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MILTON ERNEST.

A first class concert was given in the school-room on April 27, by Mr. Fred Hall's concert party in aid of the Cricket Club. The performers were Mr. Fred Hall and Miss Lillie Lee, Miss Clarge (Gold Medalist), Miss Marsden, Mr. T. Swann (humorist), Sergt. Sharpe (trumpet soloist), Pte. Densley, Pte. Manning, Mrs. Hawkins Piercey and Miss Lillie Lee accompanist. The Rev. R. L. Holmes, in thanking the performers, remarked that it was the best concert heard at Milton Ernest for the last twenty years.

OAKLEY.

On Monday Mr. Joseph Charles Eaton, of Station-road, the respected sexton, received a letter from Pte. H. Peacock, of the Beds Regt., containing the sad news that Pte. Reginald Charles Eaton, Mr. Eaton's fourth son, was killed in action in France on April 13. Pte. Peacock states that it was one of the hottest battles they had ever been in. Reginald was barely 19 years of age, and was much liked by all his comrades. He was the inhabitant of the village, and all who came in contact with him. He was a good soldier and showed great promise as a fast bowler. This makes the fourth member of the village cricket club who has laid down his life for his King and country. Greatest sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Eaton and family, who have two other sons serving. One has been wounded, but the last report received from the War Office stated that he was recovering.

SHARNBROOK.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Mary Benson, who died on April 27th, at the age of 78 years, took place in the Churchyard on Tuesday afternoon, the Vicar officiating. We regret to chronicle the death of Mrs. Goseman, of Coffin End, on April 29, at the age of 71 years. The funeral took place in the Churchyard on Monday afternoon, the Rev. N. Chetwode Eaton conducting the service. The mourners were: Mr. Goseman (husband), Mr. J. Goseman, Miss F. Goseman (daughters), Mrs. Geo. Goseman (daughter-in-law), Pte. R. Barnett, and Sergt. H. Norman. There were several wreaths.

STAGSDEN.

A public meeting was held on April 27th, in the Church Room, to consider a letter from the Secretary respecting Agricultural Relief for our Allies. Mr. R. Wells was voted to the chair. Measures took place as to the best way of carrying out this object, so as not to be confused with the big collections for the distress in Belgium, by which upwards of £90 has been raised in this village. Mr. Alec Boyes was elected Treasurer, and contributions to the fund should be sent to him. Mr. Wells started the list with £1, Mr. Newman, Mr. Lester 10s., Mr. Bonnett, Mr. Haynes 2s. 6d. Mr. Carr 2s 6d., Mr. Hicks 2s. The Vicar has since sent £1 1s., Miss Robbs 2s.

TURVEY.

The closing meeting of the Band of Hope winter session was held in the Congregational Schoolroom on April 28, the President, the Rev. J. Rhys Price, presiding. A program of recitations, singing, etc., was well carried out. The medals for efficiency during the session were presented by Mrs. A. W. White, and extra bars for previous winners. Raymond Garlic received a special prize of a book for achieving the highest number of marks. Hearty thanks were accorded Mrs. White for her generosity and kindness in encouraging the members. At the close Mrs. White presented each member with two oranges.

BIGGLESWADE.

Lance-corpl. J. W. Smith, of the Hampshire Regiment, is at home on ten days' sick leave, and has benefited in health. He was sent in 1915 with a draft to Salonica, but was taken with fever and dysentery. Later he was sent to Cosham Hospital.

Mr. W. F. A. Fletcher, Steward of Mr. Ernest on behalf of the Lady of the Manor (Maud Rosslind Lovell), conducted the Coffee Tavern, etc., at the Fire Station on Friday. The dinner for the jury was not held.

A khaki wedding took place at the Church on Tuesday. The bride was Miss Florence Farr, daughter of ex-Sergt. Harry Farr, formerly Recruiter for the Biggleswade district, and the bridegroom was Pte James C. Walker, son of the late Mr. James Walker, and of Mrs. Walker, of Hitchin-street. The bridegroom belongs to the 2nd Bedfords, has served on the Western front since October 1914, and is on leave for 10 days.

Walter Day, son of Mr. John Day, of the "Dudley Arms," formerly chauffeur for Mr. Allen at Bromham, now Motor Transport Driver in the A.S.C., came home last week on for 7 days' leave. He has spent 15 months on the Western front. He was passed in February, 1915, and spent 3 months in hospital.

Pte. Frank Gee, son of Mr. Fredk Gee, of Riverford House, has been wounded in the hip with shrapnel, and is at Boulogne Hospital. He was organist at Royston Church.

Private Herbert Munns, Bedford Regiment, an old Biggleswade Boy Scout, has been wounded in the left eye and in the back, in France. His father is also a soldier in France. The lad's mother lives at Newtown, and learns that her son is at the Irish General Hospital in France.

Private Dick Bryant (who has a wife and four children), who was trained at the Duke of Bedford's Camp, at Ampthill, has been wounded in the legs. He writes that he is being well-cared for at Herne Bay Hospital. He is a native of Elworth.

Pte. Alfred Mahoney, who was wounded in the retreat from Serbia, while serving with the Irish Fusiliers, and fell into the hands of the Bulgarians, writes to his mother at Biggleswade that he is well at present.

Mrs. George Train, of Sandy, sang three solos, at a sacred concert at the Soldiers' Club at the Town Hall, on Sunday evening. Mrs. Tasker and Mrs. W. Pallant Denny sang duets twice each, and Mrs. Tasker gave a recitation. Pioneer Kemp, R.E., was the accompanist, and Mr. Alfred H. Blake, who presided, thanked the artistes, who were heartily applauded.

The Rev. J. Howard Weir, of Sheford, delivered his sermon on Sunday evening, on the Wesleyan Church, to the Shakespeare Tercentenary celebration, and his able discourse was much appreciated. He sometimes wondered what God would say at the day of judgment to many who read newspapers and trashy novels to pass away time, and neglected the great master pieces and pictures in Shakespeare's immortal writings. Shakespeare was ever on the side of righteousness, and was most emphatic in declaring the inflexibility of God's great moral law of retribution.

The Rev. Herbert Fox, vice-president, spoke on "The Importance of Sunday Observance," at the Brotherhood, on Sunday, and said that since the war broke out at least two more newspapers were published on Sundays. One of these printed an anti-religious article by a well-known minister of the public conscience, stated the educational never drag the day down and hoped we should never drag the day down from its high position, and Mr. J. Evans said that during the last 7 weeks, £6 had been deposited by members in the Brotherhood War Savings Bank.

Pte. Frank Garner, of the Seaforths, writes from the Western front, to a friend at Biggleswade, that he is still A1. They are a distance wade, that he is still A1. They are a distance from the Huns' trenches, and had a lighter job. It was more exciting as the shells dropped freely, and one day last week one dropped within 19 yards of him, and pieces of wood, brick, and iron were scattered in all directions. Too many of these black blighters were coming over to be pleasant, so he moved into quarters. One day "whiz-bangs" were plentiful but they failed to injure any of the men, although other battalions had a few casualties. He ends with the hope that the war will soon be over, although he is almost content.

The funeral of the late Mr. John Hogg Fairbairn, of 25, Market-place, took place on Friday at the Cemetery. The coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths. The mourners were: Mrs. J. Cook, Mrs. J. Bells, Mrs. A. Warner, Mrs. Rumsey (sisters), Mr. Fairbairn (brother), the Committee, E. G. Pearson and Thos. Leicester. Deceased was 53 years of age, and was chaffeur at the Brewery for some years.

At the Vestry meeting on the 27th ult., the Vicar, and Messrs H. M. Lindsall (Vicar's warden), Mr. Fred Bull (people's warden), and Messrs. W. F. Ashby Fletcher and J. A. Jewers, as Sidesmen, and as Sub-Committee, that if a Central Fund could be arranged for all parochial Church Funds, Mr. Pearson advocated the formation of a Church Council, and the Vicar promised to take the matter consideration. Mr. Wm. Chambers thought the formation had been a church council in past days. They had built both the present Church Hall and could be called together at any time. The vestry passed a vote of thanks to the Vicar, and Mr. Pearson, retiring Vicar of Potton, for his valued services as Vicar of Biggleswade for 15 years. The Vicar Strange announced that all the Church funds were now in one hand. Mr. Henry Fairbairn, the people's warden, stated that the collections in aid of church expenses had increased by nearly £50, largely the result of many soldiers coming to the services.

MILITARY SERVICE ACT ARREST.

At a special Petty Sessions on Tuesday morning, before Mr. H. M. Lindsell, C.B., and Mr. A. Itskin, with the Clerk (Mr. Chas. Ward), W. F. A. Fletcher.

George William Cocking, 23 or 24, described as an attendant, was charged with being an absentee under the Military Service Act. Defendant said he was attested at Eastbourne under the name of George William Topham. He was registered at the Three Counties' Asylum, in the Biggleswade district, and was ordered to report on the 7th March, but was away at the time. He had reported himself both at Hitchin and Biggleswade. When he reported himself at Biggleswade he was sent him down to Hitchin.

The Magistrates' Clerk: You admit you are absent from the Army Reserve?

The defendant: I suppose I am.

The Magistrates' Clerk: Have you made application to the Tribunal for exemption in any form?

The defendant: No. I was discharged from the Eastbourne Asylum as committee.

The Magistrates' Clerk: That will be dealt with by the Medical Board.

The Magistrates' Clerk (to the Bench) said the man admitted that he was an attested man under a false name. He had rendered himself liable to a fine and to be handed over to the military authorities.

The Chairman said the defendant would be "dealt with, and handed over to the military authorities. (To the defendant): Can you pay the fine?—The defendant: No, sir.—The Chairman: It will be deducted from your pay.

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Shepherd's Plaid ditto... ... ... 31/6 to 4 gns.
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Artificial Silk Coats ... 18/11 29/11 37/6 to 59/11
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Sunbrellas, all colours ... ... 5/11 6/11 to 14/11
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Charming Styles, all colours... 15/6 21/9 to 29/11
Fine Scotch Knit Coats, all colours 23/6
New Woven Knit Wool Coats 28/6 33/9

SMART RIBBONS AND NECKWEAR.

Silk and Crepe de Chene Bows ... 6¾d. 1/0¾ 1/6¾
Velvet & Moire Neck Bands & Ties 1/0¾ 1/6¾ 2/11½
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Wash. Doe Gloves, white or natural 2/11 3/11 to 4/11
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Ladies' Cashmere & Lisle Hose 1/6½ 1/11½ to 3/11

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Charmg. Voile Blouses, white or cld. 4/11 5/11 6/11
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Fancy Cotton Voiles 10¾d. 1/0¾ 1/3½ 1/6¾
Pretty Check Zephyrs ... ... 4¾d. 6¾d. 8¾d.
Luvisca, 38 inches wide ... ... 2/3½ yard

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BEDFORD SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The annual meetings of the Bedford Sunday School Union were held at Howard Congregational Church on 27th ult., the public meeting was held in the afternoon, when, in the unavoidable absence of the President of the Union (the Rev. G. H. Ruffell Lasdell), the Rev. R. Newman Wycherley took the chair.

The Rev. R. B. Willey reported on the School. Scripture examination, and Mr. W. Lea Newton presented the financial statement. The following officers were elected: President, the Rev. G. H. Ruffell Lasdell; Treasurer, Mr. W. Lea Newton; Secretaries, Mr. F. G. Carrington, Mr. E. Laurence Davis, J. Whiting, and G. E. Young; Collector, Mrs. Aikman.

Mr. Joseph Whiting, the secretary of the Bedford Sunday School Union, submitted the report on behalf of the Committee, which showed that there were 40 affiliated schools in the Union, with 498 teachers and 5,360 scholars. 12 schools have adopted Cradle Rolls. No school has yet started a Boy Scout movement, and there is still without a branch of the International Bible Reading Association. Both these auxiliaries will be found to be of the greatest possible value to the schools where they are organised.

The Scholars' Annual Scripture Examination was held on March 19th, in eight centres. The subject of the examination was "Jesus, the Hero of the Cross." The Rev. R. B. Willey, B.A., examined the papers, and the results are as follows:

Lower Junior Division, under 10 years of age: Hannah Elizabeth Mayo, Maulden (honours); Eric Vincent Woodruff Biggleswade (honours); Zepp Payne, Oakley (First Class); Mary Jane Wilson, Cranfield (Second Class).

Upper Junior Division, of the age of 10 and under 13 years: First Class—Cicely May Bedford and Elsie Clarke, Harrold; Dorothy E. Fox, Burt Brount, Maulden; Winnie E. Woodward, Keyse Brookend, Second Class—Doris E. Bull, Oakley; Lottie G. Ball, Rose E. Wilson, and Gladys K. Wilson, Cranfield; Doris J. Nicholls, Harrold.

Lower Middle Division, of the age of 12 and under 14 years: First Class—J. E. H. Brown, Biggleswade; Harold J. Wing, Ampthill; Irene Clark, Frank W. Joy, Gertrude L. Prentice and Winifred Hulett, Oakley; Cyril Gill, Keyse Brookend; Winifred F. Jarvis and Ellen M. Radford, Maulden; Dorothy E. Fox, Charles H. Leonard and Herbert D. Pope, Biggleswade; Dora M. Bull, Cranfield.

Upper Middle Division, of the age of 14 and under 16 years: Honours—Dorothy Fox, Maulden; Ethel Parrott, Oakley; Ethel Barker, Gertrude V. Beaumont and Lilian M. Butcher, Biggleswade. Second Class—A. Kate Joy, Oakley; Charles Mossman, Cranfield; Herbert Geo. Daniels, Ampthill; Ben Gill, Keyse Brook; Elsie Gale, Biggleswade.

Senior Division, of the age of 16 and under 21 years: Jeanie Hawkins (First Class) and Mercy Kate Stapleton (Second Class), Keyse Brookend; Charles T. Izard (Second Class), Ampthill.

Special Examination for Primary Workers and Junior Teachers: Harry Robinson, Maulden, First Class.

BEDFORDSHIRE INSURANCE COMMITTEE.

Their shortest meeting on record was held by the County Insurance Committee on Saturday afternoon, in the Shire Hall, Bedford. There was no business of a contentious character, and it was got through in half an hour. Mrs. T. Leach Smith presided, and there were also present: Mr. A. Huckle, Mr. G. Royle, Mr. H. H. Bannister, Mr. J. Bailey, Mrs. Ashton, Mr. W. H. James, the Rev. Paul Wyatt, Mr. R. Gill, Mr. J. A. Whitchurch, Mr. J. Cobb, Mrs. F. T. Farrer, Mrs. Prothero, Miss Hoyle, Mr. J. A. Barton, Mr. Walters, Mr. Todd, Mr. James, Mr. H. O. Williams, Mr. J. H. Webb, Mr. H. Phillips, Mr. J. Goodman, Mr. T. Bell, and Miss Gabriel.

COUNTING THE REGISTER.

The General Purposes Sub-Committee reported that a count of the Index Register was taken on January 1st, and showed the number of insured persons in the county to be as follows:—

	1st Jan. 1916.	1st Jan. 1915.
Deposit contributors	1,231	1,156
Members of the Navy and Army	29	29
Fund	160	127
Exempt persons	73,547	73,257
Members of Approved Societies	75,067	74,002

Persons who had attained the age of 70 and were therefore not entitled to Medical Benefit, although eligible for Sanatorium Benefit	25	25

THE CLERK'S ILLNESS.

The General Purposes Committee stated that the Clerk had been absent from the office for five weeks, and suffered from severe nervous debility, and had conducted the business of the office from his house. They recommended that he be granted leave of absence for fourteen days, and if in the opinion of his medical adviser a further period should be necessary, that the Chairman be empowered to grant the necessary permission. It was reported that the Committee had sent a medical staff to see the Clerk, and that of the Temporary Staff no men at the military age were available. The Committee's report was adopted, and it was stated that the Clerk is a married man, attested, and the Sub-Committee recommended that application be made to the Tribunal for conditional exemption on the ground that he is engaged in work of national importance, namely, the administration of the National Health Insurance Act in the county. Carried.

URMSTON SANATORIUM PATIENTS.

The Rev. Paul Wyatt said that from time to time there was considerable trouble with regard to the behaviour of Sanatorium patients. There had been cases almost every quarter. The usual course was to expel the patient and to report it to the Insurance Society, but unfortunately that was not effectual. The trouble was increasing. He did not wish to go into particulars of a very bad case which had occurred since the last meeting. He thought it was a matter which demanded dismissal on the part of the Supt. of the Home. He had written to the Society in accordance with the rules, and if he deliberately broke them in a serious manner, he was discharged him, and he came back; there was purchase misunderstanding on the part of his friends and his Society that the case had not been properly dealt with. The Society's letter was charged with not looking after the patient in Mr. Wyatt's opinion, and the best method of dealing with this case would be for the Clerk to ask the Committee to examine statistics the facts and asking for their advice as to what action they should take, and they would something that was determinable. It was not fair to the Supt. of the Home, or other patients, to that Committee after the trouble they had taken, and to the cost, and to the improved society, and it gave a very bad impression.

Mr. Keens seconded, and said it was a matter of the utmost importance. He was more concerned about the damage these men did to their comrades, and retarding their own progress, and that it was unlikely that he was going to give the Society reason why he was discharged, so that it was put down as another failure in treatment.

Carried.

DISTRICT MARKETS.

BEDFORD.

Corn.—Saturday, April 29.—Wheat a little easier, top price 58/-. Very few beans and oats on the market, and no barley offered.

Cattle.—Saturday, April 29.—Fat pigs in large supply, making up to 24/- each. Fat sows up to hogs up to £21 10s. Store pigs large at Bedford, £20 15s. Store pigs large at Ampthill, making up to 75/-. Fat sheep in large supply and dear, fat ewes making up to 41/-. Fat heifers and store cattle in large supply, and dearer, tary trade at up to 45/-.

Number and description of fat cattle sold: Bullocks, 2; heifers, 2; cows, 2; Bullocks from Mr. M. F. Bliss, Cranfield, made up to 45/-. Fat sheep in large supply, and dearer, tary trade at up to 45/-. Fat store sheep in large supply, and dearer, tary trade at up to 45/-. Milking cows in shorter supply, cows with their calves making up to £50.

CAMBRIDGE.

Cattle—May 1st.—Beasts, 353; sheep, 447; Pork, 12; calves, 15. Store cattle in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat beast a large show and very high price, tary trade better. Fat sheep in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat ewes a large show and very high price, tary trade better. Fat lambs in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat sows and hogs not so many to hand, trade was better. Fat calves in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat pigs in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Store pigs in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat sows and hogs in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat store pigs in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat sheep in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat ewes in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat lambs in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat calves in large supply, and dearer, tary trade better. Fat