

THE A. T. FORERUNNER.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 14

NOVEMBER, 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.

TO OUR CHILDREN.

What a happy time our Garden Suburb Children have to be sure. Can we imagine anything better in the summer than a beautiful playing green with its swings and see-saws or bumpers as the children call them and other kindred things with which to while away their happy hours of playtime, surrounded by the countless many-hued flowers, most of them laden with sweet perfume, which are in the gardens adjacent to their playground. There is no need to wonder why it is that they are all looking so healthy, bright and happy. See them on the swings, full of spirit and energy, some working as hard as they can, swinging higher and higher until you would almost think they were going over the top, others rocking gently to and fro, humming some Old English Home Song, or perhaps singing loudly in their childlike way some well-known melody. Others are lying full length on the grass basking in the sun and listening to the birds so sweetly singing, and then in another moment are upon their feet chasing butterflies, thus enjoying themselves in many ways which only their Suburb life can give them. But now it is Autumn and what a change, still happy though they cannot use their swings upon the green, or roll upon the grass as in the summer. Nature's heavy dews have caused them to come to the roads for their play, for when the weather permits they will be out of doors for nothing pleases them better than to have a real good rollicking time with their playmates. They cannot play as they would wish in their homes, for even if they had enough room they would make such a noise, for who can imagine three or four boys or girls playing quietly together for any length of time; no they like to be able to whistle and sing, to laugh and dance and so are compelled to play in the roads, but between these roads and the foot-paths runs a wide belt of turf in which trees have been planted and which they know full well have been put there to beautify their home surroundings. They love the trees when in full leaf, and the grass when it is green, and this makes them very careful in their play lest they should harm them by chipping off the bark or breaking the branches, or injuring the grass which surrounds them; put there for several purposes and especially to help the trees to retain their moisture.

So when they are on the roads, they are somewhat restrained in their play and their childish minds long for something else, something they hardly know what; may be those who are always anxious for the children's enjoyment, will in the near future have a pleasant surprise for them. It would be splendid to have a nice place to play in during the winter, a Play House it could be called. It would be much better than having to play in the roads or the square or even round the shops where you are now tempted to congregate because of the extra light the windows afford you, and you do like to see each other in your play. But we want to teach our children to play not only for their own amusement but for the pleasure of others too, and we know full well that our children are realizing this and have no wish to play round the stores. They know it upsets those that are in charge in their work, and as they are hoping when they grow up to be taking an interest in all our undertakings they agree to get near a lamp and have a game there. Then they are always glad when gymnasium time comes, and how they do enjoy it, dumb bells, Indian clubs, jumping, etc., then another evening they are attending their singing class, and how they do sing to be sure; they will certainly win first prize one of these days at the Co-partnership Festival so enthusiastic are they, and at our weekly concerts how they love to clap and stamp, and oh! when interval time comes it does one good to see the appetites they have, never was it so pronounced in town life. It is then their turn, and instead of being listeners, they are the artists, and they enter into their work so full of jest and spirit that it would do credit to many an adult combination. But whether as entertainers or entertained it matters not to them, they enjoy it and show their enjoyment, and so they will continue growing in all that is good and noble learning to do something better than they have ever done before. They have the opportunity which many would like, healthy homes and happy surroundings, and who knows but what our Estate Children who have already done many worthy deeds, may grow up and when old enough to think for themselves, do much which we older people never even dreamed of. Children, take the opportunity which your parents have given, exercise your minds to the full, always play to enjoy yourselves, but never to the discomfort of others. Remember that though you have something which your parents would have gloried in during their childhood, you yourselves are to grow up to manhood and womanhood and doubtless will be able to do something better still, knowing that as the world grows older, experience may teach you that the best has not been obtained even in your beautiful Garden Home.

Music.

To return to this subject our readers will doubtless remember in a previous article I endeavoured to set forth a few of the joys and delights to be obtained from a study of this art. After the rudiments have been mastered and the student is able to play simple tunes nothing is more beautiful and more conducive to harmony and joy in the home, than for the family to gather round the piano and pour out their souls in song. Even if at first they are only simple tunes, it must be remembered that the door to higher and greater music is always open. To my mind the attitude of the nation towards music is a test of the character of the nation. There are some great souls who seem to be barren of the appreciation of music, but these are rare. Generally, we shall find that with greatness of mind comes full appreciation of this, one of the greatest of God's gifts to men.

Then passing from the music of the human voice and instruments made by man, the student will go on to greater and higher appreciation of the music of Nature. The singing of the birds, the hum of the bees, the sighing of the wind in the trees, and the roll of the sea and thunder of the waves, all these things will have new meaning and he will feel that Nature is in tune with the infinite and his soul and body will be as it were in a great and grand harmony with both Nature and the infinite. Most of us have at one time or another listened to performances which have more or less stirred the emotions within us. If it be pleasantly associated in our history, if it recall fond scenes of the past, which we would fain renew, we love it. We are indulgent listeners whatever be the voice, the instrument, the style, and are grateful for the privilege of being so agreeably affected.

There are those dear to our hearts who have passed away from earth, the grave has closed over them. The buds which last they gathered have crumpled into dust and the flowers which they planted have ceased to bloom. But there was an air, a piano-piece, a song, a psalm-tune, which they were wont to sing, or to play, or to admire, and with which they are now inseparably associated. There is nothing like music to embalm and to reproduce the past. And thus we love the music, not for its own sake, but for theirs who now live for us in its strains. We praise its every repetition. The newer compositions are very beautiful but sometimes we think there is nothing on earth that has the power to stir us to nobler, higher and better things than some of the grand old melodies of years gone by.

BREVE.

REPORTS.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The November Monthly Meeting was held on Thursday the 23rd, this being the first monthly meeting in the room over the shops. Mr. E. T. Groome

who presided over a fair attendance, referred in his opening remarks to the death of Mr. Hern, this being the first monthly meeting since that sad occurrence. Mr. Wilford gave the committee's report stating that this portion of the estate is practically complete. In about three and a half years it has been brought from agricultural land to a value of about £22,000, no mean achievement in the time. He also reported that Mr. A. Hern had taken his brother's place as manager, he having been closely associated with him in that capacity for some time. Some complaints were made about the children playing too much on the grass margins of the roads. Mr. R. Scott gave report of Estate Council. They had held several concerts and dances and a whist drive; had started a Recreative Club, a Student's Class, and a Debating Society. The chief items of interest in general business was a criticism of the evergreens in the central square, one of the members suggesting that flowers would have been more suitable.

Humberstone and District Supply Association.

One of the first essentials to success is a good start, and without question a good start has been secured by the above Association. Up to the present the measure of success achieved, has falsified all the pessimistic forecasts of some of our friends, and surpassed the moderate expectation of others who knowing the difficulties of the situation, were not prepared to predict an immediate success for the venture. Every week during the past month has brought additions to our membership roll, and there now remains but a very small percentage indeed of the residents who are holding aloof from the Society. We give these a very cordial invitation to join us and help to increase the measure of our success. The two members' meetings which have been held since our last report, were both well attended by interested members who seemed determined to do their utmost for the society's welfare, while the action of the Leicester Society in refusing business offered to them, came in for severe though good-tempered criticism, none of the members appearing to contemplate lack of food supplies or clean collars on that account. Surely, however it is about time large Distributive Societies, like Leicester, tried to understand the problems of development peculiar to Garden Suburbs, that they might strive to help rather than hinder their attainment. As in our case however, their action has had the effect it might have been expected to have, of increasing the determination and loyalty of our people. We have no reason to complain, though we may venture to express a hope that sometime they may understand our aims and purposes better.

ESTATE COUNCIL.

During the last month we have had some rich treats in the way of concerts, which have reached a high standard of excellence, and Messrs. Riley and Bowerman and Mrs. Purdy are to be complimented

upon getting together such a splendid body of performers at their respective concerts. Mr. J. Essex too is to be thanked for his visit to the estate, the selections on the banjo, the ladies singing, and the humorous items helped to make a good concert. We have also had two dances, very successful ones too, not only from a financial standpoint but showing the social feelings which exist on the Estate. Then every Saturday we hold a Learner's Dancing Class in the Institute, which has been appreciated. We have also had a Whist Drive in which about 40 players took part. Our Tutorial Class though not strong in numbers we hope will grow strong in wisdom and we hope their numbers will increase as the weeks go by. The Debaters this winter have not been so successful but we hope after Christmas they will pull themselves together for a good three month's work. Meetings every Friday. Then we have to report the Recreative Club, who have made a fair number of members, but the secretary would be pleased to see many more present. Their nights are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Then we must report progress with regard to Miss Meekins and her class in the drilling of the children. Also Mr. Tom Wilford who is training the children in their singing and is working hard to get them fit for their Concert in December.

THE ESTATE CRICKET CLUB.

During the past month, meetings have been held of those interested in the above and it has been decided to form a Subscription Cricket Club. At the meeting held on Wednesday November 22nd, the following officers were elected:

President : - Mr. S. Beamish.
 Treasurer : - Mr. C. Goodenough.
 Secretary : - Mr. W. Folwell.
 Committee : Messrs Ward, Purdy, A. Wilford,
 Bowerman, and J. A. Smith.

The first years subscription was fixed at 10/6 2/- to be paid up by January 1st. as entrance fee, half the remainder by May 1st. and the balance by June 1st.

Will all intending members please communicate with the Secretary.

W. FOLWELL.

Items of Interest.

The Concert on December 16th. to be given by the children will no doubt prove very enjoyable, as in addition to Songs and Duets there will be a Dumb-Bell and Indian Club display.

Although County residents, the new Estate C.C., with its lithe, energetic and loose-limbed members could aptly be styled "The Grasshoppers" in contradistinction to "clodhoppers". What's in a name?

Church of Christ. On Wednesday December 13th, Mr. F. S. Herne will deliver a Lecture in the

Meeting House on "The Origin of the New Testament." Many will remember Mr. Herne's previous interesting lecture on a similar subject, and a hearty invitation to be present is given to all.

Gideon—(Perhaps you mean Giddy-un,)—No, as far as we know there is no age limit in connection with the Learner's Dancing Class, as there is such a thing as second childhood. But as to weight we are not prepared to answer, as accidents WILL happen and you might catch your toe.

At the "Ladies at Home" on November 16th, Mrs. Donaldson, (of St. Mark's Leicester,) representing the Health Society, gave an instructive little talk to those present on "Health in the Home," pointing out particularly the importance of admitting as much light and air into our rooms as possible, and keeping out dust and dirt which carry disease germs about. A number of questions were asked and answered.

"The scene was striking, all the benches filled with members whose demeanour was that of strained expectation and absorbed attention." The above is an extract from our local evening paper of Tuesday last, but does it not fully describe the audience at Mr. Essex's concert when the chairman announced the appearing of "A truly happy married man."

It is undoubtedly a very distasteful subject to write upon but although we in our little City are happily out of the reach of such awful calamities, our hearts truly go out to those who are suffering in such a cruel manner as we continually hear about. People we are told having to find their way through the streets of their cities by feeling their way along the walls and railings, just as if they had been stricken with a sudden blindness, and in their frantic desire to reach their homes and families ere it was too late, jostling and knocking each other over with curses and execrations. What a sad picture, and yet we are only writing of the thick fog which enveloped Leicester on Wednesday evening last.

May we be allowed to remind our contributors to whom we offer our best thanks for their assistance, the remarkable fact that this year Christmas Day falls on December 25th. We should therefore feel obliged if they will have their storyettes, poems, and articles ready as early as possible in the month. But jesting aside, fellow-members, should not those who are able to help in the upkeep of their little journal, and there are many, consider it their duty to do so.

We hear there is a machine used in the making of boots and shoes which is described as a "knocker-up." The thought occurred to us that there is a fortune awaiting the man who will invent a really good effective "knocker-up" for use on our Estate on these dark cold winter mornings. The will-power necessary to turn out at the proper time is enormous.

Gardening Notes.

November is the best month in the year to plant all kinds of ornamental and fruit trees. If the soil becomes sticky before the operations are complete lay the roots in a hole and cover well over with soil till early in March.

Flower Beds and Borders cleaned up this month will look tidy through the winter.

Winter digging should be commenced at once and where the soil is inclined to be heavy, or should there be any trouble with garden pests a good dressing of fresh white lime should be worked in. It should be remembered that lime is fertilizing to the soil.

I have been asked on several occasions what I consider best for pathway edging. This has been a difficulty with many gardeners, including myself, and has had my careful consideration. I have made up my mind that Grotto is the most effective and cheapest material to use, one load can be made to go a long way and should not cost more than twelve shillings delivered on site. Tiles are good but will cost three times as much. Boards are expensive and very seldom give satisfaction.

AUTUMN.

Autumn has come to stay awhile
And Nature's leaves are turning gold,
Her grandeur makes the heart to smile
As she her beauty doth unfold;
But flowers die and fade away,
No more to kiss the morning dew,
Nor open to the suns bright ray
As once to us they used to do,
And Summer mourns, for she has lost
Her beauty, which we loved to view;
Her grief we share, ah! at what cost,
For we have lost, a flower too.

T. NEAL.

Omitted from the October A.T.F. owing to lack of space.

Saturday Evening Entertainments

In the Assembly Room.

December 2nd,—Whist Drive.

„ 9th,—Concert arranged by Mr. C. Goodenough.

„ 16th,— „ by Children.

„ 23rd,—Dance.

Friday, December 29th,—**SPECIAL**

Recitals by - - Mr. J. T. HARDY

:: :: and Musical Selection. :: ::

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.

Sir,—Allow me through the aid of your valuable paper to suggest what I believe would be a very useful work for the Estate Council to take in hand. The children residing upon the Estate are one by one arriving at that age when the law permits them to leave school and seek employment and we must all recognise what a difficult problem it is for their parents to know what to do for the best, with the apparent lack of suitable situations and the tendency for many children to drift into the lower grades of employment. Now where one cannot help the many, many may be able to help the one. Let the E.C. keep a register where the children's names can be entered (if so desired by the parents) say at least six months before they leave school, so that an attempt may be made by the E. C. to find such situations as will tend to give our children better opportunities and a greater desire as they grow in years to do all possible for the good of this community and their country generally.

Yours, ANXIOUS.

Following on the above it is very pleasing indeed to note that practically the whole of our youths are attending two or even three of the Evening Classes carried on during the winter in the Leicester Council Schools.—Editor.

Humberstone and District Supply Association.

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