Rev. Spencer Wade's Valedictory.

"A LITTLE MORE PRINCIPLE WOULD BE A HEALTHY THING."

"TOO MUCH SMALL TALK."

St. Mary's Church was well filled on Sunday night, when the Rev. Spencer Wade, curate, preached his farewell sermon, basing his remarks upon the words: "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world"—St. Matthew, xxviii., 20. He said there was no season of the church's year so replete with messages for christian people as Christmas time, and, glancing at the lessons to be drawn from the recurrence of saints' days, and especially the precepts of love inculcated by the teaching of St. John, he remarked that there never was a period in the history of the world, so far as they knew, when men needed more the spirit of love among them than at this hour. The evangelist had traced the genealogy of Christ from Abraham to David and Joseph, and had dealt with the earthly life of One Who was both God and man—tempted in all points as they were, to-day, yet without sin—and the old writer had followed Jesus through a life of suffering and misunderstanding to a criminal's death. St. Matthew told them of the Redeemer's resurrection, and of the disciples going away into a lonely mountain apart. The love of their Master was all in all to them, and St. Matthew spoke of the risen Lord giving them His last commandment, which was embodied in the text. And while they thought for a moment of the loneliness of the disciples they reflected that man was a gregarious animal, living and consorting with His fellow-men, though there was yet a chamber deep down in the recesses of each individual heart into which no one was allowed to enter. Still man was a lonely creature, and their Saviour Christ was herein their greatest exemplar, for He, too, was a man of solitude, though the lonely Master came to His own, and His own received Him not. His principles were revolutionary for His day: no one understood Him: He was unique in character. Jesus kept away from "the madding crowd's ignoble strife." It had been the preacher's privilege to visit many people they all knew in Barnard Castle, and he could tell them that there were many lonely hearts even in a small place like this—people who worked here for their church and their fellow-men, and who, as the speaker suggested, received inconsiderate recognition. They did not cry in the street, but they were doing their little bit, and their homes were the power stations from which church workers and the clergy got their strength—the engines which enabled them to go on. The mystery of God becoming man they celebrated on Christmas Day, and the fact that God in Christ through the incarnation was amongst them had a magnificent influence upon them, for it lifted their humanity out of degradation, and put it upon a higher plain altogether. Man, after all, was a noble creature, and he ventured solemnly to think that if they thought more of their real selves and the wonderful gift that God had poured upon them, they would try to estimate man at his right value, and, so far from being selfish, they would be more considerate to their fellow-men. He briefly alluded to the social unrest in Britain prior to the outbreak of hostilities, and in this war Mr Wade saw again the presence of God in Christ in the world, and he felt that there was some great purpose in this conflict of arms. Another year was about to begin, and, as far as they could see, the campaign would last a while longer yet. They were asked to make greater sacrifices still, and he implored them to make those sacrifices, even if it be their lives, in the *full realization* that God was ever on the side of the right.

This was the Last Occasion on which he would be Privileged to Speak to Them.

He said he was a mere babe in experience though he had worked in the slums of Manchester, and was not entirely ignorant of the East End of London. He had not only lived with the rich, but with the poor, and believe him, without flattery, when he said that he did not think he had ever worked so hard or so happily as he had laboured in Barnard Castle. Say what they would, this was a little country place, and he was going to tell them one or two of their faults, as, indeed, they had told him of his own. There was too much small talk. Stories got abroad, and they were enlarged upon, and, if ill was not meant, yet ill was the result. He would like to see a little more principle, which would be a healthy thing. These were the only faults which he knew of—just a little too much chatter, meaning nothing, though it could hurt a lot. An unkindly word spoken about someone could cut the object aimed at to the heart of hearts. He had personally learned to love their scenery, their river, and their homes, and now it had pleased his Bishop to call him to greater and more responsible work. His year's experience in Barnard Castle had taught him so much that he dared now to go and face it. He had had his difficulties here, and the congregation knew them, but, whenever he had a difficult task to perform, he had always had dozens of willing helpers. He asked them to pray for him. It had always been his ambition, and he spoke to them as a boy, to prepare himself—though he had found embarrassment in talking to people so much older, so much wiser, so much more clever, and so much more capable—in dealing with the truths of Christ, but they had borne with him very patiently. The reverend gentleman concluded by exhorting the boys he had prepared for confirmation to labour hard as church workers, and added that three of the lads had joined His Majesty's forces—two were training for the army, and one had just joined the navy.—The choir rendered the anthem, "Give peace in our time, O, Lord."

End of a Remarkable Family History.

At Patterdale Rectory, Westmorland, Mrs Holme died on Saturday, December 18th, at the age of 90 years. She married, in 1865, the Rev. Thomas Holme, who afterwards became Vicar of Mardale, his native place, having been born there in 1810. He died 35 years ago. Mr Holme was the last of the family for centuries known throughout the northern counties as "the Kings of Mardale," through their large possessions in the dale. The tradition, partly supported by documentary evidence, is that one John, who was a native of Stockholm, came over among the conqueror's forces, and was rewarded with an estate in Yorkshire. In 1209 his descendants, along with others, incurred the displeasure of King John, and were driven out of their homes. Hugh Holme wandered to the north, and found himself eventually in the remote valley of Mardale, where he was kindly received by an old man, whose estate he afterwards bought. Subsequently they were great benefactors to the district, and exerted such authority—though usually only for good—that the title of "King" was popularly given them. The last male representative died in 1885—Mr Hugh Parker Holme.

EVERY WOMAN

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UPPER DALE NOTES.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The festive season passed off very quietly in Upper Teesdale. The weather was almost spring-like on Christmas Day. There was not the usual street parading of the bands at Middleton and Mickleton, but at the former place Middleton String Band played selections on Christmas Eve. At Mickleton the Primitive Methodist choir and friends sang carols in the open-air. This seemed to be the only outward demonstration, but there were numerous special services at the churches and chapels.

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The billiard handicap at the Mechanics' Institute, Middleton, terminated last week, great interest having been manifested in the various games. The result was as follows:—1, W. Bainbridge; 2, C. H. Nicholson; 3, Geo. Bell, Hude; 4, Jos. Bussey. There were 64 entries. The following were the successful competitors in the domino knock-out:—1, Thos. Beitss; 2, G. A. Thompson; 3, Jas. Allinson; 4, Jos. Brunskill. In this tournament there were also 64 entries, and for both competitions 16 prizes were given.

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Forest Wesleyans held their annual Christmas festival last week-end. On Friday evening a public meeting was held. A Christmas tree was also on view. On Saturday night a concert was given by Mr Jos. Raine's party from Middleton, under the presidency of Mr T. Wallace, of Woodland. Mr Hind, the concertina player, conducted the services on Sunday afternoon and evening. The various gatherings were fairly well attended.

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The annual Christmas festival of Mickleton Primitive Methodists was held last week-end. On Saturday there was the usual sale of work and tea, with half-hour concerts at night. Special sermons were preached on Sunday. On Monday evening a magic lantern entertainment was given. Good companies were present.

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With the breaking-up for the yuletide vacation at Middleton school, a concert was given in the school-room, on Thursday afternoon, when a large number of parents and friends, together with Revs. W. E. Y. Rooker (Rector), G. Glandfield (Wesleyan) and C. Pettler (Primitive), assembled. Mr J. Watson, one of the school managers, presided, and, on behalf of the Free School Charity trustees, presented to the following successful scholars £5 each:—Wm. Simpson, Clarence Lowe, Annie Todd, Thos. Coltman, and Dorothy Flemming. The programme rendered was as follows:—Solo—He won't do for me—Henrietta Collinson; recitation—The war's effect—Ellen Collinson; solo—The Arab's farewell to his steed—Dorothy Ward; pianoforte duett—Amy Anderson and Molly Burney; solo—They were singing home, sweet home—Annie Morton; duett—A.B.C.—H. Collinson and D. Ward; solo—I want to meet a good young man—H. Collinson; dialogue—The double dream—A. Bowron, L. Walton, and M. Burney; solo—Some folks—A. Morton; and solo—Dear old home songs—D. Ward. An ambulance demonstration by eight girls, based on lessons derived from St. John's ambulance lectures on home nursing, was well carried out, which showed that good work was being accomplished with this training of the young. The infants' concert, tea, and Christmas tree took place previously, and also proved a successful event. The teaching staff are to be highly congratulated upon the excellent programmes given.

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The children attending the Primitive Methodist Sunday school, Middleton, had a very pleasant social gathering on Friday night. Mr J. R. Robson (superintendent) presided, and there was special singing of lively hymns, action songs, etc. Short addresses were delivered by the Rev. C. Pettler and Mr Jos. Coltman. During the evening Santa Claus made his appearance, and distributed oranges and sweets to the children, this part of the programme being highly appreciated by the scholars.

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The Baptist Christmas celebrations at Middleton were held as usual, and were very successful, being well in advance of last year, both in companies and financial results. A sale of work and tea took place in the Assembly Hall on Saturday afternoon, and at night a public meeting was held, Mr W. J. Bainbridge, of Barnard Castle, presiding. The meeting was addressed by the Revs. C. Pettler and G. Glandfield, and Messrs M. Alcock and J. Hunt. A public supper was afterwards provided.—The services on Sunday morning and evening were conducted by Mr M. Alcock, of Hartlepool, and in the afternoon a musical service took place. Solos were rendered by Miss Davis, of Leeds; and Miss F. Lamb, of Egglesburn. Corporal Peel, Mr M. Alcock, and a number of children gave songs and recitations. The Rev. W. Sumner presided. Miss M. Pinkney played the accompaniments.

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Bombardier L. D. Mantel, of the Royal Field Artillery, returned to Middleton on Christmas morning, having been granted a week's leave. He was a reservist, and was called up when hostilities commenced. This is his first visit since the war broke out. He has been in some very rough engagements in France. His wife and family reside at Middleton, and the residents all join them in giving him a welcome home.

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The following letter has been received by the Headmaster of Middleton Council School, which is most encouraging to the staff:—[COPY] Educational Department, Shire Hall, Durham, December 22nd, 1915: DEAR SIR,—Middleton Council School: The committee have under consideration the last report of the County Council Inspector on the mixed department of the above-named school, dated 19th October, 1915, and have directed me to convey to you personally, and to ask you to make known to the members of your staff, their appreciation of the success which has attended your efforts in the conduct of the school.—Yours faithfully, A. J. DAWSON.

Indigestion and Dyspepsia.

Correct Name of Product Prescribed by Leading Specialists Now Ascertained.

Although so much has been said and written concerning the new treatment for indigestion and dyspepsia—the treatment which was originally employed by a specialist in his private practice, and proved so successful as to warrant its adoption by hospitals throughout the country—there are still a large number of sufferers who are doubtful as to the name and nature of the preparation which is giving such wonderful results. We are, therefore, glad to be in a position to state definitely that the product employed is an antacid known to physicians and chemists as *bisurated* magnesia, and the quantity usually advised in the treatment of most forms of stomach trouble is half-a-teaspoonful in a little warm or cold water immediately after meals. This has the effect of neutralising the harmful acids in the stomach and preventing fermentation of the food, thus ensuring normal digestion and freedom from pain and discomfort. We learn that large supplies of the genuine *bisurated* magnesia have now been secured by Mr G. Clarkson Harker, the Baliol Pharmacy; Mr E. Holdsworth, 8, Horse-market; Mr T. B. Ilsley, Market-place; and Mr R. W. Raine, Market-place, Barnard Castle; and Middleton-in-Teesdale; and we are sure that many readers will appreciate the fact that they can obtain this excellent preparation locally, but be sure to get the *bisurated* kind of magnesia, as it is the only form that effectively neutralises the acid.

War Items.

THE WAR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE'S ENTERTAINMENT.

On Monday night two houses witnessed a miscellaneous entertainment promoted by the Barnard Castle War Emergency Committee. The first house was literally packed, many being unable to obtain admission at the Victoria Hall. Comic and sentimental songs, patter, clog dancing, dramatic impersonations and amusing and witty stories by an officer and men of the 20th Durham Light Infantry furnished the first part of an interesting programme, with a representation of bayonet duelling as now seen at the front, followed by electric pictures—the Exploits of Elaine. This mystery film serial is adapted from the stories by Arthur B. Reeve, America's best short story writer.—During the earlier stages, Lieutenant-Colonel Leather, the commanding officer, delivered a short address, in which he said he would not be able to stay through the whole proceedings, and, therefore, he took that opportunity of thanking them for all the kindnesses which had been shown to his men during the time they had been in Barnard Castle. The battalion, he said, left Sunderland on the 30th of August, and they had met with a great deal of kindness there. The battalion left the Wearside town for Wensley, where again a lot of people strove to make them comfortable, and now he could not tell them all how grateful he was to everybody, and all the men would agree with him, for all the kindnesses the Barnard Castle people had shown. They had been at an enormous amount of trouble to render the time as pleasurable as possible. To his mind the inhabitants of the town had spoiled the men, though, perhaps, not entirely, for, personally, he had never had a better lot of men under him. He would like the men of the battalion who were present to thank Mr Wiseman and the Emergency Committee by raising cheers for the excellent treatment which they had received.—Three vociferous cheers were then given by the soldiers, and a second house followed, which was very numerously attended.—An entertainment was given by the rank and file of the "Twentieths," on Friday night, in the Music Hall, when Private Telfer gave proof of his inherent capabilities as an actor. He is gifted, being smart and naturally clever.

Greta Bridge Division (South) of the Red Cross.

The result of "Our Day," for the benefit of the Red Cross Overseas, was £17 14s. 6d., forwarded by Mrs Bell-Irving to Lady Bell. Of this sum £10 10s. 6d. was received by cheque from the Mayor of Richmond, being half the proceeds, when the expenses had been paid, of the entertainment given in the Town Hall, the other half going to the Richmond branch of the Red Cross Overseas' Fund.

Mrs C. L. Jones, Newgate, Has Four Brothers in the War.

Mr W. Waite, Lime Tree House, East Witton, father of Mrs C. L. Jones, Newgate, Barnard Castle, has four sons at the front. One of these has been in the fighting on the western front since Mons, and is now a sergeant in the Royal Field Artillery. In a letter just received by his father, Sergeant Waite expresses great anxiety as to the success of the recruiting campaign, and only wishes he could show to some of those who are standing out the ghastly evidences of German occupation that he has himself witnessed. A younger son, also in France, has been wounded, and is now back in the firing line. Two other sons are with the Australians in Gallipoli, and one of these, Private S. Waite, 15th Battalion Australian Territorial Force, sends the following graphic account describing the first landing at Gallipoli:—"After tossing about three or four weeks on the water we commenced to land about five o'clock in the morning. I was in the third boat to run ashore, and when it had run as far as it could he got I leapt into the water up to my armpits. I had my kit on my back, and 260 rounds of ammunition, two days' rations in my haversack, my water bottle, and my rifle in my hand. The shrapnel was bursting overhead, and rifle bullets were spitting all round us. There were only two of us reached the cliff out of that boat. The rest were killed or wounded. After the landing had been effected, we started to advance, and we were continually fighting for six days until we got dug in. After having a rest two or three days I went out for a night attack. It was a dark night, and we had to crawl in extended order. At the signal we ran on the top of the parapet, and a Turk fired at me point blank, the bullets going through my pants and grazing my thigh. I jabbed him with my bayonet. I began to slip, and I very nearly fell into the trench, so I jumped in and alighted on my feet. The Turks rushed each way, as they thought I was a bag of bombs being thrown in. I rushed into them, and was using my bayonet freely, when I got a stab in my back, but the Turk could not get it home for my web equipment. He pulled back and tried again, but I grabbed his bayonet with my right hand and pulled it out of his hand. We soon cleared the trench, and then they counter-attacked us. I kept on firing until I was hit in five places, and had two broken ribs on my left side with shell splinters. I then got hit with a bullet, which chipped a piece of bone out of my left eye-socket, and that knocked me out, and I went into hospital. After coming out I went back to the fighting line again, and got hit in the foot and went again to hospital, where I then contracted malarial fever, and was invalided home to Lewisham Hospital, London. After being discharged from hospital I went on fourteen days' leave to my parents at East Witton before going back to the Dardanelles."

Russian Flag Day at Barnard Castle.

Mr J. Adams, of Hilton House, Galgate, has received an autograph letter of thanks from Lady Paget on the results of the Russian flag day at Barnard Castle (November 17th). The credit alone is due to the eighteen young ladies who sold the flags in the streets and houses of this town. Mr Adams merely organised the work. The letter runs as follows:—"35, Belgrave-square, S.W., December 16th, 1915: DEAR SIR,—I am most grateful for your help in connection with Russia's Day, and for your contribution of £23 3s. 8d. to the fund, which I think was splendid, for I quite realise how hard one has to work to raise money now, after so much has already been given. I greatly appreciate all you and your helpers have done for the cause, and I am sure you will be as pleased as I am at the very successful result of your efforts. We shall not know the whole amount raised for some time, as in certain places the collections will not be made till the New Year.—Again thanking you most warmly, believe me, yours very truly, MARY PAGET."

Letter from Corporal Philip Watson.

Mrs Philip Watson, Bridgegate, Barnard Castle, has received a letter from her husband (Corporal P. Watson, of the 6th Durhams), dated December 22nd, 1915, in which he says that he has been moved about forty miles from the firing-line, but the battalion has recently been in some heavy fighting. The first night they were in the trenches they had twenty men wounded, which is a lot for one night. Sidney Hall has got badly wounded. They are having very bad weather at the front now. It has rained for the last two months, and looks like keeping on for a long time.

LOCAL PATRIOTIC FAMILY.

It will be interesting to the people of Barnard Castle to know that Mrs Janet Mulgrew, of Newcastle-on-Tyne (formerly of this town), has three sons serving their King and country. Her husband, Private Thomas Mulgrew, of the 2nd Northumberland Fusiliers, has been reported missing since May 8th. Her eldest son, Private Thomas Mulgrew, who is only 18 years of age, has been on active service over five months with the 1st King's Own Scottish Borderers, and the second son, Band-boy John W. Mulgrew, whose age is but 15 years, is serving with the 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers at Portobello, Scotland. There is another son who is just awaiting his papers to go.

Newbiggin Council School.

National Egg Collection for Wounded.

During last week the following sums of money were collected by the children attending the above school, and the total has been forwarded to headquarters:—Annie Scott, 6d.; Annie Watson, 10d.; Jos. Edmund Collinson, 11½d. and 2 eggs; Esther Ireland, 4½; Arthur Watson, 6d.; Wm. Robinson, 3d.; Jos. W. Walton, 6d.; Harry Temple, 3d.; Arnold Pickering, 3d.; Florrie Wearmouth, 10d.; Mark Anderson, 1s.; Laura Wearmouth, 5d.; Jos. W. Allinson, 3d.; Annie Anderson, 1s. 1d.; Wm. Wearmouth, 10½d.; Mildred Sowerby, 1d.; Jos. Edmund Gibson, 1s. 6d.; Harold Parmley, 3d.; Jack Hutchinson, 3d.; total, 14s. 1d.; plus 5d. for eggs, plus 8½d. left over from last week, equals 15s. 2½d. The next collection will not be made until January 17th, 1916. For the year now ended the children have collected 1,446 eggs, together with the sum of £1 4s 1d., and the Headmaster takes this opportunity of thanking the donors for the generous way in which this scheme has been supported.

Concert at Winston.

A very successful concert was held at Winston, on Tuesday, the 14th instant, the object being to raise funds to provide each soldier from the parish with a Christmas parcel. The expenditure in sending the goods amounted to £6 17s. 10d. The proceeds of the concert realised £5 4s. 9d., the deficiency being very kindly subscribed by the following:—Mrs Thompson, Westholme; Mrs Tinkler, Hedgeholme; the Rev P. Hughes, and Mr Lamb, the station. Mrs Stanton very kindly provided the refreshments for the entertainers and helpers, and also the calico for doing up the packages. Each soldier had despatched to him, to the number of twenty-five, a parcel of the value of 5s, the twenty-sixth packet being sent to the widow of the late Arthur Hall, who was killed in action in France. All the goods were packed by the committee on Wednesday, the 15th, and posted on the 16th instant. Messrs Brittain and Wood rendered valuable assistance in preparing the school-room for the concert, and putting it in order after the event. Mr J. Spence occupied the chair in a very able manner. The committee wish to thank all who helped in various ways to make the concert such a success.—The following programme was greatly enjoyed by a large audience:—Pianoforte duet—The guides—Misses E. Gallilee and G. Nicholson; song—Dinna forget—Miss A. Pattinson; folk song—Mowing the barley—Misses Hardy and E. Pattinson; humorous song—Seven days one for me—Mr F. Hardy; song—Land of hope and glory—Mr O. Hardy; song—Passing by—Miss F. Walker; humorous song—Emery—Mr E. Chapman; reading (Cumberland dialect)—Nancy Dixon's mishaps—Mr J. Egglestone; duet—Tell her I love her so—Misses Brittain and Hardy; song—The boys who have left the old home—Miss U. Alcock; pianoforte duet—Edinburgh quadrilles—Misses Hardy and Holloweil; song—Where my caravan has rested—Miss F. Walker; humorous song—One of the boys—Mr O. Hardy; folk song—Oh, no John—Misses Hardy and E. Pattinson; humorous song—I didn't let it upset me—Mr C. Chapman; duet—List to the convent bells—the Misses Pattinson; song—I'm glad my wife's in Europe—Mr C. Hardy; song—My little grey home in the west—Miss E. Pattinson; song—Most miserable man on earth—Mr J. Pattinson; song—Till the boys come home—Miss Brittain; sketch—The area belle—Misses Pattinson, Mr G. Alcock, and Mr and Mrs Egglestone; God save the King.

Voluntary Workers' Association.

Greta Bridge Division (South).

The entertainment in aid of the above officially recognised organization realised £29 11s. 11d. Half of the proceeds were paid to Mrs Bircham for the Barnard Castle branch, and half to Mrs J. J. Bell-Irving, representing Greta Bridge (South). Since November 15th, up to 26th December, the sub-depôt at Rokeby has sent to Northallerton County Depôt 65 mufflers, 90 pairs of mittens, 12 pairs of cuff-wrists, 7 bed-jackets, 1 dressing-gown, 3 pairs of slippers, 1 pair of operation stockings, 2 small cushions, and 10 pairs of socks; also to Lady Bell for the Red Cross, 6 pairs of socks, and 8 pairs to prisoners of war. The Balaclava helmets sent in are being covered with water-proof material, on the advice of a wounded officer, and 10 walking-sticks from Bowes are being fitted with rubber ferules. The contributors have been the Dowager Lady Millbank, the working parties at Bowes and Hutton Magna, and kind friends in Rokeby, Startforth and neighbourhood. Mrs Bell-Irving is very glad to supply workers with wool for bed socks, which should be heelless and like a bag, socks, mufflers, mittens, operation stockings or flannel for bedjackets, helpless case bedjackets and night-ingales. The County Depôt also says the Government requisitions, besides the above, are dressing gowns and carpet slippers. Miss Atkinson, at the County Depôt, forwards hospital requisites direct to Calais.

Newbiggin Belgian Relief Fund.

The following sums of money have been received by the Secretary up to date:—Fortnightly collections, collected by Messrs Geo. Nixon, 2s. 1d.; G. Collinson, 2s. 3d.; J. Gargate, 2s. 2d. (for one month); J. W. Gibson, 3s. 3½d.; Arthur Parmley, 5d.; Reg. Bainbridge, 1s. 6d.; Robt. Scott, 2s.; J. Beadle, 2s. 6d.; total, 16s. 2½d. Three collectors have not yet brought in their money.

Christmastide at the Teesdale Union Institution.

In their nicely decorated dining-hall the inmates of the Teesdale Institution on Christmas Day sat down to the customary fare of roast beef, vegetables and plum pudding, which was much enjoyed. The Chairman (Mr John Smith, J.P.), Mr and Mrs J. G. Hall, and Mr Nixon (relieving officer) were present to assist with the carving and serving the dinner. Miss Mary Smith, the Misses Smith, and Miss Nixon paid visits to the sick and others whilst the dinner was in progress. Something seemed wanting at the institution. It was the children, but they were as happy as ever. Santa Claus had found them at King-street, and brought them nice presents. They, too, greatly enjoyed their Christmas fare. Mr J. Smith, J.P., and friends called in the evening with a gramophone, and they had a royal time.—It is hoped that on Thursday, the 30th inst., the day of the inmates' concert, they will have a happy time. All points that way at present.

LOCAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES.

The Parish Church.

The early celebrations of Holy Communion were well attended, the one at the 8 o'clock being the faithful to the first (6-30 a.m.) service. The 20th Durhams attended the service at 10-30, which was conducted by the Rev. S. Wade. The Vicar (the Rev. H. W. H. Stevens) read the King's message of greeting to the soldiers. He preached the sermon from St. Luke chapter 2, and verse xi.: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," emphasizing the essential truth of God, being, as Professor Drummond said, the great thing for them to realize. The anthem was "There were shepherds abiding in the fields," which was sung with fine effect. The decorations, so far as they extended, were very beautiful, the baptistry, pulpit and chancel having received most attention. At 6 p.m. a short service was conducted by the Vicar, and a series of carols were sung by the choir.—The service at 10-30 o'clock on Sunday morning was well attended, the military being present. The Vicar continued his discourse on the text of Christmas Day, showing man's need of a Saviour, and Jesus Christ fulfilling that obligation. As God He was able to save; as man He was able to sympathise. His sufferings showed the awfulness of sin, and His incarnation demonstrated the dignity of mankind. Jesus Christ ennobled it. In St. Stephen they had an example of one who was prepared to sacrifice his life in his Master's service. Each person should ask himself this question: "What sacrifice can I make?"—Can I say, "The Lord Jesus Christ is my Saviour"?

United Service in the Wesleyan Church.

The Nonconformists held a united service in the Wesleyan Church. The attendance was large, a strong company of soldiers being present. The Rev. J. Pearson Hodgson (Wesleyan superintendent) conducted, the Rev. W. Callender Wake (Congregational) engaged in prayer, while the sermon was preached by the Rev. C. H. Lightfoot (Primitive Methodist). Hymns appropriate to Christmas and an anthem were rendered by the joint choir. "Come all ye faithful," which is a liberal translation of the centuries-old "Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes," was most heartily rendered. Mr Lightfoot discoursed upon the nativity of Christ as recorded in Luke ii., 8 to 11 and 13 to 14. He said the story of Bethlehem was beautiful in its simplicity, and yet there was in the sweet narrative the greatest of all the messages that had ever puzzled the minds of men.—God made manifest in the flesh. The preacher enlarged upon the appearance of the angel to the shepherds, the message delivered unto them, and the psalm of the heavenly choir—"Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will toward men."—and continued: Why, then, should there be strife between man and man—strife between nation and nations? We sometimes talk about a white Christmas, or a green Christmas. I am afraid this to very many will be a black Christmas. There are vacant places in homes, and many have to mourn the sacrifice of those they love. Dear lads! God bless our soldiers! They are making great sacrifices. But the time of peace will come. Let us look up, and have confidence in our God.

Services in the Catholic Churches.

At St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Barnard Castle, three masses were conducted at 8, 9, and 10-30 a.m., on Saturday, by the Rev. B. Carlin, the latter service being choral. "Adeste fideles," was sung at the offertory. Good companies were present at the services.—On Friday midnight mass was celebrated at St. Lawrence's Church, Lartington, the Rev. J. O'Leary officiating. A good congregation was present. Mass was also said at 9-30 and 10 o'clock on Christmas morning.

Entertainment at Egglestone.

Chairman's Special Journey from Liverpool.

Under the auspices of the Egglestone War Relief Fund Committee, a highly successful entertainment was given in the school-room on Saturday evening sen., there being a large audience present. The chair was ably occupied by Mr H. E. Abbot, of Liverpool and Egglestone, who had journeyed from Liverpool on purpose for the occasion. An enjoyable programme was rendered by local artistes, assisted by the following friends from the surrounding villages:—Miss Russell, Mr Wm. Bell, Cotherstone; Mr J. J. Thompson, Middleton; Mr Wm. Race, Mickleton; Miss D. Bainbridge, Messrs Reg. Walton and Reg. Lowson, Romaldkirk; and Misses L. Johnson and B. Saunders, Messrs C. Carlton and J. W. Birtley, Woodland and Cockfield. The accompanists were Misses Adamson, Lowson and J. Redshaw, and Messrs F. Hardy and A. Stephenson. The string band was a notable feature, and comprised the following:—Miss Russell, Miss Ida Hornby, Mr W. Bell and Mr Reg. Lowson, first violins; Messrs J. W. Walker and Geo. Settle, second violins; Mr Thos. Adamson, cello; Mr Geo. Bainbridge, double bass; Mr W. Raine, cornet; Mr J. J. Thompson, clarionette; and Misses A. Adamson and M. Beadle, piano. The proceedings concluded with an amusing sketch entitled, "Wanted, a wife," and the respective characters were well sustained by the following artistes:—Felix Fumbleton, Esq.—Mr C. Thompson; Nathan Slyboots—Mr Fred Watson; Lizzie Dimplechin—Miss M. Hanworth; Miss Lacetight—Miss E. Adamson; Dorothy Dingle—Miss G. Kidd; Sarah Mopeag—Miss H. Robinson; and Molly Molony—Miss E. Ireton. A duck, which was kindly given by Mr and Mrs T. L. Hetherington, was sold and resold at the circus till it realised £1 10s. The total takings amounted to £11 6s. 8d.—The promoters wish to thank the Wesleyan society for the loan of seats, and Mrs Milne, Romaldkirk, for the use of curtains. The secretarial duties were ably discharged by Mr John Lodge. Appended is the programme, which was well received: March—Albion—the string band; song—The old rustic bridge—Miss D. Bainbridge; duet (encored)—Great Scott—Messrs Fred Watson and Roy Walton; recitation—A tale of the Crimea—Miss Mabel Lowe; song—The toilers—Mr J. W. Birtley; musical monologue—The village constable—Mr F. Watson; song—The sunshine of your smile—Miss B. Saunders; violin solo—Miss Russell; song—Sentenced to death—Mr R. Walton; song—Love's garden of roses—Miss M. Beadle; duet—If you consent—Miss L. Johnson and Mr C. Carlton; song (encored)—Johnny O'Morgan—Miss Freda Lamb; song (encored)—Tatters—Mr J. Birtley; song—When you come home—Miss L. Johnson; clarionette solo—Carnival of Venice—Mr J. J. Thompson; song—Song the angels sang—Miss D. Bainbridge; recitation—The death of a heroine—Miss B. Lodge; musical monologue—O, memory—Mr F. Watson; song (encored)—Paper bag cookery—Mr Roy Walton; song—Marguerite—Mr C. Carlton; trio (encored)—Misses L. Johnson, B. Saunders and Mr C. Carlton; monologue—Love in a balloon—Mr C. Thompson; waltz—Floral garlands—string band; national anthem. Four dozen copies of the recitation, "The death of a heroine," were sold during the interval, which were composed and presented by Mr J. W. Langstaff, Woodland, towards the above fund.

IMPORTANT BOON TO LADIES.

NO Pills or Drugs used in this treatment: my never-failing remedy, and I guarantee to cure all female ailments. I invite those cases that have failed elsewhere. Stamp, free advice.—MESSRS ROSS AND COMPANY, No. 8, Mitre-street, Cheltenham.

Zemoline Skin Ointment is the Ointment with a 10 years'-non-failure reputation, 1/1½ per jar, from Mason's Drug Stores, the Zemoline Depôt, Barnard Castle.

MARRIAGE OF MISS MAY CRICK, OF WHORLTON.

A wedding of some local interest took place on the 21st instant, at the parish church, Weston-on-Trent, Stafford, when Miss May Crick, second daughter of the Rev. and Mrs Philip Crick, of Whorlton vicarage, Barnard Castle, and granddaughter of the late Rev. Prebendary Plant, for fifty-one years Vicar of Weston, was married to Captain Alan Drayton Grimké-Drayton, Royal Garrison Artillery (R.O.) The marriage (in the unavoidable absence of the Bishop of Gloucester, through illness) was solemnised by the Rev. Canon Macdonald, Vicar of West Hartlepool, uncle and godfather of the bridegroom, and the Rev. Douglas H. Crick, Priest-in-charge of Maltby Model Village, near Rotherham, brother of the bride. The service was choral, Miss Agnes Plant, aunt and godmother of the bride, presiding at the organ. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a soft ivory satin gown, draped with exquisite old Limerick lace lent her by her mother, as was also her wedding veil. The bridesmaids were the Misses Kathleen Crick, sister of the bride, and Judith Grimké-Drayton, sister of the bridegroom, who wore frocks of maize-coloured liberty silk crêpe and black velvet hats, with ribbon rosettes to match their dresses. They carried bouquets of bronze-coloured chrysanthemums, which, together with topaz pendants, were the gifts of the bridegroom. The best man was Mr Norman Grimké-Drayton, brother of the bridegroom. After the ceremony the wedding party adjourned to the vicarage, the old home of the bride's mother, kindly lent for the occasion by the Rev. R. F. and Mrs Edwards. The Rev. P. C. T. Crick, chaplain to the forces, was unfortunately unable to be present, owing to his duties at the front. During the afternoon, Captain and Mrs Grimké-Drayton left Weston for the Holts, Newent, near Gloucester, lent to them by the bridegroom's aunt, Mrs St. Vincent Beechy. The bride's travelling costume was of sapphire blue cloth, with black hat and black wolf furs, the gift of her mother. A very large number of handsome presents were received.

Cotherstone and District Rifle Club.

Presentation of Prizes.

The members and friends of the above club, which is affiliated with the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs, held a social evening in the Temperance Hall, last Thursday. There was a splendid rally of the members and their friends, who sat down to an excellent supper, after which the presentation of prizes, etc., was proceeded with. Mrs Richardson-Rutland kindly undertook the duty of handing over the following to the various successful competitors in shooting competitions:—"Daily Mail" certificate, John Alderson; "Daily Express" medal, Harry Hall; "Daily Telegraph" certificate, John Alderson; and Bell medal, Charles Keight. The above were presented for competition by the S.M.R.C. Christmas prize-shooting competition:—1st prize, silver spoon, winner, C. Keight—score, 44 out of possible 50; 2nd prize, bronze ornamental pipe rack, Harry Hall—42 out of 50; 3rd prize, ornamental match stand, R. Kidd—36 out of 50; 4th prize, pipe and pouch, J. Alderson—34 out of 50. The remainder of the evening was given up to games, songs and dancing. The committee feel greatly indebted to all friends of the club who contributed to the success of the evening, and particularly to Mr and Mrs Richardson-Rutland, who have been most liberal supporters of the club ever since its inception. The singing of "Auld lang syne" and the national anthem brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

The British Fire Prevention Committee's Caution.

Fires at holiday time usually occur in buildings filled with people and may become holocausts. Light inflammable decorations make fires easy to start and facilitate their spreading. A match, a candle flame, or a gas-light may do it, likewise an electric spark or defective wiring. All dry shrubs are easily ignited, especially the fir trees used at Christmas, as they contain a considerable quantity of resin. Christmas trees should not be placed near window curtains or in positions in which a draught may cause inflammable draperies, etc., to be blown on to the lights.

The Zetland Foxhounds.

In spite of the wet a fair following braved the elements on Saturday sen., when the meet was at Cliffe, and they were rewarded with some useful gallops after the rain cleared off. A fox was found immediately in the shrubberies. Breaking away in front of the hall in full view of the crowd, he went through the cover past Allan's Grange, up to Carlton, turning away for Lucy Cross, where the rain, which was now very heavy, spoilt sport. Another fox was found at Manfield, where he went with a great burst past Grinton to ground near the Wath bridge. A long, slow hunt followed from the fox found at Little Bleckholm. Going over Pickney Carr to Howden Hill he went on past Cleasby, and, circling round the Tees banks, retraced his steps to Howden Hill over the Carrs past Cauld Knoute away to Brettanby, and then made for Barton Quarry, where some time was lost which, no doubt, saved his brush. Another sharp gallop from Langdale Whin to Brettanby ended a very useful day.

Postcard maps, showing each Theatre of War in detail, 1d. each, to be had at the "Teesdale Mercury" Office, Barnard Castle.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Marriage.

HYSLOP: TELFER.—At St. Andrew's, Corbridge, on December 23rd, 1915, by the Rev. Canon Lonsdale, M.A., Private John James Hyslop, of the 1st-4th Northumberland Fusiliers, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. S. Hyslop, of Middleton-in-Teesdale, to Jane Isabel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Telfer, of Norham House, Corbridge.

Deaths.

FRANKLIN.—On December 25th, 1915, at 31, Market-place, Barnard Castle, Olive Hope Franklin, aged 9 months.

JUDSON.—On Tuesday, December 28th, 1915, Margaret H., the beloved wife of Frederick W. Judson, Staindrop.—Funeral to leave at 12-15 p.m., on Friday, December 31st.—Friends please accept this intimation.

In Memoriam.

MORTON.—In loving memory of my dear mother, Jane Morton, who died on December 29th, 1914; also my father, who died on January 9th, 1911.

"Forgotten by some, soon they could be:
Forgotten by me, they will never be:
If their eyes could only be open what a change they would see,
But it is God's will—it has not to be."

—From daughter, Margaret.

In loving memory of my dear mother, who died at Corner House, Egglestone on December 29th, 1914.—Ever remembered by her daughter, Lizzie.

JACKSON.—In loving remembrance of Barbara Jackson, 22, Newgate, Barnard Castle, who died on December 27th, 1914.—"Still to memory dear."

Return Thanks.

MR AND MRS RAINE AND FAMILY wish to thank their many friends for kind sympathy and floral tributes in their recent bereavement.