VISIT TO DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE.

DEAFNESS. BLINDNESS.

CURED WITHOUT OPERATION.

For Cataract and all Diseases of the Eye; Deafness in all its forms; Noises in the Ears; Discharges from the Ears; Deafness from Influenza cured. Write for testimonials and printed form of questions to answer sent free. Mr T. ISON, Oculist and Aurist, 71, Great George Street, Leeds.—Artificial Eyes, Spectacles, etc

NOTICE. — Mr Ison (of Ison's Eye and Ear Dispensary, Ltd., Leeds) personally attends. Sutties' Clarendon Hotel, Clayton Street, Newcastle, Monday, March 5th; Hours, 12 to 6. North-Eastern Hotel, Darlington, Monday, March 19th, Hours 11-30 to 5. Three Tuns Hotel, Durham, Saturday, March 17th, Hours 12 to 6·30.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER, AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

BRAIN FOOD

HARBURN'S PHOSPHORISED TONIC

RENEWS BRAIN, NERVE & BLOOD.

In Bottles 13½d. and 2s 9d. from Chemists or direct from A. HARBURN, M.P.S., Pharmaceutical Chemist, Darlington and Bishop Auckland.

No. 2063 | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. | FRIDAY, March 2nd, 1900. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

MR. A. WOLFE, 29, WEST SUNNISIDE, SUNDERLAND, IS PREPARED TO ADVANCE FROM £10 to £2,000 ON PROMISSORY NOTE TO ALL PROFESSIONS, FARMERS, AND OTHERS. STRICTEST PRIVACY GUARANTEED. LOW INTEREST, REPAYMENTS TO SUIT BORROWERS' CONVENIENCE; or CAPITAL CAN REMAIN SO LONG AS THE INTEREST IS PAID. NO FEES. DISTANCE NO OBJECT. MORTGAGES ARRANGED. REVERSIONS AND LIFE POLICIES PURCHASED. Telegrams—'Safe' Sunderland. Nat. Telephone 565.

Contracts.

ESTABLISHED 1873.

JOHN HEWITSON, SLATER AND SLATE MERCHANT, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL. Foreman's Residence: 64, WESLEY TERRACE. Estimates for Slating Gratis. Repairs a Speciality. Agent for all the Leading Slate Quarries. Agent for F. McNeill's Roofing Felt and Asphalte Damp Course or Foundation Felt. HEAD OFFICE: LEAZES PARK ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. National Telephone, No. 1348 98f

CROOK HALL SLAG CRUSHING WORKS, NEAR CONSETT.

I AM now in a position to supply promptly and at reasonable prices, the following Materials for Roads, Footpaths, Carriage Drives, Asphalting, Concreting, &c. Machine Broken Slag, to any size, up to 2½ inch. Slag Chippings ¾ to 1¼ inch. Fine Crushed Slag for Concrete purposes ¾ inch.

THE TRADE SUPPLIED.

The Slag is of most excellent Quality, it is of great density and of good colour, and very strong and durable stone for Road Making, &c. I am supplying it extensively to various Public Bodies, Contractors, &c. I am putting down an extensive Plant, for the manufacture of Artificial Stone, Flags, Kerbs, Sills, &c., and also Asphalting.—QUOTATIONS ON APPLICATION. Postal Address: D. ORMEROD, Blackhill. 564g

CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TENDERS are invited for the REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE, for a period of Six Months, ending September 30th, 1900.

Conditions of Contract may be seen, and the number of Houses, and other information obtained, at the Office of the Surveyor, on and after the 23rd inst.

Tenders sealed and endorsed "House Refuse Removal," to be sent in to Mr. T. W. Welford, Jun., Solicitor, Clerk to the Council, by 1.0 p.m. on Monday, March 5th next.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

WILLIAM S. SHELL, Surveyor. Parliament St., Consett. February 21st, 1900. 842g

TENDERS are invited for TEAM LABOUR required by the above Council, for a period of Six Months, ending September 30th, 1900.

Conditions of Contract may be seen, and Forms of Tender and other information obtained at the Office of the Surveyor, on and after the 23rd inst.

Tenders sealed and endorsed "Team Labour" to be sent in to Mr. T. W. Welford, Jun., Solicitor, Clerk to the Council by 1.0 p.m., on Monday, March 5th next.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

WILLIAM S. SHELL, Surveyor. Parliament St., Consett. February 21st, 1900. 843g

TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the several WORKS required to be done in the ERECTION of NEW W.M. CHURCH at High Spen, Lintz Green.

Drawings, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract, may be seen, and Forms of Tender obtained at the Architect's Office, 121, Durham Road, Blackhill.

Tenders to be sent in, endorsed "Tender for Church," to Rev. T. R. JACKSON, Ryton-on-Tyne, by not later than March 17th inst. Whole or separate Tenders received for each Department.

No pledge is given to accept the lowest or any Tender.

GEO. THOS. WILSON, Architect. February 28th, 1900. 895g

CHESTER-LE-STREET UNION. CONTRACT FOR PROVISIONS, CLOTHING, &c.

THE Guardians of the Poor of this Union are desirous of receiving TENDERS for the Supply, from the 29th day of March next to the 3rd day of October next (both days inclusive), of the undermentioned articles, viz:—Best Superfine Flour and Wheatmeal, Butter, Meat, to consist of Rounds and Thick Flanks of the best Ox or Heifer (the marrow to be shown at each end), Legs and Loins of the Best Wedder Mutton, Suet in proportion and Ox Heads (not less than 24lbs. each), Groceries; New Milk for twelve months from March 29th, 1900, to March 27th, 1901, (both days inclusive), to be delivered not later than 6.15 a.m. and 5.15 p.m. each day during the summer half-year and in the winter not later than 7.15 a.m. and 5.15 p.m.; Coal and Coke per ton, with leadage; Coffins for the Union as per specification; Boots and Shoes; Clothing as per contract form. Each contractor must, at the end of the quarter's delivery, send to the Master of the Workhouse a full bill of particulars. Forms of Tender, containing further particulars, and estimates of the probable requirements, may be had on application to the undersigned, or to the Master of the Workhouse. An invoice must accompany the delivery of all goods. Tenders, accompanied by sampels of groceries and draperies, to be delivered to me not later than 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 7th March next. No name, mark, or device to be added to any parcel or ticket other than the price of each article. The name of each person tendering must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and accompany each parcel. All samples must be wrapped in special paper, also marked on special tickets to be supplied on application to the undersigned. The Guardians do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.—By order,

ROBERT DICKINSON, Clerk to the Guardians. Union Offices, Chester-le-Street. 23rd February, 1900. 890g

Lost and Found.

LOST, on Thursday, Feb. 16th, Blue MACKINTOSH CAPE.—Finder rewarded on returning it to *Guardian* Office. 894g

Wanted.

WANTED, a GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply, 31, Newmarket Street, Consett.

WANTED, an experienced GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply, MRS. RAMSAY, North Eastern Bank, Blackhill. 889g

WANTED, a Young Man as CARTMAN, to live in, must be steady.—Apply, T. & J. DOBSON, 66, Front Street, Consett. 892g

THE CONSETT REGISTRY OFFICE for Domestic Servants.—Apply at MR. COCKBURN'S, Stationer, &c., 13, Front St, Consett.

WANTED, good plain COOK, also HOUSEMAID.—Apply, MRS. SCOTT, Derwent House, Shotley Bridge. 785g

WANTED, a good COOK GENERAL.—Apply to Mrs T. E. CROSSLING, 2, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, R.S.O.

WANTED, a HOUSEKEEPER, a steady Woman.—Apply, JAMES SMITH, Allen's Buildings, Annfield Plain. 896g

WANTED at once, a good GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply, MRS. PHILIPSON, Mingilla House, Durham Road, Blackhill.

WANTED, a GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply to MRS. FRED G. OSBORNE, Draper, Front Street, Shotley Bridge. 876g

WANTED, a useful LAD to Deliver Milk and live in house.—Apply WM. CHEESMAN, Castle Dene Farm, near Iveston. 877g

WANTED, PICTURES TO FRAME, in Oak, Gilt, or various kinds of Moulding, from 1s. upwards.—T. C. BELL, 37, Rosebery Terrace, Consett. 784e

WANTED, good GENERAL SERVANT; no Children; good home.—Apply, Mrs. HOLDSWORTH, 2, Rectory Terrace, Gosforth, Newcastle. 883g

WANTED.—ALL CLASSES of People to send their BOOT Repairing to J. ORTON, Raglan Street, Consett, and Oxley Street, Blackhill.

WANTED, a good strong GIRL to act as GENERAL SERVANT, must have good reference and been in Service before.—Apply, Mrs. HUME, 34, Burdon Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 852g

BRITISH LEGAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO., LTD. Special CANVASSER WANTED, for Consett District. Good terms to steady experienced man.—Apply, ALFRED LLOYD, 13, Grey Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 789g

Wanted

WANTED, comfortable LODGINGS for two Workingmen.—Particulars to Box "B," *Guardian* Office. 904g

WANTED, SERVANT GIRL, one who can milk, or willing to learn preferred.—Apply, FRED GASCOIGNE, West Butsfield, Satley, by Tow Law. 898g

WANTED, a strong LAD, 15 or 16, to go with Milk Cart; one able to milk preferred.—Apply, JAMES ANDERSON, Elm Park Farm. 907g

TANTOBIE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

WANTED, a SHOEMAKER as Working Foreman.—Apply to the Committee on Monday, March 5th, at 7 p.m. 911g

DRURY AND SON, Tailors' Outfitters and Mercers, High Street, Sunderland, have a vacancy for a respectable, well-educated Youth as APPRENTICE.—Address in first instance by letter as above. 864g

WANTED, a strong young MAN about 16 years of age to the Butchering Business, from the Country preferred, and used to horses.—Apply to M. ADAMSON, High Friarside, Lintz Green. 920g

A. AND G. TAYLOR, photographers, require two Experienced Men as CANVASSERS for Consett and Stanley districts.—Special terms. Also a few Collectors and Canvassers (Ladies or Gents), in all villages in North Durham, good terms.—Apply, with reference, to Manager, St. Nicholas Building, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 728g

MEDOMSLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

WANTED, an efficient Female Ex. Pupil Teacher, for the Westwood Mixed School, qualified to take charge of Standard II. Tonic Solfa and Needlework, one accustomed to large classes. Salary, £45 per annum, with increase according to scale, which will be sent on application.—Applications, with copies of recent testimonials, to be sent to me on or before the 14th March.

J. HEDWORTH COUPLAND, Clerk to Medomsley School Board, Shotley Bridge, Co Durham 912g

WANTED, all Customers and the General Public to know that W. E. TURNER has REMOVED HIS STOCK to more Commodious Premises.—Note the address: No. 6 FRONT STREET (next door to Mr. G. Pattrick, Chemist), where they will find a choice selection of Hats, Caps, Ties, Collars, Shirts, Suits, Cyclists' Outfits, and Accessories.—Monster CLEARANCE SALE of CYCLES. A large variety of Pipes, Tobaccos and Cigars. Try the noted "Supremacy," 7 for 1s. 982e

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

DRAPERY MANAGER and BUYER WANTED by the Consett Industrial and Provident Society, Ltd. Membership, 1800. Quarterly Sales, £1,300. Written Applications to be sent in to the Committee, not later than Friday, March 9th, 1900, stating age, wage, and experience, and enclosing Copies (only) of not more than three recent Testimonials.—EDWARD HUNTLEY, Secretary.

CHESTER-LE-STREET UNION. FEMALE ASSISTANT-NURSE.

WANTED, for the Workhouse Infirmary, Chester-le-Street, an ASSISTANT-NURSE, who must be prepared to take either day or night duty as occasion may require.

Candidates must be single Women or widows without encumbrance, and have had practical experience in Nursing.

The salary will be at the rate of £22 per annum, with rations, washing, and furnished apartments; also £2 10s. per annum allowed for uniform.

The appointment will be made subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, and to the provisions of the Poor Law Superannuation Acts, 1896-7.

Applications must be sent to me not later than WEDNESDAY the 7th March next, upon printed forms, which may be obtained at my office, as under, by sending a stamped addressed envelope.

Canvassing the Guardians will disqualify applicants.

By order, ROBERT DICKINSON, Clerk to the Guardians. Union Office, Chester-le-Street, Feb. 15, 1900.

To Let.

TO LET, a Lock-up SHOP.—Apply S. ROWE, Consett. 652g

TO LET, 3 excellent two-roomed COTTAGES situated at Castleside.—Apply, W. RAMSAY, N.E. Bank, Blackhill. 888g

FOUR-ROOMED HOUSE TO LET, 19, John St., Blackhill.—Apply, 14, Palmerston St., Consett. 909g

TO LET OR FOR SALE, Splendid BUSINESS PREMISES situated at Dipton, recently occupied by Mr. J. A. Castle, Draper.—Apply, A. Phillipson, Auctioneer, Dipton.

TO LET or FOR SALE, a HOUSE situate in Consett, containing Nine Rooms, Bathroom (hot and cold water), and Box room.—Apply, T. W. WELFORD, Consett. 565g

TO LET, Three-roomed COTTAGE and Garden at Knitsley; One-room Cottage at Sawmill Wood.—Apply to Mr. CRAGGS, Woodlands.

TO LET, the PREMISES with an off-beer license attached, situated John Street, Consett, now in the occupation of Mr. Robson.—Apply, J. W. CAMERON & Co., Ltd., 2, John Street, Sunderland. 918g

TO LET, in Middle Street, with entrance from Middle Court, a LARGE ROOM, suitable for Club, or Billiard Saloon.—For rent and particulars, apply, to R. W. SHAW, Villa Real, Consett. 838g

LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO LET, from May Day, 1900, 5 acres of LAND at the Medomsley Sewage Disposal Works. Particulars as to cultivation, etc., can be had on application to Mr. J. R. LUPTON, Lanchester.—Offers to be sent to the undersigned on or before March 7th.

W. H. RITSON, Clerk, Lanchester, Durham. 850g

For Sale.

FOR SALE, grand young COW, time up 1st March.—Apply, R. BELL, Iveston.

FOR SALE, two Stacks of Splendid Hay, one 15 tons, the other 20 tons.—Apply, JOHN SNAITH, Blue Bell Hotel, Lanchester.

36, INCH SAFE FOR SALE £6; 30 in. £5; 24 in. £4; delivered. JOS. LEVY, 55, Frederick Street, Sunderland. 689g

FOR SALE, BROWN MARE, 3 yrs, 15 2 h.h.; will make good Saddle and Harness Mare.—Apply, Freemasons' Hotel, Consett.

FOR SALE, PIANO, by Ramsden, Iron Frame, Check Action, full Trichord; new twelve months ago.—J. CUTHBERTSON, 14, Palmerston Street, Consett. 891g

FOR SALE, Three STACKS of 1898, and One STACK of 1899 years OLD LAND HAY; about 50 Tons standing at Essomsides, (near Medomsley).—Apply to MICHAEL CHARLTON, Medomsley. 833g

TO BE SOLD OR LET, with immediate possession, TWO DWELLING HOUSES in Benfieldside Road, Shotley Bridge, on the Shotley Estate, containing 9 rooms each, gas, water, bathroom, and garden.—Apply to MR. WM. C. SAMPLE, Tritlington Hall, Morpeth.

MONEY LENT on Gold and Silver Watches Plate, Jewellery, Pictures, Men's and Women's Clothes, Bed and Table Linen.—Large Stock of Unredeemed Pledges for Sale. Hand Quilted Quilts.—M. HEPTON, Pawnbroker, Blackhill. 260f

FOR SALE, Frank Miller's Celebrated HARNESS DRESSINGS, nothing to equal it for preserving the Leather, and requires no brushing; also, a good stock of Lamps, Waterproof Aprons, Horse Sheets, and Clothing, Whips, Non-rustable Bits, Brushes, and other Sundries.—COWEN'S CARRIAGE AND ROLLEY WORKS, Taylor Street, Consett.

HOUSE FOR SALE, containing 2 Sitting-rooms, 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Washhouse, Bath-room (with hot and cold water), and usual Conveniences, with good Yard, situate in very central position in Consett; been occupied about 3 years and in first-class condition.—For further particulars apply Box W, *Guardian* Office. 903g

BASIC SLAG. Largest and Best Productions. Most Reliable, and Oldest Established. THOMAS' PHOSPHATE POWDER greatly increases Feeding Quality of Grass and Hay. Will pay Farmers well to use freely. Wholesale Agents;—LANGDALE BROTHERS, 46, Cloth Market, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 29lf

CYCLES, CYCLES, BARGAINS, 1500 CYCLES! Free to any Address, the most interesting and complete list of 1,500 Machines POST FREE. Single Machines at Wholesale Trade Price. New and Second hand Machines from 20s each. 500 New, latest 1900, Gent's Pneumatic Safeties. Marvellous Prices. 500 Ladies' New, latest 1900 pattern—Single Machine at Wholesale Price. Write for large List. Post Free to any one. Agents wanted. Marvellous Bargains. Send for List. WARRILOW & CO., Cycle Manufacturers, Weston-super-Mare.

Business Announcements.

YOU CAN FURNISH YOUR HOME THROUGHOUT AT **SWAINSTON'S** COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHING ESTABLISHMENT, FRONT STREET & NELSON STREET, CONSETT.

KITCHEN FURNITURE AND UTENSILS. BEDROOM FURNITURE, &c. DINING-ROOM FURNITURE. DRAWING-ROOM FURNITURE. CARPETS. OILCLOTHS. LINOLEUMS. 872g

IT IS AN ASTONISHING FACT THAT EVERYONE WHO IS ILL AND CANNOT GET CURED GO AT ONCE TO **GEO. PATTRICK,** CHEMIST, 5, FRONT STREET, CONSETT, WHO HAS MADE SOME MARVELLOUS RESTORATIONS TO HEALTH IN CASES THAT WERE CONSIDERED HOPELESS.

GO TO HIM AT ONCE IF YOU ARE NOT WELL. THOUSANDS OF CASES DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

ESTABLISHED 1848.

TURNBULL BROTHERS, LEAZES & LINTZ COLLIERY, TEA MERCHANTS, GROCERS, DRAPERS, AND PROVISION DEALERS, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

GROCERY AND PROVISION DEPARTMENT.

TEA at less than Cost Price: From 1s 1d per lb. New Season's Fruit at Startlingly Low Prices.

CHEESE—Prize Cheshire, Finest American, Wensleydale Edam, &c., &c.

FLOUR—From best Millers in England from 1s 1d per Stone.

CHOICEST HAMS, extra Selected for Christmas Trade, 7d per lb.

BEST BACON obtainable, Finest Sholder, from 4½d per lb.

JAMS of all kinds. CAKES in endless Variety.

WINE, SPIRIT, AND ALE DEPARTMENT.

The largest direct Irish Whisky buyers in the District.

WHISKEY (Leazes)	2s 6d & 3s per bot.
" "	3s, 3s 6d, & 4s " "
" (Counsel)	3s " "
" "	3s per qrt. bot.

Counsel Whiskey keeps its place—Always in Front.

GIN (Old Tom)	2s 9d per bot.
BRANDY	3s 6d " "
" (Three Star)	4s 9d " "
(Usual Price 5s 6d.)	

AGENTS FOR WHITBREAD'S, WORTHINGTON'S AND TRUMAN, HANBURY, & CO.'S ALES.

Our Customers may depend that the great object we aim at is TO SEND ALES AND SPIRITS OUT in the VERY BEST CONDITION, so that they may give every Satisfaction. ASK TO SEE OUR PRICE LISTS.

THE BEST BREAKFAST BACON IS **M. MACKENZIE & SONS.** CHOICE QUALITY. HOME-FED. OUR OWN CURING.

Rich in flavour, mild in cure, it is the most perfect and profitable Breakfast Bacon you can get.

HOME-FED HAMS, 16 to 20 lbs. Specially recommended for Leanness and Quality

M. MACKENZIE & SONS, 25, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

WINTER FASHIONS.

GEO. RICHARDSON & SON, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRAPERS.

BEG respectfully to draw attention to their recent Purchases of NEW GOODS for Winter Wear. Our Stock of Dress Goods is one of the largest in this district, and Ladies will find a Splendid Range of Goods to select from. New Black Surah, Morguette, and Bengaline Silks. Dress Trimmings, Gloves, Corsets, Umbrellas, and Laces Wool Shirtings, Flannels, Wool Mixtures, and Blankets of exceptional Value.

DRESSMAKERS, TAILORS, and MILLINERS, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

THE CENTRAL SHOP FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN, IS THE BEST

For Every Description of GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, PATENT MEDICINES, AND PROPRIETARY GOODS.

The Best and Cheapest House for FLOUR from the best Millers.

Splendid Colonial BUTTER, at 1s. per lb. COOKED HAMS, from 7½d. per lb. Whole.

JOHN HALL & CO., FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

JOHN HUME AND SON, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, CORN MERCHANTS, BREAD BAKERS, AND CONFECTIONERS. MAKERS OF HIGH-CLASS BRIDES' CAKES, BIRTHDAY CAKES, &c.

CATERERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL SOIREES AND OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS.

ALSO, MAKERS OF ALL KINDS OF FEEDING STUFFS OF THE BEST QUALITY.

PRICES ON APPLICATION.

THE FINEST FRUITS OF THE SEASON. FOSTER, RUSSELL, & CO.'S, NEW SEASON'S FRUITS.

Have arrived and cannot fail to evoke the hearty appreciation of all who see and try them. They are CLEAN, FLESHY, DELICIOUS, ECONOMICAL.

The Thrifty Housewife invests wisely when she purchases at **FOSTER, RUSSELL, & CO.'S,** DRAPERS AND PROVISION MERCHANTS, FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

A SUITABLE BIRTHDAY GIFT.

'EDNA LYALL' BIRTHDAY BOOK, CRO. 8VO., CLOTH, GILT EDGES. Published by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE, the Queen's Printers.

With choice extracts from "Autobiography of a Slander," "Doreen," "Wayfaring Men," "Hope the Hermit," "Autobiography of a Truth," "Won by Waiting," "Donovan," "We Two," "In the Golden Days," "Knight Errant," "A Hardy Norseman," "To Right the Wrong," "Derrick Vaughan," and "Their Happiest Christmas."

Edited by A. F. DORMAN.

PRICE, 4d. EACH, BY POST 4½d. TO BE HAD AT THE *GUARDIAN* OFFICE, CONSETT. 605e

Business Announcements.

HAVE YOU MACHINERY? YES. THEN USE DICKINSON BROS.' LUBRICANTS. BEST AND CHEAPEST. WORKS: CLOSE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 123g

CHIMNEY PIECES. KITCHEN RANGES. STOVES.

DINNING AND COOKE, HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c., PERCY IRON WORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. SHOW ROOMS: 21, 23, AND 25, PERCY STREET.

At Greatly Reduced Prices to clear. Bargains for all. GREAT REMOVAL CLEARANCE SALE. Millinery of all kinds, and Fancy Goods, Ladies' and Children's Clothing. Millinery and Drapery.

AT **MRS. HAND'S** MILLINERY ESTABLISHMENT, 14, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

STOCK-TAKING CLEARANCE.

We are clearing out some Oddments this week at Big Reductions. Inspect our windows and lay in a good stock.

SWAINSTON BROTHERS, THE TEA AND COFFEE SHOP, 12, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

FOR A SMART TURN-OUT

You require a Stylish, Well-Finished Trap, and a Handsome Set of Harness. YOU CAN GET THESE EITHER FOR CASH OR ON THE INSTALMENT SYSTEM AT

COWEN'S CARRIAGE AND ROLLEY WORKS, TAYLOR STREET, CONSETT.

To keep your Harness in Tip-top Condition you must use FRANK MILLER'S CELEBRATED HARNESS DRESSINGS for which we are the Sole Agents in this District. Lamps, Waterproof Aprons, Rubber and Wool Mats, Horse Sheets and Clothing, Whips, Non-rustable Bits, and other sundries always on hand.

Also at TYNEDALE CARRIAGE WORKS, HEXHAM. 115f

LOOK TO YOUR TEETH.

FOR HEALTH AND APPEARANCE. FOR EATING AND SPEAKING. THE BEST QUALITY AT THE LOWEST PRICE. FIXED TO THE MOUTH WITHOUT PAIN. COMFORT AND FIT GUARANTEED.

THE NORTH-EASTERN DENTAL CO. CONSETT BRANCH. ATTENDANCE EVERY SATURDAY FROM THREE TO SIX, AT MR. COCKBURN'S, STATIONER, 13, FRONT STREET (SIDE DOOR).

OPENING OF NEW BUSINESS PREMISES.

DOBSON GRADON, WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER, JEWELLER, AND OPTICIAN, DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

D.G. Has removed into his NEW PREMISES, nearly opposite Old Shop, where he keeps a good selection of Watches, Clocks, Jewellery, and Optical Goods of Reliable and Guaranteed Quality.

WATCH AND CLOCK REPAIRS A SPECIALTY. CLOCKS CLEANED AND REPAIRED IN TOWN OR COUNTRY. SHOP DOOR CLOSED FROM 12-30 TO 1-30 O'CLOCK. 49f

COUNTRY VISITORS TO CONSETT Are especially requested to look out for the brilliant display IN **T. MILNER'S WINDOW.**

The Favourite IVORY FLOATING SOAP for Children, 3d and 4d per Tablet. HAIR, TOOTH, and NAIL BRUSHES. Choice PERFUMES and TOILET REQUISITES. BRITISH and FOREIGN MINERAL WATERS. ÆRATED WATERS in Syphons and Bottles.

ALSO, CITRATE OF MAGNESIA. EFFERVESCING SALINE in great variety. OIL PAINTS, COLOURS, and VARNISHES in great variety. CAMERAS, DRY PLATES, PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS and REQUISITES in great variety.

Note Address: 15, SHAKESPEARE STREET, and FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

THE CATCHGATE POSTING ESTABLISHMENT CATCHGATE, ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O. **JOHN OXLEY,** PROPRIETOR

HEARSE OF THE MOST MODERN AND UNIQUE DESIGN. MOURNING COACHES. CARRIAGES FOR WEDDINGS. BRAKES AND WAGGONETTES FOR PLEASURE PARTIES, SUPPLIED ON THE MOST REASONABLE TERMS. 23y FURNITURE REMOVED. ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH. With all the Greatest Improvements of Modern Dental Science.

THE TEETH supplied by Mr. Campbell are made of only the best and purest materials, and are not affected by the fluids of the mouth, but retain their natural appearance and colour, and enable those who wear them to masticate their food with ease and comfort. They are adapted to the mouth on a system of self-adhesion, without extraction of Stumps, or other painful operation, and the prices are so reasonable that they are within the means of all classes. Every set guaranteed to fit perfectly, and warranted. COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET, from 30s to £4 10s. PARTIAL SETS, from 3s to 10s per Tooth.

HIGH-CLASS DENTISTRY. **MR. T. C. CAMPBELL,** SURGEON DENTIST, No. 8, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide (Laughing Gas), and all operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed. All Charges Strictly Moderate.

CONSULTATION FREE. Attendance from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Appointments may be made with Mr. Dobinson, Cooke's Buildings, Annfield Plain. 772b

PIANOS. PIANOS. ORGANS. ORGANS.

The cheapest house, the largest premises, and the largest and best selected Stock can be seen at

W. E. WARDILL'S, The COUNTY MUSIC WAREHOUSE, 1, WEST STREET, GATESHEAD, and Branch at 4, ST. ANDREW'S BUILDINGS, GALLOWGATE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Wardill's Genuine International Gold Medal PIANOS are admired by all the leading Musicians of the Country. His Stock comprises Pianos by all the leading makers such as Collard and Collard, Haake, Scheidmayer, Justin Browne, Sames, Neiber, Challm and Sons, Chappell and Co., &c., &c. Organs by Mason and Hamlin, Packard, Estey, Sames, and many others too numerous to mention.

Call and hear the celebrated Haake Piano for which W. E. Wardill holds the sole agency.

Please note our easy payment system is by far the most equitable. He has never been known to take undue advantage of any of his numerous customers.

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REPAIRS DONE ON THE PREMISES.

NOTE ADDRESS—
BUSTY BANK, BURNOPFIELD.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS

A monthly meeting of the members of the Lanchester Board of Guardians was held in the Board Room at Lanchester Workhouse, on Thursday last. Mr Wm. Logan, J.P., presided, and there were also present Miss Helen Peile, the Rev. T. H. Archdall, Messrs J. Green, J.P., G. Ritchie, J. Hunter, J. Davison, G. D. Powell, J. Pumphrey, H. Greener, W. H. Telford, T. S. Longstaff, E. Sloane, H. C. Wood, R. Kay, G. Forster, G. J. Robinson, the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson), and the Workhouse Master (Mr W. Brotherhood.)

THE LATE MRS. MUSE.

The Chairman said it was his duty, although a very painful one, to remind them of the great affliction through which their vice-chairman (Mr T. J. Muse) was passing. They all knew that only a few months ago Mr Muse was himself stricken down with illness which affected the sight of one of his eyes, and that he was confined to bed with an attack of influenza. Following upon that they heard of the illness and death of Mrs Muse. He moved that the Clerk be instructed to send a letter expressive of their sympathy and sorrow, and telling Mr Muse how very much they felt the loss he had sustained.

Mr H. C. Wood seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

PAUPER STATISTICS.

The Workhouse Master reported that the number of inmates in the house was 227 as against 249 in the corresponding period of last year. The relief cases in the Eastern District numbered 375 against 434, and in the Western District 409 against 568.

THE PROPOSED NEW LAUNDRY.

The Clerk said he had received the following letter, dated Jan 25th, respecting the proposed new laundry from Mr. W. Knollys, assistant secretary of the Local Government Board:—"I am directed by the Local Government Board to advert to your letter of the 4th ultimo, forwarding plans of a new laundry which the Guardians of the Lanchester Union propose to erect at the Workhouse at a cost not exceeding £1,600. The Board have caused the plans to be examined in their architectural department, and are advised that the position proposed for the new laundry appears rather remote for convenience of administration and supervision, and to entail a duplication of heating arrangements. With reference to the details of the proposal the drying closet seems barely sufficient for the size of the laundry, and a small store room would be of advantage. The provision of a mess room is unusual, and the need for such a room seems doubtful. The lobby between the delivery and receiving rooms is somewhat cramped, and it would be more convenient if an open lobby giving direct access to those rooms from the outside were formed. The w.c. accommodation should be arranged outside the building, but connected to it by a small open yard. The Board desire to be furnished with particulars of the cost of what the Guardians propose including the estimated cost of machinery, &c., and they request that the proposals may be further considered by the Guardians in connection with the foregoing remarks."

Mr H. C. Wood said the committee had had the letter before them and after giving it full consideration they had to report as follows:—"Your Committee have had before them the letter from the Local Government Board, dated Jan. 25th, respecting the plans for the proposed new laundry, and they had them amended in accordance with the suggestions of the Local Government Board. As to the remark of the Local Government Board's architect that the position proposed for the new laundry appears rather remote for the convenience of administration and supervision and to entail a duplication of heating arrangements your committee recommend that the Local Government Board be informed that the question of the site of the laundry has again received serious consideration, and the buildings can be erected (1) on the proposed site at a much less cost than on the present one, which is already congested, and where there will be needless expense in removing and resetting the steam boilers, and will also allow for future enlargement if needed. (2) The erection of the laundry on the new site will isolate the women more completely, and thus remedy a complaint that the Inspector of the Local Government Board drew attention to some years ago, and (3), as has been previously pointed out, the inconvenience arising through carrying on the work during what would be practically pulling down and rebuilding the laundry and steam boilers will be averted." Mr Wood added that the scheme recommended by the Committee would mean a saving of about £300. He moved the adoption of the Committee's report.

Mr Kay seconded the motion, and the Chairman, in supporting, said the Committee had gone very carefully into the matter.

The motion was agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It was decided to refer the consideration of tenders for a copper boiler at the Workhouse back to the committee.—Mr Brotherhood reported that parcels of magazines had been received from Mr. Geo. Hobson and Mrs Piercey-Taylor-Smith, and on the motion of the Chairman the donors were thanked for their kindness.

The Board having dealt with the settlement cases and applications for relief the proceedings terminated.

Lanchester Joint Hospital Board

A meeting of this Board was held in the Board Room at Lanchester, on Thursday last, Mr Wm. Logan, J.P., presiding.

MEDICAL REPORT.

Dr. Wilson reported that since the last meeting seven patients convalescent from scarlet fever had been discharged from Langley Park Hospital, and 21 cases had been admitted. One died, a boy nearly four years of age, from Burnhope. There were at present in the Hospital 36 cases of scarlet fever. The number of scarlet fever cases admitted into Langley Park Hospital during the last two months tended to overcrowding. This was a wide district with a large colliery population, and the propensity of mothers among this class to visit neighbours houses where scarlet fever was, with a child in their arms, carried the disease from one end of the village to the other. To prevent the spreading of this very infectious disease isolation in a hospital was the only possible one.

Dr. Allen reported that there had been five cases of scarlet fever admitted to the Infectious Hospital at Leadgate. One patient had been discharged. There now remained eight patients in the Hospital, and they were all convalescing.

The report was adopted.

The tender of Mr. E. Rutter, of Esh, for the extension of the administration block at Langley Park Hospital, was accepted, the amount being £296.

TANTOBIE.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On Saturday evening Mr. T. Campbell, of Sunderland, delivered his popular lecture in this chapel on "Isaac Marsden, the converted sceptic," to a fairly large audience, which was ably presided over by Mr. W. Donald, late of South Africa. On Sunday morning and evening Mr. Campbell preached two special sermons, while in the afternoon the pulpit was occupied by Mr. Donald. The proceeds were in aid of the chapel funds.

MEDOMSLEY SCHOOL BOARD

The usual monthly meeting of this body was held on Thursday evening, at the Board-room, under the presidency of Mr. H. Palmer, J.P. (chairman). There were also present—Rev. W. Cockin, M.A., Mr. W. R. Cooke, Mr. R. Moffitt, Mr. J. W. Jamieson, Mr. W. Robinson, Mr. W. Hogg; and the Clerk (Mr. J. H. Coupland.)

TEACHERS' REPORTS.

The head master (Mr. J. W. Daniels) reported that the number on the books was 335; admitted, 2; left, 8; average attendance, 293; average percentage, 85. The attendance during the week had been very low indeed owing to the severe weather. Mr. Daniels further reported that the evening school was closed on February 1st. On the 2nd inst. he committee meeting the members had the he could, and forwarded them to the clerk, together with a list of students who had made three-fourths of the possible number of attendances as requested by the Board, in order to have their caution money returned.

Miss M. J. Watson reported that the number on the books was 177; left, 9; average attendance, 118; average per cent., 66. The school was closed on Friday at noon, owing to the storm. On Monday 48 children were present, and the attendance was not registered.

THE HEATING OF WESTWOOD SCHOOL.

The Chairman explained that at the last committee meeting the members had the above question before them, and it was decided that the Clerk should communicate with Messrs Walker, Newcastle, upon the subject. This had been done, and the firm had sent out an engineer, who went round the schools with Messrs Jamieson, Cooke, and Hogg, and examined the boiler and apparatus. The Chairman then read a reply from Messrs Walker, founded upon the report of the engineer, who thought that the present boiler was sufficient for the purpose, but suggested that another pipe be put in. He thought the unsatisfactory temperature at times was due to the exposed situation of the school, and the fact of there being so many windows.

Mr. Cooke said the engineer expressed himself satisfied with the boiler, and the heating was satisfactory when they were there.

Mr. Hogg called attention to the fact that the three main doors were open, and he thought this would affect the temperature.

The Chairman said the addition of another pipe would not cost them any more for the fuel. No mention of the estimated cost was given in the letter.

Mr. Cooke said he put this question to the engineer, but he thought the reply was scarcely satisfactory. It was suggested to do the work at the week-ends so as not to interfere with the work of the schools.

The Chairman said this would be a rather expensive matter, as it would mean extra pay for the workmen. He thought they should have an estimate of some kind.

It was suggested that the work might be done during the Easter holidays.

After further discussion, Mr. Cooke moved that the Clerk write Messrs Walker, requesting them to forward an estimate for the work proposed to be done.

Mr. Robinson seconded; and the motion was carried, the work to be done during the Easter holidays.

THE ATTENDANCE.

The attendance officer (Mr. M. T. Milburn) reported that the attendance up to the previous week had been very good. The number on the books was 1,142; average attendance, 930; average percentage, 81.4.

Mr. Robinson: Very good considering the weather.

The Chairman: Exceedingly good.

AGE OF EXEMPTION.

A circular was read from the Education Department, pointing out that in future the age of exemption would be 12 instead of 11, and also giving other particulars.

The Chairman thought it best to deal with this when they were revising their bye-laws, which would be done shortly.

It was decided to adopt this course.

FINANCE.

The balance in the bank was reported to be £303 2s 2d. Cheques were signed for sums amounting to £123 13s 1d.

This was all the business.

Social and Dance at Tanfield

On Friday evening the bachelors connected with Tanfield Parish Church held a very successful social and dance in the Board Schools, Tanfield, the proceeds of which are to go towards the renovation of the Church. The arrangements were under the guidance of the Rev T. H. Archdall, and were satisfactory in every respect. The duties of secretary were placed in the capable hands of Mr L. Archdall, whilst Mr A. Watson filled the office of treasurer. Dancing commenced shortly after eight o'clock and was kept up with much spirit until the early hours of Saturday morning. A well-arranged programme of dance music was drawn up, and this was ably discoursed by Mr M. Mulcahy (piano) and Mr. F. Gregory (violin.) The duties of M.C.'s were efficiently carried out by Messrs Lonan Archdall and Mr Wilson, Leazes, [illegible]. Refreshments were supplied by Mrs Murray, Dipton, and these were gracefully dispensed by Mrs Clementson, Mrs Smailes, Mrs Sword, Misses Davison, and the Misses [illegible]. Amongst those present were:—

Miss Sarah Nicholson, Tantobie.
Mr Wm. Smailes, Tanfield.
Mr P. Duckworth, Tanfield.
The Rev. and Mrs T. H. Archdall, Tanfield.
[illegible] Watson, Eden Place, Tanfield.
Mr H. Archdall, Tanfield.
Mr L. Archdall, Tanfield.
[illegible] Burden, Tanfield.
Miss Armstrong, Tanfield.
Misses Davison, Tanfield.
[illegible] Webb, Tanfield Lea.
Mr T. Tennant, Tanfield Lea.
Mr and Mrs Robinson, Leith House, Tantobie.
Mr Arkless, Tantobie.
Miss Arkless, Tantobie.
Miss M. Welsh, Stanley.
Mr Wilson, Leazes, Burnopfield.
Mr and Mrs Hindhaugh, Tantobie.
Mr T. Wood, Clough Dene.
Misses Clementson, Eden Place, Tanfield.
Mrs Simpson, Stanley.
Miss Patterson, Tanfield.
Mr R. Handcock, Barcus Close, Burnopfield.
Mr J. Fletcher, Beamish.
Mr M. Reed, Beamish.
Misses Curry, Tanfield Lea.
Mrs Curry, Tanfield Lea.
Mr E. Watson, Stanley.
Miss Robinson, Leith Farm.
Mr J. Weightman, Tanfield Lea.
Mr Crafton, Tanfield Lea.
Mr T. Gray, Tanfield Lea.
Mr H. Lee, Tantobie.
Mr R. Maude, Stanley.
Mr and Mrs Tomlinson, Tantobie.
Mr and Mrs Lynch, Tanfield Lea.
Mr and Mrs Lake, Tantobie.
Mr T. Wilkinson, Tantobie.
Mr R. Elliott, Tantobie.
Mr W. Urwin, Tanfield.
Miss A. Rodham, Beamish.
Mr J. Fletcher, Tantobie.
Mr J. Beck, Tantobie.
Mr J. Logan, Tantobie.
Misses Urwin, Tanfield.
Misses Holmes, Tantobie.
Misses Harrison, Tantobie.
Miss Vasey, Tantobie.
Miss Armstrong, Tantobie.
Miss M. Beck, Tantobie.
Mr H. Christopher and Miss Mynott, Tanfield Lea.
Mr J. Mynott, Tanfield Lea.
Mr W. Cox, Tanfield Lea.
Mr J. Forster and Miss Harrison, Tanfield Lea.
Mr G. Wilkinson, Hobson.
Miss Watson, Tanfield Farm.
Miss Armstrong, Tanfield.
Miss H. Logan, Tantobie.
Miss A. Logan, Tantobie.
Miss Storey, Tantobie.
Mr J. Watson, Tanfield Farm.
Mr W. Clementson, Tanfield Lea.
Mr S. Gibson, Tanfield Lea.
Mr R. and Miss Burnip, Hobson.
Mrs J. Muse, Tantobie.
Mr and Miss Bell, Hobson.
Miss Wilkinson, Hobson.
Mr G. Greener, Tanfield Lea.
Mr T. Whorley, Tantobie.
Miss E. Watson, Tantobie.
Miss Simpson, Clough Dene.
Mr T. Urwin, Tanfield.
Mr R. Watson, Hobson.
Mr J. Rowell, Tantobie.
Miss V. Saunders, Marley Hill.
Miss E. English, Consett.
Miss Charlton, Ebchester.
Miss Agar, Tanfield.
Miss Robinson, Stobb House, Dipton.
Miss Watson, Stanley.
Mr Wilkinson, Pickering Nook.
Miss Ramshaw, Tantobie.
Mr J. Smailes, Pit Hill.
Mrs Watson, Tanfield Lea.
Mr H. Robinson, Beamish Burn.
Miss A. Lowe, Tanfield.
Mr A. Swinburn, Tanfield.
Mr J. Ramshaw, Tantobie.
Mr J. Mason, Hobson.
Mr J. Weightman; and others.

AITCHISON & CO.,
(LATE R. HEWITT),
NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, MIDDLE ST., CONSETT,
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LARGE ARRIVALS OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES DAILY.
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FOOTBALL.

MATCHES.

CRAGHEAD JUNIORS v. KIP HILL WANDERERS.

Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for the home team by three goals to nil.

CONSETT CELTIC v. CONSETT BAPTIST RESERVE.

Played on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a win for the Celtic by three goals to one.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.
CONSETT SWIFTS RESERVE v. TANFIELD LEA CÆSARS.

These teams met on the Vicarage ground, Consett, in a Derwent Valley League engagement, on Saturday last. The weather was favourable, but there was only a moderate attendance. The teams were:—

Consett—Goal, T. Coleman; backs, J. Wilson and S. Elwood; half-backs, J. Ellis, W. Atkinson, and T. Dempsey; forwards, Wm. Walton, D. Marshall, A. Roberts, T. Pratt, and T. Boyle.

Tanfield Lea—Goal, G. Douglas; backs, J. Milburn and G. Shield; half-backs, J. Dawson, W. Carr, and B. Waterman; forwards, G. Thompson, F. Christopher, M. Smith, J. G. Brown, and H. Christopher.

The visitors wore black bands on their arms in memory of the late Mr Milburn (father of Joe Milburn, and a prominent supporter of the club.) The early stages of the game were fought out in midfield, neither side claiming much advantage in the exchanges. The first real attack took place about ten minutes after the start, when the Swifts goal was placed in danger. They managed, however, to clear and from a throw-in worked along, but found a stubborn defence awaiting them. A good movement along the left had a more promising look for the homesters, and led to a severe onslaught on the Tanfield goal. But for some capital play by Milburn and Shield the custodian must have been beaten. The visitors then got away and reached the vicinity of the home goal, Coleman almost succumbing. Consett again attacked, and when well situated their effort was spoiled by off-side play. After a lot of give-and-take play Walton succeeded in finding the net at the end of half an hour's play. A couple of minutes later Boyle gave Ellis a nice pass, and the half-back promptly scored the second goal. Then Boyle with a hard shot struck the crossbar, and the Swifts were pressing when, after thirty-five minutes' play, half-time was called with the score—

Consett Swifts	Two goals
Tanfield Lea	Nil

The home players commenced the second half with an immediate attack on their opponents' goal, but the visitors retaliated, and called upon Coleman to handle, and the Swifts returned to the other end, but were beaten back to the centre. Then the Cæsars forced a corner, which led to a goal kick. After a lot of even play the home goal had a narrow escape, and then the visitors spoiled an opportunity by an infringement of the off-side rule. The Cæsars had most of the play in the second half, but before the finish the Swifts made a sudden rush away, and Atkinson sent a hard shot into the corner of the net giving Douglas no possible chance. Nothing further was done, and the game ended in favour of the Swifts—

Consett Swifts	Three goals
Tanfield Lea	Nil

HAMSTERLEY v. LEADGATE PARK RESERVE.

This game was played at Blackhall Mill before about 400 spectators. Mr Fletcher had charge of the teams, and they lined up as follows:—

Hamsterley—Goal, C. Rudd; backs, J. Swinburn and J. Carr; half-backs, G. Dodds, J. Andrews, and A. Anderson; forwards, Parker, Johnson, Ferry, T. Seath, and D. Seath.

Leadgate—Goal, J. Calvert; backs, W. G. Robson and D. Overall; half-backs, W. Calvert, A. Dawson, and D. Cartmell; forwards, Walton, Davison, Johns, Gleadow, and Todd.

Hamsterley won the toss and set the Park to defend the entrance goal. Johns kicked off, and a few exchanges in midfield saw Walton get away, but he was robbed by Swinburn, who put out of danger. T. Seath got possession and raced away, but Robson kicked out. From the throw-in Calvert had to throw away from J. Andrews. Then the Park forwards got going, and with good combination they gave the home defence no little bother, but Carr relieved the pressure, and the ball found touch. Midfield play ensued for a short duration, but the Park again attacked, and Cartmell sent well in. Carr made a good kick, but W. Calvert received and sent in a splendid shot, which Rudd saved, but did not clear his lines, and Calvert rushed in and opened the score for the Park. From the kick-off the homesters now warmed to their work, and began to make it hot for Calvert, but he was all there, and saved his charge by giving a corner, which came to nothing. Once more play was transferred to the home half, and Rudd saved shots from Walton and Todd. Andrews relieved the pressure and made straight for Calvert's charge, where Ferry opened the score for Hamsterley, giving Calvert no chance. After the kick-off T. Seath got possession and passed well to G. Parker. This player gave Calvert a handful, which he got rid of, and play was raging in midfield when Parker and Johnson got possession, and the latter sent in. Calvert made a splendid save, and falling on top of the ball he was subjected to a series of kicks, and would not deliver the ball, but the whistle sounded, and the referee ordered a free kick for the Park. From this the visitors came away and made matters warm for the home defence; Gleadow and Todd both had shots, but Rudd was there and cleared with difficulty. The Park forwards were playing a good game, and it took the home defence all their time to keep them at bay. However, Dodds came to the rescue and kicked well away. T. Seath got hold and raced away, beating Calvert for the second time. From now up to the interval the visitors held their own, the ball being in midfield when half-time arrived with the score standing—

Hamsterley	Two goals
Leadgate	One goal

After the re-start the visitors took up the running and soon put the homesters on the defensive. Carr and Swinburn defended well, but could not clear their lines till Andrews relieved with a big punt. T. Seath and D. Seath combined well, and changed the venue. Ferry gave Calvert a hot one, but Jack was there and returned the ball to safe quarters. A series of throws-in resulted. Gleadow and Todd broke away, and eluding the home halves they made a desperate onslaught on the home citadel, where Rudd saved twice in succession, and gave a corner to save a third shot. From the corner kick Carr headed out, and Andrews gave to Seath, who was neatly robbed by Cartmell, who placed the home citadel again in danger, but the ball went past. However, not to be denied the Park played up, and after a series of attempts they beat Rudd with a good shot, thus equalising the scores. The homesters were playing rather slack at this point, but encouraged by their supporters attacked the visitors' goal strongly, Calvert keeping out some good shots. Overall relieved the danger, and once more play was transferred to the home half, where Walton and Davison were conspicuous for a splendid attack upon Rudd's charge, who had again to save by giving corners, but nothing came of them. Play raged in midfield till G. Parker got hold and gave Calvert a handful, but he only feebly cleared his lines, and Johnson securing on the goal-line with a splendid screw shot put on No. 3 for Hamsterley. This set the homesters on good terms with themselves, and from now till the finish Hamsterley easily held their own, and Mr Fletcher's final solo sounding left the homesters victorious by the following score:—

Hamsterley	Three goals
Leadgate	Two goals

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.
LEADGATE PARK v. BIRTLEY.

This game was played on the Park ground at Leadgate on Saturday. The ground, after the recent snow and rain, was naturally in a bad condition, but as both teams have yet a number of fixtures to play off, there is no disposition on the part of either to play a friendly. The visitors were strongly represented, and the Park only lacked the services of Hedley, whose place between the sticks was taken by the veteran Joe Crowther. Nearly an hour after the advertised time the teams lined up as under:—

Birtley—Goal, Biggars; backs, Burlinson and Banks; half-backs, Hills, Dover, and Mills; forwards, Doyle, Spence, Dixon, Palmer, and McGowan.

Leadgate Park—Goal, J. Crowther; backs, G. Temple and J. Wilson; half-backs, P. Daly, R. Wilson, and J. Bowes; forwards, B. Cook, J. Grant, W. Crowther, S. Thompson, and F. Forster.

Referee, Mr. R. Glass.

Dover won the toss on behalf of Birtley, and Crowther set the ball in motion towards the entrance goal before a capital attendance. Palmer and McGowan at once got away and forced a corner, which Daly headed away. However, Mills put back, but J. Wilson sent up the field. Dixon and Doyle ran off, and the latter sent in a grounder which Crowther cleared. The Park forwards, well backed up by the halves, reached the top end, where Thompson sent past. The home right got nicely away, and Cook sent in a beautiful centre, but the other forwards were not up, and a fine chance was lost. R. Wilson stopped Dixon and sent on to the right, Cook and Grant taking the ball right up, but Banks kicked out. From the throw-in Daly shot wide with a big kick. The home forwards then pressed severely, and twice over Biggars saved grandly when goals seemed a certainty. Some exciting work ensued in the Birtley lines, but the defence was very fine, the goalkeeper especially doing splendid work. Bowes placed the leather well in, and Cook put into the net, but was ruled off-side. However, the Park would not be denied, and Forster securing put in a fine run, eluding several men and finally passing over to the centre, where Cook beat Biggars close in. Coming again the home team gave the visiting defence little rest, and both Biggars and Dover were prominent for good work. After the goalkeeper had saved two fast shots Grant beat him for the second time. There was now no stopping the Parkites, and following a merry scrimmage in the goal-mouth Thompson landed home the third point. The heavy going seemed to have taken all the steam out of Birtley, whilst, on the other hand, the Leadgate men seemed to revel in the mud. However, the half-time signal probably came as a welcome to both sides, the score then standing:—

Leadgate Park	Three goals
Birtley	Nil

No sooner had the game been re-started than the Park took up the running, Grant and Cook being prominent, and the latter shot through, but was ruled off-side. Grant tested Biggars with a fine shot, but the goalkeeper saved at the expense of a corner, which was got away by Burlinson. Tommy Wilson put in good work, and a free kick ensued to the Park close in. Bowes placed well, and although Biggars saved, Cook got on to the leather and again sent into the net. Then the visitors did a sprint to the other end, the forwards passing nicely, and Crowther was called upon to save a shot from Doyle. Temple sent well down, and Grant receiving from W. Crowther, put in a fine run and finished up with a good shot which Biggars caught and threw away. However, R. Wilson secured and gave to Grant, who made no mistake, scoring perhaps the best goal of the day with a splendid oblique shot from about 10 yards' range. Forster was then unfairly brought down within the fatal limit, and the penalty was entrusted to Thompson, but he kicked yards too high. However, the veteran made up for this shortly after, receiving from Bowes in a nice position and giving Biggars no chance. Birtley made desperate efforts to get away, but the defence of the Park was grand, both half and back divisions playing faultlessly, despite the mud and water. There was no more scoring (although Cook had another goal disallowed), and the final result was:—

Leadgate Park	Six goals
Birtley	Nil

STANLEY v. NEWCASTLE UNITED A.

Stanley visited St. James' Park on Saturday to encounter Newcastle United A in a friendly match. The Tynesiders were strongly represented as will be seen from the following teams—

Newcastle—Goal, Watts; backs, Rogers and Knifton; half-backs, Proctor, Carr, and Niblo; forwards, Kelly, Simm, Mole, Wardrope, and Collins.

Stanley—Goal, Spinks; backs, Saunders and Devine; half-backs, Blackburn, Ellis, and Allison; forwards, Green, Armstrong, Riley, Crute, and Masterman.

United won the toss, and played down the slope, Kelly taking the ball down on the right from Riley's kick-off, but Saunders kicked away. The home side quickly returned, and got a corner which was cleared, and some tricky work was done by the home halves and backs, but they could not get through, and a dangerous rush by Riley and Armstrong up the field was stopped in time by Knifton. Centre play followed, but a long kick by Carr sent the ball behind. Stanley looked determined enough, but were outmatched, and when Armstrong looking like breaking away, Rogers quickly dispossessed him. A series of exchanges between the United wings ended in Mole letting the ball go between his legs, and Wardrope shooting. The ball struck Saunders and went over the line, United getting a corner which was cleared. United, however, continued to press, and Spinks saved from Wardrope. The home men pressed for some minutes, but the Stanley defence was excellent, and kept the home forwards out. Occasionally there was a burst away by Stanley, and once Masterman and Crute crossed the centre line only to be sent back by Proctor and Rogers, and United again attacking Mole scored after Spinks had saved, the ball going into the net whilst the Stanley goalkeeper was lying on the ground. After some long kicking by Rogers and Knifton, and when Mole had been beaten by Ellis, Kelly sent in a curling shot which would certainly have taken effect had not Spinks pushed the ball round the post, and given a corner, which was cleared. After a long period of give-and-take play, which was greatly in United's favour, Carr, with a long shot, completely beat Spinks and scored a second goal, and a moment later Wardrope added a third, after nicely tricking Ellis and Saunders. Saunders, one of the Stanley backs, had immediately after to leave the field slightly injured in heading out a shot from Mole. Then came some nice work by the United left wing, and from a pass across by Wardrope, Kelly had an opening and shot hard, but Spinks saved. Collins had a nice chance a moment later, but did not steady himself, and missed the mark by yards. Wardrope made up for his partner's mistake by a bit of nice tricking work, and then gave to Collins, who put in a shot which deserved a better fate than to strike the outside of the net. Niblo took a free kick for United, but Ellis cleared easily, and play drifted to midfield. Kelly missed an opening just afterwards. Just before the interval Rogers made a couple of miskicks, which allowed Stanley to get up, and for the first time Watts had to throw away, though he had very little difficulty in doing so. Nothing further was done before the interval, when the score stood:—

Newcastle United A	Three goals
Stanley	Nil

When play was resumed at four o'clock, Saunders returned and Stanley were again at full strength. United went straight up the field from Mole's kick off, and Kelly scored a fourth goal very easily. There was a rush down on the Stanley right wing, but Green's shot was stopped by Niblo, and United got going, Mole missing a magnificent pass from Wardrope. A moment later Mole, with a great shot, brought Spinks to his knees and he just shoved the ball away. Had the shot been followed up Newcastle could have scored again, but Devine had time to get up and clear. United pressed for a few minutes, and Devine saved finely from Collins when Spinks had only half cleared. Rushing up again, United tested the visitors' defence severely, a beautiful shot by Mole just skimming the bar. The United forwards showed some excellent passing, but their shooting was slow and without sting. From the half-back line Carr tried a long shot, but sent very wide. Stanley were quite unable to make any headway, and to show what the players thought of the game, when Collins got some mud in his eye one of the Stanley players went to relieve the troubled optic and the pair quite ignored the close proximity of the ball, which was allowed to take its own interrupted course over the line. Just afterwards Stanley got down, the home half-backs, being evidently off their guard, and Crute scored an easy goal, Watts making little effort to stop the shot. When United came away again Wardrope put in a clinking good shot from a pass by Kelly, Spinks saving on his hands and knees. A moment later Mole again brought Spinks down, but the Stanley man again cleared his charge. But for Saunders just afterwards United would have added to their score, for Wardrope's shot was a beauty, but before Collins could get up the Stanley back had relieved. Five minutes from time Mole scored a fifth goal for United, and then Watts saved from Masterman. Final—

Newcastle United A	Five goals
Stanley	One goal

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.
ALLENDALE PARK v. WALBOTTLE.

This match was played on the Allendale ground before a small attendance. Owing to the late arrival of the visitors a start was not made until after four o'clock. The teams lined up as follows, Walbottle being one short. Teams:—

Allendale Park—Goal, Settrey; backs, M. Walton and Scott; half-backs, Taylor, T. Walton, and Glasgow; forwards, Robinson, Wright, Ingledew, Yeates, and Lynop.

Walbottle—Goal, Hildrop; backs, Armstrong and Willis; half-backs, Kirton, Stewart, and Gardiner; forwards, Charlton, Raine, Apedale, and Robson.

The homesters won the toss and decided to kick down the incline. Soon after the start the Walbottle forwards got up the field, but Lynop and Yeates transferred the play to the visitors' goal, and the Park pressed for some time. A free kick close to the "Bottlers" goal mouth, which was well placed, resulted in Robinson scoring the first point for his side. Shortly afterwards Ingledew with a clear opening failed to take advantage of it and sent wide. Lynop next sent over the bar when well placed and one of the homesters touching the ball when offside gave Walbottle a free kick, which they took advantage of. Yeates next distinguished himself by running through the Walbottle team and netting the second point. The interval arrived soon after, when the score stood—

Allendale Park	Two goals
Walbottle	Nil

The game re-opened greatly in favour of Allendale, and throughout the second half they had much the best of matters, but it was not until close upon time that they again scored, one of the visitors' backs placing the ball to Yeates, who only had Hildrop in front of him, and had no difficulty in netting the ball into the net. After this Allendale came very near adding more goals, but failed to do so, and the final score read—

Allendale Park	Three goals
Walbottle	Nil

DURHAM AMATEUR CUP.
ANNFIELD PLAIN CELTIC v. HOBSON WANDERERS.

On Saturday afternoon the match which was fixed to take place under the auspices of the above competition on Saturday week was decided on the Celtics' ground. Although the day overhead was beautifully fine the ground was in a sad state, owing to recent pitfalls, which caused the water to stand in great pools in several parts of the enclosure. When Mr J. R. Curry, of Swalwell, called the teams together very late they were represented as follows:—

Annfield Plain—Goal, S. Foster; backs, A. Bell and A. Coyle; half-backs, E. Buck, R. Gillender, and W. Cox; forwards, R. Foster, W. Parker, T. Bell, E. Storey, and E. McKie.

Hobson—Goal, J. Wilkinson; backs, W. Liddle and John Layton; half-backs, T. Heslin, R. Atkinson, and W. Beattie; forwards, C. Burnip, Jos. Layton, P. Cullen, A. Lown, and M. Smith.

Hobson won the toss, and attacked the entrance goal. The Celts, in the opening hostilities, worked their way into the visitors' territory, where, after a few exchanges, a corner kick proved beneficial to them. Cox, who took the kick, placed it well in front of the goal-mouth, and soon the forwards scrimmaged it through. They kept up a strong pressure, and Wilkinson had a lively time of it for a few minutes, and on the visitors changing the venue they found that the defence was too strong for their attacks, their efforts being successfully repelled on each occasion. Jos. Layton made a nice run, but lost to touch. Foster gaining possession from the throw-in had his effort to run up the wing spoiled by Atkinson, who centred, the ball, however, soon returning to Wilkinson's charge. The homesters worked their way up, and from a centre by Storey, McKie notched the second goal amid a storm of applause from the home spectators. From the centre kick Storey soon became prominent, and along with his comrade kept Wilkinson fully employed. His efforts to prevent the fall of his charge proved futile, for Storey soon landed the ball into the net for the third time. The homesters, who were pleasing their spectators, soon netted the fourth goal with slight opposition, Foster scoring from a penalty kick. Half-time arrived shortly after with—

Annfield Plain	Four goals
Hobson Wanderers	Nil

On the resumption of hostilities Foster's shooting was rather wide, but his side kept up a pressure against which it was impossible for the visitors to withstand. The players faced the water well, the ground being little better than a duck-pool. The homesters, who began to lag a bit, let the visitors in to register a goal before they were aware what had happened. However, they took good care not to allow a repetition, and so completely bombarded Wilkinson's goal that that custodian in trying to fist out knocked the ball through his own goal. Then some give-and-take play followed of an uninteresting character, the chief point of amusement being "Walloper's" antics with his opponents. Buck secured the sixth goal from a throw-in, and Foster closed the register with No. 7. Final—

Annfield Plain	Seven goals
Hobson Wanderers	One goal

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FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

By "OFF-SIDE."

BIRTLEY BADLY BEATEN.

It is a curious thing that at home Leadgate Park are almost invincible, whilst away they rarely distinguish themselves. The prevailing conditions at Leadgate on Saturday were very similar to those of the previous week at Sunderland, yet the play of the Park was in direct contrast to what they exhibited against the Wearsiders. At Roker Park the Leadgate forwards were a spiritless, disjointed lot, who seldom at any period of the game put in a decent bit of work, whereas on Saturday, against Birtley, their play was marked by dash and brilliancy, there not being a passenger amongst the five. Then their shooting—well, the score speaks volumes on this head, more especially as they had the redoubtable Biggars to face. How to reckon up the Park's form at home and away is a difficult matter, and I will leave it to those who have more time to go into the matter than I have. However, it will be quite in keeping with what has passed if next Saturday the Birtleyites have their revenge on their own plot, although they were badly beaten and outclassed at Leadgate last Saturday. I am sure that no one will be surprised to hear of the Park's defeat, albeit on the form shown last week-end they ought to capture the points at stake without much difficulty; but then they will be away.

—o—

It was a case of mud-larking last Saturday, and the spectacle appeared to cause much amusement amongst the spectators. Birtley commenced very well, but after a time they fell away to nothing, and from that point they were scarcely ever in the game. Considering the state of the ground the home men shot with surprising accuracy—in fact, much better than I have seen them do on a perfectly dry ground. In consequence Biggars had a very busy time, more especially as he was not too well covered by his backs. However, the lengthy custodian behaved himself splendidly, and many of his clearances were warmly applauded, as they deserved to be. But the pressure was too warm to be resisted, shots from Cook, Grant, and Thompson, taking effect, so that at the interval the Park enjoyed the comfortable lead of three goals. The second half was almost entirely in favour of Leadgate, the visitors appearing to have shot their bolt. Rather curiously, the three same men that had scored previous to the cross-over repeated the performance. In addition, Thompson missed a penalty, and Cook had a couple of points struck off for off-side. Joe Crowther was only once troubled, and in the end the Park gained an easy win by half-a-dozen goals to nothing—a rather surprising result to both sides.

—o—

Birtley certainly gave a disappointing display, but they appeared quite unable to adapt themselves to the prevailing conditions. Short passing was of little use on such a ground, and the "big kick and rush game" was the most paying thing to adopt. They looked a likely lot too, did the visitors, and I should say that on a dry ground, they are a smart set. However, in this beautiful climate of ours we get few dry fields during the winter. Biggars was unquestionably the best man on the side, and what the score would have been with a less reliable custodian I shudder to think. The old Blaydonite gave a grand display, and not the slightest blame attaches to him for the defeat. I did not think a great deal of the backs, but the halves were a useful trio, and stuck in well. They were given heaps of work, but took it all cheerfully. Perhaps Dover was the pick, with Mills second, and Hills a good third. Doyle (the old Exile) appeared amongst the front rank, but he was not given many chances of shining, Bowes sticking to him like a brother. Doyle went into the centre in the second half, but was no more successful than previously. Spence and Dixon did fairly well, but as a rule they found the Park halves too much for them.

—o—

After their miserable display at Roker Park the form of the home team was a revelation. The forwards particularly gave a 100 per cent. improved exhibition, all the five being in good trim. Cook and Grant are one of the best wings in the Alliance, and the latter seems to have recovered all his old form. He is just now playing grandly. Forster stuck in in rare fashion, and was well partnered by Thompson, who did not seem much hampered by the heavy going. Crowther was all right in the centre, but wants to put more force into his shots. The defence was of a very high order, every man doing his duty well. Owing to Hedley being away Joe Crowther appeared in his old position, but he had practically nothing to do. Temple and Joe Wilson played grandly at back, their work being enhanced by the state of the field. No matter whether in heading, kicking, or tackling they were rarely found wanting, and their display could not have been improved upon. The halves also merit warm praise, and against them the visiting forwards could do little. Bowes did better than for some time, and early on had the measure of his opposing wing. Daly was also very successful, giving nothing away, whilst Tommy Wilson was as per usual, which is equal to saying that he was one of the best men on the field. He tried hard to find the net in the second half, but could not quite manage it. The bad state of the ground apart, the game was very pleasantly contested, the referee's decisions being accepted with good grace.

—o—

A BIG BEATING FOR THE HOBSON.

The cup-tie between Annfield Plain and the Hobson was of a very one-sided character, the Celts having matters mostly their own way. The visitors played at great disadvantage. Their organisation, I am told, is threatened with disruption. I was sorry to hear that they had found it necessary during the week to hold two meetings for the purpose of deciding whether the club should be kept going or broken up. After some trouble a team was got together to play the cup-tie on Saturday, and I understand that an effort will be made to complete the remaining Tyneside League engagements. It was with extreme regret that I heard of this state of affairs existing, as the Hobson have always been a popular team, and could invariably be depended upon to play a good sportsmanlike game. Surely the supply of footballers is not so short at the Hobson as to threaten the existence of the club. Rather am I inclined to put it down to the poor support the team has received during the past year or two. Several of the officials have worked very hard on behalf of the club, but their efforts have not been backed up by the public as they should have been. It would be a thousand pities were the Wanderers to put the shutters up, and I can only hope that their supporters will rally round them right loyally, and thus prevent such a catastrophe coming to pass.

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I must ask my readers to pardon this digression, and will now say something about the tie. It does not call for much description. In the early stages of the game the Celts secured the lead, and they kept it with ease right through. The players on both sides were soon wet through, owing to the deplorable state of the ground, but this could not be avoided. The great boom in the coal trade has made the colliery officials eager to work all mineral bearing the resemblance of coal, and in consequence of this the field upon which the game was played suffered terribly from pitfalls during Friday night and Saturday forenoon. In fact, there were several good-sized ponds dotted about the ground. Although the Hobson got the benefit of the spin of the coin they were unable to secure a goal at the low end, but, as has been clearly demonstrated times out of number, the Wanderers invariably play a better game uphill than downhill. Their only goal on Saturday was obtained at the high end. However, the Plain did not rest satisfied until they had piled on seven goals, and they thus qualified for the next round without much trouble. The visitors were evidently out of condition, and altogether failed to play up to their usual form. The Celts are going ahead very nicely in the competition, and they will undoubtedly have to be reckoned with. All the men did well on Saturday, and on present form the Plain should see the final stages if they have any luck at all. It is hard lines upon them to have their field let down after all the bother and expense they have been put to. However, the colliery owners will perhaps find them another, and do what is required in the way of fitting it up.

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AN EASY WIN FOR ALLENDALE.

There was not a large turn-out of spectators at Medomsley on Saturday to witness the game between Allendale Park and Walbottle, but those who were there had a weary wait, as the visitors did not turn up until nearly four o'clock. Then they had only ten men, and thus played short-handed throughout. However, had they had their full complement it is doubtful whether the result would have been altered, as Allendale were altogether the better team, and really should have won more easily than they did. The match had not been long in progress ere the home men demonstrated their superiority, and goals were put on before the interval by Robinson and Yeates. Besides this the Walbottle fortress had many narrow escapes. The resumption of hostilities brought no change for the better in the fortunes of the visitors, who were but seldom allowed to become dangerous. On the other hand Allendale pressed severely time after time, but they could only augment their total by another goal, although on the run of the play they deserved two or three more. The "Bottlers," as they are termed, failed to break their egg, and were thus decisively beaten.

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The verdict unquestionably went to the better team, Allendale playing a really capital game, and fully deserving the points at issue. They played a smart game, and quite outmatched Walbottle. Scott (the new man) again played an excellent game at back, and he is just the man the home team were greatly in need of. Scott had an admirable partner in Mat Walton, who was in splendid form, and little came amiss to him. Thompson Walton was a tower of strength at half, and was continually pulling up the visiting forwards. Amongst the vanguard Yeates put in some grand work, and was just about the best forward on the field. Next to him came Lynop and Robinson, both of whom were in capital trim. For Walbottle, Hildrop in goal did his level best to keep the score down, and it is no disgrace to him that he was beaten on three occasions. Willis was often prominent at back, but the halves were no great shakes. The forwards were naturally handicapped in being a man short, nevertheless they stuck in most pluckily. Charlton, Apedale, and Robson all did well at times, but the home defence nullified all their attempts at goal-getting. Ere the season closes Allendale should mount up several rungs in the Tyneside League table. They have now got a very capable combination together.

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HAMSTERLEY JUST WIN.

The Park Reserve took a poor team to Hamsterley on Saturday, and it was the general impression in Leadgate that they would be soundly thrashed. Extreme difficulty was experienced in raising an eleven of any kind. McAloon was unable to play through illness, Harper could not get away from work, and Hughes failed to turn up. In this dilemma the services of three juniors had to be requisitioned, and altogether there were five juniors in the team. Hamsterley placed a powerful team in the field, and it seemed a walk-over for them. However, a surprise was in store, as the visitors played the home men a really good game, and scarcely deserved to lose both points. In fact, if anything, the Park showed the best form, several of the home men being very much off colour. Hamsterley will have to "buck up" if they mean to reach the top. As usual, the home team started weakly, and the Park securing an opening W. Calvert made no mistake, giving Rudd no chance. This awakened Hamsterley, who made matters warm for Jack Calvert, and Ferry equalised with a good shot. Then Tom Seath ran through all opposition and registered No. 2. This gave Hamsterley the lead at the cross-over, although on the run of the play they hardly deserved it.

—o—

The resumption of hostilities saw the Park making strong attacks upon the home goal, and they kept Rudd and his backs constantly on the alert. However, good as the defence was the visitors managed to get upon even terms. The excitement was now at a high pitch, but in spite of the grand defence opposed to them the home men secured the leading point, Johnson scoring with a splendid screw shot. Leadgate were by no means done with, as they came again in gallant fashion, and Rudd had to concede two corners in quick succession to save his charge. However, nothing came of them, and Hamsterley were left victorious over the Park Reserve for the first time by the odd goal of five. As regards the players, it may be said that Hamsterley by no means pleased their supporters, and they were often at fault. Rudd in goal saved some difficult shots, and was completely beaten by the couple that got past him. The backs played well, but owing to the slippery ground, judgment was out of the question. Andrews did well at half, although I think he would sooner be in his proper position in the front rank. Dodds played a steady game, but Anderson was only moderate. Little can be said in praise of the forwards. Ferry's goal was a good one, as was also Johnson's. Jack Calvert kept goal finely for the Park, and was ably assisted by Robson and Overall, who often spoiled the efforts of the home men. W. Calvert was the pick of the halves, Cartmell and Dawson also being useful, whilst amongst the forwards Walton and Davison played a remarkably good game, and often bothered the home defence. Gleadow and Todd also did well, whilst the junior custodian (J. Johns) was not a failure in the centre.

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MEMS.

The Celts of Annfield Plain were surprised to find several pit-falls on their ground on Saturday.

These had taken place during Friday night.

It is a great pity after the club going to so much expense.

However, this did not prevent the Celts from rubbing it into the Hobson.

The visitors were in a disorganised condition.

In fact, it was not until late on in the week that it was decided to play the tie.

The Hobson have been badly supported of late.

Lown again turned out, but could not stem the tide of defeat.

The little 'un missed his clever partner, Jimmy Andrews.

Teddy Buck once more assisted the Celts.

And played a capital game, besides scoring a goal.

I certainly regard the Plain as a dangerous team for the cup.

It will be a hard game should they and the Swifts fall together.

I sincerely trust that the Hobson may be able to weather the storm.

A little help just now will go a long way towards assisting them to do this.

Allendale accounted for Walbottle in pretty easy fashion.

Scott and Mat Walton are an excellent pair of backs.

Scott has been a rare find for Allendale.

Ditto Yeates, who was in rare form on Saturday.

He is only a little 'un, but a good 'un.

The same may be said respecting Lynop and Robinson.

Allendale should pick up a lot more points in the Tyneside League.

Before the season closes.

Thompson Walton was, as usual, ever in the way of the opposing forwards.

It is wonderful how the veteran keeps it up. He is good for a few more years of football yet.

By the way, that wedding invitation has not arrived at our office yet.

Hurry up, Thompson, and let us see you get it over.

I intend to reserve a column specially for the auspicious event.

Most of the clubs just at present are worrying their brains as to how they are going to get their fixtures in.

Nearly all of them are several in arrears.

Leadgate Park have yet 20 games to play.

Birtley have 17.

Other clubs are not much better off.

It will mean numerous mid-week games.

Consett were again without a match on Saturday.

When they will get their tie played goodness only knows.

Tow Law Reserve and Wolsingham played a draw on Saturday.

This will mean another meeting this week-end.

In accordance with an intimation from Mr. J. Glover, Mr. J. B. Robson, of Swalwell, travelled to Consett again on Saturday.

But, of course, found no match for him to officiate in.

Seeing that Tow Law and Wolsingham were down to play last Saturday, the action of Mr. Glover is rather difficult to understand.

However, the Association, I suppose, will have to pay the piper.

Birtley are evidently not mud-larks.

So they came a cropper at Leadgate.

The Park rubbed it in thick—the goals, not the mud.

The forwards were not like the same lot that made such a wretched show at Roker Park.

They played a dashing game, and shot finely.

But then they were at home.

And that makes a difference.

Had they been pigeons they would have made splendid homers.

Cook and Grant had an afternoon out.

Both of them notched a couple of goals.

Benny had also three disallowed.

So he had apparently donned his shooting boots on this occasion.

For a wonder, Sammy Thompson missed a penalty.

However, the veteran got home a brace.

The Park defence was grand.

The halves and backs were impassable.

Joe Crowther was little more than a spectator in goal.

On the other side Biggars performed prodigies of valour.

But for him it would probably have been a case of double figures.

It was not so bad looking on.

But I pitied the players.

The mud and water were awful.

At the finish the players looked as if they had been pelting each other with mud all the afternoon.

The Park trainers (Messrs. Haggerston and Coombe) had a lively time scraping the earth off their men.

Some of it stuck like a brother.

The washing bill will probably be a heavy one.

The teams meet at Birtley this week-end.

When last week's verdict might be reversed.

Byer Moor, 6; Burnhope, 2. At Burnhope, too.

Oh! what a surprise.

This puts a different complexion upon the championship.

Byer Moor have at last got their team together again.

They have had their share of ill-luck this season.

But the silver lining to the cloud seems to have come at last.

That Burnhope were surprised is putting it mildly.

They had fully reckoned upon a victory.

The clever Moor forwards put the ball through no less than ten times.

But the knight of the whistle disallowed four.

On this form the Moorites will be dangerous candidates for the Charity Cup.

The trophy might again find a resting place on Mr Saunder's side-board.

Barring accidents, Byer Moor should pick up a lot more points.

I am pleased to hear that Mr W. H. Dawson (the Byer Moor secretary) is on the high road to recovery.

He has suffered from influenza, bronchitis, asthma, and pleurisy—a nice little lot.

He is yet rather weak, but hopes to start work soon.

Mr Dawson says that if Byer Moor win the Charity Cup again it will just about complete his cure.

The Park Reserve were near bringing off a surprise at Hamsterley.

The home club were strongly represented.

The reverse was the case with the Park.

However, Hamsterley were a trifle fortunate to pull through by a single goal.

Probably the Leadgate forwards were the smallest lot that has ever represented a club in the Derwent Valley League.

However, they played a ripping good game.

Charlie Walton and Len Davison made a champion right wing.

Willie Calvert distinguished himself at half.

And scored a fine goal.

Young Overall made a good partner for Robson at back.

Had Harper, Hughes, and McAloon been able to play, the Park might have created a big surprise.

The Hamsterley forwards did not play up to form.

It will not do for the team to go stale now.

That little affair at Burnhope considerably improves Hamsterley's chances.

But the men must do better than they have of late.

Andrews should be played amongst the forwards.

He is wasted at half.

Both goalkeepers did well.

It was rather curious that Hamsterley were unlucky to lose at Leadgate, whilst Leadgate were unlucky to lose at Hamsterley.

This is the first time that Hamsterley have defeated the Park Reserve.

I understand that Hamsterley have passed a gilt-edged vote of thanks to Byer Moor.

'Twas ever thus.

I am told that a Sheffield Wednesday representative will watch the game at Birtley on Saturday.

With a view to deciding whether Biggars is good enough to "sign on" for the cutlers.

The old Blaydonite is a grand custodian, and would, in my opinion, make a class player.

With Massey "hors de combat" the Wednesday are not too well off in this department.

The Park are hoping the said representative does not take a fancy to any of their players.

They cannot spare any just at present.

INFLUENZA SUBDUED IN 24 HOURS.
DEATH-RATE REDUCED.

During the epidemic of Influenza which raced throughout North America last year, VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE reduced the death-rate to such an extent that physicians never hesitated to prescribe it. Clinical tests prove it to be of unsurpassed excellence for the rapid cure of Influenza, Bronchitis, Asthma, and Coughs. It is a god-send to the afflicted. Ask for VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE. Price 1s. 1½d. Sold by Consett Co-operative Stores; Milner, Chemist; and all Co-operative Stores everywhere.

HOW'S YOUR LIVER? Why I never know I have one now, as I always keep a bottle of PATTRICK'S MEDICINE by me, and if I feel a little "off," I take a dose, and am soon myself again. Everyone who is ill goes to PATTRICK, CHEMIST, 5, Front Street, Consett, who can cure almost any complaint. 371c.

The Drink for the Season.

Absolutely a New Drink.

Awarded 8 Gold Medals.

LEMO.

LEMO CHAMPAGNE.

LEMO.

Try It. An Ideal Summer Drink.

MADE ONLY BY

J. KERSHAW and SONS,

LEADGATE and GATESHEAD.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES

SOCIAL AT LANCHESTER.

Desperate as the weather was, it speaks volumes for the enthusiasm and patriotism of those resident round about Lanchester that nearly 150 ladies and gentlemen attended a social in the National Schools on Monday night, the proceeds of which were to be devoted to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Fund. Mr. and Mrs. Piercey-Taylor-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ritson, Mr. Walton and others had interested themselves in something like an enthusiastic manner in order to make the effort a success. If they had failed, the fault could only have been laid at the door of the Clerk of the Weather for the arrangements otherwise were most complete. The schools had been handsomely decorated with flags, evergreens, curtains, and drapery by Mr. Walton, Mr. and Mrs. Cummings, Miss Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. T. Bowes, and Mr. H. Walton. Mr. R. Walton and Mr. W. Cummings discharged the duties of M.C.'s, and the music was supplied by Mr. E. Sloane, Mus. Bac., of Blackhill. Refreshments were provided by Mr. J. G. Sinton, of Lanchester, and in other respects the comfort of the guests was carefully looked after. Dancing commenced at about nine o'clock, and the party broke up between two and three on the following morning. During the evening songs were rendered by Miss Harker (Irish Lullaby,) Master Shell (Auntie,) Mr. J. Sloane (By the fountain,) Master Shell (Red, White, and Blue,) Miss T. Urwin (Leaving yet loving, and Husheen,) and Mr. J. Sloane (Bonny Mary of Argyle). In addition Mr. Sloane sang a new song entitled "For Queen and Country" which has just been written and composed by Mr. T. D. Dales, of Medomsley. The rendering of the song was received with great enthusiasm and most heartily encored, the guests joining in the chorus. Another attraction was a gramaphone entertainment given by Mr. Piercey-Taylor-Smith, who with his co-secretary, Mr. Cummings, did all in his power to make, what proved to be, a most highly enjoyable social. Among those present were:—

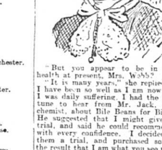
Mr. J. D. Piercey-Taylor-Smith, Colepike Hall.
Dr. and Mrs. Wilson, Lanchester.
Mr. P. Brown, Lanchester.
Mr. Parker, Lanchester.
Mr. H. Hooper, Lanchester.
Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Thompson, Lanchester.
Mr. John Urwin, Hollinside Hall.
Misses Urwin, Hollinside Hall.
Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Towns, Lanchester.
Miss E. Watson, Lanchester.
Mr. T. D. Dryden, Consett.
Mr. Geo. Stephenson, Blackhill.
Mrs. Ross, Butsfield.
Miss Tinkler, Bishop Middleham.
Mr. Miller, Hollinside.
Miss Armstrong, Quebec.
Miss Parkin, Consett.
Mr. R. Armstrong, Quebec.
Mr. Harker, Blackhill.
Misses Harker, Blackhill.
Mr. Potts, Newcastle.
Mr. B. Watson, Newcastle.
Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ritson, Lanchester.
Mr. R. Walton, Lanchester.
Mr. R. W. Walton, Lanchester.
Mr. S. H. Walton, Lanchester.
Mr. and Mrs. T. Bowes, Lanchester.
Mr. W. F. Dobson, Lanchester.
Mr. R. Snaith, Lanchester.
Mr. T. Nicholson, Manor House.
Mr. H. Nicholson, Manor House.
Mr. W. Nicholson, Manor House.
Miss M. Nicholson, Manor House.
Mr. T. Toward, Lanchester.
Mr. J. G. Hooper, Greencroft.
Mr. W. Pearson, Blackburn Cottages.
Mrs. Pearson, Blackburn Cottages.
Miss A. Pearson, Blackburn Cottages.
Miss E. Pearson, Blackburn Cottages.
Mr. T. Wilkinson, Lanchester.
Miss S. Leybourne, Lanchester.
Mr. J. Sloane, Blackhill.
Mr. E. Sloane, Blackhill.
Master W. Shell, Consett.
Miss F. Parker, Lanchester.
Miss L. Parker, Lanchester.
Mr. J. Smith, Lanchester.
Miss H. Jackson, Lanchester.
Miss J. Jackson, Lanchester.
Mr. and Mrs. W. Cumming, Lanchester.
Mrs. A. Cumming, Lanchester.
Mr. Gedfrey Cumming, Lanchester.
Mr. Geo. Parker, Lanchester.
Miss L. Aitchison, Annfield Plain.
Miss W. Aitchison, Annfield Plain.
Mr. Jas. Walton, Lanchester.
Mr. T. Oliver, Hurbuck.
Misses Oliver, Hurbuck.
Mr. Wilson, Maiden Hall.
Mr. I. Wilson, Maiden Hall.
Mr. T. Wilson, Maiden Hall.
Miss Wilson, Maiden Hall.
Mr. J. Brown, Maiden Law.
Mr. T. Ridley, Browney Bank.
Mr. J. Ridley, Browney Bank.
Mr. Edgell, Lanchester.
Miss G. Burdon, Branch Villa.
Mr. W. Burdon, Branch Villa.
Mr. G. Wake, Lanchester.
Mr. W. Wearmouth, Malton.
Mr. Jos. Marsh, Lanchester.
Mr. J. [illegible], Consett.
Mr. T. Jackson, Lanchester.
Mr. P. Dodds, Newbiggen.
Mr. R. Dodds, Newbiggen.
Mr. J. Peacock, Lanchester.
Mr. J. J. Sinton, Lanchester.
Mr. W. Sinton, Lanchester.
Mr. T. Blackwell, Lanchester.
Mr. W. [illegible], Lanchester.
Mr. J. [illegible], Lanchester.
Mr. J. [illegible], Lanchester.
Mr. H. Gibson, Throstle Nest.
Mr. W. Gibson, Throstle Nest.
Mr. G. W. Shipley, Malton.
Mr. W. Shipley, Malton.
Mr. J. Aynsley, Malton.
Mr. E. Shipley, Malton.
Mr. H. Shipley, Malton.
Mr. Jas. Hall, Malton.
Mr. Alex. Dodds, Quebec.
Mr. Jos. Kirtley, Lanchester.
Mrs. Kirtley, Tow Law.
Mr. Jas. Lawson, Burnhope.
Mr. J. [illegible], Lanchester.
Mrs. Radcliffe, Lanchester.
Miss Wallington, Lanchester.
Mr. F. Chinnery, Lanchester.
Mr. W. Aitkin, Lanchester.
Miss I. Atkin, Lanchester.
Mr. T. Hunter, Esp Green.
Mr. W. Hunter, Esp Green.
Miss S. Hunter, Esp Green.
Mrs. Humble, Lanchester.
Mr. A. Dowson, Mccrside.
Miss Eltringham, Blackhill.
Mr. Mitchison, Park Hall.
Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Wake, Moor Leazes.
Miss B. Marshall, Lanchester.
Miss G. Marshall, Lanchester.
Miss J. Simpson, Lanchester.
Miss Welsh, Consett.
Miss A. Snaith, Lanchester.
Miss Swalwell, Lanchester.
Miss J. Humble, Lanchester.
Miss Bowes, Lanchester.
Miss M. Burton, Lanchester.
Miss M. Scott, Lanchester.
Mr. Jas. Frost, Lanchester.
Miss Young, Colepike.
Mrs. Atkinson, Lanchester.
Mr. G. Mole, Malton.
Miss S. Wilson, Ornsby Hill.
Miss L. Wilson, Lanchester.
Miss B. C. Dean, Lanchester.
Miss Birkett, Lanchester.
Miss M. Craggs, Lanchester.

INFLUENZA'S EFFECT ON DIGESTION.

SOME INTERESTING INVESTIGATIONS.

"Nine years ago," said Mrs. Webb, of 24, Albert Street, Featherstone, to a "Pontefract Telegraph" reporter, "I had a bad attack of influenza, and my nerves were upset, my appetite left me, and altogether I was in a bad way. I seemed to be unable to throw it off, and, in fact, since then I have been ailing in one way or another. My liver seemed to be out of order, and I constantly suffered from indigestion and constipation. I had severe pains in the back and shoulders, which made my life a misery."

"I tried several doctors, but they were unable to cure me. In fact, I never seemed to have the doctor off the doorstep, and consequently have been put to no end of expense."



"But you appear to be in excellent health at present, Mrs. Webb?"

"It is many years," she replied, "since I have been so well as I am now. Whilst I was daily suffering, I had the good fortune to hear from Mr. Jack, the local chemist, about Bile Beans for Biliousness. He suggested that I might give them a trial, and said he could recommend them with every confidence. I decided to give them a trial, and purchased some, with the result that I am what you see me to-day—a woman enjoying good health and strength. My husband was away whilst I was taking the first box, and when he returned he was astonished at my appearance. I had a very much healthier look, and having got entirely rid of the constipation and pains about my body, I felt in better spirits than I had done for a long time. I continued with the Beans, and now feel that I am completely cured, and that Charles Forde's Bile Beans have cured me."

The reporter, investigating further, called upon Mr. Jack, chemist, Station Lane, Featherstone, who supplied the Bile Beans to Mrs. Webb, and he said that since he commenced selling Charles Forde's Bile Beans he had never had such a run on a patent medicine before, and that it was his intention to push forward so valuable an article.

Bile Beans as a Spring medicine will be found most invaluable; they dissolve all the clogged secretions and tone up the entire system. Their formula is purely vegetable, and for all digestion and blood ailments the Proprietors would be interested to find a case they cannot cure. Sold by Chemists generally; or direct from the Bile Bean Manufacturing Co., 119 and 120 London Wall, London, on receipt of price 1s 1½d, or 2s 9d large box.

LINTZ COLLIERY.

WESLEYAN MISSION.—On Sunday evening the mission choir, under the leadership of Mr. E. Parker, rendered the service of song entitled "In His Steps." Mr. A. Bird presided at the harmonium, while the [illegible] of Bill Quay, [illegible] was [illegible] by Mr. G. Brown, [illegible] a Wesleyan hymn-book and a [illegible] Parker, late of Hobson Colliery, for service as organist [illegible].

SWALWELL.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.—There was a large attendance at the usual weekly entertainment held under the auspices of the Swalwell Gospel Temperance Association, in the old Presbyterian Church, on Saturday evening. The chair was occupied by Mr. L. Bradshaw. An excellent programme was contributed by a number of friends from Benwell. Solos were well rendered by Mr. Dunn and Mr. Batey. Mr. J. Collins ably recited three pieces, whilst a vocal temperance address was delivered by Mr. Bates. Votes of thanks terminated the meeting.

New Fermented Drink for Summer and Winter!

BURDOCK.

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BURDOCK.

TO BE HAD FROM ALL RETAILERS, OR WHOLESALE FROM

ANNFIELD PLAIN ÆRATED WATER CO.,

MAKERS OF HIGH-CLASS MINERAL WATERS AND SPECIALLY FERMENTED DRINKS,

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

ALARMING MISHAP AT CRAGHEAD COLLIERY

Miners Overcome by Foul Air

Gallant Rescue by Comrades

An accident of a somewhat alarming nature occurred at the George Pit on Tuesday morning week, in consequence of which several miners were overcome by foul air. It would appear that two miners named Thomas Robert Robson and Charles Stenlake went to work as usual to work at a place known as the "staple," at about 6 a.m. on the morning named. Everything went all right up to about eleven o'clock. At ten o'clock a couple of shots were fired with an explosive called gelignite, after which the two men went to the bottom of the staple to get their baits. After the lapse of over an hour these two persons prepared to go back to the scene of their work. It is, we believe, customary after a shot has been fired for one man to go in advance and inform his co-workers that everything is in order. Stenlake states that he proceeded first, followed by Robson, who kept a little distance behind waiting for the word from Stenlake that the place was in order. Stenlake shouted back to his colleague that things were all right, and accordingly he was joined by Robson. Stenlake then took up his pick, but he does not appear to be quite clear as to how many blows he struck with the same, but states that it could not be more than a couple or so. Immediately afterwards he remembered nothing more until he found himself in the engine-house along with Robson. A stone-man named Sydney Cooper, who was working at the bottom of the staple, heard Robson shout and he went to their assistance, and whilst helping Stenlake he was kicked in the mouth and knocked partly down the staple, but fortunately he caught a chain in his descent and thus saved himself. Another man named Laurence Wilson went to their aid, and also another man named Parnaby. Wilson after much difficulty succeeded in getting Robson and Stenlake out of their perilous position by carrying them down by means of a rope described by Wilson as "hand-over-hand." Parnaby also bravely assisted in the work of rescue, but unfortunately he was overcome by foul air, and on Saturday was unable to be present at the inquest. On Friday morning Robson expired, the immediate cause of death being heart disease accelerated by shock and foul air. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon these brave fellows who so nobly assisted in the rescue, and we are pleased to learn that their efforts are to be appreciated in some tangible form.

THE INQUEST.

On Saturday afternoon Deputy-Coroner A. T. Shepherd and a jury sat at the Craghead Hotel, Craghead, to investigate the circumstances attending the death of Thomas Robert Robson, a miner, who resided at Craghead, and who expired at his residence on Friday morning, the 22nd ult., under somewhat singular circumstances. Mr. R. Donald Bain, Chief Inspector of Mines, was present, whilst Mr. James Fairley, Colliery agent, and Mr. E. J. Wardle, manager at Craghead Colliery, were also in attendance.

Mary Jane Robson identified the body as that of her husband, who was 46 years of age, and who resided at No. 18, Thomas Street, Craghead. The deceased was a "shift man" employed at the George Pit, Craghead. An accident occurred at the colliery on Tuesday, the 19th ult., and the deceased was brought home about 12.30 noon. Witness did not think her husband was conscious when he was brought home. He did not regain consciousness until late in the evening. He was seen by a doctor on the same day. Dr. Stevenson had attended her husband from Tuesday until he expired about 12.30 a.m., on Friday morning. Her husband was unable to tell her anything about the occurrence. The deceased was in good health, and had always been well. He was not a delicate man and never complained about his heart on breathing. He never had a doctor for a long time.

The Coroner (to witness): Did your husband become conscious the same night?—Yes, the same night.

Next day was he better?—A good deal better on the Wednesday; but he never slept night or day.

Was he able to go outside at all?—He was outside on Friday. He was out on Wednesday.

Was he able to take his meals on the Wednesday?—He could not take it. He "supped a sup" of beef tea—that was all.

What about the Friday—did he go out?—He was just at the back door.

Was he able to take his bait on the Thursday?—He never bit all day on Thursday.

And on Friday did he get up?—He got up on the Friday morning and drank a cup of tea.

Had he to go to bed?—He was going to go out across to the barber's, and he rested himself upon the table, and when he got up he seemed to reel.

What time was that?—About a quarter past nine, or half-past nine o'clock.

And he was preparing to go out?—Yes, sir.

What did you say he did?—He was resting upon the table with his arms. He said that his arms were very bad.

Did he get up and fall down?—He got up, just looked round, and reeled over.

Did he die then?—He died there and then. He was not confined to his bed at all on the three days, but was on the Friday?—He was up and down, but could not lie. He was both in bed and out of bed for rest, but could not rest anywhere.

Mr. Fairley: He walked home?—He walked home and tried to make the best he could, poor man.

Mr. Fairley: He was quite hearty when I was in?—He talked to you hearty I was going to say.

The Coroner: He did not go back to work at all?—No.

Mr. Fairley: Was he up seeing Parnaby on the Thursday?—On the Wednesday, sir.

The Coroner: Who is Parnaby?—The man that rescued him.

Elizabeth Hilland said she was the wife of Hugh Hilland, miner, residing at No. 19, Thomas Street, Craghead. Witness saw the deceased when he was brought home on Tuesday. She saw him coming up the garden path with Mr. Gibson. Witness did not see the deceased on Wednesday. She went into the house of the deceased on Thursday afternoon, and saw him. The deceased was in bed when she went in on the Thursday. He got up the time witness was in. The deceased said that his arms were aching. He had had bad arms and complained a lot about his arms—just his arms. He remained up while witness was there. Witness next saw him on the following day, when she went in and lifted him up. Witnessed happened to hear the sound of a fall and went into the deceased's house in consequence of the same. It would then be about a quarter to ten o'clock in the morning. The deceased was lying behind the door. His wife and daughter were present at the time. The deceased was unconscious when witness saw him. She assisted to lift him up. Witness held deceased until a doctor came. The deceased expired in witness's arms before a doctor arrived. The deceased was pretty cheerful when witness saw him on Thursday. He was then sitting in the arm-chair in front of the fire. Witness thought the deceased was "getting on nicely." She had known the deceased for about four months, but not longer. He appeared to be a strong looking man.

Mr. Bain: He did not say anything to you about the accident?—No, he did not say anything to me.

On any occasion when you saw him?—No, not about his arms.

By Mr. Fairley: He was dressed every day—fully dressed?—He went out that day I saw him.

The Coroner: That was on the Thursday?—He went to the back door.

The Coroner: Did you see him out on the Wednesday?—I saw him coming down the garden path.

Charles Stenlake, who described himself as a "stone man," said he was working with the deceased in the George Pit on Tuesday. They were working in the staple—a new staple in the five-quarter seam. They were putting up a staple between two seams—the main coal and the five-quarter seam. They started work at about six o'clock in the morning. At about 11 a.m. the accident took place.

By Mr. Fairley: You came down to bait at 10 o'clock and went back?—We came down to bait at 10 o'clock and then went back—it would be about 11 o'clock.

Witness (continuing) said that at that time everything was all right. Witness went back up to the staple and everything seemed to be all right. The deceased followed witness for a certain time. The deceased shouted to witness to enquire if things were all right, and he answered "yes." Afterwards the deceased came up, and when he came up witness took the pick in his hand. Immediately after that witness knew nothing more. After deceased came up witness took a pick in his hand and was just upon the point of marking out a "hole." He might have given one or two blows, but that would be all—no more than two he supposed. After that he remembered nothing more. When witness came to his senses he was in the haulage engine-house at bank, which is situated against the office. The first time that he saw the deceased afterwards was when he (witness) came around in the haulage engine-house. Robson was there. There were just their two selves when they were working in the place. Witness did not see anything wrong that morning when he went at work. They had been working there a day previous to the accident. Witness would not like to say exactly how long he had been there, but he should say about three weeks or a month. During all that time he had never smelt any gas. He had no reason to suspect that there was any gas.

Mr. Bain: When you went up to start at eleven o'clock, what did you do first?—At eleven o'clock on the way up I took notice to see that everything was right for anyone that was following me. When I got upon the [illegible] I looked to see if there was any loose [illegible] hanging about—to see that it was all right. I saw that all was right, and I shouted to Robson to come up. I shouted, "It is all right, marrow."

You would have a naked light or candle?—Yes, sir.

Did you put the candle all around about the place?—Right up to where the hole extended to.

Did you see anything different about the flame of your candle?—No, sir.

Was it burning dim?—It was burning brighter after I went up.

It burned a little brighter after you went up than what it did when you came down?—Yes, sir.

Before you came down at 10 o'clock did you then fire a shot?—I fired two, sir.

The Coroner: That was before 10 o'clock?—Yes, sir—somewhere about 10 o'clock.

Mr. Bain: Were you in the stone or the coal?—In the coal, sir.

You would not go in after the shots were fired until an elapse of an hour?—I should think it would be about an hour.

What explosive was used?—Gelignite.

How was it fired?—By fuse-cap.

Was that the same explosive that you have used all the way in sinking the staple?—Nearly all the way.

As a rule you have used it?—As a rule we have used gelignite.

Have you found any effects from the fumes after the shot has gone off?—No, sir.

When you went up at eleven o'clock—I believe there is an air-pipe coming up by the side of the staple—was the air blowing through that?—Yes, sir.

Are you sure?—Yes, sir.

Was it coming up or down?—It was down, sir.

Did you make any remark to Robson when you first noticed anything happen?—No, sir.

Can you describe the sensation?—No, sir, not at all.

You simply became unconscious at once?—I know nothing. I know I only had a pick in my hand.

Where was your pick as far as you know?—It was in the coal.

Did you hear any hissing noise before?—No, sir.

No smell?—No smell whatever.

No giddy sensation?—No giddy sensation or anything, sir.

In the course of your experience have you ever had to do with stife?—Yes, sir. I have felt it many times before when we have been working in bad air. Perhaps three or four hours afterwards, and then it worked off.

A nasty pain across the head?—Across the back part of your head.

Did you have any of that sensation in the engine-house?—Yes, sir.

You didn't feel inclined to walk about and laugh and talk?—I could not walk; I tried many times. I could talk right enough, but I could not walk.

Mr. Fairley: I believe you went in at six o'clock in the morning?—Yes, sir.

Were you ever down between that and the time you fired the shots?—No, sir.

Till you had two shots ready?—Yes, sir.

After you got your "baits" you had some work at the bottom which prevented you from going up as early as you would have done?—Yes, sir.

It is customary for one man to go forward, and the other one not to proceed until he says all right?—And that is what I did; and I remember nothing more after taking the pick in. I remember seeing you in the engine-house and Mr. Wardle, and I remember Robson walking up to us. Someone said, "Shake hands with Mr. Robson," and I shook hands with him.

The Coroner: Have you felt any effects since then?—I have felt the effects since then in my legs, and occasionally in my head. When I have eaten anything I have had to go and lie down after I have eaten it.

Mr. Fairley: You are gradually getting better?—I am gradually getting better to my usual strength. I know I was very ill in the engine-house.

Mr. Bain: There was no fire of any sort at the top of the staple?—No, sir.

Have you ever noticed your candle burning brighter before?—The candle when I went up was burning ever so much brighter than it was before we fired the shots.

Have you ever noticed that before?—No, sir.

Was it thick when you came down?—It was not thick; we could not call it thick, it was workable.

Mr. Bain: Being as the candle was burning brighter there must have been a difference in the air?

Sydney Cooper was next called. Witness was employed as a stone-man and was working at the colliery at the time of the accident. Witness was at the bottom of the staple, whilst the other two men were at the top. Witness found that something had happened when he heard Robson shout. Someone shouted, "Come up here, I want you." That would be about 11 o'clock. Witness went to the deceased and found him sitting upon the top bunting. He asked deceased what was the matter, and he said, "Charles has fallen down in a faint." "Charley" was lying upon his back with his feet over the bunting. Deceased asked witness if the rope was fastened at the bottom, and he replied that it was. The deceased asked witness to undo the rope, which he did. When witness came back Robson was still in a sitting position. He asked witness what he was going to do. During the time deceased was tying the rope he seized witness by the arm. Witness asked him what was the matter, but he never spoke—he had fainted. Witness thought that perhaps he might be able to lower Stenlake down himself. During the time witness was putting the rope around Stenlake he kicked witness in the mouth with his knee and knocked him down. Witness was knocked so far down the staple, but he happened to get his foot in a chain, which stopped him from falling any further. After that he remembered going to the shaft bottom to seek help, but remembered nothing more. Witness had been working there all that morning at the bottom. He did not smell anything wrong before the occurrence. At the time of the occurrence witness thought the smell was rather unusual. He could not imagine what the smell was like. He had never smelt anything like it before. There were three candles burning when witness went up. Witness did not notice any difference in the flame; it was just the same as before. He was present when the shot was fired. It would be near ten o'clock as far as he could tell. There had been two shots fired. The explosive used was gelignite.

Witness, in reply to Mr. Bain, said he could not remember going back after the fall was down.

By Mr. Bain: Did you leave any light at the bottom of the staple?—No, sir.

You took it back?—Yes, sir.

Was it burning all right?—Yes, sir.

The Coroner: It seems to be the same?—Just the same.

By Mr. Bain: Did you feel any sensation before you got kicked?—I felt rather giddy.

Can you describe to the jury what it was like?—It was my legs and arms that felt weak.

That was before you got knocked?—Yes.

Did you notice any feeling in your head?—Very little, sir.

By Mr. Wardle: How long have you been accustomed to use gelignite?—I have used it since it was introduced.

Have you ever found any ill-effects off that?—Not till that day.

You were not sure about it that day?—Not sure.

Witness, in reply to the Coroner, said he had used gelignite for above nine months.

Laurence Wilson, a coal-hewer residing at No. 65, Thomas Street, Craghead, deposed that the onsetter came to the shaft bottom for assistance, and someone shouted to witness that there were two men fast in the staple, and he ran to the staple. Witness went to the staple and began to climb up, and when he got to the top he found Stenlake hanging by the legs over the top of the bunting. Witness saw Robson, who was lying directly behind him in a slanting position. They were both unconscious. The rope was already tied around the body of Stenlake, and witness asked Cooper if he would assist him to get Stenlake down. Cooper said that he was going to fall, and could not assist witness. Witness said to Cooper, "Get past me and send someone else up." Cooper got past witness, and he supposed that Cooper fell part of the road. Witness shouted down and asked if anybody was coming up, so presently Mr. Parnaby came up. Parnaby got on the top of the bunting with his foot, and witness got him to help him down. Witness ran him down "hand-over-hand," Parnaby assisting him. That was Stenlake he took down. Some men at the bottom unloosed the rope. Witness pulled the rope back, and he asked Parnaby to fasten the rope around Robson, whom he took down the same way as Stenlake. After that Parnaby was going to fall, and for fear he should fall witness got him upon the bunting so that if he should fall witness might catch him. Witness went away down and Parnaby followed him. When Parnaby came to the bottom he was insensible. Witness never lost his senses, but he tumbled when he got at the bottom. Witness felt both his arms and legs fail him. Witness's legs and arms were so numb when he was coming down that he hardly knew whether he was holding upon the chain at all. His head was giddy. He was not able to assist the men out. Witness was just able to walk out himself. He could hardly tell who got the other men out. Witness was lying at the bottom when they got Parnaby away. There were two lights burning at the top. There were several lights at the bottom. There were no safety lamps—naked lights. Witness tried to light a candle twice, but it went out both times, so he threw it down. When witness was about two fathoms from the bottom, as he was climbing up the light went out twice.

By Mr. Bain: Did you climb up in the dark?—I went up in the dark.

Did you notice the candles that were burning at the top?—They were burning dim.

When you first landed at the bottom of the staple were there any lights burning?—Not directly at the bottom, but a few yards from the bottom is the gangway, and there were lights burning there.

When you first went in the bottom of the staple did your candle go out?—There were two candles lying and I lighted one, so as to take it up, and when I got I suppose about two fathoms up the light went out. I went back and lighted it again, but it still went out.

By Mr. Fairley: When you attempted to get up someone told me that you noticed there was a light burning at the top, and you did not bother?—I shouted up to Cooper and he said, "I have a light," as my light had gone out. If there had been no light I should have gone back and got my lamp, and stuck it in my mouth.

In reply to Mr. Wardle, witness said it would be about eleven o'clock when he got there.

It was here stated that Parnaby was unable to appear to give evidence, as he was still unwell, but it was considered that sufficient evidence had been tendered upon the occurrence.

Dr. James Henry Dewhurst Stevenson said he saw the deceased on Tuesday about noon—twelve o'clock. That was at the engine-house. The deceased was conscious when witness saw him. Deceased was too excitable to give any explanation. He was suffering from the effects of shock. Witness saw deceased directly afterwards at his home, when he complained of feeling sick. Deceased did not vomit. Deceased had some brandy and seemed to come around, and was cheerful. Witness found the deceased suffering at that time—Tuesday—suffering from the effects of foul air and shock. Witness attended him every day since. Deceased got better and seemed to treat the matter very lightly. Witness heard that deceased had been out. Deceased did not witness that himself. Deceased never gave witness any account of what had happened to him. He did not tell witness anything at all—just the effects of his head aching, and said that he would be right very quickly. Witness afterwards examined his heart and found that it was very weak and feeble—evidently suffering from diseased heart. Deceased then complained of having been short of breath previous to the accident. He did attribute it to bronchitis. Deceased had shortness of breath on exertion at times. Witness thought the shortness of breath was from his heart. Witness saw the deceased on the morning of his death. Witness thought that the immediate cause of death was heart disease, accelerated by shock and the effects of foul air.

The Coroner: That is of course if he had inhaled any foul air, being a man of his condition of heart it would be dangerous?—Yes, and the shock and the excitement following.

You could not tell from the examination as to what he had inhaled at all?—No.

Have you been treating the man before?—No.

By Mr. Bain: But it seems to have been consistent with carbonic acid gas poisoning?—Yes.

Can you suggest any other cause?—I don't know the gases at all.

Mr. Fairley here remarked that the place had been examined and nothing unnatural found. There was no "holing."

Mr. Bain remarked that he was rather now leaning to the notion that the explosive had something to do with the occurrence. He had not that impression at first—his idea was that it was carbonic acid gas.

The Coroner (to Mr. Bain): What makes you think it might have been due to the fumes of the explosive?—Because there has been no fissure found there where the carbonic acid could have escaped.

The Coroner in reviewing the evidence said the case was a very singular one. The Chief Inspector of Mines and Mr. Fairley were unable to guide them in any degree with regard to it. The question would seem to lie between as to whether it was due to an instant outburst of carbonic acid, or whether it was due to the fumes from the shots. The Inspector said that it was unknown for gas to accumulate and go over the solid coal. The evidence rather inclined Mr. Fairley to go away from his first impression, and that it might have been due to the fumes from the shots fired with gelignite. He did not think they had sufficient evidence to guide them in coming to a definite conclusion as to what it was, and therefore his view of it was that that was a point which perhaps had better be left open. There was no doubt that the man had died from the inhaling of some foul air, but as to whether it was from carbonic acid gas or the coal, he thought they should almost leave that open. The principal question that they had to consider in connection with the case was as to whether there had been any negligence with the work that was being carried on; and whether there had been any neglect or negligence on the part of the Colliery Company. He thought it was abundantly clear from the evidence that there was no blame attached whatever. With regard to the explosive it appeared to have been used for some months. He should find in accordance with the doctor's testimony that the man had died from heart disease accelerated by inhaling some foul air, but as to what was the particular nature they could not tell. As he said before, as far as the management of the Colliery were concerned there did not seem to be any blame or neglect on their part.

The jury without leaving the room returned a verdict accordingly.

A Tribute to the Rescuers

Mr. Fairley said he wished to take that opportunity, whilst before the jurors, to say how much the owners and himself appreciated the efforts which were made on behalf of those men who were rescued—Robson and Stenlake. He was sure he was expressing Mr. Mark Archer's opinion when he said that the matter would have their further consideration, and that the rescuers would hear something more about it. (Hear, hear.) He was sure that their approval, and his approval, would be shown in a substantial way at a later date. (Hear, hear.)

The Coroner remarked that what Mr. Fairley had said was just what might have been expected from the owners of the colliery. They all knew the interest they took in the welfare of their workmen, and he was sure Mr. Fairley had told them something that they would naturally have expected. He was sure that those men who attempted the rescue were worthy of all praise. He heartily endorsed all that had been said upon that score.

The foreman of the jury said he thought the jurors endorsed the same.

The jury then rose, after having sat for an hour-and-a-half.

AGRICULTURAL.—We have received a copy of the 86th annual edition of Toogood's Farm Seed Guide, printed and published by Toogood and Sons, of Southampton, the Royal Seedsmen for half-a-century. Special attention is drawn in a prefatory letter to the fact that the firm has recently added some very important machinery to their seed-cleaning plant, which is now, the Messrs. Toogood consider, the most perfect in the world. Amongst other recent inventions and improvements are mentioned machines for removing sticks from mangel seeds, barley from oats, practically all cockle from corn samples, and the greater part of the plantain or rib-grass seeds from shelled clover. The first few pages of the book are devoted to illustrations of the Messrs. Toogood's extensive warehouses, stores, wharves, etc., and to a practical and easily intelligible, illustrated article on the testing of seeds at home by farmers themselves. Mr. William Toogood justly considers every seedling to be exposed to sufficient risks beyond human control, without its being subjected to such totally unnecessary hazards as the use of inferior seeds. As may be expected from a house claiming nearly a century's practical work in laying down pastures all over the world, a considerable portion of the publication is devoted to the all-important subjects of pastures and pasture plants; and it may be added that the Messrs. Toogood sell pasture seeds only under official guarantees of purity and germinating power. In introducing the question of agricultural roots, the Messrs Toogood say that to customers who have once impartially tested their root seeds in competition with those produced or sold by other seed growers or merchants, no recommendation of their produce is necessary, because each has certainly proved that better strains cannot be obtained, even by paying double their prices; but to agriculturalists who have not yet tried their pedigree roots, they offer the personal assurance that every root chosen for seed production is carefully selected by experts, and approved by a member of the firm for its great size and weight, hardiness, trueness of shape and colour, small top and absence of side roots. Indeed, for many years they have spared neither expense nor personal labour in the production of exhibition strains of root seeds, so that their patrons may confidently rely on the heaviest possible crops, and yet have the utmost advantage in competition at the great root shows. Further than this, they claim to have probably done more than any other house extant to compel other traders to sell their produce at reasonable prices. Every farmer will find much to interest him in this book, which may be obtained free of any charge from the firm.

THE STRAIGHT TIP for the winner is anxiously sought for prior to any of our great races, and the joy or sorrow of the recipients is largely measured by the amount of money they afterwards win or lose. There is no uncertainty, however, or anguished suspense, as to the result of using Holloway's Pills and Ointment. After a fair trial the gain is sure and great. The Pills, taken occasionally in prescribed doses, keep the digestion in order, excite a free flow of healthy bile, and regenerate the impoverished blood with richer materials. The Ointment is a grand remedy for the removal of rheumatic pains, wounds, sores, ulcers, cuts, or bruises.

ENGLISH ACTORS IN SOUTH AFRICA

DISAGREEABLE EXPERIENCE OF TWO ARTISTS.

Whilst on my usual weekly "round" of the variety palaces I happened (writes the chief reporter of the "Weekly Dispatch") to meet Mr. and Mrs. Casson, the well-known sketch performers, who told me a very interesting story of their visit to South Africa. It was really from Mrs. Casson that I heard most of the story.

"It is some time now," she said, "since my husband and I were touring through the provinces with 'Hans the Boatman,' and after that we made an excellent contract with the Empire Music Hall, at Johannesburg. We had little knowledge of what was in store for us. Our first experience was

A SOUTH AFRICAN DUST-STORM.

Without the least warning, whilst walking along the street, you suddenly find yourself in a kind of whirlpool of dust. It enters your ears, your mouth and eyes, and almost blinds you. The sensation is horrible in the extreme, and, to persons of a nervous temperament, most dangerous. It was Walter who suffered most from this, and gradually I became aware of the fact that he was getting in a very bad state of health. The food there does not deserve to be called by that name; the beef is something like fried oilcloth: as for vegetables, one hardly ever hears of such luxuries, and therefore you can quite understand that I had serious misgivings when I found my husband suffering acutely from indigestion. It became impossible for Walter to keep a single thing down that he ate, and the excruciating pain he suffered no one knows but himself. He grew thin, and had a terribly haggard expression, caused by the dreadful feeling that comes to those who suffer from indigestion, of having something heavy upon the chest. This was generally followed by a terrible headache and a dull pain right across the forehead, followed by severe heartburn. His rest was disturbed at night, and frequently he had violent palpitation of the heart. We sought medical advice, but with little or no result, and I got really alarmed, for he began to lose flesh terribly. The

WORRY AND ANXIETY

in my case certainly brought about my own sufferings from very severe nervous debility, and I began to wonder whether we should ever reach England alive. I happened one day, however, to go to one of our trunks that had been packed by professional friends before I left England. It contained, among other things, a number of boxes of Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people, and I remembered having read somewhere in a newspaper that they had cured a person who suffered acutely from indigestion, and, although Walter smiled when I suggested it, I determined that he should try the pills, and to do so myself. To be truthful, I hadn't much belief in them, but a couple of days later, having taken the pills as directed, I certainly felt better, and so did Walter. We went on taking them, and before the week had finished we were distinctly better. My husband could sleep better at night; his food did him more good; the palpitation of the heart was cured; and the next week the 'lump of lead on the chest' had gone, and he was able to get about. The nasty cold perspiration that he had, left him, and in less than a fortnight we were nearly well. We continued the pills on the voyage home, and when we landed in England we never felt better or stronger in all our lives. Occasionally, when a performance is over-exacting, and we suffer at all, Walter remarks, 'We had better try our old friend,' and in a very short time the pills put us in condition again. I know I have told you a long story. Every word of it is true, and you can tell the world, through the press, that I am convinced that, had it not been for Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people, neither of us would have been here to tell the tale'."

The nervousness and worry mentioned by Mrs. Casson—whose narrative (the "Weekly Dispatch" adds) was confirmed by several friends—often accompany and sometimes cause acute and chronic indigestion. Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people, which are obtainable everywhere and may be relied upon as genuine if the package bears Dr. Williams' name, have, of course, a well-established reputation for the cure of digestive ailments. Their value as a nerve tonic is not less notable, and can be quickly appreciated by anyone in need of a tonic who will give them a trial. Their effect is prompt and well marked, and they have cured the most acute nervous diseases such as epileptic fits, paralysis, locomotor ataxy, and premature decay of manly health. They are equally efficacious in building up the blood, and have cured anæmia, consumption, rheumatism, scrofula, and other diseases that spring from vitiated or impoverished blood.

CONSETT.

VAGRANCY.—At the Consett Police Court on Monday Edward McHugh, an elderly man, was charged with having slept in a cabin at the Consett Iron Works, on Sunday morning last. The case having been proved against him he admitted having gone to the blast-furnaces in search of work. He had had some drink and committed the offence unintentionally. Mr. Hand gave the defendant a good character, and Mr. J. T. Potts, the magistrate, discharged him with a caution.

CONCERT AT THE NEW THEATRE.—On Sunday night a large audience assembled in the New Theatre, Consett, when Mr. R. Silverster's Company gave a service of song, followed by a brilliant series of pictures, chiefly illustrative of the present scene of operations in South Africa. The cinematographic portion of the display was extremely effective and elicited hearty applause. Portraits of various prominent men tended to draw out the playful political feeling of several members of the audience, but even this had a tendency to increase the enjoyment felt all round. A phonograph entertainment was also included, and afforded interest and pleasure. Altogether the entertainment was an enjoyable and successful one.

AN UNFEELING SON.—Mr. J. T. Potts had before him on Monday, at Consett Police Court, a powerful looking young man named John O'Neil. It transpired that some time ago a summons was issued against the man on the instigation of his mother, to whom he had used threatening language. He left the district, and a warrant for his arrest was issued upon which he was now charged.—Mrs. O'Neil said that on the 4th of November her son came into her house and threatened to take her life. She went out, and on returning he again threatened her. She had him put out, but he came back on the Saturday night and used similar language.—Defendant pleaded guilty. He had not been at the house since. He did not know what he was doing, as he was drunk at the time.—He was bound over to keep the peace, and ordered to pay the costs, amounting to 11/-.

SAVAGED BY A DONKEY.—A somewhat extraordinary incident occurred at Templetown on Sunday last. Mrs. Robert Lowes, who resides there with her husband, had in accordance with her usual practice, gone into a field adjoining the house for the purpose of feeding the hens. In the same field was a donkey who had always shown a feeling of affection for his mistress. On this occasion, however, from some cause not quite clear, the animal turned upon Mrs. Lowes, knocked her down, and savaged her in a somewhat alarming manner. The donkey not only used his teeth, but caused severe bruises by his forelegs. Mrs. Lowes lost consciousness, but before doing so had been able to call for help, and two nieces, who were in the house at the time, went to her rescue. They drove the donkey off, and then carried the lady into the house. Dr. Mason was at once sent for, and found Mrs. Lowes suffering from severe shock to the system, causing unconsciousness, and that she was badly bruised on the shoulder, legs, and arms. As Mrs. Lowes is 64 years of age it will readily be understood how she would be affected by such an unusual and unexpected attack.

HEAVY FLOODS AND DAMAGE.

On Monday last the whole district was subjected to a heavy downfall of rain and sleet. Local Burns and Rivers were quickly flooded and a considerable amount of damage was done in various places. The downpour caused the Smallhope Burn, which runs through Lanchester, to swell into the dimensions of a considerable river. The water passed along with great force and tested the bearing capacities of several bridges. One, we understand, at Malton Colliery, was swept away, and considerably interfered with the men in getting to and from their work. Parts of the roadways in Lanchester were flooded and the place was in far from a comfortable condition on Monday night. Part of the line on the Derwent Valley route near Friarside Colliery was torn up, the retaining wall having given way, and the traffic had to be worked on the up line. At Westwood and other places around the district roads have been considerably damaged, and the continuance of stormy weather has had a somewhat serious effect in many places.

Time means money! Have the correct time, by wearing J. T. Castle's 30/- English Lever.

CORRESPONDENCE.

☞ WE DO NOT hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, nor do we undertake to return their communications.—(Ed. "C.G.")
CORRESPONDENTS are requested to enclose their names and addresses on a separate slip of paper.
LETTERS for insertion should reach us not later than TUESDAY morning.

A SERIOUS PUBLIC DANGER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Sir,—Some experiments have lately been made at the instance of the Technical Instruction Committee of the Cheshire County Council, which show that inoculation with tuberculin, so far from being a test of tuberculosis in cattle, is a possible source of serious public danger. Nine cows were isolated and submitted to repeated injections of tuberculin at certain intervals, and were afterwards slaughtered and examined, and from the results obtained the conclusion was arrived at that "continuous injections of tuberculin at short periods of time will cause reaction to cease in an animal that has previously been shown to be tuberculous." This is another means of imposition placed in the hands of the fraudulently disposed, for cattle and milk dealers might guarantee their stock as tuberculin-tested when thoroughly tuberculous, because irresponsive to the supposed test through its systematic employment.—I am sir, your truly

FRANK LESTER.
3, Warwick Road, Redland, Bristol.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN.")

Sir,—It is peculiarly gratifying to me to be able to inform you that notwithstanding the severe demands made upon the purse of the charitable public at the close of last year in consequence of the war, the friends of the crippled children rallied round me as usual, and indeed their liberality enabled me to extend the operations considerably. The usual banquet at the Guildhall, by the permission of the Corporation, was given to poor children, and the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, and the Sheriffs and their ladies attended in state. In connection with this festivity we were enabled to distribute 5,252 hampers, which is positively a record, exceeding the number sent on any previous occasion. I am glad to say that our subscription list owed its length to the fact that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as he has done for some years, headed the donations. A small balance is left in hand as a nucleus of a fund which I hope to raise for the same purpose in the autumn of the present year. The accounts have been audited by Mr Deputy W. H. Pannell, F.C.A., and show, including a balance of £41 17s 3d brought forward from 1899, a total receipt of £1,267 9s 1d. The cost of the hampers was £1,050 8s 9d, and of the banquet £95 10s, and the other expenses were limited to printing, stationery, advertising, postage, and receipt stamps. May I take this opportunity of thanking you, and the readers of your journal for the hearty support which has been accorded to me in this effort, and to express the hope that they will in due season again enable me to give to so many thousands of children, five-sixths of them cripples, an enjoyable Christmas-tide treat.—I am, sir, your truly,

W. P. TRELOAR,
Alderman and Sheriff.
Ludgate Hill, London.

COMFORTS FOR OUR SOLDIERS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN.")

Sir,—Will you please make it known, through the medium of your paper, that owing to my departure for South Africa, all parcels of clothing and comforts for dispatch to the Northumberland Fusiliers and Durham Light Infantry should be addressed to Major Percy Y. Lambart, Barracks, Newcastle-on-Tyne.—I am, &c.,

A. A. GARSTIN, Colonel,
Commanding 5-68 R.D.

To the Editor of the "Consett Guardian."

Sir,—May I request you to be so good as to publish for the information of all interested in the list, as under, of articles of clothing, &c., received since the publication of the previous one for dispatch to the Northumberland Fusiliers and Durham Light Infantry now serving in South Africa. Permit me on behalf of the regiments to add my thanks to the kind givers.—I am, &c.,

A. A. GARSTIN, Colonel,
Commanding 5-68 R.D.
Newcastle-on-Tyne, Feb. 24th, 1900.

Seven pair of socks, 3 mufflers, 7 helmets, 1 Tam o' Shanter, 23 handkerchiefs, per K. Ridley, Wylam Cottage, Wylam-on-Tyne, worked by Mrs Atkinson, Miss Atkinson, Miss Dunn, Mrs Davison, Miss F. Davis; 5 vests, 2 pair drawers, 15 shirts, 2 scarves, 1 helmet, 24 Tam o' Shanters, 10 pair socks, 2 night caps, 18 shirts, contributed and made in Gosforth, per Miss Fenwick, Moorlands, Gosforth; 1 parcel magazines, R. M. Carmen, Oldgate, Morpeth; 1 hamper books, magazines, &c., Anon; 4 pair socks, needles, thread, buttons, old linen, Mrs Brodie, West Greystead; 2 pair socks, old linen, Mrs Kempson, South Stokoe; 1 parcel of tobacco, Messrs Dixon, 4, Windson Crescent; 2 pair socks, E. M. and M. H.; 2 pair socks, a mufflers, old linen, F. A. Jobling, Dacre House, Morpeth; 4 Tam o' Shanters, 3 flannel belts, Miss Humble, Newbeggin-by-the-sea; 3 pair socks, Miss M. Cracker, Greenleighton, Cambo; 4 helmets, Mrs Baines, 23, Victoria Square; 1 parcel papers, Anon, Corbridge; 1 box of socks, Miss Shotton, Sea View, Alnmouth; 1 cardigan jacket, Anon; 3 towels, old linen, Mrs Brown, Whalton; 3 helmets, 6 mufflers, 6 doz. glass covers, The Misses Hedley, 8, Windson Crescent; 100 pair socks, knitted by 98 tenants of Mr Wm. Brown, the wool being furnished by Mr Brown, 38, Prudhoe Street, Newcastle; 3 parcels magazines, J. E. McPherson; 20 handkerchiefs, E. M. Cranston, Annfield Plain; 7 helmets, 3 Tam o' Shanters, 2 mufflers, 8 pair socks, Mrs Elliott, Gladstone House, North Shields; 2 Tam o' Shanters, 2 pair cuffs, Miss Wilson, Jesmond; 2 mufflers, 6 pair socks, Mrs Arthur and Miss Chapman, 47, Grosvenor Place; 11 helmets, 14 pair socks, 3 mufflers, 2 shirts, Mrs Lemon, The Manse, Felton; 1 Tam o' Shanter, 1 pair socks, M. E. Young, Blyth; 1 pillow, 2 pair socks, 3, mufflers, 2 shawls, 2 pair drawers, Mrs Herbert Smith, Mrs and Miss Kendal, Miss A. Smith, Broomhill, Acklington; 1 dozen handkerchiefs, 3 pair socks, 3 mufflers, 2 helmets, Mrs Reed, Backworth Lane, Jarrow; 47 pair socks, 12 dozen handkerchiefs, W. Logan, Esq., Langley Park; 2 pair socks, 2 Tam o' Shanters, Anon; 5 pair socks, 5 caps, 4 mufflers, Mrs Judge, Morpeth; 6 white handkerchiefs, 4 red do., 3 helmets, 2 house wares, 6 cup covers, 4 flannel belts, B. F.; 8 helmets, Miss S. Wakenshaw, Westerhope, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Colonel A. A. Garstin has received a kind donation of £5 from the Viscountess Boyne for the purchasing of comforts, &c., for the Durham Light Infantry in South Africa.

Colonel A. A. Garstin has received the following sums for clothing and comforts for the Northumberland Fusiliers and Durham Light Infantry in South Africa. For the Durham Light Infantry:—From Mr Maurice Moore (a kind subscription started for the regiments by the Mayor of Sunderland), £50; from Mr Cragg, Sedgefield, 20s, half to N.F. and half to D.L.I.; from Masters A. and E. Hall, 1s 6d, half to N.F. and half to D.L.I.

Colonel Garstin desires to acknowledge the receipt of £1 from Mrs and Miss Mulcaster towards the provision of comforts, &c., for the soldiers of the Northern Counties Regiments in South Africa.

CHOPWELL COLLIERY.

To the Editor of the "Consett Guardian."

Sir,—On looking through the columns of your valuable paper this week, I came across a letter from Frank McKay, of Chopwell. Having previously read some of that gentleman's correspondence I was prepared to find something interesting; but, to my surprise and disgust, I found on reading it, that the letter contained nothing but the veriest drivel and misrepresentation from beginning to end; in fact, as a Chopwell miner I take many portions of his letter as a studied insult to the people of Chopwell. In the first place, let me ask Frank McKay why he wrote the letter at all? There certainly wasn't anything new, or of public interest in it. But let us look into the letter itself. I see he once more harps upon the old string—that of his hesitation in coming here. Now, does Frank McKay consider it complimentary to the body of men who elected him to be incessantly prating about his hesitancy? But the question is: Did he hesitate, and, if so, why did he hesitate? Personally, I don't believe he ever had any hesitation about it, but if he had, I think an explanation is due to his employers, i.e., the men of Chopwell, as his words may be construed to mean that the men of Chopwell were not trustworthy enough to have in their keeping so noble a personage. But, if he did hesitate, will he kindly answer this question: Was he not told at the meeting which he addressed before he came to start work here, that if he didn't want to come he was welcome to stay away, as there were plenty of men to get who were ready, willing, and able to fill the position? And did not Frank McKay, at the same meeting emphasise the fact that he would not come to Chopwell unless a house was procured for him? Yet, in spite of all this, he came (to lodging), and is still in lodgings. Where, I ask, does the hesitation come in? Perhaps Frank McKay will enlighten us? But to proceed. I will not dwell upon the brake accident, as such twaddle can only be of interest to men of little minds and feeble comprehensive faculties. However, I see he closes his letter by taking the credit to himself of having introduced the suggestion to have a library and recreation rooms, schools, etc. Now, as a matter of fact, these were brought forward long before Frank McKay came on the scene, and are being carried out with the utmost despatch; and Frank McKay knows, as does everyone in Chopwell, that the ground has been marked out for a large and commodious institute, recreation rooms and library combined, which only waits the undivided concurrence and support of the men, coupled with better weather, when it will be proceeded with. In fact, the company's officials seem to be doing all in their power to promote the comfort and satisfaction of their workmen, and I think Frank McKay would be well advised to let well alone.—Thanking you in anticipation, I remain, sir, yours, &c.,

BOER'ED.

CLANDESTINE COMMISSIONS.

THE RECENT CO-OPERATIVE REVELATIONS.

To the Editor of the "Consett Guardian."

Sir,—Co-operators in this and surrounding districts will doubtless have become interested in the recent test cases at Consett and West Cornforth, dealing with fraudulent commissions. It is perhaps fortunate that the bankruptcy of Ambrose Barker, the late commercial traveller, took place, inasmuch as it has caused vigorous investigations to take place to clear the air of circumstantial suspicion which is apparent in certain centres. The crisis of the case is now pending between the Co-operative Union, on behalf of the Societies, and the wholesale Manchester warehousemen, Messrs Hickson, Lloyd, and King. This trial will prove a revelation as to the competitive tactics conjured up by large business firms to secure trade.

I affirm that no enquiry can fathom the secret operations of skilful, crafty, and alluring wholesale business houses, and Lord Russell's Bill for arresting clandestine commissions will surely command attention in Parliament when it is brought forward. It may not be in the power of the State—though it should be its aim—to make "honesty the best policy"; but it is in the power of the law to make dishonesty perilous. But nobody expects that an evil custom can be entirely eradicated. But custom can be checked, if not changed. Parliament can decrease acts of immorality by making them punitive.

Traders who give commissions generally do it reluctantly, and regard it as an expense to be charged on somebody; but very few think of it as a crime, and excuse it to themselves as a necessity of business. These men use very subtle arguments to induce the buyer to accept the commission. Then those who receive the bribe commonly find pleasure in the profit, and do not ask themselves whether it is not discreditable. Those who give the commissions and those who receive it, show, by their furtive ways, that they alike know somebody is to be cheated by it. Mr. Justice Bowen said: "When such a state of things came before an English jury, these bribes should be called by their right name. The right name was frauds."

"How do secret commissions affect co-operators?" In this way: If buyer, manager, secretary, or committee should receive commissions, they must requite the giver by giving him orders, who recoups himself by supplying inferior goods, or repays himself by increased charges—at which those who receive commissions naturally connive—and the members of the society suffer in their dividends or in their digestion. The largest commercial organisation of the working-class in the world is that of the Co-operative Societies of Great Britain and Ireland. Lord Russell set forth in his speech in the House of Lords these statistical facts of co-operative numbers and business. His Bill against clandestine commissions is of great importance to them. The microbes of commercial bribery are found perniciously active throughout middle-class business—it is highly desirable that their introduction into working-class transactions should be the subject of Parliamentary prohibition. Such a social convention as this system of bribery has no moral support behind it. Everyone feels the system to be wrong and dishonest. It is ready, therefore, to fall as soon as the Legislature, as the official exponent of the national conscience gives it the impulse.

Bribery at elections was declared to be inextinguishable; though it is not entirely suppressed, election agents are very careful about it, and no one thinks of boasting of it as was formerly done. The Co-operative Union in its vigorous searching, even by legal means to fathom these commissions, will fail, inasmuch as only circumstantial evidence can be obtained, which simply means oath against oath. The commission agent distinctly and emphatically declares he "paid a certain amount to managers to influence trade," and, I ask, where are we going to get any managers to confess that they accepted these money gifts? It's out of joint with human nature to expect managers to affirm they were guilty of this action. They verily know such confession would overturn their occupations.

Naturally I am not suspicious, but experience of this competitive world leads me to conclude that few men would refuse such offers. I was told some time ago, by a gentleman who had retired from business, that his retirement was due to his inability to compete with the tips in co-operative areas. Of course, I cannot vouch for the truth of this declaration. But the person had nothing to gain by such an admission. Where Co-operative Societies deal in the open market there is every inducement for fraudulent operations. Where are the persons who act as buyers and committees, whose garments are clean regarding this matter? The only sure safeguard to suppress this abomination, and to keep responsible agents from harm's way, is to deal with the Co-operative Wholesale; for the exclusion of commissions are a marked feature within this movement.

But it is astonishing to find co-operative buyers ignoring, and denouncing the "Wholesale." They desire a free hand, which means a drawback to co-operative production, and all that pertains to co-operative principles. If local societies expect loyalty from their members, has the "Wholesale" not the same right to expect loyalty from its members? I would suggest that this hankering after the open market leads to suspicion regarding commissions, and until buyers seek to give patronage to the movement generally, their motives will meet with suspicious criticism.

WILLIAM SIMPSON,
Kip Hill, Stanley, R.S.O.

LEADGATE.

P.M. BAND OF HOPE.—On Saturday evening a most successful entertainment was given in the Primitive Methodist School-room, Leadgate, by the members of the Band of Hope. There was a large attendance, the chair being occupied by Mr. Robt. Pull (the president). Master Thomas Miller opened with a recitation entitled "What had he in his pocket?" Next came a capital dialogue, entitled "A Reformed Drunkard," which was given in good style, and caused much applause. Mr. Jos. Robson took the part of the drunkard, and did it well, whilst Miss M. E. Liddleton was good as his wife. Masters W. Lee and R. Robson acted creditably as the drunkard's boon companions, whilst Miss Eleanor Toward fulfilled the part of the drunkard's daughter. Master Charles Pull and Miss Mary Elizabeth Rumney took the parts of the landlord and landlady respectively in fine style. Miss Jane Eliz. Forster did well as a neighbour (Mrs. Smith). Masters Newton and Toward gave recitations in connection with the dialogue very nicely. The following sang solos:—Misses Gilbert, Iley, Watson, Forster, Maughan, B. Toward, and Lily Turnbull. The singing of the Doxology brought one of the most successful meetings held for some time to a close.

Is marriage a failure? Certainly not, if united with one of J. T. Castle's Wedding Rings.

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Send in your Wrappers, however small the number, as you stand a good chance to secure one of the Prizes.

ANNFIELD PLAIN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1899.

Dr. T. Benson [illegible] submitted his annual report as follows:—

Gentlemen,—I have the honour of presenting you with my report for the year 1899. The number of cases of sickness from notifiable diseases reported to me during the past year amounted to [illegible] and this number was made up of the following, viz.:—Scarlatina [illegible], enteric fever 8, diphtheria 3, and erysipelas 17. The non-notifiable infectious diseases brought under my notice were [illegible] cases of measles, [illegible] of whooping cough, and [illegible] of diarrhœa. Scarlatina was prevalent at the end of 1898. It began to spread, and steadily increased, becoming very prevalent during the next four months. It then considerably abated, but continued more or less throughout the year. Its distribution was not confined to any particular village, nor did the outbreak assume the form of an active epidemic. There is no means of stamping out scarlatina except by complete isolation, and that can only be obtained by removal to a hospital, and it seems unfortunate that the means of isolation being provided it is not more frequently resorted to. The chief factor in propagating scarlatina is due to the prolonged convalescent stage when the infection is still present and the patient practically well and mixing with the healthy. Little benefit seems to be derived from the use of disinfectants, although the best known for personal application are provided in all cases gratis.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.—As already stated eight cases of this fever were notified, being six less than the previous year. The first occurred in January and the last in December, at intervals of not less than a month between each case. Five resided in the village of Dipton, two in Annfield Plain, and one in East Pontop. Outbreaks of typhoid fever are usually attributed to local insanitary conditions, but nothing in the surroundings seemed likely to have originated the disease, neither had there been any communication to convey infection. It may, however, be stated that the majority of the above occurred in what might be termed typhoid localities, i.e., places where year after year one or more cases appear, although all extraneous causes supposed to produce or retain the germs had been removed. Not all the cases were typical typhoid. Disinfectants for pail use were always supplied.

Diphtheria.—One case occurred in February and two in December. The latter were members of the same family, and were attacked simultaneously. The disease being acutely infectious, it seems rather remarkable that no subsequent case attended either outbreak. An early visit after notification presented no typical symptoms.

Erysipelas is rather prevalent in mining districts, partly due to the numerous accidents happening. Direct infection was absent in every instance.

Measles.—A case of measles imported into the village of Dipton caused a smart epidemic, lasting about two months. The area covered was limited to the village and its vicinity.

Whooping cough.—It was only by enquiry after death, that the few cases of whooping cough came under notice.

Diarrhœa.—Infantile diarrhœa as a zymotic disease was not more prevalent, than in several previous years, but gastro-enteritis, a disease closely allied, was fatally prevalent in the months of August and September. The predisposing causes of this seasonable disease are said to be the same as exists in Typhoid Fever, and the exciting cause of micro-organism aroused into activity by a high temperature. The climate in August and September was undoubtedly responsible for the outbreak but enquiry showed that the disease was fairly equally distributed over the district, irrespective of its sanitary condition.

It is regrettable that only two patients were induced to accept the benefits of the Isolation Hospital. Their easy removal and excellent treatment are likely, however, to make the Hospital more popular.

The new Vaccination Act as regards claiming exemption has been a marked success; not many have made application, and the number appears to be decreasing. The operation itself is, however, not efficiently performed by private practitioners.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year amounted to 442, giving a birth-rate of 32.74, and the number of deaths—including those occurring in the Workhouse—was 202, giving a death-rate of 15 per 1,000, estimating the population at 13,500. The births were 33 below and the deaths equal to the previous year. Deaths from all forms of infectious diseases were as follows, viz., scarlatina 6, enteric fever 4, measles 2, whooping cough 2, and diarrhœa 7; total 21, being 10.5 per cent. of the whole deaths. The mortality from scarlatina was light, and that of enteric fever higher than usual. Infantile mortality was rather high, those succumbing under the age of one year exceeding a third, and by the addition of those between one and five years, the result showed that half the deaths took place under five years of age. Notifiable diseases made practically little difference in the infantile death-rate, but diarrhœa and gastro-enteritis materially assisted in the increase.

The following gives the vital statistics for the County of Durham and for the Urban District:—Estimated population, County of Durham, 808,417, Annfield Plain District, 13,500; birth-rate, 35 32.74 per 1,000; death-rate, 18.8, 15 per 1,000, zymotic death-rate, 2.35, 1.55 per 1,000; infantile mortality (rate per 1,000 births) 179, 169.68 per 1,000; scarlet fever, 0.21, 0.44 per 1,000; fever, enteric, &c., 0.29, 0.3 per 1,000; measles, 0.50, 0.15 per 1,000; whooping cough, 0.37, 0.15 per 1,000; diarrhœa 0.99, 0.52 per 1,000; enteritis, &c., 1.05, 0.6 per 1,000; phthisis death-rate 1.14, 0.15 per 1,000; respiratory diseases, 3.33, 2.8 per 1,000. The population is estimated at the end of June, 1899, and was probably over-estimated the previous year.

INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Sixty houses were built and occupied during the past year, fifty-one were self-contained, and the remainder [illegible] of double tenements. Regarding improvements to old premises, [illegible] notices were served to abate nuisances, improve the drainage and repair structural defects. A large number of these have been attended to satisfactorily and the remainder are in progress. [illegible] the out-offices attached to the Loud Cottages were condemned as insanitary and offensive, and have been replaced by new erections. In several isolated cases also, the changes have been made, either by alterations or partial reconstruction, were for the purpose of doing away with the objectionable open privy-middens. There still remain a number of objectionable out-offices, notably at Kyo, Wood houses, South Medomsley, and Pontop Rows. A new sewer was laid to South Medomsley Cottages to replace open channels, but the connections to all the houses are not yet completed. A sewer from the Woodhouses to join Flint Hill would practically complete the drainage of the district. The sewage disposal works at Kyo that deal with a large portion of the district having turned out a complete failure are undergoing remodelling by the substitution of bacteriological filters, on the Sutton plan, in lieu of the present chemical precipitation process. If the material is to be used, and the construction of the works are carried out on the lines followed at South Moor in the adjoining district, a successful result will be assured. It is also intended to adopt the Kyo system in the treatment of the sewage at Dipton out-fall works; the present method being absolutely useless. The sewage from South Medomsley will be treated by irrigation as soon as land suitable for the purpose can be procured. Since March 1st, the removal of refuse has been done by contractors under the direct control of the Council, and under the supervision of the Inspector. There is a marked improvement over the previous method, and no grounds for the least complaint in carrying out the work. The water supply to the whole district is both good and abundant, and where it is not directly applied to each house, is within easy distance. During the year it was laid to 178 houses. The square in Dipton, East Pontop and South Medomsley are awaiting their turn, besides a few detached houses. Cowsheds and dairies have been registered, and regulations for their control are to be adopted shortly. The premises used by farmers are all that need be desired, there are others however that will be called upon for improvements. Slaughter-houses are clean and in every respect satisfactory. One has been built and licensed, and another is in the course of erection to replace one condemned. Lodging-houses were visited regularly, and little was found to complain of in their condition. No prosecution was necessary under the Food and Drugs Act. There are no special trades, manufactories, nor any kind of work affecting the general health of this district.

The New Vaccination Act

Its Cost in Weardale

At the fortnightly meeting of the Weardale Guardians, Mr. J. W. Roddam presiding, a return of vaccination fees and cases was presented by the Clerk (Mr. J. Thompson) for 1899. The doctor's fees totalled £74 11s, and the vaccination officer's £30 13s 9d. At the conclusion of the reading of the report a general low "phew" was heard from the members. In the discussion that ensued Mr. Monkhouse observed that the cost was getting to be about three times as much.—Mr. Snowdon said that it would almost have been better if the Act had not been passed.—Mr. Mainprize said that conscientious objectors had 6s to pay for their certificates. That was one reason why they saw an increase. What he objected to was that the ratepayers had to pay for the cost of vaccinating the children of the general public, when the parents ought themselves to defray the cost. He took that objection as a ratepayer and as a guardian.—Mr. Monkhouse remarked that there was no advantage about it as far as he could see. The medical officers would not be likely to give up their appointments. (Loud laughter.) The matter dropped shortly afterwards, but it was plainly evident that Weardale Guardians had received a considerable surprise, and the Chairman remarked that their action in regard to the adoption of the minimum fees had been justified by the result of that day's report.

SWALWELL.

BAND OF HOPE.—The old Presbyterian Church, Swalwell, was on Monday evening filled with a large and appreciative audience on the occasion of the usual weekly entertainment held under the auspices of the Swalwell Band of Hope.—The chair was occupied by Mr. John Cook, Mount House, Whickham. A capital bioscope entertainment was given by Mr. W. L. Reed, of Newcastle, the same being much appreciated. A photo of the late Mr. Joseph Cowen was thrown upon the screen and aroused much interest. Songs were effectively rendered by Miss Aiston, and Mrs. Trotter, of Newcastle. Mr. Alfred Thompson made a feeling reference to the demise of the late Mr. Cowen, whom, he said, was a good temperance worker, and by his demise the temperance cause had lost a keen supporter. He moved "That a vote of condolence be sent to Miss Cowen, and Mr. Joseph Cowen, jun., in their bereavement."—This was carried by the audience rising.

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Best and Cheapest in this District is obtainable from
F TURNER,
34, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.
EVERYTHING AT MANUFACTURER'S PRICES.
INSPECT OUR STOCK BEFORE PURCHASING ELSEWHERE.
Confectionery of all kinds in Stock.

R. PRINGLE,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL CABINET-MAKER AND HOUSE FURNISHER,
FRONT STREET, STANLEY.
BEG to draw the attention of those furnishing to the great advantages to be derived by buying direct from the Manufacturer, and avoiding all intermediate profits. Our goods are all manufactured in our own work shops, and specially adapted to stand the strain of the miners' warm houses. Inspection Invited.
Satisfaction Guaranteed.
PRICES TO SUIT ALL PURSES.

JOHN T. HESLOP
PAWNBROKER,
14, THOMAS STREET, CONSETT
Hours:—
From 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. Week Days;
Pay Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
A large assortment of
SECOND-HAND CLOTHING, BLANKETS, SHEETS, QUILTS, &c. 930f

R. ELTRINGHAM
FRONT STREET, STANLEY.
Offers the best Goods at lowest prices.
TRY OUR MILD CURED HAM AND BACON.
CHOICE LOT OF XMAS CHEESE.
NOTE:
FAMILY PRIDE FLOUR.

VICTORIA DAIRY, CONSETT
FRESH MILK, Twice Daily.
FRESH CREAM and BUTTER always on hand.
G. T. ROBSON,
PROPRIETOR. 81t

JOSEPH IRWIN,
OXHILL,
JOINER, CARTWRIGHT, HORSE-SHOER, GENERAL SMITH, UNDERTAKER, FUNERAL FURNISHER, &c.
HEARSE ON HIRE.
ALL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

T. G. DODDS,
JOINER, CARTWRIGHT, & CONTRACTOR
22, TAYLOR STREET, CONSETT.
Repairs to Property, in all its branches, with promptness and efficiency.
Estimates supplied for all classes of Work.

"SAUCINE," Registered.
THIS IS THE SAUCE
Stomach Persuading.
Liver Invigorating
Kidney Stimulating.
Nerve Exhilarating. THIS IS THE SAUCE
Ask your grocer for "SAUCINE."
Sole maker — J. J. SNAITH, Sauce and Pickle Manufacturer, Tyne Dock, South Shields.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM BAKERY, SPEN.
S. A. FAIRLESS
FOR
Plain and Fancy Cakes, Confectionery and Bread. Parties supplied.
Goods delivered to all parts. 2d.

GEO. SURTEES,
DECORATOR,
BENFIELDSIDE.
Every Class of Wall and Ceiling Coverings Provided and Hung.

THE NOTED FLOUR, GROCERY, AND PROVISION SHOP.
JAMES PALLISER,
FAMILY GROCER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TEA MERCHANT,
47 and 48, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.
A Good Assortment of Fruits.
Choice Cheshire Cheese and Fruit Cakes.
TRY OUR SPECIAL BLENDED TEAS.

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POST OFFICE, LEADGATE.
TOBACCONIST.—Smokers' requisites. Try Kinleside's noted Specials.
TO ARTISTS—Paints, Oils, Brushes, Canvasses, Opals, etc. Materials and Tools for Leather Work.
Choice selection of Stationery and Wedding Cards.
REGISTRY OFFICE FOR SERVANTS.
EYES TESTED AND SPECTACLES SUPPLIED.
FOOTBALLERS' OUTFITS, &c.
GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT.
Best and Finest Cheese, Bacon, Lard, Currants, Figs, and Raisins obtainable.

BEST VALUE
IN
FLOUR, PROVISIONS, &c.,
AT
W. WHITFIELD'S
FRONT STREET,
LEADGATE.

LUMLEY'S
IS
THE NOTED SHOP
FOR
CHEAP SUITS.
6, SHERBURN TERRACE
CONSETT.

THE WEST STANLEY MINERAL WATER CO.
Have removed from Co-operative Street to New, Larger, and more Commodious Premises in LOWER BEAMISH STREET.
For the
NOTED LEMON SQUASH.
Try our
STONE GINGER BEER.
SODAS AND LIME JUICE a Speciality.
Goods delivered by our own Vans.
SPECIAL TERMS TO RETAILERS.
NOTE THE ADDRESS. 374e

KOLACTICUM OINTMENT
ACHES and PAINS disappear speedily by use of the newly-discovered KOLACTICUM OINTMENT. Highly recommended for the permanent cure of RHEUMATISM, PILES, VARICOSE VEINS, STIFF JOINTS, SKIN DISEASES, ULCERS, ERUPTIONS, etc., etc. Every sufferer should give this Ointment a trial, and prove its wonderful healing powers. Sold in large boxes with full directions.
PRICE, 2s 9d POST FREE.
THE KOLACTICUM CO.,
585y. 54, Bow Lane, Cheapside, E.C.

AMERICAN LINE.—UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.
SOUTHAMPTON—NEW YORK SERVICE
SOUTHAMPTON to NEW YORK.
SATURDAY, at noon,
Highest Class of Accommodation for Saloon, Second Cabin, and Steerage Passengers.
LIVERPOOL—PHILADELPHIA SERVICE,
Every WEDNESDAY.
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA
Calling at Queenstown every Thursday. Passengers and goods are landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which has the shortest and most Direct Route to all places in the Western States.—Apply to Richardson, Spence, and Co., Southampton or Liverpool; or to Local Agents, J. Crawford, Victoria Street, Consett; T. D. Dryden and Co., Front Street, Consett; Alfred Phillipson, Emigration Agent, Dipton; William Grey, 5, North Road, Durham; Geo. Leadbitter, Accountant, Catchgate; Thomas Storey, Auctioneer, Front Street, Chester-le-Street; W. J. Johnson, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; Wm. Anderson, Bridge Street, Tow Law; E. Sloane, Post Office Blackhill; or T. A. Brown, 3, Market Place, Crook. 725b.

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DIARIES	For 1900	DIARIES
DIARIES	With £500	DIARIES
DIARIES	Insurance Coupon.	DIARIES
DIARIES	For 1900	DIARIES
DIARIES	From 6d. Upwards	DIARIES
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DIARIES	For the Office	DIARIES
DIARIES	In all Bindings	DIARIES
DIARIES	For 1900	DIARIES
DIARIES	Good and Useful	DIARIES
DIARIES	To Suit All	DIARIES
DIARIES	DIARIES	DIARIES

AT THE
"GUARDIAN OFFICE," FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

SERVANTS REGISTRY WEST STANLEY.
MRS. SCOTT begs to inform the Public that she has removed to the FRONT STREET opposite the Co-operative Stores, West Stanley. —All letters and applications promptly attended to. 928e

NEWCASTLE WARDROBE CO.,
31, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.
NEW AND SECOND-HAND CLOTHES, BEDS, &c.
Orders executed for Oilskin Garments, guaranteed Waterproof; Leather Goods, &c. Inspection invited. 330e

WIRE NETTING, ROOFING FELT. The CHEAPEST MAN IN ENGLAND for above is "The FARMERS' FRIEND." ROOFING FELT: Best Quality, 3s 3d and 4s 6d per roll. WIRE NETTING from 2s 6d per roll. Any size quoted for. A special line in Sheep Netting. Enquiries solicited for all kinds of HARNESS, SADDLERY, HORSE-CLOTHING, FARMERS' TOOLS, &c., &c. The prices charged will surprise and delight you.—CHARLES TURNER (Auctioneer), "The Farmers' Friend," Lazenby, Redcar. Estb. 1870.

GEORGE WADE JUN.,
IRONMONGER, &c.,
55a. FRONT STREET, CONETT.
G. W. wishes to Thank the Public generally for the liberal support received, and begs to state that he has a good selection of Cutlery in Razors and Strops, Pen and Pocket Knives, Scissors, etc., suitable for Xmas Presents. Joiners' Tools from noted makers, and Builders' Hardware in general. Petroleum Oil. Pictures Framed. Repairs Neatly Executed, &c. Venetian Blinds made to Order. All goods not in Stock procured on the shortest notice. 177g

ANTHONY COOPER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL FRUIT AND POTATO MERCHANT,
24, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT
BEGS to Thank his Customers for past favours. He will, as usual, give the Best Article at a Moderate Price.
Try our Best SCOTCH MAIN CROPS At Market Prices; also, at
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION!
K. VOSS,
65—67, BLACKETT STREET,
NEWCASTLE,
HAS the Largest and Most Stylish Stock of Ladies', Gentlemen's, and Children's Second-hand Clothing, in the United Kingdom.
Guns, Portmanteaus, Football Bags, Waterproofs. Dress Suits and Fancy Costumes a Speciality.
CALL AND INSPECT THE STOCK. 866d

ELM PARK, SHOTLEY BRIDGE. DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS. A THOROUGH MODERN EDUCATION. On reasonable terms in most healthy situation. Successful preparation for all preliminary Examinations.
Half Term Admission, March 6th, 1900.
Instruction includes Book-keeping, Land Surveying, Science, Shorthand, Drawing and Music.
A Field for Cricket, Tennis and Football.
MONTAGU V. STEGGALL, M.A., Head-master.

HOSPITAL
FOR AGED AND INFIRM BOOTS,
1, RAGLAN STREET, CONSETT.
GENT'S BOOTS, SOLED AND HEELED...2s 9d
LADIES' Do. Do. ...1s 9d
With Leather Tanned on the Old Fashioned Process with Oak Bark. Standing unrivalled in quality; having gained 11 Highest Awards at Exhibitions. It is fallacious for any other firm to say they use best Leather, as I am the only one in this district that buys this brand.
(Signed), J. ORTON.

ESTABLISHED 26 YEARS.
MRS. ROGERS,
MERCHANT TAILOR,
13, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,
DESIRE to return her very sincere thanks for the generous patronage bestowed upon her since the death of her late husband, and trusts by Excellence of Material and Workmanship, and Guaranteed Style and Fit, to continue to receive the confidence and support of the public of Consett and District.
SCOTCH, IRISH, AND WEST OF ENGLAND TWEEDS,
LARGE ASSORTMENT TO CHOOSE FROM. 14g

FOR
POULTRY APPLIANCES,
INCUBATORS,
FOSTER-MOTHERS,
AND ALL
POULTRY NECESSARIES
GO TO
DAWSON'S
FANCIERS' SUPPLY STORES,
RITSON'S ROAD, BLACKHILL.

F. W. PIGFORD.
CATCHGATE.
PAINTER PAPERHANGER, &c
ESTIMATES GIVEN.

J. MORGAN.
Hardware Dealer, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT, the shop for Quality and Cheapness combined for all kinds of Hardware Goods, Glass, China, Earthenware, &c. Our Celebrated Electric Brand Lamp Oil, Lamps, Chimneys, and Wicks of all kinds.
Clubs are now being formed for all kinds of Goods. Particulars on application.

W. MORGAN.
PAINTER AND DECORATOR,
8, HARVEY STREET, CONSETT.
A Good Supply of Wallpaper always on hand,
Lincrusta Walton, &c.
ESTIMATES SUPPLIED. 517f

ESTABLISHED 1851.
BIRKBECK BANK.
Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.
INVESTED FUNDS ... ... £12,000,000.
NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS, 85,094.
TWO-AND-A-HALF per CENT. INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS, repayable on demand.
TWO per CENT. on CURRENT ACCOUNTS, on the minimum monthly balances, when not drawn below £100.
STOCKS, SHARES, and ANNUITIES purchased and sold for customers.
SAVINGS DEPARTMENT.
Small deposits received, and Interest allowed monthly on each completed £1.
The BIRKBECK ALMANACK, with particulars, post free.
FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.
Telegraphic Address: "BIRKBECK LONDON."
Telephone No. 5, Holborn. 576b.

BABY WON'T CRY IF YOU GIVE IT
MOTHER'S FRIEND
AND BABY'S COMFORT.
RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.
THE BEST AND SAFEST MEDICINE FOR CHILDREN CUTTING THEIR TEETH.
CONTAINS NO LAUDANUM, OPIUM, OR MORPHIA.
MOTHER'S FRIEND Prevents and Cures Wind, and Griping Pains in the Stomach or Bowels.
MOTHER'S FRIEND Prevents and Cures Convulsions, Fevers, Fits, and Thrush.
MOTHER'S FRIEND corrects Acidity and cures Diarrhoea.
MOTHER'S FRIEND removes Pain and produces Natural Sleep.
PREPARED ONLY BY
J. ROBINSON,
DISPENSING AND FAMILY CHEMIST.
STANLEY AND ANNFIELD PLAIN
AGENT FOR GLENDINNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE 305y

BRAMWELL'S BONDS,
C AND S,
CHURCH STREET, SUNDERLAND.
130 YEARS' REPUTATION
FOR WINES AND SPIRITS.
PRESENT PROPRIETORS:
THE NORTH-EASTERN BREWERIES LTD.
SUNDERLAND.
RICHARD MURRAY, MANAGING DIRECTOR.
SPECIALITY:—
"NEB" MALT STOUT.

FOR EMIGRATION to SOUTH AFRICA and AMERICA, apply to A. PHILLIPSON Auctioneer, Dipton.—SPECIAL AGENT. 157v

ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS, RAILWAY ACCIDENTS, EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY, Insured against, and FIDELITY BONDS granted by the
RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY.
Established 1849. Claims paid £4,150,000.
64, Cornhill, London. A. VIAN, Secretary.
Agents:—Mr. JOHN HARKER, Station Master, Blackhill; Mr. J. L. LEADBITTER, Catchgate; and Mr. J. HOOD, Railway Station, Lintz Green.
Agents required in unrepresented Districts.

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W. RICHARDSON,
DRAPER AND MEN'S OUTFITTER.
FOR THE SEASON.
Large Assortment of LACE, GLOVES, &c., &c., for Presents.
DECORATIVE PLANTS for Ornamentation.
UMBRELLAS, HABERDASHERY, AND HOSIERY
New and Special Consignment.
To Spend Wisely STOP HERE

CONSETT COCOA ROOMS,
LUTON HOUSE, MIDDLE STREET.
DINNERS EVERY DAY FROM 12 O'CLOCK.
SOCIAL PARTIES CATERED FOR.
ACCOMMODATION FOR CYCLISTS.
851a J. H. COURTNEY.

O.V.H.S.
ESTABLISHED 1820.
THE VATTED HIGHLAND SMALL STILL WHISKY.
(Registered).
Matured in Sherry Wood.
Supplied to Principal London Clubs and Restaurants. Price: TWO GUINEAS per dozen Case, CARRIAGE PAID. Extra Special LIQUEUR, 48s, per dozen, CARRIAGE PAID.
F. H. LAMB & CO.,
FORTH HOUSE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Agent for Consett and District:
NATHAN ELSDON,
Delves Lane.
791g Consett.

HENRY ANNANDALE TOWN.
(Professional Associate of the Surveyors' Institute.)
LAND, ESTATE AGENT,
VALUER AND SURVEYOR,
UNDERTAKES
The entire Management of Country Estates.
Properties of every description, either in Town or Country, Managed on Moderate Terms under Personal Supervision.
Properties Sold or Let on Commission.
Valuations undertaken and Mortgages Negotiated.
Agent for the Lancashire Fire and Life Insurance Company and Globe Accident Insurance Company.
15, PILGRIM STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Telephone, No. 4..

PIANOS & ORGANS
FOR SALE,
8s., 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 15s., 17s. 6d., 20s., 22s. 6d., per Month.
Guaranteed 10 years. Liberal Discount for Cash
Old Pianos taken in exchange.
Tuning and Repairs promptly attended to.

CYCLES. CYCLES.
Sole Agent in District for the "Osmond," "Beanco," "Ariston," and other renowned makes.
ACCESSORIES, REPAIRS, RE-PLATING, AND ENAMELLING done on the Premises.
ADDRESS:
E. SLOANE & SONS,
PIANO AND CYCLE WAREHOUSE,
BLACKHILL. 549d

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
LEEDS, LONDON, YORK, SCARBRO', DONCASTER, NEWARK, MIDDLESBRO', DARLINGTON, WEST HARTLEPOOL, BLYTH, BISHOP AUCKLAND, GATESHEAD, JARROW, KEIGHLEY, MORECAMBE, HULL.

PIANOS. PIANOS. PIANOS.
PIANOS. PIANOS. PIANOS.

SOME 400 INSTRUMENTS OF EVERY VARIETY AND PRICE TO SELECT FROM AT
ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S EXTENSIVE EMPORIUM.

The advantages to purchasers in buying from a LARGE DEALER, where every grade of Instrument is kept, and a representative stock by all the leading English, Continental, and American makers may be seen, is WORTH CONSIDERING. It is only by comparing ONE MAKER'S INSTRUMENT AGAINST ANOTHER THAT THE ORDINARY BUYER CAN FORM AN ACCURATE JUDGMENT OF VALUE. THESE ADVANTAGES can only be offered by a LARGE DEALER.

Special invitation is given to intending purchasers to view ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S IMMENSE STOCK.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S HIGH-CLASS CHEAP PIANOS ARE A MARVEL. No such value is offered by any dealer. These specialite Pianos have gained a wide reputation for sterling value. Although low in price, they are constructed and finished in a first-class style, they contain all the best modern improvements, have full round musical tone, free from harshness, so often associated with cheap pianos, the touch is firm and responsive, and most suitable for either learners or professional players.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S SPECIALITE PIANOS. SPECIALITE PIANOS.
£19 10s., £23, £25, £28, £33 for Cash; or
14s. 9d., 15s., 16s. 4d., 18s. 4d., 21s. per Month Three Years System.
Instruments taken for the full three years may be purchased at any given time within this term, a substantial allowance being made for quicker payments.
Every consideration is shown to purchasers on the THREE YEARS' SYSTEM who, from unforeseen circumstances, are not always able to make their payments as they become due.

AMERICAN ORGANS. AMERICAN ORGANS. IN GREAT VARIETY.
Special bargain, beautiful design, sweet tone, at £12 cash. Wonderful value.
SEND FOR CATALOGUE.
SECOND-HAND PIANOS, from £5.
SECOND-HAND HARMONIUMS, from £1.

KNAUSS PIANOS.
KNAUSS PIANOS.
KNAUSS PIANOS.
The Best High-class Piano at a moderate price.
SEND FOR CATALOGUE. 808g.
ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN (LIMITED), FRONT STREET, CONSETT. PARK ROW, LEEDS.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE
Sum Insured in 1898 Exceeded £430,000,000.
For full particulars apply to
MR. THOMAS WM. WELFORD, JUNIOR, Agent for Consett and Neighbourhood.

THE
CREDIT ASSURANCE AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION
LIMITED.
Head Office—10, KING WILLIAM STREET, LONDON, E.C.
Capital £1,000,000. Subscribed £380,000.
Guarantee of Trade Acceptances and Open Credits.
The Corporation will guarantee Traders 50 per cent. of their credits, at premiums representing only a small percentage of the ordinary trade profits.
Fire. *"Each risk rated on its own merits."*
Apart from the Corporation's subscribed capital, which exceeds that of any other Non-Tariff company, and is larger than that of several of the Tariff offices, it possesses re-insuring resources enabling it to write large amounts.
Workmen's Compensation. *"Non-Tariff."*
The Corporation issues an absolute guarantee against all liability under the Acts of 1897 and 1880, and at Common Law without limit.
Application for Agencies Invited.

Public Notices.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF DIPTON

SHOULD any ASHPITS or PRIVIES be Overlooked or not properly Cleaned, please notify the Contractor at once when they will be attended to. Signed,
572e G. NICHOLSON, Contractor.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES' ASSOCIATION.
TRANSVAAL WAR.

ALL APPLICATIONS for Temporary Relief by the dependents of Soldiers (where the breadwinners are serving with the Colours) not already receiving Grants from Local Funds, should be made personally or by letter to Mr. J. B. Lazenby, Hon. Secretary, for the Petty Sessional Division of Lanchester, at his Office, Bank Chambers, Shotley Bridge.
The following information should be supplied with each Application:—*Name of Parish, Full Name of Soldier, Age, Married or Single, No. of Children, Wife, Mother, or Relatives, Dependent, Regiment, Regimental No., whether in Receipt of any, and if so what Relief or Government Allowance.* 446g

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

FUND in aid of the Wives and Families of of Soldiers and Sailors serving with the Colours.
CONSETT DISTRICT.
CHAIRMAN:—COUN. WM. AYNSLEY, J. P., CONSETT.
HON TREASURER:—MR. T. L. GLEDSTONE, NORTH EASTERN BANK, CONSETT.
HON. SECRETARY:—MR. T. W. WELFORD, CLERK, CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ALREADY PROMISED OR RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Amount acknowledged	388	5	8
Hamsterley Colliery Workmen, (second contribution)	3	9	0
Consett Iron Co's Workmen, (third contribution)	38	7	2
Collected by Miss Ida Patterson (9 years old), after reciting "The Absent Minded Beggar" at Mr. Thomas Forkin's Presentation ..		17	0
	£430	18	10

A parcel of 8 Shirts and 12 pair of Hose from a "Lady Friend" per Mr. R. C. Foster, Consett.
T. L. GLEDSTONE, Hon. Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES' ASSOCIATION.
LEADGATE DISTRICT BRANCH.
Per Messrs FOREMAN and WINTER.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. W. J. Foreman (Monthly)	0	2	6
Hockey Club Members and Friends Gathering at Farewell Dinner given to Mr. C. T. Foreman ..	1	3	6
Mr. Innes (Monthly) ..	0	2	0
Mr. R. Parker	0	1	0
Mr. W. Whitfield	0	5	0
Mr. J. W. Winter (Monthly)	0	2	6
Mr. W. Smith " ..	0	2	6
Mrs. Harrison " ..	0	2	6
Mr. W. McClean " ..	0	2	0
Mr. E. Todd (Monthly) ..	0	2	6
Mr. W. W. Lee " ..	0	2	6
	£2	8	6

Second List.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Atkinson	0	3	0
Mr. W. Aynsley	0	2	6
Mrs. Power	0	2	0
Mr. Lammonby	0	1	0
	£0	8	6

Per Messrs G. COOKE and JOHN ILEY.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. E. Ward	0	2	0
Mr. John Kinleside ..	0	1	0
Mr. J. H. Brown ..	0	1	0
Mr. M. D. Greener (Monthly)	0	5	0
Mr. Hy. White	0	1	0
Mr. R. Calvert	0	2	0
Mr. James Kelly	0	2	0
Mrs. Gill	0	0	3
Mrs. Ferguson	0	0	2
Mrs. Shaw	0	0	2
Mrs. Urwin	0	1	0
Mr. John Milburn ..	0	0	6
Mrs. Steward	0	0	4
Mr. E. J. Kennedy ..	0	1	0
Mr. J. Donachy	0	0	4
Mr. Jos. Slater	0	1	0
Mr. John Ross	0	1	0
Mr. James Hogan ..	0	0	4
Mr. R. Grainger	0	1	0
Mr. Chas. Perkins ..	0	0	2
Mr. White	0	0	9
Mrs. White	0	0	9
	£1	2	9

Per Messrs. Todd and Costello

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Thos. Garbutt (Monthly)	0	0	6
Mr. John Prest "	0	1	0
Mr. T. Sinclair "	0	1	0
Mr. Teasdale "	0	2	6
Mrs. Usher	0	0	6
A Friend	0	0	4
Mr. Stokoe (Monthly) ..	0	0	4
Mr. Goulden " ..	0	1	0
Mr. J. Kershaw " ..	0	2	6
Mr. Lish	0	1	0
Mr. J. O. Todd, (monthly) ..	0	1	0
Mr. W. Jackson	0	1	0
Mr. Harding	0	0	6
Mr. Johnson	0	0	6
Mr. J. W. Hedley ..	0	0	6
Leadgate Coop Store per Mr C. Clegg	10	0	0
	£10	14	2

Per Mr. John Best, Iveston Fortnightly Subscriptions by 19 persons 0 3 2
908g C. F. SCOTT, Secretary.

STANLEY AND DISTRICT RESERVISTS FUND.

CHAIRMAN: MR. NATHAN RAW.
VICE-CHAIRMAN: MR. JOSEPH KINGSTONE.
HON. TREASURER: CAPT. CROSSLING, FRONT STREET, STANLEY.
HON. JOINT SECRETARIES: MR. JOHN W. NICHOLSON, AND MR. WILLIAM LAWS.

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged ..	310	14	0
Collected from Subscribers already named			
Per Mr Edwards	2	10	10
" Mr Shield		10	4
" Mr D. Dawson	2	4	0
" Mr Edwards	1	14	0
To sixth Subscription from the Miners' Lodges etc.			
Mechanics—South Moor ..	1	7	1
" —South Derwent, Hutton and Willie Pits		11	1
Cokemen—Beamish ..		6	4
" and Brickworks—East Tanfield ..		17	10
Miners—West Shield Row	2	12	1
" South Moor, (Louisa Pit)	6	13	6
" South Moor, (Hedley Pit)	4	5	3
" South Moor, (Morrison Pit)	2	12	0
" South Tanfield, (A. Pit) ..	1	14	7
" " (C. Pit) ..	1	15	0
" Beamish	5	2	10
" East Tanfield, (Busty Pit)	1	18	11
" " (Brockwell Pit)	1	15	4
" Tanfield Moor, (Willie Pit)	2	10	7
" Tanfield Lea, (Ann Pit) ..	2	10	4
" " (Bute Pit)	2	11	10
" East Stanley ..	1	12	1
" South Derwent (Hutton Pit)	1	2	9
" " (Willie Pit)	1	9	9
Deputies South Moor ..		8	4
880g Total to February 27th,	£361	7	5

THE Payments to Wives and other dependents of Reservists are made fortnightly, on Friday night from 6.30 to 7.30, at the Treasurer's Office, Front St., Stanley. The next Payment will be made on Friday night March 2nd. 881g

THE Sub. Committee will meet at the West Stanley Board School fortnightly to receive Names and Particulars of Reservists' Dependents. Next Meeting March 8th, 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. 882g

THE usual Committee Meetings will now be held once a month. Next Meeting March 22nd. Time and place as usual.
CAPT. T. E. CROSSLING, Hon. Treasurer.

Public Notices.

A WELL BRED BOAR for Service at the Lease, Barnopfield. Terms 4s.—Apply, M. ADAMSON. 722g.

DERWENT ANGLING ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on March 3rd, at 6.30 p.m.
828g D. ORMEROD, Hon. Sec.

DERWENT VALLEY ENTIRE HORSE ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL SHOW will be held at Shotley Bridge, on Saturday, March 3rd, 1900.—THOS. HAMILTON, Secretary, Newlands Haugh, Ebchester. 723g

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSETT.
SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d
Already acknowledged	2263	14	6
W. M. Annandale, Esq., Lintzford	5	5	0
	£2268	19	6

SUBSCRIPTIONS may be paid to Mr. T. L. GLEDSTONE, Hon. Treasurer, N.E. Bank, Consett; or further information from the Hon. Secretaries—Mr. W. S. DAVIES, Bryngias, Consett; or Mr. G. T. HYDEN, Blacktyne House, Blackhill.

N.W.D. STEAM LAUNDRY.
GEORGE ST., BLACKHILL.
THIS LAUNDRY IS NOW IN WORKING ORDER.
PRICE LIST ON APPLICATION.
Washings are Collected and Delivered by our own Van, Free of Charge.
A Post Card to the Manageress will receive prompt attention.

WAR! WAR!! WAR!!!
NEW Town Hall, Consett. MARCH 3rd, SATURDAY FIRST.
DICKINSON'S GRAND CINEMATOGRAPH EXHIBITION and ENTERTAINMENT.
WAR SCENES LATEST FILMS.
Thrilling Incidents.
Modder River Engagement; The Fighting Fifth.
Troop Train Crossing Modder River.
Ambulance and Transport fording Modder River, and numerous Fighting Films.
Special Film 800 feet.—"Soldiers of the Queen;" this picture lasts 20 minutes.
DOORS OPEN AT 7, COMMENCE AT 7.30.
ADMISSION: 6d., 1s., 1s. 6d.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY,
Lessee and Manager .. MARK H. LINDON.
Saturday, the last night of the
GOD OF WAR.
MONDAY, March 5th, and during the Week, Important engagement of the renowned Actress,
MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER.

NEW THEATRE,
CONSETT.
Lessee and Manager .. Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON, (Also of the Royal Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, and Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne).
Resident Manager .. Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE.
Last Three Nights and Greatest Possible Success of MR. BEN GREET'S A COMPANY, IN MR. WILSON BARRETT'S GREAT PLAY—
THE
SIGN OF THE CROSS.
MONDAY NEXT, MARCH 5th, 1900.
For Six Nights only,
MR. HENRY BEDFORD and his Specially Selected Company in the Entirely New Play—
GIPSY JACK.

CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.
LIMITED.

THE NEW PREMISES
WILL BE
OPENED
ON SATURDAY, MARCH 10th, 1900,
At 2-30 p.m., by the
LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM.

At 3 p.m., TEA will be provided in the WESLEYAN LECTURE HALL, Consett.

At 5 p.m., a
PUBLIC MEETING AND CONCERT
Will be held in the
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
When Addresses will be given by
THE LORD BISHOP OF DURHAM,
SIR DAVID DALE, BART., AND
R. CURRY WOOD, Esq.

BLAYDON CO-OPERATIVE CHOIR
Will be in attendance and render selections of Music at intervals. Conductor, Mr Wm. Urwin.
Admission to the Meeting by Programme, which may be obtained at the tea tables, or at the Society's Central Premises and Branches.

THE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION.

The Local Fund of the above Association, which has already collected a considerable sum for local distribution, will be shortly benefited by the receipts of an

ENTERTAINMENT
To be given at the
TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14th, 1900.

The Entertainment has been promoted by Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON, Lessee of the New Theatre, under the auspicies of the Local Committee of the Fund, and organised by Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE. A numerous list of Patrons headed by THE MARCHIONESS OF LONDONDERRY.
The Programme will be a varied one, consisting of an Original Patriotic Spectacle—
BRITTANNIA AND HER SONS!
Specially written for the occasion by Mr. Lloyd Clarance.
Songs composed by Messrs George Dryden, A.L.C.M., Geo. A. Williams, M. Coward-Klee, F.C.V. (Lond.), Lloyd Clarance, and W. R. Hunt, D.Mus. (Lond.).
Characters and Songs by Madame Bella Dryden, Messrs J. E. Davis, T. D. Dryden, W. Redshaw, Joe Robinson, Jos. Siddle, J. T. Symington, E. L. Williams, &c., &c., and a full Chorus.
Vocalists: Miss Maggie Matthews, Miss Mary Williams, Mr. Charles Davison, &c.
NATIONAL QUARTETTES
Representing England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.
An adaptation from Charles Dicken's Novel "Bleak House," entitled—
"POOR JO'S LAST MOVE."
By Mr and Mrs Lloyd Clarance.
GRAND PHANTASMAGORIA
Of Celebrities and Scenes of the present War in South Africa, by Mr P. E. Surtees.
"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH," in Character, by Mr. W. E. Brown. Illustrated by Scenic Effects.
THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT DRAMATIC AND OPERETTA SOCIETY
Will appear in the Laughable Military Farce—
"THE TWO POLTS."
Characters by Misses Eltringham and Bailey, Mrs. E. J. Colmar, Messrs W. Macfeggan, A. K. Robinson, Geo. A. Williams, and Joe Robinson.
THE CONSETT AMATEUR ORCHESTRA AND THEATRE BAND.
Musical Director .. Mr. Geo. A. Williams.
Accompanists—Messrs. G. Dryden and G. P. Stephenson.

The Plan will be opened on Friday morning, March 2nd, at 10 o'clock, at ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S, Front Street, Consett, and an early application is advised, as a very big demand is anticipated. 909g

Public Notices.

171 Is the WINNING NUMBER of the Watch, drawn for at Robson Street, Consett. 898g

LOOK out for STANLEY AND DISTRICT CRICKET AND FOOTBALL CLUB SPORTS, held JULY 21st, upwards of £50 Given in Prizes. TENDERS WANTED for Field, Swings, &c.—Apply to CHAS. CRUTE, 27, Mary St., and JAS. BENNETT, Bank House, West Stanley. 919g

NOTICE.

VISITORS TO SOUTH SHIELDS for Holidays or Week-end, will find Home Comforts, at reasonable charges, at F. A. MACDONALD'S BOARDING HOUSE, OCEAN ROAD, between Pollard and Baring Streets; Five minutes' walk to Public Parks, Baths, Pier and Sands. References: Messrs. J. and G. Gair, Annfield Plain; Levi Whitfield, Leadgate; and Geo. Toward, Castleside. 897g

BIRTLEY SECOND ANNUAL SPORTS AND BRASS BAND CONTEST, will be held on Saturday, May 12th, 1900.
£30 CASH, 2 Gold Medals, 3 Silver Medals, and Silver Mounted Conductor's Baton, will be given for Band Contest. £17 will be given for 120 Yards Professional Foot Handicap; Handicapper, Mr. J. SPEED, Hetton-le-Hole.
Further particulars from Secretary, THOMAS FISH, 2, Daisy Cottages, Birtley. 768g

Legal Notice.

JANE MARGARET HUNTER DECEASED.

All Persons having Claims against Miss Hunter, late of Derwent Villa, Shotley Bridge, are requested to send particulars thereof forthwith to— DAVIES & BALKWILL, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Solicitors to the Executors. 810g

THE REVEREND JAS. FORAN, DECEASED.

ALL persons having any CLAIMS against the estate of The Reverend James Foran late of Blackhill Clerk in Holy Orders, who died on the 29th day of January last are requested to send full particulars of such claims to the undersigned the Solicitor for the Executors, on or before the 7th day of March next.
Dated this 27th day of February, 1900.
JOHN McCARTAN, Solicitor, Consett. 879g

Church Notices.

BLACKHILL WESLEYAN CHURCH.

LOOK out for the GRAND CANTATA, "JOSIAH," to be given WEDNESDAY MARCH 28th. Particulars later. 878g

SHOTLEY BRIDGE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.

THE ANNUAL "AT HOME" will be held Wednesday and Thursday, March 7th and 8th, at 7.30 p.m. Music, Tableaux, Games, Gramaphone, &c. Refreshments at low prices. Admission One Shilling.
A hearty invitation is given to the public. Proceeds for New Church Funds.

CONSETT PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4th, 1900.
Morning 10.30 | Mr. J. T. DAVIS.
Evening 6 | Mr. G. B. RICHARDSON.
ALL SEATS FREE.

CONSETT WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4th, 1900.
Morning, 10.30 | Evening, 6 | Rev. G. E. POLKINGHORNE.
ALL SEATS FREE.

Musical Tuition.

MISS JACKS, GIVES LESSONS on the PIANOFORTE and in THEORY of MUSIC. Terms on application, St. Aidan's Street, Blackhill.

LESSONS given on the Pianoforte and Organ. Pupils prepared for Incorporated Society of Musicians Examination. Terms on application.—JAS. H. COCKBURN, 51, Park Road, Consett. 983c

MUSICAL TUITION.

LESSONS on Organ, Piano, and Theory of Music given by JOHN SURTEES, Organist, Consett Parish Church. Pupils may be prepared for examinations held by the Royal Academy, Royal College, and Incorporated Society of Musicians. Pianos thoroughly tuned, post cards attended to.—Address, 2, Cemetery Road, Blackhill. 921c

Excursions.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

EXCURSION TRAINS FROM BLACKHILL: SUNDAY, MARCH 11th at 8.13 p.m. for PETERBOROUGH and LONDON for 2 and 4 days.
The Excursion Train advertised to run March 10th from Blackhill to Newcastle at 1.45 p.m. has been CANCELLED on account of landslip.
For further particulars see bills.
York, Feb. 1900. GEORGE S. GIBB, General Manager. 917g

Sales by Auction

By Mr John Crawford

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION at his Salerooms, Victoria Street, Consett, on Monday first, March 5th, a Consignment of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects. Splendid toned Second-hand Piano. Sale commence One o'clock

JOHN CRAWFORD, AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, EMIGRATION and HOUSE AGENT. Also, appointed Bailiff by his Honour Judge MEYNELL, to Levy Distress for Rent, under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Sale Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

By Mr J. Green.

BLACKHILL FARMERS' MART CO., LTD. MONDAY, MARCH 5th, 1900.
MR. JACKSON GREEN, AUCTIONEER.
35 Fat Cattle; 150 Fat Sheep,
2 Cows newly calved
1 Geld Heifer. Calves.
Poultry, Carrots, Ladders, &c.
Sale at One o'clock, to commence with Cows.
J. W. OSBORNE, Secretary, 10a, Durham Road, Blackhill. 93g

MR. JACKSON GREEN AUCTIONEER, VALUER, & COMMISSION AGENT.
Agricultural and Probate Valuations carefully made.
All Classes of Sales conducted on Reasonable Terms.
SALE OFFICE—
SATLEY, TOW LAW, R.S.O. 807a

By Mr Wm. Robinson

Pit House.
LATE W. Cuthbertson's FURNITURE and PROPERTY, on Wednesday, March 28th.

Blackhall, Blackhall Mill.
LATE W. Bowman's FARM STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, SURPLUS FURNITURE etc., Wednesday, April 18th.—Entries may be made on applying to the Auctioneer. 848g

WILLIAM ROBINSON, AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT NEW PINES, MEDOMSLEY.
Sales conducted on the most reasonable terms.

By Mr John S. Murray

IMPORTANT SALE of Freehold DWELLING-HOUSE PROPERTY and BUILDING SITES at the Station Hotel, Blackhill, Wednesday, March 21st, at Four o'clock; Five Superior Built HOUSES of 4 and 5 rooms each, on the Elm Park Road, near Shotley Station, all occupied. Rental £72 16s.
ONE HOUSE, No. 17, St. Cuthbert's Avenue, Benfieldside.
TWO SUPERIOR BUILDING SITES with a frontage of 50 ft. on Queen Street, Blackhill, Plans for which have been passed by the Urban District Council.
Other Property may be included.
JOHN S. MURRAY. 923g

JOHN SWINBURNE MURRAY, THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT, BLACKHILL.
Being done with the Auction Mart, is at liberty to take Sales of every description on any day of the week.
Appointed by his Honour JUDGE MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.
All Sales conducted with Care, Economy, and Quick Settlements.
WHITEHALL LODGE, BLACKHILL.

T. D. DRYDEN, AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, 56, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

JOHN T. WESTON, JUN., AUCTIONEER & COMMISSION AGENT.
SALE OFFICE—
CORNWALL HOUSE, ANNFIELD PLACE, ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O.
Sales conducted with care, efficiency, and on the most reasonable terms. Correspondence and inquiries invited. Prompt settlements.

Sales by Auction.

NATHAN ELSDON. AUCTIONEER AND VALUER. OFFICES AND SALE ROOMS, DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

N. ELSDON wishes his friends and customers to know that he has the LARGEST AND BEST SALE ROOMS in the district and that he is prepared to STORE FURNITURE and all classes of goods FREE OF CHARGE, and Sell on Commission according to arrangement.
All Classes of Furniture or Property purchased outright for Cash, or sold by Auction.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Valuer, House, Land, and Emigration Agent, will undertake AUCTION SALES upon most reasonable terms, and conducted in the best style. LETTERS by Post will have prompt attention, and all sorts of GOODS, FURNITURE, &c., bought right out for cash. Appointed by His Honour Judge MEYNELL, under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Office, Front Street, Dipton, by Lintz Green Station.

March 2nd, 1900

"CONSETT GUARDIAN" FREE INSURANCE. £100.

WILL BE PAID to the legal representative of any man or woman (railway servants on duty excepted) who shall happen to meet with his or her death by an accident to the railway train in which he or she was travelling in any part of the United Kingdom on following conditions:—

1. That at the time of the accident the passenger in question had upon his or her person this coupon.
2. That prior to the accident the passenger in question had affixed his or her usual signature in the space provided below.
3. That notice of the accident be given to the Corporation guaranteeing this insurance within seven days of its occurrence.
4. That death result within one month from the date of the accident.
5. That no person can claim in respect of more than one of these coupons.
6. The insurance under this coupon holds good from Thursday 6 a.m., date of publication, to 6 a.m. of the following Thursday.

Signed ....

Address ....

The due fulfilment of this insurance is guaranteed by
THE CREDIT ASSURANCE AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION, LIMITED, 10, King William Street, London, E.C., to whom all communications should be made

Business Announcement.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.
WILLIAM AYNSLEY, Esq., Chairman.
SUBSCRIPTION MEETINGS are held in the New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, between 7 and 8 o'clock every alternate Monday.—The Monday after the Consett Iron Co.'s pay Saturday. DEPOSITS received at four per cent. interest, repayable on giving one month's notice.

THE CONSETT GUARDIAN.

Friday, March 2nd, 1900

EDITORIAL CHAT.

Captain J. M. Vereker. Captain John M Vereker, who has been appointed an adjutant in the Imperial Yeomanry, is a son of the late Mr. John Prendergast Vereker, who was a son of the third Lord Gort. Captain Vereker has been in the 4th Dragoon Guards, and unsuccessfully contested Colchester in the Conservative interest at the last General Election. He is married to a daughter of Sir Charles Cayzer, and has four children. Captain Vereker is a cousin of the present Viscount Gort, of Hamsterley Hall.

An Interesting Presentation. The proceedings in connection with a presentation made to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Forkin, at Blackhill, on Tuesday night, were of the most enthusiastic nature, and served to demonstrate—if that were needed—the warm esteem entertained towards Mr. Forkin by the officials, tenants, and employes of the North-Eastern Breweries. We can well believe that the presentation scheme was a most popular one, and, but for it being limited, it would have undoubtedly assumed very much larger dimensions. As it was, Mr. Forkin and his good lady may well feed proud of the handsome Chippendale cabinet and davenport of which they were the recipients. The presents were greatly admired by all who saw them, and would be an ornament to any house in the land. As most of our readers will be aware, Mr. Forkin occupies a responsible position under the company, and it says much for his tact and ability that he has commanded the respect and good-will of the whole of the officials, tenants, and employes of the Blackhill branch of the company. Mr. Forkin enjoys the full confidence of his employers, whilst his colleagues are never tired of singing his praises. He is yet a young man, but he has only to continue the same line of conduct that he has pursued in the past, not only to attain to a high position, but to retain—and probably he values this quite as much—the respect and esteem of those among whom his lot is cast.

A Lady for the Front. Our readers will probably be interested to learn that Miss Jessie Bell, daughter of Mrs. W. Bell, Rose Terrace, Cupar, and a niece of Mr. and Mrs. Keen Bell, of Hobson Colliery, ... with an appointment as ... the nurses which are accompanying the Duke of Cambridge's Company of the Imperial Volunteers to South Africa. Miss Bell, who sailed from Southampton on Saturday last, in the Castle liner, "Dunvegan Castle," was placed on the Army Reserve Nursing Force while at the Princess Christian's Home at Windsor, and on the breaking out of war she was called upon to take duty at the Grenadier Guard's Hospital, London. She is a most skilful nurse, and her services are certain to be warmly appreciated in the Transvaal. We take this opportunity of wishing Miss Bell every success in her arduous duties, and trust that a long and useful career will be granted her in the noble sphere of life to which she has been called.

Collierley School Board. Miss L. J. Clark's application for an increase of salary did not apparently meet with the general favour of the Board on Tuesday evening, notwithstanding the fact that the applicant, who holds the appointment of head assistant mistress in the girls' school under the Board, and is doing the same amount of work as her predecessor, for less salary by some £5 per annum. Whatever the qualifications of the late assistant-mistress might have been, she was only required to keep her scholars up to a certain degree of proficiency. As the reports of the School Inspectors show that that efficiency has been maintained under Miss Clark's supervision and instruction, it does seem singular that the part of the Board which was so enthusiastic in their support of a £20 advance to the late assistant-mistress should now be so reluctant to give a paltry £5 advance, which will only place Miss Clark's salary on a par with that which the late assistant earned. The question as to the salaries paid by other Boards to persons holding similar capacities is a totally unfair way of looking at things, and should never have entered into the discussion of the subject at all. If other Boards pay their servants unfairly that can be no valid reason for the members of the Collierley School Board following their example. The real point at issue is—is Miss Clark entitled to an advance by the quality of work she has accomplished? If the late teacher was worth £70 a year for reaching a certain standard of efficiency in her class, surely Miss Clark, who has maintained that state of efficiency, and is teaching one or two extra subjects into the bargain, is justly entitled to the modest emolument asked for.

Medomsley Choral Society. This society has had a most successful season, and there seems to be no valid reason why the members should not improve as the years roll on, and consequently be in a position to undertake something more ambitious than they have yet attempted. As a wind-up for the season a most enjoyable soiree was held recently, at which one or two interesting events took place. For instance, Mr. T. D. Dales—who has proved a most able and painstaking conductor—was presented with a handsome oak inkstand (silver mounted), bearing a suitable inscription, whilst Miss Snaith, who has rendered splendid service as accompanist, received a beautiful Russian leather hand-bag. The Vicar (Rev. W. Cockin) made the presentations in appropriate terms, and both Mr. Dales and Miss Snaith expressed their thanks to the members for their kindness, which had taken them quite by surprise. Mr. Cockin was thanked for his generous loan of the school-room, whilst the services of Mr. G. W. Hedley as hon. secretary were referred to in warm terms of praise. Dancing and singing helped to while away the evening, which proved to be a very successful and pleasant one. The members are all very enthusiastic, and the society seems likely to attain to a high position in the musical world. They are fortunate in having such an experienced and popular musician as Mr. Dales to act as conductor, and we feel sure that no effort will be wanting on his part to secure the maximum amount of proficiency amongst the members.

A Modest Request. In spite of all the agitation that has been going for many years with a view to inducing the North-Eastern Railway Company to erect a station at Westwood, matters seem to be no further forward in this direction than ever they were. Why the company have in the past persistently turned a deaf ear to this reasonable demand is more than we can understand. There is a very large and increasing population in the Westwood district, and the people are certainly entitled to a station in their midst instead of having to make the journey to and from Ebchester. The cost would not be that great, and we feel sure that the company would soon recoup themselves for the expense entailed by the building of a station, as this concession would undoubtedly mean a considerable increase in their receipts. However, the prime movers in the agitation referred to have apparently given the matter up as a bad job, and are now modifying their request by endeavouring to get the company to make a temporary station at Westwood for the purpose of having two trains stopped there on Saturdays and Wednesdays. This would certainly be an improvement upon the present condition of affairs; but how the North-Eastern directors will entertain it, it is difficult to forecast. It is nothing less than a downright shame that a station has not been made at Westwood long since, but where monopolies exist there are pretty certain to be abuses. We believe that Mr. Logan and Mr. Palmer have taken a great deal of interest in the question, and it has been left in the hands of these two gentlemen to try to obtain this small concession from the company. We trust that they may be successful.

On the way! Our local volunteers selected for active service are now on their way to South Africa, having set sail on Friday last. On the last-named date the photos (accompanied by short sketches) of the officers appeared in the "Newcastle Daily Chronicle," amongst them being those of Capt. J. Turnbull, of Chester-le-Street, and Lieut. J. R. Ritson, of Burnhope. We reproduce what our contemporary says about our two local officers, as it will doubtless be interesting to our readers:—"When a company was asked from the Durham Volunteer Infantry Battalions, Captain John Turnbull came forward and was given the command of it. Capt. Turnbull is one of the best known officers of the 4th Volunteer Battalion Durham Light Infantry, which he joined in 1885, as lieutenant. In 1889, he received his captaincy and was attached to the E Company (Chester-le-Street), of the corps. Captain Turnbull is a good rifle shot, and he is seldom missing from any important function relating to his corps. Captain Turnbull is 35 years of age. Lieutenant J. R. Ritson is a member of the 4th Volunteer Battalion Durham Light Infantry, and joined the volunteer force in February, 1896, as 2nd Lieutenant. He was promoted to full lieutenant's rank in March, 1897, and going to the Hythe School of Musketry, he secured his certificate of proficiency, and was appointed Instructor of Musketry to the battalion, from October, 1897. In addition he passed at the School, Chelsea Barracks, August, 1899. Lieutenant Ritson is attached to the I. Company (Sacriston) 4th V.B.D.L.I. He was appointed subaltern of the Durham Service Company in January. He is 29 years of age."

AROUND THE DISTRICT.

(By "Wanderer.")

LOST—SNOW-CUTTERS.

Whenever will our various Council authorities in the district re-open the snow-blocked footpaths to the general public? is a soliloquy which many a weary pedestrian will have turned over in his mind in traversing the dirty lanes and turnpikes for the last week or two, and for the life of me I must candidly confess my utter inability to satisfy my inquiring friends. The travelling public don't seem to be taken into account by those high magnates of municipalisation who seem to think a great deal more of that useful quadruped, the horse, than of the biped or a higher order of creation—man—and of course women included. I have been repeatedly asked to take up my pen on the subject by several friends, so that my official friends connected with our local parliaments need not think that I'm the only person who thinks reform necessary in this respect. In the Annfield Plain, Tanfield, and Whickham areas the times are ripe and the conditions favourable for the inhabitants to demand an immediate redress of this great grievance. It is not sufficient for our local bodies to have only a flying squadron of roadmen and snow-cutters in times of storm; each Council ought to have a full staff of ... men so that not only the main turnpike, but also the footpaths can be kept in proper repair. I hope the people will demand this.

PAY, PAY, PAY.

The thorough toll of Newcastle is a question which is receiving an unusually large amount of attention just now. Some of our local bodies think—and not without good cause—that the tolls charged by the Corporation of Newcastle for goods either taken into or from their precious city, are exorbitant and beyond all reason. And so they are. The Corporation have the power to scrutinise and have weighed, every parcel on the carriers' and tradesmen's waggons travelling to and from Newcastle and charge almost any price they like per parcel. Just fancy our local carriers having to be subjected to such a drastic operation when leaving Newcastle. But their next door neighbours, the Gateshead people, intend to have the wings of the Novocastrian Corporation clipped, and I trust they will take care to have the scissors sharpened on the right side.

SIX WANTS.

If Coun. J. Storey were allowed his way for the space of five minutes what mighty revolutions would he make in the existing state of affairs in the North-Eastern Railway. He only wants a station for East Castle, a few extra trains between Newcastle and Annfield Plain, a footpath for the Greencroft folks, an exit on the south side of the station at Annfield Plain, and a free delivery of parcels for South Pontop and Annfield Plain. All good measures say some, but how are we to get them is as yet an unsolved problem. However Mr. Storey has set himself to the solution of a difficult problem and if he succeeds he will be a clever man, realising as he does the great difficulties which bestrew his path. His first want would be a great boon to East Castle, his second and third, blessings to everybody who is anybody in the district, his fourth, a great relief to the Greencroft garrison; his fifth, besides being an inexpensive improvement, would lessen the risk of accidents, about which most employers of labour especially are very chary, seeing that it would do away with the ugly, dangerous bridge which now spans the line at Annfield Plain Station; while his last would not only be beneficial to the inhabitants of the districts named, but would be the means of employing more men. Unfortunately I am not a shareholder in the Railway Company, or I would have used the weight of my influence in his favour at the next meeting of the shareholders, but if these lines should arrest the attention of the members of the enterprising body of capitalists I hope they will vote solid for the reforms already tabulated.

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ANOTHER W.

It appears the people of Annfield Plain are not the only seekers after reform. The inhabitants of Westwood and that rapidly increasing district think themselves entitled to a little consideration—not from the Colliery Owners, but from the Railway Company. Their want is the erection of a station at Westwood, aye, and a very needy one too. Where's the fun of folks having to walk three or four or perhaps more miles to a station, when they want to visit Newcastle City? It's almost a day's work getting to and from Lintz Green or Ebchester, from Westwood, Blackhall Mill, Chopwell, and neighbourhood, and nobody enjoys an outing when so much exertion is required to obtain it. But that is only a minor point. The erection of a station at the aforementioned place would be a source of great revenue to the directors, and nothing, I imagine, should deter them from granting the request of a solicitous public which is prepared to pay for the concession when it will increase the dividend to the shareholders. It has been on the tapis for many years and has been the subject of a very great amount of discussion, and I think it would be a graceful act on the part of the Company to try the experiment in memory of the advent of the twentieth century.

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ANCIENT TABLETS.

A very interesting discovery has recently been made in the ancient Parish Church at Chester-le-Street. Repairs were being made to the organ and this led to the discovery of five tablets relating to the family of the Lumleys. One, a large square black tablet, records that Richard, Lord Lumley, 1st Earl of Scarbrough, died December, 1721, and his wife Frances died in 1722. Another small tablet records that Sir John Lumley, Knight, son of Rafe, Lord Lumley, was slain at the battle of Bangy in France with the Duke of Clarence. His body was interred at Durham, but later on removed to Chester-le-Street. A round white tablet states that George, son of John, Lord Lumley, died in the 29th year of the reign of Henry the Eighth, and was buried at the Crossed Friars in London. Another round white stone records the death of Sir Thomas Lumley, son of George, who married Elizabeth, daughter of King Edward the Fourth, and died during the life of his father. The fifth slab is without any inscription whatever, but has the family arms cut in common with the rest of the tablets.

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ENTHUSIASM.

Talk about enthusiasm, if you wanted a sample of it you had only to go through the torrents of rain and wend your way to the National Schools at Lanchester on Monday, and see as happy and as smiling a company as it was possible to meet. It was more than that. It was not only assembled to indulge in the enjoyment of dancing, but it was made up of intelligence and talent—of ladies and gentlemen willing to give of their abilities and out of their purses for the sake of the gallant men who are now so rudely shaking the power of a certain Dr. Leyds in his efforts to bewilder the position of England on the continent. There was dancing, certainly, and there was a great attendance. I say great because the meteorological conditions were appalling. Jupiter Pluvius had gone in for a bit of Samson like practice, but like the Boers he was beaten. Miss Urwin delighted the company with her splendid contralto, and gave a lesson to many in the art of phrasing and articulation. Mr. Sloane's rendering of Mr. Dale's new song was an immense success, doing credit to the vocalist and to the author who, being a Medomsley man, we in this district have reason to be proud of. The efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Piercey-Taylor-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Ritson, Mr. Walton and others cannot be too highly praised in connection with the affair.

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A WEARY SUBJECT.

It is a weary thing to have to keep ding donging at local authorities for work neglected. In order to get out of the way of complaints about the state of the streets in Consett and Blackhill I am sometimes glad to get clear away and yet I cannot help reflecting. Things are bad in Consett. Scavenging goes on in the daytime in the horribly sweet old way and the streets are allowed to—well swell the coffers of our friends who deal in boots and leggings, to say nothing of the influenza vendors. When will matters mend?

NOTES FROM LEADGATE.

[BY "GEORDIE."]

BAND OF HOPE.

The P.M. Band of Hope does a lot of good work in an unostentatious fashion—especially amongst the children. Capital entertainments are provided every fortnight, and these never fail to draw a crowd of delighted youngsters, who are thus enabled to pass a pleasant evening free of cost. Last Saturday night's programme was an unusually attractive one, the chief item being a dialogue which was rendered most creditably, and in consequence the gathering was one of the most successful that has yet been held. Mr. Robert Pull (who is president of the society) takes a very great interest in its doings, and is largely responsible for the entertainments promoted each fortnight.

"GEORDIE" AND THE SOCIALS.

I notice that in last week's "Guardian" poor "Geordie" has got beans from a correspondent signing himself "Bachelor." I am sure that I never intended to hurt "Bachelor's" feelings. As for doubting his patriotism nothing could be further from my thoughts. My friend's patriotism cannot be of the common or garden type when he would go to considerable expense to appear in a uniform—for one night only, as they say on the bills. That suggestion of his about "Geordie" contributing to the War Fund is rather smart. I will give it my best consideration. So far as concerns myself, it matters little; but "Bachelor," it was ungallant to question the patriotism of the ladies. Fie! fie! The Spinsters have considered the matter, and they authorise me to invite "Bachelor" to attend their next meeting, when they undertake to give him a specimen of their patriotism. Privately I should like to intimate to my friend that they are simply thirsting for his gore. Therefore, I should advise him to insure his life, make his last will and testament, leave his false teeth at home, get his hair cut—a short crop—and bid adieu to his best girl. The Spinsters, my dear sir, are chockful—simply running over with patriotism. Talk about a full and fancy dress ball—I don't know about being full, but "Bachelor" can bet his bottom dollar that he never before appeared in such a fancy dress as he will when he emerges from the Spinsters' meeting. Book your seats, ladies and gentlemen. The title of the new play is "The Bachelor Butchered." All the characters will appear in khaki—for one night only—at considerable expense. Ambulances may be ordered for 10 o'clock. Kick-off at 9.45.

THE FLOWER SHOW.

By the way, I hear very little now concerning what is termed the flower show, but in which, as a matter of fact, flowers play but a minor part. I trust that the affair is not going to be allowed to fall through again, despite the action taken by certain competitors in connection with last year's show. Why not leave the floral department out altogether—it would not matter much—and have a show composed of poultry, pigeons, rabbits, dogs, etc.? I feel sure that it would be just as successful as during the past two years, as the majority of people who go to flower shows care very little about the flowers, vegetables, etc. They want to be amused, and something in the shape of a gala is what the committee want to promote.

FOR THE FRONT.

Most of my readers will remember Mr. W. Dotchin, who served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Foreman and Son, of Leadgate. Mr. Dotchin is now on his way to the front as Veterinary-Lieutenant with the Northumberland Battery of Volunteer Artillery. Lieutenant W. Dotchin took his present rank in the 1st Northumberland in June, 1897. He has an extensive establishment at the Strawberry Stables, Newcastle, and for many years has been favourably known as a clever veterinary surgeon. There has been a busy time before him during the past few weeks, in selecting suitable horses for the Battery, but after much trouble he succeeded in getting together a large number of highly eligible animals of the required height and strength. The horses that have passed through his hands are a hardy lot, for sickness has almost been absent amongst them since their advent at the Barracks. I wish him a safe and speedy return.

WEARDALE NOTES

[BY "STANHOPE."]

A ROUGH MONTH.

February of 1900 will be long remembered. Generally it is the finest of the winter months. This year, however, it has lost its prestige and character. It has been one of the roughest known for many years.

GOOD NEWS.

The Stanhope Gill lead mine, near Frosterley, is being re-started again. With the present price of lead, this waning British industry should revive. There is still plenty of the rich metal beneath the everlasting hills of the mining districts of Great Britain. As a nation we keep the industries of other countries going, and almost every one of them in any of our national exigencies would turn against us and drive us into the sea, if they could. The present war has shown us who are our friends.

A LIVELY TIME.

The anglers of the Wear Valley this week are all on the alert, as the trout fishing season comes in. The beautiful spotted trout, like the Boers, will have a lively time of it. A Stanhope angler last Saturday captured a nice salmon between Frosterley and Stanhope with worm bait. In respect to condition they are hardly up to the mark yet.

A PITY!

One of the best limestone quarries in the dale to-day is standing idle. It is that at Lane Head, Stanhope. The stone is of the best quality, real blue. It is also sound and good—not of the outcrop class. It is all on to full height. The land is only poor containing it, and not worth much. With a steam-navvy to remove the baring it would pay any enterprising company well. Some of them are working dirty unproductive quarries where land is dear. Here is a splendid chance.

TRAIN FACILITIES.

There is still hope of greater train facilities for the Wear Valley, according to the letter from Mr. Gibb read at Monday's District Concil meeting at Stanhope.

AN INTERESTING CASE.

A highly interesting law case from Stanhope was tried this week at Durham. It is a will case. There were some wonderful disclosures, which will interest the public very much.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE

[BY "CASTLESIDEITE."]

HOME MISSIONS.

The home mission sermons were preached at Rowley Baptist Church on Sunday, February 18th, by the Rev. Mr. Black. Liberal collections were taken in aid of the above mission. The Primitive Missionary sermons were preached on the above-named date by the Rev. J. Taylor, Blackhill, and the Rev. W. Younger, of Middlesborough, and on Tuesday night February 20th, a public meeting was held addressed by the Revs. W. Younger and J. S. Nightingale. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. Ripley. Upwards of £8 was taken in collections and subscriptions.

A SUCCESSFUL CONCERT.

The benefit concert held in the Board Schools on Saturday night last, in aid of Mr. Joseph Ashman, who has been unable to follow his employment for some two years past, was a "bumper." The schools were packed from end to end: in fact, every available spot was occupied, which evidenced the esteem in which Mr. Ashman is held by the villagers and many outside the village. An excellent programme was provided, and each artiste did his or her part with very fine effect. The committee had worked hard to make the effort a success, and succeeded. Mr. Henry Rollins acted as secretary. The chair was occupied by Mr. W. Pattinson. A vote of thanks to the chairman, artistes, and committee was moved by Mr. W. J. Scott. The Sycamores, Rowley, and seconded by Mr. J. Harkness, Castleside. The singing of the National Anthem brought a pleasant entertainment to a close. A social followed the concert. The committee bore all the expenses in order that their affected comrade might have the full benefit. The proceeds were £13 14s 6d. The following were the artistes:—Mr. J. T. Symington, Mr. J. Heslop, Mr. J. Raine, Mrs. Leathard, Professor Hall, Mr. J. Spencer, Miss B. B. Pattinson, Mr. A. Heslop, Miss Lilian Hall, Mr. S. Judge, Miss Williams, Mr. G. P. Stephenson.

THE LATE MRS. MUSE.

I may be allowed to add a word, as a passing tribute to the memory, amongst the many others, who have written or spoken about our dear and departed friend, Mrs. Muse, who suddenly fell asleep on February 10th. We can fully approve and appreciate all that has been said respecting her Christian character, her large-heartedness, her readiness to help those in need, her sympathy with the suffering poor; truly she was ever ready to help and bless those with whom she was brought in contact. She was a woman of many parts—possessed of a strong mind, a resolute will, was not easily deterred in things which would make the ordinary woman fearful. Being thoroughly religious, she gave moral tone to all her undertakings, in public or private; in her home she ruled with firmness and kindness, and those whose pleasure it has been to visit that happy home, will ever remember the genuineness of her hospitality. By choice and training she was a Wesleyan Methodist, and by her demise that Church has lost a staunch and ready helper. Yet her sympathies were not confined to her own particular church; she was not unmindful of others. The village has lost a true friend. She was ever ready to minister "first aid" in time of accident. The many beautiful wreaths sent by friends as tokens of respect, and the many who came to her funeral was evidence of how much she was respected. With her sorrowing husband and family I join with many others in sympathy, and trust that "He who watches the sparrow fall" will guard and guide the family to their mother's haven on the eternal shore, "Where the surges cease to roll," where sickness and sorrow are for ever past.

DURHAM ASSIZES.

LANCHESTER BIGAMY CASE.

Durham Winter Assizes were commenced on Wednesday in the Courts at Durham, before Mr. Jstice Day sitting in the Crown Court, and Mr. Jstice Bigham in the Civil. Justice Day congratulated the Grand Jury on the fact that they had before them a light calendar. There were only 21 cases, and none of them were likely to cause any trouble.

Thomas Dawson, 40, miner, surrendered to his bail on a charge of committing bigamy by marrying Sarah Hall, at Lanchester, on November 12th, 1894, Jane, his former wife, being then alive.—Sarah Hall, the second wife, was called, and said she lived at South Moor. She had "followed" the accused about a fortnight, and married him without knowing anything about him. He told her his wife was dead.—His Lordship passed sentence of three years' penal servitude.

Chester-le-Street Entire Horse Show

On Wednesday afternoon the Chester-le-Street and District Entire Horse Show was held in a field adjoining Pictree Lane, Chester-le-Street. The weather was most unpropitious, and the attendance was not so large as might have been expected. The judges were Messrs. H. Potts, Haroour House; C. McIntyre, Gibside; and W. W. Coxon, Picktree, who were most painstaking in their awards. The following is a list of the entries:—Lord Balgray, bay, 12 years, the property of John Kerr, Red Wall, Wigton; The Scott, black, 7 years, the property of John Kerr, Red Wall, Wigton; Holyrood's Heir, brown, 3 years, the property of Robert Dawson, Dovehill, Pollokshaws; Conqueror Yet, bay, 3 years and 8 months, the property of R. Hall, Thorntree House, Seaton Burn; Prince of Clay, bay, 7 years, the property of Herbert Webster, Morton House, Fence Houses; The Factor, bay, 4 years, the property of Thomas Hall, Fatfield House, Washington, R.S.O.; Hecla, bay white hair through, rising 3 years, the property of Thomas Hall, Fatfield House, Washington, R.S.O.; Blue Blood, bay, rising 8 years, the property of Nathaniel Clark, Beamish Park, Pitt Hill, R.S.O.; King Dick, bay, 5 years, the property of W. S. Park, Hatton, Bishopton, Renfrewshire; First Lifeguard, bay 8 years, the property of Wm. R. Trotter, South Acomb, Stocksfield-on-Tyne; Tynedale Prince, bay, 4 years, the property of Wm. R. Trotter, South Acomb, Stocksfield-on-Tyne; Conestone, the property of D. Riddel, Black Hall, Paisley.

A prize of £50 was offered for the best stallion to travel the district, and after the various animals had been paraded before the judges the choice lay between "Prince of Clay," and "The Factor." These two fine animals were tested upon the road when the prize was awarded to "Prince of Clay," the property of Mr. Herbert Webster, Morton House, Fence Houses.

Local and District News.

Consett.

Wesleyan Methodist Church.—A meeting to advocate the claims of the 20th Century Million Fund will be held in the above place of worship on Thursday night next.

WAR PICTURES.—From another column it will be seen that Mr. Dickinson, of Newcastle and West Stanley, intends giving a grand cinematograph exhibition and entertainment of incidents of the war in South Africa. Mr. Dickinson has delighted audiences before and will assuredly give satisfaction and pleasure to Consettonians.

OPENING OF THE CO-OPERATIVE NEW PREMISES.—Saturday, March 10th, will be a "red-letter" day in the history of the co-operative movement in Consett. The august function will be the opening of the large and handsome block of new premises, now completed, in which the Society hope to carry on an increasing and flourishing business. The lord Bishop of Durham has graciously consented to perform the opening ceremony, and along with Sir David Dale, and Mr. H. Curry Wood, will address the evening meeting to be held in the Consett New Town Hall.

SHOP ASSISTANTS' MEETING.—A meeting of shop assistants was held on Tuesday evening last, in the small hall of the Town Hall. There being a fair attendance of assistants. The chair was occupied by Mr. Alex Kirkpatrick, of Consett. After an excellent opening address he called upon Mr. J. Turner, the S.A.U. organiser, to address the meeting, which he did in a very able manner, explaining very minutely and graphically the objects and benefits of the Shop Assistants' Union. Mr. T. C. Matthews, of Sunderland, also gave a short address. The meeting concluded with the usual vote of thanks to the speakers.

Annfield Plain.

Death of Mr G. R. Hobson.—On Tuesday evening, Mr G. R. Hobson, eldest son of Mr George Hobson, seed merchant, Harperley Hall, died at his residence at Catchgate after a long illness. Deceased, who was abot 40 years of age, leaves a widow and family to mourne their loss.

RESERVIST SOCIAL AND SUPPER.—On Wednesday evening of last week, a reservist social and supper was held at the Station Hotel, Annfield Plain, by Mr. Aitchinson, landlady of the hostelry, and Mrs. Cannon, of Consett. There was a large number of friends present. The musical programme was ably rendered by several artistes. Mrs. Burn, of Annfield Plain, sang "Queen of the Earth," and was encored, and sang "Mona." Mr. Charlton, of Consett, elocutionist, rendered "Coming on again," "Good Old Jack," and on receiving an encore gave the favourite of the times, "Soldiers of the Queen." Mr. Charlton also gave an elocutionist performance entitled "The Midnight tragedy," and recited the "Absent-minded Beggar," after which a substantial sum was collected. Mr. Jackson, of Stanley, favoured with "From the stalls an dthe boxes," while Mr. A. Wood, of Consett, sang "The diver." Mr. Charlton next rendered a parody on "The Ship I love," and for an encore gave "Good old Jeff." Mr. Johnson, of Annfield Plain, by special request sang "The Fatal Wedding." The accompanists were Mr. A. Salisbury, Consett, and Miss Aitchinson, Annfield Plain. After a thoroughly enjoyable evening had been spent, Mr. Charlton, in a few well-chosen remarks, upon the war and in praise of the admirable manner in which the evening's enjoyment had been conducted, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Aitchinson, Mrs. Cannon. Mr. Charlton singing "Rule Brittania," in which the company heartily joined. After this the company struck up and sang vigorously, "He's a jolly good fellow," and dispersed to their respective habitations.

Blackhill.

We understand there is to be a grand soiree held in the Blackhill Baptist Schoolroom on Wednesday night first. A capital programme, consisting of vocal and instrumental music is arranged. The proceedings commence at 7 p.m., with the small charge for admission of 6d. each.

THE LATE REV. FATHER FORAN.—A special service was held in the St. Mary's Catholic Church, Blackhill, on Tuesday morning, in the "Month's End" memory of the late Father Foran. A solemn requiem mass was sung by the Vicar-General of the Diocese (the Very Rev. Canon Rooney, M.R.V.G.) The Rev. Father Harris, of Esh, acted as deacon, and the Rev. Father O'Brien, of Houghton-le-Spring, as sub-deacon, the Rev. Father Magill, of the Brooms, officiating as Master of the Ceremonies. As showing the extreme respect in which the late Father was held the sacred edifice was crowded by Catholics and members of other denominations, and this despite the very inclement nature of the weather. The dullness of the atmosphere outside gave a more than usual sombre and therefore appropriate aspect to the service. The music of the mass consisted of a Gregorian Requiem sung by the choir. Mr. E. J. Sloane, Mus. Bac., presided at the organ, and played the "Dead March" in Saul. Among the priests present were the Rev. Father Berry, Walker; J. A. Wilson, Byer Moor; J. Thompson, Stanley; and Dunne, Amble (Northumberland), the Rev. Father J. Kelly, Blackhill, and others.

DEATH OF MR. H. CARTER.—By the death of Mr. Henry Carter, at the comparatively early age of 47 years, local instrumental music has lost an ardent and enthusiastic supporter. A prominent member of the local band he was one of those who had the misfortune to be thrown out of a brake in passing Grey Mare Hill some seven months ago. At that time he was badly injured on the hand, and no doubt the shock had a tendency to aggravate a lung disease which was then developing and which ultimately resulted in his death on Thursday last, at his residence 15, Ridley Street, Blackhill, where he resided for about 14 years. He had been unable to follow his employment at the Works for seven months and gradually passed away. The funeral took place on Sunday last when the local band of which he had been a prominent member attended under the leadership of Mr. M. Hobday. The Dead March was played, and also one or two of Mr. Carter's favourite selections. His remains were followed to Benfieldside cemetery by an immense concourse of friends and sympathisers thus showing the great respect and esteem in which he was held. The service was conducted by the Rev. T. J. Storey, vicar of St. Aidan's, Blackhill.

Burnopfield

SONS OF TEMPERANCE LODGE.—On Saturday evening, under the auspices of the "Rising Star" Division of the Sons of Temperance Lodge, Burnopfield, the Rev. A. T. Guttery, of Newcastle, delivered one of his popular lectures in the Burnopfield Free Church, from the subject, "The century clock, and how it points." The chair was occupied by Mr. G. Hall, of North Shields. There was a large attendance. The lecture, which was an educational treat, was delivered in a masterly manner, being a comparison of the present century with the last one, and the progress, commercial and social, which had been made during the present century. After the lecture a supper was provided in the school-room, the tables being presided over by Miss Walton and Miss Boyd, Miss Errington and Miss Turnbull, Miss Reay and Miss Simpson. The effort was in every way a high success, one of the most successful known in the history of the lodge.

Ebchester

DEATH OF MRS. MARSHALL.—We regret to have to record the death of Mrs. Marshall, wife of Dr. W. S. Marshall, of Oakfield House, Ebchester. Her demise took place on Sunday last at the early age of 38 years. She was a daughter of Mr. Allan, late manager of Hamsterley Colliery, and she belonged to Hamsterley. The interment took place in Ebchester Churchyard on Wednesday, in the presence of a large concourse of friends and relatives. The service, which was choral, was conducted by the Rev. J. H. Hodgson (curate.) The hymn "When our heads are bowed with woe" was sung by the choir, Mr. Jackson presiding at the organ. The chief mourners were Dr. Marshall and children, Mr. and Mrs. Allan, senr., Chopwell, Mr. and Mrs. Allan, junr., Newcastle, Dr. and Mrs. Macintyre, Mr. and Mrs. Livingstone, Newcastle, Mr. James Marshall, and Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Heymer. The under-bearers were Messrs Cooke, T. D. Dryden, Chaytor and Ramsay. Wreaths were sent by Dr. Marshall, Miss Surtees, Hamsterley Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Allan, senr., and family, Mr. and Mr. Allan, junr., Dr. and Mrs. Macintyre, Lizzie and Reggie Macintyre, Mr. and Mrs. Livingstone, Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Heymer, Mr. and Mrs. J. Heymer, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Chaytor, Misses Murphy, Mr. H. W. Watson, and Dr. and Mrs. Morragh. Amongst those present were the Rev. W. Cockin, Rev. Father Magill, Mr. R. J. Chaytor, Coun. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. John Whitfield, Messrs Addison, Thirlwell, Daniels, Richardson, R. Hedley, Dr. Boland, Bolton, Welch, Nixon, Handcock, and Neilson. Miss Surtees sent her private carriage. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Wilson, Westwood, and the carriages were supplied by Messrs. T. C. Rawes and Co., Consett. The coffin was of polished oak with brass mountings, and the inscription on the breast-plate was "Margaret Marshall, died Feb. 25th, 1900. Aged 38 years."

Lintz Colliery

SUCCESS OF A LOCAL GENTLEMAN.—Mr. Thomas Henry Stafford, jun., apprentice under Mr. Wm. Braidford, jun., has successfully passed the examination held in Newcastle in January last, and has been awarded a second-class certificate of competency as an under-manager of mines. 868g.

Chester-le-Street

SHROVE TUESDAY FOOTBALL.—The inhabitants of Chester-le-Street kept up the traditions of Shrove Tuesday by participating in their annual game of football. The weather this year had a deterrent effect upon the event, and only a little over one thousand people took part in the proceedings. At one o'clock Mr. Thomas Burn, the landlord of the Lambton Arms Hotel, threw the ball out, and immediately operations began. The contest raged between the "up streeters" and "down streeters," and continued with vigour until about six o'clock in the evening, when the "up streeters" were declared the winners. During the progress of the game the ball found its way into the River Cone when a youth plunged in for it, and as a strong current was running this person was in danger of being drowned, but was fortunately rescued by means of ropes. Tradesmen had their windows barricaded, whilst the inhabitants in the principal streets took similar precautions. The greatest interest was manifested in the proceedings.

Swalwell.

Sale.—On Wednesday, at the Station Hotel, Swalwell, Mr J. Crawford, auctioneer, Consett, conducted a successful sale of furniture, &c., on behalf of Mrs Walker. A silver cup and medal belonging to the late Mr Walker (who was a good rifle shot) brought £5 10s.

MISSION ROOM.—On Saturday evening a successful entertainment took place in the Swalwell Church Mission Room. The Rev. E. Rust presided over a large attendance. The chairman, in opening the proceedings, apologised for the unavoidable absence through illness of Mr. J. Wilkinson (character humorist), Mr. W. G. Greener (tenor), and Mr. E. Brough. In spite of this a very creditable programme was provided, which was well received by the audience. Mr. Geo. Thew's rich bass voice was heard to advantage in his rendition of "The Scrub," and "The Tin Gee Gee," for which he was enthusiastically encored, he then favoured with "The Twins." Miss Lily Oxley, Miss L. Harbottle, and Miss Slater were likewise well received for their vocal selections. Miss G. Harbottle won the warmest encomiums for a couple of violin solos. She was ably accompanied by Miss L. Harbottle. The Rev. E. Rust convulsed the audience by a couple of readings in the Yorkshire dialect. Mr. Heighton was the accompanist. At the close of the musical programme dancing was indulged in to the strains of a capital programme ably discoursed by Mr. and Mrs. Best.—A most enjoyable evening was spent.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.—The annual distribution of prizes in connection with the above place of worship took place on Sunday. Mr. Arnold A. Fletcher addressed the gathering on the life of the Rev. Hugh Gilmore, after which the superintendent (Mr. Wm. Barnes) on behalf of the teachers, kindly presented hymnals to those scholars who had registered the highest attendance during the year. The recipients were Misses A. Barnes, A. Fletcher, S. Charlton, E. Lawson, M. Snaith, and Masters W. Murray, G. Snaith and A. Snaith. Special prizes were also given to Misses M. Johnston, and L. Barnes. Mr. Samuel Brown presented Masters W. Murray, and J. Brown with beautiful and costly hymnals for good attendance and conduct at the services. It is customary to make an appeal to the scholars each Sunday morning to sign the temperance pledge, and on Sunday morning many enrolled themselves to be total abstainers.

Shotley Bridge

PRIMITIVE METHODIST AT HOME.—The annual "At Home" of the Shotley Bridge Primitive Methodists is to be held on Wednesday and Thursday next. It promises to be a most interesting gathering and will doubtless be largely attended.

Stanley.

SCHOOL BOARD.—The usual fortnightly meeting of the Tanfield School Board, which ought to have been held in the West Stanley Board Schools on Tuesday evening, had to be adjourned owing to the death of members. Mr. M. G. Armstrong, Mr. J. Green, Mr. B. Mason, and Father Thompson put in an appearance, together with the Clerk (Mr. W. H. Ritson). Mr. Green announced the receipt of a telegram from Mr. Wood stating that he was unable to attend through illness, and as the important part of the business could not be gone through without the presence of Mr. Wood, it was decided to adjourn the meeting, on the motion of Mr. Green, seconded by Father Thompson.

Visit of Mrs Bandman-Palmer.—This accomplished actress will fulfil a week's engagement at the Victoria Theatre, Stanley, next week. The labour of her life has been to educate and to give to others the benefits of gifts bestowed upon her. None should hesitate to attend and witness her impersonations of such characters as Hamlet, Mary Queen of Scots, and others of her well-known and highly appreciated repertoire. Mrs Bandman-Palmer not only affords entertainment, but gives to students a literary treat.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Sunday evening a painfully sudden death occurred at Shield Row. It would appear that a woman named Catherine O'Malley paid a visit to some friend at Shield Row named Narney, and whilst sitting in a chair in the house about seven o'clock on Sunday evening, she slipped off the chair and died almost immediately. The deceased, previous to that, was apparently in good health, but it is stated that she had recently been medically attended up to January 4th for bronchitis and affection of the heart. The deceased, who was a widow and seventy-one years of age, resided at Byker. The circumstances connected with her demise were forwarded to the Coroner, but it was not deemed necessary to hold an inquest.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Crowded audiences have nightly assembled at this popular playhouse to witness the production by Mr. James Rice Cassidy and his strong company of the romantic Cuban-American drama, "The God of War." The piece is admirably staged, the scentic effects are admirable, and the music sparkling. Sensational incidents—duets, etc.—abound in galore, whilst the comic element is well to the front, and all that is necessary to make up a first-class production is to be found. Mr. Cassidy takes the role of an Irish-American servant with conspicuous ability, and keeps the audience in almost continual laughter by his witty sayings, and catchy songs. He has a part which fits him like a glove. Mr. Charles Fencourt as "Carlos Armado," an adopted son of Senor Armado, proves himself an actor of no mean skill, and takes his part with ability. Mr. Howell Travies calls for the warmest encomiums for the skilful manner in which he fills the role of an adventurer. The remainder of the company are equally successful, and take their respective parts with credit. The piece is well worth a visit, and is calculated to please the most fastidious. Next week Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and Company are announced to appear, when equally packed houses may be safely anticipated.

SACRED CONCERT.—On Sunday evening the Co-operative Hall, West Stanley, was filled with a large and appreciative audience on the occasion of a grand sacred concert in aid of the Stanley Ladies' Association for the succour of our soldiers now at the war in South Africa. The Rev. D. W. James occupied the chair. The programme submitted was a one of all-round excellence, and the various items were well received. The Stanley Orchestra were in attendance, under the able leadership of Mr. J. H. Garbutt, and judging by the applause their efforts were highly appreciated. Their rendering of the march, "Patriotic Sons of the Brave," was perfect, and elicited the warmest applause. Mrs. Lindon was in fine voice, and her efforts met with the success they always deserve. Mr. Grundy was equally successful in his vocal efforts. The overture "The Bohemian Girl," by the band, was well rendered, and pleased the audience immensely. A capital duet, "Our Fathers," was charmingly rendered by Misses Fiddess and Wheatley, and called forth the warmest encomiums. Mr. Gaffney, the ever-popular vocalist, sang in his usual able manner, "Ora Pro Nobis," which came in for well-merited applause. Mr. T. Cowen gave an able exposition of his power over the trombone in "The Death of Nelson." Miss Fiddess sang "Star of Bethlehem" with telling effect. A duet, "The Convent Bell," by Miss Wheatley and Miss Fiddess, was given in first-class style, in which the sweet voices of these two young ladies were heard to great advantage. Mr Gaffney was well received for his rendition of "The Last Mile-stone," and was deservedly encored. Mr. Mark H. Lindon recited an appeal on behalf of the Transvaal War Fund, which had a good financial effect. The duties of accompanist were ably discharged by Mr. J. Moody. The entertainment was a huge success, both from a musical and financial point of view, and we understood that upwards of £10 was realised.

South Moor

CHURCH MISSIONARY WORK.—On Sunday morning, the Rev. J. R. Lucas, Missionary from North-West Canada, preached in St. George's Church, South Moor, and in the afternoon he gave an address at the young people's service. On Monday afternoon a well-attended tea was held in the Girl's School, South Moor (kindly granted for the occasion by Mr. J. Fairley), at which a large number of people sat down to tables ably presided over by Miss Dawson, Miss E. Smith, Miss Wilson, and Miss Hodgson. In the evening the Rev. J. R. Lucas delivered an interesting address upon the work of the C.M.S. in North-West Canada. Previous to the lecture some capital selections of music were rendered by the St. George's Drum and Fife Band, under the leadership of Mr. George Cull. The proceedings were presided over by the Rev. J. Havelock Collings.

Late Advertisement

WANTED, a DAY GIRL, no Washing.—Apply, Mrs. PHILLIPSON, Dipton. 936g

WANTED, DAY GIRL, about 15.—Apply, Mrs. T. H. WEBB, 17, St. Cuthbert's Avenue, Blackhill. 927g

WESLEYAN METHODIST 20th CENTURY FUND.
In Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Consett.
REV. SIMPSON JOHNSON, (of Leeds), will advocate claims of above fund, ON THURSDAY MARCH 8th, 1900.
Chair to be taken at 7.15. 725g

Satley

Social.—A social was held at Satley on Wednesday week in aid of the Earl of Durham's War Fund, when the sum of £15 2s 6d was taken. The ladies of the parish provided the refreshments gratuitously, and the committee of which will be able to hand over a good sum after paying the few expenses incidental to affairs of this kind. Considering the stormy weather and the small size of the village, it was pleasing to see outsiders turn out under such conditions to aid and lend their support in so good a cause.

Westwood

CONCERT.—A grand concert, promoted by Miss M. J. Watson, head teacher, was given by the infants attending the Westwood Board Schools on Feb. 15th, assisted by Madame Bellas-Dryden, Consett; Miss F. Watson, Blackhill; Mr. G. T. Hyden, Blackfine; Mr. Jas. W. Daniels, Westwood. The accompanist was Mr. John Thomas, Consett. Great credit is due to Miss Watson and her staff for the manner in which the children rendered their action-songs, musical drills, &c. Their neat costume called forth general comment and praise, reflecting great credit on the parents, who must have been at considerable expense to get them up so nicely. Long before the hour of starting was reached the room was packed to its utmost capacity, scores of ticket-holders being unable to secure seats. The concert was repeated the following night, when the children were assisted by Miss J. Urwin, Westwood; Mr. J. Dawson, Westwood; the accompanist being Mr. Robt. Dawson, Westwood. Mr. G. T. Hyden, with characteristic kindness, also came back and helped the second night. After paying expenses the handsome sum of £11 11s was handed over to the local secretary of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Hy. Palmer, the concert was presided over each night by Mr. J. W. Jamieson, of Medomsley.

Whickham

CRICKET CLUB SUPPER AND SOCIAL.—In connection with the Whickham Cricket Club a supper and social was held on Monday in the Whickham Parochial Schools, the same having been promoted by the "bachelors," towards the expense of the proposed re-laying of the ground. The arrangements for the event were under the guidance of Mr. F. Mowbray, the hon. secretary, who saw that everything passed off in a most satisfactory manner. At the supper about two hundred persons sat down to tables ably presided over by Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Mordue, Miss Mowbray, Miss Craig, and the Misses Atkinson. Despite the inclemency of the weather there was a large beat up of members and friends at the social. A number of songs etc. were efficiently rendered by several present. Mr. Thomas Kidd was warmly applauded for his efforts, whilst Mr. and Miss Cook, who sang a charming duet, were equally successful. Messrs Mowbray and Cook sang with great taste and feeling. Miss Lyons, of Durham, gave a capital recitation for which she was deservedly applauded. Songs were also rendered in first-class style by the Misses Burn, Coun. Taylor, Miss Robinson, Miss Cheesman, Mr. J. Atkinson, Mr. Wm. Cheesman, and Mr. J. Mowbray. Miss Lucy Easey was in fine voice, and received an encore. The Misses Cheesman, who are adepts with the piano, delighted the company with an admirably rendered pianoforte duet. Mr. G. Turnbull sang "Break the news to Mother," with telling effect, and for which he received an encore. One of the features of the evening was the distribution of a fortune cake by Miss Lyons, which caused much amusement. Mr. J. Turnbull presided over the musical part of the proceedings. Dancing was subsequently indulged in, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. Stephen Spoor, jun., officiated as M.C. The gathering proved a huge success.

DEATH OF NURSE HOLLAND

It is with sincere regret that we announce the death of Miss Mary Stewart Holland, the sad event taking place at Clarendon House, Consett, on Monday. The deceased lady had been unwell for about a week, suffering from influenza. She was attended by Dr. Bratton, Consett, but in spite of all that medical skill could do, she passed away as already stated. Nurse Holland, who has been resident in Consett for about eighteen months, has accomplished much good work, especially among the poorer classes, by whom she was much beloved. She was a daughter of the vicar of St. James', Dudley, near Birmingham. A service will be held in Christ Church, Consett, at seven o'clock this (Thursday) evening, the cortege leaving Clarendon House at 6.30 p.m. The remains will afterwards be conveyed to Dudley for interment.

STANLEY AND DISTRICT NOTES

By "ROSICRUCIAN."

TANFIELD PARISH CHURCH.

After having undergone considerable internal improvements Tanfield Parish Church is shortly to be re-opened. The work of renovation is intimated to entail an expenditure of about £200, and thanks to the efforts of the members good progress is being made to realise this sum. When the work is completed the building will be bright and attractive. With a view to further swelling the funds a social and dance was promoted by the "bachelors," and this duly took place on Friday, when a merry crowd assembled in the Board Schools, to go through the programme of dance music. Ever mindful of his flock was to be found their worthy pastor, the Rev. T. H. Archdall, who saw that everything went with a merry swing. The proceedings were expected to realise about £20.

BRAVE CRAGHEAD MINERS.

The village of Craghead can truthfully lay claim to possess amongst its inhabitants men equally as brave as any who have ever drawn their sword in defence of their country, for evidence has recently been forthcoming where certain miners—and brave fellows too—have risked their lives in order to save their fellow workers. The scene of this doughty action was the George Pit, Craghead. By reference to our news columns it will be seen that on Tuesday morning week two miners named Charles Stenlake and Thomas Robt. Robson were employed putting up a staple at the above colliery. They fired a couple of shots using gelignite as the explosive. After this they left the scene of operations and partook of their meals. Returning about an hour-and-a-half later Stenlake was overpowered by foul air and became unconscious. His companion Robson at once began to fasten a rope around the unconscious man with a view of lowering him to the gangway, but before this end could be achieved Robson likewise fainted away. Another person named Sydney Cooper came to their assistance, but one of the unfortunate men caught him in the mouth and he was knocked down the staple but fortunately managed to catch hold of a chain and thus saved himself from what must have inevitably proved death. Cooper shouted for assistance, and a couple of miners named Christopher Parnaby and Laurence Wilson bravely climbed up the staple, and by the aid of ropes succeeded in lowering Stenlake and Robson to the gangway. Parnaby managed to reach the gangway when he also became unconscious. Wilson, however, appeared little the worse for his adventure except feeling a strangeness about his legs and head, although he fell down but soon recovered. Robson appeared to be on the right road to recovery up till Friday, when he became suddenly ill and expired, death being due to heart disease accelerated by the shock and the effects of foul air. Parnaby was still unwell on Saturday and unable to be present at the inquest. From what I saw of Stenlake at the inquest he seems to have suffered much in consequence of the mishap, and he looked to be in an exceedingly weak condition. A glance at Wilson showed him to be a brave fellow, and one from whom a noble action might be expected. The men by their doughty deeds have won the admiration of their colleagues and all who have learned of their action. The management at the Colliery have signified their intention of not allowing such gallantry to go unrewarded, but will show their appreciation of the same in a tangible form. To these brave fellows every praise is due, but whilst praise is being extended to them by one hand the other offers sympathy to the sorrowing wife of the poor fellow Robson who has been hurried to his grave. Human pathos and joy seldom go unalloyed.

VENO SUBDUES INFLUENZA
IN TWENTY FOUR HOURS

It is not difficult to cure influenza, coughs, bronchitis, asthma, or pleurisy in children or adults if you take

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE.

It has saved thousands of lives even after they had been turned out of hospitals. It is a new scientific remedy endorsed and used by Medical Men, with a larger sale and a greater record than any other similar remedy in England. Ask for Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, price 1s 1½d. and 2s 9d. Avoid the dealer who offers you a substitute.

VENO'S SEAWEED TONIC

IS THE PEOPLE'S STRENGTHENER AND HEALTH GIVER.

The extraordinary cures performed by Veno's Seaweed Tonic have been a great surprise both to medical men and the public. It cures quickly without leaving evil effects. If you are troubled with indigestion, wind, biliousness, weak heart, constipation, or nervous weakness, try Veno's Seaweed Tonic and you will soon be as well as ever. It is especially good for the change of life and headaches. Price 1s 1½d and 2s 9d. Sold at the Consett Co-operative Society, Milner, Chemist, Consett; and by all Chemists and Co-operative Stores. Ask for Veno's Remedies and see you get them. Avoid the man who offers you a cheap mixture of his own.

SAD FATALITY AT TWIZELL COLLIERY.

THE DANGERS OF THE MINE.

On Thursday morning whilst Patrick Milligan was following his employment as a coal-hewer at Twizell Colliery he was fatally injured by a fall of stone. It would appear that shortly before seven o'clock a putter named Hall found the deceased lying beneath the fall of stone, life then being extinct. Assistance was soon at hand and the stone was quickly removed, but the deceased was beyond all human aid. The dead body of the deceased was afterwards removed to his residence at No Place, near Stanley. He was a single man.

THE INQUEST.

On Saturday afternoon Deputy-Coroner A. T. Shepherd held an inquest at the Red Robin Inn, No Place, to inquire into the circumstances attending the death of Patrick Milligan, 20 years of age, who was fatally injured by a fall of stone whilst following his employment as a coal-hewer at Twizell Colliery on Thursday morning. Mr. Bell, H.M. Inspector of Mines, was present, whilst Colonel Humble watched the case on behalf of the Colliery owners. Mr. Severs, manager, was also present, and produced plans of the scene of the fatality. Mr. John Nicholson was appointed foreman of the Jury.

James Milligan, a copper-worker residing at New Town, Hebburn, identified the body as that of his son, who was twenty years of age last birth-day, and resided at No 8, No Place. The deceased had worked in the mine all his life. He had been employed at Twizell Colliery for about twelve months, but previous to that he worked at Urpeth.

Joseph Hall, a putter employed at Twizell Colliery, and who resides at Black Horse Terrace, Handon Hold, stated that he was putting off the deceased on the day of the accident. It would be about 6.35 a.m. when they commenced work. The deceased went into his place before witness. Witness found the deceased lying beneath a fall of stone. Witness had not got away with the full tub then. Witness shouted to the deceased, but got no answer, and at that time it would be about twenty-five minutes to seven o'clock. He went into the place where Milligan was working, and called the Twizell Busty Seam East District. The deceased was in his place when witness got there, but under the stone. The fall had occurred before witness went in. When witness got to the deceased's place he found that the fall of stone had taken place. Witness shouted to Milligan, but got no answer, and subsequently found him under a large stone. Witness shouted to Joseph Green, the man nearest to him, and he came to witness's assistance. Witness afterwards sent the deputy into the place. Witness was present when the deceased was extricated. Milligan was got out without loss of time, but was found to be dead. Witness did not see anything of the place that morning previously. He was working there the day before, and at that time he did not see anything wrong. Witness did not see the deputy examine the place. Witness noticed the last time he was in the place that there was a middle prop, and another one close to the place. Two props were lying against the tub when witness went in. These had not been knocked down by the stone. The night previous there was a middle prop, and a plank set against the face. These were not either of the props witness saw. He did not hear the deputy give any warning about the place. Witness never heard the deceased make any complaint about the place. Witness had no idea that there was any danger at all. Witness did not see the place very much where the stone had fallen.

Joseph Green, miner, residing at 18, John Street, West Pelton, was the next witness called. The first thing that witness knew about the occurrence was when an intimation had been brought to him by a putter. Witness was working about sixty yards or so from Milligan. When witness went to the place he found that a fall had occurred, and that Milligan was buried beneath the stone. Witness assisted to get him out. He was quite dead. The stone, he thought, would be about three feet six inches long, and about a yard across, and about half-a-yard thick. The stone appeared to have come away from a place almost like what they called a "hitch leader." Witness did not take particular notice whether there was a slight running along the place. Witness had not seen the place examined in the morning. He understood that the deputy had examined the place but witness did not see him do so. The deputy did not warn witness about his place. The deceased did mention to witness the morning before about getting "this little bit slip." Deceased did not mention anything about bad stone or anything.

Mr. Humble (to witness): Was he at work the day before?—Yes, sir. He was working in the same place.

Witness, in reply to Mr. Bell, said that the deceased mentioned the day before about the "slip." There was no complaint about the stone.

Mr. Bell: Did you notice if there were any spare props?—Any amount.

The Coroner: Did you notice what number there was at the fall?—There were two lying and a plank was just at the canvas end, perhaps about a yard off the other, which had not been set.

Witness (continuing) said he did not notice how many planks had been set and knocked down. There were two props and a plank laid together.

Thomas Dodds, one of the men's representatives, here contended that the stone was larger than what had been stated by Mr. Green.

The Coroner: We will hear that probably from the deputy.

Mr. Bell (to witness): You did not measure it?—I am only guessing.

Mr. Bell: He may be wrong by two or three feet. He only assumes this.

The Coroner: All that Mr. Green said was that it was about so-and-so.

George Hall Hedley Rowell, deputy, employed at Twizell Colliery, and who resides at Twizell, next gave evidence. He deposed that he carefully examined the place where deceased was killed, by "jowelling" the roof with his axe. The place seemed to be all right and safe. It sounded as if it were sound. Witness did not set any timber. There was a middle prop and plank there. In witness's opinion it needed no more strength the way he "jowelled" the stone. He thought the place quite safe, and unnecessary to give any special instructions to the deceased. Witness did not give any instructions about the place, as he considered it quite safe. There was a sufficient quantity of timber at hand at the time. The deceased made no complaint. Witness was present after the accident occurred.

Plans were here submitted shewing the place, and size of the stone, etc.

Witness (continuing) said he found that the stone had come away from a "slip." There was just the one slip. It came away from between two slips just like a "horse-back." Witness could not detect the same before as it was unseen.

Mr. Robert Trotter (one of the men's representatives): I would like to know if you tried any of the timber up for length's part?—Yes, I tried one or two props.

Mr. Trotter: Would they meet?—Yes. They were quite right.

Witness, replying to the Coroner, said that if the deceased had wanted any timber the same was of sufficient length.

Mr. Bell (to witness): After the accident did you notice the timbers. Was there any appearance of any plank having been knocked out?—There was, sir. There was some timber lying about the face of the stone.

Mr. Bell: Did you think it had been set and knocked out by the stone?—In my opinion I think the stone had "canted" the timber.

Robert Trotter and Thomas Dodd, the men's representatives, submitted their report. Dodd refused to kiss the book, and therefore only the evidence of Trotter was taken. The report stated that they had examined the place where the accident occurred. They found everything satisfactory, and that the mishap was a pure accident.

Trotter, in reply to the Coroner, said that there was plenty of loose timber lying about.

In reply to Mr. Bell, Trotter said that the deceased would not have noticed the slip because the coal was not taken out.

The Coroner, in reviewing the evidence, said that after the deceased had got to work something unexpectedly must have happened, which brought away the stone. No blame was attached to anyone.

A verdict to the effect that deceased was accidentally killed by a fall of stone was returned.

Marley Hill Literary Institute

Annual Social

That the annual social in connection with the above Institute is a very popular affair was abundantly proved on Friday night, when, despite the flooded state of the "highways and byeways," some 75 couples waded to the Collierley Board Schools in response to invitations issued by the committee. The schools were very prettily decorated for the occasion by Mr. Dewhurst (headmaster), Mr. C. Dewhurst, and Misses Reed and Hutchinson. The musicians were Messrs W. R. Robson (piano), (Trevenna, and Simpson (violins). Messrs T. Dent, Jos. Keenan, and R. Forster, as M.C.'s, performed their duties in a very efficient manner indeed. Pianoforte and violin duets were performed at intervals by Messrs Wm. and Geo. Smith, and songs sung by Misses Leybourne and Gardner, and Mrs. Wm. Reed. Refreshments were supplied by Mr. George Reed, Ravensworth View, Gateshead. The following ladies and gentlemen were present:—

Mr W. Blyth, High Green.
Miss Barkus, Byer Moor.
Miss Bowman, Riding Barns.
Mr F. Brown, Birk Heads.
Mr W. Bell, Pennifine.
Miss Bell, Pennifine.
Mr and Mrs Brown, Marley Hill.
Mr Conway, Marley Hill.
Mr. R. Cree, Marley Hill.
Miss H. Craig, Andrew's House.
Messrs Croft, Marley Hill.
Mr E. Cullen, Marley Hill.
Miss Cullen, Marley Hill.
Miss Cawthorn, Hobson.
Mr L. Cranley, Sunniside.
Mr B. Davison, Marley Hill.
Misses Davison, Milk and Bread.
Mr and Mrs Dent, Marley Hill.
Mr and Mrs Dewhurst, Marley Hill.
Mr Chas. Dewhurst, Marley Hill.
Misses Dewhurst, Marley Hill.
Misses Dillon, Sunniside.
Messrs Dillon, Sunniside.
Mr M. Dunn, Sandygate.
Mr R. Forster, Fell Side.
Miss Gardner, High Row.
Mr L Gardner, High Row.
Mr and Mrs Grey, Marley Hill.
Mr W. Morton, Sunniside.
Mrs Cranney, Marley Hill.
Miss Grant, Marley Hill.
Mr T. Grant, Marley Hill.
Mr R. Green, Axwell Farm.
Mr J. Grey, Sunniside.
Miss Hearne, Streetgate.
Miss Hamilton, Byer Moor.
Miss B. Hutchinson, Marley Hill.
Miss Jackson, Stanley.
Miss Hall, Byer Moor.
Miss Harrison, Byer Moor.
Misses Hodgson, Byer Moor.
Miss Harrison, Andrew's House.
Miss Irwin, The Valley.
Miss Jewitt, Winlaton Mill.
Misses Keenan, Marley Hill.
Mr and Mrs Keenan, Byer Moor.
Mr W. Lovell, Burnopfield.
Messrs Lanson, Whickham Road.
Mr Hy. Layton, Fell Side.
Mr and Misses McNullity.
Misses McHugh, Seaham Harbour.
Mr Jno. Morrison, Marley Hill.
Mr Murphy, Marley Hill.
Miss Murphy, Marley Hill.
Mr McGahon, Marley Hill.
Mr and Mrs Middleton, Andrew's House.
Mr McDermott, Marley Hill.
Misses McDermott, Marley Hill.
Mr N. Nicholson, Andrew's House.
Miss Nicholson, Andrew's House.
Mr E. O'Brien, Sunniside.
Miss Patterson, Marley Hill.
Mr R. Patterson, Office Cottage.
Miss Patterson, Office Cottage.
Mrs. Patterson, Marley Hill.
Mr Jos. Prinn, Marley Hill.
Mr Bailey, Crookgate.
Miss Hudspith, Byer Moor.
Mrs and Miss Robson, Marley Hill.
Mr Robson, Marley Hill.
Mr T. Robson, jun., Andrew's House.
Mrs and Miss Robson, Andrew's House.
Mrs W. Reed, Gateshead.
Miss A. Reed, Marley Hill.
Miss Robinson, Marley Hill.
Mr Jno. Robinson, Marley Hill.
Mr O. Rodger, Marley Hill.
Mr J. W. Richardson, Loosing Hill.
Mr Jas. Randall, The Valley.
Miss Ina Pitt, Low Fell.
Miss Dryden, Shipcote Farm.
Mr and Mrs Jno. Smith, High Marley Hill.
Miss Smith, High Marley Hill.
Messrs Smith, High Marley Hill.
Miss Stafford, Garesfield.
Mr and Mrs Storey, The Valley.
Miss Shorten, Sunniside.
Miss Stark, Whickham.
Mr Triglawn, The Valley.
Miss Tully, Pennifine.
Miss Wilkinson, High Marley Hill.
Mr Jno. Whitfield, Loosing Hill.
Mr and Mrs Warnaby, Marley Hill.
Mr Warnaby, jun., Marley Hill.
Miss Watson, Andrew's House
Mr R. Wright, Burnopfield.
Miss White, Burnopfield.
Mr and Miss Walton, Burnopfield.
Mr and Mrs Jno. Young, The Valley.
Mr Jos. Young, jun., The Valley.
Miss Young, The Valley.
Mr A. Raynor, The Valley.

Weardale District Council

Mr. J. W. Roddam presided over Friday's meeting. With reference to a part of the report of Dr. Easton, Medical Officer, the Council decided that cases of consumption should be in future treated as infectious cases, and notified by the medical practitioners, and the premises thoroughly disinfected under the superintendence of the Inspector.—The death-rate for the past year for the whole rural district was 13.22 per 1,000, as against 15.4 in 1898.—A letter was read from Messrs Pease and Partners, stating that the shot firing at Frosterley was receiving careful attention.—A letter was received from Mr. J. J. Devey, solicitor, Wolsingham, stating that Cross House, Wolsingham, had been recently purchased for £500 by Mr. Bainbridge, who had handed the property over to a committee of management, who had raised £400, and were willing to hand the house over to the Council for £100, on the express stipulation that the house was removed within a reasonable time, and the road widened. The Council decided to apply to the County Council in reference to the matter, and to approach the local County Councillors and Aldermen. The following letter from Mr. Geo. S. Gibb, general manager of the North-Eastern Railway, under date February 19th, was read:—Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your further letter of the 15th instant, with reference to the train service in the Weardale district. I regret that I am not yet in a position to give you a reply on the subject, but I hope to be able to do so shortly.—Yours faithfully, Geo. S. Gibb.

J. T. Castle, Front St., Stanley, is not excelled in the district for Wedding Presents in Sterling and Electro-Silver.

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Use your Judgment and insist on having KYTE BRAND GOODS. The Standard of Quality.

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ST. MARTIN'S COURT, NEWGATE STREET, NEWCASTLE

WHICKHAM RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

THE IMPENDING ELECTION.

ANOTHER "WHITE ELEPHANT."

A meeting of the Whickham Ratepayers' Association was held on Wednesday evening week in the Parochial Schools, Whickham, Mr Charles Slater (chairman) presiding, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the forthcoming Whickham School Board triennial election.

The Chairman, in opening, said before they proceeded with the business he would like to read a letter which the secretary had received from Coun. Rutherford. The communication was as follows:—"I have been in bed since Monday night suffering from a severe cold, and cannot attend your meeting to-night."—R. Rutherford. He thought they would all join with him in expressing sympathy, and hoped that the illness would only be temporary, and that Mr Rutherford would soon again be restored to health. (Hear, hear.) The meeting had been called for a special purpose, and he hoped they would keep to the business before them, and not wander into any side-issues, at any rate until they got through the main business. As they were all aware the time was approaching when they should again have to elect representatives to serve upon the School Board for the next three years. He had no doubt but that they would agree in this: that there had been a feeling that the time had come when they should have some fresh blood, and a change of policy with regard to their School Board. Some of them had not been satisfied with the manner in which the School Board work had been carried on. They did not wish—and he hoped this would be kept strictly before them—to attack any individual—(hear, hear)—but they meant to attack the policy which had been carried on by the Whickham School Board. It was altogether unfair, he thought, that in municipal contests of any description that personal matters should creep in. (Hear, hear.) They wished to fight for principles; they did not wish to fight men. (Hear, hear.) Some of them—no doubt a great majority of them—had not been satisfied with the conduct of their School Board. All of them were aware perfectly well that in regard to the Marley Hill schools the Whickham ratepayers had been taxed with the children of Lamesley—at any rate part of the children of Lamesley, who had been educated at these schools, and they looked upon the matter in this way: If the School Board have been lax in their business tactics in this question, they (the ratepayers) naturally thought that they would have been lax in respect to other questions—that was the broad way he thought to look at it. If in one instance they had been able to show—and it had been proved to them clearly—that the School Board had altogether neglected to do their duty—to put it in a simple way—was it not natural that some of the ratepayers should come to the conclusion that if the Board had done this in one particular case, they would have done it in other cases? Therefore they thought the time had come when they should put themselves to the front and elect a set of gentlemen whose actions on that Board would be more in harmony with the wishes of the majority of the ratepayers in the parish of Whickham. (Applause.) He for one thought that if a man took up a public duty that he ought to fulfil that public duty, just the same as if he were discharging his own private duty, because if a man was not willing, and able to undertake the work which that public duty entailed upon him, then he maintained that such an individual had no right to come forward and pose for that public duty. (Hear, hear.) With every public duty there were public responsibilities—they could not shirk them no matter in what line they might enter upon, as they always entailed certain responsibilities. If they were not willing to accept those responsibilities, then they ought not to be willing to come forward to get the honour of the position—that was the feeling he had. He therefore hoped that they would select—if they intended to select—gentlemen who would be willing to accept the responsibilities which their position entailed, and would see that the work of the School Board was properly carried out, and that the Education Act was put into force with the greatest benefit that could possibly be obtained, and at the same time with the least cost to the ratepayers. (Hear, hear.) He was not one of those who would split a penny for the sake of every halfpenny—he did not believe in that policy. He thought that the best work ought to be paid for, and in proportion to its quality—a cheap article was a poor thing at any price. Without going any further into details he might state that a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association was held on the previous Wednesday in regard to the impending election. Like all bodies there was a difference of opinion, which he thought was a healthy sign, because if they got into the same groove and accepted the first proposition which might be made, then he thought it would be time that the Ratepayers' Association was dissolved. They not only got good out of friction, but they had an exchange of opinions. There was no difference of opinion whatever as to running candidates for the election—not the slightest difference. They all agreed that that should be so, but the difference of opinion was in regard to the number that should be supported. Two motions were put before the meeting. One of the motions was to run four candidates by the Association, whilst the other was that seven candidates should be supported. In dealing with the last number they did not want it to be said, "Oh! yes. The Whickham Ratepayers' Association have turned into a caucus; they are going to dominate." They were anxious to have the question ventilated amongst themselves, so as to see what result can be obtained. (Applause.)

Mr. Hy. Richardson moved, "That we do run candidates, without specifying the number."

Mr. T. Mowbray seconded.

Mr. Joseph Harbottle, Swalwell, said he took up a different position at the executive meeting on Wednesday night, to that of Mr. Richardson. He thought he was expressing the opinion of most of those who were present when he said that the meeting then was an unsatisfactory one. They did not seem as if they could come to any conclusion, and he had therefore carefully considered the matter out during the week as to the best course they might pursue. Of course, he was only one man, and his opinion was only the opinion of an individual, but he would, if required, give a reason for any statement he might make as regards the opinion he held. As the chairman had already told them they were entering upon an election—a very important election—and this was the first time that they had had a real try. The last election was certainly a real try, but the approaching one was a different matter altogether. At the last by-election they had two men with two distinct parties—the Council and the Association, which agreed, as it were, to go and fight the matter out. In this case they had got—if they possibly could—to place a majority of members upon the Board in order that they might see that the wishes of the Association were carried out. It had already been mentioned about the Lamesley question as to how the matter had been carried out by their friend, Mr. Swinburn, and which he was not going to deal with, as Mr. Swinburn would himself be able to tell them about it. There was one thing which had not been mentioned that evening, although he had mentioned the matter before. Three years ago when Mr. Swinburn got upon the Board he was made acquainted with the fact that the Swalwell people intended to build a new school, which was to cost £1,250. This school had to be built on the opposite side of the road to the existing schools. Well to-day—three years afterwards, and there had been over one hundred houses erected at Swalwell—they had accommodation at Swalwell for an extra seventy children. It therefore behoved them to get men who would not do things with such rashness, but men who knew their business and would carry the same out with the same persistency as Mr. Swinburn. Had it not been through the persistency of Mr. Swinburn there would have been a school built at Swalwell, and for what purpose?—another "white elephant." (Laughter.) They would have then been in a worse position than they had been placed in with regard to the educating of the children at Marley Hill from Lamesley parish. It would have simply been a "white elephant." You (looking to the Chairman) mentioned about "selecting" or "not selecting." He would go in for the "not selecting." He came there to select neither number nor candidates whatever. He left the matter open to those gentlemen who were willing and anxious to come forward. If they took the steps as proposed by Mr. Richardson, they were going to debar those gentlemen from coming forward. He held that let those come forward who would; let any number of men come forward. There was one thing he would like to bring before the meeting in regard to the schools so far as he himself was concerned. He would not support any gentleman—he did not care who he was—who pledged himself to have local management in the schools. (Hear, hear.) Local management had been the perfect ruin of the Whickham School Board. (A voice: "A fact.") The Board had been at the dictation of the local management. ("Shame.") They ought to do away with local management.

Mr. Gass asked if Mr. Harbottle meant by his remarks that the Association were to wait until the whole of the candidates came forward, and afterwards make a selection?

Mr. Harbottle replied that that was a proper interpretation.

Mr. Richardson thought that Mr. Harbottle's suggestion was better than the discussion they arrived at at the committee meeting—mentioning the numbers and also names of the proposed candidates. They could still pass the motion, "to run candidates," but defer the same until they knew who was "in the field." From the position which the Association had taken up in the past he thought it was incumbent upon them to give their official support to some candidates, and discountenance other candidates. (Hear, hear.) If the motion was passed they could still follow out the suggestion of Mr. Harbottle in making their selection afterwards. He did not propose withdrawing his motion.

Mr. R. T. Swinburn, in response to an appeal to say a few words, remarked that he did not intend to say anything that evening. He had been intimated that they intended to introduce some new blood into their local Council chambers. Of course, he could only say that he was a candidate, and intended to compete as strongly as it lay in his power. He would endeavour in every possible way to assist the aims and objects of the Association. In regard to Mr. Harbottle's statement with reference to the proposed erection of a new school at Swalwell, he would like to say that he did not want to take more credit than was due to him. A letter was submitted at a meeting offering to sell a site of land to the Whickham School Board, upon which to erect the proposed school, and at that meeting, if he did not move a motion or second one, he certainly held that negotiations should go no further, and that the matter be allowed to drop, and from that day no further suggestions had been made in regard to the matter; in fact, it would have been madness to do so, because at the end of December last year they had a surplus accommodation at that school for over seventy children. What he did hope was that in this election a choice would be made of men who would have a careful eye upon the expenditure of public money; men who would see—as the chairman said—that the ratepayers' money was expended as if it were their own. In speaking of the Swalwell schools, a similar question arose at Dunston. In December, or the beginning of January, when the Board were practically retiring from their position, a suggestion was handed in, not from the Education Department, but from the Dunston school managers—(a voice: "Managers again")—that the school was overcrowded, and that it would be absolutely necessary to at once enlarge the school. They had a census taken at Dunston, and the census proved that at that time there was a surplus accommodation of something over 200. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) They must be careful that the same mistake was not made—as might have been made at Swalwell—which had been made at Marley Hill and Dunston. The suggestion was accompanied by a proposal that the Board would require to purchase some land at Dunston at once, in fact within a week or two, in front of the existing schools. In place of the thirty-feet roadway they would have to buy, they had to give a forty-feet roadway, or to buy some land from a syndicate down there. The land was not freehold, but subject to a yearly rental charge of something like £13 10s per acre. After the Board considered the matter wiser counsel prevailed, and the feeling then was that if the enlargements of these schools could not be carried out without the purchase of this land, then the scheme would drop. They could draw their own conclusions. That was the sort of thing in which the public purse could be dipped into. Mr. Swinburn then went on to speak of the successful issue which the Lamesley question had been brought to, and concluded by assuring them that if elected he would do everything in the future, as he had done in the past, to further their interests. (Applause.)

Mr. Richardson, in reply to a question upon his motion, said he would alter the same to read, "That we support candidates for the forthcoming election."

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried.

Mr. Richardson, after further discussion, moved: "That we choose three men, and leave the other four over either till after the motion is dispensed with, or till the nominations are sent in."

Mr. M. Hopper seconded the motion, which was carried.

After further discussion it was decided to support the following gentlemen:—Mr. R. T. Swinburn, Whickham; Mr. R. Rutherford, Whickham; Mr. Edward Taylor, Whickham; Mr. J. Bell, Sunniside; and Mr. Thomas H. Gass, Dunston.

It was resolved to hold a public meeting in the Whickham Parochial Schools, the same to be addressed by these candidates.

Home and Foreign Bible Society

Meeting at Shotley Bridge

On Thursday night last the annual meeting of the Shotley Bridge branch of the Home and Foreign Bible Society was held in the Temperance Hall under the presidency of Mr. R. G. Barclay, J.P.

The Chairman said the Bible Society was established in the year 1804. A branch was started at Newcastle in 1809, at Hexham in 1812, and at Shotley Bridge a meeting was held in 1813; so that they could claim that the Bible Society was one of the oldest in Shotley Bridge. He hoped they would be encouraged to carry on the work so that they might complete a hundred years. (Hear, hear.) If they did that then those who came after could follow it up. He thought they would be interested in the age of the branch and he hoped they would all help so that the interest might be increased. Just now when there were so many claims on the public generosity it was extremely difficult to collect what had been their usual contributions both there and in other parts of the country. He was able to announce, however, that he had the sum of £5 7s 1d to hand over. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. G. Jones, B.A., Newcastle, said the Society was very largely indebted to the chairman and the members of his family, for their excellent work in connection with the Shotley Bridge branch of the Bible Society. They ought to feel gratified to Miss Barclay for collecting upwards of £3 in spite of the claims being made in the district for other causes. That would be the 87th annual meeting of the Shotley Bridge branch of the institution. He could only reiterate the Chairman's wish that they might assemble to celebrate their centenary. It was during the wars on the continent in which Napoleon was engaged that it was decided that something should be done to bring home the message of the Gospel of peace. He went on to say that never a minute of the clock must go by unless the Society printed not less than ten copies of the scriptures. If they failed to do so then they would fall in arrears. Then they had to be printed in 375 languages. They would therefore see the enormous work that was carried on. He also mentioned that 100,000 copies of the Gospel of St. John had gone with the troops to South Africa. It was desired to give the men each a Bible, but the authorities wished the men to have as little to carry as possible, and the one Gospel was therefore printed and given to the men as they boarded the steamers. When war broke out between China and Japan they gave out the Gospel of St. John in Chinese to the one nation, and Japanese to the other. He then proceeded to give an interesting account of how the Esquimaux got their scriptures, and at the close a collection was taken in aid of the funds of the Society.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected COCOA, Mr. Epps has provided for our breakfast and supper a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—"Civil Service Gazette."—Made simply with boiling water or milk.—Sold only in packets and pound tins, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., LTD., Homoeopathic Chemists, London." 896f.

DON'T DIE IN THE HOUSE.—"Rough on Rats," clears out rats, mice, beetles, roaches, bed bugs, fleas, ants, moles, chipmunks, gophers. 6d and 1s. boxes at Chemists.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN AUSTRALIA IN THE EARLY DAYS

(By J. W. Fawcett.)

SPANISH V. ENGLISH MODES OF COLONIZATION.

In the year 1793 two Spanish discovery ships, the "Discobierta" (Discovery) and "Atrevida" (Intrepid), under the command of the Marquis de Malaspina, called in at Port Jackson. Whilst visiting the settlement on the shores of Sydney Cove, the Priest on board the Admiral's vessel, expressed his astonishment at the circumstance of there being no place of worship in the Colony, and the settlement, then over five years of age, and observed that had the country been colonized by his (the Spanish) nation, there would have been a House of God erected before they had reared one for man. There is, however, it is to be deeply regretted, a vast difference between English and Spanish modes of Colonisation as far as religious matters are concerned.

THE FIRST CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA.

I have already noticed that Governor Phillip had intended to erect a place of worship, but was hindered in his intentions owing to the pressure of other works. The Government were loth to build one, for it was a long while, after the formation of the settlement, before one was erected. The weather greatly interfered with Mr. Johnson's out door services, and he had indeed to struggle against difficulties of no ordinary character. He appealed to the officials for some building, if only a simple defence from the weather, to preach in. But all his appeals were in vain. The character of the people at that time was such that they had no desire to assist the Chaplain. Those in authority were indifferent, and religion, as we have seen, had no part in the inauguration of the new settlement, nor were its claims recognized till much earnest and faithful work had been accomplished.

Mr. Johnson, writing to some of his friends in the Old Country, says:—"I have to perform Divine Service at three different places, viz:—at Sydney, Parramatta, and a settlement three miles to the west of Parramatta (i.e. Toongabbie), and at never a one of these three places is there at this day any place of worship erected nor as much as talked of." At last after nearly five years preaching in the open air, and subject to all the disadvantages and interruptions consequent upon such an arrangement in a changeable climate, the worthy chaplain, seeing that the Government had no near prospect of building him a place of worship, made up his mind to have a church, and if the Government wouldn't build it, he would try and build it himself.

Assisted by hired labour, he set to work, and cut a lot of rough timber for posts, and then started in the erection of his church. The design was cruciform. The nave measured seventy three feet in length by fifteen feet in breadth, and the transports were forty feet by fifteen feet. It was constructed of strong posts, with wattle and dab walls; wattle boughs being twisted in and out to form a sort of lattice work, and the interstices were filled up with mud thrown in or dabbed on. The rafters were made of the cabbage palm, while the roof was covered with thatch, and slabs of rough bark. It was capable of seating five hundred persons, and the total cost of its construction was £67 12s 11d, of which £7 14s 11d was paid in flour, pork, spirits, and tobacco, and the remainder in dollars, which, after many vexatious delays, was eventually refunded by the Government. The site of the building was on a rise to the eastward of the head of Sydney Cove, close to what is now known as Macquarie Place, near to what is now the corner of Hunter and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney. The fact of his having erected this edifice by voluntary effort, at such a period, and amidst such obstacles, goes far to prove the piety and zeal of our first Australian Chaplain, whose object in so doing, was, as he declared, "to induce these unhappy people whose reformation I do so ardently wish to see, to attend more willingly and consequently more regularly upon the solemn and public worship of God."

It was begun in June, 1793, and was opened for divine service on the 25th of August following. It was known as the "Wattle and Dab Church," and poor as the building was it served for five years, the double purpose of Church and School. Now that a church had been erected there was no excuse for not attending divine service, and orders were issued by the Government for all persons to attend under penalty of having their weekly rations reduced for absence. Church going then became a matter of compulsion, instead of a voluntary act. On the 1st of October, 1798, the church was burnt to the ground. There can be no doubt but that this was wilfully done by some of the convicts, not from any ill-feeling towards the chaplain, yet in consequence of the order enforcing attendance at public worship. Captain Hunter, the Governor, who had succeeded Captain Phillip was enraged at such an action, and declared that in future Sunday should be spent by the labouring gangs in erecting another church. This was not, however, carried into effect, for a store, in process of construction, was rapidly completed and given by the Government to Mr. Johnson to officiate in for a time.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHAPLAINS.

In July, 1789, through the medium of the enthusiastic and benevolent William Wilberforce an assistant chaplain named Rev. John Crowther, was appointed. He sailed for New South Wales soon afterwards in H.M.S. Guardian. The vessel struck an iceberg on December 23rd, south-east of the Cape of Good Hope, and was so greatly damaged that she was abandoned at Table Bay. Mr. Crowther returned to England, and did not again set sail for New South Wales. In the same year a regiment of volunteers for particular work in New South Wales was raised in England, and amongst its officers was a chaplain named the Rev. James Bain. He was appointed towards the close of the year, and arrived in New South Wales in 1790. Very little is known of him. He took no part in civil affairs, but strictly confined his duties to the army. He went to Norfolk Island in 1792, and on a trip to New Zealand in 1793, returning to England again in 1794. Although the New South Wales Corps, as the regiment was called, was subsequently greatly increased in numbers, no successor was appointed.

ARRIVAL OF AN ASSISTANT CHAPLAIN.

By the year 1794 the population of the settlements in New South Wales had increased to over 4,000 souls, and Mr. Johnson, who was doing what he faithfully and quietly could, began to find himself unable to attend to the spiritual wants of such a number. His anxieties, however, were greatly relieved by the arrival of the Rev. Samuel Marsden, on the 10th of March, 1794. He gladly welcomed his fellow worker and they divided the labours of the ministry in the settlements between them, Mr. Johnson remaining in Sydney, and Mr. Marsden taking up his residence at Parramatta, fourteen miles distant. These two early clergymen, like Moses and Aaron of old, worked cordially together, and rejoiced in a division of labour—what was lacking in the one was supplied by the other.

Of the Reverend Samuel Marsden, who, for upwards of forty-four years was a chaplain in New South Waels, during which time he was one of the Champions of the Church of England in Australia, and who was also the Apostle of New Zealand, I could say much, but to-night I must give you only a brief resume of his career.

He was the son of a Yorkshire tradesman, and was born at Farsley, near Leeds, in 1764. He was educated first in the village school, and afterwards in Hull Grammar School. Being a boy of great ability and exemplary character he was adopted by the Elland Society, and placed at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he studied with assiduity for the ministry. Before his University education was completed he was appointed a chaplain to the settlement in New South Wales. He was soon afterwards ordained, and, having married, set off to his distant sphere of labour—full of courage and faith—by the first vessel—a convict transport—and arrived at Port Jackson in March, 1794. For six years he and Mr. Johnson laboured together, until, in 1800, the health of the latter having given way, he returned to England, leaving Mr. Marsden with a heavy charge as Chaplain-in-Chief. From that date he hid not his light under a bushel, but commenced the work of a revolution in the religious history of the country. Considering the state of the Colony at the time, and the scattered places under his care, Samuel Marsden had a most arduous task to perform, which needed an extraordinary amount of mental and physical endurance. As far as can be judged from the public records, he discharged his duties conscientiously and with great benefit to the community in which his lot was cast; but the office of magistrate, which was forced upon him by the Government, frequently placed him a position somewhat inconsistent with his sacred profession.

In February, 1807, Mr. Marsden visited England with a view of bringing before the Home Government the civil and ecclesiastical condition of the Colony, and also with the twofold purpose of advocating a Christian Mission to the neighbouring islands of New Zealand, and of endeavouring to procure assistance in the work of the ministry in New South Wales. He was absent from the Colony for two years, during which time his parish at Botany Bay was left in charge of the Rev. Henry Fulton, whilst he himself, laboured hard in England for the benefit of the Colony. He used his influence with the Government of this day to effect several moral and social reforms in New South Wales, and also directed the attention of the religious world to the evangelisation of New Zealand and the Society Islands. He sought out and secured the services of two clergymen, whose name afterwards became household words in New South Wales—the Revs. William Cowper and Robert Cartwright, and he also secured the services of several schoolmasters for the Colony, as well as large and liberal donations of books for a library. He also introduced Australian wool for the first time to the British public, taking it with him in barrels. He had it manufactured into cloth, of which he had a suit of clothes made, as had also the King, George III., with whom Mr. Marsden had an audience. That monarch, on Marsden's return in 1809, presented him with some Spanish merino sheep from his own flock, and these sheep became the progenitors of the extensive flocks of fine woolled sheep in Australia.

BRIEF ANNALS OF SOUTH AFRICA

1877. On receipt of his instructions, Sir T. Shepstone started for Pretoria, which town he entered on January 22nd, having travelled from the frontier with an escort consisting only of 25 Natal Mounted Policemen. On his way he was received with gladness, and at Pretoria his entry was made the occasion of general rejoicings.

1877. On the afternoon of January 26th Sir Theophilus had an interview with the Boer Executive and explained to them the object of his mission, which, in view of the disturbed state of the country—"was to confer with the government and people of the Transvaal, with the object of initiating a new state of things, which would guarantee security for the future."

1877. Mr. Burgers, the President of the South African Republic, in an eloquent address to the Volksraad (February) pointed out the peril in which the state stood. He declared that general anarchy prevailed in the Republic; that the finances were in a ruinous state, through the people refusing to pay the taxes; that the weakened and disorganised state of the Republic was obviously a danger to every civilized community in South Africa; and as it was hopeless to oppose by force a power like Great Britain, he advised the Republic to submit under protest, and appeal to the sense and justice of the public both of Europe and America.

1877. Sir Bartle-Frere appointed Governor and High Commissioner of Cape Colony in order to bring about a foundation of the South African Colonies.

1877. After nearly three months watching the undignified brawls of the volksraad, the impotent appeals of President Burgers to his people, the restlessness of the growing urban population, Sir Theophilus, who was convinced that the only cure for the manifold ills from which the state suffered was annexation, then took upon himself the responsibility of a step which he held was necessary to protect the Boers against the effects of their own aggression. After a consultation with the leading citizens he issued a proclamation on April 12th, annexing the territories provisionally to Great Britain, and taking upon himself in the interim the duties of administration of the Government. The proclamation declared the territory British, but continued the existing courts. The Transvaal was to remain a separate Government, and its subjects to enjoy reasonable legislative privileges. The use of the Dutch language was to be optional, existing laws were to remain in force until altered by competent legislative authority. The government officers able and willing to serve, were to be continued in office "bona fide" concessions and contracts of state were to be honourably maintained, and the payment of the State debt to be provided for.

1877. The blind and selfish policy of the Boers, which sought to keep down the natives by slavery and other oppressions, so embittered their feelings towards their masters that, on the occasion of the hoisting of the British Flag at Pretoria on the annexation of the territory, the native chiefs, from far and near either attended themselves, or sent their representatives to welcome the raising of the flag of justice and freedom.

1877. President Burgers resigned his office as a protest against the annexation, and published a personal vindication, in which he absolved himself from all blame for the result, bitterly lamenting the factious strife and demoralization that had led to it, and denouncing especially the conduct of Mr. Kruger, then a number of the Executive Council, in his reckless intrigues against him and all who barred his way to power. Says President Burgers:—"Fruitlessly did I press upon him (Kruger) by showing how our danger lay in our want of unity, how the British Government would have cause to step in on the ground of humanity to avert a civil war, to prevent a general rising of the natives, &c. He would not hear of retiring." He then went on to say:—"Had I not endured in silence, had I not borne patiently all the vile accusations, but out of selfishness or fear told the plain truth of the case, the Transvaal would never have had the consideration it has now received from Great Britain. However unjust the annexation was my self-justification would have exposed the Boers to such an extent, and the state of the country in such a way, that it would have deprived both of the sympathy of the world and the consideration of English politicians."

He, however, enjoined all concerned to abstain from hostile action, as likely to endanger the success of the Mission which was deputed to proceed to England to lay the Transvaal's case before the Queen. Mr. Burgers' protest was entered merely to save appearances, says Shepstone in the official despatches, and he goes on to tell how he had arranged with President Burgers all the details of the annexation ceremony.

1877. There seems to have been other reasons for annexation than the disordered state of the country and the threatened native rising. Sir Bartle Frere, the Governor of Cape Town, who has very generally been blamed for the act, but who had absolutely no part in it, as he did not arrive at Cape Town until just twelve days before the annexation of this country, in a letter, dated 22nd April 1881, to Mr. J. M. Maclean, the Lieutenant-Governor of Natal, writes thus of the proclamation of Sir T. Shepstone:—"There was another reason for Shepstone's act of annexation. Burgers had sought alliances with Continental Powers—Germans, Belgians, and Portuguese—and Shepstone had no reason to doubt that if England declined to interfere, Germany would be induced to undertake the protection of the Transvaal, which would have added infinitely to our troubles in South Africa."

1877 The annexation of the Transvaal by the British caused much excitement and controversy, and the Transvaal question became a party one at home. The "Times," the leading English newspaper, described the proclamation as a startling invasion upon the principles and methods approved by English Statesmen of all parties for the last five and twenty years. The Liberals disapproved of the general foreign and colonial policy of Lord Beaconsfield's Ministry and "the forcible annexation of a free republic" made a most telling point in the indictment, and was considered a monstrous blot upon the honour of the then Government.

As for the Boers themselves the majority of them were prepared to acquiesce, and to accept readily the annexation of their country and the imperial authority, as the only defence against their troubles. The natives, as already stated, were glad to come under British Rule. All the officers of the late Republic including every member of the Executive Council,—except Mr. Paul Kruger—signified in writing their willingness to serve under the new form of Government.

1877. The first question that met the new Administration in the Transvaal was a threatened Zulu invasion. Cetewayo had mustered his impis with the intention of fighting the Boers over a boundary dispute, and had determined on this occasion to wipe the Boers out of existence. Mr. Shepstone immediately after annexation despatched a messenger to Cetewayo informing him that the Transvaal was now British territory, and that the Imperial Government would decide the dispute. Cetewayo replied as follows:—"Tell Somtseu (the Zulu name of Sir T. Shepstone) that it is well he sent when he did, for if you had been a week later, I should have made a clean sweep from the Donkensberg to the Buffalo. And now this land belongs to the Queen, let the boundary be fixed, that I may know where I may not go." A little later he wrote the following letter to Shepstone. "I thank my father Sompseu for his message, I am glad that he has sent it, because the Dutch have tired me out, and I intended to fight them once and once only, and to drive them over the Vaal. You see my impis are gathered. It was to fight the Dutch I called them together, now I will send them back to their homes. The Boers were constantly moving their frontier into my country. I had therefore determined to end it once for all."

The Zulus, however, were greatly embittered at the action of Sir T. Shepstone, and the impis broke up and left with strong feelings of disappointment and rage against the British for preventing them making their long-intended attack on the Boers, and departed to their homes vowing reprisals on them, stating that they had no right to the country north of the Tugela, and that they would drive them out of it.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

CHESTER-LE-STREET DIVISION CONSERVATIVE UNIONISTS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the council of this association was held in the Town Hall, Gateshead, Mr. C. R. Barratt, of Whitehill Hall, presiding.—Mr. Lyons, the hon. secretary (pro tem.), presented a report of the work during the past four months. There had been 20 meetings held, 16 of which had been addressed by Mr. J. H. Burrell, who had acted as secretary (pro tem.). Much interest had been shown in these gatherings, and large numbers had attended.—The chairman reported the result of his appeal for financial assistance. There had been a good response, and amongst the subscriptions promised was one from Sir Lindsay Wood.—Mr. R. C. Clephan having resigned his position as hon. treasurer, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded him for his services, and Mr. Ayling (Chester-le-Street) was appointed as his successor.—It was proposed to form a new set of rules, and gentlemen were appointed to draft some and to report as early as possible to the council.—It having been reported to the chairman that Mr. J. Cuthbertson, of Chester-le-Street, a member of the council, had gone to the front, a resolution was passed wishing him God-speed and a safe return.—Votes of thanks to the chairman ended the proceedings.

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2s 3d	3s 0d	12s 0d	6s 0d
2s 6d	3s 3d	14s 0d	7s 0d
2s 9d	3s 6d	16s 0d	8s 0d
3s 0d	3s 9d	17s 0d	8s 6d
3s 6d	4s 0d	18s 0d	9s 0d
	4s 6d	19s 0d	9s 6d
	5s 0d	21s 0d	10s 6d

GIN,

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.	Per ½ Gal.
2s 3d	3s 0	13s 0d	6s 6d
2s 6d	4s 0	16s 0d	8s 0d

HOLLANDS:—3s per Bottle.

RUM.

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.
2s 3d	3s 0d	12s 0d
2s 6d	3s 6d	14s 0d
3s 0d	4s 0d	16s 0d

BRANDY.

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.	Per ½ Gal.
3s 0d	3s 9d	16s 0d	8s 0d
3s 3d	4s 6d	18s 0d	9s 0d
3s 6d	5s 0d	20s 0d	10s 0d
4s 0d	6s 0d	24s 0d	12s 0d
5s 0d			
6s 0d			

SHERRY.

Per ½ Gal.	Per Bot.
6s 0d	1s 6d
7s 0d	2s 0d
8s 0d	2s 6d
	3s 0d

GINGER CORDIALS, &c., 1s 3d per Bottle. BLACK BEER, 1s 3d.

GOOD PORT WINE, 1s 6d, 2s, 3s, 4s, and 5s per Bottle.

FINE ALES (OCTOBER BREWINGS), IN BOTTLES.

PALE ALE ... 1s 6d per doz. Gills; Reputed Pints, 2s
MILD ALE ... " " " "
STOUT ... " " " "
BASS'S ALE ... 1s 9d per doz. Gills; 9-gal. Casks, 9s & 10s 6d
" " ... 2s 9d per doz. Pints; 18-gal. Casks, 18s & 21s.

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Wishing you the Compliments of the Season, I am, your humble Servant,

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DON'T FORGET THE ADDRESS:—NEAR THE NEW CONSETT STATION. 217g

WHICKHAM U.D. COUNCIL

An adjourned meeting of this authority was held on Thursday evening last in the Board Offices, Whickham—Coun. R. Winship, J.P., presiding. The other members present were—Councillors Wm. Fletcher, Wm. Walls, R. T. Swinburn, Ed. Taylor; and the Clerk (Mr. Thomas Lambert.)

THE LATE MR. JOSEPH COWEN.

The Chairman, prior to the commencement of the usual business, made a feeling reference to the death of the late Mr. Joseph Cowen. The deceased gentleman, he said, was a near neighbour to the parish, and particularly as a district, which had received the greatest benefit through Mr. Cowen having lived amongst them. He moved, "That the Board express their deep sympathy at the death of Mr. Joseph Cowen." It would be impossible for him to find words to express the sense of the loss that the country—and more particularly Tyneside—had sustained. As a patriot, political, social, and educational force it would be difficult to find Mr. Cowen's equal. The deceased gentleman was to the most of them their schoolmaster. The principles of education, of justice, freedom, and equality would never die, and the eloquence with which he put them forward inspired them all with the love of their country, and of mankind as a whole. His social work and kindly feeling they all had some idea of, but would never fully know. His charity was unseen; his efforts on behalf of education were just being recognised, and they all felt the poorer to-day in the loss of his presence, but infinitely the richer that he lived. He had served his day and Creator, and rested from his labours.

Coun. Taylor seconded the motion, which was carried by the members rising.

THE PROPOSED FEVER HOSPITAL.

The Clerk speaking in reference to the proposed Fever Hospital, said the position of the same was this: the plans that the Surveyor prepared were in accordance with the model bye-laws and instructions of the Local Government Board. They had been sent forward for their approval, but had been returned, along with a communication suggesting a long series of alterations. The Surveyor thought that these to some extent were unnecessary, as they were a departure from the model bye-laws. It was thought that perhaps if someone went up to London and explained the plans, long correspondence would be thus prevented.

After discussion the matter was eventually left in the hands of the Clerk to see Dr. Hill in reference to the proposed alterations.

PROPOSED DIVISION OF THE PARISH INTO WARDS.

Coun. Fletcher reported that the committee appointed to enquire into the proposal to divide the parish into wards had not yet met. He thought that a meeting should be held at an early date.

The Chairman thought it would be well to get the matter disposed of.

The Clerk remarked that if the Council decided to divide the parish into wards then they must make an application to the Council, enclosing details showing each area, together with the population, rateable value, number of houses, etc.

Coun. Fletcher promised to call a meeting of the committee at an early date to consider the question.

THE COUNCIL'S OFFICES.

Coun. Fletcher said that a committee had been appointed to consider the question of the Council's offices. He did not see why they could not settle the matter across the table. In the first place he thought that the offices were too small for the transaction of their business—that the Board-room was too small, and they had little or no accommodation. He thought they ought to be in touch with the Surveyor and Inspector. The Surveyor resided at Dunston, whilst the Inspector lived at Whickham. If they asked for a plan they were told that the Surveyor had got the same, and when they asked him for the plan they were perhaps told that it was up at Whickham, and "vice-versa." These plans he maintained ought to be lodged in the offices of the Council. He had made enquiries, and according to the information he received the offices could not be extended. There was a piece of land in Whickham which he thought would make a suitable site, and that was the land containing the gardens near the Church Green.

The Chairman said his opinion was that the time was rapidly approaching when they should have to remove the location of the Board-room.

Coun. Walls thought it was desirable to have a new building, or an entirely internal alteration of the present structure. He took it that the time had arrived for some sort of alteration, and he believed the members were all agreed upon that. First of all the building was uncomfortable—very much so—both in winter and in summer time. It was not convenient neither for the members of the Council or deputations.—(The Chairman: "Nor man or beast." (Loud laughter)—or men of business—he would suggest "business" instead of "beast"—(laughter)—to come there from time to time to wait upon the Council with regard to plans, etc. With regard to office accommodation there was practically none to be found. With regard to the plans it was simply, in his opinion, a disgrace the way in which they were scheduled—he would rather say "stuck" in a drawer. If they wanted a plan they probably had to wait half-an-hour before the same could be found. He was prepared to move a resolution: "That a committee be appointed with a view to securing a suitable building, or so altering the existing building to meet our requirements; failing to do that to secure a suitable site in the district for the offices and the Council Chamber as well."

Coun. Fletcher: And a public hall. (Laughter.)

Coun. Walls: I don't object. (Laughter.)

Coun. Taylor said that there had been considerable talk in Whickham about a public hall. He thought that it would be more economical to erect a public hall and Council chamber in conjunction. The building ought to be placed in some central place.

The Chairman said that the feeling he had in regard to the matter was that it was absolutely necessary for them to consider the location, which was one of the things he was not quite satisfied upon. There was no doubt that one part of the parish was going to be considerably larger than the rest within the next few years.

Coun. Swinburn remarked that the people of Whickham would be delighted to have a hall along with the offices.

The Clerk remarked that a committee had already been appointed to go into the question of the Parish offices.

It was then decided that the committee should meet at an early date and submit something definite to the Board.

PROPOSED TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR WHICKHAM.

Coun. Fletcher remarked that he had had a conversation with the manager of the National Telephone Company, when he pointed out that they were neglected in that respect. He had looked at the position of the lines, etc., and found that the nearest exchange to Whickham was at Blaydon. The manager remarked that if the Company were to establish a telephone service at Whickham it would mean the putting down of an exchange in the district, which would be a big item. He, however, said that he would be prepared to do this if he (Coun. Fletcher) could get them six subscribers. (Hear, hear.) He had been able to procure four subscribers—at least four gentlemen had promised to become subscribers.

This was considered most satisfactory, and it was decided to ask the Telephone Company to submit the offer in writing.

YEAR BOOK.

It was resolved, on the suggestion of the Chairman, that the Clerk should furnish the members of the Council with a year book from April 1st.

NAMING OF STREETS, ETC.

Coun. Swinburn said that complaints had been made in regard to certain streets which were without name-plates, and also in regard to many houses which were not numbered. If it was the Council's duty he thought this should be carried out. He moved, "That the Council erect name-plates, and number the houses, and that the same be paid by the Council if payable by the Council."

Coun. Walls seconded the motion, which was carried.

This was all the business of note and the meeting soon afterwards terminated.

Langley Park Liberal Association

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the above association was held on Wednesday evening of last week in the school-room at Langley Park, Mr. James Haswell presiding. A letter was read from Mr. Wm. Logan, J.P., regretting his inability to be present at the meeting, but expressing his warm attachment to the Liberal cause.

REPORTS.

The reports of the various officers were presented, and were adopted as very satisfactory.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. W. Logan, J.P.; vice-president, Mr. Jas. Haswell; secretary, Mr. Wm. Eccleston; treasurer, Mr. Jacob Sanderson. Delegates to the Central Association were appointed, and a good strong committee chosen for the purpose of carrying on a vigorous propaganda during the summer months.

THE LATE MR. JOSEPH COWEN.

Coun. J. W. Winter, Leadgate (the Liberal Agent) then delivered an address, in which he referred in feeling terms to the death of Mr. Joseph Cowen. Mr. Winter said that he had always been impressed with the tone of the deceased gentleman's speeches, more especially those delivered in the early part of his political career. He fearlessly denounced abuses or anomalies, whether existing in the State, the Government of the country, the Church, or any other institution, and advocated the extension of the franchise and Home Rule for Ireland, before these questions had been brought within the range of practical politics. Mr. Cowen had always championed the cause of Ireland, although he questioned the motive of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule scheme. He accomplished a great deal of useful work by his speeches and writings, in the early seventies, and they all regretted his retirement from Parliament. His severance from the Liberals was undoubtedly a serious loss to the party in the North of England. Although, as Liberals, they could not always see eye to eye with Mr. Cowen in his attitude and policy in recent years, still they must admire the sterling qualities of his nature, and the efforts he had made to improve the condition of the working class population. As an educationalist and philanthropist, Mr. Cowen had few equals, and every one must recognise his labours in the cause of liberty of action, freedom of speech, and independence of thought. This country was much the poorer by the loss of such a man. (Applause.) Mr. Winter also advocated that close attention should be paid to the war in South Africa and the causes leading up to the the present struggle, etc.

Mr. Winter was very warmly thanked for his address; and votes of thanks to the chairman and officers concluded a successful meeting.

Chester-le-Street ChoralSociety

One of the most successful entertainments given by the members of the Chester-le-Street and District Choral Society was that which took place on Thursday evening, when F. H. Cowen's cantata, "The Rose Maiden," was rendered to a crowded audience, in the Church Institute, Chester-le-Street. Great preparations have been made for the event, and, thanks to the careful attention to rehearsal, the hopes of the society were more than realised, and the members are to be congratulated upon such a successful rendition. The Society were fortunate in securing the service of such talented vocalists as Miss Janet Reed, North Shields (soprano), and Mr. W. Lyall, Newcastle Cathedral (bass), together with the ever-popular tenor, Mr. Wm. Curry, Chester-le-Street, and the well-known contralto, Miss Armstrong, Chester-le-Street, all of whom were in fine voice. The orchestra materially added to the success of the entertainment, and did their work well. The same was composed as under:—First violins—Mr. F. Lonsdale, Miss Dixon, and Miss Forster. Second violins—Miss Coulson, Miss Shaw, and Mr. T. Barmby. Viola—Mr. Lonsdale, sen. Violoncello—Miss Hill, and Mr. W. Walton. Double bass—Mr. F. Mason. Flute—Mr. C. Large. Clarionets—Mr. Luke White and Mr. Luke White, jun. The singing throughout was beautifully sweet, the voices were nicely balanced, and a due appreciation shown to the spirit of the composition. The accomplished conductor, the Rev. Canon Firth, wielded the baton with skill and precision, and we feel sure that under the care of such a capable gentleman still further success will be achieved. Mr. F. Lonsdale gave an exposition of his power over the violin in the rendition of "Il Trovatore," which called forth the warmest encomiums. Miss Janet Reed's rich soprano voice was heard with telling effect in "Il Bacio," whilst Mr. W. Lyall sang "The Soldier's Son" with equal success. Mr. Wm. Curry, who is a great favourite with Chester-le-Street audiences, fully maintained his reputation as a good tenor singer. Being in capital voice he fairly "brought the house down," and was deserving of the applause which greeted his efforts. Miss Armstrong has lost none of her power as a contralto singer, and her renditions on Thursday evening will long be remembered. She is possessed of a voice which gives great promise, and we hope to be able to chronicle still further success. Mr. C. Large knows full well how to manipulate the piccolo, and his efforts in "Dance de Satyrs" were loudly applauded. The orchestra was under the guidance of Mr. F. Lonsdale, who has, through his untiring efforts, brought the same to a high state of efficiency. Mr. John Young proved himself a capable organist, whilst the duties of accompanist were discharged with consummate skill by Mrs. W. Richardson. A word of praise is due to the hon. secretary (Mr. F. J. Gray), for the great care bestowed by him in carrying out the arrangements which were perfect in every detail. In conclusion we must say that the performance was a huge success, and the members collectively and individually are to be congratulated upon their admirable performance.

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GARDENING NOTES

THE FRUIT GARDENS.

INTRODUCTION.—Very many young trees are spoiled by injudicious treatment during the first few years after planting, so it may be well to briefly consider just what care should be given during these critical seasons.

FIRST YEAR TREATMENT.—At the time of planting, the head should be trimmed down into proper proportion to balance the lessened root system, which has necessarily been injured in process of transplantation, but, thereafter, young trees should not be pruned for the first year. It is necessary to leave undisturbed even those branches which grow out from the trunk or stem. We strongly advocate the lime washing of young trees almost immediately after planting, as it is our experience that this operation tends to keep the bark fresh and wholesome. The most generally approved wash is prepared by dissolving a portion of clay in water, stirring in twice as much slaked lime, and adding enough water to make the preparation of the thickness of batter. All the limbs of the tree are washed carefully with this, the compound being left on the branches and trunk until about August, when it may be washed off with soap suds. Before the advent of winter the tree will require earthing up somewhat, with the objects of preventing the ravages of mice, and of protecting the base. Soon after this all the branches growing along the stem or trunk are cut off at about an inch from their juncture with the stem, the spur so left being in turn cut off just at the approach of spring. This plan obviates any risk of injury to the stem from severe frost attacking the cut surface.

SECOND YEAR TREATMENT.—Now the first skeleton or framework on which the future tree is to be built up must be prepared. February or early March is the best time to effect the necessary pruning. Standing at a distance from the tree, the gardener should select four branches placed symmetrically round the main stem, and each starting independently of the others, because there is always a possibility of limbs snapping under stress of wind or weight of accumulated snow if more than one starts from the same point on the stem or trunk. Having carefully selected the young shoots to make the framework, all others should be cut off even with the trunk, and the chosen ones should be shortened in to about half their length to an eye situated on the outside. When cutting off shoots and branches it is imperative to make clean cuts, as jagged wounds often set up disease. Nothing further in the way of treatment is necessary until the end of June, when all buds growing inside the head must be pinched off. The leading shoots should not, of course, be pinched back at all in summer, as they are needed to extend the framework of the tree. It occasionally happens that other buds push and form at the end of the pinched shoots, and where this is so, they must be removed during August.

THIRD YEAR TREATMENT.—During February or early March cut off level with the stems or branches the shoots that were stopped by pinching in summer, and again shorten in the leading shoots or branches to half their length. Pinching is continued as during the second year, and at the approach of winter a strongly formed, symmetrical tree will be ensured, its sixteen branches all growing in their proper positions and so forming an open head likely to produce the maximum possible crops of excellently ripening fruits.

FOURTH YEAR TREATMENT.—If large numbers of fruit buds form it behoves the careful gardener to thin them out freely, as it is obviously unwise to exhaust a young tree and so run the risk of injuring its cropping powers permanently. Hereafter pruning should only be necessary in late winter to reduce crowded twigs and to remove those growing into the head of the tree. It often happens that the trees fail on the side exposed to continued heavy winds, and in such cases it is important to shorten in the young shoots as far as the eyes are dead on the affected side. It is just these simple operations which ensure good crops being borne as well as the long life of the tree itself. In many English orchards grass is grown right up to the base of each tree, but it is a pernicious plant. If the whole area of soil under fruit culture cannot be tilled, the least the grower can do is to keep a circle of 6 or 7 feet across free from grass round the trunk of each tree for some 10 or 12 years after planting.

THINNING THE FRUITS.—When heavy crops are borne it is desirable to thin out the fruit, so as to ensure the perfect maturity of what is left, for an excess of fruit only uses up the sap and produces small and unmarketable samples, besides imposing too heavy a drain on the resources of a young tree. Though the importance of thinning fruits does not decrease with the growth and age of the tree, it is seldom profitable to thin old and very straggly specimens. Sorting at the time of picking is made to answer the same purpose with these.

CANKER.—The appearance of cankered wood is familiar to almost everyone, but the cause and remedy of the trouble are not generally understood, even by many professional market growers. The most prolific causes of the disease are planting in moist, undrained soil, and the making of rents and jagged wounds instead of clean cuts. The treatment is simple in the extreme, but must be thorough. Scrape and cut out every cankered part until nothing is left but clean and healthy tissues, which is then covered with a good coating of lead paint by way of antiseptic and protection. If preferred, the wound may be thoroughly cleansed, dressed with Bordeaux mixture as an antiseptic, and then filled with grafting wax.

HARDY ANNUAL FLOWERS.

For the culture of hardy annual flowers, well-drained, light, and moderately rich soils, from which clods and stones have been removed, are desirable. The surface should not, however, be made fine enough to become pasty after rain. Sow thinly, broadcast, or better still, in drills, from March to June, preferably from the middle of March to mid-April for summer and autumn flowering. Cover the seeds lightly with soil, from ¼ to ½ inch being ample for medium-sized varieties, while minute seeds should merely be sown on the surface and raked in very lightly. Thin out the seedlings early, since nothing weakens plants more than having to contend with others for food and air, and transplant as necessary into well-manured and deeply-dug land.

HALF-HARDY ANNUALS.

Any moderately-fine, rich potting soil may be used for half-hardy annuals. Sow in pans in gentle heat during February, March, and April. In pans in cold frames facing the south during early April, or even directly on a rich and friable border quite at the end of April or in early May. Cover the pans with panes of glass until germination is effected, to prevent excessive evaporation. If watering should become necessary, stand the pots or pans in a shallow vessel of water for an hour or so. Remove the sheets of glass directly the seedlings appear, and stand the pots or pans in the full light, where air can be freely admitted to them during mild weather. Prick out the seedlings early into pots or pans, and plant them out at the end of May or beginning of June, when the weather is settled and favourable.

TENDER ANNUALS.

A light, rich soil, freely admixed with sharp sand, is essential for successful culture. Sow during February or March exactly as advised for half-hardy annuals, saving that greater heat is required. Shift the seedlings singly into small pots as soon as possible, and move them on until flowering pots are reached. Weak liquid manure may be given when the pots are full of roots, but such applications must be discontinued as the plants come into flower. Allow plenty of air and sunshine.

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Southampton.

AGRICULTURE

FURTHER NOTES ON PASTURES.

HINTS ON GRAZING.—It is not sufficient to consider the improvement of grazing stock, but every effort should be made to maintain the fertility of the soil and to even improve it if possible. It is obviously impossible for a pasture to yield well year after year without being fertilised in one way or another, yet many farmers do not appear to fully recognise this obvious fact, though they would not expect to grow crops of cereals and roots year after year without manuring the land. It should hardly be necessary to point out that unless some nutriment is supplied to pastures annually there is a continual drain on the land for the production of meat, milk, etc., with the result that the soil grows poorer and poorer, and that the better pasture plants disappear, being succeeded by secondary and possibly positively undesirable grasses. There is no question that the best and most economical method of keeping a pasture in good heart is that of heavily stocking it with animals which are liberally fed with cake, corn, and other foods. The best results follow from the feeding of decorticated cotton cake. This plan obviates the necessity for storing the manure in heaps, a course fraught with much danger of loss, and does away with carting expenses.

When a pasture is to be fed off by mixed stock it is desirable to confine its use at first to horned animals, which chiefly gather the taller herbage. Horses should follow, because if put on the grass first they spoil more than they use owing to their continual movement. Since sheep will readily eat what is left it is apparent that they should come last of all. Both horses and sheep bite very closely to the ground, and some of one or the other ought to graze over all pastures, though too great a proportion of closely biting stock results naturally in the sprouting of the plants being checked. A pleasant change of food can often be provided by simply moving stock from one field to another, and this plan fits in nicely with the proper apportioning of the grazing animals.

Here and there in some pastures a clump of some strongly growing grass or other will be remarked, and from the fact that stock pass over this tuft repeatedly it is often erroneously supposed that the grass is undesirable. In this way Cocksfoot, one of the choicest of our pasture plants from every point of view, has been brought into disrepute in many districts. Now the fault does not often lie with the pasture plant, but usually with the farmer since if one of these tufts be examined it will almost certainly be found to be growing by the side of unspread droppings. To remedy matters the droppings should be immediately spread and the tuft cut closely down. After this the new herbage will be readily eaten.

Grazing stock often pass over large numbers of flower stalks or culms of such grasses as Crested Dogstail, and these plants, which are really undesirable, are so permitted to seed themselves down to the exclusion of more palatable species, a state of affairs which can be simply obviated by mowing over the culms before the seeds are produced. Many writers hold that Crested Dogstail is an excellent grass. Certainly its analysis is a very high one, but equally certainly pasture plants that are rejected by stock are without value, be they ever so nutritive. The mere fact that the flower has formed is conclusive proof that the plant bearing it has not been bitten by a grazing animal.

THREE CLOVER TROUBLES.—Clover dodder is unfortunately familiar to almost every farmer owing to the fact that it is often introduced in cheap foreign clovers, which ought really never to be sown, as the strains are not productive, hardy, or lasting as those of English production. By the use of special machinery it is possible to eliminate every dodder seed in ordinary samples, but there is little risk incurred when only English seeds are sown. The treatment is of the most simple in case of attack. At the first signs of the yellowish patches in fields all clover plants should be removed for a width of eighteen inches round the infested area, all the dodder being at the same time raked together and burned. It is an easy matter to sow the resulting bare patches with strongly growing grasses. Broom rape is a much less frequently met with parasite, subsisting on the juices of the roots of clovers, into which its roots penetrate and from whence it draws its nourishment. Clover sickness is not well understood. It appears to result from the too extended growing of clovers on land without alteration with other crops. The symptoms of the trouble are the weakly and dwindling growth of the clover plant. No remedy is known saving only the drastic one of ceasing to cultivate clovers on the infested area for eight or twelve years. To prevent the breaking out of the disease all clover refuse should be destroyed by fire. Indeed it should be a rule with every farmer to destroy as rapidly as possible all remnants of every crop that has been harvested, and if this system were rigidly adhered to there would be much less complaint as to the prevalence of plant diseases and injurious insects. Alsike clover appears immune from clover sickness, and is in consequence peculiarly valuable for clover-sick land, and can recur at shorter intervals than other clovers.

WHAT TO SOW.—If land is properly drained and fit to make a profitable pasture the best pasture plants will grow freely on it. These are cocksfoot, meadow fescue, meadow foxtail, tall fescue, timothy, the meadow grasses (especially rough-stalked meadow grass), white clover, and a little yarrow. These are at once the most enduring, productive, and nutritious of pasture plants, and should always form the bulk of the seeds to be sown on ordinary soils. If the soil is such that these plants will not thrive then it is unfit for pasture making and cannot be expected to be profitable.

THE USE OF PROTECTIVE CROPS.—It is not our present purpose to discuss the many advantages of protective crops, but rather to what use they may most profitably be put. That is to say whether it is wiser to cut the produce for green fodder or to allow it to mature for the production of grain. It is assuredly very much better for the young pasture if the corn can be used as fodder, the first cutting being taken when the cereal is about six or seven inches high, because the necessary protection is thus afforded without shading the pasture plants too long, without taking too much out of the land, and without risk of injury through the cereal being laid by adverse weather. It should always be borne in mind that thick seeding with a cereal is really harmful, as the plants tiller out, so taking up all the room which ought to be occupied by the young grasses and clovers. Indeed it is absolutely essential to the success of a pasture that any protective cereal should be sown thinly only, and this is especially so in the case of winter corn in which a mixture of seeds is to be sown in spring. Not more than half the usual quantity of barley should be used, though greater proportions of other cereals may be employed.

LOCAL PATENTS

The following list is specially compiled by Mr J. A. Harvey, chartered patent agent, 3, St. Nicholas Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne, from whom all information concerning patents, designs, and trade marks may be obtained:—

2828.—Francis Davidson and J. Summerville, Blyth. An improved cover for closing tins, jars, and other vessels. 15th Feb.

3015.—J. Cusworth, Newcastle. 15th Feb. Electrical displacement switch.

3063.—G. H. Patterson, Gateshead-on-Tyne. 16th Feb. Improvements in automatic scales or weighing machines.

3206.—Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., and C. H. Murray, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 17th Feb. Improvements in rammers for ordnance.

3207.—Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., Ltd., and C. H. Murray, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 17th Feb. Improvements in rammers for ordnance.

We have received the first number of a new monthly paper, ready on the first of March, entitled "What is Right?" The paper appears to be an advanced, ethical kind, and hopes to be in harmony with all sects and creeds. It is proposed to go into the various questions the title suggests, and the first number contains many interesting and thoughtful articles of a novel kind. The paper is well got up, and is published by Mr. A. W. Hall, Hutton Street, Whitefriars, London, E.C.



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THE FREE CHURCHES

"H. K.," of the "Methodist Recorder" (the Rev Nehemiah Curnock, the editor) contributes an interesting article to the March "Free Church Chronicle" on the Rev C. H. Kelly, the new President of the National Free Church Council. Mr. Kelly did great service to the denomination and to all the Free Churches by his valiant and successful fight for the right of Nonconformist soldiers to attend their own place of worship. In 1859 he was appointed to work among the soldiers at Aldershot. Says Mr. Curnock: "His preaching attracted men in crowds. I have heard it said in Aldershot that if room could have been found, the whole town would have flocked to his ministry. The parade services in the iron church had to be doubled. A crack regiment in the cavalry barracks, with the colonel at their head, used to march in a body to the iron church." Mr. Kelly has the rare and subtle gift of personal magnetism. From general officers, through all ranks, down to the humblest recruit, he charmed men or overawed them He has preached in more than 600 different churches, and has never had to break an engagement through ill-health. His services to the Free Church Federation movement have been beyond price, and he has fully won the honour which he now bears.

DR. PARKER AND THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Dr. Parker evidently does not think much of our legislators at Westminster. He has been giving his views on the debate on the Address. He applies the following adjectives to it. Mean, paltry, worthless, atheistic, inhuman, contemptible, disastrous. "The debate," he says, "made me sore and sick at heart." Mr Balfour asked, in the course of his speech, "To whom are the Boers looking for support?" and Mr. "Tim" Healy replied, "God." This one word, says Dr. Parker, was the greatest speech of the debate, and Mr. Healy is "one of the brightest intellects of the country." This is all very interesting, but Dr. Parker does not say that Mr. Healy was the only Christian man in the House of Commons, nor even that he was the best Christian there. However, Mr. Healy's speech of one word did Dr. Parker's heart good, "poor, old, withered disappointed heart."

THE FREE CHURCH GIRLS' GUILD.

The final scheme of this Guild, which will aim at doing for the young women of the Free Churches what the Girls' Friendly Society does for the young women of the Anglican Churches, has been approved by the General Committee of the National Free Church Council, and will be presented to the delegates at Sheffield by Mrs. George Cadbury, who has taken a special interest in the question. There is to be a Central Bureau at London in connection with the National Council, and this bureau will be in communication with a certain special committee of every local Council. The object is to band together the girls of the Free Churches, and to secure that they shall find friends wherever they go. Arrangements will be made for co-operation with kindred existing Societies, such as the Y.W.C.A., Dr. Stephenson's Girl's Helpful Society, and other bodies. Such a Free Church organisation on a large scale was impossible until the Free Church Council came into existence.

"MACLAREN OF MANCHESTER."

Dr. Maclaren, the famous Baptist preacher of Manchester, has just completed his seventy-fourth year. Though he has had two sore bereavements of late, he has not allowed his personal sorrow to interfere in any way with his ministerial work. One who listened to him the other Sunday, and who has "sat under" him often, said that he had never preached with greater power. Dr. Maclaren is very conservative in some things, he will never even hear of announcing beforehand the subjects or even the texts of his sermons. We trust that some years of fruitful work in Manchester are still before him.

AN UNWISE CURATE.

The "enfante terrible" of the Anglican Church is the young curate whose sectarian zeal is without good manners or knowledge. For instance, a young man at Padstow, whose remarks are receiving more attention than they deserve, informed the parishioners that "Dissent is the direct outcome of tares sown by the devil." We may be perfectly certain that the wisest and noblest men in the State Church are much annoyed and shocked by an utterance of this sort. It makes the Anglican Communion ridiculous, and damages Christianity; for, as Dr. Fairbain has wisely said, no form of Christianity can be served by any other form being made ridiculous. The Padstow curate's unwisdom is harmful to Nonconformity only as it is harmful to the general interests of Christianity.

THE ORIGIN OF BAPTISTS.—A NEW VERSION.

How pitiful and disastrous it is that there should be so many duplicates of the Padstow curate! A certain Anglican localised magazine, in an article on "The True Church," informs us that the story of the origin of the Baptists is "one of the darkest fanaticism and crime." And yet we spend millions a year—not too many certainly—on education! The writer informs us that John Calvin "invented" Presbyterianism in 1541, and we are told that it is everyone's duty to avoid "mere human and voluntary associations of people who have agreed to unite together in professing certain Christian doctrines, and to style themselves 'a Christian Church.'" These "human and voluntary associations" to be avoided are Congregational, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Methodist Churches throughout the English-speaking world, possessing over seventeen million communicants!

BERRY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.

We cordially wish success to the movement for the institution of a Berry Memorial Scholarship at Mansfield College, the competition for which will be open to all the Free Churches of the country. There is at present no such scholarship at Mansfield, and Dr. Fairbairn says well that when it is founded, "it could bear no name so fitly as that of Dr. Berry, who did so much for the Federation movement."

Funeral of Mr W. Wayper, of Tow Law

The interment of the remains of the late Mr Wm. Wayper, for many years permanent way inspector on the N.E.R., took place on Thursday afternoon at Tow Law. Notwithstanding a cold winter afternoon, with the remains of two or three heavy snowstorms on the roads and streets, there was a pretty large following of railway men and officials of the N.E.R. Co. At a short service at the house, conducted by the Rev. C. Humble, Primitive Methodist minister, the cortege proceeded to the Tow Law Primitive Methodist Chapel, where the burial service was read impressively. Amongst the deceased's brother officials and fellow employees who attended to pay a last token of respect were Messrs Burgoyne, Maplsthorpe, T. Atkinson, and Valentine, officials, Darlington; Mr Richardson, stationmaster, Rowley; Mr R. Bruce, permanent-way inspector, Newport; Mr J. Norman, South Bank; Mr T. J. Wilson, stationmaster; Mr Reed, permanent way inspector; and Messrs Geo. Wilson, J. Wilson, Richardson, W. Wilson, T. Bell, W. Shutt, T. Hardy, W. Richardson, of Crook; Mr W. Marshall, Blackhill; Mr Geo. Pallister, permanent way inspector, Stanhope; Mr J. Lowdon, Beechburn; Messrs Cheesemen, J. Robson, G. Robson, of Tow Law; [illegible], locomotive foreman. The bearers were Inspector Robinson (Guisbrough), Inspector G. Pallister (Stanhope), Mr W. Hunter (stationmaster, Tow Law), and Mr J. Hall (Tow Law). Amongst the townspeople who followed were Mr E. Milburn, Clerk Tow Law Urban District Council; Mr W. E. Teasdale, Mr J. Hall, Mr Ellison, Mr Roos, Mr Payn, Mr E. Shield, etc. The coffin, which was of pitch pine with brass mountings, bore the inscription: "William Wayper; died Feb. 19th, 1900; aged 75 years." Wreaths were sent by Mr and Mrs Wilson (daughter), Mrs A. Shield, Consett (sister-in-law). A letter of apology was received it may be stated, from Mr Sanderson, permanent way inspector, late of Bishop Auckland, and now of Starbeck.

Feminine requirements are very lavishly catered for in the early spring number, price 3d., of "Weldon's Ladies' Journal," wherein may be found an infinity of fashion illustrations with full directions as to cutting out, making, and fitting. Presented with each copy is a splendid pattern of a tailor-cut coat and skirt, and full directions for making it up, as well as a coloured plate displaying ravishing spring toilettes. Appropriately included in the number is a double-page sketch of a wedding group, together with an article on wedding etiquette, also a good story, varied articles on furnishing, hairdressing, cookery, comforts for our troops, etc., constituting an extremely attractive number.

The enterprise shown by Weldon's, Ltd., in issuing their penny booklet of knitted and crochet comforts for our soldiers has been so extensively appreciated that a second series, entitled "Weldon's Knitted, Crochet, and Flannel Comforts for our Soldiers," has just been published by that firm. This practical penny booklet contains illustrations and full instructions for making crochet and knitted Tam o' Shanters, socks, Balaclava helmets, brewers' caps, cholera belts, &c.; also flannel shirts, belts, nightingales, the Crimean cap, and d'oyleys for protecting milk, medicine, &c., from flies.

A TOW LAW FARMER'S ACTION

AGAINST THE WEARDALE IRON AND COAL CO.

At the Durham County Court last week, before His Honour Judge Meynell, Mr. Robert Charlton, farmer, of Dan's Castle, Tow Law, sued the Weardale Iron and Coal Company Limited, to recover the sum of £8 compensation for damage done to two stacks of hay, the damage alleged to have been caused by the sulphurous fumes issuing from the defendant Company's coke ovens.—Mr. E. Shortt, barrister, was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Temperley, barrister, was for the defendant company.

Mr. Shortt, in stating the case said that the defendants had these coke ovens for a number of years, and the plaintiff had a field in which were three stacks of hay about 150 yards from the ovens. For some years the smoke had been allowed to issue from these ovens over the plaintiff's land, but until within the last few years the smoke had been free to a certain extent from sulphurous fumes and consequently no large amount of damage had been done. Within the last four or five years the smoke and sulphur had done very considerable damage to the plaintiff's land. In former years the plaintiff had actually lost cattle which had eaten the hay, and which had been spoilt by the fumes from the ovens. One of the stacks was erected in 1897, one in 1898, and one in 1899, but it was only in regard to the 1897 and 1898 stacks that the plaintiff was claiming. There was an additional claim of £2 for damage to grass crop arising in the same way.

Plaintiff was called to support Mr. Shortt's opening statement. He said that he had had the farm for 20 years. About four years ago he lost four cows and a calf which had eaten the bad hay. Only the inside portions of the stacks were fit to eat. He had written to the defendant company asking for compensation, and they denied all liability.

Cross-examined as to why he had not brought an action for the loss of the cattle plaintiff replied that he had not had a proper veterinary surgeon.

His Honour: Then you had no evidence that they were poisoned by the hay, except you own opinion.

Mr. Temperley: In June last year was not the 1897 stack of hay rotten?—Plaintiff: No. Was it in an exceedingly bad condition.—No.

Replying to further questions plaintiff said that the hay was right enough when it was stacked. He admitted that the 1897 was not thatched, and it remained unthatched until the end. The rain did not get into the thatch from the beginning to the end of its history.

Mr. George Crowe and Mr. Robert Crowe called for the plaintiff, were both of opinion that the outside of the stacks was unfit for food, and that the hay was in a deteriorated condition.

For the defence Mr. Temperley called several witnesses, including Mr. Henry Wallace of Trench Hall, land agent for Lord Ravensworth, who said that the outside of a stack had always to be taken off.

Mr. John Tully, Lord Durham's chief farm steward, gave it as his opinion that the stacks did not appear to have been affected by the smoke, but they did appear wet, there was a certain amount of refuse on the outside of the stack.

Mr. Clark, Beamish Park, was also of opinion that the stacks showed signs of little more damage than was usual in the country.

His Honour found for the defendant company, with costs.

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VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white or falling off use the MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER, for it will positively restore in every case, grey or white hair to its original colour. It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth. Price 3s 6d. per bottle.

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DR. BARDSLEY'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS—for eradicating all impurities of the blood from the system they have no equal. They have never failed to effect a cure, giving tone and strength to the system debilitated by disease. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 1s 1½d and 2s 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 36 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggist, Manchester.

MRS ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER, never fails to restore grey hair to its youthful colour. It acts directly upon the roots of the hair, invigorating them, cleanses the scalp, removing dandruf, rendering the hair soft, silky, and glossy, and disposing it to remain in any desired position. It has hosts of admirers, male and female, young and old. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers.

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL AND STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES quickly correct all irregularities, remove all obstructions, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes, 1s 1½d and 2s 9d (contains three times the quantity), of all Chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 stamps, by E. T. TOWLE & Co., Manufacturers, Dryden Street, Nottingham. Beware of Imitations injurious and worthless. 823a

HUMAN LIFE.—Fifty years record of Facts, Principles, and Discoveries relating to the Origin and True Treatment of Diseases and the Preservation of Human Life on Earth By Dr. Samuel Birley, M.D. Ph.D., author of "Patriarchal Longevity Returnable" "Earth-life," &c., &c. A series of most valuable articles in 52-paged books, containing Diet Rules—what to eat and what to avoid in various complaints, together with other useful and valuable information. Invaluable to every sufferer. Sound and Practical. Write to-day for presentation copy from the publishers Messrs Gordon, Murray, and Co., 44 Theobald's Road Holborn, London, W.

No. 171, just published, of "Weldon's Practical Needlework" contains a variety of beautiful knitting patterns specially designed for the tops of gentlemen's cycling and golfing stockings. Illustrations, with full directions, are given for working such attractive borders as the double key, kaleidoscope, scroll, referee, three cable, Greek, etc., as well as instructions for making gents' socks for ordinary and evening wear, the Uhlan cap, brewer's cap, and Balaclava sleeping helmets, etc. For the small outlay of twopence, ladies engaged in knitting can become possessed of this invaluable guide.

LITANY FOR OUR SOLDIERS

BY THE REV. DR. DOWNES, EDITOR OF "GREAT THOUGHTS."

May be sung to the tune "Melita"
('Eternal Father, Strong to Save.")

God of our fathers, at whose call
We now before Thy footstool fall;
Whose grace has made our Empire strong.
Through love of right and hate of wrong;
We pray Thee in Thy pity shield,
Our soldiers on the battlefield.

If there be eloquence in grief,
Or if in Deity relief,
If heaven regards the valorous deed,
Or sighs to see the patriot bleed;
We pray Thee in Thy pity shield,
Our soldiers on the battlefield.

Asleep beneath Thine ample dome,
With many a tender dream of home;
Or charging in the dust and glare,
With bullets hurtling through the air;
We pray Thee in Thy pity shield,
Our soldiers on the battlefield.

If wounded in the dreadful fray,
Be Thou their comfort and their stay;
If dying, may they in their pain
Behold the Lamb for sinners slain;
And thus in Thy great pity shield,
Our soldiers on the battlefield.

And soon, O blessed Prince of Peace,
Bring in the days when war shall cease,
And men and brothers shall unite
To fill the world with love and light;
Meanwhile in tender pity shield,
Our soldiers on the battlefield.

OVERTIRED?
Take a Bath to which a little
CONDY'S FLUID
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HOW'S YOUR LIVER? Why I never knew I have one now, as I always keep a bottle of PATTRICK'S MEDICINE by me, and if I feel a little "off," I take a dose, and am soon myself again. Everyone who is ill goes to PATTRICK, CHEMIST, 5, Front Street, Consett, who can cure almost any complaint. 371a

FLORILINE!—FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH. Thoroughly cleanses the teeth from all parasites or impurities, hardens the gums, prevents tartar, stops decay, and gives to the teeth a peculiar pearly whiteness and a delightful fragrance to the breath. Price 2s 6d for the liquid, or 1s per jar for the Floriline "Powder," of all Chemists and Druggists.

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THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year, more than £300,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages, and large numbers of the unemployed in East London would thus be provided with work, instead of swelling the ranks of pauperism.

EVERY HOUSE may shortly be supplied with electric light by a simple piece of mechanism placed over the kitchen chimney, if a new plan of Edison's for generating electricity directly from heat is successful. Thus the poorest person could have the benefit of a useful invention which is now regarded as a luxury only for the comfort of the rich. Mr. Thomas Holloway, however has a greater blessing to humanity than has yet been afforded by the most wonderful discoveries of science. His Pills and Ointment have succeeded in cases where the greatest authorities on medical treatment have failed. Whatever the condition of a patient may be, these medicines will effect a cure if such athing is humanly possible.

CHESTER-LE-STREET PETTY SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 8th.—Before Mr. H. W. Kerrich-Walker (presiding), Mr. F. S. Newall, Mr. Hy. Armstrong, and Mr. A. Wood.

DRUNKENNESS.

The following persons were charged with this offence, and dealt with as under:—John G. Simpson, 5/- and costs; Thomas Mason, 5/- and costs; Wm. Bambrough, 2/6 and costs; Thomas Dobinson, 2/6 and costs; Hugh Meanon, 5/- and costs; John Tax, 2/6 and costs; Jno. Hutchinson, 2/6 and costs; Thomas Murray, 2/6 and costs; John Ord, 2/6 and costs; Anthony Lambert, 2/6 and costs; Joseph Summers, 2/6 and costs; Richard Wray, 2/6 and costs; Hy. Bainbridge, 2/6 and costs; Thomas Murphy, 5/- and costs; Catherine Murphy, 5/- and costs, and Patrick Norton, 5/- and costs.

A HEAVY FINE.

John Clifford was charged under the Poaching Prevention Act.—Inspector McDougall stated that at about a quarter past ten o'clock on the 26th of January he was going along in the direction of Birtley, when he saw the accused. As soon as the defendant saw witness and a constable, he ran into a garden at the top of Pelaw Bank. Witness never lost sight of the accused. There was a fence which divided a garden from a footpath and witness saw the defendant put something over the fence, and also throw two nets (produced) away. Witness afterwards found a net and gun near the hedge. The defendant was searched, and upon him were found some gun caps. Witness afterwards had the gun drawn and found in the left barrel twenty-eight pellets, whilst in the right barrel there were twenty-nine pellets.

Cross-examined by Mr. Brownless, Durham (who defended): Witness found no shot upon the prisoner. He heard something fall amongst the cabbage. It would be no use searching for shot, and he had not done so.

Inspector McDougall: This bell would fit a ferret. (Laughter.)

Mr. Brownless: It would fit a baby's rattle as well. (Renewed laughter.)

Will you say that it was used foro a ferret?—No.

It may be for a child's toy?—I don't know.

Mr. Brownless, in defence, submitted that there had been no case proved against his client under the Act under which he was charged. The defendant was not searched upon the highway but upon a private road. There was no evidence to prove that the defendant had a gun in his posoession. If the accused had an old net in his possession he had a perfect right to this, and when rabbits did damage it was legitimate for him to seize them if they did damage. He submitted that the prosecution had not made out a case against the defendant.

The Chairman said that the Bench were perfectly satisfied that the defendant was guilty, and he would therefore be fined 20/- and costs.

Supt Rutherford applied for the articles seized to be forfeited, which was granted.

THE SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC: HEAVY PENALTIES.

Amelia Smith was summoned under the Public Health Act at the instance of the Chester-le-Street Rural Council with having exposed her child, Andrew, whilst suffering from scarlet fever.—Mr. Brownless, who appeared to prosecute, stated that the defendant's child was notified as suffering from scarlet fever on December 22nd. On January 28th the child was removed from Sacriston to Birtley, whilst still suffering from the effects of scarlet fever. It was now asked that an example should be made to protect the public.

The Defendant: My husband received his notice from the overman, and we had to leave. What were we to do?

The Chairman: Why didn't you send the child to the hospital?

Defendant: He would not go. Other children slept with him, and they never took any harm, so I don't think he had much fever about him.

The Chairmen: This is a most dangerous thing, and you are liable to a fine of £5. You had the option of sending the child to the hospital. You will be fined £1, and costs.

ANOTHER PROSECUTION.

George Surtees, a youth of fifteen summers was also charged with having exposed himself whilst suffering from scarlet fever contrary to the Public Health Act.—It was stated by Mr. Brownless (who appeared to prosecute) that on the 16th December the defendant was notified as being suffering from scarlet fever. On the 3rd January, the defendant was working down a pit, and on the following day Dr. Taylor examined the accused and found him "peeling" from the effects of scarlet fever. This was a most dangerous period, and the public must be protected.

The Chairman said that the Bench must have a stop put to this as it was a most dangerous thing spreading the disorder about.

A fine of 10/- and costs was imposed.

THE TREATMENT OF PIT PONIES: YOUTH SENT TO PRISON

William Sparrow, a youth of about seventeen years of age, was placed in the dock charged with cruelly ill-treating a pony on the 14th February, at Lamesley.—The accused pleaded guilty.

George Hall deposed that on the date named the accused was in charge of a pony. The defendant had [illegible] to seek help in order to get the pony out of the flat. When the deputy went to the place he found the animal suffering from an injury and unable to walk "out-bye." That evening witness gave instructions for the place to be searched to see if any article could be found by which the injury might have been caused, and as a result of the search a pick was found. When charged with the offence the defendant admitted having injured the animal.

A veterinary surgeon said that his attention was called to the pony on the following morning and found it suffering considerable pain in the legs. There was a punctured wound about two inches deep and over an inch and a half long. From the nature of the wound witness was of opinion that the wound had been caused by a pick. Close to where the pony was located a blood-stained pick was found. The pony had been unable to work since.

The Chairman said the Bench had had several cases of this kind before them, and at the last case they stated that the next defendant who appeared before them would have to go to prison. Had it not been for the pleading of Mr. Robson the Bench would have sent the accused to prison for a longer period. The defendant would have to go to prison for fourteen days with hard labour.

AN UNRULY CUSTOMER.

James Linskey was charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of Fenwick Robson, situated at Plawsworth, ond Feb. 3rd, and also with doing wilful damage to a window.—Fenwick Robson deposed that on the date named the defendant came into the taproom about 7.30 p.m. Later on witness looked into the tap-room and then told the defendant that he would not get any more drink. Witness asked the accused to leave his premises, but he refused to do so. Subsequently the defendant was put to the door. The accused then went into the middle of the road, but came back and put his fist through the window, doing damage to the amount of 6/-.

The accused denied being drunk or refusing to quit, but pleaded guilty to doing wilful damage.

The Chairman: We will dismiss the charge of drunk and refusing to quit, but you will be fined 5/- and costs, and the damage—6/-.

Defendant: What are the costs?

The Clerk: Five and six.

Defendant: Will you allow me two days to pay it in?

Supt. Rutherford: No.

Defendant: There's a door here—come along. (Loud laughter.)

Rueben Ellis was charged with having assaulted Fenwick Robson, on the 5th ult.—Prosecutor stated that on the date named the accused was in the kitchen of his licensed premises at Plawsworth. Prosecutor requested the accused to leave the premises when he rushed him in the passage, and struck him in the mouth, knocking one of his teeth out, and loosening other five teeth. The accused was fined 5/- and costs.

ASSAULT UPON A MINER.

George Lamb was charged with assaulting Wm. McKenna at Ouston on the 6th ult.—Mr. Wynn-Parry appeared to prosecute.—the prosecutor, a miner, residing at Ouston stated that he was returning home shortly after eleven o'clock, on the date named when he saw the accused and another man named Oakes having some words. Prosecutor said "Bill, you had better come home." At that time complainant saw that the accused had a knife in his hand, and he afterwards made a "grab" at Lamb. The defendant said "yes, you ——— I will put it into you." The accused made a plunge at him and cut a lump clean out of his wrist. Prosecutor fell to the ground and the accused then bit a piece of flesh out of his leg.

After hearing further evidence the defendant was fined 5/- and costs.

DRUNK IN CHARGE.

Richard Fletcher was charged with being drunk whilst in charge of a pony and trap at Birtley, on the 7th ult.—The defendant, who did not appear was fined 10/- and costs.

A DOG FOR A CLOCK.

James Morgan, William Hall, Robert Green, and Thomas Murray were charged iwth keeping dogs without a license.—One of the defendants informed the Bench that he had exchanged his dog for a clock.—The defendants were each ordered to pay the costs—3/6 each.

IN SEARCH OF GAME.

Andrew Atkinson was charged with being in pursuit of game on land in the occupation of the Sherburn House Brick and Tile Co., Birtley, on the 10th ult.—Wm. Coulson deposed that on the date named he saw the defendant on land belonging to the above Company along with another person. The two men ran away, and witness gave chase, and caught the defendant, upon whom he found two live rabbits.—The defendant was fined 10/- and costs.

SCHOOL BOARD PROSECUTIONS.

Thomas Sweeney, for not sending his child regularly to school was fined 5/-.

ASSAULT CASE.

George Coulson was charged with wounding with intent Joseph Ellison.—The charge was reduced to one of common assault.—Prosecutor stated that on the 16th ult. he was at Chester-le-Street when the accused took his coat off and struck him a blow near the eye. Prosecutoro did not see anything in the defendant's hand.

A medical gentleman said he examined the complainant and found an incised and lacerated wound upon his face, about half-an-inch deep. The same appeared to have been caused by some instrument. It might have been caused by a piece of glass or a knife.—The defendant denied ever having used a knife or any article.—The accused was fined 10/- and costs.

LARCENY.

Joseph Cannon was charged with stealing a brake-cover valued £2 10s, the property of Thomas Logan, brake proprietor, residing at Urpeth Cross Rows.—Thomas Carlton, miner, deposed that on the 16th ult at about a quarter to four o'clock he was driving a brake from Sacriston and Chester Moor, when the brake broke and the vehicle had to be left upon the road till the following morning. When witness returned on the following morning he found that the brake cover had been removed.—Thomas Taylor, a miner, stated that on the morning of the 17th ult, whilst going to work he met the prisoner, who was carrying the brake cover.—The prisoner pleaded guilty.—The accused was further charged with stealing seven hearthrugs, the property of John Tulip, residing at Portobello. The prisoner was also charged with stealing a pair of trousers and other articles, the property of Jane Ann Tiplady, on the 17th ult., to the value of 5/-.—The prisoner pleaded guilty to stealing the brake cover, but denied the other charges. The accused was sent to prison for three months with hard labour for stealing the sheet, whilst the other charges were dismissed.

THEFT OF HANDKERCHIEFS.

William Willey, a young lad, residing at Co-operative Street, Chester-le-street was charged with stealing three silk handkerchiefs value 8/3, the property of Messrs. J. B. Thompson and Company, Front Street, Chester-le-Street.—Evidence was tendered to show that the accused had been employed by Messrs Thompson and Co., as errand boy up to February. It was part of defendant's duty to sweep the shop floor and counter. It was subsequently found that five sild handkerchiefs were missing. A youth named John Wm. Bell said he met the accused in Front Street, who asked him to pawn some of the handkerchiefs. When charged defendant admitted the offence, but said that he had given them away.—The defendant was bound over in the sum of £5, for six months, to come up for judgment if called upon.

Collierley School Board

On Tuesday evening the monthly meeting of this Board was held in the Board-room of the Collierley Board Schools, Dipton, under the presidency of Mr. J. T. Robinson (chairman). There were also present—Messrs J. B. Armstrong, W. Young, T. Clark, S. Swalwell; and the Clerk (Mr. A. Phillipson).

CARETAKER'S REPORT.

Mr. Beatham, as caretaker, reported that a pane of glass had been broken, a chair back broken off, and a black-board damaged, all in the small class-room of the Girl's School, and as far as he could ascertain the damage had all been done during the dinner-time. A very great number of children brought their dinners to school, and he doubted very much whether they were under sufficient control. He had had more than once to go in during the dinner-hour to ascertain what all the noise was about. On the 15th inst. a dog was accidentally locked in the front porch of the Boys' School, and did some damage to the inner door. His daughter was the last to leave the school and lock the door, and she could not understand how the dog got there, as she did not see it on leaving.

INQUIRIES TO BE MADE.

On the question of the damage to the Girls' School it was decided, on the motion of Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Swalwell, that the mistress be requested to inquire into the cause of the damage done in her department, while in the case of the damage to the Boys' School it was decided that the caretaker be requested to exercise greater care in the future.

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

Mr. H. Beatham, attendance officer, reported that since the last meeting he had visited over 200 absentees, and served 7 official warnings. There had been an unusual amount of sickness of various kinds, viz., influenza, chicken pox, whooping cough, and a few odd cases of fever. Those, together with the very severe weather, had brought the attendance down very low. He was very sorry to state that he had had an attack of influenza, which had rendered him unable to attend to his duties personally, but he had been able to secure the services of others, who trusted had carried out the work to satisfaction. The average attendance in the Boys' School for the month had been 183.9; in the Girls' School 195.4; and in the Infants', 136.6.

The report was adopted, but it was thought desirable that the attendance officer should give notice to the Clerk of his absence during illness.

TEACHER'S REPORTS.

Mr. Wm. McQuillen, headmaster of the Boys' School, reported that Mr. Dawson, Her Majesty's Inspector, had visited the night school on Feb. 23rd. The attendance in the day school had been 89 per cent. for the last five weeks. The heating apparatus had been very much at fault for the last three months. On several occasions the temperature had stood between 24 and 48 degrees Fahrenheit. Miss A. S. Dixon, head mistress of the Girls' School, reported that owing to the very severe weather the attendance had fallen off very considerably. There was a good deal of sickness among the children. In order to promote the comfort of the children—some of the younger ones were coming to school crying with the cold—she lit a fire herself on Monday, Feb. 19th, in the open fire-place of the main room. On the Monday night she sent a message to the caretaker asking that the fire might be lit every day during the rest of the week. The caretaker, she had been told, refused to allow the fire to be lit, his daughter saying on his behalf that they had had no orders from the Board to that effect. As the keys of the coal-place too were not forthcoming, she was not able to have the fire lit without the assistance of the caretaker, as she most certainly would have done on her own responsibility had they been in her possession. She told the daughter of the caretaker that she should have to report the matter to the Board, and she should therefore be much obliged if the Board would distinctly state whether she should be allowed to use her discretion in a simple matter of that kind or not.

Mr. Young thought the matter had been going on too long.

Mr. Armstrong said they should look upon the case in a lenient manner, but still the question had been going on too long, and should be stopped.

Mr. Swalwell thought that if the heat of the schools was below par it should be raised either by the furnace or by the fires in the school.

Mr. Clark thought the matter should be dealt with immediately. He considered the teacher a proper person to judge of the heat of the school.

The Chairman asked why the temperature was not kept up?

Mr. Clark moved, and Mr. Young seconded, that the temperature of the schools must be kept up to a degree stated in his printed agreement, and that if the temperature was not up to the required standard when the teachers arrived at school at 8 a.m. each morning, the caretaker must light the fires himself.

Mr Clark considered that the teachers and scholars could not be expected to light the fires in the schools.

The motion was carried.

The reports were then adopted, and the requisitions ordered to be obtained.

APPLICATION FOR INCREASE OF SALARY.

Miss L. J. Clark, Dipton, assistant mistress of the Girls' School, made application for an advance of salary, on the ground that she was paid less than those in similar capacities in the district, while taking two extra subjects.

Mr. Swalwell moved, and Mr. Young seconded, that the Clerk ascertain the salary paid to assistant mistresses under the Benfieldside School Board.

Mr. Armstrong suggested that Miss Clark's salary be advanced by £5 per annum, and that the Board take steps to have a scale of salaries drawn up for their future guidance. He moved as an amendment that Miss Clark's salary be increased by £5, and that a scale be drawn up for all future salaries.

The Chairman seconded the amendment.

On being put to the meeting the Chairman declared the motion carried, Mr. Clark remaining neutral.

ACCOUNTS.

Accounts to the amount of £150 were ordered to be signed, after which the Board went into committee on the question of the agreement between the Board and the Greencroft Board in respect to the proportion of contribution which Collierley should pay to the Greencroft Board for school enlargement.

Tanfield

HOUSES FLOODED.—Owing to the heavy downfall of rain which occurred on Monday and Tuesday a number of cottages in Tanfield village were flooded to the depth of about a couple of feet. Great inconvenience was experienced by the occupants, who had perforce to remove their household effects upstairs. The main road situated between Tanfield Lea and Tantobie was inundated with water, about two feet deep, for some considerable distance, which stopped pedestrian traffic. Much damage has been done to many roads in that locality.

Blackhill and District Institutes' Billiard Tournament.

[BY "IVORY THE SECOND."]

Stanley wins easily by 215 points; Consett second; closely followed by Blackhill; keen struggle for fourth place.

TABLE 13.

	P.	W.	L.	Scores For	Agst	Avg.
Stanley	84	63	21	7932	5843	94.43
Consett Town Hall	84	61	23	7719	6719	91.89
Blackhill	84	53	31	7653	6852	91.1
Allendale Cottages	84	41	43	7138	7330	84.97
Shotley Bridge	84	37	47	7131	7216	84.89
Leadgate League	84	36	48	6943	7547	82.65
Leadgate Guild	84	30	54	6768	7726	80.57
Derwent Cottages	84	15	69	5925	7976	70.53
Totals,	672	336	336	57209	57209	85.13

ALLENDALE v. SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

A. White	53	J. Birrell	100
G. Walton	100	J. Douglas	88
W. Walton	100	J. W. Forster	58
W. Eggleston	100	A. Small	80
J. Page	75	F. Cole	100
A Novice	82	J. Henry	100
	510		526

Total for first fixture 491 Total for first fixture 535

Shotley Bridge players have the distinction of beating Allendale both at home and away. J. Birrell gave his team a big lift in the direction of ousting Allendale from fifth place, but this was annulled by M. Walton's decisive victory over Wilk Forster. J. Douglas struggled hard to overcome George Walton, whom he only knuckled down to in the last street. The final three games were started under exceptionally interesting conditions, as only 30 points separated the aggregates, viz., Allendale, 6,881; Shotley, 6,851. The gap was even less in the end after the visitors had won two games. W. Eggleston's victory over Small saved his side from being relegated to fifth position.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES v. TOWN HALL.

A. White	52	J. Collinson	100
W. Beck	68	W. Elliott	100
	120		200

The two postponed games were brought off at Consett on Thursday and resulted in sweeping victories for the Townspeople. A. White led J. Collinson in the twenties, the latter being quite lame in his manipulation up to that point, but suddenly he displayed great form, scoring nearly 50 to 0, mainly through a grand 31 break. Matters looked gloomy for White with the totals 89-32, but a capital 20 break turned the half-century ere Collinson ran out. W. Elliott and W. Beck gave only a moderate exhibition, and a close finish seemed certain until at 80 Elliott ran up 15 in one innings, thereby winning with 32 points to spare.

STANLEY v. DERWENT COTTAGES.

J. Smith	100	J. Curley	46
W. Long	100	G. Campbell	29
R. Murphy	100	J. W. Sanderson	36
J. Makkison	100	J. Anderson	28
T. Murray	100	A. C. Blunt	83
C. Pringle	100	J. Barron	64
	600		266

Total for first fixture 539 Total for first fixture 312

The first trio of "Cottagers" were mercilessly slated at Stanley, totalling only 111. Curley did best, but stopped four short of half-way. Smith played just such a game as has been praised before in these columns. Past performances of G. Campbell did not point to a 71 point reverse, even at the hands of W. Long, but he was very much at sea on the table, while Long appeared in quite a happy mood, scoring all round with absolute freedom. He made a 22 break. R. Murphy amongst other things claimed a grand 27 break against J. W. Sanderson, and at one time seemed likely to win by over 80, but a little laxity on his part near the end enabled Sanderson to total 36. J. Makkison piled it on thick with numerous breaks, which fairly staggered J. Anderson. The Rev. A. C. Blunt made T. Murray play up before he was finally disposed of, and J. Barron did even better against such class as C. Pringle. On the two games with Derwent Cottages Pringle has only scored 176 against 164.

GUILD v. BLACKHILL.

J. E. Kinleside	61	M. Hobday	100
H. Makepeace	77	T. Gaughan	100
F. Lockey	90	J. Barrow	100
T. R. Wilson	84	W. Atkinson	100
T. W. Hanson	81	J. J. Raw	100
J. S. Joplin	100	C. Merritt	96
	493		596

Total for first fixture 432 Total for first fixture 547

John Barrow evidently realised the gravity of his situation when opposed to Fred Lockey, as he set about getting an early lead by a good 14 break, and took care to increase this at every opportunity, well knowing the tenacious character of Lockey. It transpired that despite the fine form of Barrow, Lockey came very near winning through sheer pluck. Michael Hobday gave another good sample of his capabilities, and J. E. Kinleside had little chance, although he did not by any means play a bad game. Harry Makepeace followed closely in the wake of Tommy Gaughan for three-parts of the game, and his prospects of winning were not at all remote until a succession of small breaks excellently played by Gaughan brought play to an end somewhat suddenly. John Raw and William A. Atkinson had not a great deal to spare in settling the Rev. T. W. Hanson and T. R. Wilson. John Jopling did what only one other individual has been able to do this season, and that is to beat C. Merritt.

LEAGUE v. TOWN HALL.

R. Cheesmond	100	S. Aynsley	96
E. Batey	60	F. McNally	100
J. Matthews	100	J. Merritt	72
P. Matthews	97	W. Smurthwaite	100
A. McGurk	100	W. Elliott	47
F. McDonald	67	J. Collinson	100
	524		515

Total for first fixture 473 Total for first fixture 512

The League players have every reason to be satisfied with their final games, as Consett Town Hallers are no small fry to take points out of, yet Leadgate did it, and by no fluke either. Evidently James Matthews had left his best performance of the season till last, at least I cannot trace anything better than his accounting for John Merritt fairly and squarely. Previously Merritt had failed only once in 13 undertakings. An 11 break aided Matthews to verge on 30, nearly a street in front, but for a considerable period after that he stood sadly in the background, making only 9 to Merritt's 39. Then the order of things was again reversed, 65 being scored against 25. The game was devoid of big breaks, but its quality was high-class, especially the winning hazards by Matthews. He found almost every pocket he tried, and from any angle. I should think that W. Elliott has had a fairly good experience of tables, different in strength and balls made of tusk or compo, yet he was helpless under the conditions laid down to him last week, but the other man wasn't. I have hinted before that in McGurk we had a coming star, and this opinion is gradually becoming general. He missed nothing plain, did not hesitate at semi-difficult situations, and with marvellous success fearlessly attempted well-nigh impossible strokes. Thus was Elliott well beaten. John Collinson was entrusted with the last game, to which too much importance could not be attached, as a similar result to Elliott's would have jeopardised Consett's hold on second place. He proved equal to the task, however, and accounted for F. McDonald in very fine style. P. Matthews trotted out quite a superior game, and looked all over like beating W. Smurthwaite, but the latter was also in good cue, especially in the last fifty, where he overhauled Matthews and won an exciting game by 3 points. R. Cheesmond and S. Aynsly scored two's, etc., alternately up to approaching 20, when the former dashed right on to 50 by consecutive breaks of 17 and 13, but simmered down suddenly for Aynsley to steadily work up to 51 against 56. Once more a disparity arose through Cheesmond bracketing odds and ends with a 10 break, and Aynsley looked in for a licking with only 67 to his credit against 95. However, he succeeded in staving off defeat until 94, having scored 29 to 5. After a couple of week's play of the moderate kind, Frank McNally wound up the season in something like his best form, and E. Batey was the victim, although not to an overwhelming extent. McNally took a [illegible] to get settled down, so in the meantime Batey collared a 10 point lead—[illegible] against [illegible]—but then McNally came on, first with a 10 break and in close attendance breaks of 9, 10, and 9, making in all 54 to 8 [illegible] on Batey's [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] but McNally [illegible] on the finishing touches to [illegible] an unfinished 19.

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES.

A complete list of each man's doings has been compiled, and a production of the same will doubtless prove interesting:—

STANLEY.

Players	Games P.	Scores F.	Scores A.	Points G.	Points L.	A'ge.
J. Makkison	14	1400	677	723		100
C. Pringle	14	1322	895	427		94.42
W. Long	14	1330	1035	295		95
J. Smith	13	1203	926	277		92.53
R. Murphy	8	771	565	206		96.37
W. Clark	9	852	707	145		94.66
T. Kilgallon	2	174	146	28		87
T. Murray	2	187	163	24		93.5
W. Rose	4	349	328	11		87.25
G. Bird	2	172	200		19	86
W. Barker	2	172	200		28	86
	84	7932	5843	2136	47	94.42

Makkison takes premier place, not only for his side, as in every respect he outshines the whole list of registered players. Top average, points gained, and highest break all his own. Pringle and Long have magnificent records, little short of which come J. Smith and W. Clark, while R. Murphy beats the lot (excepting Makkison) from average point of view. He came to the front late on, and justified his appointment by recording the handsome average of 96.37 on 8 games. Of the others, Rose played four games, the results of which were deemed unsatisfactory, so he was rejected—not as unwarrantable goods, but as an article requiring straightening or something.

CONSETT NEW TOWN HALL.

Players	Games P.	Scores F.	Scores A.	Points G.	Points L.	A'ge.
F. McNally	14	1373	971	402		98.07
J. Merritt	14	1342	1067	275		95.85
J. Collinson	12	1125	901	224		93.75
S. Aynsley	10	951	810	141		95.1
W. Elliott	13	1171	1045	126		90.07
W. Smurthwaite	8	679	681		2	84.87
H. Wood	10	872	944		72	87.2
G. Turner	3	206	300		94	68.66
	84	7719	6719	1168	168	91.87

Only two players have gone through the entire programme, and of these Frank McNally has an unique record. He was caught napping in the very first game, but has been very much widewake since. John Merritt's value cannot be overestimated, as his average indicates. Steve Aynsley ranks next and has certainly justified his selection. Although John Collinson shines in the gain column his average is scarcely up to what was expected from a player of his calibre; one or two unlooked for defeats account for this. William Elliott's visit to Leadgate last week made a mess of his otherwise excellent show.

BLACKHILL MECHANICS.

Players	Games P.	Scores F.	Scores A.	Points G.	Points L.	A'ge.
C. Merritt	13	1282	888	394		98.61
T. Gaughan	14	1310	1115	195		93.57
W. Atkinson	14	1291	1122	169		92.21
M. Hobday	14	1272	1163	109		90.85
E. Lenaox	2	190	162	28		95
T. Atkinson	1	100	91	9		100
J. Barrow	14	1258	1270		12	89.85
T. Gallagher	5	412	454		42	82.4
J. J. Raw	7	538	587		49	76.85
	84	7653	6852	904	103	91.1

Charles Merritt is only 18 points short of the highest number obtainable, hence his average ranks next to the champion Makkison. Tom Gaughan and W. Atkinson are pretty close together with excellent figures, while M. Hobday stands not so far away. The other full-timer, John Barrow, claims a total almost equal to Hobday, but considerably more has been scored against him; one has a gain of 109, while the other forfeits 12, and yet only 14 points separate their scores "for."

ALLENDALE COTTAGES.

Players	Games P.	Scores F.	Scores A.	Points G.	Points L.	A'ge.
W. Eggleston	11	1038	807	231		94.36
R. Ashby	13	1165	1010	155		89.61
C. Kemp	1	91	100		9	91
W. Beck	5	429	443		14	85.8
"A Novice"	1	82	100		18	82
T. Young	2	176	200		24	88
M. Walton	2	130	158		28	65
L. Kelly	6	527	569		42	87.83
G. Walton	14	1132	1187		55	80.85
J. Longstaff	11	924	1015		91	84
J. Page	9	754	849		95	83.77
A. White	9	690	892		202	76.66
	84	7138	7330	386	578	84.97

William Eggleston failed in one essay only, but by the large number of 62 which makes a difference of 5.64 in his average, however, he is easily first on the list. R. Ashby has on the whole been somewhat erratic, consequently he does not average 90. George Walton alone has followed the affair throughout, but with only moderate results; in fact all-round we find deterioration rather than improvement in the Allendale ranks, and they were within an ace of giving way to Shotley Bridge for fourth place.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

Players	Games P.	Scores F.	Scores A.	Points G.	Points L.	A'ge.
F. Cole	14	1311	987	324		93.64
J. Henry	14	1285	1171	114		91.78
J. Garnett	3	240	270		30	80
J. Douglas	7	594	630		36	84.85
J. Birrell	14	1195	1245		50	85.35
E. Newbiggen	10	816	867		51	81.6
J. Carr	5	371	425		54	74.2
A. Small	3	232	300		68	77.33
J. W. Forster	14	1087	1321		234	77.64
	84	7131	7216	438	523	84.87

This team's debut must be voted very satisfactory indeed, and they were unlucky not to take fourth place. Frank Cole has been a tower of strength and a substantial pillar is found in J. Henry. J. Birrell and J. W. Forster faced the music on each occasion the former with fair success, but the latter with disastrous results. James Douglas possesses an average almost identical with that of the team as a whole.

LEADGATE LEAGUE OF THE CROSS.

Players	Games P.	Scores F.	Scores A.	Points G.	Points L.	A'ge.
J. Matthews	14	1291	1232	59		92.21
A. McGurk	8	696	668	28		87
J. Monaghan	2	186	185	1		93
R. Cheesmond	12	1090	1110		20	90.83
E. Batey	10	851	875		24	85.1
F. McDonald	12	1047	1099		52	87.25
T. Ward	2	117	200		83	58.5
P. Matthews	14	1019	1261		242	72.78
P. Daly	10	646	917		271	64.6
	84	6943	7547	88	692	82.65

James Matthews comes out an easy first after fulfilling every fixture of which he has won 9 and lost 5. His brother is the only other full-timer, but the figures tell a woeful tale of deterioration since last season when he topped the list with a balance on the gain side. If one of McGurk's games could be eliminated the other seven would average 97.57, but that fatal game, lost by 87, pulls down the average to exactly 87. The performances of R. Cheesmond and F. McDonald are very similar, each having won half the games and shewn up well against good men, especially Cheesmond. P. Daly has been roughly handled on various occasions; 8 defeats, most of them heavy, account for his lowly position; however, as secretary, he will be satisfied in working for the best team in Leadgate.

LEADGATE YOUNG MEN'S GUILD.

Players	Games P.	Scores F.	Scores A.	Points G.	Points L.	A'ge.
T. Hanson	9	757	816		59	84.11
H. Makepeace	14	1180	1261		81	84.28
J. E. Kinleside	12	990	1071		81	82.5
J. S. Jopling	14	1164	1270		106	83.14
T. R. Wilson	3	190	300		110	63.33
F. Lockey	14	1187	1327		140	84.78
J. Kershaw	8	569	746		177	71.12
C. Todd	10	731	935		204	73.1
	84	6768	7726		958	80.57

Three of the players have turned out each week, but none can lay claim to points gained. Fred Lockey has top average followed very closely by H. Makepeace, the Rev. T. W. Hanson, and J. S. Jopling in the rotation given. J. E. Kinleside stands next with a fair performance, but the others have been far from successful.

DERWENT COTTAGES.

Players	Games P.	Scores F.	Scores A.	Points G.	Points L.	A'ge.
T. Leatherd	3	247	291		44	82.33
G. Walton	2	109	200		91	54.5
L. McTaggart	3	128	300		172	42.66
J. Anderson	10	740	921		181	74
J. W. Sanderson	10	714	934		220	71.4
G. Campbell	11	803	1042		239	73
J. Barron	14	1089	1333		244	77.78
A. C. Blunt	13	933	1195		262	71.76
J. Curley	11	762	1060		298	69.27
J. Pattison	7	400	700		300	57.12
	84	5925	7976		2051	70.53

J. Barron is the only full-timer, and has the credit of top average. J. Anderson and G. Campbell have come out of the ordeal pretty well, also the Rev. A. C. Blunt. On the whole, the general average of 70.53 is not bad for a new team pitted against old-standing clubs.

PROFIT AND LOSS.

Only the first three teams have scored more than their opponents, although all six teams possess one or more players with a credit balance, some of course outweighed by preponderance of deficits. The following will explain.

	Points Gained.	Lost.
Stanley	2136	47
Consett	1168	168
Blackhill	904	103
Shotley	438	523
Allendale	386	578
League	88	692
Guild	—	958
Derwent	—	2051
	5120	5120

BREAKS.

There is not a great difference under this head from what was published a few weeks ago. The complete list of innings' 30 and up is as follows:—

J. Makkison	51
C. Pringle	41
Do.	40
J. Collinson	39
W. Eggleston	36
J. Barrow	[illegible]
J. Makkison	34
J. Merritt	33
Do.	32
J. Makkinson	32
J. Collinson	31
J. Smith	31
G. Walton	30
C. Pringle	30
W. Atkinson	30
J. Makkison	32

J. MAKKISON SWEEPS THE DECK OF SPECIAL PRIZES.

It will be seen from the foregoing tabulation that Makkison easily wins the cue for highest break, and quite as easily does he carry off another cue for highest average.

The Tournament demands that each team supplies 6 players, and if each Institute could command the services of the same six every time, a total of only 48 would be involved, but owing to pressure of business and other things we find that instead of this 48 no fewer than 78 have taken part, and of that lot only 20 have fulfilled every engagement.

These 20 good men and true deserve a special line each. Here they are in order of merit:—

	Average.
J. Makkison	100
F. McNally	98.07
J. Merritt	95.85
W. Long	95
C. Pringle	94.42
F. Cole	93.64
T. Gaughan	93.57
W. Atkinson	92.21
J. Matthews	92.21
J. Henry	91.78
M. Hobday	90.85
J. Barrow	89.85
J. Birrell	85.35
F. Lockey	84.78
H. Makepeace	84.28
J. S. Jopling	83.14
G. Walton	80.85
J. Barron	77.78
W. J. Forster	77.64
P. Matthews	72.78

STANHOPE.

THE SANITORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES.—Horn Hall Villa, at the west end of Stanhope, which has been leased from the Commissioners for seven years, is now undergoing alterations and renovations, and will ere long be ready for the reception of patients. It is beautifully situated, and with the pine, water, and breezy mountain air of Stanhope, will be very suitable for consumptives.

BARRINGTON SCHOOL CONCERT.—The annual concert of the children of the above school was held on Friday night, and was a great success. Over £16 was taken at the doors. The performance of the children was highly creditable, both to the children and their trainers. The house was packed with an appreciative audience. A supper and dance followed, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. J. Bell presided at the piano. The effort for the children's trip was a thorough success.

APIOL and STEEL PILLS for females. A French remedy for all irregularities and obstructions, superseding bitter apple, pill cochiae pennyroyal, &c. Price 4/6 post free. Obtainable only from MARTIN, Foreign Chemist, SOUTHAMPTON.

"BUCHU-PARIA."—Complete cure of all kidney and kindred complaints, stinging, indigestion, inflammations. Of Chemists, F. NEWBERRY & SONS, Agents, 1, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

Presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Forkin.

AT BLACKHILL.

It was felt by the officials, servants, and employees of the North-Eastern Breweries, Ltd., that such an auspicious event as the wedding of Mr. Thomas Forkin could not be allowed to pass without some recognition at their hands, seeing that Mr. Forkin occupies a responsible position under the company, and is highly respected and esteemed by all connected with the North-Eastern Breweries. Consequently a movement was set on foot to promote a testimonial to Mr. and Mrs. Forkin, and this was so warmly taken up and so liberally responded to that the committee were enabled to purchase a most handsome Chippendale cabinet, together with a beautiful davenport. The presentation took place at the Royal Hotel, Blackhill, on Tuesday night, the proceedings being of a most enthusiastic nature. Mr. Edward Wylam, of Consett, occupied the chair, faced by Mr. R. Lyall in the vice, and amongst others present were Messrs T. Forkin, B. T. Mawson (who carried out the secretarial duties in a most capable manner), J. Moody, R. Smart, J. McKie, J. Welsh, W. Ions, D. K. Durward, J. B. Blackett, C. Falvey, Jas. Forkin, R. J. Brodie (treasurer to the fund), R. Walton, W. A. Walker, James Kelly (Leadgate), T. Travnor (Medomsley), F. Blair, ex-Sergt. Murphy, J. H. Brown (Leadgate), D. Durward, jun., D. Rafferty, T. Burns, I. Davis (Castleside), J. Boyle, and others.

The Chairman said it was customary at all gatherings to first give the toast of "The Queen." The empire which she governed was in a little difficulty at the present time, but they hoped soon to be out of it. (Hear, hear.) He trusted that Her Majesty would live for many years yet to reign over them. (Applause.)

The toast was heartily pledged, the company singing "God save the Queen."

The Chairman next gave "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family."

Mr. Walker, in proposing "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces," said he thought they would all know what their men were doing in South Africa. They had had many trials to contend with, and no doubt their task in the Transvaal had been underestimated. (Hear, hear.) However, he thought that now they had got the upper hand. They had captured Cronje, and now they wanted Kruger. (Laughter and applause.) They all hoped there would be a speedy relief of Ladysmith, where General White had held out so gallantly. (Applause.) Mr. Walker referred to the good work done by several generals, and expressed regret at the fact of General Macdonald being wounded. The speaker concluded by paying a warm tribute to the navy and the auxiliary forces.

Ex-Sergt. Murphy, in responding, said he was in hearty sympathy with the toast. Their forces had done well in South Africa, and he hoped that they would continue to do so. (Applause.) For his own part he wished that there was no war, but as they had begun they would have to continue until victory crowned their efforts. (Applause.)

The Chairman then announced that Miss Pattinson (a little girl) would recite "The absent-minded beggar." She should have done this at the entertainment at Consett, but for some reason had not been allowed to do so. However, they were not so narrow-minded there. (Applause.)

Miss Pattinson then recited Rudyard Kipling's poem admirably, and a collection on behalf of the Reservists' Fund resulted in 17s being realised.

The Chairman then rose to make the presentation. He said that he did not feel equal to the occasion, and would rather have seen one of the Messrs Murray present to perform the duty. However, he supposed that circumstances had prevented them from attending. Mr. Forkin had represented the company for about eight years. He (the chairman) had known him for a long time, and had always found him honest and straightforward in all his dealings. (Loud applause.) They had done a lot of business together, and had never had a wrong word. (Hear, hear.) As regards Mr. Forkin's good wife—he admired his choice—he was going to say that he knew her before she was born—(laughter)—but he knew her father and mother long before they were married. He and they went to school together as boys and girls. He hoped and trusted that Mr. and Mrs. Forkin would long live to enjoy the presents they were about to receive that night. (Applause.) The presents were very nice ones. They were both good and useful, and credit was due to whoever selected them. (Hear, hear.) He knew that all present wished Mr. and Mrs. Forkin health and happiness to enjoy the presents. (Loud applause.) He (the speaker) hoped that Mr. Forkin would do in the future as he had done in the past—deserve a good name between employers and employed. (Applause.) He hoped that they would live long, and be happy together. (Loud applause.) The Chairman then read the inscription on the presents, which is as follows:—"Presented to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Forkin by the officials, tenants, and employes of the North-Eastern Breweries, Ltd. (Blackhill Branch) and other friends, on the occasion of their marriage. February, 1900."

The health of Mr. and Mrs. Forkin was then enthusiastically drank with musical honours.

Mr. Forkin, on rising to respond, was received with loud cheers. He said that under any circumstances it would have been a great privilege to meet the friends he saw around him that night, but under the prevailing circumstances the privilege was greatly increased by being there to receive those beautiful presents. He had never expected them, and they had altogether exceeded his expectations. It was not so much the cabinet and desk that had been presented to them, but a thousand times more he thanked them for their kind sentiments and good wishes. (Applause.) The officials, tenants, and employes of the firm and himself had got on well together. (Hear, hear) They had not had many rows—(laughter)—because they had all endeavoured to do their duty under all circumstances, and to do what was best for the company. (Applause.) They had turned up to celebrate an event that did not often occur in a man's life. (Laughter.) An old friend had told him that if he did not do it he would regret it and that if he did do it he would regret it. (Laughter.) He felt quite unequal to an occasion like that, but he thanked them from the bottom of his heart for their handsome presents and good wishes. (Loud applause.)

The Vice-chairman then proposed "The health of the Murray family," and said he had known them from childhood. He had known the general—as he called Mr. R. Murray—for many years, and thought he knew his temper and abilities as well as anyone. He was one of the best men they ever had in the North of England. (Applause.) It was only right that they should give praise where it was due. He hoped that the firm would long continue to prosper. (Applause.)

Mr. James Kelly, as an old employee of the firm, said he could not allow the opportunity to pass without saying a few words. He had always found Mr. Richard Murray to the fore in connection with any good cause. (Applause.) Being so intimately connected with the social side of Consett—and speaking as an Irishman and a Catholic—he had always found in Mr. R. Murray one of their most ardent supporters. (Applause.) He (Mr. Kelly) had been connected with various affairs, and knew when they wanted Mr. Murray's assistance they had simply to ask for it, and they got it. (Applause.) As an employee of the firm he had found him a good, honest, and upright master. (Applause.) If they did the thing that was right there was nothing to fear. (Applause.)

The Chairman proposed "The North-Eastern Breweries, Limited," and coupled with it the names of Mr. Mawson and Mr. Durward, both of whom suitably responded, Mr. Durward saying that the business of the past had been a great success, and he asked all present to drink to the future success of the North-Eastern Breweries, Limited. (Applause.)

Mr. James Forkin proposed "The Chairman and Vice-chairman," which was given with musical honours, and suitably acknowledged.

Several other toasts followed, whilst at intervals capital songs were rendered by Messrs Falvey, Murphy, Davis, Kelly, Walker, Durward, and Brown, Masters Snowball and Havelock. Master H. Blackett (South Shields) playing the accompaniments in a most able manner. The successful proceedings terminated with the singing of the National Anthem and Auld Lang Syne.

WOLSINGHAM.

DEATH OF A WESTGATE MAN.—Mr. John Row, a Weardale lead-miner, of Westgate, well-known in the dale, and well respected, died at Wolsingham last week.

THE SEAT OF WAR.

STANHOPE SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES.

"MAKING THE BEST OF EVERYTHING."

Writing to his brother from Worcester Camp on January 21, G. Galley, a Stanhope man, says:—We have shifted camp further up to a place called Worcester. It is a lovely place with plenty of fruit. Most of the people are English here, and send us presents of apples and peaches. Where we are camped now is in a wood, and there is no dust for a blessing, as the other place was fearful. Some days when we were sitting down to dinner a dust storm would come and cover our food, and when it was past we had to scrape off what we could and eat the rest. You talk of eating a peck before you die, out here we have eaten many a peck. We have been expecting all this week having a go at them (the Boers). We have been sleeping with our clothes on and our guns by our sides for over a week. The mean devils have not come. The dust storms out here are something fearful, and the ground is not so comfortable as a feather bed. When we are on duty at night we cannot lie down through the day. There are ten men in each tent, when they are all sleeping it is full. We are making the best of everything, and get as much good out of everything as we can. If we only had the enemy out of the hills we would scatter them, but they get behind them and they have nothing to do but fire away at us. Some of the hills are very high, several hundreds of feet, and run for miles. How we wish we had them into open country, where we could get at them, we would make them sit up. I have been writing this letter lying behind a bush by the river-side.

ANOTHER DIPTON MAN AT THE FRONT.

The following interesting letter has been received by Mr. R. Ruttherford, Fox Inn, Dipton, from Private J. McGill, of Hill Top Dipton, who is now serving in the 79th Battery R.F.A., 3rd Division of the Field Force, South Africa:—

February 1st, 1900.

Dear Bob,—I received your gay letter of November 9th, (yesterday), so that it has been some little time in coming out, but better late than never. You had better report progress, and if possible reduce to a minimum the outward signs visible. War news you have more than us; we are in touch with the Boers daily, and generally manage to leave our mark. Everything points to a big move shortly. If I come out all right I shall have much to tell you. Sorry to hear you have had an accident to your hand. I wish I was at the "Fox" now with the "Boys," but at present I am with a lot of "foxes." Thank the "Boss" for kind enquiries, and ask him to send out the "grey hen" from the cabin. Will return if I have the good luck, but in the meantime will welcome news from Diptonians. Goodbye for the present.—Your affectionate friend.—JOE.

P.S.—Dear Bob, we have just received the order to move to a place called Pen Hoek. We can hear the firing from here, and have orders to move off at a rapid pace. We are all bursting with excitement to see the fun. They say there are five thousand, but let them all come, and it is a sure thing they will not all go; we will pour the shrapnel into them just as you and Braggs pour the shot into the pigeons.

INTERESTING LETTER FROM A LANCHESTER LAD.

Mr. Brotherhood, always kindly disposed towards orphans, undertook the rearing of a child placed under his charge at Lanchester Workhouse and practically adopted him as his own son. The lad grew into manhood and though he has not yet quite reached his majority, his training and education have tended to make him a useful as well as a respectable subject of the Queen. The youth enlisted in the Border regiment and is now at the front. Writing to Mr. Brotherhood, whom it will be noticed he addresses as "dear father" thus showing his love and affection for the worthy master, he dates his letter from Spearman's Camp, Natal, South Africa.

30th January, 1900.

Dear father,—I received your kind letter on the night of the 28th all right. We are now about 12 miles from Ladysmith, and we expect to relieve it in a week. We have just finished seven days hard fighting. We have had the Boers engaged on the left flank while Buller has found out their main position. We have lost very heavily. My regiment has lost about 200 killed and wounded including nine officers, but the Boers lost even more than us. It seems to come natural to sit having your meals and bullets dropping all round you. The Boer artillery have done a lot of damage; it is the awfullest sight ever I have seen—poor fellows with their heads blown to pieces and some their feet and arms. The first day we drove them out of one position and we had just started to advance when the man next to me was shot through the nose. The bullet came down through his lower jaw and out of his neck. We left him there groaning but he is still living. It has properly shocked my nerves. We get a dram of rum every night to keep the cold out. We expect to have a lot more hard fighting before we get into Ladysmith. The Boers say they are tired of fighting, but they are going to stick at it till the bitter end. In fact I am tired of it because you get in such a dirty state going sometimes a week without a wash. We are living now on biscuits and bully beaf as Tommy calls it. Tell little Lizzie if I live to get the Queen's chocolate I am going to send it to her if I possibly can. The Boers have destroyed all the railways about here and blown all the bridges up. We have to get everything by road. Of course the cavalry carries the mails. Will you kindly send me something out as my money is done and no prospect of getting any more. I am keeping in the best of health so far. With kind love to you all, from TOMMY.

In a postcript he thanks Mr. Brotherhood for the newspapers he had sent. Referring to an article in a contemporary, he thought it was a great pity that the man or monkey who wrote such rubbish respecting Lanchester lads at the front had not something better to do. He went on to say that if he was lucky enough to get through the war and return to Lanchester the writer might have an opportunity of justifying himself. He should like to see the writer under Boer rifle fire for then he would not have so much to say. He added one or two further remarks of a somewhat emphatic nature, and wound up with a desire to be remembered to several old friends.

LATE CORRESPONDENCE.

ROYAL RESERVISTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT GUARDIAN."

Dear sir,—We have been instructed by the committee of the Stanley and District Reservists' Fund to ask you to give publicity to the fact that it has been decided to grant relief to the wives, widows, and dependents of those who have volunteered for service, in response to Her Majesty's recent proclamation. Applications for relief should be made to the sub-committee at the Board Schools, Stanley, on Thursday, March 8th, between 6.30 and 7.30 p.m., and every alternate Thursday at the same time and place.—Yours truly,

JOHN W. NICHOLSON,
Wm. LAWS,—Hon. Joint Secs.

Pelton

BAND SUPPER.—On Saturday evening the members of the Pelton Colliery Band held their annual supper at Mrs. George Favell's Colliery Inn, Pelton, which was served up in an excellent manner by the worthy hostess and her capable staff of assistants. After a substantial repast had been thoroughly enjoyed, the cloths were removed, when Mr. John Bewick occupied the chair, and Mr. Matthew Young the vice-chair. Mr. James Bowman, the band secretary, gave a very favourable report of the condition of the band funds. Mr. Findley presided at the piano, while songs were rendered by Mr. John O'Connor, F. Wilson, W. Brown, J. Adams, and H. Laverick. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the hostess.

ANGLING.—A Stanhope angler killed a fine salmon in the Wear on Saturday, between Stanhope and Frosterley, while worm fishing.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.—On Saturday evening a lecture was delivered by Mr. J. T. Jacques, of Ushaw Moor, in the above church, from the subject, "Elisha the Tishbite." There was a large company, presided over by Mr. W. Willis of South Moor. After the lecture a supper, provided by Mr. and Mrs. A. Stockdale, of South Moor, in the school-room, was well patronised, the tables being presided over by Miss Murray, Miss Turnbull, Miss Barrass, and Miss Gibson. On Sunday morning and evening Mr. Jacques preached to large congregations, the whole of the proceeds being in aid of the trust funds.

STANLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

A monthly meeting of the members of the Stanley Urban District Council was held in the Council Chamber, Front Street, on Wednesday evening. Mr. Jonathan Green, J.P., presided, and there were also present Councillors T. W. W. Ritson, Geo. Forster, T. Anderson, J. Smith, M. G. Armstrong, A. H. Swinburne, T. Forster, and W. Indian, the Clerk (Mr. J. G. Ridley), the Surveyor (Mr. J. Routledge), and the Collector (Mr. W. Hewison.)

BUILDING AND SANITARY COMMITTEE.

The Building and Sanitary Committee recommended the passing of the following plans:—House and one tenemented house for Mr. Joseph Dunn, in Back Jubilee Terrace, Oxhill; house in Parmeter Street, South Moor, for Mr. W. Wearmouth subject to the form being sent in and an inspection chamber being provided for drains; tenemented house in Beamish Street, Stanley, for Mr. John Osborne; block plan of seven building sites at Oxhill Sand Hole, for Messrs James Joicey; three tenemented houses at Sand Hole for Mr. H. Hardy, subject to the staircases being divided by 4½ inch wall instead of stoothing; two tenemented houses at Oxhill Sand Hole for Mrs. Clayton; that a block plan of two streets of cottage property submitted by Mr. D. Spence, architect, on behalf of Mr. Thomas Tate, for land situated on the west side of the highway leading from West Shield Row Villa to Houghal Burn be passed subject to the sections of drains being supplied and to the satisfaction of the Surveyor; also that the building be lined off so as to allow of a 30 feet roadway measuring from the present fence on the opposite side of the road; also that the block plan of the building sites at the angle of the road near Shield Row Farm and abutting the Annfield Plain line, and north-west of the road leading to West Shield Row Villa be approved. The other portion of the same plan showing building sites on the opposite side of the roadway was recommended for disapproval. A letter was submitted to the Committee respecting the Dairies and Cowsheds Order from the Local Government Board and also one from Dr. Hill respecting the proposed regulations under the order. A report from the County Inspector respecting the South Moor Outfalls was submitted and considered satisfactory.

On the motion of Coun. Indian, seconded by Coun. Ritson, the report was adopted.

THE ANNFIELD PLAIN BRANCH.

The Highways and Lighting Committee reported that the plans for the proposed new bridge over Houghal Burn, near Tanfield Lea, had been examined and they were recommended for approval, and that the works be proceeded with as soon as the weather would permit, both Councils (Tanfield and Stanley) to contribute. A letter was read from the Annfield Plain Council asking for the appointment of a deputation to approach the N.E.R. Company to bring about better passenger train service on the Annfield Plain branch. It was recommended that Mr. Green, Mr. Kay, and Mr. Smith be the deputation, and that they be asked to advocate an additional train from Blackhill to Newcastle (by Annfield Plain) at or about 9 o'clock; that the train leaving Blackhill at 4.53 p.m. be put back seeing that it followed so closely the train leaving Consett at 3.45; that the train leaving Newcastle at 6.20 p.m. be continued on to Blackhill, thus avoiding the change of train and a wait of about ten minutes at Birtley; that the train leaving Newcastle at 7.55 p.m. be put back until about 8.30, thus making a connection between the south and west trains; and the necessity of a passenger station being put down or near the Pea Road for the convenience of the large and increasing populations of Oxhill and South Moor.

Coun. Smith moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Coun. Indian and agreed to.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Hewison reported that he had collected and paid over to the treasurer £10 14s 2d general district rate, £9 6s 6d cemetery fees, and 10/- fines, making a total of £20 10s 8d.

FINANCES

The Finance Committee presented and recommended for payment accounts amounting to £365 2s 5d. The estimate for the half-year ending September next showed an expenditure of £4,554 10s and the Committee recommended that notice be given for the making of a General District Rate of 1/4 in the pound.

The report was adopted.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Dr. Benson reported that 19 cases of scarlatina and three of erysipelas were notified during the past month. The latter were solitary cases, and all had recovered without any transmission of infection. The former were distributed over the following parts of the district:—Stanley, East Stanley, Kyo, South Tanfield, and South Mooor. The origin of many was traceable, and it was probable the whole number belonged to the same outbreak, judging from the uniformly mild character of the disease. The four weeks mortality was above the average, 21 deaths being returned, and giving a death-rate equal to 22 per 1,000 per annum. As not one death was due to preventible disease it was unnecessary to particularise the several causes. It might, however, be stated that constitutional diseases were the chief cause of the increased death rate. Dr. Benson also briefly referred to the unsatisfactory condition of a block of cottages at Kip Hill.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Routledge reported that the house situated at Shield Row and occupied by Mr. Charles Mudd had been flooded three times during the past fortnight to a depth of over three feet. The water flowed into the house from a field behind the house. The house was altogether unfit for habitation, as it was considerably below the road level. He recommended that it should be closed. Five houses at Kip Hill occupied by workmen in the employ of Messrs Joicey and Co. were in a dilapidated condition. Since the thaw set in the chimney top and part of the gable end of one of the houses fell through the roof of an adjoining house, the occupants having a very narrow escape. The houses were in a bad condition.

It was resolved to issue closing orders, and on the motion of the chairman the doctor's report and the Inspector's were adopted.

THE ACCIDENT AT OXHILL.

A letter was read from Mr. R. Holmes, of South Tanfield, asking the Council to take up the case of the three lads who were injured on the railway at Oxhill crossing. Two of them had had a leg amputated, and they thought the Railway Company ought to be called upon to pay compensation. The action would also cause the question to be raised as to whether there was a right of way from the crossing to Annfield Plain, and whether a proper footroad should be made.

The Chairman moved that the letter be referred to the Highways' and Lighting Committee for consideration.

Coun. Indian seconded the motion which was agreed to.

COUNTY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The County Inspector in his report referred to the South Moor sewage disposal works, and said they continued to give the best possible results. The samples showed that nothing better could be desired. The works had already been visited by several committees of District Councils and others, and he had reason to believe that other District Councils would adopt similar works if it were possible to borrow the money without being compelled to include land filtration. He suggested that the attention of the Royal Commission on sewage disposal should be called to these works in the hope that the Commissioners would visit and possibly advise the Local Government Board to sanction loans for such purposes.

DR. BENSON'S ANNUAL REPORT.

In his annual report Dr. Benson, after detailing the cases of notifiable diseases says "there is a growing feeling in favour of the Isolation Hospital, but a strong objection to undertake the journey so far as Leadgate. It is to be hoped arrangements may be made to complete the one in course of construction nearer home." Dr. Benson added that the Vaccination Act had been a marked success as regarded the number of claims for exemption but the operation itself was very inefficiently done by private vaccinators. From the Inspector's department the doctor reported that during the year 91 houses had been built and occupied. After dealing with overcrowding and other matters he stated that the requirements of the district were:—closure of condemned houses, structural alterations to defective houses, additional sewers and outfall works for sewage treatment, reconstruction of objectionable outoffices, overcrowding, and regulations for cowsheds and dairies.

The Council having disposed of several other matters of minor importance adjourned.

FOOTBALL.

Fixtures for Saturday.

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

SHANKHOUSE v. STANLEY.

At Shankhouse. Kick-off 2.45.

Stanley.—Goal, Spinks; backs, J. Saunders and Devin; half-backs, C. Crute, W. Ellis, and J. Allison; forwards, H. Green, J. Riley, T. Robson, J. Armstrong, and J. Masterman.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

MARLEY HILL v. HAMSTERLEY.

At Marley Hill.

MARLEY HILL.—Goal, T. Grant; backs, R. Davison and O. Rodgers; half-backs, P. Keenan, R. McDermott, and J. Prinn; forwards, J. Warnaby, J. Lyall, J. Tighe, R. Croft, and R. Patterson.

Referee, Mr A. A. Fletcher, Swalwell. Kick-off at 3.

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AUCTION MARTS

BLACKHILL FARMERS' MART.—On Monday Mr Jackson Green had forward 25 fat cattle, 200 fat sheep, 4 milk cows, 2 grazing cattle, 5 calves, &c. Trade was a little heavy, but last week's prices were maintained. Quotations:—bullocks up to £18 15s, top Mr Robert Dixon, Broad Oak; heifers up to £19 7s 6d, top Mr John Pickering, Acton; sheep up to 49s, top Mr Robert Dixon; grazing cattle up to £7 5s each, and calves up to 17s. Prices:—W. and G. Taylor, Summerfield, heifers, £16 2s 6d and £17 10s; R. Dixon, bullocks, £17 10s and £18 15s, heifer £16 15s; J. Graham, Whittonstall Hall Farm, heifers, £12 17s 6d, £17 17s 6d, and £12 2s 6d; R. Thompson, Flint Hill, cow, £12 15s; J. Temperley, Ebchester, cow, £14 5s; T. A. Stephenson, Blanchland, bullock, £10 15s; J. Hutchinson, Penny Pie, heifer, £14 7s 6d; R. George, Hunter House, calf, £12 15s; Mr W. B. Van Haansbergen, Woodlands Hall, heifer, £17; J. Fisher, Rodwell, cow, £15 7s 6d, bullocks £11 6s; F. Patterson, Winnows Hill, heifers, £17 2s 6d and £16; F. Hall, Toft Gate, £8 and £11 10s; J. Robson, Snows Green, cow, £16; J. Cowen, Pea Farm, cow, £17 12s 6d; J. Pickering, Acton, heifers, £19 7s 6d and £19 5s; T. Bushby, Hole Row, heifers, £11 7s 6d and £13 2s 6d; G. Hardy, Knitsley, heifer, £15 12s 6d; T. Raw, Middle Heads, bullocks, £15, £15 15s, and heifer £7.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mr J. Turnbull held his usual fortnightly sale of stock on Monday, and had forward 75 fat cattle, 220 fat sheep, 8 milch cows, 20 pigs, and a quantity of sundries, conveyances, etc. There was an unusually large attendance of customers from all parts, including Northumberland and Derbyshire, as well as home buyers. Trade for milch cows was good after the first few were sold, and a good clearance was effected, only about three cows being unsold; prices to £22 10s, top Mr. Harrison, Ponteland. Trade for fat sheep was not so good as last fortnight, but satisfactory prices were obtained. Top for hoggs, 56s 6d, Mr. Thomas Young, Broomyholme; Tribley to 54s 6d; Charlaw to 49s; Urpeth Riding, 49s; Plawsworth, 44s; Harbour House, 41s; Hollywell, 41s 6d; Viro, 41s 6d. Cattle, owing to last week's full supply, were not quite so good a trade, but the buyers could have removed double the quantity, but operated more cautiously. Prices:—Charlaw Colliery, bullocks, to £20 5s; Plawsworth (Darlington), bullocks, to £23; Hermitage, heifers, to £17 15s; Broomyholme, heifers to £24, bullocks to £24; Birtley Iron Company, bullocks, to £23 2s 6d; Bell Brothers, heifers, to £17 17s 6d; Burnhill, heifers, to £19 10s; Harbour House, bullocks, to £18; Beamish Colliery, heifers, to £19 2s 6d; Herrington, cows, to £18 5s; Kibblesworth, bullocks, to £17 17s 6d; West Stanley Colliery, cows, to £18 5s; Cocken, cows, to £17 15s; Twizell Hall, bullocks, to £15 15s. Grazing cattle, bullocks to £10 10s; bacon pigs to £6 15s; young pigs to 37s 6d. Next sale, March 12th.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Marriages.

LAWSON—WOODROW.—Chester-le-Street, St. Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Church, on the 27th ult., by the Rev. Father Holmes, Mus. William, eldest son of John and the late Mary Jane Lawson, of Low Cocken, to Mary, eldest daughter of James and Mary Woodrow, of Picktree House.

Deaths.

AISTON.—At the Royal Infirmary, 23rd ult., aged 56 years, suddenly, Thomas, husband of Ellen Aiston, of 5 Stella Road, Blaydon-on-Tyne.

ARMSTRONG.—East Castle, on the 27th ult., aged 23, years, Thomas, son of the late John and Mary Armstrong, late of Iveston.

BROWN.—Hirst, on Feb. 26th, Ethel, daughter of the late John and Sarah Brown.

BATES.—27th ult., aged 72 years, at the residence of her daughter, J. Elliott, No Place, Beamish, Ellenor, widow of Robt. Bates, late of West Pelton.

COUSINS.—Tow Law, 27th ult., Joseph Cousins.

CARR.—At Stargate, on the 27th ult., aged 86 years, Mary Carr, widow of the late Joseph Carr, of Blaydon.

CARTER.—Blackhill, 15, Ridley Street, on the 22nd ult., aged 47, Henry Carter, husband of Grace Isabella Carter.

ELLIOTT.—Twizell, on the 25th ult., aged 3, George Elliott.

HAMILTON.—At Royal Infirmary, 19th ult., aged 17 years, John William, son of William and Barbara Hamilton, Co-operative Terrace, High Spen.

HOBSON.—Catchgate, Feb. 27th, aged 40 years, George R. Hobson. To be interred at Harelaw, on Friday, March 2nd, at 3.30. Friends please accept this intimation.

MADDEN.—Chester-le-Street, on the 23rd ult., suddenly, William Madden, late of Gateshead.

MARSHALL.—Ebchester, Oakfield House, 25th ult., Margaret, wife of W. S. Marshall, M.R.C.S. (daughter of W. Allen, Esq., late manager Hamsterley Colliery), aged 38.

RUDDICK.—Mickley Square, on the 23rd ult., aged 57, Mary Ann, wife of David Ruddick.

ROBINSON.—Rose Cottage, Pelton, 20th ult., aged 71 years, Mary, wife of John Reay Robinson.

ROBINSON.—At 3, Run Head, on the 20th ult., aged 73 years, Sarah, wife of the late Ralph William Robinson.

SCOTT.—Chester Dene, Chester-le-Street, on the 27th ult., Elizabeth, wife of Robert Scott, aged 64 years.

TATE.—Ryton, 27th ult., aged 63 years, Joshua Tate.

TODD.—West Ryton-on-Tyne, Cumberland House, 21st ult., Hannah, wife of Joseph Todd.

THOMPSON.—Garden Cottages, West Pelton, 27th ult., aged 67, John, husband of Mary Ann Thompson.

TURNBULL.—At the residence of his son-in-law, T. Richardson, 80, The Avenue, Wallsend, Thomas Turnbull, moulder, late of Birtley, aged 73.

WRAY.—10, Eccleston Road, Ealing, W., Mary Ann Wray, late of Cutler's Hall, aged 82.

WELSH.—26th ult., at his residence, Dan's Castle, Tow Law, aged 66, Henry, husband of Mary Welsh.

In loving memory of Priscilla Bell, the dearly beloved daughter of William and Ann Bell, who died at Marley Hill, March 3rd, 1898, aged 16 years and 7 months. Ever remembered by her loving father, mother and sisters. Thy will be done.

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