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BROMHAM.

The annual meeting of the Bromham Sick Benefit Club was held on Monday, with Mr. Harry King in the chair. The Secretary, Mr. J. T. Grandey, introduced the balance sheet, which, considering the age of members, amount of sickness, and four deaths, was thought satisfactory, there being a loss on the year of only £2. A vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr. T. Harrison, a trustee of the club, was passed. All the officers were re-elected, the Rev. C. W. Browning being chosen to fill the vacant trusteeship.

Laxton Brothers, Seed Merchants, offer £5 in cash Prizes to the most successful exhibitors of the produce of their seeds at any of the Village Flower Shows in Bedfordshire according to marks. Particulars in their Seed List. 719

The Parish Council met on Tuesday. All the members were in attendance, with Mr. B. Howkins in the chair. A vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr. T. Harrison was passed, he having been the Council's representative on the local School Committee. Mr. W. Quenby was elected to fill the vacancy. A circular was read from the Rural District Council with respect to the housing question, but no action was taken, as it was considered that the amount of rent proposed, 4/- weekly, was too much for the ordinary villager to pay. There was a discussion on how to celebrate the Coronation, the Vicar introducing the question of a Parish Reading and Recreation Room. The meeting was divided as to whether £250, which such a room would entail, would be forthcoming, and the question was held over for further consideration at a parish meeting.

KEMPSTON.

Laxton Brothers, Seed Merchants, offer £5 in cash Prizes to the most successful exhibitors of the produce of their seeds at any of the Village Flower Shows in Bedfordshire according to marks. Particulars in their Seed List. 719

On Friday evening, Captain Seddon, C.A., gave an address illustrated with lantern views to a large gathering at the Temperance Hall on "The Old Clock," which was highly appreciated.

There was an excellent attendance of over 70 at the meeting of the Kempston Brotherhood at Bunyan Meeting on Sunday. Mr. Riggs was Chairman. A striking address was given by Mr. Evans, of Harley College, on the "Positive Hereafter." The argument was based upon the recorded words of Christ, "If it were not so I would not have told you." The speaker showed that while other religions and philosophers could only speculate regarding the future, Christ knew and therefore His teaching can be relied upon. Also, how this belief acts as a restraint on wrong-doing and an inspiration for well-doing. The soloist was Mrs. Alfred Fletcher, who also took part in a musical trio with Mr. Alfred and Master Fred Fletcher. The Band, as usual, rendered a very efficient contribution, which was much appreciated. The speaker for next Sunday is Mr. A. G. Carruthers, and the soloists, Miss A. Hall and Mr. Fred Hall.

A meeting of the Coronation Committee was held at the Urban Council Room on Friday evening, Mr. H. S. Deacon in the chair. The Secretary, Mr. Carnell, stated that Mr. G. J. Cocking had kindly offered the use of his barn and Home Close for the festivities, and the offer was accepted with thanks. It was agreed that tenders be invited for the sale in the field of sweets and ices, fruit, tea and refreshments (non-alcoholic). A number of collectors were appointed, and of sub-committees to arrange for the Children's Tea, Public Dinner and Rustic Sports. The offer of the Kempston Band to attend for half the price they could get away from home was accepted. Dr. Butters was elected Treasurer. The meeting adjourned till Tuesday, April 11.

The Schedules for the Census on Sunday next are being distributed this week. There are four enumerators in the Urban District, Messrs. Thomlinson, Allport, T. Francis and J. W. Lack. The Rural District is again in the hands of Mr. W. Crowsley.

An interesting address, illustrated with lantern views, was given in the Temperance Hall on behalf of the Additional Curates' Society. The speaker was the Rev. T. C. Spurgin, M.A., District Organizing Secretary, who described the Home Mission work of the Church of England in London over the Border. Amongst those present were the Vicar and the Rev. E. C. Pitt-Johnson. At the close the latter gave a personal testimony as to the valuable work their Society was doing in the country.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Tuesday, March 28th, 1911.

Present: Mr. H. S. Deacon (in the chair), Mr. W. Whitworth (Vice-Chairman), the Rev. C. F. Farrar, Messrs. W. Horne, W. Goodman, A. Worrall, J. W. Freeman, A. Panter, E. Jones, J. G. Source, A. L. Abbott, with the Clerk, Mr. W. Payne; the Surveyor and Inspector, Mr. E. H. C. Inskip; the Medical Officer, Dr. Butters.

THE SEWAGE SCHEME.

The Clerk reported that he had exchanged with Messrs. Benskin and Co., of Watford, the agreement as to their easement, on the terms arranged. He had also received a communication from the Divisional Office of the Royal Engineers with regard to the easement upon the Barracks. Practically the letter conceded the easement upon payment of an annual quit rent of £5, and upon the signing of an agreement as to the removal of the pipes at any time after certain notice. The Clerk reported that he had seen the R.E. Officer and discussed one or two matters with him. He informed the Officer that the Council would rather pay a lump sum down, for obvious reasons. The Officer requested him to state his views in writing, which, with the permission of the Council, he would do. The Chairman moved that the Clerk be given this permission; the Rev. C. F. Farrar seconded, and it was carried. The Clerk deposited the bond of Mr. Cottle, the contractor, which was sealed, and on the recommendation of the Sanitary Committee, it was accepted. Mr. Payne reported that Mr. Cottle had signed the contract, and that he had received a communication from the Public Works Loans Commissioners, saying that, having had the application of the Council for a loan of £16,200 under consideration, they had resolved that a loan not exceeding that sum be granted for the purposes sanctioned, and on the fulfilment of the requirements of the Local Government Board. The sum of £2,190 was granted for 15 years and the balance for 30 years, interest to be paid at the rate of 3½ per cent. The Commissioners agreed to the repayment of the sum in equal half yearly instalments, i.e. on the annuity system.

Mr. Payne said the Council would observe that the Commissioners had conceded the point as to repayment by annuity. He had received offers from various corporations and bodies for the loan, but none were less than 3½ per cent.

It will be remembered that at the last meeting, Mr. Abbott spoke about obtaining the loan from the National Deposit Friendly Society. The Chairman asked Mr. Abbott if he was prepared to vote for the acceptance of the Commissioners' offer. Mr. Abbott said he should not vote for the acceptance of the Commissioners' offer, as he was not satisfied that they were getting the loan at the lowest possible rate.

The Rev. C. F. Farrar said that he did not think they ought to have a statement like that from a member of the Council unless he was prepared to give information as to where they could get it.

The Chairman said that the National Deposit Friendly Society had granted a loan to the Bedford Urban Sanitary Authority at 3 per cent., but that was 20 years ago. More recently they had made loans to a neighbouring Council, in 1907, at 3¾, and others at 4 per cent. He did not think it was quite fair for a member of the Council to state in public outside the Council that he knew they could raise a loan at 3 per cent., when they were raising one at 3½ per cent., without supporting the remark.

Mr. Abbott said they had never tried to raise a loan at 3 per cent.

The Chairman: If there is any possibility that we can get a loan at 3 per cent., I should like to hear any member of the Council bring before the Council a motion that we do so.

No motion was forthcoming, and the offer of the Public Works Commissioners was accepted. The recommendation of the Sanitary Committee that the Engineer be authorised to proceed with the work as soon as the bond of the contractor was deposited with the Clerk was carried.

THE WATER.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from the L.G.B. enclosing an order authorising the scale of charges in force in cases in which it was desired that houses should be compulsorily supplied from the Council's supply. It was practically the same as the ordinary scale, but it had to be sanctioned.

Mr. Whitworth presented the report of the Water Committee, which said that eight applications were dealt with. The Surveyor had reported to the Committee that six samples of water had been examined and all proved unfit.

The Clerk said that he had been asked if, in cases where it was desired that houses should be compulsorily supplied from the Council's supply, the Council could not wait until the drainage was done, so that premises might not be disturbed twice. It was decided to adhere to the old rule and connect at once houses whose present supply was unfit for domestic purposes.

The Inspector reported that the number of applications for water was 8, representing 9 premises; the number of connections made was six, representing 8 premises. The total number of houses now connected was 959. The registered consumption of water for the past month was: Kempston, 728,000 gallons; Elstow, 71,000; Harrowden, 29,000; Cardington 103,000, total 931,000.

FINANCE.

Mr. Source presented the report of the Finance Committee. The estimate for the ensuing half year showed an expenditure of £1,176, which would necessitate a 2/- General District Rate. The report also recommended that the free use of the Council Chamber be given for meetings of the Coronation Committee. The report was adopted.

The Clerk reported that the two Gas Company's, which supplied the district, had sent in their reports and balance sheets as required by law.

MEDICAL.

The Clerk reported that he had received a communication from the L.G.B. relating to the Notification of Tuberculosis. According to this new order, patients suffering from tuberculosis who attended hospitals, had to be notified.

The Medical Officer reported that there had been four cases of scarlet fever during the month.

The Chairman called attention to the Medical Officer's Annual Report, which stated that the population of the district was estimated at 5,500. The births were 137, giving a birth-rate of 24.9 per 1,000 against 24.0 per 1,000 in 1909. The deaths were 48, giving a death-rate of 8.7 per 1,000, against 11 per 1,000 in 1909. The deaths of children under one year were 11, equal to 80 per 1,000 births. For 1909 the proportion was 73 per 1,000 births. Deaths over 65 were 30 per cent. of the total deaths. For 1909 the rate was 29.

Sixteen certificates were received under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, as follows:—Erysipelas 2, scarlet fever 13, puerperal fever 1. Twelve of the scarlet fever cases were removed to Hospital. It was very satisfactory to note that there had not been a single case of diphtheria during the year under review.

APPOINTMENT OF OVERSEERS.

The Chairman reported that Mr. Cocking did not feel himself in sufficiently good health to undertake the duties again. The books showed that he had been overseer for 28 years, and he (the Chairman) did not know whether he was connected with the office before that. He thought they would all like to pay a tribute to the public work which he had ably performed, and they would not like to let that meeting go by without placing on record the thanks and appreciation of the Urban District, of his work as overseer of that parish, with the hope that his health might be better for the rest of his life, and he thought they might also express their sympathy with Mr. Cocking in the bereavement which had just befallen him.

Mr. Whitworth said that Mr. Cocking had been a very good overseer and had served the parish well, not only as overseer, but as a member of the Urban Council, Board of Guardians, and the old School Board.

The other overseer, Mr. Martell, having expressed his willingness to serve again, was re-elected.

Mr. Whitworth proposed the election of Mr. A. Worrall in the place of Mr. Cocking. Mr. Worrall had a knowledge of land and Mr. Martell of buildings, so they could work together well.

Mr. Horne seconded. Mr. Worrall was, he said, a long head man and would be the right man in the right place.

KEMPSTON RURAL PARISH MEETING.

The annual Parish Meeting for Kempston Rural was held at Church End School on Tuesday evening, Captain Beaumont presiding. The Clerk to the Trustees presented the abstract of accounts, which was approved. The income was as follows:—Cater Charity: rents of cottages £15 13s. 4d., rents of allotments £35 1s., dividend on Consols £2 10s.; Sir W. Long's charity: rent of land at Radwell, £15 17s.; Widow's Charity: dividend on Consols £1 7s. 8d.; total, with £2 14s. 7½d. brought from last account, £73 3s. 11d. The expenditure on repairs, maintenance, administration, etc., came to £19 18s. 8d., poor rates £5 7s. 11d., land tax (Radwell land) 15/1, £8 6s. was given to coal and clothing clubs as bonuses, £13 19s. was spent in meat tickets, £8 2s. in tickets to widows, £15 13s. 7½d. (half the net income of the Cater Charity) was set aside for educational purposes, and the balance of £1 10s. 10d. remained in hand. The Chairman remarked upon the large percentage of the income which was absorbed by rates and taxes, and suggested that the Trustees be requested to see whether any reduction could be obtained. Mr. Quenby (overseer) thought it was useless to hope for any escape from rates and taxes, especially the former (laughter), but proposed that the Trustees investigate the matter. Mr. O. Henman seconded, and it was carried.

The Chairman and the Clerk of the Parish Council presented a report on the Allotments question. There appeared to be no possibility of obtaining Longcroft, as the Small Holdings and Allotments Act would not allow a home farm to be cut up except with the owner's consent, which was refused in this case. No other field would meet the requirements of Wood End men except Smart's Field, and this could not be obtained without the use of compulsory powers, which would make the rents too high. As regards the Wood End and West End applications, therefore, there appears to be no way at present of satisfying the requirements. The Assistant Commissioner of the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Mager, suggested that those men who want more than an acre should apply direct to the County Council. As regards the Box End applications, the Rev. J. Rosser had been approached with a view to obtaining some of the Vicarage Farm land, but no definite report could be made yet. The matter was referred to the Parish Council with a request to take such further action as might be practicable.

The meeting proceeded to consider in what way the Coronation should be celebrated. Various suggestions were made, and ultimately the Parish Council was appointed a Committee with power to add, for the purpose of making enquiries and carrying out the wishes of the parish.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN COCKING.

We regret to record the death of Mr. John Cocking, of College Farm, second son of Mr. G. J. Cocking, of Lodge Farm, at his residence, on Friday after a brief illness. The immediate cause of death was pernicious anæmia. Mr. Cocking had for several years been assisting his father in the management of his farm, owing to his advanced age and infirmities, but no one anticipated that death would claim the younger man first, and his untimely death at the comparatively early age of 53 years has cast a gloom over a large circle of friends. Deceased leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters. The sons are well-known in the athletic world, and in the cricket and football field. The funeral took place at the Bedford Cemetery on Tuesday, where deceased was buried beside his mother, who died many years ago. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. Rosser, Vicar of Kempston. The mourners were the widow, his sons, Mr. H. B. and Reg. Cocking, and Miss Daisy Cocking (daughter), (Miss Gladys Cocking, daughter, who is an invalid, was unable to attend), Mr. George Cocking (brother), Mr. B. Prole (brother-in-law), Messrs. Allan and Harry Prole. Amongst those present at the graveside we noticed Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, Mr. Payne, Mrs. George Cocking, Mr. Quenby, Mr. A. Worrall, Mr. Alex. Newman, Mr. T. Laxton, Mrs. John Prole, etc., and the employees of the farm. The coffin was of polished oak with brass fittings, and the arrangements were ably carried out by Messrs. Clarabut and Plumbe. Wreaths were sent by the following:—His sorrowing wife and children; Pem. and Harry; Ben and Allen; Patie, Horace, Mervyn and Kenneth; His friend, Bill; Henry and Annie; Mr. and Mrs. A. Newman; Harry, Fan, Dolly and Jim; His employees; Alfred and Nellie; George and Annie; Blanche; May; Pollie, Alice and Claude; Annie; H. Adkin and family; Alice and Ted; Tom Dynes.

CARLTON.

A meeting was held at the Reading Room, the Post Office, on Tuesday. There have been about 40 members, and the Reading Room has been very successful. Mr. Barnett was chairman. A satisfactory balance in hand was disclosed, and it was decided to wind up the season with a supper.

Sidney Lord, of Carlton, takes up his duties as a constable in the Northampton Police force at an early date. He has the good wishes of all in the village, for his success, in his new appointment.

A meeting was held in the School on Tuesday evening to discuss the Coronation Day proceedings. Mr. W. B. Battams, C.C., was voted to the chair. It was decided that the necessary money should be raised by subscription and not by rate; that the parishioners be provided with a meat tea, followed by sports, and that a band be engaged, if possible. The Chairman hoped that all would work harmoniously to make the celebration a great success. The Committee was elected as follows:—Messrs. Barnett, Brandon, Gardner, Edmonds, Rudd, Wooding, Courtier, Towl, Crouch, Clarke, Reg. Stock, Eden, Leaberry, F. Medlow, E. Medlow, H. Medlow, R. Battams, F. Skevington, Davis, Wright, Parriss, and the Rev. E. G. Gange.

HARROLD.

The Harrold and Carlton Musical Society gave an excellent evening's entertainment at the Institute on Tuesday in connexion with the Mutual Improvement Society. The programme was highly appreciated by a good audience.

A well-attended meeting in connexion with the Harrold Cricket Club was held on March 24th, when the chair was taken by the Rev. H. Lilley. The Secretary stated that 15 matches had been played, 9 won, 2 drawn and 4 lost. The finances were satisfactory, there being a balance in hand of £1 13s. 4½d. Mr. A. C. Beck, M.P., was re-elected President, and a few additions were made to the list of Vice-Presidents. The following officials were elected: Mr. Morton Clayson, Captain; Mr. Dan Orpin, Vice-Captain; Mr. C. P. Dinsley, Secretary; Mr. F. G. Crouch, Treasurer.

The old saying, "Misfortunes never come singly" was exemplified here when the five-year-old daughter of Mr. Alan Surridge, of the Magpie Inn, was playing with her father's faggoting bill on Wednesday, 22nd inst., and cut an ugly gash in the first finger of the left hand. On Thursday, 23rd inst., the other daughter, 2 years old, fell off a seat and broke her right arm. Dr. H. Somerville attended to the injury.

On the 24th inst., Sarah Ann, widow of the late Charles Crawley, passed away somewhat suddenly at the age of 71. The deceased was a native of Turvey, but on her marriage went to live at the Bell Inn at Wollaston, Northants. Leaving there they came to the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Harrold, which they kept for a number of years, but left about 6 years ago for a private house. The funeral took place at the church on Tuesday.

A public meeting was held on Wednesday to consider the Coronation celebrations. The Vicar presided. A meat tea for adults and an ordinary tea for juveniles was decided upon. As permanent memorials there were suggested Recreation Ground, Manual Fire Engine, New Street Lamps, six seats to be placed throughout the village, and the planting of a few trees on the road side on the Odell-road, with the sanction of the County Council, the putting in order of the School bell, and inscription on the stonework of turret. Ways and means were discussed, and it was suggested that a house-to-house collection be made. Twenty gentlemen were elected to serve on the Committee, and the selection of ladies was left to them.

PAINLESS DENTISTRY.
MESSRS.
Fleming & Pannell
61 HIGH STREET, BEDFORD
(Mr. Howard, Stationer).
SATURDAYS—11 to 4. Established over
Moderate Charges. 25 years.

SHARNBROOK.

Cheaper than Jam.—A 4lb. Jar Marmalade for a Shilling.—H. Enoch, West End Grocery Stores, Midland Road, Bedford.

Laxton Brothers, Seed Merchants, offer £5 in cash Prizes to the most successful exhibitors of the produce of their seeds at any of the Village Flower Shows in Bedfordshire according to marks. Particulars in their Seed List. 719

A post match between Sharnbrook Rifle Club and Bedford Thursday Hockey Club was shot off at the Rifle Range on March 23rd, resulting in a win for Sharnbrook by 32 points. Scores: Sharnbrook: J. Betts 97, G. Agutter 95, R. Wallis 94, R. Newell 94, J. Pacey 91, W. Evans 89, F. Darnell 85, L. Darnell 85, total 730. Bedford: F. Thompson 93, E. Saunders 92, W. Haines 89, W. Abbott 89, E. Thorne 87, L. Green 85, W. Thomas 83, T. French 80, total 698.

THURLEIGH.

At the Red Lion on Wednesday, Mr. G. J. M. Whyley, deputy coroner for the County, held an inquest on the body of George Whittington, aged 58.—Sarah Whittington, widow, identified the body. Her husband left home on Monday, at 5.45 a.m., to go to work at Mrs. G. Thompson's, Manor Farm. He came home about 12.45 in his usual health. He had complained of his heart, but not recently.—Wilfrid Frank Whittington, son, also gave evidence.—Chas. Lovell, engine driver in the employ of Mrs. Thompson, said about 5 p.m. Mrs. Thompson called witness and asked him to go and look for Whittington, as he had not come back to look after the cattle. Witness went to the field, arriving there about 5.20, and found the deceased by the side of the hedge, where it appeared he had taken shelter from the wind. Deceased looked as if he were dead, but his face was warm. Witness went and told Mrs. Whittington, and then stayed with the body until P.c. Phillips came.—P.c. Phillips corroborated.—Dr. Collins gave his opinion that death was due to heart failure, accelerated by exposure to the inclement weather, and the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

TURVEY.

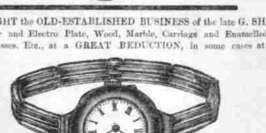
Cheaper than Jam.—A 4lb. Jar Marmalade for a Shilling.—H. Enoch, West End Grocery Stores, Midland Road, Bedford.

EASTER BARGAINS.

Jago's Jago's Jago's

WE beg to announce that we have BOUGHT the OLD-ESTABLISHED BUSINESS of the late G. SHAW, and now offer the whole of the stock, consisting of Jewellery, Silver and Electro Plate, Wood, Marble, Carriage and Enamelled Iron Clocks, Cutlery, Spoons and Forks, Optical Goods, Opera and Field Glasses, Etc., at a GREAT REDUCTION, in some cases at less than half their original price.

Pendants in great variety.



Gold expanding Watch Bracelets from £2 17 6

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Choice Presents.

Goods on Display at 67 High Street, Bedford.—There will be a **Special Discount of 4/- in the £** on all articles not marked Sale Price.

A Few SPECIAL BARGAINS in CLOCKS

8-DAY ENGLISH CHIME, chiming on eight bells or Westminster ... ... £16 10 0. Original Price £27.
BRACKET CLOCK, chiming Westminster on five gongs, £4 15 0. Another ditto on four gongs £3 10 0
A few French Cylinder CARRIAGE CLOCKS, in leather cases ... ... 14/6 each. Very Special.
A FINE OLD MAHOGANY ENGLISH GRANDFATHER ... ... £5 0 0.

Gold Watches and Bows, complete from 28/6

Folding Leather Watch Clock from 8/6.

Gun Metal Watches and Bows, complete from 8/6.

During Sale only.—Notwithstanding our acknowledged low prices, **a Special Discount of 2/- in the £** will be allowed for Cash off our Newest and Latest Stock, including Wedding Rings, at No. 65 High Street.

Now is the time to buy your **Engagement Rings and Wedding Rings**. A Useful Present still given with each Wedding Ring.

Repairs a Speciality.—We have thoroughly Competent Men working for us.

JAGO'S for best value in Gold Bracelet Watches, Silver, Enamelled, and Gun Metal Leather Wristlet Watches, charming Necklets and Pendants, Lockets and Chains, Chain and Fixed Bracelets, Engagement Rings, Keeper Rings and Wedding Rings.
CLOCKS from 2/- to £20. Ebony Goods, Dressing Cases, Teapots, Cruets, Serviette Rings, Biscuit Barrels, Vases & Rose Bowls.
Cases of TEASPOONS from 3/9. Solid Silver from 12/6. Cases of new TEA KNIVES from 10/6 the case.
Silver CIGARETTE CASES and MATCH BOXES. All Goods of Reliable Quality.

Cyril Jago, 65 & 67 High St. Bedford
And at Holywell Hill and Market Place, ST. ALBANS.

ARLESEY.

At the confirmation by Bishop Hodges, D.D., at the Parish Church, on Tuesday, there were 63 candidates, who came from Clifton, the Asylum, and Arlesey.

At the annual parish meeting on Wednesday, Mr. J. Howard Carter presided. The Overseers' report stated that a rate of 2s. 6d. for sanitary purposes, and 5s. as poor rate was made for the year ending last September. Mr. Owen Jones wrote that the District Council disclaimed the condition of the road between the Railway and the river. The information from L.G.B. was to the effect that the Arlesey Parish Council had no power to repair the Winchill Footpath, which was in the parish of Stotfold.

Other Arlesey news on Page 3.

New Zealand Butter.
Finest Quality Always.
Wooding, ST. CUTHBERT'S STORES.

BIGGLESWADE.

Artificial Teeth.—Mr. Rex. Graham, of 72, High-street, Bedford, has opened a branch surgery at Messrs. Sandon and Son's, Market Square, Biggleswade. Attendance every Wednesday from 10 to 7. Painless extractions for 1s.

The Primitive Methodist C.E. Society celebrated their anniversary on Sunday, the special preacher being the Rev. A. G. Gray, of Birmingham. In the afternoon the Rev. A. G. Gray was the principal speaker. Solos were sung by Mrs. Walter and Mr. W. Ewart Pampey. On Monday a public tea was served in the School, and in the evening a United Rally of Christian Endeavour Societies and Wesley Guilds of the district was held at which Mr. James Matthews, C.C., presided. Miss F. Daniels was the soloist.

In consequence of the success of the rendering of Gaul's "The Holy City," by the Choir at the Wesleyan Church on March 23rd, the work was repeated on Sunday evening before an appreciative audience.

The Angling Club have decided to take proceedings under the Fresh Water Fish Act of 1878, against persons found taking, destroying, or being in possession of fish during the close season, viz., March 15th to June 15th.

Mrs. Cain, wife of Mr. Charles Cain, died on Tuesday evening, after much suffering, from an internal complaint. She was 44, and was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Maskell, of St. John-street. Great sympathy is felt for her husband. There are no children.

An employee of Messrs. Franklin and Son, named Alfred Skilliter, of Broom, on Tuesday evening, was oiling some of the machinery at the Flour Mill, when his foot slipped and he got his hand in the purifying fan, which revolves at a great speed. The hand was very badly lacerated.

An entertainment was given at the Good Templars' Hall in aid of the Rechabite Junior Tent on Tuesday evening. Mr. M. Lawson took the chair, and gave a recitation. The soloists were Miss May Jackson and Miss G. Sugars, and Mr. Alf. Scott was encored for his comic song. Miss Dorothy Redman, Master H. Paine, and Mr. A. Skuse gave recitals, and two action songs by girls trained by Miss S. Woodall were much applauded.

Mr. W. F. Ashby Fletcher presided at the annual general meeting of the Tennis Club, on Tuesday, at the Fire Station. The balance sheet showed that the total receipts were £38 18s. 2d., and there was a cash balance of £6 13s. 11d. It was decided to leave it to the Committee to appoint a captain. The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. W. F. A. Fletcher; Vice-President, Mr. C. E. Batten; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. T. R. Thornton; Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Phillips; Committee, the Rev. R. S. Bagshaw, and Messrs. E. Bluett, Winch, A. Wagg, J. G. Bodwell, L. Marsters, E. H. Crosbie, W. J. Moffat, and F. Barratt.

Mr. Henry Chaundler presided at a lantern lecture and musical evening at the Town Hall, in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes on Tuesday evening. The Chairman said that Mrs. Bagshaw, of the Vicarage, had been obliged to give up the Secretaryship of the Young Helpers' Union, and that Miss Irene Chew and Miss Edith Stokes were now joint secretaries. Mr. Geo. Turner lent and manipulated the lantern for the exhibition of many beautiful slides, and the lecturer was Mrs. Sharland, who gave a graphic account of the work. Songs were sung by Miss Owen Jones, Miss Nellie Goldthorpe, and Mr. W. E. Lampey.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION.

The triennial election of members was held on Monday. Mr. Henry Chaundler was the returning officer, and the poll took place at the Council Schools. Messrs. Arthur Brookes, A. K. Brookes, and A. L. Lewis were the presiding officers in the three schools. The hours of polling were from 12 to 8 p.m. There were seventeen candidates for the twelve seats, eight of these being members of the old Council. There are about 1,300 on the voters' list, and 976 voted. Several of the candidates exhibited posters which bore the legends, "Vote for Gee, True and Tried," "Vote for Huckle and low rates," and another which stated that "a vote for Larkinson meant a straight policy, and straight speaking, and straight voting." The latter's little boy carried a flag on Monday which bore the appealing message, "Please vote for my Daddy," and Mr. H. Franklin sent one of his carts round the town covered with posters, with a bell attached thereto. Mr. Franklin fetched his supporters in a motor, and Dr. Alfred James lent Mr. C. J. Larkinson his brougham. Messrs. F. Gee and F. C. Kitchener had several conveyances out, and many ladies were brought to vote by the Misses Gee, who worked very hard for their father, who had been at the top of the poll three times previously, and who again reached that proud position on Monday. After 6 p.m. many of the working men put in an appearance, and one voter came from Sandy a minute too late to record his vote. Mr. Henry Chaundler and his staff counted the votes in the Boys' School, and at 11.30, the same night, the former read the figures in the presence of a large and cheering crowd.

The successful candidates were as follows, the old members having a star preceding their names:—*Frederick Gee, 661; *F. C. Kitchener, 653; *Henry Franklin, 526; *Caleb Soundy, 519; George Witty Stokes, 488; *Ebenezer Chew, 478; Henry M. Lindsell, C.B., 455; *W. F. Ashby Fletcher, 419; *W. B. Aubrey, 441; Clissold J. Larkinson, 389; Geo. Wagg, 367; *Wm. Haynes, 354. Not elected: Alfred H. Blake, 292; Maurice Bennett, 285; Harold Phillips, 246; Chas. E. Huckle, 189; Robt. W. Wright, 131.

COUNTY COURT.

Monday, March 27th.

Before His Honour Judge Wheeler.

BIGG V. SAUNDERS.

Mr. W. T. Bigg, butcher, Stotfold, sued John Saunders, butcher's assistant, Stotfold, for £1 12s. 7d. The claim was for £1 for money to give change to customers and 12s. 7d. money received by defendant on behalf of his employer.

Defendant admitted that 19s. 6d. was due, but said he had counter-claimed for 13s. for one week's wages in lieu of notice.

Judgment for the plaintiff for £1 to be paid by instalments of 2s. a month.

TRAP COLLISION NEAR ARLESEY GAS WORKS.

Mr. Offspring Webb, of Arlesey, sued Mr. George Barker, of Baldock, claiming £4 1s. 6d for injuries to pony and damage to a trap and harness, caused in a collision which the plaintiff alleged was due to defendant's negligence on October 31st.

The defendant denied liability.

His Honour said he thought the weight of evidence was against the defendant, and he must decide the case according to law. It was plain to him that one of these carts had been moved when the policeman came up in order to allow the fish man to pass. He had to obey the law in giving judgment, and he had to follow the weight of evidence. He thought plaintiff had proved that the accident was due to Barker's negligence, and that therefore plaintiff was entitled to damages. On the other hand he thought that some of the accounts rendered were rather excessive, and would therefore give judgment for £3 5s. 6d. and costs.

ALBON BROS. V. JACK NEWBURY.

This was a claim for boot repairing, which had been before the Court on several occasions and defendant, who lives at Arlesey, disputed the account. At the last Court, the Judge requested the learned Registrar to look through the plaintiffs' books, and the Registrar now reported that he had done so and found that there was one item of 1s. 5d. due to the plaintiffs, but regarding the other item of 1s. 6d. claimed, there was only the plaintiffs' word that it was due. Therefore he thought the claim was not substantiated. His Honour said he should give judgment for 1s. 5d., and seeing that the claim for 1s. 6d. was not in the opinion of the learned Registrar substantiated, he should order only ordinary Court costs, and not the costs of the adjournment. He ordered the defendant to pay the amount 1s. a month.

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

Wednesday, March 29th.

Present: Mr. H. J. King (chairman), the Revs. C. C. Ewbank (vice-chairman), A. D. Atkinson G. H. Box, Messrs. William Smith, E. T. Leeds Smith, G. A. Gregg, A. G. Jeeves, Frank Davison, George Cranfield, G. E. Smyth, Robert Long, Alfred Inskip, G. T. Flitton, Herbert King, Samuel King, James Matthews, Tom Munckton, F. W. Braybrooks, F. C. Kitchiner, Caleb Soundy, E. Chew, Charles Capon, Frederick Gee, and George Wagg (clerk).

FINANCE.

The Finance Committee reported that they had considered the application of the Relieving Officers for extra pay on account of the abolition of pay stations, and recommended that at present no alteration be made in the Relieving Officers' salaries. It was resolved that the Clerk's salary be raised by £15 per annum on account of extra work in the carrying out of the provisions of the Boarding-out Within Unions Orders, 1909.

The first part of the report was agreed to, but on the motion of Mr. Flitton, it was decided by 11 votes to 7, that the second part should be put upon the agenda for the next meeting.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Present: The Rural Guardians, with Mr. Henry Chaundler (clerk).

The Arlesey Parochial Committee reported that tenders for scavenging for the ensuing year had been received as follows:—W. Thompson £3 5s. a week, F. Goodwin £2 15s., O. Webb £3. They had accepted the tender of Mr. Goodwin.—Agreed.

A letter was received from the Campton Parish Council asking this Council to take over a piece of road at Campton which had been put into a good state of repair.

The Clerk stated that it led to two cottages and a farm homestead. The matter came up some years ago, and it was then recommended that this piece of road be not repaired by the Council.

Mr. Leeds Smith moved that they go on with the next business, and this was carried.

The Clerk said that sometime ago the Council appointed a committee to inspect a piece of road at Langford and report on an application that it should be taken over by the Council. The Committee were of opinion that if the people who made use of the road would have it put in proper repair that this Council would then take it over. The Surveyor got out specifications of the work, which had been done to his satisfaction.

The Committee were asked to visit, inspect and report.

Mr. Jones, Sanitary Inspector, reported that for the first time in 8 years no cases of infectious disease had been notified since the last meeting of the Council.

GOLDINGTON

The Reading Room members were given a real treat on Wednesday, when Messrs. Harvey Sale, J. Brehme, and F. Ayres gave exhibition games at billiards. Messrs. Ayres and Brehme led off with a game of 200 up, during the course of which the latter set up a record for the table, with a break of 56. Mr. Harvey Sale then played a game of 200 up with Mr. Wilson, a member of the Room, after which he gave a display of trick billiards.

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SHEFFORD.

Artificial Teeth.—Mr. Rex Graham, of 72, High-street, Bedford, will shortly open a Branch Surgery, at Mrs. Walker's, "Bloomfield House," Shefford. Attendance on alternate Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., commencing April 20th. Painless extractions for 1s.

A meeting of the Temperance Society was held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom on Wednesday, when an address was given by Miss Goodman, of Bedford.

In the Baptist Chapel on Wednesday, a lecture was given by Mrs. Major Ellis, on "The Missionary Work of the Salvation Army." The Rev. S. Aston Fox presided.

At Tuesday night's confirmation by the Lord Bishop of Ely, the Rev. C. E. Meadows presented 11 candidates—9 males and 2 females—from Shefford.

On Monday the Band of Love children in connexion with the Salvation Army gave a service of song, entitled "Meg's All." The special meetings during the week-end were [illegible]

... Scarfe, J. H. Steabben, F. Brown, G. F. Alldritt, J. Armour, C. Bound, J. Fisher, F. G. Sugars, W. Granger, A. Walker, F. Walker, C. Revels, G. Walker, M. Allen, C. Hayes, E. Pike, W. Harwood, W. Clark, E. Tingey, C. A. Inskip, A. Plowman, A. Gudgin, W. Gudgin, A. Bland, etc. Mr. Billcliffe's address dealt with current politics, with special reference to the Veto Bill and Home Rule.

An appreciative audience assembled in the New Hall, on the 23rd inst., at a concert given by "The Cliftonian Concert Party," organised by Mr. T. S. Plowman, in aid of the Bedford County Hospital. The comic element largely predominated, and nearly every item was encored. Great versatility was shown by Mr. F. S. Plowman, the favourite of the evening, his character songs and light comedy delighting the audience, whilst his monologue on "Female Suffrage" convulsed the audience. With Mr. W. Goss he also sang a duet composed by himself, "The Two Nuts," the patter of which was very amusing. Mr. W. Albone's comic songs caused much merriment, and further humorous items by Mr. W. Goss "brought down the house." Mr. A. Dodd gave a stump speech, "Money," and also contributed a song. Further contributions to the lengthy program included Messrs. E. Stevens, F. Mabbott, F. Meeks, and A. Legate, all of whom did extremely well, and received well-merited applause. Mrs. A. Ranson and Miss F. Skipper proved efficient accompanists throughout.

Brother Ansgar, "the escaped monk," a lecturer of the Protestant Alliance, paid a visit to the town from the 25th to the 27th inst. On Saturday in the Baptist Chapel, Mr. George Hawkins presided, when the subject was "My Experience as a little brother of Mary." Three addresses were given on Sunday, that in the afternoon, for men only, being upon "The Confessional." On Monday afternoon the subject was "My Mass." Three addresses were given on Sunday, that in the afternoon, to men only, being upon "The Confessional." On Monday afternoon the subject was "Reasons for Convent Inspection." At night, Dr. C. E. Winckworth presided over a crowded audience at the New Hall, when Brother Ansgar's title was "My Conversion and Escape from the Monastery." Such a large amount of interest being evoked by Monday's meetings, the lecturer specially extended his visit over Tuesday.

"ONE DOES NOT BECOME OLD AT TABLE"

is a characteristic saying in Italy, which means that to sit over a pleasant meal is one of the joys of life. But it is at the end that the sweets and tasty dishes come. Delightful is a well-made pudding or sweet of any kind. It should, however, be chosen from a dietetic standpoint. Quite against common sense would be to consume food regardless of its actual value. The sensible house caterer appreciates the fact and uses Currants in plenty because, apart from being palatable, they are Nature's own design for an ideal sweet, full of nourishing grape sugar, the best of all nutriments. Without Currants there would be no Christmas Pudding and no Mince Pies. The little fruit is the very essence of the success of our very best confections. Of late, Currant cookery has been developed to a considerable extent, to the delight of all who taste the attractive dishes. An enormous number of delightful preparations can be made from Currants, which, apart from their great intrinsic value, blend perfectly with the other ingredients which help to constitute the "sweet course."

WOOTTON.

The Wesley Guild held a social on the 23rd inst., in the School Room, between 80 and 90 being present.

On Friday, the annual meeting of the N.D.F.S. District Branch was held at the Infants' School, Mr. W. H. Mepham in the chair. Mr. J. Pope's annual report showed the Society to be flourishing. The Chairman gave an address on the benefit of Friendly Societies.

During the absence of the Rev. A. J. Foster in Italy, the Parish Church services have been taken by the Rev. Kealey, of Bedford, and have been largely attended.

The Choral Society are giving their annual concert on Friday, April 7th. The work is Gaul's "Holy City," and Mr. A. Howe, of Bedford, will conduct.

The aspect of the village has been considerably changed since the small holders took over Keeley Farm. The overgrown hedges have been cut, and a general improvement is the result. The bad weather has somewhat hampered the operations on the land, and a week or two of fine weather will be very welcome. We understand Mr. Black, M.P., is offering for sale one of the fields adjacent to the main road to those desirous of erecting cottage homes.

In connexion with the Coronation, a parish meeting was held in the Council School on March 23 to consider what form the festivities shall take. Mr. W. H. Mepham was in the chair.

The County Council contractor, Mr. Reuben Brace, has almost completed the cleaning out of Great Brook. Progress has been impeded by the floods that have prevailed during the last few weeks, but it is hoped the work will be complete in about a fortnight or three weeks.

Mr. C. Stafford, of Messrs. Stafford and Rogers, Ltd., held a sale of freehold property at the "Swan Hotel," on Saturday afternoon, the property offered comprising two enclosures of pasture land, and two brick and slated cottages situated at Keeley Lane, Wootton, and comprising 8a. 3r. 12p. belonging to the estate of the late Mr. John Dudley. The bidding started at £400, and after keen competition, the lot was knocked down to Mr. Charles Bruty, of Wootton, for £705.

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