

HAMPTON HILL PARISH MAGAZINE.

THE VICARAGE,

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MY DEAR FRIENDS,

The month just closed has been a very busy one with various matters of considerable interest. On the 8th, our Sunday School Excursion took place. We started at about 7 o'clock, with a train containing 423 persons, and we arrived at Brighton at a little after 9 o'clock. The day was fine and not too hot, and a most enjoyable time was spent. The only drawback was a little trouble about the catering for tea, which was not our fault, and which I hope will never occur again. The home journey was very swiftly accomplished, and we met with every possible attention from the officials of the Railway Company. The day, of course, was not an easy one for the teachers, but they did their work with the utmost care and patience, and, I may add, that the children behaved excellently, and never gave cause for a severe word to be spoken. By the kindness of Mrs. FitzWygram, her two Bible classes accompanied us and helped to make the excursion a success. The Choir also further increased the party, their expenses being provided, for the most part, out of the churchwarden's general fund, the cost of the luncheon being defrayed anonymously.

On the 13th, the Flower Show took place in the Vicarage Grounds, and it proved to be, in many respects, the best on record. The number of entries far exceeded anything we had had before, and the exhibits were so good, as in many cases to surprise everybody. The prizes were given away by Mrs. Grove, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was given. This was responded to by the Rev. Prebendary Ram, in behalf of Mrs. Grove, and in the course of his remarks he spoke of the immense value of the Show as a means of bringing the people of Hampton and Hampton Hill together; he also spoke of the indefatigable efforts of the secretaries, Mr. Dowsett and Mr. Sherwood, and the other officers and members of the committee.

Our next great festivity was on St. James' Day. This annual festival occupies a very prominent place in our midst amongst the events of the year, and we shall remember this one as in no way falling behind its predecessors. The Services in Church on Sunday and Monday were exceedingly bright, and the Church looked at its best with the decorations, which were done by the same ladies who usually undertake this labour of love, viz. : Mrs. and Miss Hanrott, Misses Kidner, Misses

Hubbard, Miss Butler, Miss Barnard and Mrs. Job. The plants in the baptistry, kindly lent by Mrs. FitzWygram, were, as usual, excellently arranged by Mr. May. The work of the Choir had been prepared with even more than ordinary care, and the congregations were large. The children assembled at the Schools on the Monday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, and the march to the Vicarage was quite a touching sight. About 550 children were present, and the band and the banners, the bright faces and bright frocks, made together a very pleasing picture. The behaviour in church was excellent, and indeed throughout the afternoon no trouble of any kind was given. The games were of the usual kind and were kept up with the fullest zest. Most of the Day and Sunday School teachers were present and spared no pains to make the children happy. Contributions of provisions, toys, &c., were most kindly sent by Mr. Evans, Mr. Rudland, Miss Locke, Mr. Howe, Mr. Matthews, Mrs. Prewett, Mr. Deacon Howe, Mr. Moles, Mrs. Nicholson, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Crowder, Miss Barnard, Mrs. Butler, Mrs. FitzWygram, Mr. and Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. Coape, Mrs. Rowsell, Mrs. Powell, Major Balguy and others, while valuable help was given by Messrs. Singleton & Sons, Mr. A. E. Jones, Messrs. William, Ernest and Arthur Singleton, Mr. Player, Mr. Dowsett, and Mr. Walter Cuff. The weather was all that could be desired, and probably upwards of 1200 entered the grounds in the course of the afternoon. A list of subscriptions to the Treats Fund, most of which were collected by Miss Barnard, will be found below, and a statement of accounts will appear next month.

I have to acknowledge with grateful thanks a gift of forty new hymn books for the Choir, and a beautifully bound service book for the Holy Communion, by "A Daughter of the Church"; and another generous contributor has most kindly replaced two beautiful carbuncles which had long been missing from the silver-gilt chalice.

The subscriptions for the Day Schools are now due, and Mrs. FitzWygram, Mrs. Hodge, and Miss Barnard, hope to commence to collect them as early as possible.

I regret to hear from the Rev. Prebendary Ram, that additions have again to be made to the Schools at Hampton. The growth of population has been so rapid that the Schools built four years ago have proved insufficient, and another effort has now to be made to meet the want. I understand that £360 has been promised, and that £540 is still required.

