

ALL SAINTS', HARTLEY,
Parish Magazine.

(Published Quarterly.)

EDITED BY J. WELLS THATCHER.



“FAWKHAM FRESCO.”

THE RECTOR'S LETTER.

My Dear Parishioners,

We have in this issue the concluding portion of the article on the mural decorations in some of our neighbouring churches.

I was not present when Mr. Mandeville Roe visited Hartley Church, and so I wrote to ask if he could tell us anything about the “Norman painting, almost hidden in the Chancel.” I have, in reply, a letter in which he says: “As regards the

fragment of painting in Hartley Chancel, which I remember fairly well, the date, from my recollection, would be about contemporaneous with Kingsdown, decidedly anterior to Rochester and Dartford”

We must get Mr. Mandeville Roe to have another look at it, and tell us more about it.

Yours very truly,

GERARD W. BANCKS.

THE ART OF OUR FOREFATHERS.
THE RELIGION BEAUTIFUL.

By E. G. MANDEVILLE ROE.

(Continued from No. 36.)

The painting in Dartford Church is fairly well known by comparison with some other interesting churches in Kent. An engraving of it was made about a century ago, and it has been mentioned by a local historian. Other, and more ancient, paintings have, however, escaped their full share of attention.

Some twenty years ago, for example, an extremely old picture was found in Kingsdown Church. It was uncovered with such care that most of it is clearly visible to-day. Kingsdown Church is a fine old building, to which alterations have been made from time to time since Saxon days, but the main features of the original stone structure appear to have been preserved. The painting is situated within the thickness of the South wall in two sections upon either side of a window, and is therefore extremely difficult to photograph. It is supposed to represent the story of Cain and Abel, and our illustration, taken from high up in the Church, shows the two brothers making their offerings before the Lord.

Probably a good number of Kentish churches, if diligently searched, would be able to exhibit such specimens of painting as the one which is almost hidden in the chancel of Hartley Church, near Longfield, but all too few are the possibilities of revealing such fine remains as those which adorn the Church of Fawkham. In its prime this must have been a magnificent piece of work, though probably robbed of its full effect by the fact that it was too big for the building which contains it. Maybe the whole surface of the North wall was painted, and therefore burst in its full glory upon the visitor who entered by the South door. As, however, the principal entry in olden times appears to have been through the West porch, which is now

blocked up, the painting would lose much of its influence by being first seen distorted from that direction.

Despite the vandalism of the Puritans, the central figure fortunately remains in a fairly good state of preservation. It is reminiscent of some of the illuminated representations of Christ the King which are to be seen in mediæval Books of Hours. The hands are uplifted with an air of benediction, the head is surrounded by the conventional halo, the throne and the figure being contained in a nimbus. The rest of the picture is, however, almost entirely obliterated. When we remember that the Cromwellians covered it first with black paint and then with whitewash, this is not surprising. What does savour of the miraculous is that the central figure should have come down to us so little damaged as it is. Fragments of a border design in blue are visible at the top, but the main tone of the painting is a mellow pink, caused, probably, by the running together of the colours under the sacrilegious application of Puritan paint. In other parts of the church are to be found two consecration crosses, one of which some visiting vandal has endeavoured to trace over apparently with a lead pencil. If a restoration were contemplated this would stand amply excused, but the unknown desecrator has only stopped to follow a few of the already visible lines.

These, however, are only minor points by comparison with the marvellous state of preservation of the Christ, and it is to be hoped adequate measures will be taken to prevent this from fading or decaying in any way. The three photographs show the striking contrast between the condition of the central figure and that of the surrounding painting, and let us hope that, from time to time, as other old churches become due for renovation, further discoveries no less interesting in character will come to light, and that every conceivable care will be taken to safeguard them from damage.

E. G. MANDEVILLE ROE.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

The Longfield and District Cottage Gardeners' Association held their annual general meeting at the Village Hall, on May 19th last. The statement of accounts was submitted and the officers and committee were elected. The receipts for the year were £109 8s. 2d., and the payments were £92 3s. 6d. At the end of the financial year there was a balance in hand of £50 os. 1d. The penny was for luck! The Committee and all concerned are to be congratulated upon their labours.

* * *

Here is another annual report—that of the Longfield, Hartley and Darenth District Nursing Association. I had to take in a deep breath before I could repeat the title without a stop. The total visits paid by the two nurses were 3,227. The report speaks highly of these two efficient officers. The receipts were £365 13s. 2d., and the payments were £289 5s. 10d. A great and good work done at a small cost.

* * *

The second instalment of Mr. E. G. Mandeville Roe's article makes delightful reading. Do not miss it.

* * *

The useful work done at the Hartley Parish Meeting appeals to us all, as it affects us all. The parishioners, I take it for granted, are much obliged to all those who show a deep practical interest in their affairs.

* * *

I am more and more impressed by the fine work done at our Women's Institute. The ladies set us mere men a great example.

The cricket report by the able Hon. Secretary, which appears in this issue, is a satisfactory and encouraging document. In fact, it makes a distinct hit to boundary. I trust the Hon. Secretary will long stop in his office.

* * *

You must all read the report of our Church Council. It is encouraging. Church members are indebted to so many of their neighbours for services rendered in or on behalf of our ancient house of prayer. I am so glad, too, at the fine service which Miss Emmott and her helpers are rendering at the Sunday School.

* * *

My last note must express my deep gratitude to Mr. Chisholm, who takes so much trouble over the advertisements. If it were not for the income derived from this source, this little publication would have to stop. What a calamity that would be to the British Empire! I say, have you paid your subscription for last year? Have you doubled it? If not, do so immediately, if not sooner!

BAPTISMS.

May 8.—Patrick Drake, son of Roy and Constance Mary Adams.

„ 15.—[redacted] of Albert Edward and Bessie May Cox.

MARRIAGE.

May 8.—Edward Hunt and Beatrice Winifred Rogers.

BURIALS.

April 20.—William Nash, aged 86.

May 19.—Eleanor Green, aged 68.

July.	August.	September.
3rd—6th Sunday after Trinity.	1st—Lammas Day.	4th—15th Sunday after Trinity.
10th—7th Sunday after Trinity.	6th - Transfiguration of Our Lord.	11th—16th Sunday after Trinity.
15th—Switbun, Bishop of Winchester.	7th—11th Sunday after Trinity.	14th—Holy Cross Day.
17th—8th Sunday after Trinity.	14th—12th Sunday after Trinity.	18th—17th Sunday after Trinity.
22nd—St. Mary Magdalen.	21st—13th Sunday after Trinity.	21st—St. Matthew, Ap. & Ev.
24th—9th Sunday after Trinity.	24th—St. Bartholomew, Ap.	25th—18th Sunday after Trinity
25th—St. James, A. and M.	28th—14th Sunday after Trinity.	29th—St. Michael & All Angels.
31st—10th Sunday after Trinity.		

Church Information.

The Lord Bishop—THE RIGHT REV. MARTIN LINTON SMITH, D.D., D.S.O. *Archdeacons*—THE VEN. DONALD TAIT, M.A., Archdeacon of Rochester; THE VEN. LEONARD SAVILL, M.A., Archdeacon of Tonbridge. *Dean of the Cathedral*—THE VERY REV. REGINALD THOMAS TALBOT, D.D. *Rector*—REV. CHARLES GERARD WINSTANLEY BANCKS, M.A., appointed 1902. *Churchwardens*—Mr. F. W. Tate and Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

CHURCH SERVICES.

Matins, 11 a.m. Evensong, 6.30 p.m.

Holy Communion, 8 a.m., on the 2nd Sunday in each month; at 12 noon on other Sundays.

Parochial Church Council (elected under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure, 1921)—Council for 1931-32: The Rector (who is Chairman by virtue of his office), Mrs. Eric Green, Mrs. F. W. Tate, Miss Sale, Miss Green (Hon. Secretary), Miss Rodwell, Mrs. Alexander, Mr. F. W. Tate, Mr. W. H. Chisholm, Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Keen, Mr. Eric Green (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. B. Alexander, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. and Mrs. Ball, Mr. Marrington, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Day, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Harris, Mr. and Mrs. L. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Groom, with the Churchwardens by virtue of their offices. *Representatives on the Ruri-Decanal Conference*—Mrs. Balchin and Mrs. Keen. *Representatives at the Annual Diocesan Conference*—Miss Green and Mrs. F. Tate. *Committees*—Standing Committee: The Chairman and the Churchwardens. Finance Committee: The Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Miss Green. *Sidesmen*—Mr. A. Blackwell, Mr. J. Green, Mr. B. Alexander, Mr. R. Adams, Mr. L. Harris, and Mr. Albert Cox. *Organist and Choirmaster*—Mr. W. H. Chisholm. *Members of the Choir*—Mrs. Balchin, Mrs. Chisholm, Mrs. T. J. Clark, Miss E. Green, Mrs. Keen, Miss Chisholm, Miss V. W. Emmott,

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Tate, Mr. F. F. Tate, Mr. G. G. Marrington, Alice Carter, Betty Glover, Basil Keen, Ida Keen, Stella Keen, Dennis Moore, Sidney Moore. *Diocesan Lay Reader (Retired)*—Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

Sunday School at the Church Parochial School—Superintendent: Miss Vera W. Emmott. Time: 3 to 3.45 p.m. *Church Parochial School*—Miss Fiddis, Headmistress; Miss Emmott, Assistant Teacher. *School Managers*—The Rector, Mr. J. Green, Mrs. Balchin, Miss Rodwell, Miss Harry and Mrs. Reilly.

Bell Ringer and Organ Blower—Mr. A. Rogers. *Churchyard Keeper*—Mr. A. Rogers. *Church Cleaner*—Mrs. Hoadley. *Sexton and Grave Digger*—Mr. J. Crouch.

Magazine Secretary—Mr. F. F. Tate, "Amphion," Ash Road, Hartley.

WORK OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.

"It shall be the primary duty of the Council of every parish to co-operate with the Incumbent in the initiation, conduct and development of Church work both within the parish and outside."—(Section 2 of the Measure.)

Altar Flowers.

January—Mrs. P. Harris.
February—Mrs. Walker.
March—Miss Bonsall.
April—Mrs. Hemming.
May—Mrs. T. J. Clark.
June—Miss Green.
July—Mrs. Elliott.
August—Mrs. Andrus.
September—Mrs. Chisholm.
October—Miss Robertson.
November—Mrs. Ralph Day.
December—Mrs. Eric Green.

PARISH MEETING.

The "Annual Assembly" attracted few parishioners on 22nd March. The yearly elections resulted in the re-appointment of Mr. F. W. Tate as Chairman, and of Messrs. Bonsall and Oldrey as Rating Representatives. The Footpaths Committee, comprising Capt. Bignell and Messrs. G. B. Davies, Oldrey, Sizmur and Solly, was also re-elected.

Mr. Nairn raised the question of the cost of hiring the District Council's sanitary outfit, arguing that the charges were excessive. To this Mr. Ralph Day replied with a statement of the present position. The outfit is placed by the Council in the care of a committee of parish representatives, Mr. R. Day acting for Hartley. To maintain the apparatus efficiently, the committee make a fixed charge of 10/- per day, and stipulate that a particular workman shall be employed to ensure that the tackle is properly used. This involves the hirer in a further charge of 10/- per day, making 20/- in all. Horses and further labour are usually hired, and these are generally obtained from the contractor on whose premises the outfit is kept. The committee are not responsible for his charges, and do not secure any revenue from these sources. Mr. Day showed that the committee's income barely enables the cost of renewals to be met, so that no reduction in the charges is possible.

In the ensuing discussion the complaint of high cost was repeated, while some speakers suggested that where the double pit system of drainage was used the need for pumping out periodically disappeared.

Mr. Day was heartily thanked by the Chairman for his statement and agreed to seek an opportunity for consultation with the contractor on the possibility of reducing his charges.

Mr. Sizmur, proposing a vote of thanks to the Sanitary Committee, said this was a piece of unseen work for the community which deserved recognition. The expression of thanks was unanimously adopted.

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CHURCH PAROCHIAL COUNCIL.

The Rector presided at the Annual Meeting in the School on April 26th, 1932. There was not a large attendance. Mr. J. Wells Thatcher was re-nominated as Vicar's Warden by Mr. Bancks, and Mr. F. W. Tate re-elected as People's Warden. The retiring Sidesmen were also re-appointed, with the addition of Mr. Albert Cox. Other officers re-elected were the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Eric Green, and the Hon. Secretary, Miss Green, both of whom received hearty votes of thanks for their past services.

Mrs. Balchin and Mrs. Keen were appointed representatives for the parish on the Rural Decanal Conference, while Mrs. F. Tate and Miss Green were elected to the Rural Diocesan Conference.

Warm appreciation was expressed for the work of Mr. and Miss Chisholm in connection with the organ and choir, and the success obtained by Miss Emmott in the re-organised Sunday School received recognition. A vote of thanks to the ladies who attended to the altar flowers and church maintenance was unanimously adopted.

A statement of accounts was submitted by the Treasurer, who reported that as a result of special efforts, including a Garden Fête, an overdraft had been replaced by a balance in hand, after meeting all liabilities, including the final instalment due on the loan on Delapidations Account. Mr. Green, however, showed that the Freewill Offerings had declined, and asked the Council to consider means for gaining greater support, in order to ensure the solvency of the Church Fund.

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HARTLEY CRICKET CLUB.

The season opened auspiciously with a win at Fawkham against our neighbours on Saturday, 30th April, and a victory was gained the following Saturday, but since that date no further successes have been recorded. However, very enjoyable games have been played as far as the weather would permit.

The results of the matches played up to the time of writing are as follows:—

30/4/32	v. Fawkham C.C.	away	63—37	won
7/5/32	v. Swanscombe C.C.	home	63—41	won
14/5/32	v. Stone Club I.	home	40—52	lost
16/5/32	v. Heligan C.C.	home	86—87	lost
21/5/32	v. Farningham C.C.	home	89—92	lost
4/6/32	v. Eynsford C.C.	away	60—104	lost
11/6/32	v. Stansted C.C.	away	17—75	lost

Heavy rolling with a two-ton motor roller and attention in the Spring have done much to improve the playing pitch, while new nets have been added to the equipment of the ground.

A further effort was made to swell the available funds by means of a whist drive on 6th April, and a satisfactory result was achieved.

LIGHT, MORE LIGHT!

The Editor of this world-renowned parish magazine has a full installation for producing electric light for disposal at an early date. Lion engine, dynamo, switchboard, and 14 full-size Hart accumulators—all in working order. This is a fine opportunity for anyone who is outside the range of the new public electric light service. Apply J. Wells Thatcher, The Gun Station, Hartley, Longfeld, Kent.—*Adv.*

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HARTLEY.

HARTLEY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH NOTES.

Our Services during the past quarter have been conducted by thirteen able men: three clergymen and ten business and professional men. Their unanimous opinion appeared to be that the intricate social and national problems which confront the world to-day can be solved rightly only in the spirit of Jesus Christ. The Church holds the key of the worlds' future progress and happiness.

* * *

Mr. E. W. Taylor, B.A. of Rochester, on April 24th, speaking on (John 14-6): "I am the Way," demonstrated very forcibly that legalised murder, social selfishness, national prejudice and narrowness, entrenched evils in society and individual, would pass like shadows before the influence and power of lives consecrated to Him and His ideals. If this assertion is true—we believe it is—our Editor's challenge in the March Magazine to non-churchgoers is much to the point.

* * *

February 29th was made famous (with other events) by our Jumble Sale. When a Sale in sight appears we hail it with three cheers. One from the bargain-hunters, one from the organisers when it is over, and one from our Treasurer, Mr. F. Parkin, when he receives the result, £13 7s. 6d., for the Church Building Fund.

* * *

At the Church Meeting on April 22nd, it was decided to apply for Corporate Membership of the League of Nations' Union. This means a pledge to support as a Christian community the efforts of the League of Nations to bring about universal peace. There are 757 Corporate Associations. Mr. F. Comont kindly agreed to become the Church's representative in all matters concerning the League of Nations' Union.

* * *

On Sunday, March 20th, an exceptionally pleasant time was spent with the Rev. W. S. Cowdy, who oversees 600 churches in the interests of the London

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* * *

For the year ending April 30th, 1392, after raising for General Purposes £55, we have added to the Church Building Fund £84, making the total £370. As a sale of work was not held during the year, this monetary result is highly satisfactory, and reflects steady work and continued goodwill and helpfulness among the members of our small community.

* * *

We sympathise very sincerely at this time (May 20th) with our old friends, Mrs. R. Hooper and Mrs. A. H. Edward, in a time of protracted ill-health. We hope they will soon be well, as some quiet people are most missed.

* * *

Grateful thanks are due to the Rev. Stanley Morgan, of Greenhithe, for his interest in our work. His sermons are inspirations. "Lash yourself to some mighty truth of God, and throw yourself overboard into the stormy sea of life. It is the only way of proving the uplifting and saving power of His word."

Some adventure this for heroic youth. "In speaking with my mother, I sometimes thought it was not my mother speaking, but some other within her."

In the great truth which Mr. Morgan speaks to us, it may well be that we are privileged to listen to the Holy Spirit

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speaking through his mind. This is the highest good that can happen in a church, unless the human response to the divine voice is of more value.

S. H. ELLERBY,
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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

In these days of "cuts" and talks on economy, it is quite a refreshing change to find that for only 2/- per year the members of the Women's Institute are able to arrange really first rate programmes.

During the last six months interesting and helpful talks on health and gardening have been given, demonstrations of various branches of cookery, folk songs, charmingly sung by Miss Nella Powell lessons in chair and stool seating by Mrs. Fred Crouch, and competitions of all kinds, arranged by the energetic secretary, Miss Robertson, have all helped to attract Hartley women to the Institute Hall on the first Thursday in each month, at 3 p.m.

A feature of the afternoon is the trading stall, where home-made cakes, sweets, honey, salads, etc., may be bought at a very cheap rate.

Quite a number of members have received sixpence from the treasurer to start a small trading scheme of their own, so that money will be available for the installation of electric light in the Institute in the near future.

Charities have not been forgotten, and St. Dunstan's blinded soldiers and the British Empire Cancer Campaign have both been assisted this year by the organising of Saturday Whist Drives.

WHITSUNDAY AT ALL SAINTS.

Special music at Evensong was rendered by the choir, with Mr. Cyril Worsley (tenor), to whom the thanks of the choir and congregation are due. The music included Introit, "Blessed are the pure in heart" (Walford Davies); Anthem, "O for a closer walk with God" (Myles Foster), and solo from "Elijah," "If with all your hearts," and Vesper, "God be in my heart" (arr. Walford Davies).

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

During the seven weeks of Lent, when the thoughts of Christians are turned more especially to our Lord's Passion, it occurred to the Hartley section of the Catholic Women's League that a presentation of the Oberammergau Passion Play might be welcomed here. We accordingly invited a well-known lecturer on the Passion Play—Father J. L. Dove, of the Westminster Cathedral clergy—who fortunately was able to give us the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Father Dove's talk was most interesting, and illustrated as it was by very beautiful coloured slides,

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enabled us to realize the atmosphere and the setting of the Play as well as the entirely unworldly object of those taking part, that of honouring the Passion in fulfilment of a vow. It was unfortunate that the date should clash with a performance of the Hartley Players, but, nevertheless, the Women's Institute Hall, which had been taken for the evening, was packed to overflowing. The Committee of the Catholic Women's League were afterwards able to send a donation to the funds of the R.S.P.C.C.

THE HARTLEY 'BUS.

Have you ever ridden in the Hartley 'bus? If not, why not? It is a most enterprising vehicle. The drivers know all their customers, where they live, how many they have in family, what time they go to London, and what time they come home, what days their ladies go to Gravesend, and why they go.

It is delightful to go into the 'bus which brings the children home from school. I love to ride in that particular 'bus. I get the children to teach me the multiplication table. I'm such a dunce at arithmetic

When I say to them, anxiously: "Twice seven are fifteen, are they not?" they laugh at me—even the little ones do—and they answer: "No, of course not!" Then I reply: "What is it, then?" and they respond, "Fourteen," and, in their little minds, they are saying to themselves: "Stupid!" And they are quite right. Yes, I fear that they are quite right.

Then you ought to ride in the 'bus which brings the city merchants home from the London train in the evening. They are all so kind and affectionate to one another, so cheerful, so merry, so full of fun. They tilt up the hat of the man in front of them, and he readjusts the angle and smiles. They screw up the 'bus tickets into little pellets and throw them at their fellow-passengers in the front seats, or they deposit them into the brim of an unsuspecting hat. But this is all so improper, so unorthodox!

When I get out of the 'bus upon arrival at my baronial hall, my fellow passengers always give me a beautiful salute, and they also call me by a distinguished title. I will not tell you what they call me, for I do not want to make you jealous!

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The other morning I was in the 'bus which was going to catch the train for London, soon after 10. The passengers called out to the driver to stop—they called him by his Christian name. The passengers know the names of all the drivers, and they call them by their names. They would never dream of saying "Driver!"

Well, as I was remarking, the passengers called upon the driver. He stopped, looked back, and saw an infirm lady leaving her house. She was a little late for the 'bus, so the driver backed his 'bus to the poor lady, and she was thankful. We were all so proud of that nice, kind driver!—[ED.]

HARTLEY AND DISTRICT BAND.

Progress during the last few months has been fairly satisfactory, and three of the boys from the learners' class have been promoted into the regular Band.

It is hoped that with the approach of the summer season it will be possible for the Band to obtain one or two engagements in the neighbourhood.

The Committee is anxious to strengthen the Band as much as possible, in order to give the conductor every encouragement, and anyone interested is invited to apply for membership.

Three dances were held in the Constitutional Hall on 22nd March, 11th April and 2nd May, which, while well attended, were not as financially successful as had been hoped.

THE CIRCLE.

The Hartley Players, besides three evening performances on March 17th, 18th and 19th, made a new venture this time, and gave a matinee also.

"The Circle" was produced by Estelle Bradley, assisted by Ernest Harry, who both had important parts in the play. Estelle Bradley had the leading rôle of an attractive young wife who eventually decides to leave her rather priggish husband and go off to the "F.M.S." with a pleasant young man, Edward Luton, who loves her and with whom she has fallen in love, and her resolution is only temporarily shaken by the picture of her future life painted for her by her mother-in-law, who had tried the same course, and found its disadvantages. Elizabeth's part was handled as always by this actress with competence and a restraint that gives an air of repose. Her appearance in Act III was especially pleasing.

The part of her husband was taken by Eric Green, who, from his entrance gave an impression of primness and fussiness, but

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yet contrived to be by no means a caricature. It is some time since he has had any but rather broad character parts, and he showed that he need not be ridiculous nor talk a dialect.

Ernest Harry was his father, Clive Champion-Cheney, and has seldom been happier in any part. Upon reflection, one wondered whether the playwright had not meant him to be more of a cynic, but his amused and tolerant geniality was very pleasant.

May Symons, as his former wife, was rouged and dyed and addicted to lipstick, and altogether as unlike the picture in her daughter-in-law's mind as possible. However, her personality, with its essential kindness and charm, underneath a frivolous and occasionally a pettish demeanour, was cleverly indicated, and one enjoyed her moments on the stage—perhaps most of all her belief in the consolatory powers of lipstick.

Lord Porteous, for whom she had left her husband years ago, is said to have been one of the most promising young men of

his day before he wrecked his career for the sake of Lady Aulby. Since then he had changed greatly, and become irritable, peppery and rude when he felt like it, and whereas he was once faultlessly dressed, had descended to false teeth that did not fit. To hit him off to a nicety must have been a difficult task, and John Reynell managed it with very fair success.

To Bobbie Hale fell the sort of character he has taken many times—that of the pleasant young man who rings true even when things look black against him. We somehow continued to find him pleasant, even when on the point of eloping with his host's wife.

His fellow guest in the house, who was less involved in the plot, was Ama Sherstone, played by Maureen Boston, whose walking and talking on the stage both might be well improved.

The footman and the butler were Cyril Boston and Douglas Ross.

Scenery and effects were again in the very efficient hands of E. Snelling Colyer.

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