

THE A. T. FORERUNNER.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 3

DECEMBER, 1910.

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

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

The Editor,

c.o. Mr. E. W. Harris,

"St. Ive's," The Avenue.

We ought to feel exceedingly gratified at the splendid tone of the meeting which was held on Nov. 10th, to consider the desirability of a Distributive Society for the Estate. With the exception of a few words which in our opinion would have been better left unsaid, there was no cause for complaint at the speeches made, and the subject was thoroughly discussed. But we are especially pleased with the result of the meeting; inasmuch as it brings within reasonable practability the establishment of a Monthly Journal, owned by, and run in the interests of the Estate in general. The Press to-day holds such an enormous influence in moulding and shaping the course of events, that if it be possible to do otherwise, it must not be allowed to continue in the hands of private persons, whose main idea is the making of a profit, often at the expense of truth and justice. That there is ample talent and ability on the Estate to make a paper of our own quite attractive and useful we are convinced. The expenses would be borne, if not entirely yet nearly so, by the advertisements which would be inserted by the firms supplying the goods to the different departments of the Stores. It must be got up in such a manner as to be a credit to us in the eyes of the outsider, thereby proving itself a useful advertising agent on behalf of the A. T. to all and sundry. We therefore suggest, that one somewhat similar to the **A. T. F.** with covers and additional inside space, would meet the requirements of the Society for the present at any rate, the front page of the cover to be occupied by different views of the Estate, including the Shops and Offices. Our ambition a very laudable one we trust, is to place the A. T. in the forefront of the Garden Suburbs, and so far we have cause to be proud of its development and of those who have been responsible for it.

It is not too early for the General Committee to be considering a scheme for celebrating, next year, the completion of the first portion of the A. T. Estate. This should not be done in any half hearted manner. The G. C. should be prepared to spend both time and money in order that the work may be done creditably and so reflect the pardonable pride with which the members view the wonderful progress made. The G. C. may take the whole of the tenants into its confidence appointing the necessary sub-committees in order to secure, to the fullest extent possible, the hearty co-operation of all, thereby ensuring the complete success of the scheme. To these, might be allotted certain duties, such as Exhibitions, Advertising, Catering, Musical Programme, etc., etc. It may be suggested also that the Educational Committees of Derby and Nottingham, and other centres be approached with a view to the organization, where possible, of excursions to the Estate on the date fixed. Doubtless other suggestions will arise which will require due and careful consideration.

WHAT IS EDUCATION ?

Education is the educing, or drawing out into activity, those capacities which are already within. It follows from this that there are three things which education is not, and does not do. It is incorrect to speak of its making people this or that; education makes nothing. By no possible training can we give a new capacity, or exchange those faculties a man has for others which we think would be more desirable for him.

Instead, therefore, of determining that men and women ought to come up to this or that ideal standard, and endeavouring to raise them to it we must strictly limit our attempted education to the putting it into their power to make the most of themselves, of their merits, and deficiencies; so that it will be possible for them, if they will, to become and to do the best which is in them to do, and to be. Next, education is not the putting correct notions or sound information into the mind. Its object is not the possession of truth, but the attainment of the power of acquiring and possessing it.

And lastly, education is not, and has nothing whatever to do with preparing a man for any special profession. It has to prepare and fit him to live well and worthily the life he is to live in this world.

DR. MELCOMBE.

OUR MOTTO.

"What is chiefly needed in England at the present day is to show the quantity of pleasure that may be obtained by a consistent, well-administered competence, modest, confessed, and laborious. We need examples of people, who, leaving Heaven to decide whether they are going to rise in the world, decide for themselves that they will be happy in it, and have resolved to seek NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES; not higher fortune, but deeper felicity; making the first of possessions, self-possession: and honoring themselves in the harmless pride and calm pursuits of peace."--RUSKIN. "Unto this last."

The above extract from which our A. T. F. motto is taken, was written more than fifty years ago by a philosopher whose memory is revered, and whose teachings and reasonings are continually referred to by all studious and progressive men, and yet, on reading such beautiful words, one is almost tempted to think that they have been expressly penned for the tenants of a Garden Suburb such as ours.

"Not greater wealth" No! not as the world counts wealth—from a sordid monetary standpoint—and if this has been the aim of any one of us in coming out from the town into the beautiful country, then we have surely missed our mark. But the idea is too ridiculous to be considered for a single moment.

Then what has been and still is to be our object? Is it simply to attend to and get what we can from our little plots of land, "minding our own business" as the old saying goes and leaving our neighbours to do the same. This is a mean and selfish conception of happiness; at any rate it is not the "deeper felicity" which Ruskin had in his mind; and will not obtain the real genuine wealth which is within our reach and unlimited—the wealth of comradeship.

As citizens of a Garden City it is our duty to endeavour to so live and administer its affairs, that we may become real examples to others, of happy men and women "honouring ourselves in the harmless pride and calm pursuits of peace." These in themselves will certainly bring their reward, for we shall be far healthier both in bodies and in minds: rich blessings which will undoubtedly pass along as legacies to future generations.

But to my mind the "simpler pleasures" go much further than that. We must realise that we are part of a community with a set purpose individually and collectively, and that upon our present day exertions depend our future happiness and real wealth.

John Burns, M.P., recently remarked "Labour without leisure is drudgery to a man, but leisure without labour is a crime to society" and in my opinion this is especially applicable to our own Society. We must use to the full, whatever abilities we possess

to secure the complete success of any scheme brought forward for the progress of our Estate, whether it be in connection with industry, education, recreation, or the upkeep of its beauty.

But what is far beyond this, let us enter into the joys and sorrows of our neighbours, our fellow members, our community, our brotherhood. These suggestions undoubtedly mean some personal sacrifice, but as the years roll on and our city continues to grow in happiness and in beauty, we shall ourselves enjoy the result of our labours and then leave to our children a heirloom which, of itself alone, the wealth of the whole universe could not purchase.

SIMPLICUS.

REPORTS.

SPECIAL MEETING.

The Special Meeting called by the S.S. Committee was held on Thursday, Nov. 10th. Mr. Groome presided and every available seat was occupied. Mr. Taylor, the Secretary of the Committee, stated briefly the object of the meeting, which, it will be remembered was to consider and decide what should be done in regard to the shops and offices on the eve of erection by the G. C. Three possible courses were suggested; that the shops be let for private enterprise; that the Leicester Distributive Society be persuaded to form a branch; and that the A. T. should form a Distributive Society of their own. The speaker moved on behalf of the S. S. C. that the latter course be taken. He reminded members that funds were needed to carry on the necessary social work of the A. T. and a profitable business was the only means of supply for this purpose. If the L. D. S. opened a branch the profits could not be handled for local purposes. Mr. Wilford seconded and urged that a growing number of members of the A. T. Society were not co-operators, and such a class must of course be catered for. Mr. Mann rose to move an amendment to the effect that the matter be adjourned for twelve months. He thought the whole scheme was much too premature, he was confident that such a business, for a very long time, would not ensure members the same satisfaction as they were at present obtaining from the L. D. S. He contended that there were not sufficient members to make the scheme a success and instanced several rural branches of the L. D. S. which were a loss to the Society. He was certain the L. D. S. could not be persuaded to form a branch here for a similar reason. Mr. P. Mann seconded the amendment. Mr. Hibbett supported the resolution and instanced some rural districts with local societies who paid dividends of from 1/6 to 2/- in the £, and the reason why other villages had failed was because the spending power of agricultural lab-

ourers was considerably less than the artisan in the town, whose trade was naturally much more the type of resident on this estate forms a still greater comparison. Mr. Beamish made it a point that while we were paying for the educational advantages provided for by the L. D. S. we were too far away to participate in them. He supported the resolution. Other members speaking for themselves only voiced sympathy with the scheme, but pleaded that their incomes were so small that they could not support anything that would lessen them, which the lesser dividend and necessary share buying would assuredly do. The resolution on being put was carried by a large majority. Four additional members were elected to serve on the S. S. Committee specially for the new business.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The usual Meeting was held in the Institute on November 17th, and Mr. Groome presided over a fair attendance. After the usual formal business, the delegates to the Conference of the District Association, held at Groby, were called upon to report. Mr. Law in the course of his report criticised freely Mr. Kemp's paper on "How Co operation benefits the working classes," which was read to the delegates. He contended that the aim of co-operation as interpreted by Mr. Kemp was set too low. He maintained that co-operators had not risen to the responsibilities of their ideals. Mr. S. Wilford's impression was that Mr. Kemp had written for his audience who were mainly delegates from county districts. He held that co-operation is a relative term, and is what we ourselves conceive it. The president spoke in similar terms.

Items of Interest.

It has transpired that Mr. Hibbett, is to be nominated for a vacancy on the Parish Council. He has our congratulations, so has the Council. Although he is short we have every confidence that this will not deter him from sitting long.

We understand that the S.S.C. are already taking steps for the welfare of the children, for instance—terms are if possible being arranged for the special instruction of a group of young violinists resident with us.

We thought Guy Fawkes Day had passed until the bomb exploded in the Co-operative Hall at the Quarterly Meeting. Could anyone oblige us with the information as to which member of the Committee reached the platform rail first? Please understand this is not raillery.

It is the opinion of certain of the ladies who attended the S.S.C. Special Meeting that most of the

arguments began and ended in smoke; that in every case the point was 'mist'; that the real point at issue should have been "Is burning tobacco a necessity at public meetings."

It is gratifying to note that the prize awarded for the article which appeared in our last issue has been refused on principle, thus confirming the high standard anticipated of the A. T.

The elder scholars of the Sunday School are heartily taking part in the formation of a Saturday Guild, formed for the purpose of entertaining and educating the children, and meeting from 6 to 7-30 o'clock. A small library has been formed from books kindly lent by teachers, and it is hoped that parents will aid the children in carefully using them.

We were to have a new post in the Avenue, we wonder if the matter has been post-poned.

The lady who occupied the chair at the excellent concert given by the Sanvey Gate Choir, must be complimented on her apt observation "When the carpet laid dear father on the stair." What a masculine growl went through the auditorium; but the chair MUST be respected.

Recollections of exhilarating hours spent upon the frozen Scraptoft Pool, in bygone days, impel us to suggest to the Secretary that he write to the gentleman at Scraptoft Hall for his kind permission for A. T.'s to skate upon the said pool when the occasion is ripe.

Mr. J. T. Taylor having resigned the secretaryship of the Social Service Committee, Mr. Jayes has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

It has been thought advisable by the S.S.C. owing to the increased numbers of residents upon the estate, to hold the adults and children's festivals on different nights.

Would all members in favour of forming a library kindly communicate with Mr. R. Law. It is suggested that book lovers may be kind enough to loan a few books each, thus making a nucleus of a future library. Mr. Law will stand as librarian and will organize the whole matter. Such a collection should prove invaluable to debaters as a means of reference, to say nothing of the general benefit by temporary exchange. This is Co-operation. Mr. Law will make a call on residents for the purpose of seeing what can be done.

WATCH THIS COLUMN

in our next issue as the Social Service Committee have expressed a desire for space in the **A. T. F.**

Gardening Notes.

When the month of December arrives with its short days and long evenings, many gardeners prefer to do part of their gardening by the fireside, so perhaps a few hints for this purpose will be acceptable.

A most enjoyable book is Mr. John Wright's 10 Lectures on Gardening, dedicated to the Surrey County Council, to be had at the Educational Depot, I believe, for tenpence. If any good lady wishes to make her husband a christmas present she will find this a capital one.

Get out a plan of your garden, showing the various plots to be used for the following season, flowers and vegetables, which will help you considerably when the time comes for planting.

A few good catalogues will offer you some interesting reading, which will encourage you to make out your seed list for the coming season.

The Notes for last month may still be kept in mind if not already complete.

I hear from good authority, the fungus pest known as the American Woolly Aphis, has been seen in this district. Will all A. T.'s please examine their trees for this pest, it is quite noticeable, by its fluffy appearance, which usually infests the stems at every notch where a cut has previously been made, and seriously injures the trees. If this pest is taken in hand as soon as noticed it can easily be eradicated, but if left for the wind to blow it about it will soon become very serious both to yourselves and your fellow-neighbours. I have seen whole orchards infested with this pest in a couple of seasons.

The following will be found good remedies:—Methylated Spirits brushed well into the bark, at the same time being careful not to allow the fluffy substance to escape; or dissolve a quarter of a pound of soft soap and a walnut-sized lump of soda in a gallon of soft boiling water, and while hot stir in violently a wineglass-full of petroleum such as is burned in lamps.

T. R.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

Owing to pressure of space we regret we are unable to give full reports of the meetings of the above Society. On November 11th, Miss Pethick, the local Secretary of the Suffragette movement gave an interesting address, and as it was an open meeting, the Institute was crowded with tenants and their wives who expressed their appreciation of Miss Pethick's efforts. On November 25th, Mr. Neal introduced the subject, "Business: does sentiment pay?" and a long discussion followed.

Letters to the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

Letters to the Editor need not be signed. Writer's name and address must accompany letters, but will not be published unless required.

Dear Sir,—The letters published in your Nov. issue in reply to the one written by me for your previous number, are worthy of the consideration of all gardeners on the A. T. Estate. Undoubtedly quality should be the first consideration, and cleanliness is one of those points that immediately catches the eyes of all visitors. The question of a market for all surplus produce was not touched upon, but, I suppose, time will bring along with it those facilities necessary for the purpose.

RUSTICUS.

We regret that we must remind our readers that we cannot insert any letter unless accompanied by the sender's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

SNOW FLAKES.

Out of the bosom of the air,
Out of the cloud-folds of her garments shaken,
Over the woodlands brown and bare,
Over the harvest fields forsaken,
Silent, and soft, and slow
Descends the snow.

Even as our cloudy fancies take
Sudden shape in some divine expression,
Even as the troubled heart doth make
In the white countenance confession,
The troubled sky reveals
The grief it feels.

This is the poem of the air,
Slowly in silent syllables recorded:
This is the secret of despair,
Song in its cloudy bosom hoarded
Now whispered and revealed
To wood and field.

LONGFELLOW.

Saturday Evening Concerts.

THE SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE
have arranged the following:

- December 3rd,—Social and Dance.
" 10th,—Mr. Ellson and Party.
" 17th,—Open Night.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

- December 24th,—Parent's Night. Choral Society.
" 28th,—Children's Christmas Party.
" 29th,—Whist Drive for benefit of Choral Society
Tickets 6d.