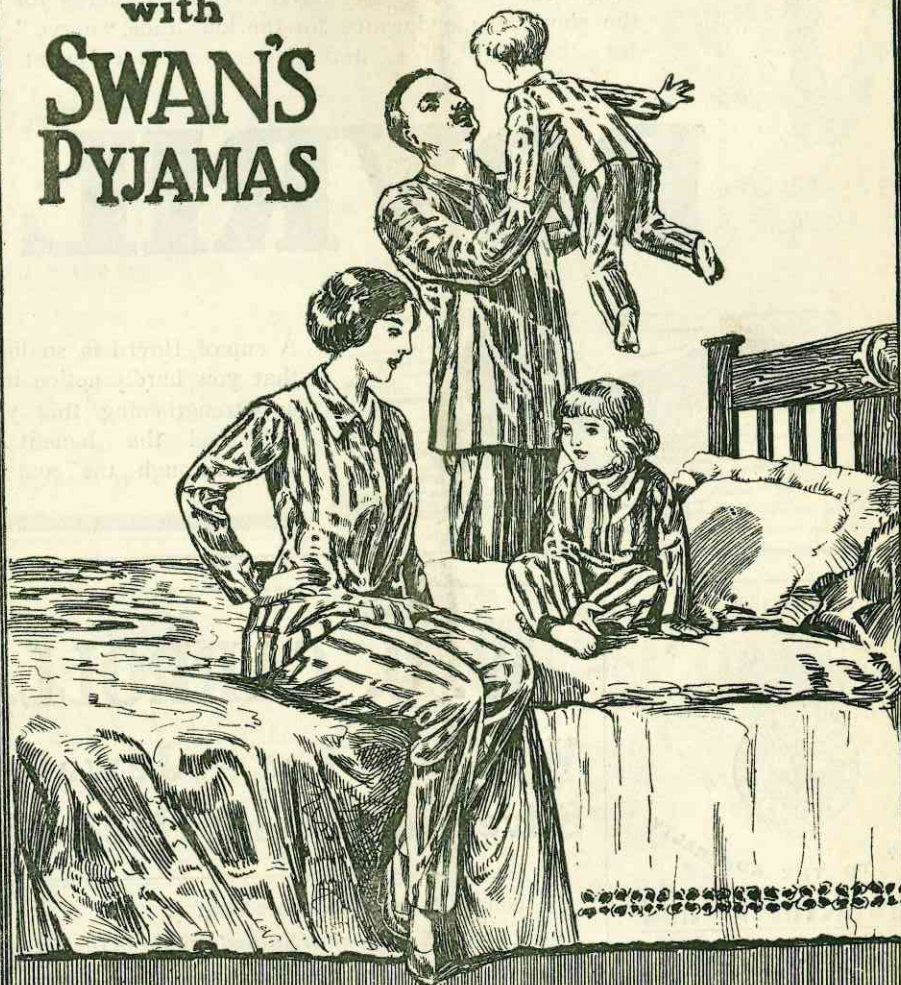


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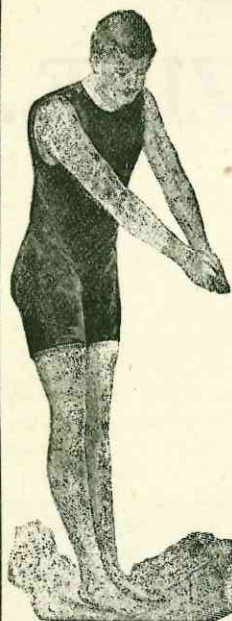
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THE SWIMMING MAGAZINE.



DEC., 1917.

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The Swimming Magazine

*(The Official
Organ of The
Royal Life
Saving Society)*

No. 7. VOL. IV.

DECEMBER, 1917.

THE COMING YEAR.

New Records to be Created.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR HONORARY WORKERS.

AT this time last year we were hopeful that ere another Christmas was upon us, a new era of world's happiness would have dawned. But we are still bearing the burden of the struggle and great sacrifices have yet to be made.

Under such circumstances it would not have been surprising had the cause of swimming and Life Saving materially suffered, but such is happily not the case, particularly so in Life Saving, in which great progress has been made despite many serious drawbacks.

Reports from the Overseas Head Centres of the Society are nearly all to the effect that good headway has been made and in several instances all former records of examinations and Awards have been surpassed. The enlistment of many of the Officers, Examiners and Hon. Instructors has stimulated those who were prominent in the work years ago to come once more to the Society's assistance, and nothing has been more gratifying than the rejuvenation of the tried honorary workers, who had done yeoman service in the past, but have now buckled on armour again and taken the place of their younger comrades, many of whom to our great regret have given their lives for the Empire's cause during the past year.

To those of them still serving with the forces, tending the sick, or otherwise engaged in the country's great work, we extend hearty greetings for the coming year in the sincere hope that ere long we shall be able once more to welcome them back to the brotherhood of Life Savers. As regards the work which lies before those of us left at home there can be no question but that it is our bounden duty to strenuously advocate the noble aims and objects of our Society, particularly among the young people on

whose efficiency we shall have to greatly rely in the future. By energetic effort to enhance the value of and enlarge upon their previous good work we shall be honouring them and advancing a noble cause, the value of whose claim for world wide recognition irrespective of creed, party or power has been so wonderfully emphasised during the present war. Knowledge of the methods of Life Saving has been instrumental in the preservation of many lives under circumstances of incredible difficulty, overcome as it were in a flash of thought or instinctively through previous training, when urgent decision was necessary.

During the last three years the Royal Life Saving Society has made rapid progress, and the lasting value of its work has been greatly enhanced by it having been taken up more strongly in the Services than ever before, and also its adoption in the Training Colleges as a means of instruction. As regards the latter it cannot be too strongly pointed out how useful a knowledge of swimming and Life Saving will be to the teacher of the future, for swimming is bound to come forward as a special subject of physical training. We already find many of the students at Training Colleges, particularly ladies who are qualifying as teachers, alive to its value and sedulously training with the view of passing the examination for the higher Awards of the Society. We heartily welcome this activity because it will ensure continued progress among the young and the more general and widespread dissemination of a useful knowledge.

Therefore during the coming year let us enter the work with determination and a will to open up fresh fields of energy and create a fresh record. It may be difficult but it can be done.

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY.

Increased Overseas Activity.

REMARKABLE RESULTS IN WAR TIME.

THE usual Monthly Central Executive Meeting was held at the office of the Society on Thursday, November 15, when many Overseas reports were read, and as these are dealt with fully in the following pages we do not propose to enlarge upon them, except to say that the results created the utmost pleasure among those present, especially as the awards granted for England and Scotland also showed an increase of nearly 1,500 on the totals at the same period of last year. Votes of thanks and hearty congratulations were accorded to the Dominion Executive Council of New Zealand; Victoria Head Centre, Australia; Queensland Head Centre, and the North Taranaki and Auckland Head Centres of New Zealand upon their very gratifying reports, and the splendid work that has been achieved by them. Correspondence with regard to the promotion and progress of the work was read from Hong Kong, Egypt, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Ontario and Quebec Head Centre. Lieut. W. F. Godfrey, of the Royal Engineers, and Mr. H. Hamilton, of Toronto, were elected Hon. Associates of the Society, and the Distinguished Service Medal was unanimously conferred upon Mr. W. Maclean Carey, M.A., for his fourteen years of service in the promotion of Swimming and Life Saving at the Rutlish School, where over 300 awards have been gained.

The total of Awards granted for the month amounted to 1,285, including one Diploma to Mrs. Nancy Bennett, of Huddersfield, who had gained all her preliminary Awards at Sheffield in 1915 and 1916 as a pupil of Mrs. Hazeldene. The above total also includes 31 Awards of Merit, 10 Hon. Instructors' Certificates, 14 Teachers' Certificates, and 220 Bronze Medallions, many of which were awarded to candidates in naval and military classes in England, Canada and Egypt.

Many other reports of work done were considered by the Executive, among them being one from Mr. A. Galbraith, Hon. Sec. of the Glasgow and District Centre, who stated that great progress had been made at Motherwell this season, where some 150 candidates were still to be examined, while Mr. E. A. Chapman, Hon. Sec. of the

Ontario Head Centre, Canada, not only sent in a formidable list of candidates for various Awards, including six for the Award of Merit, and a number of members of the Military Forces in training, but also cheque for the discharge of liabilities for supplies forwarded from Head Office; and from Mr. C. E. Hopper, Hon. Sec. British Columbia Head Centre, a letter was read enclosing successful results of an examination for three Awards of Merit held at Vancouver on September 1, and Mr. Jos. Wilson, of Nottingham, sent in examination forms for 39 Elementary Certificates and 17 Proficiency Certificates, all being for members of the Nottingham Schools S.A. From Mr. Fred. Wilkinson, of Nelson, a letter was read which stated that four classes in Life Saving had been started for the winter season at the Nelson Corporation Baths, and that in this particular work a record was anticipated; he also reported very favourably upon a class of members of the Burnley Ladies S.C.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HEAD CENTRE.

Until quite recently we have been without news from South Australia, but we are now in receipt of a fraternal communication from Mr. Chas. A. Bartlett, Chairman of the Executive of the South Australian Head Centre, and President and Chief Instructor of the South Australian Amateur Swimming Club. He despatched letters in May last, conveying on behalf of the swimmers of the Craft in South Australia their hearty congratulations upon the attainment of the Chair of the Royal Life Saving Lodge by Mr. William Henry and wishing him a successful term of office. These wishes have now been reconveyed under date of September 24 last and are greatly appreciated. The original letters must have been lost in transit, as also the reports of the doings of the Head Centre. We are glad to learn that the copy of the *SWIMMING MAGAZINE*, containing the article on "The Teaching of Swimming—Our Criminal Apathy," arrived in due course, because it has been helpful to Mr. Bartlett and his colleagues, who at the time of writing were about to send a deputation to the Minister of Education on the question of the compulsory teaching of Swimming in State schools.

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Brief reference to the meeting of the New Zealand Dominion Executive Council was made in our last issue. It was held at Christchurch Municipal Bath Club, on August 9, and was presided over by Mr. K. Bassett, Otago, there being also present Messrs. P. N. Rundle, Auckland; Walter Johnson, Hawkes' Bay; B. S. Knox, Taranaki; B. O'Neill, Wanganui; and J. Wyn Irwin, Wellington.

Hawkes Bay Head Centre reported that there was a total of 105 Awards for the year 1915-16. It also formally asked the Council to accept the "William Nelson" Surf Shield under special conditions.

The desirability of each Head Centre appointing a Chief Instructor, with a view to holding classes of Instructors and Examiners, thereby helping to set up as high a standard of work as possible in each district, was heartily approved of and opinion was expressed that the time had also arrived for the appointment of a Dominion Chief Instructor.

NORTH TARANAKI HEAD CENTRE.

The first annual report of the North Taranaki Head Centre was presented at the annual meeting held at New Plymouth on August 29 last, when Mr. Dan J. Hughes was re-elected president, Messrs. W. E. Westons, A. H. Johnstone, W. H. Noyes, N. K. MacDiarmid, A. J. Arms, J. McLeod, E. Whittle, L. B. Webster and W. G. Emery, vice-presidents. Mr. Peter A. Schwartz was re-elected hon. secretary, Mr. S. G. Smith, hon. treasurer, and Messrs. C. T. Mills and E. P. Webster, hon. auditors, while the following ladies and gentleman were elected to the committee: Misses E. White, J. McIsaacs and H. White; Messrs. P. J. Flanagan, J. Bennett, N. A. Christiansen, C. Bond, G. Gilbert, A. Milne, N. Winter and R. L. McIlroy. The president donated a trophy for a proposed schools competition, which, with the grant from the Dominion Executive, will enable the committee to carry out both Primary and Secondary Schools Competitions. At a meeting of the Committee held subsequently Mr. D. J. Hughes was elected chairman, Mr. S. G. Smith vice-chairman, and Dr. W. R. Wade and Dr. D. Blackley, Hon. Medical Officers.

The report showed that the membership had increased from the initial one of 49 and 2 affiliations, on August 4, 1916, to 106 and

9 affiliations and that a total of 182 Awards had been granted by the Centre.

Mr. N. A. Christiansen had obtained the Society's Diploma with a total of 171 points, and Miss E. White the Award of Merit, with 93 points.

It was proposed early in the season to arrange a touring demonstration team to visit most of the schools in the Centre's district, but this project had to be abandoned. Demonstrations were however given at Fitzroy, East End, Waitara, Eltham, and on several occasions at the Municipal Baths.

A combined demonstration and lecture, followed by a practical exhibition and instruction at the Baths, was given to a gathering of about 300 School Teachers, a few of whom subsequently gained their Certificates.

Classes of Instruction were held by the East End Bathing Reserve, Miss E. White, the Fitzroy Improvement Society, Chetwode Private School, Boys' High School, Central School, Eltham District School and also by several school teachers. The scope of this work is to be largely magnified during the present season.

New Plymouth Boys' High School did very well indeed, the classes, under their own Hon. Instructors, obtaining 71 Awards, including 3 Teachers' and 2 Hon. Instructors' Certificates. East End Bathing Reserve also did well. They had patrols out on duty on holidays and gala days, did much practice work with the Surf Reel and also gained 18 Awards, while for the third successive year they carried off the Tabor Shield for Surf Reel Competition, the winning team being captained by N. Winter. They also effected the rescue by the aid of the Surf Reel of a girl who had been carried out some distance. The Reel was manned by Messrs. S. Stroud, N. Winter and C. Roebuck.

We heartily congratulate President Hughes, and Mr. Peter A. Schwartz, the hon. secretary, as well as the other officials, on the success of the first year's work.

TASMANIAN HEAD CENTRE.

We have received from Miss Olive Barnard, the Hon. Secretary of the Tasmanian Head Centre, requests for further supplies of books, certificates and medallions, which will be forwarded in due course. The progress which this Centre is rapidly making is a source of great gratification to the Central Executive.

QUEENSLAND HEAD CENTRE.

The annual meeting of the Queensland head centre of the Royal Life Saving Society was held at the Y.M.C.A., on August 27. His Excellency the Governor of Queensland, Sir Hamilton J. Goold-Adams, who had contributed the sum of ten guineas in aid of the work, presided, and in opening the meeting said that he took the keenest interest in the society, and was only too pleased to be of service to the cause of Life Saving.

The annual report stated that the year's work was highly satisfactory from all points of view, the Awards gained being 168 in advance of last year. The knowledge of Life Saving had spread over a very large area, mostly through the efforts of the hon. secretary, who during his annual holiday toured as far north as Cairns, about 1000 miles from the centre. The society, recognising that there should be closer touch with the State Schools' Swimming Associations, invited representatives of those bodies to meet the executive in friendly conference. A profitable discussion ensued, and it had been decided that each of these associations should be entitled to have representatives on the committee, so that they might give the benefit of their views when questions arise likely to affect school children. It was decided to place on record the name of Sergeant W. E. T. Martin, the late chief instructor, who gave his life for his country. The society lost in Sergeant Martin one of its most ardent workers. Lieutenant Murray, the present chief instructor, was presented by Mr. Maurice J. Barry, on behalf of the society, with a wristlet watch, as token of appreciation of services rendered to Life Saving. Lieutenant Murray, who was expected to depart for the front, was highly spoken of by all present.

The financial statement showed receipts amounting to £276 os. 6d., including £100 Government grant. There was a balance in the bank of £148 2s. 1d. at the end of the current financial year; the excess of assets over liabilities amounted to £202 6s. 1d.

Miss Elsie Venning, the eighteen-year-old daughter of the late secretary, had secured the Diploma. She was first Queensland to obtain this high Award. The Honorary Associate certificate and badge, presented to Bronze Medallion holders who devoted their energy and ability to further the interest of the society by taking a

prominent part in the establishment of classes and teaching at least 20 candidates who must obtain the Bronze Medallion, was awarded to the hon. secretary, Mr. J. J. Betts, by the Central Executive, he having taught successfully this season pupils, who between them had gained 273 awards. Great credit was due to Mr. P. Moriarty, of Nudgee, whose pupils obtained 107 Awards, and also to the assistant hon. secretary, Mr. J. Thompson, whose pupils gained 62 Awards. Forty classes were examined, resulting in 513 Awards being granted, including 7 Awards of Merit, 6 Hon. Instructors' Certificates, 3 Teachers' Certificates, 66 Bronze Medallions, 186 Proficiency Certificates, and 246 Elementary Certificates.

Mr. J. Daly, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said the report showed that the society in Queensland is living up to its high objects. The work could, he believed, be extended still further, particularly as regards Life Saving and resuscitation in the schools, which was laying the foundations of work amongst the older members of the community. He considered Life Saving was a national matter, and one of great importance in defence.

Mr. A. J. Sapsford, in seconding, spoke of the excellent work performed by the secretary in his northern tour, resulting in the formation of several new branches. He hoped the future executive would devote funds as much as possible to further tours of this kind and thus promote the welfare of the society. The report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted and the elections resulted as follows:

Patron, his Excellency the Governor; president, Mr. E. J. Stevens, M.L.C.; vice-presidents, Messrs. H. F. Hardacre, M. J. Kirwan, Ms.L.A.; Archbishop Donaldson, Mr. J. Allan, Dr. J. Lockhart Gibson, Archbishop Duhig, Rev. Bro. B. F. M'Gee, Messrs. J. W. Blair, T. C. Beirne, M.L.C., F. W. de Little, Lieut. A. G. Murray, Alderman J. W. Hetherington (Mayor of Brisbane), Alderman R. W. H. Long (Mayor of South Brisbane); honorary treasurer, Mr. J. Fitzgerald; honorary secretary, Mr. J. J. Betts, N.S.P.E.

Executive Committee:—Mr. J. Barry, Miss Carroway, Mrs. Mowbray, Messrs. Griffiths and Callaghan, S.S.S. Association; Messrs. Sapsford, Aldridge (Townsville), Palfrey, Finnimore (Mackay), Daniels, J. W. Thompson (Rockhampton), Capt. Martin, Lieut. Weymouth (Cairns), Messrs. Burton,

M'Carthy (Nudgee College), S. Nicholson, A. Byrne (Commercial), S. Nicholson, E. Springfield (Valley), Daly (Education Department), Miss de Jersey (Kelvin Grove), Misses Smith and Eglington (Craigard School).

During the evening the Governor spoke of the energy devoted to the work of the society by the hon. secretary (Mr. Betts) and complimented him on being awarded the Honorary Associate certificate and badge. He had individually been responsible for the instruction of a large number of pupils who had won Awards, but also had rendered signal service by his advocacy of the objects of the Society.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Governor for presiding. His Excellency's interest in the work had given great impetus to the society.

In replying, his Excellency spoke of the necessity for the better protection of the bathing resorts of Queensland, and the need for warning signs as to danger spots. On the motion of Mr. Daly, seconded by Mr. Sapsford, the incoming committee was instructed to deal with the matter.

A satisfactory feature and one which is likely to have far reaching results was the formation of sub-branches for districts of Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Maroochy River. The excellent report submitted by the Cairns Sub-branch clearly proves the wisdom of such branches.

VICTORIAN HEAD CENTRE.

In the thirteenth annual report of the Victorian Head Centre, the Executive Council states that the number of Awards granted in Victoria have reached record numbers, for whereas in 1916 the total was 672, no fewer than 1,021 were granted last season. Yet the weather was cold and unsuitable, and the majority of the Society's workers are still away at the war.

During the season letters were inserted in all Victorian newspapers, calling attention to the wastage of life, with a request that Life Saving classes be formed in every country town and village.

Much good pioneer work was done, particularly by Mr. Harry Witty, the hon. secretary, who made a prolonged tour and vigorously advocated the Society's aims and objects. Much of this has been already dealt with in the pages of the *Magazine*, but it is necessary to refer to it again in order to emphasise the valuable results achieved.

Mr. Goldsmith, of the City of Melbourne Club, also spent much time taking demonstrators round to the various bathing places, the members of the club paying their own expenses.

In order that the higher Awards of the Society might be obtained special classes were opened, with the result that 66 passed for the Award of Merit, no fewer than 15 of them being obtained by ladies.

During this season, the Centre intends to hold classes for Hon. Instructors and Examiners, so as to secure uniformity in carrying on the work, and it is also proposed to centralise the examinations.

When last season's campaign was on a large number of people signified their desire to be taught swimming, and opportunity was afforded through the courtesy of Mr. W. I. Bennett, superintendent of the Richmond Municipal Baths. A large number of persons availed themselves of the offer made, and though many were over the age when it seemed to be fairly out of their reach they have become competent swimmers and qualified life savers.

Permission has been given to those members of the Police who qualify for the Bronze Medallion, to wear a special badge on their forearm. Although six policemen have qualified, three of them belong to the Horsham Police.

As showing the interest which the Horsham members take in obtaining the Award it is interesting to record the fact that one of the members of the Horsham Club was so anxious to secure the Award of Merit that he made a special journey to Melbourne, a distance of 200 miles, to pass. This was Mr. Charles William Mathers. The Executive Council has placed on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Norman McMullin, their Hon. Representative at Horsham, and also by all the officers of the Horsham Club.

The Boy Scouts Association has affiliated to the Centre.

A Government grant of £50 was received in aid of last season's work.

The balance-sheet shows cash at bank and in hand £114 2s. 5d. with assets (which include stock on hand) of £90 2s. 9d. and liabilities—nil.

When Sergt.-Major Malins, formerly Hon. Secretary of the Centre, left Australia with the A.I.F., he instructed over 1000 troops on the boat in the Schafer method of resuscitation. Sergt.-Major Malins has now

returned to Australia and has again taken up Life Saving work.

A feature of the report is the method of awarding the premier position among the clubs promoting Life Saving. For every member who gains an Elementary Certificate one point is given to the club, three points for Proficiency Certificate, four points for Teacher's Certificate, five points for Bronze Medallion, seven points for Hon. Instructors and ten points for Award of Merit. On this basis of calculation the Fitzroy Club, Melbourne, was awarded first place with 499 points. Half Moon Bay Club were second with 454 points, and the South St. Kilda third with 360.

The annual meeting of the Centre was to have been held at the Town Hall, Melbourne, on Monday, August 27, but at the time of going to press the mail conveying report of the gathering had not arrived.

QUEBEC BRANCH.

Although greatly hampered in its work by war conditions the Quebec Branch is still carrying on and giving occasional demonstrations in various parts of the Province. One of these was given by four young ladies under the direction of Mr. A. W. Ross at the annual gala of the Verdun "500" Social and Swimming Club on August 12, the four young ladies being the Misses Edith and Mabel Namee, Edna Vernon and Maud Race. After a very fine display they took collection boxes and swam around the boats taking donations for the Montreal Soldiers' Wives League.

Mr. Ross gave a brief speech on the work of the Royal Life Saving Society, and congratulated the City of Verdun and the Verdun "500" Social and Swimming Club on what they were doing to teach the art of swimming. In the absence of the president of the Branch, Ald. Louis Rubinstein, the Sir Edward Clouston Cup, which had been won by the Verdun troop Boy Scouts, was presented to them by Mr. Ross. Another demonstration given in August was at the Club Nautique, Chateauguay, at which the president, Mr. Ross and Captain Carle all assisted.

That highly successful Coach to the Los Angeles Athletic Club, Mr. F. Vance Veith, says that he finds Life Saving instruction interests his students more than any other line of aquatics. So mote it be all over the world.

Plymouth Amateur Swimming Club and Life Saving Society held its distribution of prizes in the Co-operative Hall, Plymouth, on Tuesday, November 6, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. P. Goldsmith, then Mayor of Plymouth. His Worship said that he was of opinion that instead of about 30 per cent., the present status of boys and girls who know how to swim, there ought to be at least 90 per cent. of the juvenile population of the town who were good swimmers. The work of Mr. N. Phillips in making the Association's aims so well supported was highly appraised. The Association has done much to encourage the boys and girls of Plymouth to study swimming and Life Saving, and at this distribution a team of boys gave a display of the land drills. To show how wide spreading may this work become we have only to quote the example set by Mr. Ernest H. Lamb, who is now with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and has been conducting classes in Life Saving among his comrades. The lists have arrived and were before the Central Executive at their last meeting. An interesting point in connection with the class conducted by Mr. Lamb is that the candidates were examined by Messrs. Murrell and Tearne. The former obtained his Award of Merit at Ipswich, and the latter his Bronze Medallion at Bradford. Mr. Lamb was one of the members of the Port of Plymouth's Society's first water polo team and also played for Devon County. His Awards of the Royal Life Saving Society were gained at Plymouth. In connection with his work in Egypt he has been granted further facilities for teaching, so useful is the knowledge considered by those in command.

Officials of the Derby Schools Athletic Association, to whose good work we referred last month, say that the teaching of Life Saving is being more and more appreciated in Derby, and that there is plenty of scope for great development. There is, however, an increasing difficulty in carrying on the teaching, curiously enough through the successes of the past. Thousands of children have been taught to swim and realise the value of regular bathing. They have now grown up and use the baths to such an extent that they are congested. The Town Authorities have not moved with the times in spite of the greatly increased demand for accommodation, and now customarily it is very difficult to find space to give instruction—

as the teaching does not take place in school time. One class, however, that of the St. James's Church School, has been given special lessons in school time when the baths were fairly free and it proved the most successful of the year. The winner of the Ald. Chambers' Shield for boys this year was Kedleston Road School and that for the Mrs. Chambers' Shield for girls the St. James's Church School, for the third year in succession.

* * * *

At an examination held at Burnley on October 28, the Misses E. E. Dickinson, F. Trewby, E. Butterworth, M. Cocks, B. Starkie, F. Mackay, N. Ashworth and I. Crewdson passed for the Bronze Medallion of the Royal Life Saving Society. Miss C. M. Bridge was the instructress and Dr. Anderson the lecturer.

* * * *

The Sir John Hall Shield, competed for annually under the auspices of the Canterbury Head Centre of the Royal Life Saving Society, has been won during the past four years by teams from the Christchurch Normal School. The winning team this year consisted of J. Ashman, H. Reynolds, J. Gasson and R. Hitchings, the instructor being Mr. J. Wyn-Irwin. A Normal School team has also won the Collins Cup, a competition restricted to pupils of primary schools. These successful youths were:—F. Reiman, W. Moffat, A. Jacobs and L. Balkind, who had Mr. W. S. Wauchop as instructor.

* * * *

It has been a great pleasure to us to be able to greet so many Overseas swimmers, who have joined the forces. The offices of the Society, 8, Bayley Street, Bedford Square, W.C. are being constantly visited by these worthy sons of the Empire, who bring us up-to-date information as to the work in far-away lands and act as a personal connecting link with many of those energetic officials it has been an honour to us to meet in all parts of the world.

* * * *

Just as we are going to press we have received the report of the annual meeting of the Victoria Head Centre at Melbourne in August last, at which 2,200 people were present to listen to an animated address by Sir Henry Weedon, the new President, of whom we have very kindly recollections, for his courtesy to us during our visit to Australia was unbounded. With his address we will deal in our next issue.

The subject of Life Saving has again this season received much attention from the Liverpool and District Teachers Association, for through the efforts of the members in imparting the knowledge, no fewer than 140 Elementary and 21 Proficiency Certificates were gained by the scholars, in two months, which is most gratifying to all who have at heart the true interests of the subject, which may prove invaluable when the school life of the children has ended. We wish that every town and city possessed a similar body of energetic teachers.

THE ROYAL LIFE SAVING LODGE. A SUCCESSFUL GATHERING.

The fourth and last meeting of the present year of this Lodge of Freemasons interested in the promotion of Swimming and Life Saving was held on November 16, when Mr. William Henry, Chief Secretary of the Royal Life Saving Society, presided as Worshipful Master, and was supported by Past Masters Messrs. H. J. Grimwade, Guy M. Campbell, F. A. Wynn, Shirley W. Cropper, H. L. Balfour and J. W. Stevens. Among others present who assisted in various ways were: Messrs. A. C. Ames, J. H. Broadhead, H. Rees (Hon. Secretary, City of London S.A.), also D. W. Allan and G. P. Grose; the latter two are members of the R.L.S.S. Central Executive. The chief business of the evening was the election of the future Master, and in this instance the honour was conferred by a unanimous vote upon Mr. J. Wilson Taylor, Secretary of the Bath Club, where so much has been done for the cause of Swimming and Life Saving; also to raise to the final Degree in the Order Mr. H. Johansson, whose name is known world-wide as an Olympic Diving Champion, and winner of the King's Cup presented to the Society by King Edward VII. In addition, the members had the pleasure of "passing" Mr. J. C. Fishenden, who has been a member of the R.L.S.S. Central Executive for over 18 years.

Among others who have passed the chair is the Hon. Treasurer of the Society, Mr. Harry J. Barclay. Among the founders was the Right Hon. Lord Desborough, President of the Society. At various times the Lodge has had the pleasure of entertaining members of the Society visiting from the Overseas Branches. It was established for the association of members, who are always welcome when in London.

The Installation Meeting is due to be held on Friday, February 16, 1918.

THE LADIES' SECTION. Hints for Winter Organisation.

THE SWIMMERS' Y.M.C.A. HUT FUND.

THERE has only been disconnected work by the ladies' swimming clubs during the past season, and no record like that of a couple of seasons ago will be approached. The lack of bath facilities has of course prevented progress in many instances, but except in isolated cases no endeavour has been made to overcome them. We were hopeful that some special river races would have been engineered this year, but beyond a few club events and a long distance contest at an absurd time of the season, nothing has been done. Now is the time, however, for the ladies' clubs to take into consideration next year's work. If a few clubs will band together we can have some real good racing in the Thames, and at proper season of the year. That there is demand for long distance races for ladies is evident by the great interest displayed in the two hours race at Lambeth Baths last October. But far more interest would be evoked by races in open water, and the entries would be more numerous, for long distance swimming in a bath is dreadfully monotonous.

That enterprising club the Bedford Ladies, whose dance at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, last October, in aid of the "Swimmers' Y.M.C.A. Hut," was such a pronounced success, is engineering a much larger gathering in aid of the same cause. It is to take place on December 15 at the same hotel. Particulars of the captain, Miss Grace Riley, 22, Primrose Hill, Salisbury Square, E.C. This club is connected with the Civil Service Supply Association, of Queen Victoria Street, E.C., and Bedford Street, Strand.

Among the Des Moines ladies who made swimming records this summer at Okoboji are Mrs. Addison Page, who swam from Ft. Dodge Point to Given Point in rough water, a distance of a little over half a mile; Miss Anne Pierce, from Pillsbury's Point and back to the swimming school dock, in calm water, a distance of one mile; and Mrs. John I. Cross, from Pillsbury's Point to Given Point and back to the swimming dock, in calm water, a distance of one mile.

George Lee, a lad 9 years old, a beginner this summer, made a continuous distance of 500ft. in good form, and also 75ft. while dressed. These records were kept by our valued correspondents, the Misses Clara L. Ward and Marguerite Miller, principals of the swimming school. The school enrolled pupils from Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, Kentucky, Texas, Alabama and Tennessee, from among the summer guests at the lake.

Miss Claire Galligan, of New York, whose victories in Honolulu were referred to last month says:—"The trip west and then across the Pacific, was one of the happiest times that have befallen any swimmers. If I was fortunate in the longer events, Miss Burns surely made felt her claims for recognition in the sprints. I think she is essentially a short-distance swimmer, and that if she stays at the sprint marks she will break all records. From tentative plans made previous to our sailing for San Francisco I assume that Honolulu is to have us back in February."

At Santa Monica, California, Miss Claire Galligan won the half-mile national women's championship of America in open water in 15.34.

The South Australian Amateur Swimming Club, which has the largest number of lady members in that State, has had its dressing room demolished by a severe gale at Glenelg. The room has been of great service in connection with the teaching of ladies and children to swim.

From Kettering we learn that the Kettering Ladies' Club has had a most successful season. According to the last report received five ladies and Mrs. Northropp's son passed for the Proficiency Certificate and Bronze Medallion. Mrs. Northropp, who gained her Proficiency Certificate and Bronze Medallion in 1912 in connection with the Nottingham Ladies, obtained the Hon. Instructor's Certificate. Thus instead of contenting herself with the knowledge gained at Nottingham she has been enthusiastically helping in the spread of it at Kettering.

We learn that for various reasons the old Birkenhead Ladies' S.C. disbanded last April, and handed the balance of funds to the Red Cross Society. Later a new club was founded with the same title, which now has a membership of sixty enthusiasts, and because of the energy displayed it is likely to become a big institution. This new club held a gala on September 24 last for the benefit of the Borough Hospital, which resulted in the sum of £14 being handed over in aid of that institution. We wish the new club every possible success and trust that we shall often hear from them, and since it has become affiliated to the Royal Life Saving Society, many classes we hope will be held.

At a gala held at Birkenhead at the beginning of last month, in aid of the British Sportsman's Ambulance Fund, Miss Hilda Dand, of the Liverpool Westminster Ladies' Club, essayed the task of lowering the ladies' plunging record, but only accomplished 53ft. 11ins. Miss Dand, however, succeeded in winning the ladies' open handicap. Miss Daisy Curwen, the British champion, gave a delightful exhibition of graceful swimming, and Miss May Spencer, who is only fifteen years of age, a neat display of the breast stroke.

The ladies' record for swimming across the Golden Gate at San Francisco has been lowered by Miss Katherine Flaherty, whose time was 29.30 as against 31.35.4 made by Miss Babe Wright last year. Miss Flaherty is only seventeen years of age. The course taken is about seven-eighths of a mile. That used for the "Across the Golden Gate" race promoted by the *Bulletin* of San Francisco in June last, and won by Miss Frances Cowells, was one of a mile and a quarter. Report of this swim appeared in our issue of August last.

On Saturday, November 3, at St. Alban's Church, Teddington, Miss Eileen Lee, the well known long distance swimmer and holder of the endurance record for a lady swimmer, was married to Gnr. Maxwell Morrison, Canadian M.G.C. Hearty good wishes to bride and bridegroom.

At the end of September, Miss Claire Galligan, of New York, won the Women's National 500 yards championship of America in 7.31.2, Miss Dorothy Burns, Los Angeles, being second, Miss Frances Cowells, San

Francisco, third. The previous best by a lady was 7.32.3, by Miss Fanny Durack, at Sydney, in 1915.

The gala of the Nottingham Ladies' Club, held at the Portland Baths, Nottingham, on September 16, in aid of the Duchess of Portland's new home for paralysed soldiers, resulted in £22 16s. 9d. accruing to the fund. We heartily congratulate Misses Alice Robinson (Captain) and Hilda Mellor (Hon. Secretary), and the Committee upon the marked success which has rewarded their efforts in a good cause.

Blackburn C.E. Higher Grade School girls have this year won, for the third season in succession, all the Cups for which they were eligible to compete. The schoolgirl championship of Blackburn was secured by Miss Evelyn Livesey, who, in company with Misses Hilda McOwen, Gladys Heyes and Nellie Booth, also won the squadron championship for the School. Miss Livesey also won the Cup for scholars under thirteen years of age, and Miss Hilda McOwen was successful in the one length breast stroke cup race.

Owing to delay in sending her entry, Miss Lucy Morton, of the Blackpool Ladies' Club, was unable to compete in the 100 yards breast stroke championship of the Northern Counties, won by Miss May Spencer, of Garston, in 1.27. Thereupon a match was fixed up, and took place at the Wallasey Police gala last month. Miss May Spencer, who is only fifteen years of age, won by four yards in 1.26.4. This is an exceptionally fine performance for a schoolgirl.

Previous reference has been made to the "Swimmers' Y.M.C.A. Hut" Fund. Last year a very goodly sum was raised on behalf of the Star and Garter Fund, but this year, as far as we can gather, there seems to have been a lack of co-ordination, without which no effort can be highly successful. The Bedford Ladies, to whose dances we have previously referred, have struck a bright idea by holding special dances, and it would not be out of the way if other clubs did the same. Some of the small clubs who are carrying on might also help in this good work, for it certainly would be exceptionally good were this proposed hut to be erected. As far as we are aware no other sport has provided a similar institution for the benefit and recreation of our gallant boys.

NOTES ON NEWS.

Interesting Items from Home and Abroad.

OWING to losses of Overseas mails many subscribers abroad have not received their copies of the June, July and August numbers and as we have not sufficient duplicates, owing to our printing being limited through paper restrictions, we appeal to those at home who have spare copies to let us have them in order that the lands on the fringe of the Empire may be as much enlightened as to the progress of swimming as we are. The interest which is taken in the doings of swimmers and the work of the Royal Life Saving Society by our comrades Overseas is of a high order, and if we are enabled to satisfy their wants as regards lost numbers of the *SWIMMING MAGAZINE* we shall indeed be glad.

Here is a hint for some of our schools. The *Pittsburgh Sun* reports that five public schools in New Orleans are raising funds to build small outdoor concrete swimming pools. By using the services of the city engineer, city department wagons and labourers, it is estimated these pools can be constructed for about seventeen hundred dollars each.

At a gala of the Blackpool Swimming Club held at the end of October, Councillor Brooks, in making an appeal for more baths in the town, said that, "the advantages to childhood and future manhood which could be secured by learning swimming were manifold. There was not the slightest doubt that swimming was a great advantage in the building up of the manhood of the country. This was principally owing to the exercise which was obtained during the time when they were practising the natatorial art. He hoped that in the future a great many more people would take advantage of that splendid form of exercise, which had been greatly to the advantage of many of our men during the war. It had been the means of saving a great many lives, and he was certain that had more men known of the advantages of learning the art there would have been a greater number of lives saved. Blackpool itself had not many advantages in the shape of baths. Though they had splendid facilities afforded them by the sea, it could not always be made use of. There were times in the year when they could not

get into the sea to take their exercise. The Cocker Street baths was one of the only two in the town, and it was only a small one. He hoped the time would not be very far distant when the Councillors would see eye to eye with some of them, and build more baths for the use of the residents of the town and visitors. They could not count it merely in monetary gain. As the old showman said, what they lost on the swings they made up on the roundabouts. In other words, what they lost in building the baths, in a few years they would gain in the increased manhood of the town. In his opinion there was not the slightest doubt that swimming was the means of building up the manhood which they would require to carry the flag in the future as it had been carried in the past throughout the world."

Councillor Brooks also highly complimented the superintendent, Mr. R. L. Swarbrick, upon his excellent management of the baths, the interest he took in swimming and the encouragement which he had given to the younger life of the town. It is a pleasure to know Mr. Swarbrick, for there is no greater enthusiast than he and no harder worker in the cause.

Driver Frank Tilton, of the County of London Royal Field Artillery, won the fifty yards, hundred yards and quarter mile scratch races at a tournament open to the Allied Forces, held at Corfu. In 1913, Tilton won the Boys' championship of the Western Counties.

Lance-Serjt. A. Johnstone, Highland Light Infantry, killed in action, was a member of the Kinning Park Swimming Club, Glasgow. A few years ago he was awarded the R.H.S. Medal for saving life at Dunoon. He was only 22 years of age at the time of his death.

Between May 1 and October 19 last there were no fewer than 20,890 scholars' attendances at the Blakey Moor Baths, Blackburn, 2,505 holiday and privilege tickets were issued and free season tickets were used 511 times. Thirty-four free season tickets and certificates were issued to half mile swimmers, 50 certificates for the half

mile and over, 200 for swimming a breadth of the bath. But we regret that the Life Saving classes among the girls were abandoned owing to lighting restrictions. Yet nine ex-school girls passed the examination of the Royal Life Saving Society, two of them gaining the Award of Merit. The examiner was Mr. Haworth, of Accrington, and the Hon. Instructor Mr. J. Kay.

At Santa Barbara, California, on October 6 last, Mr. T. W. Sheffield, Life Member of the Royal Life Saving Society, gave a display of the methods of rescue and release at a special carnival. At the same meeting Miss Norah Sheffield, who is only seven and a half years of age, gave an exhibition of various styles of swimming and diving, Coach Vance Veith one of the American Crawl stroke, and Miss Aileen Allen, American lady diving champion, a diving exhibition.

Brighton Motor Coach Works and Aeroplane Factory have some very excellent swimmers serving with them, and at the end of October they gave a gala at the Corporation Baths in aid of the funds of the Royal Sussex County Hospital. In presenting the prizes the Mayor, Alderman Carden, who is a great swimming enthusiast, said it was "the finest sport in the world." Some of the prizes were to have been War Savings Certificates, but as they were objected to by the governing body they were not presented. This, said the Mayor, was "in his opinion a very, very wrong attitude, and he was going to take it up and see if it could be altered. One of the most important things for the country was to economise in everything, money as well as food. Our first duty was to save, and he was glad the works had a strong war savings association, and he hoped they would put every penny into it they could."

As this question is likely to crop up again we should be glad to learn the considered opinion of the committee of the Amateur Swimming Association. For the moment it would appear to be proper to relax the strict letter of the amateur law, but so many abuses might crop up that perhaps it would be unwise. It is, however, entirely a matter for the governing body of swimming. Some people would urge that if you race for War Savings Certificates why not for a Post Office Order, as either would appear to infringe the laws that govern amateurism.

In the report of the gala which has been kindly sent to us by Councillor Louis Meaden, who also intimates to us that the contribution to the Hospital will exceed the excellent sum of £50, thus reflecting great credit upon the organisers, of whom Mr. G. J. Oakley is the president, a novel championship contest is recorded. It would appear that it was open to both male and female members of the club. Now we know that mixed contests are forbidden, but the ingenious war workers overcame this presumed impossibility of a competition by the competitors swimming in sections against time. Thus Miss D. Taylor, who swam 80 yards in 1.7.4, beat L. F. Dewey, 1.14.2, for first place, P. Noakes, 1.14.4, being third and S. Dendy, 1.17, fourth. Miss O. Garland, S. Baker and Y. Butler also competed. In a team race the gentlemen beat the ladies.

Brighouse Swimming Club had thought of omitting their winter session, but the Bath Committee, being up to date, have desired the club to continue as usual and has guaranteed warm water during the winter months. The final of the Yorkshire Junior squadron championship formed part of the programme of a gala held at the end of October, and in this Sheffield (Croft House), represented by A. Flint, D. Outram, T. S. Carter and A. Fanshaw, proved successful, Bradford Dolphins taking second place and Sowerby Bridge, the only other competitors, third. Miss I. Smalley, of Sheffield, won a 50 yards open handicap for ladies, and N. Baldwin, of Eccleshill, a 100 yards handicap open to youths under 18. Miss M. Shillitoe proved successful in the lady members' handicap and S. Barrett secured the members' handicap. The club intends to cultivate swimming very strongly this winter and to that end has issued a circular drawing the attention of residents of the town to the advantage to be derived from a regular use of the bath and appeals for a larger membership in order to carry on its work. During the past twenty-seven years it has held 67 galas and awarded over £450 in prizes for the encouragement of swimming.

A noticeable portion of the circular is that drawing attention to the swimming scholarships. Parents of young boys and girls are advised to encourage their children to join the Club and become proficient, so that when ready for leaving school they may

compete for Swimming Scholarships, 30 of which are granted each year. These Scholarships, if fully used, are worth £2 14s. 6d. for boys and £1 8s. 6d. for girls, and include free admission to the baths and free membership of the club, thus providing those who win them with a splendid opportunity of becoming expert swimmers.

Captain R. L. Busby, the well known Middlesex County and London Water Polo League player, who, prior to the outbreak of war, was secretary to the Manchester Race Course Company, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in the field.

By permitting mixed bathing at Kingston Baths, the takings have been increased by over £200 in six months.

Sergt. W. Miles, Royal Field Artillery, who has been awarded the Military Medal, was Hon. Secretary of the Weybridge Swimming Club before joining the army.

We regret to learn that George Winkle, the well-known Hanley swimmer and water polo player, has been killed in action. He was Captain of the Hanley Club, and a member of its undefeated squadron team. Winkle was a prominent competitor in Staffordshire championships on several occasions, and was well known in the water polo world, having frequently assisted Burslem in their English Cup and Northern Counties matches.

The Northern Lights are continuing their annual series of winter races at the Hornsey Road Baths, and good entries are being received from members of the old Brigade. Their meeting night is Wednesday, and they will always be pleased to see soldiers on leave who desire to have a swim with them. We suggest a series of matches with military teams on home stations.

Australian Headquarters Staff, who have organized successful rowing and Rugby football clubs, intend to have a swimming section next season, and with their known push and go we may expect to have some interesting contests in the Metropolitan district next year. One of the ideas is to have a long distance race in the Thames. This would arouse a great amount of interest

among the military and keen enthusiasm from the general public. We sincerely hope that the idea will mature.

We are pleased to be able to announce that the Amateur S.C., London, will hold its 49th Annual Club Supper on Friday, December 14, at 8 p.m., the venue being its Clubhouse in Tottenham Court Road. On this occasion the members hope that their old friends and associates will favour them with a call. We also have pleasure in stating that the usual winter programme of Club races will be continued each Friday at the Prince of Wales Road Baths, Kentish Town. Those who intend to take part should make a note of the fact that they have to book in at the Baths before 7.30 p.m., otherwise they will fail to gain admission, as the issue of tickets ceases at that hour. As we have previously stated, should this notice meet the eye of swimmers from Overseas they may rest assured of a hearty welcome.

As a result of the Derby Charity Swimming gala, held on October 13 last at Derby for the benefit of the Sherwood Foresters Prisoners of War Fund, Mr. Alfred J. Offen, the Hon. Treasurer of the gala, has been able to hand over £22 5s., for which an acknowledgment, with grateful thanks, has been received.

Mr. W. A. Tackley, Hon. Secretary of the Finchley Swimming Club, a son of Mr. Edward J. Tackley, past president of the Amateur Swimming Association, and for many years its Hon. Secretary, has been gazetted Captain in His Majesty's Forces. Mr. Tackley has two other sons serving, and a fourth is about to join up.

Out of a membership of about seventy the London County Council Swimming Club has lost ten of its members in the great war. This is indeed a heavy toll.

The American Colleges are not going to neglect swimming during the war, for at the annual meeting of the Intercollegiate Swimming and Polo League, held in New York, on October 29, it was decided to go through with this year's schedule and also to permit freshmen to compete in the events for the duration of the war. Representatives were present from Yale, Princeton, Pennsylvania, Columbia and the College of the City of New York.

Although almost all the members of the Birkenhead S.C. are now with the Forces those left at home have been keeping the Club going, and on October 29 held a gala in aid of the Sportsman Ambulance Fund, resulting in a profit of £24 14s. 4d., which was increased to £40 by a donation from a friend of the Club. This institution has always made a great point of promoting the knowledge of Life Saving, in connection with which several members have won fame during the war.

Swimming has again proved the most progressive of American sports. During the outdoor season just closed records were created right and left, and the entire list will have to be revised. Norman Ross, of San Francisco, was the most prolific scorer. He lowered the world's 880 yard figures for a 100 yard course from 11.29 to 11.27.3; beat the American open water standard for one mile by 49.1, placing it at 24.10, and brought the time for 75 yards straight away with the backstroke from 56.4 to 51.4.

Next in line came Duke Kahanamoku, of Honolulu. He equalled his own 50 yard world's record of 0.23, reduced the 100 yard to 0.53, and covered 220 yards (100 yard course) in 2.25.2.

During the past summer the following boys of Rutlish School have secured the Amateur Teacher's Certificate of the Southern Counties Amateur Swimming Association:—L. J. Brice, W. J. Gilbert, E. H. Nash, J. F. Pownall, V. B. Sellars. Pownall succeeded in teaching twelve boys to swim the prescribed distance (10 yards) or more. One of Brice's pupils gained a mile certificate after only three months in his class. Of these boy teachers, Gilbert, Nash and Sellars hold the Award of Merit of the Royal Life Saving Society, Pownall holds the Honorary Instructor's Certificate, and Brice has the Bronze Medallion. Mr. W. M. Carey has had charge of the swimming at Rutlish School for the past fourteen years, during ten of which there have been classes in Life Saving. It has been a pleasurable work to Mr. Carey, but he has been rewarded by the remarkable successes achieved by the boys, both past and present. Reference to the progress made at Rutlish School has been made in this column from time to time. The boys have been wonderfully successful in the Surrey County Secondary Schools annual competitions.

The Wilson Swimming Shield, presented by Canon Wilson for competition among the schools of Worcester, has again been won by the Hounds Lane Boys' School, whose representatives captured it in 1911, the first year of the competition, but had not won it again until this year. The contest is decided on points, each boy in the school who can swim a length of the bath counting one, and each boy who can dive in and swim back counting two.

At the distribution of prizes and certificates awarded in connection with the elementary school swimming tests at Winchester, Councillor W. Hatchings, the chairman of the Education Committee, said it was a great pleasure to know that the children were learning something which might be of great service to them in after life. "He wished he had had the opportunity, when he was young, which the boys and girls had to-day of learning to swim. As far as he was able to realise from what he saw of other people, it was a splendid physical exercise, and it was something more, because if the boys became sailors, and he hoped many of them would, it would come in very useful if they fell overboard, whilst as regarded the girls it was well, too, for them to be prepared for any emergency and to be able to save life if necessary."

We are glad to learn that Albert Barry, the ex-hundred yards champion of Australia, who was wounded in France, is progressing favourably and hopes to pay us a visit very shortly.

The annual Christmas morning handicap of the Serpentine Swimming Club will be decided as usual in the Serpentine Lake, Hyde Park, at 8 o'clock, provided of course that the lake be not frozen over. These Christmas morning races were instituted as far back as 1864, and there has been an unbroken series ever since, although on occasions the races have had to be postponed. For instance that of 1892 had to be put off five times owing to ice. Only once has the race been decided away from the Serpentine, and that was in 1869. Then it was swum in the Grand Junction Canal, draining operations then being in progress in the Serpentine. Another Club holding open water races on Christmas Day is the Highgate Life Buoys, whose place of resort is Highgate Ponds.

Our esteemed friend and correspondent, Mr. John A. Jackson, of the Lurline Baths, San Francisco, is now on a visit to San Diego, visiting Captain Alfred Redfern, who for twelve years has had charge of the Coronado Beach Guards, and later goes on to Los Angeles to visit Mr. Vance Veith and other swimming enthusiasts, whose names are familiar to readers of the *SWIMMING MAGAZINE*.

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Lieut. Percy Benson, died of wounds, was an original member of the Cleveland (Ohio) Swimming Club, and was among the first to answer the call to the colours. While in America he did much to promote swimming. American papers say that at Cleveland the art was practically unheard of when he first helped to organise the pioneer swimming team.

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Driver William James Bradford, Royal Field Artillery, killed in action, was a well known member of the Exmouth Swimming Club.

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Sec.-Lieut. Harry Crank, Lancashire Fusiliers, killed in action, used to give diving and swimming exhibitions at the North Pier, Blackpool. In 1914 he gave them in conjunction with Miss Lucy Hall, and in 1915 with Miss Veda Halstead. He joined the army in 1916 and received a commission last April.

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Sec.-Lieut. E. V. Todd, Royal Engineers, who joined as a private and has recently been gazetted, was hon. secretary of the Blackpool Amateur Swimming Club for several years.

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We have heard from André Fournelle, the well known secretary of the French Society for the Encouragement of Swimming. He is lying in hospital in his native country but is progressing well and enjoying the reading of English literature forwarded him by sympathising friends in this country.

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Following is an extract from a private letter from a swimmer in France:—"I find that my sea hunger, the longing to look at the changeable face of the illimitable spread of water, and the eagerness of our anticipation when there is a chance to plunge in it, the joy with which I let myself

be heaved up and down, lifted, tossed, rocked, pitched and hurled by the waves, the exuberance of my *joie-de-vivre*, the glow of well-being when I'm near or in the sea increase each time I'm by it. This time the weather was glorious, and I could revel in and feast my eyes on the greens and blues, topazes and indigos, purples and violets and olives of the sea, and on the golden light of the sun—now blazing with scorching heat, now setting in a cold light right out to sea with the tide dead low and black rocks lying in the foreground between one and the sea, looking like a midnight sun on some bleak Arctic coast. The sea was quite warm, and I had four swims in it altogether—the best of the lot being on the last day, when the tide was fairly high, and we went in from a little rocky cove that I visited last March, between the lighthouse and the straggling fishing village."

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Visitors to Redondo Beach Bath House, California, say that the bathing there in warm sea water, fresh from the ocean, in a clean, tile-lined pool as clean as your own bath tub, is a never-ending delight. There are three pools of warm salt water ranging in depth from a foot to nine feet, and there is also ready access to the beach and invigorating surf. The water is constantly changing, being drawn from the ocean by powerful pumps, heated to the proper temperature, and discharged into the pools through ornamental fountains at the rate of many hundred gallons per minute, thus ensuring absolute cleanliness. The surf bathing is reported to be excellent.

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A letter addressed by us to Mr. W. E. Longfellow, at Washington, U.S.A., has been returned to us marked "N. K.," unclaimed. We understand that this gentleman holds a prominent position in Life Saving work in America, and shall be glad if he will communicate with us.

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The annual distribution of prizes and Awards of the London Schools Swimming Association will be made on December 14.

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Frederick Record, the long distance champion swimmer of the Medway, has been presented at Rochester with a gold medal for saving the life of Mr. F. Strickson, while bathing in the river.

RECOLLECTIONS.

By ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR.

IN the days that are gone we were in the habit of making our holiday tours fit in with coast regattas, and one season it fell to my lot to do the East Coast. One bright morning I found myself at Lowestoft with three other swimmers from London, one of them a highly respected official of the present day, not then so sedate as now but brimful of harmless swimming pleasantries, and like us all ever ripe for a bit of mischief. As the last item of the programme of a very pleasant regatta, of which I possess a souvenir in the shape of a third prize in the open race, there was a scratch water polo match, and to reach the field of play in the harbour we had to travel by a fisherman's boat from the regatta committee's yacht where we had undressed. In response to a query as to whether he could swim or not the fisherman propelling the craft made some evasive reply, whereon the fourteen men arranged along the gunwales of the boat with legs dangling in the water promptly decided to materially assist in the promotion of the knowledge of the art of swimming and without more ado upset the boat. Judge of their astonishment when they found the fisherman could swim in clothes almost as well as they could in costume. But they paid dearly for their practical joke, for after dressing on the regatta yacht they found no craft to take them ashore except that owned by the half drowned fisherman, and to him each and every one of the now meek fourteen had to present a shilling and his polo cap, then one of those woollen tasselled arrangements termed fishermen's caps which you see youngsters wearing at the seaside.

A few days later we were due at Ipswich, but I was the only one of our usual party who could make the trip. Of that adventure a tale has been told and retold in connection with Archdeacon Sinclair. Need I say that like all tales of great men it has been exaggerated, but as it has a substratum of truth I may as well repeat it as it appeared in *M.A.P.* in 1899.

"A year or two back a great swimming competition had been arranged on the Orwell near Ipswich. The services had been requisitioned of Archie Sinclair, of the *Referee* staff, one of the authors of the Badminton

Book on the natatory art. The secretary of the local club, who had been responsible for the arrangement, was taken suddenly ill, and a somewhat green deputation was hurriedly appointed to meet the London visitor at Ipswich. Unfortunately, the printer of the day's programme set up Sinclair's name thus—"Archd. Sinclair," and the Ipswich men, having heard of the athletic prowess of London's Archdeacon, rather hastily jumped to the conclusion that it was he whom they were to meet. The appearance of the sporting journalist confirmed the error. Of lofty stature and youthful mien, with a smile both childlike and bland, he readily passed as the great Churchman who had put the dignity of his archidiaconal office behind him for the day. The deputation greeted him with a warmth engendered by a profound sense of his condescension, tempered by the respect due to his high and sacred office, and Archie Sinclair wondered exceedingly.

On the way up the river in the steamboat the same embarrassing attitude was maintained by his hosts, and Sinclair thought "what a naive lot these Ipswich folk must be, when they think so much of a man from town!" He is a good storyteller, is the Fleet Street swimmer, and thinking to set his new friends at their ease he began retailing some entirely new and lively stories. The dead silence and the palpable horror with which his efforts were received made him feel singularly uncomfortable. The climax came with luncheon, which was served on board. "I presume, sir," said the polite spokesman, looking at their guest tentatively—for he scarcely knew what to make of this strange specimen of an archdeacon—"I presume, sir, you will say grace?" Then, indeed, was Sinclair at bay. "Look here!" he said desperately. "I just want to know how we're going. Are you fellows trying to make game of me, or have I dropped into a Sunday School picnic by mistake?" Then explanations came with a rush, and the concluding portion of that steamboat trip was as different from the start as it could possibly be.

The worst part about this story is that luncheon was not provided. Anyhow I have very pleasant recollections of the outing and the kindly hospitality extended to me.

NEWS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.

Tommies Dyed at Durban.

CARRYING ON IN THE TRANSVAAL.

OWING to all the eligible men being on active service the Transvaal Clubs and affiliated bodies have not been able to make much progress. Neither for the matter of that have the Natal Clubs, while those at Durban have been prevented from using the Beach Baths, as they are now almost entirely reserved for the military. It is the proud boast of the Transvaal Swimming Association that nearly every eligible member of its affiliated clubs has volunteered for duty in one or other of His Majesty's Forces. The number of male swimmers was, therefore, consequently dwindling all through the past season, and, therefore, the Senior Competitions as well as the Water Polo League and Individual Championships have not been held.

The affiliated clubs for the past season were the Johannesburg, Berea, Pretoria Otter, Pirates, Victoria Falls Power, Wit Deep, E.R.P.M., Bokoburg Lake, and Y.M.C.A., and the Schools Swimming Union.

The proposal to establish a municipal bath at Krugersdorp has unfortunately had to be shelved, owing to war conditions, as has also that to found a club at Standerton, where several swimmers practise in the Vaal River.

Among the prominent Transvaal swimmers at the front are J. L. Francis, a Transvaal champion, A. L. Patrick, past Treasurer, and Life Saving Secretary of the Transvaal Amateur Swimming Association, S. C. Dowsett, past President of the Association, Waterson, of Boksburg, past vice-president, Glencross, well-known as "Ginger," of Boksburg, Foley, Transvaal Champion at 60 yards, Fildes, Moss, E. C. Vaughan, C. J. Vaughan, R. G. Carswell, M. H. C. Clarke, F. M. Broad, R. G. Whittaker, L. J. Holmes, of Doornfontein, F. W. Sarginson, for many years Secretary of the Association, and R. H. Aldworth, also a past Secretary of the Association. From the latter, who has been invalided out through malarial fever contracted in German East Africa, we have received a letter detailing some amusing experiences at Durban. Speaking of the bathing habits of the military he says:

"The boys also have a great time at the hands of the inhabitants, and they deserve it all. While I was there a great discussion was raging in the local press about the

soldiers and the Beach Baths. It appears that when they were taken over by the military authorities the baths, which were only originally surrounded by a low fence and open to the public gaze, were enclosed by huge screens, and the soldiers, in nature's garb, disported themselves right merrily. But alas! there was a fly in the ointment in the shape of a prude on the prowl, and it was discovered that "Tommy" in his natal uniform could be seen from the top floor windows of one or two buildings on the front, and also from a "Big Wheel" that revolves at the rate of sixpence a head. One or two children were also found to have been peeping through the screens, and the great Borough of Durban arose in its wrath as one man, and the upshot of the rising was that Tommy was prevented from having his daily bath until numberless good ladies had, upon a requisition from one of the Town Councillors, attended a meeting, discovered whys and wherefores (and incidentally patterns), and agreed to provide a garment. I say a garment advisedly, as although I did not see the article I am given to understand that it was a sort of cross between a kilt and a sponge bag, and tied under the arm pits. Anyhow, the dye came out on the hands of the makers, so one can only presume that Tommy, taking his first dip in one, would emerge and be able to qualify for first prize at a fancy dress ball as a bar of mottled soap."

That reminds us of a complaint made by a lady to the Thames Conservancy. She lived about a quarter of a mile away from the river, but yet objected to the bathing. When asked how she could possibly see, she produced a pair of field glasses.

The most cheerful feature of the Transvaal Swimming season has been the way in which all clubs, both affiliated and temporarily instituted or resuscitated, have shown their willingness and eagerness to organise War Funds galas. The galas attracted a large number of entries, and in the end about £200 was raised.

The above facts are gathered from a very interesting report issued by Mr. J. Leyds, the Hon. Secretary of the Transvaal Association, who has been carrying on since Mr. Aldworth answered the call.

LADIES' DIVING ASSOCIATION.

Championships at Westminster.

By WILLIAM HENRY.

THE members of the Ladies' Diving Association are to be heartily congratulated upon the support they received in connection with their eighth annual championship gathering, held at Westminster Baths on October 27 last. This result is chiefly due to the hard working committee and officials, the arrangements being admirably carried out.

Having regard to the comprehensive programme, the large number of lady swimmers and divers who took part therein, and the limited time at disposal in which the events had to be completed, much thought must have been exercised in the settlement of the details and I was pleased to note that everything passed off well. It is not often that we observe all those who have duties carrying them out with a will, even in remote parts, without chance of witnessing the sport. But such was the case with these ladies, and they set an excellent example in club management, worthy to be followed.

The race for first and second places in the Southern Counties ladies' team championship proved wonderfully interesting, and although only four seconds divided the Holloway United and the Mermaids, the finish would have been much closer, or perhaps reversed, had the latter not been prevented having their full team, owing to some of them being engaged in war work at home and abroad. We particularly noted the absence of Miss Dorothy Anderson.

In the diving Miss Belle White once more proved her sterling ability and all round excellence, which enabled her to win two events, although in each she was closely pressed by Miss E. Armstrong.

Although the event which Miss D. Marx, Mermaids, won, is regarded as a fancy diving competition there was little of the "fancy" usually associated with diving to be observed, except on the part of Miss Marx, who did not seem to relish running dives.

Generally speaking the ability shown by the ladies was decidedly good, and I have no hesitation in stating that in due time all the movements that are usually associated with men's events will be performed equally as well by the ladies, but they must start early in life to acquire them.

The display of scientific swimming by Miss Phyllis M. Gant was worth witnessing, all the movements being so neatly and gracefully performed, which fact was generally remarked upon by the many experienced judges present. I believe it was her first display at a public gala. Miss Eileen Lee also gave an exhibition of various styles of swimming. Her breast stroke work was especially well done. Details:—

Senior Ladies' Team Championship of the S.C.A.S.A.—Holloway United S.C. (Misses Vera Johnson, Daisy Roux, F. San-croft, and Rose Riley), time 5.8.1; Mermaid S.C., time 5.12.2; City of London Ladies' S.C., 5.50.3; Natantes S.C., 5.59.4; Clapton Ladies S.C., 6.16.5.

Diving Howard Thompson Cup for Amateurs.—Miss Belle White (Ilford Ladies S.C.), 1; Miss E. Armstrong (Mermaid L.S.C.), 2; Miss E. Smith (Victoria L.S.C.), 3; Miss W. Smith (Alma), 4; also competed: Misses Q. Allen, E. Ballard, L. Eves, L. Fumass, M. Hengle, W. Mercer, D. Marx, N. Pennington and M. Somers.

Ladies' Handicap Team Race.—First heat; Hammersmith Ladies', 1; Tottenham Ladies', 2; Mermaid Ladies', 0; Avenue Ladies', 0; Barry Ladies', 0; won by a yard. Second heat; Natantes S.C., 1; Clapton Ladies' (A), 2; Clapton Ladies' (B), 0; City of London S.C., 0; won by four yards. Final heat: Natantes (scratch), 1; Clapton Ladies' (A), 2; Tottenham, 3; Hammersmith Ladies' 4; won by 7 yards Time, 2.56.2.

Team Diving (Milford Shield).—Mermaid L.S.C. (Misses V. Newman, E. Harrison, D. Marx and E. Armstrong), 1; Hammersmith L.S.C. (Misses M. Somers, M. Hengle, L. Fumass and W. Mercer), 2; City of London L.S.C. (Misses E. Bullard, M. Platts, L. Harland and L. Reeve), 3.

Water Polo: H.M.S. Victory VI. (Crystal Palace), 4; Woolwich Garrison, 0.

Fancy Diving (Nixon Cup).—Miss D. Marx (Mermaid L.S.C.), 1; Miss Belle White (Ilford L.S.C.), 2; Miss E. Smith (Victoria L.S.C.), 1; Miss W. Smith (Alma L.S.C.), 1. Also competed: Misses Q. Allen, E. Ballard, M. Hughes, W. Mercer, N. Pennington, and M. Somers.

Military Team Race.—Woolwich Garrison, 1; H.M.S. Victory, †; Australian Imperial Force, †; won by six yards; dead heat. The Queen's Westminster Rifles fourth. Time 1.50.

Affiliated Clubs Final (Donegal Shield).—Miss Belle White (Ilford L.S.C.), 1; Miss E. Armstrong (Mermaid L.S.C.), 2; Miss E. Smith (Victoria L.S.C.), 3. Club placings: Victoria, 1; Mermaid, 2; Natantes, 3.

Let's go Swimming.

CAROLLING LIKE THE BIRDS.

WE have received from that great swimming enthusiast Mr. Harry G. Stevens, Managing Director of the Natatorium, Cleveland, Ohio, the following little sketch for study on Christmas Day:—

We cannot all fly, and even the fortunate who can may get little of genuine pleasure from the practice. If we would share, in some small measure, the pleasures of the birds, the water, not the air, must serve our turn.

And swimming is the nearest thing to flying that men can hope to learn, a substitute, indeed, which is not to be despised. There is the purest of sense pleasures in the feel of cool, clear water, a freedom of motion, a sheer delight in muscular exertion which one may not know on land.

You enter the water gingerly, shocked a little by the cold splash on your ankles. You wade in, delicately as Agag walked, plunging your wrists into the water and dashing it upon your head and shoulders. And as the bottom falls away you rub your stomach vigorously, Indian fashion, as a preventive of dreaded cramps and then your courage revived, you duck completely and rise, sputtering, to find that the world is yours. Those on the beach who do not know the wonders of the lake believe you swim. In truth you fly. You start out with the old breast stroke, sailor fashion, turn on your side for increased speed, practice the trudgen at will, the crawl, and whirl around and around, splashing lustily.

You know an utter freedom which ends only when your toes touch the sand. Swimming, you are as the bird, master of a fluid element. You do not sing, rather you grunt lustily as you expel your breath after each

strenuous kick, but you would carol cheerfully if you had wind enough.

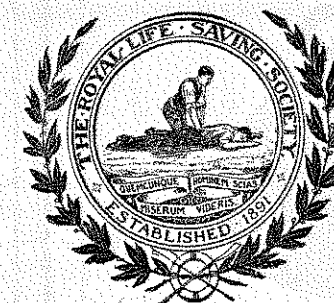
There is no exercise like swimming. The breast stroke builds arm, shoulder, and breast muscles. The forward sweep and backward thrust is guaranteed to develop those back muscles which cure the scholar's stoop. The scissors kick of the side stroke will do more for the legs than all the gymnastic tricks yet invented. The arduous labour of the trudgen and the crawl compels deep breathing. And when one's wind, grown short in office chair or over work-bench, is spent, you turn upon your back and rock, as in a cradle, looking at the sky.

You come out in a cool comfort of which an hour's blistering heat will not rob you, and wander home, content. You have an appetite and will sleep to-night.

Very few competitions have been promoted for the Navy and Army this year. Now the value of a knowledge of swimming to sailors and soldiers is immense and it would be well were the governing body in each district to organise competitions and classes of instruction during the coming year. There should be no difficulty about this. The Southern Counties Cross Country Association has set a noble example in respect of the encouragement of sport in the Army as a means of recreative training, and has gained the thanks of the authorities. The Amateur Boxing Association is to take over the Public Schools Championships, hitherto run at Aldershot, and the Amateur Swimming Association might well organise naval and military competitions. The query from soldiers on leave or those visiting us from Overseas has always been, "What competitions can I go in for now I am here?" or else, "Are there any club meetings that I can go to or any swimming that I can see or participate in?" That shows a genuine demand and desire to indulge once more in the pastime they love, and it is up to us to see that the demand is complied with.

The subscription to the SWIMMING MAGAZINE is Five Shillings per annum, commencing with the June number in each year. Those for the Fifth Volume should be forwarded as early as possible to Mr. William Henry, Hon. Editor, 8, Bayley Street, W.C. 1.

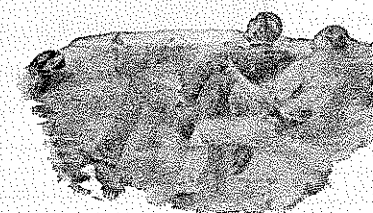
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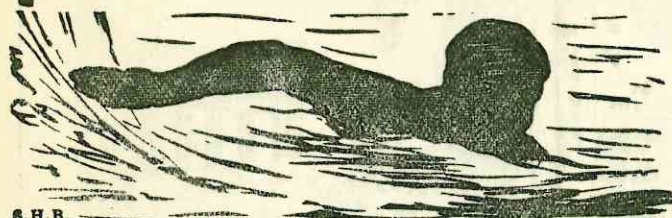
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