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The Bookhams Bulletin

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 96

DECEMBER 1957.

25th year



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THE BOOKHAMS BULLETIN

Quarterly Journal of the Bookham Community Association

No. 96.

DECEMBER, 1957.

25th year

Greetings and Best Wishes to all

EDITORIAL

Christmas is the festival of the family. It is a time when we remember with affection those of our neighbours who have brought up their children among us and who have moved away to other places. We recall with gratitude the contribution they have made to village life. At the same time we welcome the many young couples who are making their homes in our midst. It is invigorating to observe houses and gardens taking on new personality, to watch such lively school-children thronging our roads and to admire the babies with their proud mothers. We realize that they present us with a challenge to make the Bookhams a good place in which to grow up.

We are sure that our old friends will join with us in a special Christmas wish to our new neighbours — that they may find interest, satisfaction and companionship in our villages. The Community Association will be glad to welcome them as members and work with them in planning and providing leisure time activities for them and their families.

We have asked one of our young people who is anxious to help with the development of youth activities in Bookham to write on our new plans.

We want to make an effort to break the dull monotony of the winter evenings by forming a Youth Club which will be able to offer something of interest to everyone. Dancing, both Square and Ballroom, will of course be on the programme. Those who want to learn to dance must not tell themselves that it wouldn't be any use their joining, because I'm sure that those who can dance will be delighted to teach the beginners. The other items on the programme are table tennis, drama, and the ever popular just listening to records. If anyone has any other suitable suggestions we shall be very pleased to hear them.

The club will be held in the Barn Hall and will be open to those over 15. The essential thing to develop will be a friendly atmosphere so that the social

evening can be enjoyed by everyone. It will be impossible to bring this club into being unless we can get enough members. So please look out for further notices, and when we arrange our first meeting do come.

Naturally there will have to be small weekly subscriptions in order to pay for the hall, etc. Don't be disheartened by this, because once we get it going with a swing we hope that you will find it well worth while.

J.H.

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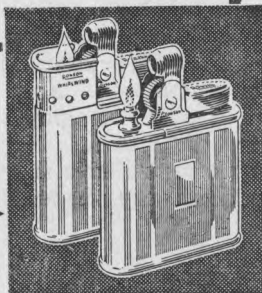
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GARDEN TOOLS

A PRE-NURSING STUDENT VISITS BELMONT HOSPITAL

(By courtesy of the Students' Union of Ewell Technical College)

As a student of Ewell Technical College Pre-Nursing Course one of the most interesting days I have ever spent was when we were escorted round Belmont Hospital. This hospital is defined as a neurosis hospital; this means that it is classified as being between a General and a Mental Hospital.

On our arrival at Belmont we entered the hospital conversing gaily, and clad ourselves in white overalls. Gradually the gaiety diminished and a hushed silence fell on our little circle as we stood in the pleasant hall, and a certain feeling of awe mingled with an inward eager anticipation encompassed us. Presently we were plucked from our trance and led to a classroom in the training school of the hospital.

First, we were enlightened as to the types of cases at Belmont Hospital. All the patients there have some kind of nerve disorder. Some of the various types of nerve illnesses are anxiety states, depression and nervous breakdowns. There are numerous causes for such cases and the origin can be the same for all the above nerve troubles, but the resultant condition is brought out by the varying reactions these troubles cause on the individual's temperament.

In many cases the cause of the nervous breakdown is obvious—it may be that the patient has lost someone he or she loved, or has seen a bad accident or is unhappy at work—when this is so the work of the doctor and nurse is eased, for the appropriate treatment can be administered. Unfortunately, however, many patients are brought to the hospital by troubled relatives or friends who are finding them particularly difficult, sullen, depressed or hysterical and cannot find a reason for such abnormal behaviour. This is where the psychologist's aid is essential. In short, the aim and work of the hospital is to help restore the self-confidence of those with nerve disorders by discovering what is causing the tumult within them and endeavouring to remedy it and restore them to a balanced state of mind.

Following this absorbing talk on which we were invited to ask questions, we were shown round the training school. In one of the classes we saw students practising bandaging under the supervision of the Sister Tutor. It was a spacious and pleasant room and at one side were beds with realistic life-size models of humans in them. The nurses can practise dressings on these models, give them blanket baths, make their beds and learn to lift them in the correct way.

A demonstration in electro-encephalography followed. The machine is a complicated apparatus which is used to record the impulses of the brain. It has primarily as its visible parts a number of dials and a rectangular aperture through which pass reams of paper on to which special pens record a series of wavy lines which vary in depth when a person is breathing normally from when he is blinking, sleeping or having a fit of any kind. Experienced doctors can discover much about a patient's disorder by the difference in depth and intensity of these lines, as each line is a recording from a part of the brain—such as the parts dealing with intelligence or personality. It is worked by the attachment of electrodes to various parts of the skull by means of a harness strapped to the head.

This demonstration had been preceded by a lecture in the psychology department on intelligence, personality and diagnostic tests. In order to help a person his amount of intelligence must first be estimated because it is difficult to benefit him at all if his level of understanding is unknown. The tests used for diagnosing a person's intelligence are fascinating. There are many different ones, the first ones being extremely simple while later ones are progressively harder. One type of test shows a series of

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symbols in which the sequence is broken by a gap while in a space below a series of symbols are drawn in a haphazard arrangement. The correct one to fill the gap above must be chosen. In another test the patient is shown pictures and immediately he has seen each he has to say what it brings to mind. These are not true pictures but reproductions in black and white of ink blots. They are also shown real pictures about which they tell short stories. A test which demands speed and accuracy is one in which the patient must remove dozens and dozens of pegs from one side of a board with slots in it to the other side. There is also a fairly stiff vocabulary test and general knowledge test and a variety of other tests similar to the above examples. I realised that these tests are not the frightening ordeal I had previously thought them, and feel I could safely reassure anyone who was nervous of seeing a psychologist.

The outstanding part of the day came when Dr. Spaul performed the electro-convulsive therapy treatment, under scoline, on an actual patient. We all stood around in a small room and with bated breath watched—fascinated—while the doctor gave the patient an injection with the anæsthetic and fixed a clamp on her head from which wires attached to the electrical apparatus extended. The shock was over in a matter of seconds and

the only noticeable sign in the patient was that her body was trembling with slightly jerky movements.

Occupational therapy plays a large part in the treatment of patients at this hospital. We visited the workshops in which the different occupations were being taught. The men working in the carpentry department struck me as being the most talented. The patients seemed quite happy on the whole and very interested in their work. In the pottery department there were men and women who appeared to be recuperating rapidly and, as in all the other departments, were remarkably skilled in their craft. We also visited the weaving, basket making and rug making rooms where exquisite articles were being produced. After talking to a number of the patients it became obvious that each one's personality and suitability to the craft he was learning had been carefully studied by the medical staff.

Before leaving we were shown the operating theatre which is one of the most beautifully equipped that I have ever seen. We then saw the Radiography Department and we were surprised at the colossal amount of enormous equipment.

As a resumé I should like to say that wonderful work is being performed at this hospital, and that any doctor or nurse should be proud to work in such a busy

and lively community, in which the main theme is to restore to healthy happiness those who through some misfortune have been unable to face life properly.

P.H.

BOOKHAM BREVITIES

Bookhamites leave for Canada.

We are sorry to lose Mrs. Valerie Bartlett, who has gone to Vancouver to join her husband, Colin, who has been there for some months. Mrs. N. Cox will miss her daughter and granddaughter, and the Over Twenties Club a youthful and energetic member. Another recent arrival in Vancouver is Mr. Les. Penegar, who was a popular figure at Community Association functions and represented the Labour Party on the Council of the Association. After a lengthy period of training, and experience as probation officer in Bethnal Green, he has taken a similar post in Vancouver.

Miss Doris Longhurst has also left us to take up new work in Victoria, British Columbia. As a member of an old local family she was well known in the village and her tireless work in the Supporters' Club of the Football Club will be remembered for a long time.

We wish them every success. **'Engagement.** We extend our good wishes to Gillian, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Horsey, on her engagement to Mr. Michael White, of West Down, Devon.

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Mr. White is in Blantyre, Nyasaland, and Gillian will be flying out there in the New Year for her marriage.

Beekeeper's Success. We congratulate Mr. E. E. Oldershaw on winning 1st prize for two 1-lb. jars of medium honey in the Surrey County Beekeepers' Association Exhibition at the National Honey Show at Caxton Hall, Westminster.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Ball leave Bookham. Our good wishes go to Mr. and Mrs. P. Ball who are now residing at Surbiton. During the many years they lived in Bookham they did outstanding work for the village. As a Producer Mrs. Ball lifted dramatic work in Bookham to a high level and contributed to the great success of the W.I. Drama Group. Mr. P. Ball was founder chairman of the B.C.A. Gramophone Club which, under his direction, made a signal contribution to the cultural life of the neighbourhood. He also gave great assistance to the Camera Club and was ready to help at all times the cause of the Community Association. They leave a gap which will be difficult to fill.

Apologies. We regret an error on page II of the September issue and offer our apologies. Paragraph 2 should read: To Major Douglas Stuart Paton, R.A.M.C., and Mrs. Stuart Paton.

Bookham Old Tyme Dance Club.

This Club has made a good start to the new season. By the beginning of October there were 47 members. Parties of visitors have been welcomed to the monthly dances at Church House and the Club has sent parties to other clubs. New members will be welcomed every Wednesday evening at the Barn Hall.

Coffee Party at Old Barn Hall.

To inaugurate the beginning of the Community Association year a most successful coffee party was held at the Barn Hall and it is suggested that this shall be repeated periodically. Amongst those specially invited were the distributors of the *Bulletin* who for so many years have carried out faithfully what would seem an unspectacular job. There were also present the new street stewards who have taken on the task of collecting subscriptions, members of the Association's Groups and Committee, as well as representatives from the affiliated organisations.

A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOKHAM, SURREY

By JOHN HARVEY

(PART 16)

(All rights reserved to the Author)

Little survives, apart from monuments in Great Bookham

Church, of seventeenth-century Bookham. Much has been swept away or altered beyond recognition. The mansion of the Howards at Eastwick has gone, and likewise the new Polesden of 1631.* Few of the smaller houses are distinctively of the century, though there is reason to suspect that The Tyrrells may have been rebuilt by the Francis Terrell or Terrill, of Leatherhead, maltster, who in 1665 bought the house with an orchard and 10 acres of land for £110. By far the most distinguished survivor is the remnant of Slyfield House which, though it certainly incorporates parts of the earlier mansion, belongs architecturally to two main periods of work in c. 1620-40 and c. 1660-65 (the added eastern wing with its giant order of pilasters), while the panelling of the dining room probably belongs to Dr. Shortrudge's occupancy just after 1700. The old great hall, with half of the courtyard ranges, was destroyed in 1743-44.†

A number of surviving trees may have begun their growth between 1600 and 1700, and one certainly did: the great elm at the south-west corner of Great Bookham churchyard, planted in 1627 by Ralph Hilder the churchwarden, as the first Register Book

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records. But, apart from the much older yew at Little Bookham, there can be few earlier than 1700, though about that time many trees still alive must have been planted in the newly formed Eastwick Park.

It is in the second quarter of the century that the extant parish Registers begin for both Great and Little Bookham. They await detailed study, but it may be said that they contain few marginalia or comments other than a rare identification with a particular house or entries such as "Sr. Fras. Howard, Lord of the manor of Great Bookham, was buried the tenth day of July anno domini 1651," or "Lance eillard duelake (i.e. Lancelot du Lake) Pridchard of the parish of Rygait and Margrett Ponder of the parish of Horsham in Susix Married by the Vertue of a Licence Aprell ye 26th 1698." The end of an old family is recorded in "1647 Edmond Slyfeild Esq: was Buried the first day of December."

The parish books for Great Bookham begin to record the names of churchwardens, overseers of the poor and, from 1649, surveyors of highways, while the Court Rolls similarly name the constable, headboroughs (for the tithings of Bookham, Eastwick and Woodward), taster of bread and ale, and pinder or pound-keeper. While the last two offices were commonly held for a number of years in succession, the

other manorial officers were appointed for a single year. Of the parish officers, the Vicar's warden generally functioned for two years, the surveyors occasionally for two, and the overseers often for two or more. At times the People's warden might be re-elected for a second term, but this was exceptional. It was extremely rare for the same man to hold manorial and parochial office simultaneously, though Henry Sheires was both headborough of Northend (the earlier 'Woodwards') and People's warden in 1683-84, and in 1695-96 John Peter, People's warden in this and the next year, was also constable, and William Heath, an overseer, headborough for Eastwick. Heath had been an overseer in 1664, 1665, 1668, 1669 and 1683, churchwarden in 1678 and 1679, and surveyor in 1692; John Peter had served as headborough of Bookham in 1680-81 and 1688-89, as surveyor in 1692, and was to be an overseer in 1699, surveyor again in 1700. Several other villagers took an unduly heavy share of public duties, probably in return for financial compensation from wealthier neighbours unwilling to serve. On the other hand Sir George Shiers, baronet, actually served as Vicar's warden in 1685. A sidelight upon literacy is thrown by the entry for the election of Thomas Wood of Yewtrees the younger as churchwarden at Easter, 1633, when (Sir)

Francis Howard and four others signed, while 13 parishioners made their marks, all different and in no case a mere cross; in one case (Henrie Ellis) the mark consists of the initials linked as a monogram.

The size of Bookham towards the end of the century is shown by the Hearth Tax assessments: that of 1664 shows 65 persons chargeable in Great Bookham and 20 not, while Little Bookham had 16 and 5, implying a total of 106 houses in the two parishes. Sir Charles Howard (at Eastwick) and Mrs. Anne Rowse (Polesden) had 12 hearths each, but Mrs. Mary Sheires (Slyfield) had 17 and the Vicarage 4; out of the grand total of 106 houses, 44 had but a single hearth, 30 had two each, 10 had three and 13 had four; at Little Bookham the largest house, with five hearths, was that occupied by the Rector, Mr. Hindle (James Hindle or Henlay, 1641-70). That over 40 per cent. of the houses in Bookham had but a single hearth, and nearly a quarter belonged to householders too poor to be charged tax, to some extent bears out the impression given by the surveys and other documents, of a community still largely mediæval and comprising a high proportion of 'little men'.

* See F. B. Benger in *Proceedings* Leatherhead and Dist. Local History Soc., Vol. I, No. 9, 1955, pp. 25-29.

† Surrey Record Office, Slyfield Chest, Accounts of Trustees.

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Christmas Parties

JANUARY 4th

Community Association
Children's Party (afternoon)
Teenagers (evening)

JANUARY 18th:

Community Association
Members Party

FEBRUARY 11th

Grove Association Parties

JANUARY 24th

W.I. Members Party

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bookham Community Assn.

Friday, February 14th, 1958

BARN HALL 8-15 p.m.



Election of Officers.

Reports.

General Business

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(Affiliated to the Community
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Choral Society. Mrs. L. Gordon
Davies, Briary House, Eastwick
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Fetcham.

**Conservative Association, Gt. Book-
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Clovelly, Downsway.

Football Club. R. S. Young, Santa
Cruz, Sole Farm Road.

Grove Association. Miss U. Dean, 40
Dorking Rd.

Girl Guides. Mrs. Rossner, Benedict,
Woodlands Rd.

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eron, No. 3 Rayleigh House.

3rd Pack, Miss P. Dye, School of
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Rangers: Mrs. Pelling, Beckley Cot.,
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Labour Party, Bookham Ward. J.
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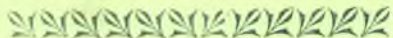


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