

# The Bookhams Bulletin

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 21.

DECEMBER, 1938.

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# The Bookhams Bulletin

(Organ of The Bookhams Social Service Bureau).

No. 21.

DECEMBER, 1938.

Price 1d.

## Editorial

The Social Service Bureau takes this opportunity of wishing all its readers a very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of Goodwill, Happiness and Prosperity.

It is very pleasing to record that this Journal is now about to enter upon its sixth year of publication, which has been made possible through the public spirit of the trader, and we offer them our cordial thanks. By their action it is possible to help others, whose needs are the concern of the Bureau, and with the support from the traders and the co-operation of the members of the Bureau, has been, we hope, of some service to the community.

Although success has been achieved, greater scope could be possible but for the need of financial assistance. We know full well of the various demands that are made, rates and taxes, and appeals from a thousand and one charities, but at this time of the year there is very little need to go far afield in the cause of Christmas charity.

In the February issue of the Bulletin, attention was drawn to readers regarding the Widows, Orphans and Old Age (Voluntary Contributors) Act, and as there have been amendments and further regulations referring to age limit and amount of contributions which become operative on 3rd January, 1939, information respecting these changes can be obtained at any Post Office. Further, concessions to wives of men who are too old to join the new scheme is made under regulations recently issued. Under these it is provided that where the joint income of husband and wife does not exceed £400 and the husband is ineligible for entry into the scheme because he is over 55 years of age, the rule which requires the counting of incomes together will be waived in favour of the wife.

Under the Winter Regulations (Adjustments), provision is made for certain cases of unemployed persons until April 15th next. These cases will be considered on their merits, but attention will

be particularly directed to households where resources consist mainly of unemployment allowance. The addition last year was generally from 2/- to 3/- per week. Such cases of unemployed should apply to the Local Labour Exchange for information.

At the beginning of November the average level of retail prices of the commodities taken into account, including food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items, was approximately 56 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. There appears to be no definite indication as to a 1 per cent. increase.

## Light in Bookham

Since street-lighting has commenced in Bookham ("commenced" as what has been done is only a portion of the initial scheme that was originally agreed upon) various complaints have been made as to there being too much light (this even applies to gas-lamps) the lights are too close, hence light is wasted, etc. High Street has been facetiously dubbed Piccadilly and Tooting Broadway, possibly according to the complainant's knowledge of those thoroughfares. It is therefore well to record certain facts.

In the first place some two years ago a referendum was taken as to street-lighting in Bookham, and of the votes recorded, there was a good majority in favour. Secondly a controversy arose as to gas or electricity being the means, and eventually a majority vote was given for the latter. It is possible that had that vote not been taken gas would have been adopted. Since then prices of materials have risen very considerably and in consequence the L.U.D.C. apparently decided to do the job "piecemeal." That is the position to-day.

Complaints have been made that motorists find owing to a rise or drop in the road in Bookham the new street light strikes across their line of vision when driving, but on the other hand it was other car-drivers who desired that the lighting should be similar to that in Leatherhead. Naturally in dealing with street lighting the local authority can only deal with it

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in the ordinary way, otherwise their patience would be exercised to the utmost with modifications which individuals may require. For instance a motorist from Leatherhead in mounting Hawks Hill will see a light apparently approaching him and he finds to his surprise when he arrives at the top of the Hill that it is a street lamp. What modifications could be suggested in this case, and how diverse?

Some of the aged natives of Bookham desire the streets lighted and are now asking for more.

Finally it has to be remembered that when some of the Bookham side streets were lighted by gas, complaints were made that the lamps did not comply with the standard of spacing required by the subsequently issued Report of the Committee set up by the Ministry of Transport. The L.U.D.C. decided that this complaint should not be justifiably made in the future and acted accordingly.

The above article was written in the early part of November—before the unfortunate incident on November 28th.—Editor.

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## The Guardians Committee

In the May number of the Bulletin, the Editor described the workings of the Poor Law generally, but possibly if details were given as to its more local operations they might be considered equally interesting.

The Mid-Eastern Area Guardians Committee consists of members of the Surrey County Council, and of the local Councils together with co-opted nominees and covers a large area including, amongst others, Wallington, Worcester Park, Merton, Carshalton, Cheam and Banstead. In connection with Relief cases such a large area can only be expeditiously dealt with by Sub-Committees known as Relief Sub-Committees, and these usually meet fortnightly, each dealing with cases in its own particular area, respectively Mitcham, Morden, Sutton, Epsom and Purley. The Epsom area includes Ewell, Ashted, Leatherhead, Fetcham and Bookham.

The cases that come before these Sub-Committees are naturally very diverse in character, for instance one may be that of a man who has temporarily or permanently left his wife and children; a second, a couple of old age pensioners; a third, a widow with children; a fourth, a city man who, through age or infirmity finds himself deprived of means of subsistence.

Generally speaking these meetings each take

up about three hours, and the number of cases may be 70 or upwards. Of these there may be a fair number to be interviewed personally by the Sub-Committee.

There are other Sub-Committees in being such as the "Classification," which concerns itself with recent cases of admission to the institution as well as those of more or less permanent inmates. The "Women's" and the "Buildings and Staff," whose titles explain their duties. The "Revision" which is chiefly concerned with the possibility of obtaining payment from the relatives of the inmates of the various mental hospitals, etc. and at each meeting deals with 100 or more cases.

These last four Sub-Committees usually meet on the day that the General Committee meets, and it frequently happens that a Guardian will spend the whole day at Epsom on these occasions.

Beyond the above there is a Visiting Committee rota consisting of two members who visit the institution fortnightly and make suggestions as to improvements they may consider necessary for the well-being of the inmates and staff, and report upon the condition of the things they see or test, such as the stores, etc.

Furthermore there is a Boarding-out Committee dealing with children who are in the care of foster-parents, etc.

A Netherne Hospital Visiting Committee.

Much more could be said but the foregoing will give some idea of the work entailed in being a Guardian.

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## Christmas Shopping

At this time of the year our thoughts naturally turn to Christmas and the time-honoured custom of present giving. May we again remind our readers that it is largely due to the generosity of our Advertisers that the publication of the Bookhams Bulletin is possible. In addition to this you will find that all you need in the way of Christmas supplies as well as Presents can be obtained from local traders, and we would ask you as far as possible to support those who in many ways assist you.

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## Air Raid Precautions

### Your Gas Mask and the Law

About thirty million people are now in possession of Government gas masks issued to them during the International crisis of last September.

It has been stated that householders are to retain them and that boxes in which to keep them will shortly be issued.

The question arises: what legal obligations rest upon a person who has a gas mask in his possession? The answer is, that he is a bailee. In case that means nothing to you, let me explain the liability that arises out of such bailment. The gas mask was lent, and the borrower is liable for any damage not due to fair wear and tear.

He will be liable for any wilful damage in case of negligence, and for any other damage if it is due to his own fault.

Thus, he will be responsible for damage caused by allowing children to play with the mask, or by permitting any other misuse or by want of ordinary care. If through failure to exercise that care, the mask is stolen or otherwise lost, the borrower will be liable to pay the cost of it. If he should sell it he may find himself faced with a criminal charge.

There would appear to be one way in which the borrower could get rid of his liability. He could deliver the mask in good condition to the Local Authority, and if he is cautious take a receipt for it. What if the Authority refuse to accept the mask? Then no doubt the borrower's contingent liability would be at an end—for you cannot make a person a borrower or prolong a borrowing with its attendant responsibilities, against his will.

In such a case the mask would remain on the borrower's premises at the risk and disposal of the Authority, but even then, of course, there must not be any wilful damage to the property or improper parting with it.

In the Home Office Handbook No. 2, First Aid for Gas Casualties, the following extract is taken from the Appendix:—

**Mustard Gas.**—An oily liquid which may vary from dark brown to straw colour. Soluble in oil and spirits. Neutralised by bleaching powder. Great power of penetration. Smell of garlic, onions, horse-radish or mustard. Liquid may be seen.

Effect:—In eyes, immediate irritation,

(Continued at foot of next column)

## Remembrance Day, 1938

It is with profound appreciation that the Local Benevolent Committee of the British Legion express their thanks to Mrs. R. Lindham, the Organiser, and her Staff of Poppy Day Sellers for their unceasing efforts in collecting for the Earl Haig Poppy Day Appeal. It is very gratifying to record the continued support of a generous-hearted public, and thanks also to them, an increase over last year's total was made possible, amounting to £94.

As already mentioned the proceeds of this Fund are entirely devoted to assisting cases of distress among the Men who served in the Great War, War Widows and their dependents suffering from sickness, unemployment or other hardships.

It is not necessary to enlarge upon the work of the Local Benevolent Committee as some indication was given in the September issue of the Bulletin, but it should be emphasised that there are no local administrative expenses, these are borne by the Committee, and further, all cases of distress are not confined to members of the British Legion only. Every Ex-service man who served in the Great War is eligible for benefit from the Fund.

## Home Service Association

Monthly Lectures on Thursdays at 3 p.m. to be held at the Leatherhead Institute (57, High Street).

December 8th, "Hot Water, Past and Present," by the Ascot Gas Water Heaters, Ltd.

January 12th, "The Life-Boat Service" by Mr. J. Terry of the Royal National Life-Boat Institution.

February 9th, "How to Dry-Clean your Clothes at Home" by Mrs. K. F. Waghorn.

March 9th, "Broadcasting, To-day and Tomorrow" by Miss E. J. Sprott of the B.B.C.

### Air Raid Precautions—cont.

closed in about one hour.

Prevention is far better than cure, and in order to attain a knowledge of the potential dangers, not only of poison gas, but the attendant risks of future aerial warfare, enlist your services in A.R.P. Particulars from the Leatherhead U.D.C.

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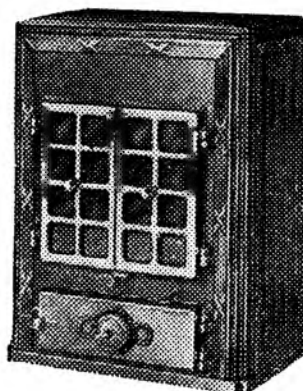
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## Hire Purchase Bill

Every other household in the country will be affected by the new Hire Purchase Act, according to statements made during its passage through Parliament.

The Act is an attempt to place the huge business of hire purchase on a fair and equitable basis as between owner and hirer, and to eliminate practices which are distasteful to firms of repute and hirers alike. It has been estimated that the value of goods sold on hire purchase or credit sale terms exceeds £150,000,000 a year. Seventy per cent. of the wireless sets, over sixty per cent. of furniture, seventy per cent. of motor cars, and eighty per cent. of the refrigerators and vacuum cleaners are sold on one or other of these basis. While the Act protects hirers and credit purchasers from harsh dealing, it also has regard to the just claims of the owners. Much has been said of the "abuses" from which hirers have suffered at the hands of unscrupulous dealers; little has been heard of the losses of owners incurred by deliberate default and undesirable practices on the part of some hirers. The provisions of the new law are not without difficulty, and the following explanation (omitting technical matters which arise only after legal proceedings) may be of assistance to those who are affected by it.

Scope of the Act. The Act applies to all hire purchase and credit sale agreements under which the hire purchase price in the former case, or the total purchase price in the latter, does not exceed £500 in the case of live stock; £50 in the case of motor cars, including accessories, or railway wagons, or other railway rolling stock; and £100 in any other cases. "Hire purchase agreement" means an agreement under which the goods become the property of the hirer upon the payment of all the agreed instalments. "Credit sale agreements" means an agreement for the sale of goods under which the purchase price is payable by five or more instalments.

Before any agreement is entered into, the owner must state in writing to the intending hirer the price at which the goods may be bought from him for cash. This requisite, however, may be dispensed with if the hirer has inspected the goods, or similar goods, and at the time of that inspection price tickets were attached to or displayed with goods clearly stating the cash price; or if the hirer has selected goods from a catalogue or advertisement which plainly stated the cash price. It is essential for the owner to

see that this requirement is complied with, and in addition, a note or memorandum of the agreement is signed by the hirer and the other parties to the agreement.

The memorandum must state the cash price, with particulars of instalments, etc., and a copy must be sent to the hirer within seven days. If the owner fails to carry out the above provisions, he will not be entitled to enforce the agreement or any guarantee given in connection with it, subject to any order to the contrary that the Court may make.

Terms of the Agreement.—Apart from the actual terms in the hire purchase agreement, certain terms are to be implied by law, that is, of course, every agreement shall be subject to them as if they appeared in the written document. These implied terms are: (1) That the hirer of the goods shall have quiet possession of them. (2) That the owner has a legal right to pass the property in the goods to the hirer, and (3) That the goods shall be free of any charge or encumbrance in favour of a third party at the time when the legal right to the property in the goods is to pass to the hirer (on payment of the last instalment).

If the hirer makes known the particular purpose for which the goods are required, there is an implied condition that the goods are reasonably fit for that purpose.

Any term included in the agreement by which the owner and the hirer agree that these implied conditions are not to apply will be valueless, except that the condition last mentioned (as to "purpose") may be mutually waived if the proposed waiver is made plain to the hirer.

As already noticed a note of memorandum of the agreement containing the specified particulars, signed by the parties, must be delivered to the hirer within seven day of the making of the agreement.—THE EDITOR.

*(To be continued.)*

### Make a note of these items.

Bowling Club Non-Stop Whist Drive, Wednesday, December 7th, 8 o'clock, Old Barn Hall (Small Hall). Tickets 1/-.

British Legion Club (Effingham) Ltd., Annual General Meeting, Friday, December 9th, 8 o'clock.

Ratepayers Whist Drive, Tuesday, December 20th, 7.45. Tickets 2/-.

Effingham Catholic Church, Whist Drive, at Church House, Bookham, Wednesday, December 21st, 8 p.m. Tickets 1/6. Xmas Fare Prizes.

## Let's see what's on!

REGULAR WEEKLY FIXTURES.

### Sundays—

Brotherhood, 3 p.m., Congregational Hall.

### Mondays—

Women's Thrift Club.

Coal and Clothing Club, 12 o'clock, School.

Women's Fellowship, 2.30, Church House.

Women's Meeting, 3 p.m., Congregational Church Parlour.

Women's Own, 3 p.m., Baptist Hall.

Girls' Life Brigade Cadets, 5.30 p.m., Baptist Hall.

Junior Club, 7 p.m., Church House.

Boys' Brigade, 7.15 p.m., Baptist Hall.

Girls' Friendly Society & Girls' Club, 7.30 p.m. Church House.

Bookham Choral Society, 8 p.m., Congregational Church.

Rovers, 8.15 p.m., Scout Hut.

Little Bookham Boys' Club, 7 to 9.30 p.m.

Girls' Club (14 years and over) Church House, 7.30 p.m. including Physical Training Classes.

### Tuesdays—

Life Boys, 6 p.m., Baptist Hall.

Blue Birds, 6.30 p.m., Congregational Hall.

Camp Fire Girls, 7.30 p.m., Congregational Hall.

Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m., Church House.

### Wednesdays—

Little Bookham Boys' Club, 7 to 9.30 p.m.

### Thursdays—

Cubs, 5.30 p.m., Scout Hut.

Girls' Life Brigade, 6 p.m., Baptist Hall.

Scouts, 8 p.m., Scout Hut.

Young Men's Club, 7.30 p.m., Church House.

Bookham Women's Constitutional Association

Monthly Meetings at the Barn Hall.

First Thursday in the month at 3 p.m.

Leatherhead Cottage Hospital Linen Guild, 10 to 12.30.

### Fridays—

Brownies, 4.30 p.m., Scout Hut.

Girl Guides, 6.30 p.m., Scout Hut.

Rangers, 7.45 p.m., Scout Hut.

Christain Endeavour, Baptist Hall. Juniors 6 to 7 p.m. up to 14 years. Seniors 7 to 8 p.m.

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After peeling onions a little mustard rubbed well into the hands will remove the odour.

Candle ends melted and odd lengths of string dipped in the grease and dried make fire-lighters, fire-brighteners, or emergency tapers.

A Liniment for sprains is made from a quart of pure cider vinegar, about half as much turpentine, and two eggs; add the eggs and turpentine to vinegar, and let it stand for twelve hours, when it will be ready for use.

To put a gloss on silk after it is washed and rinsed, place it in cold water to which methylated spirit has been added in the proportion of one tablespoonful to a pint of water.

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