

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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EDITORIAL

Hearty Christmas Greetings to all Old Comrades at home and overseas. May 1923 bring you happiness and prosperity, and still further strengthen the ties of comradeship which unite us all. "God be with you till we meet again."

Old Comrades Overseas.

It is very pleasant that just at this season of the year when our thoughts turn instinctively to our friends at the other side of the world, that they too should be thinking of us and sending us so much interesting news of all their activities. There is no end to these, and the O.C.A. will soon have as many children as the British Empire. It brings a real glow to our hearts to hear of these plucky little groups of women gathering together all over the world and forming themselves into Service Women's and Old Comrade Clubs. Will you all drink the health of our Overseas Members at your Christmas dinners please?

In this issue of the Gazette we hear of several branches in the Dominions. Miss Eastgate tells us of the Ex-Service Women's Club in Wellington, New Zealand, and Miss E. K. Muir sends a most interesting account of the Winnipeg Branch, and tells us that Toronto is specially flourishing, and that Calgary is just about to get started. Miss Paton sends a splendid account of the newly formed Vancouver Club, and we specially refer readers to a personal letter from her, which appears at the head of the correspondence page.

These letters do make us feel proud of the old Corps and realise what an extraordinary influence those years of war service have had on us all.

The General Election.

Dame Helen put up such a magnificent fight and obtained so many hundreds more votes than any one had deemed possible, that the comparatively unimportant fact that she is not yet a Member of Parliament seems hardly worth mentioning. We can only repeat, it was a perfectly splendid fight, and Dame Helen evidently enjoyed it thoroughly. She always revelled in hard work and strenuous days, and the words non-combatant still seem singularly inappropriate when applied to her. It is amusing how Old Comrades of every kind of political opinion all wanted her to succeed. "Of course I'm a keen supporter of the Labour Party," said one, "but Dame Helen is just the sort we want in Parliament." And so say all of us.

We have great pleasure in publishing the following message from Dame Helen:—

"I want to thank a great many Old Comrades, first those responsible for the notice on page 5 of the November Gazette: then the senders of a very encouraging telegram signed 'Ex-Signallers 2, Waac O.C.A.'; then 'A May 1917 W.A.A.C.' who sent me good wishes; like the two ex-signallers, she did not attach her name or address, but I should like to tell them, all three, how much I valued the messages which they sent.

"Then there are the many Old Comrades who worked for me or wrote to me. To most of these I have written; if I have left anybody out, it is not through lack of appreciation.

"It warmed my heart on the day of the poll when I said to the wife of an elector that I was afraid she would be too young to vote, and she replied, "Yes, but I served with you." Naturally we spent the next few minutes in reminiscences of the Corps.

"Again, very many thanks."

A paragraph in the "Daily Telegraph" brings out the salient point in Dame Helen's campaign, and one which makes special appeal to all Old Comrades:—

"Certainly nothing will be wanting on the part of Dame Gwynne-Vaughan to win a victory for the cause for which she stands. If women candidates have yet to fight their way into general favour with the electorate, Dame Helen is showing them how to do it. She has every attribute that can make for success, and the manner in which she is breaking down the prejudice against the candidature of women is little short of marvellous."

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

The Council has appointed Miss Olive Mainland as General Secretary in the place of Miss Bertrand, who is unfortunately obliged to resign in order "to proceed overseas" as we used to say. Miss Bertrand is taking up a post in New Zealand early in the new year, and the warmest wishes of all Old Comrades will go with her in her new work. Although the secretaryship has been nominally a paid one and a so-called "half-time job," those who are familiar with the working of the Headquarters Office are well aware that Miss Bertrand puts in a full day's work five days a week, and the Association is not only grateful to her for her efficient work as secretary, but also for the many hours she has worked "for love"—love of the Corps and love of the Association.

The appointment of Miss Mainland ought to please everyone, except that such a consummation is impossible. During her varied experience she must have met us all at some time or another. She was recruited in November 1917, and attended the Administrators' Training course at Handsworth College, Birmingham, in January, 1918. She passed out as an A.A., and was subsequently stationed at Kimmel, Chadderton Depot, Western Command, Fitzroy Square and Courtfield Gardens, London District, and in Boulogne and Main Camp, Wimereux. She was demobilised in January, 1920, and went off at once to Cologne, where there were a number of Q.M.A.A.C. officials doing clerical work with the Army of the Rhine. There she remained for over a year, working with the R.A.O.C. We have now called her up from a very familiar spot, for during the last six months, Miss Mainland has been working with the Navy, Army and Air Force Canteens on Salisbury Plain. It only remains to add that before the war Miss Mainland was a fully trained Games Mistress and drill

expert, and this ought to delight the hearts of our gymnasts, swimmers and athletes generally, who will doubtless try and secure her to criticise their achievements.

Local Branches.

The paragraph in the Editorial Notes of the November Gazette has aroused considerable interest, and there are evidently several points of view on the matter, and a certain amount of "feeling." We are all for having open discussion on debatable subjects, and one of the main advantages of having an official newspaper is that we can air our grievances in print, and find out what other people are thinking. One branch secretary writes as follows:—

"I like the bit in the Gazette about the branch secretaries' grumbles! I'm often asked, 'What is the good of joining the O.C.A. and the United Services. One can be a member of the U.S. and enjoy the club without the O.C.A., and also come in on the W.A.A.C.'s special night, as no one can be kept out of the club.' " Now what can one reply to that? Of course there is the Gazette, which only an O.C. can have, but if the girls cannot see the value of the comradeship of their own special service, and all the ties that bind us to it, then it is very difficult to explain it, and they are unworthy. Could you say something about this in the December Gazette, as the time is drawing near for the annual subscriptions, and I dread it."

By the next post comes a letter on the same subject, but from a totally different standpoint:—

"I read with interest your notes in this month's Gazette re the local secretaries' grievances, owing to the apathy of their members, and if there is the same atmosphere in all the local branches as there is in the particular branch which I am thinking of, I am not surprised that some of the members are apathetic.

"There are various committees in this club, and on the monthly club night these committees go into all their matters which they have to discuss, and so forth, consequently they form themselves into little groups, from which come occasional peals of laughter and continuous hushed chatter, and any one who is not a member of these various groups has absolutely no place in the club.

"Why can't the club be run on the lines of a huge family sitting-room, where all the 'Old Comrades' can meet and greet each other, no matter whether they have been formally introduced or not?

"The committees ought to represent the 'Hostess' of the club, and it is their duty to see that everybody is made welcome and to feel at home.

"It is a pleasure for me to pay my subscription to the Association and I also think the Gazette is top hole every time, but I certainly have no intention of re-enrolling in the local club, as each time I have given it a trial I come away feeling I am simply not wanted.

"The branch secretary is topping herself, and if her committees acted more on her ideas the club would be a success. Arranging continuous dances and gathering together a handful of the opposite sex to relieve the monotony (as some people seem to regard an all-girl show) does not always afford the pleasure it is meant to. I think there must be other means of running an 'Old Comrades' Club successfully."

There are no doubt faults of administration in some cases, and lack of adaptability and "clubableness" in others, but it must be remembered that for one unsuccessful local branch, and for one disgruntled Old Comrade, we have dozens of highly successful branches and hundreds of thoroughly contented Old Comrades. A debate on the subject of how to run a local branch ought to be interesting.

The Objects of the Old Comrades' Association.

While on the subject of Local Branches it is as well, perhaps, to turn to the wider developments of the same issue, of which we have been reminded by a lengthy letter received from a member who has taken no active part at all in the administration of the Association, though living in London, but who was a prominent member of the corps. The letter is too long to print in extenso but a few quotations will be of interest.

"I have lately tried to find out if the Association, which in itself and its members should be such a vital force in the world, makes itself felt in London and the

Provinces. It is very disappointing to find that all the answers I have received up and down the country, from public men and women, have been that they did not know that there was such an Association, and that if it did exist it took no part in the life of the community in the town or city concerned."

"Is it not true that our Old Comrades scattered over the Empire now view their few years of existence with the Q.M.A.A.C. in a true proportionate aspect with the rest of their lives, and feel that gradually the spark that kept them together then will die out if they are not linked with some similar organisation in full swing to-day?

"The Wrens have adopted a policy of working in with the Guide movement, and their leader, Dame Katherine Furse, has now become Assistant Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guides."

Perhaps it will be as well to pause here for comment before quoting any further. It is a pity that the O.C.A. is not known to the public men and women up and down the country, for their own sakes. But they can easily find out all about it. In Edinburgh they have only to ask Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., J.P., M.D., or the General Officer Commanding at Headquarters Scottish Command, and they will be directed to one of the nicest little women's clubs in existence. In Glasgow they can refer to the Warden of St. Margaret's Settlement, or the Chairman of the Bench, and at Liverpool Miss Eleanor Rathbone, C.C., J.P., will tell them where to find us. In Birmingham the British Legion knows all about us, and so does Miss Chamberlain and Dame Ethel Shakespeare, D.B.E., and at Cardiff they may be referred in the first place to the Bishop of St. David's, and his daughter will soon supply the address of the local Club. At St. Leonards and at Southsea everyone knows the whereabouts of the Clubs, so there would be no difficulty in finding them. On the Thames the Waacs are known from Reading to Richmond, and are especially popular at Windsor. And then we come to London. Here the simplest plan is to go straight to Buckingham Palace and they will at once direct any public character (of either sex) to the house formerly occupied by Lord Buxton. Failing this, however, any of the following Ministries are continually on the telephone with our Headquarters office, and would no doubt take a message: Ministries of Pensions, Health, Labour, and the War Office. The Master of the Rolls will also be able to supply information. The second quotation requires no comment other than that contained in the Overseas news in this number of the Gazette. It looks as though the "spark" were fairly healthy at present. As for the Association of W.R.N.S., they are not on the same footing as Q.M.A.A.C., and have never called themselves an Old Comrades' Association. We are glad, however, to take this opportunity of congratulating Dame Katherine Furse on her appointment and to mention, incidentally, that she looks "simply topping" in the appropriate uniform. Any Old Comrade is, of course, at perfect liberty to become a Girl Guide: it is frequently done. This is a digression, however, we have not half finished our correspondent's chatty letter. Here is her cheery description of our Headquarters office, of which we have hitherto been rather proud, under the impression that it was pleasantly reminiscent of the Army:

"I found Headquarters a dreary spot in a military barracks some distance from Central London, where the lonely Secretary went daily to receive letters and to dictate the answers to a still more lonely typist; and yet this office was the headquarters of a vast body of women who could be such a strong force for good in the world."

Then follows a suggestion which will commend itself to all Miss Ireland's friends, who know how difficult she is finding it to fill up her time now that she combines the duties of Secretary to the Buckingham Gate Club with that of the Helena Residential Clubs, Ltd.:

"Would it not be possible for the Secretary of the new Club to act as Assistant Secretary of the Association, with offices in the Club and to do all the mechanical side of the work, and the General Secretary to be a voluntary worker linking up past and present and making the whole alive? I say voluntary because so much more can result from one who gives than from one who receives."

To use Parliamentary language, the first part of that question, at least, can be answered with a most emphatic negative. The letter, however, raises an interesting question, namely, whether the objects for which the Association was originally founded are still strong enough to keep us together. It will be remembered that the leaflets which were circulated at the beginning stated simply: "The Association is being formed to keep alive the spirit of Comradeship which exists among us and to give advice and assistance to members." This is all we set out to do, and, so far, we have certainly carried out our objects. Our various activities are set forth from time to time in the Gazette, but for obvious reasons less is said about the work of the Benevolent Fund and the Advisory Committees, which we all feel is our chief *raison d'être* as an Association. The complete figures are not available at the moment, but our own private fund must have helped several hundred Old Comrades more or less directly, while the United Services Fund has distributed sums amounting to nearly three thousand pounds among Q.M.A.A.C. in the last two years. This money would never have been available had it not been for the O.C.A. and its President. We seldom like to take an opportunity for blowing our own trumpet really loudly, and we are greatly indebted to our correspondent for giving us the chance. Those members who are as completely out of touch with our organisation as she is are perfectly justified in wondering what we are doing. Our answer is come along and see. And then, for goodness sake, lend us a helping hand. We are all as busy as we can be and we really have not the time to brighten the office or cheer our lonely typist, or even do much chatting with public men and women, but we are always on the look-out for useful suggestions and quite ready to be reformed. Only we think this should come from within, please!

Our Contemporaries.

We acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of the current issue of the "W.R.N.S.," "W.R.A.F.," "R.A.O.C. Gazette," and "The British Legion," and note that the "W.R.N.S." has apparently not received our October issue. They must have missed it badly.

We make bold to copy the following paragraph from the November "W.R.N.S." with the proper acknowledgments:—

In a Newcastle Church there is a stained glass window dedicated to ex-Service women. A certain shipowner of Newcastle built a Church as a War Memorial "To those of this County (Northumberland) and Tyneside who gave their lives to their Country."

The Church was dedicated on the last Sunday in September, this year. There are forty-one memorial windows, of a very lovely design: allegorical figures, with the appropriate badges of the Regiments to whom they are dedicated at the bottom of each. All the Clerestory windows are dedicated to women; to mothers of fallen men and to workers (not as individuals).

A window in the South Chapel (on the ground floor) is dedicated to members of the W.R.N.S. and Q.M.A.A.C., and has the two badges in stained glass. The window was unveiled by representatives of the two Services on the occasion of the Consecration; as were all the Regimental, Naval, and Air Force windows. The Wren representative was Miss M. Todd.

Can anyone tell us who represented Q.M.A.A.C. on this occasion?

Signals Re-union.

The northern winter re-union week-end for Signal Waacs will be at the Guest House, Hope, Derbyshire (via Sheffield or Manchester), 10th February, 1923. The vacancies allotted to us are limited, so please book early as possible, enclosing the necessary 5s. booking fee to me.

Hope is a bon centre, and anyone having winter leave would enjoy it there. If it snows bring your sledges and toboggans, for the winter sports were A.I. there last February. Advise all concerned A.A.A., R.S.V.P., Toute de suite, to Doris E. Hall, 559a Pitsmoor Road, Sheffield.

REPORTS FROM OVERSEAS BRANCHES.

Vancouver (Women's United Services Club).

The Vancouver Branch of the Women's United Services Club held their first official meeting of the season on the evening of Friday, September 1st, when two members, Miss Annie Tootele, V.A.D., of Catterick Camp, and the writer, Marian B. Paton, of Tours and Wimereux, were introduced. The usual club room at the Y.W.C.A. was unavailable but we were accommodated in a delightful little pale grey and pink room ignominiously termed "the office." On the way to this sanctum the new members were made to feel at home immediately by someone issuing the old familiar order "Form fours," and as it was also an irresistible opportunity to bring out the old tag "Come into the office," it was accordingly brought out, and our happiness was complete. As there was not a full attendance of members on account of the holidays, no business was discussed but a cosy evening was spent in which no tongue could bear to remain still for long. Discoveries of common friends were made, and almost forgotten tales retold, and one needed but to shut one's eyes to be back in the old days once again. To add to the dear delusion such expressions as "San fairy ann" and "Allay toot sweet" were heard at intervals. The evening closed happily after tea had been served and cups read by Phemie Boleyn, who sends good wishes to the Edinburgh Club.

The second meeting was held in the Y.W.C.A. Club Room on Friday, October 6th, when a good representation of members was present and details of the winter schedule were discussed. It was resolved to advertise ourselves widely again so that no possible opportunity might be missed of making the club's existence known to ex-Service women of all departments. It is desired to emphasize that our club is a club for all ex-Service women, and not for any one branch in particular, and to extend to all who have served with the Allied Forces in whatsoever capacity, a very cordial invitation to join our ranks, that we may be one club with one common bond of service in the past and one common high ideal of goodwill to all to carry with us into the future.

The secretary read a letter which had been received from the Overseas Settlement of British Women, enclosing a form of a letter of introduction which they will supply to all women coming, through them, to Vancouver, so that with their help we will not miss any members in this direction.

It was regretfully announced that two of our members, Minnie Ferguson and Nancy Oliver, are leaving in November for California. No words can express how sorry we are to see them go. It was resolved to hold a farewell social in their honour and to make it, besides, the first of a series of social evenings to be held during the winter. This will take place on Friday, November 3rd, in the Y.W.C.A. Club Room. We wish our departing members every success and happiness in their new sphere and hope, as we speed them on their way, that some day we may welcome them back again.

It was also resolved to hold our first Annual Armistice Dinner, on the evening of Friday, November 10th, in the Blue Dragon Inn. Further details will be furnished later, and we hope to have a full turn-out of members to make its first dinner a huge success.

After some further discussion the meeting was brought to a close each member feeling that much had been accomplished and looking forward with high hopes of a very busy, happy, and successful winter.

Ex-Service Women's Association, Wellington, N.Z.

Miss Eastgate writes: "This Association was really started last December, but it takes time to get things going. I am Vice-President and Miss Hassall is also Q.M.A.A.C. Hon. Secretary. The majority of our members are of the old corps, but we have, of course, all sorts. We have the use of a large room kindly lent us by the Returned Soldiers' Committee, and have had various socials and dances. At a Committee meeting last week it was decided that we should be affiliated to the Old Comrades' Association, as we are now a properly constituted body. We are very pleased to think we shall thus keep in touch."

Winnipeg Old Comrades' Association.

The drawing-room of the Y.W.C.A. was the scene of a happy gathering of members and other ex-Service friends, who assembled to welcome their guest of honour, Lady Margaret Boscawen (O/C the Women's Land Army, London, England), sister of his Excellency Lord Byng of Vimy, who is accompanying the vice-regal party in its trans-Canada tour.

Dr. M. E. Douglass, Honorary President of the Association, introduced Lady Margaret to the meeting, and in doing so told how the Club, which was organised primarily to keep alive the camaraderie of the War Service, was acting as a welcoming organisation to new girls coming to Winnipeg from different parts of the Old Country. Other minor points of interest also formed part of the introduction ceremony.

In replying, Lady Margaret Boscawen expressed the great pleasure it gave her to meet the girls. One of her hopes on coming to Canada had been that she might meet some of her own countrywomen who had served in His Majesty's Forces during the war period, and to learn their experiences from them first hand. She conversed with the girls individually, and thus attained her desire to learn how the ex-Service girls were shaping in their new homes and occupations in Western Canada.

The evening's entertainment was of the happiest nature, Lady Margaret's charming camaraderie won the hearts of all the girls and deepened the affection of those who had known her before.

Miss Gwendoline S. Hewett, with Mr. Wootton Goodman as accompanist, charmed her listeners with a delightfully chosen programme, responding to repeated encores. During the evening refreshments were served by the Executive Committee. A combination of chrysanthemums, roses and ferns, arranged in shell cases, decorated the table.

One of our members, Mrs. Gladys Berry, left Winnipeg recently to take up residence in Calgary, Alberta, and has communicated with us to the effect that she has been successful, with the assistance of other ex-Service girls, in forming at Calgary, the fourth ex-Service girls' club in Canada.

Miss Burnham, of the Women's Division of the Department of Colonization in Ottawa, is assisting the girls all over the Dominion in the formation of these clubs, which include in their programmes social activities, athletics and social service, in fact, all departments of a "regular" girls' club.

The ex-Service girls have already established similar clubs in Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver; the Toronto one especially being a flourishing young society of two years. The one in Winnipeg has been in existence for a little over a year and the Vancouver one but recently organised, and now Calgary hopes to have an excellent organisation of its own.

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

Once again Q.M.A.A.C. was well represented at the Armistice celebrations. Mrs. Jackson, leading the detachment, placed a chaplet of palms and Flanders poppies on the Cenotaph.

Thanks to the courtesy of the British Legion, several representatives were present at the service in Westminster Abbey.

Donations during the month to the memorial fund to the late Miss M. M. Stevenson have been received from Dr. Peake, Mrs. Skelton, Mrs. Johnson, the Misses J. Williams, A. Crust, N. Campbell, and Carey, bringing the total amount to £43 17s. 10d.

At an emergency meeting held in November, it was decided that the work of the Headquarters Office entails the appointment of a full-time secretary. Miss Mainland (late of B.E.F., Western Command, and London District) was elected secretary and treasurer.

Headquarters Office will be closed from Friday, December 22nd, to Wednesday, December 27th.

When sending monthly lists and reports, will branch secretaries also state their membership strength please.

LOCAL BRANCH REPORTS.**Edinburgh.**

It is with great regret that we received the resignations of Miss Mary Robertson and Miss Blows as two of our representatives on the General Council. Owing to forthcoming examinations they find that all their time is needed for study. They have done splendid work in the interests of this branch, and our good wishes go with them for success in their exam.

At our last Committee meeting Miss Davy was nominated again as our representative on the Council for the ensuing year.

At the Women's United Services Club, Edinburgh, it was recently decided to dispense with the small office and use one of the larger rooms as a combined Committee-room and office. The Branch O.C.A. felt that they would like to take part in the furnishing of the room, and at a Committee meeting it was proposed and unanimously carried that a gift of two armchairs and a couch should be presented to Miss M. A. Finlay (Secretary of the Women's United Services Club) to show the appreciation of the members and in recognition of the splendid work she has done for the O.C.A. and the keen interest she shows in the work of the Branch.

The furniture was bought, and the following letter of thanks has been received from Miss Finlay:—

"I have difficulty in finding suitable words with which to thank the Committee for the very handsome gift of a sofa and two chairs, which I received a few days ago.

"Will you please convey to the Committee my warmest thanks and express my hearty appreciation of the kind thought which prompted the gift? Anything I may have done for the Edinburgh Branch of the O.C.A. was a great pleasure and, as it turns out, a great profit!!

The furniture is a great asset to the new office, exceedingly comfortable and, at the end of a tiring day, a very adequate and much appreciated rest for my weary 'frame'."

Miss Low and Miss Lambert send heartiest Christmas and New Year greetings to all their old comrades. They are at present at Bordighera, in the Italian Riviera, and Miss Low writes as follows:—

"We came out here about three weeks ago, for the sake of the sunshine, having had so sunless a summer at home. Ever since we arrived the sun has shone from a cloudless sky. The country is very interesting, although the Italians are spoiling the look of it by cutting down the old olive trees and growing flowers for the foreign markets.

"Far the most interesting thing that has happened was a procession of Fascisti last Sunday. They were a very determined-looking body of young men, clad in black shirts and grey breeches, with little caps with coloured tassels. They marched well and were accompanied by a few women in black shirts and skirts; one or two of them wore war medals.

"When one realises that there are 300,000 of these Fascisti, fully-armed and obedient to the will of Mussolini, the new Italian Premier, one sees that the movement is the most powerful political movement in any civilised country. The whole movement is Italian in character and is directed against the Communists.

"I must not weary you with more, so will close with renewed good wishes to all comrades."

The Glasgow Branch were kind enough to ask me to their annual re-union dinner, as representing the Edinburgh Branch. This invitation I was very happy to accept and spent a most enjoyable evening with the members in Glasgow.

J. H. COWAN, Edinburgh Branch Secretary.

London.

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

The Secretary would be glad to be informed of any member ill or in hospital.

A report of the General Meeting of the Branch, held on Thursday, 7th December, will be given in the next issue.

CELEBRATION OF ARMISTICE DAY IN LONDON.

For the third time since demobilisation Q.M.A.A.C. were well represented in the ceremonies which distinguished Armistice Day in London. Thirty-two members of the O.C.A. (five officials and 27 other ranks) assembled at Horse Guards Avenue, and formed up with other organisations to lay a wreath of laurel leaves and Flanders Poppies on the Cenotaph on behalf of the O.C.A. Mrs. Jackson (Connaught Club and Headquarters) led the detachment, which arrived in Whitehall as the two minutes' silence was being observed; and sufficiently near the Cenotaph to enable those in the front ranks to have a good view of the proceedings. The ceremony which followed was most impressive, and after it was over Mrs. Jackson laid the wreath on the Cenotaph. At the same time Miss M. L. Davies (Signals, Etaples) laid on a bunch of Flanders Poppies which had been specially sent by the Newcastle Branch of the O.C.A. After the Salute all filed past, and marched on to Westminster Abbey, where arrangements had been made (thanks to the British Legion) for all detachments to file past the Warrior's Grave. Mrs. Parkes met us outside the Abbey, and all marched to the new Club for lunch.

It was most gratifying to note, judging by the applause received en route, that our existence as a corps had been remembered by the public. The members present are to be congratulated on their marching and smart appearance.

Six members of the Old Comrades' Association, in full uniform, attended the service in Westminster Abbey on Armistice Day, through the courtesy of the British Legion, to whom 100 seats had been allotted in the Nave. The short, simple service was very beautiful, and after the Blessing and the National Anthem, the congregation filed past the grave of the Unknown Warrior, which was covered with wreaths, while here and there a single scarlet poppy flamed against the dark stone, dropped there by someone who had passed, remembering.

Afterwards everyone met everybody else at the Club for lunch, where much noise and excitement prevailed, due, mainly, one imagines, to the appearance of khaki once more.

The 25 Old Comrades who so enjoyed the unofficial little dinner they had arranged at the Club for the evening of Armistice Day would like to express their thanks to Miss Ireland, Miss Anderson, and the staff generally, for the excellent catering.

GYMNASIUM CLASS.—The Old Comrades (London Branch) Gymnasium Class is assisting in a display to be given in aid of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on Saturday, December 16th, 1922, at 3.30 p.m., at Regent Street Polytechnic. Tickets, price 3s. 6d. and 1s. 3d., may be obtained from any member of the class, or may be purchased at the door.

Owing chiefly to ill-health, four vacancies have occurred in the above class. Any Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrade, wishing to join for the Easter term, commencing in January, 1923, can obtain full particulars and costume from Miss Bartlett, 91 Belgrave Road, S.W.1.

DANCE COMMITTEE.—A Fancy Dress Dance was held at the R.E. Drill Hall, Duke of York's Headquarters, on October 13th, 1922, with the object of raising funds for the Branch. The financial result, however, was most disappointing although, socially, it was a great success, and if noise is a sign of enjoyment, the dance was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

A small informal Dance is being held at the Ex-Service Women's Club on Saturday, January 13th, 1923. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each, including refreshments. Early application should be made as the number will be strictly limited and members without tickets will not be admitted.

RAMBLE.—It is regretted that the ramble arranged for December 17th has had to be cancelled.

SWIMMING CLUB.

WHIST DRIVE.—Despite a little overcrowding, the whist drive and dance held on November 25th was an unqualified success. There were many competitors for the ten prizes, three members "ticing" for the first lady's, while no less than nine responded with military alacrity to the call for "99," which was the prize "hidden number."

We consider ourselves more than fortunate in our president and vice-presidents, and this was one more occasion on which their help was invaluable, although as we all know it is always forthcoming, whether in their presidential capacity or not.

Miss Ireland, in addition to giving personal assistance with the arranging of tables and refreshments, also consented to present the prizes, to the expressed satisfaction of all.

Mrs. Parkes' practical experience as M.C. was brought to our aid, and her mastery of all the technicalities involved created in the minds of those to whom such things are a mystery, a whole-hearted admiration. We are also indebted to her generosity for two of the prizes, and to her enthusiasm and interest for a third. We were glad to see a number of our old friends, the W.V.R.'s and also to know that one of them managed to appropriate a prize.

In consequence of the favour the whist drive found, another will probably be organised some time in February.

PRACTICE NIGHT.—Once more a change has been made, and practices are now being held at Marshall Street Baths on Tuesday evenings, 6.45 to 7.45. Instruction is still being given, and as the baths are very central—five minutes from Piccadilly Circus and three minutes from Oxford Circus—we hope for an influx of members.

We feel it incumbent upon us to give publicity to the individual triumphs of our members in recent outside events.

Q.M.A.A.C. S.C.—Captain Miss Stansfield, 1st graceful swimming; Vice-Captain Miss Bartlett, 1st life saving; Miss Birchenough, 1st handicap race; Miss Millbank, 1st plunge; Miss Izzard, winner of one or two events, particulars of which are not at hand.

GENERAL MEETING.—A general meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th, at 8.15 sharp, at 5 Buckingham Gate.

BUSINESS.—Election of officers and committee for ensuing year.

A list of all swimming members will be posted at the club a week prior to the meeting, and nominations for captain, vice-captain, secretary and committee may be sent to the honorary secretary, or handed in at the meeting. Members nominating are asked first to ascertain that their nominee is willing to stand in the suggested capacity and intends becoming a member of the swimming club. Only Old Comrades are eligible for membership, and it is hoped all interested will be present, and will take their part in the organisation of the club.

N. MITCHELL.

Golders Green Sub-Branch.

Events this month have been:—

1. A ramble, which proved thoroughly enjoyable despite unkind weather. Perhaps the musical tea with which the walk culminated formed the most interesting feature. We can certainly recommend a certain confectioners in Highgate where "the night can be filled with music" for the small sum of one penny per person. There are records—played on an old fashioned instrument, the spelling of which I dare not hazard after an interval of four weeks—to suit all tastes, from "Why not To-night" with its mournful appeal to those whose religious convictions are apparently on the wane, to resurrected musical comedy airs.

2. A theatre party to see "Whirled into Happiness." No further details of this frivolity are appended, as the writer was unable to be present.

3. We are still seeking a roof under which to meet!

N. MITCHELL, Hon. Secretary.

Richmond Sub-Branch.

As it is anticipated that our members will be very busy during the next few weeks, in view of the approach of Christmas, no meetings or social gatherings have been arranged for December. The first anniversary of the formation of this branch, however, falls early in the New Year, and as this would appear to be an opportune occasion for a social function a whist drive and social evening has been fixed for Saturday, January 20th, at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W., at 7 p.m., when it is hoped that everyone who possibly can will be present. Tickets, including refreshments, 2s. This will be preceded by the annual general meeting, at 6.15 p.m. Hearty Christmas greetings to all O.C.A. members.

M. PIPER.

S. B. MURRAY,

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

Glasgow.

ANNUAL DINNER.—The Annual Dinner took place at the Athenæum on Saturday, 11th November (Armistice Night), Miss Banks, M.A., presiding. The guests of the evening were: Miss Beasley (W.R.N.S.), Miss Gow (W.R.A.F.), Chairman of the United Services Club, Miss Cowan (Q.M.A.A.C.), Secretary of the Edinburgh and East of Scotland Branch.

The toast list was as follows: "The Queen," Miss Banks; "Our Guests," Miss Banks, reply Miss Beasley; "Sister Services," Miss Laird, reply Miss Gow. Apologies were read by the Secretary from Mrs. Greenlees, J.P., President; Miss Lander (F.C.), Secretary U.S. Club; Miss Maxton, Miss Fulton, Miss O. Brown, Miss Meikle Girvan.

Telegrams and letters of greeting were received from the London Branch, Miss Ireland, Mrs. Parkes, Miss Suggate, Miss Maxton, Miss Winter, Miss Milton, Cologne, Misses Brown and Robb, Edinburgh; and many others.

Mrs. Parkes' wire saying that 24 Comrades would drink the health of this branch at 8 p.m. on Armistice Night at the Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, was received with great enthusiasm. After the dinner the company were entertained by Misses C. E. Smith, Murphy, E. C. Smith, Birrell, and Potter. A vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Miss Smith. Although the numbers were less than in previous years, the Dinner was voted the best that had taken place.

CENOTAPH.—It was gratifying to learn that, in the absence of Mrs. Bircham, the representative of this branch, through indisposition, we were represented at the Cenotaph at 11 a.m. on Armistice Day by ex-Forewoman Bartley. Through the kindness of Mrs. Parkes we knew this by 2 p.m. the same day.

HOCKEY.—The Club meets on Saturday afternoon. There is great excitement at the prospect of playing Edinburgh branch in the spring. Miss Bain (Captain of the 1st XI.), reports O.C.A. versus Bellgrove. The O.C.A. was at its best. Almost on the start of the whistle the home team broke away with a piece of brilliant combined playing, and put the ball between the posts in the first few minutes. All the scoring was done in the first half, four goals being scored. Result: O.C.A., 4; Bellgrove, 0. Other matches were: O.C.A. v. Lennoxton, result, 1—1; O.C.A. v. Newton Mearns, result, O.C.A. 0, Newton Mearns 1; O.C.A. 7, U.F. Church, Queen's Park 0.

Miss Gardner (Captain 2nd XI.) reports a match at Moorcroft with Babcock and Willcox Girls. The weather was fine and frosty. Our forward line was not up to the usual. Score: O.C.A., 0; B. and W., 3. On the whole we did well in keeping our opponents score to three, as B. and W.'s team was a 1st XI., and very smart.

SWIMMING.—Club meets on Friday evening. As the water is warm there is no fear of shock.

BADMINTON CLUB.—Members meet at 47 Partickhill Road, on Saturday evening; Miss Beasley, Secretary.

ART NEEDLEWORK.—Class meets at the Club on Wednesdays at 7.30, except Guest Night.

POPPY DAY.—A report on what Glasgow Branch did on Poppy Day, under the able leadership of Miss Laird, will be found in an article by Miss Laird.

E. M. GILCHRIST, Hon. Secretary.

Nottingham.

We have an additional member whom we recruited by a strange coincidence.

We had our Annual Ex-Service Dinner last month, and after the dinner, when we were having music, one of the waitresses brought in some light refreshments and announced that she was an ex-W.A.A.C., and had served in France all the time. A good old Waac cheer was sent up, and she joined the ranks and is coming to our next meeting, which is to be held at my flat on December 6th.

We are getting more members now, so I hope we shall have a very flourishing club this winter.

E. D. NEWBERRY, Hon. Secretary.

[A regular report from this Branch would be welcome.—Ed.]

Oxford.

By the courtesy of the British Legion we were invited to the Armistice Day celebration, held at the Memorial in St. Giles. A space was reserved for all ex-Service women.

We assembled at the Martyrs' Memorial at 10.30 a.m., and a very good proportion of our scattered branch was represented. The General i/c of the Oxon and Bucks, hearing of our presence, invited us to fall in immediately behind the serving forces. We accordingly did so, and in spite of no previous drills, succeeded in reaching the place allotted to us in step! True, the band was close at hand, but marching in high heels on cobbled stones is no easy matter!

A simple and beautiful service then followed, and during the singing of the last hymn wreaths were placed on the Memorial, including one from our Branch, to which all the members present had subscribed. After the service, all those who could spare the time went to a café for hot drinks and chatter. It was agreed that a general meeting and social should be arranged as soon as possible, and this has since been fixed for December 7th.

We all join in congratulations to Mrs. Wassell (nee Nancy Walker) on the birth of a son. This naturally prevented her from joining us on Armistice Day. We also congratulate Elsie Parslow (nee Tanner) on her recent marriage.

Please note that Mrs. Davis's address should read 28 Jericho Street, and not 68 as it appeared in the last Gazette, also that Miss Piper should read Mrs. Piper. We hear that Mrs. Piper was successful in that she had a picture hung in the Art Exhibition, Oxford. She is now busy on other portraits.

Mrs. M. GRUNDY, Hon. Secretary.

Portsmouth.

The fourth anniversary of Armistice Day was commemorated at Portsmouth on Saturday, November 11th, with great solemnity, in keeping with an atmosphere of sacred remembrance to the glorious dead who laid down their lives for their country. As representatives of the townspeople the Aldermen, Town Councillors, and officials of the Corporation of Portsmouth were present at an impressive commemoration service which was conducted at 10.45 a.m. on the Town Hall steps. Both the Navy and Army were well represented, also many distinguished people were present.

A vast crowd, representative of every class in the town, were gathered in the open square before the Town Hall, and as the closing strains of the old hymn, "O, God our help in ages past," rose in the morning air, a reverent silence fell over the assembly. After the prayers had been read the trumpeters blared out the notes of the "Still," and at the same moment the hour 11 was boomed out by the great clock above. For two minutes there was an unbroken silence, scarcely a sound could be heard from any part of the town, until the note of a distant syren denoted that the silence homage was ended. Another hymn was given, and then the "Reveille" was sounded. The Blessing was pronounced by the Mayor's Chaplain, and the service concluded, with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Mayor, accompanied by the members and officials of the corporation, then proceeded to the Cenotaph, and laid on the steps a magnificent wreath of white chrysanthemums, representing the inhabitants of the town.

Many wreaths were laid around, until the base of the great column was piled high with flowers. Mrs. R. Dobson, secretary of this branch, and Miss Bates, warden of the United Services Club, laid a wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph for the Old Comrades of Portsmouth.

The wreath was composed of ivy leaves, with white and yellow chrysanthemums at one side, and the Old Comrades' colours at the other.

A social was held on November 22nd, and another on November 29th.

Brighton.

Members present at the meeting on November 29th all seemed very much in favour of a whist drive, to start the year, so it is proposed to hold one on Wednesday, 3rd January, in the lounge of the 1918 Club, 79 Middle Street; play from 7.30 to 10 p.m. There will be a small entrance charge to provide prizes, etc., and very nice refreshments can be had at reasonable prices. Kindly let me have a card before hand, so that I have an idea of the numbers coming.

The 1918 Club is connected with the Y.W.C.A., and it is hoped that Old Comrades will show their appreciation of the fact that the club committee has allowed us the use of the lounge, at a small charge, once a month, by turning up in full force. We have been offered the use of the table tennis, which will provide another source of amusement.

Now that the British Legion have got their club going they seem quite ready to meet us in various ways, such as allowing us to come to their socials, etc. First, however, we shall have to have a meeting of the women's services, so look out for notices in connection with this. Our old friends at the Cosmos (The Chocolate Parlour), Western Road (opposite Stafford's Corner) have kindly agreed to show notices for us, although we are no longer using their room. If the board is not outside when you go to look, it would be a good thing to ask for information inside.

H. A. BARON, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton.

Manchester.

Our Club-room is now going quite strong for the winter season, the greatest part of the time on Friday evenings is spent dancing, with an occasional concert. Our re-union dinner on Armistice Day was a huge success. We combined forces with the W.R.N.S. and W.R.A.F., and we numbered 40. During the day those members who could, sold poppies for the British Legion. We did not have a parade in the morning to place a wreath on the memorial, but one representative from each Service—W.R.N.S., W.A.A.C., and W.R.A.F.—joined in the parade of the British Legion and placed the ex-Service women's wreath.

We are having a New Year's party on January 5th; tickets 2s., tea to start at 6.30 p.m., there will be games, a concert and fortune-telling. Those wishing to attend send their names to the Secretary before December 31st.

M. A. ROBINSON, Hon. Secretary.

5 King's Drive, Heaton Moor.

Liverpool.

Once again we met at Halewood and celebrated Armistice in the "Derby Arms."

A good number assembled, more than half having walked out all the way.

We started dinner early so as to have some music afterwards. Toasts were drunk to the King, Our C.C., and all other Clubs celebrating at the same time. Table decorations, which were much admired, consisted of pink and white chrysanthemums, and silver candlesticks shaded with pink.

Miss Bower, O.B.E., ably fulfilled the duties of Chair man, and afterwards assisted with the music. Our thanks are due to Miss Bowman for much delightful entertainment at the piano on Saturday night, and many Club nights before.

The evening was a huge success, and our only regret was that it was over too soon.

We welcome to Liverpool Miss Sutton (Princess Pats, Calais). Miss Sutton has been appointed warden of a very comfortable hostel at 24 Canning Street. The hostel will need no recommendation to ex-Service women when they know "one of ours" is in charge.

D. HOLDER, Hon. Secretary.

REMEMBRANCE DAY IN GLASGOW.

She was a Wraf who came to me one night. I had wandered into our Club Room, where, in passing, I had seen a light and was tempted to go in, hoping, that per chance I might come across Miss Gilchrist. No familiar face greeted me, but one or two voices said, "Do sit down Miss Laird, even although we aren't W.A.A.C.s"—and there I was landed.

I wish you, who are far away, could see our nice cosy little club! It's only in a basement, but the two rooms we have are so full of comfortable chairs (only loaned alas! But we know our good friend, Miss Janey Allan, who has lent us them will never remove them till the last light is switched off and the key turned in the door for the last time, and that isn't going to be during this generation, I feel sure!) and so full of bright happy Wednesday faces, that your face too couldn't but lighten up the moment you put the door between you and the rather dampish pavements outside, for Glasgow, whisper it softly, doesn't shine brightly in the matter of weather—as a rule.

But I've wandered far from where I started. One seems to forget to stop when one starts "remembering."

"Will you take a collecting box for Earl Haig's Fund on Poppy Day?" said the aforementioned Wraf to me. Now I know why they had said so enticingly come and sit down! "Delighted," I said, "I'd do anything to help any Tommy"—and so it started.

A day or two passed, then arrives a letter from the organising secretary, "So pleased you are helping, I shall be so glad if you will convene a district."

Aha! said I to myself, I didn't know I had landed into a nice snowball, better hurry up and say you will, else the next letter may say "Report immediately at Headquarters and take over the arrangements for Poppy Day for the whole of the British Isles." So I sat down in breathless haste and said, I thank you kindly, I'll do my best, or words to that effect. Happily that stopped the snowball rolling.

The district allotted was not a large one, but one of the busiest centres of the city, the Central Station and the streets round it.

I needn't enter into details of the blank dismay that seized me when in my sober moments I began to realise what I had undertaken, for the work was entirely new. The first lift I got was when I asked our W.A.A.C.s to help. One after another said "Certainly I will," so readily that I felt my spirits revive, and when one exclaimed, "I'll come at 7," and when I seemed a little incredulous, for she lived some miles out of town, "Oh, it's quite all right, there will be milk lorries coming in and I'll hop on to one of them." It fairly cheered me.

I must give you a list of the names of my helpers, for some of you may know them, and would you please, dear Editor, put them in black type, for the first thing I do when I get my "Gazette" is to glance over the "black names," and see if I know anyone mentioned this month, and I love to discover one. (Soft words from a Scots-woman are irresistible!—Ed.)

There was Miss Gilchrist, Miss Lockhart, Brown, E. C.; Birrell, J. E.; Burnside, Mrs. Cutland, Durham, J. C.; Duncan, E.; Espie, Fulton, A. S.; Foster, J.; Groundwater, J. V.; Hoos, E.; Macnair, M. (Rouen); Monahan, J. (St. Pol); McHarg, A.; McSween, H.; Murray, M. W.; McPherson, L.; Ruxton, J. K.; Richardson, A.; Smith, E. C.; Sym, M. J.; Smith, C. J.; Wallace, B.; Young, E. We needed many more, but all round everyone was willing to assist, and when Armistice Day came we had 136 sellers, and we disposed of 29,000 poppies.

£2,630 was Glasgow's contribution to the Fund.

A run home, a hasty and much needed wash up and out again but to a scene very different.

Out of the crowded streets into a dazzle of light, and a brilliant scene welcomed us—palms and flowers and dainty fresh tables surrounded by the brightest of faces and the bonniest of frocks.

We had arrived at Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, Glasgow Branch Old Comrades Dinner. A happy evening, a message of remembrance from distant friends whose thought of us gave us great pleasure. The day is over!

I have tried your patience, our good kind editor to whom we owe so much, but may I just send a message to my girls, the girls of Rouen and St. Pol and to the new friends I have found since those far back days in France and a hope that all will be well with them wherever they may be this happy Christmastide and in the New Year that hurries towards us.

M. H. L.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Miss Paton, 2120 Semlin Drive, Vancouver.

I feel that I must add a little personal note to this report just to say how happy it has made me to come into touch at last with the Club. I have been more than two years in Vancouver and have been trying all that time without avail to find some of the girls, for I knew there must be many here. I must somehow have missed the former advertisements in the local newspapers, and it was not until letters from Madge Benton and Mrs. Layton appeared in the "Gazette" that I had any inkling of the existence of a Branch Club here. I immediately got in touch with Mrs. Layton by 'phone, and the very sound of her pleasant voice warmed my heart. It happened to be on a Friday morning, the very morning of the day of the first meeting, and when I was introduced to the girls that evening I felt more at home in a minute than I have done almost since coming to Canada. It is a very wonderful thing this Association of old comrades, assuring one of a friendly welcome and a warm handclasp in the farthest corners of the world.

I fear I have taken up too much of your valuable space, and shall close with remembrances to the Glasgow and Edinburgh Clubs, in both of which I have some old friends. My address in Vancouver is 2120 Semlin Drive, and I shall be very glad to hear from any who may be coming here. I'd love to introduce them to the Club.

From Miss Isabel Henderson, 80 Bath Street, Glasgow.

In this month's "Gazette" I notice a letter from Mabel E. Johnson, of Catterick Camp. I used to work beside her, being forewoman clerk at Headquarters, Catterick Reserve Centre, in '18 and '19. Like her I often wonder what has happened to the hundreds of Waacs who lived there during the war. I am sure many of them must be members of the O.C.A. although mention is never made of them. I should be very pleased to hear from any of them, if you would kindly insert my address in the next "Gazette." I have written Mabel Johnson and hope to have a reply from her in due course.

From Mrs. Klicker, late 33904, Smith, C., Wkr., A.E.F., Tours. 1434, South Elwood Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma (late 33).

Dear "Old Comrades,"—I have several times wanted to write and tell you with what pleasure I look forward to the "Gazette" each month, and how eagerly—but vainly—I scan its pages for some news of girls who were with the A.E.F. at Tours. Surely there are some who have joined the Association. Perhaps they are like me. They have read so many interesting letters from other girls who are seeing and doing really thrilling things out in Rhodesia, Australia, etc., that they feel they have nothing worth writing about.

I have been married three years now, and am perfectly happy with my American husband, although I do wish I could meet more English people out here. I would appreciate it if you could tell me whether there are any ex-Waacs in Oklahoma anywhere. If so, would like to get in touch with them. Powell of the A.E.F. is in Philadelphia, and although we correspond frequently, the distance is too great to pay many visits.

We are expecting to make the trip home next summer, and I am looking forward to paying a visit to one or other of the Clubs, and hope to see a good many of the old faces. I think the idea of having a Picture Section in the "Gazette" is splendid, but do hope it won't mean less news items. There could never be enough of these anyhow, and I think the Editor and Staff are to be congratulated in getting out such a nifty little paper.

From Miss M. E. Mackenzie, 134 High Street, Stockton-on-Tees.

It may be of some slight interest to the O.C.A. to know that I represented the Corps at the unveiling of our local Cenotaph on Armistice Day. I paraded with my Girl Guide Company but wore O.M.A.A.C. uniform.

It has been a disappointment to me not to be able to start a branch of the O.C.A. here. I tried immediately after I came back from Spain, but could only get into touch with three or four ex-Waacs, all of them strangers to the town who did not know any others, so the idea had to drop, and if anybody felt disappointed on Armistice Day, they have only themselves to blame.

It was a most impressive ceremony, and as far as I can find out, there are no W.A.A.C. names on the memorial tablets round the Cenotaph, but I will make sure as soon as I can.

I am getting on fairly well with my office. I have now secured two rooms at this same address in the front of the building instead of one room at the back, and am moving in a few days time. I have had one or two rather interesting jobs lately. One was officially reporting the Anglo-Catholic

Congress in Newcastle for three days last month, and next Tuesday I am going to York to report a meeting of the Mothers' Union, so I am getting nearly as used to Bishops as Roach!

I am indulging in dreams of a run up to town for the Overseas Dinner, but don't know yet if it will come off.

By the way, do you know if the Miss Llewellyn Davies who was recently called to the Bar is one of the three administrators of that name, and if so which one—the U.A. at Grantham, the A.A. at York, or the other, whom I never met?

A book called "Women of the Royal Air Force," has been brought out, with introductions by Air-Marshal-in-Chief, Sir Hugh Trenchard, and Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, the late Commandant. It contains an account of the Forces at home and with the Army of Occupation, and is to be sold for the benefit of the W.R.A.F. Old Comrades' Association, at 4s. 8d. in paper covers, or 6s. 4d. linen bound, both post free. Apply to Secretary, W.R.A.F. O.C.A., 40 Hertford Street, W.1.

WEDDINGS.

Aburrow—Cable.—On November 28th, at the Parish Church, Hove, Charles Aburrow (late of Johannesburg) to Nora Evelyn Cable, M.B.E. (late U.A., Signals, Rouen).

Parslow—Tanner.—Recently at Oxford, Elsie Tanner (late Assistant Forewoman Waitress, Q.M.A.A.C.), Ashton in Makerfield. Present address, 6 Becket Street, Oxford.

BIRTHS.

Payne.—At Oxford, on December 7th, to Mr. and Mrs. E. Payne (nee D. M. Childe, N.C.) a son.

Gillespie.—On November 22nd, at Experimental Farm, Brandon, Manitoba, to Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Gillespie (nee E. S. Burner, Recruiting Staff) a daughter.

Wassell.—To Nancy and Charles Wassell (nee Walker), 14 Stratford Street, Oxford, a son, on September 14th, 1922.

ST. DUNSTAN'S URGENT NEED.

Voluntary helpers are urgently required by the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care and After-Care Committees in connection with the St. Dunstan's Carol League's forthcoming special Christmas and New Year Appeal in aid of the men who were blinded in the war.

Assistance is asked for in many ways, and if any of our readers can help by forming a Christmas Carol party, by arranging a carol service, concert, cantata, envelope collection, dance, play, fair or bazaar, or by influencing the promotion of any one of these efforts, in connection with any place of worship, musical society, business house, club or other organisation with which they may be associated, they will be rendering most valuable aid.

Officers of help and applications for details of the Christmas competition should be addressed to Mr. Ernest Kessell, The Treasurer, The St. Dunstan's Carol League, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

All copy for advertisements to be sent direct to Miss M. Warrior, Hopkinson House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W.

AS LADY NURSE or Head Nurse, a gentlewoman, trained, wishes post, temporary or permanent, to infant, "Truby King" experience, very successful with delicate babies.—Flat 3, 51 Millman Street, W.C.
LADY highly recommends a thoroughly capable lady, experienced, as Matron Housekeeper, high school or institution, excellent references.—Write Box 509, O.C.A. Office.

PURE HOME-MADE CHOCOLATES, Bon-bons, Marzipan, Fondants, Fudge, Toffees, caramels, etc. Our chocolates contain a large variety of centres, creams, various flavours, opera, praline, nougat, nougatine, marzipan, nuts, soft chocolate, etc., etc., 4/6 per lb. Fancy boxes, suitable for presents, from 3/- to £2/2/-, postage extra. Sweets tinted to match table decorations. Prices on application. Book your Christmas orders early to avoid disappointment. All orders promptly executed.—E. & G. Cocksedge, 2 Bracken Road (West), Brighouse, Yorkshire.

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 S17), 7 East Dean Road, Eastbourne.