

Editorial and Advertisement
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The MUSICAL PROGRESS AND MAIL

Number 12
Volume VI

September,
1936

A Monthly Journal devoted to the interests of Brass and Military Musicians.

NEWS OF THE MONTH

By the Editor

The "Palace"

First of all we wish all our readers who attend the record festival at the Crystal Palace an enjoyable and (if they are competitors) a successful day. The enormous entry of 210 bands is a striking testimony to the ever-increasing attraction of this event.

The advantages of concentrating the greatest function of the band year at such a large building as is provided by the Palace, lie in the fact that bandmasters, bandmen and others can hear bands of every class on the one day, and can form an estimate of how comprehensive is the brass band movement; they can also attend the largest of massed band concerts; they can see on show the finest productions of the firms who display these; they can examine instruments, music, uniforms at their leisure, and, if they so desire, can order what they want on the spot, without the usual trouble of sending for them by post; and, finally they can meet all the notabilities of the band world. There is no parallel in any other branch of musical activity.

With such a large entry, some of the sections are going to take a long time to get through; in fact we feel that there are too many bands in many of these sections, and that the creation of two additional sections would be very much appreciated.

On another page we have printed a list of the bands who competed in 1900, and it is interesting to compare it with the list of bands in the top section this year. Who will be the 1936 Champions?

The excitement of those few moments when Mr. Iles opens the envelope

containing the result of the top section is almost unbearable. Foden's in 1934. Munn and Felton's in 1935.in 1936?

* * *

Our New Cover

Readers will have noticed that during the past few months, *Musical Progress and Mail* has undergone several changes, in order to move with the times. We now have more modern type; we have more pictures; and several other features have been incorporated in order to enhance the appearance and contents of the paper. Now we make another change, for beginning with the October issue, the first of a new volume, we have decided to use a new cover, one more in keeping with modern tendencies in journalistic circles.

By the way, we occasionally come across enthusiastic bandmen or bandmasters who have not read a copy of our paper, but when they have delved into one, with its unique features, its news, its educational articles, its pictures of bands and bandmen the world over, they at once become regular readers. Do you know somebody who doesn't read this journal? Then get him to send for a specimen copy, and after that you won't be troubled to lend yours!

musical progress and mail

NEXT MONTH..

Look out for
this
New Cover !

October,
1936
Number 1
Volume VII

DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF BRASS AND MILITARY BANDS

3P

The Editor will be pleased to meet readers at
THE CRYSTAL PALACE FESTIVAL - Come to the B & H Stand

BELLE VUE AND THE PALACE.

Belle Vue September Championship September 7th

The 84th Annual Contest was marked by Brighthouse and Rastrick once again carrying off the championships—the fourth time within five years.

The testpiece was "Robin Hood," specially composed by Henry Geehl, who was one of the adjudicators, the other two being Herbert Bennett and Frank Wright.

The full results were: 1st, Brighthouse and Rastrick (W. Halliwell); 2nd, Abram Colliery (J. Greenwood); 3rd, Luton (H. Mortimer); 4th, Black Dyke (W. Halliwell); 5th, Wingate's (H. Moss); 6th, Metropolitan Works (H. Heyes).

This is Mr. Halliwell's sixth consecutive win at Belle Vue!

Brighthouse and Rastrick's record will take some beating, for, in addition to winning the contest four times in four attempts, they are the only public subscription band to win it three times in succession, besides being the only band to bring off the "double" by winning both in July and in September in one season.

* * *

Military Band Championship October 10th

After the Brass Band Championship comes the Military Band Contest on October 10th. The test-piece is Smetana's Suite "The Bartered Bride."

At the time of going to press the following bands have entered: Adamson Military Band, Cheshire Military Band, Culcheth (Manchester), Dewsbury, East Manchester, Ellerman's Wilson Line, Glossop, Halifax Special Constabulary, Imperial Military Band (Liverpool), Lancashire Military Band, Nottingham Passenger Transport, Osseth Military Band, R.A.O.B. Military Band, Salford, Southport and Birkdale Postal Military Band.

NATIONAL BAND FESTIVAL September 26th, 1936 Record Entry

This year's Festival has attracted the record entry of 210 bands, sections 5 and 7 each having the huge total of 35—an enormous task for the judges. We have not sufficient space to give the complete list of entries in each class, but the following who have entered for the Championship will be of interest:—

Abram Colliery, Baxendale's Works, Besses o' th' Barn, Black Dyke Mills, Blackhall Colliery, Blyth L.N.E.R., Brighthouse and Rastrick, Carlisle St. Stephen's, Cresswell Colliery, Crystal Palace, Foden's, Friary, Hanwell, Harton Colliery, Irwell Springs, Luton, Metropolitan Works, Morris Motors, Munn and Feltons, Scottish C.W.S., Sheffield Transport, Slaithwaite, Wingate's Temperance, Workington Town.

* * *

Thirty-Six Years Ago

It is of interest to record the bands which entered the first Crystal Palace Contest in 1900. The names of the conductors are also given:—

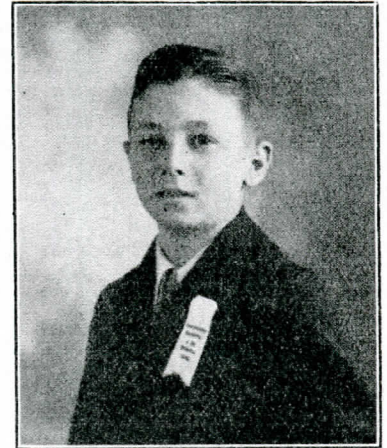
Aberdare Town (J. Manley), Arael Griffin (H. Bentley), Barley Old (A. Owen), Besses o' th' Barn (A. Owen), Black Dyke (J. Gladney), Denton Original (A. Owen), Excelsior Temperance-Hucknall (A. Owen), Ferndale (S. Radcliffe), Hucknall Temperance (J. Gladney), Kettering Rifles (A. Owen), Lee Mount (W. Swingle), Rushden Temperance (A. Owen), West Hartlepool (A. Owen), Wingate's Temperance (W. Rimmer), Wyke Temperance (E. Swift), with Lea Mills (A. Owen) as reserve.

They were the bands in the Championship section, but the lower sections also contained names which are still familiar, among them being: Finedon Old, Fulham, Gravesend Town, Kettering Town, Luton Red Cross, Northfleet, St. Pancras, St. Alban's City.

National Eisteddfod Winner at 13

We publish a picture of Master Evan Llewelyn Watkins, the 13 year old cornet player of Pencoed Public Band. He won the first prize for orchestral wind-instrument solo at this year's Fishguard National Eisteddfod. The other competitors were experienced men, one being a previous National Eisteddfod winner.

He has also been successful at Treorchy Eisteddfod and has passed several examinations in the theory of music. He has



Evan Watkins

been a member of Pencoed Silver Band since the age of 8, and is a pupil of the bandmaster, Mr. Robert Lewis.

Master Watkins is the first to bring the honour of being a "National" winner to the village of Pencoed, and, naturally, everybody there is proud of him. We, too, send him our congratulations.

Oswestry Excelsior Town Band Success

Congratulations to Oswestry Excelsior Town Band, for, despite the fact that this is their first year of existence, they have just won a first prize at Penybont contest, thus adding to their successes at Wellington and Oakesgates, at both of which they won third prizes.

If they go ahead like this, neighbouring bands will have to look to their laurels.

**National Band
Festival 1936**

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Bandmaster of the Month

Mr. E. S. CARTER
Enfield Central Band

We publish this month a recent photograph of Mr. E. S. Carter, who is doing such splendid work with Enfield Central Band.

Mr. Carter began playing 3rd cornet in the (then) Luton Red Cross Band, at



Mr. E. S. Carter

the age of 12, and soon worked up to the solo cornet desk, at the same time winning many medals with Luton quartet party. He also had experience in military band work with the R.G.A., and orchestral experience at His Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, at the same time studying theory, harmony, etc., under the late Mr. Warren T. Clemens, F.R.C.O., of Glasgow.

Mr. Carter has attended every C. P. contest, either as a player or conductor. In 1925 he was appointed resident conductor to the Luton Band in competition with many other applicants, Mr. Halliwell being the professional conductor. Four years later our subject was given sole charge of the band, and in the same year won 3rd prize in the championship section at the Palace. Since then he has gained many other awards at first-class events.

Owing to calls on his time from other sources, Mr. Carter resigned from Luton Band in 1934, but, after a short break, he was persuaded to return to them for a further period until October, 1935, when Enfield Central Band offered him a contract as professional conductor, a very fine move on their part, for since his appointment he has piloted them to success with five first prizes at first-class London contests, making them Champions of the South for 1936.

"JAIL BLUES"

We have secured an exclusive story of the band in one of our largest convict settlements written by a prisoner who was actually a member of the band. This will appear in our October issue.

Mr. Carter does not confine his work to conducting only, for he has officiated as adjudicator at contests in all parts of the country, and, as a composer, he has had several works published by various firms.

Enfield Central is a fine band; Mr. Carter is a fine conductor; what better combination could anybody require?

* * *

Walthamstow Band Festival

As mentioned above, Mr. Carter has won five first prizes at London contests.



Hilgay Excelsior Band, recent winners of a cup and two first prizes at Reepham Contest.

The most recent one is at Walthamstow on September 5th.

This Festival, which has grown to be such a successful event, due to the hard work of the secretary, Mr. C. F. Munday, is held in a beautiful setting at Lloyd Park, and always attracts a large entry, together with an enthusiastic audience.

One of the most attractive features of the day is the massed band concert in the evening. This year six bands, Enfield Central, Friary, Hanwell, Edmonton, Leyton and the House of Dickinson took part, conducted by Mr. J. C. Dyson, and playing solo items as well as massed. The arena was flood-lit and surrounded by fairy lights.

The full results were: 1st Division: 1st, Enfield Central (E. S. Carter); 2nd, Friary (D. Aspinall); 3rd, Northfleet (F. Dimmock).

2nd Division: 1st, Luton Public (T. Collinson); 2nd, Barnet Town (F. Dimmock); 3rd, Hayes and Harlington (A. Motson).

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FORMATION AND DIRECTION OF JUNIOR BANDS

by Harold C. Hind, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.

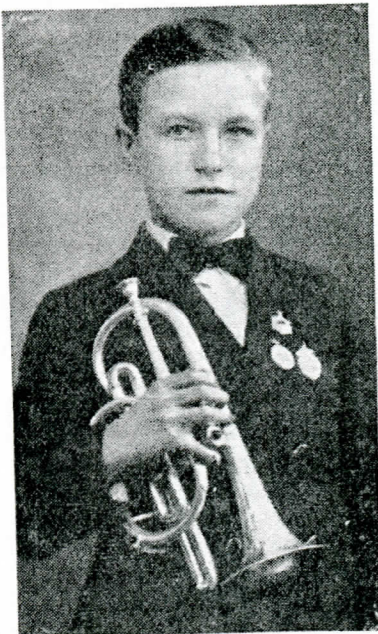
VI. Playing on the March.

Having done considerable practice in march playing at the music desks, the bandmaster may now decide to allow his band to play on the march. In order to do this, the bandmaster should look round for some suitable place where he may rehearse. It must be on level ground of considerable size. It is quite possible that in the vicinity there may be some place where there is a considerable expanse of concrete, such as a flying ground, or a motor trial ground, the latter being particularly suitable, as the roads are usually of some considerable length. School playgrounds are also quite suitable.

Failing this "hard" ground, a level expanse of ordinary ground should be sought for, such as a cricket ground, a football ground, hard tennis courts, or something of similar nature, provided that the bandmaster can convince the authorities that the turf will not be damaged! There are also, of course, the public parks and recreation grounds, but these are not suitable on account of the crowd which may gather and hamper the band.

It is extremely important that the ground should be free from irregularities,

STARTING EARLY!



Ivor Williams, the 12 year old cornet player of Tonyrefail Silver Band. Ivor recently broadcast from the West Regional station.

for the first attempts on the march will prove extremely difficult to the boys. There are two factors which will affect the playing. In the first place the formation of the band will be entirely different from the concert formation used in the practice room. Therefore, to begin with, let the band spend the first part of the time rehearsing a march or two "at the halt." The boys will discover that they can hear very little of what the other players are doing, and will realise that apart from the beat of the drum, together with their own sense of rhythm, they have little to help them to keep perfect time. Moreover, though they will seem to be playing so loudly compared with the others, that they are "standing out" more than usual, yet, at the same time, they will still seem to be weaker in volume in comparison with their usual efforts, due to the lack of reverberation when there are no walls.

After rehearsing some marches in this way, they should then try them without the bass drum, in order to become "solid," without having to rely upon the unifying effect of the steady thump, thump, thump.

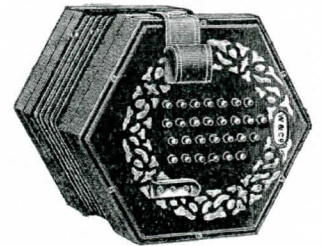
The next step is to try these marches while marking time, and then the first attempts at playing while actually marching should be made. It is a good plan to let the boys do individual practice in this way at first. Give them an easy march, separate them as far as possible, and tell them to get used to holding their instruments to their mouths so securely that they will not lose the note. This is the second factor that will affect the playing. The slightest irregularity in the ground is prone to disturb the embouchure and thus affect the note. The boys must be led to realise that the position of their arms must not be affected by any bumps or holes, that any sudden change must be "absorbed" before it reaches the hands holding the instrument, just as the shock absorbers of a car prevent road shocks reaching the body of the car.

When the boys have had a little experience at playing individually in this way, they should be formed up into ranks and then the first move forward as a complete band should be made.

On the order "quick march," the band should step forward as the drummer should play the rolls, and immediately afterwards, without the slightest uncer-

tainty or hesitation, should start to play the march. It is so simple to say "without the slightest uncertainty," but it is not so simple to do it. The band will sound extremely inefficient to begin with. Now and then it will seem to "fade out" and to sound badly balanced. After all, it is not easy. The players have got to look at their music, look where they are going, and concentrate upon accuracy, all at the same time.

Such rehearsals should be of comparatively short duration to begin with, for they are very tiring. Boys who can walk miles in the ordinary way, or who can play for hours without becoming tired or "winded," are very prone to forget all the ordinary precepts for avoiding fatigue. At the same time, playing on the march is very popular with youngsters, and an early opportunity should be found of letting them appear before the public. What does it matter if they can only play two marches? Those will be quite enough for the first parades, and the repertoire can be increased as time goes on. (To be continued).



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Notes and News from our Contributors

(The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents)

LONDON

By "JACK O' LONDON."

THE whole of the band world's attention is now centred on the National Band Festival. The Lord Mayor of London has accepted the National Brass Band Club's invitation to attend the evening concert.

Among the 210 entries in the seven contests, our Association is well represented by bands from London and the surrounding districts. In the Championship Section with 23 entries, we have Crystal Palace, Hanwell and Luton, whom we hope, will all be in the prizes. We have one quarter of the entries (16) in the Grand Shield: Edmon-ton, Enfield, Great Central and Metropolitan and Wood Green Excelsior; while in section 3, among the 32 entries, Croydon, Northfleet, St. Albans and Watford should give a good account of themselves.

A keen little contest of our own 10 bands will take place among the 35 entries in section 4. They are Dartford, Erith B.L., Hayes and Harlington, Lambeth, Leyton, Luton Public, Lycett, 1st C.R.F. and Yiewsley and West Drayton. Staines United will have Vancouver Boys (Canada) competing against them in section 5 (35 entries).

Our representatives out of the 34 bands in section 6, Haggerston, Romford and Shepherds Bush, have some strong opposition. Hammersmith and Ilford St. John's are our only two in the 35 for section 7.

In Hyde Park, Munn and Felton's visit was a noteworthy one. During a chat with Mr. A. S. Felton, arrangements were made to have the C. P. Trophy on exhibition.

St. Hilda's return visit to Hyde Park, under Major S. Fairfield, was a great event. Unfortunately the weather broke up, and the rain spoilt the attendance of the public.

Enfield Central are well on their way to be champions of the L. and H. C. A. B. Association. For the fourth time in succession (i.e., at Walthamstow) they gained first prize. At Enfield Contest they also secured the best soloist, soprano and band-master medals.

The H.Q. Band, Legion of Frontiersmen, under Sergeant-Major R. G. Foster, appearing at Wood Green, had fine weather, a fine audience and gave spirited playing. They found it rather damp at Southend Carnival.

Mr. Mansfield's surprise item with the London Professional Brass Band at the mid-day performance on the Embankment, caused a surprise among the audience.

It was dull and rather chilly, not a large number of people about, but when Master Horace Muscroft, age 12, stood up in shorts and played a cornet solo, a large crowd soon gathered, stood still and listened in silence. What spontaneous applause they gave him! After his solos he sat down with the men and played off the solo stand for the rest of the programme.

I hope to meet many of my old and new friends at the C. P. Don't forget to gather at Boosey and Hawkes' stands.

"JACK O' LONDON" AT BOURNEMOUTH

During our holidays at Bournemouth we thoroughly enjoyed the playing of the R. A. Lister Military Band, directed by Mr. S. T. Webber, A.R.C.M. They were brilliant indeed. A fanfare by 16 trumpeters at the entrance to the Pier, before each performance, aroused the curiosity of the holiday folks. Each evening the band played to capacity, with all the seats filled half an hour before the start.

As a male voice choir their humorous items kept the audience in roars of laughter, and rhythm fans were specially catered for by the rhythmic combination. The full military band played melodies grave and gay from Grand Opera to the dances of the day. As a works band their deportment, precision and enthusiasm reflect great credit on the directors of Messrs. R. A. Lister and Co., Ltd.

The Bournemouth Professional Military Band, under Lieut. Horace Grey, late of St. Hilda's, has many former members of Sir Dan Godfrey's late Winter Gardens Municipal Orchestra, which is a "hallmark" of their musical ability.

For the second week the Welsh Guards, under Major Andrew Harris, M.V.O., L.R.A.M., p.s.m., were the visiting band.

I heard Southbourne Silver Prize Band who are engaged by the corporation to play on the top of the Eastern Cliffs (Fisherman's Walk), twice each Sunday during the season. This band is competing at the Crystal Palace under their conductor, Mr. G. T. Devereux.

BERKS, OXON AND BUCKS By "ROYAL COUNTY."

THE outdoor season is now over, and the winter business will commence in earnest at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, September 26th, with a record entry for the National Festival, in which these counties do not figure very largely. In fact, Royal Berks can only find one band to represent it, Oxford two, and Bucks two. These are Spring Gardens (Berks), Morris Motors and Kidlington (Oxford), Wolverton Town and High Wycombe Excelsior (Bucks).

It seems more than probable that the bands of these counties are entering in larger numbers for their Guild Festival at Reading on Saturday, October 31st, which can be made a stepping stone to the National event with some prospect of success.

Blewbury Band and British Legion Fête and Sports, on Saturday, August 8th, drew an audience of about 3,000. Both parties should therefore reap a good balance. The same organisations subsequently held a very successful gymkhana on August 29th, when again a large concourse of people assembled at the Blewbury Riding School, at the foot of the Berkshire Downs. This also promises a good financial result.

The second combined performance by the Marlow and Maidenhead Town bands was held at Marlow recently and again a very satisfactory attendance enjoyed the programme, conducted by each bandmaster, Mr. E. Palmer and Mr. H. E. Newman, respectively.



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Full particulars can be obtained from:—

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Hungerford Carnival and Band Contest, held on Saturday, August 29th, attracted an entry of five bands, namely, South Berks Silver, Tadley G. T., Wroughton, Ardington and Lockinge and R.O.A.B., Swindon. It is possible we may see all five, together with Hungerford Town, at Reading on Saturday, October 31st. Mr. Lennon adjudicated and his awards were: 1st, South Berks; 2nd, Tadley; 3rd, Wroughton.

The Oxford Bands Association held a contest for small bands on Saturday, August 29th in Blenheim Park, Woodstock. Mr. C. A. Anderson, Leicester, adjudicated with the following results. March: 1st, Kidlington; 2nd, Harrison's Works. Selection: 1st, Fairford (A. J. Cook); 2nd, Kidlington (W. Miller); 3rd, Langford and Filkins (C. G. Collett). Also competed, Harrison's Works and Woodstock.

Four bands took part in the department competition, which was judged by Mr. W. Carberry, late B.M., Royal Military College, Sandhurst, who awarded Fairford 1st and Woodstock 2nd. Medals for best side and bass drummers went to Fairford.

Newbury Carnival. The committee of this event engaged the famous Vancouver Boys' Band. No doubt the boys have been a great attraction, but some consideration should be given the three local bands who are so often called upon to assist local efforts for hospitals and other deserving organisations.

It is good to hear that an effort has been made in a Berkshire town by the superintendent of the County Council's evening classes, to form an instructional class for brass and wood wind instruments. This, unfortunately has not been accepted, for reasons of economy, but further efforts will be made in due course. The gentleman referred to is keen on getting this class going.

READING BAND FESTIVAL, Saturday, October 31st.

I am informed that there is every possibility of another record being made for this event, in the number of entries and in other directions. It had been hoped that the evening concert would be broadcast, but this has been abandoned for this year. The engagement of Mr. Denis Wright as adjudicator is interesting, in view of his recent appointment to the B.B.C.

There is reason to expect that the section for small bands (of brass or brass and reed) will find many entrants this year, and for this reason entries should be made before the end of this month. For full information, apply to the secretary, Mr. S. Butler, "Onward," Wokingham.

SOUTH WALES

By "THE WANDERER."

THE South Wales Band Association Class "C" Championship was held in conjunction with the Melingriffith Silver Band's Carnival day at Whitechurch on Saturday, August 22nd. Congratulations are due to Mr. T. J. Powell, bandmaster, Mr. H. Evans, secretary, a splendid band of workers and their wives, for their enterprise and organisation ability, every one of them pulling his weight and working with a will. Result, a nice fat bank balance for the band funds.

The band contest was a most interesting affair, and fine performances were put up for the class. The test piece was "In Days of Old," the adjudicator being Mr. D. Williams, Penygroes. His awards were as follows: 1st, Troedyrhiw Town (J. Williams); 2nd, Cwm Town (J. Grobert); 3rd, Abertridwr Welfare (M. Jeremiah); also competed, Abercarn Welfare, Abercynon Workmen's, Blaengarw Silver, Caerphilly Town, Pontypridd Transport and Tongwynlais Temperance. March contest: 1st, Troedyrhiw Town; 2nd, Blaengarw Silver; 3rd, Pontypridd Transport. Abercarn Welfare, a new band in the Association, gave me a pleasant surprise. In their new uniform of chocolate and gold they looked very smart and put up a reasonably good performance; their biggest fault was intonation.

Another band to do well was Pontypridd Transport, under their new bandmaster, Mr. E. Daniels, one of the old Ferndale Band stalwarts.

Abercynon Workmen's depleted ranks have been filled by members of the junior band, thanks to Mr. W. Keel (secretary), whose idea it was to start a junior band, and who was their bandmaster.

Mr. J. W. Smith and Mr. A. F. Hendy represented the Association at the contest, and I noticed several other band personalities present, including Mr. W. G. Davies of Barry Town, and Mr. Aaron Trotman, late solo cornet of Cory's Band, now trumpet in the West Regional B.B.C. Orchestra. Mr. Trotman is still keenly interested in brass band work, and informs me that he would like very much to take on a band in his spare time (a chance for a third class band who would like the benefit of first class experience).

The Bridgwater Contest is an attraction for the South Wales Bands; an average of five or six attend it every year, and

usually do very well there. Cardiff Transport, under their new conductor, Mr. Nuttall, won the department prize for the third year in succession, and got 2nd prize in the open. Cory's, last year's winners, were unplaced, after what many thought an excellent performance of the selection "Giralda." Blaina won the march and got fourth in the selection. Tredegar (S. Mounfield) won the second section with a nice bright performance. Cardiff St. Saviour, who has not done any contesting for a number of years, gave a very creditable show.

Now for the Great Crystal Palace Contest, where over 200 bands will be competing for honours. I note with satisfaction that Wales is well represented; the entries include Cardiff Transport, Cwmavon, Blaengarw, Brynmawr, Pontycymmer Town Llanelly, Penmaenmawr, Varteg, Abercarn Welfare, Rhyl and Oswestry Boro'.

The Class "A" contest on August 22nd at the Ynysydaren Athletic Grounds, under the auspices of the Ystalyfera Town Band turned out to be a miserable failure, as far as entries were concerned. The Town band deserved better encouragement than that if only for their initiative in prolonging the season for class "A" bands. Unfortunately only four bands turned up. The test piece was "Die Feen," and the winners put up an excellent performance. Mr. Roland Davies, Amington, was the adjudicator, the result being as follows: 1st, Ystalyfera Town (E. J. Evans); 2nd, Ystalyfera Public (T. E. Jones); 3rd, Gwann-cae-gurwe (Dan Lloyd).

DEATH OF Mr. T. J. REES.

The principality has lost one of its notable brass band conductors and adjudicators in the person of Mr. T. J. Rees of Clydael Swansea, who, I am grieved to say passed away recently at his home. Mr. Rees, who was 61 years old, has been ailing for some considerable time. He had been conductor of the well-known Gwann-cae-gurwen Band for 22 years, achieving wonderful success during that period. As an adjudicator, I had officiated at all the principal contests in Great Britain, including the great Crystal Palace Championship. He had also visited Australia and judged all the principal contests out there. His last adjudicator appointment was at Romford in July, this year. I am sure that all who knew him South Wales will join me in tendering the sincere condolence to his family in the sad bereavement.

TOYNBEE HALL, LONDON, E.1

In view of the success of the inaugural course of Lectures in

BRASS BAND TRAINING

A further series will be held during the winter and spring terms, beginning on Wednesday, September 30th, at 8 p.m. Every aspect of the work will be dealt with. Famous soloists will give demonstrations on their instruments. Prominent Conductors will give lectures on special topics. Certain nights will be devoted to actual conducting, by selected students. Some of the subjects are as follows:—

Conducting, band training, tuning, programme construction, interpretation, scoring for brass band, the functions of brass instruments. Cornet playing, trombone playing, euphonium playing, bass playing, etc. There will also be detailed preparation of the set works for diplomas in brass band conducting.

The following, amongst others, have already promised to give special lectures:—
Adj. Eric Ball, A.R.C.M., Fred Dimmock, Esq., J. C. Dyson, Esq., Major A. Jakeway, L.G.S.M., Harold Laycock, Esq., Denis Wright, Esq., B.Mus.
Principal Lecturer: Mr. Harold Hind, Professor of Brass Band Work and Examiner for Diplomas in Conducting at the Guildhall School of Music, London.

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NORTH WALES

By "ERYRI."

THE newly formed band committee, at Dyffryn Mer, which has equipped its new members with good silver instruments, has handed the baton to Mr. P. C. Entwistle. They gave their first concert on August 23rd, about which the conductor speaks very favourably and follows his words up by some words of advice relative to attendance at rehearsal and practising of parts.

Abergynolwyn Silver Band was in attendance and played pieces and selections at the annual show and village sports on August 28th.

The streets of Dyffryn village were gaily decorated, and an imposing procession, headed by the new village silver band, led the Rose Queen into an adjacent field with a convenient platform on which the band played.

We have also to chronicle Portmadoc Fête, at which were assembled no less than seven Queens, and Dame Sybil Thorndyke and Mr. Casson all ready to enjoy themselves, with a train-load of visitors from the adjacent slate-quarries up in the hills, and to cap all, Royal Oakley Silver Prize Band. The same band played at the crowning of the Rose Queen at Llanrust.

A movement is on foot to re-organise the Portmadoc Town Band. The present band has been disbanded for several months, and the matter is now in the hands of Mr. J. O. Thomas, Central Buildings, who is acting as secretary for the time being.

Gwersylt Rose Queen Fête and Gymkhana engaged Gresford Colliery Silver Prize Band to give them what proved to be very good music at Gwersylt Park. The same band also played at Wrexham Carnival and Fête.

Coedpoeth Silver Prize Band headed the procession of the Rose Queen at New Broughton on August 27th.

A band concert in the Wrexham Parciau was given by the Rhos Silver Prize Band. The Overture "Tancredi," the Fantasia "Lucrezia Borgia," and the selections, "Il Flauto Magico" and "Don Sebastiano" were included.

Coed Talon Silver Band recently gave a programme at the Oakley Arms, Leeswood, near Mold.

The Royal Queen of Llay village, near Mold and Wrexham, was *en fête* on Bank Holiday, and was headed in the procession by Connah's Quay Silver Prize Band.

There was quite a large procession, with several majestic queens at the Olde Marye Fayre, which was held with large crowds in Wynnstay Park on Bank Holiday, with music by the Ruabon Silver Band.

Rhos Silver Prize Band have again come into the news by winning 2nd prize at a contest at Pennybont. Out of a possible 550 marks, Lileshall Collieries had 463, with Rhos 452.

Connah's Silver Prize Band were engaged to provide the music at Tryden Fête. Tryden is between Mold and Wrexham.

Townyn Carnival and Festival was headed by Townyn Silver Prize Band to a field, where a noticeable crowd of British Legionaries had formed up to welcome them.

The Editor is always pleased to receive photographs with a view to their publication.

YORKSHIRE

By "WHITE ROSE."

BY the time the September *Progress and Mail* is to hand, we shall be close to the great National Band Festival, which winds up the summer season's contesting. A record entry of 210 bands goes to prove that the brass band movement is one of the greatest mediums of musical expression. No other musical organisation can assemble so many units at one contest, or on the same day, for competitive purposes.

Whilst the last 50 years has seen a decline in vocal music in some parts of the country, the brass band has spread all over the Kingdom. One cannot help but marvel at the great progress of brass bands since the first Crystal Palace contest in 1900. From comparatively easy test-pieces which all bands could easily play, there has been a gradual increase in the technical difficulties, which have proved a fine training for even our first class brass bands. Messrs. Jennison, at Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester, undoubtedly led the way for a good many years by the splendidly arranged contests for brass bands, but it was not until the "original pieces" were tests at the Crystal Palace contests that bands were set a task that compelled every man in the band to master technical difficulties. For this forward movement we have to thank that great pioneer, Mr. J. Henry Iles.

The way of the pioneer is hard. Envy, hatred and malice, all combine to belittle the work he does. People that live in a rut (or, like the horse, have blinkers on) are limited in their vision, and soured by their own inability to do things. These people, by lies, innuendo and worse things, shelter behind a non-de-plume when writing to the papers, and quote other people as having said things which their own small minds have conceived. They will not admit that there are bands to-day as good as bands of 30, 40, or 50 years ago. They will not admit the teachers of to-day are as good as the teachers of 30, 40, or 50 years ago. They will not admit that the adjudicators of to-day are as good as the adjudicators of 30, 40, or 50 years ago. A letter to hand (post-mark, Manchester), has prompted the above remarks. The writer (who signs his epistle "Musician") abuses me for my complimentary remarks to Blackhall and Slaithwaite, on their wins at the Leeds Contest. Stating that I am a "rotten" judge, and "nobody could hear the bands without trespassing on the ground" he informs me that "the true state of affairs at Leeds was Brighouse, Besses, Black Dyke, Luton, Rothwell." He further makes the absurd suggestion that the judges were incapable, and suggests such men as J. A. Sheppard and Wm. Rimmer. There follow certain other abusive remarks re the Crystal Palace contest. If my correspondent will write again, sign his name, and give his full address, I will make an endeavour to see him and assist him to remove his "blinkers"! Vale!

Just a word or two about the Crystal Palace Contest. I note the following Yorkshire bands among the entries: viz: Barnoldswick, Rowntree's Cocoa Works, British Oil Cakes (Hull), Canal Iron Works (Shipley), Clayton Subscription, Eckington, Rotherham Phoenix, Salts (Saltaire), Stourton Memorial, Askern, Black Dyke (Senior and Junior), Horsforth Subscription, Rawmarsh, Yorkshire Copper Works, Ecclesfield, Rassington, Thirsk and Sowerby and West Hartlepool. Slaithwaite have

entered the Championship section, and, according to all reports, are determined to score if they have their share of luck. Many bands will be attending the "Palace" for the first time. To all and sundry my advice is to get there early. Many bands have thrown away chances by leaving things till the last minute. Hurry doesn't pay in contesting. Cool, calm, steady, reasoning work is required. Above all do not miss the grand show of instruments and uniforms, etc., together with the final concert in the evening.

It would be interesting to know how many works and colliery bands we have in Yorkshire. Yes, and even school bands. The year 1937 will see the coronation of King Edward VIII. Throughout the history of brass bands it is noticeable that bands came into being on such special occasions as the crowning of a king, or a jubilee of some kind.

In regard to school bands we are a long way behind other parts of the country. Perhaps it is not generally known that Messrs. Boosey and Hawkes are prepared to find both instruments and instruction for a school band experiment. I have just received the news that the Marsden Senior School Band has celebrated its fifth birthday. This band was formed after a three months' trial on instruments loaned by Messrs. Boosey and Hawkes. Such was the enthusiasm that the instruments were bought, and paid for, in under twelve months.

There is a great opening for works bands in the factory districts of Yorkshire, and I advise anyone interested to write for information to 295, Regent Street, London, W.1. Not only is instruction and advice given in the forming of a band, but all information regarding instruments, uniforms, music, and even a teacher is freely given.

I should like my numerous correspondents to note that I cannot reply to anyone unless I receive a stamped, addressed envelope. Please send all news to "White Rose," c/o *Musical Progress and Mail*.

LANCASHIRE

By "CRUSADER."

IN looking through my Crystal Palace programme for 1935, I came across these three facts; first, "There is no other musical organisation that maintains three periodical papers," secondly, "There are more brass bands than any other class of musical organisation," thirdly, "They give their services voluntarily, for more charitable purposes than any other musical organisation."

In reference to the first fact, have you ever considered as bandsmen how fortunate you are in having a periodical like this one, dealing entirely with you and your hobby? Through the medium of this and other papers you have been able to take a keen interest in all band matters throughout the land, whereas without them your interest and knowledge would have been limited to your own small village or town. Apart from the general news, there are valuable suggestions and instructions contained therein, together with a means of keeping in touch with the many manufacturers who supply all your requirements. Then why not show your appreciation of these blessings obtained so cheaply by spreading among your fellow bandsmen the suggestion that they would find a new interest in their band if they would read a band paper? Have you thought how all the news is collected for your interest? If you are a

Lancastrian, you will look for the Lancashire notes first, little thinking how this has been compiled, but I would like to acquaint my readers that "Crusader," along with all his fellow scribes, is not just a free-lance journalist fitted up with the means of speedy and modern transport, but rather one of a large band of brass bandmen, who are striving by their writings to create interest and enthusiasm among their fellow men. We cannot visit every bandroom, but we can publish your news if sent along. Do you appreciate the work we are endeavouring to do for you and the movement. We are not asking for laurel wreaths, only your assistance by sending your reports. In moving among our bandmen, I have been surprised at the number who do not take in a band paper at all. This is not the way to progress, and it is a matter committees may deal with effectively at the forthcoming general meetings.

Dealing with the second fact quoted above, if so many thousands of bandmen help to make up the communal life of this country, why do their activities seldom come before the general public? If we had the co-operation of the daily press, this would be the greatest advance for many years. I would suggest that the N.B.B.C. take up the matter at their meeting in London.

Regarding the third fact and charitable service, it is a well known fact among our own fraternity that our bandmen are ever to the fore in giving of their services for deserving causes, but at times it makes one think that most people think that the brass band is only in existence for this specific purpose, and can be run successfully without finance. How often has the local band

been asked to provide the music for some charitable object, and then been passed over by these same people when they require a band or entertainment for which they can give a remunerative return? It is unfortunate that these notes had to be in our editor's hands before Belle Vue Monday, for I cannot review the playing of our district bands; however, with 13 Lancashire bands entered (but I believe two have retired), we ought to figure well in the prize list, so we will leave our comments till the next issue.

At the forthcoming Crystal Palace Contest we are represented by 11 bands in four sections. Our hopes of bringing the coveted trophy to Lancashire rests with Abram Colliery, Baxendales, Besses-o'-th'-Barn, Irwell Springs and Wingates Temperance. In the Grand Shield our fighter is Barrow Shipyard; in section 3 we have Barnoldswick Public, Manchester C.W.S. Band, Stretford Boro' and Tintwistle, and we finish off with Radcliffe Boro' in section 6.

Bolsover Colliery established themselves in the heart of the critical Manchester people by their splendid playing in Boggart Hole, Clough, on Sunday, August 16th.

A well-known figure in brass band circles and also on the Manchester United football ground, died in sad circumstances in the person of Mr. James Carter, the popular drum-major of the Manchester United Band; his smart and jovial personality brought him many friends and his sudden death came as a surprise to everyone.

Windsor Prize Band have had a very interesting summer, although many of their engagements were spoilt by weather con-

ditions. They deserve special mention for their service in the cause of charity; although receiving no pay for their concerts given at the local hospital, they were well rewarded by the joy and happiness evidenced on the old folks' faces.

Oldham Rd. Brotherhood are an eager and enthusiastic band, and their motto seems to be "The best mission band in Manchester."

Pendleton Public has had another good summer in respect to engagements. They excelled themselves during their visit to Southport, so much that a resident sent a very appreciative letter to the band's local paper.

Baxendales closed their summer engagements with a fine programme at Cringle Fields, Manchester. The day previous they were engaged to play at the Poynton Show where they enhanced their reputation by some tasteful playing.

I am afraid the publicity agent of the Pickup Bank and Hoddlesden Band has left undone those things he ought to have done, for after sending a long letter for last May's issue with a promise of one every month, he is still keeping me waiting.

Stockport L.M.S. have exceeded all expectations this year, and their playing at the Bramhall Show in August was loudly applauded, proving that their contesting experience had done much good.

Warrington Boro' (under my good friend J. Oakes), has had a good season with engagements.

Next month I hope to chat on several of the contests that are now pending; but readers, let us have your news, discussion and views.



BANDS ON THE AIR

BROADCAST DIARY By GRAHAM GILL

The band of the Royal Ulster Constabulary broadcast a programme on August 6th, which included Gennin's duet for piccolo and clarinet.

The Southport concert on the 7th was given by the 1st Gordon Highlanders. Tastefully devised, we again had the pleasure of listening to a soloist without the "music-hall" affectation. The cessation of unnecessary embellishment has been noticeable for some time now. We still have, however, the tendency to serve the next course before the existing one has been masticated, which, apart, perhaps from the neurotic atmosphere of a dance-hall, does not *improve* good music.

Foden's programme on the 8th, was one that, immediately one looked at it, held a spontaneous appeal—the unmistakable emblem of art. Programme building is the *theory*: concert-giving is the *practice*: and, when we have such a perfect combination, the result is obvious. Two points in recent articles (in a contemporary) by Mr. J. Brier, which have caught my attention, are relevant to broadcasting in particular. These are, the more fluent use of the flugel, and works for a *chamber* brass band—such as a double-quartet. I'd like to enlarge upon the advantages, but space prevents it.

The Scots Guards were the only band to play on Sunday the 9th, giving suitable light classics. The tone and chording in the Liszt Rhapsody were splendid.

Workington Town (Newcastle) on the 10th, impressed me with solid workmanship, team work, and other admirable characteristics accredited to the Lake District, and on the following day Ulster had the 1st Welch Regt. to provide it with military music of a high order.

Whether it is "cricket" to (piano) concerto the "Grasshoppers' Dance," I don't know, but both the Cheltenham Military Band and the R.A.S. Corps Band (this from Morecambe on the 14th) rendered this effective version.

Foreign heterodyning played havoc with the R.M. (Chatham) concert from Leamington, on the 12th, and, although excellent interpretation was accomplished in Coates' "Summer Days" suite, the whistle was unbearable and I turned to the Salvationist Supplies Band—broadcasting simultaneously—on other regions.

The 4th/7th Dragoon Guards were in Scotland on 13th, and opened their short

programme with the evergreen "Zampa." Mounted bands are always attractive.

Baxendale's made a National appearance on the 15th, and carefully portrayed the varied items given. The Birmingham City Police Band chose an uncommonly attractive programme of old favourites, which apparently enraptured their large audience. But it is about the relaying of the Bridgewater Festival that I wish to pay attention. Here we had a brief half-hour of enlightenment (to the average listener) given by J. Brier (the judge), the Mayor and a commentator in the best of surroundings, which embodied in those thirty minutes—humour, history, scenic description, the contest winners, and a march by the massed bands (very well done)—and, finally, the testpiece played by Camborne, who, just to show that Bugle was no "fluke," consolidated their reputation. A fine colourful band, with expression and restraint well defined. Tredegar, too, should be mentioned for their part in the 2nd section. An excellent idea to broadcast such an event. On the following day, Kingswood Silver gave a creditable show, due greatly to the influence of H. Moss, who conducted.

Mr. Graham Gill, whose advice is very frequently sought by broadcasting bands, will be happy to advise bands with regard to their programmes, etc. He will also send a full and confidential report of their performance to any broadcasting band.

Write to: Mr. Graham Gill,
c/o "Musical Progress & Mail,"
295, Regent Street,
London, W.1,
enclosing stamp for reply.

Bentley Colliery again broadcast on the 17th. I thought "Patience" their best effort. Wellesley Colliery also gave a mid-day concert on this day (National). An excellent programme. Cory Brass Quartet, too, gave a few items from the West. Used with some restriction, and with suitable material, the chamber combination of brass would be agreeable, as this ensemble showed.

On the 20th, Hanwell reappeared for an afternoon concert, and seemed to be quite at home. A mellow band, always effective. The same day, the annual relay from the Shrewsbury Floral Fête, wherein the Massed Guards Bands participated, provided National listeners with some good military band music, each band taking a turn. The Vancouver Boys'

Band again had an hour from the north-west coast. They certainly have improved since their last visit, and show good staying power. The items, too, were splendidly varied.

Although I could not give full attention, I was impressed by the precision, unanimity, technique, tone and selection of items by the 1st Royal Scots on the 22nd.

Luton again gave a Sunday broadcast on the 23rd, and are still playing an excellent band—not afraid to tackle technical difficulties. On the following day were heard, Ystalyfera Silver, another band from Wales who appear to me to be rising gracefully. By their performance and items they were out to impress.

Popular Black Dyke gave an afternoon concert from Derby on the 26th, which included several new items. The Arboretum gives a muffled transmission.

Amington and 9th Royal Lancers both played on the 27th. I liked the tone of the former better than ever before. The latter I could not fit in—being late in the evening.

The Imperial Military Band concert from Southport, on the 28th, introduced some unique items, including two Spanish pieces by Facio, arranged by the conductor, J. R. Bell. From the West later in the day, Tonyrefail Silver were very neat and deft. I liked their waltz rhythm very much, when playing Winter's "Fairy" waltz. A nice light band.

The R.A.F. and Grenadier Guards continue to give excellent programmes and interpretations.

S.C.W.S. Band gave three items on the 29th—a most ambitious affair—two of these being Hawkins' version of "Merry Wives of Windsor" and Weber's "Last Waltz."

Blackhall Colliery gave the Sunday morning concert on the 30th. I wonder if they can emulate Munn and Felton's this year? With their correlated virility and artistry, it is not impossible. The Coventry S.A. Band and Scottish Military Band were others to entertain listeners on this Sabbath.

The N.I.B.B. repeated some of the numbers they played under Denis Wright, when performing on the 31st. I agree with Maurice Johnstone, that in the main, Tchaikovsky is one of the few masters who transcribe well for brass. The R.A.F. (Cranwell) reappeared in the

BANDS ON THE AIR (*continued*).

evening. Hardly the power of their central combination, they shape very well indeed.

Munn and Felton's have given two concerts within a week, one from the seaside, the other from the Midland Regional, both of which were effectively rendered.

Erith British Legion put in an appearance on September 6th, and gave more than fleeting glimpses that they are capable of artistic qualities.

Birmingham Police Band, from the Midland on the same day, also strengthened public opinion about them.

Tiversal Colliery took the Monday afternoon hour on the 7th, the Midland station thus having provided a good share this month.

The winners of the Belle Vue Contest—Brighouse and Rastrick, naturally included the test-piece "Robin Hood" in their National programme on the 8th. Interpretation was excellent. Henry Geehl is a great craftsman, commanding untold respect, for he can write test-pieces *for the people*, as well as for the bands, and mythology appears to be no handicap.

East Ilsley and Compton Band

This band is going strong and has plenty of engagements. Mr. E. Sneller (deputy bandmaster) is conducting and Mr. H. Wells (bandmaster) is playing solo euphonium, this arrangement being made to suit the requirements of the band. The band is giving concerts at different villages every Sunday evening.

* * *

Mr. E. E. Milner to Broadcast Again

Mr. E. E. Milner, whose photograph we published in a recent issue, is to broadcast from the North Regional station a report of the Crystal Palace Festival.

* * *

Denis Wright and the B.B.C. Military Band

Mr. Denis Wright will conduct the B.B.C. Military Band for its broadcast on Sunday, September 27th.

* * *

Congratulations to Hanwell

The next place in order of merit to the prize-winners at Belle Vue was secured by Hanwell. Heartiest congratulations!

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BANDS IN SCOTLAND

By "TARTAN."

Raith Contest Resuscitated

Owing to the enterprise of the Kirkcaldy Hospital Pageant Committee, the above contest was held in Raith Estate Grounds and proved a great success in every way. The attendance was considered to be over 2,800. Ten bands had entered, and nine competed. Govan Burgh Band, at the last minute, owing to unforeseen circumstances, were unable to compete.

The following is the order in which the bands played in the selection and hymn tune contest, with names of selections:—

- No. 1. Kilty Blairadam (J. Faulds), "A Day wi' Burns."
 No. 2. Buckhaven Town (W. Laycock), "Britannia's Crown of Song."
 No. 3. Tullis Russell (J. H. Haldane), "Tam o' Shanter."
 No. 4. 20th A. C., Kirkcaldy (B. Briggs), "Memories of Britain."
 No. 5. Burntisland (Colin Ferris), "Echoes of Scotland."
 No. 6. Bathgate Public (Jack Rielly), "Memories of Britain."
 No. 7. Dunfermline Town (Gregor G. Grant), "Lord of the Isles."
 No. 8. Wellesley Colliery (William Pegg), "A Day wi' Burns."
 No. 9. Coltness Works (Ed. Sutton), "Tam o' Shanter."

The adjudicators were: March and selection; Mr. George H. Mercer, Sheffield. Hymn Tune: Mr. I. Finlay, Edinburgh. Dress and Department: Mr. Walter Slade, Edinburgh.

A very pleasing attraction was seeing so many bands in uniform, and in my opinion this rule should be put in force at all contests, as it gives a better tone to such events.

The following are the awards. March contest: 1st, Dunfermline Town; 2nd, Tullis Russell. Hymn contest: 1st, Tullis Russell. Selection contest: 1st, Welles-

ley Colliery; 2nd, Coltness Works; 3rd, Dunfermline Town; 4th, Buckhaven Town; 5th, Tullis Russell Band.

Special prize, presented by Boosey and Hawkes, Ltd., for best 4th class band was awarded to Burntisland Band. Dress and department: 1st, Tullis Russell, 2nd, Bathgate Public.

Congratulations to Wellesley Colliery and their esteemed bandmaster, Mr. William Pegg, on their victory. The band received a great ovation from the public on their arrival home. Coltness Works Band and Mr. Ed. Sutton are also to be congratulated.

HALF A CENTURY AGO

OF THE SCOTTISH AMATEUR BAND ASSOCIATIONS.

General News

The S.C.W.S. Band played two programmes in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, recently, and it was estimated that there was an attendance of over 20,000 for the two programmes. The band was in splendid form, and encores were in great demand. Mr. Geo. Hawkins was in command. The band have now settled down for the Crystal Palace Contest, London, and are in hopes of returning with the "Blue Riband" this year. I understand that St. Augustine's Band, Coatbridge, under Mr. Wm. Connell, will

take part in the Junior "B" section. We admire them on their pluck, and wish them every success.

Newtongrange Lothian Band have appointed Mr. J. Farrow, late of Kilgloth Public Band, as their bandmaster in succession to Mr. Archie Nielson, and he has now commenced his new duties.

Tranent and District Band have appointed Mr. Harry Shaw, Edinburgh, as their bandmaster, in succession to Mr. John B. Aithie, and he will be in command of the band at Kirkcaldy Contest. All interest is now centred in the various Championship contests of the Scottish

Amateur Band Associations. The following bands have entered for the Second Class contest, which takes place in the Music Hall, George Street, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 3rd October: Arbroath, Buckhaven Town, Cowdenbeath Public, Croy Parish, Coatbridge Town, Dunfermline Town, Douglas Colliery, Ex-members B. B. Portobello, Galashiels Town, Glasgow Corporation Gas Dept., Hawick Saxhorn, Johnstone Silver, Kilsyth Town, Lever Town, Newtongrange Lothian, Renfrew Burgh, St. John's, Port Glasgow, St. Augustine's, Coat-

bridge, and Shotts. R. C. The adjudicator is Mr. J. A. Greenwood, Birkenhead.

For the First Class contest in Waverley Market, Edinburgh, on Saturday, 24th October, the following 17 bands have entered: Bathgate Public, Bonnybridge and District, Clydebank Burgh, Coltness Works, Darvel Burgh, Dysart Colliery, Falkirk Public, Forfar, Govan Burgh, Gartsherrie, Kelly and Blairadam, Lesmahagow Miners' Welfare, Motherwell and Wishaw, Newmilns Burgh, Scottish C.W.S., Tullis Russell and Wellesley Colliery. Adjudicator, Mr. Denis Wright, London.

BIRMINGHAM

By "EXCELSIOR."

CONGRATULATIONS to Thompson's on their fine win at Oakengates. This band seem to have taken a new lease of life; good luck to them; we have too many bands in this district who seem content just to jog along.

I am pleased to hear that Dunlop intend competing at the C. P. I understand that one or two additions have been made in the band, and that it is intended to get professional tuition for the contest. I hope that you have a successful broadcast Mr. Tomlinson.

Northfield are likely competitors for one of the lower sections, and have decided for Mr. Perrin to give a few lessons. Mr. Perrin certainly knows when things are the right way up and if the material is good enough, is likely to get them well in the prizes.

Metropolitan are in really good form for Belle Vue (I am writing this before the contest). I regret, Mr. Heyes, that your solo euphonium cannot get the necessary leave to make the trip, but pleased to hear that the contest management have given you permission to get a suitable man to assist. You have got a very busy month before you with Belle Vue, C. P.,

two broadcasts and two other engagements.

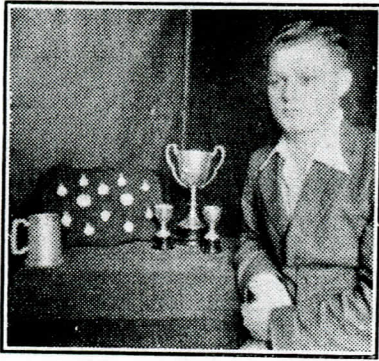
Walsall L.M.S. hope to attend C. P.

I am sorry to hear that Aldridge Colliery is likely to close down, and I hope this will not mean the band is likely to be disbanded. Mr. Smith has certainly worked very hard and has a very nice little band.

No news from Coventry district again.

Gravesend Town Band, conductor, Mr. T. Stopford, with their new instruments. Seated in the centre is the mayor, Councillor G. R. Croft.

What is happening over there? Two or three good bands appear to have put the shutters up early in this district; what about it, Mr. Pugh and Mr. East? I should be glad to hear from you before next month, and I should also be pleased to hear particulars regarding any quartet or solo competitions that are likely to be held in the district.



A clever young player. See paragraph on this page. (Photograph by courtesy of "Allegro," of the "Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph.")

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE By "PROGRESSIVE."

I have no doubts as to my next month's notes being of equally jubilant character as those of last year, for, as you will remember, we of Northants were highly honoured by the success of our members of the top section at C. P. Will they repeat the performance? Who knows? Who expects them to? Well, whatever happens, here's jolly good luck to Munn and Felton's, creators of unbounded rivalry and good class concerts in the dear old County. In wishing them the very best, I know I am voicing the greetings of many thousands.

Raunds Temperance (O. Pentelow), I understand, will make a bold bid to secure greater honours again this year, and if perseverance means success, then it is bound to come the way of Raunds.

Rushden Town (M. J. Roberts), are this year competing in section 3, along with Rushden Mission. The former are a good contesting band. The latter band have decided to come out into the limelight at last, and, this time, I understand, under the guidance of Mr. Billie Groome. This band won the bottom section at their first attempt a few years ago, and have considerably improved since.

Kettering Rifles are having good rehearsals under Mr. Tom Proctor, and recently gave a good concert at their club show.

Wellingboro' L.M.S. are again missing C. P., yet the last time I heard them they gave a surprisingly good show under Mr. Fred Murdin. I think finance is holding them back. It is certainly not tuition.

Another band that I would like to see at the "Palace," but who won't be there through members being unable to get released from work, is Finedon Old Prize. Mr. Remington has the best band of his career just now, and I would consider his string of cornets the finest in the county.

Band Sergt. Walter Smith of the Royal Marines Band (Chatham), has recently been home on leave, and, as usual on these visits to home, he has "dug me out," in company with father (Ben Smith), who has done many years of good band work in Wellingboro'.

Rushden Temperance recently paid a visit to Cambridge, where they gave two fine programmes to large audiences under Mr. Thomas Young.

The photograph on this page is of Mr. Arthur G. Remington, son of Mr. Arthur Remington, B.B.C.M., of Finedon. Arthur (junior), who is 18 years of age, is the solo cornet of the Finedon Band, a position he has held since he was 16. He commenced playing at the age of 10, and under his father's guidance has become a brilliant exponent of the cornet, having won numerous prizes at solo contests and at the many winning achievements of the band.

ULSTER

By "CON SPIRITO."

WE are nearing the end of a very successful season, most of the bands having had their fair share of engagements.

The bands in the parks had very satisfactory support in the way of good audiences, owing to the music being an improvement on that of former years, with little juggling of titles.

The B.B.C. and the Ulster bands have not patched up their little differences.

The Bands Association has issued the test-piece for this year's Championship Contest. All the bands are now in strict training for November, for, as well as winning the chief trophy, there is an additional attraction in the parks engagements which the Belfast Corporation offer to the winning bands.

Mr. Denis Wright, B.Mus., will act as adjudicator. Mr. Wright is a musician to the highest degree, and as this will be his first appearance as adjudicator, the Irish bandsmen will do their utmost to give him some class "A" performances.

The visit of the Welsh combination, Llwynypia Flute Band, is an added attraction; they will be heartily welcomed, and will meet foemen worthy of their steel.

The brass bands will be increased in their numbers, due to some of the flute bands having changed over, and some of these newcomers are expected to cause pleasant surprises.

The Association has come in for a tremendous amount of adverse criticism for raising the suspensions of a number of bands. It is pleasing to note that this opinion is not a general one.

Dromara Band is one of the most consistent bands in County Down. Mr. McMannus, the leader, a prominent figure in the banding fraternity in the district

for many years, has the happy knack of keeping his men interested.

Ballylone Flute Band have just finished their best season. Mr. Stewart has made the band a great attraction with their playing and new uniforms.

Donaghadee Band has definitely decided to become a brass band. An advertisement in the *Belfast Telegraph*, for a conductor, is a happy omen that the work of the new organisation is well advanced.

Milltown Silver Band, a country combination, has come into prominence for clever performances at the many engagements fulfilled during the year.

York Rd. Silver Band made its debut in public during the month, when their friends turned out in full force to give the bandsmen a little encouragement as they paraded their own immediate district. Mr. D. Crawford, late trombonist of the Police Band, is in charge.

Belfast Apprentice Boys' Flute Band, after discussion, have decided to remain as a flute band and not change over to brass.

CORNWALL

By "TRE-POL-PEN."

THE outstanding event of the past month has been the visit of Foden's to Camborne, huge crowds going along to hear them in grounds kindly lent by Mr. Treve Holman. We heard wonderful playing, skilled artistry and perfect tone, together with excellent solo work from Harry and Alec. Mr. Fred Mortimer has wonderful control over his men. My tip is: watch Foden's for the Thousand Guinea Trophy.

Cornwall is to be well represented at the Palace. In Section 3 we have Falmouth Town and Redruth Town; in section 5, St. Blazey and St. Stythians; and in section 6, Gweek Silver. St. Blazey and Gweek are making their first trip, but the other three bands are previous prize-winners. I hope to hear all of them play, if at all possible.

Redruth Carnival was attended by four bands, Redruth, Carharrack and St. Day, Truro City and St. Stythians. Camborne Carnival, a fortnight later, found five bands present, viz., Camborne Town, Camborne Juniors, Redruth Town, Gweek, Carharrack and St. Day. I was pleased to hear Camborne Juniors again, having re-formed with Mr. Fred Halford as professional teacher.

What is happening at Truro? Something must soon be done to stop the succession of resignations. Rumour says that Mr. T. Hubbard is leaving St. Stythians, and going to Truro City, but rumour is a lying jade, though the band could do worse than engage him to take one or two rehearsals per week to keep

(Continued on page 286).

COMING UP TO THE PALACE FROM CORNWALL



St. Stythians Band. Conductor: Mr. T. Hubbard.

(Continued from page 284).

the band together. You can't blame members leaving to go to bands where more interest is taken in them.

Perranporth, too, seems to be having difficult times.

I noticed Mr. Geo. Cave helping St. Stythians at Redruth Carnival. It showed a splendid spirit, giving such assistance in time of need, two of St. Stythian's players being *hors de combat*. Mr. Hubbard and his men very much appreciated this kind action.

Congratulations to Camborne Town on their Championship win at Bridgewater. Mr. Parker must feel a proud man at thus concluding a very successful season, a triumph over working under difficulties for a number of years, through loss of players.

Penzance Silver are advertising for a new bandmaster. What is wrong there?

Redruth Town have been parading the county collecting for their Palace trip, but many bands think that they should keep to their own district, away from other bands' areas, where the local bands

are struggling to exist. Don't your men pay towards their own expenses? After all, the trip is a grand outing and worth every penny of the outlay, even if it involves a sacrifice.

St. Blazey have sprung a surprise in deciding to go to the Festival, and I wish Mr. Bailey every success. I hope that either St. Blazey or St. Stythians bring home the trophy in that section. Our aspirants in section 6, Gweek Silver, should do well. Good luck, Mr. Chainey.

Falmouth Town have a good band. The test is stiff, but it is one which the band can surmount. This band assisted at St. Stythians' Garden Fête, an act which shows the right spirit, Mr. Moore.

St. Stythian's has been very successful during its short career; two prizes out of three C. P. attempts is good going. At their garden fête they raised over £35, a fine achievement for such a small village. Back up Mr. Hubbard's efforts and all will be well on the 26th. Mr. L. G. Sarah, the secretary, has just received from the band on the occasion of his marriage, a clock suitably inscribed, and a number of bandsmen and their conductor formed an arch with their instruments as the happy couple left the church. (A photograph will appear in the October issue.)

I had a chat with Mr. L. Abrams, L.G.S.M., who has just won the Championship of Wessex with his band. He has been staying at Newlyn East.

Mabe Brass Band have very much improved since Mr. C. Davies took charge, and they have been very busy during this season.

St. Austell, too, have had a busy time. I wish you had tried the Palace this year, Mr. Woodhead.

Mount Charles Band, as the 4/5 D.C.L.I. Band had a fine time in camp

at Madron, near Penzance. I should like to see them contesting again. I am sure, Mr. Hill, that you could hold your own in the second section.

Now don't forget a few lines to Tre-pol-pen, c/o The Editor.

* * *

Brass Band Boom Coming

Under the above title the *Radio Times* publishes the announcement that the B.B.C. is to give brass band listeners more and better fare than ever, with new works and novel programmes.

Amongst new compositions mentioned are Geehl's "Robin Hood" and Bliss's "Kenilworth," the test-pieces at Belle Vue and the Crystal Palace respectively.

The next broadcast by Denis Wright and the Crystal Palace Band, on October 4th, will comprise a programme of such works, each conducted by its own composer, the list at present including compositions by Arthur Bliss, Denis Wright, Kenneth Wright and Maurice Johnstone.

We know that all band enthusiasts will rejoice at these extended brass band broadcasts, and will also appreciate the rapidity with which the new appointments at Broadcasting House are having their effect.

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Chalk Farm Salvation Army Band

Ever since the year 1902, it has been the practice of this band, under the direction of Bandmaster A. W. Punchard, at intervals of 2 or 3 years to go on tour for a fortnight during the bandsmen's summer holiday period.

These tours have taken the band to the North of Scotland and to Lands End —on motor tours through England, to Ireland and on the continent of Europe.

No less than 7 visits have been paid to the Continent, the band having visited and given concerts in Norway, Sweden (3 times), Denmark (twice), Finland, Holland (twice), Germany (twice) Switzerland, Belgium and France; surely a record for an amateur band.

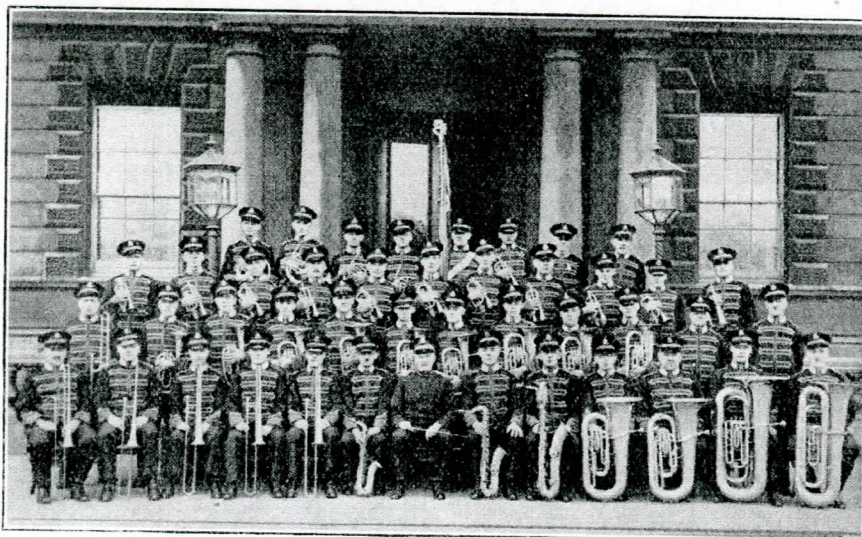
This year's tour took the band to six different countries, including a trip as far as Czechoslovakia and Vienna. The total distance travelled in 16 days was 2,500 miles.

Reading Festival

Entries are coming in well for this event, and a very full day is promised. The adjudicators are Messrs. Denis Wright, B.Mus., and C. A. Sherriff. The test-piece in the military section ("Aida") has proved to be very acceptable to the bands who are enjoying rehearsals of it.

Owing to two halls (in the same building) being available, it is possible to run two sections consecutively.

JUST BACK FROM THEIR TOUR IN SIX COUNTRIES



Chalk Farm S.A. Band. Bandmaster: Mr. A. W. Punchard.

Inter-Association Contest

This will take place at Leicester on October 31st, when representative bands of the affiliated associations will compete. There will also be a splendid massed band concert in the evening.

There are two sections —the test-pieces being "Princess Nada" (Denis Wright) and "Labour and Love" (Fletcher). The adjudicators are to be Messrs. J. Greenwood and W. Smith.

* * *

NOTTS AND DERBY

By "MERRY MAC"

My notes seem to have gone astray last month, but the Editor assures me that he has been able to "crib" a little space for this month.

I heard Clipstone Colliery at Ashby, and noted the great improvement. They recently played at Rhyl in the Pavilion Gardens, before a large audience. Mansfield Colliery also had an enjoyable time at Rhyl.

Well, Mr. Levick, what is happening at Shirebrook? This used to be a prominent band.

Pleasley Colliery are doing well, and so are Bolsover Colliery, who gained 4th prize at Leeds.

Langwith Colliery, under Mr. A. Grant, are plodding along and giving good concerts.

Stanton Iron Works are not going along to the Palace, our representatives being Creswell in section 1, Ripley United in section 2, Welbeck Colliery in section 3, Eckington United, Shirebrook and Teversal in section 4, and Nottingham Co-op. in section 7. I think I have included all. Good luck!

Ravensworth's Leader

Mr. James B. Bootland, of New Hartley, Seaton Delaval, who has been appointed conductor of the Ravensworth Band, hails from a well-known family of musicians. With his father and three other brothers the family has a total band service extending over 150 years. Mr. James Bootland has conducted the late Dudley Colliery Band, Cowpen and Crofton bands, and has played in opera, variety and musical comedy.

* * *

Belle Vue Veterans

Thirty-six veterans have attended the Belle Vue Brass Band Contests for the past fifty years. Their ages range from sixty-five to ninety-two. The oldest is Mr. A. B. Crossfield, aged ninety-two, of Leeds, who has attended the contests for seventy years.

* * *

The brass section of Vancouver Boys' Band have entered section 5 at the Crystal Palace.

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