

The Brenthamite

(PUBLISHED MONTHLY)

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FEBRUARY, 1917

SLIPPERY MONDAY.

Saint Monday is a lazy day,
No doubt you know the Monday feeling,
And so to keep us bright and gay,
One Monday morn there came to stay,
 A champion frost in Ealing.
O'er roads and pavements did it pass,
And turned them to a sheet of glass.

The people all came out to go
To business on that fateful morning,
The treat in store they did not know,
They stepped on what they thought was snow,
 Then sat down without warning.
In great surprise, from where they'd lain
They rose, then worshipped Earth again.

The nice, high boots that ladies wear,
Were masters of the situation,
The feet inside might say "Go, there,"
The lips above might sweetly swear,
 But for this one occasion
They pleased themselves ; and on the sly
The *soles* would stare at sliders-by.

Then over all these sat in state,
The Office staff at Winscombe Crescent.
They viewed the frost with air sedate ;
One wrote "five bob" upon a slate,
 Then smiled at all those present.
Said he, "If Brentham cannot walk
You'll soon find out how it can talk."

THE PIERROT.

For the benefit of the rapidly diminishing number that has not yet commenced getting them, Brentham cigarettes, on sale at the bar, are sold thus:—In 50's, quality 1, 1s. 10½d.; No. 2, 2s. 2d.; No. 3, 2s. 5d. They are packed in a neat, strong box, eminently suitable for sending to the front.

EVENTS.

BY SKIB.

A Billiard Match was played on the evening of Tuesday, 16th January. The visitors represented the A.S.C. Camp at Park Royal. The scores were:—

A.S.C.	BRENTHAM.
Corpl. Priest ...	150 v. Mr. Bartholomew ... 140
Driver Sylvester ...	88 v. „ Rudd ... 150
„ Foster ...	81 v. „ Askew ... 150
„ Hardman ...	98 v. „ White ... 150
„ Minnay ...	64 v. „ Holdom ... 150
Sergt. Hopcraft ...	118 v. „ Goodridge ... 150

The Institute Concert on January 13th was the first for which the I.C.C., through its social secretary, has been responsible. The audience, rather below the average for the hall, contained 50 wounded soldiers from Montpelier Hospital. Relapsing into that inexcusable habit known as Brentham time, the Concert, timed for 7.30, commenced at 7.50, but before long matters warmed up considerably. Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Toms blended their voices in well-rendered duets, Miss Olive McNae, a close neighbour, made her initial appearance as a soprano, banjo solos were given by Mr. W. Brooker, and Mr. Alfred Symes and Mr. J. Britton separately and in collaboration made wholesale mirth. The first sketch was "The Final Rehearsal," which brought home to many amateurs present the delight of their own rehearsals.

Miss Sybil Irwin, as Mrs. Cornwell, in charge of the rehearsal, spoke excellently, but was only once really annoyed in circumstances that called for frequent displays of temper; but perhaps her tone of sarcasm made up for any leeway in this respect. Mrs. Champion gave a fine presentment of the vain Miss Hope, and the parts of Miss Bartram and her sister Lucy were played by Mrs. W. Macfarlane and Miss D. Paddle. The latter showed some unnecessary restraint in this her first effort, but Mrs. Macfarlane's restraint was of the artistic order, and gave point to the whole sketch. Mrs. W. E. Reading, as Eliza, the servant, showed a genius for interrupting at the right (or wrong) moment. These five ladies must really give us another sketch this winter.

The credit for the second sketch, "Between 8 and 8.30," must be given to Mr. W. Macfarlane, whose writing it is, and who, in the part of Mr. Burgoyne, was splendid. The crescendo, in his temper, caused by the apparent loss of valuable papers, was perfect, but the diminuendo was simply a sforzando. Miss D. Carter was charming, almost excessively so, as the wife, and Mrs. Solomon was a mother-in-law in ten million. Mrs. Champion showed the other side of her art, as the servant.

Four Lectures have been given, one on each of the first two and the last two Tuesdays in January. The numbers present have not been large, but quite satisfactory in the circumstances, justifying Mr. W. Morris in making the arrangements. F. W. Headley, Esq. (of Haileybury), lectured on "Citizenship and the British Empire" and "War Loans," and Rev. T. W. Oswald Hicks' subjects were "What the small Nations have done" and "Our duty to the small Nations." No greater contrast in lecturers could well be imagined, the one tranquil and matter-of-fact, the other somewhat dramatic in his delivery and continually straining for oratorical effect. But both were deeply interesting and educative, inducing a thoughtful frame of mind, which resulted in profitable discussion at the close.

"Our" Concert, on Saturday, 3rd February, was arranged with the main idea of assisting the funds of this little journal. Those of us who are responsible for the running of *The 'Ite*, being faced with a small deficit on the first volume, determined upon this means of giving our readers an opportunity of helping to wipe it off. The Institute Control Committee, recognising the value of *The 'Ite* as a factor in Brentham's social life, granted the use of the hall without charge. Our Chairman (Mr. Bryceson) secured the services, as artistes, of people who were ready and willing to assist us in our object. Rarely, if ever, has such an excellent programme been put before an audience in Brentham; all that remained was for Brentham to supply a large audience, which had its money's worth guaranteed beforehand. The result was disappointing; the audience was, in point of numbers, much below what we felt justified in expecting, and so there was no balance and the deficit remains.

But the audience was enthusiastic, and was composed mainly of people who have in other ways shown their appreciation of *The 'Ite*.

Mr. Percy Drower gave two pianoforte solos and two baritone songs in splendid style, and acted as accompanist for four of the artistes; his accompaniment to Miss Sybil Irwin's delightful singing of "A Perfect Day" was an inspiration. Miss Elsie Rudkin's songs delighted everyone. Miss Molly Duncan gave two recitations from French History. Miss Millicent Welham earned double encores for her humorous songs. Mr. John Howarth came along at much inconvenience to himself, and was at his best. Mr. Alfred Mace received heaps of applause for his dexterous handling of the banjo, and Mr. Jack Seeley was a host in himself. A great part of the accompanying, some of it played in the adjoining hall to give an impression of distance, was in the capable hands of Mrs. Lionel Fielder. The final item was a fitting ending to a high-class Concert, the Sketch, "A Spray of Violets," in which Miss Millicent Welham and Miss Molly Duncan took the parts respectively of Sylvia and Enid, and both showed a wealth of the dramatic gift. Our thanks to all the artists.

That jolly Concert Party, the Merrymakers, invited 120 wounded soldiers to the Institute on Saturday afternoon, January 27th. The men at Southall were, unfortunately, prevented by the weather from making the journey, but our nearer neighbours at Montpelier came and were entertained to tea. The Concert following was much enjoyed, and from personal observation we can recommend the forthcoming Concert of the Merrymakers to our readers; the Party has worked hard to perfect itself. Later, a dance was carried through, and both hostesses and guests had a merry time. Our hats off to the Merrymakers for their unselfish labours !

The Brentham Sketch Party visited St. George's V.A.D. Hospital, Willesden, on January 20th and St. Mary's on January 27th. At each the Sketches, "A Final Rehearsal" and "Between 8 and 8.30," were given, and at the latter Hospital Mrs. Solomon and Mr. W. Macfarlane gave "A sister to assist 'er," and the party produced a new thing in toy symphonies.

Whist Drives, well attended, have been held on January 6th and 27th, and the Dance on January 20th may be regarded as marking a definite sign of revival. At the same time a Bridge Drive was in progress in the small hall.

ON DIT:—

- That the majority of those enthusiasts who have been observed digging in the snow are new to Allotment work.
- That rumour says the I.C.C. refreshment department expect to make £100 profit.
- That "Harry" wishes "Rumour" would have a try at the work, and realise the effort that has been and will be necessary to make 100 pence.
- That the Billiard Sub-Committee is the best helper the I.C.C. possesses.
- That the I.C.C. Hon. Sec. is somewhat "touchy" on the subject of coke.
- That no one can accuse the member of the I.C.C. entrusted with the care of the Ladies' Section of worrying his charges by too much attention.
- That the "Choral Society" has not had one badly-attended practice.
- That a Society named the "B.P.A." has a meeting at the Institute this month.
- That some people think they have heard of the existence of such a body before, but are not quite sure.
- That if "Subs." do not come in the "Ite" will go out.

ANON.

BRENTHAM CLUB AND INSTITUTE.

The Ladies' Committee had an interesting conference with the I.C.C. last month, with a view to ascertaining if anything more could be done to add to the comfort and popularity of the Ladies' Section. This section of our activities has been having a successful session, and the I.C.C. and the Ladies' Committee are united in the hope that an increased enthusiasm may make the remaining two months a record for the section. All lady members, with suggestions for the comfort or success of the section are earnestly requested to submit them at once to their Hon. Sec., Mrs. Harris, when they will be promptly considered by the Ladies' Committee. So many ladies with really helpful suggestions speak of them to anybody in general, and to nobody in particular, and consequently they are not authoritatively considered, and never put into effect. This can easily be remedied by a note to the Hon. Sec. of the Ladies' Section, who will see that the matter is dealt with in due form.

Look out next month for an interesting Entertainment on the 10th March, when the "Merrymakers"—who entertained a large party of wounded soldiers at the Institute this month—will provide a complete programme.

Programme for Saturdays in February :—

- 3.—Hall granted to "The Brenthamite" for a Concert.
Admission, 7d. (including tax).
- 10.—Dance (large hall), Whist Drive (small hall). Admission, 6d. ; non-members, 3d. extra.
- 17.—Dance (large hall). Whist Drive (small hall). Admission, 6d. ; non-members, 3d. extra.
- 24.—Children's Concert (hall hired by Children's Section).
Admission, 7d. (including tax).

HON. SEC., I.C.C.

Sergt. Tom Nicholson (No. 65, R.A.M.C. No. 1, T.B.D.), who claims to have been the first one from Brentham to rejoin his unit, he being on duty at 10.45 a.m. on August 3rd, 1914, writes, from France :—"Just a line to tell you that the '*Ite*' for January has brought HOME a little nearer. I am sure that if those at home knew how much these reminders are appreciated out here there would be very few of us without the current number. It is very refreshing to find that 'The Pierrot' is still on song, and that the gentleman who is responsible for the nippy sarcasm contained in odd pars is still at large. Good old Billiard handicaps! I do hope the first rounds will be over before I can get home. I am glad to see P.C. so optimistic. Now, I've a little grievance: Here have I been dreaming amid all this mud plugging of that piece of green (the old bowling green), yes, real green grass, and now that is to become a mud patch. But, never mind, I'll grow some grass in a box and put it in the front garden. 'Kino' (on page 85) is a lucky beggar. Fancy, a real bath, if it is only once a year! Best of luck to the '*Ite*', its staff and its readers."

OUT AND ABOUT.

Attempts to vary Brentham's horticultural devotions have, so far, failed to distract from the great god, SPUD ! Wheat, turnips, and even rhubarb, have been urged upon us as worthy of prior attention. The question uppermost remains : "How many hundreds of tons of potatoes can Brentham produce ?" But with the perceptible increase in the difficulty of obtaining sugar at the neighbouring shops, why is there no attempt to place a brand of Brentham Sugar on the market ? Sugar beet, the cricket roller and a few square yards of paving stones, and there you are !

* * *

A fair number of Brentham inhabitants appear to have forgotten the old song : "Let each before his own door sweep," once so popular. These lapses of memory are a public misfortune when snow and sleet, as recently, clothe the district. Bye-laws on this subject are of no effect apparently. It is admittedly a very inconvenient job, this sweeping away of snow before the jaunt to the station, and many of us prefer to promise ourselves the treat after our return in the evening. But that promise is fretted away as we trudge through the snow-covered paths in the more aristocratic parts of Ealing. We just hope that the bye-law will be enforced on our richer neighbours before we hear anything about it.

W.E.R.

WE TAKE OFF OUR HATS TO :

- The man who helped himself to a copy of *Co-Partnership* at the office.
- The man who sent to the bar for a 3d. packet of "Brenthams."
- The resident who paid his water rate while his taps were frozen.
- The member who turned off a radiator.
- The wretch who used an ash-tray in room three, refraining from soiling the red carpet.
- The young lady who helped Pa. on his War Allotment.
- The gentleman who used Institute ashes for the common good by sprinkling them on the ice-covered paths.

This issue of *The Brenthamite* completes the first volume ; an index will be issued shortly to each of the subscribers. Subscriptions for our second volume have been received already, and we are hoping to see this list a really formidable one quite early. Subscriptions may be handed to any of the members of the Board of *The Brenthamite*.

Brentham has now had its own magazine for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years, $2\frac{1}{2}$ years as the *Brentham Magazine* and one year as *The Brenthamite*.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

With this issue of the *Ité* will be found a leaflet setting forth the various kinds of seeds, &c., which the Society have stocked, and the hours at which they can be obtained. Read, mark, learn, and order early (inward digestion will come later) to avoid disappointment.

Five specially selected varieties of potatoes have been obtained, and growers are reminded that it is high time that these were started on their way. They should be placed on end in shallow boxes and kept in the full light away from frost, moisture or heat. By this means short, sturdy, green shoots will have grown by the time conditions are favourable for planting, when unnecessary shoots can easily be nipped off. Do *not* place in a cupboard or subdued light, as we have recently seen recommended by one or two gardening "noters."

A copy of the new schedule, in which several important alterations should be noted, will shortly be in the hands of every resident, and it is hoped that it will be carefully perused, together with the trading leaflet. The arrival of the schedule is usually the reminder that the annual subscription (1/-) is due, and membership cards will be issued on payment to any of the Committee.

Outstanding allotment rents should be paid as soon as possible to Mr. Green, who will also be pleased to help any reader to obtain additional ground. The Committee are endeavouring to obtain, for the duration of the War at any rate, a reduction in the rent of the "additional gardens," and it is hoped that a favourable announcement can soon be made. Meanwhile, it is to be desired that the present holders will renew their tenancies, and thus do their bit towards the cultivation of all available land.

Much of the vacant land on the eastern side has been "broken in," thanks to the worthy band who are facing the keen east winds just now. To each of them we say, "Here's a hand"—and then walk on to the next. Up to the present no finds of the importance and significance of those in Holyoake Walk last Easter have been reported—another case of the high life usually associated with the West. But, still, the men of Brentham Way have yet two months in hand.

B. H. S.

To the Editor of the BRENTHAMITE.

DEAR SIR,—Does "J.E.R." in his report of the activities of the Junior Section, intend us to infer that "not forgetting the Chairman" is a game which provides the ladies of his committee with much enjoyment? If so, there will probably be a rush, if and when it becomes necessary to appoint his successor.

Yours, &c.,

A FORGOTTEN CHAIRMAN.

Billiards. On Tuesday, the 16th January, we had the pleasure of entertaining a team of six players from the A.S.C. Camp at Park Royal to a return match. Brentham were the winners by five games to six. Details of the score and the name of the loser on our side will be found in another column.

The Billiard and Snooker handicaps are proceeding apace. Indeed, we have one finalist waiting for his opponent already. This is Mr. Rudd, who reached his present position after beating Mr. McCormack by 16 in the semi-final, after a somewhat uninteresting game. It appears likely that both handicaps will be finished this month, and it is a cause for congratulation that members generally have taken such a keen interest in the handicap.

P. C.

Junior Section. We are still making progress with this section; more new members have joined, and the attendances are very well kept up. During the month Billiard handicaps have been played by the senior boys, the prize offered being won by Master Edgar Smith after exciting games, the runner-up being Master Cyril Royce. The children are very busy preparing for the Children's Concert, which takes place on Saturday, the 24th inst. A very interesting programme is in preparation, and we hope all parents and friends will assist us in making it a big success.

On Wednesday, 31st January, the Junior Children's Party took place in the large hall. The Committee kindly provided the tea, under Mr. and Mrs. Boxall's direction, and there is no doubt it was a great success as far as the catering and the appetites were concerned. After tea, games, songs and music were indulged in, and a very happy evening closed at 9 p.m., with cheers for the Chairman.

The ladies who undertook the work of assisting were:—Miss Bennett, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Hender, Mrs. Bryceson and Mrs. Bentham, to whom great thanks are due.

J.E.R.

We are pleased to see Mr. Bert Hebditch home again, and well after his period of frigidity in Biddenden Sanatorium.

Mr. P. D. Fairchild, once a stalwart of the Brentham players, has joined the Q.V.R.'s. Mr. W. Macfarlane has gone into the Naval Brigade. The old Players have not a male quorum left.

All Editorial Communications to be addressed to the Editor,
27 Neville Road, Ealing, W.

All matters relating to advertisements to be sent to the Advert.
Manager, 43 Brentham Way, Ealing, W.

All other communications to the Business Secretary, 29 Meadvale
Road, Ealing, W.