

Old Comrades'



Association

GAZETTE.

Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3.

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EDITORIAL

Resignation of the Hon. Treasurer and Secretary.

It is with great regret that we announce the resignation from the office of the Hon. Treasurer of the Association, of Miss Gibson, O.B.E., late Controller, Southern Command. Miss Gibson has had a very strenuous period of office as she has been responsible for piloting the Association through the complicated business of registration under the Companies' Act. This is now safely accomplished, and the O.C.A. owes much gratitude to Miss Gibson for all the hard work she has put in on our behalf. She has been in the office almost daily for many months, and in addition has acted as our representative on the Service Women's Benevolent Fund, which has been no sinecure.

Everyone is extremely sorry to hear that Mrs. Jackson, M.B.E., is resigning the secretaryship. She has done most excellent work, and has made herself persona grata to all members, and thoroughly familiar with every branch of the Association's activities. In every way she has proved most efficient.

We shall miss them both dreadfully, but hope they will keep up their personal interest in the O.C.A. and accept our very hearty thanks for all they have done for us.

Service Women's Activities.

It is interesting now and again to pause and report progress. When we look back over the past two years and realise how much has been accomplished in that period we have every reason to feel proud of our combined efforts. Members of the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association who wish to live in London will find a welcome in Mrs. Parke's Hostel in Belgrave Road, or at the Helena Club in Lancaster Gate. Members already living in London can attend the weekly social in Belgrave Road, and if they choose, the meetings of the sub-branch of the district in which they live. The club in Buckingham Gate, which combines everything, will be open in the autumn. Members living in the provinces are also catered for. There are United Service clubs running at Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Southsea which are always open, and where in some cases bed-rooms can be obtained for short periods. Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Cardiff, Swansea, Birmingham, Brighton, Nottingham, Bristol, Bournemouth, Leeds, Oxford, Portsmouth, and Reading all have re-unions from time to time, and many of them have permanent club rooms, where weekly meetings are held. If members of the O.C.A. want a holiday they have their own camp at Shanghai waiting for them, or if they are feeling tired and in need of a less strenuous holiday there is the Service Women's Holiday Home at St. Leonard's, where they can have every comfort, including breakfast in bed. If members are in trouble they can obtain advice at the Association Headquarters; if money can help there is the Service Women's Benevolent Fund ready to consider each case on its merits. The Council of the Association is in close touch with all the organisations with which members are likely to be concerned, and is represented on employment, training, emigration and housing committees.

This is not a bad record of two years' work, and it must be remembered that all this organisation has involved real hard work on the part of a number of our keenest members.

Ex-Service Women's Club, London.

After many months of weary searching for premises in which to start the Ex-Service Women's Club a suitable house has been found at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W., a few minutes from Victoria. A certain amount of alterations and re-decorations will be required, but every effort will be made to open the club early in September. The house is delightfully situated, and has several large reception rooms, together with many bed-rooms, so that it is hoped rooms will be available for country members. Lunches teas and suppers will be served in the dining room, and it is hoped that all Old Comrades will join to ensure the success of the club.

The subscription to members of Old Comrades' Associations will be 6s. per annum for town members and 3s. for country members. This will entitle them to use the club any day and all day if need be.

Shanghai-on-Thames.

It was originally intended to open the camp in time for the Easter holidays, but the secretary paid a surprise visit recently, when the thermometer was somewhere below zero, and the wind blowing with great force from the North East, and she returned to town blue with cold and with her enthusiasm for an early opening considerably cooled. Most people will agree in thinking that the Committee has acted wisely in postponing the opening until the weather improves. Shanghai was such a tremendous success last year we do not want to spoil the record with a crop of colds and coughs. In the meantime book your beds ready for the fine weather.

Local Branches.

Will Branch Secretaries please make an effort to post their reports on the last day of the month? It is very difficult to estimate the amount of space required unless all the reports are received at the same time, and this month it has been necessary to print the late comers in small type. We are all delighted to welcome the Liverpool Branch, and hope for regular news of their activities in future. Next month we shall eagerly await the Edinburgh report with the account of the opening of the Club by Field-Marshal Earl Haig.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

The Council has received, with the greatest regret, the resignation of Mrs. Jackson from the post of General Secretary to the Association. A number of applications have been received in response to various advertisements, and the new Secretary and Treasurer will probably be appointed at the April Meeting of the Council. All members are asked to bear in mind that if they wish to see the Secretary personally it is advisable to make an appointment. The new Secretary will state in the next issue of the Gazette the hours she will be in the office.

It has been suggested that the procedure adopted in choosing the 50 members to attend the Royal Wedding should be explained more fully. In view of the very short notice given, the President, the General Secretary, and Miss Ireland were authorised by the Council to make all arrangements. Over 100 applications were received, and members were chosen as far as possible to ensure every Branch being represented, taking into consideration the length of service in the Corps; members not attached to Local Branches were also included. Much careful consideration was given to each individual application.

Already many requests have been received for authority to purchase Association Blazers. It is hoped that as many Branches as possible will adopt the Blazer. Application should be made to A. G. Spaldings Bros., 317-318 High Holborn, W.C., enclosing the sum of 37/6, stating size required, and also enclosing a note signed by the Branch Secretary or the General Secretary, certifying membership.

Members are reminded that the annual subscription to the Association is 2/6, and the Life Membership 25/-. Subscriptions in the case of members not attached to Local Branches should be forwarded to the General Secretary.

Several members have been under the impression that the Annual Membership subscription includes the Gazette. It is therefore pointed out that the Gazette subscription is 3/6 in addition for one year, or 2/- for six months.

Badges can still be obtained, price 1/6, plus postage, from the General Secretary or from Branch Secretaries.

Shanghai-on-Thames.

Please note that this is a very important issue of the Gazette as it herewith announces that Shanghai-on-Thames will open for the summer season on Friday, May 5th. The Committee are delighted to be able to publish the fact that Miss McClosky has very kindly consented to act as hostess from Whitsuntide to the end of the camping season. It is hoped that it will be possible to maintain last year's prices for visitors, but everyone knows that it is numbers which help in catering cheaply, so come along in your myriads and book ahead to avoid disappointment.

There are a few sheets available this year for the convenience of those who find it difficult to bring bed linen. These may be hired at 6d. each. By the time the next Gazette is issued a party of signallers will have spent a week-end of revelry at Camp. At the time of writing the weather is anything but inviting, and one can only hope it will be kinder to those who are brave enough to face the simple life so early in the spring. However, there is a fireplace in the new hut which has been erected to provide additional comfort. All the old friends will be glad to hear that Mrs. Cross is looking forward tremendously to our taking up residence again.

H. HORNBLow, Hon. Sec., Camp Committee.

LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS FOR MARCH.

LONDON.

TENNIS CLUB.—Courts at Avenue Farm, Cricklewood, will be opened on the first Saturday in May. Subscription for members of the O.C.A. 21s. for season. Application should be made to the Sports Committee Secretary, Miss Izant, 356 Acton Lane, Acton, W.3.

CROYDON AND DISTRICT SUB-BRANCH.—The inaugural meeting of Croydon Branch will be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Wallington, on Wednesday, 26th April, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Graham, Tyneside, Wallington, Hon. Secretary.

CLUB ROOM.—The club room is open each Thursday evening from 7.30 to 9.30 at 91 Belgrave Road, Victoria, S.W.

RAMBLE.—A joint ramble has been arranged for Sunday, May 14th, round North London. Meeting Golder's Green Station 11.15 a.m., returning for cream tea at Featherstone Farm.

Hon. Secretary, S. B. MURRAY, 81 Lancaster Gate, W.2.

Swimming Club.

As announced in the last Gazette a general meeting was held on March 23rd to consider the formation of the "Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. Swimming Club." This has now come into existence. Election to the various offices took place as follows: President, Miss Ireland; Vice-Presidents,

Mrs. Parkes, Miss M. Chapman; Captain, Miss Stansfield; Vice-Captain, Miss Bartlett; Delegate to A.S.A., Miss Millbank; Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, Miss V. Mitchell; Committee, Misses Mainland, Izzard, Andrews, Chidley, and Williams.

The club practice night is arranged for Friday, 7 until 8 p.m., at North Kensington Baths (Ladbroke Grove Station, bus routes 7 and 15). The first practice night will be on April 7th, the baths will be warmed.

It is recognised that these baths are not perhaps the most central for many members, though it is hoped this will not prove an obstacle. The considerations which influenced the choice are: (1) these baths are less frequented than those of central London; (2) Miss Elliott, our instructress, has an assistant there, so that adequate individual coaching is ensured; (3) in consequence of (1) dressing boxes will be available practically without delay.

Those of us who joined the queue for boxes, or even for a very insufficient portion of screen on a balcony last summer, should appreciate the latter point, as also that in connection with the first (1) would-be swimmers may hope for more than a square inch per person!

Miss Elliott is an enthusiastic and excellent Instructress, and is very much sought after, so that we are lucky to secure her. Also she seems to have a special corner for Waacs.

The annual subscription is 3s., on payment of which a membership card will be issued which should be produced at the baths. A supply of swimming tickets are in stock, and may be purchased at a reduced price, viz., 5d., instead of 8d., from any member of the committee or the secretary, at 91 Belgrave Road, on Thursday evenings, or if this is not possible, at the baths on practice nights. The tickets are available any night, although instruction is limited to the one hour a week; also members may have any number at a time.

The question of badges is under consideration. It was decided at the meeting that the club colours should be shown by the Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. Badge of the new blazers, but it is feared these will be rather too expensive, the cheapest estimate being 2s. 6d. each. It may be found possible for us to work our own badges, one design being passed round for exact copy. Suggestions and opinions on this point will be welcomed. The club will be affiliated to the Amateur Swimming Association.

It is now up to all Old Comrades, swimmers and non-swimmers, to join and make the club a real success. We have proved our prowess on land, both at hockey and general sports; there is no reason against our aquatic record being equally high at this year's inter-service swimming gala and any future contest!

N. MITCHELL, Hon. Sec.,

40 Denman Drive, Golder's Green, N.W.11.

Dance.

The usual success attended the fancy dress dance arranged by the London District Branch on Saturday, 25th March, and the dresses spoke much for the imagination of the dancers. Red Riding Hood, white socked and charming, fox-trotted gaily with a dark-skinned Indian, while a green-robed advocate of the simple life danced blissfully with a "Turkish Lady," attired with all the overwhelming splendour of the East. It is of course impossible to enumerate the many excellent impersonations of the revellers, but one felt rather sorry for the judges. The march past proved great fun, everyone getting thoroughly and hopelessly tied up in the many hundreds of multi-coloured streamers, thrown by the onlookers. Three prizes were given; the first, for the prettiest dress, was won by Miss Bishop, whose old world attire was most effective. The second, that for the "best boy," went to Miss Riches, W.V.R., who cut a very dashing figure as a "middie," while the third for the most original was well earned by Miss Bartlett. Her pretty frock and sun hat were made entirely of Association Gazettes, while her notices of "Read your Gazette" etc., were an excellent form of propaganda. The prizes were presented by Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, who arrived at the interval (I'm sure the dance committee were thankful the refreshments were good, and well-served) and stayed until almost the end. We realise how extremely busy Dame Helen is, and we much appreciated her coming. After her short and to the point speech, we told her in lusty tones that "she was a jolly good fellow," and

meant it too! Auld Lang Syne was sung at 11.30 p.m., and although this was to be our last dance this season, like great actors, we enjoyed our farewell so much that we now intend to have another final flourish, somewhere soon. Wherefore all ye who love our gatherings watch well your Gazette, roll up in your hundreds, and so make our very last dance the bestest one of all.

KEW AND RICHMOND

A combined ramble and cycle run has been arranged for Sunday, April 23rd, meet at Kingston Station, Railway Hotel, at 11.15 a.m. Pedestrians take 'bus No. 115, leaving at 11.20 a.m. to Wisley Hut, where cyclists will rejoin the party about 1 p.m., leaving bicycles at the Hut Hotel Garage, after lunch the whole party will ramble through Barnthorns Woods to Effingham, for tea at the Halt, where an ex-officer and his wife have promised to provide tea with hot cakes, fruit and probably ices, at 1s. 6d. per head. Fare from Kingston to Wisley Hut, 1s. 4d.

On Thursday May 4th, a social will be held in the Baptist Church Lecture Hall, Sutton Lane, Chiswick, commencing 7 p.m. Tickets price 1s. 6d. each, will be obtainable at the outing on April 23rd, or can be had on application to the Secretary. The committee is doing the catering on this occasion, and a few of our more gifted branch members are busy rehearsing a sketch to present on this evening. We extend our usual invitation to members of other sub-branches to join us on either of the above dates.

M. H. ROBERTSON, Hon. Sec.

GOLDER'S GREEN.

This sub-branch has given evidence of its existence by two events within the month—its record so far. On March 14th an enthusiastic party of sixteen met and expressed a desire for weekly meetings, on Tuesdays. The difficulty of discovering suitable places to hold them is not only Wimbledon's! We can have an "eminently desirable place," as the house-agents say, for 15s. per evening!

Failing another indoor gathering in the immediate future a Sunday afternoon ramble was fixed, and ten of us had a delightful time, not the least delightful element being a cream tea at Featherstone Farm, the ideal tea spot for all ramblers in North-West London. It might be supposed by the uncharitable who could probably be called also the envious, that our progress and formation were slow on emerging, on the contrary we swung along in two rows of five with such military step and bearing as to draw forth the exclamation from a passer by, "They're Waacs, I know."

Two London Branch members have swelled our numbers and cheered our hearts on both our events; we shall give a glad welcome to these and any others who care to join in a future activity, which we hope to announce shortly. Two brand new members were received into our ranks at the ramble, they are only sorry they never heard of us before. This makes seven the sub-branch numbers.

N. MITCHELL, Hon. Sec.

Bournemouth and District.

Nothing much has happened as usual, except Miss Butler's trip to town for the wedding. She seems to have had a ripping time, the thing which astounded her most seemed to have been the array of "issue hats" in the procession. Did we ever have occasions when issue hats were conspicuous by their absence?

F. E. LEVER.

Brighton.

Sunday, April 23rd.—Ramble to Ditchling (5 miles). Meet at shelter at top of tram route, Ditchling Road, at 2.45 p.m. We hope to walk there, gather primroses, and 'bus or tram back.

Thursday, April 27th.—It is hoped to hold a small whist drive for Old Comrades and their friends at the Chocolate Parlour, 7.15–10 p.m. There will be a small charge and refreshments will be obtainable. Please try and be punctual, so that we may start promptly!

Those of us who met for the primrosing ramble on March 19th, enjoyed it immensely. We went to the woods Albourne way, but found primroses still scarce, though there was "lenty of 'palm,'" and promise of primroses and bluebells. After "erching on a pile of logs for tea, we felt very energetic, and decided to walk back over the downs to Brighton (8 miles) instead of 'busing as intended. It was a glorious day and it was fine swinging along on the springy turf.

Members will be surprised to learn that our old friends, the "Cosmos," of Waterloo Street, have taken over the Chocolate Parlour, and it is hoped to come to some arrangement with them. I am sure we are all most grateful to Mr. Haymes, the late proprietor, for so kindly lending us a room. Of course, we cannot expect to continue having it free. The committee have decided now the lighter evenings are coming to discontinue the weekly meetings and to hold them only on the last Wednesday or Thursday of the month. Notice will be given on the notice-board. As the summer comes on, we shall probably have mainly outdoor meetings as we did last summer.

The small whist drive held on March 29th went off successfully, prizes being won by a Waac and a Wren. We were pleased to welcome a newcomer to our branch, Miss Lockett, last at Isleworth.

H. H. BARON.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Garrett, Wayburn, Kirkliston Drive, Belfast, which took place on February the 23rd. Miss Garrett was an Assistant Administrator and was at one time attached to the Scottish Command.

WOMEN'S UNITED SERVICES CLUB, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens.—Field-Marshal Earl Haig has kindly consented to come all the way from London to open our new club and will in addition give a short address. The date fixed for the opening is Friday, April the 28th, at 7 p.m. Members of the club will be admitted on production of their membership cards. Country members desiring beds for the night of opening should apply as soon as possible, as accommodation is limited.

The Club was informally opened on March the 1st, and there was a capital turn out of members that evening. Tea and coffee and cakes were served in the dining-room and members spent a considerable part of the time looking over the house and were evidently delighted with the comfort and size of the rooms. There was dancing and singing in the drawing-room and the piano and gramophone from the old club were kept busy all the evening. Amongst those present were Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., who, as Convenor of the Provisional Committee, has given so much of her valuable time to arranging the affairs of the Club, Miss Macdougall, W.R.N.S., Miss Scott Stevenson, W.R.A.F., Miss Low, Miss Lambert, and many other members of the Service Women's Associations. We were particularly glad to welcome Miss Low, who has been in the country all the winter, and to see her looking so well. It was most appropriate that she should be present at the Club on its first night. We know that it gives her very great pleasure that the Women's Ex-Service Club should be established in her old home.

The party given by the Blinded Soldiers and Sailors at Newington House to those members who entertained them at the Club in January was a great success and went with a swing all through. Probably these parties will be followed by picnics this summer. It is splendid to see the good comradeship that exists between our members and these blind men, and it is good to think that they enjoy our parties and we enjoy theirs.

The hockey season will soon be over. There is some very promising material in the team and we hope next winter to sweep all before us.

The Tennis Club at Pinkhill Station will open on the 1st of May. The subscription is 7/6 for the season. All information can be had from Miss Jack, 2 Whitehouse Terrace, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, who has kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary of the Club.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

A Branch Secretary has much to discourage, as well as encourage her. Membership does not now increase, and quite naturally members are finding other interests, so do not re-enrol. Unless the members rally "round the Badge," and re-enrol at once, the membership will indeed be small, and surely Glasgow will not be behind the smaller branches. The club-rooms at 212 Bath Street are open every day from 1 p.m. The special Q.M.A.A.C. meeting being on Wednesday evenings as usual.

An encouraging letter has been received from Miss I. J. Thomson, 40 West 88th Street, New York (late of Q.M.A.A.C., Dieppe).—"I should be glad if you would enrol me as a member of the O.C.A. One of my Waac friends sent me some old Gazettes last week, and I so much enjoyed reading them that I am now very anxious to become a member, and have the Gazettes sent regularly. If you have any old ones I should be very such obliged if you would kindly send them to me and I shall be only too happy to pay additional charges for postage. I have chosen the Glasgow branch as my home is in Motherwell."

COOKERY CLASS.—The last demonstration was given on Monday, 20th March. The class has been well attended and much enjoyed.

Miss Miller, convenor of the entertainments committee, arranged a most successful whist drive for the guest night this month. The tickets were 1/- each and included refreshments and prizes.

HOCKEY CLUB.—Miss Bain, captain, reports two matches this month, one between O.C.A. and Motherwell Girl Guides. The result was: O.C.A. 4 goals, Girl Guides 0 goals. The Girl Guides were afterwards entertained in the U.S. Club to tea, and a pleasant evening was spent. The other match was a return match between O.C.A. and Chalmers U.F. Church. The result of a keen game was O.C.A. 0, Chalmers Church 1.

Liverpool.

At the annual meeting of the Liverpool Overseas W.A.A.C. Club, it was unanimously agreed that the Club should become a branch of the Old Comrades Association.

Miss Dorothy Holder, 49 Claremont Road, Wavertree, was elected Honorary Secretary, and Miss Molyneux, 77 Herondale Road, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, Honorary Treasurer.

The branch has already a keen membership, and has every opportunity of success.

It is hoped, therefore, that the branch will receive every possible support and encouragement.

Manchester.

On Friday, April 21st, at 8 p.m., Miss Maud Onions is showing lantern slides on "W.A.A.C. Life in France," at the Clydesdale Club, 1 Auburn Street, Piccadilly, all members and friends are invited, no charge is being made.

Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan is speaking at the Women Citizen Association's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 26th, and she is anxious to meet ex-members of all services. To enable her to do this, the Mayores has kindly put a room at our disposal from 7 p.m. to 8.30 in the Town Hall, and Dame Helen will speak during that time. It is hoped there will be a good attendance to welcome her.

On Friday, April 29th, there will be a cafe chantant at the Clydesdale Club, commencing at 7.30. A very good concert party has promised to come and it is free to members and friends.

Will those anxious to play hockey next season please send their names to the Secretary, who is trying to raise a team. Those who do not play will be coached.

W. A. ROBINSON, 5 King's Drive, Heaton Moor.

Portsmouth.

The Portsmouth branch of the O.C.A. are the proud possessors of a residential and social club. It is known by the name of Service Women's Club. It is situated at 26 South Parade, Southsea, and is an ideal club house. The house overlooks the sea front, with the Isle of Wight facing us. It's just glorious. The club is tastefully decorated. There is a dining-room, where members can come, and can also bring their friends, and have luncheons, teas and suppers at moderate prices. There is also a splendid "rec." room, and a reading and writing room. Accommodation is also provided for twelve resident members, and we hope to have all the bed-rooms occupied.

By the way, just a word to Old Comrades in other parts of the country. We shall always be glad to welcome any comrade who is visiting Portsmouth and Southsea. Anyone who would like to spend her holidays here, and who would like to stay at the club, will be gladly welcomed. For particulars apply to Miss E. McGuire Bate, the warden. One remark that has been passed by members who come in, and when it is time to depart, is, "I don't want to go, it's so nice here." This, I am sure, speaks for itself. Now all ex-service girls in Portsmouth who have not made up your minds to join us, come along, we are waiting to welcome you.

Into our ranks we also are welcoming our cousins, the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F.s, and other ex-service women. So that when we get into full swing, we shall be having gay times at Southsea.

Miss Robertson (late Q.M.S. at Bostal Heath) is in charge of household department, and is working no end to make us all comfortable.

Just a word in conclusion on behalf of the O.C.A. girls in Portsmouth. I must thank all those who have worked so hard in arranging to get this club for us, especially Miss Bate, to her we owe many thanks. Also to Miss Owen, who, in the capacity of secretary, has worked hard, but who has now resigned, as she is sailing for Canada in April. We wish her every success in her new life. I am now taking over duties as honorary secretary in her place.

EVA HENRY, Hon. Sec.

South Wales

Cardiff members meet every Monday at their new Club quarters at 35 Windsor Place, where they have the top floor of the house to themselves, and they have made it very comfortable and cheery with personal belongings. Tea and cake are provided at a very small charge. On Friday evenings an open evening is held at the Club quarters for the British Legion and most of the members are able to attend and so are able to meet together two evenings a week. Miss O. Stodden and Miss E. Chubb, who were two representatives of our Branch at Princess Mary's Wedding (and who much enjoyed themselves) had a great send-off at Cardiff Station. The local reporters were present to take their photographs, which appeared in the papers the next day.

Miss L. Hulbert (Abbeville, Camp 3), has written a very cheery letter from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where she now has a good berth in charge of the Supplies and Literature of the United Farmers of Alberta, which she says is due to her experience as Storekeeper in the Q.M.A.A.C. Last summer she enjoyed farm life and she does not regret having emigrated to Canada. She wishes to be remembered to all her friends especially the Abbeville Waacs. She has also sent a very good and detailed account of her "Trip Across to Canada," which can be read at the Cardiff Club. She left Newport, South Wales, last year.

Swansea members need to wake up and take an active part in the O.C.A. Is there anyone there who will help to get up a re-union in Swansea for members in the town and neighbourhood? Miss R. James, Brecon, has been transferred to the London Branch.

ENID OWEN, Hon. Secretary South Wales Branch.

Birmingham.

On March 5th the United Service Club held a Dance at their Club Room, when there was a good muster of the three Services. During the course of the evening we received a visit from Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan (Chairman of the Service Women's Association), who was warmly welcomed by all present.

As the time at the disposal of our distinguished visitor was limited, the Lucky Spot Waltz was introduced earlier in the programme, in order that the prizes, given by the Committee, might be presented to the winning couple (Misses Russell and Raybould, ex-W.R.A.F.) by Dame Helen, who followed the presentation with a short speech urging the promotion of the spirit of comradeship in the United Services Club. A vote of thanks on behalf of the Club was suitably expressed by Miss Marples.

The duties of M.C. were most ably carried out by Mr. S. Jones, Hon. Sec., ex-R.N.V.R., and the success of the evening was greatly due to his efforts on our behalf.

On March 17th we held our own usual monthly meeting and about twenty members were present, many of whom brought friends. The evening was spent in dancing and social intercourse.

We have to announce that one of our members, Miss Taylor, is going to Canada shortly after Easter. We wish her all success in her future life. We shall miss her from our W.A.A.C. meetings and dances, as she is always one of our keenest supporters.

We are hoping to form a Tennis Club for the coming season, but at the time of writing we are waiting the decision of the Birmingham Corporation in regards to our

application for courts in one of our Parks.

The concluding Waac meeting of the winter season is on the 21st April, and wish as many members as possible will turn up.

E. C. BRINSFORD, Hon. Sec., Birmingham Branch.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Mrs. Pratt-Barlow, O.B.E., Chairman Provisional Committee Ex-Service Women's Club, London

I wonder if you would be good enough to make it known through your O.C.A. publication that a Secretary will be required for the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W. We hope to open the club early in September. Applicants who must be ex-Service Women, should apply by letter in the first instance to Miss Ireland, General Secretary, Helena Residential Clubs, Ltd., 81 Lancaster Gate, W.2., stating age and any qualifications they may have for the post. The Provisional Committee feel that the selection of the staff must be left to the Secretary, but would like it to be made known amongst Ex-Service Women that a really capable cook and other household staff will be required.

From Dame Katherine Furse, G.B.E., R.R.C.

May I bring to the notice of your members the fact that I am now running the Church Travellers' Club, at 112 Beaufort Street, Chelsea, and should be delighted to send our booklet to any members of your Old Comrades' Association who may care to ask for it. I hope that everyone who goes abroad with our parties will really get the best possible holiday in a short time, and I know from experience that these tours cost no more than a similar holiday at an English watering place. We shall be arranging special excursions at most of our centres, and I hope to have representatives who will actively add to the enjoyment of our members. If parties of twenty-five or more joined and came together we could give special terms to enable their organiser to travel free.

Rouen Social Re-Union.

The re-union of ex-Q.M.A.A.C. who served at Rouen, which was held at Bedford College on Saturday, April 1st, was a most successful one. Sixty-six tickets were sold, but on account of the boat race and illness, not quite that number turned up. The evening's programme consisted of music, songs, recitations, dancing, refreshments, and much conversation. Both Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan and Miss Davy honoured us with their presence, and at the end of the evening we formed a small informal committee, and decided that we would have the re-union annually, and if possible at Bedford College. I should like the re-unionists to know that not only did we pay expenses this time, but that I have got £1 9s. 8d. in hand towards next year's meeting.

GRACE L. BIRCHAM.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The "Leighton" Orchestra, Conductor, F. Gibbs, late Grenadier Guards Band, late Band Instructor, W.V.R. and Q.M.W.A.A.C.s. Bands provided for all occasions. Smart blue and white uniform or evening dress.—Terms on application, 'phone Latchmere 4528, 78 Manor Street, Clapham, London, S.W.4.

HAND-STENCILLED FROCKS, jumpers, and curtains, Madeira embroidered lingerie.—Winifred Clark, 76 Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea, S.W.3 (5 mins. walk headquarters O.C.A.).

SNAPS AND FILMS urgently wanted. Q.M.A.A.C. life, views, ruins, etc., in France, paid for if desired, required for lantern tour, lectures, and "souvenirs" for relatives who have lost dear ones in the "Great War." All comrades please help, hundreds are required. Think of the great pleasure they afford. Kindly name subjects, and enclose stamped addressed envelope for return of films.—Write Box, c/o O.C.A.

Wanted by Miss Logan (late S.O.A. Overseas), a house-parlourmaid for the 1st of May, Q.M.A.A.C. cook (N. Gegg) employed.—Apply Miss Logan, 2 Knarborough Place, London, S.W.5.

WANTED. Experienced cook, able to take charge of kitchen, for Ex-Service Women's Club in Scotland, wages £50.—Apply Box 208, Q.M.A.A.C. Offices.

TO LET, permanently, in Ex-Service Women's Club, Edinburgh, large bed-room (furnished) at 32/- per week, could be shared by two to four persons.—Apply Secretary, W.U.S.C., 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

NELL STEWART, Mrs. Athole Stewart, C.B.E., late Commandant, Women's Forage Corps, sells fruit and flowers, wreaths and bouquets, and attends to palms, conservatories, window boxes and floral decorations, at Number One Clarges Street, Piccadilly, W.1.

TWO SISTERS, one Ex-Q.M.A.A.C., desire posts together, tea-room, hotel, boarding house, run by ladies, both experienced chocolate bon-bon makers; also catering, canteen and domestic work.

TWO EX-SERVICE WOMEN with nice house and grounds, desire to meet one or two ladies with view to starting some business, would consider joining others elsewhere. They are willing to consider any money making proposition.