



THE
JOURNAL
OF THE
KEW GUILD,

AN ASSOCIATION OF
KEW GARDENERS, Etc.
PAST AND PRESENT.

APRIL, 1937

LIST OF OFFICERS.

President : 1936-37 :—Charles P. Raffill, A.H.R.H.S.

Trustees : Sir Arthur W. Hill, K.C.M.G., M.A., Sc.D., F.R.S., V.M.H.,
F.L.S., F.N.Z. Inst., and J. Coutts, Esq., V.M.H., A.H.R.H.S.

Hon. Treasurer : L. Stenning, Royal Botanic Gardens,
197, Kew Road, Kew, Surrey.

(To whom all remittances should be addressed.)

Hon. Secretary and Editor of Journal : E. G. Dunk,
197, Kew Road, Kew, Surrey.

Members of Committee :

Retire 1937.

G. W. Robinson, Kew.
A. B. Melles, M.B.E., France.
C. Jones, Ware, Herts.
W. H. Judd, U.S. America.

Retire 1939.

L. Buss, Durham.
C. E. Hubbard, Kew.
W. Hales, A.L.S. etc, Chelsea
J. Robbie, Sudan.
R. Binnington, Southampton

Retire 1938.

A. Osborn, Kew.
R. S. Lynch, Totnes.
W. M. Campbell, Southend.
F. R. Long, South Africa.

Retire 1940.

A. W. C. Anderson, N.Z.
F. N. Howes, D.Sc., Kew.
F. S. Sillitoe, M.B.E., Kew.
C. H. Middleton, Kingston.

Foreman :

E. H. ROBSON.

Student Gardener :

F. G. A. GOLDSACK.

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Garden), George Tinley (at one time Assistant Editor of the "Gardeners' Chronicle") and Charles P. Raffill (Assistant Curator at Kew). With the exception of Tinley, all had been at Birmingham Botanic Gardens together with S. A. Skan and E. H. Wilson and this quintet formed the "Birmingham crowd."

Raffill came to Kew on 25th July, 1898, and with the exception of the period when he served during the Great War (1914-1919), has remained ever since.

As a young gardener he commenced his duties at Kew in the Temperate House, under the able direction of Mr. W. Dallimore. After a few months he was transferred to the succulent house, later to the T. Range and in September, 1899, he was appointed sub-foreman of the Palm House, where he served for two years.

Mr. Watson was appointed Curator in 1901 and Mr. Hackett became Foreman of the Tropical Department. Mr. Dallimore was placed in charge of the Arboretum and Mr. Raffill promoted to Foreman of the Temperate House. For nearly five years our President was in charge of this department, during which time many changes were carried out. The renewal of the soil and drainage system of the whole building was an undertaking which occupied three winters and extra men were engaged to augment the regular staff. The healthiness of the large collection of plants housed in this great conservatory was directly attributed to the work carried through at this time.

In 1905, the position of Foreman of the Tropical Department became vacant owing to Mr Hackett leaving for Liverpool Botanic Garden, and Mr. Raffill was invited to fill the vacancy. Raffill has always been known as a very strict disciplinarian and the men who have been associated with him at Kew, liked him none the less for this trait in his character.

"C.P.R." has always been a keen sportsman. The records of the Cricket and Football Clubs testify to his all-round achievements. He once won a cricket match off his own bat. This was at Henley, where the Kew team were playing against Sir Frank Crisp's team, which possessed a "demon" bowler who played havoc with Kew's best batsmen, most of whom obtained a "duck," but Raffill compiled a useful score to enable his side to snatch a victory. Many are the stories told of that historic match, which ended in a win for the visitors by one run, and of the great feast of strawberries and cream which followed a hot and tiring afternoon. Not content with these branches of sport, our President was a regular playing member of the Kew Hockey Club, which was then a team to be reckoned with throughout the London area. He relates many stories of the great matches he took part in, but adds that he never suffered so many injuries at any game as he received in playing hockey.

With the formation of the Kew Rifle Club, Mr. Raffill became a member, and he took part in many matches and was one of the team which competed in the final for the whole of London teams in 1911. Rowing, too, claimed his attention and his evenings were often

occupied on the Thames and stories which have long since become history are told of two great races between a crack oarsman (modesty forbids the mention of his name!) and "C.P.R." over a course from the Lock and Weir Bridge at Richmond to Kew Bridge. On both occasions Mr. Raffill was the victor.

From 1905 until the outbreak of the Great War he remained in charge of the Tropical Department. Within a few days of the fatal August 4th, 1914, he obtained the Director's (Sir David Prain) consent to enlist in the Army. He joined the 11th Battalion of the Royal Fusileers and in the Spring of the following year he was with his regiment in the trenches at Maricourt. An attack of trench fever laid him low for a time towards the end of 1915, but he subsequently rejoined his unit and remained with it until late in 1916, when he fell a victim to illness, which resulted in his being sent back to England. After convalescence he returned to France and was interviewed for a post with the Graves Registration Commission under General Sir Fabian Ware, as horticulturist. His duties called for much travelling over the war areas of France and Flanders. It was during this time that he was mentioned in despatches and congratulated by the General of the Third Army, for "Gallant Conduct." The Army Order referring to the incident is mentioned in the Kew Guild Journal for 1918, p. 427.

It was whilst engaged at Etaples in March, 1918, during an air raid by German bombing planes, that Staff-Sergeant C. P. Raffill was badly knocked about by the explosion of a heavy bomb, and from then until April of the following year he was in hospital. In the meantime, the Armistice was signed. He returned to Kew in April, 1919, and took over his former charge of the Temperate Department, where he still holds sway.

He is a great traveller, by land, sea and air, and rarely spends a holiday near home. He has visited the principal gardens and nurseries in these Islands, France, Italy, Belgium and Switzerland. His horticultural knowledge, which lately was recognised by the award of the Associateship of Honour by the Royal Horticultural Society, brings him in constant demand as a judge at horticultural shows, and in particular at the meetings of the Rhododendron Association. In 1934 and 1935 he was judge at the Pallanza Flower Show in Italy.

In the confines of his own private garden he grows many species of *Lilium* with great success. The raising of Lilies from seed is one of his many hobbies and now-a-days occupies much of his leisure time.

At the age of 61, our President is very active and alert, and his kind-hearted manner and loyalty to Kew and Kewites are always very evident.

E.G.D.
1937.

Reminiscences of "C.P.R."

Mr. R. E. Gill of Penryn, writes:—

"My early meeting with 'C.P.R.' was when I first arrived at Kew, and somehow we immediately struck up a friendship which has

lasted up to the present day. I could almost write a book on 'Our President,' but I will be as brief as possible: Raffill was always a good sport—cricket, football, hockey and rowing were his favourites. As a plantsman he was and still is first class. As a disciplinarian I believe he was hot stuff—my son was under him and I learned a lot, but keeping young men up to scratch has never yet hurt.

"Until the War came we were great friends; he often came down and stayed with me, and visited the Cornish gardens, where he was always known as 'Raffill of Kew.' Then came the War. In late 1916 and early 1917 I was in France and Flanders and on one occasion being near the headquarters of the War Graves Registration Commission I was delighted to hear that my old pal was in charge of a section (but I later got to think it was sections, until subsequently I was forced to conclude that the whole of the War graves were his area), for whenever I enquired at one centre for him, I was invariably told that he had left for another place, only to find on arrival there, he was gone again. (I should explain here, that I was in the motor transport section and had a car with which my duties took me to numerous parts). At last I routed him out, and notwithstanding that we were quite close to the lines we had a good time. 'C.P.R.' could always produce a bottle when the occasion arose.

"From time to time after the war we have met and spent some pleasant times. Our last event worth mentioning was a trip to Scotland. I drove my car up to town, picked up Raffill early next morning, and we were in Glasgow that night all safe and sound. "C.P.R." was always quick to learn and on this trip it was the only time I ever found him the reverse. Could I get him to learn to drive? No. I don't believe he wanted to, or was he afraid? He said that I put the 'wind up' him more than ever any shell did in France. We had a good time, visiting all the principal gardens and were well received by Earls and Lords and their ladies ("C.P.R." was always a ladies' man) and others. One great ambition was that he should visit Gretna Green and witness a wedding. Eventually we reached Gretna Green, but were unlucky as no wedding was taking place for several days. Raffill enquired of the blacksmith the earliest date known to him. The blacksmith gave him the desired information and 'C.P.R.' enquired if he could attend as a witness. Approval was readily forthcoming. The day appointed for the ceremony arrived and we were present (it had meant us travelling an extra 100 miles). The wedding took place and we signed the registers and 'C.P.R.' addressed the happy couple. The oration that came from Our President I will not attempt to repeat, but maybe it was beneficial.

"Now in conclusion, as a gardener, he ranks with the best; he is a first-rate photographer; as a judge of paintings, he should have been at the Royal Academy. His hobbies have been many and varied but whether prize Rabbits or Liliums, all show the thoroughness that is characteristic of the man."

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1936.

The Annual General Meeting of the Guild was held on Thursday, May 21st, 1936, at the Clarendon Restaurant, Hammersmith, London, W., at 6.30 p.m.

Mr. Robert L. Proudlock, the retiring President for 1935-36, occupied the Chair, and he was supported by nearly fifty Members.

The Minutes of the 1935 Annual General Meeting were read, and on the proposal of Mr. C. P. Raffill, supported by Mr. W. H. Young, they were passed by the unanimous vote of the Members.

Copies of the Annual Report and the Financial Statements had been circulated with the notices convening the Meeting, and as Members had had full opportunity of perusing them, Mr. H. J. Davies proposed and Miss L. H. Joshua seconded their adoption. This resolution was agreed to without dissension.

Mr. A. Osborn, supported by Mr. D. Bliss, proposed that Mr. C. P. Raffill, A.H.R.H.S., be elected President for 1936-37. This proposal was enthusiastically received, and Mr. Raffill expressed his pleasure and appreciation of the honour accorded him.

Mr. E. G. Dunk (the Hon. Secretary) read a letter that had been received from Mrs. G. T. Lane, bringing to the notice of Members the poor circumstances in which she found herself since Mr. Lane's death. References to the late Mr. Lane were made by Messrs. H. J. Davies, G. Lamb, C. P. Raffill, P. T. Russell, F. S. Sillitoe, E. Coward, A. Osborn and A. Hosking.

As a result of the discussion, Mr. E. Coward, supported by Mr. C. P. Raffill, proposed that an immediate grant of ten guineas be made to Mrs. Lane from the Guild Benevolent Fund. This suggestion was unanimously agreed to. A further proposal was put forward by Mr. E. Coward and Mr. P. T. Russell that a circular letter should be distributed with every copy of the 1936 Journal, and approved. It was agreed that the disposal of the fund resulting from an appeal to Members should be left in the hands of the Committee.

Mr. R. L. Proudlock, the Chairman, appealed to the Members to continue their support of the Guild Educational Fund, and intimated that he had received two sums (one of £5 and the other £1) from Members who desired, as far as the Meeting was concerned, to remain anonymous.

Mr. George Lamb proposed that invitations be sent to prominent horticulturists and well-known members of the gardening fraternity to attend the Annual Dinner. Mr. W. W. Pettigrew approved of the suggestion, and remarked that at the present time it was apparent that recruits for municipal appointments must often be taken from the town concerned, and that this policy tended to result in the closing of the door to Kewites, unless every opportunity was taken to bring them and their achievements before the many municipal committees up and down the country. It was further suggested

that the Committee should consider the advisability in inviting a representative of the many Chairmen of Parks Committees to subsequent Annual Dinners. These proposals met with general approval, and should be considered by the Committee when making the 1937 Dinner arrangements.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Officers of the Guild concluded the Meeting at 7.20 p.m.

THE ANNUAL DINNER, 1936.

On Thursday, May 21st, 1936, the Annual Dinner was held at the Clarendon Restaurant, Hammersmith, and the second largest gathering of Kewites (numbering 168) testified to the strong link which unites past and present Members of the Guild.

Mr. Charles P. Raffill, A.H.R.H.S., the President for 1936-37, was in the Chair. The Loyal Toast was accorded full musical honours, and, immediately following, all stood in silence for a brief space as an act of remembrance for Absent Friends.

Mr. Raffill, in proposing the Toast of the "Kew Guild," welcomed those overseas members who were present, together with those older Kew men, mentioning in particular: Mr. Henry Cocker and Mr. W. Rose, from Italy; Mr. and Mrs. Robbie, from Sudan; Mr. H. M. Holloway, from Spain; Mr. A. E. Braybon, from Malaya; and Mr. L. Cook, from Vancouver, British Columbia. He also referred to Captain McEchearn (the Guild's guest), Mr. and Mrs. Leslie, Mr. and Mrs. Russell, the Rev. W. C. Smith, Miss Cope, Mr. W. Page, Mr. E. Long and Mr. H. F. Macmillan. Among letters regretting inability to attend were those from Sir Arthur Hill and Miss Hill, Sir David Prain, and Mr. W. Dallimore (formerly Keeper of Museums).

Speaking of the history of the Kew Guild, Mr. Raffill said that it had been founded about 45 years ago by Mr. William Watson, then assistant curator. It had prospered from its earliest days, and was a strong connecting link between all Kewites in all parts of the world. The Kew Guild Journal was a means of keeping the members together, no matter where they travelled.

The Guild, he said, was important all over the world, and, thanks to its secretary and officers, had always flourished. Wherever a Kew man went, he had only to look in the Kew Journal to find out if there was another Kew man resident there, and if so, he was sure of a warm welcome. "The Guild," he added, "is a union and bond which ties us together and makes us help one another." Kew always kept an eye on her past students; she had her tentacles in all parts of the world—(laughter)—and there was little news of Kew men that they who were still at Kew did not hear.

The training of Kew men had improved tremendously from the early days—even from the time he came, 38 years ago. The lectures

had increased and improved. There were courses on chemistry of soils, entomology, and visits to other gardens. The Mutual Improvement Society had proved a great success and had done valuable work in making good speakers and lecturers of the students.

The standard at Kew, he went on, was now as good as it had ever been. There were plenty of good men, men fond of sports, and a good sport was generally good at his own profession.

Kew was within five years of the century since its inception as a National Botanic Gardens. There had been five directors—Sir William Hooker, Sir Joseph Hooker, Sir William Thiselton-Dyer, Sir David Prain, and Sir Arthur Hill. He had served under the last three. He had also served under five curators—Messrs. G. Nicholson, W. Watson, W. J. Bean, W. Taylor, and J. Coutts.

Mr. Raffill referred to Mr. Robert L. Proudlock, who, to add to his other generous gifts, had presented to the Guild a magnificent silver cup to be competed for each year by past and present Kewites. It would be given to the winner of a singles tennis tournament, and was to be known as the Proudlock Cup.

Before giving the toast, Mr. Raffill mentioned the work of the secretary-editor of the Guild, Mr. E. G. Dunk.

Mr. William Hales, A.L.S., V.M.H., introduced the toast "Our President" with the following remarks: Mr. Raffill, he said, was born of a good gardening stock, his father being for many years head gardener to Lord Tredegar at Tredegar Park, and he had heard it stated that their president's love for gardening had been evident in his early years. The speaker's earliest recollections of Mr. Raffill went back to the 1890's, when, as a youth, he was beginning to carve out his career. In 1894 he had joined the staff of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, where he was able to add to that store of his knowledge of plants which laid the foundation for his work at Kew.

"In everything he undertakes," said Mr. Hales, "his aim is first to master the principles of his subject and then proceed to apply these principles to practice; and therein, I contend, has been the secret of his success, coupled with an intense desire to achieve the best in all he undertakes."

He entered Kew in 1898, and the next year found him promoted to sub-foreman in the Palm house, where he remained until he was made foreman (as they were then called) in the Temperate house. In 1906 he was transferred to succeed Mr. Hackett in the Tropical Department, a post he filled with distinction to himself and the department until war service called him to assist his country. On returning from the war in 1918 he was called upon again to take control of the Temperate House, and all of them who watched the development of Kew through the past years had noted with what credit that department had been run.

"In everything he has undertaken he has shown a directness which is characteristic of the man, but this directness has generally carried him through with the work he has undertaken. Some of you

who have worked under him know that he 'doesn't suffer fools gladly,' but, even so, you will all have to admit that any admonishment you have received at his hands has been without malice, and all for your good. To present students I will say you will in future years be grateful that it was your good fortune to have had as your chief so capable a man, and so thorough a leader in the profession which he adorns."

The Toast "Our President" was accorded full musical honours, and received with acclamation that fully demonstrated the popularity of the new President.

Mr. E. Gill (the well-known nurseryman of Falmouth, who is also an alderman of this well-known Cornish town) then briefly referred to his friendship with Mr. Raffill that had endured for nearly forty years. He mentioned his great love of plants, and told of several amusing incidents in which they had been concerned.

During the evening a fantasy described as "A Musical Mutual" was produced by Mr. J. S. L. Gilmour (assistant director of Kew) and Mrs. J. S. L. Gilmour, who were responsible for writing the amusing words and the music. The fantasy proved a witty skit on the Mutual Improvement Society, and introduced the names of several well-known Kew men. Mr. Gilmour played the part of the secretary, and was supported by Mr. L. J. Harding as chairman, Mr. G. W. G. Freeman, Mr. E. H. Robson, Mr. G. Urton and Messrs. G. E. Groves, G. H. Larsen, G. W. Page and F. L. Simmonds. Mrs. Gilmour was at the piano. Musical items were also given by instrumentalists—Messrs. W. Grant, J. Brown, J. Offley, L. Prosser, I. Sinclair and Mrs. Rousell.

During the evening the annual prize awards were presented by the President as follows:—Dümmer memorial prizes: G. H. Addison and G. H. Preston. Hooker prize (presented by Sir Arthur Hill), J. Heppell. Mutual Society's prize, J. C. Taylor. Matilda Smith prize, G. W. G. Freeman. Insect collection, L. N. Prosser.

In his concluding remarks Mr. Raffill expressed his thanks to the entire company for their loyal support, and a vote of thanks to those responsible for the musical programme and the arrangements for the Dinner brought the proceedings to a close.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1936.

The Committee have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report and financial statements for the year 1936 for approval.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Clarendon Restaurant, Hammersmith, on May 21st, 1936, at 6.30 p.m., when Mr. R. L. Proudlock occupied the Chair. This was followed by the Annual Dinner, when Mr. C. P. Raffill, A.H.R.H.S., Assistant Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, presided over an assembly of 168 members, the second highest attendance on record.

The Members of the Committee who are due to retire in normal sequence this year are Messrs. G. W. Robinson, A. B. Melles, C. Jones and W. H. Judd. The following have been nominated to fill the vacancies: Messrs. S. A. Pearce, S. W. Braggins, E. Coward and M. Free. Mr. E. H. Robson has been elected to represent the Foremen, and Mr. F. G. A. Goldsack the Student Gardeners at Kew. The duties of Hon. Treasurer will continue to be carried out by Mr. L. Stenning. Mr. E. G. Dunk will carry out the offices of Hon. Secretary and Editor of the Journal during the coming year. Messrs. G. W. Robinson and W. L. Lavender are recommended as Hon. Auditors for the ensuing year.

A loan amounting to £9 10s. was made from the Educational Fund during 1936 to Mr. G. Dean to assist him in payment of his expenses on proceeding to the Arnold Arboretum, U.S.A. The Committee feel that further financial support is desirable to enable this fund to be established on a firm basis, and to make it possible to secure further investment of capital.

A grant of £10 10s. was made to the widow of the late Mr. G. T. Lane from the Benevolent Fund. Arising from the decision taken at the 1936 Annual General Meeting, members were circularised, and as a result a sum of £34 15s. was received, and has since been paid to Mrs. Lane. No other claims have been made on the funds during the past year.

The 1937 Journal is in the press, but at the moment it is not possible to be certain that it will be published prior to the Annual General Meeting for 1937. Should it be received in time, every effort will be made to despatch copies to members. In order that the directory may continue in its usefulness the Editor should be notified of appointments and changes of address from time to time.

Through the further generosity of a former President (Mr. R. L. Proudlock) a stock holding of £25 4% Funding Loan has been purchased, and it is intended that the annual dividend shall be applied to the purchase of a further prize for British Botany.

The first tournament for the Proudlock Tennis Cup was carried through during the past season, and the successful competitor was Mr. F. S. Sillitoe, M.B.E. Members are notified that entries can now be received for the 1937 tournament. A further trophy for competition by lady members of the Kew Staff and for wives and daughters of Guild Members is being presented to the Guild in the

near future by Mr. R. L. Proudlock, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. E. G. Dunk) should be notified of those who intend to compete. There is no entrance fee for either competition, and matches will be played on the courts of the Royal Botanic Gardens Tennis Club at Kew.

Since the publication of the 1936 Journal we regret to record the passing of Messrs. A. S. Galt, A. R. Horwood, H. H. Kidd, H. G. King, A. A. Pettigrew, R. L. Roehrs, J. H. F. Saint and F. C. Tribble.

Owing to the increased size of the Journal, the cost of production and postages was relatively higher, but continued support from our friends in the horticultural and allied trades in the matter of advertisements enabled us to meet the advance to some extent. The receipts for the year ending December 31st, 1936, amount to £116 12s. 5d., and the expenditure to £121 13s. 4d., the balance in hand in the General Account is £67 16s. 10d.

F. S. SILLITOE,
Chairman of Committee.

May 1st, 1937.

KEW GUILD GENERAL ACCOUNT
BALANCE SHEET (Year ending December 31st, 1936).

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Balance from 1935 account ..	72 17 9	Printing 1936 Journal, supplying electros, reprints of Annual Report & Balance Sheets, etc.	91 16 6
Annual subscriptions & arrears	18 4 0	Supplying Manilla Envelopes for Journal	1 10 6
Life Subscriptions	54 2 9	Hon. Secretary's Honorarium..	15 0 0
Advertisements in 1936 Journal	0 5 0	Postages on 1936 Journal (@ 3d. per copy) & Hon. Secretary's postages & incidentals	9 18 0
Dividends on £300 5% and 3% New South Wales Stock 1935-1955 (less Income Tax)	9 14 8	Printing notices for Annual General Meeting 1936 ..	0 18 0
Dividends on £26 6s. 3d. 3½% War Stock	0 18 4	Hon. Treasurer's postages and incidentals	0 8 4
Cash Bonus payable at £4 10s. % on £300 5% New South Wales Stock on conversion to 3% Stock, 1955-58 ..	13 10 0	Wreath for late Mr. G. T. Lane	1 1 0
Balance from 1936 Dinner A/c	0 2 10	" " " Mr. J. H. F. Saint	1 1 0
Interest on Post Office Savings Bank deposits	1 8 7	Balance at Bank	67 16 10
	<u>£189 10 2</u>		<u>£189 10 2</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	ASSETS.	£ s. d.
209 Life Subscribers of £1 at ½ rate	104 10 0	£300 3½% New South Wales Stock 1955-58 at par	300 0 0
253 Life Subscribers of £2 at ½ rate	253 0 0	£26 6s. 3d. 3½% War Stock at par	26 6 3
Assets exceed Liabilities ..	58 5 7	Valuation of Journals in stock	15 0 0
	<u>£415 15 7</u>	Valuation of Typewriter	5 0 0
		Balance at Bank	67 16 10
		Cash in Hand	Nil
		Due from Advertiser in 1936 Journal (W. Easlea & Son)	1 12 6
			<u>£415 15 7</u>

WATSON MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL FUND

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Balance from 1935 account ..	79 0 7	Loan to Mr. G. Dean on proceeding to Canada	9 10 0
Subscriptions and donations ..	27 12 6	Purchase of 1936 Insect collection Prize	0 10 6
Dividends on £100 3½% War Stock	3 10 0	Transference of initial donation of Proudlock Prize Fund ..	10 0 0
Interest on Post Office Savings Bank deposit.. .. .	1 18 0	Balance in Bank	92 0 7
	<u>£112 1 1</u>		<u>£112 1 1</u>

(Assets : £100 3½% War Stock and Balance in Bank £92 0s. 7d.
 Liabilities : Nil)

DÜMMER MEMORIAL PRIZE FUND

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1935 account ..		6	11	2	Purchase of 1936 Memorial Prizes		3	4	0
Dividend on £70 4% Funding Loan		2	16	0	Balance at Bank		6	5	7
Interest on Post Office Savings Bank deposit.. .. .		0	2	5					
		£9 9 7					£9 9 7		

(Assets : £70. 4% Funding Loan and balance in Balance £6 5s. 7d.
Liabilities : Nil.)

MATILDA SMITH MEMORIAL PRIZE FUND

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1935 account ..		7	0	2	Purchase of 1936 prize		2	3	0
Dividend on £50 L.C.C. 5% Stock		2	10	0	Balance at Bank		7	10	5
Interest on Post Office Savings Bank deposit		0	3	3					
		£9 13 5					£9 13 5		

(Assets : £50 L.C.C. 5% Stock and Balance in Bank £7 10s. 5d.
Liabilities : Nil.)

THE BENEVOLENT FUND

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
Balance from 1935 account ..		65	6	9	Grant authorised by Annual General Meeting, 1936 to Mrs. Lane		10	10	0
Donations		7	0	10	Balance at Bank		63	7	0
Interest on Post Office Savings Bank Deposit.. .. .		1	9	5					
		£73 17 0					£73 17 0		

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF MRS. G. T. LANE

RECEIPTS		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.
Donations		34	15	0	Paid to Mrs. Lane		34	15	0
		£34 15 0			Balance in hand				
		£34 15 0					£34 15 0		

THE CRICKET CLUB, 1936.

The Annual General Meeting of the Cricket Club was held in the Iron Room on April 23rd, 1936, at 7 p.m., when the following officers were elected:—Mr. L. Stenning, Captain; Mr. G. Curry, Vice-Captain; Mr. P. W. Page, Hon. Secretary; and these with the addition of Messrs. C. F. Coates and E. Sleigh formed the Committee.

The season unfortunately was far from being a good one. An excellent list of fixtures had been drawn up, which included two mid-week matches, two evening, and fifteen afternoon games, but owing to lack of enthusiasm and team spirit among some of the playing members, the Committee had no option but to cancel several games towards the end of the season.

Of the 12 games played 7 were won, 4 lost and 1 drawn.

The season opened on May 2nd with a home match against our old and sporting opponents, St. Luke's C.C., on Kew Green. We made a disastrous start for the commencement of a new season, and a result which will be long remembered by those who took part in the game. After dismissing our opponents for the moderate total of 96 runs, we in our turn were skittled out for the meagre score of 19 runs, one player securing 14 of these!

Not letting this defeat upset us unduly, we went on to win the next three matches by a comfortable margin in each instance. These victories were largely due to our batsmen finding their form, notably G. Curry and A. Lancaster, while Dr. Bor (a visitor in the Herbarium), who assisted the Club, made outstanding scores.

These victories gave us confidence for the annual encounter with the Past Kewites. The match was played on Kew Green on Saturday, June 6th, in ideal weather. Our opponents won the toss and decided to bat first and compiled the useful total of 101 runs. (S. Pearce, 23, C. Rudd, 20, and B. W. Harborne, 14, being the chief scorers.) Kew replied with the excellent total of 102 runs for 1 wicket, thus gaining a 9 wickets victory. The chief features of our innings being the batting of Dr. Bor, 50 not out, and G. Curry, 31.

The annual mid-week between Students and the Staff was played on Kew Green on June 10th. Mr. L. Stenning captained the Staff and Mr. G. Curry, the Students. The Staff won the toss and decided to bat first on a good wicket. The Students soon met with success, claiming three cheap wickets, but the fifth wicket partnership between Dr. Bor and Mr. Stenning put up a strong resistance and the partnership was not broken before 66 runs had been added (Dr. Bor, 42, and Mr. Stenning, 24). After the fall of this wicket the remainder of the Staff collapsed before the bowling of G. Curry, who took 8 wickets for 14 runs in 8 overs, and the side was dismissed for the total of 87 runs.

Between the innings both teams were entertained to tea on the Tennis Courts enclosure by Sir Arthur and Miss Hill.

On the resumption of play the Students (probably having "tea'd")

too well) could not settle down and wickets fell all too fast, and the side were all out for the meagre total of 31 runs. Dr. Bor, with his slow brakes, took 5 wickets for 10 runs.

Our next match of note was yet another home game *versus* Suttons (Reading) C.C. and played at Kew on Saturday, July 4th. Kew won the toss and batted first on a good wicket, but made a bad start, losing two wickets for only 6 runs. The rot was stopped, however, when Dr. Bor joined G. Curry, and between them added 64 runs, before Curry was out l.b.w. after compiling a useful 24 runs, and the innings finally closed for the grand total of 169 runs. The very fine innings played by Dr. Bor in this match will go down in the annals of Kew history as having broken all previous records, by scoring 123 not out, a score which included fourteen boundaries. Suttons C.C. made a disastrous start by losing 5 wickets for 20 runs and were all out for 58, Kew thus winning easily by 111 runs.

From this date onwards it is with regret that we must state that many of the remaining fixtures had to be cancelled owing to difficulties in raising teams, but it is earnestly hoped that such a state of affairs will not prevail in 1937 or in subsequent years.

In conclusion, the Committee wish to thank all members for their assistance, more especially those who helped to fulfil the programme of fixtures towards the close of the season and in particular Dr. Bor and Messrs. J. Glasheen, S. A. Pearce and A. Lancaster. Special thanks are due to Harry Davies for his valuable services throughout the season as Umpire.

Averages for 1936.

BATTING

	No. of Innings.	Times not out.	Highest Score.	Total of Runs.
1. Dr. Bor	5	3	123	340
2. J. Ewart	2	1	61	70
3. G. Curry	10	2	54	184
4. A. Lancaster	8	—	45	126
5. J. Berendt	5	2	25	47
6. L. Stenning	6	1	24	42
7. E. Sleigh	9	1	26	47
8. G. Preston	9	1	12	34

BOWLING

	No. of Overs.	Maiden Overs.	No. of Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
1. P. Page	49	6	154	30	5.13
2. Dr. Bor	19	3	43	8	5.37
3. G. Curry	34	2	108	19	5.95
4. A. Lancaster	51	11	139	18	7.72
5. J. Glasheen	36	2	114	10	11.40
6. G. Preston	34	4	173	9	19.22

P. W. PAGE,
Hon. Secretary.

THE FOOTBALL CLUB, 1936/37.

The Annual Meeting of the Sports Club was held in the Iron Room on April 23rd, 1936, at 7 p.m. The following officers were elected for the football club, 1936-37 season: Captain, Mr. B. B. Wass; Vice-Captain, Mr. T. G. Curry; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Heppell, with Messrs. P. W. Page and W. Grant as Members of Committee.

Following the successful season of 1935-36, the committee and players looked forward to the new season with enthusiasm, and awaited the advent of September, when the practice games would herald the return of football.

A very promising fixture list was arranged in spite of the fact that we decided not to enter for the local charity cup competitions, and to restrict our matches to entirely friendly encounters. Once again we welcomed the prospects of tussles with the R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley, the National Physical Laboratory, the Old Cumbrians Associations, and Staines Lammas, and new opponents from Reading Town Hall and the Victoria Institute offered further interest. In all, 22 games were arranged, but owing to cancellations, due in part to our inability on occasion to field a team, or our would-be opponents' similar plight, the fact that cup-ties interfered with teams' friendly fixtures, or, latterly, waterlogged pitches, these were reduced considerably.

Quite early in the season we suffered through the loss of keen players leaving Kew, having secured positions at a distance, and while new entrants came, we were nevertheless unable to build up our depleted team to its full playing strength.

Success was not so marked as in previous years, and our "goals against" column shows adversely when compared with "goals for." Still it should suffice to say that the matches were all sportingly contested, and play, though keen, was enjoyable, and more often than not the final whistle sounded with a single goal dividing the teams.

We welcomed the "Wisleyites" on October 24th, 1936, and our encounter ended in a draw, two goals all. This match was played in the Old Deer Park, Richmond, and was followed by tea at the Sun Inn. We parted very good friends, anticipating the return match at Wisley, which, owing to Easter week-end coinciding with the date of the original fixture, has been postponed until April 17th.

Considerable disappointment was felt when, owing to the excessively wet spell during March, our return fixture with Reading Town Hall F.C., at Reading, had to be cancelled owing to the flooded state of the ground. Our would-be opponents had visited us in January, and gained an odd goal victory, while proving themselves clean and keen players. We hope to renew our acquaintance with them in future seasons.

Team-raising difficulties obliged us to cancel fixtures with Reading University 2nd eleven and Brentford Wheelers F.C., both new clubs to our fixture list, and our much-looked-forward-to encounter with

Sutton's F.C. at Reading was scratched, owing to a replayed cup-tie having been arranged on the date of our fixture. At the time of this report no new date has been arranged; however, a match in April has been suggested.

As a club, we are indebted to football enthusiasts from H.M. Office of Works (Kew) and one or two keen players outside the Gardens, who have often, at very short notice, very ably filled the gaps in our depleted eleven. Bernard Wass, in his second year as Captain of the team, has always given of his best, and, as Hon. Secretary, I would like to record my appreciation to him and to all enthusiasts in the Gardens. Some of the ablest assistance given has been the willingness of certain non-playing supporters to change duty on Saturday afternoons to enable a player to turn out for the team. A special vote of thanks is due to those who "play the game off the field," and to those who have assisted as linesmen and given their vocal support. We have often had evidence of the interest Mr. and Mrs. J. S. L. Gilmour take in the Club by their support at our matches in the Old Deer Park.

Our record this season is :—

Games played, 12. Won, 4. Drawn, 1. Lost, 7.
Goals for, 39. Against, 51.

W. Grant is again top scorer for the season with 12 goals to his credit.

Another season is thus brought to a close, with the possible exception of our return fixture with Wisley in April. A good win there would be something of an incentive for next season, and encourage the Committee to arrange a fixture list for 1937-38 with well-known opponents of the past and possibly new ones. But an increased playing membership to ensure a full team always being available is a dire necessity if the Club is to be a success in the future.

J. HEPPELL,
Hon. Secretary, 1936/37.

THE SOCIAL CLUB, 1936/37.

The Annual General Meeting, held in October, 1936, resulted in the re-election of our President, Mr. J. S. L. Gilmour, and in the election of E. H. Robson as Hon. Secretary; G. H. Preston, Chairman; C. A. Cann, Hon. Treasurer, with Messrs. W. Grant and E. C. Wray as Members of Committee, while Messrs. H. F. Davies and B. B. Wass were nominated as Hon. Aitors. After some additions to the Rules had been made, it was decided to hold several matches with other clubs, and also to introduce a new feature into Kew activities, that of Debates on non-horticultural subjects. Mr. and Mrs. J. S. L. Gilmour very kindly offered the use of their large room for debates and for the Chess Circle. The Meeting closed on

an optimistic note, a proposal advocating the purchase out of Club funds of a small Billiards Table meeting with instant approval.

Hardly had the purchase of this table been completed than a quarter-size table was presented to the Club by the President (Mr. J. S. L. Gilmour) and Vice-Presidents (Mr. J. Sealy and Mr. E. J. Austin, of H.M. Office of Works).

Up to the time of going to press, three matches had been played, one against the "Wizards" resulting in a draw, and two against the Constables. The first meeting with the Constables saw us victorious at Darts, but the second, although we suffered severe reverses in both Darts and Billiards, proved to be the more successful evening from the social point of view.

During the remaining four months of the season we are hoping to play several more matches with other clubs, besides holding internal tournaments in Billiards and Table Tennis.

It is pleasing to record that our membership has more than doubled that of last season, and receipts from subscriptions and the small charges for the use of the Billiard Tables have placed the Club in a sound financial position, and further progress is anticipated.

The officials of the Club take this opportunity of thanking those who have attended regularly, and by so doing have induced others to make more frequent visits, enabling us to look forward to an even more successful season.

E. H. ROBSON,
Hon. Secretary, 1936/37.

THE SWIMMING CLUB, 1936.

At the Annual General Meeting held on April 23rd, 1936, the following were elected to hold office for the season:—W. Everett, Captain; A. H. Pettigrew, Vice-Captain; E. H. Robson, Hon. Secretary, with Messrs. B. B. Wass and T. G. Curry as Committee members.

As in previous years, members made use of the Richmond Public Baths, and although the average attendance left a good deal to be desired, over 20 different members were present on occasions during the season. Several of these took advantage of the professional instruction given, and some, more keen and hardier than the rest, continued to attend even during the winter months.

The Annual Mile Championship Race took place in the River Thames from Isleworth Gate to Kew Bridge, on July 22nd, and nine competitors participated. Our thanks are due to those who manned the attendant safety boats on this occasion and during the preliminary practices, and especially to Mr. J. A. Mingay, who came up from Southend to officiate as Starter, to Mr. A. S. Wilson, who acted as Timekeeper, and Mr. C. P. Raffill, who was a very efficient Judge.

The fact that five of the nine competitors came from overseas gave the event an added interest.

Mr. Mingay started the race at 6.56 p.m., and K. W. R. Winter (*Germany*) took the lead, followed by J. Ewart (*New Zealand*), A. J. Fordham (*United States of America*) and E. H. Robson (*Gt. Britain*). After three minutes Ewart went to the front, only to be overtaken by Fordham with Robson close behind. Enthusiastic supporters on the towing path shouted their encouragement through megaphones as the excitement increased, for Fordham and Robson were neck and neck, both striving for a winning lead. Winter was now a good third, and his fellow countryman, K. Prollius, followed closely, fourth. At the bend Robson wrested the lead from Fordham, and then Prollius with a magnificent effort overhauled Winter and took third place. A very strong tide was running and a good crowd of spectators at Kew Bridge saw Robson win in the record time of 16 minutes 45 seconds (the previous record was held by H. C. Hildyard and was 17 minutes (1928 race)).

The following is the order of finishing :—

1.	E. H. Robson (<i>Gt. Britain</i>) ..	16 mins.	45 sec.
2.	A. J. Fordham (<i>U.S.A.</i>) ..	17	20
3.	K. Prollius (<i>Germany</i>) ..	17	45
4.	K. W. R. Winter (<i>Germany</i>)	18	15
5.	J. W. Ewart (<i>New Zealand</i>)	18	30
6.	G. H. Larsen (<i>France</i>) ..	18	35
7.	P. L. J. Fysh (<i>Gt. Britain</i>) ..	19	15
8.	F. G. A. Goldsack (<i>Gt. Britain</i>)	19	35

(— E. A. Pooley retired with cramp.)

The Port of London Authority's launch followed the race and we are indebted to their officers for the assistance they gave in clearing the course, etc. It was very encouraging that Sir Arthur and Miss Hill, and Mr. and Mrs. J. S. L. Gilmour were able to follow the race in the launch.

The race was followed by the most successful dance of the year, during which Sir Arthur and Miss Hill presented the cups and medals to the successful competitors.

E. H. ROBSON,
Hon. Secretary, 1936.

THE BRITISH BOTANY CLUB, 1936.

The Annual General Meeting of the British Botany Club was held in the Lecture Room on Thursday, February 20th, 1936, when Mr. J. S. L. Gilmour presided over an attendance representative of both old and new members. Mr. G. W. G. Freeman (the Hon. Secretary) read the Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting, which were adopted. Then followed the report of the Club's activities during 1935. Mr. Gilmour mentioned that owing to reasons of

health, Mr. E. Nelmes would be unable to carry out the duties of President and recommended that Mr. E. J. Ballard should take his place, a suggestion that received unanimous approval. The following were elected as officers for the 1936 session, G. Addison, Hon. Secretary. Committee:—Messrs. A. Pettigrew, R. K. Mowforth and G. H. Preston. The following amendments to the Rules were approved:—

Rule 1. “That the specimens be collected during the current year. The collection to be submitted for examination not later than the last day of December in that year.”

Rule 10. “That explanations on the principles of collecting, drying, pressing and mounting specimens should take place at the Annual General Meeting.”

Mr. Gilmour gave a short talk on the use of Floras, and stressed the importance of giving good ecological notes with each specimen. Mr. Freeman, after giving advice on pressing and preparation of specimens, asked members to restrict their collections to the more abundant species and to refrain from collecting the rare plants, in particular orchids.

The Meeting closed with a special vote of thanks to Mr. E. Nelmes who had so ably carried out the duties of President for many years.

The first excursion of the season took place on April 4th, 1936, when five members accompanied Mr. Addison to Epsom. In spite of the cold winds, a pleasant afternoon was spent and several plants such as *Adoxa moschatellina*, *Viola odorata*, and *Juniperus communis* were collected. A second visit to this district was made on May 6th, when a party of six walked from Leatherhead across Mickleham Downs, and a “bag” of over twenty plants was secured, including *Geranium pyrenaicum*, *Valerianella olitorica* and *Hippocrepis comosa*.

On May 6th, a small party accompanied the cricket team to Goldalming, and did some useful collecting while the game was in progress.

The banks of the Thames was the venue of a trip held on May 29th. As usual the plant of *Berberis vulgaris* which thrives here had to sacrifice some of its shoots so that the family *Berberidaceae* could be included in the collections.

On June 3rd, a special meeting was held in the Lecture Room, in order to elect an Hon. Secretary, in place of Mr. Addison, who had been selected to go to the Berlin Botanic Garden. Mr. R. K. Mowforth was elected for the remainder of the year.

The usual collecting trip, with grasses as the primary object, was made to the Queen's Cottage Grounds on June 16th, when Mr. C. E. Hubbard of the Herbarium accompanied a large party of collectors. In addition to the usual large collection, two grasses new to this district were found, namely *Milium effusum* and the hybrid *Festuca loliacea* (*Festuca pratensis* x *Lolium perenne*).

An evening trip was held on June 25th, when four members cycled to Epsom Downs and collected fifteen useful specimens.

The traditional trips to Teddington Sand Pits and the Brent Canal were made on July 9th and 23rd respectively. On each occasion seven members made up the party and collected a large number of plants.

The annual full day trip was held on July 29th. Wicken Fen, near Cambridge, was chosen this year in preference to the usual excursion to Milford. Thanks to Mr. Gilmour and members of the Museums and Herbarium staffs, ten members started from Kew Green in motor cars at 8 a.m. Rain fell heavily at the start, but did not deter the enthusiasts participating in the excursion. A stop was made at the Cambridge Botanic Gardens, where thanks to Mr. F. G. Preston (the Superintendent, who incidentally is a well-known old Kewite), the party spent a very interesting hour.

Before reaching Wicken a stop was made to view one of the rarest of British plants, *Teucrium scordium*.

Wicken was reached about midday. There we found Mis Conway of the Cambridge Botany School waiting to give us a short talk on the history of the Fen, which is the property of the National Trust, and also to show us where and what we were permitted to collect. During the afternoon we were joined by Mr. Preston and two members of the Cambridge staff who knew the flora of the Fen and also how to negotiate the boggy ground. About thirty specimens were collected, including *Thalictrum flavum*, *Rhamnus Frangula*, *Dryopteris filipensis*, *Lathyrus palustris*, *Aster saligna* and *Ranunculus Lingua*.

After a delicious tea in the keeper's cottage, the homeward journey was made *via* Ely, where the party had a look round the famous cathedral and climbed to the top of the tower. Most of the party arrived back at Kew between nine and ten o'clock, but some made stops on the way, to add to their already overloaded vasculums (and, of course, to quench their thirsts), and these did not reach home until nearly midnight. So ended another very enjoyable excursion!

The final trip of the season was to Staines, on August 24th, where six members went with the intention of collecting aquatics, but they were destined to be disappointed, as owing to the cold season many of the plants had not flowered at all or had done so earlier than usual.

In spite of alterations to the original programme owing to the wet season and the fact that the number of collectors was smaller than in previous years, the average attendance on all excursions was quite good and much keenness and interest was apparent, a point that was also very encouraging to those who arranged the season's programme.

The thanks of all members are due to Messrs. J. S. L. Gilmour, E. J. Ballard, C. E. Hubbard and other members of the Staff who were good enough to take us to Cambridge, also to those at Cambridge who helped to make our day at Wicken so interesting and instructive.

The results of the season's collecting were adjudged by Mr. Gilmour and Mr. Ballard and resulted as follows:—Dümmer Memorial

Prize, C. A. Cann; R. L. Proudlock Prize, N. J. Prockter; and the following were awarded certificates:—W. Grant, L. Lannie, F. H. Mackaness, G. E. Taylor, G. Urton and F. J. E. Jollie.

This is the first occasion on which the award of the R. L. Proudlock Prize has been made and it is desirable that an expression of thanks should be recorded on behalf of the Club for Mr. Proudlock's generosity in providing the capital sum to ensure this additional annual award.

R. K. MOWFORTH,
Hon. Secretary, 1936.

THE MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY, 1935-36.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on September 9th, 1935, and the following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. C. P. Raffill; Vice-Chairman, Mr. G. W. Robinson; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Heppell; Assistant Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. B. Wass. The Members of Committee elected were Messrs. G. H. Addison, G. W. G. Freeman and R. K. Mowforth.

An interesting syllabus of lectures was arranged for the season and it was indeed fortunate that Mr. J. Coutts, V.M.H., should open the session with a talk on "The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew," illustrated by a fine series of lantern slides. The list of subjects was a varied one and provided evenings of considerable interest, those especially of note being "Dry Walls and Plant Culture," "Plants New or Noteworthy," "Open Spaces and Town Planning," and "Plant Explorers, Biographical Notes and Introductions." The latter paper was published in the *Kew Guild Journal* for 1936 (Vol. V, pp. 552-559).

Some very helpful and interesting lantern lectures were included in the syllabus. Of these, the ones depicting trade horticultural methods and varieties of plants in colour were especially good. Mr. D. Wonfor and Mr. L. Lannie, in their lectures, gave Members of the Society further insight into the Dominions of South Africa and New Zealand. It was of particular interest to effect comparisons with the methods of horticulture in these distant lands and those followed in this country.

We were privileged to hear a talk from a well-known Canadian Kewite (Mr. H. J. Moore, C.M.H.), who spoke of the International Peace Garden which is being developed on the boundaries of Canada and the United States of America. The coloured slides of this admirable project and others showing the Canadian methods of horticulture were very much appreciated. It had been intended that Mr. Moore's lecture should have been included in the Friday evening series, but, as this was inconvenient to the lecturer, the Society's syllabus was adjusted to include such a unique opportunity. The Director (Sir A. W. Hill) concluded the session by a talk with an

intriguing title—"Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh." He dealt principally upon the importance of economic plants which produced spices and drugs.

The Hooker Prize, which is annually provided by the Director, was awarded to Mr. J. Heppell, and the Society's Prize to Mr. J. C. Taylor. To provide this latter prize members voluntarily contributed the necessary two guineas. In addition, a contribution was forwarded to the Royal Gardeners' Benevolent Fund amounting to £1 11s.

Five summer excursions were arranged, and were carried out successfully in good weather.

On May 9th, a party numbering 20, journeyed by motor coach to Brockenhurst Gardens, East Grinstead, Sussex, where Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Hanbury welcomed the Kewites very warmly on their arrival. A tour of the rock garden, which is a feature of the garden, followed, and was greatly appreciated. Tea was provided for the party by our hosts in their fine old house, which in itself is well worth a visit. We are greatly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Hanbury for their kindness and hospitality during this excursion.

The chief event of the summer was the excursion to Llandudno, and an account of this very pleasant trip is to be found elsewhere in this number, and, in consequence, it is unnecessary to do more than refer to it in this report.

On June 11th, a most successful and interesting evening excursion was undertaken to Messrs. Waterer, Son and Crisp's Floral Mile Nurseries, Twyford, Berks. On our arrival we were entertained to a substantial tea by the Directors of the firm. A number of the staff acted as guides, and we split up into small groups and thoroughly explored the vast nurseries. The comments and explanations of our genial "guide hosts" added considerably to the value of the visit. The display of alpinas in a model plunge-ground, acres of irises and lupins in full bloom in a glorious display of colour, and numerous other plants grown commercially, will not be easily forgotten by those who took part in the outing. We were very pleased to have Mr. J. Coult (the Curator) and Messrs. C. P. Raffill, G. W. Robinson and E. G. Dunk with us on this occasion.

By kind permission of Mr. Charles H. Cook, of the Royal Gardens, Windsor, thirty members enjoyed a long evening tour of the gardens under his charge, on July 2nd. Two members of his staff had been kindly placed at our disposal, and conducted us through the splendid range of fruit houses and conservatories, the extensive grounds and parkland of the Royal residence. This proved a very enjoyable and possibly, to some, a unique experience that should be repeated on a future occasion if at all possible.

The final outing of the season was to the Research Station at Cheshunt, Herts., on July 11th. Dr. Bewley, the Director of the Station, proved himself a genial and informative host. Every opportunity was given to see experiments in progress, and ask questions upon any of the commercial glasshouse crops and the problems con-

cerning their production in large quantities for market. We looked with much interest at new ideas in packing, automatic stoking apparatus and machinery for soil sterilisation. Altogether it was a most interesting outing, even though the weather was none too kind. Dr. Bewley also provided an excellent tea for the party, which included members from America, Germany, France and Norway, apart from those of British origin.

The Society is indebted to all who have in any way helped to make these summer excursions so successful, especially to those who have so kindly permitted us to visit their gardens and estates, provided refreshments, and in addition have given their time to act as guides and hosts. These excursions provide strong links in the fellowship of Kewites with the very numerous friends of Kew, and as we look back with pleasant memories upon the Mutual Improvement Society at Kew during the year 1935/36, we do so with the earnest hope that we make further acquaintance with our friends in the future.

The series of meetings were well attended. During Mr. Coutts' lecture there were 52 members and friends present, and on subsequent occasions the number attending often exceeded 30. The total number of members registered was 59, and the average attendance throughout the winter session was 31. Those taking part in the discussions averaged 9.6 per lecture.

SYLLABUS, 1935-36.

1. †The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	Mr. J. Coutts, V.M.H.
2. Questions of Horticultural Interest	The Members.
3. Salad Crops. A modified French System	Mr. A. E. Boreman.
4. Dry Walls and Plant Culture	Mr. E. H. Robson.
5. Aquatic Plants and Gardens	Mr. C. G. Last.
6. †Carnations	Mr. A. H. Pettigrew.
7. Nepenthes and Insectivorous Plants	Mr. G. T. F. Wyndham
8. Conifers in Cultivation in Ireland	Mr. C. G. Collins.
9. Plants, New or Noteworthy	Mr. T. R. Clark.
10. †Gardens on the Riviera.	Mr. C. P. Raffill.
11. The Garden of Mr. A. Muse	Mr. S. Holt.
12. Open Spaces and Town Planning	Mr. H. H. Willis.
13. †Dahlias	Mr. L. Prosser.
14. †Gleanings and Comparisons	Mr. A. S. Elson.
15. Chrysanthemums	Mr. R. K. Mowforth.
16. The value of Lime in the Garden	Mr. F. C. Brinsley.
17. †Parks in South Africa	Mr. D. J. Woufor.
18. Plant Explorers, Biographical Notes and Introductions	Mr. J. C. Taylor.
19. The Judging of Plants	Mr. A. J. Simpson.
20. †Subjects for the Rock Garden	Mr. N. H. Prockter.
21. †The Horticultural Geography of New Zealand	Mr. L. Lannie.
22. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh	Sir A. W. Hill, F.R.S. etc.

† Lantern Lectures.

C. P. Raffill,
Chairman.

J. Heppell,
Hon. Secretary.

 THE LECTURES, 1936.

- General Botany.**—Lecturer, Mr. V. S. Summerhayes, B.Sc.
Distinctions :—C. A. Cann, G. H. Larsen, F. R. Mines and A. H. Pettigrew.
- Plant Nomenclature.**—Lecturer, Miss M. L. Green, B.A.
Distinctions :—C. A. Cann, G. H. Larsen, A. H. Pettigrew and E. H. Robson.
- Soils and Manures.**—Lecturer, Dr. H. L. Richardson.
Distinctions :—M. T. Fossum, G. W. G. Freeman and P. F. McCormack.
- Plant Pathology (Insect Pests).**—Lecturer, Mr. C. Potter.
Distinctions :—G. H. Addison, G. W. G. Freeman, C. G. Last, P. F. McCormack, G. H. Preston and G. E. Taylor.
- Plant Physiology and Ecology.**—Lecturer, Dr. W. B. Turrill.
Distinctions :—C. A. Cann, A. H. Pettigrew and N. J. Prockter.
- Advanced Systematic Botany.**—Lecturer, Dr. T. A. Sprague.
 No distinctions were awarded, but 17 Students "satisfied the lecturer".
- Economic Botany.**—Lecturer, Dr. F. N. Howes.
Distinction :—F. H. Mackaness.
- Physics and Chemistry.**—Lecturer, Dr. P. Haas.
Distinctions :—J. M. Darrell, F. J. Mackaness, B. L. Perkins and F. Shaw.
- Plant Pathology (Fungi).**—Lecturer, Mr. A. D. Cotton.
Distinctions :—C. A. Cann, C. E. Cherry, L. Lannie, E. H. Robson, G. Urton and G. T. F. Wyndham.
- Arboriculture and Forestry.**—Lecturer, Mr. W. Dallimore.
Distinctions :—C. E. Cherry, R. H. Keith, L. Lannie, N. J. Prockter, E. H. Robson and E. Chantler.

 NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

VISITORS TO THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW, DURING 1936.—The total number of visitors during 1936 was 1,128,660, an increase of 37,440 over 1935. The total weekday attendance was 626,073, and on Sundays 502,587 persons passed through the turnstiles. May, with 251,949 visitors, was the month with the greatest attendance, and December, the lowest, with 10,080 persons. June 1st (Whit

Monday) 59,858, and Sunday, May 17th, 36,350, were the principal dates with large attendances, and in contrast January 16th had only 13 visitors, and November 29th was the Sunday with the lowest attendance, 556 persons.

Mr. C. H. Middleton, whose weekly talks through the medium of wireless are still a popular feature on the National programmes, has now turned his attention to television. On November 21st, 1936, a demonstration was given by him on "Pruning." Mr. Middleton has introduced many well-known horticulturists to the general public, and among these might be mentioned Mr. C. P. Raffill, whose talk on "Plants for the Cool Greenhouse" was listened to with much interest. We understand that following this talk Mr. Raffill received many letters from past Kewites.

Mr. F. G. Preston, Superintendent of the Cambridge Botanic Garden, was among those who recently received the Associateship of Honour of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Monsieur François Roekens, of the State Botanic Garden, Brussels, Belgium, was recently awarded the Cross of Chevalier du Mérite Agricole of France.

Mr. W. J. Bean, I.S.O., V.M.H., was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in the 1936 King Edward VIII Birthday Honours.

The Annual Dance of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Sports Club was held at the Kew Pavilion on Friday, January 22nd, 1937. During the evening, Mr. R. L. Proudlock, a former President of the Guild, presented the silver challenge cup (which bears his name) to Mr. F. S. Sillitoe, M.B.E., who was the successful entrant in the 1936 Tennis Tournament. A replica of the cup, donated by Mr. J. S. L. Gilmour, was also presented.

The showery weather which prevailed throughout 1936 had a resulting effect on the quantity of water used in the Gardens for watering purposes during the year. The amount used was 22,800,000 gallons, as against 25,600,000 in 1935.

Many Kewites are familiar with the large transplanting machine ("The Devil," as it was generally known). This had been in use for about 80 years, and many parts had become worn out and beyond

repair. A new machine has been purchased to replace it, and has several improvements on the original.

The planting of the new South African House, which adjoins the Shermann Hoyt Cactus House, was completed early last summer, and is a source of great interest to the many visitors who gather to view the unique collections of South African succulents, in particular the sphaeroid *Mesembryanthemums*.

The well-known Tropical Pits, 17A and 17B, have been replaced by a new house, occupying the entire site of the former. Western red cedar was employed exclusively for the wood work, and the central and side stagings have been built of re-inforced concrete. The new structure provides the maximum amount of light, and there are tanks beneath for storage of rainwater, and provision is made in adequately spacious tanks for the cultivation of aquatics.

Exchange arrangements are now in operation with the following botanical and horticultural establishments and Kew students visiting them for periods of one to two years:—

The Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario, Canada (2 Students); the New York Botanical Garden; the Arnold Arboretum; the Berlin Botanic Garden; Sans Souci Gardens, Potsdam; The Hamburg Botanic Garden; the Munich Botanic Garden; The Horticultural School, Vilvorde, Belgium; The Gothenburg Botanic Garden; The Luxembourg Gardens, Paris; Messrs. Duncan and Davies, New Plymouth, New Zealand; and Correvon et Fils, Geneva, Switzerland.

During the year 1936, 1,020 separate consignments of plants, bulbs, seeds, etc., were received at Kew. The annual distribution of seeds resulted in 184 separate consignments being despatched, comprising 5,468 packets of herbaceous plants and 4,510 packets of trees and shrubs.

Mr. A. S. Wilson, Assistant Curator of the Decorative Department at Kew, resigned his post on December 31st, 1936, on his appointment in charge of the Gardens (in India) of His Highness the Maharajah of Cooch Behar.

A NEW STANLEY CRANE.—“Joey III” came to Kew on November 19th, 1936. He is a finer and larger bird than his predecessor, “Joey II,” who unfortunately died during the past summer.

“Joey” has become the recognised nickname for this particular species of crane, the solitary specimen of which continues to be a feature of the Kew lawns, particularly during the summer months of the year.

Mr. B. P. Mansfield, the Honorary Secretary of the New Zealand Branch of the Guild, is a very popular personality in the country of his adoption, as is evidenced by the following notes which appeared in the *Weekly News* (of New Zealand) on August 26th, 1936:—

“If ever there was a live wire it is the new president of the Southland Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs’ Association, Mr. Brendan P. Mansfield. Born in Dublin, and trained at Kew, he holds the position of superintendent of reserves at Invercargill, and already the city owes much to his vision and organising ability. His walking pace is six miles an hour, and he drives a car at a corresponding tempo. Into twelve hours he can crowd more work than two average men.

His friends know him as “The Wild Irishman,” and the botanists among them address him as “Matagouri”; but everyone knows that he is the man to get things done, and in appointing him its president the agricultural clubs’ association has acted wisely. When the pretty little Central Otago town of Alexandra wanted advice on a beautifications scheme they sent to Mr. Mansfield and were delighted with his recommendations.

The successful revival of Arbor Day in Southland was due to his enthusiasm. He gives weekly talks over the air on horticultural subjects and frequently addresses the Garden Circle of the Women’s Club. There is just enough of the Dublin accent in his mellow voice to make it fascinating, and there is a glint in his eye which shows how much he is in earnest.

But those who go on pig shooting expeditions with him or those who accompany him on rambles through the bush at Stewart Island, find him a most stimulating companion. Invercargill will lose a most energetic and capable superintendent of reserves when B. P. Mansfield packs his bag and goes to a higher position in the north. In the meantime the Boys’ and Girls’ Clubs of Southland should flourish under his enthusiastic guidance.”

During the winters of 1935-1936 and 1936-1937 the damage done to glasshouse plants at Kew during foggy weather has been investigated, and experiments with special remedial measures have been tried. The harmful effects of London fogs are due partly to reduced illumination and partly to poisonous substances which are especially prevalent in the atmosphere during foggy weather. Lack of illumination appears to be chiefly responsible for feeble growth, yellowness of leaf, and poor pigmentation of the flowers, and to a certain

extent for the failure of some kinds of winter flowering plants such as the "Gloire de Lorraine" Begonias and *Coleus Frederici* to retain their buds and flowers for the normal period. With the co-operation of the Government Laboratory it has been proved that the defoliation and disarticulation of flowers of certain Begonias can also be caused by the presence in the atmosphere, under suitable conditions of temperature and moisture, of sulphur dioxide in concentrations comparable with those which are known to occur in London fogs. Small traces of sulphur dioxide can also cause the buds and flowers of *Calanthes* to turn yellow and subsequently black in the same way as a fog, and it therefore seems probable that sulphur dioxide is one of the principal causes of these types of damage during foggy weather. In order to prevent poisonous substances in a fog from entering the orchid houses, and at the same time to ensure that the plants are supplied with fresh air, two units have been installed with the co-operation of H.M. Office of Works, whereby the foggy air is forced through moistened fabric filters by powerful electric fans before entering the houses. Owing to the absence of severe fogs during the past winter it is at present impossible to say how effective this method will prove to be, but suitable conditions for further experiments will doubtless arise in due course. Ordinary electric fans, such as are used in offices, have also been installed in some of the houses in order to keep the air in motion during a fog. This appears to give beneficial results, probably because the fans promote evaporation and so tend to dry up the houses and make the conditions in them less suitable for the action of the toxic sulphur dioxide. A marked improvement in the general health, number and size of flowers, and duration of the flowering period has also been obtained with some kinds of plants by treating them with light from a low tension neon tube in addition to the normal daylight. The artificial light was applied from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on dull days, or from dusk until 8 p.m. on bright ones, while on days during which the natural illumination varied, the neon light was turned on during the dull periods. This treatment does not appear to be equally favourable for all kinds of plants, but the results already obtained are so promising that further experiments with artificial light will be well worth trying, and it is hoped that the subject will be further pursued next winter.

The following extracts are from a letter received from Mr. J. C. Taylor, who is at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario, Canada:—"I have been over quite a few hundred square miles of Canada, and to me the dominant features in the flora seem to be Maples, Solidagos and Asters, while the fields are full of European weeds, such as chicory, etc. On Sundays I used to go off along the Lake shore for walks and there the tale is the same, just Solidagos and Asters. On one occasion I explored an inlet of Lake Ontario, known as Jordan Harbour, and then I did find one or two interesting plants. The banks are rather higher there than round the Lake and rather thickly grown with maples and shrubs. I found plenty of

Rhus typhina, *Rhus Toxicodendron* (the Poison Ivy), *Shepherdia canadensis*, *Tsuga canadensis* (the Hemlock Spruce), *Acer Negundo*, *Celastrus scandens*, *Ceanothus americanus*, and more than one *Cornus sp.* My best find was a little Gentian, which I eventually ran down to *Gentiana procera*, but I thought at the time I had found *G. crinita*, and I got quite a 'kick' out of that. Both seem to be rare plants and I managed to dry two or three, leaving the others for seed. Unfortunately it was a hopeless job trying to find them again so I was unable to obtain ripe seeds.

"I am afraid that Mr. Hubbard will be out of luck as regards Canadian grasses for all this country for hundreds of miles is old farm land and consequently nearly all the grasses are European introductions. I am told that I won't get any native grasses nearer than the prairie provinces, and they are hundreds of miles off. This is not at all an interesting area for botanising and unless I can get down to the Niagara peninsular again I am not going to collect much. It isn't easy to get around here as in England, where you can hop on to a bus or train and visit different localities in a short time. Canada is so vast that for miles and miles there is little or no variation in the landscape. We have almost entirely to rely on being offered a lift in a car to get anywhere, so excursions are restricted.

"The Vineland experimental station (where I spent my first few months) is about 25 miles from the Niagara Falls, and George Cross came over one week-end in his car and took me to see the world-famous falls, which I viewed from all angles short of going over the top. They are truly a marvellous sight and I am glad to have had the opportunity of seeing them, and in the company of a fellow Kewite too!"

Referring to a projected excursion which seemed to be doomed to failure owing to restrictions on the American frontier, Mr. Taylor continued:—"Buckley and I had the chance to go with a party of students through some of the Eastern States, and we tried to do it 'on the level,' but the authorities found a flaw in our passports and wouldn't grant us visas, so we were turned back. We walked back into Canada in rather a disappointed frame of mind, not relishing the prospect of a 25 mile walk. With some misgivings I started to 'thumb' a lift from passing cars, and at the fourth attempt, a big American one stopped beside us and we climbed into the back. The car was driven by a young American and his wife and going along we explained to them our predicament and how we came to be stranded. They asked what we were doing in Canada, and on telling them that we were at the Agricultural College, our new found friend turned to his wife and said 'Your father went to something like that in England, didn't he?' 'Yes,' she replied, 'he went to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.' At that we almost dropped through the bottom of the car! Here we were, hitch-hiking over three thousand miles from Kew and running into one of the tentacles Mr. Raffill used to talk about. She went on, 'He is a great Kewite, goes to dinners in New York, and gets the *Journal* every year.' Buckley pulled the *Journal* from his case and handed it to her; she was

obviously quite familiar with it, for she immediately turned up his name for us to see. The name was:—J. Brown . . . April 1905 . . . 'Mariemont,' Newport, Rhode Island, U.S.A. I expect both Mr. Raffill and Mr. Osborn will know him."

"Some time later I managed to get on a tour of the southern part of the Province with another party. I joined the party at Guelph and then we set off down through London to a market garden area. London though, is a very different London on a very different Thames to that in the Old Country. Our way led down along the shores of Lake Erie and past some reclaimed marsh lands where they were growing acres and acres of onions. The following day we were shown over the Heinz Canning Factory at Leamington and later on going through the tobacco country, we visited a couple of farms, where we were shown all over the barns and kilns where the 'weed' was in all stages of curing. Next we travelled north through the oil well country till we were near Lake Huron, and the following day we continued along its shores and through an Indian Reservation before turning east to Guelph. In that tour we must have covered several hundreds of miles and *en route* I saw more celery than ever before."

Mr. E. Milne-Readhead recently conducted a small tour organised by the University Travel Club to study the late spring flora of the Austrian Tirol. The party left London on June 27th, 1936, and arrived at St. Anton am Arlburg on the following afternoon. The next day the Steissbachtal nearby was visited, and the rich limestone flora was found to be at its best. The party then moved on by train to Otztal, where they took a 'bus up the valley to Sölden. A day excursion was made from there up the Windachtal, and many plants were seen which were not to be found near St. Anton. On July 2nd, Obergurgl, the highest village in Austria, was reached, and a fine view of the glacier was obtained. Time, however, would not allow of a visit to the glacier, but the slopes around the village proved very interesting. A fresh fall of snow overnight had made the mountains more beautiful than usual, and all were sorry when the time came to leave. On the way to Otzal Station *en route* for Innsbruck, a visit was made to the Ebene Falls, and some of the plants of the lower country were seen.

In Innsbruck, the party spent a most enjoyable and interesting morning, being shown round the Botanic Garden by the Curator, Herr A. Beer, an enthusiastic Kewite, who has established in the Garden a fine representative collection of the Tirol flora. Herr Beer kindly consented to accompany the party to Halltal on the following day, and a very delightful time was spent on the limestone in this valley, the flora of which contrasted most strikingly with that of Steissbachtal. Herr Beer's extensive knowledge of the local plants was greatly appreciated by the members of the party. An easy day was spent in going up the Hazelakar cable railway and enjoying the bird's-eye view of Innsbruck and the Inn valley with the wonderful panorama of mountains beyond.

Innsbruck was left early on July 7th, and after half an hour in the train, Wattens was reached. Here the long and gradual walk up the Wattental was begun, and it was not until well on in the afternoon that the party arrived at the Lizum Hütte, at the head of the valley. Here the scenery and vegetation was very different from anything that had hitherto been seen, and all the available time was spent in botanising. The next day, the party moved on over the Torjochl, and down the next valley to Mayerhofen.

Unfortunately the spell of fine weather had broken, and the visit to Pertisau, on the Archensee, which was to end the tour, was somewhat spoilt by heavy rain, in spite of which, the local flora of the woodlands was studied. The last night in Austria was spent at Innsbruck, and on July 11th the party left for home.

Most of the plants which were found were named on the spot, but some belonging to critical genera were collected, and are being worked out in the Herbarium.

Kewites (and in particular those New Zealand members who were acquainted with him) will learn with regret that Mr. Robert E. Mason, who left Kew June, 1922, is at the Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, Surrey. In July, 1934, Mr. Mason met with an accident which caused an injury to the retina of the eye, necessitating an urgent and difficult operation. Unfortunately the operation was not a success and nothing more could be done. He was put on the blind register, but for a while lived alone in a room in London. Facing the future, however, he applied to be taught a blind trade. He was successful and is at Leatherhead now learning brush making. Members who knew him will learn of his unfortunate accident with sincere regret. It is unnecessary to add that Mr. Mason will appreciate letters from fellow members.

"The Layout, Management and Administration of Municipal Parks" is the title of a recently published work. The author is Mr. W. W. Pettigrew, V.M.H., formerly General Superintendent of the Manchester Parks Department. The book is published by the Journal of Park Administration, 329, High Holborn, London, W.C.1, price 21s. post free.

"Gardening: A Complete Guide to Garden Making," is a book that should appeal in particular to our American readers, in that its author is Mr. Montague Free, horticulturist at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York. The volume is very comprehensive, and equally suitable for the professional gardener or the novice. Flowering plants, lawns, trees and shrubs, fruit and vegetables, roses, herbs, etc., are dealt with fully, and the work is profusely illustrated. It is published by Messrs. Harcourt, Bruce and Company, Inc., of New York, price \$3.50.

The Kew Film.

Kew has been filmed! During the past two years representatives of Short Film Production Ltd. have visited the Gardens and "shot" scenes depicting all phases of the activities of the establishment. Their idea has been to give a sort of cross-section of the work of Kew, including the Gardens as seen by the ordinary visitor, the work that goes on behind the scenes throughout the four seasons, the scientific activities in the Herbarium, Museums and Laboratory, and finally, the part played by Kew in the dissemination and establishment of important agricultural crops throughout the Empire. The resulting picture was seen by a large number of the staff at a London theatre on March 25th, and was loudly applauded by an appreciative audience.

The film will shortly be on view to the general public, and it is also hoped to make it available in a form suitable for schools and other institutions. It will undoubtedly spread an appreciative knowledge of the work that Kew has done and is still doing for this country and the Empire, and will also serve as a permanent record of what Kew is like in 1937.

Kewites as Botanical Collectors.

The following brief details concern Kewites who have recently forwarded herbarium specimens to Kew to enrich the National collection:—

Mr. P. J. Greenway, in connection with his post as Botanist at the East African Research Institute, Amani, Tanganyika Territory, has made valuable collections in Tanganyika Territory and Zanzibar. Messrs. P. Chandler and C. Hazel have forwarded considerable collections of Uganda plants. Mr. F. L. Squibbs has made collections of Seychelles plants. He has been investigating the possibilities of the cultivation of exotic plants in that region, for the production of essential oils. Mr. J. Pirie has made valuable collections of cereals cultivated in the Gambia and also of native grasses.

Mr. J. Gossweiler has made extremely valuable and numerous collections in Angola. A full account of his specimens is shortly being published as an appendix to the *Journal of Botany*.

Dr. J. Hutchinson was recently nominated a Vice-President of the Linnean Society. We are also pleased to record that he has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the American Amaryllis Society and a Correspondent of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

During a holiday in the summer of 1936, Mr. D. Saville made a collection of 140 specimens for the Herbarium, while visiting Hungary and Carinthia.

The late Mr. W. E. Broadway's personal collection of specimens, together with his botanical registers and other papers was purchased for the Herbarium recently. It forms a valuable acquisition and comprises nearly 1,000 numbers of specimens.

A brief note of Mr. Broadway's life appeared in the *Journal* in 1936, p. 460.

For some time past the following have been engaged in duties at the Herbarium on behalf of the Bentham-Moxon Trustees:—Miss E. A. Bruce, Miss R. Taylor and Miss C. S. Wilson. Mr. J. R. Sealy and his wife (formerly Miss Ross Craig) are engaged on the preparation of the *Botanical Magazine*, the publication of which is undertaken by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Referring to Mr. C. H. Middleton's broadcast talks (which are mentioned elsewhere in these notes) the following extracts from the pen of a correspondent in the *London Daily Mail* of January 22nd, 1937, are worthy of reproduction.

"I have been taken to task for not paying a tribute to Mr. C. H. Middleton, who talks to us about gardening. I am told that he is almost the most popular broadcaster extant.

"My apologies for the omission. His popularity is undoubted . . . and most understandable. Let me make amends.

"For myself, the art of gardening is a sealed book. But, whenever I am asked if I 'would care to see the garden,' I enthusiastically consent.

"I love looking at flowers even in the pouring rain. It is my fate always to be escorted round gardens in a deluge. But it is when my guides burst forth into another torrent . . . of unpronounceable Latin names, that my heart grows heavy. For then I realise that I shall never be one of the elect . . . one of the happy band of real gardeners. And I have yet to meet an enthusiastic gardener who is not of a happy disposition.

"But Mr. Middleton is a man who pities such unworthy mortals as myself. So charming is his 'approach,' and so clear and friendly his way of talking about the flowers he loves that even the most humble seeker after flowery knowledge must warm to him.

"He is the least haughty horticulturist I know.

"After listening to Mr. Middleton—who has achieved the only microphone technique worth while, the man-to-man technique—I feel that no bulb catalogue that ever bulbed could hold terrors for me.

"Thousands must feel the same way.

"One can count on the fingers of one hand the broadcasters who could make even a railway time-table sound enthralling.

"Mr. Middleton is among them."

The George T. Lane Fund.

Up to the time of going to press, the total amount received for this Fund amounted to £34 15s. 0d.

Subscriptions were received and acknowledged from the undermentioned:—

“Anon,” E. Brown, L. Buss, Miss Cope, H. A. Cossum, W. Dallimore, J. S. L. Gilmour, F. N. Howes, W. J. Ing, G. H. Krumbiegel, E. Little, T. Lomas, J. E. May, H. F. Macmillan, Mr. and Mrs. Mustoe, P. V. Osborne, R. L. Proudlock, L. G. Richards, H. Thomas (Bengal), W. Younger and C. C. Calder, Superintendent of the Cinchona Cultivations in Bengal.

The Kew Guild Educational Fund received additional support during the past year and the subscriptions forwarded by Mr. J. Bintner and Mr. G. H. Krumbiegel were particularly welcome.

Mr. W. H. Patterson sent a generous donation to the Guild Benevolent Fund.

Mr. J. T. Johnson retired from the post of Superintendent, Government House Gardens, Calcutta, Bengal, India, in December, 1936.

Mr. Walter Hackett retired on pension from the service of the Liverpool Corporation on June 30th, 1936.

Mr. James J. Guttridge retired during 1936 from the position of Chief Superintendent of Parks and Curator of the Botanic Gardens, after 38 years' service with the Liverpool Corporation. He is succeeded by Mr. L. Godseff.

Mr. W. Nelmes (formerly of Newport, Mon.) succeeded the late Mr. Andrew Pettigrew as Superintendent of Parks, Cardiff.

Mr. A. W. Maynard has been appointed Curator of the Botanical Gardens, Grahamstown, C.P., South Africa.

Mr. Cecil Matthews, formerly of the Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Abadan, Persian Gulf, and New Delhi, India, is now in Nassau, Bahamas, where he is engaged on landscape work. A botanical survey of the island is also contemplated.

Mr. Harry Williams was recently elected President of the Redruth (Cornwall) Exhibition Society. Mr. Williams has for a long period rendered particularly valued service as chairman of the horticultural committee, whose displays have always been features of the exhibitions.

Messages of congratulations on behalf of the Guild were sent to Herr Otto Meckwitz of Dresden, Germany, by the Curator and the Hon. Secretary of the Guild, on the occasion of his 80th birthday on July 6th, 1936.

Mr. Coutts wrote, "In the absence of the Director it gives me great pleasure to write on behalf of Kew and the Kew Guild, to congratulate you on attaining such an honourable old age. As you have exceeded the so-called allotted span of three score years and ten, as a fellow horticulturist, I should like to think that it is in part due to the occupation that you have followed with so much honour for so many years, and I hope that you may yet be spared for many years."

In reply to the Hon. Secretary's letter and enclosure, Mr. Meckwitz wrote:—"Your kind greetings and the lovely little picture, 'Bluebells in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew,' have in a nice manner contributed to embellish my 80th birthday. I thank you very much for both, and I hope that yourself and all the other officers and members of the Guild may attain a high age in continued health and happiness."

Mr. Meckwitz left Kew in November, 1884.

Kewites in the Union of South Africa.

We are indebted to Mr. F. R. Long for the accompanying photograph of Kewites in South Africa. Those in the group attended the second annual conference of the Association of Superintendents of Public Parks and Gardens of South Africa, held at Port Elizabeth in February 1936. Mr. F. R. Long, A.H.R.H.S., was President of the Association during 1935-36, and he is succeeded during 1936-37 by Mr. A. W. van der Houten.

The Annual Group Photograph.

We are again indebted to Mr. P. W. German, of Twickenham, for permission to reproduce the annual group photograph for the past year. The inclusion of this photograph within the pages of the *Journal* has given much satisfaction, and serves as a permanent reminder of those who have been at Kew during 1936.

The staff of the Ilford (Essex) Parks Department have decided on a happy way of perpetuating the memory of their late superintendent,

Mr. H. G. King, whose death is reported elsewhere in this issue. They have presented a football challenge cup, to be known as the "H. G. King Cup," for annual competition among the schools of the borough.

*La sublevacion el Gobierno Espanol i la
Republica Espanola.*

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Holloway, who recently returned from Spain, have naturally been repeatedly asked for their experiences during their 2½ months of the rebellion.

Speaking for all of us I am quite sure that our first thoughts must go back to the unparalleled heroism which our loyal Republican, Catalan and Spanish friends showed, when they gave their lives for us, as well as for those dear to them, when, without arms at first, they shattered by degrees the rebel onslaught in the streets of Barcelona.

Our main and most serious losses were the abandonment of Mr. and Mrs. Holloway's home and all that was not portable, and our money. We were allowed to be in possession of 328 pesetas (approximately £9), but this was later required by the British Consul at Marseilles in connection with our passage to London, temporarily paid by the British Government.

Girls and women have played a heroic part "in action" on all fronts, and this brings to mind watching the departure of 400 girls and women who marched, fully equipped down "Las Ramblas" in Barcelona, in the twilight of an August evening, side by side with 500 men and youths. From personal experience I find that people are shocked in this country at their apparent madness, except those who sympathise with their terrible but valiant sacrifice.

Throughout these days of terror we were treated well and given assurances of protection at the least sign of deliberate interference. Thirteen bullets from one spray of machine gun fire, five casual shots from rifle fire, and a shell which, fortunately, did not explode—these were fired at less than 20 yards' range through a window immediately below the room in which Mrs. Holloway and her two young children slept. The day on which we left Barcelona, Mr. Holloway and myself enjoyed a good shave in a nearby saloon, and while sitting there saw the militia traffic through the small aperture in the window frame which had been eaten away by concentrated fire.

In the majority of cases the populace seemed indifferent to the course of events, and were self-composed.

We left Barcelona on H.M.S. "Antelope" at 3.30 a.m. on September 28th, 1936, and finally found ourselves in one of the London County Council's organised centres for Spanish refugees.

We are most grateful to the British sailors and officers of all ranks; they were just magnificent in the way they attended the despairing women and children. One man swam out to H.M.S.

"London," the ship we first boarded during the night, and was taken on board to France. A very tragic case was that of an Austrian woman, with five children, the oldest only 9 years of age, whose husband had been shot in front of her in a railway corridor. There were ninety-seven refugees on board, representing fifteen nationalities; of these eight were British subjects, three of whom were unable to speak English.

On Mr. Holloway's behalf, may I say how much we both appreciate the assistance rendered us by the authorities at Kew, which has happily terminated in securing Mr. Holloway's present position at Windhoek, British West Africa, and in continuing my studentship at Kew.

S. H. CHANTRY.

THE PROUDLOCK TENNIS CUP.

As is mentioned elsewhere in these pages the Proudlock Tennis Cup for 1936 was won by Mr. F. S. Sillitoe, who met and defeated Dr. F. N. Howes in the final tie towards the close of the season. The Cup, which is a handsome, solid silver trophy, is the property of the Guild, and was presented by Mr. Robert L. Proudlock for annual competition by all full members of the Guild.

The 1936 competition, had, owing to the short time available, to be somewhat restricted to members either at Kew, or in the immediate vicinity, but it should be made quite clear that any full member of the Guild will be eligible to compete in future years. A form accompanies this issue, and any who desire to compete in the annual tournament for 1937 should complete it and forward it to the Hon. Secretary without delay. It is anticipated that it will be possible to arrange for matches to be played at Kew.

The challenge cup is displayed in the Garden Library at Kew, and through the kindness of Mr. J. S. L. Gilmour, a solid silver miniature was presented to the winner of the 1936 event. It is hoped that this award may be made possible from some other source in future years as a permanent reminder to the successful participant.

THE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND KEWITES.

The fourth annual re-union of Kewites resident in New Zealand was held during the Horticultural week at the Occidental Hotel, Christchurch, on Friday, January 29th, 1937. At the moment, the annual report of the Association is not to hand, but should it be received before this issue goes to press it will be re-printed in full elsewhere in this number.

KEW METEOROLOGICAL NOTES, 1936.

	Rainfall in Inches	Temperature	
		Maximum (in screen)	Minimum (on grass)
1936			
January	3.87	56°	21°
February	1.53	56°	18°
March .. ..	.80	65°	23°
April	1.43	68°	24°
May .. ..	.48	80°	31°
June	3.44	90°	38°
July	2.32	79°	44°
August .. ..	.41	86°	45°
September	2.28	78°	33°
October	1.60	70°	29°
November	2.83	55°	25°
December	1.44	56°	22°
Total rainfall for 1936	22.43	—	—

Highest rainfall for a single day: .78 inches (November 11th, 1936).

Highest temperature in screen: 90° (June 20th, 1936).

Lowest temperatures on the grass: 19° (February 12th, 1936) and 18° (February 13th, 1936).

WEDDING BELLS.

Mr. James Smith to Miss Isabell Anderson Hughes, at St. John's Church, Sidcup, Kent, on September 14th, 1935.

Miss Nesta Mary Hampton to Mr. Stanley E. Beale, at St. Anne's Church, Kew, Surrey, on September 12th, 1936.

Mr. John Edward May to Miss Beatrice Mary Ford, at St. Mary and St. George's Church, Totnes, Devon, on December 26th, 1936.

THE LAKE AT EVENING.

Fast flees the light
 Speeding the close of day,
 The canopy of night descends
 Chasing the colour away;
 Where late a sunset halo
 Glimm'd o'er the peaceful glade,
 Now old nocturnal mysteries
 The silent scene invade.

Nearby, a weeping willow tree
 Leans o'er a shadow'd pool,
 Laving her tresses pensively
 In waters sweet and cool,
 Where Nymphaea with modest grace,
 White fingers folded o'er her face,
 The soft caress of night receives
 Afloat upon her couch of leaves.

The trees are still, the birds are silent,
 Peace is in the air,
 Flowers sunkiss'd from the morning
 Bend their heads in prayer
 To sleep in the dew 'neath starry sky,
 Some to greet the dawn . . . and some to die.

From bank to bank long shadows creep,
 Engulfing all in darkness deep;
 All is tranquil, fragrant waterside
 Hush'd by the spell of Eventide.

FRANK L. SIMMONDS,
 Kew, 1937.

A VISIT TO BODNANT AND LLANDUDNO.

Under the auspices of the Mutual Improvement Society, an excursion was arranged for the purpose of visiting Lord Aberconway's famous gardens at Bodnant, in North Wales, and at the same time, the public gardens in Llandudno. It was rather a big undertaking, but the "boys" were keen (as they were when we visited Holland last year) and a party was raised sufficient in numbers to enable us to obtain a cheap rate concession through the L.M.S. Railway Company.

The party, led by Messrs. C. P. Raffill and G. W. Robinson, consisted of Messrs. J. C. Taylor, G. Groves, F. L. Simmonds, G. H. Preston, L. Lannie, H. Rudge, W. Grant, G. Urton and

P. L. J. Fysh. In addition, Mr. F. G. Preston, Superintendent of the Cambridge Botanic Garden and Mr. C. E. Cherry, then of the John Innes Horticultural Institution (but now of Kew), accompanied us.

On Saturday night, June 6th, 1936, at about 9.30 p.m., the "boys" trickled slowly into Kew Bridge Station, prepared for a sleepless night. We had barely time to reach Euston, while an enforced change at Willesden made matters worse. We charged into Euston Station, found our booked compartment and eventually at about 11 p.m. steamed off into the western darkness. Gradually the various members of the party, becoming drowsy, littered themselves all over the place, up and down the train, and assuming the most graceful postures, sought oblivion. What a night!

Dawn found us in a strange but beautiful land; "boggle-eyed," cold and hungry, we tumbled out of the train at Llandudno Junction, where a motor coach was awaiting us. It was a glad morning and we sped away between stone-walled meadows towards the distant blue hills, and breakfast!

The coach drew up at a delightful spot called Tal-y-Cafn, an inn, two houses and two cows in a grove of trees. The view from here was entrancing as we gazed over the River Conway with a little white bridge ribboned across it, to where ridge upon ridge, the hills piled up into a background of blue, that lost itself into banks of low white clouds. Here at the Tal-y-Cafn Inn we partook of a much needed breakfast. A garrulous, but kindly host served up a rattling good repast ably assisted by two Welsh "Rare-bits."

We were not due to arrive at Bodnant at such an early hour, so after breakfast we wandered slowly up-hill in that direction. The British flora fiends soon got busy in the hedgerows, relieving Dame Nature of her jewels—to be duly christened by Mr. Robinson with some incongruous, incompatible name that it would blush to hear were it able to register offence, and to waste its loveliness between sheets of paper in some London lodgings.

It was a lovely walk between the hills, for the hedgerows were alive with glory, and rabbits scuttled about, surprised to see mankind about so soon. We wandered on between farms and isolated cottages, until we began to think we were lost. We eventually arrived at Bodnant, however, and found Mr. Puddle waiting to greet us.

We plunged at once into the untold wealth of these gardens. Rhododendrons predominated, but here and there one was amazed to find some beautiful gem native of some more temperate clime flowering happily in the open air, such plants as we in the eastern parts of this country must coax under glass.

We passed under a wonderful pergola hung with golden laburnum intermixed with wistarias; a grand sight! Parallel with this was a wall luxuriantly clad with rarer shrubs of great variety. At the end of the pergola we entered a range of glasshouses that led down to the mansion, passing by way of the conservatory out on to the

terrace in front of the house. From here we had a broad and beautiful view across a deep valley towards the blue hills already referred to. Immediately before us two more terraces dipped down; on the first is a large lily pool, the water reflecting the glory of a beautiful silver cedar that stood to one side. This scene was recently illustrated in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*. The next and lower terrace is a little longer, at one end is a swimming pool and at the other is a raised section built up to represent an open-air stage, with clipped hedges forming the "wings." The retaining walls of these terraces are clad with choice shrubs, in particular *Embothrium coccineum*, which rears its crimson glory above the walls. Beyond and below these terraces woodlands sweep down into the valley below.

Turning to the right off the top terrace we passed around the house through the trees and Rhododendrons to a frameryard, there to inspect Mr. Puddle's collection of Rhododendron prodigies.

Retracing our steps, we went down the hill to the right of the terraces, passing through a shrubbery which was a riot of colour. Here in the nooks and corners we discovered a few lilies and a fine group of *Meconopsis*. Bearing to the left we passed along below the bottom terrace and entered the "wilds." This is indeed a wonderful spot; a deep gorge with steep banks clad with trees from top to bottom, and Rhododendrons growing everywhere in profusion among the rocks. Tearing down through the gorge, swishing and splashing over boulders and under rustic bridges is a mountain stream.

We passed down into the gorge by way of a rock garden cunningly constructed where a stream tumbles from ledge to ledge down the steep hillside to join the bigger stream below. This was a blaze of colour, with the smaller Rhododendrons predominating. The development of the ravine is still going on.

Down in the gorge we crossed the stream and passed up the ravine along the right bank and discovered the Pinetum, a collection containing some of the most magnificent conifers it would be possible to see. This walk leads up between overhanging cliffs, on the left topped by trees and a sweeping Rhododendron-clad bank on the right, past a waterfall to a chain of ponds. Here we crossed over and clambered up the hill into the Rhododendron collection proper. There are thousands of Rhododendrons among the trees, so dense as to be almost impassable. Hereabouts, Mr. Raffill was in his glory, raising his hat like the Prince of Wales to old acquaintances, which if they weren't correctly named before, are now!

By mossy paths and boggy ways we reached the top of the hill and came upon the family mausoleum, a little chapel-like building on the summit of a cliff. We rested awhile on a ledge, perched high above the ravine below us, from where a better view of the conifers was obtained. We made our way along the ridge through more shrubbery towards the house, and here on the edge of the home lawn, behind a group of shrubs, we discovered a miniature rock garden built for and accommodating nothing but masses of *Gentians*. This must indeed be a rare sight in its season.

We were now back at our starting point and it was midday. We took leave of our kindly host, Mr. F. C. Puddle, and thanked him for his excellent attention and ready help. The garden is indeed a credit to his skill and expert management; 'tis indeed a garden to be proud of. We are likewise indebted to Lord Aberconway for his permission to visit Bodnant.

From Bodnant, by a short cut through the grounds, we hastened back to the Inn for dinner. To get a drink on a Sunday in Wales is like tapping a rain tub in a drought, but there are ways and means, which somebody discovered, and we regaled ourselves with an appetiser for dinner.

After dinner we trooped off to the railway station, where the porter-ticket-collector-cum-stationmaster coped with the biggest takings of his life. The procession on to the platform was headed by Mr. F. G. Preston wheeling "Charlie" on the station barrow. Both were in good form and had thus far excelled themselves in entertaining and keeping the party alive.

Eventually, panting and puffing along, as if each puff would be its last, came the train. I'm quite sure the extra load of "Kewites" was almost too much for it judging by the number of "breathers" it needed before it reached Llandudno. It took us almost an hour to do about 12 miles. We had to change at Llandudno Junction. The train, however, crawled its way along the edge of the landscape, with a main road on one side and the sea on the other, and presently staggered into Llandudno.

At Llandudno we were met by Mr. W. B. Pritchard (an old Kewite, who is in charge of the parks and gardens department). He conducted us straight through the town, along the tea front to the famous Happy Valley. The Happy Valley enjoys a delightful situation at the foot of the Great Orme, a veritable sun-trap where alpine plants flourish and blossom with bewitching joy. It was a blaze of colour and we wandered about discovering all its gems. Here and there on the corners of paths were slab gardens (miniature rock gardens made up on slabs of stone), with the names of the plants all inscribed on large pebbles; no other form of labelling was used. The number of visitors apart from ourselves testified to the popularity of the Happy Valley.

We went through the rock garden and set off up the hill at the back (not the Great Orme) and after an arduous climb, in which we were led by Mr. Pritchard, we reached the top, where the "Flora wallahs" were soon busy again and had a high time chasing about like "bunnies" where nature's bounty was plentiful amongst the outcrops of rock. From the top we obtained a magnificent view of the surrounding country. Mr. Pritchard pointed out objects of interest with special reference to "flora" localities. Llandudno is a beautiful place, with hills and still more hills rolling away in all directions from the sea and we were blessed with a really grand day, so we appreciated its loveliness all the more.

We made our way down the hill again and found we had lost

"Charlie," but eventually he turned up. He had left the hill climb to the more youthful members of the party and had made his way around by the lower paths. Mr. Pritchard led us off again across the slopes of the Great Orme towards the Haulfre Gardens. We entered a little wilderness where wild flowers grew in amazing profusion, and then went down by way of several flights of steps to the Haulfre Gardens, where we had tea in a chalet, delightfully situated on a terrace overlooking the town and sea. Tea was served to a hungry party of Kewites by a charming hostess and her staff. After tea the party broke up to do as they pleased, but with strict instructions to be at the railway station not later than 9 p.m.

Some of us set off to walk round the Great Orme. Eventually we began to climb and after much panting and clambering over ridge upon ridge, we reached the top of this bold pile, and what a splendid view rewarded us! It is grand indeed on top of the Great Orme, with its distant view of the Menai Straits, etc. This proved a happy climax to a glorious day. We set off down the other side to the town and sea front, and made our way to the station, where the happy family reassembled. Here Mrs. Pritchard joined our host to see us off. We are considerably indebted to Mr. Pritchard for his kindness, keenness and activity in giving us the fullest benefit of our day in Llandudno. Our train sped into the night and so we took our leave of beautiful Wales.

Somewhere in the dead hours of morning we had to change trains. What a miserable place a railway station is at such an hour! Eventually we reached Willesden again and dawn found us creeping over Kew Bridge in time to start work at 6.30 a.m. What earthly purpose is served by disturbing the tranquility of morning at such a heathen hour?

It is a tribute to the keenness of the "boys" at Kew who undertake these long excursions, and it is to be hoped that possibly a similar excursion to Edinburgh might be undertaken at some future date.

This trip was an outstanding success and our thanks are due to Mr. Robinson, the "Mutual Secretary (Mr. J. Heppell) and all who helped to make it so well worth while.

FRANK L. SIMMONDS.

A VISIT TO JAIPUR.

During December, 1934, my wife and I made a short tour in Rajputana and, among other places, visited Jaipur, the capital of Jaipur State. The surrounding country is rocky and hilly, and cultivated areas appeared to be very scattered and the crops not particularly good, due no doubt to the rocky nature of the soil.

The city, which is built on fairly level land, is picturesquely situated

at the foot of a range hills, crowned at one point by a fort, and at another by a temple of Ganesh, the Elephant God. It is situated at about a mile from the railway station with a broad, tar-surfaced road as a connecting link, and a new suburb is springing up along this road.

There appeared to be three hotels run on European lines, all within easy reach of the station. Representatives from each met the train, and held a sort of Dutch auction for our patronage. We selected the Kaiser-i-Hind, whose representative was the first to come down to what we considered a reasonable figure. The others immediately dropped to the same price and, as we would not change our selection, commiserated dolefully with us on what we might expect at such a place as the Kaiser-i-Hind. We found it quite clean and comfortable.

The old city is enclosed by walls and is oblong in shape. A wide, straight street traverses the centre of the city lengthways, while two similar streets cross it in the other direction, with large open squares at the two junctions. These three streets are magnificent thoroughfares, in each the combined width of the road and sidewalks being 110 feet. The subsidiary streets, or more correctly alleys or gullies, as they are very narrow, are all at rightangle to one or other of the three main streets, and all are straight. It will thus be seen that the lay-out, except for the narrowness of the less important streets, conforms more closely to modern ideas on city planning than many European cities, which is the more remarkable when one remembers that the city was planned and laid out by Rajah Jai Singh II in about 1728 (over 200 years ago). The Rajah Sahib was obviously much in advance of his time, and gave a lead which might with advantage have been followed (to some extent at least) by many other city planners.

All the buildings along the principal streets are, by State Order, coloured a dull pink, which tends to make the varying designs appear to be part of a connected whole. Several Hindu temples abut on the main streets and there are hundreds of shrines scattered about the city. A very noticeable feature of all residential buildings is the small size of all windows and lattices. Many of them are not more than 9" x 9". The object is to enable ladies to look out without being seen by passers-by in the street, a relic of the old "purdah" system or the seclusion of women, introduced to India by the Mahomedan invaders, and at one time common all over Northern India. It is still strictly adhered to in Rajputana, though it is being rapidly abandoned by educated Hindus in British India. The city is noticeably clean and is by far the cleanest Indian city that I have seen.

On various outings, as convenient, we looked in at the Maharajah's horse, elephant and camel stables and at the State carriages. Not many elephants and camels are kept now compared with former days, and those mainly for ceremonial processions, while most of the ponies are for polo. Motor traction is supreme. Here, as elsewhere, much that was colourful has been sacrificed to efficiency.

The Maharajah's Palace is reached through a *not very imposing*

gateway along the main street. In the outer courtyard is the Maharajah's Private Office, a really fine modern building with quite a lot of good carving. With the exception of the Durbar Halls or Halls of Public and Private Audience, very little of the Palace buildings was open to inspection. In one of the Halls is the largest glass chandelier I have ever seen.

In an outer part of the Palace grounds are situated the astronomical buildings erected by Rajah Jai Singh II, 200 years ago. They were carefully repaired some time ago and are now kept in good condition. They are very interesting, but one needs some knowledge of astronomy to understand them and to appreciate the vast amount of thought which their designing must have entailed. Rajah Jai Singh was, undoubtedly a remarkable man.

Behind the Palace buildings there are several wall enclosed gardens, in some of which there are pavilions and artificial water-courses somewhat after the Moghul manner, but nothing worthy of special mention. Unfortunately, the gardens are poorly maintained, containing little beyond some struggling fruit trees and some more or less indigenous roses grown for the sweet scent of the flowers. With the setting of pavilions and watercourses these gardens could be made very effective. Just beyond the outermost garden there is a large piece of stagnant, scum-covered water. It is inhabited by a few crocodiles which have been trained to come to some steps when called in a certain manner, when they are given food. Although at the time of our visit they were not hungry, one of them responded when an attendant gave the call for our benefit. That such a pestilential place should be allowed to exist on the outskirts of so clean a city as Jaipur is strange.

On one of our outings we visited a brass shop. It was not so much a shop as an exhibition of brass-ware, and specimens of old weapons and jewellery were also included. Many of the brass exhibits were works of art, and the whole formed a very interesting collection, and a surprisingly good one for a private shop. We gathered from the two patriarchs who showed us round, and who appeared to be the proprietors, that if we wished they were prepared to let us purchase most of the items, but they were sufficiently honoured if we only looked at them!

Jaipur has a public garden known as the Ram Niwas Garden. It appeared to be fairly well maintained. A zoological garden is located at one side, while towards the centre is a museum. At the time of our visit the Chrysanthemums were nearly over and annuals had not started to bloom, but in the meantime a good show of colour was being maintained elsewhere in the garden by Poinsettias, both red and pink, and by Bougainvilleas, including many specimens of the ruby coloured B. "Mrs. Butt."

The museum is an imposing modern building. As might be expected the exhibits include a splendid collection of Jaipur brasswork and of other Jaipur industries, but work associated with other parts of India is not neglected. There is also a wide range of other exhibits,

such as botanical models Egyptian mummies, butterflies, etc. The exhibits are well arranged and kept in excellent condition. Both the building and its contents would be worthy additions to the amenities of any city.

We also looked around the garden attached to the Maharani's (Queen's) Palace, but there was nothing of special note in it. We were informed that two sons had been born as heirs to the present Maharajah, and that this is the first time in 100 years that a Maharajah of Jaipur has had a son. In each case an heir has had to be adopted, the present Maharajah having been no exception.

At a place just outside the city there are several memorial buildings to former Maharajahs. Most of them take the form of a raised platform over which there is a dome supported by pillars. In one, erected about 300 years ago, the scenes carved in marble on the interior of the dome and the carved figures on the pillars had been carried out with wonderful skill. Carving on the memorial to the late Maharajah, which was not completed when we saw it, shows that the present generation of workers in marble have lost little, if any, of the skill of their forbears. A small, inconspicuous memorial was pointed out to us as marking the place where 38 Maharanis committed "suttee" (being burned to death on the funeral pyre of their husband, the Maharajah). One wondered how many of them did so voluntarily, and how much of tragedy this memorial bore witness to.

One morning we had a pleasant drive to Amber (pronounced Ahmbeyr), which, until the founding of Jaipur 200 years ago, was the capital of the State, but most of the old city is now deserted. The road wends its way through hilly country and, although the hills are almost pure rock and, therefore, covered with only scrub jungle, the scenery is quite pretty. About half a mile from Amber we came in sight of the Fort and Palaces, a magnificent range of buildings crowning a hill, but the old city lies at the foot of the hill and cannot be seen until one has almost arrived at it. It was interesting to walk along the ancient main street, with its crumbling buildings, all now entirely deserted, and to imagine it as it was hundreds of years ago, crowded with people, the busy mart of a capital city. The palaces of the early rajahs were built in the city, and were like other residential buildings except that they were much larger. One or two of them are still maintained in good repair as, according to an ancient custom, the Maharajah must spend the first month after his marriage in one of these first homes of his dynasty. Several Jain and Hindu temples are in a good state of preservation and are ornamented with fine stone carving. People still come from Jaipur on festival days to worship in these old temples built by their Rajput ancestors.

The palaces on the hill were built up sheer from the rock of the hillside, with no openings of any sort in the lower part and, in those days, must have been almost impregnable. The upper stories are of marble and, with their domed pavilions, form a beautiful sky-line when viewed from the other side of the valley. When the rajahs of Amber obtained the means and the leisure to build better palaces than had been possible in the early days, they certainly made a good job of

it. Marble was used lavishly, much of it was beautifully carved, while some was inlaid with precious stones in beautiful patterns. The marble screens are wonderfully good and many of them are several feet in length and 3 or 4 feet in height and quite two inches thick. It must have been difficult to quarry such large slabs free from flaw or damage, and still more difficult to carve them into screens of intricate patterns without making a fault or spoiling the design in any way. So well was the work done that all the angles of each small opening are perfectly smooth. After the lapse of centuries the colour has now mellowed to that of old ivory. From a distance, with the light behind them, these screens look like lace.

A remarkable feature of the decoration is the painting on plaster. The plaster itself is noteworthy, it is perfectly smooth, looks like marble, and is still in excellent condition after 300 years. On this plaster various designs, some geometrical, but mostly of flowers and foliage, were painted and, in most cases, are still in good condition, the colours looking quite fresh as though recently painted. In each room, pavilion, etc., many different designs were used, and as the designs in one place did not appear to be repeated in another, the total number of designs must be enormous.

In some rooms variously coloured mica-like material, in geometrical designs, had been used as the decoration. With the light falling on them from the right direction the effect was quite good. In one or two other rooms the walls had been covered with small pieces of mica let into the plaster. When outside light is excluded from the rooms, a flickering candle or torch causes the light to be reflected from a myriad changing points.

The palaces seemed to be honeycombed with passages. Included among them are some specially made for the use of the royal ladies to enable them to pass unseen from the Zenana quarters to other parts of the buildings, such as the latticed balcony overlooking the Hall of Public Audience, where they could watch durbars, etc., without themselves being seen. Where different levels had to be negotiated it was done by gentle gradients so that the Maharanis could ride in small wheeled conveyances specially made to fit the size of the passages. We were shown one of these vehicles which still survives. If architects in those days had not to contrive to arrange for lifts, central heating, etc., they had other things to worry about.

At the foot of the hill on which the palaces stand there is a lake, and in it an island rising by terraces to a central pavilion. Each terrace was laid out in geometrical designs, each terrace having a different design to the others. The designs are reminiscent of Moghul ones. It is possible that the style, if not the actual designs, was copied from Moghul gardens at Agra and Delhi, but no horticultural upkeep is attempted. From the upper stories and flat roofs of the palaces a good bird's eye view of the island is obtained, and it seems a pity that the beds are not planted with annuals in season as a splendid effect could be produced.

Jaipur being a Hindu State, all animals and birds considered sacred

by the Hindus are specially protected, and this applies not only to cows but to others such as monkeys and peafowl. The latter are noticeably common throughout the State. Predatory animals, such as tigers and leopards, are also protected, but this is with a view to providing sport for the Maharajah and his shooting parties. It is liable to be unfortunate for poor people, whose work takes them into the jungle, and who are not protected! Tigers and leopards are said to be quite common on the hill above the Memorial buildings and also in the vicinity of Amber, but we did not see any.

W. HEAD.

THE ASSOCIATION OF KEW GARDENERS IN AMERICA.

THE ANNUAL DINNER, 1937.

Members of the Kew Guild residing in the United States again had the pleasure of coming together for their Annual Meeting and Dinner in New York City on Saturday, March 20th, 1937. As usual, this was held at the Roosevelt Hotel, dinner being served at 6.30 p.m., when twenty-six persons did full justice to a hearty meal. Mr. Free, in his able manner, again presided, and welcomed the members and guests, manifesting pleasure at seeing so many who found it possible to join together in this way each year.

Regrets were received from Mr. J. H. Beale, who was down with a touch of influenza, and Mr. H. L. R. Chapman sent a well-chosen message of good will and regrets for his absence; we all understand that distance can be a very serious handicap.

Mr. Richardson Wright, again a guest, sustained his reputation with a very amusing message, and also conveyed the regrets of Lord Aberconway who had intended to be present but who, unfortunately, and reluctantly, had to be out of town on this date. Dr. H. A. Gleason, Acting Director of the New York Botanic Garden, gave a very interesting talk on current plans and work being carried on in that garden. He said that about half the present area would be released to the city for playgrounds and the remaining two hundred and fifty acres enclosed by a fool-proof fence, admittance being only by way of regular gates which would be closed at night.

A new guest on this occasion was Mr. Clarence McK. Lewis, of "Skylands," Sterlington, N.Y. Skylands is one of the finest estates in the East, where apart from the usual well-known species, many rare and choice plants are grown. In fact, Skylands is very much of a private botanic garden where the lover plants of all kinds are made welcome. Mr. Lewis spoke of his associations with many old Kew men, especially that of the late Dr. E. H. Wilson, and appreciated

the honour of being invited to this meeting. Mr. H. E. Downer gave a few retrospective experiences and reminded us that he and Mr. Free had been away from Kew just twenty-five years. Messrs. J. Lambert and Jack Jennings, for the benefit of the younger members, reviewed some of their early days at Kew, as did Mr. William Ing, which was very much appreciated.

The Roll Call is a welcome feature of our meeting, and everyone present introduced himself publicly to the company, leaving no doubt in the minds of those present as to their identity. On this occasion there were present two exchange students, Messrs. G. Dean, at the Arnold Arboretum, and Charles J. Collins at the New York Botanic Garden, both of whom we were glad to welcome, as well as Mr. M. T. Fossum and Mr. George Smith, former volunteer students.

It was unanimously decided that we should again meet at the same place in 1938 on the Saturday night of the New York Spring Flower Show. The members would welcome the presence of several more within easy reach of New York whose faces were missed.

Those present on this occasion other than those mentioned above were: Messrs. S. R. Candler, A. W. Close, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Dodd, Mrs. H. E. Downer, T. H. Everett, J. Ellis and Miss Evelyn Ellis, G. W. J. Ford, W. H. Judd, J. Sharps, A. J. Thornton and J. H. Watts.

Our thanks are due to Mr. William Ing for the splendid way in which the tables were decorated.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

March 21st, 1937.			
First National Bank of Boston	...	...	\$20.24
Interest	...	...	34
			<hr/>
			\$20.58
Expenses to March 20th, 1937 :			
Two guests at \$3.50	...	...	\$7.00
Postage and incidentals	...	...	\$2.58
			<hr/>
			\$9.58
			<hr/>
Balance to date	...	...	\$11.00

WM. H. JUDD.
Hon. Treasurer.

MORE RECOLLECTIONS : GARDEN BOYS.

I knew a good many garden boys during my period of service in the Gardens Department, and the characteristics of some of them remain in my memory.

Two outstanding personalities who began their working life as garden boys at Kew were Jack and Pat Weathers. Both had left before I entered the gardens but I knew them well. Jack was Assistant Secretary at the Royal Horticultural Society in 1891, and Pat occupied a position at the Manchester Botanic Garden. Jack, in particular, was a very able man, but he had a kink somewhere that prevented him reaching the top in the several important positions he held at one time or another; or was it fate? Whatever the reason he did not reach the heights prophesied for him during my early years at Kew. It certainly was not lack of ability. I understand that when Pat first presented himself at Kew he was so small that the Curator sent him home to grow, promising him employment at a later date.

The first boy I knew much about was Tommy M., a Brentonian with fair, curly hair, and a chubby, angelic countenance which masked a satanic turn of mind. Tommy was stationed in the propagating pits and he was supposed to give assistance to anyone who wanted him. But he had also to go on occasional errands for the Assistant Curator, and it may have been a coincidence, but it certainly looked suspicious, how errands synchronized with, and took precedence of, jobs he disliked. As we had no means of finding out whether his errands were genuine or fictitious, I am afraid that diplomacy got him out of many an irksome job.

Another boy of the same period was Teddy B., a Kew boy who, like all other villagers, was a good cricketer. He was a demon bowler, and after finding out that I disliked fast bowling, he took a delight in bowling at my legs. We didn't wear pads at practice.

Charley H. was a Kew Gardens boy who worked in the Temperate House pits. He was a nice lad but he had very definite ideas as to how far he should allow anyone to interfere with his dignity. At that time a young German, who had been an officer in the German Army, worked in the nursery. When he first came he had not a very good command of English and was inclined to think that his former position entitled him to more deference than was usually accorded to young gardeners. He particularly disliked emptying dirty water from the bucket in which we washed our hands, and finding that no-one else did it for him he arranged with the boy to keep the bucket filled with clean water for the sum of three pence a week. All went well until the German went to the boy one day, and holding his arms above his head said "what is for such animal with such ears?" Charlie unsuspectingly answered "donkey," and the German replied "then you are one donkey." Charlie had rather large ears and the inference was too much to be borne without retort. He therefore retaliated by calling his tormentor a "German donkey." At that, the

German lost his temper and said "it is not right that you should say such things to me, it is right that I should say that you are a donkey, but you must not say such things to me." Then Charlie lost his temper and there was a right royal battle of words, Charlie, in the end, telling him that he could keep his three pence a week and empty his own dirty water. It was astonishing after that how often the bucket contained dirty water when the German wanted to use it.

George Pring was a Kew village boy of the studious type. Starting as a garden boy he became a student gardener and finally elected to go to the United States. For many years he has held a leading position in the Missouri Botanic Gardens, St. Louis.

There was a happy-go-lucky Brentford boy in the Temperate House pits at the time that Fred Tribble was propagator there. He was a precocious young man and though only about fifteen years old, he spent most of his spare time sweethearting with a Brentford young lady. He spoke of her as his 'Donah,' and during breakfast he usually reported upon the previous night's proceedings. They sometimes went to a 'twopenny gaff' as he described the entertainment, sometimes they had to be content with a walk, and when the weather was bad they spent the evening at the girl's home. When money was flush, after their evening at the 'twopenny gaff,' they had twopenny worth of fried fish and chipped potatoes, which they shared from a piece of newspaper on the way home. He sang the songs he heard at his favourite house of entertainment and the one that appeared to give him the greatest pleasure concerned a man's whiskers. I forget just how the song went, but it described the many ways by which the man tried to keep his whiskers in check, but each verse ended with the words "But still his whiskers grew." He was fastidious over his hair. It was plastered down on his forehead and brushed up sharply at the side in what he described as a "ruddy fine quiff" or sometimes as a "go-blimey quiff." He eventually left the gardens and took over a job at the gas works, where he probably did better than he would ever have done at gardening.

At one period two scholarships a year were given at the County School, Richmond, for boys to enter the gardens as apprentices. Gilbert Watson, the son of the Curator, won one and another went to the son of one of the masters. Both boys were sent to me in the Arboretum, and I never wished to have a better lad for work than Gilbert Watson. He did not mind what work he was put to and always worked well. He is now Conservator of Forests in the Malay States. The other boy was not cut out for gardening. He did not like getting his hands dirty, nor could he stand other boys who had been with him at school seeing him with dirty boots. I have seen him hiding behind trees when boys wearing County School caps were passing nearby. In the end his people took him away and sent him clerking.

At one time boys were taken on for the summer months to weed lawns, and a couple of lawn-weeding boys were more trouble to look after than twenty men. This was not very surprising, for it was a

monotonous job on which to be employed from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for six months of the year, except in wet weather. One can very well understand the lads looking out for mischief, but that did not count. Sir William Thiselton-Dyer expected the work to be done by boys and the man in charge had to see that they kept at work. I remember one day passing through the Temperate House and as I left at the south end I saw one of these boys at the top of a cedar tree. I went across and waited for him to come down. On asking what he was doing up the tree he replied, "I saw a squirrel run up and thought I had better go up after it." One autumn morning when there was a thick mist, I was passing along a path near Brentford Gate when I heard a slight noise a little distance away. Knowing that no men were working nearby, I went on to the grass to investigate and found a boy who should have been weeding near the Pagoda looking for mushrooms, a few of which could sometimes be found. I asked him what he was doing and he replied, "I lost my scarf as I was going home last night and have just come to look for it." Two boys at one time gave me a lot of trouble when working together so I decided to separate them and make them work alone for a time. I placed one near Brentford Gate and the other near the Pagoda, thinking that they were widely enough separated to keep them from playing together, but a few days later I found the two on the Syon Vista and they assured me that they had pulled up all the weeds between their respective points and had just met.

We sometimes got some very nice boys amongst those taken on to lead the horses during the mowing season. Harry Ruck, now the packer, was one, and a particularly nice lad he was. His only fault was that he was very small when he was first engaged. Soon after he came a boy was wanted to drive the pony, and although he was too small for the job I gave it to him hoping for the best. For a time he did not drive the pony, the pony drove him. I found him in tears one day on the Syon Vista, where the pony had taken charge, and another day my wife rescued him at the Lion Gate. I believe that the pony had gripped him by the waistcoat that day. Soon, however, he could do his work and also make the pony behave himself. What had happened was that some of the boys had teased the pony and got him in the habit of biting at them; he was not actually a vicious animal.

Another pony driver I liked very well until he became dissatisfied was a boy named Miller. When he first entered the gardens he was a well mannered, civil, and hard working lad. His father was dead and his mother did work in the Curator's house and office. As the boy increased in age he wanted to join the navy but his mother would not let him and would not fill up the necessary papers. That unsettled him and he lost interest and shirked his work. On several occasions his mother saved him from discharge by appealing to the Curator. In the end he stayed away from work and had to leave. He had lots of ability, however, and was a great boy for sports. Soon after he entered the gardens he came to me one morning with his face one great smile, and said "see my new trousers, Sir, I won

them in a swimming race in the Thames last night." He was good at boxing, and he had acrobatic tendencies. I have seen him walking about the stack-yard with a long handled wooden rake balanced on the point of his nose. Towards the end of his time at Kew, when he appeared to be hoping for the sack, I found him on several occasions with the cart drawn up beneath a shady tree energetically playing a mouth organ, with the pony standing quite still as an appreciative audience. One of his duties was to collect paper from the offices and herbarium once a week and take it to the rubbish-burning place. Each week the job took longer, so one afternoon I decided to find out exactly the time the work was finished. I went to the fire and waited. After some time had elapsed I saw him coming from the direction of Richmond instead of from Kew. On asking for an explanation he informed that "his feet were not very good to-day so he had gone round the roads so that he could ride." He had added about two miles to the journey. He later left of his own accord and joined a travelling show, helping with the work and giving boxing exhibitions. Some months afterwards I received a form from the Colonel of the " Buffs " asking me to fill it up as the youth in question wished to join the Army. From what I knew of him I thought that he would make a very good soldier, for he had plenty of good qualities; therefore I said all that I could for him. He did well, and within a comparatively short time he became the Champion Light-weight Boxer of the Army and Navy. He passed through the war as a Sergeant-Instructor and came to see me just before he was discharged from the Army.

The horse boys were not allowed to stay with the carters during winter but were used for light work about the Arboretum. I remember one year that there were three of them and a particular one came to my office every morning with the gangers to ask what they were to do that day. I thought nothing about it until my sub-foreman asked me whether I had noticed that the same boy came every morning. He then told me that the boy had appointed himself ganger over the other two and in that capacity took the orders from me and bossed the others. I said nothing about it but let him go on; it was a means of keeping the three at work. One day the cart boys were picking up brash after a windy day in the Queen's Cottage grounds and as I passed near the Isleworth Gate I saw one boy near the Old Deer Park walking on his hands with his feet in the air. Next morning I said "what were you doing in the Cottage grounds yesterday afternoon instead of your work." He answered, "I only chased a rabbit." Not all the boys teased the pony. There was one boy, "Jumbo Powney" he was called by his friends, who was particularly kind to all animals. The pony followed him about like a dog and he always seemed to be on very friendly terms with the other horses, the stable cats and Watford's dog.

Well I think that I have yarned long enough about the boys; many of them were very good lads although they did play me up at times.

W.D.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA.

The Northern Territory of Australia is governed by the Federal Government from Canberra, the capital city of the Commonwealth. The first settlement on the northern coast of Australia was made by a detachment of soldiers sent out by the British Government to Fort Dundas, situated on Melville Island. This settlement was abandoned very soon after, and a further attempt was made at Raffles Bay on the mainland, which, too, proved abortive soon after. In 1838 a more serious effort was made at Port Essington, which is on the mainland some 160 miles east of the present capital town of Darwin. Port Essington is on an arm of the sea forming a magnificent and deep harbour. This settlement was abandoned in 1849. There is a melancholy interest attaching to this locality. In "Discoveries in Australia" by Captain Stokes, R.N., and published in 1846, we read: "The site of Victoria, for such was the name bestowed in honour of Her Majesty on the new settlement, is raised in the loftiest part, about 50 feet above high water level. It was not long before it presented the appearance of a long straggling village. A pier was run into the sea and a good road cut to it People were housed in small, low, thatched cottages. An English cow and a bull, Chinese water buffaloes, pigs and fowls were introduced. Thirty half-greyhounds for catching kangaroos arrived, some of these hounds being private and some public property We are told that cotton was grown here and sold in London at 6d. per pound."

It is interesting to note that cotton is still growing wild in the vicinity of the old ruins of Victoria, and some was actually picked by the writer of these notes whilst on an official visit to destroy Prickly Pear, which had also persisted from the same period. Although some experiments were made successfully in vegetable growing, the place was notoriously unhealthy. The occupants of the settlement entirely failed to make friends with the natives, and no attempt at colonisation outside the settlement was made. Though Port Essington was abandoned in 1849 there were a few chimney stacks of the old cottages still standing when I was there in 1934-5. The extra large-sized chimney stack of the bakery still stood, built of bricks which it is believed were imported from the South; these had withstood the ravages of time, the wet seasons, and the bush fires of the dry seasons. About a dozen tombstones in the old cemetery were still to be seen, and there were signs of other burials having taken place. The cemetery had evidently been enclosed with posts and wire. The posts were made of the local ironwood (*Erythrophleum Labourcherii*), and many of these, some eighty years after the abandonment of the settlement, were still in a perfect state of preservation, though the wire had long since disappeared! The settlement on the cliff is shewn on an old Admiralty chart, with the trees all cleared away, and standing out prominently is the flag-pole near Government House, and the rows of thatched cottages. To-day the trees, chiefly consisting of *Eucalyptus miniata*, have

grown up again and are forty feet in height with trunks up to 2ft. to 3ft. diameter at 3ft. from the ground. With the exception of some groups of the Tamarind tree, cotton plants and an irregular strip of the Prickly Pear (*Opuntia inermis*), which, by the way, was the reason of my visit to the neighbourhood, there were not any outstanding plants of exotic character to be found in the neighbourhood. The Prickly Pear had spread about 800 yards along the seashore, and my mission was to bring about its destruction. In the Southern State of Australia great success has attended the introduction of the Cacto Blastis insect, and millions of acres of land that had been rendered useless by the presence of the pest are now being claimed again for arable land. Owing to the isolated character of this small plot of Prickly Pear the introduction of the Cacto Blastis was considered unsuitable, and so spraying with a mixture of arsenic and sulphuric acid was resorted to. On my last visit to Port Essington there were only very small patches of the plants alive, and a final application of the spraying mixture doubtless completed their destruction.

In 1869 Port Darwin was founded, and has been the capital town of the Northern Territory since that date. In 1872 the overland telegraph line from Adelaide linked up with the British Australian cable from Java, and so Darwin became essentially permanent as being on the lines of communication. This fact has been emphasised recently by the point becoming the first airport on the route in Australia from Europe. Darwin is also a subnaval base, with a number of naval oil tanks erected on the foreshore. It is also a garrisoned town. The population of the Northern Territory in 1934 was 4,944 whites, 18,000 aboriginals and 744 full-blooded non-Europeans, of which 462 were Chinese. The total area of the Territory is approximately 500,000 square miles, with a coastline of 1,000 miles. These figures will show at once the impossibility of developing so large a country with so small a population.

Agriculture.—During the history of the Territory many attempts have been made under various Government Residents and Administrators, at first under the régime of the South Australian, and, since 1911, under the Federal Governments, to develop some sort of agriculture in this northern area, especially in the coastal belt in the neighbourhood of Darwin, where an annual summer rainfall (from December to March) of 30 to 60 inches can be relied on. It can be quite definitely stated, however, that very little permanent success has at any time attended these endeavours. The great disadvantage of being so far from markets, the absence of any local markets, the sparseness of population, have all been quoted as helping to retard progress. It is the writer's candid opinion, however, that the natural disadvantages which can never be wholly overcome, such as the great heat during the major part of the year, and the general poverty of the soil, are chiefly responsible. Whilst there is still plenty of room for an increased population in the southern states of Australia, where the climate is more equable and the general amenities of life more easily obtainable, and above all, where good land

can be found, there is no sense in settling people on the land under the conditions existing in the Territory.

At the present time there are about 30 farmers on the land near Darwin. These are mainly engaged in growing peanuts which are sold at about £50 per ton to the merchants in Melbourne and Sydney. They are used in the roasting trade and sold at cinemas, sports arenas, etc. This high price is the result of a protective tariff, for in Europe the nuts would be worth about £20 per ton. In the past fifty years, small and isolated attempts at developing agriculture by cotton growing, tobacco, sugar cane, etc., have been made in succeeding years, but nothing had lasted more than a few years until the peanut was introduced. Yet there is only a limited market for this commodity, and the bulk of supplies come from Queensland, and thus an expansion of the present cultivated area is not possible. It would be possible to name quite a number of crops that *will grow* in the Territory, but none offers returns equal to the effort. The cost of white labour would be far too high to leave a margin to pay the long distance freight charges and leave a profit for the farmer. The black nomad cannot be relied on, he is too uncertain, and in any case is not plentiful enough to be of service to a staple undertaking.

There is a proposition under consideration to train the aboriginals and half castes to grow some useful crop, but as these inhabitants have never shown any promise in this direction, the success of such a venture is very doubtful.

Inside the coastal belt on what is known as the tableland (though this is of somewhat low altitude) is found the pastoral country, where there are very large cattle stations. The total number of cattle is about 900,000, but this of course is a very small number for such a vast area. There are large areas of well grassed land with an abundance of edible herbs and shrubs, but the trouble on a good many stations is the lack of water. A letter received by the writer recently (in December, 1936) reads: "Dingos and kangaroos are reported as having been seen dead near some of the water holes." This is in the cattle country, and of course the water holes had dried up, and the rains were late, and on the coast the letter continues "buffaloes are dying of thirst." Last year I approached one of the largest station managers in the country with some suggestions about a new grass which I thought could be introduced, and he answered: "Tell us how to get more water, we've got the grasses!" I have mentioned these difficulties to show some of the reasons for the comparatively low figure in the number of cattle. There are some parts which are well watered, and a great deal has been done to improve conditions by sinking bores and so obtaining water on the run, and there are many stations which will eventually carry many more head of stock with these improvements. There are a few sheep in the southern end of the Territory, about 18,000 being the number in the latest returns. The country as a whole is too wild at present to be suitable for sheep, but results in the Alice Spring's district, 1,000 miles south from Darwin, have been very promising, and some first class wool has been produced.

In the north there is a small industry in the annual shooting of a few thousand head of the Chinese Water Buffalo, which was introduced in the early days of the settlement, and have multiplied and thrived on the boggy plains in the river valleys near the coast. In the hunting and killing the Abos are largely employed, and in this work they excel. There are about half a dozen men who lease large tracks of Buffalo country and make a fair living at this business.

It will be gathered by these brief observations that the Territory is a difficult country, and so it truly is. It has cost the Government of Australia a great deal of money in the past, and the annual deficit is still very considerable, and indeed will continue to be. The trouble with such vast areas from the point of view of those occupied in their development is the meagre returns from their endeavours. Administrators and their officers spend years of their lives working hard in an attempt to attain success, but by the very nature of the country itself, their efforts are more or less doomed from the commencement, and so they do not reap the reward they would do in a more hospitable country with riches and more easily exploited supplies.

The history of land settlement in the Northern Territory so far as agriculture is concerned, has been, and is likely to remain, a failure. In the pastoral industry it is the day of the very large holding. There is one station on the Victoria River Downs (the property of Bovril Ltd.) that covers an area of 14,000 square miles, and is probably the largest cattle station in the world. More prosperity will come to the Territory when it is possible to have smaller cattle stations and an increased white population. It might be mentioned, in conclusion, that the climate on the tablelands is much superior to that on the coast. The chief hope that one can hold out for the future of the Territory lies in its development as a pastoral country.

C. E. F. ALLEN,
December, 1936.

KEW GUILD PERSONALITIES: MR. G. H. KRUMBIEGEL.

The following details of the life and work of Mr. G. H. Krumbiegel are published in these pages and will be read with interest by the older generation of Kewites. Mr. Krumbiegel was a Member of the Committee, together with Messrs. W. Watson, W. J. Bean, J. Browne, H. A. Pettigrew and J. Aikman, that brought the Guild into being.

Gustav Herman Krumbiegel was born at Lohmen, near Dresden, on the 18th December 1865. A German by birth, he was educated at Willsdruff and Dresden, and went through his apprenticeship in horticulture in the King's Garden at Pillnitz, where he specialised in landscape and ornamental gardening. On completing this course he joined the Agricultural and Fruit Department of Schwerin Royal Gardens (Mecklenburgh) where his work was confined purely to the raising of fruits and vegetables throughout the year. In 1885, he entered a private garden at Hamburg, where, in addition to landscape gardening, the growing of rare plants was a speciality. Here he received an offer of appointment on the staff of the Imperial Botanical Garden at Berlin. Mr. Krumbiegel, however, was keen on gaining more knowledge in horticulture. He wanted to visit England and France and to pass the horticulture course at Kew, before he accepted permanent service at home.

In order to improve his English before attending the scientific work and lectures at Kew, he worked in Hyde Park, London. He also attended the South Kensington University lectures, winning prizes and certificates in several subjects. In 1888, he entered the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where all foreigners are limited to a stay of one year, and his brilliant success in all subjects, in so short a time, won for him an appointment on the Kew staff. He was appointed sub-foreman of the Propagating Department at Kew, where seeds of all kinds, especially economic plants from all parts of the world, were tested, germinated and distributed to the British Colonies. His five years' connection with Kew practically thwarted his ambition to study in France and serve in Germany, for at this time, H.H. the Gaekwar of Baroda applied to the authorities at Kew for an experienced and capable officer for the State gardens at Baroda, and the authorities at Kew appreciating the scholarship, experience and integrity of the subject of our sketch, recommended him. Accordingly in 1893, Mr. Krumbiegel took charge of the gardens at Baroda.

During his stay at Baroda, Mr. Krumbiegel made elaborate improvements which won him fame. His services were in demand by several other States like Kapurtala and Cooch Behar. His interest was not confined to gardening alone. It sought an outlet in architecture and town-planning. Fountains, bridges and pavilions were conjured up in elegant taste to complete delightful landscape pictures. His knowledge of the geography of plant life, of the economic and meteorological value of plants, of the colour scheme in gardening and his practical genius in evolving picturesque effects,

soon transformed the personal properties of H.H. the Gaekwar at Bombay and Ootacamund. The improvement he made to the "Woodstock" Estate at the latter place won the overwhelming admiration of all. Particularly it came to the notice of H.H. the Maharajah of Mysore, who appointed him as Superintendent of the Government Gardens in Mysore as soon as the then Superintendent, Mr. Cameron, retired from service.

Mr. Krumbiegel joined the Mysore service early in 1908 and save for the short period of his internment during the Great War, he continued until his retirement in June 1932. The ancient historic garden of Lalbagh, the zoo attached to it, the parks at Bangalore, Mysore and Seringapatam and the zoological museum at Bangalore came under his masterly hand and supervision. As Economic Botanist to Government he introduced for the first time several new varieties of plants, shrubs and grasses of economic value, which were taken up later on in other centres like the Forest Department, the Imperial Dairy Farms and the Departments of Agriculture in India. To mention only a few, Rhodes Grass, Russian Sun Flower, Soy bean, American maize, Pencil cedar, *Prosopis juliflora*, salt bush, velvet beans and styrax balsam, had been successfully introduced by him.

Mr. Krumbiegel relaid parks throughout the State. The premier cities owe their charm to him. His enthusiasm for composing harmoniously pleasing effects, soon led to his appointment as Consulting Architect to Government. The beauty of the lay-out in Mysore City were of his genius and creation. The Palace Gardens gained fresh grace and splendour. The Guest Mansions at Mysore and the Terrace Gardens at Krishnaraj Sagar were designed by him. Whatever he touched he adorned. His well-merited fame made other Native States desire his services. Alwar, Sivaganga, Travancore and Hyderabad, in addition to numerous private bodies and persons, like the Annamalai University, Sir Dorabji Tata's gardens at Poona, and the Bangalore Residency, availed themselves of his expert knowledge.

Mr. Krumbiegel opened out the two horticultural farms at Mysore and Bangalore. These farms, originally started as experimental yards, have proved themselves paying propositions. He successfully adopted new measures for pest control of plant life, built a fumigatorium and started a central nursery and seed depot, along with a bureau of Economic Botany. He improved and enlarged the horticultural library, opened a seed testing house, Herbarium and Economic Museum, at Lalbagh. Under the auspices of the Mysore Economic Conference inaugurated by Government, Mr. Krumbiegel started the Horticultural School, the only one of its kind in India, which still attracts a number of students from all parts of India. The knowledge requisite for the growth of horticultural plants, the special soil, water and manurial requirements for each kind of plant, has deepened the knowledge of the Mysore agriculturist and profitably promoted fruit culture in the State. The Bangalore amlis have now become expert scientific orchardists. A wasteland trial plantation started in the drought area of Tumkur for raising forage and hardy

economic plants at cheap cost has already proved a success. He opened the hill station at Nandi, and proposed a similar scheme at the Bababudan Hills in the Western Ghats, which did not materialise on account of financial stringency. With a view to encouraging fruit culture in the State, he opened a central fruit nursery at Lalbagh which supplies, on sale and exchange, seeds, fruits, flowers and plants. He was the pioneer organizer of cheap importation of fruit trees from Australia. Five to ten thousand plants per year have been regularly imported and supplied to fruit growers for the last ten years. As a result, over 200 new orchards have sprung up in the State, and the export trade of Mysore in flowers, fruits and vegetables has assumed great importance. He also successfully demonstrated fruit preservation in glass containers, and sooner or later this industry is bound to become a success.

The Mysore Horticultural Society owes its existence to the indefatigable efforts of Mr. Krumbiegel. It has nearly 200 members at present, and has been responsible for the speedy growth of a large number of private gardens throughout the State.

In the midst of his many duties, Mr. Krumbiegel found time to compile a Fruit Survey Report, after visiting several gardens in the State. He also published in 1920 a valuable pamphlet on the organisation of Horticulture, a masterpiece disclosing his varied experience, and practical commonsense.

Mr. Krumbiegel's work as Officiating Director of Agriculture in Mysore for over three years also speaks highly of his genius. Apart from the routine work attached to that office, Mr. Krumbiegel re-organised the Veterinary Department and opened the Serum Institute for the manufacture of virus and serum for combating rinderpest among cattle. The climate of Bangalore being favourable for the manufacture of serum and bacterial growth, the Institute has become a success; the starting of the Institute has also lowered the cost of serum and saved over a lakh of rupees each year for the Government.

Mr. Krumbiegel stimulated useful research in the Agricultural Laboratories and Experimental Stations. He opened rural agricultural schools in the State.

Recalling the pictures of the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore some 30 years ago, and comparing them with existing conditions, one would find a striking contrast in their transformation. Public squares, circles, playgrounds and open spaces have replaced narrow streets and poky buildings. The styles and positions of buildings relative to their surroundings improved under his expert direction. As Consulting Architect, Mr. Krumbiegel was at first made responsible for the scrutiny and modification of building designs, and later on, for personally designing many of the larger buildings throughout the State. The extensions of the zoo and the Guest Mansions at Mysore are the creation of his rare imagination, and have justly won the admiration of all.

Mr. Krumbiegel commanded the "A" Company of the Bangalore

Rifle Volunteers in pre-war days. In spite of this, he was interned 16 months after the Great War chiefly due to hostile local opinion manoeuvred by interested persons. It was during this period of enforced rest that Mr. Krumbiegel worked out the important designs relating to Mysore. The Government of India, at the request of General Wapshire, also requisitioned his services at Quetta. Here he prepared designs for the layout of the Residency. He also carried out experiments in sun-drying of vegetables with Mr. Howard, the Economic Botanist of the Imperial Government. He gave valuable advice in fruit cultivation and improvement of irrigation around Quetta. Subsequently, he went to Darjeeling, where he studied Hooker's Journals. He then collected rare plants after touring Sikkim, practically following Hooker's route.

He took up the work of preservation of ancient monuments in the State. He classified the numerous monuments that are found in Mysore, and wrote rules and regulations for their care, repair and maintenance. He was also connected with the organisation of the annual Mysore Dasara Exhibition from its inception. He was one of the few founders of the Mythic Society at Bangalore, and as Treasurer, stabilised its finances. He was connected with the Faculty of Art at Bangalore from its early stages and was a Visiting Professor of Architecture, Town-planning and Civic Designs at the College of Engineering, Bangalore.

Mr. Krumbiegel is a keen connoisseur of fine tastes; art, music, literature, and philately are delightful hobbies to him. He is an adept in handling a clipper, a tractor or a motor car. He is always a busy man; his life is one long service to Art. Endurance is his forte; exertion has no fatigue to him; rest is rust to him. Although he keeps himself busy, he is easily approachable by the poorest man, who never fails to get the benefit of his expert advice. Free as he is from all official caution, anybody talking to him would feel immediately at ease. His retirement has given him no rest. The Travancore Government have engaged his services. H.H. The Maharajah of Mysore has always a warm appreciation for Mr. Krumbiegel's capacities and continued his services for years together in spite of codal rules of official superannuation. An open appreciation of the intrinsic human worth of persons constitute his magnetic greatness. He is a trustful, sincere man, conscientious in his duties, crowned with politeness, learning and experience, generous and unostentatious. These qualities compose his great personality. Advertisement or empty ostentation was never his weakness. In his own country perhaps he would have risen to international recognition.

The pleasing landscape effects now so commonly seen in Mysore and Bangalore afford ready-made material to the future poet, painter, artist and student. The economic plants newly grown in the State enhance its potential wealth. One wonders how many scientists, artists or statesmen could lay claim to such permanent greatness which is the logical sequel of the various substantial activities of a man like Mr. Krumbiegel. He has held out a practical ideal worthy of

emulation by every well-wisher of India. Truly, he is one of :

“ The bravely dumb that did their deed,
And scorned to blot it with a name,
Men of the plain heroic breed,
That loved Heaven's silence more than fame.”

THE STATE BOTANIC GARDEN, BERLIN.

An Appreciation.

The State Botanic Garden in Berlin was founded in the year 1679 by the great Kurfürsten, and was originally situated in Schöneburg, a district almost in the heart of the city, not far from the Potsdamer Platz (Berlin's "Piccadilly Circus"), where it stood for over 200 years. Owing to the rapid expansion of the city the site became "walled in" and rendered unfit for its original purpose. It was decided, therefore, to move the entire collections to more congenial surroundings. The work of transporting the collections was begun in 1897, and occupied twelve years, and so the new Garden was laid out at Dahlem. The task was carried through under the direction of Herr Prof. Dr. Engler, the famous German systematic botanist, who died in 1930, and is buried in the precincts of the Garden.

The present Botanic Garden is situated to the south-west of Berlin in the fashionable suburb of Dahlem, on the edge of the Grunewald (the Green forest). It is probably the most up-to-date Botanic Institute in the world, being a model of efficiency, containing a first-class collection of plants of a high standard of cultivation, and laid out on severely practical lines, no space being wasted.

The Garden has none of the spacious grandeur of Kew; there are no sweeping lawns, for indeed grass presents a difficulty, as the soil is poor, and does not form a turf. It is forbidden to walk on the grass in Germany, and German visitors to England are amazed at our lawns.

The collections are arranged in bold groups or sections, each representing a part of the world, and only plants endemic to that area are to be found in that section. Thus, trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants grow together in a wild garden effect in the normal three tiers, trees overhead, shrubs as undergrowth and plants carpeting the whole area. The sections are separated by paths and arranged in a geographical sequence as near as possible in the order in which they occur on the map, forming a broad belt through the middle of the Garden from the West to the East entrance, *i.e.*, as you would run your finger over the map from Spain across the Southern States of Europe to India, China, Japan and America, an ingenious arrangement, and possibly the only example of its kind.

The principal feature of the Garden is the rock garden, being in the form of a range of mountains in miniature sweeping through the centre of the Garden, with the other sections arranged on either side and adjacent to it. It contains a superb collection of plants, and is a notable feature in May.

Another feature is the Pinetum, which, though small, possesses a fine collection arranged round a large pool. In spite of these collections, neither can eclipse the wonderful collection of succulents in the show-houses.

To describe the Garden in detail is difficult, but I will endeavour

to do so. It is not quite square in shape, and is bounded on three sides (the East, South and West) by roads, and on the North by a lane. It is some 105 acres in extent, and might roughly be divided into three sections. The north section containing the Herbarium, showhouses, living quarters, workshops, boiler-house, etc.; the middle section contains the rock garden and the main collections, and the southern section consists of the Arboretum, Pinetum, Nursery, etc.

The site has a southern aspect, sloping upwards from East, West and South to a point near the middle of the northern boundary; the top of this hill flattens out into a broad terrace on which the showhouses are arranged. These are well designed and constructed, arranged end to end in a large rectangle; the area thus enclosed is a veritable sun trap and is usually planted with Dahlias. The Victoria Regia House is in the middle, a round, low house, like an inverted glass saucer. This arrangement permits of only a one-way circuit, the public entering by one door and passing in a sequence through Tropical Ferns, Temperate Ferns, Bromeliads, Bananas, Tropical Orchids, Economics, Aroids, Palm House, Camellias, Temperate House, Temperate Orchids, Cape House, Succulents, and South American House, thus back to the starting point on the Terrace.

Beneath the showhouses is a wonderful system of tunnels, connecting potting sheds, which are also under the houses. Along these tunnels the heating and lighting is carried, the pipes being arranged along the walls, lettered and numbered so that each house can be controlled separately. These tunnels also give access to each house, and plants can be carried from one end of the range to the other without being subjected to the open air. The main tunnel extends down the hill to the Boiler House, and carries light and telephone wires so that from the showhouses telephonic communication is possible with the Boiler House and general offices. The same boiler house supplies the heating to the dwelling houses, mess-rooms and workshops, the heat being forced around by electric pumps.

To get an impression of the Gardens let us take an imaginary walk through them. Entering by the West Gate on the Königin Luise Strasse, the drive goes straight up the hill to the showhouse terrace, on the left and immediately inside the gate is the Herbarium and Museums, and behind it, half way up the hill, is the aquatic garden. This consists of a series of tanks, each about 3 feet square, placed end to end in rows, containing water, mud and moss to suit the requirements of the occupants. Beyond this, at the top of the hill, in the shade of the showhouses, is the headstone over the resting place of Professor Engler, a large uncut boulder with his name and date on it, facing downhill and overlooking the Herbarium, the scene of his activities.

On the right, immediately inside the West gate, is the porter's box, with shelters, lavatories and public telephones, and extending from here to the top of the hill is a large coppice. This is called

1900, to become gardener to the Earl of Plymouth at Hewell Grange. Ultimately he succeeded his brother, Mr. W. W. Pettigrew, as Superintendent of the Cardiff Parks Department, when the latter took over charge at Manchester in 1915.

It has been written of Mr. Pettigrew:—"One of his greatest achievements has been the development of Roath Park, where he gathered together a very fine collection of plants, trees and shrubs and planted these skilfully and artistically. He was devoted to his work and shunned the limelight. He was a bachelor, and died at his home from heart failure. Remarkable in many ways, Andrew A. Pettigrew did not make friends too easily, but those who knew him best will ever remember his capacity for deep affection, his gentlemanly manner and his intense loyalty." During the last few years of his life much of his spare time was spent in looking up records dealing with history of Cardiff, especially in relation to its parks and open spaces, with the result that he had completed seven bound volumes of manuscripts, which he willed to the Cardiff Public Library. These volumes will prove of immense value to anyone who in the future writes of the city's development.

SAMUEL WORDSWORTH MARSHALL.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the passing, in his eighty-first year, of this much-respected employee of Kew. Samuel Marshall was well-known at the Herbarium, not only to several generations of Kewites, but also to numerous visiting botanists. He was born at Kew Bridge Terrace on June 26th, 1856, and died on August 28th, 1936, in the West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth.

Marshall's employment at Kew commenced in 1876. In 1884, after having served with the Garden's staff and in the Wood Museum, he was transferred to the Herbarium at the time when Professor Oliver was Keeper. Here he soon established a reputation for careful and methodical work, not only in his general herbarium duties, but especially in the mounting and packing of specimens. In fact it is said that his skill at this work became so well-known that the celebrated German botanist Professor Adolf Engler sent his preparator to Kew to receive lessons from Marshall. He took a personal interest and great pride in his work. Thousands of well-mounted specimens together with his copy-book handwriting on the labels throughout the Herbarium remain as permanent records of his labours.

After having served for almost half a century under four Directors of Kew and five Keepers of the Herbarium, Marshall retired in 1926, when he was presented with an illuminated testimonial signed by the Director, members of the staff and visitors to the Herbarium. Retirement for Marshall did not mean, however, a breaking of his long connection with Kew, but merely the dropping of his official duties and the commencement of nearly ten years of very useful work in mounting grasses and other difficult plants, for which he received a modest remuneration from a private fund. No one who knew him

well could fail to appreciate his sterling integrity of character, and he will be long remembered for the pleasant as well as efficient way in which he carried out his varied duties.

C.E.H.

HERBERT HENRY KIDD.

The death took place on Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa, on May 24th, 1936, of Mr. Herbert Henry Kidd, at the age of 53 years. Though Mr. Kidd had been in indifferent health for some months, his death came rather as a shock to his friends.

Before entering Kew on April 25th, 1904, Mr. Kidd was employed at Borde Hill, Cuckfield, and Ashfold, Handcross, Sussex, both well-known establishments. He was promoted subforeman of the Temperate House Pits on October 23rd, 1905, which department was then under the charge of Mr. C. P. Raffill. He left Kew on April 17th, 1909, to take up the position of assistant Curator at Alexandra Park, under the administration of the Pietermaritzburg municipality. In December 1917 he was appointed Curator of the Botanic Garden, Pietermaritzburg, and continued in this capacity until his death.

Mr. Kidd was well-known throughout the Union of South Africa. He was a keen and enthusiastic gardener and a botanist of repute. It has been said of him that he loved his work, the Gardens under his control, and was possessed of remarkable zeal and energy.

[N.B.—I am indebted to Miss Henderson, of Durban, and Mr. W. J. Newberry, of Pietermaritzburg, for the foregoing details.—Ed.]

HENRY G. KING.

We regret to record the sudden death of Mr. H. G. King on December 21st, 1936, at the early age of 48 years.

A Devonian by birth, he spent his early years in the nurseries of Messrs. Robert Veitch and Son at Exeter. He entered Kew on April 1st, 1907, and served almost the whole of his time in the Decorative and Garden Departments. He left Kew on July 17th, 1909, to take up duties as tree expert to the Borough of Camberwell. During the Great War he served with the London Regiment. From Camberwell he went to Twickenham and later obtained the position of Parks Superintendent at Ilford, Essex.

Among his many activities, Mr. King was Chairman of the London Branch of the Institute of Park Administration, having previously been a member of the council of the Institute for some years past. Mr. King leaves a widow and one son, to whom we desire to express our sympathy in their untimely loss.

ALEXANDER S. GALT.

After having been in indifferent health for several years Alexander S. Galt passed away at his residence, "The View," Roundhay, Leeds, on December 4th, 1936.

He was born at Aldermaston, Berkshire, in 1871, and after completing his schooling, he received his early horticultural training under the capable guidance of his father at Aldermaston Court. Later he moved on to Park Place, Henley, and Stanwick Park, Darlington.

He came to Kew on January 2nd, 1893, and left on September 1st, 1894. His journalistic abilities were quickly recognised, and he joined the staff of *The Gardening World* and later the staff of Cassell's, and edited *Popular Science*. Together with his work he lectured on horticulture in various parts of the country.

For twenty-one years he was in the Horticultural Department of Leeds University, and during the greater part of this time he was Lecturer and Organiser.

During the years of the Great War he played an important part in encouraging those not on service to grow their own food on allotments and small holdings, and under his instruction excellent results were obtained in the face of adverse conditions.

In 1930, on medical advice, he retired from the University and devoted his energies to press work. He provided *The Yorkshire Post* with a regular series of articles on gardening, and their popularity can be best judged by the large number of correspondents who sought his advice.

In later years his chief interest lay in Freemasonry, and at the time of his death he had just entered his second term as Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Living Stones. At his funeral the large assembly testified to the deep affection they bore him for his bigness of heart and his outstanding ability.

FREDERICK C. TRIBBLE.

Many old Kewites will regret to learn of the death of Mr. Frederick C. Tribble, which took place at "Apperley," Crossways, Moreton, Dorset, where he retired through ill-health a few years ago.

Mr. Tribble entered Kew as a young gardener in April, 1894, from the famous gardens at Cardiff Castle, which were then in charge of Mr. Pettigrew, father of the three brothers who have for so long occupied a foremost place amongst Kew men. At that time anyone entering Kew from Cardiff Castle gardens was taken on trust as being a talented gardener, and Tribble was soon singled out by the late Mr. F. Garrett as a good plantsman. The early part of his time at Kew was spent in the Decorative Department, and he had afterwards charge of the Temperate House Pits, before that was