

Old Comrades'



Association

GAZETTE.

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

NOVEMBER, 1922, Vol. IV., No. 5.

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EDITORIAL

Gazette Subscriptions (3/6 per annum), should be sent to the General Secretary, not to Secretaries of Local Branches.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND NECESSARY ACTION PLEASE!

The Annual General Meeting of the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association will take place at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, at 2.30 p.m., on Saturday, December 9th.

The Annual Dinner for all Old Comrades will be held at the Baltic Restaurant at 7 p.m., on Saturday, December 9th. Dame Florence Simpson, D.B.E., will preside.

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch will be held at the Ex-Service Women's Club, Buckingham Gate, on Thursday, December 7th, at 8 p.m.

The Annual Dinner for Overseas Officials will be held at the Town Club, 6 Grosvenor Place, on Saturday, January 6th, at 7.30 p.m.

For further information concerning all these events please study the detailed notices which appear under the various headings in this number of the Gazette.

Local Branches.

We are receiving our annual crop of bitter complaints from the Local Branch Secretaries as to the difficulty of getting in subscriptions, and the apathy and lack of esprit de corps displayed by the bulk of their members. "They take all and give nothing," says one. "They never seem keen no matter what effort I make," says another, "they are never ready with suggestions for any scheme proposed, and the same few turn up to everything and they are mostly committee." In cases like this it would surely be wiser to drop all social activities altogether, or until there is a real demand for them. It is not fair on the Branch Secretaries and is a waste of valuable time and interest. In order to enable the Headquarters' Office to carry on its excellent benevolent and advisory work, it is essential that the Association should have capable and reliable representatives in the provinces, and the more of them the better, so we hope there will always be local branches in existence. But as long as the machinery can be kept oiled and ready for use when called upon, that is all that is really necessary. It is, however, disgraceful, and we use the word advisedly, that Old Comrades who give up their spare time to keeping the organisation going for the benefit of others should so often be treated with what can only be described as

downright rudeness. If a member wishes her subscription to lapse and no longer cares to belong to the Association, well and good, the Association does not need unwilling members. But, surely, such a member has sufficient energy to send in her resignation on a postcard, and so prevent waste of time and money, which is entailed by sending her application after application to which she does not deign to reply.

The General Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association.

Once again the General Secretaryship is vacant. With the greatest regret the Council have received the resignation of Miss Bertrand, who has done most admirable work since her appointment in the spring. Although she had been absent abroad since 1919 and had, therefore, not been in touch with the Association in its early days, she very quickly acquired a comprehensive grasp of all the activities and displayed much tact and judgment. She is popular with everyone, and the news of her resignation is a real blow. Miss Bertrand is going abroad again at the end of the year. The Gazette will miss her very badly, as she and Miss Maskell have often put in many hours of "over-time" to hasten its dispatch.

It now behoves the Council to fill the vacancy once more as best they may, and applications should be sent in immediately to the Q.M.A.A.C. office, Duke of York's Headquarters, S.W.3. All applicants must state experience, salary required, age, service in the corps, and date when free. The post has been considered a half-time one, but the possibility of making it full-time is being considered. Applications must be received by November 23rd, and must, of course, be from Q.M.A.A.C.

The British Legion.

The Association is now affiliated to the British Legion on the same footing as the various Regimental O.C.A.'s. This does not, of course, preclude members from joining as individuals also. We are somewhat puzzled by a letter from Miss Douche, in which she says she has been a member of the British Legion since November, 1921. We were under the impression that women were only admitted to full membership at the Whitsuntide meeting this year, and that Miss Pink was actually the first woman member.

It is possible that the local branches may be able to obtain certain concessions when hiring rooms from the British Legion now that we are affiliated to their central organisation.

Waac Hostel No. 1.

It is with very real regret that London Branch has brought to an end the weekly Re-unions at 91 Belgrave Road, and it is impossible to rate too highly the debt

which we all owe to Mrs. Parkes. Not only London Branch, but perhaps even more, those who live out of London, for nearly 1,000 ex-Waacs have "passed through" Mrs. Parkes' hostels during the last three years, and no ex-Waac has ever been turned away or refused a meal or a night's lodging. The hostels were opened at Christmas, 1919, just at the moment when they were most needed, and when many of the demobilised girls literally had nowhere to turn. Mrs. Parkes, in the face of great difficulties, most pluckily assumed a heavy financial responsibility and took every risk in the determination that so far as she could help it, no ex-Waac should be without a home. It was a splendid piece of work, and has been carried on with amazing kindness, sympathy, tolerance, and humour. Mrs. Parkes deserves, and we are quite sure receives, the warm thanks of all who have ever been Q.M.A.A.C.

Mrs. Kilroy Kenyon, M.B.E.

Many inquiries have reached us touching the sad news of Mrs. Kenyon's death in America, which was briefly announced in the last Gazette. We now hear that Mrs. Kenyon went to Chicago in September to some medical women friends, to have an operation, which she had known for some time was necessary, and from which she never recovered consciousness. All Old Comrades will be grieved to hear of her death while to many it will be a great personal sorrow, for Mrs. Kenyon inspired a deep affection in those who worked with her, and her influence was far-reaching. She was the first Area Controller in the Calais area, where she was posted in July, 1917. A year later she was appointed Controller in the Western Command and resigned after the Armistice in order to take up organising work for the Federation of Women's Institutes. She then decided to read for an Honours Degree in History at Oxford and had just finished a happy two years at Summerville College. Mrs. Kenyon's only child, a girl of fourteen, is at school at Cheltenham Ladies' College. Old Comrades will wish to express to her their deep sympathy.

Ex-Service Women's Club, London.

Though not officially declared open, and still in a somewhat unfinished state, 5 Buckingham Gate is already in use by about 300 members. The first re union of the London Branch was held there on Thursday, November 2nd, and the other Services followed our example on the 3rd and 4th. Everyone declared it was nicer by far than their wildest dreams anticipated. It is hoped that members will turn up in force for the annual meeting on December 9th, and have tea and see the Club afterwards.

Curiosities of our Post Bag.

Miss N. E. Johnson, writing from Catterick Camp, says, "May I ask why there are so very few mentions of home service people in the Gazette?" Miss Eastgate, writing from Wellington, New Zealand, says, "We in the Colonies do hope there will be a little more Overseas news in the next Gazette. It sometimes seems to be all for England and London!"

What is to be done about it, please?

Our Contemporaries.

We acknowledge with thanks the October numbers of the "Veteran and Briton," "R.A.O.C. Gazette," "W.R.A.F. Leaflet," "The Wren," and the "Edinburgh News Sheet." The "R.A.O.C." contains a most amusing little article called "Our Wack," which we are asking for permission to reprint in the December Gazette.

Armistice Day and the General Election.

It is unfortunate that we go to press just at the wrong moment this month. All the local branches seem to be taking some part in the Armistice Day celebrations,

and we are all greatly interested in the success of "our" candidate for Parliament. Even those of us of a different way of thinking politically would rejoice to see Dame Helen adding "M.P." to all the other letters of the alphabet which already appear after her name. Good luck to her from all Old Comrades.

Q.M.A.A.C. Oversea Officials.

It is proposed to hold the annual dinner for oversea officers on Saturday, January 6th, 1923, at 7.30 p.m., at the Forum Club, 6 Grosvenor Place, Hyde Park Corner. It would be a great convenience if all those who intend to be present would notify Miss I. F. Narracott, 34 St. George's Square, S.W.1., as soon as possible. If the numbers warrant it, it is desired to make special arrangements, so please send in your names as quickly as possible. Price of ticket, 6s. 6d.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

Donations to the late Miss M. M. Stevenson's Memorial Fund have reached this office during the month from Mrs. Gill, Mrs. Counsell, Dr. Westby, the Misses M. Chapman, Lithiby, M. L. Davis, B. Miller, I. McDermott, A. Baron, I. E. Cay, Anonymous, Mr. Irving Swan Brown, Miss Low, Miss Lambert and Miss Piper. The total amount received up to the end of October was £41 17s. 4d. Any further subscriptions will be most acceptable, as the Furnishing Committee are having to go most carefully to work to avoid overspending the funds at their disposal.

It has been decided to hold the Annual General Meeting of the Association on Saturday, December 9th, at 2.30 p.m., at the ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. Tea will be provided. To facilitate the arrangements for accommodation, the secretary, O.C.A., will be pleased to receive as soon as possible the names of all members able to be present. This offers a good opportunity to distant members to inspect our delightful new club, and turn up at the annual dinner at the Baltic Restaurant that evening.

The O.C.A. is now affiliated to the British Legion. This does not make every individual member of the O.C.A. a member of the British Legion, but, as far as possible, the British Legion is prepared to co-operate on questions affecting them and to take up individual cases. Affiliated Associations are invited to send representatives to the annual conference, but are not entitled to a vote as such.

Authority has been granted for a deputation of the Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. to proceed to and place a wreath on the Cenotaph on Armistice Day. Members wishing to take part have already been asked to send their names to Headquarters.

The general secretary will be very pleased to receive all subscriptions for this year from branch secretaries before December 1st.

LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS.

LONDON.

Dinner.

The annual dinner will be held on Saturday, 9th December, at 7 p.m., at Baltic House Restaurant, where it was held last year. Dame Florence Simpson, D.B.E., will preside. Tickets 5s. 6d. each, from the London Branch Secretary. Please enclose stamped addressed envelope, and state with which Unit you wish to be placed.

Savings Club.

The Savings Club will be closed for deposits from November 30th until the New Year.

The club room is open each Thursday from 7.30 to 10 p.m., at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.

On Thursday, 26th October, in the name of the London Branch, a cigarette box was presented to Mrs. Parkes, at Belgrave Road, at the last re-union meeting we had under her hospitable roof. It is difficult to put into words what

the branch owes to Mrs. Parkes and we know that without her readiness to assist us ever since the Association was formed in 1920, it would have been hardly possible to keep the London Branch in existence. Miss Jones and her ever willing helpers were also given small gifts. We are all sorry to say good-bye to No. 91, and no matter how commodious and suitable our new meeting place, we shall always look back with happy memories to our Thursday evenings at Belgrave Road.

Our first re-union at 5 Buckingham Gate was held on Thursday, 3rd November, and in the name of the branch I should like to congratulate Miss Ireland on the wonderful premises she has evolved for our edification. Everyone was charmed with the club, and many hastened to join as full members. Those of the branch who have not yet visited the premises and joined (the two go together) cannot know what they are missing—and all for 7s. The grand piano at the club has been presented by the London Branch out of the funds we raised at the bazaar in December of last year; a portion of this money was set apart at the time in order to do something when we got a permanent club room, and we found that the best gift we could make would be a piano. A very appreciative letter from Mrs. Pratt Barlow, the chairman of the Provisional Committee of the club has been received.

The Annual General Meeting of the London Branch will be held in the Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, on Thursday, 7th December, at 8 p.m. Miss Edith Thompson, the chairman of the branch, will preside. Members of Council for the next year, and the London Branch Committee will be elected at this meeting. All nominations, either for the Council or the London Branch Committee must be sent in to me duly proposed and seconded (with the consent of the member nominated) by Thursday, 23rd November. Items for the agenda also must be sent in by that date.

The Hockey Club.—The Hockey Club played the first match of the season on Saturday, October 21st, on our own ground at Avenue Farm, Cricklewood.

RESULT OF MATCHES PLAYED.—

October 21st, O.C.A., 5; Waverley Team, Clapton, 1.
October 28th, O.C.A., 1; Ministry of Health, 4.

FIXTURES FOR NOVEMBER.—

November 4th, Saxonian Hockey Club, at home.
November 11th, Finchley County School, away.
November 18th, St. Crispian Athletic Association, at home.
December 2nd, Ministry of Labour, at home.

We are badly in want of referees, if any O.C. is sufficiently interested in us to spend an hour in the cold every third or fourth Saturday we should be deeply grateful. Will volunteers kindly send their names to the Secretary, or any of the committee, namely: Smart (secretary), Bickel (captain), Lorraine, Wittering, Bartlett.

A ramble has been arranged for December 17th, meeting place Boxhill and Burford Station (10.45 from Victoria), 12.15 p.m., en route for Dorking.

S. B. MURRAY,

81 Lancaster Gate, W.2. Hon. Sec., London Branch.

Golder's Green Sub-Branch.

The social held on October 27th was voted very enjoyable by those present, a very small percentage of whom were branch members. We are sure the seven members present, two of them new to the branch, and one new to the O.C.A., were appreciative of the work involved, most of which fell upon Miss Cancellor's capable, though diminutive shoulders, but we are only sorry that more members do not find it possible to come.

Efforts are still being made to obtain a room for weekly or fortnightly meetings, and we should be very grateful if anyone knowing of one in North-West London will communicate with the secretary.

NEXT FIXTURE.—We shall have had a Sunday ramble before the issue of the Gazette, and we hope to arrange a theatre party shortly. Will members read the "Comrades-in-Arms" columns of "Lloyd's," and "News of the World," as it is not always possible to announce events through our own paper.

N. MITCHELL, Hon. Secretary.

Swimming Club.

A whist drive and dance will be held at the ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate on Saturday, November 25th, at 7 p.m. Tickets 2s., including refreshments, can be obtained from the Misses Chidley and D. Williams at the club, Miss Bartlett, or the secretary.

In the Inter-Club Competition Miss Stansfield totalled most points, with Miss Bartlett a close second.

The club is in a very unsettled state with regard to practice night. Great dissatisfaction was expressed with Marylebone on account of the overcrowding of the bath on Tuesday evening, and also that no members are permitted to enter after 6.30. A rumour is current that many or all of London's Swimming Baths are being closed during the winter season, but at the time of writing no confirmation of this can be obtained. As soon as definite information is available members will be advised individually.

N. MITCHELL, Hon. Secretary.

Kew Sub-Branch.

Miss Robertson, who is studying for an examination, has asked me to undertake the secretaryship for this branch to enable her to devote her whole time to her studies. We all wish her every success and now is our time to let others know what she has done for us, and how we appreciate her untiring energy on our behalf. The success of this branch is entirely due to Robertson's (affectionately adopted as "Wilfred" by her family) efforts, and I hope, with the aid of our friend "Squeak," to carry on the good work to the best of my ability, until Wilfred is ready to resume harness once again.

The following outings have been fixed:—

November 26th.—Cycle run to Boxhill. Meet Lion Gate, Kew Gardens, 10.30 a.m.

December 10th.—Circular ramble. Richmond Park, Wimbledon Common, returning via Worcester Park, old Malden Fields, to Surbiton. Meet Richmond Station, 11 a.m.

D. M. PIPER.

15 Arthur Road, Kingston Hill.

SECRETARIES:

Hockey Club—Miss E. M. SMART,
81 Lancaster Gate, W.2.

Dance—Mrs. JACKSON,
5 Hazlewood Lane, Palmer's Green, N.13.

Gymnasium—Miss BARTLETT,
91 Belgrave Road, S.W.

Golder's Green Sub-Branch—
Miss N. MITCHELL,
40 Denman Drive, Golder's Green, N.W.

Ilford Sub Branch—Miss M. DRUITT,
74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.

Richmond Sub Branch—
Miss M. H. ROBERTSON,
3 Harrow View Road, Ealing, W.8.

S. B. MURRAY,

81 Lancaster Gate, W.2. Hon. Sec., London Branch

Brighton.

On October 7th Earl Beatty came down to unveil the Brighton War Memorial and to open the new British Legion Club. The committee kindly sent us tickets for the latter, and received our representatives very well, and gave them tea after the ceremony, during which they had had a good opportunity of seeing the Earl.

On Wednesday, October 24th, the local annual general meeting was held in the Lounge of the 1918 Club, 19 Middle Street. Beside Miss Baron, the secretary, the following were re-elected to the committee: Miss Towner, 56 Tisbury

Road, Hove; Miss Wagner, 10 Stoneham Road, Hove; Miss Ashton, 23 Sandgate Road, Brighton. Two new members were Miss Gore-Browne and Miss Shaw, 22 Norfolk Square, Brighton.

It was decided to accept the offer of the loan of the lounge of the 1918 Club once a month, and it was settled to have the meetings on the last Wednesday in each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 29th, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. It is hoped members will make full use of the room. It is very comfortable, and there is a fire (a consideration these cold days) and we have the use of a piano and gramophone for dancing, and home-made cakes, etc., can be obtained from the canteen at most reasonable prices.

There will be no meeting at the end of December as so many will be away.

H. A. BARON.

Birmingham.

On October 6th we had our first meeting of the winter season, about thirty members and friends were present, and we spent the evening talking and dancing. Our next meeting on November 3rd, will take the form of a dancing class. Miss Jones has secured for us the services of a first class dancing instructor, we hope all members will be there and bring their friends. The United Services are having a dance and whist drive on November 17th, at the Vestry Hall, Islington Row, and we hope as many members as possible will come and bring their friends. Tickets 1s. 6d. each. Lady Brooks has kindly consented to present the prizes.

E. C. BRINSFORD, Secretary.

Edinburgh.

Miss Low, chairman, and Miss Lambert, deputy chairman, are going to Italy this month and expect to be absent from this country for about seven months. Miss Nora Mackay, The Whitehouse, Grammond Bridge, has kindly consented to act as deputy chairman during their absence. Miss Low's address is Hotel du Londres, Bordighera, Italy.

HOCKEY CLUB.—Hockey commenced for the season on Saturday, 30th September, to the delight of all the enthusiasts. The Hockey Secretary (Miss J. Tait, 27 Minto Street, Edinburgh) will be very pleased to hear from any member of the O.C.A. who wishes to join. Several fixtures have been made with other Edinburgh teams for the season and it is hoped that our team will make a good show. The subscription for membership is 3s. Miss G. Murray, Clifton Buildings, Broxburn, has been elected captain of the team.

PRESENTATION TO MISS FINLAYSON.—Another Boulogne "Waac," Miss Mary Finlayson, sailed for New Zealand on Oct. 15th, where she will shortly be married. She served at Boulogne during the war, as Quartermistress's Forewoman. She had also the honour of acting as batman to the Princess Mary during her visit to France. On 10th October a few friends of Miss Finlayson met her at the Women's United Services Club, and presented her with a case containing a silver backed brush, comb and mirror, and wished her all happiness in her married life.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

FAREWELL.—A farewell party was given in the club room to Miss Nixon ("Nick") on her departure for Canada. Miss Nixon was in the Corps from 1917 to 1919 and during that time was in the C.C.'s office at Abbeville and St. Valery. She was a keen W.A.A.C., and is a keen Old Comrade. Having joined the O.C.A. in London when demobbed, she was one of two who gave the Glasgow secretary great help and encouragement in the starting of a branch here in 1920. Miss Nixon has been assistant secretary for over a year, and has done much to make the branch a success. She will be much missed at the club and it is with great regret we part from her. Our best wishes go with her for success in her new sphere of work.

VISITORS.—This month's visitors at the club include Miss Mabel Henderson (Grantham), Mrs. Wallace, Miss Robertson and Miss Newton (Edinburgh).

HOCKEY.—The game is now in full swing, and matches are being arranged for the future. After a match members

are allowed to entertain the opposing team to tea in the club-room.

ART NEEDLEWORK.—This class is held in the club room on Wednesday evenings (except guest night), twelve lessons 10s. 6d., Miss Campbell, Diplome of the School of Art, is in charge, and some beautiful work is being done. There is a full class.

SWIMMING.—This class meets on Friday evenings, Miss Bolton is in charge.

MONTHLY ENTERTAINMENTS.—For members of the U.S. Club will be held monthly at the club room, if well patronised. Coming events will be intimated on the notice board.

BADMINTON CLUB.—This club will meet on Saturday evenings, at 47 Partickhill Road, Miss Beasley (W.R.N.S.) has kindly placed her spacious conservatory at our disposal and will act as secretary. Membership 5s. for the session, or 6d. per night. Those wishing to join should communicate with Miss Beasley at the above address.

E. GILCHRIST, Secretary.

Leeds.

On October 14th the war memorial was unveiled by Viscount Lascelles. Arrangements had been made with Col. H. Kitson (who I believe was the first officer who had Waacs sent to him from the base) and the members of the Q.M.A.A.C. marched in the rear of 1,200 British Legion. Unfortunately there had been no time given for any drills, but the girls marched "as if to the manner born." A chaplet comprised of laurel leaves and red carnations, bearing the inscription, "A tribute from the W.A.A.C.'s" was placed at the foot of the memorial by Miss Annakin and Miss E. Philips. About thirty members were present, some wearing medals. Mrs. Leonard was in charge. Miss Wade (ex-Controller, Rouen) was able to be present, also Miss Brown (ex-U.A. Overseas). After the ceremony there was a march past, and along the route from City Square to the Headquarters of the British Legion in Albion Street, the girls received a great ovation. They then had tea at the Ideal Café.

Miss A. Bourne has kindly consented to represent Leeds Branch on the Council for the remainder of the year."

L. LEONARD, ex-U.A., Q.M.A.A.C.

Liverpool.

We have started our winter activities in the old club room (near 2 Bold Street). The first evening was not so successful as we hoped. The American Tea was a help to the funds in a small way. The committee would like to impress upon the members the importance of turning up now and then. We depend upon the evening's money for our rent (which, by the way, has gone up), and find ourselves very much at a loss some evenings. Do your best Liverpool Comrades, by coming to the meetings and bringing your friends. We have such jolly evenings, and it's just making the effort.

D. HOLDER.

Oxford.

It is with very sincere regret that I have to announce the loss of an influential member of our branch. Mrs. Killy Kenyon, of Somerville College, Oxford, went to America last summer vacation to undergo an operation that she had known for some time to be necessary. Unfortunately, she was in too weak a condition to recover and passed away on October 2nd. Though prevented from taking an active part in the doings of this branch owing to her studying for a history Honours Degree, her personal interest was very keen and most helpful. She leaves one daughter who is now at Cheltenham Ladies' College.

It has been very pleasant to make the acquaintance of a new member for this branch, in Mrs. Davies, of 68 Jericho Street, Oxford. Her friends will remember her as Hostel Forewoman Pearson, N.E., 3144, of Connaught Club, Bristol, and Larkhill. Her husband is a keen member of the British Legion, and they are both ready to assist the branch in any way possible.

Miss Piper, of 38 High Street, has now returned from

America, where she has been studying art seriously in Washington. Since her return she has worked under Stanhope Forbes, R.A., at Newlyn, Cornwall. She is sending three pictures to the annual exhibition of the Oxford Art Society this month, one, a portrait, is already sold.

Arrangements are being made for the Q.M.A.A.C. to be represented at the memorial service on Armistice Day, so roll up Old Comrades.

E. T. HAWES, for Hon. Secretary.

Portsmouth.

A general meeting was held at the United Services Club, 26 South Parade, Southsea, on Friday, October 20th. It was decided by the members that a wreath should be placed at the foot of the Portsmouth Cenotaph in the name of the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades, this to be subscribed for by the members at a minimum of 6d. per head. The wreath will be placed there at 11 a.m. on Armistice Day.

It was also decided to hold a sale of work, combined with the other O.C.A.'s, each O.C.A. having its own table. It would help tremendously if members would give articles as early as possible, so that the sale may be held in December. We feel sure that we can depend upon the earnest support of the members in making this venture a real success, and of course we feel as confident of the support of our sister services. Competition among the different O.C.A.'s is sure to be very keen, and keenness goes well toward success. The secretary eagerly waits for gifts for the sale.

There will be a social evening every last Wednesday in the month, these socials are being combined with the other services.

What about a re-union dinner in January? Will those who are keen please come along and talk about it.

The social held on October 25th was a great success, being preceded by a short whist drive. The prizes were allotted as follows: Gent.'s, 1st, Mr. Johnson, R.N.; Lady's, 1st, Mrs. Lush; Booby—Gent.'s, Miss Shoemith, Q.M.A.A.C.; Booby—Lady's, Miss McCullick, W.R.N.S.

R. DOBSON, Hon. Secretary, Portsmouth O.C.A.

South Wales.

We are very pleased to welcome Miss E. M. Barke on her return to Cardiff from the U.S.A., where she has spent a most interesting year, and we hope very much that she will take up again the hon. secretaryship of the Cardiff Branch. We congratulate Miss Hilda W. Marson on her marriage and wish her every happiness. We are very sorry she is leaving Cardiff for Winchester, and will miss her very much. She has been branch secretary for Cardiff since October, 1921, and she will be much missed at the O.C.A. Club and in all branch activities. The club at 35 Windsor Place is open every Monday and we hope for some very cheery evenings this winter, as we have the use of a piano now, belonging to the British Legion Women's Section, from whom we rent the club room. Members are taking part in Armistice Day Celebrations locally. Miss Orrin and Miss D. V. Williams have been transferred to the London Branch and Miss G. Wallis (Swansea) to Manchester. Miss Laurena Hulbert (Alberta) writes that she has been ill again, and is not able to return to Wales this year as she had hoped, but is trying to get a berth in Toronto, where she has an ex-Waac friend.

ENID OWEN, Hon. Sec., S. Wales Branch.

PROFESSOR DAME HELEN GWYNNE-VAUGHAN, D.B.E., LL.D., D.Sc., F.L.S.

(We hope soon to add M.P.)

What the Press Says:—

"Daily Express."—Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, D.B.E., who is standing as Unionist candidate for North Camberwell, is a woman of many attainments. As a child she was interested in research, and for nearly twenty years she has been a university lecturer. Apart from her learned activities, she has high organising and administrative abili-

ties, and her record of war work as Chief Controller of Q.M.A.A.C. overseas is outstanding. Mentioned in despatches, her title of Dame Commander is equivalent to a knighthood. Her public work is a strong interest in her life, and she fought in the battle for economy at the London County Council elections early in the year.

"Daily Express."—The large number of M.P.'s who have "baby-kissed" their way into Parliament receive no support from Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, the Conservative candidate for North Camberwell. Dame Helen, who has a distinguished war service record, is fighting a hard battle against Mr. C. G. Ammon, Labour. Dame Helen is a widow. She served in France as Chief Controller of Queen Mary's A.A.C., and later was appointed commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force. "We ought to have a soldier candidate, even if she does wear petticoats," said one of her supporters at a meeting.

"I am not specialising in women's interests," said Dame Helen, "because I find that they coincide with those of the men. Both the men and the women down here are wrapped up in their children, and anything that will benefit the children is of equal interest to both sexes. I love the people down here, and I hope the affection is mutual. I am not one of those people who believe that it is essential for women to be in Parliament simply because they are women. I want the best people possible in our House of Commons, and I would not be surprised if a large number of these best people turned out to be women."

"The Daily Mail."—There will be a particularly interesting fight in North Camberwell, where Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, who was chief controller of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps in France for eighteen months and afterwards commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force, will have a straight fight against Mr. C. G. Ammon, Labour, who won the seat at a by-election.

"Yorkshire Post."—"In politics the standpoint of men and women is the same," is the opinion of Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, the Unionist candidate for North Camberwell. She and Miss Helen Fraser, who is bravely contesting the Communist stronghold of Glasgow, are practically the only women candidates not making a special appeal to women apart from men. Dame Gwynne-Vaughan realises the necessity for much protective legislation for women and children. She hopes, together with her party, to be able to help through many laws on their behalf, but she refuses to regard the special interests of women as the main feature at the election, and will make no promises beforehand. She wishes to be merely an ordinary junior Unionist Member, abiding by her party's decision.

"Daily Telegraph."—Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Unionist candidate in North Camberwell, enjoys the distinction of being a Professor of Botany to the University of London, and holds the Trail medal of the Linnean Society for her researches into protoplasm. For a time she filled the deputy chair of Convocation of her university, and has held many other important academic positions. But to most women she will be better remembered for her admirable work as Commandant in France of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. Upon her shoulders fell the task of supervising all the details of laying out the women's camps, and under her wise but firm discipline the "Wacs" proved a thoroughly efficient and valuable arm of the Service. In 1918 she came to the help of the women's branch of the Royal Air Force, then requiring some reconstitution. She contested one of the Camberwell Divisions, though without success, in the County Council election of last March.

MILESTONES.

An Appreciation.

In the old Army days, we in our billet, and I doubt not, you in yours, spoke much of "after the war;" of the re-unions we would have, and the places we would have to "re-une" in, or perhaps "dig" in, so that we could stick together. The after-the-war came, and with it a realisation of all the difficulties in finding places

to meet our exacting requirements. A club for ex-W.A.A.C.'s proved as elusive as the proverbial "homes for heroes." But if you think back four years, we haven't done so badly. . . .

First in the line of effort comes "91," the veteran of our peace billets, although run by private enterprise. A never failing ever-open door for all W.A.A.C.'s, and to its cheery hostess many individuals and London Branch as a whole, owe more than can be told. Then, by luck and generosity—and a fair amount of work—grew up "Shanghai," the first of our holiday landmarks. The joys of this bit of heaven on the river are so well known that it is unnecessary to add here a further word in its praise.

It was, I remember, at the London Branch Meeting of 1921 that the Chairman enumerated the grants we had obtained from the U.S.F., and their allocation for ex-Service Clubs. "We" had obtained I said—I ask pardon—"we" had sat back and criticised while others, people used to struggling with difficulties on behalf of their Corps, worried through this job too. Do we realise even yet, I wonder, all that the forming of the ex-Service Clubs means? Gone forever the fear of being stranded or lonely wherever they are established, and in its place the surety of a welcome such as only Old Comrades can give. For instance, to hear only the word "Oversea," causes a smile from all who know that happy holiday house overlooking the sea.

And last, but oh, certainly not least, comes No. 5 Buckingham Gate. We, you and I together with the other services, can say that this particular exclusive London Club is ours—our very own. The brass plate on the door so informs the world. From the windows one can look across at the dear unbeautiful Palace, at its beautiful grounds, or at the trees waving in the sunshine in the Park; or one can rise as of old to the call of the bugle almost it seems under one's window, and feel one has "come home." Did you ever, in your Army days, have the beautiful dream that your hut had become the most cosy of rooms for you and your particular pal; that your blankets were white, soft and warm; that you had a whole wardrobe to yourself; and that bathrooms were ad lib. That the dining room possessed jolly little tables just for four, and that the food was—well, wasn't army! And that after the meal you retired to a pukka smoking room, where you needn't hide your fag at the sound of a footstep, or else you wandered to the drawing room and lounged in an armchair too comfy for words! And that in this beautiful dream you gained all the time, for your pals were there, and the same wonderful happy old spirit was there, and best of all, the U.A. was—well, if you're a W.A.A.C. you'll know who. And that, my friends, is No. 5.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Catterick Camp.

Old Comrades may be interested to know that I am still working for the army at Catterick Camp, as a short-hand typist. I was demobilised in November, 1919, at Catterick, and have been employed as a civilian subordinate with the army ever since, remaining at Catterick until July, 1920, when I took a post with the above headquarters, which was then in Newcastle. In September, 1921, the office and staff moved en masse to Catterick Camp, where it now remains, so you will see that I have spent quite a long time at Catterick.

The camp is very quiet now, and there are only a very few troops here; so different to the busy and crowded times of early 1919, when the Garrison Theatre was filled to overcrowding and the camp roads a mass of khaki, both soldiers and Waacs.

May I ask why there are so very few mentions of home service Waacs? I was in Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, Clipstone Camp and this camp, and out of all the girls I met in these places I hardly ever see a name which I recognise in the Gazette. Am now engaged to be married to a Staff Sergeant Military Foreman of Works, Royal Engineers, and the wedding will probably be about next

June. If any new overseas member would care for any of the early numbers of the Gazette I would be glad to send same on to them.

MABEL E. JOHNSON.

Headquarters, Northumberland Area, Catterick Camp.

From Mrs. Parkes, M.B.E., 91 Belgrave Road, S.W.

On behalf of my staff and myself I would like to say how much we appreciate the gifts and all the nice things said about us on Thursday, October 26th, when the last re-union of the London Branch was held at 91 Belgrave Road. I feel it is hardly fair to accept all the kind expressions of appreciation for myself, as it was entirely due to the great financial support I received from the Council, Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades, Miss E. Thomas, Dr. Peake, and Miss Thorne, at the time of starting the hostels, which enabled me to carry on. Anyone who knows anything at all about houses, especially at the time we were demobilised, will realise what a large financial outlay it meant, however humble the hostels may be. Not having a large balance at the bank, I would certainly not have been able to start these hostels if I had not been generously supported and encouraged. We shall miss the Thursday night re-unions at 91, as it is nearly three years since they started, and we had begun to look on them as an institution. At the same time I am sure the new club will supply a long-felt want, and I hope it will be substantially supported by all.

OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT

Domestic Employment in Montreal, Canada.

Women with domestic experience are required by the Superintendent of the Canadian Women's Hostel, at Montreal, Canada. The Superintendent of the Hostel will advance passages to applicants approved by the society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women, the money to be repaid from wages. Fares, £18—£19. The Superintendent will find them posts on arrival at wages from \$20—\$30 a month (about £4 10s. to £6 15s.) according to qualifications. Should an applicant find her first position unsuitable she should return to the Hostel to be placed elsewhere. Applicants will have to pay their own fares to the port of embarkation, a doctor's fee of 10s. 6d., and will need about £1 for incidental travelling expenses. The Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women will arrange occasional parties, the first of which sailed in the care of a conductress on October 21st, in the s.s. "Tunisian."

Home Companions for Australia.

Groups of twenty women—if possible friends and equals—will be enrolled under a suitable officer, who will be in sole charge. No applicant will be accepted unless she is able to satisfy the medical officer as to physical health, mentality, education, character and adaptability. The age limit is 20 to 30, with preference to women under 25 years. Each woman must be in possession of at least £100—£50 of which would be required for passage money and medical examination fees; and £50 would be transferred to Australia to the individual bank account of each woman. Each woman would have her own bank account, and could transfer to Australia to her own credit any sums she wished, pending her own arrival. Passages would be booked on all-one-class steamers. The women would be met in Australia, and introduced immediately on their arrival to their employers. The officer in charge en voyage would give lectures on household management and Australian life in general. The Home Companions is an entirely unofficial and voluntary association of women only, and the sole object is the building up of the Empire. No membership fees are charged; each woman pays only such expenses (as fares, etc.) as may be actually incurred.

ETTIE A. ROUT, Hon. Sec., Home Companions.
27 Queensborough Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W.2.

BASE PERSONALITIES.

Our "Wack."

[With grateful acknowledgments to the Editor of the R.A.O.C. Gazette.]

Well do I remember in early '17 the consternation, mingled with half amusement, that reigned at the Base, when the "Women's Army Auxiliary Corps" was mooted, and how this gave way to complacent tolerance on the actual arrival of the "Wack."

She appeared to slip into her place as if she had just returned from leave instead of inaugurating the most daring experiment in the greatest of all wars. The Frenchman viewed the situation in his usual philosophic way: "Ah! les Anglais! toujours très pratiques" was his somewhat laconic comment.

There were some amusing contretemps as might be expected; I think the greatest hardship, if I may call it that, was when the unfortunate Commanding Officer had to sit in judgment at Orderly Room on some poor offending Amazon. This was altered later, I am glad to say, but at the time it was absolutely terrifying to pick up a charge sheet as follows: "No. 4789 Worker Brighteyes—wearing unauthorised stockings, not of the issue pattern"; and the evidence spared no painful details. On these occasions one tried to look very fierce and hurled at the culprit: "This must cease at once, Worker Brighteyes!" (Note—All the same silk stockings did look nicer than the ration ones!)

My most distressing experience was when a "wave of crime" swept over the Wacks in my office. One after another came before me for appearing in "glad hats," glad necks," etc., contrary to all orders and regulations on the subject. I being a mere male felt like Odysseus of Ithaca, and dismissed these Argive Helens with a non-committal "Admonished." A day or two later a Wack Administrator rushed into my office like an infuriated Meriamum of ancient Egypt and stormed at me—"How dare you! HOW DARE YOU! Dismiss my charges and not punish my Workers, etc." Like the tactful Odysseus I tried to pacify her with fair words but without success. My patience becoming exhausted I had no other alternative but to speed the parting shaft from the bow of Eurytus: "Young woman, when my daughter behaves like that I usually give her a good smacking!" She fled my presence!

"Our Wack" pulled every ounce of her weight, whether it was in Storehouse, Ledgers or Office. If she did not know, she made it her job to find out, and she undoubtedly paced very successfully many of her male contemporaries. She rose to positions of trust and confidence; she fully justified the "daring experiment." What other nation in the world could have sent 12 thousand of their picked womenfolk into the tumult of war in the midst of five millions of men, with no ill consequences?

None other but England. And this was only possible because of our inimitable Tommy Atkins, who typified the modern son of Laertes.

"CLAN CHATTAN."

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

Mrs. Walrond Sweet is now working as lady organiser of the Conservative and Unionist Association, and would be glad to receive offers of help in the distribution of literature, clerical work and canvassing from any Old Comrades in the London District who may be able to give it. She has been in North Camberwell, helping Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, and is at present in North Lambeth, but may be going back to North Camberwell shortly. All offers of assistance should be addressed to Mrs. G. Walrond Sweet, Halcyon Club, 13/14 Cork Street, W.1., or 52 Kennington Road, S.E.11. Although too late for the election itself there is always plenty of work for willing helpers.

Mrs. Nora Skelton (ex D.A., B.E.F. and London District) has been appointed lady organiser (London) for that ancient and valued society, the British and Foreign Sailors' Society. Her work until Christmas will be a special appeal

for subscriptions and donations for our sailors' Christmas fare. Headquarters: The Sailors' Palace, 680 Commercial Road, London, E.14. She hopes in future to interest all ex-Service clubs and hostels about London, and if dates can be arranged, would be willing to bring speakers to help in a pleasant and instructive evening.

The following extract is made from a letter received from Miss M. Douche, 15 Cavendish Avenue, Eastbourne: "May I ask, through the Gazette, if any member had joined the British Legion previous to November 18th, 1921, as I am interested to know who was the first member. I should also be glad to hear from any overseas ex-Waacs regarding a re-union dinner being held in December or January, also for any suggestions regarding the same. My kindest remembrances to all Old Comrades."

The Edinburgh Branch sends the following from members abroad. Extract from a letter received from Miss Kathleen Radcliff (late of Spittal Street, Stirling): "Since leaving Scotland I have seen a good bit of Canada, as all last winter I was housekeeper in an Indian boarding school in the Yukon Territory in Carcross. It used to be called Caribou, because the Caribous used to pass that way in thousands, but of later years there are not so many, and one of the Bishops of Yukon called it Carcross, as the trains pass or rather cross the bridge over the lake there. The winters are supposed to be very cold. Last winter it was only 50 below zero, everyone there said it was a very mild winter. . . . I left last July and came here (Kelowna) in the middle of the month. This is a large tomato cannery here, and they always get about forty girls every summer to pull the tomatoes, from Vancouver. The season lasts until the end of October. We start at 8 a.m. and finish at 5 p.m., but I hear next week we will start at 7 a.m. and finish at 6 p.m., and sometimes do extra work. I like it as it reminds me so much of camp life in the W.A.A.C. With very kind regards to all the girls I used to work with in camp." Miss Radcliff's address is 250 24th Street East, North Vancouver, B.C.

Extract from letter received from Miss E. F. Boleyn, c/o Mrs. Rogers, 3894 11th Avenue West, Vancouver, B.C.: "We have started a club out here, just now we are fourteen strong, we call it the Women's United Service Club. We have a room at the Y.W.C.A. every Friday for our meetings so I have met a few more old comrades and we do have a lively time of it. You have no idea how nice it is when one has no friends out here, to look forward to the club meetings on a Friday night. . . . I hear our branch in Edinburgh is quite a success, I was sitting listening to two girls at the club one night talking about the Edinburgh Branch, and I felt so jolly proud to think I belonged to it. Would you please give Miss Cairns my kind regards. She was an administrator of mine in Calais, France. If you just mention Jock Boleyn to her she would know who you mean, also to Miss Low. Best of luck and success to the club."

In a further letter she writes that she has got into touch with Miss Radcliff through this branch and has got her to join the club in Vancouver.

[Miss E. Boleyn has since changed her address. It is now c/o Mrs. Rogers, 3894, 11th Avenue West, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.]

From Miss Agnes Hawley, 72 Carlton Street, Toronto, Canada: ". . . We arrived at Winnipeg about 10.30, only an hour or so late, and my friends met me at the station, where I parted from my travelling companion. I had a great time there, going round, seeing all there was to see, and while there I took advantage of the fact that the O.C.'s had a branch there, by dropping a card to Miss Ewen, of the Winnipeg Branch. She called me up on the 'phone one morning before I got up and we arranged to meet that afternoon for a cup of tea, and described our dress, etc., so that we would know each other. You can imagine our surprise when we found that we had met in Connaught, having been there at the same time, and that she had been in camp with Dincan, Drysdale, Hutchison, Watt, and various others. We managed to find quite a few mutual friends and had a good gossip, and we arranged another meeting when she managed to get a couple of other girls to meet me, a Miss Mary Knox from Glasgow and a Mrs. Lee and we had a great old time, talking over old times."

WEDDINGS.

McBurney—Thomson.—At St. Stephen's, Sydney, Clarence C. McBurney, "Burnleigh," Kirribilli, Sydney (late 2nd Australian General Hospital, Wimereux) to Jessie J. K. Thomson (late Q.M.A.A.C., Boulogne). Present address: Yallambee Road, Longueville, New South Wales.

Wiltshire—Staples.—On September 23rd, 1922, at St. Mary's Church, Devizes, Wilts, William G. Wiltshire, to Louise Staples, "Nip," ex-Waac, A.P.S.S., Boulogne.

Howard—Brazier.—At St. Michael's Church, Golder's Green, on September 9th, Emily Muriel Howard (Signals, Calais) to Charles Herbert Brazier.

Pinnick—Marson.—On the 31st October, 1922, at Llandaff Cathedral, by the Ven. Archdeacon Buckley, Cecil Yalden, eldest son of the late W. W. Pinnick and of Mrs. Pinnick, Winchester, to Hilda Ward, youngest daughter of the late Frederic Marson, J.P., of Llandaff, late of Stafford, 4 Kyveilog Street, Cardiff.

Colombe—Van der Weyden.—On August 3rd at Rye, Sussex, Edward Horace Colombe, to M. Van der Weyden (A.A., B.E.F.)

ENGAGEMENT.

Aburrow—Cable.—The marriage will take place at Hove, at the end of November, between Mr. Charles Aburrow, late of Johannesburg, and Nora Evelyn Cable (late U.A., Signals, Rouen) younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Cable, of 6 Langdale Road, Hove.

ADVERTISEMENTS

[Rates: Members of O.C.A., 1s. for four lines; non-members, 2s. 6d. for four lines. Larger advertisements by arrangement.]

Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association, General Secretary wanted.—Apply, before November 23rd, to the Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. offices, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, S.W.3., stating age, length and nature of service, qualifications, free time available, and salary required.

WANTED. Good maid or help, comfortable home, no children, small house, charwoman to help, alternate whole and half Sundays free, resident or daily.—Apply Secretary, O.C.A. Headquarters

TWO FRIENDS (ex-Waac, Scotch) would like situations together as cook and house-parlourmaid, also another as cook in London or district.—Apply M., W.U.S.C., 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

GET YOUR VELOURS and felts remodelled to 1923 shapes. One price only—3/6 plus 1/- for postage and carton. All ex-Service men employed. Catalogue free on receipt of p.c. Agents wanted to canvass and collect.—C. A. Samm, M.C., The Hat Factory, West Parade, Dunstable, Beds.

Lady's Maid Wanted by elderly lady in the country, age 35-45, some knowledge of simple hairdressing and dressmaking, good wages, seven indoor servants kept.—Write Box 148, O.C.A. Offices.

Ex-Administrator requires post as housekeeper or book-keeper in Club or Hostel in London.—Write Box 149, O.C.A. Offices.

ETAPLES. Original water-colour sketches of estuary, church, etc., 5/- each; also copies of pen and ink sketches, market day. Etaples, in 1918, 1/- each, 2/6 hand coloured.—Davis (late of '817), 7 East Dean Road, Eastbourne.

Voluntary workers in connection with the Children's Country Holidays Fund, to help select and assist in the despatch of and meeting of the children sent during the school summer holidays. One voluntary worker can be the means whereby 28 children can get their holidays, but it is essential that volunteers carry out the work they undertake.—Any offers of help to be made to The Secretary, C.C.H.F., 18 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.

The "Leighton" Orchestra, Conductor, F. Gibbs, late Grenadier Guards Band, late Band Instructor, W.V.R. and O.M.W.A.A.C.'s. Bands provided for all occasions. Smart blue and white uniform or evening dress.—Terms on application, phone Latchmer, 4528, 72 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.).

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.

New Song just published. "There's One Little Spot."—Post free 2/1 from Marion S. Mackenzie, 134 High Street, Stockton-on-Tees.

LOCAL BRANCH SECRETARIES.

Birmingham.—Miss Brinsford, 167 Birchfield Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

Bournemouth.—Miss F. E. Lever, Ferndene, Commercial Road, Parkstone.

Brighton.—Miss H. A. Baron, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton.

Bristol.—Miss G. Collins, 4 Brookfield Road, Cotham, Bristol.

Cardiff.—Miss H. Marson, 4 Kyveilog Street, Cathedral Road, Cardiff.

Cheltenham and District.—Mrs. Higgins, Mill House, Elmley Castle, Pershore, Worcs.

Edinburgh.—Miss J. H. Cowan, 6 Salisbury Road, Edinburgh.

Glasgow.—Miss E. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow.

Leeds.—Mrs. Leonard (Acting Secretary), 46 Hyde Terrace, Leeds.

London and District.—Miss S. B. Murray, 81 Lancaster Gate, W.2.

Manchester.—Miss M. A. Robinson, 5 King's Drive, Heaton Moor, Stockport.

Newcastle.—Miss W. Maunder, 31 Norwood Avenue, Heaton, Newcastle on Tyne.

Nottingham.—Miss E. D. Newberry, 10 Melrose Avenue, Sherwood, Notts.

Oxford.—Mrs. M. Grundy, West Wood House, Hinksey Hill, Oxford.

Portsmouth.—Mrs. Dobson, 1 Waverley Grove, Southsea.

Reading.—Miss B. A. Priestley, O.B.E., 55 Northumberland Avenue, Reading.

Southampton.—Miss Pargiter, Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton.

South Wales.—Miss E. Owen, The Palace, Abergwili, Carmarthenshire, S. Wales.

Wallsend-on-Tyne.—Miss M. Conder, Y.W.C.A., Girl's Club, Wallsend-on-Tyne.

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