

The Urban Council.

THE NEW REGIME: MR MARTIN'S APPOINTMENT.

The monthly meeting of the Barnard Castle Urban District Council was held on Thursday night under the presidency of Mr John Wiseman, J.P. There were also present the Rev. H. W. B. Brough, Messrs C. J. Smith, H. Walker, W. Hodgson, J. Guy, F. Wilson, C. Hedley, R. Arrowsmith, R. Woodhams, J. I. Dawson (clerk), J. H. Vetch (assistant-clerk), C. H. Welford, M.D. (medical officer), and C. J. G. Martin (inspector).

Constitution of Finance Committee: Mr R. Arrowsmith's Notice of Motion.

Mr Arrowsmith gave notice of motion that he would move at the next meeting that the resolution dealing with the present constitution of the Finance Committee be rescinded.

The Cost of Fire Hose.

At a meeting of the Works Committee, on January 19th, the Surveyor had reported receiving quotations, the prices being practically doubled. He had said that the brigade had about eighteen forty-foot lengths in stock. The committee did not recommend the purchase of further hose at the present time in view of the increased price, and suggested that the purchase be left over until the cost of leather came down.—The Council now ordered this action.

The Cost of Cast-Iron Pipes.

At the same meeting of the Works Committee the Surveyor had produced quotations showing that the present price of cast-iron pipe was £7 6s. 6d. per ton, against £6 5s. before the war. The price of Messrs Allen and Son was £7 6s. 8d. per ton, nine-foot lengths, and Messrs Cochrane and Company, £7 13s. per ton, twelve-foot lengths. The committee had recommended that the tender of Messrs Cochrane and Company be accepted for 180 yards, and that the same be laid at the bank of East Stoneyfield farm-buildings, replacing the present pot pipes.

Surveyor's Enlistment: New Arrangements.

The report of the Sub-committee appointed by resolution of the Council to interview Mr C. J. G. Martin was submitted, the committee having met on the 18th of January, and those present being Messrs Wiseman, Smith, Hedley and Woodhams. Mr Martin had not the committee, when the duties were explained to him, it being arranged that he was not expected to do any actual surveying or plan-making, or to undertake the making of roads with a steam-roller. On the question of roads being discussed, Mr Martin said that he would not accept less than £2 a week. In pursuance of the power given by the Council, the committee engaged Mr Martin in place of Mr H. E. Rain, the present surveyor, to do the work, except road-making, surveying and plan-making, the service to be held until the end of the war, unless either party give three months' notice in writing to terminate, the salary to be £2 a week, paid at the usual quarter days, and the agreement to be subject to the approval of the Local Government Board. Mr Martin had agreed to these terms.—Mr Walker asked were were masters—the committee or the Council?—The Clerk: All notices come to the Council. No notice can go to any committee.—The Chairman: He is engaged by the committee for the Council, but the committee were limited in their powers.—Mr Walker: I have not always been the case. The engagement of the late clerk of works at the public conveniences in the Market-place was terminated by the committee, and not by the Council. Am I right or not?—The Chairman: I don't remember. It is such a long time since. But any action in committee would come before the subsequent Council meeting.—Mr Walker: It was done by the committee, but we will have to look into it next month. If this Inspector wishes to give up his work he is going to send his resignation to this committee or to the Council?—The Chairman: He was distinctly engaged for the Council by the committee.—Mr Arrowsmith: Was the salary named? Is it a very serious matter is £204 a year.—The Clerk: That is the figure of the working was that the committee and the Inspector were the contracting parties.—The Chairman: And Mr Martin would understand that he was engaged by the Council.—Mr Martin: That is so.—Mr Smith: The only point that we got were that Mr Martin be engaged, and on leaving, that he give three months' notice to the Clerk.—The Clerk: Or receive it.—Mr Arrowsmith: I think that is very satisfactory.—Mr Smith: Then I move that Mr Martin give three months' notice, or that we give him three months' notice, through the Clerk.—Mr Hedley seconded the proposition, which was adopted.

The Problem of Water Consumption.

Mr Hedley remarked that he had asked for a return of the cost of fixing water meters at the different houses in the town, and of the income derived from the supply of water, such bills, and asked if the return was ready.—The Clerk gave the following figures for a period of one month:—Drill Hall, 850 gallons; Witham Hall, 13,770; Church of England School, 723,300; and the Council Schools, 82,390, from December 3rd.—Mr Woodhams: Is that the date of fixing?—The Clerk: That is the date given in Mr Raice's book. That is the minimum, but there may have been more.—Mr Smith: We have no record of how many gallons per man. I suppose you cannot get that?—The Clerk: I have not the materials for making it out.—The Chairman: We are in a fix.—Mr Hedley: What is the income?—The Clerk said the charge was one shilling per thousand gallons.—Mr Hedley said he wanted the return to comprehend the consumption of water paid for by the authorities up to the time of making up the figures.—The Clerk said one bill had consumed 236 1/2 worth of water in a month, which showed where the waste had been.

Housing and Town Planning Act.

The reports of the Sanitary Committee showed that insanitary property in the Horse-market, Galtgate and Bridgegate had been fully considered, and, in one instance, the committee had recommended that notice of closing orders be given to the owner.

Notification of Measles.

Mr C. J. Smith moved the following resolution rescinding the resolution of 30th September, 1909, as follows: "That the provisions of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, be extended to the disease known as measles, within the Urban District for five years, and thereafter until this resolution is rescinded."—The motion was carried.

The Making-up of Flatts-Lane.

This question had been before the Sanitary Committee, and in the absence of the Surveyor, the committee recommended that the work of road-making be let by tender and advertised. The Clerk had read correspondence with the Water Board, they being furnished with a plan, as the Water Board will try and have the water main put in before the road is made up. A letter was read from Mr Fife stating that the land, a portion of the field adjoining the new action main, would be thrown into the road in accordance with the agreement with the Water Board. The Clerk said Mr Wilson and the engineer of the Water Board had been seen, and they were going to try and get the pipes in before the road was made up. A joint contract would be made.

First Show of New Spring Millinery, Viyella and Aza Goods.

— ALSO —

ROBERT ORD, BARNARD CASTLE.

Eggleston Abbey in the 14th Century.

SIDE-LIGHTS ON ITS HISTORY.

(BY J. INGRAM DAWSON.)

While engaged in investigating the descent of a neighbouring manor the writer by chance came across several references to the abbey at Eggleston, referred to as Eggleston, which references are interesting as throwing some light on the troubles of the abbey and the manners of the times, but, perhaps, more so in showing the resentment of some of the laity against the clerics why, unfortunately, is not revealed, and also in disclosing how the canons of the abbey developed the spirit of the church militant, and laid pious hands on the Abbot of St. Mary of York and Brother William of Doncaster, at Richmond, and imprisoned them there.

The Abbot's House Wrecked at Startforth. In the reign of Edward first, somewhere between 1172 and 1197, the Abbot of Eggleston commenced a law-suit against William Grethede, Peter, his brother; Emme de Berford, William de Seley, Walter Rus, Hugh Catte, Hugh fil Henry de Casto Barnard, William, his brother; William Bancs, Robert, his brother; John Wayllond, Nicholas le Wallere, William, son; and Thomas de Thorpe, for forcibly entering plaintiff's house at Startforth, destroying his furniture and assaulting his servants, and other enormities, to the great injury of the said abbot and against the peace, and the defendants did not come, and were attached.

One wonders where the house was, though it will not be difficult to picture it—a low, long building, stone built and thatched, the windows possibly glazed with lead lights, two or three at the most, one with a chimney. The furniture we would term primitive, an oak table or two, two or three oak forms or benches, and possibly a chair, more or less uncomfortable, in which the abbot sat to receive his spiritual inferiors, or his tenants or serfs. A few metal pots and pans and a bedstead would complete the whole of the household effects. It will be noted that the destruction of the furniture was not the result of the assault on the servants, it being the more valuable.

The houses of the defendants might not be so comfortable. The walls would be of clay, beaten down between oak posts, the roof of thatch, not glazed windows, the openings for light being closed by shutters—hence eaves-dropping or listening to conversations within was a crime. At night, candles being almost unknown, the occupiers hatched their conspiracy, or made their plans by the light of a wood fire, and when they retired to rest it was on the floor of the living room on a heap of rushes. There might or might not be a chimney to the dwelling, and if not, the smoke made the best way it could through the openings of the door and windows.

Nothing is said as to the cause of complaint, or why the abbot was so ruthlessly disturbed in the occupation of his house. The parties presumably came from Startforth, Barnard Castle, Barford (near Gainford, Selaby and Thorpe). The Grethedes were one of the leading families of Startforth, and considerable landowners. The Abbot of Eggleston was one of the two Lords of Startforth, and, as such, enjoyed a position of dignity apart from his ecclesiastical office.

The Abbot Imprisons His Superior of York. A few years elapse, and the Abbot of Eggleston finds himself a defendant along with others for a more grave offence. In 1225 there is a record of a writ against certain defendants for having assaulted and imprisoned the Abbot of St. Mary of York and Brother William of Doncaster, canon of the said abbot, on Sunday, in the Feast of the Nativity, 1228. The entry runs as follows:—

Bernard, abbot of Eggleston; and Brother Richard de Bradley, Brother Hugh de Killington, Brother John de Saint Rumbald (Romaldkirk), Brother Galfrid de Wriens, Brother Michael de Beringham and Brother Thomas de Steynton (Stainton), canons of the said Abbot of Eggleston, were attached to answer the Abbot of St. Mary of York, and Brother William de Doncaster, canon of the said abbot, for assaulting them at Richmond, and imprisoning them there for two days, and otherwise ill-using them, on Sunday, in the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, 2 Edward III.; and the plaintiffs claim £200 of money at the present time, and it is not likely to have been made in the form in which it was unless the defendants were in a financial position to foot the bill. There were nine canons of the abbey, as appears from records of the time of 36 Henry III., and six of these clerics helped the abbot in his audacious attack on the unfortunate man from York. It would have been a daring affair for an English legend. The position of the Abbey of St. Mary of York was great in those days, and the nearest approach to what happened at that time will be to imagine that there had been a visitation at Richmond, and that the Abbot of St. Mary, with his familiar, canon William of Doncaster, had ordered the Abbot of Eggleston and the canons of the same abbey, the holy brethren named in the writ, to attend before him to receive admonition. But we may surmise that they were not taking any, and probably having retainers and being in their own country (for York was then almost as difficult to reach as France is to-day), they seized the abbot and his canon et armis as the schoolboy translated it, legs and arms, and locked up the worthy abbot and his canon for a couple of days. Where the place of imprisonment is not said—most probably in a vault or cellar, or crypt of some church. But we may surmise whether the damages were recovered.

The Appley family on the Werpath. A century-and-a-half elapse before the Abbot of Eggleston Abbey again figures in the courts. The claim is worthy of note. The abbot sues certain individuals named below for damages for loss of services in the abbey church of three canons, who had been previously assaulted by the defendants. This was in the reign of Henry VIII., between 1535 and 1569. It is not until the reign of the next king, Henry VIII., that the monasteries were dissolved. It is more than probable that the trouble between the abbot and the defendants was of a family nature, for the Appleys contributed seven members from various places, showing that the attack was plotted some time beforehand. The men came from Hartington, Cotharstone, Briscoe, Corn Park, Thorpe and Barnard Castle. They tramped out to Eggleston Abbey, and there set upon the ecclesiastical staff of the abbot with such good-will that three of the canons were incapacitated for further service.

BARNARD CASTLE SANITARY STEAM LAUNDRY PROPRIETOR - - - A. STEELE

Is the Only Steam Laundry in Barnard Castle & District High-class Work in all its Branches. Special Attention given to Household Work. Vans Collect and Deliver in Home District. Steam Laundry Works: NEWGATE, BARNARD CASTLE.

W. SMITH & COMPANY, Low Mill Foundry, Barnard Castle.

Manufacturers of Ranges, Ovens, Grates, etc. Sole Makers of the Hot-air Range on an improved principle (patent). Ovens alone if required, all fitted with Steel Bodies. Also Glendinning and other various makes of Ranges. Portable Boilers, with Steel Bodies, from 6 gallons upwards, will last three times as long as Portable Boilers with cast bodies. Large Stock of Spouting always kept on hand. Watering Troughs, Palisading, Railing, Gates, etc. Heating by Hot Water. Estimates given free. Baths, Lavatories, etc. We keep a large variety of Enamelled State Jams, Register Grates, Interiors, Shams, Tiles for Register Grates and Hearths, Tile Slabs for Interiors, always on hand, and we invite all Contractors and Users to call and see our stock. Estimates given for all Classes of Iron Work.

CLARKSON HARKER'S SPACE.

The CORN CURE with the REPUTATION is THE GRAND SEAL CORNSILK

The following is an extract from an unsolicited Testimonial just received from Australia:— "I think it is an invaluable remedy, and have derived great benefit from its use. Your Corn Cure has a very soothing effect, whereas most cures give great pain and inconvenience after being applied. I now give it to my friends, who are troubled as I was.—Yours faithfully, (Mrs) B. SHORT"

N.B.—LOOK FOR THE RED SEAL ON EACH PACKET.

In Packets at 7d., Post Free, from G. CLARKSON HARKER, M.P.S., PHARMACIST & DISPENSING CHEMIST, The Balil Pharmacy, Galtgate, Barnard Castle.

North Eastern Railway. BARNARD CASTLE STATION TIME TABLE, From 1st NOVEMBER, 1915, until further notice.

NOTE.—This Time Table is compiled from Official Sources, and we do not hold ourselves responsible in any way.

Table with 2 columns: ARRIVAL OF TRAINS and DEPARTURE OF TRAINS. Lists train numbers, destinations, and times for various routes including Newcastle, Darlington, and York.

SUNDAYS.

Table with 2 columns: ARRIVAL OF TRAINS and DEPARTURE OF TRAINS. Lists train numbers and destinations for Sunday services.

The Phenomenon of the Tees Wave.

THE TRAGEDIES OF THE RIVER.

(BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Few English rivers possess more marked characteristics than the river Tees. First, it is the most rapid flowing stream of any size in England. This may be accounted for by the great height above sea level at which it rises, and the comparatively short distance that intervenes before it reaches its tidal basin. Then, too, it passes over most remarkable beds of rock and marble, with lofty waterfalls at short intervals. It is also a river which, because it drains such an extensive mountainous watershed, rises quickly into flood when rain comes on, and subsides as quickly when the rain ceases.

But the great feature which marks the Tees as distinct from other rivers is the remarkable way in which at times it suddenly rushes down with a great tidal-like wave as much as three or four feet in height, with apparently no reason, as the weather at the time may not necessarily be wet. The question arises: What is the cause of this quick transformation from an ordinary flowing river to a rushing torrent? Something out of the common must have taken place. The opinion generally seems to be that the wave is formed by the sudden inrush of the swollen mountain streams that flow into its higher reaches. If this be so, why does not the same phenomenon occur on the Swale, or the Ure, or the Nidd, or the Wharfe, or the Ribbles—rivers which carry off streams flowing from as high hills as those of Upper Teesdale, and from equally rainy watersheds? All those rivers like the Tees, rise very rapidly in wet weather, but none of them send down this remarkable wave. I once discussed the subject with an old well-known fisherman at Ovington, now dead, and he asserted most pointedly: "It's the wind that brings the Tees down," but beyond this he would not go.

I venture to suggest the following as the cause for this sudden rush of water, leaving your readers to accept it for what it is worth:—Immediately above Cauldron Snout waterfall the river for three miles flows slowly through a deep canal-like channel, locally called "the Weel." The outlet or overflow of this channel is the Cauldron Snout. This long, sluggish pool is situated at the bottom of a valley with high hills on each side. Sudden high wind squalls, so common amongst the mountains, rise at times and blow right down the valley, and in their course push the surface water of "the Weel" in front of them over the Cauldron Snout outlet, and this causes the sudden rising of the river in the form of a high wave, even when no rain has fallen. These squalls, which are of very frequent occurrence in the lake district, rise in a moment and abate almost as suddenly. Downwater is sometimes transformed from a tranquil lake into a seething cauldron in a few minutes. Why may this not happen to "the Weel"? If such really is the cause then the old fisherman was not far from the truth when he said: "It's the wind that brings the Tees down."

I have seen the wave actually come down on two occasions. The last time I saw it was from the window of a railway carriage, whilst crossing the bridge near Gainford station, about four years ago. On the high side of the bridge the wall of water was rolling down. On the lower side was a man fishing in mid-stream with his back to the on-coming flood. I was powerless to warn him. He was caught by the wave and washed off his feet, and though he luckily struggled to land 200 yards further down, half-drowned, he lost his fishing rod and other tackle.

This instantaneous flooding of the Tees has been the cause of many terrible tragedies, the saddest on record probably being that of September 12th, 1821, when two young people, Matthew and Mary Trotter, of Sledwich, brother and sister, aged 18 and 15 respectively, were overtaken by the wave whilst crossing on horse-back at the old Wycliffe ford. When in the middle of the river they saw the flood approaching, and they hesitated whether to go forward or return. This short delay cost them their lives. They were swept away, their bodies being recovered afterwards lower down the river. A plain stone marks their resting-place in our little village churchyard here. In more recent years a tourist lost his life through the breaking of a rope as he was being pulled across the stream at High Force. He was on the centre rock when the wave suddenly came down, and being cut off from the mainland, assistance was summoned, and a rope was thrown to him. The rope broke, and he disappeared over the fall. The body was afterwards recovered at the bend of the river just opposite Towler Hill, immediately north-west of the Tees viaduct at Barnard Castle. Hutton Magna. A.W.M.C.

On Common-Sense Religion: Coming Discourses at Barnard Castle.

Commencing on Sunday evening, in the Congregational Church, the Rev. W. Callender Wake hopes to preach a course of Sunday evening sermons on common-sense religion, dealing with a common-sense view of hell, heaven, the cross and sin. Prior to coming to Barnard Castle, Mr Wake studied under the world-famous preacher, the Rev. R. J. Campbell, M.A., late of the City Temple, and resided at Highbury Academy, which was founded by Mr Campbell as a result of his well-known "New Theology" controversy. Mr Wake has also studied under the Rev. W. Wooding, B.A., brother-in-law of Mr Asquith.

BRITISH SOLDIER'S REMARKABLE ENDURANCE.

Sergeant H. Byrne, of the 44th Co. of Royal Engineers, tells a remarkable story. He suffered from excruciating pains in the back, due to kidney trouble. At last he got so bad that he was obliged to go into hospital, where he lay in constant pain for 43 days. He now writes: "I have not been troubled with my back since taking Baker's Backache Pellets. Altogether I was in hospital 42 days, but I did not improve until I took the first box of Baker's Backache Pellets. I was out of hospital four days afterwards. I was completely cured, and never had to take any more." Baker's Backache Pellets are a positive cure for Backache, Lumbago, Sciatica, Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, Dizziness, Dropsy, and all Kidney Troubles. Get a box to-day. Can now be obtained at all Boots' 555 Branches, Taylor's Drug Store, etc., 3d. and 2d. 9d. per box, or post free in plain wrapper direct from Baker's Medicine Co., 125, High Holborn, London, W.C. Trial box free for two stamps.

Local agent—G. CLARKSON, HARKER.

Military Funeral at Barnard Castle.

THE REMAINS OF COLOUR-SERGEANT BURTONWOOD LAID TO REST.

A very impressive military funeral took place at Barnard Castle on Thursday afternoon, at St. Mary's Parish Church Cemetery, the mortal remains of the late Colour-Sergeant Isaac Burtonwood, of 16, Mountbo-terrace, whose death was chronicled in this journal last week, being laid to rest amidst every manifestation of the deepest respect.

The intimate acquaintances of the deceased gentlemen, reflecting on the impressive surroundings, were soiled in the thought that the obsequies observed were quite in accordance with the known wishes of the late colour-sergeant, for he was a true soldier to the core; and although Charles Wolfe has recorded in undying verse that in the burial of Sir John Moore "not a drum was heard, not a funeral note, as his corse to the rampart he hurried," and that in the last eighteen months thousands of our fellow-creatures have perforce been lowered into their graves with barely as little ceremony, it must be comforting to the family of the late recruiting-officer that the mortal remains of Mr Burtonwood found a final resting-place with full military honours, and that, far from the strife of tongues, he sleeps in the home appointed for all living.

Lieutenant Sydney H. Mansons, of the 23rd Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (an old boy of the North Eastern County School) was in charge of the firing party of twenty men from the 20th (Reserve) Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, and a guard of honour of sixty boys from the North Eastern County School Training Corps. The firing party formed up in front of the deceased's house, and the guard of honour on either side of the road. From the deceased soldier's residence in the place of sepulchre the streets were lined with a sympathetic crowd of people, the blinds of the houses along the route being closely drawn. The procession marched in slow time to the cemetery to the sorrowful chords of Chopin's Funeral March played by the band of the 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry (Territorials). Lieutenant Mathews headed the procession with his sword reversed, and the coffin was borne by the ranks. The coffin, which was covered by the Union Jack and flowers, was carried by the following: Sergeant Beveridge, Sergeant-Major McEgean, Sergeant-Major Lancaster, Sergeant-Major Doxolly, Sergeant-Major W. Robinson, Sergeant Gault, and Sergeant Rudd, of the 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry (Territorials). On arrival at the cemetery the firing party halted, and rested on their arms reversed while the coffin was borne by the ranks. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. F. L. Boreton (Headmaster of the North Eastern County School). The coffin was of pine-wood, with brass monograms, the inscription on the brass-plate being: "Isaac Burtonwood, died January 24th, 1916, aged 53 years."

The chief mourners were Mrs Burtonwood (widow); Mr and Mrs T. Burtonwood, North Shields (son and daughter-in-law); Mr I. Burtonwood (son); Misses Emily, Mary and Ellen Burtonwood (daughters); Mr and Mrs N. Burtonwood, London (brother and sister-in-law); and Mr F. Burtonwood, Oldham (brother). Among the many mourners were the Rev. J. P. Hodgson (Wesleyan), Dr. T. G. D. Adams, Major J. W. B. Heslop, Captain R. G. Boading, Messrs J. Whisman, J. P., L. E. Harrod, J. P. Boardman, R. L. Lister, W. E. Hodgson, R. Woodhams, J. Jackson, J. Tabourin, J. W. Hunter, J. T. Pearson, J. H. Dean, T. Robinson, J. Rudd, R. Thompson, J. Dent, C. Hedley, F. W. Roper, F.R.C.S., G. Stainby, J. Lyon, J. Doxkell, A. Oliver, G. Watson, T. Chait, H. Whipp, G. Stappard, J. G. Harris, G. H. Welford, S. Conibard, J. Quinlan, W. G. Richardson, W. Franklin, A. Urquhart, G. C. Harker, F. Welford, A. Brown, T. Gwynland, J. H. Wain, A. Gilmour, St. H. C. Beck, H. Hobson, T. Smith, S. Brown, F. Green, G. C. Moore, G. Bart, R. Lamb, T. Burrowsdale, junior, H. A. Thompson, F. Ponder, T. Boardman, W. Garbutt, H. Garbutt, J. Todd, J. Brownless, Superintendent Riddell, Sergeant Carr, Mr and Mrs James Barr, Mrs Wigham, Misses Gribbit, Ward, Jameson, Robinson, Elrd and Robinson, Barnard Castle; Mr J. W. Baywick, Staington; and many others.

The party formed up in the grave-side, and at the conclusion of the service three prayers were read over the grave. The "Last Post" was sounded by six buglers of the 25th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Scottish), and the impressive ceremony terminated. The party then marched back to the barracks. Beautiful floral tributes were sent, namely: From his sorrowing wife and children; Tom and Isaac; his brother and sister; Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs H. C. Watson, Barnard Castle; the North Eastern County School; musical friends; and the sergeants of the Durham Light Infantry. The funeral arrangements were ably carried out by Messrs J. Hunter and Son, and the mourning coaches were supplied by Mr T. Oliver, Marsall-street, Barnard Castle.

Letter of Thanks from Sergt. G. Waine.

Appreciation of the "Teesdale Mercury." The Editor of the "Teesdale Mercury" has received the following letter, dated January 23rd, 1916, from Sergeant Geo. G. Waine, son of Mr and Mrs Watson Waine, Thorgate, Barnard Castle, who is serving abroad with the 14th Durham Light Infantry: "Having received one of the many parcels which have been sent to the front by the kind people of Barnard Castle, I wish to thank all those who were responsible for it. I am sure it is very nice to know, although so far away, one is not forgotten, and the kindness which has been shown to me by the people of Barnard shall always live in my memory. The contents were enjoyed by myself and I. We had just got nicely back after being 'mud larking' for a few days, and it was a glorious change from 'bully' and biscuits. We are not allowed to say where we are, and what we are doing, and the only way to get the line, as you are a year noted paper always finds me every Saturday. I eagerly look forward to its coming, and if it failed to reach me I would be awfully disappointed."

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Child Neglect. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children investigated 3,559 complaints of neglect and cruelty in England, Wales and Ireland during the month of December, 1915. Of these, 3,351 complaints cases 8,269 were found true, affecting the welfare of 10,172 children, and involving 4,138 offenders. Warnings were issued to 2,950 cases. 157 were prosecuted (resulting in 156 convictions), and 102 were dealt with by transfer or to other ways. From its foundation in 1884 the society has dealt with 894,469 complaints, involving 2,502,216 children. In the Darlington branch during the month in which these cases were dealt with, 53 children.

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Wednesday, February 2nd, 1916.