

THE
BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 1.

OCTOBER, 1933.

Price 1d.

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1-28
OCT. 33
SEP 40

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Hosiery, Underwear, etc.

An Appeal

By THE EDITOR.

It would be difficult to find a more uninviting title than that which appears at the head of this column; for the word "appeal" immediately conjures up visions of hospitals needing new wards, of churches needing repairs, of Chinamen needing to be converted, of schemes for assisting unemployed, and of the many other calls upon the purse of the charitable. The first impulse of the majority of people, on hearing the word "appeal," would be to put their hands in their pockets—though not always, it is true, in order to respond to the appeal.

But this column is not an appeal on behalf of a hospital, or a church, or a Chinaman, or indeed for funds or assistance in any shape or form: if it were, the writer would not be writing it, for there are far more persuasive pens than his to which such a task could be entrusted. It is simply an appeal for sympathetic consideration in the work which the Bookhams Social Service Bureau has asked him to undertake. Consider his position: one of the greenest of journalistic greenhorns that ever attempted to edit a "newspaper"—for that is what the Bureau hopes the "Bulletin" will eventually become: a budget of local news of events which are happening in the village, but of which many residents are unaware. The task he has taken on is not an easy one, but having (to quote an appropriate saying) "stepped in where angels fear to tread," he is anxious to carry it to a successful conclusion.

But perhaps it would be as well to state here, quite briefly, what are the objects of the "Bulletin" and the ambitions of its promoters. Naturally, being the journal of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau, it will endeavour to give publicity to the many other activities of the Bureau. But the "Bulletin" will cover a much wider field than this: it is hoped to publish articles by local men and women dealing with any matter of local interest—it may be Local Government (which should be the intimate concern of every resident), or local history, for the district has many historical associations. In short, the "Bulletin" will endeavour to arouse and foster an interest in this pleasant little corner of England.

The "Bulletin" will be issued quarterly, and a column will be devoted to a programme of forthcoming events, which should prove a boon to the absent-minded.

This being the first issue, it is perhaps inevitable that there should be a large proportion of "Bureau" in it; but it is hoped in future issues to arrange for constituent organisations

to circulate information relative to their particular activities. The "Bulletin" will be delivered to every house in the Bookhams, and will therefore prove an excellent publicity medium.

Ambitions? Well, this is a small beginning, and great things have sometimes sprung from small beginnings. "Rome," we are told, "was not built in a day"—although the Bureau cannot, of course, be blamed for the delay in that case. But actually the Bureau is not ambitious in the usual sense of the term: it wishes the "Bulletin" just to be a useful link in the social structure of the village, and perhaps to bring a little interest, a little amusement, possibly even a little happiness to some. If it can do this, it will have justified its existence.

Suggestions for increasing the usefulness of the "Bulletin" will be welcomed; indeed, criticism, of the helpful variety, is invited (the other sort needs no invitation). It is hoped that the journal will be widely read, for although issued at a nominal charge of 1d., payment is optional, and it will be delivered to everyone, whether payment is made or not. It need, therefore, cost its readers nothing, and can hardly fail to be worth at least as much as that.

And as for the "Appeal," it can perhaps be best expressed in the words of a notice which is alleged to have been displayed in a saloon in the Wild West: "Don't shoot the pianist; he's doing his best."

C.H.

A New Village Industry.

Another activity under the auspices of the Bookhams Social Service Bureau is a weaving industry, started by the lady who was previously manager of the Oxford Weaving Industries. Here two or three unemployed men are being taught weaving under expert tuition, and an exhibition of completed work will shortly be held to show the Bookhams what their men can do in this direction. Orders should be sent to Mrs. Fortlege, "Nordelph," Bookham.

Repairing the Church.

A great deal of interest will centre round the efforts of the Parochial Church Council to raise funds for the restoration of the fabric, particularly the roof, of the Great Bookham Church. This is a matter which concerns not only churchgoers, but all residents, for the Church is the outstanding feature of the village, and is of historical interest. The best wishes of the Bureau will go with the Church Council in their effort.

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The Coming Winter.

We have been asked to write a few words for this the first number of "The Bookhams Bulletin." We do so with pleasure, believing that the "Bulletin" will serve a useful purpose.

The Social Service Bureau was able, during last winter, to organise a scheme for assisting those in our midst who were unemployed. The response was encouraging, an appeal for money bringing in over £300, enabling work to be found for some, at any rate, of the unemployed.

We are pleased to hear that there are signs of improved trade; nevertheless a large number in work will find it a difficult task, we are afraid, to make ends meet, and many will again be without work of any kind. Only those who have been through such experiences can realise what this means. The weary tramp in search of work on the part of the man, the anxious thought, the worry and despair on the part of the mother, the unsatisfied needs of the children, bringing irritableness and sickness; lives crushed to helplessness by barriers and difficulties they cannot overcome. Try to visualise all this, you who are more fortunately situated, and we are sure you will feel with us that something must again be attempted. To-day the problem is not with the unemployable; the problem is to save the industrious labourer, the skilled mechanic, and the trained clerk, from despair and demoralisation. These unemployed men want **Work**. We intend, therefore, this coming winter to make our main appeal an appeal for work rather than money.

Try and find a job that you want done, that otherwise, perhaps, you would not have had done. If we all decided to have that bit of painting done, that shed rebuilt, that piece of land turned over, that lawn renovated, that chair upholstered, that room papered, our local tradesmen would soon absorb the unemployed labour in our district. Why not make a start straightaway?

We propose to open an office at the Barn Hall for the unemployed to register on Tuesdays, commencing October 10th, from 6.30 to 7 p.m. It is also of the greatest importance that we should be kept in touch, not only with those needing work, but those who can offer work, and applications for the services of unemployed men can be handed in at the office, or sent direct to Mr. Elton. Write to Mr. C. Elton, Killigrae, Park View, and let us know in what way you are willing to assist on these lines. It depends upon you to make this scheme a really practical success. Put yourself in the place of the man who wants the job. Remember there are those living close to you who, twelve months ago,

thought their position secure. To-day they are seeking employment. The next may be, if not yourself, one in your own family circle or within the circumference of your friendship.

There will be, however, in addition, a great deal of real poverty and want which can be relieved only by supplies of food, clothes, coal, etc. Money for this will be urgently needed, and subscriptions will be gratefully appreciated and promptly acknowledged if sent to the Treasurer, Mr. Groom, Wychwood, Sole Farm Road, Bookham.

One word more: We want the help of all. If those who cannot give money or offer work will give us their sympathetic co-operation and goodwill, some homes will be made a little brighter, some hearts a little lighter, and some children a little happier, this coming winter.

W. W. LEAVIS.

Crossroad Conversations No. 1.

BOWLS.

Mr. Grouser: "There's that new bowling green, too. Cost about £250: waste of money, I call it."

Mr. Moaner: "Never been used, either. Nobody seems to take any interest in sport round about here."

Mr. Bowler: "Hallo, you fellows, grumbling again; and, as usual, without knowing what you are talking about. Next year we shall have a first-rate green, and, far from being a waste of money, it will be dirt cheap at the price. And, as a matter of fact, Moaner, people do take an interest in sport in Bookham. You'll be interested to hear that a meeting has been arranged for **Monday, 16th October, at 8.15 p.m., in the Old Barn Hall**, to form a Bowls Club. So come along, and bring with you anyone else you may know who is interested."

Young People's Club.

Thanks to the generosity of some friends outside Bookham, the Bookhams have been fortunate enough to secure the services of Miss Gilham, a trained club leader. She will be in charge of a Club for all young people over the age of 15, and the Club will meet on Fridays at 7.30 p.m. in the Church House, commencing on September 29th. The Programme for the winter will include handicrafts, community singing, folk-dancing, games, etc.

It is hoped that all will help to make this Club known, and show that the Bookhams can appreciate this new effort.

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Don't Forget !!

REGULAR-WEEKLY FIXTURES.

Mondays—

- Women's Thrift Club.
 Coal and Clothing Club, 12 o'clock (School).
 Women's Fellowship, 2.30 p.m. (Church House).
 Women's Meeting at 3 p.m. (Congregational Church).
 Women's Own, at 2.30 p.m. (Baptist).
 Women's Own, 3 p.m. (Baptist Hall).
 Children's Guild (Girls), 5.30 p.m. (Church House).
 Cadets, at 5.45 p.m. (Baptist).
 Girls' Club, 7.30 p.m. (Church House).
 Bookham Choral Society, at 8 p.m. (Congregational Hall).
 Rovers, 8.15 p.m. (Scouts' Hut).

Tuesdays—

- Life Boys, at 6 p.m. (Baptist Church).

Wednesdays—

- Children's Guild (Boys), 5.30 p.m. (Church House).

Thursdays—

- Cubs 5.30 p.m.; Scouts 8 p.m. (Barn Hall).
 Girls' Brigade, at 6 p.m. (Baptist Church).

Fridays—

- Brownies, 4.30 p.m.; Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m.; Rangers, 7.45 p.m. (Barn Hall).
 Mixed Club, at 7.30 p.m. (Church House).

Will Secretaries please notify any additions for inclusion in the next issue.

OTHER EVENTS.

- Wednesday, October 4th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
 Monday, October 16th. Meeting to form Bowls Club (Barn Hall).
 Tuesday, October 17th. Ratepayers' Association Whist Drive (Barn Hall).
 Wednesday, October 18th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
 Thursday, October 26th. Women's Institute.
 Wednesday, November 1st. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
 Wednesday, November 15th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
 Tuesday, November 21st. Ratepayers' Association Whist Drive (Barn Hall).
 Wednesday, November 29th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
 Thursday, November 30th. Women's Institute.
 Wednesday, December 13th. St. Nicholas Literary and Social Society (Church House).
 Tuesday, December 19th. Ratepayers' Association Grand Christmas Whist Drive (Barn Hall).
 Date not fixed: Women's Institute Christmas Party.

The Case is Altered.

A Modern Fairy Tale.

By S. ASHTON MOORE.

"Once upon a time"—do you remember the lovely thrill of those words? For that is how all the best stories began, and the ending was just as satisfactory: "They lived happily ever after."

The stories of to-day are not like that; they are stories full of tears and sorrow, grey clouds instead of sunshine: sometimes indeed they don't seem to have even a bright "ever after." But listen! I want to tell a story.

Once upon a time there was a lovely Surrey village, quite a little village set among woods and wide common lands. It had a wonderful old church, picturesque houses and cottages with gay gardens. Everyone took a friendly interest in their neighbours' affairs: you couldn't even have a cold without your neighbour running in with a cup of black currant tea or an offer to mind the baby for an hour. But the years passed by and the village grew into a very big village; and it's easier to be friendly with everyone when only a few hundred people live together than it is with a few thousand.

In the fairy stories there were Ogres and Witches, Giants and even Bad Fairies; do you remember it all, and the tingle of fear that made you draw up closer to the friendly lamp as you turned the pages of your book?

The village story, too, had its Ogres. The Ogre of Poverty, the Witch of Trouble and Sin, Giant Despair, and the mischievous Elves of Loneliness, Fear, and Unhappiness. The whole world was in the grip of something called the Depression. People talked about it a great deal, because everyone seemed to be caught in its horrid claws. The village, too, was caught, and troubles came thick and fast to all. People who wanted to help couldn't, because they had troubles of their own; and people who wanted help did not always know where to get it, and sometimes, too, they did not like to ask.

And then there came a good fairy and dropped a bright Idea into all the unhappiness and worry. It was not an Idea for one village only, or even for Surrey only, but all over England people came together to form what are called "Case Committees." It was an ugly name, but it did suggest something of what the Committees try to do: they try to help individual cases.

So the Surrey village called together its Case Committee, not to overlap with all the other work being done, but just to be a real helping Agency when and where it was needed. To

go back to the fairy tale, it tries to do the work the good fairies used to do in our childhood's story book.

Sometimes it helps when sickness comes and special food is needed. Or perhaps a chance of work comes to the father of a family, but good clothes are needed to start with. The Case Committee tries to keep a store cupboard for just such needs. Giant Despair is very near when you realise that you have not the money to buy your babies the milk they need, and the Committee can sometimes help there. And at other times it just finds someone to go and pay a friendly visit to help to rout that Demon Loneliness.

"And they lived happily ever after?" Not quite, yet, I am afraid; but perhaps a begin-

ning has been made to help attain that fairy tale ending.

And the village? You will have guessed it is called The Bookhams, and the Committee is your own Case Committee, here to help wisely and practically when and where it can.

SPEAKING GENERALLY.

The Bureau wishes to live up to its name, and to assist any body (or anybody) in any way possible. Enquiries should be addressed to Miss Thompson, of "Two Oaks," The Park, Bookham, who will be only too willing to deal with them.

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