READ THE SERIAL STORY by David Whitelaw On Page 3.

CUMNOCK EXPRESS

AND AUCHINLECK, CATRINE, MAUCHLINE, MUIRKIRK, NEW CUMNOCK, OCHILTREE, STAIR AND KIRKCONNEL PRESS

FOOTBALL NOTES by "BATMAN" On Page 8.

No. 1. Registration Applied for. CUMNOCK EXPRESS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1934. Phone: 99. PRICE ONE PENNY.

DEATH.

SIMPSON.—At 115 Southbrae Drive, Jordanhill, Glasgow, on 2nd December, William Simpson, aged 73 years, late of Minas de Camargo, Santander, Spain.

IN MEMORIAM.

HUME.—In loving memory of our dear wife and mother, who passed away on 11th December, 1933.
—Inserted by her Husband, Son, and Daughter-in-Law. — Townhead Street, Cumnock.

When the day of toil is done,
When the race of life is run,
Father, grant Thy weary one
Rest for evermore.

MORRIS COWLEY 11-9 H.P., in good condition, with Detachable Van Body, £6. Bargain. Seen at Smithy, Townhead, Cumnock.

VISIT

WILLIAM BUCK'S,
Gentlemen's Hairdressing Saloon,
The Square, CUMNOCK.

The Perfect Fixative
BUKREME
Obtainable only at this Saloon.
Price for Bottle, 1/-.

FISH FOR BRAINS!

T. M'CAUGHIE,
FISHMONGER,
1 Gray St., CUMNOCK.

FINEST QUALITY OF ALL FISH FRESH DAILY. POULTRY, ETC.

Orders Promptly Attended.
Van Calls Daily.

BLACK BULL HOTEL,
THE SQUARE, CUMNOCK.

Marriage Parties Specially Catered for.
Regular Boarders at Moderate Rates.
Breakfasts, Luncheons, Teas, Dinners. Excellent Cuisine.
Whiskies, Wines, Liqueurs, Etc., at Usual Prices.
Personal Supervision at All Times.
Phone: 24 Cumnock.

LOOK OUT FOR
LABOUR SOCIAL.
FRIDAY, 28th DECEMBER.
LESSER TOWN HALL.

Cumnock Municipal Bank, Ltd.
Chairman - - The Provost.

HOW IT GROWS.

Year.	Deposits.
1929	£1705—June 30
1930	£3158
1931	£3523
1932	£4302
1933	£5790
1934	£7531—Decr. 1

BEST RATES IN DISTRICT.

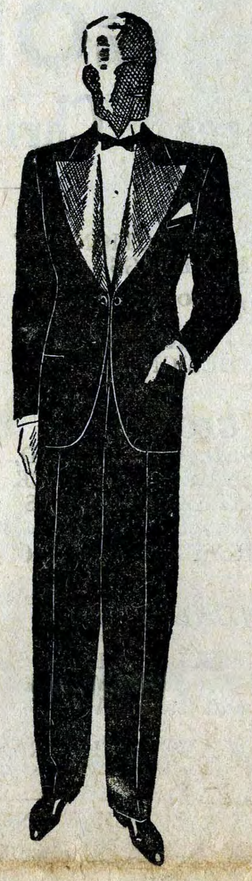
Agent: JAMES GIBB, Gibb's Printery. Next Post Office, Cumnock.

ROSES, FRUIT BUSHES, ETC.

ROSES, CLIMBING, DWARF, and POLYANTHUS.
Over 50 Varieties to choose from.
FRUIT BUSHES, BLACK and RED CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, RASPS; also STRAWBERRIES.
ORNAMENTAL PLANTS for XMAS.
Customers own Bulb Bowls filled. (Bulbs now coming into Flower).
HOLLY WREATHS, CROSSES, ETC. Our Own Make.

BRUCE,
Market Gardens,
Auchinleck Rd., CUMNOCK.
Phone 93.

DISTINCTIVE TAILORING—



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Smart, comfortable, immaculately tailored Dinner Jacket Suits and Dress Suits designed to give the wearer ultra smartness with the maximum amount of comfort.

The very latest subtleties of style in Dress Wear are embodied in every one of our models, and only the latest cloths of the very highest order are used in the making.

Dinner Jacket Suits from £4 10/-
Dress Suits . . . . from £6 10/-

Shirts, Vests, Scarfs, Ties, Studs, Sleeve Links

Breckenridge & Henderson
61-63 Glaisnock St., CUMNOCK.

JAMES McGRADY
9 THE SQUARE, OLD CUMNOCK.

The Old Established Firm with the reputation for keeping the Largest and Most Varied Stock of all the Best-known Makes in the Trade including

LOTUS, DELTA, "K," QUEEN, DIANA, GIPSY QUEEN, KORCET and GRENSON.

Arch Support Shoes stocked in all above makes.

WE ALSO SPECIALISE IN WIDE-FITTING SHOES.

We have on hand a very BEAUTIFUL SELECTION of
SLIPPERS SUITABLE FOR XMAS GIFTS.
For MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN at Prices to Suit All Purses.

Why you MUST try
"CRAWFORD'S"
One-Day Cleaning!

1. IT IS SPEEDY
   We Collect To-day, Clean To-morrow, and Deliver the Day after.
2. IT IS THOROUGH
   Leaves Clothes Free from Oily, Dust-collecting Film.
3. IT DOES NOT SHRINK GARMENTS OR CAUSE COLOURS TO RUN.
4. IT IS UTTERLY ODOURLESS.
5. IT IS THE MOST EFFICIENT AND ECONOMICAL DRY-CLEANING SERVICE OFFERED.

Agent: Miss JACKSON, Glaisnock Street, CUMNOCK
5 Beresford Terrace, Ayr. Phone 3315.

Winner of over 40 Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals and Diplomas at London and Leading Exhibitions.

ROBERT STODDART,
Baker and Confectioner
—— AND ——
Wedding Cake Specialist,
12 GLAISNOCK ST., CUMNOCK.

Let us Pack for Posting
OUR FAMOUS SHORTBREAD
in Tartan Sealed Tins
4 Cakes, 2/6. -:- 6 Cakes, 3/9.
8 Cakes, 4/9.
Shortbread Fingers, in Tartan Boxes, 1/9.

LARGE ASSORTMENT OF ICED XMAS CAKES, SCOTCH BUNS, PLUM, SULTANA, CHERRY, DUNDEE, PARADISE, ETC.

—:— THE OLD FIRM —:—
GILLESPIE & SONS,
DOWN THE PAWN STAIRS

EXPRESS their regrets in not being able to give a detailed List of the many Bargains at Throwaway Prices. Xmas Presents, not Ornamental but very useful—Huge Variety of same can be inspected any time. A little goes a long way.
Once a Customer always a Customer.
Satisfaction Guaranteed.

LINEN PILLOW-CASES, Coloured Borders—3/11 to 4/6 Set. In Boxes.
LINEN TABLE-COVERS, 4 NAPKINS; Various Shades—5/6, 6/6. In Boxes.
LINEN TEA-SET, 4 NAPKINS. In Boxes—4/6.
SILK TEA APRON; All Colours—1/11. In Boxes.
LADIES' GLOVES; All Styles and Colours—4/6, 5/6, 6/11 to 8/11 Pr.
LADIES' SILK KNICKERS; All Shades—1/11½d. In Boxes.
LADIES' SILK STOCKINGS; Lovely Quality—1/11½d. In Boxes.
KIDDIES' SILK PYJAMAS—27 in., 30 in., 33 in. In Boxes—3/6 Suit.
LADIES' WOOL DRESSES; All Colours; From 12/11.
LADIES' SILK VESTS; All Colours—1/11½d.
LADIES' GAYFAST COLOURED HANDKERCHIEFS—6d Each.

Something for Everybody at Prices to Suit all Purses.

OUR BUYER IS FOLLOWING THE MARKETS AND PICKING THE PLUMS OF THE TRADE.

Never were Goods offered at Better Value than To-day.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY AT
GILLESPIE & SONS, Down The Pawn Stairs.

BEAUTIFUL PERMANENT WAVES.

EVERY woman can be the proud possessor of beautifully waved hair adorned with close, soft curls if she chooses a **KERKA** Wave. This long established system of Permanent Waving brings lasting beauty. Whether your hair is dark or fair, auburn or grey, the natural gloss is maintained and no discoloration takes place.

Phone 36.

NAN M'CULLEY,
67 Barrhill Road, CUMNOCK.
THE FINEST SYSTEM OF PERMANENT WAVING IN THE WORLD.

Livingstone Hastings,
37 GLAISNOCK STREET,
Can MEAT all your requirements.

STEAMING HOT PIES, STRAIGHT FROM BAKER'S OVEN.
PRIME ROAST BEEF, MUTTON, AND PORK.
PICKLED ROLLS AND TONGUES.
PORK STUFFING FOR FOWLS.
COOKED MEATS OUR SPECIALITY.

Our Cooking ensures that the full Quality and Flavour is maintained.

Grade A Ayrshire Bacon. Second to None.

ALL SLICED TO SUIT CUSTOMERS TASTE WITH BERKEL SLICING MACHINE.

Sausages Make a Meal, when HASTINGS Makes the Sausages.

CUMNOCK U.F. CHURCH.

SALE OF WORK

IN

LESSER TOWN HALL,

ON

SATURDAY, 15th DEC.

Opening Ceremony at 2.30 by Mrs BARTON of Ayr.

ADMISSION - - - **2d.**

Goods of every description at reasonable prices suitable for Christmas Gifts. Refreshments obtainable during Sale.

LUGAR PARISH CHURCH
WOMAN'S GUILD.

AT HOME

will be held in the

INSTITUTE

on

WEDNESDAY, 12th DEC., at 7.30 p.m.

Tea Tickets, 1/-. Doors open, 7 p.m.

Work made during session will be on sale.

CUMNOCK OLD CHURCH.

FRIDAY, 7.30—

Preparatory Service and Admission of Catechumens.

The Rev. W. G. ALEXANDER.
The Rev. J. D. M'CLYMONT.

SUNDAY, 11.15—

HOLY COMMUNION.

RETIRING OFFERING FOR POOR.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

All farmers who produce milk should have their Forms A.1. now completed and sent to the Marketing Board as near the first day of the month as possible. It enables the accountants' department to get on with the "pool," and further enables an early pronouncement of the average price for the month's milk—and, of course, the prompt payment of the cheque on the 21st.

* * *

Those creameries which return "milk lines" in lbs. give our farmers some trouble. Apart from an extra column of figures to add, the transference of pounds into gallons is an arithmetical manipulation which the farmer dreads. Yet it is simple.

* * *

The Board has decreed that 10¼ lbs. of milk shall equal one gallon, therefore the farmer only needs to add a "0" to the end of his total pounds and divide by 103. Quite simple.

* * *

Will the milk price for November of this year beat the price of this month last year—the first month of the Board's activity? Many producers think if they receive 1s per gallon, clear, they will be more than satisfied.

* * *

Is a farmer ever satisfied?

* * *

The mildness of November has been most unseasonable. Many farmers think the weather will be "blustery" and retard work later on.

* * *

However, the mild weather tends to shorten the winter.

* * *

Flockmasters are pleased. The tups are now on the hills, and making progress.

* * *

The East Coast producers are not to be so easy to deal with as was hoped. They definitely say they are breaking away, and arrangements are being made towards the formation of a Board to operate in the East of Scotland.

* * *

We think that with common sense and tolerance one Board could serve Scotland.

* * *

Next week we hope to discuss East versus West. Also the fat stock show which opened on Wednesday in Edinburgh.

———:o:———

Milk Board's Action Fails.

An action raised by the Scottish Milk Marketing Board against an Angus distributor was the subject of a judgment given by Lord Moncrieff in the Court of Session on Tuesday. The Board sued John Ferguson, Clayholes, Carnoustie, for count and reckoning and for payment of £400 in respect of milk supplied to him between March 1 and July 31 last.

After the milk scheme came into operation the defender continued to deal in succession with one or other or both of the producers of milk who had supplied him.

His contracts with those producers were said by him to have been verbal and to have provided that payment for the milk supplied should be made to the producers direct. He claimed that direct payment to the producers for all the milk which they had supplied had in fact been made by him in full.

The pursuers contended that the defender had been acting in direct contravention of the provisions of the scheme, and despite express intimation in writing that all the payments must be made to them.

Lord Moncrieff granted absolvitor. His Lordship said that the defender was not a producer but a distributor of milk, and expressed the opinion that he was not, unless indirectly, subject to control by the Board in his commercial transactions, and that his plea of being under no obligation to count and reckon with the pursuers could be sustained upon consideration of the statutes and of the scheme and without inquiry into the fact.

- Picture House -

CUMNOCK.

TO-MORROW (SATURDAY)—
EDDIE CANTOR in
ROMAN SCANDALS.

MONDAY and TUESDAY—
GLORIA STUART in
I LIKE IT THAT WAY.

WEDNESDAY—
DISRAELI.

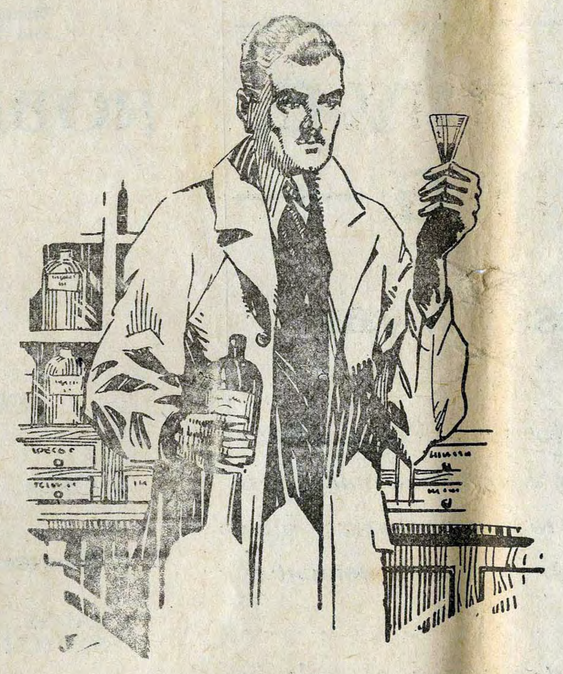
AUCHINLECK.

TO-MORROW (SATURDAY)—
ROBERT ARMSTRONG in
SON OF KONG.

MONDAY and TUESDAY—
GEORGE ARLISS in
DISRAELI.

WEDNESDAY—
I LIKE IT THAT WAY.

SEE WINDOW BILLS.



W. O. KAY & SON, LTD.,

Chemists,

Glaisnock St., ———— CUMNOCK.

Phone 81.

THE CHOICEST CLASS OF

PROVISIONS

ALWAYS IN STOCK AT

William McCubbin's,

Family Grocer, Tea and Provision Merchant,

GLAISNOCK STREET, CUMNOCK.

Great Variety of Christmas Cakes.

Fancy Biscuits in Boxes—all Prices.

Sinclair's and Biggar's Finest Qualities FINEST SMOKED HAM.
Finest AYRSHIRE BACON. BUTTER and EGGS.

CHEDDAR CHEESE of unequallel quality.

TINNED FRUITS in variety. See Windows for Prices.

Try our famed 2/- TEA—A Perfect Treat.

ORDERS CALLED FOR AND DELIVERED FREE BY OUR OWN VANS.

XMAS GIFTS.

If you wish to spend a little less than usual, but at the same time want your Gift to be as good, then it will Pay You to visit us.

We have definitely the Finest and most Up-to-date Stock of China and Crystal goods in town——and the Prices are as fine.

COME IN AND LOOK AROUND.

Pick your Gift and we will reserve it till Xmas.
You are always welcome at

WILSON'S, :: 26 Glaisnock St.

THE FESTIVE SEASON IS HERE!

ENSURE ATTRACTIVENESS BY MAKING YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW WITH

Betty & Nancy Reid,

Hairdressing Specialists,

TO HAVE

A Whole Head Perm, 12/6.

OR

Macdonald Perm, 21/-; Eugene Perm, 16/-,

OIL MASSAGE. FRICTION. SETTING. WATER-WAVING.
BOBBING. SHINGLING. POINTING and SINGEING.

78 Glaisnock St., CUMNOCK.

Phone 76.

Telephone: 98 Cumnock.

G. LEITCH & SON,
Grain & Seed Merchants,
Poultry Food.

Ayr Road,
CUMNOCK, 3rd December, 1934.

To users of our "Supreme" Poultry Mash and all others interested.

Dear Sirs,—

The Hatching Season has now commenced, and in a short time all Poultry Keepers will be in the midst of their busiest season.

We would like to draw your attention to our Chicken Mash.

It is an ideal, and essential supplement to Dry Chick Food.

It is easily assimilated and may be fed wet or dry. Besides being a blend in scientific balance of the best cereal meals and protein concentrates, it is properly mineralised, and is impregnated with the Finest British Cod Liver Oil.

This Vitamin-rich, disease-resisting, mortality-reducing ingredient is of priceless value. Money cannot get you better value than in our "Supreme" Chicken Mash.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE LEITCH & SON.
(Robert M. Leitch).

GOLDIE'S

Great Christmas Attractions

A FINE SELECTION OF
HANDBAGS
2/6 to 18/6.

EVENING BAGS—MODERN DESIGNS.

GLOVES

FUR-LINED, WOOL LINED, FUR-TRIMMED, FUR-BACK and LEATHER PULL-ONS

Prices from 4/6 to 18/6.

HANDKERCHIEFS

BEAUTIFUL DESIGNS.
In all the Newest Colourings for Evening and General Wear.

AN ATTRACTIVE RANGE OF TARTAN NOVELTIES FOR **"A FRIEN' AWA'."**

LADIES' ART. SILK UNDERWEAR, NIGHTDRESSES, PYJAMAS, AND VESTS.
LUMBER JACKETS, UMBRELLAS, STOCKINGS, AND DRESSING-GOWNS.

MEN'S DEPT.

GLOVES, HANDKERCHIEFS, TIES, PYJAMAS, SOCKS, SHIRTS, PULL-OVERS, ETC.
A SPLENDID CHOICE.

TOYS for THE BAIRNS.

At GOLDIE'S, ———— The Square, CUMNOCK.

CUMNOCK EXPRESS.

Installation of Electric Light and Power by

Messrs COWAN & LINTON, LTD.,

Electrical and Automobile Engineers,

54 AYR ROAD, CUMNOCK.

The Established Electrical Firm of the District.

Let us have your enquiries.

Estimates Free.

Phone: 50 Cumnock.

Telephone No. 21.

Alex. Muir & Son,

Grocers and Wine Merchants,

OLD CUMNOCK.

NOTICE TO BIRD LOVERS.

We are stocking full range of Capern's Foods, remedies and tonics (Bird and Fish); also full range of the famed **GLENYKAGE BIRD CAGES & STANDS.**

Could there be a better **CHRISTMAS PRESENT** for a Kiddie than a pair of **LOVE BIRDS** and **CAGE?**

The Birds are all Pedigree-bred by Capern's people, and **Two Days' Notice is all we require.**

ALEX. MUIR & SON.

Public Personages. *No. 1.*

LORD JOHN CRICHTON-STUART, EARL OF DUMFRIES

LORD JOHN CRICHTON-STUART, Earl of Dumfries, was born at Mount Stuart, Rothesay, on 4th August, 1907.

He spent his boyhood days between there and Dumfries House, Cumnock.

He was educated at Downside, and Christ Church, Oxford; and after his coming-of-age on 4th August, 1928, finished his education at Edinburgh University.

His coming-of-age celebrations commenced at Cardiff in July, but were mainly held in Bute where he was given the Freedom of Rothesay. After that his lordship came to Cumnock where he received deputations and presentations from the Cumnock Merchants' Association and the tenants and employees of the Dumfries Estate and the Mochrum Estate, Wigtonshire.

On 26th April, 1932, he was married to Lady Eileen Beatrice Forbes, and brought his charming Irish bride to take up residence at Dumfries House, Cumnock, on 28th December, 1933.

The Earl has many and varied public activities. Since its reconstitution under the De-Rating Act in 1930 he has been a member of the Bute County Council and serves on four of its committees; an officer of the Bute Light Battery (Territorial Army) since 1928; once President and now Hon. President of the Bute Agricultural Society; and was for two years President of the Cardiff Caledonian Society. He was the founder, in 1928, of the Bute Sheep-Dog Trials Association, and has been President of this Association since its formation. He is also

connected with the North Bute Shinty Club and Bute County Cricket Club.

The Earl does not confine his public services to Buteshire.

He is a member of the King's Bodyguard for Scotland (Royal Company of Archers); member of Edinburgh Ayrshire Society; Fellow of the Zoological Society; member of British Ornithological Union; Fellow of the British Society of Aviculture; member of the Highland and Agricultural Society; and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (Scotland).

Despite his numerous duties his lordship shoots practically every day. He is a member of the Eglinton Hunt, and is a keen follower of the hounds as is evidenced in his having hunted the wild fox in eight different countries—Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, and Morocco. This will be almost a record.

His chief interest, however, is Ornithology, and in pursuit of his studies of Bird Life he has twice been to his island of St Kilda this past summer. He took many photographs and made many records of the bird life there which he intends publishing sometime in the future. In this connection he is a member of the Council of the Buteshire Natural History Society and is Curator of the Bird Section of their museum in Rothesay. Needless to say, there is an aviary at Dumfries House.

Although he has but recently entered his twenty-eighth year the Earl has seen a great deal of the world, having travelled all over North and South America and Canada. He has been through the famous Panama Canal, France, Spain, Portugal, Madeira, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, French and Spanish Morocco, and the International Zone of Tangier.

On coming to Cumnock his lordship intimated that it was the desire of the Countess and himself to associate themselves with the affairs of the town. This desire has already been fulfilled as on several occasions either or both have made public appearances in the district.

In conversation the Earl of Dumfries gives one the impression that he is full of vitality. He speaks of things with the enthusiasm of interest, while his disposition to friendliness has already placed him high in the esteem of the people of Cumnock and district.

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THE WAY OF DANGER

By DAVID WHITELAW.

CHAPTER I.

"Watch out, Jake . . . it's curtain for you, sure, if you slip. Listen to that, will you?"

The slither of a dislodged fragment of rock, booming echoes and the dull splash of water. No other sounds save the thresh of the rain and the muted breaking of surf on rocks. Then the man addressed as Jake laughed, a thin, nervous trickle of laughter that held no merriment in it. He looked up. Dan Tregellan's face was a whitey-grey blob in the gloom. An evil face upon which the murky glow from the lantern, which he was holding out at arm's length over the yawning chasm, flickered and threw strange shadows . . . dead-looking, it was, with deep caverns of eye-sockets. The upper lip, a trick perhaps of that flickering light, seemed to be drawn back from the teeth in a snarling, crooked smile.

"Gee, Dan, I guess it'd be curtain all right. A guy wouldn't be found ever—not this side of kingdom come." The speaker paused for a moment. Then in a voice sunk to little more than a whisper. "Is this where you . . ."

The other man nodded.

"You're the only one that knows, Jake. I thought I ought to put you wise in case anything happens . . ."

"What do you mean . . . happens?"

Dan Tregellan shrugged his broad shoulders. He pushed out a foot and deliberately sent a small granite boulder hurtling into the depths. Again the echoes spelt out their sinister warning.

"Get me, Jake?"

"I get you, Dan. Let's be going. You'll wire me from Manchester?"

Dan Tregellan turned and clambered his way up through the darkness using the tough fronds of the bracken as hand and foothold. Then over the coping of a crumbling wall of stone and across moorland, matted with heather, to where a car was standing on the cliff road, the headlights showing misty yellow in the driving rain.

* * * * * *

Six o'clock.

In the Cheapside warehouse of the silk importing firm of Cotsford and Sons was that bustle and activity that heralds the close of the day's labours. Desk lids were being propped open, combs and lipsticks were making their appearances from all manner of unexpected places, little squares of mirror being brought into play. Ledgers and day-books were being collected and piled into their nightly shelter behind the big iron doors of the safes, and in a few minutes the employees of Messrs Cotsford would be trooping down the stairs to swell the great army of the homeward bound.

All but Brenda Freyne. There was enough work in her basket to keep her chained for another hour at least. Mr Noel Cotsford, the junior partner, had apologised for keeping her, but he had explained that he was leaving for a short holiday, and that arrears of work must be cleared up.

If ever a man looked as though he needed a holiday that man was Noel Cotsford, and yet Brenda Freyne thought that she had never seen a man who appeared to be less looking forward to one. There had been trouble, anxiety, showing in every line of Mr Noel's face during that afternoon. One does not act as confidential secretary to a man for two years without getting to read that man, and sometimes his thoughts, pretty well.

One by one the others called their good nights across the office and clattered downstairs to freedom. Ronald Slade, of the Shipping Department, was the last to leave. He stopped on his way to the door and stood by Brenda's desk.

"Be long, Brenda?"

"About an hour. The chief's off on a holiday, and you know how fussy he is about cleared desks. Eight o'clock didn't you say?"

The boy nodded.

"Vestibule of the Regal. The big picture starts about a quarter past eight. Guess it's about time the boss took a holiday. He's been like a bear with a sore head the last week, and so has old Hughes. What's wrong with Cotsfords anyway, Brenda?"

The girl paused for a moment as though considering her reply. Then:

"I think Mr Noel's worried about something . . ."

Young Slade leant closer across the desk.

"Look here, Brenda. I didn't tell you before, but I don't like the look of things. Business all going west. Travellers' reports all cock-eyed—say they can't sell the heavies anyhow. Hertzog's been undercutting. And listen, Brenda. I ran into Mr Noel in Regent Street the other night with a chap I wouldn't be seen dead with. Tough-looking thug with a jaw on him like a prize-fighter."

Brenda's head was bent over her papers. Curious that what Ronnie was telling her should fit in so with her own thoughts. Then she looked up with a laugh.

"Look here, Ronnie. Good little secretaries don't waste their time discussing their chief's business—or their friends. And I've got to finish filing these letters. Mr Noel says I can take a few days off while he's away . . . Slip along, Ronnie . . ."

Ronald Slade took up Brenda's little square of mirror, and carefully adjusted the set of the Old Baronians' tie of which he was so proud. With a nod he left Brenda to her task.

One by one the girl slipped the letters into their appointed places in the filing cabinet. The work was automatic, but Brenda performed it with neat dexterity. She had nearly finished when a small sheet of paper became detached from the sheaf she was holding in her hand and fluttered to the floor.

She stooped to pick it up and glanced at it, curiously, seeking for some name under which she could file it. It was a single sheet that looked as if it had been torn from a note book, and had formed evidently, one of a series of sheets that had made up a complete communication, and from which it had become detached. Then, almost before she was aware of what she was doing, Brenda found herself reading the few lines scribbled upon it:

". . . here in Manchester and I advise you not to move in the matter till I return. I've learnt a lot and there's more behind it than we thought. Murder for instance. I'm watched and I guess you are as well. Lie low . . . and keep the police out of this . . . You're right about H. . . ."

The paper fell from Brenda's nerveless fingers and lay on the office floor at her feet. She leant back against the filing cabinet as though for support, her little flower-like face white and strained. She called to mind Mr Noel's room as she had entered it that afternoon. The junior partner had been seated at his desk with an array of papers before him. The doors of his private safe had been standing wide open, she remembered, and in the empty grate she had noticed a tiny pile of grey ash still smouldering.

The girl passed chill finger tips across the heated furnace of her forehead. She stood staring stupidly down at the sheet of paper lying at her feet as though it were some noisome thing. What was she to do? To hand it back to Mr Noel would be embarrassing to them both. He would know that she had seen it . . . read it. There was a sinister ring about that word "police."

But she could not leave it lying on the floor for the cleaner to see when she came. She could not trust it to her own desk with its flimsy fastening. Mr Noel had gone and his office was locked so it was impossible for her to return and slip it in among his papers. For a moment she thought of destroying it but, for all she knew, it might be of some great importance to her employer.

Perhaps, after she had slept on the matter, the problem might be easier to solve and she might be able to see a way out of her dilemma. She would take the paper home with her that night and lock it away and try to forget all about it. She tucked it into the inner segment of her bag together with her flap-jack and lipstick and turned again to her unfinished task. The City clocks were striking seven when at last she came to an end.

It was while she was waiting on the kerb by the Bank that a bus passed her with the name "Knightsbridge" plainly lettered on its wayboard. That name gave Brenda an idea. Mr Noel lived in Knightsbridge—Tenby Mansions. If she were to place the scrap of paper in an envelope and drop it into his letter-box nobody would be the wiser. She would rid herself of a responsibility and Mr Noel would get back something that he would most certainly not care to have lying about.

And Brenda Freyne, being a person of quick decisions, boarded the bus and sat with the suede handle of her bag securely twined about her little, gloved fingers. There might be bag snatchers about and Brenda was taking no chances with what she had come to regard in the light almost of a sacred trust.

A prosaic vehicle enough, a bus, but as it threaded its way through the traffic of that October evening it had become, all unknown to Brenda Freyne, a chariot of romance . . . carrying her into the Realm of High Adventure.

* * * * * *

To reach Tenby Mansions one has to turn down a short alleyway leading off Knightsbridge and then under an arched entrance into a courtyard around which the great new block of luxury flats rears its head in red-bricked arrogance. It was under this arch that a man who had been standing in the shadows thrown by the hanging lamp moved aside and, for a moment, peered forward into Brenda's face as she passed. She was startled, but the incident was trivial and, after all, what was there to call for particular notice in a man loitering in the entrance to a West End block of flats?

Nothing . . . at the time. It was only later that the thing came back to Brenda's mind, linking up with other things of that amazing evening and bringing again into her mind the words of Ronnie Slade . . . "tough-looking thug with a jaw on him like a prize-fighter."

But at the time Brenda merely took a tighter grip of the handle of her precious bag and hurried forward to where the entrance to the flats shone yellow in the night. On her way she had stopped at a tea-shop and asked for an envelope, a cheap affair it had been, bearing no identification marks, and she had this into which she had placed the mysterious sheet of paper, ready in her hand to slip into the letter-box of Number 24. It was close on eight o'clock . . . she would have to hurry if she wanted to meet Ronnie and not miss the big picture.

The lift, the girl was relieved to find, was at one of the upper floors and, crossing the luxuriously-appointed vestibule, Brenda passed up the carpeted stairs, scanning the number boards on the landings, her envelope held ready. Number 24 was on the third floor and it was as Brenda turned on to the landing of the second that she heard steps descending the stairs above and the next moment her name was called.

"Why, Miss Freyne, what on earth brings you here? Fire in Cheapside—or is it burglars?"

And then seeing that the girl was leaning against the newel post of the banisters and was showing signs of distress, Noel Cotsford came a step forward. He took her by the arm and, turning, led her up the third flight of stairs and along a corridor to a room the door of which bore in brass numerals the figures 24. He said nothing until he had piloted her to a comfortable chair by the fire in the sitting-room. Even then it was the girl who broke the silence.

"I'm quite all right, Mr Noel . . ."

Noel Cotsford had crossed the room and was busy before the open doors of a walnut cocktail cabinet. He came back to her, smiling, a slender-stemmed glass in his hand.

"Of course you're all right. Here, drink this, and then you can tell me what it's all about. Another minute and you'd have missed me."

Brenda was on the point of saying that she wished she had when the young man's eyes fell on the envelope that had slipped to the ground. He picked it up and looked at the address scrawled upon it in block letters. She watched him slit it open, noted the look of blank amazement that passed over his face as he took out the enclosure, saw his cheeks redden, then fade to a curious pallor.

When he turned to the girl in the chair, his face was stern and set in hard lines.

"I don't want to bother you, Miss Freyne, if you're not feeling fit, but, naturally, I'd like to hear how this came into your possession."

She made a despairing little gesture.

"It was in your letter-basket, and I didn't want you to know that I'd seen it. It . . . seemed sort of private. I thought of posting it, and then I thought you'd get it quicker if I put it into your box to-night. I wanted to forget all about having seen it. I . . . I think I'll go now, Mr Noel."

The man crumpled the paper into a ball and tossed it on to the coals. Then he walked to the window and, drawing aside the curtains the fraction of an inch, glanced down into the courtyard. Brenda saw the grim set of Noel Cotsford's lips, the wariness of his action when parting the curtains.

"Are you looking for a man; a big, dark man?"

Brenda heard her own voice almost before she knew that she was speaking. Ronnie Slade's words to her that evening; the man lurking in the archway; Noel Cotsford's manner. Something was whispering to Brenda Freyne that she was standing on the edge of tragedy, that tremendous things were about to happen.

Noel Cotsford wheeled round and faced her.

"How much do you know?" he asked.

"I don't know anything, Mr Noel . . . and I don't want to know anything. I saw you looking down there and . . . well, I thought of a man I'd seen as I came in."

Noel Cotsford smiled and lighted a cigarette. He handed his case across to the girl, but she shook her head.

"I guess, Miss Freyne, that if I hadn't met you out there on the stairs just now I'd have been lying down in that courtyard with a knife between my ribs and police whistles would be shrilling up and down Knightsbridge. So, Miss Freyne, my very best thanks. Don't talk for a minute. I want to think this thing out."

She leant back in the deep-seated chair and watched him as he paced the room. This was a mood with which she was quite familiar, this pacing to and fro while she was taking dictation in Cheapside and the junior partner had been faced with some knotty problem concerning some business deal. It was almost as though she were seated there waiting with notebook in hand.

She looked round the room. A large suit-case already half packed, stood on the rug before the fire-place, the drawers of the bureau were open and Brenda saw with a little chill of fear that a small black automatic, an evil, stubby-looking thing, lay on the blotter. The hands of the clock on the mantelpiece pointed to a quarter past eight . . . a quarter past eight . . . Where had she heard something about a quarter past eight? Of course, Ronnie had told her that was the time the big picture at the Regal was billed to begin . .

The big picture! Brenda smiled a little grimly to herself. She wondered whether the Regal could show her anything to beat a white-faced man pacing the carpet of a West End flat, an automatic pistol lying on a blotter, and a thug-like gentleman lurking in the shadows of an archway.

"Broad shoulders, had he?"

The question was shot at Brenda and brought the girl back from her thoughts. There had been no doubt about the broad shoulders. They had towered above her like a battleship as the man had peered into her face. She nodded.

"Yes. And I fancy he was wearing a spotted muffler. It was rather dark . . ."

"Thought so. I'm going to ask you to do something for me, Miss Freyne. You've been dragged into this mess and I'm sincerely sorry. But I'm not going to waste time in explaining . . . One minute while I write a letter."

He turned to the bureau and for a few moments there was no sound save the scratching of pen on paper. Then Noel Cotsford read through what he had written, sealed it in an envelope, addressed it, and handed it to the girl in the chair.

"I want you to take this letter to Wigmore Street to-morrow afternoon. Don't give it to anybody but Mr Bristow himself—personally. Understand?"

"And if I can't find him?"

"You'll find him all right. I have an appointment with him at four o'clock. He's in Manchester, but he'll be back to-morrow. You've seen a bit of the letter he wrote me. Mr Bristow and myself have been on a job of work together, but things have moved quicker than we expected. I've got a drive of about three hundred miles before me . . . I can't wait for Bristow. But be at Wigmore Street at four and see that Mr Bristow gets this. Into his own hands mind . . . no one else's."

"I quite understand, Mr Noel."

"Good. Then go home and sleep and run off for your holiday to-morrow after seeing Bristow. Then I want you to forget all about this evening. I wish I could tell you what it's all about, but you wouldn't understand anyway."

Brenda slipped the envelope into her bag.

"But you're in danger, Mr Noel, aren't you?" She nodded across to where the telephone stood on the bureau. "Why not ring up the police?"

Noel Cotsford laughed, shortly.

"I guess I'm in danger all right. But Bristow and I are playing a lone hand in this game. We don't want the police in this—not yet. Feeling all right, Miss Freyne?"

"I'm a bit dazed. But I'm all right—Why?"

"Think you can manage to walk downstairs and past that man in the arch without showing you're scared? I'll send Haines to see you into your bus. I don't want you to throw a faint and lose hold of that letter. It's—important."

"I don't think I'm scared—and I don't want Haines, thanks, Mr Noel."

"Good. I don't think there's any danger. There's nothing to connect you with me. Wait about till you see people passing on the pavements and you'll be safe enough. I wouldn't let you go if I thought there was any danger. It isn't you he's waiting for."

Noel Cotsford walked to the door, opened it a few inches and peered out into the dimly-lit corridor. He spoke back over his shoulder. "All clear, Miss Freyne. Use the stairs and walk out as if—well, as if you were just going out to post a letter. Good night—and many thanks."

Brenda heard the door close. For a moment she stood in indecision, then, with a shrug of her little, rounded shoulders, made her way to the head of the stairs.

All her life she had craved excitement—for something to happen that would take her out of the beaten tracks of life, and now Adventure was beckoning to her. She seemed to be standing, as it were, in the wings of a vast theatre waiting for the curtain to rise on some great drama in which she was to play a part. She was thrilled—expectant—and she was glad that she had refused the escort of Mr Noel's chauffeur.

There was no danger. The pavement was well lighted, and there were people passing to and fro. Besides, the man was no longer beneath the archway, and for a moment the girl thought he had gone. Curiously enough she felt a certain disappointment. She hoped that this adventure wasn't going to fizzle out like a damp squib.

And then she saw him. He was standing by a long low-bodied car that was parked by the kerb. She saw him lean forward and speak to someone within the limousine. A face appeared at the window; the face of a woman. Brenda had an impression of rice-white cheeks with carmined lips and dark eyes that stared out at her.

She took a tighter grip of her bag and walked on. She walked steadily—but it was with an effort. She felt the eyes of both the man and the woman were upon her, and as she came abreast of them the light of one of the street lamps fell full on the face of the man she had seen beneath the arch. Perhaps it was nerves, but Brenda thought that never in her life had she seen a countenance so sinister, so utterly vile—and yet curiously handsome. A dead white skin like the belly of a fish, deep cavernous eyes and, most terrifying of all, a curious muscular contraction of the mouth, a snarling back from white teeth that was horrible—unspeakably evil.

She did not dare to turn round, but she knew that the car had purred into action and was following her, hugging the kerb. She was approaching the long blank wall of the barracks . . . there were but few people about. And all at once panic seized Brenda Freyne. It would be so easy on that deserted stretch of pavement for the car to slide up to her . . . already she could feel the grip of arms about her . . .

(To be continued.)

CUMNOCK EXPRESS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1934.

Goodwill and Good Wishes.

Often in the past we have been approached to issue a weekly newspaper and, being now convinced there is a genuine demand for it, have decided to do so. We have already received many good wishes for the success of our paper, and, as it represents our livelihood—and the outlay of a large amount of capital—we will naturally make it our utmost endeavour to realise these wishes.

The present time is propitious, with the approaching season of goodwill the public will be more responsive and ready to extend a welcome to a new paper.

Sentiment.

It is a trite saying that one cannot mix sentiment with business, and as true Scots we should adhere to that, but at the very outset sentiment has been the deciding factor in naming our paper the "Cumnock Express." It is over 30 years since we published a paper under the same name, and we feel we are reviving it now in an entirely local form.

Ambition.

This, the first issue, will give you an idea of the lines on which we intend to proceed. As we progress so will the paper until—and this is our ambition—the "Cumnock Express" becomes a reliably authentic source of news to those interested in the affairs of our district, and as such is welcomed in every local household.

Criticism.

The paper is now in your hands and must make its own appeal. We are content that this is so in so far as it represents an honest endeavour to make its perusal interesting and informative to the reader. We hope you will like it, and will appreciate very much suggestions, criticisms or contributions whereby we can make our paper your paper.

CUMNOCK.

Band of Hope.

Mr Andrew Steele, Lugar, an annual and much appreciated speaker at our Band of Hope meetings, was again present at the Town Hall, Cumnock, last Thursday night, when he gave a very interesting and instructive address to the children.

The musical part of the programme was provided by a juvenile party from Lugar—two boys and two girls. The little girls sang a duet, and the boys played selections on the dulcimer and violin.

Mr Struthers (celloist), Mr Reid (violinist), and Miss Struthers (pianist), the ever-welcome and highly talented musicians from Catrine, also rendered several delightful selections.

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Hibernians' Social and Dance.

The St John's Division, No. 735, Cumnock Branch of Ancient Order of Hibernians held their annual social and dance in the St John's Hall, Cumnock, last Friday evening.

Canon Meagher presided over the gathering, at which there was a large attendance, and introduced the following talented company of local artistes:—Miss Cathie White, Miss Betty Clark and Messrs Alex. Dillon, Harry M'Ilroy, Hugh M'Ilroy, and Wm. Hutson.

The entertainment proved a decided success, as did also the dance which followed. Mr Park's popular dance band from Catrine provided the music.

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OLD CHURCH MEN'S SOCIAL CLUB.

The members of the above club were the hosts on Monday evening when they entertained the members of the Women's Guild in the Church Hall.

Tea was served by the Committee—aided by their wives—and thereafter a mixed rink competition at carpet bowling was played. Fifteen rinks took part in this, and Messrs A. Lamont and W. Murray conducted play. Mrs Mills, Miss Park, Rev. D. M'Clymont, and Mr R. Blackwood composed the winning rink.

In the smaller hall twelve hands of whist were played, and in this the winners were Mrs M'Millan (84) and Mr J. Laidlaw (84).

The prizes were graciously handed to the winners by Mrs A. Lamont.

The rest of the evening was spent with games and dancing. At an interval in these proceedings Miss Morrison sang. Miss Edith Lindsay made an admirable pianist, while Mr Wm. Mackay undertook the ceremonial duties with the proficiency of much practice in this capacity.

Needless to add, the evening was enjoyed by both guests and hosts.

Old Church Bible Class Social.

The Old Church Bible Class held their annual social and dance in the Church Hall last Friday night, when about 50 couples were present. The Rev. J. Douglas M'Clymont presided over a delightful tea, and then the remainder of the evening was pleasantly spent with games and dances, interspersed with songs from Miss Joy Houston. Messrs John Barr and John Kennedy performed the duties of masters of ceremonies.

Cumnock J.P. Court.

The monthly court was held on Monday forenoon Messrs J. P. Smith and Jas. Reid on the Bench.

About one dozen small debt cases were disposed of.

A sixteen-year-old Catrine lad pleaded guilty to a charge of riding a cycle at 6.30 a.m. without showing a white light to the front. After the dangers of this practice were pointed out to the youth a fine of 7s 6d was imposed.

A miner from the same place pleaded guilty to a similar charge while on his way to work at Mauchline pit at 6.25 a.m. He pleaded in extenuation that he was saving the battery to light him through Mauchline. He was fined 10s 6d.

A farm servant from Sorn suffered a like penalty for a similar offence committed on the Crosshouse-Galston road despite his plea that the glass of the lamp was broken and that the light was blown out by the wind.

The wife of an Auchinleck miner pled not guilty to a charge of assaulting another miner's wife by striking her on the face with her fists. The case was adjourned till 17th December.

A similar plea was tendered by three members of an Auchinleck family in a charge of assaulting a miner's wife by throwing water at her and striking her with a brush, and using obscene language. This case was also adjourned till 17th December.

The sequel to a row in a dance hall at Mauchline was heard when two miners from Catrine were charged with creating a disturbance there on the night of 24th November. About 10.30 on the night in question the accused entered the hall and demanded admission to the dance. As they were under the influence of drink admission was refused them, whereupon they became outrageous. The Bench took a serious view of this case owing to it becoming a prevalent offence. They were determined to stop the practice, and imposed a fine of £2 on one of the offenders who had a previous conviction, and a fine of £1 on the other; the alternative being twenty and ten days' imprisonment respectively. Both fines were paid.

* * *

SPECIAL J.P. COURT.

At a special J.P. Court on Wednesday; Ex-Provost Carruthers and Mr J. Goldie on the bench.

A miner from Burnside, New Cumnock, pled guilty to a charge of assaulting his wife by striking her on the face. In extenuation he said his wife had tried to hit him with a poker. A fine of £1, or ten days' imprisonment, was imposed.

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Dancing Display.

Mr J. C. Pollock's Juvenile Dancing Class gave a display in the Cumnock Town Hall last Friday evening which, as usual, attracted a goodly number of spectators. The pupils danced with a dainty grace which delighted the audience, and must have proved gratifying to their instructor.

The opening "Grand March" was followed by a waltz in which all the pupils took part. Mr Pollock and his daughter Netta followed with an exhibition of "Carioca."

The programme then proceeded as follows:—"Frivolity" (Margaret Murray, Agnes Thomson, Isabel Forbes); "Tap Dance" by junior pupils (Jean Pollock, Nan Spiers, Joy Dnaldson, Jean Head, Bunty Young, Netta Pollock); "Tap Dance" by adult pupils (Misses Brown and Manderson, Mr Pollock); "Irish Jig" (J. Donaldson, J. Head, Jenny Morrison); "Tap Dance" by juniors (A. Thomson, M. Murray, Audrey Leitch, I. Forbes, Susan Graham); "Autumn Leaves" (J. Head, J. Donaldson, N. Spiers, B. Young); "Irish Washerwoman" (A. Thomson, M. Murray, I. Forbes, A. Leitch, Annie Crawford, S. Graham); "Musical Comedy" (J. Donaldson, N. Spiers, B. Young, N. Pollock); "Waltz Tap" by adults (Misses Manderson and Brown, Mr Pollock); "The Gipsies" (J. Head, J. Donaldson, N. Spiers, B. Young); "The Tango" (Mr and Miss Pollock); "Dutch Dance" (Jean Vallance, M. Murray, N. Spiers, J. Donaldson, B. Young, I. Forbes, A. Leitch, M. Brown, S. Graham); selection of operatic dances finishing with the ballet, "The Little Princess." "Fan Dance" (J. Donaldson, J. Head, J. Pollock, N. Spiers, B. Young, M. Murray, S. Graham); "Solo Toe Dance" (J. Donaldson); "Statue Toe Dance" (N. Spiers, B. Young)—Princess, M. Murray; Queen, B. Young; Black Swan, N. Pollock—this was a beautifully conceived and well executed item; "Two Step" (all); "Russian Dance" (N. Spiers, J. Donaldson, B. Young); "Highland March" (all); "Sword Dance" (A. Thomson, J. Head, J. Donaldson, I. Forbes); "Sheann Truibhais" (J. Pollock, J. Head, N. Spiers, B. Young, J. Donaldson); "Foursome Reel" (J. Donaldson, J. Head, N. Spiers, B. Young); "Highland Fling" (all).

This concluded the display, which disclosed an amazing aptitude on the part of the diminutive performers, and which the audience were not slow to appreciate.

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Rev. J. Ferguson Macdonald Married.

An interesting item of news for members of Cumnock U.F. Church and friends is contained in the announcement of the marriage of their late minister, the Rev. J. Ferguson Macdonald, to Miss Deborah Webster, Uddingston.

The ceremony took place at Chalmers Church, Uddingston, last Saturday, and was performed by the Rev. Archibald Watt, M.A., assisted by the Rev. Wm. London.

Mr Macdonald, who has accepted a call to Clydebank U.F. Church, is the elder son of Mr and Mrs James Macdonald, Cambuslang, and his bride is the daughter of the late Thos. Webster, Meat Market, Glasgow, and Mrs Webster, Netherton House, Uddingston.

OBITUARY.

It is with deepest regret that we have to record in our opening issue the passing of two such well-known and highly-esteemed citizens as Mr Alex. Parker, Oaklands, Cumnock, and Mr William Simpson, 155 Southbrae Drive, Glasgow, W.3, both of whom died at their respective residences on Sunday.

Mr Parker was a native of Irvine. He was a marine engineer prior to his coming to Cumnock 35 years ago, when he became a partner in the engineering business of Geo. M'Cartney & Co. Later he returned to the sea where he completed 45 years' service, and from which he retired seven years ago owing to indifferent health. A keen golfer, he was vice-president of the Cumnock Golf Club, but his health compelled him to give up all active part in the game. His hobby while at sea was the making of golf clubs.

He is survived by his wife, to whom and her son, the sympathy of the community is extended.

Mr Simpson was equally well-known to Cumnockians, although he spent the greater part of his life in Spain. He was born near Habbie's Howe, Auchinleck.

Over 50 years ago he went into the employ of Messrs Wm. Baird & Company, Lugar, and ten years later went to Spain to the Minas de Camargo, Santander, in that Company's interests. There he remained until his retiral three years ago.

When he arrived in Spain the ore boats were loaded by women who carried the ore aboard in baskets. At the time of his retiral he was loading his boats with an apparatus capable of loading 10 tons a minute.

His life-long hobby was gardening, and he gained many prizes for flowers and vegetables while at Lugar. In Spain he transformed a barren piece of ground into a lovely garden, with many fruit trees and flowers. He also was a keen draughts player, and in his youth played cricket with a Lugar team.

Mrs Simpson predeceased him by ten years.

He is survived by four sons and two daughters, for whom his many friends feel the deepest sympathy.

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Cumnock Baptist Church.

LECTURE FOR WOMEN.

A special lecture was given in the Baptist Church on Tuesday by Miss Helen Tainsh, secretary of the Alliance of Honour. She handled her subject, "Women's Influence on Moral Standards," in a manner which proved both interesting and profitable to her audience.

Mrs H. A. Stirling presided over the gathering, which was of generous dimensions; while Mrs Jas. Donnelly and Miss Bunty Russell, Auchinleck, provided the musical part of the programme.

This is one of a series of lectures being given at present in the Baptist Church.

Lantern Lecture.

On Sunday evening last a very interesting lecture was given by the Rev. Donald Budge in the Crichton Memorial Church. His subject, "The Romance of the Scottish Kirk," was most lucidly treated from the time of the Picts and Scots up to the final reunion of the two great Scottish Churches in 1929. Some very fine slides were shown of the various types of worshippers and preachers during that period. Particularly good slides were shown of H.R.H. the Duke of York presiding at the first General Assembly of the United Churches, and the two moderators signing the Union documents.

BOWLING CLUB WHIST.

These weekly whist drives are gaining in popularity, and seventeen tables took part in Wednesday evening's games. The winners were:—Ladies—1 Mrs T. Kinnaird, 180; 2 Mrs R. Morrison, 177; consolation—Mrs S. Connell, 137. Gentlemen—1 Mr S. Rintoul, 172; 2 Mr T. Kinnaird, 171; consolation—Mr W. Fleming, 138.

Burglary at Skares.

Between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning the store at Skares received a visit from burglars.

They had quite a good haul of cigarettes and tobacco and a few odd articles, but only a small sum of money was missing.

CRONBERRY.

The Evening Service.—Rev. E. Taylor, M.A., conducted the evening service in the Church Hall on Sunday last, which was the beginning of a series of lectures. His subject, "A Bird's-Eye View of the World To-day," proved very interesting to a large congregation.

Woman's Guild.—The Woman's Guild meet fortnightly in the Guild room, and at present preparations are well in hand for a jumble sale to be held on the 15th of this month. Teas will be served, and an outstanding feature, "a cup reader," will be present. The main hall will be fitted up with stalls; and added to jumbles a stall with cakes and candies and also one with fancy goods will be formed. The third room will be fitted up with shooting games, hoopla, etc. We are hoping for a good turnout at this event, as it will be the first of its kind to be held in Cronberry.

Band of Hope.—The Band of Hope had their usual meeting on Tuesday evening, and despite the elements the turnout was favourable. The superintendent, Mr Jno. M'Kean, presided, and introduced to the company Mr Andrew Steele, from Lugar, who gave a stirring address on temperance, which was much appreciated. Mr Tom White, Lugar, gave selections on the violin, and Miss Jeanie Standring, with Messrs Jas. M'Ausland and Jno. M'Kean, contributed to the vocal part of the programme.

Well Done, Cronberry!

We are pleased to note that Mr Daniel Roy, stationmaster, Cronberry, has received a First Class award for the best kept station.

In this class everything appertaining to a railway station is taken into consideration—outdoor and indoor and general appearance, garden, etc. This makes the honour more worthy of winning.

Mr Roy has now won four prizes in this connection—a first, a second, and two thirds.

AUCHINLECK.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

Mr and Mrs Andrew Paton, Lendal Lodge, Lendalfoot, Girvan, and late of Stairaird, Mauchline, have just celebrated their fiftieth year of connubial bliss.

They were married at Townhead, Auchinleck, on 27th November, 1884, by the Rev. Dr Chrystal.

Mr Andrew Paton was then resident at Bank Farm, Ayr, while Mrs Paton (Jeanie Sloan) was a daughter of Mr and Mrs William Sloan, Townhead.

Public Speaking Class.—The evening class which is being held in Auchinleck School, conducted by Mr Inglis, M.A., of Ayr, and which is being devoted to the art of public speaking, is proving a very popular and successful venture. On Thursday evening last 24 students were present, when a debate on "Is a Dog-racing Track Needed in Auchinleck?" was staged. Mr John Milgrew argued the case for the affirmative, while Mr Malcolm Naismith took up the negative point of view. Both students put forward their respective claims in a thoroughly capable manner, and showed an intelligent conception of the subject under discussion. At the close the class were asked to pronounce their judgment by vote, and this resulted in a large majority favouring the negative side. Another debate has been arranged on "Is a Film Censor Necessary Locally?" On this occasion Mr John Stewart will put forward the affirmative case, while Mr Philip M'Millan will take the negative side.

Gospel Tea Meeting.—On Saturday evening last the members of the local branch of the Ayrshire Christian Union held their weekly gospel and tea meeting in the Well Road Hall, where there was a large attendance of members and friends. After tea had been served Mr John Coughtrie gave an inspiring address. This was followed by solos and testimonies, contributed by the following:—Mrs Docherty, and Messrs Boyd, Duncan, Glasgow, Wallace, and Fleming (all of Cumnock). Mr J. Tanner presided at the organ in his usual capable manner. On Sunday evening Mr Hamilton, of Ayr, was the speaker, while Miss Telfer, also of Ayr, rendered solos. On this occasion another large gathering attended.

AUCHINLECK MEN'S GUILD.

On Monday evening the members of the Co-Operative Men's Guild held their weekly meeting in the Toll Branch Hall, when Mr James Byrne presided over a fairly good attendance, and introduced Mr James Yates and his male voice choir, who were the guests for the night. The choir opened with a sacred number, then "In Silent Night" and "Scotland Yet" were tastefully rendered. This was followed by two solos by Mr James Muncie, "Selected" and "Banks of Loch Lomond." The choir next rendered two more pieces, "The Miller's Daughter" and "A Man's a Man." This was followed by two guitar solos by Mr David Yates. The choir came on again with "The Farmer's Boy," "Return Soft Evening," and "My Ain Hoose." Two more solos were finely rendered by Mr W. Waddell, "The Village Blacksmith" and a selected item. The choir again obliged with "A Life's Lesson" and "My Old Kentucky Home." The next soloist was Mr James Barnes with "Juanita" and "Flow Gently Sweet Afton," and as an encore he gave "Mary of Argyle." The choir followed with "Stars of the Summer Night" and a "Border Ballad." Two more solos were sung by Mr George Goldie, namely "The Rowan Tree" and "Annie's Tryste." The choir concluded with "The Comrade's Song of Hope."

Mr Byrne thanked the choir for their kindness in coming along, and for the splendid programme they had provided. Mr John Clonachan replied on behalf of the choir.

A most enjoyable evening was then brought to a close with all joining in singing "Auld Lang Syne."

Gospel and Tea Meeting.—On Saturday evening the members of the brethren and friends continued their weekly series of gospel and tea meetings in their Park Road Hall, when there was another good attendance. The speakers on this occasion were Mr John Craig and Mr George Stevens, both from Catrine. After tea had been served solos were tastefully rendered by Mr John M'Phee and by his son and daughter, Mr M'Phee, jun., and Miss M'Phee, all from Catrine.

Whist Drive.—The Ladies' Committee, who have been responsible for the raising of funds for our old folks annual treat, held a whist drive in the Toll Branch Hall on Saturday night last, when there was a good attendance of players. The following carried off the prizes:—Ladies—1 Mrs M'Connell, 2 Mrs Morrison; gent.'s—1 Jas. Waddell, 2 B. Fitzsimmons. We are pleased to be able to state that as a result of the untiring efforts of this energetic ladies' committee sufficient funds have already been gathered to ensure our old folks of a splendid treat a few weeks hence. Generally it is held on Christmas Eve.

Men's Club.—The Men's Club has now been set in full swing in the main hall of the old school. The following office-bearers have been appointed:—President, Jas. Bryce, sen.; vice-president, Jas. Pitt; financial secretary, Jas. Blackwood; minute secretary, Jno. M'Kean; treasurer, Jas. Bryce, jun.

A bowling board has now been installed, and a keen interest is taken in the game by both young and old. The young members are getting a knowledge from the "experts," and meantime it is the chief attraction. Draughts, parlour quoits, and dominoes are not so strenuous, but nevertheless popular. Many happy evenings are being spent by a membership of about 80.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

The Picture House.

CUMNOCK—

"Roman Scandals," starring Eddie Cantor, a musical screen extravaganza, will be seen at the Picture House to-morrow (Saturday). Eddie will be seen as a wistful, brow-beaten lad from West Rome, Oklahoma, who finds himself in the Rome of the Caesars and involved in breath-taking adventures among the beautiful slave girls, the thundering chariots, and the conspiracies of the Imperial Court. Appearing with Eddie and Ruth Etting in this annual carnival of fun are Gloria Stuart, David Manners, and Varee Teasdale. On Monday and Tuesday, "I Like It That Way," starring Gloria Stuart and Roger Pryor, a comedy drama with music, song, and dance providing an excellent evening's entertainment. Among the song hits of the picture are "Miss 1934," "Let's Put Two and Two Together," and "I Like It That Way." On Wednesday "Disraeli," the first talking picture in which George Arliss ever appeared, and considered by most of the leading judges of the cinema to be his greatest. Joan Bennett plays the leading feminine role opposite Mr Arliss.

AUCHINLECK—

"Son of Kong," which will be seen at the Picture House to-morrow (Saturday), whilst offering almost as many amazing thrills as "King Kong," at the same time shows the son of this 50-foot monster as a 12-foot youngster with more playfulness than his old man possessed. All who enjoyed "King Kong" and those who missed it will enjoy this just as thrilling, just as ingenious, more human, with a splash of comedy plus a story which contains more human appeal than the former. Robert Armstrong and Helen Mack play the principal roles. On Monday and Tuesday George Arliss' admirers are going to have the opportunity of seeing him in "Disraeli," generally acclaimed as his finest picture, with Joan Bennett. On Wednesday a treat in music and laughter is promised for everyone with the announced booking of "I Like It That Way," starring Gloria Stuart and Roger Pryor.

-:- *YULETIDE* -:-

The Season of Good Cheer, and exchanging of Kind Wishes and Xmas Greetings. How suitably they can be expressed by making your choice from the Delightful Selection of

BOXES OF CHOCOLATES, NOVELTIES, TOFFEES,

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BUTE COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

THE ANNUAL

Whist Drive and Dance

will be held in
TOWN HALL, CUMNOCK,
on
WEDNESDAY, 26th DECR., at 7.30.

Tickets - - - 3/6.

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1 Townhead Street, CUMNOCK.

Area Jottings.

At Cardiff Bakers' Exhibition, held last week, R. Stoddart, Cumnock, was awarded a bronze medal for sponges.

* * *

The Rev. Neil D. Cameron, of Denny, the first of the candidates for the vacancy of Cumnock U.F. Church, preached here on Sunday at both forenoon and evening services.

* * *

We have much pleasure in being able this week to record that an Auchinleck man, Mr Robert Liddell, of 12 Old Avenue, has been successful in gaining the maximum number of points in Strang's football pool. Mr Liddell's success brings him the handsome sum of £364 1s 3d. Quite an acceptable gift to put in the New Year with.

* * *

For having stolen a turkey from Broomfield Poultry Farm, Cumnock, two Auchinleck youths were, at Ayr Sheriff Court on Monday last, fined; one in £3 or twenty days' imprisonment, and the other in £2 or ten days.

* * *

We are pleased to congratulate Mr and Mrs Thos. Prynn, of Bleachworks Lodge, who celebrated their silver wedding on Saturday. The happy couple were the recipients of many handsome presents from their family and friends.

* * *

When arranging for Christmas engagements leave the evening of the 26th free for the Bute Cottage Hospital whist drive and dance.

* * *

Lugar Church Women's Guild are holding a display at their "At Home" next Wednesday, when the work done during the session will be on sale.

* * *

Why go out of town to spend New Year's Day? The first day of the year needn't be a dull one if you keep the date clear for the Boy Scouts' Annual Dance.

The venue is as usual, the Town Hall, and a really first-class band has been engaged—the Melody Makers from Ayr. Your feet will itch to get going when their eight hot players give of their best.

Further announcements later.

Watch for advertisements in this paper. Don't forget the date—New Year's Day.

* * *

The Committee of the bowling club in their endeavour to pay off the contractors and furnish their new clubhouse have obtained from some of their members a loan of £200, free of interest.

* * *

The Men's Club of the Crichton Memorial Church have decided to make the first Friday of each month open to the ladies.

* * *

Mrs Mary Collins, 21 Lambfair Gardens, Auchinleck, died last night. She was an ex-Parish Councillor, and, prior to her decease, a member of the Auchinleck Pensions Committee.

Letters to the Editor.

Cumnock Slaughter-House.

(To the Editor, "Cumnock Express.")

Sir,—On looking over the burgh accounts I see that our slaughter-house is valued at £200.

Now that it is partly demolished, I suppose the poor ratepayer will have to make this good. And that when a yearly rental was recently offered for it!

What with this and electric fires for a mining town our Council has some curious brainwaves.—I am, etc.,

Disgusted Ratepayer.

MUIRKIRK.

—:o:—

Muirkirk Pipe Band Play Whist.

Sixty-two players took part in a whist drive held in the Ironworks Institute gymnasium room, in aid of the Pipe Band, on Friday last.

Mr David Hendry conducted, and after keen play the prizes were won by:—Ladies—1 Miss Jean Oliver, 174; 2 Mrs J. Stein, 172; 3 Miss Paterson, 170. Gentlemen—1 Mr J. Kean, 180; 2 Mr T. Samson, 175; 3 Mr J. Alexander, 165.

The Committee of the Parish Silver Band held another enjoyable and successful whist drive in the band practice room on Monday evening, when seventy players participated. Mr T. Bickerton conducted, and at the close of play announced the result as follows:—Ladies—1 Miss J. Oliver, 174; 2 Mrs Fleming, 172 (after a cut with Mrs D. Love, 172). Gentlemen—1 Mr A. Prentice, 174; 2 Mr J. Thomson, 172.

Football Cup for Ex-Schoolboys.

The Ochiltree-Muirkirk final ties have now been satisfactorily settled, and Muirkirk gets the cup as was expected. The formal presentation of the trophy has not yet taken place, but it is quite probable that a social function of some kind will be held in connection with the presentation.

Bowling Club A.G.M.

A special general meeting of the bowling club members was held in the clubhouse on Friday evening of last week.

The business was to consider the advisability of holding a cake and candy sale with a view to the making of improvements to the greens.

It was agreed to hold the sale early next year, and it is to be hoped that the public will rally round to support this effort.

NEW CUMNOCK.

Women's Guilds.

The New Cumnock Women's Guild held their usual weekly meeting in the Lesser Town Hall last Thursday evening. The collection, which goes to augment the Old Folks' Christmas Parcels Fund, was of generous proportions.

Craigbank and Connelpark Women's Guild met on Friday night in the Town Hall, where they were entertained by members of the Sanquhar Guild.

The main items on the programme were two sketches which were very creditably presented and were greatly enjoyed by the large audience present.

Whist Drive.—The Mansfield Bowling Club whist drive last Saturday attracted 64 players. The prize-winners were:—Ladies—1 Mrs J. Harrison, 2 Mrs A. Osbourne; gentlemen—1 Mr Tom Rae, 2 Mr Chas. Goudie.

New Premises.—A much felt want has been remedied in the Burnside district by the new premises opened there last week by the Co-Operative Society under the charge of Mr Alex. Thomson. They comprise grocery, fleshing, and bakery departments, equipped with modern and up-to-date appliances. Credit must be given to the manager and directors for their efforts. The sales for the Society for the quarter ending 1st December are expected to break all records.

Jessie Blackwood (4), daughter of Mr Andrew Blackwood, Pikeston, New Cumnock, was admitted to Kilmarnock Infirmary last Saturday suffering from burns on the legs. When sitting at the fireside in her home a pot of boiling water was accidentally knocked over. We are pleased to report she is progressing favourably.

Ex-Servicemen's Club, Leggate, held their usual weekly whist drive in the clubroom on Monday. The full card was played by a good turnout of players. Prize-winners:—Ladies—1 Mrs F. Morrison, 2 Mrs J. Park; gent.'s—1 Mr R. Paterson, 2 Mr J. Allan.

Arrangements were made for the forthcoming sale of work at the weekly meeting of Martyr's Church Woman's Guild. There was a large turnout of members present.

The New Cumnock Boys' Brigade are hard at work preparing for their social meeting this month.

A fair-sized audience was appreciating the various fine items at Mick Quinn's entertainment in the Town Hall when our representative attended. We are sure the charming manner in which the several artistes rendered their numbers will ensure a crowded house to-night.

Newa nd commodious premises belonging to New Cumnock Co-Operative Society were opened by the president, Mr M'Ginn, at Burnfoot. The premises consist of an up-to-date grocery and butchers' branch.

"Lily of Killarney," the picturesque talkie, is sure to draw big crowds to the Picture House to-night and to-morrow.

—:o:—

Near Tragedy.

What might have proved to be a fatal accident occurred at New Cumnock the other day.

Mrs J. Riddle, Connel Park, New Cumnock, who for some time past has not been feeling too well, was overtaken by a fainting turn, and in falling grasped the gas bracket, which broke. She was found later lying in an unconscious condition, and was hurried to Kilmarnock Infirmary, where we are pleased to learn she is recovering from the effects of the gas.

—:o:—

Domestic Servants' Quarrel.

When Isabella Hanlon, domestic servant, employed in a house at Ayr, appeared before Bailie Murray at Ayr Police Court on Friday, she admitted having, in Carrick Street, Ayr, on November 21, committed a breach of the peace, assaulted a domestic servant by striking her on the face with her fists; and assaulted another domestic servant by kicking her on the leg. It was explained that accused was in domestic service in Ayr, but her home was at Burnfoot, New Cumnock. All the other witnesses were domestic servants belonging to Burnfoot, but in domestic service in Ayr. They were in the habit of meeting on Wednesday evenings. Four of them were proceeding along Carrick Street when some trouble arose among them. Accused asked her companion to hold her bag, began using obscene language and then rushed at one of the servants. When the other intervened, she attacked her and kicked her on the leg. A crowd collected as the result of Hanlon's conduct. Someone pulled accused away, and the matter was reported to a constable. The officer proceeded to the spot, and Hanlon again began shouting. Another crowd collected. After repeated warnings, which were ignored, Hanlon was taken to the police office. Bailie Murray imposed a fine of 20s, with the alternative of ten days' imprisonment.

OCHILTREE.

South Church Services to Continue.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Ayr, in the County Buildings on Wednesday, discussion took place in private on the future of South Church congregation, and it was intimated at the close that the Presbytery had agreed to continue the services in the meantime.

KIRKCONNEL.

Mr John Cowan, Nithside Cottages, Kirkconnel, the well-known breeder and exhibitor of Tumbler pigeons, has accepted an invitation to act as one of the judges at the annual exhibition to be held at Olympia, London, next week. At the recent Crystal Palace Show Mr Cowan gained first prizes for a black Tumbler cock and a black hen.

An interesting ceremony was carried through in St Mark's Church, Kirkconnel, last week, when the dedication of a communion table, which had been presented to the church by St Bride's Church, Sanquhar, took place. There was a large congregation, and the pulpit was occupied by the Rev. W. S. Buchan, B.D., St Bride's.

Mr Buchan took his text from Psalm 84, verse ii.—"My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the Courts of the Lord."

The table was originally given to Sanquhar Parish Church in memory of Mr James Moffat, of Gateside, who came to Gateside in 1837, and who died in 1893.

On the renovation of Sanquhar Church in 1930 at a cost of £11,000, the Kirk Session thought they ought to give the communion table to another church where it could be put to use. The Rev. John Montgomery accepted the gift on behalf of the Kirkconnel Church.

Upper Nithsdale Bridge Club.—The Upper Nithsdale Bridge Club, whose headquarters are in Kirkconnel, had a second visit on Monday night from Mrs Beverley Currie, the noted Glasgow bridge expert. Mrs Currie lectured on "The Play of the Cards," with illustrations, and created great interest among the members. This recently formed club has already over 50 enthusiastic members, and anticipate a busy and enjoyable winter session.

Upper Nithsdale Schools Attendance.—At the monthly meeting of the School Management Committee for the Upper Nithsdale area the attendance reports for November were:—Cairn, 99.6 per cent.; Kelloholm, 93.4; Sanquhar Academy, 91.9; Kirkconnel, 91.2; Mennock, 94.6; Wanlockhead, 85.07.

SANQUHAR.

B.W.T.A.—On Monday evening the members of Sanquhar B.W.T.A. entertained the Little White Ribboners to their annual soiree in the Templar Hall. Mrs Graham, president of the branch, presided, and there was a full muster of Ribboners, and adult members were present in large numbers. A sumptuous tea was provided right away, and for an hour the children entertained the adults with a comprehensive programme of songs and recitations. Games were also indulged in, and toys and sweets were distributed. An important visitor to the function was Mrs Davidson, Alloa, Scottish President of the Little White Ribboners.

Whist Drive and Dance.—Crawick Mill Bowling Club held their annual whist drive and dance on Friday evening, and the venture was again a great success. Military whist was played, and 26 teams participated. The winning teams were:—1 W. Gibson (captain), Mrs Gibson, Mrs Connor and A. M'Murdo; 2 G. M'Murdo (capt.), Miss Ila Graham, W. Lorimer and S. Brown. Consolation—A. Wells (capt.), Mrs Paterson, Mrs Stott and Mrs Scott. Thirty couples danced to music supplied by Lorraine's Band, and Messrs J. Wells and J. Menzies were courteous and obliging M.C.'s.

Gas Production.—Sanquhar Corporation Gasworks report a make of 1,001,000 cubic feet for the month of November, a decrease of 7000 cubic feet compared with the corresponding month of 1933. The advent of the Dumfries-shire County Council's Electricity Supply Scheme is having a detrimental effect on the gas consumption, as many householders and shopkeepers have taken electricity.

Sequel to Sanquhar Road Fatality.

As the result of a motor accident on the main Sanquhar-Kirkconnel road, in which a young woman lost her life, a young man named John Inglis Douglas, motor driver, 17 Castle Street, Sanquhar, appeared in Dumfries Sheriff Court on Thursday last.

The charge was that on 19th August, on the Glasgow-Dumfries road opposite Sanquhar Academy playing fields, he drove a motor van without due care and attention and without reasonable consideration for other people using the road, whereby it collided with and knocked down Annie Russell, Knopp, teacher, who resided at 2 Hickman Road, Chadwellheath, Essex, and so severely injured her that she died the following day at 3 Eliock Place, Sanquhar.

Accused tendered a plea of not guilty, and was defended by Mr W. Bannerman, solicitor, Dumfries.

Evidence was led at considerable length, and after hearing the agents the Sheriff found the charge proven, and imposed a fine of £3. The public, he said, had the right to walk on the road without any expectation of being maimed.

STAIR.

"WAR" AT TRABBOCH.

Mr Quintin Wilcox presided over a well-attended meeting of the Co-Operative Men's Guild which was held in Stair School on Tuesday, when Mr M'Luskey, of Hurlford, delivered a most interesting address on "War."

The Trabboch branch of the Woman's Co-Operative Guild are busy making arrangements for the forthcoming Old Folks' Party, and also for the Children's Treat.

CATRINE.

On Sunday morning and evening the Rev. John Urquhart Ogilvy, M.A., preached very fine sermons in the Gordon Memorial Church to large congregations. Mr Ogilvy was the sole nominee for the vacancy in this church caused by the transference of the Rev. J. M. Fullerton, M.A., to Trinity Church, Johnstone. On Monday evening a congregational meeting was held in the church, when Mr Ogilvy was appointed unanimously. He will receive the call when all the congregation have had the opportunity to sign.

Accident.—A rather unfortunate occurrence took place in the cotton mill on Monday forenoon when John Stobbs had his fingers caught between two cogwheels. He lost the tops of two at the first joint and sustained a badly lacerated thumb. We understand he is progressing satisfactorily, and wish him a speedy recovery.

Woman's Guild.—The fortnightly meeting of the High Kirk Woman's Guild was held in the ladies' room of the A. M. Brown Institute on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance of members to hear their president, Mrs Wm. John, give a lecture on "The Church in Rural Scotland." This was illustrated by lantern slides depicting typical Highland scenes. The lecture was much enjoyed and was heartily applauded. A fine cup of tea was served, the hostesses on this occasion being Mrs M. Stobbs, sen., and Mrs Stobbs, jun. Songs of the Hebrides were tastefully rendered by Mrs John. Miss M. Howieson Thomson presided at the piano. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded the lecturer and the hostesses on the motion of Mrs Jas. Ferguson.

Appointment of Minister.

At a meeting of the Gordon Memorial Church of Scotland, Catrine, Ayrshire, the congregation agreed to extend a unanimous call to the Rev. John U. Ogilvie, M.A., West Church, Rattray, Blairgowrie, who was the sole nominee of the Vacancy Committee.

The vacancy was caused by the translation of the Rev. I. M. Fullerton to Trinity Church, Johnstone.

MAUCHLINE.

Masonic Installations.

Lodge St David No. 133.—The annual installation of office-bearers of Lodge St David's No. 133 was held in the Walker Memorial Hall on Thursday evening of last week. There was a good attendance of local members, and Sister Lodges in the surrounding district were well represented. The following office-bearers for the ensuing term were installed into their respective posts by Brother Richard Scott and Brother Hugh Miller, both Past Masters of Lodge St John No. 22, Kilmarnock:—R.W.M., Bro. James Burnett; I.P.M., Bro. R. T. W. Stewart; Deputy Master, Bro. Jas. Roy; Senior Warden, Bro. Stanley Chambers; Junior Warden, Bro. Wm. Alexander; Secretary, Bro. Wm. Adamson; Treasurer, Bro. David Gibson; Senior Deacon, Bro. Hugh Aitken, jun.; Junior Deacon, Bro. I. Muir; Inner Guard, Bro. David Young; Tyler, Bro. Robert Howie. Unfortunately, three of the brethren elected for the office of Sub-Master, Chaplain, and Junior Steward, were absent, namely, Bros. John M'Millan, J. T. Gibb, and J. Johnstone. R.W.M. Bro. Jas. Burnett, having been installed, thanked the brethren for electing him to this honourable position, and promised to carry out the duties relative to his office. In a few well-chosen words he expressed his appreciation of the excellent manner in which the Installing Masters had performed the ceremony. The Lodge closed and the brethren adjourned to the Co-Operative Hall for tea and harmony. The usual Masonic toasts were proposed and replied to in a wholehearted way, and songs and recitations were rendered by visiting brethren and members of St David's. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

Co-Op. Concert.—Despite the fact that the public were being entertained to a free concert by a first-class company of singers the Co-Operative Propaganda Concert held last week did not attract a very large attendance. Mr David Mitchell occupied the chair. An able address on Co-operation was delivered by Mr Downie, and the musical items were sustained by Misses A. Allan and Ellon Drummond, and Messrs A. Cameron and Tom Dunn.

Street Lighting. — After protracted negotiations between the District Council and the L.M.S. Railway Company, an agreement has been reached regarding the installation of lamps on the Station Road from Woodside to the top of Barskimming Road. The poles are now being erected, and it is expected that the lamps will be connected within a week. This is a long looked for improvement, and we hope the next step will be the macadamising of the path the whole way round from the post office to the war memorial, via the station.

Golden Wedding.—Mr and Mrs Thomas Gilliland, Haughyett Farm, celebrated their golden wedding on Wednesday of last week. A function was held in the Black Bull Hotel in the evening, Dr Easson presiding. There was a large attendance of relatives and friends, including two great-grandchildren. Mrs Richmond, Shewalton, Drybridge, was also present, and she was Mrs Gilliland's bridesmaid 50 years ago. During the evening Mr and Mrs Gilliland received many handsome presents, the family gift being two easy chairs and a wallet and notes. Songs, recitations, and dances made up a very enjoyable programme. Mr and Mrs Gilliland have been 43 years in the Mauchline district, 31 years of which have been spent at Haughyett. For cheese and butter the name of Gilliland has won many honours. At Kilmarnock Show Mrs Gilliland has been a regular competitor, and she holds three championship medals and nine firsts for butter-making. There is a family of five sons and four daughters, most of whom are connected with farming. Tom, junior, who was master of ceremonies on Wednesday, is manager of the Co-Operative Wholesale Society, Kilmarnock. During the war Mr and Mrs Gilliland had four sons on service. Tom was a Captain, acting Major, in the Royal Engineers. James was badly wounded, and still suffers from the effects of his war service. The old couple are hale and hearty, and we wish them continued health and happiness in the evening of life.

Coylton Theft.

On October 22 a pedal cyclist left his machine at the Claude Hamilton Memorial Hall, Coylton. When he returned for it he discovered that someone had opened the tool-bag attached to the saddle. The cyclist found that his oilskin cycling cape, which had been in the tool-bag, had been taken away. The cape was valued at 6s. The police were informed, and suspicion fell on Matthew Lyle Hogg, miners' drawer, High Bridge of Coyle, Coylton, who had been seen near the machine. Hogg was challenged about the theft, and admitted his guilt. He appeared at Ayr J.P. Court on Monday, when he pleaded guilty to the charge made against him, and was fined 7s 6d by ex-Provost Gould and Mr John Neil, Ayr.

—:o:—

Patna Golden Wedding.

Yesterday (Thursday) Mr and Mrs James Vallance, Patna, Ayrshire, celebrated their golden wedding, having been married on 6th December, 1884, at St John's Episcopal Church, Annan, by the Rev. Haslam Sedgwick.

Mr Vallance went to school at Lugar, and from thence to college. He taught at Overton for a few years and then went to Lethanhill School as headmaster. He remained there until his retiral.

Mr and Mrs Vallance had five of a family, four girls and one boy; their son being killed at the war. One of the daughters is married; one is a science teacher in Troon; one in Kilmarnock; and one in Detroit.

Mr Vallance is 78 years of age and Mrs Vallance 79. We wish them many years of combined happiness.

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Mr ROBERT FORSYTH,

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CHRISTMAS CALLING!

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The Home Page

By "JANETTE."

A DAY DRESS.

This charming design has the four-piece skirt joined at the waist to the bodice which has the front cut in a slanting line. The sleeves have the shaped upper part inlet, and the collar is made of contrasting material.

Cut in a 48-inch length (from back neck to hem) for 32, 34, 36 and 40-inch bust sizes.

MATERIALS REQUIRED
54-inch width
2⅞ yds.
or
36-40-inch widths
3¾ yds.
⅜ yd. of 36-40-inch contrasting material for a single collar; ½ yd. for a double collar.

Special Note.—Please remember that all my patterns are made for **average stock size figures,** but as everyone's measurements vary it is **absolutely** necessary that you first pin up and fit on the pattern, or measure over a similar dress and make any alterations that may be needed before cutting your material.

If the pattern is too long, you take up a tuck across the front and back sections, just below the bustline in the bodice and the hips in the skirt.

If too short, cut the pattern through and inlet straight strips of paper. Sleeves can be lengthened or shortened the same way, above and below the elbow.

TURNINGS

Half-inch seam turnings are allowed for on this pattern, and two inches for the skirt hem.

CUTTING YOUR MATERIALS

54-inch Width.—Place the pattern pieces on the material as diagrammed, taking care to set the bodice fronts on the right side of the single material. Carefully cut to shape.

36-40-inch Widths.—Use either of these folded with selvedges together for all parts except the bodice fronts, which set on the right side of an opened-out width.

Cut the collar in double or single contrasting material, according to the quantity of material bought.

HOW TO MAKE THEM UP

The Skirt.—Tack and stitch the centre-front seam, neaten the raw edges and well press. Join the side seams, leaving the top of the left seam open a few inches for a placket, which presently neaten. Tack and stitch the back waist darts at the dotted lines marked on pattern.

The Bodice.—Turn in the edges of the right front, tack and stitch over the left front, matching the perforations, but leave the upper edge unstitched, then neaten the raw edges and arrange them to button as shown in sketch. Tack and stitch each front shoulder dart at the dotted lines marked on pattern. Join the shoulder and side seams, but leave the left side seam open a few inches at waist. Gather the waist edge at the dotted line. Tack and stitch the bodice to the skirt, matching the notches. Face in the entire front edge of the left side opening, stitch the back edge between a wrap, then close invisibly with press-studs. Face in the neck edge, hem up the skirt lower edge.

The Sleeve.—Turn up the lower edges of the upper piece, tack and stitch over the main part, matching the notches. Tack and stitch the seam and dart. Face up the wrist edge. Stitch top of sleeve into armhole with the notches matching, bind the raw edges.

The Pockets.—Over each front of the skirt, at the line of perforations, tack a crossway strip of material, machine twice through the centre, leaving a small space between the two rows. Cut through the centre between the two rows, draw raw edges of strip in to the wrong side and catchstitch in position, then make up two flat pockets and insert one in each slot.

Finish the waist of dress with a belt and trim with buttons as sketch suggests.

The Collar.—If this is single, narrowly hem the outer edges or have them picot-edged by a special machine, bind the remaining edge and tack within the neck of dress. In the case of a double collar, tack the two portions together with right sides facing, machine within the outer edges, turn right side out and press. Bind the remaining edges and tack within the neck of dress.

WHERE TO GET THE PATTERN

The pattern for this smart Day Dress is No. 56,343, and it may be obtained from "Home Fashions Paper Patterns," 219a Oxford Street, London, W.1. for 1s, plus postage.

It is also illustrated with many other up-to-date designs in the January Number of Home Fashions.

RECIPES.

These recipes have been compiled by an expert exclusively for this paper, and can be thoroughly recommended. Readers are advised to cut out the instructions given for preparing flour and keep it for future reference as prepared flour will be an ingredient of most of the recipes given. By strictly following the instructions there will be no doubt as to obtaining successful results. If your attempt is unsatisfactory send a sample to "Recipes," "Express Office," Cumnock, and our expert will tell you the reason of the failure.

Prepared Flour.

4 lb. flour, 2 ozs. cream of tartar, 1 oz. baking soda, ½ oz. salt. Sieve together several times and store in a tin for use when required.

SULTANA CAKE.

Ingredients.

½ lb. butter, ½ lb. sugar, 6 eggs, ¾ lb. plain flour, 2 ozs. prepared flour, 1 lb. of sultanas.

Method.

Grease and line a tin. Weigh ingredients and prepare your fruit. Cream butter and sugar together, beating it well, and adding eggs, carefully, one at a time. Add flour and, lastly, fruit. Place the mixture in the tin and bake in a moderate oven for about two hours. The cake is done when the centre feels firm. Let it remain in the tin for about ten minutes, then lift it on to a sieve and remove the paper. A 4 lb. cake tin is required.

———:o:———

THE GARDEN.

This is without doubt the most cheerless month of the year in the garden. Nothing now remains but the skeleton fruit trees—and a few stray flowers to remind us of the former charm and beauty of the garden.

Most interest at this time is taken by those who are fortunate enough to possess a heated greenhouse.

Outside work is mostly confined to the pruning of black currant bushes. Care must be taken to cut down the old branches and retain the growths formed last summer, for on these new growths next season's fruit will grow (these must not be pruned).

The general tidying up of the garden and paths may be done if the weather permits, and lawns should be swept and afterwards rolled regularly to keep down worm-casts. For those growing bulbs in water or fibre this is the time to examine them, and when the new shoots are about one inch long bring them into a semi-light position in a room before fully exposing them to the light. The fibre must be kept moist. Use tepid water for watering purposes.

———:o:———

CHAPPED HANDS.

Nothing can be more uncomfortable and disfiguring than rough, chapped hands; the more sensitive the skin the more easily it chaps. The cause is generally our own. Washing the hands and hurrying out, with them hastily and improperly dried, into the cold frosty air.

At this time of the year the girl who takes pride in her hands should keep a jar of fine oatmeal handy, and, after washing and carefully drying the hands, put a little of the oatmeal in the palm of one, then "wash" the hands with it, rubbing it well in to the backs and fingers. Dust off with a thoroughly dry towel.

If the skin has already become chapped take a solution of equal parts of bay-rum, glycerine and ammonia and rub well into the hands before going to bed. This remedy makes the hands smart for a moment, but it is an excellent and effective one-night remedy. Any chemist will make up the solution for a few coppers.

———:o:———

BEAUTY BEVERAGES.

Barley Water.—For a coarse, blotchy skin there is no better remedy than barley water taken regularly. At least a quart should be consumed every day, and it is best to drink it between meals.

To make barley water put 1 oz. of well-washed pearl barley into a saucepan with a quart of boiling water, and simmer slowly for an hour. A piece of lemon peel should be added after the water has simmered for half-an-hour. Allow to cool, and sweeten to taste.

Sage Tea is another beauty beverage which is excellent for the woman who is too thin and wishes to fill out her arms and the hollows of her neck. Fresh or dried sage leaves may be used.

Place 2 tablespoonfuls of the leaves in a clean teapot and pour over them a pint of boiling water. Allow to stand for 5 minutes. Strain off, and add a squeeze of orange juice to flavour. A cupful should be taken once or twice daily.

Camomile Tea.—This is a popular beverage with the French women, and one which is wonderful for making the complexion clear and smooth.

Put a tablespoonful of the flowers in a teapot and pour over them a pint of boiling water. Allow to stand for 3 minutes, strain off, and sweeten to taste. Camomile tea should be taken the last thing at night. Sugar may be omitted.

Children's Corner

Dear Kiddies,—

Each week I am going to keep a corner of this page for you, because I want you to like the "Cumnock Express" and to look forward to it every Friday. I will try my best to make it interesting for you, but, of course, a grown-up cannot know what little boys and girls like best to read. Perhaps you will write and tell me, and if you know of a new game, riddle, joke, or Fairy story send it too and I will try and print it for you in the 'Children's Corner." Address your letter to — "Children's Corner," "Express" Office, Cumnock.—The Editor.

———

The world is so full of a number of things. I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.—R. L. S.

———

Eggs-traordinary!

Could you, by looking at an egg, tell whether it would hatch out a hen or a rooster? James Scott, a page-boy in Toronto, Canada, says he can tell, and makes no secret about how he does it. He says, "All you have to do is to look at the small end of the egg. If the shell is crimped or uneven there will be a rooster; if it is smooth and rounded the chick will be a hen." If you have the opportunity you can test this, and then you will be able to help daddy select the eggs for hatching so that there will not be so many roosters when the chickens hatch out.

PRINT FROCK PARTIES.

The time for parties will be here very soon, and lots of you will be looking forward to them, for parties are such jolly affairs, but ——. Oh, dear! There's that tiresome "but" again. But what? But the party is sure to be spoiled for some little girl who has lemonade, or ice-cream, spilled over her pretty party-frock. Now, wouldn't it be more sensible if mummy let you go in a print frock, then you could get romping about to your heart's content and not worry because naughty Tommy joggled your elbow and made you spill your lemonade on your frock. Mummy will wash it "good as new," and print frocks are very pretty, too. Next time you are giving one make it a Print Frock Party.

A GAME FOR YOUR PARTY.

If you read the "Scouting and Guiding" column you will notice that the Auchinleck Scouts played a "Memory Training" game. I will tell you how it is played so that you can try it at your party.

First of all the players blindfold themselves, and sit round in a ring. Then someone not taking part in the game starts the players passing round some small articles (such as a tin-opener, safety pin, ring, a shilling, a halfpenny, etc.) and each player has to try and discover what each article is by merely holding it in the hand for a moment before passing it on to the player sitting next. When all the articles have been handed round the players take the handkerchief from their eyes and write on a piece of paper the name of as many of the articles as they can remember.

The player who gives the most correct answers wins the game.

———:o:———

THE HOUSE-SPARROW.

The best-known and commonest of all our feathered friends is the sparrow. Like a little gamin it hops about our streets just moving out of our way and then back to the crust that some school-boy has thrown away. They are so numerous and so drab coloured that we take little or no notice of them. Even in the building of the nest the sparrow makes use of odds and ends; straw, dry grass, and often scraps of rag, paper, string, etc., lining it with feathers. The nest is built in any convenient hole in the house roof, or in wall ivy. Five or six eggs are laid and these are greyish-white in colour, blotched all over with dark brown, ash brown, and grey.

The sparrow is a songless bird, but with its cheeky little "cheep, cheep," and frequent scuffles in the hedgrows with half-a-dozen other frantically chirping birds, it probably makes more noise than any other bird.

He remains about the houses all the year until the crops ripen, and then in flocks of hundreds they may be seen clinging to the stalks of corn picking the grains. They can do a great deal of damage to the crops. After the harvest they may be seen searching the stubble, and then back again they come to the town.

———:o:———

Guess!

Why did the crocus (crow cuss)?—Because it saw the snowdrop.

* * *

Why is a crying baby at the pictures like a good resolution?—Because it should be carried out immediately.

* * *

"Why did Eve not fear the measles?"
"Because she'd Adam."

* * *

"If all the seas dried up, what would you say?"
"I haven't a notion (an ocean)."

* * *

"Why do sailors know everything?"
"Because they have been to sea (see)."

TO MAKE YOU SMILE.

Ohm, Sweet Ohm.

Cumnock Town Council's proposal for "all-electric" houses will give those engaged in the coal mining industry a "shock."

* * *

"So-sage."

The butchers' ultimatum: "We are out to kill." They don't "mince" their words.

* * *

Smith—"Do you remember when girls had wasp-like waists?"

Henpeck—"I ought to remember. That was when I got stung."

* * *

"Has Doris had a good musical education?"

"I should think she has. Just tell her the name of a song and she'll tell you what's on the other side of the record."

* * *

Farmer—"An' how's Lawyer Jones doing, doctor?"

Doctor—"Poor fellow, he's lying at death's door."

Farmer—"That's grit for ye; at death's door, an' still lying!"

* * *

She (motoring)—"I said you could kiss me, but I didn't say you could hug me."

He—"Oh, that's all right; I just threw in the clutch."

* * *

"I bought this dress for a ridiculous price."

"You mean for an absurd figure."

* * *

Should a Mother Tell?

A mother had been telling her small son some of the "facts of life," and when she had finished she said: "Now, my boy, are there any questions you would like to ask?"

After a little heavy thinking the boy replied: "Yes, mother, there is something I've wanted to know for a long time."

She asked him what it was.

"Mother, just how do they make bricks?"

* * *

"I intend to marry him and help him to find his feet," confides Y. C. It's your head you seem to have lost.

* * *

"It isn't the coat that makes the man." No, it's the shoulder padding.

* * *

Smith—Brown's not as big a fool as he used to be.

Jones—I noticed he was thinner.

* * *

You don't need to be particularly bright to burn the candle at both ends.

* * *

"The modern girl has a fresh complexion." Every day.

* * *

Spinster—"There is a secret connected with my birth."

He—"Really, is it the date?"

* * *

He wasn't on speaking terms with his wife because he never got a chance to speak.

———:o:———

TO MAKE YOU THINK.

Monday.

"If instead of a gem, or even a flower, we could cast the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of a friend, that would be giving as the angels, I suppose, must give."—Geo. M'Donald.

* * *

Tuesday.

"I shall pass through this world but once; any good thing, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now; let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

* * *

Wednesday.

"Friends are the flowers that strew life's pathway, and their tears, mingling in sympathy with our own, the refreshing dew."—N. V. M. C.

* * *

Thursday.

"I've made it a practice to shut all my worries down in the bottom of my heart, then sit on the lid and smile."—Alice Rice.

* * *

Friday.

"God gave us Memory that we might have Roses in December."

* * *

Saturday.

We all of us, in a great measure, create our own happiness, which is not half so much dependent upon scenes and circumstances as most people are apt to imagine.

* * *

Sunday.

There is a rainbow in the sky
Upon the arch where tempests trod;
God wrote it ere the world was dry—
It is the autograph of God.

THE CURLERS.

(This poem appeared in the "British American," and the loch referred to is the artificial one at New Cumnock, between the Castle and the railway station).

Some talk aboot fraternity as if it were a word
That meant the happy homing flicht o' some migrating bird.
Look doon the loch, an' there ye'll see a definition keen
O' what fraternity consists in a' its native sheen.

Blythe Jock, the blacksmith an' his frien', a pawky farmer chiel,
Wi' Mister Mack, the minister, an' banker Jim as weel;
They hae nae care aboot the morn, nor what the folks may think,
But yell an' jump wi' sportiveness doon on the curling rink.

They're brisk wi' broom an' besom, aye a-clearin' aff the tee;
This nicht the cup's at stake, an' naething seems tae mar their glee.
The blacksmith's fu' o' confidence, an' though he's of the flock
The game is nae respecter o' the clergy or the cloak.

The wind grows snell an' nippy, but they dinna care a straw
For winter's breath, the frost an' snaw, for a' the winds that blaw;
Their every thocht is centered in the rousing curling game,
An' for the nonce the curlers hae forget they hae a hame.

The minister wi' muffler an' a worsted, tooried Tam,
Forgot his normal dignity when he got in a jam,
An' roared like ane dementit tae the banker: "Soop-'er-up;
A bonnie stane, a wee bit driech; that shot sud win the cup!"

The blacksmith wi' his loud guffaw was proof against advice,
An' drapped tae watch the ootcome, sometimes prostrate on the ice;
Ye'd think wi' clearance an' retard a kingdom was at stake,
An' roarin' acted on the stanes effective as a brake.

The banker an' the farmer in their ardor werena blate;
They gat enthused, forgot their crafts, an' care had just tae wait.
Wi' laffin, jokin, hearty fun, they scarce had time tae think
On ither daily, prosy things, while on the curling rink.

The skaters heard the laughter in their smooth an' silent glide;
They wondered if in sport they had been stranded by the tide,
An' gathered roon the curlers, as the moth draws tae the flame,
In time tae see the haunshakes at the finish o' the game.

The minister an' the banker were the victors in the strife,
An' fond congratulations an' unstinted praise were rife;
A finer set o' sportsmen true had ne'er been given birth
Within the lengthy span o' John o' Groat an' Solway Firth.

An incident then happened, just tae prove the lack o' brains,
When gawky Rab was slidin' in twa polished Ailsa stanes;
Tae show his muscle an' his micht, against a' sage advice,
He startit oot tae carry them an' broke in through the ice.

Next Sunday, in his sermon, ay, the minister was fine;
The banker in his daily problems hewed richt tae the line;
The blacksmith sang his ditties as he smote the glowing airns,
But aye the farmer smiled an' said: "We're a' John Tamson's bairns."

Chicago, U.S.A. —Wm. Nisbet.

What Will Santa Claus Bring!

Let's hope it is one of these Exciting Games—

GRANDFATHER'S WHISKERS
Price 1/-
or
SORRY
Price 3/-

Both these Games provide great fun for children and grown-ups. No complicated rules.

These, and all the Latest and Most Popular Indoor Games are stocked by

D. CONNELL,
Newsagent & Stationer,
CUMNOCK.

AYR EGG MARKET.

On Tuesday the price of standard eggs dropped to 2s per dozen, which is 2d less than last week. The price of medium eggs was reduced by 3d per dozen, selling at 1s 6d per dozen.

AYR GRAIN MARKETS.

Linseed Cake—£10 10s per ton.
Egyptian Cotton Cake—£6 15s per ton.
54 per cent. Ground Nut Cake—£7 10s per ton.
Compound Cake—£7 10s to £8 10s per ton.
Round Indian Corn—£6 10s per ton.
Flat Indian Corn—£7 per ton.
Indian Meal—£7 5s per ton.
Bran—£7 10s per ton.
White Bran—£7 15s per ton.
Thirds—£7 15s per ton.
Fine White Thirds—£8 5s per ton.
Bean Meal—£9 5s per ton.
Barley Meal—£8 10s per ton.
Dried Grains—£6 15s per ton.
Cooked Maize—£8 per ton.
Treacle Meal—£7 10s per ton.
Treacle—£6 10s per ton.
Oats—£6 5s per ton.

For Scouts, Guides, and Brownies

—:o:—

9th AYRSHIRE (CUMNOCK) GROUP BOY SCOUTS.

Outdoor scouting has now receded slightly into the background. As is usual at this time of the year, the only opportunity to get out of doors is at the week-end before the early darkness compels operations to cease.

This, therefore, is the time when indoor work has its innings, and the boys, who at present number about 40, are going full steam ahead, all with some definite object in view. The youngsters of the troop are being initiated into the ways of the troop, and the older chaps are lending them a hand and showing them the ropes. Then the older boys are also finding there is still a lot to learn in scouting despite some years spent in the troop, and one may see a group of them being instructed in the very useful knowledge of first-aid to the injured, while another lot may be trying to master the difficulties of sending and receiving messages by the mere waving of flags. There are many other activities in the Scout movement, and we may mention others in subsequent issues.

The plans for the new headquarters have now been sanctioned by the County Council, and after the usual formalities have been gone through work will commence.

The Wolf Cubs, the junior members of the Boy Scout movement, are still strong numerically, and the youngsters are every bit as enthusiastic as their older brothers.

The Rover Crew has been resuscitated, and is expected to resume activities at an early date. The drawback in this respect had been the lack of a meeting place, but this difficulty will soon be over when the hut is ready.

—:o:—

AUCHINLECK BOY SCOUTS.

The members of the Auchinleck Boy Scout Troop held their weekly meeting in the School Gymnasium on Friday night. After flag parade and roll call the patrols indulged in physical exercises and several activity games—an excellent opportunity for all to let off their pent-up superfluous energy. Next came instruction period, when patrols resorted to their "corners," where recruits were trained by the P. L's, and others studied for Second Class and Proficiency Badges. This was a busy time for all. Some were working diligently away with pieces of cord practising knots, while others were signalling or bandaging an imaginary leg fracture. The Scouters were kept going with so many boys eager to pass another test. Several of the older boys presented themselves for examination in pathfinding.

As it was St Andrew's Day, the Scoutmaster gave an impressive and appropriate address on the life of the Patron Saint of Scotland. Later at an Investiture Ceremony Recruits Laurie and W. Merry were invested with the Tenderfoot Badge. The other members also renewed the Scout Promise. Another game followed. This took the form of a memory test.

The meeting concluded with a rousing Camp Fire, when many old favourites were sung lustily.

In the inter-patrol competitions the results were:—Peewit Patrol, 28; Otter Patrol, 26; Wolf Patrol, 24; Beaver Patrol, 19.

—:o:—

Cumnock Brownies.

When I received this report I felt inclined to "steal" it for the "Children's Corner," for it concerns children. Brownies! The very name makes you think of those little brown elfs that are first cousins of the fairies. After you read this you will want to join, I'm sure.

In our Brownies there are two packs. The Chief Brownie of the first pack is Miss Taylor, and she is called "Brown Owl." Her second-in-command is Miss Jean Ritchie, who is called "Tawny Owl." In the second pack Miss Jean Latta is Brown Owl, and Miss Jessie Taylor is Tawny Owl.

The first pack is about 23 in number at present, and they have been engaged knitting woolies to hand over to the Nursing Association, and also preparing a tuckbox for the Bute Hospital. How's that for a Christmas effort?

The second pack is about 18 strong, and they have been busy getting things in order for their season's work.

Each pack is divided into sixes, and these "sixes" have each a leader known as a "sixer," and a "second." Each six are called Elves, Pixies, Gnomes, Fairies, etc.

The totem is a toadstool, and forming a "fairy ring" the Brownies dance round it singing:—

"We're the Brownies; here's our aim:
Lend a hand and play the game."

Then each six do this in turn, singing their own special song.

The meeting consists of games and work, with a "breather" when a "pow-wow" to discuss future affairs takes place. "Taps," which is really a prayer, finishes the evening. It is sung to the tune of "Chimes of Big Ben":—

"O Lord, our God, Thy children call,
Grant us Thy peace till the sunrise."
—Good-night!

42nd AYRSHIRE (AUCHINLECK) WOLF CUB PACK.

The usual weekly Pack meeting was held in the School Hall at 5.30 p.m. Twenty-two Cubs were present. The full Pack musters 28, but fever and diphtheria have taken their toll. The C.M. and A.C.M. were both present.

An extra zest has been added to the Pack meetings in the form of handwork of all descriptions, and the attempts are really worth while. The meeting is supposed to close at 7.30 p.m., but so great is the enthusiasm that 8 p.m. is nearer the closing hour.

The signalling progresses slowly but surely, the Cubs themselves giving and receiving words. Kipling's Jungle Book No. 1 provides a source of interest each night.

—:o:—

CUMNOCK GIRL GUIDES.

The Guides had their usual meeting in the gymnasium on Tuesday night, when two recruits were enrolled. While the Company stood in horseshoe formation Margaret Laidlaw, of the Swallow Patrol, and Ellen Rennie, of the Bluebell Patrol, repeated the Guide Promise and then received the Trefoil Badge, symbolic of the Threefold Promise, from Captain M'Culley.

The points in the Inter-Patrol Competition for the current month are as follows:—The Robin and Snowdrop Patrols, 20; Whiteheather, 19½; Swallow, 18; and Bluebell and Poppy, 17.

The Company consists of 50 Guides, and is divided into six Patrols. There is one Post Guide attached to the Cumnock Company.

—:o:—

TU-WHIT, TU-WHOO! BROWN OWL CALLING.

Since the 8th of October the 1st Auchinleck Brownie Pack has been in existence. We have now 28 in the Pack.

Our Guides still continue to help us in the training of these Brownies, while Tawny Owl and Pack Leader are invaluable for their help in music and games.

Of these 28 Brownies, eight were enrolled by the captain, after having passed all their recruit tests. This enrolment took place on 26th November, and the parents of those to be enrolled were present at the ceremony.

Mrs Girvan, president, and Mrs Baird, secretary of the local Guide Association; Lieutenant J. Campbell, Mrs Fryer, and Miss Greenshields, representing the Cub Pack, were also there on this first enrolment day. Rev. Geo. R. Fryer took the chair.

After Captain Fryer had enrolled the Brownies, Mrs Girvan presented each of them with their certificate. We were all very proud indeed to see our first eight Brownies in uniform.

Since that evening those who were enrolled have been sewing, tying knots, learning Union Jack, etc., for their Second Class Badge, while we are preparing other seven whom we hope to enrol on the 17th inst.

As Brown Owl I am very proud to see the Pack developing gradually, and I thank parents and those friends who have shown their interest and support in this new venture. The first enthusiasm still continues, and I hope to preserve it.

1st AUCHINLECK GUIDE COMPANY.

The Xmas fever has at present infected the Guides! The Company shows the following symptoms:—

Miss J. Campbell, their lieutenant; Mrs Fryer, and those of the girls who could procure suitable material, have been busy making large Xmas stockings for a Stocking Trail which is being held throughout the county. Those of the Guides who wished filled a stocking making a gift of the following, which each of the stockings contained:—One garment, three toys, an apple or an orange, and some sweets. When completed and decorated these stockings are to be sent to poor children in the distressed areas of this county. The Company hope to have between 30 and 40 stockings, which will be collected and taken to Ayr for distribution nearer Xmas.

The Company now being full is closed, and a waiting list has been started.

—:o:—

List of Advertising Charges in the

"CUMNOCK EXPRESS"

—— and ——

Auchinleck, Catrine, Mauchline, Muirkirk, New Cumnock, Ochiltree, Kirkconnel, and Stair Press.

EVERY FRIDAY. PRICE 1d.

Parliamentary Notices and Election Addresses—9d per line.

Council Election Addresses and Notices and Company Prospectuses—6d per line.

Public and Legal Notices, Property Sales, Grass Parks to Let, Auction Sales, Money Wanted or to Lend, Contracts to Let, etc.—5d per line.

Entertainments, Etc.

Bazaars, Circus and Visiting Concert and Theatrical Parties—3/6 per inch.

Local Entertainments, Picture Houses, Public Meetings, Dances, Sports, etc.—3/- per inch.

Friendly Society, Masonic, Church, and similar notices—2/- per inch.

Business Advertisements.

1 insertion —per inch, single col. 1/3
4 insertions— ,, ,, 1/-
Double column, double above rates.

Prepaid Advertisements.

Wanteds, Houses to Let, Articles for Sale, Lost or Found, and Miscellaneous Advertisements—12 words, 9d; ½d for every additional word. Minimum, 9d. If "Apply 'Express' Office," 4d for postage, etc.

Birth, Death, and Acknowledgment Notices—24 words or less, 2/-.

Marriage Notices—24 words, 2/6.

In Memoriam Notices—24 words, 2/-; 4-line Verses, 1/6 each.
Every additional word, 1d.
If credit rate, 6d extra.

December, 1934.

—:o:—

SCOTTISH CUP FIRST-ROUND DRAW.

Keen Game Expected at Ayr.

The draw for the first round of the Scottish Cup competition resulted as follows:—

Partick Thistle v. Stenhousemuir.
Vale Ocoba v. Dumbarton.
Buckie Thistle v. Beith.
Third Lanark v. Creetown.
East Stirlingshire v. Raith Rovers.
Dunfermline Ath. v. Hamilton Acads.
Forfar Athletic v. Chirnside United.
Vale of Atholl v. Hibernian.
Celtic v. Montrose.
Fraserburgh v. Dundee United.
Falkirk v. Aberdeen.
Albion Rovers v. Paisley Acads.
Queen's Park v. Alloa.
East Fife v. Clyde.
Brechin City v. Leith Athletic.
Peebles Rovers v. St Mirren.
Rangers v. Cowdenbeath.
Inverness Caledonian v. Clachnacuddin.
King's Park v. Edinburgh City.
St Johnstone v. Arbroath.
Heart of Midlothian v. Solway Star.
Ayr United v. Queen of the South.
Greenock Morton v. Bo'ness.
Galston v. Kilmarnock.
St Bernard v. Airdrieonians.
Berwick Rangers v. Rosyth Dockyard.
Dundee v. Motherwell.

The ties will be played on Saturday, January 26; kick-off, 2.45; replays, 2.30.

Duke of York to Attend Match in Glasgow.

At a meeting of the Scottish Football Association Council held in Glasgow on Wednesday the president, Mr James Fleming, said he was pleased to inform the council that His Royal Highness the Duke of York had intimated his intention of being present at the International match between Scotland and England at Hampden Park, Glasgow, on April 6, 1935.

In conveying this information to the Association, Sir Godfrey Collins, Secretary of State for Scotland, stated that the Duke's visit was not connected with any other official engagement, but was solely for the purpose of attending the match.

NEWS. NEWS.

TO THE USERS OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

We have installed the very latest equipment for Decarbonizing, Re-facing Valves and Valve Seats, entirely eliminating guesswork and completing job equal to new.

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LET US HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF DEMONSTRATING THE NEW METHOD. SATISFACTION IS ASSURED.

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We have pleasure in announcing in the first issue of this Paper to our clients in the surrounding district that we have now in Stock

All the Latest and Most Up-to-Date Selection of Records for December,

Including all the Latest Song and Dance Tunes from His Master's Voice, Columbia, Parlophone, Regal, Zonophone, Decca, and Rex Catalogues.

See and Hear Them at our Only Address.

We are the leading agents for all makes of Records in the district. **Any Record not in Stock can be procured at short notice.**
WE SHALL BE PLEASED TO SUPPLY YOU WITH YOUR

New Wireless Set for the Christmas and New Year Programmes.

We are authorised dealers for His Master's Voice, Ultra Aerodyne, and all the leading makes of Wireless Sets. Also dealers in all makes of accessories for Sets.
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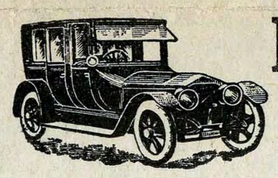

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Authorised MORRIS Dealer

Cars for Hire at Moderate Rates.

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Repairs Executed by Expert Mechanics.

Proprietor: R. G. MEIKLEJOHN. Phone 37.

The Ideal Gifts for a Boy.

MECCANO,

HORNBY TRAINS,

AND ACCESSORIES.

Sole Agent in District:

DAVID CONNELL,

Stationer and Newsagent,

Glaisnock Street, Cumnock.

THINGS SMITH THOUGHT HE KNEW.

The Pilgrims went to Canterbury to kill Joe Beckett.

* * *

Marconi is used to make delicious puddings.

* * *

Carnera is a thing you take photographs with.

Aristocrats are people who perform at a circus.

* * *

London has many tubercular railways.

* * *

An oculist is a kind of spider fish.

* * *

Gladiators are iron things which give out heat.

Sports Page

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SPORTS ANNOUNCEMENT.

In keeping with our promise to make a special feature of our sports columns, we have much pleasure in announcing that we have enlisted the aid of a well-known football personality who, in addition to being well acquainted with every phase of the game, has acted as football correspondent for a well-known Ayrshire weekly for several years. Under the pen-name of "Batman" he will provide our readers with all that is latest and best regarding football affairs generally. In addition "Batman" will personally attend one of our local matches every Saturday, and besides giving a racy account of the play, will frankly and fearlessly describe how the players engaged comport themselves.

In introducing this new feature we are actuated by a twofold desire. Firstly to provide football followers in South Ayrshire with something new in football journalism, and secondly to give the game in this part of the 'shire the publicity it deserves.

—:o:—

FOOTBALL.

Glenafton Still Winning.

WESTERN LEAGUE CUP.

Glenafton Athletic travelled to Dalry on Saturday for this third round Cup-tie. The weather conditions made the footing bad and play suffered accordingly, especially in the first half which was uninteresting. Dalry did most of the offensive work during this period, but were up against a dour defence. After 20 minutes' play Hawthorn opened the scoring for the Glens. Brown added a second goal later when from a free kick the ball took the underside of the bar and rebounded into the net. Dalry's eagerness helped to weaken their finishing near goal.

Play improved in the second half, and Dalry reduced the leeway through Wilson. This added spice to the game and Glens retaliated by scoring a third goal, Lamont being the marksman. The game had now assumed an interesting aspect which kept the spectators agog. Brown converted a penalty kick and made the visitors safe for round four. Wilson scored a second goal for the homesters.

Dalry—Fallon; Nelson and A. Clark; W. Hand, M'Leish, and M'Creadie; R. Hand, Robertson, Wilson, Mann, and J. Clark.

Glenafton—M'Ewen; Brown and Ferguson; Logan, Gray, and Ballantyne; Irvine, Millar, Lamont, Campbell, and Hawthorn.

Referee—Mr W. Harvey, Paisley.

Dalry Thistle, 2; Glenafton Athletic, 4.

Summing-Up.

Glens were below their usual standard in the opening exchanges, and were two goals in the lead rather against the run of play. Their play improved in the second half, and was more in keeping with that of a team who are strong candidates for the national trophy. Criticism of players would be invidious where the conditions were so adverse to good play, but Glenafton were well served by M'Ewen, Brown, Logan, Gray, Lamont, and Millar.

Glenafton travel to Saltcoats on Saturday in a League game. Team—M'Ewan; Brown and Sim; Logan, Gray, and Ballantyne; Irvine, Miller, Lamont, Campbell, and Hawthorn.

WESTERN LEAGUE TABLE.

Dreghorn Juniors displace Glenafton at the top by virtue of a win over Cumnock Juniors on Saturday. Glenafton, who were engaged on Cup business that day, have two games in hand for the single point that separates them from the leaders.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals. F.	A.	Pts.
Dreghorn Jrs.	18	13	3	2	44	29	28
Glenafton A.	16	11	0	5	44	17	27
Kilwinning R.	14	10	0	4	52	19	24
Saltcoats Vic.	14	6	3	5	41	23	17
Irvine Victoria	17	7	7	3	37	40	17
Ardeer Rec. ..	14	6	4	4	34	21	16
Winton Rovs.	16	6	6	4	40	32	16
Kilbirnie L. ..	14	7	5	2	31	28	16
Meadow XI. ..	18	6	9	3	29	41	15
Kello Rovers..	15	5	6	4	32	35	14
Largs Thistle	16	4	7	5	28	39	13
Troon Athletic	16	4	7	5	34	46	13
Darvel	14	4	6	4	34	36	12
Auchinleck T.	17	5	10	2	28	47	12
Dalry Thistle	13	3	7	3	21	31	9
*Cumnock Jrs.	17	4	10	3	23	50	9
Kilwinning E.	19	3	14	2	34	52	8

* Two points deducted for playing an ineligible player.

Talbot Down at Kirkconnel.

WESTERN LEAGUE.

These old South Ayrshire rivals met on the Common, Kirkconnel, where the locals recorded their most convincing victory of the season. Neither team played at full strength. Talbot experimented with a number of trialists, and the locals reintroduced Stevenson and Eadie at half-back to the exclusion of their Glasgow players, Gallacher and Crimin. They were better served in that department than the visitors. Only Strang, the Talbot left-half, displayed any constructive ability. But he was dwarfed by the brilliance of Kello's right wing, whose sterling play was chiefly responsible for the decisiveness of the result. Play at the start was quiet and uninteresting until Boyle, the dashing Talbot leader, cleverly eluded Lindsay and tested Graham with a deceptive header. The 'keeper cleared rather smartly, and then Kello took matters in hand, and for a rather lengthy spell Talbot were confined entirely to their own half, but they had a stonewall goalkeeper in M'Caffer, who made a number of spectacular clearances. Kello made the mistake of trying to walk the ball through instead of letting go when a scoring chance presented itself. The game dragged until four minutes from the interval, when a penalty was granted for a foul on Howard, and Irvine netted from the spot. Kello resumed in different mood and kept the ball moving to greater advantage. They quickly increased their lead to three, Howard and Torrance being the marksmen. Talbot's defence were sorely harassed, but a revival by the forwards gave them a breather, and Graham came into the picture for practically the first time. The effort came too late and any chance of recovery disappeared when Smith again scored with a 30 yards drive.

Kello Rovers—Graham; Lindsay and Irvine; M'Leod, Stevenson, and Eadie; Howard, Smith, Keggans, Torrance, and Cain.

Auchinleck Talbot—M'Caffer; Crawley and Wyllie; M'Aulay, Morrison, and Strang; Hutton, J. Baird, Boyle, D. Baird, and Finlay.

Referee—Mr Jas. Love, Paisley.

Kello Rovers, 4; Auchinleck Talbot, 0.

Summing-Up.

Talbot were below their average. They never combined as a team. Collective play was at a discount with them, and individual efforts were quickly subdued. M'Caffer, Strang, and Boyle were easily their outstanding players. The latter proved a thrustful leader, but was indifferently supported. Kello, though good winners, were by no means brilliant, but they excelled in positional play, and the various departments of the team linked up to greater advantage.

On Saturday Kirkconnel Public School team gained a decisive victory over Sanquhar Academy 2nd team. The game was played on the Academy grounds, and the Kirkconnel boys were successful by 6 goals to 1.

* * *

Crawick Swifts (Sanquhar) travelled to Thornhill and engaged in a friendly with the local juvenile club on Showfield Park. A keenly contested game resulted in a draw of three goals each.

—:o:—

Dreghorn Top The Table.

WESTERN LEAGUE.

At Townhead Park.

In miserable weather before a small attendance Cumnock won the toss and kicked into the north goal. The opening exchanges were very even, and during all the first half the game was anything but thrilling. Half time found the teams as they started—0-0.

Shortly after resuming Cumnock were awarded a penalty for handling. Johnstone took the spot kick, but Shepherd made a brilliant save—this by the way being his thirteenth successive penalty save. After this let-off Dreghorn pressed and a fine angular shot by M'Dade was saved at the expense of a fruitless corner. Dreghorn returned to the home territory, and when about 10 minutes had gone Newman score from a fumbled save by Jardine. Too close passing by the home inside men spoiled many good openings. A good piece of play on the Cumnock left ended in Shepherd bringing off a brilliant save from a strong drive by Mitchell. Johnstone retired injured for a short time, and on his return he went to outside-right. A second goal by Wallace made the points secure for Dreghorn.

Cumnock—Jardine; Russell and Kirkwood; Fair, Robertson, and Clark; Doolan, Johnstone, Mitchell, Marshall, and Donnelly.

Dreghorn—Shepherd; Caldwell and Gibson; M'Killop, Wilson, and Coffee; Anderson, Harkness, Newman, M'Dade, and Wallace.

Referee—Mr Spraggs.

Cumnock, 0; Dreghorn, 2.

Summing-Up.

On the whole it was a very uninteresting game, with Dreghorn value for their win. Cumnock played a new back in Kirkwood, who shaped quite well. Best forward for the home club was Doolan.

FOOTBALL NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By "BATMAN."

I very much regret that through lack of time I have been unable to get in touch with Kello Rovers and Glenafton Athletic so as to have included in my notes this week any items of interest concerning these two clubs. I trust, therefore, that supporters of these teams will forgive me if news concerning their favourites is conspicuous by its absence on this occasion. I hope, however, to have everything in order for next week's edition of the "Express."

* * *

Cumnock Juniors are having an idle day to-morrow (Saturday). I was talking to an official of the Cumnock club, and he expressed himself as being none sorry at having no game, as in these dark December days, and consequent early kicks-off, gates or guarantees don't meet the expense incurred.

* * *

Auchinleck Talbot will have Irvine Victoria as visitors to-morrow in a Western League fixture. The Auchinleck team are putting forth a big effort to capture both points from this encounter, as they are getting too near the bottom of the table to feel comfortable.

* * *

The Talbot team for to-morrow has been selected as follows:—M'Caffer; Crowley and Wyllie; M'Aulay, Morrison, and Hood; Findlay and Hutton; Newman; Boyle and Currie.

* * *

I feel confident that Auchinleck Talbot supporters will be pleased when I tell them that the Hood who will appear at left-half is Willie Hood, who rendered yeoman service to the Talbot several seasons ago. A more wholehearted player never wore their colours.

* * *

No doubt many will remember the serious accident met with by Ferguson, Glenafton's stylish defender. He had a leg fractured while playing for Scotland against Ireland last season. I am in a position to state that the S.J.F.A. have handed £40 over to the unfortunate lad, as the result of a benefit match and other efforts they launched on his behalf.

* * *

Did you notice that Dreghorn Juniors turned out in new colours against Cumnock at Townhead Park on Saturday last? I learn that this was their first appearance in their natty blue and white striped outfit.

* * *

Some rather curious claims crop up from time to time in junior football, and at a meeting of the Western Junior League held last week one such claim did come up for consideration. Here are the facts as I got them:—Several weeks ago Saltcoats Victoria were due to play Kilbirnie Ladeside at Kilbirnie in a League match. The Victoria duly made the journey, only to find, on their arrival, that the referee had declared the ground unplayable. The Saltcoats club lodged a claim against Kilbirnie for £2 5s expenses. At the meeting above mentioned their representative put forward the point of view that such was the state of the field on their arrival at Kilbirnie that it must have been apparent to the home club officials earlier in the morning that play would be impossible that day. At least he held that they should have had the field inspected in the morning and wired to Saltcoats not to travel. The Kilbirnie representative admitted that the field was certainly unplayable in the morning, but that every effort had been made to have it made playable in time for the kick-off. When the referee arrived, however, he declared that play was impossible, and by that time Saltcoats team and officials had reached Kilbirnie. The claim was dismissed, and I am inclined to agree with that decision.

* * *

I am able to give you particulars of another curious case which was considered at the same meeting. Many of you will remember Kello Rovers travelling to Troon in a League match several weeks ago, and when the Rovers were leading by 2 goals to 1 a break-in took place and the game was abandoned. The League ordered the game to be replayed. Now listen to the interesting sequel. The League rule concerning these replays is, that Cup-tie terms operate. That is half gate, or railway fares, whichever is the greater. When Kello Rovers went back to Troon the gate was a poor one; so poor that the Rovers' share didn't amount to the requisite railway fares. Kello claimed 12s 6d from the Troon club, this being the amount they were short of the guaranteed travelling expenses. The Rovers' claim was upheld. No other decision was possible under the circumstances.

* * *

The S.J.F.A. are determined to have no truck with midget football, and junior clubs have to be instructed not to grant the use of their grounds for this type of game, or for any unauthorised competitions. I wonder how this will affect schoolboy competitions such as Auchinleck Talbot have been running for two or three seasons. I am just afraid a permit will be necessary in future.

* * *

I am pleased to see George Ballantyne is playing as well as ever for Glenafton this season. It seems a long time since I saw him serve up some brilliant games at left-half for Cronberry Eglinton, and later in the ranks of Auchinleck Talbot. There are few better half-backs in Ayrshire than "Geordie."

Another player of whom I hear glowing reports, but whom I have not had the pleasure of seeing in action yet, is Howard, Kello Rovers' outside-right. I have it from a very good judge of a player that on his last Saturday's display there are few, if any, better outside wingers in junior Scotland. High praise indeed.

* * *

What has come over Marshall and Johnstone, the two inside forwards of Cumnock Juniors? When I first saw these two lads play at the beginning of the season I expressed the opinion that Cumnock had two of the best inside men in Ayrshire. In recent games, however, they have both served up very moderate displays. Have the heavy grounds anything to do with this, I wonder?

* * *

Auchinleck Talbot hold their quarterly meeting to-night (Friday), when a statement regarding the club's financial position, and other interesting information, will likely be given out. I learn also that three members of the committee retire at this meeting, but, if willing, are eligible for re-election.

* * *

I should like to draw the attention of juvenile clubs to the fact that I shall be pleased to include in my weekly notes any item of news which they think will be to their advantage, or which may be of interest to the football public generally. Communications addressed to "Batman," c/o the "Cumnock Express," will have my personal attention.

* * *

As up to the time of going to press I have been unable to learn who Glenafton are playing on Saturday, and as I fancy Kello Rovers will be playing an away game, I will attend the League fixture at Auchinleck, where Talbot meet Irvine Victoria, and will deal specially with this match in next week's edition.

—:o:—

SPORT PARS.

Jimmy M'Connel, who went from the Talbot to Nithsdale Wanderers, and was their record goal-scorer in Nithsdale's Second League days, has just recovered from a rather serious illness. Jimmy has seen service with Carlisle United, Crewe Alexandra, and Rotherham United. There is a strong feeling down Sanquhar way that he may return to assist his first love on Crawick Holm before he finally retires from the game. Good health and good luck, Jimmy!

* * *

Director Bob Kirkwood and Manager Willie Orr, of Falkirk, visited Kirkconnel last week in search of an outside-right. They were so impressed with Howard, of Kello Rovers, that they had him at Brockville for a practice game on Tuesday. Carlisle United and Queen of the South have also cast eyes on this player, who, though only 23 years of age, has had experience with Sunderland.

Our Kirkconnel correspondent informs us that J. Howard has been asked to participate in another trial, probably this week.

* * *

Last Saturday night Scotland's juvenile team was chosen to meet Ireland at Belfast on Christmas Eve. M'Dowall, Burnfoothill Primrose, is our only district representative, and from what I have seen of his play he is a wise choice for the inside-left position.

* * *

The referee failed to turn up in the local derby between Connelpark and Craigbank Juveniles. A friendly was played, and an equally contested game ended in a draw of two goals each.

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An arrangement has been arrived at between Glenafton and Kilwinning Rangers for their 4th round Scottish Junior tie. The game will be played at Kilwinning on New Year's Day.

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Football fans all over Scotland are taking note of Glenafton; over three months without a defeat is good going for a county team. They are the best off financially in the county. Many Second Division senior clubs would like to show the same balance to their credit.

* * *

We regret that "Links" Fergusson, the popular left-back of Glenafton, who was injured in the junior international at Belfast last season, has not come up to expectations in his test. His place will be taken on Saturday by J. Sim. Hard luck on this young player, who had a promising future. Several First Division clubs were waiting on his signature before his accident.

* * *

In the 1st Scottish Elementary Shield at Glasgow on Saturday first, Area No. 5 team to oppose R.C. is as follows:—Wight (Bank); Shankland (Bank) and Walker (Muirkirk); Dickson (Cronberry), Miller (New Cumnock), and Brown (Muirkirk); Vallance (Lugar), Nesbit (New Cumnock), M'Clymont (Bank), Rennie and Stewart (Cumnock).

* * *

Catrine Ayrbank Albion travelled to Crosshouse on Saturday last under Secondary Juvenile auspices. Owing to Johnstone, M'Dowall, and M'Dougal being unfit the team was far below strength. The pitch was in a sorry state, and a heavy greasy ball made conditions very bad for the light Albion team. They were a team of triers, and though beaten by 8 goals to 2 were not disgraced. Boyle and Cook were the goal-scorers.

On Saturday afternoon last, in miserable weather and before a meagre attendance, a challenge match was played on Catrine Play Park between the 1st Catrine (40th Ayrshire Boy Scouts) and Catrine Ex-Schoolboys. Mr John Ross was in charge of the game. Play during the first quarter of an hour was mostly of the midfield variety, then by good combination D. Bryan put the Scouts one up. Fluky kicking by the Schoolboy backs contributed largely to the second goal, which was scored by D. Borland. After this second reverse the Schoolboys lost heart, and before the interval the Scouts had added two more, R. Hay and Bryan being the scorers. On resuming the Scouts had the Schoolboys on the run, and D. Bryan at centre scored again. From a combined move by the Schoolboy forwards J. Carter managed to reduce the leeway. Two minutes later Borland restored the Scouts' 5-goal lead. A penalty for hands against B. Gemmell was converted in no uncertain fashion by D. Bryan from the spot. This completed the scoring, the Scouts being worthy winners by 7 goals to 1.

—:o:—

BADMINTON.

The badminton doubles tournament which the Ex-Servicemen's Club has been running finished on Monday last.

Semi-final.

Miss Shedden and G. M'Call beat Miss Brechany and W. Ritchie.

A. M'Ilroy and P. Higgins beat W. Grierson and P. Finn.

Final.

Miss Shedden and G. M'Call beat A. M'Ilroy and P. Higgins.

Cumnock Ex-Servicemen's Club had a team from the Sanquhar Territorials Club as visitors on Tuesday evening. Six couples from each club took part and the play was on the "league" system, between the first three pairs of opposing teams; and similarly with the second three pairs. Teams and results were as follows:—

Cumnock—T. Smith and G. M'Call, 21-21-21; W. Grierson and J. Davidson, 21-21-23; B. Smith and J. Young, 22-7-8.

Sanquhar—J. M'Kie and W. Scott, 17-21-21; A. Scott and R. Gilbertson, 5-14-21; J. Wyllie and J. Hiddleston, 3-14-24.

Cumnock—J. Montgomery and W. Ritchie, 21-21-9; J. Pearson and P. Higgins, 21-20-10; J. Samson and G. Ritchie, 14-9-19.

Sanquhar—D. Currie and A. Mushet, 15-21-21; J. M'Arthur and D. Hamilton, 7-7-21; S. Thomson and A. Mushet, 21-23-21.

Result:—Cumnock—9 games 309 points.
Sanquhar—9 games 297 points.

Win for Cumnock by 12 pints.

The Old Church badminton club entertained six couples from Sanquhar on Wednesday evening in the Church Hall. The clubs finished even in games, 6 each, but Cumnock led by 29 points.

—:o:—

HARRIERS.

Catrine Amateur Athletic Club.—On Saturday last the club staged a 5-miles cross country handicap run. Drizzly rain made the course very heavy for the nine runners who faced the starter. The route was through the fields between Shawwood and Catrine Shaw up Turner Hill to Glenshamrock and the Auchinleck road, and so back to the village via Meadowside. The result was as follows:—1 H. M'C. Gregor, Cumnock (1 min.); 2 Sam Marshall, Catrine (7 min.); 3 John Orr, Cumnock (scr.).

A.A. Club.—The local club will be represented in the 10miles Ayrshire Relay Championship, to be decided at Irvine on Saturday first, by H. M'Gregor, J. Orr, W. E. M'Adam, and Geo. Mills, with W. D. Dick as reserve. We wish the team good luck, and hope to see them figure prominently.

—:o:—

BILLIARDS.

Billiards.—The first annual billiards match between married and single members of the A. M. Brown Institute took place on Tuesday evening, when the conditions were half an hour to each game. The result was a win for the single members, the scores being 1643 to 1365. The games resulted 12 games to 5, 1 match being drawn. Institute members are keen to revive the games with neighbouring institutions, when teams of eight or twelve members would be accommodated gladly. Those interested should communicate with Mr H. Gorman, Newton, Catrine. The following are the individual scores:—

Single.—H. Finnie, 55; G. Thomson, 83; D. Gemmell, 110; A. Cook, 150; W. Fulton, 111; J. Gorman, 107; W. Dick, 75; J. M'Phee, 102; Geo. Paterson, 103; D Kyle, 99; R. Fowler, 66; J. Thomson, 95; T. Aitken, 86; W. Paterson, 98; A. Weir, 64; J. Barr, 84; J. Allardyce, 79; J. Goodlet, 76—1643.

Married.—Wm. M'Guire, 103; J. Moorhead, 107; A. Hall, 85; R. M'Donald, 70; W. Reid, 38; J. Piper, 67; T. Dick, 105; J. Black, 86; Jas. Bryan, 114; J. Colven, 76; A. M'Ilveen, 68; J. Paterson, 51; Geo. M'Dowall, 60; Jas. Ferguson, 62; J. Robertson, 49; M. Waugh, 84; J. Dowie, 78; R. M'Luckie, 62—1365.

Phone: Cumnock 99.

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