Earl Grey, the late Administrator of Rhodesia, addressing the 2nd Northumberland (Percy) Volunteer Artillery at Alnwick on Saturday, said it was impossible to withhold our admiration for the manner in which the Boers had robbed the cradle and the grave in order to get together an adequate army. The Boers had given us a lesson of what could be done by every man being ready at his country's call to go into the field with his rifle and horse. So effective had their conduct been that it warranted, on the conclusion of the war, a full and universal adoption of the burgher or Volunteer principle in this country, which would guarantee us against an invasion of any possible enemy.

Collections on behalf of the Soldiers', Widows', and Orphans' Mansion House Fund, at the Congregational Church, Barnard Castle, on Sunday last, amounted to £4 1s. 8d.

Quite a flutter has been caused in Volunteer circles by a hint dropped by Colonel Brownrigg, pointing to an early mobilisation of our citizen soldiers. Speaking at a recent prize distribution, Colonel Brownrigg said that the Volunteers were never nearer mobilisation than at present, and expressed the belief that they would all shortly be mobilised. This, taken in conjunction with the rumour that another army division is to be got ready, has naturally excited a good deal of attention, especially in military circles, where the possibility of the Volunteers being called out is widely canvassed. It is pointed out that Colonel Brownrigg, though now a retired officer, was formerly Commissary-General of the army, and has occupied other important posts at headquarters. He would, therefore, be likely to hear if anything of the kind was in the wind, whilst his official training should have restrained him from throwing out such a hint unless he is fairly confident on the subject himself.

Local subscriptions to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association:—Mrs Holmes, Galgate House, £10 10s; Mr Stanton, Stubb House, £5 5s; Mrs Trery, Galgate, £1 1s; Mr and Mrs Watson, King-street, £1 1s.

A "Morning Leader" telegram from Cape Town, dated Friday, says the "Cape Argus" publishes the contents of the minute book of the Boer Council of War, which was discovered after Elandslaagte. It is dated 10th October, and reads not unlike the minutes of a Y.M.C.A. debating society. Commandants Kock and Schiel were the principal deliberators, and they argued that their colleagues must not act from the mere impulse of nationality, but must receive orders direct from Heaven. "You should remember," it was urged, that "it is not a Kaffir tribe but a great nation that we are fighting. Therefore, never get drunk, and remember that Europe is watching us."

The Cape Town correspondent of the London "Daily News" gives some particulars of the wreck of the transport Ismore. The officers of the Hussars say that the conduct of the soldiers during the critical time, when everyone expected the vessel to go down, was praiseworthy. Not a man but stuck to his post, and everyone was as cool as if on parade. There was no semblance of a panic at any time. The boats were long in being lowered. One was eventually got out and was filled with men, but sprang a leak. The men baled for their lives, and another boat got to them just in the nick of time.

Private letters from our soldiers at Aldershot state that all is bustle and activity at the great military station. There is much talk of volunteering into the out-going infantry regiments, and it may be that some of the sergeants of our permanent staff may be drafted to South Africa. The trains conveying the battalion, at the stopping-places, had everywhere a hearty reception, and, in many instances, an impression was current that the troops were off to the front.

Mr Turnbull, who served his apprenticeship with Mr Thomas Garbutt, draper, of Barnard Castle, in a letter to his parents at Stoney Cross, Marwood, details his experience of life in the Transvaal. The young fellow emigrated to Johannesburg, and was making good headway before the outbreak of hostilities. But, like numerous other Englishmen out there, he fell a victim to the wrath of the unscrupulous Boers, and seems to have had all his belongings pillaged. Although pressed into their military service Mr Turnbull was too loyal to fight for the enemy, and accordingly took up cudgels for the British. His experience of being bundled from pillar to post in cattle trucks, and what not, is truly pitiful, while the sufferings of the refugees forms a thrilling chapter in the history of the early stages of the struggle.

Troop Sergt.-Major Dalston and Sergt. Hall, of this neighbourhood, appear on an excellent photograph of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the 10th Hussars, who have been wrecked on the transport Ismore.

Mr Willie Whitfield, late of this town, a member of the Irregular Horse in South Africa, is now reported a prisoner of war in Pretoria.

The Transvaal War Fund—per the Barnard Castle Conservative Club—has been increased, in addition to the £21 12s already announced, by the following subscriptions:—Mr John Porter, 5s; Mr W. H. Balston, £1 1s; a few Staff Sergeants, 3rd Battalion Durham Light Infantry, 16s. Total, £23 14s.

Mrs Weir, one of the Red Cross nurses engaged in ministering to the troops at the battle of Talana Hill, has been recruiting in Maritzburg (writes the "Natal Witness") during the past few days. She also tended some of the Boer wounded, and had a painful recollection of this duty. Whilst administering beef tea to a prostrate Dutchman in the hospital, she received a severe kick in the back from one of the enemy's ambulance attendants. He apparently thought she intended to poison his charge, and he thus signified his desire that she should discontinue her attentions. The kick was a most brutal one, and caused Mrs Weir's retirement from active service. She has, however, almost recovered, and is now awaiting a charge to resume her mission of charity.

STRAY ARROWS.

By SENTINEL.

"Nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

Funny but honest Jim Evans! On Thursday last, Jim Evans, on his way from Barnard Castle to Lartington, picked up a purse containing £25. Mr Evans, being in the employment of Mr F. Metcalfe, handed the money over to his master, who, in time, found the rightful owner. Honest Jim was rewarded by the receipt of thirty shillings.

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The humility of Sir Isaac Newton is set forth in Brewster's Memoirs. Said the great philosopher: "I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble, or a prettier shell than ordinary, while the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

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During the late foggy nights and days your own immediate neighbourhood has been visited by many flocks of wild geese and ducks. The great storm on the coast had driven the birds inland, and, at night, they were hovering over the tops of the houses. The cry of aquatic birds is always attractive, but, in distress, the wail is plaintive. At the lake at the Bowes Museum, at the reservoir, and elsewhere, large numbers of water-fowl congregated, and their nocturnal squall was piteous.

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The Rev. R. L. Hunter, the recently appointed Congregational minister at Barnard Castle, preached two forcible sermons on Sunday—the first day of his regular ministry. In the evening the rev. gentleman preached from the words: "And He took bread, and gave thanks, and break it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me." The preacher said the last supper was full of meaning to them. There were many great names written in the pages of history that could never be erased—men that could never be forgotten. Wallace, Wellington, Alexander the Great, and Napoleon were distinguished military heroes. Aristotle and Plato were renowned philosophers. Raphael and Michael Angelo were remembered as eminent painters. Homer, Virgil, Milton and Shakespeare were great poets. Luther, Knox, and Wycliffe were profound religious reformers. Moses instituted the Passover that Israel might not forget their God. Joshua collected and placed twelve stones, by God's command, in the halting place, on the passage of the Jordan, by the Children of Israel, in order that they might not forget their God. David composed some of his most lofty aspirations, and called them Psalms of remembrance, in order that men might not forget God; and the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the last supper that God might be remembered through Him. They were all spiritual creatures, and were bound to the past as well as to the future. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper connected them directly with the memorable gathering in the upper room in Gallilee, and, when men urged that "they were not good enough" to participate in the celebration of this ordinance of Christ the reticence often proceeded from pride.

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The clergy list of the Church of England is likely to have added to it the names of two Blackfoot Indians, from the far west of Canada, and they are to be supported by their own people. The Church Missionary Society has only been working among this tribe since 1884.

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We were recently told that there were 4,000 total abstainers in the forces now engaged in South Africa. A number of the soldiers are also members of the Gleaners' Union, an organization of helpers of the Church Missionary Society. Several "Gleaners," for instance, are in the King's Royal Rifles, the regiment which so distinguished itself at Glencoe, and others are in the 1st Gloucester, one of the regiments in the Nicholson's Nek disaster. A good party of members of the Union belong to the Royal Warwickshires, and were to the front at the battle of the Atbara last year.

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An interesting statement was made by Mr T. Snowdon, chief manager of the Gordon House Colliery, on Saturday night, at Cockfield. He announced that it was the intention of the North Bitchburn Coal Company to sink two new pits, about next spring. Both shafts will be a little south of the Gordon House workings. The quality of the coal is said to be good, and the seams of considerable thickness.

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Hitherto, a perfect acetylene table lamp has been an impossibility, owing to the great affinity of calcium carbide for moisture, and consequent production and waste of acetylene gas. To avoid this difficulty, "acetyloid" has been invented. This material is a special preparation of calcium carbide, which has undergone various processes of chemical treatment, the main object of which is to render it impervious to atmospherical moisture. Consequently, to obtain generation of gas, acetyloid must be immersed in water; even then, gas is evolved only after almost a minute, slowly and regularly. As soon as withdrawn from water, it yields no more gas, and will remain intact until again immersed, whereas ordinary calcium carbide, upon being moistened, gives off gas violently, and, once wet, will continue to re-act until a mere mass of lime remains. Therefore, the great advantage of acetyloid lamps is that the gas can be kept under perfect control, the light can be turned out at will, for the moment the tap is turned off, generation ceases, and there is no waste whatever. The new acetyloid gas lamps may be seen in operation at Mr Charles Raine's shop, in your town.

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The Rev. A. W. Headlam, of Whorlton Hall, will, on St. Thomas' Day (December 21st), celebrate the jubilee of his ordination to the diaconate. The rev. gentleman commenced his ministerial life as curate of Knelworth, Hertfordshire, and was subsequently curate to his father (the late Archdeacon Headlam, of Wycliffe), before being presented to the incumbency of Whorlton, in 1854, by the Rev. G. Macfarlan, Vicar of Gainford. Mr Headlam was preferred to the Vicarage of St. Oswald's, Durham, in 1876, in succession to Dr. J. B. Dykes, and after twenty years' work in this large town parish, succeeded the Rev. Dr. Edleston in the Vicarage of Gainford in 1896, on the presentation of the Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge. In a letter to his parishioners, the rev. gentleman says:—"I hope that the new fittings of the chancel will be completed by St. Thomas' Day, so that they may be dedicated at the early celebration of the Holy Communion, and it will be a great source of pleasure to myself if as many of you as are able to do so, will communicate with me at one or other of the services on that day, on the occasion of my returning thanks to Almighty God for having been allowed to complete fifty years of service in the sacred ministry of the Church." The Bishop of Honduras (Dr. Ormsby), late Vicar of St. Thomas', Bishopwearmouth, has recently been visiting the scene of his former labours. The Bishop had also promised to visit Gainford, to address a meeting at Vicaragate, on the 28th ult., but a letter was received by Mr Edleston from his Lordship regretting his inability to fulfil the engagement, as he had to return to Belize sooner than was anticipated.

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An idea still prevails in some quarters that the old castle was blown down by Oliver Cromwell from Towler Hill. This is erroneous, as the castle was a ruin anterior to the Commonwealth.

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Mr W. Aspinall, who left Barnard Castle some years ago, is now in Canada. Writing to a friend, he thus describes the Canadian winter:—"By Jove, its cold, freezing your ears as hard as wood. You can snap them off like a twig."

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BARNARD CASTLE.

THE NEW MINISTER.

The Rev. R. L. Hunter began his ministry in connection with the Congregational Church last Sabbath, preaching an able and much appreciated discourse from I. Corinthians ii., 1-5. In a graphic way the rev. gentleman pointed out that Corinth, although at first but a very small town, rapidly rose to be one of the most celebrated cities of Greece, for its learning, beautiful buildings, and statues; and was the centre of a large commercial trade. Yet it was a profligate city, in which all manner of evil was tolerated. Amid the surging waves of temptation and vice the schism that took place within the christian church was not to be wondered at; and it was against all this party strife and inconsistencies that the apostle gave utterance to the words of the text. In dealing with the text in relation to themselves, as pastor and people, Mr Hunter pointed out that they had called him to a very high position. He was to be God's representative, speaking out the words of God, without fear, declaring his character and will, and pressing his claims upon their hearts and lives. "O, Son of Man, I have set Thee a watchman: in God's name it shall be my duty to comfort the mourner, speak peace to the sad, and hope to the downcast. I have come amongst you to serve God by serving you: to seek not yours, but you. Pray for me I beseech you: pray that we may be all sanctified for the work. Your prayers will give us success, and will bind us about the feet of God with golden chains." One theme, and one only was to characterize his ministry amongst them, and that was "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." On various subjects he would speak to them, but if they did not all start from the cross, he would at least lead their thoughts to the cross, as the centre of all true preaching. No grander theme was there than the preaching of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. To all alike it was suited, and he trusted that his words would be fruitful for good, in leading them out to a higher and better life, to behold Jesus as the Saviour of the world. The third point he dwelt upon was his conscious weakness, as a man, his imperfections, and insufficiency; but God's sufficiency would fit him for the work. In words that must have gone home to the hearts of his listeners, Mr Hunter said: "In this work to which you have called me, the claims which I make upon you are high, holy, and imperative. I claim your sympathies. I claim your prayers. I claim your unceasing co-operation. The work is great, and it needs all your hands and hearts. Do not, I beseech you, withhold from me what I claim of you." The last point Mr Hunter dwelt upon was that their faith might be "not in wisdom of man, but in the power of God." In the new page of their church history, which they now began unitedly to write, he trusted that the heading would be written in bold, clear characters. "Whatever others do, as for us we will serve the Lord," living only for His glory, and for the advancement of His Kingdom. Altogether the sermon was very much appreciated, and is, we trust, the beginning of good and happy days for the church.

Christmas is again close upon us, and with it brings the same old perplexing question: What shall we purchase for Season's Presents, and where shall we get best supplied. The correct solution is: Go to J. T. Young's, Watchmaker, Jeweller, Silversmith, Optician, and Fancy Goods' Dealer, Greenwich House, Market Place, Barnard Castle, and you will get all you require. His Goods are of the highest quality, whilst his prices are the very lowest.

THE VICAR OF STARTFORTH ON THE WAR.

On Sunday last the offertories in this church were devoted to the War Fund. The Rev. D. Lamplugh, Rector of Rokeby, preached at the morning service a very appropriate sermon from the words, "God save the king."—The Vicar preached at the evening service, and, during the course of his sermon, said: As you are probably all aware our offerings to day are to be given to those who are suffering from the effects of the war which is now in progress between Great Britain and the two Republics in South Africa. Whatever opinion we may hold as to the causes of this war, there can be no two opinions as regards our duty to those who suffer in consequence of the war. Sufferings, sometimes brief and momentary, sometimes prolonged and agonising, are endured by our brave and hardy soldiers on the battlefield, but such sufferings cannot be compared to those suffered by the bereaved—by the widow and her fatherless children. Nay, my friends, the sufferings in this case are not endured by one particular class. There is mourning in the palace as well as in the cottage. In the one place we can offer our sympathy, and we can do no more; but in the other case more than our sympathy is needed—our sympathy must take a practical shape. In the one case material help is not needed; in the other case it would be mockery only to give sympathy. We must show our sympathy by giving practical help. When we think of our soldiers on the banks of those rivers which roll down their "golden sands" in far distant Africa, when we think of them facing the most destructive engines of war, going on from point to point in spite of whizzing shot and shrieking death-dealing shells in defence of justice and right, while we sit comfortably at home by our own fire-side in our sea-girt island home, we almost feel ashamed that we cannot take a more active, a more personal part in defence of that which all men hold dear—liberty and justice. But if we cannot do this, we can do something to assuage the sufferings which must of necessity be endured in the acquisition of our righteous aims. To-day you have an opportunity of doing this, and I feel that, as Englishmen and Englishwomen, you will do what you can. That is all that God expects of you. We all deplore war; but, deplore it as we may, there never was a time in the history of the world when the sword was completely sheathed. Read your bibles from beginning to end, and you will find a great deal about war—about terrible battles—even about the very extermination of tribes. You will read of men going out in the name of the Lord to destroy their enemies. Wars there always have been, and if we believe our Saviour's words, wars there always will be so long as there exists ambition, lust of power, and inordinate greed. Yes, and so long as there exists in others a sense of right, a love of truth and justice, a love of our fellow-man, so long will these vices and virtues come in practical conflict. And, my friends, when we sit at home at ease, enjoying our peaceful homes, our civil rights, security in the possession of our property, we do not often think that such blessings would be far from us were it not for the power of the sword.—It is gratifying that collections amounted to about £6 10s., and a substantial addition was made in the afternoon at the Boldron Mission Room. This service was also taken by the Rector of Rokeby. Other efforts will be made in the parish to increase this important fund, and we trust such efforts will meet with every success.

ROKEBY COURSING MEETING.

There is phenomenal development in the card this year, Mr A. Glen Kidston, of Rokeby Hall, having evinced warm interest in the meeting. The first item is the Rokeby Cup, given by Mr A. Glyn Kidston, for sixteen all-aged greyhounds, at £3 10s each. The winner is to receive a silver cup, value fifteen guineas, and £20; second, £7; and winners of two courses, £2 10s each. The stake is to be run out for the cup, and in the names of the tenant farmers; and the tenant farmer whose name the winner runs in will receive a silver cup value five guineas, and £7; second, £3, both given by Mr A. Glen Kidston. Then there are the Greta Bridge stakes, for eight puppies, at £2 10s each, the winner to receive £11; and the second £5. The Brignal Cup, for eight all-aged greyhounds, at £2 10s each, that have not won more than two courses in any one stake. Winner to receive £11, and the second £5. The draw will take place at the old rendezvous, and the coursing is fixed for January 11th next year.

CYCLISTS' TOURING CLUB.

NORTHUMBERLAND & DURHAM DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

The usual monthly meeting of the committee of the above was held at the Hotel Metropole. The following gentlemen were present:—Mr George Watson, Monkseaton, chairman; Messrs J. T. Green, John J. S. Heslop, George Bartram, and W. C. Brown (Sunderland), and Messrs P. M. Laws, R. Bellwood, T. M. Grierson, J. Wright, T. W. Bowe, and Wemyss H. Atkinson, hon. sec. (Newcastle). The Secretary stated that, after some considerable correspondence, the County Surveyor had agreed to put up a sign-post at Smeafield Railway Crossing, on the road between Berwick and Belford, indicating the road thence to Bamborough, and that the Belford Rural District Council had directed their surveyor to place one near Elwick Farm, with a like indication. The Darlington cyclist, whose bicycle had been injured by collision owing to the negligence of another cyclist, and whose case the Association had expressed themselves willing to take up, wrote that he had now obtained compensation, and thanked the committee for their action in the matter. The annual general meeting of the District Association was fixed for Wednesday, the 17th January, 1900, at 7 o'clock, at the Metropole Hotel, and the committee discussed at great length the best means to make the meeting attractive, and thus ensure a large attendance of members of the C.T.C. in the district. Ultimately it was decided that, as the lantern show on the occasion of the special general meeting of the club had been so successful, it would be well to have another exhibition, and to arrange for music, songs, &c., in addition. It should not be forgotten that all who are members of the C.T.C. in the counties of Northumberland and Durham, are entitled to attend the meeting, and it is hoped that they will exercise this right. It was decided to hold the annual dinner some time in February of next year.

ASTHMA CAN BE CURED.

A NOTED PHYSICIAN WILL PROVE THIS TO ALL SUFFERERS IN BARNARD CASTLE.

The progress of modern medical science has led to the discovery of successful methods of treatment for most of those maladies once regarded as incurable. Asthma has always been regarded as belonging to this obstinate class, baffling the skill of the greatest physicians. Thousands of sufferers know by their own experience that little if any relief has been afforded them by the methods heretofore employed. Dr. Rudolph Schiffmann, the noted physician, has, after a life-long study of Asthma and kindred diseases, discovered a remedy which not only gives instant relief in the severest cases of Asthma and Bronchitis, but has actually cured thousands whose cases had been pronounced incurable. So complete is his confidence in his remedy, that to overcome the scepticism of the public growing out of the failure of other remedies, Dr. Schiffmann requests this paper to announce that he offers to send a liberal sample package of "Schiffmann's Asthma Cure," free of charge, to all persons who will send him their name and address plainly written on a postcard, within three days from date of this paper. He believes that an actual test will be most convincing, and in fact the only way to overcome the natural prejudice of thousands of Asthmatics who have heretofore sought relief in vain. Although most chemists in Great Britain have sold his Asthma Cure ever since it was introduced to the British public, still the doctor fears there are some persons who have never heard of it, and it is with a view to reaching these that he makes this liberal offer. An opportunity to test, without cost, a remedy so celebrated and promising so much certainty, should be eagerly grasped by every sufferer.—Address, Dr. R. Schiffmann, British Depôt, 31, Snow Hill, London, E.C.

HAVE YOU TRIED BUDDEN'S BALSAM OF HOREHOUND AND COLTSFOOT? It is the best known remedy for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, or any affection of the Chest and Lungs. For any of these complaints it stands unrivalled. One dose relieves; one bottle cures. Don't be persuaded to take anything else. Bottles, 1s. 1½d, and 2s. 9d. Sold by all Chemists.

TEESDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

Mr Clarke (vice-chairman) presided at the meeting of this Board, held on Wednesday.

CHRISTMAS ALLOWANCES.

The Chairman moved that for Christmas week 1s extra be allowed to adults and 6d to children in receipt of out-door relief, whether resident in or outside the Union, but chargeable thereto. He also moved that the Christmas dinner be allowed to the inmates.

Mr James Todd, J.P., seconded, and the resolution was carried.

COOK APPOINTED.

With reference to the applications for the post of cook in the Workhouse, Mr Hilton moved that Mrs H. Lambert, of Leyburn, who had served as cook for 12 years at the Sedgefield Asylum, be appointed.

Mr J. Smith proposed as an amendment that Miss Phœbe Caine, of South Shields, who had been two years cook in the Teesdale Workhouse, be engaged. She had proved a very good cook, and only left because of the salary. Now that it was raised to £25 she was willing to come back.

Mr Chipchase said that when Miss Caine left it was with very great reluctance that they parted with her. She was personally known to the Guardians, and was perhaps the best cook they had ever had in the 'House.

The voting was—For Miss Caine, 16; for Mrs Lambert, 9. Miss Caine's application was, therefore, accepted.

PROPOSED NATIONAL EXCHEQUER FUND.

Mr G. Herbert Lough, clerk to the Poplar Union, 45, Upper North Street, Poplar, E., under date 4th December, 1899, wrote:—"I am directed by the Board of Guardians of this Union to forward the accompanying copy of a resolution passed at their meeting, held on the 15th ultimo, in favour of provision being made out of National Funds for:—(1.) Adequate maintenance for soldiers' and sailors' wives and children. (2.) Adequate maintenance for all disabled soldiers and sailors. (3.) Adequate maintenance for the widows and orphans of soldiers and sailors. The Guardians trust that their action will be supported by your Board, and request that they may be informed of any steps which your Board may take in the matter. Resolved:—That seeing the South African War has already left a large number of women and children dependent on public charity, and at the close a much larger number will be so dependent, and as private charity has never left either as dependents or cripples, this Board is of opinion that all Boards of Guardians throughout the country should join it petitioning the Chancellor of the Exchequer to at once take the necessary steps for providing a sufficient sum of money from national sources for:—(1.) Adequate maintenance for soldiers' and sailors' wives and children (now being partly maintained by private charity). (2.) Adequate maintenance for all disabled soldiers and sailors. (3.) Adequate maintenance for the widows and orphans of all soldiers and sailors. That copy of this resolution be sent to all Boards of Guardians in the United Kingdom, and that they be sent as a memorial to Lord Salisbury, Lord Lansdowne, Lord Wolseley, Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P., and the Rt. Hon. J. Chamberlain, M.P."

Mr J. Smith said private donations had already been given to alleviate the suffering to a certain extent, but he was of opinion that such contributions would not be adequate, and that the only way to adequately meet the case was for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to establish a fund out of national resources.

Mr York approved of the proposal. The men were doing their duty to their country, and the country ought to support them as suggested.

Mr Brown (Middleton) asked if it would not be better to let the matter stand over for a while. It might interfere with the inflow of contributions at present.

The Chairman: It will be a long time before the matter can be dealt with.

The Rev. C. E. O. Griffith (Eggleston) said his own opinion was that there would be a million of money wanted. He entirely agreed with Mr York that the men who served their country for 1s a day and rations ought to be maintained by the country in case of disablement, and that in case of death the widows and orphans should be maintained by the country.

Mr York pointed out that it was necessary to take action now in supporting the petition lest its effect should be lost. They wanted those who suffered in this war to benefit. The voluntary fund would soon be exhausted.

Mr Hilton admitted that as an abstract principle the argument was right, but in regard to the war itself he declared it a most iniquitous business. If diplomacy in the hands of Christian men could produce nothing better than it had done in this case, then this diplomacy and Christianity was humbug. If ever there was an iniquitous transaction gone into by England this was it.

The Clerk (Mr Bainbridge) thought the principle would apply equally well in case of future wars.

Mr Hilton: Would it savour of approval of this war?

The Clerk: The proposal is one which ought to be carried out. It must start some time.

The Board then agreed to support the memorial.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Dr. Dawson (Local Government Board inspector) reported that he had visited the 'House on Nov. 27th, and that he must call the attention of the Guardians to the condition of the east end wall.

The Workhouse Master said the committee had decided to allow the wall to remain as it was till spring, and if need be to prop it up until that time.

Mr J. Smith said there was a crack in the wall of about a sixteenth part of an inch. In any case they would keep their eye upon it, and prop it if need be.

Mr Hilton: I am sorry Mr Dawson does not make his appearance here personally and let us know those little matters.

Mr York (laughing): I move that the Clerk write to that effect. (Laughter.)

The subject then dropped.

THE LATE MR H. KING SPARK.

Mr J. Smith said the late Mr Henry King Spark, who was a member of the Board, took a very great interest in the poor of the Union, more especially the women. With respect to the women he (Mr Smith) wished to know if there was anything to be done with regard to the provision of a women's ward. Mr Spark was solicitous about this matter, and he (Mr Smith) wished to know whether it had fallen through. However, he would like to move that they pass a vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr Spark.

The Rev. C. E. O. Griffith said he had not known Mr Spark very long, but he seconded the motion all the more readily because they disagreed materially in respect to matters. He respected the man, and the honesty with which he did his work as a guardian.

Mr York supported.

The Chairman said he was rather sorry he had not thought of the matter before other members had left, but it had slipped his mind.

The vote was then carried.

Subsequently it was stated that the subject of a women's tramp ward had been allowed to drop.

REMARKABLE DEATH OF A HEIFER.

A SNAKE IN THE EAR.

A farmer living near Whitland, Carmarthenshire, has lost a valuable two-years-old heifer from an extraordinary cause, detailed below by a correspondent. The beast showed evident signs of suffering as far back as early last spring, and these continued with increased severity until her death. Several farmers well versed in cattle diseases and one professional veterinary visited her, but all quite failed to diagnose her malady. There appeared at times some fever, and blood exuded from first one forefoot and then from the other, and afterwards from one of the hind feet. These were bathed with warm water, and various remedies were given, but all to no effect. The disease baffled all treatment. When, after death, the carcase was skinned, the flesh appeared perfectly healthy, but a large abscess the size of a man's fist, and filled with matter, was discovered in the glands of the neck, about ten inches from the butt of the left ear, and in the abscess were the head and part of the body of a snake, coiled up, the tip of its tail being just visible through the outer part of the ear. If, as is surmised, it found its way into the ear about the time the animal first sickened, it must have been alive for a considerable time afterwards, as it was so little decomposed when found that the mottled patches on its back were still plainly to be seen.

WHAT THE KIDNEYS ARE FOR.

It is the duty of the kidneys to see that the blood keeps pure.

Not to make new blood—the food we eat does that—but to remove from the blood all the impurities it has gathered up during its circuit of the body.

All the blood passes through the kidneys several times a day. They filter it. When the kidneys are healthy they remove about 500 grains of impure matter daily.

When they are diseased some portions of these impurities remain in the system. They cause disease.

One of these impurities is uric acid. If it is removed all is well, but if it remains there will be trouble. It will find out some weak spot in the body where it will crystallize—perhaps in the muscles, then they will become charged with the jagged little crystals, and this is the cause of rheumatism and gout.

Perhaps it will crystallize in the joints, then these will become swollen and puffy, and every movement will be an agony.

Perhaps it will crystallize in the kidneys; then there is gravel, gall stones, and trouble. It must crystallize somewhere, and wherever it does there will be pain and suffering. "But what can I do to remove this poison from my blood?" you ask. Take Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, they will put your kidneys right. They will strengthen and heal them, and then the kidneys will fulfil their natural function, which is to filter out every drop of that poisonous acid, and leave the blood pure and clean.

This is what Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are for, and they are the only really reliable kidney remedy known to medical science. But if the kidneys have been overtaxed by a chill brought on by over exposure, or overstrained by lifting heavy weights, or if anything has happened to put them out of order, they cannot do their work properly, and, therefore, they can only filter out a portion of the acid, some remains behind, and, as we have said, there is trouble.

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills will relieve you of this trouble and heal your kidneys, and your kidneys will then help all the other organs of your body, by supplying them with pure and healthy blood.

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills may be purchased at Barnard Castle of T. B. Illsley, for 2s. 9d. a box, or 6 boxes for 13s. 9d., or they will be sent free on receipt of price by Foster-McClellan and Co., 57, Shoe Lane, London. (2)

FOOTBALL.

Barnard Castle, 2; Bishop Auckland Reserve, 1.

On the Barnard Castle ground, in the Wear Valley League tournament, the above teams contested every inch of ground for mastery. So near were the elevens pitted that not until the whistle sounded time could victory be claimed by either side, and the homesters in gaining the day were fortunate. Both clubs in their back divisions were about on a par, the halves were strong, but the visitors forwards were decidedly the better quintette. They passed with better judgment and rarely were wanting in combination. This was greatly in contrast to the home eleven, whose display lacked finish, the outside men showing too much individuality, and the inside frequently collided with each other, whilst on more than one occasion some of them appeared to be "passengers." A better understanding should be cultivated, and the unselfishness and hard work as invariably put forth by the centre (Graham), should be more copied.

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Mr Walton (of Cockfield), the referee, lined the players up a little after time, caused by the laxity of the home men—a state of affairs which will have to be remedied. Barnard Castle played uphill, on a hard frost-bound ground, and before a poor attendance. Auckland kicked off, and made rapid progress, assaulting the home fortress with some well-directed shots. The home backs and goalkeeper repelled the attack, but the visitors were not to be denied, and retaliating strongly, Coates having to handle under difficulties, pounced on the ball and put on a good point, Coates missing when in a good position. The home eleven played up better, and, in endeavouring to save, one of the Aucklanders mistakedly kicked straight for his own goal, and one of his compatriots observing the danger, unduly used his elbow in intercepting the ball, for which offence the referee rightly awarded Barney a penalty kick, from which Cardwell landed the ball into the net, equalising the score. The visitors had slightly the better of matters, but could not get clear of the tenacity of the halves and backs, which enabled Coates to deal carefully with all stray shots. Just previous to the interval Arthur Evans got possession, and dribbling forward, shot a low spinning ball, which completely deceived the Auckland custodian, giving the homesters the lead. During the second half each eleven played to win, but no scoring took place, although both sets of forwards made good attempts, only to be non-plussed by the ability of the goal-tenders. Towards the call of time the Reserves pressed vigorously, and the result of a good game was to Barney's advantage.

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Bishop Auckland Reserve are a much improved team, and on the form shown should occupy a more exalted position in the league table. Last season Barnard Castle defeated the same club by 3 goals to nil. The left full-back and centre-forward on this occasion showed good form. On the Barney side, Coates as goalkeeper is bad to beat; Usher was the better of the backs, although Blackett, who has not played regularly, put in very useful work; in the trio of halves—Urquhart, Chatt, and A. Evans—the main strength of the home eleven lies. All three play a determined and dogged game, rarely allowing their opponents to gain any material chances to shoot; whilst the forwards — Cardwell, Evans, Graham, Waite, and Etherington — spoiled several of their efforts by want of better amalgamation. Waite and Cardwell showed an inclination not to over-exert themselves, which as occasion arose spoiled favourable openings.

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WEAR VALLEY LEAGUE—DIVISION I.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agt.	Pts.
Eldon Albions	9	7	2	0	30	11	14
Stanley United	8	6	1	1	24	9	13
Butterknowle	8	5	2	1	23	12	11
West Auckland	5	4	1	0	15	7	8
Howden	6	4	2	0	22	14	8
Stanhope	8	3	3	2	18	16	8
Barnard Castle	9	4	5	0	27	21	8
Woodland	10	3	5	2	17	27	8
Byers Green	7	3	3	1	13	13	7
Cockfield	8	2	4	2	16	21	6
Roddymoor	10	1	5	4	10	21	6
Auckland Reserve	6	2	4	0	18	22	4
Willington	4	0	1	3	6	9	3
Crook Reserve	6	1	5	0	7	41	2

—o—

At the Wear Valley League meeting last Wednesday, Etherley Dene and Low Beechburn were ordered to pay all claims against them, before their resignation could be accepted from the second division.—The Secretary reported that the Durham Association had reversed the decision of the league, and ordered the game between Eldon Albions and Roddymoor to stand.—Several games were reported as having been stopped short of time. In each case they will have to be replayed under the usual conditions.—Butterknowle claimed loss of gate from Crook Reserve, owing to late arrival, and were awarded 5s.—Barnard Castle were ordered to pay the referee's fees in connection with their match with Butterknowle.—The referees who have failed to turn up when appointed are to be written to asking for an explanation, failing which they will be struck off the list.—Butterknowle protested against their game with Cockfield standing as a league fixture, averring that the referee was incompetent, and that he deprived them of a penalty kick. After hearing the Butterknowle and Cockfield representatives, and Mr W. Ascough (the referee in question), the meeting decided that the protest was most frivolous, and ordered the protest fee of ten shillings to go to the league funds.—A rather long meeting, over which Mr Chipchase (president) presided, terminated by referees being appointed.

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Many local enthusiasts will be glad to hear that Mr E. W. Cameron is taking a very active part in football matters in Sleaford (South Lincolnshire). He is the captain of the Sleaford Town, occupying one of the full back positions. On December 2nd, they met their most doughty opponents—Lincoln Lindum, and after a good game, rather unexpectedly proved victors by 5 goals to nil. Cameron added materially to that victory, and earned words of commendation in both the *Lincolnshire Echo* and *The Sleaford Gazette.*

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On Saturday next, given fine weather, a match will be played on the Barney ground, between Staindrop and Barnard Castle Reserve. Kick-off at 2-30.

FLORILINE!—FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.—Thoroughly cleanses the teeth from all parasites or impurities, hardens the gums, prevents tartar, stops decay, and gives to the teeth a peculiar pearly whiteness and a delightful fragrance to the breath. Price 2s. 6d. for the liquid, or 1s. per jar for the Floriline "Powder," of all Chemists and Perfumers.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING OF BARNARD CASTLE.

The plan of the district proposed to be lit by the Northern Counties' Electricity Supply Company, showing the streets in which the company must lay mains, has been deposited for inspection at the office of Mr J. Ingram Dawson, Clerk to the Council.

THE RED CROSS SOCIETY.

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT AND CONCERT AT BARNARD CASTLE.

Last night, in the Victoria Hall, Barnard Castle, a dramatic entertainment was given by local ladies and gentlemen in aid of the funds of the Red Cross Society. There was a fairly good attendance, the reserved seats being well filled. "A Pair of Lunatics" and "Cynthia's Captive" were interesting and amusing sketches. Mr B. F. Mulcaster and Miss Preston sustained the principal characters. The following programme was rendered, assisted by Mr Hugh S. Raper's Band:—

The concert programme was as follows:—Song—King's Own—Mr Matthews; recitation—The Bridal of Malahide—Miss Auld; song—The Fine Old Irish Gentleman—Major Preston; violin solo—Berceuse—Mr H. Maughan; song—Where'er you go—Miss Preston; song—An Old Garden—Mr Penrose; song—Mr B. F. Mulcaster; banjo solo—Cromartie March—Miss E. Preston; song—Echo—Mr L. Barnard; solo violin—Bolero—Mr H. Maughan; song—Bedouin Love Song—Mr Matthews.

MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

The effort in the Board School on Saturday evening first is on behalf of the Floral Society. We must take into consideration the fact that the human freight brought by train to the pretty little terminus on the show day numbered some thirteen hundred souls less than on the same occasion, twelve months previous. This made a considerable difference in the amount of the gate-money taken. Added to this deficiency we find that the prize-money for the floral and other exhibits, together with the band contest and the side shows, was considerably augmented, and the profit standing to the credit of the exhibition has seriously dwindled, so that the committee are justified in seeking by every means in their power to add to their depleted exchequer. The concert on the Saturday evening, consisting of the latest cinematograph pictures of the Transvaal War, together with songs, etc., by local friends, will be well worthy of patronage, and we trust that the executive will be rewarded for their efforts to keep this show from dying an untimely death, by adding a considerable sum to their financial credit.

TO MOTHERS.—Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is pleasant to taste; it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." Of all Chemists, 1s. 1½d. per bottle.

Commerce, with its spreading wings, has traversed the globe many times, and binds nations together with the strong ties of mutual self-interest. Through its influence London has become the metropolis of the world, and her merchants have amassed wealth sufficient to make them the envy of princes. Holloway's Pills and Ointment have now become essential articles of commerce with all parts of the world. They have effected cures which have seemed miraculous, and given relief in complaints when all hope had been lost. In all known diseases their success has at all times been wonderful. In cases of disorders of the stomach, bile, liver complaint, indigestion, fevers, ague, etc., they act like a charm, as the cure is speedy and certain.

Funeral at Whorlton of the Rev. Henry Everard Cartwright.—On Wednesday afternoon, the 6th inst., the funeral of the Rev. Henry Everard Cartwright took place at Whorlton. At 3 o'clock the coffin, carried by bearers, preceded by the clergy and choir, followed by the relatives of the deceased, left the vicarage for the church, hymn 225, "Brief life is here our portion," being sung on the way. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. W. Headlam, Vicar of Gainford, and the Rev. E. Lampet, Vicar of Great Bardfield, Essex (uncle of the deceased). Psalm 39 and hymn 428 were sung in the church, and, at the grave, hymns 435 and 499. The deceased who was the eldest son of the Vicar of Whorlton, was a graduate in Arts of University College, Oxford, and for a short time held the curacy of Great and Little Kimble, Bucks.

Epps's Cocoa.—Grateful and Comforting.—By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided for our breakfast and supper a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—*Civil Service Gazette.*—Made simply with boiling water or milk.—Sold only in packets and pound tins, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Ltd., Homœopathic Chemists, London."

Letter to the Editor.

GAINFORD SEWAGE TANK.

SIR,—Permit me, through the medium of the *Teesdale Mercury*, to call your attention to an error in your issue of that paper of the 22nd ult. In your report of the proceedings of the meeting of the Barnard Castle Rural District Council, given in that issue, you speak of a sewage tank at Gainford as leaking. This is a mistake, for both sewage tanks there are quite sound. It is a flushing tank at the west end of the village that was referred to, and, as Mr Gent associates my name with it, I may, perhaps, be allowed to say that I had absolutely nothing to do with the building of it. After I resigned my appointment as engineer, for well-known reasons, the Gainford committee endeavoured to carry on the work, and this tank was built under the direction of that committee, and, I am told, under the personal supervision of Mr Gent. After I had been solicited to resume my position as engineer, I was instructed by the Council to examine this tank, and communicate the result, which I did, and that is the extent of my connection with it—barring the planning of it. Under these circumstances one cannot help being struck with the fitness of things in Mr Gent's offering to the Council to find and stop the leak at his own cost.—Yours truly, ROBERT ROBINSON.

LATE ADVERTISEMENT.

BACON PIGS: Also a FAT SOW FOR SALE.—Apply JOSEPH DALSTON.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

HUTCHINSON.—On Nov. 11th, at Ovington, the wife of Thos. B. Hutchinson, of a daughter.

YOUNG.—On Nov. 9th, at Galgate, Barnard Castle, the wife of Geo. James Young, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

DENT: WILKINSON.—On Dec. 9th, at the Wesleyan Church, Barnard Castle, Mr George Dent, to Miss Mary Ann Wilkinson, both of Middleton-in-Teesdale.

ATKINSON: HURWORTH.—On November 25th, at St. Mary's Parish Church, Barnard Castle, Mr Fred Atkinson, of Stainton, to Miss Margaret Hurworth, of Barnard Castle.

DEATHS.

HUTCHINSON.—At Barnard Castle, on the 12th inst., Henry Charles Marshall Hutchinson, the beloved son of Sarah Hutchinson, aged 35 years. To be interred at Startforth, on Friday. *Cortege* to leave residence at 2-30 p.m. Deeply regretted.

GAINS.—On Dec. 12th, at Barnard Castle, Jane Gains, aged 60 years.

PATTERSON.—On December 6th, Elenor Patterson, of Langlands, Newsham, aged 25 years.

HODGSON.—On Dec. 8th, at Bowes, Jane, wife of Thos. Hodgson, aged 71 years.

SWINBANK.—On Nov. 21st, at Butterknowle, Isabella Swinbank, aged 32 years. — Also Mary Ann, daughter of Thos. and Isabella Swinbank, who died at Bowes, on Dec. 10th, aged 7 months.

IN MEMORIAM.

PEARSON.—In loving memory of my dear son W. G. Pearson, who died in London, Dec. 9th, 1898. "Gone, but not forgotten."—E. BELL.

RETURN THANKS.

MR AND MRS PATTERSON, Langland Farm, Newsham, wish to thank their friends and neighbours for their kind words and letters of sympathy during their sad bereavement.