

August 1917

THE WAR.- The last two months have witnessed some wonderful and surprising events in connection with the war-partly of a cheering character, partly the reverse. We may indeed thank God that the United States have thrown in their lot with the Allies so heartily, and their support and co-operation by land and sea are most welcome. The sad event is the unexpected collapse of Russia. The Government is paralysed, their forces disorganised, and every day brings fresh news of anarchy at home and defeat in the field. We must still hope and pray that "tout peut se rétablir" for their failure at such a crucial moment, which when the relentless enemy is actually hammering at their gates, spells alike ruin for themselves and very serious consequences for her allies. There is little doubt that if Russia had "kept her end up" on the Eastern front with the same single hearted devotion and gallantry that England and France have shewn, and every day are shewing, in the West, the war might have been finished before now.

AUGUST 4TH AND 5TH, 1917.- Meetings and services in connection with the third anniversary of the outbreak of the war will be held generally throughout the country. The last three years have been a period of unparalleled strain such as neither we nor our fathers have ever experienced, and there are at present no signs of the strain being relaxed. It is an occasion, therefore, for solemn through, for mutual encouragement and, above all things, for earnest prayer.

CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT.-At one time we thought we were duty bound to comply with the request of the Government Authorities and to have no treat this year. But our friends at the Chapels were not so particular and have celebrated their anniversaries, as usual, though on a modified scale. Accordingly we did likewise, being unwilling (in spite of the shortage of provisions and the troublous times through which we are passing) that our children should suffer and have no amusement this summer. They were invited by the Vicar and Mrs. Tatham to play in the Vicarage Garden on the afternoon of July 17th. The morning had been somewhat ominous and we observed the heavens with some trepidation, but the threatened rain passed away, or rather, held over till Wednesday, when it came down abundantly and for many hours-to the satisfaction of all, and the great advantage of our gardens. At the treat itself the races and games were carried on with their accustomed ardour. The younger children, under the care of Mrs. Merry. Miss Maud Oakeley and other helpers, had the front lawn for their simpler sports, and the races (sack races, obstacle races, etc.), of the elder children took place on the tennis ground. There was a keen competition in all the races, and the winners were duly honoured with prizes at the end. Many mothers attended later, and at 7 the youthful company were regaled with milk and cakes (provided mostly by the kindness of our neighbours), and returned to their homes after what was, we hope, a pleasant but necessarily somewhat subdued entertainment.

RURI-DECANAL MISSIONARY SERVICE.- A service was held at S. Barnabas' Church, Linslade, in connection with the Diocesan Board of Missions, on the evening of July 19th. It was attended by between 20 and 30 from Wing, most of whom journeyed thither in a brake. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Wood, Rector of Albury, and a collection was made in aid of the U.M.C.A., or Universities Mission to Central Africa- a most appropriate object for our prayers and offerings at this time, for our readers have no doubt seen in the papers an account of the terrible hardships and indignities recently inflicted on the members of the Missions by the Germans. The preacher did not make any illusion to the Mission and its needs, but we hope later in the year to induce Mr. Spanton, or one of the returned missionaries, to pay a visit to Wing to tell us more of their experiences while in the hands of the enemy. We have for some years past paid the expenses

of a child in the Mission School at Zanzibar and are naturally interested in the work and fortunes of the Mission, which was originated by the great explorer David Livingstone.

POTATO SPRAYING.- The allotments and gardens of Wing (and, we hope, of the whole country) are a beautiful sight in this most beautiful of summers. The sprayers provided by the Horticultural Society have been much in request. Unfortunately they arrived so late, that in many cases the plants were thought too fully grown for spraying to be of much use. In future we shall be in a position to begin earlier in the season. That is wonderfully efficacious in preventing or checking the disease, there is no doubt.

ARCHDEACONRY OF BUCKINGHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY PRAYER UNION.- The Prayer Union welcomes as members all who will promise to pray each week for God's blessing upon various departments of temperance work. It will be the means of gaining more power for the work and of increasing interest and zeal. The only condition of membership is "That members shall use once a week the thanksgivings and intercessions (issued quarterly) and that, if possible, this shall be done on Sunday morning at the Holy Communion." It is hoped that branches of the Prayer Union may be formed in every parish, one of the members being chosen to act as secretary, and to receive and distribute leaflets each quarter. There is no subscription, but donations to help to pay for the printing and postage will be acceptable. These with any other enquiries connected with the work of the Prayer Union should be sent to the Rev. A. E. Baynes, C.E.T.S. Secretary for the Deanery of Ivinghoe.

EXTRACT FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS.

MARRIAGE.

July 4 – Charles Charnock, soldier, to Nellie Hilda Winifred Bandy, of Burcott, munition worker.

OFFERTORIES.

	£	s.	d.	
July 1 st .- 4 th S aft. Trin.	1	14	1	Sick and Needy.
8 th .- 5 th " "	3	2	4	Wing Prv. Dis.
15 th .-6 th	2	16	9	" "
		12	10	to Ch. Exp.
22 nd .-7 th	1	17	2	" "
29 th .- 8 th				