

WILLIAM BRITAIN, Winston, DARLINGTON, Agricultural Engineer, Implement Maker, and Agent, Shoeing and General Smith.

Speech Day at the County School.

BISHOP OF DURHAM AND PHYSICAL TRAINING.

EXIT SLOUCH IN THE ENGLISH BACK.

Friday last was Speech Day at the North Eastern County School, Barnard Castle. The Lord Bishop of Durham distributed the University and prize certificates, and there was a large gathering of parents and friends of the school.

Headmaster's Review of the School's Year. The Rev. E. L. Brereton, M.A., said: My Lord Bishop, Ladies, Gentlemen and Boys: Another Speech Day has come round, and marks for us the passage of another year of strained conditions of life in war-time.

There had been created a revival of the old and appreciative sense of duty, which was the signal of Nelson at Trafalgar. The word "duty" was a deep thing in the English heart, and, though speaking in no denominational sense, the English Church catechism was tremendously full of God and duty—duty towards God and neighbour.

Lord Bernard and the Proposed Memorial. Lord Bernard said none of them could be too often reminded that stagnation in this world was impossible, and yet at the same time he thought that they must also admit that until a comparatively recent period, owing to material wealth and prosperity, a certain amount of stagnation had set in in this country.

It is a Time to be Remembered, and whatever memorial we may raise of one old boy who has died will also be a memorial of those nobler feelings and higher resolves which have been kindled at this time in the hearts of those who have survived them, and have roused themselves to perpetuate not unworthily so great a memory.

THE HONOURS LIST. The following certificates were presented by the Bishop, each recipient receiving a cordial reception from his schoolmates and a great ovation was bestowed upon a senior boy who wore the uniform of quartermaster-sergeant of the School Cadet Corps.

CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS—DECEMBER, 1916—First Class Senior Honours—C Appleby (ii).

PRIZE LIST, MIDSUMMER EXAMINATION.—First Memorial Prize for Middle School, J. E. Richardson (i); French prize for lower school, J. H. Anderson (ii); French (i), F. Kellott; chemistry—Set A (theoretical), A. F. Richmond; chemistry—special work, D. Stockdale (i); physics, D. Stockdale (i); freeland and model drawing, G. V. Deas (ii);

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Private Harry Blackett Ashmore, late of this office, and now in France, has been transferred from the Highland Light Infantry to the Royal (City of London) Fusiliers.

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as a special event in his life and work in Durham, on that particular day, to be entrusted with the duty of giving the prize and awarding a little to the boys of the North Eastern County School. It was interesting and delightful to feel so very much of the old schoolmaster in him, he having gone to Marlborough in 1866. They all knew that taken by itself, and considered alone, war was a terrific evil, and he supposed that if they could be transported to view some specimen parts at the western front they would decree that war was a hideous thing—the terrific desolation upon what, remember, only three-and-a-half years ago, were smiling villages, beautiful towns and farmhouses as dear to the hearts of the French and Belgian boys and girls as England was to them, taught them to realise what an awful thing war was. But it was a blessing in the mercy of God that nothing took place on a large scale in human life, however bad in itself, which was not capable of being the cause of some particular good, and he thought the war had done them more than one sort of wonderful national good—it had in England accomplished a great deal of physical good. In walking through Swis, French or German towns he had never failed to be struck with the fine, set-up physique and look of the ordinary man who passed, and how much less slouch there was than in London or any other big English town. The national system of military training in vogue on the Continent had given alertness and self-reliance. Very far be it from him, however, to be the advocate of the importation into England for good of the methods of Continental conscription, for thereby they would lose some of the most precious elements in the English character, though it were well if they had, through the necessities of the war, just so much of that kind of thing introduced as would take a very great deal of slouch out of the English back. In the physical sense the war had made the average young fellow a very much brighter man than he was before. It was truly amazing the way a young Englishman, who seemed a weed, had in due time, under physical drill and the splendid inspiration of discipline, and with good food, of which he got neither too little or too much, been turned into a man splendidly fit. But More Had Been Done.

There had been created a revival of the old and appreciative sense of duty, which was the signal of Nelson at Trafalgar. The word "duty" was a deep thing in the English heart, and, though speaking in no denominational sense, the English Church catechism was tremendously full of God and duty—duty towards God and neighbour. Archbishop Temple, in his remarkable notes on the watchwords of nations, had ascribed to the French, "victory," to the German, "Fatherland," and to the English, "duty," and the war had been a schoolmaster to lead them all to duty. Again, young men and women, as well as older people, had come to take life vastly more seriously than they did, and to serve God and fellow-man faithfully was by far the surest way to have a good time in life themselves—living so as to shed a little more sunshine into the hearts of other people. He could not imagine a drearier or a wearier heart than that which thought of nothing but personal pleasure. The surest path to the truest pleasure was duty well done. (Applause). Speaking of the proposed memorial, the Bishop remarked how grand and glorious was the thought of the lads whom they had loved, and who had now passed beyond, having laid down their lives upon the field of battle. They wanted not only to think of them with reverence, but to put their memory in some concrete form, being assured that they largely died for unutterable love of England—they died that England might live. There was a call to everyone personally to be a memorial of them by living devoted and ennobled lives, not only by following their example, but by the recollection of what they had died for, for England might have experienced some of the horrors of Flanders. And, please God, although this was a tremendous moment in the war, and only the thoughtless would speak in brag about it, and without the name of God, their sacrifices would not be in vain, and England would live. (Applause).

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UPPER DALE NOTES.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Teesdale people will be pleased to hear of the success of an ex-salesman in the person of Mr J. Hutchinson, who left Middleton some eighteen years ago for Darlington. He has been elected president of the Darlington Bowling League for the ensuing year. The league consists of nine clubs, extending to Barnard Castle and Bishop Auckland, with a membership of upwards of 800. Mr Hutchinson has been connected with the East Park Bowling Club since its formation in 1908, and is entering upon his third year as secretary. He is well-known as a keen exponent of the old English game.

Driver J. W. Scott, Middleton, who has been in France for about two years, and Private F. Waterfield are now at home on leave for fourteen days.

A memorial service was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Egglestone, on Sunday night week, in honour of Private A. Stephenson, son of Mr J. Stephenson, quarry manager, who died of wounds, in France, in October. The Rev. G. Glandfield (circuit minister) conducted the service, and there was a large attendance.

Lantern lectures were given in the Primitive Chapel, Mickleton, on Tuesday night, and at Newbiggin Wesleyan school-room on Wednesday evening of last week by Mr T. J. Fletcher, of the North of England Temperance League, Newcastle.

The monthly meeting of the Middleton Parish Council was held on Wednesday night last. Mr T. R. Gowling presiding. Several applications for garden allotments were before the Council, and the whole of the remaining portion of the allotment field is now taken. It was decided to try and get permission to have a few of the street lamps lit at the most dangerous places in the town during the dark nights. The sub-committee for the uniform closing of shops submitted a report, and the matter was left over.

Middleton was thrown into darkness about 8 o'clock on Saturday night week on account of shortage of gas. Great inconvenience was caused in the shops and public places, and candles in many cases had to be brought into use.

Funeral of the Late Mr C. Jackson of Staindrop.

The funeral of the late Mr Charles Jackson took place on Thursday last, amidst many manifestations of respect and esteem. The cortege was preceded by a large representation of members of the Rose of Raby Freemasons' Lodge, and a large number of tradesmen and farmers of the district were also present, the deceased being a familiar figure at the auction marts, having carried on an old-established butchering business for many years. The chief mourners were Mrs Jackson, widow; Messrs George A. and Charles, sons; the Misses Jessie, Mary, and Janet, daughters; Mr and Mrs F. Jackson, Mr and Mrs George Jackson, Private and Mrs E. Jackson, brothers and sisters-in-law; Mr and Mrs H. Robinson, brother-in-law and sister; Miss C. Jackson, sister; Mr and Mrs A. Jackson, nephew and niece; Mr George Jackson, the Misses F. and N. Jackson, Mr G. W. Jackson, and Mr J. G. Johnson, cousins. The service was conducted by the Rev. J. E. Phillips, assisted by the Rev. D. W. Marsh, chaplain of the Rose of Raby Lodge. The service was choral, the masonic funeral ode, "Days and moments quickly fly," being sung in the church. After the committal sentences the Freemasons sang their final anthem, and dropped sprigs of acacia in the grave as they filed past. There were several floral tributes, including a beautiful emblematic wreath from the W.M. and members of the Freemasons' Lodge.

Lartington Working Party.

A public meeting of the above was held in the Institute on Thursday last, when an account of the work done during the year was given by the secretary (Miss Spence):—Forwarded to the County Work Depot at Northallerton—11 pyjamas, 10 shirts, 23 pairs of socks, 8 pairs of slippers, 6 mittens, 2 mufflers; forwarded to the Lartington men serving—18 shirts, 16 pairs of socks; in hand—18 pairs of socks, and 1 pair of mittens. Total 111. The balance sheet—Income: Balance of last year, 12s.; subscriptions 8s. 6d.; proceeds from what drive, 221 0s 6d.; proceeds from permits to fish in Lartington High Pond, 24 1s. 9d.; total, 226 0s. 9d. Expenditure: What drive expenses, 23 0s. 6d.; fannel, wool, etc, 216 7s. 6d.; cigarettes, postage of parcels to France and Northallerton, 21 12s. 6d.; to Wright, prisoner of war in Germany, 6s.; two announcements in the "Teesdale Mercury," 4s. 4d.; total, 221 10s. 10d. Balance in hand, 24 9s. 11d.—The meeting decided that the balance, with further subscriptions, be spent on providing Christmas gifts to the 19 Lartington men serving in the army and navy, and that the gifts be one pair of socks and a 5s. postal order to each.—Great regret was felt at the loss during the year of Private Wm. Wilson.

ROKEBY COURSING MEETING.

Yesterday there was a good attendance, abundance of bare, and good sport. The judge was Mr George Lawson, and the slipper Mr J. Sutton. Only one stake was run out Mr J. J. Bell-irving's Jack Spraggon and Mr J. Little's Lucky Box divided the Rokeby stakes for 5 pupples; Mr Mills' Merry Leo, in a fine deciding course, beat Mr W. Irving's Star Shell, and won the Greta Bridge stakes for 8 all-ages; Mr Little's Laidus II. and Mr W. Irving's Sentinel divided the Brigal stakes for 8 all-ages; Mr Sutcliffe's Suz tte and Mr Little's Letter Box divided the Thorpe stakes for 3 pupples; and Mr J. J. Bell-irving's Pale Face and Mr Mills' Meggie Carr divided the Egglestone Abbey stakes for 7 pupples. Mr C. Hedley ably discharged the secretarial duties.

Electric Pocket Lamps, from 2/6; Batteries, new stock, 1/-, 1/2, 1/6; Torches, very economical in use, 4/-, 5/- to 8/6; Torch Batteries 1/6, 2/-, 2/6.—Watson's Cycle Depot, Barnard Castle.

LADIES.

BLANCHARD'S PILLS Are arranged for all Irregularities, etc. They speedily afford relief, and never fail to alleviate all suffering. They supersede Purgatives, Pili Coccolia, Bitter Apple, etc. BLANCHARD'S are the best of all Pills for Women Sold in boxes, 1s. 1/4d., by BOOTS' Branches, TAYLOR'S Drug Company Branches, and all Chemists, or post free, same price, from LEBLIE MARTYN, Limited, Chemists, 34, DALSTON LANE, LONDON. Free samples and valuable Booklet, post free, 1d. stamp

BARNARD CASTLE POLICE COURT.

WEDNESDAY.—Before Messrs R. W. Raico (presiding), C. B. Martin, J. W. Hartley, R. Armstrong and C. Hedley.

Acetylene Lamps Unshaded. Allan Wall, Figgarthwaite, Egglestone, farmer; Joseph Alderson, Prospect House, Newbiggin, miner; Edward Raico, Green Gate, Luncdale, labourer; Alfred Jewitt, Low Nook, Luncdale; and John W. Morton, Harrison House, Woodland, miner, were summoned for not having their acetylene lamps shaded, after dark.—Raico and Jewitt, who appeared, pleaded ignorance of the Lighting Order, and were fined 7s. 6d. each, and the absent defendants were each fined 10s.—The Chairman expressed surprise that the terms of the order appeared to be so little known in the district, and hoped that the Press would draw attention to the requirements of the order.

The Demands of Somerset House. Parkin Raico, Luncdale, Middleton, farmer, was fined 10s. for using a two-wheeled vehicle on the 7th of July, without having a license, authorising him so to do.—Defendant was absent.

Neglected to Shade his Windows. William Teward, of High Dyke, Middleton, farmer, was fined 21 for having neglected to shade his windows on the 6th of November.—P. C. Minchell said he had warned the defendant several times, and occasionally he put something in front of his windows, when he thought fit to do so, otherwise it was left undone.

The Excuse List Trouble. The adjourned matter of Mrs Mary Liddle, assistant-overseer and rate collector, against Jane Armstrong, and which had arisen on the presentation of the excuse list for Lynesack township, was further considered by the Bench.—The complainant stated that defendant's son, who owned the house, had declined to pay the rate.—The Bench asked the nominal defendant if she could not go into a smaller house, as the one in which her son allowed her to live rent free appeared to be worth 5s. or 6s. a week, which was equal to between 21s and 21s a year.—Defendant said she could not get another house. Moreover, her son said she had to live in this house as long as she lived.—After consultation the Bench said she would be excused this time, but would have to pay in the future.—Defendant: Can I not pay half rate in future?—The Chairman said the Bench would have to consider that when the case came on again.

FOOD ECONOMY CAMPAIGN.

To the Editor of the "Teesdale Mercury." SIR,—Permit me through your columns to make a personal appeal to the inhabitants of Barnard Castle on the urgent and pressing subject of economy in food. The need for economy is becoming more apparent daily, not only in food but in every other article. The situation is very plain: it is either voluntary rationing on the scale laid down by the Food Controller for every person, or on the other hand compulsory rationing by the Government—a cumbersome, expensive and unsatisfactory method.

The present consumption of food is far in excess of the actual needs of the nation. The supply cannot be kept up; a feast-to-day means a famine to-morrow. This can be averted by self-restraint, and a determination on the part of every individual to take only what is barely necessary.

In the Urban District, a Food Economy Committee has been appointed, on whom will fall the onerous task of bringing home the need of economy and the duty of the individual to the State to voluntary help in saving food stuffs. May I beg for the committee a welcome in their work and a receptive mind for their message? The form the campaign will take is not yet fully decided upon, but the aim is to convey to everyone the imperative necessity of complying with the request of the Government for the saving of food. A public meeting will be held shortly, probably to be followed by a house-to-house canvass, with a request to join the League of National Safety. I most earnestly beg every reader as a patriot to follow the lines laid down by the Food Controller, and so save the nation the burden of compulsory rationing. Let reason rule, and not force compel.—Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER BEDLEY, Chairman of the Urban Council, Council Offices, 17th November, 1917.

IMPORTANT DOON TO LADIES.

NO Pills or Drugs used in this treatment; I never fail in my remedy, and I guarantee to cure all female ailments. I invite those cases that have failed elsewhere. Stamp, free advice.—ROSS'S "LABORATORY," No. 8, Mire-street, Cheltenham.

PIGS ARE OFTEN TROUBLED WITH WORMS: Thorley's Worm Powders will clear same. 8 1/2 in Cansons containing 6c powders 5/4. by Agents in all parts, or by post paid 12c powders 1/1 from Joseph Thorley Ltd, King's Cross, London.

EVERY WOMAN

should send two stamps for our 32-page Illustrated Book containing valuable information how all Irregularities and suppressions may be entirely avoided or removed by simple means. Recommended by eminent Physicians as the only safe, sure, and genuine remedy. Never fails. Thousands of testimonials. Established 1862.

MR PAUL BLANCHARD,

CLAREMONT HOUSE, DALSTON LANE, LONDON

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Roll of Honour.

ETHERINGTON—Killed in action, in France, on October 31st, 1917, Robert Henry Etherington (dearly beloved husband of Hannah Etherington, of Barnard Castle), of the Durham Light Infantry, aged 39 years.—Deeply mourned.

In Memoriam. BRASS—On the 25th November, 1916, at his residence, 7, Ware-street, Barnard Castle, James Brass, aged 63 years.—At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, "always remembered by his niece, Greta Young.

SAYER.—In loving memory of Thomas Sayer, of West New House, Baldersdale, who died November 21st, 1909.

Returns Thanks. THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS AND GRAND-CHILDREN of the late Mrs Allison wish to thank all friends for their kind sympathy to them in their sudden and bereavement; and special thanks are tendered to the ministers, choir and organist of the Wesleyan Church.

MRS RAW AND FAMILY, Bank, Barnard Castle, desire to express their sincere thanks to the many friends for sympathy shown to them during their recent sad bereavement.

MRS WILKINSON AND FAMILY, King-street, wish to thank all friends for expressions of sympathy shown to them during their sad bereavement; also for the numerous kind letters received.