new names, but he hoped they would not lose anything of their old aggressive force. That church had grave financial burdens resting upon it, but he was not at all sure that was a bad thing, for they would grow in the shade, and it would put them upon their metal to make greater effort to extinguish their old debt. Mr. Dix-Lewis also expressed his great disappointment that both Mr. Brown and Mr. Hilton were not present, and he warned the congregation that they should not think of allowing Mr. Brown to take the services on Sunday, for, as he knew, to his cost, influenza would not stand trifling with. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. W. H. Vick, secretary of the London Baptist Association, then gave an earnest and inspiring address, in the course of which the rev. gentleman, said there was no church that he prayed for more, or that lay nearer to his heart, than that at Ferme-park. He congratulated them on the splendid work done in the past, and trusted that his old friend, Mr. Charles Brown, would soon be restored to health to take his place at the head of affairs.

Other speakers followed, and a collection was taken at the close.

MONTEM STREET BOARD SCHOOL.

A UNIQUE ENTERTAINMENT.

We have on previous occasions had the pleasure of commenting in most eulogistic terms upon the excellence of the entertainments given by the children attending Montem-street Higher Standard School. They are always models of what school entertainments should be, bright, intelligent, and interesting, and the entertainment given last evening on behalf of the Teachers' Orphanage Fund, at Holloway-hall, proved no exception to the general rule. By past experience much was expected, a high standard of quality looked for, and it redounds to the credit of the school that anticipation was more than realised. But it must not be forgotten that the programme so capitally carried out was the result of much hard work, much patience, and self-denial on the part of the head-master, Mr. Heasman, the head-mistresses, Miss Crees and Mrs. Legg, and the willing band of assistant-teachers generally, who were responsible for the tutoring and training of the youthful performers. The major part of the evening was taken up by the performance of two plays. For the first the infants were responsible, and warm tributes of praise can be accorded them for a charming interpretation of "Silverlocks and the Three Bears." It was received with the highest marks of approval by the audience, who cheered the youngsters to the echo. The characters were sustained as follows:—Silverlocks, K. Dunham; Witch, W. Jones; Grandmother, N. Woodcraft; Mother Bear, A. Whiting; Fairy, E. Miller; Grandfathers, T. Slatford and S. Rose; Father Bear, A. Morbey; Little Bear, W. Barnes; Children, M. Corpe, L. Ward, F. Clark, L. Cox, L. Miller, M. Marsh, L. Baruch, E. Whiting, K. Cheesewright, and L. Weston. The second play, interpreted as it was by the older boys and girls, was of a more ambitious nature. The title was "Dick Whittington," and the piece was divided into eight scenes, the plot revealing the old-time story of the poor lad who, by the aid of his wonderful cat, became exceeding rich, and was thrice elected Lord Mayor of London town. On all hands the play was voted a complete success, and the zest with which the young actors and actresses entered into the spirit of performance was the theme of general admiration. As in the infants' play, every performer was attired in suitable costume, and altogether it was a bright, clever, and merry representation, arranged and carried out with careful regard to every detail. It would be perhaps invidious to particularise those who took part; sufficient to say that all acquitted themselves admirable. The characters were interpreted as follows:—Dick, a Poor Boy, F. Elliott; Mrs. Fitzwarren, D. Halifax; Maids of Honour, D. Brown and G. Derrick; Cook, A. Stevens; Dame, P. McDonald; Manservant, J. Stump; Countryman, W. Richardson; Mr. Fitzwarren, a Merchant, B. Mountifield; Alice, his Daughter, N. Hales; Pages, A. Norburn, S. Woods, and W. Lilley; Maids, K. Barth and E. Cannon; Cat, F. Wright; Captain, H. Carter; Holiday Makers, A. Atkin, J. Barnes, P. Burke, D. Chappell, C. Faulkner, M. Fletcher, K. Galloway, M. Harvey, E. Harris, F. Hawkins, E. Hewitt, C. Hewitt, E. Hocking, E. Hooper, F. Hudson, G. Limmer, G. Merten, K. North, B. Oakley, L. Pangbourne, E. Payne, D. Prohl, M. Sylvester, A. Uffindell, D. Warren, M. Watkins, and M. West; Country Women, A. Bartle, R. Bath, K. Brown, E. Hopkins, M. Burton, and R. Gienister; Fish Wives, G. Bascomb, D. Blacklock, M. Hann, M. Oldfield, G. Saville, and M. Wells; Sailors, S. Morbey, H. Field, H. Godfrey, F. Moody, B. Thorlby, and F. Wilkins; Countrymen, P. Greenwood, F. Hooper, F. McNeill, S. Parke, W. Simmons, and J. Wills; Soldiers, W. Bowen, W. Champ, C. Carling, W. Freeman, W. Gardner, W. Grint, A. Griggs, W. Hughes, J. Harris, C. Lydon, A. Lucy, and V. Rawlinson. Of the miscellaneous part of the programme praise can be awarded to a powerful and tuneful choir, who contributed with fine effect "New Year's Welcome," "Forester's Sound," "Rockaby Lullaby," and two pretty and cleverly interpreted action songs, "The Rainbow" and "The Bon Bon;" while the smartness and uniformity of the Wand Drill given by the following lads:—C. Aston, A. Ayre, R. Berry, R. Caparn, F. Davidson, A. Down, F. Ebsworth, J. Godfrey, S. Hersant, P. Merle W. Sharp, S. Standen, E. Tulley, H. Wright W. Webb, W. Williams, J. Wright, F. Williams, G. Wright, was greatly admired and loudly cheered; as also was the clever and neatly-executed club drill by the girls—P. Burke, M. Orchard, M. Rist, G. Skuse, V. Skuse, E. Stubbs, M. Watkins, M. West, and the boys—S. Beeby, S. Bolton, H. Hendy, R. Hotchkiss, D. Rist, F. Robers, T. Muncey, G. Wells. Another interesting item, too, was the capitally cymbal dance, contributed by F. Parke, E. Pangbourne, A. Smith, S. Standing, L. Standing, F. Sutherland, and altogether the programme was hugely enjoyed by the large audience who filled the Holloway-hall to completion. It was, in fact, a splendid and unique entertainment—a revelation to a good many of what a School Board can do in that direction—reflecting credit alike upon the teachers, the children, and the school. The programme will be repeated to-night.

MR. AND MRS. G. O. BARRATT'S GOLDEN WEDDING.

CELEBRATION AT WOOD GREEN.

Last evening, at the head establishment of Messrs. Barratt and Co., at Mayes-road, Wood-green, was commenced the celebration of the golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Barratt, the founders of the now famous firm of confectioners. At 5.30 a reception was held, followed by a banquet in the exhibition room, which had been tastefully draped and decorated, the drapery afterwards proving a source of alarm by catching fire when a flash-light photograph was being taken. A fireman of the firm's brigade, however, rapidly extinguished the flames with a hand hydrant before it had a chance to spread, the numerous guests retaining their seats. Every guest was presented with a souvenir button, upon which were portraits of the happy old couple.

Mr. G. W. Barratt was president, Mr. Albert Barratt, M.C., and the former gentlemen acted as chairman, supported by Messrs. Frank, Edward, and Albert Barratt, and Mr. J. Stennett.

The musical portion of the entertainment included selections by Mr. James Jefferson's bijou orchestra, songs and recitations by Mr. Eric Farr, Mr. Will. Ballard, Mr. Valentine Hill, Mr. Will. Edwards, and Mr. Charles Coverdale, and there was a ventriloquial performance by Mr. Fred. Russell and his little coster.

Mr. Diprose proposed the toast of the evening, "Our Guests—Mr. and Mrs. G. O. Barratt." When, he said, the health of the bride and bridegroom was proposed, as a rule, it was the custom to wish them health, happiness, and prosperity. During the fifty years of wedded life of Mr. and Mrs. Barratt, they had had all three. (Hear, hear.) They had had to work, however, exceedingly hard to bring the business up to its present magnitude, and the name of Barratt was now known all over the kingdom and the colonies. Mr. Barratt had been assisted in no small degree by Mrs. Barratt. (Applause.) She had reared a large family, and a more devoted and indulgent mother no family ever had, and no father and mother ever had a more devoted family. On behalf of their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and in the name of all the friends gathered round the board that evening, he gave them their heartfelt congratulations, and trusted the Almighty would grant them another span of life, and that it might be his privilege to once more join in a gathering to celebrate their diamond wedding. (Applause.)

Mr. G. O. Barratt, who was received with loud applause, made a response which caused many a roar of laughter. This, he said, was his first golden wedding, but he would no doubt first wife—his only wife—and he was sure she had It was just 50 years since his sweetheart took him to the altar, and he had never regretted it. There were a number of children present by his first wife—his only wife—he was sure she had been a good mother. He was very pleased to see everyone, and should certainly invite them to his next golden wedding. (Applause.)

Mr. Horace Falker proposed "The Firm," and the Chairman responded. Mr. Albert Barratt proposed "The Visitors," and Mr. Hul responded.

To-morrow (Saturday), and on Monday, the celebration will be continued, and illuminated addresses will be presented to Mr. and Mrs. Barratt from the employees, by Messrs. S. L. Riskey and W. Taylor, and Mrs. Green. Tomorrow the banquet will be given by the male employees, and on Monday by the female employees.

Among those present last night were several members of the Islington Guardians and Vestry and many well-known Hornsey, Wood-green, and the surrounding districts, numbering about 170.

CLERKENWELL HOOLIGANS.

At an early hour yesterday morning there was a repetition of the disgraceful scenes that have occurred in the neighbourhood of the Clerkenwell Town-hall this week. Passers through Northampton-street saw several lads suddenly rush at each other and commence to fight fiercely. In less than a minute a dozen others rushed from a mews, while from other thoroughfares a number of other lads came upon the scene.

Within a few seconds some twenty or thirty youths were engaged in a violent street fight. Belts, sticks, and stones were used, and many of the combatants received cuts and bruises. Eventually one gang took to their heels and ran in the direction of Myddelton-square, where a second encounter took place. Many strangers passing by had narrow escapes of injury from stones recklessly flung by the young ruffians. During the past week there have been frequent street fights between the rival gangs.

FAIRBRIDGE SOCIAL CLUB.

This society, which is a section of the Hornsey-rise Guild, gave an invitation concert at the Guild-house, 176, Stroud-green-road, on Wednesday last. There was a good party, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The following took part:—Messrs. Wainwright, Evelin Cleaver, Mayne, Welsh, Notson, Jago, Dolf Woolf, Murray Key, West, Banger, Horry, Culmer, and Hales. The club has adopted an "associate" membership, and young men, who must be abstainers, may now join without being members of the guild. The programme arranged is a varied one, including debates, papers, socials, magazine and letter nights, &c., and young men desirous of forming desirable friendships should apply for "associate" membership to the secretary, Mr. A. Geer, 176, Stroud-green-road. The club meets every Wednesday, from 8.30 to 10.15.

MORE GUARDIANS FOR HORNSEY AND WOODGREEN.

At the meeting of the Middlesex County Council yesterday, on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, the order of the Joint Committee making the following alteration in the constitution of the Edmonton Board of Guardians was confirmed:—For the parish of Hornsey the number of Guardians to be increased from seven to nine; for Wood-green the Guardians to be increased from three to four; and for Tottenham the Guardians to be increased from seven to eight. The order will take effect after the next triennial election.

On Monday evening next, at Northampton Institute, Mr. Seymour Dicker announces a grand evening concert. Among those who will appear are Madame Belle Cole, Miss Amy Sherwin, Messrs. Frank Boor, Henry Piercy, Barry Lindon, Richard Green, and several other well-known artistes.

Messrs. Crisp and Co., having decided to commence the alterations they have long had in contemplation to fit their stores for the increasing requirements of the neighbourhood will hold a special realisation sale on Monday next, and twelve following days, when all goods will be sold at exceptionally low prices.

The Middlesex Musical Society had another programme night on Tuesday, at the "Middlesex Arms," Clerkenwell-green. Mr. Vice-President William Paddon was in the chair, and called up a list of entertainers who delighted a large number of members and friends. Mr. Walter Hunt, as usual, was the musical director, and Mr. C. Johnston the pianist. Amongst the contributors to the programme were Messrs. Hunt, Garlick, Day, Morris, Bond, Grey, Odell, and Smart on the sentimental side; and, on the comic, Messrs. Mardon, Dent, Musgrave, Lethbridge, Leamar, Ison, Sandow, Hawthorne, and Wallace. Mr. H. J. Moore played the banjo, and Mr. Seear recited.

OUR SHORT STORY.

A TALE OF BLOOMERS.

Phyllis, Maude, and I all took to the wheel at about the same time, and for weeks our tiny apartment echoed with the sounds of battle over the dress question.

Maude, the emancipated, declared that skirts were an abomination, and that bloomers were the only things for a sensible woman to wear when wheeling. Phyllis and I raised our hands in holy horror, and cried "Bloomers!" in tones of disgust, but Maude persisted in "blooming," and departed to order her suit and buy herself a diamond-frame wheel.

When we started out on our first ride, you might pay your money and take your choice. I looked the acme of respectability, Phyllis very graceful and pretty, and Maude—well, we couldn't approve of her exactly, although she was a "peach," as young Dick Bragdon, who lived next door, was overheard to say. We were satisfied to let her skim along ahead; and when we stopped we "sort of grouped ourselves," as Phyllis explained it, so that Maude would not stand forth conspicuously in the foreground.

I, tall, dignified, and fair, should have been called Maude, instead of having my name, Mary Jameson, corrupted into "Jim." That boyish appellation would have suited Maude, who was petite independent, and dark, to perfection. As for Phyllis, her name was appropriate. When she assumed her womanly air, and made eyes demurely at her numerous admirers, she was "Phyllis Fayre," but when, after an attack of fever, she came back to us with a crop of short brown curls and an effervescing flow of good spirits, she was our boy, our "Phyl."

"Eliot Bragdon is coming home next week," Maude informed us at dinner. "I met Mrs. Bragdon at the library, and then came up town with Kitty Hollister. He is a great catch, it seems. 'Family, money, everything!' Kit said. 'And such manners!' She raved over him. Phyl, you'd better set your cap."

Phyl's lip curled in scorn. "I don't want him. Dick is devoted enough for one family. I think he would wed me instantly, in spite of the wide difference in our ages, if I had blond hair like Jim's and could make century runs as easily as you do. Set your cap for Eliot yourself. He has a wheel like yours, Dick says, and nowadays the way to a man's heart is through his wheel."

"Do you want to take a spin out to Riverside and back?" inquired Phyl, one afternoon.

"Can't possibly," I replied. "This gown must be made lovely for the affair at the Bragdons' this evening. And I should think that you would want to stay at home and be comfortable, instead of getting all roasted and freckled and burnt on that wheel. You'll look like a beet to-night, in white. What kind of impression do you expect to make on his majesty?"

Phyllis closed the door emphatically, and went.

An hour or so later, a despairing figure rose up from the wayside, firmly clutching the garments at her waist, and almost flung herself in the path of Phyl's wheel as she spun along. It was Maude.

"O Phyl!" she cried. "I'm so glad you've come! Do look at this!" and she displayed an appalling rent in her costume.

"However did you do it?" Phyllis gasped between the fits of laughter.

"A combination of beautiful meadow lilies, a cow, and a barbed wire fence—mostly the latter. Kitty Hollister is with me, and she has gone on to the next house to see if she can borrow a skirt or something. I've been sitting here for the last hour, it seems to me."

"Can't you pin them up?" queried Phyl.

"Pin them up! Look at them! Oh, here's Kit!"

"Maude, it's no use. Only an old man lives in that house, and he's so deaf I can't make him hear a word," Miss Hollister reported.

Maude was on the verge of tears.

"I can't stay here all night!" she said, and then: "O Phyl, let me have your skirt!"

Poor Phyllis looked at her in blank dismay.

"Oh, do! That's a dear! I'll take your wheel, and Kitty and I will take the train home. You ride my wheel in. Really, you look all right without your skirt—doesn't she, Kit?" Maude urged.

"I'd lend you mine," Kitty said, "if my bloomers and skirt weren't made in one piece."

Phyllis hesitated no longer, and the transfer was made in a second.

"Phyl, you look exactly like a boy," Maude cried. "Change caps with me. There! No one would ever imagine you weren't one of Dick Bragdon's little playmates."

"Thank goodness!" Phyllis sighed. "I'm glad my appearance is satisfactory. I feel like a freak. If I meet anyone I know, I shall die! Please have me laid out in skirts," and shaking off Maude's embrace, she jumped upon the wheel and was off.

"Phyl! Phyl!" Maude shrieked, but Phyl never turned her head. "Wearing bloomers is my limit," she thought, "and whatever she wants now she can wait for."

"Hi, little chap!" a voice called, as a young man—and such a fine-looking, athletic young man, too—wheeled up to her side. "Isn't this your tool case? A young lady was calling you to come back for it. You're a scorcher!"

Poor Phyl's cheeks burnt, and she was at a loss for a moment what to do. Then a bold resolve, prompted by the young man's first words, formed itself in her mind.

"Oh, thank you," she said, dismounting. "It is mine."

Was her voice boyish enough, she wondered, and wasn't that fellow ever going on?

"Your front tyre needs some air," he remarked. "Perhaps the valve is loose. That's it! There! I guess you're fixed. Are you going my way?"

"Idiot!" thought the "little chap." "As if I could go any other way without turning round and going back!" Then she took a good look at him. "Eliot Bragdon, of all people in the world! O Maude, how could you!" and Phyllis turned so pale that Bragdon jumped to her side in alarm.

"What is it, my boy? You're not faint, I hope? Ridden too far?"

"No, I'm all right," rather roughly. "Let's go along."

"Has Maude got home?" demanded Phyllis, bursting into my room and casting herself tragically upon my bed.

"Not yet," I replied. "Why, Phyllis Carleton! where's your skirt?"

"Maude has it. The old wretch! I'd like to eat her and him and everybody! Oh, I'm so mad!"

"You needn't commence your meal on me," I said. "What is the matter? And while you're telling me you might take your dusty feet off my pillows."

Thus admonished, Phyllis sat up and related to me her woes as I have written them, winding up in a better mood than the one in which she began, as the real humour of the situation struck her.

"He really thought I was a boy, you know, and he talked about the Wild West Show, and football, and said he'd like to have me come over and meet his brother, who was about my age, and he'd shew me some pictures he had of the Cambridge and Oxford crews and cricket teams. He asked me my name, and I told him 'Phil Julian.' I ought to have said 'Sapphira.' He asked me if I was Maude's brother, and I said: 'No, not her brother,' as if I was some near relation. Then he asked me where I had kept myself that he hadn't seen me before, though I lived so near, and I said I had just come in from the country; and that is true, Jim. Didn't I come in from Beverly on Monday? And, furthermore, I'd rather die a thousand deaths than go over there this evening, so you can make my excuses to Mrs. Bragdon, and I'll stay at home. I don't want any dinner, and Maude needn't come near me!"

"Did you like him?" I asked, as Phyl was going. "Didn't you think him interesting?"

"Interesting enough!" Phyl snapped. She was fast getting cross again.

When Eliot Bragdon mentioned at dinner the "cute little chap" with whom he had been riding, and discovered that his companion and Miss Phyllis Carleton, of whom he had heard a good deal, were one and the same, he bore the laughter of the family with ill-concealed irritation, and threatened to "settle" Dick if he ever dared to mention the subject.

After Maude and I had gone to the Bragdons that evening, Phyllis received by messenger an enormous box.

"Oh, roses!" she exclaimed. "How simply gorgeous! Who could have sent them?"

A card in the box informed her:

"To the nicest boy I know, with humblest apologies for any annoyance caused.—ELIOT MACRAE BRAGDON."

"He's so nice, I almost wish I'd gone," soliloquised Phyllis. "And he is ever so much handsomer than his pictures. Why, are they home so soon?" she went on as she heard a key turn in the hall door; and rising, she stood face to face with Eliot Bragdon himself.

"Pardon me," he said. "Miss Julian sent me for her music."

"The situation was a bit awkward," Phyl said afterwards, "but I told him who I was, and thanked him for the roses, and then we talked."

"What did he say?" we asked, but Phyllis was non-committal.

"Oh, I don't remember. Anyhow, I came back with him, didn't I?"

Maude has given up bloomers. "They are treacherous things," she says.

[THE END.]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Advertisements and Letters for the Editor are received at 10, High-street (opposite the "Angel"), and 10, Gough-square, Fleet-street All communications intended for insertion must be accompanied with the real name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. Several anonymous letters recently received have been withheld owing to the writer neglecting to observe this regulation

TO ADVERTISERS

REPLIES to Advertisements appearing in the Islington Gazette are received at the Office free of charge.

LONDON MUNICIPALITIES BILL.

Introduced in the House of Commons last night by Mr. A. J. Balfour.

Provisions.—London Vestry areas to be constituted municipalities with a corporation comprising mayor, councillors and aldermen to the number of 72; triennial elections; power to apply to London County Council for powers possessed by that body: areas to be defined by commission; municipalities to appoint overseers and all levies to be made on a single demand-note.

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EDWARD SCARGILL, Actuary

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EDUCATIONAL.

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RESPECTABLE Person Wants [illegible] place of trust; 9 years good [illegible] Highbury vale.

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