

THE LINK

The Official Organ of the Humberstone Garden Suburb.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 28.

JULY, 1914.

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Editorial.

THE INFLUENCE OF BOOKS.

Recent correspondence in the LINK has made it plain that there are some bookworms amongst us, and moreover, there is apparently a growing desire for collective book-ownership. That is good. There was once a time when the possession of books was looked upon as signifying the possession of knowledge; a man's intelligence was judged according to the number and character of the volumes in his bookcase, which more often than not were provided as a necessary adjunct to a completely furnished house. Mark Twain, the eminent American humorist, has often satirically referred in his works to the orthodox parlour, which was never used, with the inevitable china dogs upon the mantelpiece keeping guard over the books (which were never opened), correctly spaced upon the table. That outlook is happily passing, and those in possession of books are becoming solicitous that others may also enjoy the hidden treasures within.

Just as agricultural implements are necessary tools wherewith to cultivate the fruits of the earth in order to satisfy our physical hungerings, so are books the necessary tools that will provide the much-needed food for the mind. A good workman knows how to use his tools; similarly the educated man of to-day is the man who knows how to use books.

It was not always so. Before the invention of printing, a man could be very well educated and know nothing of books. But to-day the knowledge of reading and writing has become so general that the power to handle books, and to select them, is part of the normal and necessary outfit of an educated man. This power is one that we should cultivate. Just as it is necessary that we should be able to select at sight, as it were, the news it is worth our while to learn, so should we be able to tell almost at a glance whether a book is worth our while to read—whether it has been written for gain or for service.

It has been said there is no thrift so thriftless as saving on tools; every workman knows this. It might also be truly added that there is no thrift so thriftless as saving on books. But, alas, the family budget of the mass of the people, hovering so near the poverty line, leaves no scope for the provision of books; even an occasional newspaper is almost a luxury. Communities are now, happily, meeting this want by collective ownership of lending libraries and reading rooms.

Just as the economic poverty of the people may be alleviated, it is argued, by the releasing of the large resources of wealth in land and minerals, &c., hitherto preserved for a few, so also the intellectual poverty of the people may be diminished by distributing the hoarded wealth in literature once confined to the library shelves of the few.

One of the greatest handicaps to education for the working classes and their children is the absence of books in the home. It is perhaps this more than anything else that has made free competition for scholarships such a farce, from the poorer-class point of view. The well-to-do child, if he is well brought up, has from his earliest years every book he needs, and no amount of hard work on the part of his poorer brother—he he ever so industrious and prodigal of the midnight oil in later years—can make up for the deprivations of his earlier life. For this reason every avenue to the cultivation of intellect should be freely opened to the worker and his children. Books, properly selected and carefully studied, are great factors towards man's refinement and mental growth, and every means should be seized upon to make the task of acquiring knowledge easy. That is why we welcome the desire which is becoming articulate for some collective scheme of book-lending for our own residents—and why we hope something tangible will be done before winter comes.

WHITSUNTIDE ENTERTAINMENT.

On Whit Monday evening the Assembly Room was packed to overflowing to enjoy the programme arranged by a few of the residents. The genial secretary of the Estate Council presided, and during the interval Mr. J. S. Wilford presented the prizes won in the Sports. The principal attractions were a couple of sketches, and in addition very interesting items were rendered by Miss Cissy Evans (of Birmingham), Miss C. Marshall, and Mr. Langham.

The first sketch, entitled "Sam Slithervick's Babies," was exceedingly well received, and taking into consideration that this was the initial effort of some of the performers it was excellently performed. The cast was:—Sam Slithervick, Mr. Hunt; Ann (his wife), Mrs. Bowerman; Mrs. Cotton (her mother), Mrs. Orton; Mrs. Potts (a neighbour), Mrs. Scott; Mrs. Plane (a carpenter's wife), Mrs. Langley; Mrs. Soaker (a nurse), Mrs. Chapman; John Aquo (a milkman), Mr. Wright; Herr Schwartz (a German quack), Mr. Cashmore; Gyp (the butcher's boy), Mr. Chapman.

The second part of the programme was mainly devoted to a farce. We were told that this was to be a "screaming farce," and, indeed, the audience was kept in such an uproar from start to finish that "screaming" was a mild definition. The cast for this was:—Nicodemus Nobbs (a hawker of toy windmills), Mr. Hunt; Mr. Roseleaf (a dude), Mr. Bowerman; Mr. Mackintosh Moke (a merchant), Mr. Chapman; Julia (his wife), Mrs. Chapman; Susan (a maid), Mrs. Scott. Again the acting was high-class, and evidently the Amateur Dramatic Society has some excellent material with which to commence operations during the coming winter.

Just a word of praise to the stage management. The arrangement of the stage, with such limited scope, was highly satisfactory.

The Annual Sports.

The Annual Sports arranged by the Estate Council took place on Whit Monday afternoon. The weather was simply delightful, and a large crowd, including a very considerable number of visitors, were present. Mr. R. Scott acted as starter, and Messrs. J. S. Wilford and G. Ward were the judges. The results were as follows :—

50 yards Race for Tiny Boys :—Cliff Berridge (8 yds.), 1; Mark Bowerman (scratch), 2.

60 yards Race for Boys (6 to 10) :—Heat 1, A. Harrott (2 yds.), 1; P. Hunt (2 yds.), 2. Heat 2, C. Freeman (2 yds.), 1; C. Grant (scratch), 2. Final, A. Harrott (2 yds.), 1; C. Grant (scratch), 2; C. Freeman (2 yds.), 3.

60 yards Race for Girls (6 to 10) :—Heat 1, C. Riley (scratch), 1; G. Pollard (3 yds.), 2; Heat 2, I. Chapman (2 yds.), 1; U. Rimington (scratch), 2. Final, I. Chapman (2 yds.), 1; U. Rimington (scratch), 2; C. Riley (scratch), 3.

Girls' Skipping Race :—G. Mawby, 1; E. Lewitt, 2.

Boys' Sack Race :—L. Winterton, 1; N. Harrott, 2.

Ladies' Egg and Spoon Race :—Miss Evelyn Parker, 1; Mrs. Jasper, 2; Mrs. Backus, 3.

100 yards Race for Men :—Heat 1, E. Peberdy (scratch), 1; H. Rowlett (6 yds.), 2; W. Butler (1 yd.), 3. Heat 2, —. Backus (5 yds.), 1; H. Winterton (4 yds.), 2; A. Vass (3 yds.), 3. Final, E. Peberdy (scratch), 1; H. Rowlett (6 yds.), 2; W. Butler (1 yd.), 3.

Tug-of-War :—Lilac Avenue beat Laburnum Road; Fern Rise beat Keyham Lane. Final, Lilac Avenue beat Fern Rise, the winning team being :—Messrs. W. Neal, —. Clarke, —. Hunt, G. Duffin, E. Peberdy, and A. Vass.

SWEET PEA AND ROSE SHOW.

In view of the nearness of above—which takes place on Saturday, July 11th—and in order to refresh the minds of intending competitors who have mislaid their April LINK, we reproduce the schedule. It is hoped there will be a good number of entries and a record attendance.

SWEET PEAS (4 CLASSES).

1st—Four vases of distinct varieties, 6 blooms in each, own foliage.

2nd—One vase of 20 blooms, any variety (not necessarily distinct), own foliage.

3rd—Six vases of distinct varieties, 6 blooms in each, own foliage.

4th—(Confined to Ladies). One Spray of Sweet Peas, any variety and any foliage.

ROSES (4 CLASSES).

1st—Four distinct varieties, 1 bloom in each vase, as grown.

2nd—One bowl of roses (unlimited), any variety.

3rd—One vase, 1 premier bloom, as grown.

4th—One button hole.

“What is the worth of a platonic participation in political government, the right to vote, if the people are kept slaves to misery, to slack seasons, to sharp and chronic hunger?”—*Enrico Ferri, Italy.*

Items of Interest.

BIRTH.—On the 22nd inst., to Mr. and Mrs. Gill (Rosedene), a son (still-born).

The return of Mrs. Vass to our midst, after her long and trying illness, has given great pleasure. We congratulate her on her partial restoration to health, and trust she will soon be completely recovered.

Apropos of the opening of the Wesleyan Mission on the Estate, it may be of interest to note that their connection with the village is of some antiquity; the Chapel in the village was formerly Wesleyan, and the name John Iliffe, Humberstone, occurs among the trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel erected in Millstone Lane, Leicester, in 1787.

“Genius consists in making the other fellow do the work.” This is why the Editor smiles when a new contributor comes along. Short contributions of an interesting character—they should not exceed one column—are always welcomed.

On three or four match-days during the last month or so, members of the H.G.S.C.C. in cricket attire have been noticeably prominent so long as daylight lasted. Why this new pride in the uniform?

During the course of a recent Sunday mid-day repast, ninety-three wives (approximately) inquired of ninety-three erring and laggard husbands how it was that So-and-So's could have garden peas for dinner that day, and they couldn't. This, like the coming of the cuckoo, is a yearly occurrence.

Cyclists approaching our Estate by way of Stenes Lane invariably suffer from “brain storm” when passing through the “Pin District,” and if the thought waves there set in motion could only be communicated to the perpetrator of the nuisance a remedy would no doubt soon be forthcoming.

MONTHLY MEETING.—This was held in the Assembly Room on June 18th, and presided over by Mr. E. T. Groome. Mr. R. Scott reported progress regarding the Dramatic Society and the proposed Band. Mr. J. S. Wilford gave the General Committee's Report, and the proposal for collecting the rates for current half-year, which after a little discussion was adopted.

A pleasing little ceremony took place on Thursday afternoon, June 25th, in the Assembly Room, when the members of the Ladies' Gymnastic Class met together for an hour's chat and tea. After the teacups were emptied, Mrs. Meekins, in a happy speech, on behalf of the members of the now disbanded class, handed to Mrs. Parsloe (the instructor) a cut-glass rose bowl, and to Mrs. Purdy (who played the musical accompaniments for the exercises and charmed music out of the Institute piano) a beautiful vase, which she hoped the recipients would like. Much regret was expressed at Mrs. Parsloe's removal from the Estate; and after the recipients had given expression to their surprise and thanks, and the articles had been admired, the gathering dispersed. Special interest in his mother's present was evinced by Master Baby Purdy, who was evidently convinced that the vase was for drinking out of, and was constantly making grabs at it for that purpose.

In Leicester Square.

Time—Evening.

Place—Tube Station, Leicester Square.

Occasion—The introduction of the Budget.

Here is a most busy and populous part of London, especially in the evening. People are rushing to the Twopenny Tube, while the motor-buses on either side of the road are taking up and setting down hundreds of passengers—to say nothing of taxi cabs. Close by the Tube Station is the Criterion Theatre, and people stand in line waiting admission to see "A Pair of Silk Stockings." At the Pavilion opposite Harry Tate is now drawing large houses by his fine display of golf on the stage. If you have a fit of the blues see Tate in Golf, and you will find a certain cure.

The main feature of to-night is that newsmen are shouting themselves hoarse about "Lloyd Jarge's Badget." Two men must especially be singled out. They are selling the more respectable penny evening papers, *Pall Mall* and *Westminster Gazette*. The *Star*, *Evening News* and *Standard* belong to Euston Road and the New Cut.

A cart has just arrived with the last edition; a rapid exchange is made; the new contents bill is now displayed:—"Extra Special, Lloyd George's New Taxes." And now our friends are shouting the more: *Pall Mall*, *Pall Mall*—all the latest, all the white news. Here you are again; thank you, sir—quite right, sir. He's stuck anover shillin' on, sir; the pipers will be tupence to-morrow and we're all agoing on strike. *Pall Mall*, *Pall Mall*! Did you gimme a sixpence, or was it a freppenny bit, sir? May I keep the chainge, sir, to 'elp me pay me taxes? Thank you—*Pall Mall*, *Pall Mall*!

For a time our friend of the *Pall Mall* is doing the better trade, while our friend of the opposite view is content to say: "*Westminster*, extra special." The quiet manner of the *Westminster* seems to vex *Pall Mall*, who offers him some of his papers:—

"Say, 'Enry, I'll lend ye a few o' mine. Your blooming pipers are like the Guvernment—nobody wants 'em!"

Then *Pall Mall* breaks into song, giving us an improved version of a very popular hymn of our childhood:—

"Shall we garver at ver river,
Where Lloyd Jarge's feet have trod?
Then we'll watch and wait for ever
While he 'as some of his old kod."

I tell you it's all in the pipers—*Pall Mall*!"

The song did it, *Westminster* could not stand it any longer:—

"I say, Cecil, your pipers don't half want a bit o' sellin'. First ye as ter be a salesman, then you does a bit of Giddy & Giddy (a firm of auctioneers) and finishes up wiv a bit of Jarge Robey wivout his dibs. I shud like to know what they pays you for all this? Do they want any more at your orifice?"

"Garn! What oh—no you didn't!"

A gent had just thrown away a cork-tipped cigarette end, and the two men strive for the ownership of such a priceless gem. *Pall Mall* wins. Placing the end between his lips, head erect, one thumb in his vest, he does three steps and puffs the smoke into the air:—

"The Guvment 'as lorst again! *Pall Mall*—*Pall Mall*! Quite right sir. *Pall Mall* wins every time. What say—ninepence for fourpence, I don't fink!

Why don't ye tell the gents Jarge is agoing to give yer a bob for a tanner? No, he'd be a giving ye three months!"

This banter and chaff went on for some time with quite a merry swing, and then the two men embraced, and one was at a loss to know if it is the latest exhibition of the Catch-as-Catch-can or a demonstration of the Tango. The last draw at the cork tip is now taken with difficulty, the end is thrown away with many regrets, and: "Well I hopes as how the gent will leave an extra arf-inch longer next time he's passing."

"There you are!" says *Westminster*, "always a looking out for charity, while I buys me own and frows the ends to sech as you! No wonder ye have ter squeal for a living. It's a wonder ye not locked up for disorderly conduct, I tell ye the Guvment's too good to ye!"

"Now, Jarge, chuck it! What did Lord Salisbury say? What did Lord Bakonsfield say, not forgetting me old friend *John Bull*? Thank you sir, *Pall Mall*—yes, sir, the latest, you will smile!"

"Well, never mind what dead men say! What does King Karson say? Why, they wouldn't have him at Battersea—no, Madam Toosord's couldn't find him room in the Chamber of 'Orrors. Quite right—Saint Jarge, 'e always wif gentlemen, the only difference is——"

But what the difference was I was not to know, for my friend, who had arrived fifteen minutes late, clapped me on the back.

E.M.

Letters to the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

A BOOK CLUB.

To the EDITOR.

SIR,—A lending library will be absolutely essential as our community grows. It will take some years, however, to make it efficient. In the meantime, why not a Book Club? It need not retard the Library scheme in the slightest, but would rather help it along, and provide a supply of literature immediately. A dozen members with a subscription of rd. per week could start a club. It looks as though the time has now come to take some definite step. Perhaps the Estate Council will take this matter up.—Yours, &c.,

BOOKWORM.

THE COMMON BOND.

"In a *Daily Dispatch* article recently the writer of it asserted that residents in Garden Suburbs were peculiar people, with kinks in their constitutions. While we do not altogether agree with this statement, we think that a good many people before taking up their abode in Garden Suburbs have to overcome certain prejudices. However, having arrived there, the majority, taking a proprietary interest in the place, become missionaries, preaching the gospel of fresh air and open space. They also accept the responsibilities as well as the enjoyments of the social life of the Suburb, and though differing perhaps on minor points, agree generally on matters affecting the district as a whole. It is to this sense of responsibility that we appeal."—*Thingwallian*.

The efficient mother who can make the best of her children is the most important sort of person in the State.—H. G. Wells.

The Dublin Co-operative Congress.

The annual Congress of the Co-operators of the United Kingdom, was held, for the first time in Ireland, in the city of Dublin. Whitsuntide was the time of year set apart for the gathering. It compared favourably with any of its predecessors. Your readers will perhaps care to have a short report of its proceedings.

The Exhibition, which always accompanies the Congress, was housed in a skating rink of large dimensions, and proved a great attraction to the city's inhabitants, great crowds finding their way into it every day. I should imagine there would be a record attendance. There was a fine display of co-operatively made goods, from the three Wholesales (Irish, Scotch and English), and the Co-partnership Productive Societies. The opening ceremony was rendered noteworthy by good speeches from Sir Grattan Bellew (chairman) and Mr. Barbour, M.A., who opened it.

Sunday morning found the co-partners met together at breakfast. This is always an inspiring meeting, and was none the less so on this occasion. Mr. E. O. Greening, who occupied the chair, is as strong in the faith as when a young man; and younger men are stepping into the fighting line.

On Saturday evening, the Reception Committee provided a real musical treat in the Mansion House. The programme was interspersed with a speech on "Epochs in Industrial History," by Sir Grattan Bellew, and a practical co-operative discourse by Mr. Dudley, C.W.S. director.

On Monday the Congress proper opened. The speech of the President, Mr. R. Fleming, of Belfast, will rank high as a delivery from the presidential chair. Never has it been excelled, seldom has it been equalled. It was a real treat as a literary composition, delivered extempore, with splendid intonation and silvery voice, and will long be remembered. It expressed full sympathy with the workers' efforts to raise their position, and their desire for a better share of the wealth they create. It however breathed toleration to all shades of opinions. The President declared that co-operation was able to redress most of the ills workmen were suffering from.

After receiving various deputations from bodies, such as Trade Union Congress and the Teachers' Union, and introducing the foreign delegates, the business proper began. Questions of various kinds affecting the movement were discussed. Amongst those most interesting were, educational matters. The Parliamentary Committee's report provoked a warm discussion, because in approaching Mr. Asquith, to ask the Government to give facilities for the passing of the Industrial and Provident Societies Amendment Act, they had told Mr. Asquith, that a large majority of co-operators were adherents of the Liberal Party. The question of fusion with other bodies was closed by the chairman, because the C.W.S. moved an amendment postponing the same until another congress; the standing orders saying such an amendment must be put immediately without debate. This created somewhat of an angry scene, many evidently desiring to speak thereon.

A resolution was moved by the Leicester Society, calling upon the United Board to bring about Con-

ciliation and Arbitration Boards, composed of an equal number of employees, and members of committees of management. This was carried by a large majority. Resolutions concerning amalgamation, federation, and condemning the Proprietary Articles Association's action in trying to force co-operative societies to put the amount of dividend they paid upon the price of their articles sold. The question as to whether co-operators could keep down the price of articles was introduced by Father Findlay, who dealt with it in an able manner; declaring they could do something in this direction. A very good discussion ensued. The closer connection of agricultural, productive and distributive societies was dealt with by Mr. Russell, Editor of the "Irish Homestead," who provoked a discussion of a high order in connection therewith.

Space forbids my dealing with the speeches at the evening meetings, suffice it to say they more than kept up to the average standard.

The Garden City Committee held a meeting, which was poorly attended, at which they submitted their report of work done. A short paper was also read on "House building by co-operators, will it pay?" Mr. Bethel, the reader, is an architect, and he said with care and proper attention it could. He advocated co-operative societies laying out estates on garden suburb lines. This committee has done useful work by helping several societies with plans.

The excursion to the far-famed lakes of Killarney gave an opportunity to see some of the finest scenery in Ireland, a description of which I will not attempt.

Altogether, the first Irish Co-operative Congress will live in the memory of many for a long time, and when the song "Come back to Erin," is heard, it will find a ready response in the hearts of those who were allowed the privilege of this visit.

I desire to thank the committee and members of the Anchor Tenants Society, for allowing me the opportunity of representing them.

MRS. A. MANN.

THE WESLEYAN OPENING MEETINGS.

On June 6th the Wesleyan Methodist Church held its inaugural meetings in the Assembly Room. The afternoon meeting was well attended, both by Estate residents and supporters from the town. The proceedings included an address of welcome by Mr. J. S. Wilford and speeches by Mr. T. Chamberlain and the Revs. J. Cooke and J. Holmes, explanatory of the work to be carried on. Some excellent musical items were rendered by the Wesley Hall Choir. A public tea was provided, at which over 100 people sat down, after which an interval was spent in viewing the Estate, its gardens and various sports grounds. In the evening a large congregation filled the Assembly Room and were charmed with the splendid singing of part songs by the "Saxe Prize Choir." Mr. Hadly was chairman. The Rev. J. Holmes explained that the church at Humberstone Garden Suburb was not being commenced to teach any dogmas or "isms," but in order to preach the Word in as unexclusive a manner as possible. Mr. E. Burrows said it was found that the spiritual needs of the district were not fully met and a request having been made for the opening of another place of worship, they had been pleased to come to the aid of the local friends. Further songs by the Saxe Choir marked the close of a very successful day's meetings.

THE SUN-SHAFT.

I'm here in a city office pent,
When athwart my ledger a sun-shaft falls—
For me a wireless message sent
From the great green woods where the blackbird calls.

I see green fields in a sweet May noon,
Lying broad bosomed in the sun,
And I hear the lark's wild throbbing tune.
And my years in the city are all undone.

And I'm down where the tapering poplars rise,
And I see the swallows about the mill,
And I laugh aloud to the open skies,
As I cross the ford and go up the hill.

And I'm on again by the woodland track,
And the cuckoo calls from somewhere near,
And—I hear a gruff voice at my back,
And I'm back again in my office here.

—Andrew Dodds.

CRICKET CLUB

We are able to record four very creditable wins during the past few weeks. Both the games in Whit-week provided exciting finishes. In the Tuesday's game E. Peberdy took 7 wickets for 17 runs, and on the Wednesday C. H. Goodenough 8 for 22; against Wilkes Bros. E. Peberdy took 4 for 12, and W. Butler 2 for 4. On Saturday, June 20th, at Belgrave, E. Wilford took 2 for 6, A. Duffin 2 for 3, and W. Harding 2 for 0; so it will be seen our bowlers are acquitting themselves in fine style.

One point the Committee wish to emphasize—will any member who is picked for a match and unable to play, please notify the secretary as early as possible; we are arranging for the team list to be made out on Tuesday night so that it can be in the cases by Wednesday night.

The secretary wishes to intimate at this period that it is his definite intention to resign the position at the next annual meeting.

H. FOLWELL.

RESULTS TO DATE.

Saturday Games.

- May 23—F. J. Palfreyman & Co, abandoned owing to wet.
„ 30—Castle, 99; H.G.S.C.C., 35.
June 2—Belgrave Hall, 35; H.G.S.C.C., 55.
„ 3—Temperance Hall, 60; H.G.S.C.C., 61.
„ 6—Friends Adult, 109; H.G.S.C.C., 37.
„ 13—Wilkes Bros., 33; H.G.S.C.C., 40.
„ 20—Belgrave Hall, 82; H.G.S.C.C., 102.

Wednesday Night Practice Matches.

- June 10—Gimsons', 45; H.G.S.C.C., 62.
„ 17—Victor, 60; H.G.S.C.C., 38.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES.

Saturdays.

- July 4—Humberstone Road P.M. (home).
„ 11—Great Meeting (home).
„ 18—Belgrave (Belgrave).
„ 25—Wilkes Bros. (home).

Mid-week Practice Matches.

- June 24 (Wednesday)—Anchor Works.
„ 25 (Thursday)—Deaf and Dumb.
July 1 (Wednesday)—Old Humberstone.
„ 8 (Wednesday)—Gimson & Co.

Garden Notes.

One of the most necessary tools in the garden is the hoe. Besides being useful for moulking up potatoes and chopping out weeds, it should be used all over the garden once a week in dry weather. This not only adds wonderful fertility to the soil by letting in the air, but it also keeps down the many cracks which allow the moisture and goodness of the soil to evaporate. The more the hoe is used the less watering is required. If watering is necessary, however, give a good soaking—but never forget the hoeing on the following night.

It is not uncommon to hear people say, "which is the best hoe?" To me the one most useful is the one with three flat prongs like a fork on one side and a blade on the other.

A very good insecticide has come to my notice this week, its name is "Katakiller." It is very cheap and effective, a threepenny packet making two and a half gallons.

Spring cabbage seed may be sown on the third week and autumn sown onions on the last week of this month; before sowing seeds give drills a good watering; in the case of cabbage, cover with fine soil, onions with bonfire ash, the latter being a good stimulant to carry them through the winter.

T. R.

GOOSEBERRY SAWFLY.

The small spotted dark green caterpillars that are so fond of gooseberry and currant leaves are the larvæ of the sawfly. The fly appears in April and May, and lays clusters of eggs on the underside of the leaves, and the larvæ hatch out in about eight days. At first they are white but soon change to dark green, and finally to light green. In about twenty days the caterpillars are fully developed and drop to the ground to turn into chrysalis; later the perfect insect emerges to start the whole process again. There are two and often three broods in a season. They are most industrious if undisturbed, and will quickly clear a gooseberry or currant bush of all but the mid-ribs of the leaves. They may be easily shaken off, without disturbing the berries, and caught on a newspaper spread underneath. The soil round the trees should be treated with an insecticide in autumn or early spring to kill the pupæ.

The diseases of society are produced by the practice of building society with rotten material.—G. B. Shaw.

* * * *

"Wheresoever the search after truth begins, there life begins; wheresoever that search ceases, there life ceases."—Ruskin.

* * * *

"The only true conquests—those which awaken no regret—are those obtained over ignorance."—Napoleon.

Mr. A. GOLLAND, Professor of Music (Organist & Choirmaster, St. Anne's Church, Western Park), receives pupils for Piano and Organ. Special terms for Estate residents. Residence:—"Ingleside," Fern Rise.

FEVENE POWDERS, Cooling and Healthful, two a 1d.; **HEALTH SALT**, 1d. per ounce.—Willowdene, Laburnum Road.

Children's Corner.

ABOUT CROWNS.

I once heard a boy say, that if he were a king, he would swing on a gate all day and eat bread and cheese.

Don't you think that was a funny idea of kingly occupation? Once I asked a little girl what she would like to be when she grew up, and she replied, "I should like to be a queen, because they wear golden crowns, beautiful dresses and diamonds."

Of course it was natural for a boy to think it would be fine for him to swing on a gate all day, and I expect every girl likes to wear fine clothes, but I am not sure that swinging on a gate is a fit occupation for a king, though I have read of kings who employed their time in a far more dangerous manner, and of course we ought also to expect of a queen something better than wearing fine clothes.

Boys and girls, however, I expect all think it a great honour to wear a crown, but I am sure the honour depends a good deal on why it is worn.

There have been kings and queens in England, and also in other countries, who have worn golden crowns and fine clothes, who were never loved and honoured by their subjects, and, indeed, did not deserve to be, for they were not kingly in their conduct. You have read of them in your histories and you do not admire them.

I have read of crowns which were worn that were not golden, they were not on the heads of kings and queens, and yet, I am sure, when I tell you why they were worn, there is not a boy or girl anywhere but would like to deserve to wear one when they grow up.

The Romans, who ruled a great Empire long before our British Empire was formed, used to give crowns to the brave, the good, and the clever, and though they were not crowns of gold, every Roman was eager to obtain and proud to wear one.

Sometimes, for they were warlike days, a Roman town would be besieged by an enemy, and the in-

habitants would be in great distress, and then perhaps one day a brave General and his troops would come to their relief to drive the foe away, and the town would be free once more.

And then to those who had saved the town there would be given the victor's crown, and there was never a General but was proud to win and wear it, although it soon faded, for it was made only of the grass and the wild flowers that grew in the neighbourhood, but it was valuable because it was the emblem of the people's gratitude to the brave men who had saved their city from destruction.

There were many other crowns, some made of the leaves of the vine or the olive tree, and some even of parsley, which were given to people who were deemed worthy of honour.

And there was one of which I was reminded a month ago when one morning I noticed that most of the boys and girls, on their way to school, were "showing their oak"; this was called a civic crown, because it was given by the "Consul" or Mayor as we should call him, as a reward to any Roman citizen who saved the life of another person.

Perhaps one day a citizen had plunged into the Tiber, which is a river flowing through Rome, and saved a fellow creature from drowning, or rescued someone who in other ways was in danger of losing his life; and then as a reward for his valour he would receive a crown made of oak leaves, and you may be sure he would indeed be proud to "show his oak."

Had I been a Roman citizen in those days so long ago, I think it would have been better to have earned by some brave deed of service the crown of wild flowers, or of oak leaves, than have been born a king's son and inherited a golden crown, and lived all my days cruel, wicked, and unkingly, as some monarchs have done.

UNCLE.

The fact that the little we can do to make the world better is small indeed is often our excuse for doing nothing, but it is a very poor excuse.

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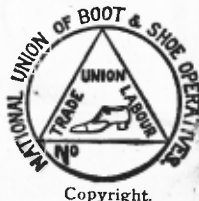
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