

ACTIVITIES AT HEADQUARTERS.

We have now commenced the usual round of social and other fixtures at our headquarters. On Thursday, October 10th, 1929, Miss Macdonald was "At Home" and some 210 guests were able to be present. We enjoyed some fine music—duets by Miss Van der Hoop (violinist) and Miss Isobel Syme, L.R.A.M. (pianist).

On Thursday, 17th October, we had the last country "Ramble" for the season. By charabanc we went to St. Albans where we inspected the beautiful old Cathedral. Of special interest was the Shrine of Alban, Britain's first Martyr, a Roman soldier converted by Amphibalus, a British priest. We were shown the principal treasures and interesting parts of the Cathedral with great courtesy, and then we went on to see the famous old Round House "built after the Flood" and dating probably from 1600. Another visit of special interest was that to the lovely old Church of St. Michael which stands, it is held, on the site of a Roman Temple; it was built in the 10th century and retains still much of the original work. There is also in the Church some Elizabethan and exceptionally fine Jacobean work. But the chief attraction is the wonderful statue of Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, Viscount St. Albans, and sometime Lord Chancellor of England; it is lifelike and oddly suggestive too of the mystery that clings about the memories of this man, one of the greatest of statesmen, lawyers, philosophers, and scientists who ever lived.

We had obtained permission from Lord Verulam to view the old ruin of Gorhambury—all that remains of Francis Bacon's beautiful Manor. In doing so we had an adventure which we had not quite bargained for, as we had to leave the drive leading up to the present Gorhambury House, and in our yellow charabanc we rocked and bumped through fields for the matter of a mile or more, while those in charge of the "Ramble" felt a guilty consciousness that the expedition was likely to end in the erection shortly of a memorial cairn to the last of the Ramblers. However, we negotiated the journey to the ruin and back successfully and felt rewarded, for something lives even in this crumbling mass as evidence of the myriad-mindedness of the great Lord Chancellor; in its time it must have been an exceedingly artistic piece of architecture and for some of us, who have felt the fascination of Bacon, this lonely, deserted place where he once lived has a curious attraction. In his career Bacon had in him something of the character of a great actor passing through the times of Queen Elizabeth, and in this ruin there is that which seems oddly dramatic, standing, as it does in isolation and decay in what was once the splendid policies of its famous owner; near it the site of the Roman town of Verulam which succeeded a

British Settlement before the Roman occupation. Not far away is the newer and much less artistic mansion of Gorhambury—a clumsy structure when compared with the few beautiful delicate arches that remain of the old building with the Royal Arms of England over the great Lord Chancellor's doorway. But the climax of the "Ramble" was the long drive home; first we enjoyed all the glories of the setting sun and then, in the hours of the silver moonlight, we drove through acres of bracken, beautiful woods and many a pretty English town.

We reproduce here the photograph of Miss Liddiatt; those "Ramblers" who have taken part in our summer expeditions will like to have this picture of "the Chief Rambler" in characteristic poise. The Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING has aptly given to her this title and it will remain her own, for there is no greater

adept in the selection of some objective for a "Ramble," and who knows better than she the best and most beautiful routes to choose as well as those which will provide the best chance of our finding places of interest on the way? We owe to Miss Liddiatt most sincere thanks for the unforgettable days we have spent on the highways of Southern England during the present summer.

On Saturday, October 26th, we had a very enjoyable dance at the Club.

As will be noted from the advertisement supplement other fixtures have been made of which we hope many of our Members will be able to take advantage. On Monday, November 4th, Major Rigg lectures on "The Customs and Traditions of our Imperial Parliament." On Tuesday, 12th, the Ramblers are to visit Lambeth Palace and a few other places of interest in that neighbourhood. They will leave Queen's Gate at 1.30 p.m., but those who do not wish to come so far had better communicate with the Secretary and arrange where they can join the party.

On November 23rd, Miss Graham and Miss Macdonald are giving a Dance, and on the 30th November, at 8 p.m., Miss Jessie Holmes is organising a Whist Drive in aid of the Helena Benevolent Fund. We shall be glad if anyone who will buy tickets for the latter date will apply to: The Secretary, 194, Queen's Gate, S.W.7. The Fund is one which has done very helpful work indeed for our less fortunate colleagues.

INVITATION

On Saturday, November 16th, Miss Carson Rae will be "At Home" to Members and friends from 4-6 p.m. at 194, Queen's Gate. She hopes that they will take this as an invitation to be present.

ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.



THE CHIEF RAMBLER—MISS CECILIA LIDDIATT, S.R.N., F.B.C.N.

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