

OPENING OF ANOTHER VILLAGE HALL

THE FIFTH IN WALES

STEADILY proceeds the work of providing social amenities for our forest villages; a recent Saturday afternoon saw the opening of the Village Hall at Llandulais, a newly formed community situated in the heart of Crychan Forest, South Wales, and some eight miles from the nearest town of Llandovery. The opening ceremony, under the chairmanship of the Rev. D. R. DAVIES, was performed by the Lord Lieutenant of Breconshire, Major G.T. RAIKES, who received a slasher from the Conservator, South Wales, Mr. J. Q. WILLIAMSON, as a memento of the occasion. Following a tree planting ceremony, speeches were made by the Lord Lieutenant, Mr. LLOYD OWEN (Forestry Commissioner and Chairman of the National Committee for Wales), Mr. G. B. RYLE (Director, Wales), Mr. TUDOR WATKINS, M.P., and the Head Forester at Crychan, Mr. A. T. G. GUNTER. Mr. Lloyd Owen remarked that the hall was the fifth to be opened in Wales and was provided by the Commission so that amenities were available not only for our own workers but for all inhabitants of the district.

A large gathering enjoyed a "hearty tea" provided by the local Community Association. Visitors showed much interest in the early eighteenth century Tir Abad Church, the renovation and re-opening of which is consequent upon the erection by the Commission of the new village. (The Commission, incidentally, contributed towards the cost of renovation.) Another centre of interest was the house of Ex-School Ganger and Mrs. OTTO, who invited visitors to see the strikingly original and artistic interior decorations of their home.

THE "VORACITY" OF TREES

HUMAN JAWBONE IN A PIECE OF WOOD

OUR STORY last month about the "voracity" of trees prompted a reader to draw attention to an article in the Quarterly Journal of Forestry for July, 1932. The writer of this article records how he was asked by the British Dental Association to inspect a piece of wood containing a human jawbone. He found that the timber was a species of Citrus, probably lemon, and that the bone had been set in the fork of two branches and subsequently overgrown. On consulting various books he discovered that the Fijian people, in cannibal times, formed the habit of exposing the bones of their victims, after a feast, in trees near their dwellings as a warning to enemies; there seemed little doubt that the gruesome object came from Fiji.

The subject is mentioned in "A Year in Fiji", by John Horne (1881), who wrote: "In the vicinity of Fort Carnarvon I visited some large caves, which were once a stronghold of the cannibals. The entrance to the caves was defended by walls and a fence of lemon trees, on which I found some human bones which the inhabitants of the caves had exposed to view to show all who passed what might be the result of a quarrel with them. This custom was not uncommon among the Fijians when they were cannibals, the shaddock being the favourite tree on which to expose the bones of their victims. These bones were generally put in the forks of the branches, or where the branches united with the trunk. If the trees were young and thriving, the bones in a few years became imbedded in the wood. I could not see why the shaddock, lemon and lime trees were selected for this purpose, and presume it was simply because these kinds abounded in the vicinity of villages to a much greater extent than others."

DESTINATION INDIA

THE UNITED KINGDOM delegation to the Fourth World Forestry Congress, which is being held at Dehra Dun in December, is due to leave this country in the near future. The leader will be Mr. A. P. F. HAMILTON, one of the Forestry Commissioners, who is a former Inspector General of the Indian Forestry Service; other delegates will include our Deputy Director General, Sir HENRY BERESFORD-PEIRSE; Mr. G. J. L. BATTERS, Conservator on the staff of Director, England; and Mr. M. V. EDWARDS, Silviculturist, North.

RETIREMENT OF TWO HEAD FORESTERS

AU REVOIR TO MR. WILLIAM TRIBE

TWO OF OUR HEAD FORESTERS - Mr. WILLIAM TRIBE, of Cannock Chase, North West England Conservancy, and Mr. A. N. SIMPSON, of West Scotland - have retired and we hasten to extend to them our very best wishes for the future.

Head Forester Tribe, of course, has been much in the news of late, for it was his forest (with Culbin, in East Scotland) that suffered a serious infestation by the Pine looper and was recently the scene of aerial spraying.

Mr. Tribe commenced work on the Herriard Estate, Basingstoke, when he was 14 years old. He entered the Dean School in 1906 and, after training, returned to the Herriard Estate, where he remained until 1916. He then served with the Home Grown Timber Committee, and subsequently worked for timber merchants; in 1926 he joined the Forestry Commission at Haldon Forest, in Devon, under Mr. C. O. HANSON, who was then Divisional Officer for the old Division Three. After a short spell at Haldon he was transferred to start Laughton Forest in Lincolnshire and, in 1934, went to Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk. He took over at Cannock Chase in 1939.

Presentations were made the other day to Mr. and Mrs. Tribe. District Officer W. G. ROBERTS presided and Mr. Tribe received from his friends and colleagues a shooting stick (handed over by Forest Worker F. DALE) and a cheque (handed to Mr. Tribe by Forester L. G. MORGAN, who succeeds him at Cannock). A book containing the names of all subscribers to the gifts was given to Mr. Tribe by Mechanist K. ELDERWICK. Mrs. Tribe received a travelling rug, the presentation ceremony in this case being undertaken by Miss LLOYD.

Mr. Simpson has unfortunately had to retire through ill health, having spent, in all, some 33 years at the wellknown Tulliallan Nursery. Recently he was presented with an easy chair by the Conservator, West Scotland (Mr. J. E. JAMES), on behalf of colleagues and wellwishers, while Mrs. Simpson received a handbag and umbrella. In making the presentation the Conservator paid tribute to Mr. Simpson's long and loyal service.

Nursery workers have presented Mr. Simpson with a shooting stick.

~~THE~~ ROARING MEG

THE RECENT REQUEST by Mr. W. O. WITTERING, of the office of Director, Scotland, for information as to how some woodland near his home in Hertfordshire got its name has brought forth some suggestions. The woodland concerned is known as Roaring Meg Plantation. Ex-School Ganger E. V. ROGERS, of Kesteven Forest, East England, writes to say that the name comes from a nearby stream which once could be heard from a long way off as it rushed over its pebbly bed. As to further streams known as Roaring Megs, he adds, there is another in Hertfordshire at Hexton, though in this case time has abbreviated the name to The Meg. This, in its upper reaches, marks the Hertfordshire-Bedfordshire border.

District Officer B. C. SELBY, North East England, writes on the same subject. The woodland, he says, would seem to derive its name from a stream. The "Roaring Meg" inn, which is situated near Lincoln, is thought to have got its name from a stream which made its presence heard when in spate.

Here we are, then, back to the subject of public houses. District Officer Selby believes there is another "The Case is Altered" in the Holbeach-Sutton area and adds that there is certainly a public house of that name near his home at Norton Green, near Sudbury, Suffolk. District Officer W. F. HOBBS, East England, tells us that the "Honest Lawyer" is situated in Kings Lynn, the sign depicting a lawyer with his head under his arm. He refers, too, to the "Hen and Chicken" near Chesham, in Buckinghamshire; and to a quaintly named hostelry ("The Bushel and Strike") at Ashwell in Hertfordshire - the sign shows a bushel measure with the board used for striking surplus corn from the top. The "Pink and Lily", near Prince Risborough, and the "Ram Jam" north of Stamford are also mentioned as other unusually named inns.

~~THE~~ TIM OF TAMBERLY FOREST

A NOVEL FOR THE YOUNGSTERS

their virtues!

THE STAFF of Bramshill Forest, near Camberley, in the South East England Conservancy, may be forgiven if they blush when glancing at a new book with a forestry background for, by inference, this certainly extols

The book - "Tim of Tamberly Forest", by Irene Byers - is intended as a novel for youngsters and the writer is to be commended for the pains she so obviously took to obtain material for an authentic forestry atmosphere. She spent some time at Bramshill Forest - which is, of course, Tamberly Forest of the book - and acquired much first-hand information about our operations; without doubt, the result will be a substantial awakening of juvenile interest in our work. Briefly, the story tells how young Tim, bent at all costs on a career in forestry, left home for Tamberly Forest, where an understanding Head Forester (with positive shades of Head Forester N. J. LINGWOOD) gave him a chance by employing him as an apprentice. Interwoven with an exciting story is a quite absorbing picture of what goes on in the forest - the planting, weeding, thinning, felling and conversion and, what is as important as anything, the precautions that are taken against fire.

"Tim of Tamberly Forest" is a fascinating tale that the children will enjoy and (especially as Christmas is approaching) we have no hesitation in recommending it as a pleasant little gift for early teenagers, irrespective of whether they have as yet evinced an interest in forestry. It is published by Max Parrish and Co., 55, Queen Anne Street, London, W.1. and is, no doubt, obtainable through any bookseller, price 8s. 6d.

~~THE~~ WHERE ARE THE BEST
HORTICULTURALISTS?

NORTH OR SOUTH OF THE BORDER?

A silver cup, 17 firsts, eight seconds and two thirds for vegetables. At Castle-Douglas his three entries won a special and three first prizes; at Gatchouse he won a silver cup, a special, seven firsts and two seconds for cut flowers, and 13 firsts and nine seconds for vegetables.

Mr. J. J. MORLEY, an Executive Officer in the Dumfries Office, scored again with his chrysanthemums. At the Carlisle show he won the National Society Certificate of Merit with his vase of whites (reflex), and at Dumfries he secured the Amateur Gardening bronze medal with a vase of yellow blooms (incurves).

The foregoing brings us to something which may prove a little controversial, for it poses the question - where are the best horticulturalists, North or South of the Border? Education Officer T. A. ROBBIE, of the Faskally Forester Training School, writes: "This year I visited the annual shows of the National Dahlia Society and the National Chrysanthemum Society, in London. While I agree that the season was not a good one, I was most disappointed in the standard of the exhibits. The varieties, too, were limited, and as for dahlias, I have seen much better blooms at the Scottish shows. I am sure Mr. Morley, of the Dumfries Office, could gain prizes for chrysanthemums at the National Show if only he could transport his stock cheaply and quickly to London. I thought that the standard at one of the fortnightly shows held by the Royal Horticultural Society was such that Forester C. MacDONALD, of Glenbrittle, would certainly have secured some prizes, had he been able to exhibit.

"London may have the advantage in some things, but I am convinced that many of the small shows in Scotland produce a higher standard than their national equivalents."

~~THE~~ THE ROBBERS OF ALICE HOLT

WE DON'T MEAN OUR COLLEAGUES!

H. V. MORTON, in his "I Saw Two Englands", makes an interesting reference to a district well known to many of us. "The robbers of the Alton district," he says, "were in the habit of haunting the thick neighbouring woods, a part of the Alice Holt Forest, which has now shrunk to a few acres of woodland, and they were such a terror to travellers that a portion of the forest was cut down in the Middle Ages. The main street of Alton, and also that of the village of Bentley, are said to be stretches of the Pilgrims' Way, so that the robbers of Alice Holt never lacked victims."

(Alice Holt Forest, as administered by the Forestry Commission, is not so small. It covers some 2,000 acres of woodlands. - Ed.)

~~THE~~ WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HOP

AN ANSWER FROM EDINBURGH

THOSE of us who live in the south have recently seen another "hopping" season, with its mighty invasion of pickers from the East End of London. We have seen the great lorries trundling towards London and the Boro' Market, heavily laden with the pressed hop pockets; and we have often wondered what happens to the hop when it leaves Kent or Sussex. Now, all the way from Edinburgh, comes the answer, for some of the staff of the Scottish Directorate Office recently spent an interesting evening on a conducted tour of Robert Younger's Brewery, in Edinburgh.

The preliminary process in producing beer, writes our correspondent (who must be very observant), is known as malting and consists of germinating the barley so as to convert the starch in the seeds into a sweet-tasting saccharine matter. After about a week the life of the grain is destroyed by spreading the whole on the floor of a kiln to be thoroughly dried. The malted grain is now roughly crushed in a malt mill before being carried to the mashing machine, where it is thoroughly mixed with hot water. Once the mixing is completed the mash is allowed to stand for some time before the malt extract or wort is run off into a copper. This is

where the "emblem" of the Kentish countryside comes in, for hops are added and the whole is boiled in the copper. Then the hot wort is run off, leaving the spent hops behind, and the resultant liquor is cooled to the temperature of cold water. The wort is next led by pipes into large "fermenting" vessels, where yeast is added, and the process of fermentation, whereby a portion of the saccharine matter is converted into alcohol, is commenced. When the fermentation has gone far enough the liquor is allowed to settle, a small quantity of isinglass being added to assist the precipitation of suspended particles in the liquor. The beer has now become clear and bright and is put into trade casks, to each of which a small quantity of hops may or may not be added.

Golf Outing

The annual autumn outing of the Scottish Directorate Office Golf Club was held recently at Kilspindie. Conditions were ideal, as reflected in the comparatively low scoring. The leading returns were: H. BROWN (-16) 68 (winner of the Fotheringham Cup); J. McRITCHIE (-24) 69 (winner of the Cameron Trophy); A. J. WILL (-10) 72; A. MACKENZIE (-24) 72.

FOREST ANAGRAMS

ANSWERS to last month's forest anagrams, with a further selection, will be given next month.

TRANSFERS

THE FOLLOWING TRANSFERS have been notified to Headquarters:

District Officers D. GRANT from Princes Risborough, E(E), to Cambridge; H. SEARLE from Santon Downham, E(E), to Lincoln, E(E); P. F. McINTYRE from Aboyne, E(S), to Dinnot, E(S); T. W. G. COULSON from Mansfield, NW(E), to Nottingham, NW(E); A. J. GRAYSON from York, to Wakefield, NE(E); J. R. SKINNER from Dolgelly, N(W), to Aberystwyth.

Head Forester G. F. BEASLEY from Kielder, NE(E), to Helmsley, NE(E). Foresters I. H. MCKENZIE from Strathlachlan, W(S), to Inverinan, W(S); D. A. COUSINS from Research, Whitmoor Park, to Research, Alice Holt Lodge; L. H. WILLIAMS from New Forest to Dunster, SW(E); D. CARMICHAEL from Glencoe, W(S), to Torrachilty, N(S); H. BENNETT from Swynnerton, NW(E), to Mortimer, NW(E); J. R. MacMILLAN from Mortimer to Swynnerton; A. CAMPBELL from Glenduror, W(S), to Strathlachlan; R. F. MITCHELL from Garadhban, W(S) to Glenduror; W. D. RATTRAY from Inverinan to Garadhban; D. G. TUGWELL from Research, Alice Holt Lodge, to Research, Santon Downham.

Foremen J. PARKER from Neroche, SW(E), to Brendon, SW(E); J. H. MCKENZIE from Cannock, NW(E), to Causeway Wood, NW(E).

Clerical Officer R. D. NICOL from Edinburgh to Aberdeen.

PERSONAL

THE WEDDING took place at Watford last month of

Mr. FRANK BALDWIN, of the office of Director, England, and Miss E. M. LOWES, also of Princes Gate. The couple received a gift of a dinner service from colleagues, the presentation being made by Mr. E. S. J. HINDS, Chief Clerk. The wedding also took place of Miss JOAN McNEIL, E.O. at Cardiff, to Lieut.-Commander T. Gibbon (Rtd.). Colleagues presented the bride with a pewter tea service.

Congratulations, also, to Research Foreman

PAT MOORE and Mrs. MOORE (formerly Miss PAT BLIGHT, Census Surveyor and latterly draughtswoman at Bristol), on the birth of a son; Divisional Officer W. N. GIBSON, South Scotland, and Mrs. Gibson, also on the birth of a son; Mr. J. R. BELL, Dumfries, and Mrs. Bell (a daughter); CO J. OUTERSON, Edinburgh, and Mrs. Outerson (a daughter); and CO ERIC HALE, Alice Holt, and Mrs. Hale (a daughter).

IF YOU DO SOMETHING, SEE SOMETHING, OR HEAR SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, TELL YOUR SLASHER CORRESPONDENT. THERE IS A CORRESPONDENT IN EACH DIRECTORATE AND CONSERVANCY OFFICE