

# THE A. T. FORERUNNER.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 13

OCTOBER, 1911.

The "A. T. Forerunner" is published monthly.

All Communications should be addressed not later than the 25th of each month to

The Editor,

"Burnbrae," The Avenue.

It is with feelings of the deepest regret that we have to record the death of our late friend and manager Mr. G. Hern, which occurred at his residence "Haslemere," Lilac Avenue, at 5 a.m. on the 13th of October, after a week's illness with pneumonia. A close friend, a confidant, and an adviser to me on more than one occasion, it seems almost impossible to realize that his cheery presence has gone from us for ever. I will endeavour as briefly as possible to set out some of the incidents in his career whilst crossing "the narrow isthmus between the two eternities"—very narrow, alas! for him.

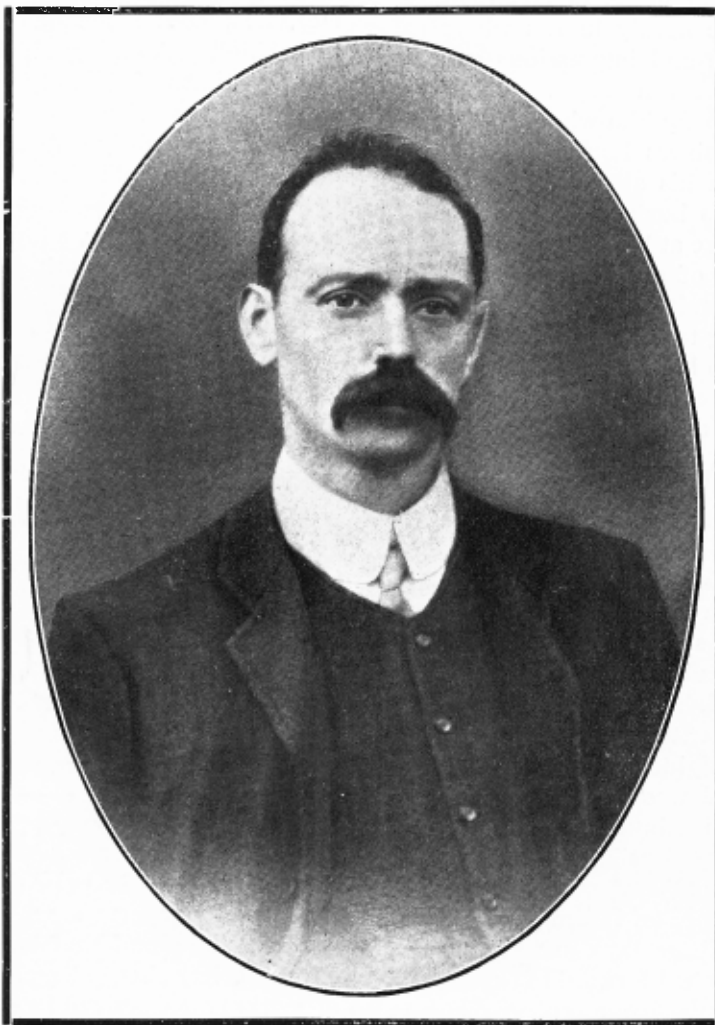
William George Edward Hern was born at Rothwell, in Northants, on September 5th, 1873, the oldest boy of a fairly large family, his father being in the building trade. He has thus been amongst wood and building construction during the whole of his life. When he was five or six years old the family came to Leicester, the town at that period growing very rapidly, and the building trade consequently being very brisk. Settling at Belgrave, it was there that the major portion of his life was spent. His mother naturally was a very busy woman, and George being the oldest son, was his mother's "handy-man," and learned to do many things that were useful to him in after life; for on many occasions he has been called on to help one or the other of us out of a difficulty, and if George could not find a way out, then

the business was serious indeed. His early education was obtained at Mellor Street Board School, and after leaving school was apprenticed to his trade, spending most of his evenings at Drawing Classes or the Technical School. Shortly after being out of his time he went to assist his father in his business, and passed from there to manage for another builder on Belgrave Road. It was from here that he came to fill his position with us,

selected from about thirty applicants, and I think we have had no reason to regret our choice. Interested in the Anchor Tenants from the commencement of the Society, I well remember his first introduction to the Estate. In the autumn of 1907 when we had just come into possession of the land, I had promised to meet him in the village and show him what we regarded as the "Promised Land." The day turned out very wet, but he was there to time in spite of the weather and we made our way up to where the first house in Keyham Lane now stands. I can see him now, as he stood gazing over the stile, at what was then a grass field, his thoughts probably building not castles, but cottages in the air. These have since taken definite shape; although at that time we had very little idea of building our own houses, and if we had, that he would be the architect. For we did not come to a final decision regarding the busi-

ness until some months elapsed, appointing him manager in May, 1908, his first pair of cottages being completed in October of the same year. Three years later came the awful black week, when the life of the Estate was hushed, and everyone went about enquiring of his neighbour if there was any change in the invalid's condition. We may say of him as Carlyle said of another who only saw about half the three-score years and ten:—"Continually so far as he went he was a teacher, by act and word, of hope, clearness, activity, veracity, and human courage and nobleness."

A. H. H.



## "AN APPRECIATION."

My acquaintance with George Hern only extends over the brief period of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years, yet during the whole of that time there has hardly been a day but what I have not been in close communication with him. In business, in pleasure, in home life, I have been exceptionally blessed to have his sincere and whole-hearted friendship. Busy years they have been, but happy, notwithstanding, too brief, but never forgotten, a time of insight into such a character and disposition that one feels no better ideals could fill one's mind than to try and emulate them. "A man of many parts, a fine business man, firm, courteous, obliging, of genial disposition," is the summary of a business friend writing to me. All these and more, in fact in duly estimating his qualities one hardly knows where to begin. My first experience and impressions gained of him were purely of a business character. It was my duty and pleasure to accompany him when first opening up negotiations with business houses, and I was immediately impressed with his absolute knowledge of the many intricacies of his business; prices, quantities, all alike were at his finger-ends. He knew the values and uses of all commodities, and knew instantly what would suit his purposes. It was of no use anyone attempting to sell him anything he did not want, or to place too high a value upon what he did want. Everyone seemed to know instantly that they were dealing with an expert, and were glad to avail themselves of his intimate knowledge, which he was always ready to give when advice was sought for. As an architect with Ideas, he sought our service because he was desirous of a larger scope for them than he was obtaining in his previous position. He soon became imbued with a love for our Co-partnership principles, and our aims and objects became his. He quickly realised its difficulties and limitations, but gave out of love for the work his wholehearted service to overcome the former and extend the latter. I look with pleasure to many late nights, when after completing our business in the old wooden building on the Children's Playground, we continued to sit and chat over our work, discuss its responsibilities, and look forward with pleasure to every successive stage of its progress, and what its influence on Life might be. We drew very near together in those days, making in our friendship ties that each looked forward to becoming closer as the days passed by. No morning seemed well begun that did not bring his tap at my door, and his gentle whistle as he walked in with a smile and cheery word. No day finished until we had reviewed its work, planned its tomorrow, often moved to laughter with his jokes and shrewd comments on the people with whom he had come in contact during the day. A great sense of humour obsessed him. He saw or made a joke upon everything, being of such a bright, cheerful, and sunny disposition, that he laughed at difficulties, overcoming them often with sheer good humour.

One could easily understand that this very trait in his character, might be misunderstood by anyone who knew him less than his most intimate friends, and that it might give an impression that he treated serious things too lightly, but this would be a great mistake. He had serious views of his own responsibilities, and he could be stern with all who shirked their duties. Quick of thought and action, it irritated him more than anything when dealing with its opposites, and it was only his almost infinite patience that allowed him to listen to and deal so generously with those of slower thought and action.

As a father, friend and foreman, he was continually exhibiting virtues and qualifications previously unthought of by his friends. Even his wife once stated to me that George was full of surprises, and none were greater to her, than when once during his short illness, with a beautiful peaceful expression upon his face, he placed his hands together and became as a little child. A strong capable man he was looked to by all in times of difficulty and trouble, always ready to render a service, no matter how mean the work. He would cheerfully before a meeting, help to clean a room, or remain behind, chaffing our lady friends while helping to wash up. He was generous and just, a kind indulgent father, a loyal friend, patient, untiring and unselfish in his work. A man of many parts indeed, his place in our affections will be hard to fill.

One could fill a book of his droll sayings that will live for years, but one only must suffice in conclusion.

During his residence in the village his son Eddie had two white mice which were favourite pets of the boys. Unfortunately they also possessed a cat with the result that one day the mice were missing. Great was the grief of the boy, and it was with tears in his eyes that he told his father what had happened. With a look at the cat, and a sly wink at his boy, his consolation was, "Well, never mind Eddie, it is not so bad as if you had lost them,—you do know where they are."

J.S.W.

## REPORTS.

### MONTHLY MEETING.

The September meeting was held on the 21st. Mr. E. T. Groome presiding. Mr. J. Rowlett gave the monthly report, emphasising the need for more share capital; and that one third of the total capital of the Society should be, according to present method of working, subscribed by shareholders. He also reported that the shops (which have since been opened) were nearly complete and that 120 bentwood chairs were on order to furnish the room over the shops. Mr. Harris then gave the report of A. T. F. Committee stating that the September issue terminated the duties of the present committee, and asking for suggestions re future policy. After some discussion it was decided to continue the paper, under the same committee with the exception of Mr. Harris who resigned, a vote of thanks being accorded to him for his services as Editor: the Estate Council to nominate a member in

his place. Mr. R. Scott, secretary of Estate Council, followed with a short report, stating that they had drafted a rough programme of the coming winter's work, and the Saturday concerts would re-commence shortly.

### MEDICAL AID SOCIETY.

The Medical Aid Society held their second Annual Meeting in the Institute on Monday, September 25th. The attendance was a little better than last year but not so good as the committee would have wished. The Secretary presented his report and balance sheet, and the same were considered very satisfactory. The year's working ended with a balance in hand of £22 7s. 11d. out of which it was agreed to place 1/- to the deposit account of each member of 12 months standing, in case of family card, 4/- withdrawable for Doctor's bills only. The following Doctors have attended to members; Doctors Clarke, Gilroy, Harrison, Musson, Bradley, Braye, Crosby, Lilley, Waite, and Riddett.

There are at present 186 members, an increase of 58 for last year. Several alterations were made to rules. A newly-born infant may now become eligible for immediate benefits upon payment of 3d. entrance fee.

Officers were elected as follows:- President, Mr. S. Beamish, Secretary, Mr. G. Purdy, Treasurer, Anchor Tenants Ltd, Committee, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Kilby, Messrs. J. Jays, T. Neal and H. Folwell, Auditor, Mr. A. H. Hibbert.

C. W. P.

### ESTATE COUNCIL.

A special meeting of the residents was held on Friday September 29th, to discuss the desirability of forming a Recreative and Social Club. There were not many present, but still sufficient in number to prove that it was necessary to meet once or twice a week, and have a friendly game and chat, and after much useful discussion a small committee was formed to make the needful arrangements for an early start.

A special meeting was called on Friday, October 6th, for the purpose of forming a Debating Society and Students Class. Though small in numbers they showed enthusiasm and speaking generally upon the work of last season, it was evident that much good was done and it was therefore agreed to re-commence as speedily as possible, Mr. Noon, being elected secretary,

### The Humberstone and District Supply Association.

The past month has been both busy and important for the new Society. In the first place the task of choosing a manager from 130 applicants hailing from all parts of the Kingdom, was no light business for the committee. But in Mr. R. Minns on whom the final choice rested, they believe they have secured one who combines with experience and knowledge of his business, a desire to please and satisfy the require-

ments of his customers, and do whatever lies in his power to ensure the success of our enterprise. The first week of trading was more successful than the committee had dared to hope, and they thank all the members and friends who have helped to achieve that good result. In a few days we hope to have our shop finished and rely on your patronage of your own business to ensure complete success.

The Social to welcome Mr. Minns held on Thursday October 5th, was a great success, the singing of our friends, Mrs. Purdy and Mr. Philpott, was excellent, while the enthusiasm and optimistic tone of the meeting with regard to the future, and the large measure of success reported as a result of the operations of the Social Service Committee, all tended to enthuse the members with the determination to achieve success. In years to come, that meeting will be memorable in the annals of the Anchor Tenants Society, not only as the first Social of the Supply Association, but also as being the last appearance amongst us of our late and highly esteemed works manager Mr. Geo. Hern. None amongst us ever imagined, that in so short a period, his useful life would be ended, and we should be called to mourn the loss of his kindly genial spirit.

## Items of Interest.

At a meeting held on Sunday afternoon last, in the Assembly Room, it was decided to commence a series of meetings on Sunday Evenings. The services will be undenominational, and all not connected with any other institution are heartily welcome. The first meeting will be held on Sunday evening October 29th, commencing at 6.30.

The retiring Editor of the A. T. F. fully deserved the vote of thanks given to him at the Monthly Meeting, for without doubt his position had been a truly "Harris"—ing one.

And just as a master "Mason" must have sufficient material for the erection of a beautiful stone edifice, so the new Editor will require from his readers the necessary mind and matter, for the upkeep and improvement of their journal.

Overheard-----"I say, Mrs. Tenant, my husband has often expressed a wish that our little Jack would some day prove to have some "grit" in him. Well, he's got so much in him now that he leaves some on the floor at every step when he comes home from school." Perhaps she did not know that the causeways were being relaid.

Please note that a few sickroom appliances are now kept on the Estate and may be hired upon application to Mrs. Purdy, secretary of "Ladies at Home."

## Gardening Notes.

The present autumn is one that will be remembered by every Tenant on the Estate, for while we mourned over the loss of one we all sincerely respect, the beautiful tints and colour of the leaves seemed as though they tried to cheer us on our way.

One good frost and these will be as a carpet for us walk upon. Then comes our work of collecting them together into a heap turning them over several times during the next month, then with a little turf soil they will make an excellent potting compost.

Pea sticks and bean poles should be carefully packed away taking care to place them in such a position that will carry off the rain and allow the wind through them.

Hyacinths and other bulbs in pots should be placed in a dark shed without water till they have made at least half an inch growth, then brought to light and given water three times a week.

The re-arranging of Herbaceous Borders may be taken in hand. Remove and divide all plants that have not been taken out for two or three years and plant them into fresh beds. Deep cultivation is very essential working in a fair amount of well decayed manure.

If any member wishes advice on the planting of Fruit Trees or any other subject the writer will be pleased to answer any question to the best of his ability either in person or by post. T.R.

It is with pleasure that we place on record the splendid success of our Exhibitors in connection with the Co-partnership Festival on August 26th. The prizes won amounted to £8-8-0, the following being obtained besides others;

Mr. Gilliver,	...	6 firsts.
„ Freeman,	...	5 „
„ J. Rowlett	...	4 „
and Bronze Medal.		

Certificates were also given with every first prize and our winners have each passed one on to our Secretary for hanging up if thought desirable.

Such grand success ought without doubt, create a desire amongst all our gardeners to enter the competition next year. This, in addition to the ordinary open prizes, would enable us to make the necessary arrangements to compete with the other Societies for the Gurney Trophy, with an excellent chance of winning it.

## SATURDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENTS.

in the Assembly Room.

November 4th,—Concert arranged by Mr. Bowerman.

„ 11th,— „ „ Mr. Purdy.

„ 18th,—Dance.

„ 25th,—Concert arranged by Mr. J. Essex.

## Letters to the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

Letters to the Editor need not be signed. Writer's name and address, on a separate slip, must accompany letters, but will not be published unless required. Will correspondents and others please write on one side of the paper only.

### THE NEW SUNDAY EVENING MOVEMENT.

To the Editor,

Dear Sir,—It was rather a timid gathering that met on the afternoon of Sunday, October 22nd. to discuss the desirability of providing or creating some sort of a Meeting for Sunday Evenings.

That there was a need, was quite evident from the fact that so many turned up, shewing by their presence that they considered a Sunday Evening Meeting desirable. But as I have already stated, it was a timid gathering, inasmuch as only two of those present had anything to say as regards suggestions and only two asked any questions.

Still the movement has been decided upon, and it now remains to be seen to what extent the Residents will support the Committee which has been appointed to inaugurate the work. There are surely other members of this community, who, though not present at this meeting and do not see their way clear to join our Friends at the "Meeting House," would welcome some sort of a movement or organization which had for its object the betterment of the Sunday Evening.

It is to them I would appeal to give their support by their presence at the meetings that are being provided for, commencing on October 29th, when we may rest assured an enjoyable time will be spent, as our friend Mr. Jays has charge of the programme for that evening.

At the same time we must be careful that we do not allow any conditions to arise that will tend toward friction in any shape or form. We must not lose sight of the fact that we are one big Family, with the interests of each wrapped up in the interests of the whole.

Yours for Successful and Pleasant Sunday  
Evenings, Atlanta.

## Humberstone and District Supply Association.

We are in business to supply our needs,  
Therefore if we do not see what we require,  
We must ask for it and the manager will do  
his best to satisfy our requirement.

We must remember it is  
— our business and —

its success is our success.