

Old Comrades



Association

GAZETTE.

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

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Gazette.

The absence of the Editor, Mrs. Garrard, on the first holiday she has had from the Gazette for five years, gives us a welcome opportunity of saying a few words of warm appreciation of all the good work she has done on our behalf.

As time goes on it must be increasingly difficult to keep the Gazette interesting, up-to-date, and representative of the Association. The members of the Corps inevitably scatter further and further afield, and although they are just as pleased as ever to read about the doings of old friends, it does not seem to occur to many of them that we should be equally delighted to hear of them.

Even a postcard now and again from whatever quarter of the globe they happen to be inhabiting at the moment, would keep us in touch and gladden the heart of the Editor. Such information, though scanty, would at least be accurate and first hand. As it is, she naturally hesitates to make use of the odd pieces of news which may be flung at her, such as "Somebody told me dear old So-and-so is married," or "Did you hear Mary Smith had a perfectly wonderful job?"

In spite of all difficulties, however, the Gazette manages to keep its place in the affections of its subscribers, and its advent is always eagerly awaited each month.

Only a few days ago a member whose subscription had run out, wrote, "Here is the postal order, I would far rather miss a few meals, or do without something new to wear, than give up the Gazette." And the further from Headquarters the greater the interest in the Gazette, as the one link connecting distant members with the Association. It is certainly a great asset to the O.C.A., and we owe a debt of real gratitude to the Editor for not only keeping it going, but producing a bright little paper which manages to retain something of the corps atmosphere and yet show no signs of being sentimental or old-fashioned. We all wish her the good holiday she deserves.

The Gazette has now reached respectable antiquity in the journalistic world, for it is over eleven years ago since the first number appeared. No one then expected that it would last more than a few years. No one, that is, except Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, who completely electrified the editorial staff by sending a subscription for fifteen years by return of post after receiving the first number; thus showing that confidence in the O.C.A. and all its works which has always distinguished her. In the second number, dated August, 1920, the gift of the money from the Shanghai Race Club is recorded, and also the formation of the London Branch of the Association.

Dinners.

The first record of any public dinner appears in this number, too, when it is stated that the first dinner for Overseas Officers was held in London in June, and was a

great success. Even at that early stage the real secret of success had been discovered, for the speeches are described as "few but good." The Rouen Area very quickly followed this example, and a few months later held a dinner at which over eighty were present.

Since then we have all been eating dinners together very frequently, and as the time passes and dancing and swimming becomes less popular, dining may be said to be the favourite W.A.A.C. activity.

Which reminds us that the Annual Dinner will be upon us before we know where we are this year. **November 21st is the date**, and there seems very little time between now and then. However, no doubt there will be the usual splendid muster and another record broken; changing the date made no difference last time. It must also be remembered that in accordance with the decision arrived at at the last dinner, 1932 will be a complete blank as far as dining is concerned; the next date after November 21st being January, 1933.

So it is important not to miss this year. Full particulars will be given in the September Gazette.

Our Leaders.

A correspondent who is far away from Headquarters, says that the Gazette never tells its readers "what our Dames are doing"—but always takes it for granted that they know all about it. "I have not seen a word about Dame Florence for months," she adds.

The doings of our leaders would make a whole article in itself, with a nice alliterative title, but the required information can be supplied quite briefly:

Dame Florence Simpson, the President of the O.C.A., has just given up her flat in London and is spending a great deal of her time at Arlesheim in Switzerland, where she is greatly interested in the work of the Rudolph Steiner Clinic, at which her niece, Violet Long is training.

Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan is the indefatigable Chairman of the Q.M.A.A.C. O.C.A., and President of the W.R.A.F. O.C.A., and incidentally Professor of Botany in the University of London. By way of a holiday task (about which there has been so much discussion of late) she is lecturing on "Dioecism in *Ascobolus Magnificus*" before the British Association on September 25th. It may also be of interest to add that Dame Katherine Furse, of the W.R.N.S., is spending most of her time in Geneva in connection with the international work of the Guides. She was in England in November last, when she marched in the Armistice procession in command of the women's column.

Ex-Service Women Overseas.

The above is a heading often seen in the earlier numbers of the Gazette. The offer of free passages to the Dominions for those who had served in H.M. Forces, closed in December, 1920, and it is stated that 250 women

had gone to New South Wales alone. It is the women who went out under this scheme who have been carrying on the various branches overseas. These are not, properly speaking, "branches," as someone pointed out recently, as most of them are not in direct affiliation with any of the Old Comrades' Associations, but they are clubs to which all ex-Service women can belong. In many cases, any women who have done definite war-work outside the Services are also admitted.

These clubs are doing excellent work, not only socially but also in helping new settlers to fit in to local conditions and in tiding them over bad times.

In Canada, Miss Mary Burnham, who is the Supervisor of the Women's Branch of the Department of Immigration, has kept in close touch with the clubs, and acting for the United Services Benevolent Fund has been able to lend a helping hand in several distressing cases. Miss Burnham was a V.A.D. in France herself for two years, and has a fellow-feeling for the Service woman. In a letter recently received she says: "Thank you for the message from Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan. As you know I am only too glad to be able to do what I can, and I consider it a great privilege to represent the United Services Benevolent Fund and to give a little relief to any ex-Service women."

The Sydney Club is very much appreciating the fact that Miss Isabel Crowdy is now in New South Wales for some years, on the staff of the Governor, Sir Philip Game. Miss Crowdy is, of course, one of the well-known W.R.N.S. sisters, and a sister of Dame Rachel Crowdy. She has always kept in touch with the ex-Service organisations, and is keenly interesting herself in the Sydney Club. Thanks to her good offices the members were all entertained at Government House at a garden party recently. Miss Crowdy states that Miss Margaret Foster, who won the King's Prize at Bisley, was a member of the Women's Legion, and that Miss Buckingham and Miss Belcher, who made a successful trip from Cape Town to Cairo in a Morris car, were both ex-Waacs. Have we had their stories for the Gazette?

Clothing Cupboard.

Welcome gifts of clothing have been received from the following, to whom we express our hearty thanks:—Misses D. M. Johnson, D. Hindley, M. Passmore, Wotzel, Mrs. Pratt-Barlow, Mrs. K. Whyte, Mrs. Starke, Mrs. Pumfrey, the Norfolk Branch, "F.E.C.," and two anonymous donors.

It is very much regretted that owing to the holidays and the temporary Editor, the publication of this number of the Gazette has been delayed.

BRANCH REPORTS FOR AUGUST.

Bournemouth and District.

Our May meeting was, on account of Whitsuntide, postponed till June 1st, when we had the great pleasure of welcoming our representative on the O.C.A. Council, Miss Irene Darling. Miss Darling could only stay one night in Bournemouth, and had made the long journey on purpose to meet us, so we are very grateful to her and also for her kind offer to be of use to any member passing through London.

On Sunday, June 28th, five of us met at Poole Quay for a motor-boat excursion to Wareham, passing through Poole Harbour and up the River Frome. It was a lovely day and the islands and the shores of the harbour looked entrancing; herons and hundreds of gulls were wading and fishing in the shallows. Only the tide was disobliging, and we had to make frequent halts, and arrived at Wareham very late, and hungry for tea. However, nobody seemed to mind, and it was a very enjoyable trip. We got back to Poole at 7.30 and thence to Bournemouth by car.

E. M. TROTTER.

Bristol and West of England.

Thanks to the very kind invitation of one of our members, Miss Mounstephen, we had a most delightful outing on July 18th. The weather was doubtful-looking when we gathered together on the tram centre, but with

high hearts we climbed into the 'bus and later arrived by way of a lovely country lane to be given a most cheery welcome by Miss Mounstephen, her mother and sisters. Then followed a delicious tea and much talk, by which time the sun was shining and we all went out to wander in their lovely old-world garden. A tennis tournament was arranged and a large supply of spare shoes and racquets provided as owing to weather conditions we had none of us taken our own! Those who did not play tennis had a great game of quoits, and judging from the laughter on all sides everyone was thoroughly enjoying themselves. Just before leaving we were again regaled with lemonade and cakes, and then a rush for the 'bus, which we just caught, breathless but happy. Then the parting of the ways, all hoping to meet again before long. Very many thanks to Mrs. Mounstephen, Miss Mounstephen and her sisters for all their kindness and trouble to give us such a happy day.

I was most pleased to receive a visit from Mrs. Beckenham (M. Salkeld, 2317), now living at "Rosemead," Harbour Heights, Newhaven. Although unknown to each other, we were soon chatting in the true Old Comrade style, and I was sorry she could not join us for our outing, but she was only staying near here on holiday.

E. UMPLEBY.

Eastbourne.

Our branch is getting quite "blasé" about Royal parades. We have had two in eighteen months, but we do enjoy them. We were pleased to welcome members from our friendly neighbours—the Brighton and St. Leonards branches. Perhaps some of the members of the permanent staff at Bostall Heath will still remember the remarks of two urchins outside the railings of the parade ground at Bostall Heath as to the Administrator (the harassed drafting officer who got odd jobs thrown in) taking the parade. "She can do it, can't she?" 2nd urchin: Which one? 1st urchin: The little one in the middle with the voice!" She is now our secretary and keeps her hand in with Girl Guides but had to break it to Miss Douche that she would be left with the "form fours," because our secretary was lunching with the Prince immediately before the parade and intended racing the Prince from lunch to parade ground.

Well, thirty-one Old Comrades fell in in grand style and marched to Devonshire Park. They arrived in time to swing in behind the main body of British Legion men complete with band. We had a Q.M.A.A.C. standard and were glad to welcome our tall friend from Ilford, Mrs. Bernard Taylor, to carry it. The park formed a beautiful setting for the parade with the many standards. We came next the Household Cavalry O.C.A., and were very popular with the crowd. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales raised his hat as he passed our ranks and passed on; indeed, he spoke, as far as we could see, only to the obviously wounded, and we were glad for their sakes. Our secretary managed to get to us in good time before the Prince arrived, and as she walked across the big space between us and the edge of the crowd was able to get a good view of our ranks. How terribly smart those ranks were. Will the W.A.A.C.s never grow old? They all looked so alert and neat—and some of them are mothers of considerable families.

After the parade we made our devious ways to 25 Emp Road, where we were all the guests of Miss Simons for tea. A right noble tea it was, and she had two large rooms full of us chattering away. Then we adjourned to the delightful garden and renewed old acquaintances and made new ones.

Our secretary is very glad that through this parade (and the consequent many notices in the local Press) many more Old Comrades have been traced in Eastbourne, and although some feel that they just cannot afford to join the branch, we who do belong understand and hope the branch will be of assistance and help to them when they may require it and will always welcome them.

Those on parade: Misses Stapley, Mabel Reed, F. Miller, E. Richardson, N. Leach, C. Veners, Simons, E. M. Green, L. Paine, Mary Breach, Kenney, Hehner, Sims,

Munby, Douche, Peters, and Mesdames B. Taylor, M. Meades, Baylis, G. Palmer, Whyman, F. Smith, M. Beckenham, Douche, Helyer, and St. Leonards Branch contingent.
F.N.P.

From "The Eastbourne Gazette."

Ex-Service Units Reviewed at Devonshire Park.

All roads leading from the Grand Hotel to Devonshire Park were thronged with people.

In Spencer Road detachments of the British Red Cross Society and the Q.M.A.A.C.s lined up ready to take their part in the parade. The British Legion contingent, made up of members from Eastbourne, Polegate, Wilmington, Pevensey, Hailsham, and Herstmonceux, preceded by the Royal Artillery band under Bandmaster J. W. Durrant, marched from Holland House, and outside the Park Theatre were joined by other Associations. The whole group then marched into the park grounds and lined up on the grass.

First came the band of the Eastbourne Scottish Pipers, led by Drum-Major Page, and then the Royal Artillery band, both in uniform.

The front rank was made up of the British Legion branches, under the command of Col. Astley Roberts, each branch carrying its own banner of blue and gold. Behind them were the Royal Artillery Association, in charge of Capt. Muir-Smith, the Grenadier Guards Old Comrades' Association, in charge of Capt. R. K. Henderson and ex-Sergt.-Major W. Hearn, the Old Contemptibles' Association, in charge of Col. A. C. Wilkinson, C.M.G., D.S.O., the Royal Engineers Old Comrades' Association, in charge of Brig.-General A. W. Roper, C.B., C.B.E.

Then came the Household Cavalry, under Mr. H. E. Moore, the Q.M.A.A.C. Old Comrades' Association, led by Miss M. M. Douch, the British Red Cross Society, Women's Sections, led by Miss Curtis and Miss Sulman, and the Nursing Section of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, under Mrs. Budd.

The parade was carried through without a hitch, and as picturesque as anything seen during the day. The medal-bedecked men were a striking contrast to the white uniforms, decorated with the red cross of the nursing sections.

Exeter.

I hope I am not too late for the August Gazette, but owing to visitors and bank-holiday I had quite overlooked it. Our July meeting was held at Torquay, and although it rained all day the few who braved the elements quite enjoyed it. Our next meeting will be at Teignmouth on Thursday, August 20th, and we hope for better weather. If not, what's a drop of rain to ex-Waacs. It will take more than that to dampen our spirits.

M. VICARY.

Norfolk.

The long-looked-for summer ramble took place on Sunday, July 5th, and although only a few members were able to turn up, a very happy day was spent out in the open. One member from Wymondham joined up with the Norwich members at Thorpe Station, and all travelled by the 9.50 a.m. train to Yarmouth, where we were met by one local member. After a short walk over the new Yarmouth bridge, we boarded a 'bus and journeyed to Gorleston, and from there started our ramble along the cliffs. It was a glorious warm day with just a gentle breeze to cool us, as we strolled along the path by the edge of the cliff, which in parts was very narrow, until finally we had to call a halt. Unfortunately a recent cliff fall had demolished our path, and further progress that way was impossible. We had quite a lot of fun trying to scramble down the face of the cliff to the sands below, but eventually gave it up as being rather too risky, handicapped as we were with lunch cases and flasks. However, retracing our steps, we came across a most delightful spot for our picnic lunch, so, discarding our coats and arranging the cloth, we set out our table with all its good things. And it certainly did look tempting with its plates of sandwiches and fruit, biscuits and chocolates, as everyone agreed. One and all did full justice to the lunch, making the cases

much lighter for the return journey! Some snaps were taken during lunch, which should turn out a success. From where we picnicked we could see on our left H.M.S. "Repulse," lying at anchor off Yarmouth, and on our right H.M.S. "Renown," lying at anchor off Lowestoft. After lazing through the afternoon, we started off about five o'clock on our return ramble to Yarmouth, where we were welcomed to late tea at "Holly Lodge," by Mrs. Rumbold, one of our members, who, unfortunately, was not able to join us for the picnic. After a most refreshing "wash and brush up," we sat down to a strawberry and cream tea, spread for us on the lawn, which was much appreciated by all after the heat of the day. "Our" two waaclets, Barbara and Hugh, were much interested to hear of our picnic, and another year perhaps they will be able to join us. We returned to Norwich on the last train at 9.15 p.m., after saying good-bye to our Yarmouth members, and all voted the picnic well worth while.

A parcel has been forwarded to headquarters for the clothing cupboard from members of the branch.

Owing to so many of us being away on holiday in August, there will be no meeting this month.

Mrs. Paston (Tasburgh), has invited us all over there for our next meeting in September, when we shall look forward to meeting her baby twin daughters. I shall be glad if members will let me know by the end of August which Thursday is most convenient for them, so that arrangements can be made in good time.

L. W. CHILVERS.

Oxford.

The great day of our annual summer outing has come and gone, and this year the weather did not treat us with its usual good temper for it pelted with rain without a pause from start to finish. This did not succeed, however, in damping our spirits.

We met at 3 p.m. on Friday, June 17th, and drove to Nettlebed Creek Woods, on the top of the Chiltern Hills. Here we met Miss Priestley and Miss Turner, who had come from Reading to join us, and we drew up the four cars under the trees for shelter and proceeded to have a hilarious if somewhat cramped tea in them. Cutting up bread and butter in the back of a car and distributing it in the pouring rain were difficulties that were merely laughed at, as we were determined to enjoy ourselves in spite of them. We were delighted to have with us our kind friend, Mrs. Baines, who, on this and previous occasions, brought her car to help us with the transport, and also contributed a beautiful cake. My thanks in particular are due to Miss Haynes and Mrs. Pugh, who kindly undertook all the arrangements for me.

M. GRUNDY.

St. Leonards.

Our great event this month was going to Eastbourne to be inspected by the Prince of Wales. Our party consisted of Miss Taylor, Mrs. Villa, Miss L. Ling, Miss Fluister, Mrs. Russell, and the writer. We met the Eastbourne branch outside a church (I didn't notice its name) and decided, as it was a nice quiet spot, to have a little practice in forming fours. I'm afraid any self-respecting S.M. would have gone up in smoke if he had seen us. We could not decide which end we numbered off from. Eventually we settled this point (incorrectly, I believe), had our practice, and then decided we should look more imposing marching in twos! This we did and arrived at Devonshire Park in fine style!

The Prince raised his hat as he approached our party, but he didn't speak to either of us, perhaps it's just as well he didn't, for the rest of us would have been frightfully jealous.

Miss Symons invited the whole crowd of us to tea at her house; this was *real* hospitality, for there were nearly forty in our party, most of us unknown to her. I can assure her her kindness was appreciated and that of her friends who helped her and were so good to us. After standing about in the hot sun for over two hours that tea was heavenly. After tea we sat in the garden until it was time to catch our train.

And now I would like to say a word about our branch meetings. As you know we have no settled date, but if

any ex-Service woman finds herself in this neighbourhood she can always be sure of a welcome at Oversea, even if she is not a member of the O.C.A.

E.L.J. (No. 214).

London.

The principal event of interest during July was the children's outing to Shanghai Camp on Saturday, 4th July—Independence Day and a very good day to choose. Fifty-four children, all under twelve years of age, were collected from their parents at Victoria and transferred to the double-decker 'bus which was standing waiting for them and along with Tiger and Kuda, our doggie pals, we left London behind for a few hours. The weather was not all it ought to have been on such an occasion but we were quite content to be thankful for small mercies in the shape of not too much rain and the covered-in 'bus which the L.G.O.C. supplied us with. Nothing very exciting happened on the way except that we lost our way and went out of our course a little—an accident which proved to be a blessing in disguise when later we discovered we should require many more buns and cakes, because we were able to pull up outside the baker's shop and lay in a store. Flags were produced and tied to every available post which the 'bus held, much to the delight of the children, who dearly love a flag-bedecked 'bus, and as we neared the camp our helpers, who had gone in advance to help to get the tea ready, heard us a long way off. We soon unloaded and made our way along the embankment, and the excitement of the children who had been there before was great as they pointed out to their smaller sisters and brothers all the joys of the camp which they were seeing for the first time. No sooner had we arrived than tea presented itself on the tables which had been prepared for as many as they would hold. Quickly the children were deposited on chairs round those tables and the overflow sat along the verandah, several small parties of boys parking themselves under the trees where we, in our madder moments, try to pose as Eros or Peter Pan in the moonlight. There we deposited large plates of bread and butter, plus cakes and buns, and left them to it. Some of us thought they would never get through so much bread and butter. Believe me, they not only saw those plates off but there was a constant procession of small boys going to and fro from the tables to their retreat under the trees, one way empty and the return journey with refills. After tea a shower of rain put an end to any outdoor game for the moment and one lady of eight summers, having brought her music, kept the other members of her own fair sex busy in the lounge while the grown-ups had their much needed and appreciated tea. Meanwhile the small boys played ball with potatoes, occasionally hitting one of us in the back with a potato. When the shower cleared away the real fun of the afternoon began in earnest, that of running races and the winning of prizes. In an endeavour to create a clean, sporting spirit amongst the children, prizes were only given to those who actually won the races and, of course, second and third prizes. We think the older children are now old enough to fully realise the meaning of competing for and actually winning a prize. A Treasure Hunt was organised for all so that everyone should have an equal chance of winning at least one prize be he or she fleet of foot or not, and this was a howling success. A bundle of wooden labels was purchased for the large sum of sixpence at Mr. Woolworth's, each child was given one with her or his name written plainly on it, this label was placed anywhere by the child in a special spot where the treasure was hidden and the label that was nearest to the treasure received a prize. This was really a tremendous success with the children but unfortunately the grown-ups forgot, or could not find, one of the treasure labels. We nearly dug up the entire camp in our efforts amid great excitement. However, all was well and peace reigned once more, the naughty little label showed itself. How Freddie Green could have thought he had spotted the girls' treasure I know not because we thought we should have to give it up ourselves. But he did come during the afternoon and said, "Mrs. Andrews, I don't wish to split, but I think I know where the girls' treasure is." My friend

must have been very clever because the folks who buried it could not find it. Our musical programme was also not neglected, all the little newly-learned party pieces were trotted out for our benefit and to the great satisfaction of the performers themselves. About seven o'clock we began to look around for our cherubs so that we could wash them, or make them look respectable once more, prior to our journey homewards. They are getting a wee bit more difficult each year as they grow older, to collect, because they know what lies beyond the camp lawn. Here are a few of the requests, "Mrs. Andrews" (always Mrs. Andrews) "Can I go and pick flowers?" Mrs. Andrews replies cheerfully "There are no flowers, sonny." "Oh, yes," says sonny, "I saw a lot over there," pointing to some bungalowite's precious garden. "You cannot have those," says I. "Why not?" says he. I just don't know why not so I change the conversation hurriedly. Nevertheless, this small boy arrived back a little later with a sweet smile of satisfaction and a large bunch of flowers for mum. Another small boy shouts, "Can I take the boat out?" "You would get drowned and what would your mother say?" "Oh, but I can row boats missus." Change of conversation again advised. "Can I go and see all that water that falls over there and can I take off my clothes and have a bathe?" All very natural requests from small boys and it is difficult to refuse them. However, they are so good about all these refusals that I think there are no children in the world just like ours and I expect their parents think so too. 7.45 and the end of a perfectly lovely afternoon, which has already developed into one long day with the children because they went to bed the night before dreaming about their treat and rose very early, I have no doubt, to torment their poor mothers until it was really time to set out. More eats and everybody packed into the 'bus. Another year and a clear stream running and no rescue work to be done. We rather pride ourselves on that although this year there was a great dearth of helpers. Perhaps if members knew just how very hard it is to keep these youngsters from the water they would turn up in full force to do their duty—a duty which, to us, is a real pleasure. I regret to say that after Tiger and Kuda had their tea, which they really paid for, they departed and left behind many sad little boys and girls who were looking forward to seeing a few tricks. I hope if this should catch their eye they will remember that more is expected from them at the party when the children gather again. Those children sang all the way home and I am sure they must have been singing in their sleep that night because we handed them over singing to their parents. We thought that as they went along the road they would become tired, but they did? The nearer town they got the louder they sang and when they saw their parents they gave one ringing cheer which nearly brought down Victoria. After the great hand-over we poor folks, or a few of us, took ourselves along to the club for a coffee and sandwich and a quiet chat. We were so pleased to see Captain and Mrs. Garrard among the children, also Mrs. Johnston, our general secretary, and our parties would not be complete without Tiger and friend Kuda with Mrs. Pratt-Barlow. Another year we hope to see many more helpers. The children were made very happy by the gift of a beautiful box of sweets each, given by Mrs. Jerrett's friend, Mr. Willatt. We remembered his generosity last year in the way of boxes of rock and we feel very grateful to him for his kindly interest in our children. We also thank all our other donors for their donations, although I am being continually reminded that it is not done to thank Old Comrades. However, Old Comrades, thanks all the same.

Coming Events.—A trip to Brighton is being arranged for Sunday, 16th August. Will members intending to join the party meet at Victoria at 10.30 a.m. Bring your lunch with you and we can have tea with the members of the Brighton Branch if they will come along and play with us. Will Brighton Branch please note that our party will be parked on the beach right by the Baths at Hove in case any member would like to come along and meet us. We will go down by the Sunday League train which will cost

5/9 so far as I remember and the whole day should not cost more than 7/6 at the outside.

Week-End at Camp.—Our week-end at camp is a little earlier in September this year and it will be such a help if members will send along their names and 2/6 deposit immediately. Some sort of surprise entertainment will be organised; what form it will take I have not the remotest idea at present, but an entertainment of some kind there certainly will be if our usual folks book up; we usually manage to rake up some fun on these occasions. What about another burlesque opera, friends?

Social and Dance.—Talking of socials reminds one of the very cold days but this is only a preliminary notice as we are departing from our usual custom by holding this particular one in September instead of in October as we usually do. Please make a note of the date and bring along your friends as there will be whist as well as other entertainment. A charge of one shilling a head will be made to pay the cost of refreshments.

We are hoping to be able to arrange a ramble through Ashdown Forest for the 27th September and also link up with the Tunbridge Wells Branch at the same time so please, members, don't fail to turn up in full force. Remember that our smaller branches do not get the chances that the London Branch gets to meet their old comrades. I believe tea will be quite a social affair if it can be managed so don't let this opportunity to meet our friends slip by. We shall go even if there are only three in the party, but let it be thirty if possible. All arrangements will be published in the September Gazette.

Our Funds.—Our funds are getting low but I am expecting to receive lots of ten shilling notes between this date and the end of October so please hurry up and make me happy. This month Mrs. Hodgson sends her contribution all the way from Kenya Colony. She earned it by giving extra help with the poultry. The fund now stands at £4 10s. 6d.

I see by the date that the moon is really full on the 26th of September and as that is the date, the 27th, we are due to ramble in Ashdown Forest why not go there the day before and make a week-end of it. I should like suggestions please—what is it to be Ashdown Forest or Dorking again? There is very little difference in the cost.

I am on the track of missing subscriptions this month and next, so please send in yours first if you have not already done so.

R. S. ANDREWS.

NEWS OF OLD COMRADES.

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Mr. Arnold Jolly, K.C., the husband of **Mrs. Jolly, C.B.E.** (née Learyd), who was Assistant Chief Controller i/c Administration at Headquarters, Q.M.A.A.C. Mrs. Jolly applied for her discharge from the Corps after the Armistice in order to be married. She has one daughter. Mrs. Jolly has always kept in touch with the O.C.A., and her many friends will wish us to express their sympathy.

Deep sympathy will be felt with Mr. Douglas Smith, whose wife, Marjorie, died of blackwater fever in the Belgian Congo at the end of April. **Marjorie Pembridge** served in the corps at Havre and Vendroux, and will be mourned by many old friends. She leaves a little boy, Robin, who is four and a half, and a baby girl, Fiona, only a year old.

Mrs. Reeves, formerly **Hannah Davies**, of 30 Uplands Road, Hillfields Park, Fishponds, Bristol, is very anxious to have news of **Flo Sturdy**, who was with her at Pont de L'Arche in March, 1918, and onward for nearly two years.

Miss A. M. A. Pauline, from the U.S.A., was in the office early in August and asked to be especially remembered to **Mrs. Garrard** and **Miss Hilda Pink**, both of whom she met on the British Legion Pilgrimage in 1928.

Through the publication of her letter in the Gazette, **Mrs. Freedling** (née N. Baynes, of Vendroux) is delighted to hear from **Mrs. Vicary** (née Evans, of Indents Office).

Miss Goodwin, late A.E.F., Tours and Bourges, and **Mrs. W. Haig** (née P. Bremner), also of Tours and

Bourges, would like to hear news of old pals. **Mrs. Bremner's** address is: Chelsea Apartments, 2387 Dundas Street, Toronto.

Miss Larner would like to hear news of **Judy Judge** and **M. Chitty**, both of Camp 3, Rouen.

Miss A. Wiggins, of Walnut Tree House, Widford, Ware, Herts (late of H.M. Stationery Office) says she is enjoying her new work immensely. She is the District Nurse for this part of Hertfordshire and if any Old Comrade happens to be passing her way she would be delighted to see her.

Mrs. Wilson, whom members will remember served with her daughter in the London District, has started a new activity and is ready to help people who are strangers to London to see places of historic interest, or to "put them wise" as to the best places for shopping. Her address is 116 Fellows Road, Swiss Cottage. **Miss Aphra Wilson**, her daughter, who has been on the staff at Swanley College for some years, is now doing some research work on insect pests at Slough.

F/w'n Hall (Pip), Camp III., Abbeville, would be delighted to see the following old friends at the next Annual Dinner on November 21st: **Pat Shalders**, **Sophie Stevens**, **Phyllis Hill**, **Mary Blane**, **Maud Scrimshaw**, **Mabel Critchlow** (Hill 60), **Marian Cochrane**, **Trixie Heaney**, **Lil Williams** (A.H.T.D.), **Sims** (Signaller), and **Jerry Bowen**. There is a host of other friends but their names escape me. However, I hope they will swell the happy throng. Present address: Edith Hall, The Square, Swanage, Dorset.

Mrs. Lionel Foster (J. Sandberg), of the Connaught Club, Bushey, and Tidworth, is in England with her two little sons, and will be living in Cambridge for a year before returning to Nyassaland. Her address is 12 Brookside, Cambridge, for the present.

Mrs. Bastard (N. Bastard, A.A., of Dieppe and Cologne), who is living in Kenya, has now a daughter. Her little boy is five years old. She hopes to be home in England again before very long.

Mrs. Esslemont seems thoroughly happy and successful at Overstone, near Northampton, where she is Principal of the Girls' Public School belonging to the Parents' National Educational Union. There are now eighty girls in the school, which is just two years old. **Miss Marie Chapman**, who has been acting as Secretary from the start, is returning to her former post at Carnegie House after these holidays, as she prefers to live in London, and the school is now in smooth running order.

Miss Sylvia Corner and **Miss A. de Putron** were among those old girls who assembled at Cheltenham in July to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Miss Beale, the famous headmistress. Miss Corner may shortly be going to Australia in connection with the Women's Institute movement. Miss de Putron is headmistress of the Beehive School, Bexhill, where she has **Miss Morris** working with her.

Mrs. Chubb, formerly D. A. Mablethorpe, is now living in Cheltenham; the local branch there should get in touch with her. Her address is Elmfield, Overton Road.

Mrs. Dymont (U.A., Salisbury Plain), whom we last heard of in Vancouver, writes from 110 Beaconsfield Villas, Brighton. She has been ill for some time, but is now much better, and anxious to find a post. Brighton branch, please note. Mrs. Dymont says **Miss Hornblow** and **Miss Gibson** went to see her when she was ill in London.

Miss Birkett (Bostall Heath), is in England again, and may be heard of c/o Mrs. Sheldrick, Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

Miss M. McKnight, who is Secretary to the Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, has been ill for the last six months, and has had serious trouble with her eyes. She writes from a clinic at Zurich saying that she is better, but not yet well. Miss McKnight has always been a very loyal Old Comrade, always ready to lend a hand, and a very munificent donor to the Clothing Cupboard. We all wish her a speedy return to health.

Miss Agnes Forbes, D.A., Aldershot, and Southern Command, is going out to Canada in September, and will

be living in Montreal for a year. Montreal Ex-Service Club, please note.

Mrs. Smith (Dora Robinson, No. 1014, Worker), of London, Ontario, whom Miss Thompson met in April, and reported as being in unfortunate circumstances, now writes quite happily from 559 Piccadilly, London, Ont.: "We have a nice cottage and a garden here, and feel much better in health having a quiet place. I have been busy getting a few things together to make it comfortable, but have not bought more than we actually need so as not to spend more than we can help of our reserve fund. I am hoping they will give us enough pension to live on." It may be remembered that Mrs. Smith and her husband, who were both suffering from war disability, have been helped through some of their difficulties by Miss Burnham acting for the Benevolent Fund.

Dorothy Bays writes from Lismore, Victoria, Australia: I am pleased to say Mrs. J. Larkins has sent me all last year's Gazettes, and I much enjoyed reading them. I was extremely glad to know the W.A.A.C. won the swimming cup at last. My congratulations to Bartie and the others.

Miss H. Hodgson, writing from Limuru, Kenya, says: "You don't know how pleased I was to have your letter. I've just had an operation for appendicitis, and its awful being ill in a strange country. The nearest doctor is 25 miles away, and I had to be driven in over bumpy roads, and when I got there I had to go on another three miles to the nursing home and be operated on immediately. I was awfully glad to hear of Mrs. Jerrett. Will you give her my love, and also Miss Ireland and Miss Harvey? I am enclosing ten shillings for the Branch which I earned by helping with the poultry before I was ill.

Lilian B. Mitchell writes from Windyridge, Newton Green, Sudbury: "I often wonder how you all are, and if I should know any of you, or you me. I still live with Miss Cates at Windyridge, and things are quiet in the country. Don't forget, we are 20 miles from Bury St. Edmunds, a place full of historic interest, 25 miles from Ipswich, 10 from Colchester, and Sudbury itself the home of Gainsborough. When you come this way, please let me know. Kindest regards from Miss Cates and myself."

Miss Blanche Ireland has added another to her varied activities and interests, as she is now largely responsible for the management of Cooden Beach Hotel, a small "luxury" hotel which has recently been opened near Bexhill-on-Sea. Like all the enterprises which Miss Ireland sponsors this is showing every sign of being a great success.

Mrs. Johnston, the General Secretary, has just returned from her holiday at Droitwich, where she "soaked in brine" in the mornings and had some delightful motor drives later in the day.

Miss Hilda Pink has taken a house in the Earl's Court district and is letting it out in bed-sitting-rooms. It is in a good central position, and she will probably find little difficulty in securing tenants.

Mrs. Pyke (M. Chubb) and her schoolboy son, David, are caravanning in Scotland, and **Mrs. Woollaston** (B. Wrightson), with Sandy, Nigel and Geoff, are camping in the New Forest. Sandy is now eleven.

Mrs. Chilvers, of the Norfolk Branch, is on holiday in Brittany, and so is **Dr. Peake**.

S.O.S.B.W. REPORT FOR 1930.

In spite of the general economic depression in the Dominions, the Report for 1930 of the Society for the Oversea Settlement of British Women shows that the Society succeeded in settling 1,096 women in the Dominions and Southern Rhodesia in 1930, the majority of whom were satisfactorily placed. This represents a drop of 36 per cent. on the previous year's total of 1,710, but the decrease is proportionately smaller than in migration generally, and it is worthy of note that more teachers, clerical workers, and professional women went out than in 1929.

Looking at the situation as a whole, the Society state that "they have reason to believe that the constant and steady work of the past ten years in the direction of unassisted migration is now bearing fruit and that when

normal conditions are restored overseas, they may hope for considerable development with regard to the placing of professional and trained women."

Experience has convinced the Society of the paramount importance of selection. Well qualified women, professionally trained, and those with a little capital and having the benefit of the Society's introductions, have settled happily within a few months of arrival overseas; while others, who went without due consultation with those who could offer first-hand information concerning prevailing conditions, have met with considerable disappointments. Fortunately, the value of the Society's advice has become more widely appreciated, largely through the efforts of their voluntary helpers, local representatives and correspondents, both in the United Kingdom and Overseas.

Among the S.O.S.B.W.'s current list of vacancies for overseas appointments are several good teachers' posts, including one for a second mistress, holding an Honours degree, in the Transvaal at a salary of £250-300 a year, with outward passage paid, on a three years' agreement; another, also requiring an Honours graduate, in the Cape Province at an initial salary of £150-180, and a third, also in Africa, for a domestic science mistress, beginning at £150-180. There are available three posts in India: one for a preparatory training class mistress, holding the higher Froebel certificate, at a salary of 2,400 rupees a year; another for a teacher with experience in Training College methods at a salary of 3,000 rupees, and one for a physical culture mistress at a salary of 1,800-2,040 rupees. In all cases the terms include residence. New Zealand has openings for a senior mathematics mistress at £160 a year and for a violin mistress at £150. These selected posts do not, of course, exhaust the opportunities which the Society has to offer. There are also opportunities for governesses and nursery governesses in Canada; posts as hospital nurses or as children's nurses in South Africa; and openings in Eastern Canada for social service graduates who are willing to take a short course of training in a Canadian University before appointment.

BRITISH WOMEN ABROAD.

I recently heard of a scheme which aims at helping business and professional women when they reach the age of retirement and have no homes to which to go. The idea is to start colonies to meet the needs of these women, and the first of them has been begun in Cyprus. Here the climate is ideal, the cost of living low, and conditions are favourable for carrying on certain home industries by which, in time, the colony hopes to become self-supporting. It is proposed to have, among other things, flowers and vegetable gardens, and, in addition to helping with the upkeep of the colony, they will provide interesting occupation for the residents. As a beginning, a well-furnished house which will accommodate twelve women and the necessary domestic staff has been taken, and it is the intention of "The British Women Abroad," as the Association is called, to buy a few acres of land on which to build a club-house. As soon as the first colony is well-established the Association will open similar places in other suitable parts of the Empire.—(From the British Legion).
N. B.

BRITISH LEGION'S TENTH BIRTHDAY.

The response made by Areas, Counties and Branches throughout the country to the suggestions put forward for celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the Legion's formation has been magnificent.

North, South, East and West, the public were given an opportunity of realising, as perhaps never before, the fact that just as during the four long years of war the British Army represented a nation in arms, banded together by a common oath of loyalty and a single aim and ambition, so the British Legion throughout the war-weary years of peace has preserved the spirit of unity in loyalty and service among ex-Service men who survived the ordeal of battle. The occasion was made one less for commemoration of our ever glorious dead than for thanksgiving for the good that has been accomplished and renewal of consecration to the ideal of service which animates the

organisation wherever old soldiers march shoulder to shoulder under the blue and gold banners of the Legion.

If commemoration of the glorious dead was not the keynote of the celebrations, nevertheless remembrance of their great sacrifice was ever present in the hearts and minds of those who participated in them as an under-current of inspiration.—(British Legion).

LIMERICKS.

I.

There lived a U.A. fond of wit
Who ticked off H.Q. in a skit.
As this is not done,
Not even in fun—
She was medically boarded unfit.

II.

There once ran a "C.A. 16,"
Sad cause of much Headquarter spleen,
"With ref. your undated,
Unsigned and belated,
It is not understood what you mean."

III.

There was once a Controller's inspection
For annihilating infection.
No more may be said,
Though much may be read
In W.A.A.C. Regs.-Appendix-E. Section.
E.F.I., Prees Heath.

NOTES ON A HOLIDAY ABROAD.

Perhaps it will interest some of the O.C. to know how to spend an interesting holiday on the French Riviera. Two of us set off for a three weeks tour, crossing the Channel and spending the night in Paris so as to avoid night travel. Having spent the night in Paris we left early for Nice, a long journey but a very beautiful one.

After a week spent in Nice we went on to Bordighera, in Italy, there the houses and hotels are built up at the back of the town, delightfully situated with beautiful views all around. The old part of the town is very interesting, we wandered up narrow cobbled roadways with small shops and houses on either side.

A visit to San Remo was not a success as the heat was tropical, and the Plage swarmed with people, and most of the better class shops were closed. I think the best part of our time was spent in a teashop having ices and iced water!

A visit to the market place at Ventimiglia, on the frontier was a wonderful sight, the beautiful show of flowers, especially carnations; there everyone seemed to live out of doors, even the business people at mid-day seemed to make for a tree lined avenue with seats on either side, a real oasis. After a week's stay we journeyed back to Mentone, here we bathed most of the day, sometimes we were in the water at 9 a.m. as it was so hot in the hotel.

After a week here we journeyed back to Marseilles; if one had time I would recommend a few days in the "beautiful city of noise" as it has often been described. There is something fascinating about this old Provencal town, all the streets are lined with trees in the residential quarter.

The Corniche is a long promenade extending for some miles along the coast, winding in and out. Here bathing is also good. When we were there they had an open air theatre but I think it failed, as it was only open in the evening, the afternoons being too hot. A visit to the church of La Vierge de la Garde should not be missed. This church stands high up above the city and quite apart from the great interest of this edifice, the views to be obtained from there on a fine day are very remarkable.

Leaving Marseilles one could spend a few days at Avignon, an old Roman town. The palace, mostly in ruins, was formerly residence for the Popes. The river runs through the town and is really very attractive as also the surrounding country.

From here we took an early morning train back to Paris and home. I have only described what I have seen, but there are a number of beautiful towns and villages to visit in old Provence.

I.I.

BIRTH.

At "Kerryroy," Lochend Road, Bearsden, Glasgow, on 6th July, 1931, the wife of C. S. McFarlane (nee Jean Kerr), a son.

DEATH.

Douglas-Smith.—On April 28th, at Kasenyu, in the Belgian Congo, of blackwater fever, Marjorie Douglas-Smith (nee Pembridge), who served at Havre and Vendroux, 1917-19.

ADVERTISEMENTS

St. Agnes, Cornwall.—Comfortably furnished timber bungalow, three bedrooms, sleep four, living-room, large kitchen, indoor sanitation, verandah, sea view, lovely country. Plate and linen provided. October 17th, 1931, to May 10th, 1932, 15/- per week inclusive; May, £1/1/- per week; June, £2/2/- per week; July, £3/3/- per week; August, £4/4/- per week; September, £2/2/- per week; October, £1/1/- per week.—Bertrand, 6 Wilmington Avenue, Chiswick, London, W.4

Bed sitting Rooms, Single or Double, available at 12 Nevern Road, Earl's Court. Rooms comfortably furnished, and terms moderate. Gas fires and rings in all rooms. Constant hot water. Breakfast as required. Apply, Miss H. Pink, Frohisher, 1740. Also available, partially furnished, very large, light and airy basement sitting-room. Small kitchenette attached with hot and cold water, gas ring, etc. Separate entrance. Gas fire, own meter. Electric light included.—Apply as above.

Numerology.—Your name your guide for life. Readings, 7/6, 5/-, and 2/6; U.S.A. and Canada, \$2 and \$1. Old readings brought up to date, 2/6. Send full names (maiden name if married), and date of birth to Blanche, 48 West 82nd Street, New York City, U.S.A.

George IV. Hotel, Gt. Amwell, Ware, Herts. Telephone: Stanstead Abbots 39. A beautiful spot for a quiet country holiday. Saturday to Monday, 15s. Other terms on application. Teas, luncheons. Parties catered for by arrangement. Combine a ramble with your general meeting and come here for tea. Club room accommodates 50.—A. G. Brown and A. Edwards (Camp 1, Etaples).

Photography.—Try us for perfectly finished high-class work. Films, all the best makes and sizes. Postage paid one or more.—Whyman (Betty Gray, 2513, Etaples), 212 Seaside, Eastbourne.

Scotch House, 44 Rue de la Paix, Le Touquet. Family Hotel; Pension: comfortable; moderate; central. Rooms fitted with hot and cold water. Excellent cuisine; personal supervision. Alice B. Anderson (Unit 11, Wimereux, and of Claims Commission, Le Touquet).

Any garments "hand knitted," light weight hand embroidered knitted frocks 40/- and 45/-, all shades. Embroidered sleeveless Cardigans 35/- and 40/-.—M. Cowens, 16 Fisherton Street Salisbury.

Pure Home-made Chocolates, Bon-Bons, Toffees, Caramels, etc. Fancy boxes of Chocolates and Sweets, suitable for Presents, from 2s. 6d. to £2 2s. 0d. Price list on application.—Miss E. Cockledge, 2 Bracken Road, West, Brighouse, Yorkshire.

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: Frohisher, 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., 4 East Avenue, Bournemouth.	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.	Mrs. Vicary, The Belvedere. Powderham, near 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 Batlow, 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 (Women's Section) Rooms, 14 Hanover Square.	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.	Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 10 p.m.
Golders Green.	Miss Setterfield, 12 Geary Road, Dollis Hill, N.W.10	122 Cranbrook Road, Ilford. (Telephone Ilford 0058).	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.	Miss Stephenson, 7 Hartswood Road, Withington.	The Continental Cafe, 14 Oxford Street, 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. Interviews at British Legion, N.E. Area Offices, 10 Leazes Terrace, Newcastle.	Members notified individually.
Norfolk.	Mrs. L. W. Chilvers, 32 Grove Road, Norwich.	No permanent room fixed.	Monthly. Members notified individually.
North Staffs.	Mrs. E. Stretton 10 Sparrow Terrace, Porthill, Stoke-on-Trent.		
Oxford.	(Temp.) Miss A. Haynes, 15 St. Omer Road, Cowley.	No permanent room fixed	Members notified individually.
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. and S. Wales.	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. Houchen, Sunny Ridge, Rotherfield, Kent.		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