

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

Duke of York's Headquarters, London, S.W.3. DECEMBER, 1930. Vol. XIII., No. 5. 3/6 per annum, post free.

NOTICE.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1, on Saturday, January 3rd, 1931, at 3 p.m. It is hoped that as many members as possible will make a point of being present so that the meeting may be representative of all branches.

ANNUAL MEETING OF BRANCH SECRETARIES.

The Annual Meeting of Branch Secretaries will be held at 1.30 p.m., the same day at the Ex-Service Women's Club.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The Annual Association Dinner will be held at the Georgian Restaurant, Harrod's Stores, Brompton Road, London, S.W.1, on January 3rd, 1931, at 7.15 p.m.

THE ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER

on SATURDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 1931, at the Georgian Restaurant, Harrod's Stores, Brompton Road, S.W.

RECEPTION, 6.45 p.m. DINNER, 7.15 p.m.

ORDERS AND MEDALS TO BE WORN.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

ELIGIBILITY.

The Dinner is open to all who served in Q.M.A.A.C. (irrespective of rank) overseas or home service, whether members of the O.C.A. or not . . . but it is NOT open to those who did not serve in Q.M.A.A.C.

Mrs. A. E. B. Johnston, M.B.E., is acting as Convener of the Dinner Committee.

TICKETS

PRICE SIX SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE (6/6).

Stamped addressed envelopes **MUST** be enclosed with applications for tickets, also the name of the table at — which it is desired to sit, must be stated. —

Tickets will not be sent unless the money accompanies the order.

Several tickets can be sent at the same time if the full amount accompanies the order.

Tickets can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. (London Branch) 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1, or from Miss D. Hayward 91 Rosendale Road, West Dulwich, S.E.21.

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER JANUARY 1st.

In accordance with suggestion made at Branch Secretaries' Meeting on December 8th, 1928, Branch Secretaries can obtain tickets to dispose of to their members.

Application, stating number required, to be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A. (London Branch), 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1. Proceeds of sales and unused tickets to be sent in to the Hon. Secretary (as above) not later than December 30th.

Nota Bene.

1. Counterfoil of postal order should be carefully kept, in case of loss in the post.
2. A receipt will be sent with each Dinner Ticket. If this is not received please notify the sender of the ticket at once.
3. Each ticket will have a perforated slip. On this portion will be stated the table at which the owner will sit. This must be detached from the larger portion and very carefully kept and worn as these portions will be collected during Dinner by the stewards, thereby ensuring that no "gate crashers" are among the assembly.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS.

Parties of people can arrange to sit together PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION IS SENT WHEN THE TICKET — IS TAKEN. —

Tables are usually allocated to Northern and Southern and Western and Eastern Commands, Connaught Club, Brighton, Folkestone and Dover, Golders Green, Ilford, Calais, Audruicq and Vendroux, St. Omer, Rouen and Pcnt de l'Arche, Etaples, and Dieppe, Abbeville, Signals, etc. If desired, special tables can be arranged for a group of friends.

Will those who are coming to the Dinner alone make a special point of asking for Miss Ireland, who, with other well-known Comrades, will be making introductions.

Miss Ireland is looking forward to having a Folkestone and Bostall table at the Re-union Dinner on January 3rd, 1931, and hopes very much that Old Comrades who served with her at either depot will ask for their seat to be reserved at her table. She sends hearty greetings to all Old Comrades for Christmas and the New Year.

HENRIVILLE CAMP.

Miss Elkin (now Mrs. Samuel) and Miss Hobbs, late of the above Camp, hope to be present at the Annual Dinner on 3rd January, so all Henrivillites do your utmost to attend and make it a real re-union. Book your seats at the **Boulogne** table and the **Signallers** at the **Signal** table.

HEADQUARTERS REPORT.

A meeting of the Council was held on Tuesday, November 25th, 1930, at 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1 Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan presided.

Captain D. C. Medley, M.V.O., who is well-known to many of us, has sent a gift of 20lbs. of tea for distribution. We are extremely grateful for this very useful and to us unusual gift.

Clothing.

In spite of the splendid parcels received from the under-mentioned, our cupboards are again very bare. Will members treat this as an S.O.S. please! We want everything.

Our thanks go to: Miss Kate Day, Miss E. Johnson (two parcels), Miss Leedal, E.G.M., Mrs. K. Whyte, Miss W. M. Johnson, Miss Head, Miss Porter, Anon., Miss A. L. Brown (per Miss Andrews).

Mrs. H. M. ROBINSON.

After four years as General Secretary of the Association, Mrs. Robinson has resigned and left the Headquarters office, and a new General Secretary reigns in her stead.

Mrs. Robinson's resignation is generally regretted by the members, who are well aware of all the work she has done during these years, and the good wishes of her old comrades will go with her into her new, and let us hope less strenuous, life in her Thames-side house and garden.

Under the late Miss Stevenson, Mrs. Robinson was Drafting Officer at the Hotel Metropole, Folkestone, and later served with the B.E.F., near Havre, and at Verton, near Berck Plage. From the B.E.F. she brought home a most delightful dog which she named "Vermouth," which, for about two years, accompanied his mistress almost daily to the office and became the good friend of those of us who more or less frequented the office at that time. Vermouth was a great dog, and when he died a while back was genuinely regretted. He would have enjoyed this new garden and gardening in peace with no W.A.A.C. office to intervene.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR DECEMBER.**London.**

The Branch has had a very busy time this month one way and another. The Joint Services Reunion Meeting on Thursday, 6th November, was a very cheery affair. The Roamers Concert Party gave an entertainment for the benefit of our visitors which was very much appreciated. Despite the fact that the party was working their show without their leader, Miss Taylor, who we are all very sorry to hear, is not in very good health just now, and also working with one member short they kept the entertainment going for a good hour or more. While the Concert Party was getting ready the audience was entertained by Lulu and Pat who have helped the members to while away a very pleasant hour on more than one occasion.

There was no great rush to purchase tickets for the Bachelor Girls' Exhibition: perhaps the fault lay in the opening of the exhibition right on top of the publication of the Gazette. However, those who did not get a chance of paying the exhibition a visit did not miss much. It was not very thrilling: in fact was disappointing. I was most surprised to find that many of the stands were run by men which to me seemed all wrong. Everything in the exhibition could quite easily have been presided over and demonstrated by women, to see men there somehow took all the flavour from the original idea and we were disappointed. We entered the building with the idea that we were visiting something of our very own and the only males present would be privileged visitors and we were "put off our stroke" to find men so prominent. However, perhaps next time the organisers will arrange matters a bit better.

Another five pounds have been added to the donation list of the Branch Fund as a result of the sale of odds and ends held on Thursday, 20th November. I thank all the members most sincerely who sent donations and also those who came along to buy. These little sales make quite a social breeze and I welcome them. They bring members along who do not get very often to the reunion meetings and we do love to meet them; in spite of the quick sale going on around we can always get some chat in. Five pounds may not seem a lot to those who are accustomed to realizing some hundreds from the same source but we are not out to make large sums on these occasions, nor do we wish to sell articles at exorbitant prices. Our aim is to make a few pounds by receiving and selling articles within the reach of all members and also articles which will prove useful when purchased, and it takes a lot of selling to make five pounds in a couple of hours in these circumstances so we are proud of the result of the sale. The following good-selling articles which were made by the members at very little cost and time may prove useful to other branches if they are thinking of making a few pounds:—

Kettleholders, about four dozen varying from the humble kitchen holder to very artistic affairs for the bachelor women's bed-kit-sit otherwise one-roomed flatlet, were laid on the table by those who had made them, these were sold at prices ranging from a penny to sixpence and they kept coming in as fast as we could sell them. Coconut ice at a penny a bar went like magic. About a dozen quaint little rag dolls which turned out to be face flannels found a quick sale at a very modest price. Popular face powder, small groceries, cigarettes and many other small articles changed hands at their market value and any donation beyond the reach of the purses were raffled for a sum not exceeding their value and we were kept pretty busy. It was really fun and a couple of hours well spent in more ways than one.

On the 22nd of November at the invitation of Miss E. Bertrand a small party visited the Albany Institute, Creek Road, Deptford. We arrived at the appointed meeting place about 4 o'clock and from then onwards until about 9.30 p.m. we were kept thoroughly interested. Our first visit was to the babies' hospital in Albury Street. There we were met by one of the staff nurses and a tour of the old cottages began. So far as I remember there were fourteen babies ranging from three months to three years of age. They all looked very happy and contented and gazed at the visitors with wide open eyes, all except one wee mite of three months old, who evidently resented visitors and he cried his resentment of the intruders loud and long. We talked to him and he was quite pleased but when we left his cot he just opened up and sang again; fond mothers skip the next sentence, I am about to make the callous remark one would expect from a maiden aunt—that baby was showing off. Nurse told us a little about the little patients which made us feel very sorry for them, especially "Ginger," a wee chap of eight months, who is in for the second time in his young life and if he only had the rights of every living thing—fresh air and sunshine—he would never need to enter a hospital I suppose. However, there he is surrounded with loving care and I am sure he will soon be as bonny as he was when he was discharged from the hospital in the summer time. After the wards had been inspected Miss Bertrand took the party for a tour of the two old cottages where the hospital work is carried on. One cottage in particular has a fascinating history, being at one time the home of Lord Nelson and when it is demolished, which it will be when enough funds are raised and for which a strong appeal is at present being made, there will be found many interesting relics. I hope someone with lots of money will come forward and offer a large price for the oak panelling of which the quaint old cottage is lined: in addition there is a special door leading to the garden which is reputed to have been transferred from Nelson's cabin, the ship's bell hangs in the hall and the front door chain is a piece of cable also taken from the ship of our famous sailor—sailors evidently knew how to scrounge in those days too.

When the time comes, if it ever does, for these relics to be sold, I devoutly hope the purchaser or purchasers will be British. We inspected the little kitchen where Miss Bertrand has a suspicion there is a secret passage—anyway she is going to be the first to investigate when the large slab of concrete is lifted from a particular spot and I should like to be with her when she begins work. We were struck with the quaintness of the windows, especially the kitchen window, which must have opened out at one time on to the little porch, where, we fancied that Nelson and Emma Hamilton must have sat of a summer's evening after dinner. Looking from the garden to this tiny nook there is a good opportunity for the artist to get a delightful etching. Our next visit was to Carrington House, an L.C.C. lodging house for men. This house, the superintendent told us, holds 814 men and it is nearly always full up. We inspected rows of cubicles along each side of broad corridors each cubicle held a bed and a chair and was ventilated by one small window. These are rented at tenpence a night. But there are one or two special cubicles which boast a chest of drawers and which, of course, are only given to special lodgers; they can lock them up and keep them so long as they can afford to pay the few pence extra. A special emergency door at the end of the corridor was pointed out to us; at night this door is shut and in the event of any trouble the porter just throws open the door, a bell communicating with the office immediately rings and indicates which floor requires help and someone appears almost immediately. We were just fascinated to watch the men cooking their supper on a large hot plate which occupied the centre of the dining room. Dozens of tea cans were keeping hot while their owners struggled with frying pans, the contents of which were mixed. Onions met us as we entered the room but we soon found out that onions were not the only item on the menu, kippers were quietly sizzling next door to the onions and further down the hot plate I saw a man pushing in a pan with bacon, there did not seem to be room for one more pan but he must have succeeded for the aroma of bacon soon filled the air in his corner. They all have a locker where they keep their tommy boxes as they call them, and we were amused to see them perched up on steps bringing forth their treasures—fry pan, tea tin, knife and fork, etc. One large recreation room is provided and one reading room, the reading room being given over to the perusal of racing papers and such literature. In the reading room we saw some old men sleeping in chairs, who otherwise would probably be found out in the open. We felt glad they were there but also felt sorry for them. Doing the job thoroughly we inspected the ablution room which reminded us very much of our cold service days, the laundry, the boiler room and large canteen kitchen. I nearly forgot to mention that there is a bootmaker, a barber and a laundry also provided, where, for a few coppers, the men can have a shave, their boots repaired and their washing done if they do not want to wash it themselves. After our inspection the superintendent took us along to his apartments and his wife refreshed us with the ever cheerful cup of tea. We thanked Mr. and Mrs. Hockley for their hospitality and Miss Bertrand rushed us off to the Perch Hostel for girls, endowed and planned by Lady Katherine Mead. This hostel would have made many real envious, many of our people would have been very grateful for such a comfortable place to stay when they were demobbed.

Such a hostel placed in a more central position would be a real boon to many business girls, I cannot imagine it ever having an empty room and yet I am told there is accommodation available down there in Deptford. It is a hostel planned by a woman for women so one can imagine just what it is like. We inspected this building from the room in the basement where the girls do their own washing if they wish, right up to the roof garden. Miss Bertrand piloted the party over to the Albany Institute where we had tea and chat and then inspected this building and now I must stop because readers will either feel sorry they did not manage to join the party or feel ever so bored reading such a long epistle.

Coming Events.—The only coming event and the most important one is the Annual Reunion Dinner on the 3rd of January. And herewith I give a few simple rules which each member can carry out without the least trouble to herself and which will make the Dinner Committee very happy.

1. Please sit at the table allotted to you at your own request, where a place will be reserved for you.
2. Don't invite your friend to sit beside you if her seat is already reserved at another table. **Remember every seat has been allotted according to the tickets issued; to change one throws the arrangements out.**
3. Don't encourage your friend if she should suggest doing so.
4. Don't remove the coloured ribbon markers from their places; these indicate the number of places reserved for another party; to go beyond the markers is encroaching on another unit table.
5. Don't take away the table cards as souvenirs—they are nice I know in the excitement of the moment but what on earth can you do with them afterwards? Please they are required for next year!
6. Don't forget to write to that old pal who has never been before and tell her about the dinner in plenty of time.
7. Don't forget to send for your tickets early.
8. If you remember all these little "Don'ts" you'll have a jolly good time on the 3rd of January and so shall the Dinner Committee.

R. S. ANDREWS.

Edinburgh and East of Scotland.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch was held in the Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, on Saturday, 15th November. There was a record attendance, presided over by Miss Alice Low, O.B.E., Chairman of the Branch.

Annual Re-union Dinner.—The Annual Re-union Dinner was held in the Club on Saturday, 15th November. There was a large and representative gathering, presided over by Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D. The guest of honour was Countess Haig. Other guests included Miss Crabbie, of Butterstone House, Dunkeld; Miss Greta Foster, representing Glasgow Branch; Miss Ruth Bibbs, representing W.R.A.F. Old Comrades' Association; Colonel Bilton, C.M.G., and Mrs. Bilton, Colonel Ditcham, D.S.O., and Mr. Chalmers Watson. A very happy evening was spent and it was very gratifying to see such a splendid turn-out of Old Comrades 12 years after Armistice. The supper tables were beautifully decorated with poppies made by the disabled soldiers at Lady Haig's poppy factory. During the evening a collection was taken for the Earl Haig Fund when the sum of £2 16s. 7d. was realised.

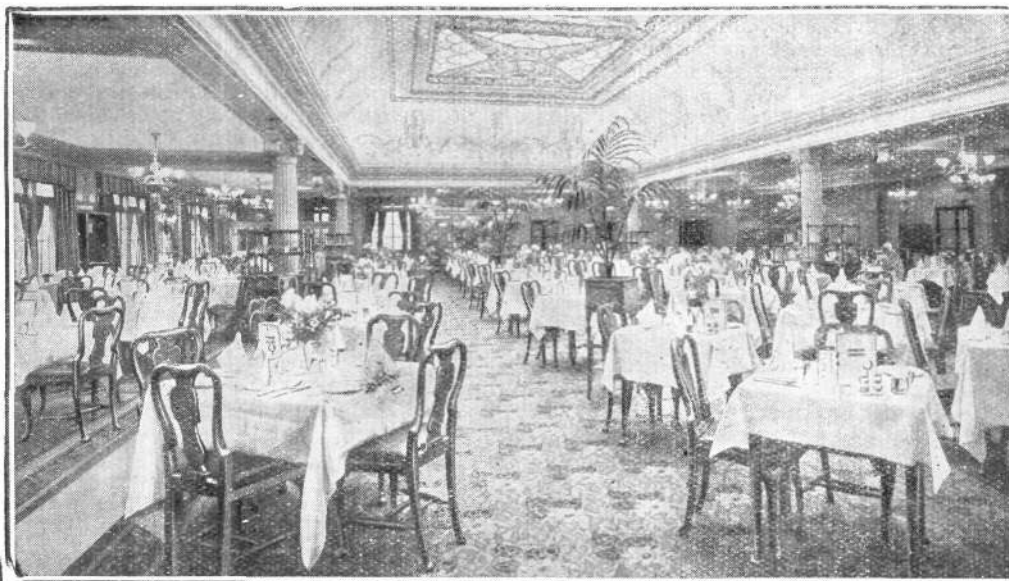
Armistice Day.—Our representative at the service in St. Giles' Cathedral on Armistice Day was Miss E. F. Davidson (member of committee). Miss Davidson also placed a wreath on the Stone of Remembrance on behalf of the Branch. The same day a Spray of Poppies was placed on the Memorial Tablet in the Hall of the Club, in memory of the Waacs who were killed or died on service.

Children's Party.—The Annual Christmas Party for children and nephews and nieces of Branch members will be held in the Club at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, on Saturday, 20th December, from 3 to 6 p.m. The Secretary will be glad to have the names and ages of any children wishing to attend. Contributions in the way of toys or cash to defray expenses will be gratefully received and should be sent to the Branch Secretary at 12 Drumsheugh Gardens.

At the Annual General Meeting it was agreed that the sum of £5 be sent as a donation to the wounded soldiers at Edenhall Hospital to enable them to have a Christmas treat.

Miss F. M. Lush (Benevolent Fund Secretary) will represent our Branch at the General Meeting and Re-union Dinner in London on January 3rd and will be pleased to meet any Old Comrades interested in "The Edinburgh Branch."

Harrod's
Georgian
Restaurant



Scene of
the
Annual
Dinner

We take the opportunity of wishing all Old Comrades at home and abroad a very happy Christmas and much joy for the New Year that is coming.

MARY INNES.

Liverpool.

Please accept the very sincere apologies of the Liverpool members. We are sorry you have not heard of us for so long. We have not "packed up" or disbanded, or anything like that. It was simply that our member responsible for "broadcasting" was away and very busy.

We are still going strong, though not in the British Legion rooms now. The Legion has so many activities that we were never sure of a room to ourselves, so we have returned to our old quarters at 18 Colquitt Street, and we'll welcome all Old Comrades there every Friday from 7 p.m.

The most interesting event for us recently was the unveiling of the Cenotaph by Lord Derby on Armistice Day. It certainly was our busy day. We ran a poppy depot, and many of the girls turned out very early and sold until 9.45 a.m. Then we all got "poshed up," put on our medals, etc., and paraded with the Legion ex-Service men. We marched to our position alongside the Cenotaph at 10 o'clock, and there we stood until mid-day, nearly frozen, but happy.

It is on such an occasion that we are extra proud of the really lovely banner presented to us by Madame la Baronne de la Grange.

Our next important gathering will be early in the New Year, when we hope to give 20 disabled and 20 unemployed ex-Service men, an evening's entertainment and supper.

In conclusion, the Liverpool members wish you all a very happy Christmas and the best of everything throughout 1931.

F. M. BRAGG.

Leeds.

Christmas Cheer.—Please do not forget that money and counterfoils must be in to Miss Mair by the 15th December. The cheer is a local branch effort to raise money for its own funds and we hope it will be successful.

We are now looking forward to the London Annual Dinner, but one misses the Christmas shopping that has usually been associated with the London trip.

Several members have expressed their intention to be present, and presumably we shall have a "Leeds branch" table as usual.

Christmas greetings to all Old Comrades.

A. ANNIKIN.

Manchester.

At our Annual Meeting at which there was a record

attendance, the following officers and committee were elected: United Services President, Miss Matley; Treasurer, Mrs. Bigg; Hon. Secretary, Miss Stephenson; O.C.A. Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Stear; Hut Secretary, Mrs. Barnes; Committee, Danson, Savage, Foster, Ilearn, Johnson, Robinson, Frankenburgh, Mason, Whittaker, Barnes. All were sorry that Mrs. Danson could not serve again, the consolation is that Mrs. Bigg will be just as keen for the welfare of the Club. Hut and O.C.A. committees will be formed from the General Committee at the next meeting.

The balance-sheet was presented. Much useful work has been done and headquarters have been splendid in the treatment of benevolent cases. Clothing supplied by Mrs. Frankenburgh and Miss Pearce was gratefully received by our poorer ex-Service women for themselves and children. Mrs. Bigg was kept from the Annual Meeting through having scalded her foot. She struggled to the dinner against doctor's orders and septic poisoning set in. All wish her a speedy recovery. Nell Savage took the chair and did fine until Leslie arrived, then Steve had to carry on.

Armistice Parade.—I believe we numbered 37. Splendid. The older members were pleased to meet some new members; also some still older members (not in age). We were pleased to see Miss Matley, who has been away for about two years. She was immediately put in charge of the parade; we knew she knew the ropes. Everything went off fine, only we would like a banner. Most of us went to the Club for lunch. Miss Stephenson joined us and was delighted to see so many. What a chatter it was!

Our Dinner was on November 15th—34 present. There were two absentees—Edwards and Aldred. Report, please! We had a wonderful time. Dorothy Whyatt called in to see us. She had a previous engagement and was sorry not to see Aldred. Miss Molyneux also spent an hour with us. Apologies were received from Dame Florence Simpson, Miss Ireland, Dr. Peake, Mrs. Edwards (Blackpool). One member said "But Miss Ireland is with us," and produced a photograph. Dr. Peake wishes to entertain all Manchester members visiting London for the Dinner. During the year we have had visits from Dame Florence Simpson, and a party went to Liverpool, too, to see Dame Florence, who entertained us to tea. Capt. and Mrs. Garrard visited the Club and supplied whist prizes for the week following their visit. Some of our new members are anxiously looking forward to their first London Dinner. Foster was invited to a dinner and dance in London last month, arranged by the men of the R.A.F. camp at which she worked overseas. She went and had a wonderful time. She said there were more men than

women there; it must have been grand if they had a Paul Jones! Savage has straffed me for mentioning her mysterious holiday. Well, I only got the O.C.A. news by listening in to chatter and it did sound mysterious. We hope Jean Horsfield will be happy at Bournemouth when she goes there after Christmas. I spent a most wonderful six months there during my war service. Last year our membership was down. What are we going to do this year? Will you try to help make this a record year by paying your subscription early and trying to find a new member or getting an old member to rejoin, to help the O.C.A. carry on its good work. For the benefit of a few who may have Sunday with nothing to do during London Dinner week-end, could any suggestions be put on the notice-board at 5 Buckingham Gate, for a sight-seeing tour or dare one suggest a trip to London's camp, Shanghai. Manchester sends all Old Comrades Christmas greetings and best wishes for a bright, happy and prosperous New Year

A Guid New Year to ane an' a'
And money may ye see;
And may you get sae much you'll aye
Ha'e some to spare for me!

Apologies to a sister Service and hope we'll have a reward.
V. STEAR.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Re-unions.—As already stated the form of our Annual Re-union was altered this year and took place in the Club on Saturday, November 8th. Forty members were present, the guest being Mrs. Holms, from Gourock. Miss Innes came from Edinburgh and enlivened the proceedings. We were pleased to have with us for the first time Miss McGavin Young, who is home from Canada; also to welcome back Miss Burnside, who came all the way from Galloway to be present. High tea was served in the Club and the party then went to the Alhambra to see Rio Rita. Judging from the hilarity the show was greatly enjoyed. A change from the old custom is always an anxiety to a committee, so it is gratifying to hear and to receive letters of appreciation and pleasure of the evening's entertainment.

Edinburgh Re-union.—While here Miss Innes was busy, and the result was that twelve Glasgow members attended the Edinburgh re-union on 15th November. Miss Foster represented this Branch. Edinburgh as a city, and its beautiful Club, and re-union have always an attraction, and this year one was added in the person of Lady Haig, who shook hands and spoke to each of the Glasgow members. At the re-union the speeches were numerous, and the numbers in Edinburgh keep up with the enthusiasm, thanks to Miss Low and Miss Innes, and the committee, who worked hard.

Cenotaph Ceremony.—As well as Miss Laird (chairman of the United Services Club), there were present at the ceremony at the Cenotaph on November 11th at 11 a.m., Mrs. McFarlane (chairman of Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., Glasgow Branch), Miss N. B. Hastie (Boulogne signaller), Miss M. Duncan (Boulogne and Dieppe signaller), Miss A. Wilson (Boulogne signaller), and Miss Harvey (Rouen), who placed the wreath.

Soldiers' Party.—As our Club is now too small, this party will be held at the headquarters of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association. This is an enormous building, and the committee are therefore inviting a larger number of disabled men. More help and more contributions will therefore be needed and the committee hope these will be forthcoming. Contributions of money should be sent to Miss Gow at the Club, 316 Bath Street, before December 20th, the day of the party, and contributions in kind should be left at the Club on the 19th or brought to the party and notification of the nature of the donation sent beforehand.

U.S. Club Syllabus.—The drawing up of a syllabus entails an enormous amount of work, and to show their appreciation it is hoped the members will turn out on the dates fixed. Some of these are already over, but the subjects may interest outsiders: Nov. 3rd, Committee's informal At Home to members. Nov. 29th, Whist Tea.

Dec. 5th, Concert to limbless. Dec. 20th, Christmas Party to disabled soldiers. Jan. 15th, Lecture on rambling. Jan. 31st, Whist Tea. Feb. 19th, Dr. Frances Melville: Travels in Sicily.

London Dinner.—In spite of setbacks with rumours of no cheap day excursions on January 3rd, the bank balance for train fares is swelling, and each Wednesday evening Mrs. Pettigrew, our treasurer, collects from individual members from 6d. to a 10s. note. Let's hope "it's only a rumour" and that we will not be disappointed this year also. Those who go feel keen disappointment for those who are left

General Meeting.—The Annual Meeting took place on 19th November. The finance of this O.C.A. is satisfactory and there is also a small balance on the Hut. It is with regret the resignation of our representative (Miss Mainland) was received, and we thank her for all her good work and interest in us.

The following were also elected to serve on the Committee: Mrs. McFarlane, Chairman; Mrs. Pettigrew, Treasurer; Miss Gilchrist, Secretary; and the Misses McDonald, McLellan, Foster, Jeffrey, Crawford, Johnston, Boyd, Anderson, and Scott. E. M. GILCHRIST.

Norfolk.

Members spent a most enjoyable evening on November 6th at 5 Market Place, Norwich, when Miss West, our hostess for the evening, entertained us in her flat. The evening being very cold and bright, the huge fire was much appreciated as we snuggled round for our usual monthly "gossip." Miss Prothero (Taffy) was much missed with her "stock of fun," for she is so rarely absent from our winter meetings, and we regretted, too, the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Paston and Miss Green, but we hope to see them all at the meeting in December. A really delightful supper was served during the evening, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the good things set before us, much appreciating the thoughtfulness of our hostess.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4th, at 122a Thorpe Road, Norwich, when the Misses Newberry and Prothero will be our hostesses. We hope then to make our branch arrangements for the visit to London for the Annual Dinner on January 3rd. Tickets for same have been procured for members for "Norfolk table."

L. W. CHILVERS.

Bristol and West of England.

On Saturday, the 8th November, a General Meeting of the Branch was held at The Princes Restaurant, Bristol, when the report and accounts for the past year were presented, and officials for the coming year were elected.

Lady Taylor was again unanimously elected President, and Miss Umpleby, "Rokeby," Long Ashton, Bristol, has taken over the Secretaryship of the Branch.

The business meeting was followed by a supper and social, four talented members of the Branch (Miss Clark, Miss Phillpott, Miss Sims and Miss Walker) providing a very excellent little concert. Great enjoyment was also given by the wonderful memories of two members who were able to provide the accompaniments to some of the war-time songs.

Miss Pratt (our representative on the Council) and Miss Viney (the Cardiff Secretary) were our guests, and a record was made in the number attending, the two members being welcomed.

ARMISTICE DAY IN LONDON.

Some thirty-two of us met at 9 a.m. at the Club under the leadership of Miss Edith Thompson, C.B.E., and the expert shepherding of Miss Lithiby, M.B.E. Arrived on the parade grounds of the Guards' Barracks there was the usual wait while we "called" on other detachments and received visits from them. Also the usual weeding-out of stray civilian ladies who appear to be without either chart or compass and only feel they would like to march with someone or something.

The crowds seemed greater than last year as we marched down to Whitehall; the men in front of us were led to their position by Lord Jellicoe and we all took up our

places on the north of the Cenotaph. The Guards in all their magnificence of colour and perfect alignment were on the east, Navy, Merchant Service, Fishing Fleets, and Air Force to the west, while on the south stood the buglers, trumpeters, and massed bands of the Brigade of Guards making a splash of vivid colour.

It seemed a long time that we stood, nodding to old familiar faces to right and left: snatches of conversation came to ones ears, "ah, that was Mons," "d'you remember old Stoker? done in at Cambrai he was," "I liked the old Somme, kind of got used to it," "Hospital at Alexandria, that's the spot for me." Then suddenly a terrific call to attention and we knew the King and come with his sons and a retinue of Indian Princes. They laid their wreaths to the soft strains of Chopin's Funeral March. As the Dominion Premiers and Indian Princes paid their homage one felt that the whole of a mighty nation was gathered together for one great act of Remembrance.

Then the Silence . . . perfect and complete. A Silence that passed through Time and outdistanced Space. The mighty army of the Empire's Dead were all around us; we seemed to see them renewed and perfected, one with us and yet beyond, enjoying vaster knowledge and wider life.

The sun shone, a gust of wind blew out the flags, a gun sounded, and heads were raised and we came back to earth with a movement of arms or feet. The Last Post sounded, Prayers were said, a hymn sung, The Lord's Prayer rose from thousands, the Reveille burst from the bugles of the Royal Marines; we sang God save the King and the Royal Party left the square.

Then began the march past of the ex-Service men and women to "Tipperary" played by the band of the Irish Guards. The sun shone in our faces as we marched back to the parade where we were dismissed by Lord Jellicoe. The place we had left was quickly filled by a Pilgrimage of men and women who came on silently and ceaselessly laying flowers at the Cenotaph with a moment's pause for prayer. From noon to midnight there was an unending procession of tens of thousands who had come from all over England and far beyond to pay their Tribute.

Westminster Abbey, too, was filled with a stream of those who found their quest fulfilled at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

Ludgate Hill, Piccadilly Circus, the Mansion House, all had their crowds who kept a reverent Silence.

By seven o'clock there was a queue of ticket-holders at the Albert Hall reinforced by hundreds who had no prospect of getting inside but came to chat with those more fortunate than themselves and perhaps to be as near as possible to the spot where Comradeship was focussed.

The evening began with the introduction of Indian Princes who marched from either side of the dais as their names and titles were sonorous proclaimed, and walked slowly and with eastern dignity down the long hall and up to their three boxes next to the Royal Box.

The Prince of Wales entered his Box to the sound of tumultuous cheering and stood with us to welcome the fine old Chelsea Pensioners who marched slowly and steadily up the Hall to the strains of "The Boys of the Old Brigade," arriving at the platform they divided right and left and added their note of colour above the gorgeous bands of the Brigade of Guards. Then followed a magnificent welcome to the W.R.A.F., the Q.M.A.A.C. and the W.R.E.N.S. as they marched steadily in. The Nursing Services perhaps gave the prettiest effect; their aprons, their capes and their red crosses and their admirable time made their entry very charming.

At the entry of the old Divisional Signs, men yelled themselves hoarse as they greeted each old friend. The Union Jack was borne to its place where all could see, and then began the march of the Services: Air Force, Fishing Fleet, Overseas Forces from nine countries, representatives of four British Regiments, the Navy and its reserves. Then 250 or more Legion Standards in companies of 50.

And then the strength of the Nation of to-morrow, the Guides and Scouts marching two and two showing that boys and girls have equal heritage in National honour and equal share in her responsibilities. All the marchers took their places above the platform and made a picture and a symbol that one felt it good that visitors from other lands should see.

The fine speech of the Prince of Wales stirred the audience to a fresh frenzy of cheering and we waved blue and gold programmes so the entire Hall presented waving lines of the Legion Colours. The Blind Singers of St. Dunstan's sang with rare beauty, and then began the singing of the old War-time songs. Ten of them we had all sung twice, and one three times: from the "Long, Long Trail," "John Brown's Body" and "Take me Back to Dear old Blighty," up to "Land of Hope and Glory," we ran the whole gamut of emotion, sentiment, farce, patriotism with a stirring of memory that perhaps only those with War-time memories of Overseas can really understand.

The last phase of the wonderful, glorious evening began with Sullivan's "In Memoriam." The Field of Remembrance was unveiled with its Cross and poppies and as the hall grew dim a gigantic Cross of poppies far above our heads gave a radiant light. Some "Old Contemptibles" marched to war again in gas helmets and re-appeared wounded, bleeding, mud covered, only able to stagger down the path. The drums rolled on in magnificent waves of sound. Lord Jellicoe spoke the Tribute to the Fallen which was followed by a Shower of 1,092,237 Poppy Petals, the number of the Empire's Dead . . . They fell and fell and fell . . . in a tense silence. Thousands and thousands and thousands of them, and we realised that if those Dead were to march once again in a column of four and were to pass the Cenotaph at the rate of 10,000 in an hour, it would take five whole days and four long nights and then the last 12,000 would be still to come. And suddenly we saw that **the Flag for which they died was flying still.** There it flew in the heart of the Empire and the fallen Petals took on a new significance: no longer were they emblems of suffering and death but symbols of a Mighty Victory.

M. E. ROACH.

TO EX-RECRUITERS.

From Miss Edith Trotter, C.B.E.

I shall be very pleased if any members of the Recruiting Department, Q.M.A.A.C., will join me for tea at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 4th, at the ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, London. Unfortunately I have not a full list of addresses, so will anyone who can write to me and also inform friends with whom they are in touch and who are ex-recruiters.

R.S.V.P. to 4 East Avenue, Bournemouth, Hants.

"OVERSEA," ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.

Old Comrades who are contemplating spending Christmas at "Oversea," will be well advised to make an early application for accommodation. Several bookings have already been made, and Miss Taylor is looking forward to being able to report "house full."

November has been a quiet month, but perhaps it is as well as the builders have been very much handicapped in the work of redecorating the house, etc., owing to the bad weather. They are, however, practically finished, and the house has been thoroughly "autumn" cleaned.

BLANCHE IRELAND, Secretary.

A HOUSEHOLD WORKER IN NEW ZEALAND.

One of the chief faults with many girls who come to New Zealand is that they do not find out beforehand enough about conditions out here. Then, when they arrive, they say, "I did not know it would be like this," or "I didn't know I would have to do that." There is no excuse for this lack of knowledge, for the S.O.S.B.W. is ever ready with information and advice on these matters.

In my own case I cannot say I was misled. I had worked for some years in the Land Army, and was

anxious to continue that work in New Zealand. I was assured, however, that farming conditions were very different out here and that girls were not employed on the land, but that I could get a position on a farm to do indoor and outdoor work. And that is how I began in this delightful little country. I milked the cow and did some gardening, but worked chiefly indoors. Housework had never been one of my strong points! I well remember by first attempt to blacklead the stove. The little daughter of the house, aged about four, superintended, and told me that "Mother didn't do it like that." I soon found out how mother *did* do it, and I did it accordingly. And that is how I discovered a very important fact. However experienced or inexperienced you may be, it is as well to adapt your methods to those of the mistress of the house. The sooner you can forget you are English and become a New Zealander, the better. They are all workers out here and know the methods most suitable for their work. Nobody likes being "shown how" by a stranger from another country.

I remained in that same position for nearly two years. Sometimes I got a wee bit tired of it, and I thought I would like a change, but I remembered that a long stay in one place is a far better recommendation than to keep changing about from one situation to another. Also, I wanted to get as much experience as possible.

Those who only know English homes can hardly realise the way in which mistresses and maids work together in New Zealand—especially in the country districts. The oversea housewives are most capable and very hard working. They do their share of work, and are always ready to teach, and make excuses for, a beginner. But the beginner must not only be willing to learn. She must also show some degree of efficiency, and be able to shoulder a certain amount of responsibility. Above all, she must be ready to tackle anything and give a hand where it is most needed.

There is very little class distinction out here, and the hired help becomes one of the family. She meets their friends, and shares their picnics in the summer. In the winter there are dances in the village (or township, as it is called). But it is no use a girl coming out here just to have a good time. Let her have as good a time as she can, certainly, but let her always remember that her first consideration is her employer.

New Zealand, like the rest of the world, has its unemployment troubles, but it is a fine country for all that. The people are kind and hospitable, the climate is good, especially in the winter, and there is a sense of space and freedom. I should not, however, advise any girl to come out with the sole idea of getting work in the towns; but a girl who is willing to take up domestic work in the country and is determined to get on need never fear being out of work. There is always a demand for this type of girl. The wages vary from £1 to 30s. per week, and board. And this is where the country domestic worker scores over the town girl. The latter may appear to be getting big wages, but remember she has to pay board and lodging. Also, she will have to spend more in clothes.

I ought to say a word about homesickness. Every newcomer appears to suffer from it for a time, so it is just as well to be prepared for it. Never let it master you. Put all your heart and mind into your work, and above all keep cheerful. You will benefit by it, and so will those around you. And, anyway, we need not feel so far away while we are linked by wireless and cables and fast mail steamers. Think of the pioneers who came out here in sailing ships, taking many months over the voyage, and landing here in uninhabited waste country—everything against them. But they had the right spirit, and they made good. Surely we are not made of inferior stuff! We want the girls—but they also must have the right spirit.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Miss Margaret Wicks, 4 Great King Street, Edinburgh.

I have long intended writing you to add my tribute of appreciation to the others which appear in the Gazette. It

is a marvellous newspaper, and I am sure does more than one can estimate to keep alive the spirit of comradeship among us.

After a number of years of absence, I find it will be possible for me to attend the O.C.A. Dinner on January 3rd, and Alice Davey, who was our Camp Forewoman at Camp D, Havre, and who was before that at Etaples, is coming too. For over two years now Davey has kept house for me, and now we spend many moments wondering who will be at the Dinner, among our old friends in Havre and elsewhere. I understand Miss Kenworthy Browne may come, and, I hope, Miss Shawyer. Miss Shawyer spent some weeks with me here in the spring, while she was engaged in some work in Edinburgh. In September I spent a little time with Miss A. C. Russel at her delightful 13th century house in Broadway, Worcestershire. We hope that she, too, will find it possible to foregather with the rest on January 3rd.

Would it be trespassing too much upon your space to ask you to tell our old Havre comrades, in the December issue of the Gazette, that we are looking forward to seeing them at the Dinner?

From Mrs. D. G. Parkes, 69 Belgrave Road, S.W.1.

Dear Old Comrades,—It is with many regrets that after many years I have to give up 89 and 91 Belgrave Road as hostels. I did try very hard to find someone to keep them as hostels, but it is impossible, owing to the very heavy expenses due to the costs of extension of leases.

I daresay that many of you will remember that the commencement of Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades activities started at 91, and was the first meeting-place for us to make arrangements for the future committees to be started.

Ninety-one has been the home of many Waacs for years (at the time of writing there are still a few left of 10 years) and hundreds have made it their home before going overseas.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all who made it possible for me to carry on, namely, Dame Florence, Miss Ethel Thomas, O.B.E., Dr. Peake, Miss E. Thorne, and Miss Berry (that was).

My very best wishes are with you all in the future, and I hope to hear from any Old Comrades at any time.

MARRIAGE.

Gardner—Balchin.—On September 23rd, 1930, at St. Pancras Church, London, Squadron Leader Richard Gregory Gardner, R.A.F., to Jessie Grace, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Balchin, of Regent's Park, London.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Numerology.—Your name your guide for life. Full reading 5s., Character only 2s. 6d. Old readings brought up to date 2s. 6d., U.S.A. and Canada \$1.—Send full names (maiden name if married) and date of birth to Blanche, 106 W74th Street, New York City, U.S.A.

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Bournemouth.—Mrs. A. Stocker, "Glencora," 3 Hawkwood Road, Boscombe. Comfortable board residence, good food; separate tables; 4 mins. sea, one minute Arcade, shops, etc. Every consideration for the comfort of visitors; large shady lawn, South aspect; Moderate terms.—Telephone: Bournemouth 962.

Stormont House, 43 and 45 Longridge Road, Earls Court, S.W.5. Misses A. Crockford and O. Mainland having extended their premises, are now able to offer additional accommodation. Bed, bath and breakfast from 5/6 single rooms; from 5/- each double rooms. Lunch, tea and dinner optional; 6d. per night extra for bookings for less than three nights. Gas fires in rooms. Telephone: Frobisher, 0986.

Branch.	Name and Address of Secretary.	Address of Club or Meeting place.	Day and Time of Meeting
Birmingham.	Miss E. I. Dipple, 29 Marston Road, Erdington, Birmingham.	38 John Bright Street, Room 19.	Wednesdays. 7 to 10 p.m.
Bournemouth.	Miss Edith Trotter, C.B.E.,	Cavendish House, 8 Christ Church Road.	Last Monday in each month 8 to 10 p.m.
Brighton.	Miss H. A. Baron, 25 Wellington Road, Brighton, Sussex.		On last Wednesday in the month; 7.15—10.15.
Bristol and West of England.	Miss Umpleby, "Rokeby," Long Aston, Bristol.	No permanent room fixed.	Not fixed.
Cheltenham.	Mrs. Mann, 84B High Street, Cheltenham, Gloucester.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Exeter.	Miss J. Rose, 164 Sidwell Street, Exeter.	164 Sidwell Street, Exeter.	First Wednesday of the month at 3 o'clock.
Eastbourne.	Miss N. Peters, 5 Spencer Road, Eastbourne.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Edinburgh and East of Scotland.	Miss M. Innes, 1 Granville Terrace, Edinburgh. Benevolent Sec.: Miss F. M. Lush, 11a Gilmore Place, Edinburgh.	Women's United Services Club, 12 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.	1st Saturday of each month, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Glasgow and West of Scotland.	Miss E. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., 13 Royal Terrace West, Glasgow.	316 Bath Street, Glasgow.	Every Wednesday, 7.30.
Headquarters.	Mrs. Pratt Barlow, O.B.E. 11 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1.	Not fixed.	Not fixed.
Ireland.	Miss E. C. Finny, Erith Lodge, Sandymount, Dublin.		Not fixed.
Leeds.	Miss E. Mair, 19 Lyddon Terrace, Leeds, Yorks. Benevolent Sec.: Miss A. Annikin, 2 Hollin Park View, Roundhay, Leeds, Yorks.	British Legion Club Rooms, Greek Street, Leeds.	First Wednesday in the month, 7.30 p.m.
Liverpool.	(Temp.) Mrs. Ryley, 199 Picton Road, Wavertree.	18 Colquitt Street, Liverpool.	Friday, 7.30 p.m.
London.	Miss R. S. Andrews, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1.	1st and 3rd Thursdays in each month at the Ex-Service Women's Club, 5 Buckingham Gate, S.W.1; 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays. Mess. Central Canteen, Duke of York's Hdq., King's Rd., Chelsea. Winchfield, Shirehall Lane, Golders Green Road (nearest 'bus stop Brent Bridge). Telephone: Hendon 1925. 122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone Ilford 0058).	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10		First Tuesday of each month; 7.30—10 p.m.
Ilford.	Miss M. V. Druitt, 74 Belgrave Road, Ilford, Essex.		Alternate Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
Manchester.	Mrs. Stear, 8 Gainsborough Street, Higher Broughton, Salford.	The Kingston Cafe, Spring Gardens, Manchester.	Every Friday, 7—10.30 p.m.
Newcastle-on-Tyne.	Miss Margaret Moyes, 1A Eslington Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle. Benevolent Sec., Miss L. M. Floyd, 13 Beacon Street, Low Fell, Gateshead	No permanent room fixed.	Members notified individually.
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.	Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.	No permanent room fixed	Members notified individually.
Oxford.	(Temp.) Miss A. Haynes, 15 St. Omer Road, Cowley.		
Notts.	Miss Burder, 65 Harcourt Road, Forest Fields, Nottingham.	Meldrum's Cafe, Lister Gate.	First Wednesday in the month, 7-9.30
Plymouth.	Mrs. O. Foster, 2 Notte Street, Plymouth.		
Cardiff. S. Wales. and	Miss Diana V. Viney, 201 Carlisle Street, Cardiff.	Y.M.C.A., Cardiff.	Second and Last Tuesday, at 7.30 p.m.
St. Leonard's.	Miss E. Taylor, 58 West Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.	58 West Hill, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.	Not fixed.
Sunderland.	Miss M. M. Low, 15 Featherstone Street, Roker, Sunderland	Y.W.C.A. Rooms, Burdon Road.	Second Wednesday each month, 7 p.m.
Tunbridge Wells.	Mrs. Boylett, 114 Queen's Rd., East Grinstead.		July 20th and Nov. 25th.

All Old Comrades are cordially invited to any of the above re-unions. If no definite meetings are fixed, application should be made to the Branch Secretary concerned, who will give the necessary particulars