

The Brenthamite

(PUBLISHED MONTHLY)

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:

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(*Advertisement Manager & Treasurer*), F. J. MILNER (*Business Secretary*),
and H. H. BARTHOLOMEW.

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JANUARY, 1918

COMING HOME.

My people live not far from here,
My wife's reside at no great distance ;
And here to talk of Christmas cheer,
For three days each we did appear,
To give them our assistance.
Remembering that at home we'd left,
A water pipe the frost had cleft.

Then home again did we return,
The day was cold enough to freeze us.
The fire at first refused to burn,
We had, for water, to adjourn
Next door. It didn't please us
To find the milkman had been round
And not a drop was to be found.

Then up the Lane in search of bread,
Successfully this time, I wandered.
No paper over it was spread,
When into view an old friend sped.
What comments now ? I pondered.
"Ho ! ho ! likewise ha ! ha !" quoth he,
"More meat for Pierrot's pen I see."

Although the pipes unmended be,
And we've no milk, or marge', or butter.
Although we've very little tea,
And meat we seldom seem to see,
Yet no complaint I'll utter.
Its even worse up West they say
Without the spuds down Brentham Way.

THE PIERROT.

We are pleased to see Mr. F. G. B. Williams (late driver, R.F.A.), son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Williams, Woodfield Crescent, home again, another silver badge man in Brentham.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

The invitation to all residents, issued by the Committee of the Institute in the December '7te, was responded to by a large number on the last evening of the old year. The arrangements made by the Committee, and the preparations made by the Steward and Mrs. Williams, were well nigh perfect. The whole building was in apple-pie order, and the various items in the evening's programme went off without the least bit of fuss and bother. At eight o'clock a Concert was commenced, and while this was proceeding the number within the building mounted up from two or three score to as many hundreds. Those who kindly gave their services as artistes included no "importations," the purely Brentham tone of the evening being preserved right from the beginning. Mrs. Fielder, Miss Mary Wigley, Miss Gertrude Cowley, Miss Middleton, Mr. Wheildon, Mr. Ridsdale and Mr. Bryceson contributed items that got us all into a good humour. At nine o'clock the function of the evening commenced. Mr. William Hutchings, with whom all were pleased to see Mrs. Hutchings, handed to the Society's Chairman, Mr. J. Allport, M.A., the agreement by which Ealing Tenants, Limited, place the control of the Institute and Grounds entirely in the hands of this Society of residents. Mr. Hutchings spoke of the essential atmosphere which, created and preserved by the mutual help of the Committee and the members who elect it, makes social organisation worth while. Mr. Allport, in accepting the agreement on behalf of the Committee and members, assured Mr. Hutchings that the residents appreciated both the spirit in which the transfer of control was made and their own responsibility in the new arrangement. The Secretary of the Society, Mr. H. W. Bryceson, backed up his chairman, and gave an outline of the scheme, and the conditions of membership. He paid a tribute to Mr. W. Fletcher for the great assistance that he had given the Society at its inception. Mr. F. W. Chambers, spending a short holiday in Brentham, who was Secretary of the Social Committee (of mysterious origin), and later of the House Committee in the first years after the opening of the present Institute, made a few remarks that were keenly appreciated by the older members present. He spoke of himself as representing the period of autocracy, not entirely bad, and welcomed the period of democracy, not entirely good.

Those present, after a short period at the extended bar at which Mr. Bentham's department gained high praise, dispersed to their various relaxations, dance, whist-drive, or flying billiard handicap. At 11.55 they came together in the Hall, midnight was signified by a brief "wink," and with the National Anthem they greeted 1918 and the new social régime in Brentham.

The Gay Chintzettes gave a Concert on the evening of January 5th. The Chintz was there in abundance, but the gaiety was somewhat overborne by the evident desire of the troupe to do the right thing at the right time. The troupe, nevertheless, managed to give a cheerful entertainment to a crowded hall. The troupe, directed by Miss D. Storey, consisted of seven artistes, a pianist, and two unattached members, namely, Miss M. Eintracht, a clever little dancer, and Miss M. Hobbs, who sang "The Strawberry Song" splendidly. The 30 items contained much variety, but the "business" was lacking in originality.

The Gay Chintzettes will go a long way ; they will certainly need to, before they reach the level of some other troupes we have seen in Brentham.

Brentham Football Club.—The Club has been very busy during the past month.

December 1, Belmont visited us again, and a really excellent game ended in a draw—4 all.

December 15, we visited S. Benedict's, who had a much strengthened team. They won by 8 goals to nil.

December 26 (Boxing Day), our friends Pitshanger Seniors came, and defeated us by 21 to 4. Seniors *will* assert their seniority.

December 29, we defeated Pitshanger Juniors, 3—2.

January 5, Haven Green visited us, and although we kept level until half-time we were defeated by 5—1.

Our team has kept well together during the first half of the season. We look for no slacking off in the coming half.

Dances and Whist Drives, increasingly popular and successful, have been held on the five Saturdays in December. Mr. F. J. Milner has managed these events in a manner that makes his retirement from the Social Secretaryship a matter of keen regret. He will, however, continue to M.C. the dances.

The Institute Steward, Mr. H. Williams, thanks billiard members and all present on New Year's Eve for their seasonable gift.

Our next issue of *The 'Itte*, February, 1918, will complete our second volume. All subscribers will receive an index. We should like to send an index to every house on the estate. To enable us to do so, please send your subscription at once to our Business Secretary, 29, Meadvale Road. THANKS !

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.

BRENTHAM CLUB AND INSTITUTE, Ltd.

The Institute building, recreation grounds and pavilion came under the control of the Society on the 1st January, 1918, and all residents on this estate are earnestly asked to think over the matter of joining the Society, whether they join the Institute or any of its activities or not, so that its hands may be strengthened and it may be able to develop the social and recreative facilities connected with this estate to the lasting benefit of the residents. The permanent Allotments are also to be handed over to the Society, but the arrangements for this to be done have not yet been completed. Perhaps it would be as well to remind everyone that the annual meeting of the Society is held in February. The Committee that was elected by the members in November, on the Registration of the Society, has quickly got to work, and is working harmoniously and successfully. By the rules, three of the members will retire in February, after their first short term of office, but will be eligible for re-election.

Notices will be issued in due course to members, in order that any who desire to do so may have an opportunity of nominating any fresh candidates for what will be really the first clear twelve month's run (February, 1918—February, 1919).

The Institute.

The activities are going strongly, and while the Social Committee are very sorry indeed that pressure of business has compelled Mr. Milner to resign the Secretaryship of this important Sub-Committee, they are very gratified in having the good fortune to find in Mr. J. E. Ridsdale so capable and energetic a successor. The Social Committee is trying an experiment this month. Instead of running Whist Drives *and* Dances each Saturday, it is to try running them alternately. It is felt that this will prove more acceptable to the majority of members. If this is not found to be the case the old idea will probably be reverted to. The Social Committee, like all other sections of Brentham Club and Institute, Ltd., *simply want to find out and carry into execution that which the majority of the members desire.*

Visitors.

Members may obtain tickets enabling visitors to participate in the activities of the Institute for a day for 6d., for a week for 1/6, or for one month for 3/6.

Members desiring to introduce visitors for longer periods should make application (in writing) for terms to the Secretary, at the Institute.

Saturday evening programme for January :—

JAN. 12.—Whist Drive, 8 p.m. (admission, 8d. ; members, 6d.)

19.—Dance, 8 p.m. (admission, 8d. ; members, 6d.)

26.—Whist Drive, 8 p.m. (admission, 8d. ; members, 6d.)

Books of six tickets, available for any function organised by the Institute Authorities up to 31st December, 1918, may be obtained, by members only, for 2/6.

Juniors.

The boys meet on Thursdays, 7.30 to 9.30, in the Small Hall, and a Dance is held on Wednesdays for junior members (over 12) in the Large Hall.

The younger children (under 12) meet in the Small Hall on Tuesdays from 6 to 7.30 p.m.

The Children's Library is open on Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. (entrance by side door).

For further information see Junior Notes.

Fees for Membership of the Institute to the 31st December, 1918.

Gentlemen, 7/6. Ladies, 5/-. Joint ticket, 10/6.

Juniors (over 12), 1/-. Juniors (under 12), 6d.

Only shareholders in Brentham Club and Institute, Ltd., are eligible for senior membership.

Special Tuesday Evenings.

In order to provide additional activities, particularly for those younger members who are gradually coming into the Senior Section, a Special Social Evening is being arranged for every Tuesday in the Small Hall. Songs, glees, games, and various other items are provided for in the programme, and all members of the Institute are cordially invited to attend and enjoy what is going to be, we hope, a most enjoyable series of evenings. Junior members are not admitted to these evenings.

All communications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, at the Brentham Institute, Meadvale Road, Ealing, W. 5.
H.W.B.

WE TAKE OFF OUR HATS TO:

The lady who, out of kindness, mistook us for the gas man.

The Allotment-holder whose pick-axe caused a thaw to set in.

Our contributor who was unwise enough not to study our Notes on Pipe-bursts.

Our colleague who found "consolation" in the fact that the omission of his notes caused them to be missed.

The designer of the new lamp-shades.

The lady who was not included in "Flappers ancient and modern."

The reviver of the Umbrella Bogey.

The Club-Member who is looking for empty shoes in the Committee Room.

The screened one who sits at the receipt of custom.

The Girl Guides who have succeeded in lighting one bonfire with one match. (Allotment holders please copy).

The Concert director to whom the number indicator is an essential ——— particularly when there is no programme.

The backwoodsmen on Pinches' Allotments.

THE RULES BOOK.

The new Society Committee has already done one thing at the right moment. Its "*Rules of the Brentham Club and Institute, Limited, Price, 6d.*," has been on sale at a time when light literature has been almost unobtainable. The book may be intended seriously, but at a first dash through it after a War-time Christmas dinner the humorous element quite eclipsed the serious. Who can read Rule 1, which says that "the name of the Society *shall* be the Brentham," &c. (our italics), without calling to mind the fact in Brentham nobody ever calls anything by the name which its godfathers gave it?

Rule 38 will be read with avidity by a few members who are constantly asserting that such and such a fellow member is "potty," for this rule deals with "Insane or lunatic member." Only one such person is anticipated, and some of our friends may plot to fit us within the four corners of this rule, and so extinguish our light as far as the B.C. and I. Ltd. is concerned. There is a serious omission from this rule; no provision is made for the possible contingency of all the members going "balmy" at once.

It is well that notice of meeting must state the time and place of the meeting (Rules 44-48), for it is very desirable that members who never attend business meetings should be saved from wandering by accident into a proceeding that is to them a bore and a bane. Such people would thus be robbed of their chief delight: railing against the Committee at all times and in all places, except at the appointed times and in the appointed places.

A general meeting may "adjourn to such place, &c.," should this be necessary (Rule 50). The place to which adjournment is made depends, of course, upon circumstances; for instance, on a sultry day it may prefer to continue its meeting beneath the spreading chestnut tree. If this rule is read in conjunction with Rule 2, which states that "no intoxicating drink shall be sold," we see the wisdom of the framers of these rules in providing the members present at a meeting with the opportunity of obtaining refreshment of a kind not stocked by the Society. Whatever other risks may thus be taken, the Committee sacrifices its power to starve its critics into surrender. Also the old song, "We won't go home till morning," will have an ominous meaning for a Committee that hopes to obtain a closure by shutting down the bar!

Should the Chairman be absent, Rule 51 provides that "any member of the Committee willing to preside" may do so. What would the meeting be doing while the Committee members fought for the chair?

The Society must have a seal (colour not specified, probably red), which shall be in the custody of the Secretary (Rule 71). If that hard-working person decides that he will abdicate and make it difficult for the Society to continue in existence, he will

probably follow a royal example, and fling the seal into the Brent as he leaves the district. The Society should, therefore, determine that the seal be made of a material that will float, and station a caddie-boy with a golf-ball net near the recognised crossings of the river that separates Brentham from foreign parts.

Finally, Rules 27 and 28, dealing with those elusive persons "the transferor" and "the transferee," if read aloud to a party of children may be safely relied upon to raise a hearty laugh. The reader will need a few minutes in which to untwist his tongue.

W.E.R.

ON DIT:—

That now Brentham Club and Institute, Limited, is right there.

That the Secretary thereof knows it.

That certain dignified members of the Committee were observed running about Brentham with a truck of coke.

That people want to know the name of the artistic soul responsible for the lamp shades in the hall.

That at a Social held recently in the Ladies' Room there was a demonstration of what can be done by War-time cookery.

That the B.H.S. owe a lot to their Trading Secretary.

That the parents of young Ealing should note the reports of the meetings of the Ealing Education Committee.

That they might enquire as to how far behind other local authorities this body really is.

That here is another matter of supreme importance in which Brentham has a great interest but little voice.

ANON.

Junior Section. The Children's Hour on Tuesdays, from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m., is getting quite one of our popular evenings, and it really does one good to see these little ones enjoying themselves; the time flies all too quickly for them.

We are booking new members for the New Year.

The Boys' evening on Thursdays, from 7.30 to 9.15, is making some little progress. We should, however, like to see new members. I feel sure there is a good number of boys from 12 years of age on this Estate who should be induced to join, and we should be very pleased to receive names of any for membership.

A very pleasing little ceremony took place on Thursday evening, December 27th, at the Senior Girls' Dance: the presentation of a silver chain-bag to Mrs. Hender, by Mr. Ridsdale, on behalf of the senior girl members. The Chairman of the Section, in a few words, expressed the good feeling and appreciation of the members of what Mrs. Hender had done for them, and her untiring energy in promoting these very pleasant evenings for our young ladies. The Sub-Committee works well together, and is very enthusiastic, which accounts for the greater success of this Section.

J.E.R.

The Brentham Horticultural Society's Committee has *B.H.S.* during the past month found plenty to occupy its time.

It has decided to hold one Show only (in August) during the coming year, and its schedule is in course of preparation.

Questions of cows straying on Allotments, the tenure of the Dibdin Allotments, and the rent of the permanent Allotments on the Estate have kept the Allotment Secretary busy. The Society is assured that Dibdin Allotment holders are reasonably safe in their holding for the coming year. On the question of reduction of rents of permanent Estate Allotments, it is too early to speak authoritatively, but perhaps at last the Society's perennial effort will bear fruit.

Trading, too, has occupied considerable attention. Those who were at the Society's Annual Meeting will not be surprised to hear that the Committee has had to face a fairly serious position on the matter of finance. The Society all along has had to work without capital, and it is a pretty open secret that this has had to be found out of the pockets of the Committee, or by long credit. This was never satisfactory, but the Society's trading operations have now got too large for this method, and, in addition, War conditions have made it increasingly difficult and expensive to depend on credit. The Committee found that at least £100 cash in hand was required if trading was to be carried on adequately. Part of this has now been raised by a loan from the Ealing Tenants, Limited, on the personal security of members of the Horticultural Society Committee. This will, doubtless, tide over the present year, but members should recognise that its business is not yet on a satisfactory financial basis, and a better way should be found.

Orders for over £100 worth of seeds, &c., have been placed, and during the past month some £25 worth of fruit trees have been bought, and distributed.

During January, seed potatoes, artificial manures, shallots, and most small seeds will be on sale at the Pavilion. As members of the Committee are themselves very busy trying to cultivate their own plots, and want every possible moment of daylight to do it, it has been decided not to open on Saturday afternoons, but to do so two evenings per week, viz., Tuesdays and Fridays, 8 to 9 p.m., commencing Tuesday, 8th January.

The following varieties of seed potatoes have been ordered:—
1ST EARLY: Midlothian Early. 2ND EARLY: British Queen and Regina. MAIN: Factor, Arran Chief, Duchess of Cornwall, and Queen Mary.

Will those who require lime on their Allotments kindly note that, unless their names are given in within the next few weeks, the Society will be unable to arrange for the supply.

All members of the B.H.S. Committee have books of membership tickets, and will be glad to take subscriptions.

M.