On Saturday a concert was given at Park Congregational school and a sketch was performed. There was good attendance.

P.C. Cronshaw, who is leaving the Accrington Force after several years' service, was last night presented by fellow officers with a suitable token of regard.

The traffic returns on the Accrington Corporation tramways for the week ending December 31 last were: Mileage, 11,202; passengers, 101,322; total receipts, £597 14s. 11d; receipts per car mile, 12.06d.

On Wednesday evening a meeting in connection with the British Women's Temperance Association was held in Jacob-street school when Mr. E. Poulson, of Burnley, gave an address to a good attendance.

The Rev. J. T. Lawrence opened the newly-formed Debating Class at St. Peter's Church Institutute on Sunday afternoon with remarks on Genesis and the creation of the world. There was a moderate attendance.

For the final examination of accountants held in London during three days of last month, two former students of Mr. Williamson's at the Business Training College, Accrington, Mr. Cheshyre Malpas and Mr. Robert Paley Whipp, have been returned first and fifth in all England.

A concert was given at the Accrington Discussion Class on Sunday evening. There was a large attendance and Mr. J. R. Emmett presided. The vocalists were Mr. George Woods, Miss May Coleman (Rishton) and Mrs Balderstone, Padiham, gave recitals. Mr. John Fletcher was the pianist.

In recording the result of the voting at Monday's Town Council meeting on the question of the display of whisky advertisements on Corporation tramcars, it was inadvertently stated that Councillor Wooler voted in favour of such advertisements. Mr. Wooler seconded the amendment to refer the matter back to the committee, and voted, of course, against liquor advertisements on the trams.

Whilst on the way to work at Union Mill a few minutes before six on Wednesday morning, Mrs. Grace Kay, weaver, of Maden-street, slipped and fell at the corner of Blackburn-road and Union-street. She was picked up by P.C.'s Palmer and Dewhurst and carried into the police office, where it was found she had sprained her left ankle very badly. First aid was rendered and she was removed home in a cab.

J. McKENZIE PORTER—"A Brilliant Elocutionist." "Seldom indeed does one hear such magnificent reciting" (vide Press).—68, Ardenterrace, Accrington.—Advt.

GAS AND WATER BOARD.

At the monthly meeting of Accrington District Gas and Water Board on Thursday, there were present Aldermen Dewhurst, (Chairman), Duckworth, Sprake, Lupton and Rawson, Councillors Barlow, Dixon, Cooper, Parker, Noble, Smith and Pickup. The seal was affixed to a number of loans. It was decided to stock the reservoirs with a quantity of yearling trout. The accounts were passed. There was no business of public interest.

THE BURNLEY CORONERSHIP.

The Conservative members of Burnley Town Council, on which body they have a working majority, met on Tuesday night to discuss the question of the borough coronership. They decided to support the candidature of Dr. Pullen, J.P., who has practised in Burnley for about 27 years and has acted as hon. medical officer of the Victoria Hospital. For the position there are 26 candidates, including solicitors, doctors, a stock and share broker, and joinery foreman.

ODDFELLOWS' GRAND LODGE.

On Thursday evening a meeting of the Grand Order Lodge of Oddfellows of Accrington district, which comprises past and present officers of local district lodges, was held at St. Andrew's school. The Rev. J. Dodd gave a much appreciated address on "Lines of Thought." Bro. Adamson, P.G.M., presided over a good attendance. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Dodd, on the motion of Bro. J. E. Cunliffe, seconded by Bro. Councillor Pilkington, and supported by Bro. Swallow. A vote of sympathy was passed to Bro. R. T. Kenyon, P.P.G.M., of Rishton, in the loss he has sustained through the death of his wife.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PRIZE DAY.

On Sunday afternoon the prizes were distributed at the United Methodist Sunday school, Avenue-parade. The Rev. A. Wilcock presided and made a very earnest appeal to the scholars, parents and friends present. Mr. J. T. Foulds, one of the superintendents, distributed a portion of the prizes, and in so doing gave a short history of the early life of the late Mr. John Ashworth, of Rochdale, author of "Strange tales." Mr. Thomas Cunliffe, the other superintendent, distributed the other portion, and in doing so gave a brief history of Mr. Ashworth's life after he became a man, and an energetic worker at the "Chapel for the destitute," Rochdale. A special feature of the service was the hearty singing of the scholars.

SPIRITUALIST FUNERAL.

At the Spiritualist Church, China-street on Sunday, Mrs. Buckley spoke on "Spiritualism; what is it?" In the evening her subject was "Death." The after-circle was conducted by local friends. "We regret to announce," writes an official of the church, "the passing to the Higher life of one of our Lyceumists, Mrs. Hindle, best known as Ada Fox, she having been called home to the Higher life on January 3rd after a very long illness. The ceremony of interment took place at the Accrington Cemetery. Mr. John Holmes conducted the funeral, and there was service at the house and cemetery."—On New Year's Eve, Mr. Sutcliffe, of Accrington, gave an address at the church on "The world's unrest," followed by a watchnight service, conducted by local friends." On New Year's Day the annual coffee and bun treat took place, each scholar receiving coffee, bun, orange and sweets. The evening was spent in singing, games, reciting and dancing, and the proceedings were greatly enjoyed by the children.

A HUNCOAT "AT HOME."

Although the attendances were slightly under those of the previous year, the annual four days' "At Home" at the Huncoat Wesleyan school were very successful. The room was tastefully decorated and arranged in drawing room style. Mr. E. Blackledge was the opener on the first night and a fine programme was given by Mr. William Foulds, baritone, of Accrington, and Mrs. Foulds, elocutionist. The latter showed rare ability and her recitals were humorous, dramatic and descriptive. Both artistes received encores. Mr. R. Ashworth was the accompanist. Mr. T. Lofthouse, of Accrington, in the absence of Mr. W. Webster, of Burnley, opened the proceedings on the Thursday, and Mr. Fred Clegg's concert party of Accrington, provided the entertainment which was an excellent one. Mr. Clegg, baritone, was very well received. Songs, etc., were also rendered by Madame Jessie Lord, soprano; Miss L. Fell, contralto and Mr. F. Thistlethwaite, tenor. Mr. Harold Pilling was the elocutionist, and Master A. Mather the accompanist. Mr. M. L. Stanesby was the opener on Friday, and the Huncoat Wesleyan choir were the artistes. Songs, etc., were much appreciated from Miss Leitherd, soprano; Miss M. Armstrong, contralto; and Mr. J. Lord, tenor. Mr. W. Ormerod was an efficient accompanist. Saturday was the last night, and Mr. J. W. Barlow was the opener. Mr. S. Broughton's concert party pleased a crowded audience with their excellent singing. Miss Nellie Hamer, contralto, established herself a favourite and had to respond to an encore for each song. Mr. H. Cookson, was the tenor, and Mr. A. Hacking the baritone, with Mr. Broughton as accompanist. The elocutionist was Mr. Whipp of Accrington, who gave some most enjoyable recitals.

AFTER A SEPARATION.

At the Accrington Police Court on Tuesday, before Mr. E. Chadwick and Councillor A. Langham, Robert Barnes, a labourer, living at Bury, was charged with arrears of wife maintenance.

Sarah Ann Barnes, the wife, stated that she obtained a separation order against her husband on the 19th November, when he was ordered to pay her 5s. a week. He had not paid her anything and with the costs now owed £3 16s. 1d.

Prisoner, who was well-dressed, denied that he was a moulder's labourer as stated by his wife, and said he was only an ordinary labourer earning £1 a week. He paid 14s. a week for lodgings. He agreed he could have paid something, but knowing he could be "done in" for part of the amount as well as for the whole amount, he did not pay anything.

The magistrates committee prisoner for a month, with liberty to settle.

Established 1895.
JAMES ROBINSON & SON,
COAL MERCHANTS,
9, BENT STREET, OSWALDTWISTLE.
Five Bags Good House Coal
Delivered for 4/9 Nett Cash.
Orders receive prompt attention.

THIS IS THE DEPOT!
— FOR —
NEW YEAR GIFTS.
FINEST SELECTION IN THE DISTRICT.
SEE WINDOWS.
J. G. BARNES,
Pawnbroker, Jeweller, etc.,
52, Union Road, Oswaldtwistle.

CHURCH AND OSWALDTWISTLE.

An important decision was arrived at by the Health Committee of Oswaldtwistle District Council at their meeting on Thursday. For some time the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Townley, has repeatedly advocated, on sanitary grounds, the erection of a destructor works, without which Oswaldtwistle has thus far managed to muddle along. Only a month ago the Medical Officer presented a special report on the subject, the Health Committee having shown an inclination to postpone the matter. After a full discussion on Thursday, the Committee passed a resolution recommending the Council to proceed with a destructor scheme.

In these days the advisability and advantages of destroying domestic refuse is established beyond dispute. Every member of the Council is doubtless convinced of the desirability, but there are differences of opinion as to whether the time is opportune. That, of course, is an objection frequently raised by those who wish to block any scheme, but in this particular instance it is one which needs serious consideration, for it will mean an addition to the rates of, at the very least, twopence in the pound. Another point which has always raised keen interest and many objections wherever a destructor works has had to be erected is the selection of a site. The Health Committee have selected land at Heys which is already the property of the Council. The fact that this will reduce the cost of the scheme will doubtless have been duly considered, but accessibility must be taken into account.

We understand that the Spread Eagle Council School, situate midway between Stanhill and Spread Eagle, is to be opened on March 2nd. This will be the first Council school in Oswaldtwistle, but there are indications that another will be provided in the not distant future. Anyhow, a site has been provisionally secured for the erection of a school to supersede Holy Trinity, but the Council are doing what they can to delay its progress for financial reasons. The new school at Spread Eagle will be for infants only, and its institution will, of course, add to the local rates.

Amongst the cases dealt with by the magistrates at Church on Thursday were a number of summonses for non-payment of water and gas rentals by householders. A striking feature of these was that in a few cases Mr. Stubbins, the collector, stated that the defendants did not think they ought to pay until they were compelled by an order from the magistrates. He pointed out in at least three cases he had to take similar proceedings to recover the previous rentals, and as this means the addition of five or six shillings each time, it would appear that the saying, "Experience makes fools wise," is not always borne out.

The Rev. F. Sykes, vicar of St. Paul's, has been spending the past few days at Morecambe, to recuperate after illness.

Mr. J. J. Grimshaw has this week been appointed organist at St. Paul's Church, Oswaldtwistle, in place of Mr. W. Preston.

During December the nurses of the Oswaldtwistle District Nursing Association have made 483 visits and the new cases number 26.

In the Christmas consolation handicap at the Mount Pleasant P.S.A. Institute, Mr. J. Wilkinson was the winner, with Mr. E. Gibson second.

Mr. Harrison was the speaker at the Mount Pleasant P.S.A. on Sunday. Mr. J. J. Clarke presided. Miss Leitherd, of Huncoat, rendered solos.

The magistrates on the Bench at Church Police Court on Thursday were Messrs. J. Hacking (presiding), J. Cunliffe, J. W. Bridge and J. Yates.

The directors of the Vine Spinning Co., have decided to recommend a dividend for the half-year after the rate of ten per cent. A similar dividend has also been fixed by the directors of Hippings Vale Spinning Co.

A breakdown occurred at Spring Hill Mill on Tuesday afternoon, but work was resumed on Wednesday morning. The New Year's holiday was extended to Monday morning at the following mills: Union, Indian, Primrose, Church Bridge, and Hippings Vale (spinning).

The annual distribution of Sunday school prizes for regular attendance took place at the Primitive Methodist School, Melbourne-street, Oswaldtwistle, on Sunday, Mrs. Chamberlain officiating. About 50 scholars were entitled to prizes. Miss F. Thorpe rendered solos.

Instead of on New Year's Day, the scholars' treat at Spread Eagle Wesleyan Sunday School was given on Saturday, about 200 being regaled with coffee, buns and oranges. Afterwards the time was spent in a social manner, games, competitions, etc., for which prizes were offered, being promoted.

The syllabus from January to June of the Mount Pleasant Young Men's Class contains the names of Messrs. P. Longton, J. Metcalfe, J. Butterworth, W. Wolstenholme, F. Cocker, Rev. J. Bennetts, A. Naesmith, E. Morris, F. Heys, Councillor A. Hargreaves, J. Dowling, W. Pearson, J. Brierley, A. E. Pollard, E. Gibson, W. Jennings, J. Tattersall, J. H. Davies, J. Booth, J. Robinson, M. Crankshaw and R. Gibson.

Richard Baxter, of Collier-street, Oswaldtwistle, was ordered to pay costs at Church on Thursday for being drunk and creating a disturbance, in Blackburn-road, Church, on Boxing Day.—At the same court William Kitchen, Henry-street, Church, was fined 5s. and costs for being drunk and disorderly in Blackburn-road, Church, on New Year's Day. Supt. Palmer stated that defendant was fined twice last year and had not paid the fines.

MUSICAL SUCCESSES.

In connection with the London College of Music the following pupils were successful: Frank Robinson, Church-street, Church, Intermediate Honours. Hetty Rigby, Stanley Terrace, Church, Junior First Class, Annie Haworth, Nelson-street, Accrington, Junior First Class. The above were prepared by J. J. Addison, A.R.C.M., Persia-street, Accrington.

A SUGGESTED MEMORIAL.

A meeting of parishioners of Immanuel Church, Oswaldtwistle, was held in the school on Monday evening, the Rev. F. G. Harris presiding. The object was to consider the advisability of erecting some form of a memorial to the late Councillor John Beckett, a warden of the church, and for a long period teacher, etc., at the Mission Church of St. Michael's. The proposal found favour with those present, and after some discussion and suggestions, it was finally decided to invite subscriptions for the placing in the church of a memorial window.

HEALTHY CHURCH.

Dr. James Craig Medical Officer of Health for Church, reports that during the quarter ended December 31st, 44 births (30 boys, 14 girls) were registered during that period equal to a birth-rate of 24.8, as compared with 35 births and a birth-rate of 20.1 for the corresponding term, 1912. The deaths numbered 18, equal to a death-rate of 10.2, which, says the Medical Officer "is the lowest on record for any similar winter quarter." Of the deaths, five occurred in October, six in November, and seven in December. Only two deaths occurred in infants under one year of age, giving the low infantile mortality rate of 45 per thousand births. Eight cases of infectious disease were notified during the three months, and with the exception of tuberculosis the township was entirely free from notifiable disease at the end of December.

THE LATE MRS. SWEETMAN.

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, at Church Kirk graveyard, of the late Mrs. Catherine Sweetman, wife of Mr. H. H. Sweetman, Market-street, Church, whose death occurred on Saturday at the age of 71 years. The Rev. A. J. Morris conducted a short service at the house, and also rendered the last rites at the graveside. The remains were conveyed in a hearse, the mourners walking in procession in the following order: Mr. H. H. Sweetman, Mr. John Sweetman, Mr. Richard Sweetman, Miss Sweetman, Mr. and Mrs Sill, Mr. and Harrison, Mrs. John Sweetman, Mrs. R. Sweetman, Mr. and Mrs. Banks, H. and B. Harrison and two children, Mr. T. Love, Miss Love, Mr. and Mrs. G. Love, Mr. and Mrs. R. Love, Mr. W. Love, Mr. J. Love, Mr. and Mrs. Haighton, Mrs. R. Sweetman, Clitheroe, Mrs. Brennan, Mr. and Mrs. S. Sweetman, Mrs. Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, U.S.A.

Among the floral tributes were the following: Harp "From her sorrowing husband and daughter Maud"; wreath, "To our dear mother," from Jennie and Tom, Elmfield-street; harp, "In affectionate remembrance of our dear mother," from Kitty and Jim, Clayton-le-Moors; anchor, "In loving memory of our dear mother," from Dick and Maggie, Dill Hall-lane; heart, "In memory of our dear mother," from Gerty and Jack, Spring Hill; cross "From her ever loving grandson and granddaughter," Harry and Bertha, Clayton-le-Moors; sprays "From her granddaughter," Ethel and Mabel; wreath, from her brother Mr. Thomas Love and family, (Liverpool); Harp, from brother, Mr. Richard Love and family, (New Brighton); wreath, from brother, Mr. George Love and family, (Liverpool); wreath from brother, Mr. John Love and family, (Liverpool); wreath from her nieces, the Misses Sweetman, (Clitheroe); spray, from niece and nephew, Sam and Maggie, (Nelson); harp, from Cousin Lizzie and Tom; wreath, "From her loving friends," Mr. and Mrs. Smith, U.S.A.; wreath, "From one who loved her," Miss Sarah Bracewell, Clayton-le-Moors.

Mr. W. Livesey, Church, carried out the funeral arrangements.

Drink & Enjoy CHRISTOPHER BROS.' Tea.—Ad.

RISHTON.

A sum of £10 6s. was collected in the local mills and workshops last week-end by the local Trades Council, on behalf of the Dublin lock-out relief fund.

Charles Masterman, 27, Burton-street, Rishton, was at Church Police Court on Thursday ordered to pay costs for being drunk and disorderly in Church-street, Church on a Saturday in December.

The Young Worshippers League which has been promoted in connection with the United Methodist school was commenced on Sunday morning, Mr. J. Leyland addressing a large attendance in the Mary-street school.

The scholars connected with Mary-street United Methodist school were given their annual treat on Saturday afternoon. They had the use of the school for games, etc., and were regaled with coffee, buns, and sweets.

Like most other East Lancashire towns Rishton is now feeling to some extent the decline in the prosperity of the cotton trade. This week the sheeting weavers at Brittania Mill have been stopped until further notice owing, it is stated, to lack of orders.

A special service was held in the Wesleyan Church on Sunday evening, the occasion being a recognition service of fourteen new members of the church. Mr. Hasler welcomed the new members and delivered an address appropriate to the occasion.—The service was followed by the annual Covenant service, also conducted by Mr. Hasler.

CULTURE CLASS.

The first meeting of the session in connection with the Young Men's Culture Class held in Mary-street school on Wednesday evening, was presided over by the pastor, Rev. F. H. J. Thornton, who gave a paper on Mrs. Pember Reeve's book "Round about a pound a week." The subsequent discussion was taken part in by Messrs. H. Guest, Woodhouse, Sleigh and E. H. Ormerod.

P.S.A. MEETING.

Mr. T. Watson presided over a meeting of the P.S.A. Brotherhood held in the Mary-street United Methodist school on Sunday afternoon. In place of the customary address Miss Gladys Lovell, of Rishton, gave a recital, which members appreciated very highly. Miss Lovell has, after special tuition, developed into an able elocutionist, and she recited "The first settler's story" in a most accomplished manner, her enunciation and expression alike being excellent. Miss N. Ridehough rendered two solos.

ADULT SCHOOL.

An open meeting of the Adult School was largely attended on Sunday morning. Mr. W. Parkinson, of Great Harwood, gave an instructive lecture on "The pleasures of the country," and illustrated his remarks by a display of wild flowers and geological specimens. The lecture provoked an interesting discussion. In place of the customary Bible lesson, Mr. F. Holland, secretary, read the annual New Year's letter from the National Council dealing with the work done during the past year and stating work it is hoped to accomplish in the present year.

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL.

The mothers' class held their annual tea party at the Congregational school on Saturday. A fair number attended, and the following ladies served at the tables: Mrs. A. Greenwood, Misses Greenwood, Mrs. Watkins, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Duckworth, Miss Duckworth, Miss Fenton, and Miss L. Holden. The Rev. J. E. Hodge presided over the concert, the first part of the programme was contributed to by Mrs. Woodhouse, Mr. Tomlinson, and the Misses Lyons, vocalists, and Miss Fish reciter. The second part consisted of the rendition of the cantata "Santa Claus is coming" by the children of the school. Mr. D. Pate was conducter, and Mr. F. Chadwick officiated as accompanist.

WESLEYAN SCHOOL.

The annual tea party under the auspices of the Wesleyan Sunday school was held on Saturday, and was largely attended. In the evening a concert was given, Mr. W. H. Beach presiding in the absence, through indisposition, of the Rev. W. Hasler. During the evening, Mrs. Hasler presented a large number of prizes to scholars for regular attendance during last year. Mr. Whalley, the secretary, submitted a satisfactory report on the work of the school for last year. The concert was given by a double quartette party comprising the following artistes: Misses N. Hanson and A. Landon, sopranos; Misses C. Hothersall and M. Earnshaw, contraltos; Messrs. G. Sanderson and R. Godley, tenors; and Messrs. R. H. Place and R. Holden, basses. Duets were sung by Misses Earnshaw and R. Banks, and solos were contributed by Misses Hanson, Hothersall and Earnshaw, whilst Mr. P. Elton and Mr. W. Rowe gave pianoforte duetts. Miss L. Thompson was the accompanist.

CO-OP MEETING.

The half-yearly meeting of members of the local Co-operative Society was held in the Co-op. assembly room on Monday evening, Mr. J. H. Hothersall presiding. The report, particulars of which were given in last Saturday's issue, was adopted. Messrs. Waterworth, Rudd and Hare, were re-elected auditors. Mr. H. Purcell gave a report of the C.W.S. meeting. A recommendation from the committee that no action should at present be taken with regard to securing representation upon the local governing bodies was agreed to. It was decided that the following donations be granted out of the profits:—£10 to the Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary; £5 to the Co-op. Women's Guild; £2 2s. each to the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital and the Blackburn Orphanage; and £1 1s. each to the East Lancashire Deaf and Dumb Society, the Manchester Royal Infirmary and the local Old Folks' Treat Fund. A number gave notice to move the following resolution at the next meeting: "That the Society consider the question of paying reduced dividends and selling goods at a figure nearer the cost price."

SUITABLE
NEW YEAR GIFTS
FOR 1914.

DROP-HEAD ENGLISH MAKE SEWING MACHINE, £5 5s.; 2/6 in the £ Discount. At C. DAWSON and SON'S.

COSY WICKER CHAIRS, 5/11 to 18/6; 2/6 in the £ Discount. At C. DAWSON and SON'S.

BABY CARRIAGES, 10/6 to £3 10s.; 2/6 in the £ Discount off Marked Prices.

CARPET SQUARES and RUGS, 2/6 in the £ Discount. At C. DAWSON and SON'S.

SLIPPERS for LADIES and GENTS. 2/6 in the £ divi.

ANTIQUE COPPER CURBS, 8s. 6d. 2/6 in the £ Discount.

BEDROOM and PARLOUR SUITES, 2/6 in the £ Discount. At C. DAWSON and SON'S.

C. DAWSON & SON,
261, 263, 265, 267, Whalley-Rd.,
CLAYTON-LE-MOORS.

CLAYTON-LE-MOORS.

The weavers at Albion Mill have appointed Mr N. Rogers to represent them on the committee of the Weavers' Association, in succession to Mr. E. Pounder, who has been appointed a collector.

Madder Clough Mill was re-started on Monday morning after a week's stoppage through slackness in trade. The operatives affected have received stoppage pay from the local Weavers' Association.

A WARM BED.

Three young men J. R. Cornthwaite, Richard Simpson and S. Bridge, were charged with sleeping out. P.C. Lawson said that at 11-30 the previous night he found the three men on a boiler at Stephenson's pipe works, Huncoat. The three had no visible means of subsistence. Prisoners were fined 5s. and costs or seven days.

CONSERVATIVE CLUB.

The annual meeting of members of the Conservative Club was held on Thursday evening, Mr. A. E. Britcliffe presiding. Mr. W. T. Sumner presented a satisfactory balance sheet and reported that the membership was about the same as last year. Mr. Britcliffe was re-elected president; the vice-presidents were re-elected; Mr. W. T. Sumner was re-appointed secretary, and Mr. W. H. Pickup, treasurer; and the following were elected on the committee: Messrs. J. M. Rawcliffe, Asquith, J. Pickup, G. Jackson, W. Eccles, and A. Wolstencroft.

FOR BEING DRUNK.

Andrew Monk, an elderly man, described as a spinner, was summoned at Church Police Court on Thursday for being drunk and disorderly. It was stated that defendant on Saturday, the 3rd, was so drunk that he was unable to stand without assistance. The constable took him to the home of his daughter, with whom he lodged, but they refused to have him in. He was ordered to pay costs.—Irving Hartley, a drawer-in, Pickup-street, was fined 5s. and costs for being drunk and disorderly the previous night.

BAPTIST SCHOOL.

The annual New Year's conversazione at the Baptist school was concluded on Saturday evening, Mr. M. Stanesby, of Huncoat, presiding over a large attendance. The entertainment proceedings took the form of a concert given by the "Children's Coons," a troupe of scholars from Cannon-street Baptist School, Accrington. They were under the conductorship of Mrs. Stanesby and Miss Broughton, and rendered an appreciated programme of songs, action songs and choruses, etc. In addition Miss Simpson gave recitations, and Miss Ashworth officiated as accompanist.

CO-OP. MEETING.

The quarterly meeting of members of the local Co-operative Society was held on Monday evening in the Mechanics' Institute, Mr. J. C. Parker presiding over a good attendance. The directors' quarterly report, particulars of which were given in Tuesday's "Observer and Times," was adopted. The following donations, recommended by the directors were agreed to:—Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, £3 3s; Blackburn and East Lancashire Infirmary, £2 2s; Accrington Victoria Hospital, £3 3s; Blackburn and District Orphanage, £2 2s; and the N.S.P.C.C. £1 1s. The meeting also sanctioned a grant of £5 to the recent Old Folks' treat fund. The following were elected scrutineers for twelve months: Messrs. J. Threlfall, J. Aspin, J. T. Rishton and F. Dunkley. As usual chief interest centred in the election of three directors. The retiring members were Messrs. T. Bulcock, J. Hardy and J. Wolstenholme, and the voting resulted as follows, the first three named being elected: R. T. Howson (85), B. Swales (85), J. Wolstenholme (81), J. Hardy (78), and T. Bulcock (73). Two of the retiring members, the last named thus failed to secure re-election.

A CLAYTON WEDDING.

A wedding of considerable local interest was solemnised at the New Jerusalem Church, Clayton-le-Moors, on Wednesday afternoon, the contracting parties being Miss Eliza Nowell, daughter of Mr. Nowell, ring overlooker at Canal Mill, of Barnes-street, and Mr. Walter Craven Wilson, son of Mr. C. Wilson, of Willows-lane, Accrington. The Rev. C. Newall, of Haslingden, was the officiating minister, and the bride was attended by Miss P. Allen, cousin, whilst the duties of best man were discharged by Mr. W. Wilson, cousin of the bridegroom. After the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents, and later in the day a party of about 140 guests were entertained to a tea and social in the Liberal Club. The social was presided over by Mr. J. Wilson, and an enjoyable time was spent, various members of the company contributing to the evening's entertainment, and Mr. J. W. Sumner officiating as accompanist. During the evening Mr. Rawcliffe, of Accrington, proposed the health of the host and hostess, and wished the newly-married couple much happiness and success in their new sphere of life in Scotland. The newly-married couple, who have gone to reside in Scotland, where the Bridegroom is engaged in a motor works, were the recipients of many valuable presents.

CONVERSAZIONE.

The annual conversazione gatherings in connection with the Parish Church schools, and held in the Mechanics' Institute, were concluded on Saturday evening. From every point of view the event was voted one of the most successful of the many that have been held under the same auspices. From the point of view of entertainment for the New Year the proceedings were highly appreciated, and the promoters of the concerts, Miss M. Dearden and Mr. T. Gillett, have every reason to be satisfied at the success achieved and well deserved thanks were accorded them at the close. The rooms in the Mechanics' Institute had been converted into drawing rooms, etc., for the occasion. On Saturday the concert was provided by the following artistes:—Mrs. W. Foulds, elocutionist; Miss Samson, of Bolton, contralto; Miss Robinson, winner of a gold medal at Mexboro Festival, and special first prize at Blackpool Festival, of Goole, soprano; Mr. Bardsley, tenor; and Mr. Hooper, bass. The Misses Robinson and Samson and Messrs. Bardsley and Hooper sang duetts, and together they rendered in an effective manner the quartette "O Hush thee." Mr. E. Whittaker was accompanist. At intervals during the latter part of the evening the respective artistes rendered items in the lounge and smoke room. After the concert dancing was indulged in in the assembly-room. Messrs. Wilson's band provided the music, and Messrs. C. Smith, D. Smalley, R. Hallworth, W. Walmsley, F. Horrocks and G. Codd were M.C's.

CLAYTON'S HEALTH REPORT.

A DECLINING BIRTH RATE.

In his report to the District Council for the quarter ending December 31st, Dr. L. Tattersall, the Medical Officer of Health for Clayton-le-Moors, states that during the whole of last year there was a decline in the birth-rate as compared with 1912. During the past three months 39 deaths occurred—16 males and 23 females—equal to an annual death-rate of 17.2 per thousand. No fewer than six deaths were due to cancer, five to diarrhœa, four to bronchitis, and three each to pulmonary tuberculosis and pnuemonia. The number of births registered were 501—128 males and 22 females—equal to an annual birth-rate of 22 per thousand. During the quarter there were 19 cases of infectious diseases notified, viz:—Six of pulmonary tuberculosis; four each of scarlet fever and diphtheria; three of tuberculosis other than pulmonary; and one each of enteric fever and erysipelas. For the year 1913 the provisional estimate of births and deaths was as follows: Deaths 140 (in the district 130, and institutions outside 10), death-rate 15.3; births 206, birth-rate 22.1, compared with the previous year the birth-rate showed a decrease of 3.2 per thousand. During the year illnesses arising from infectious diseases notified numbered 37, and there were also 37 cases of tuberculosis notified.

A CLAYTON HOUSEBREAKER.

UNAVAILING DENIAL AT THE SESSIONS.

At Preston Sessions on Wednesday, Thomas Wilfred Meyrick (21), labourer, was charged with breaking into the house of William Sharples, 6, Hygiene-terrace, Clayton-le-Moors, and stealing a gold watch chain with two pendants attached.

On the 25th of November the house was left safely locked up, and when Sharples and his son returned at dinner-time it was found that all the drawers had been ransacked and the furniture turned upside down. Some salmon had been eaten, and 3s. 4d. taken from the gas-meter. Three keys were found in a field, and one key which would fit the door of Sharples's house was found in prisoner's possession. Reuben and Jane Cook, with whom prisoner lodged, could not swear to any of the keys. When prisoner was arrested the gold chain was found in the tool-bag of his bicycle.

Prisoner said that on the day in question he was looking for work, and it was suggested that someone else had committed the offence and put the chain in prisoner's tool-bag.

The jury found Meyrick guilty, and recommended him to leniency on account of his youth.

The Chairman in passing a sentence of four months, said in that period prisoner would be put through the modified Borstal system.

GREAT HARWOOD.

Mr. H. Walsh presided over a good attendance at a concert held in the Band Club on Saturday evening when the programme was given by Mr. J. H. Croysdale's concert party.

The scholars attending the Parish Church Sunday school were entertained on Saturday afternoon in the Boys' school, coffee and buns being provided. Games, etc., were afterwards indulged in.

A special service of the members of the young men's and young women's classes was held in the Parish Church on Sunday afternoon, an address being given by the vicar, (Rev. A. F. Johnson).

CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of the Congregational Young Men's Class and Institute took place on Monday evening. Mr. T. Allcott occupied the chair. Satisfactory reports of the year's working were presented and the election of officers took place.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

Special services have been held at the Baptist Church this week. On Monday evening the preacher was the Rev. J. Farquhar, of Blackburn, and on Tuesday evening the Rev. I. Jones, of Clayton-le-Moors, occupied the pulpit. At the service on Wednesday evening the pastor (Rev. E. G. Cole), gave the address.

WEAVERS' STOPPAGES.

The employes of the Great Harwood Commercial Mill Company, and the Premier Mill Co., resumed work on Monday morning. Messrs. W. and J. Thompson's Bank mills, which closed on New Year's Eve, did not re-start until Tuesday morning owing to repairs being carried out. The sum of £859 15s. was paid out by the local Weavers' Association to members affected by the stoppages.

LIBERAL CLUB.

The annual meeting of members of the Great Harwood Liberal Club was held on Tuesday evening in the billiard room, Mr. J. R. Pollard presiding over a good attendance. The President, (Mr. M. Haydock, J.P.), was re-elected, and Messrs. R. Shackleton and G. C. Bentley were re-appointed secretary and treasurer respectively. Messrs. A. Taylor and A. Boardman were re-elected on the committee.

NURSING ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the committee of the Great Harwood Nursing Association was held on Wednesday evening. The treasurer (Mr. Pollitt), submitted his report which was adopted as satisfactory. The report of Nurse Stopkins for December showed that there were seventeen cases during the month and that 259 visits had been paid. The cases remaining on the books on December 31st numbered eleven.

ST. JOHN'S.

The four days' conversazione in connection with St. John's school, which concluded on Saturday, were among the most successful yet held. There was a large gathering and Mr. L. Bentley's orchestra played for dancing. Songs were given at intervals by Mr. J. R. Wilcock (Ribchester), and Mr. Walter Greenhalgh, humorist, of Accrington. The duties of accompanist were undertaken by Mr. L. Hodgson.

WESLEYAN SCHOOL.

A meeting of the Wesley Guild was held on Saturday evening. Mr. T. Edmondson presiding. A paper on "Love on Lowliness," was given by Mr. Herbert Tomlinson and a short discussion followed.—Pastor E. E. Atwood gave an address to the Men's class on Sunday afternoon when he spoke on the need for a high value of public worship, a deeper regard for the Scriptures and a definiteness in aim and conduct.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

The quarterly meeting of members of the Great Harwood Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd., was held in the British school on Monday evening, Mr. John Hodgson (President), occupying the chair. The half-yearly report and balance sheet showed that the sales of the past 26 weeks amounted to £79,294, as compared with £79,624 for the corresponding half-year (27 half weeks), twelve months ago. After making allowance for an extra week's trade the increase is £2,619. The membership shows an increase of 23 over last quarter. Messrs. R. Blakey, J. Melling, and W. Sefton were re-elected directors, and Messrs. John T. Halstead and John Parker were re-appointed members of the Educational Committee. It was decided to subscribe £2 2s. each to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and the Blackburn and District Orphanage.

FUNERAL OF MRS. FLETCHER.

The interment took place in the churchyard attached to Our Lady and St. Hubert's Church on Monday, of the remains of the late Mrs. Fletcher, of Game-street. Deceased, who had reached the advanced age of 93, was said to be the oldest inhabitant of the district. She was a native of Hurst Green, but for sixty years she resided at Brick House, near Clitheroe. Her husband, Mr. Richard Fletcher, died about 20 years ago at the age of 74. Mrs. Fletcher came to Great Harwood thirteen years ago to live with her daughter. She was in possession of all her faculties up to the last, only requiring the aid of spectacles when sewing. She enjoyed splendid health and she was about as usual until a few days before her death, which occurred on New Year's Day. She was formerly a handloom weaver and had to carry the cloth she had woven from Clitheroe to Ribchester. She subsequently worked for a short period on power-looms at a mill in Clitheroe.

HARWOOD F.C.

Much to the regret of the officials of the club, Great Harwood are without a match for a second Saturday in succession to-day. Originally they were booked to play Macclesfield, but that club have sent notice stating that they are unable to visit Harwood owing to their having to play a Cheshire Cup tie. Harwood have thus to keep their affairs at a standstill at a most interesting stage of the tournament, and it means that they will have a lot of hard work at the end of the season. At the end of the half-way mark Great Harwood may be said to have done fairly well, and they occupy a prominent place in the League chart. Much remains to be done, however, before they can be assured of the promotion the officials so greatly desire. As a matter of fact at this stage last season Harwood had a slightly better record than now, 18 games having yielded 24 points, as against 22 points from 19 games this season. Thus it is evident that everything depends on what has still to be done, and that the team will have to perform consistently well to gain honours.

NEW COMMUNION CUPS.

DEDICATED AT MOUNT ZION.

At the evening service at Mount Zion Church on Sunday, the Rev. T. Naylor, pastor, dedicated a new individual Holy Communion service which consisted of four electro-plated and oak trays, each containing forty cups. These had been presented by Miss Mercy Taylor, in memory of her sister, Anne Taylor; Mrs. William Pickup, in memory of her mother, Annie Smith; Mr. Ezekiah Sutton, in memory of his wife, Sarah Sutton; and by Mr. William Robert Hartley, in memory of his father and mother, John and Ellen E. Hartley. Two electro-plated Communion plates were presented by Messrs. James and Ezra and the Misses Margaret and Alice Ann Calvert, in memory of their mother, Alice Calvert. An electro-plated Filler has also been given by Mrs. Ellen Ann Calvert and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Baron in memory of their father and mother, Nathan and Margaret Hindle. Mr. Naylor, in his address prior to the dedication, said that for some time they had been considering the question of introducing an individual Communion service and when it was decided to do so, the persons abovenamed generously came forward and met the needs of the church in that direction. A linen cloth had also been given by representatives of a family which had done and was still doing good service for the church.—Mr. Richard Westwell and Mr. John Snape also spoke in terms of appreciation of the donors of the service.—The solo "Abide with me," was sung by Miss J. Fulton.

A HUSBAND'S ASSAULT.

MAN WHO WANTED A VOTE.

At the Blackburn County Police Court, on Wednesday, George Law, electrician, 15, Beaconsfield-street, Great Harwood, was summoned by his wife for an assault. Mr. A. Read appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Harry Backhouse for the defendant.

Complainant said that about six o'clock on December 29th she left the shop of which she was the tenant, and returned home, where she found her husband in a drunken condition. He forced open with a penknife a drawer in which she kept the money with which she paid her accounts, and he took £7 and also the key of the shop, thus preventing her from returning to business, as she had intended. They went out, although not together, and returned later, her husband falling asleep on the couch. In the early hours of the morning he dragged her out of bed, struck her twice, and turned her into the yard, afterwards locking the door.

Cross-examined by Mr. Backhouse, complainant said she had been