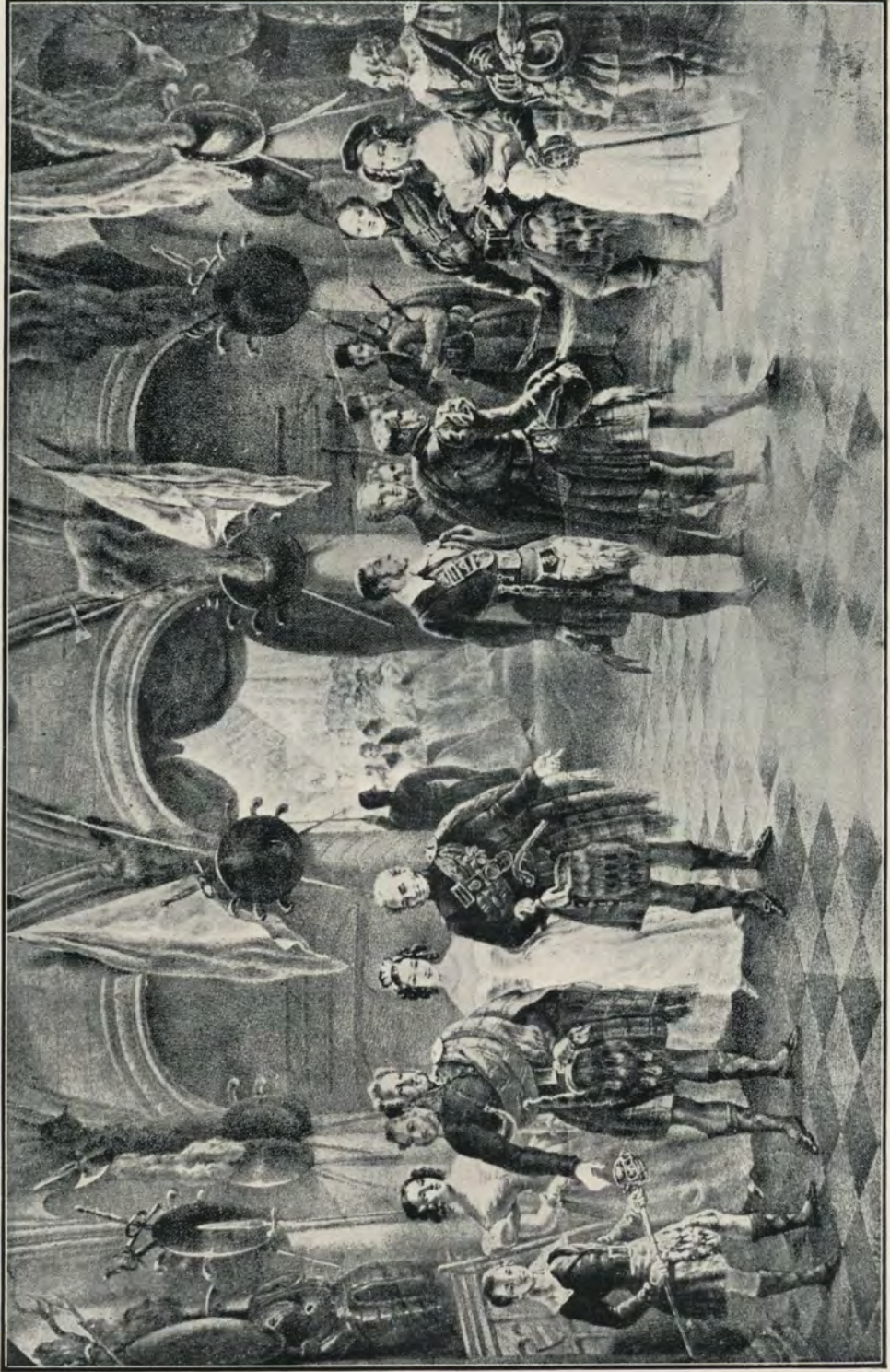


The
Scottish Country
Dance Society
Bulletin.

No. 27.

OCTOBER 1949.

A Highland Ball One Hundred Years Ago



By Courtesy of "Oban Times."

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Annual Report

IN the Twenty-sixth Annual Report, which includes the celebrations marking the Semi-Jubilee year, it is interesting to review the progress that has been made. Since the beginning, for which Mrs Stewart of Fasnacloich and Miss Jean Milligan were mainly responsible, it is encouraging to note that the Society has now a membership of approximately 7,500—42 Branches and 63 Affiliated Groups. During the past year Branches have been formed at Annan, North-west Ayrshire, Kirkcudbright and Stonehaven, while three have been re-started—Banffshire, Inverness and Lanark.

The real and living interest that has been shown by all classes of society in Scotland in this development has spread to many parts of England, Ireland, Wales, the Commonwealth and other countries overseas. This progress has entered into every aspect of the Society's development.

In 1927 the first Summer School of a week was held at St. Andrews and the sponsors were not at all certain of its success. Now in 1949, a School of four weeks' duration has been held and so great was the demand that many prospective students had to be refused entrance.

Scottish Country Dancing has now a firm place in almost every Scottish school and is one of the most popular activities in youth and adult organisations. Examinations for the teacher's certificate are held at Training Colleges and Universities throughout the length and breadth of Britain and classes for the general public have proved extremely popular at all the centres established by the Society.

It would be ungracious not to record in this Report the gratitude of the members for the generous hospitality and all the excellent arrangements made by the Glasgow Branch at the Autumn School of the Semi-Jubilee year. A dance at Jordanhill Training College, a Luncheon to the Executive Council and guests, a Civic Reception and Dance in the City Chambers all combined to make the weekend a memorable one in the history of the Society. Those who were present at the luncheon will remember how aware they were made to feel of the Society's development when members from all over Britain stood up and conveyed birthday greetings and messages of goodwill. At the Civic Reception hundreds danced with enjoyment to the stirring strains of Tim Wright's Orchestra and watched excellent performances by a team from the Glasgow Branch to mouth music by the Helen MacMillan Choir.

It is evident that progress has been good—the Society, however, does not want to rest on its laurels and has not been allowed to do so. Space does not permit a description of all the demonstrations that have been given. Scottish Country Dancing was included in the programme of "Recreation Revue," presented at the Lyric Theatre, Glasgow, in March 1949 by the Glasgow Keep Fit Movement and the Central Council of Physical Recreation. At the "Youth and Sports Exhibition," held in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, from 18th May to 4th June, thousands watched demonstrations of Scottish Country Dancing by members of the team that represented Great Britain at the Lingiad in Sweden. Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, have been the centre of many demonstrations, and at an Historic Pageant in Perth during the third week in June Scottish Country Dancing was demonstrated. These are only a few of the demonstrations which have been held, but all have combined to spread an interest in our national dances and have afforded an opportunity to many to see them really well performed.

Other events of general interest have been Festivals and Highland Balls. It has been encouraging that both have been attended by so many boys and men.

An invitation having been received from the International Folk Music Council to send dancers to attend the Annual Conference in Venice, it was decided to form a Selection Committee to choose a team. The Branches were asked to send in names of good dancers, men and women, and the meeting was held on 30th April, when sixty-four candidates attended, and five men, five women and a piper were chosen—it is hoped to give a report of the Conference in the *Bulletin*.

As an outcome of the above, it was suggested at a meeting of the Management Committee that a Publicity Fund should be started with the object of sending demonstration teams abroad from time to time. The Branches were notified and have responded generously—the Fund will remain open so that members or Branches who so desire can send donations at any time for this purpose.

Members may be interested to hear of a ceremony which took place on 20th April at Birnam, near Dunkeld, when a Memorial Plaque on Neil Gow's Cottage was unveiled by Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl, who spoke of Neil Gow's wonderful gifts. As a fiddler he was known far and wide, and many of his tunes are used in our Scottish Country Dance music to-day. The Society was well represented at the ceremony. Lord James Stewart Murray made a most interesting speech at the reception at which Mrs Stewart, Miss Milligan and the Secretary were present.

From October to March a series of lessons in Scottish Country Dancing was given by Mrs M. K. Brown on the Scottish Home Service of the B.B.C. From letters received it is evident that these broadcasts have been much appreciated and many listeners have been encouraged to join classes so that they may learn more.

Correspondence to Headquarters has again been very interesting and widespread—members write from as far distant as Assinaboia, Vancouver, Singapore, Malaya, Transvaal, Nairobi, Queensland, etc., and from these letters it is learned that Scottish Country Dancing is playing an active part in the social life of the Groups concerned.

Examinations have been held in the following places during the year:—Aberdeen Branch, Aberdeen (Woolmanhill students), Anstey College of Physical Education (at Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore), Ayr, Ayrshire, Banffshire, Belfast, Dunfermline Physical Training College, Dumfries, Dundee, Edinburgh, Fort William, Glasgow, Glasgow (Jordanhill students), Hamilton and Clydesdale, Kirkcaldy, Kirkcudbright, Leven, Lockerbie, Peterhead, Rochdale, St. Andrews, St. Andrews (Summer School), St. Andrews (University students), Stirling and Stonehaven.

There were 391 passes (with 124 failures) in Certificate I, while out of 177 candidates, 156 gained the Full Certificate.

It is hoped to give a copy of Book 15 to each member on payment of the annual subscription 1949-50. The twelve dances are most interesting and the Publications Committee are to be congratulated on their work. The music has been arranged by Mr Tim Wright.

The Treasurer reports that the financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. There has been a large increase in membership subscriptions and now that more books are available the sales have increased correspondingly.

The Executive Council express their thanks to Miss Milligan and her staff for their work during the Summer School held from August 1st to 29th.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 30th October 1948.

THE Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Country Dance Society was held on Saturday, 30th October 1948 at 2.45 p.m. in the Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

PRESENT—Lord James Stewart Murray presided and there were an attendance of 350 members.

APOLOGIES were intimated from Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Jones, Mrs Mackintosh, The Hon. Mrs MacLean of Ardgour and Dr Elizabeth Forbes-Sempill.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS—Lord James in his remarks spoke of the development of Scottish Country dancing since the Society was formed in 1923. He emphasised that the influence of the Society had spread to nearly every County in Scotland, to the British Commonwealth and to America. Through the interest taken in the demonstrations given during the Folk Music Conference in Edinburgh in July and during the Music Festival in August, there was cause to think that the activities of the Society would be extended to other countries. In these days, Lord James continued, when there were many movements active in the world, some which made for harmony and some which did not, the mission of the Society was quite clear—to encourage harmony and good fellowship, and to extend its influence as widely as possible and so help to bring peace and goodwill throughout the world.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 1948-49—The only nominations for the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman were Mrs Hamilton-Meikle and Miss Milligan respectively. Mrs Hamilton-Meikle was therefore elected as Chairman and Miss Milligan as Vice-Chairman. There were nine nominations for the six places vacant on the Executive Council. After voting, the following members were elected:—Miss B. Anderson, Miss Barrow, Mr Drummond, Mrs Lesslie, Mr Murray and Dr Forbes-Sempill.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT—The adoption of the Annual Report which was published in the Bulletin was proposed by Mrs Rankin (Hamilton and Clydesdale Branch) and seconded by Miss Browne (Aberdeen Branch). The Report was adopted.

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT—In proposing the adoption of the Financial Report Mr Robertson (Angus Branch) congratulated Miss McLellan on her work. Mrs Liddell (Manchester Branch) seconded the proposal and the Financial Report was adopted.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1949—The Chairman announced that the Executive Council had accepted the invitation from Aberdeen Branch to hold the Annual General Meeting in Aberdeen in 1949.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the business part of the meeting concluded at 3.30 p.m.

Following this, Mrs Hamilton-Meikle, on behalf of the members of the Society, presented handbags and cheques to Mrs Stewart and Miss Milligan and congratulated both ladies on the work they had done in founding the Scottish Country Dance Society twenty-five years ago, and in inspiring and developing its work. Mrs Stewart, after thanking the members for their gifts and at the request of the meeting, gave an interesting account of the beginnings of the Society, and expressed her great pleasure at the results now achieved. Miss Milligan, in expressing her thanks and appreciation to the members for their gifts, said how much she had enjoyed the years of work for the Society, and how very interested she had been in its growth.

The Festival of International Folk Music and Dance at Venice

The Festival of International Folk Music and Dance held in Venice has come and gone, but it will long remain a thrilling memory for those fortunate enough to attend it.

Excitement began for the Scottish Team when they met at St Andrews to practise and to be moulded into a real team. Soon all were on excellent terms and looking forward to going to the Festival as a very happy party indeed.

From St Andrews the team went to give their first performance at the Aberfeldy Show. It was a glorious day, if somewhat hot for dancing, and a gay bus load from the Summer School spent a delightful time, first at the Show where the team gave a very successful display, and afterwards at a dance given by friends at Ballinluig. Then the following week, during the Edinburgh Festival, another bus load went off to dance in the Waverley Market. Again all went well and the team began to feel as if they had danced together for years.

On the fourth of September a large party set out for Venice, English, Irish and Scots, dancers and delegates. What a journey—hot and complicated, but what cared this happy company! Dieppe Station was thrilled by the sound of the pipes, the first to be heard since D-Day. Eightsome and Foursome Reels danced with gaiety and abandon on the station platform delighted all.

At last Venice—Miss Milligan standing on the platform, or to be more accurate, rushing down the platform at top speed. What a reception she got from a rather sooty, dishevelled but high spirited team. Then a hurrying to collect baggage which seemed to have increased in weight, and on to a crowded canal steamboat to wend our way slowly towards the Lido. Venice already looked romantic—the slow moving Gondolas plying to and fro, with their twinkling lights, famous aged churches, houses and squares flood-lit by the moon.

The light of the Lido blazed forth a welcome and all landed—the visitors to go to their various hotels and the team to be shepherded to Bus No. 2, for on the Lido the streets are wide and distances great enough to require vehicular transport. Here it may be said that one of the chief attractions of Venice is the complete lack of motor cars or of any kind of vehicle. The labyrinths of narrow winding streets which lie between the canals are teeming with shoppers but yet delightfully lacking in the noise and rush of traffic.

The Hotel Vittoria, right on the Adriatic, housed the English and Scottish contingents and there our team, receiving endless kindness and consideration, were very happy in spite of rather crowded conditions.

The Conference opened the following day in the Doges Palace and this was followed by a Civic Reception to which representatives from all teams were invited. In the evening there was a rehearsal in the theatre, where all the Congress Delegates formed the audience.

The Team was kept very busy dancing twice every day in the little squares in all parts of the city, in the Theatre, and finally at the Gala Performance in the Piazza San Marco. To do justice to our dances on a cobblestone square under the heat of the mid-day sun, with multitudes crowding to get a glimpse, was not easy, but the ovation given the team assured them that their efforts were appreciated. It was indeed a gay sight. The Theatre offered more scope and the performances there were satisfying to all. The Gala Performance in the Piazza San Marco was an evening never to be forgotten. St Mark's Cathedral formed a perfect background, being flood-lit in soft tones of amber, red and green. The dancers in their colourful national costumes sat along the terraced steps on either side of the long gangways leading to the high dancing platform in the

centre of the square. They were lit by amber lighting from the ground, while the centre platform was flooded by clear lighting from above. A grand stand for some spectators was erected at one end of the square, while others were seated at tables outside the numerous cafés which surround the square.

The Delegates to the Congress were kept on the go continuously with lectures, discussions and demonstrations. In spite of the language difficulties it was surprising how much one learned and how much one seemed to absorb of the music, dance and folk lore of other peoples. Sessions were long, due to the need for interpretation, with the result that many conscientious Delegates did not see as much of the public demonstrations of dancing as they would have liked, but it was an instructive and fascinating Congress for everyone.

Being concerned solely with demonstrations, the Team saw little of the actual Congress, save when they appeared at the Theatre to illustrate Miss Milligan's lecture. On that occasion they danced the Hebridean Weaving Lilt to show the occupational type of dance as opposed to the social. For this, the girls wore shortgowns and petticoats. Iain Robertson further illustrated the lecture by singing some of the Gaelic occupational songs with actions.

Venice was indeed *en fête*—everywhere there were brilliant splashes of colour of national costumes, the sound of strange musical instruments (not the least of which were the bagpipes) and the singing of folk songs. Invariably two or three countries were gathered together in interested conversation, discussing dress, fingering materials and trying on head-dresses. Language difficulties were somehow overcome. Notable among the musical instruments were the 18 feet long pipes of the Swiss and their huge cow-bells, which seemed almost impossible to carry, and from part of Southern Italy the pipes, not unlike our own Scottish bagpipes, but made of wood with a goatskin bag. Strange indeed was it to see Bill Clement and the Italian piper attempting a duet !

The battery of cameras which faced the team every time they walked in the streets, and the many requests they had to dance showed that the Festival had caught the interest of all the visitors and tourists to Venice.

How the members of the team explored Venice in their spare time and how easy it was to get lost in the little back streets ! It didn't take long to learn the way to the most profitable shopping centre—the Rialto—what a thrill it was to walk over the Rialto Bridge and recall school-days and the Merchant of Venice and to bargain with the shopkeepers with the use of one word of Italian "Troppo" (too much), and the excitement when all gathered together again and displayed their purchases.

Never to be forgotten was the first swim in the Adriatic Sea at midnight on Tuesday. With much trepidation, toes were dipped in the water and then a mad rush in—shades of St Andrews!—here no deep breaths taken before submerging, but warm, smooth and buoyant water. So swimming, at 7 a.m., midnight or 3.30 a.m. was the order of the day or night.

Space does not permit the relating of all the incidents which went to make the Festival such a memorable experience for the Scottish Team, but suffice it to say that it was with sad hearts that they split up on Monday, 12th September—some to return home and others to enjoy a few more days in Italy.

To judge the success of such a Festival is not easy, but we do know that Scotland is definitely on the map of the Folk Dance World and that our Team added dignity and elegance to the Venice Festival.

An Impression of the Summer School, 1949.

SUCCESS and the Summer School are not strangers but they can seldom have been so closely identified as they were this year. One of the most delightful features of the School is the renewal of friendships and, as usual, familiar faces were well represented—one had almost said the old familiar faces, but surely one of the achievements of the Society must be the discovery of the secret of eternal youth. At any rate, nobody looked a day older than last year and everybody was dancing as joyously as ever. Nor must we forget our new friends who trod the path to St. Andrews for the first time and now we hope, have joined the "regulars." Our hopes in this respect are unlikely to be disappointed when the standard expression of farewell is "See you next year."

This summer the School lasted for a month instead of three weeks as in former years. This was a great improvement as it enabled two fortnightly courses to be held and, from the point of view of those taking certificates, the extra week made all the difference. It would be presumptuous on the part of one who was beneath the harrow to assess the progress made in this extra time but the greater opportunity of gaining a thorough mastery of the syllabus must have been evident to all; and the more leisured atmosphere in which the coaching took place conferred nothing but benefit both to the staff and to the pupils.

The opportunity was taken during the School of revealing the mysteries of Book 15 which, it is hoped, will have been published by the time these words are read. This book is worthy of attention. In studying the dances, theorists will note with interest the new double triangular formation but the greatest attraction lies in the fact that the dances are manifestly meant to be danced. Moreover, we had at nights several examples of their possibilities as demonstration dances. This was particularly interesting one evening to many of us who had danced one of the dances—"The Gates of Edinburgh"—in the morning without realising the full possibilities of its formations. The full charm of the dance was only appreciated when we saw it danced that night as a demonstration. It was a striking example of the beauty that must be inherent in many of our dances but which can only be produced when circumstances permit detailed coaching. A thorough study of the dances in the new book was not, of course, possible for most of us, but first impressions were strongly favourable and, indeed, it was quite obvious that many of the dances will attain instant popularity.

In the evening, social dances played their accustomed part and were as popular as ever with spectators and dancers. The usual difficulties in regard to overcrowding were experienced and it is apparent that this is the one problem which remains unsolved. It is obvious that this question must be handled with great discretion as it would be tragic if the essentially social nature of these evenings were to be lost. One cannot say, "the more the merrier," but a certain degree of crowding does add to the gaiety of the occasion and is good practice for those Balls where what is required is the art of dancing a graceful reel while merely rotating gently on one's own axis. On the other hand, of course, the opportunity of displaying "flight" in a set two feet wide is strictly limited. But perhaps this problem may be left to those who have already solved so many.

The highlight of the School, beyond doubt, was the appearance of the team selected to represent the Society at the International Folk Music Festival at Venice. We were indeed fortunate in seeing this team in action, and it was most instructive to see the way in which brilliant individual dancers were welded into a team. One evening some of the dances to be performed in Venice were given in full regalia and it was really a delightful performance. We must congratulate the team on the graceful and polished displays which they gave before what must have been the most critical gathering in the world. They

certainly left us with the conviction that the interests of the Society will be in safe hands in Venice. But while the Venice team must most properly be regarded as providing the highlights, it would be ungracious not to remember the delightful demonstrations given by the other teams which also did so much to make the evenings memorable.

And so in the end it was all over for another year. But we said good-bye not only with regret, but with gratitude, gratitude to our fellows in the common ruck for being such pleasant companions and gratitude to the Staff who had done so much to make us better dancers with a fuller understanding of the traditions and ideas lying behind the dances, and with the determination to start off next year where we ended this year.

Note on the Development of the Society's Finances.

THE excellent balance shown this year in the Financial Statement is very heartening to those who for years have striven to put the S.C.D.S. on a sound financial basis. Many members, especially members of new Branches, wonder how this money is made and if it should not be used at once for the general benefit of the members.

Before explaining the position of this Society, it must be stressed that no society can expand and spread its wings without a good bank balance. Until quite lately the S.C.D.S. had but little behind it and it is only since interest in Scottish Country Dancing fostered by the war added tremendously to its membership and to its sales of books, that the Management Committee has felt that they had a stable and sure financial position on which to work.

When the Society began in 1923 there was literally no money, and it was the generous backing of Messrs Paterson Sons & Co. Ltd. which made it possible to bring out the first book and let the Society get a really good start. At first all gave their services voluntarily—classes were taken and examinations were conducted by a small body of enthusiasts determined on the success of the Society. Gradually a little balance was built up and it was possible to employ a part time Secretary and part time Treasurer. The war, however, hit the Society very severely and its funds showed a yearly decrease. When Miss M'Lellan took over the duties of Treasurer on the death of Mr Terras in 1942, the balance was just about £600 and the commitments of the Society growing each year.

Since the end of the war however, the Society has never looked back. Members have increased by hundreds, sales of books are up and now the present excellent balance has been attained. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that we have no office and pay but a small sum for our use of a private house, a state of affairs on which we cannot count indefinitely. As the Society grows so does the work which the officials have to do, so salaries must also grow. The printing of Books last year cost the Society well over £1000 and although this of course repays itself, the bill must be met at once out of funds. The demand for all kinds of propaganda is ever on the increase—visits to new Branches—help in starting Branches—demonstrations, etc., all need money to make them possible. This year a team went to Venice — next year there has already been a request from Nice and there may be many more. The S.C.D.S. is now so well known that we must take our place internationally and without money this would be impossible.

For all this and in case of some quite unexpected slump, it is essential that the Society should maintain a good financial background.

Branch Reports

ABERDEEN.—The past season proved a record one for the Aberdeen Branch, as there were 518 ordinary and 45 Life Members.

During the winter, the Branch held four adult classes, a weekly Social dancing evening, and a Young Peoples' class. One of the adult classes was continued until mid-June, after which the hall was not available.

At the conclusion of the Teachers' class, candidates gained four full certificates and fifteen first certificates.

At the S.C.D. section of the North-Eastern Musical Festival, revived for the first time since 1939, a Mixed Team and a Womens' Team from the Society classes each won first place in its class.

At the Semi-Jubilee of the Aberdeen station of the B.B.C., our Branch accepted an invitation to send dancers to various broadcasts of Scottish Dance music.

Demonstrations were given throughout the district by a Mixed S.C.D.S. team and by the Dancers of Don.

Last season we held two balls in the Music Hall, to each of which came over 200 spectators to watch the dancers.

Requests for teachers for classes in both town and district were numerous, and every available certificated teacher has been fully occupied all winter.

Trophies presented by the Branch for competition among Youth Service Senior Clubs in Aberdeen were won by Powis Mixed Team and by Holburn Girls' Team.

ANGUS.—This Branch, founded in 1930, has at present 824 members and 4 Life members. The year has been the most successful one in the life of the Branch as far as numbers go. Every class run under the auspices of the Society was taught by a fully certificated teacher, but there is still a dearth of teachers in the county.

There are seven centres in the county—at Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Frickheim, Kirriemuir and Montrose and all of these centres ran weekly classes as well as social meetings. Teams from the different centres gave demonstrations of Scottish Country Dances to various organisations such as Church Guilds and W.R.I. meetings.

Classes for juveniles and Girl Guides and Boy Scouts were also taught by certificated teachers and teams from these organisations as well as from the Branch competed at Arbroath Musical Festival. At Christmas, mixed teams from Arbroath Centre gave displays of dancing at the Congress of the Educational Institute of Scotland, held in Arbroath. These displays were most enthusiastically received. In August the Branch ran a most successful Dance in connection with Arbroath Pageant Week and was able to help financially the efforts of the Pageant Committee.

ANNAN.—The newly-formed Annan Branch had a most successful first season. An inaugural meeting was held at which Miss M. L. Ross, Glasgow, spoke of the aims and objects of the Society. A class was formed, and under the expert tuition of Miss Stafford we learnt the rudiments and even some of the intricacies of the dances.

A dance was held in March, when we enjoyed dancing with members of the Dumfries and Lockerbie Branches. During the session we attended dances in Dumfries, Lockerbie, Gretna and Longtown. Our grateful thanks are due to Miss Stafford for enabling us to enjoy the delights of Scottish Country Dancing.

Our membership is small as yet, some forty members. But we are looking forward to next session and to an increase in our membership.

AYR.—This Branch has had a most successful season, with a large increase in membership and also in the number of classes held in Ayr and District.

The Education Authority held certificate classes in Ayr and Cumnock. Most of the candidates were successful.

The Ayr Branch held their class in a hotel, making it more of a social evening, which proved a popular innovation.

The Alloway Class is a most enthusiastic one and is attended by several men.

Classes were also held by the Gaelic Society, W.R.I. and other organisations.

A new class was started which was restricted to couples. It proved most successful and was attended by 19 most enthusiastic couples, who were most anxious that the classes would continue through the summer. Many more couples wish to join next session.

The membership of this Branch has increased to 137—nearly double.

NORTH AYRSHIRE.—The North Ayrshire Branch had a very successful season last year. We have now two classes in Kilmarnock and our numbers have greatly increased. We are having a big dance on 2nd December and are looking forward to a very successful winter.

BANFFSHIRE.—Membership 28. This Branch, which was a very active and flourishing one pre-war, ceased to function as a Branch during the war years, by reason of many circumstances, chief of which was lack of hall accommodation in which to hold classes. The interest in Scottish Country Dances did not die with the Branch, however, with the result that for the past three years, the Banffshire Education Authority included Scottish Country Dancing in their Evening Class curriculum and classes were held throughout the whole of Banffshire, all of which were well attended and proved most successful. These large number of classes taxed the few certificated teachers in the County to their limits, so that it was felt something should be done to overcome this difficulty. With this aim in view, Mrs Duncan held a certificate class in Buckie, when after a short course of eight weeks, 18 members sat their first examination and 14 of them gained their first certificate. This again gave a nucleus of members, whereby a meeting was held in Buckie when it was unanimously decided to resuscitate the Branch, and the date of the General Meeting was fixed for August 27th.

We look forward with hope for next season when the Banffshire Branch may once again be a credit to the Society.

BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND.—The total number of members stands at 15 and the average attendance, including visitors, at the classes held last season was 15.

Classes were held weekly until 28th June and will re-commence on 20th September, when it is expected that many more people will join the classes.

A very successful end of season dance was held in June, for which approximately 50 tickets were sold.

In January, members of the Branch gave a demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing at the Arts Theatre, Swindon, and this was very well received.

Since January 1949 the classes have been taught by Miss Betty Brown as Mrs Fraser resigned before leaving for Gibraltar.

BELFAST.—December marked the celebration of ten years of organised Scottish Country Dancing in Belfast. To mark the event we were very fortunate to have Miss Milligan present at an anniversary Birthday Party, and twelve more of our members received from her hands their first certificates.

Due to lack of hall accommodation the Branch membership remains at 65 to 70, but membership of the Society is now practically 100 per cent. It is hoped that in the coming winter the membership will be extended by the formation of further classes.

Two week-end schools were held at "Corrymeela," Ballycastle, and these proved increasingly popular. At the last one we had with us Mr E. T. F. Spence, who is now resident in Belfast, and by whose enthusiasm it is hoped that a very considerable increase in popularity of Scottish Country Dancing will soon be evident in Northern Ireland.

BIRMINGHAM.—Although some of our members have left the district, our membership has increased this year. The weekly class has been well attended which has resulted in a higher standard of dancing. We have had some very successful socials, when members of the Wolverhampton Branch have joined us. Demonstrations have been given at various functions including local Scottish Societies and the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

BLAIR ATHOLL.—Last winter our Branch met again, on Thursday evenings, in the local hall. Our first meeting was on 14th October and we finished on 31st March. During the winter we had several social evenings to which neighbouring clubs were invited, and we, in turn, visited them. The highlight of the season was our annual dance in Blair Castle, on 28th January. Mrs Ballingall was our teacher during the session.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE.—This Branch has had a very successful session. Weekly classes being held at Alloa, Tillicoultry, Dollar and Coalsnaughton. All Classes being well attended and under fully qualified teachers. All held very enjoyable social functions.

At a very successful Branch Dance held in Alloa Town Hall in February, all classes were well represented as well as guests from other neighbouring Branches. The music being supplied by the Stirling Strathspey and Reel Society.

In the Branch there are 68 members of the S.C.D.S. including 4 life members.

In March, a Scottish Country Dance was held in Coalsnaughton, the proceeds of which went to the British Red Cross Society.

DUMFRIES.—During the session just completed, the Dumfries Branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society, has gone from strength to strength. We thought last year that with our membership of over 50 we were a strong Branch, but I would say that with a membership of over 100, we were a stronger branch.

The Branch was well supported by the ladies of the community, but it was to be regretted that more men did not come forward.

The facilities placed at our disposal by the Imperial Restaurant were good, and under the leadership of Mrs Robertson and Mrs McLaren, the Branch flourished. The Class is deeply indebted to these two ladies. To one other lady is also due deep gratitude. I refer to Mrs Millar. Her patience and excellent timing have contributed in no small measure to the success and enjoyment of the class.

Throughout the year two dances were held and each was most successful and showed a profit. The profits of the last dance were forwarded to Headquarters for the Publicity Fund.

Two teams entered for the Festival and each was successful in gaining a certificate, the one team being placed second, and the other fourth in their respective classes.

A certificate class was held and thirteen candidates were successful in gaining their certificates when Miss Milligan took the examination. Their names were submitted to the Further Education Officer, and some of these ladies were now teaching classes.

On the Saturday afternoon a Country Dance Assembly was held and Miss Milligan led the dancing. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

On reviewing the session, I would say that for this Branch of the Society, it has been a most successful one.

DUNDEE.—Membership 520, an increase of almost 200 on last year. Twenty-five of these are life members.

The Dundee Branch has found during the year that in this district the enthusiasm for Country Dancing still continues to grow. All classes have been working at full capacity, with a waiting list of new comers. The Junior Section, formed last year, and conducted by Miss Reid, showed increased numbers and excellent dancing. Miss Latto had the hard task of coping with an enormous class of beginners, while Mrs Hutchison and Miss Robertson were in charge of the advanced section. During the second half of the session certificate classes were formed, to which Mrs Hutchison gave instruction. At the examination held in April, 14 candidates gained certificate I and 8 certificate II.

A sub-section of the Branch was formed in Broughty Ferry, and a mixed class of from 50 to 60 was instructed by Miss Stewart.

The Annual Dance held in Kidd's Rooms was a very happy and popular function. Music for this was provided by Mrs Bird Matthew's broadcasting band.

It is pleasing to note that the high standard of dancing is being maintained throughout the town and country districts. This has been the aim of all certificated teachers supplied by the Branch.

We were invited by the European Pipe Band Association to demonstrate Country Dancing at their open-air Band Contest on 18th June. About 200 dancers took the field—a football pitch—and in the glorious sunshine gave a very spectacular display of eight dances.

Under the auspices of the Branch, a Dundee Scottish Country Dance Club is being formed. This Club will meet weekly in Kidd's Rooms, commencing in October. This, along with our usual classes, gives us a very busy season to look forward to.

DUNFERMLINE.—The membership of this Branch has increased considerably and we are glad to report a most successful season. The present membership is 161 including 4 Life Members. In addition 31 non-members attended the classes.

At the beginning of the session there were two classes (Beginners and Advanced) but in January owing to increase in numbers, a third class had to be arranged. A full attendance was maintained at all the classes throughout the session.

A very enjoyable Dance was held in December last, at which 250 dancers were present, including representatives from other Branches. At the end of the session, in March, we had a Country Dance Party, and this was a very happy evening.

Several of our members attended the Semi-Jubilee Dance held in Jordanhill Training College, Glasgow, and also Dances in Cupar, Kirkcaldy and Leven.

A contribution of £10 was made towards the expenses of the Scottish Team going to the International Folk Music Conference in Venice.

Country Dancing is becoming more and more popular here, and we hope to arrange a Mixed Class next winter, and also for some practice after the weekly lessons.

EDINBURGH.—This Branch can again report a most successful season, the membership having risen to more than 1000 during the year. As can be imagined, the problem of providing accommodation for classes becomes more and more acute, but so far we have been very fortunate. In addition to the regular women's classes, there were four classes for men accompanied by partners, and consequently we were able to have a full-dress double ticket Ball in the Assembly Rooms, attended by one hundred and twenty couples, the full capacity of the hall. We also had a Ladies' Ball in the Assembly Rooms, and one in the Eldorado, where more than four hundred could dance in comfort.

Throughout the summer there has been Scottish Country Dancing in the New Cavendish

Ballroom every Tuesday evening, with music by Tim Wright's Band. Even during the hot weather the ballroom was well filled and the dancing of a reasonably high standard.

Forty-five requests for demonstrations were received during the year and the Branch was always able to supply mixed teams. The most exciting occasion was before the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, again in the Assembly Rooms. The programme included the dance named after their Royal Highnesses, and later in the evening Miss Anderson, Mrs Lesslie and Mr John Robertson had the honour to be presented.

At the B.B.C. semi-jubilee celebrations, teams danced at special broadcasts given by John Robertson and his Country Dance Players, Kemlo Stephen with the B.B.C. Orchestra, Jimmy Shand and his Band. This was the occasion of the first performance and broadcast of the new dance, "Prince Charles of Edinburgh."

A team danced in the Usher Hall at the Highland Reel and Strathspey Society Concert, when the Hebridean Weaving Lilt, done in occupational dress was a most popular item.

During the Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama, demonstrations were given twice weekly in the Festival Club, and also in Princes Street Gardens. For the benefit of the general public and the visitors from abroad, a small Scottish Country Dance was held every week night in the Gartshore Hall, organised by the National Council of Women and supervised by members of the Branch, with music provided by Tim Wright.

As will be seen from this report, the Edinburgh Branch continues to have many excellent opportunities for doing good work for the Society, and no chance is ever missed of showing visitors how really beautiful the dances can be.

FORT WILLIAM.—Session 1948-49 has again been most successful, but owing to lack of suitable accommodation, membership has had to be restricted to 80. Scottish Country Dancing is steadily growing in popularity in the Lochaber District. This year at a Rally, organised by the Inverlochy Class, over 300 Scottish Country Dancers attended representing two Branches and several Further Education Classes, conducted by the four instructresses from the Fort William Branch. Once again, Lochaber is indebted to these ladies for their indefatigable services during the winter months and also to Miss M'Culloch our efficient and most willing Branch pianist.

GLASGOW.—The Social Dance following the Annual General Meeting of the Branch on Thursday, 10th June 1948, opened the new session's activities. Held in Jordanhill Training Centre, it was thought to be the most fitting place and opportunity for Glasgow members and friends to show their appreciation of Miss Milligan's great work for this side of Scottish culture.

In presenting to her a bound volume of all the published books of the Scottish Country Dance Society's collection and a wallet of notes, Mr R. Percy Thomson, the first Honorary Secretary of the Branch, paid tribute to Miss Milligan's boundless enthusiasm and tireless energy, throughout the twenty-five years of the life of the Scottish Country Dance Society, and expressed the hope that this would long continue in full measure.

The year, thus begun, will be remembered as one of the "high lights" in the story of Glasgow Branch.

As the oldest Branch "Glasgow" had claimed and been graciously accorded, the honour of holding the twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebrations.

An Invitation Dance, attended by more than six hundred men and women, representative of the Society, was held in Jordanhill College, when excellent music was provided by the Earnoch Band from Motherwell.

On Saturday, 30th October, before the Annual General Meeting of the Society, specially invited guests, as well as the representatives of the Branches, were entertained to lunch in the North British Station Hotel.

In the afternoon, a company of over 500 Scottish Country Dance members, drawn from all over the British Isles, were the guests of the Lord Provost, Sir Hector M'Neill at a Social Dance in the Banqueting Hall of the City Chambers. On that occasion, Tim Wright and his orchestra supplied the music, which was greatly appreciated.

Demonstrations of the Four Dances published in the autumn were given by Glasgow Branch's Demonstration Team.

The membership of the Branch has again shown a substantial increase—709 Annual Subscriptions have been paid, while there are seven new Life Members.

All the usual classes were held during the winter months. All records of attendance were broken; more men enrolled and in some cases classes had to be split into two sections. Many beginners, who have not yet become members of the Scottish Country Dance Society, attended classes.

The Certificate Classes were well attended, many Teachers' Certificates being gained by men and women. As in previous years, many Teachers' Certificates went to Jordanhill Training Centre men and women students, while students from Miss Adams' Keep-Fit Classes also did well.

Local Festivals have again made a special feature of Scottish Country Dancing. Entries have increased and the standard has been generally good.

The demand for teachers for Youth Organisations and Social Clubs still continues.

The Social Dances held in Woodside Halls, Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School and Jordanhill College were all very popular and most enjoyable. The Committee regrets that all requests for tickets for these could not be met.

Many demonstrations have been given in the city and farther afield.

Glasgow Branch has been honoured by having members of its Demonstration Team selected for the teams which are going to demonstrate in Sweden and in Venice.

Donations have been made towards defraying the expenses of the Demonstration Teams for these very special occasions; to the Thistle Foundation and to Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School Trust Fund.

Once more we look forward! Let us hope the year 1949-50 will be a year of even greater success and increased membership for Glasgow Branch and for the Scottish Country Dance Society.

HAMILTON AND CLYDESDALE.—This year has been a most successful and happy one and again many new dancers have been welcomed to the classes. In this district the enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing seems to be greater than ever and our membership to the Society has increased from 127 ordinary and 6 life members last year, to 307 ordinary and 9 life members this year. All the classes connected with the Branch having helped in this substantial increase, which we hope will go up again next year. More men are gradually coming in to the classes and at Larkhall and Hamilton, classes for mixed couples were started and were most successful. The men, once started, were most enthusiastic and seemed quite tireless.

The social side of Country Dancing has developed strongly here and Balls have become quite a feature of the Branch. Hamilton has two; one at the beginning of the season, in November, and one at the end, in April, at both of which, owing to lack of floor space, tickets are for "Society members only." Then Carluke have their Ball usually around Christmas time. Larkhall held their first Ball early in January with such success that it will now be an annual event.

The Harkness House class at Bellshill also held their first Ball this session and there, too, because of the enthusiasm shown and the marked success of the evening, it is hoped to make it an annual function.

The parties held at Hamilton on the last Wednesday of each month have proved to be very popular and were well attended throughout the season. They are open to all class members and the programme is made suitable to all stages of dancers.

Two certificate classes were held at the end of the session, one at Carluke and one at Hamilton.

At Carluke, 7 candidates were presented for the 2nd certificate and all were successful in gaining it. At Hamilton, 3 were presented for the 2nd certificate and were also successful. Of 8 candidates presented for the 1st certificate, 5 were successful.

INVERNESS AND DISTRICT.—The Branch was reconstituted in February of this year and despite the late start, had a very encouraging season. The majority of our members attended the weekly Dance Class, which was under the capable tuition of Mrs Laird Smith.

On 31st May a Dance was held in the Caledonian Hotel, when we were fortunate in having a Display Team from Fort William. This first big event proved most enjoyable.

The class continued to meet once each month during the summer and whilst the attendances were smaller due to holidays, these meetings proved a good method of keeping members in touch with one another.

The Committee received, with regret, the resignation of the Branch President, Col. Cosmo Edwards, C.I.E., who has left Inverness to take up residence in the south.

A Mixed Team was entered at the Festival, held in Forres on 19th July, and received a very encouraging adjudication from Miss Milligan.

With over one hundred members, the coming session is looked forward to with keen interest and the Committee feel sure that the Branch will soon prove worthy of the Highland Capital.

KIRKCALDY.—The Branch has had a successful season once again. Enthusiasm for Country Dancing has revived and there is a big increase in the number of members.

For the first time the Branch has held a Certificate Class, taught by one of the members. The class was not a large one but the results were very satisfactory.

Classes of an affiliated Club, of Youth Clubs and of Co-operative Guilds have been taught by members.

An enjoyable and successful Dance, at which members were joined by dancers from neighbouring Branches and Country Dance Clubs, was held in February. The number of spectators on this, the first occasion, when we have had facilities to admit them, was almost as big as the number of dancers. Music for the Dance was supplied by Jimmy Shand's Band. Members attended the Social functions of these neighbouring Branches and Clubs.

The usual donation was sent to The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—This Branch of the S.C.D.S. was re-formed in October 1948 and has now a membership of 63. A weekly class was held in Mayfield Private Hotel, Mrs M'Kell being the teacher.

Parties were held at Xmas and Easter, but the event of the year was the visit of Miss Milligan at the week-end of 5th to 7th February. We enjoyed her teaching of our class and marvelled at her M.C.-ing of our Ball—a name to many of our members had become a reality and all hope for her speedy return.

Teams competing at Newton Stewart Festival gained 1st, 1st equal and 2nd equal places.

A Certificate Class was conducted during the summer months and examined by Miss Milligan on 15th June. Fourteen first certificates and one full certificate were gained.

Branch members have done much pioneer work during the year teaching classes in the surrounding villages under the Education Committee.

The Branch feel proud at the selection of Miss Margaret Hornall for the demonstration team for Venice.

Plans for the coming year are well in hand and we hope to go from strength to strength.

LANARK.—Membership 79—two of these Life members. This Branch had a very successful winter, all classes being well attended. A Party was held at Xmas in the Bonnington Hotel, and such a success, that a Ball was held in February in the Memorial Hall, being supported by 230 dancers. Classes were also held under the Education Authority in Biggar, Carwood, Carmichael, Walston and Quothquan. At the close of the season a competition was held in Lanark, organised by the Education Authority. The Lanark team lost the cup by one point, gaining 179 points. Quothquan followed close taking 3rd place. Better luck next time Country Dancers.

LEVEN.—In this, our second year, membership has risen to 157, including 4 Life members. This increase led to the formation of a double weekly class, the first part of the evening being devoted to the teaching of beginners.

Two certificate classes were also run, as a result of which, and after examination by Miss Milligan, several members gained First and Full Certificates.

Mrs Donaldson was again Branch Instructress.

Two Social Dances were held during the winter and Leven Branch members had the pleasure of welcoming dancers from neighbouring Branches and Clubs. A very successful session.

LOCKERBIE.—The Branch met regularly every week for the season. The membership for the year was 58. As in previous years, a team gave demonstrations at W.R.I. meetings in the neighbourhood and at several social functions.

Miss Milligan visited the Branch in May and three members gained certificates, one the 2nd and two 1st.

A Christmas Social was very successful, each member being allowed to bring a friend. At another dance music was supplied by Jimmy Shand and his Band. Tickets were limited to dancers of the various Branches and Country Dance Clubs and to interested spectators.

Two teams, one mixed, competed at the Musical Festival in Dumfries.

The Business Meeting was held in June, and was followed by a short dance for members. Two new dances were taught and greatly enjoyed. Members are looking forward to another successful season, with an increased membership.

LONDON.—London has had a very successful year. The monthly Dances have been so well attended that an extra Summer Dance was arranged and tickets had to be limited.

Demonstrations by the Branch team were given at various Balls in the Home counties, and also at our own monthly dances, where they were greatly appreciated. Three members from London were selected for inclusion in the reserve list of dancers for the International demonstration team.

Owing to the increasing popularity of the classes it has been decided to run six weekly classes next season and our auxiliary teachers are doing good work in Croydon, Chelmsford, Epsom, Gravesend, Norwood, Richmond and Upminster, as well as extra classes in London.

The General meeting was held on 23rd April. Mr Bazalgette our Vice-Chairman has retired after twenty years' service on the Branch Committee, but we are happy to state that he is still taking an interest in the Branch and remaining a member.

We are hoping that Miss Milligan will be able to spare us some of her valuable time for a visit to London next season.

Our membership is approaching 250, including 30 Life members.

Visitors to London are welcome at any of our meetings.

MANCHESTER.—The season commenced on 21st September 1948, when members and friends enjoyed dancing and attended the Annual General Meeting, at which Professor R. A. C. Oliver was unanimously re-elected Branch President.

Classes started in October, on Wednesdays an Advanced Class and on Tuesdays the General Class. Both continued until Easter.

An experiment was made in running four classes for school children on Saturday afternoons. These were so popular that a further course was booked from January to Easter, finishing with a very enjoyable party. A pleasing feature of this course was the number of boys who attended, many of them in kilts. Definite progress was made even amongst the youngest.

There were several social gatherings throughout the season. The Christmas Party, attended by Miss Kitty M'Lauchlan, attracted a larger number than usual, with visitors from Southport, Bolton and Rochdale, as well as from districts nearer Manchester.

Instead of extra classes after Easter, three socials were held :—(1) at Cavendish School, where classes are normally held ; (2) at Broughton High School, kindly arranged by the Headmistress, Dr Wicks, and her helpful staff ; and (3) the end of season party at the College of Domestic Economy. Our thanks are due to the Principal, Miss Weddell, O.B.E., for granting permission to use the hall then and at Christmas time.

Dr Grub with his fiddle adds greatly to the pleasure of our social occasions.

Many times the Secretary has been invited to provide a team to give demonstrations at various functions, but has had regretfully to decline. In June, however, a scratch team of four women in white dresses and tartan sashes and four kilted men gave an excellent performance on the lawn of a private house in Hale Barns, where a local association was holding a rally. The Branch received a fair amount of publicity.

An invitation from the Executive Committee to send forward names of really good dancers to compete for places in the team to go to Venice in September resulted in the Branch sending Mr and Mrs Gibb. Though our representatives were not selected, the Committee was pleased that the Branch should be so well represented. It was realised afterwards that achievements in addition to dancing, *e.g.*, fiddling, piping, singing, etc., would be great assets.

It was agreed not to hold a one-day or week-end school during the session, but to concentrate on a great propaganda drive early in the 1949-50 season. Arrangements are in hand to have the meeting on Saturday evening, 15th October, in the large hall of the College of Technology, by kind permission of the Principal.

MOTHERWELL.—This Branch had a successful session during 1948-49. The classes have been well maintained and the members show a keen interest in Scottish Country Dancing.

NEWTON STEWART.—This Branch reports a very successful session with an increased membership and keen enthusiasm. Two teams were entered for the Dancing Festival in March, at which Miss Milligan adjudicated, one team gaining first equal marks, while the other was placed third equal.

PERTH AND PERTHSHIRE.—During the past season this Branch of the Society had 667 Ordinary and 36 Life members which is an increase of 203 over last year.

Nine classes were held in Perth, running weekly, during the winter months; Friday evening being the only evening that no Society classes were held. On Monday afternoon a class was run for ladies and the same evening two more classes for beginners graduating into the Intermediate at the second term. Tuesday and Thursday evenings were devoted to classes for Club members and these met prior to the Club itself. On Wednesday evening a class for men or men with partners, was started and proved quite a successful innovation. The experiment was well-worth while and we hope this class will increase in numbers and popularity. Following hard upon it was an Advanced class, this class was very much enjoyed and appreciated. On Saturday morning, two more classes—this time for children, one for the over eights and under ten's and the other for the over ten's, were held. All of these were very well attended, showing an enthusiasm which knew no bounds. The teachers are to be congratulated on the success of their session's work.

The Club continues to function in the Salutation Hotel, being well attended by members and their friends. The number of people who wish to gain membership is larger than ever.

The Trophy presented by the Branch in 1934 to the Musical Festival Committee was won for the second year by Lochearnhead, who gave a very pleasing display. The number of dance entries was larger than ever before and Miss Milligan, who adjudicated, had a very busy time.

The Club sponsored a Dance in aid of the local War Memorial Fund and was able to hand over £200 from that effort.

As the Branch have such a large number of very good dancers, it was felt it would be a very difficult matter to send representatives to the Venice trial, but the members feel very proud that one of their number was considered good enough to go forward.

We are much indebted to many members who have run classes in the County and who have furthered the aims of the Society so well in districts where it was not always easy for teacher or pupils to reach the appointed classroom.

PETERHEAD.—During the past session the Peterhead Branch of the S.C.D.S. had 108 ordinary members and 14 life members of the Society.

Two adult classes were held weekly. On Tuesday evenings there was a beginners' class and on Thursday evenings a class for experienced dancers. Both classes were well attended. The three childrens' classes had a total enrolment of 183. The usual displays were held in March, and from these £73, 14s. 6d was handed to charities.

At the Aberdeen S.C.D. Festival the Branch was represented by five teams—three adult and two childrens' teams. The team of children of 8 to 12 years tied for 1st place, and the other teams took very creditable places in the competitions.

Several parties were held by the adult and childrens classes and all were very successful.

Mixed teams have demonstrated at concerts, the Strichen and New Deer Galas, and at the Ellon Youth Rally. A certificate class, with Miss Collie as teacher, was held during the summer term, and at the examination, held in June with Miss Milligan as examiner, all the entrants were successful—five 1st and three full certificates being gained.

RENFREWSHIRE.—This Branch had a most successful year. Membership increasing steadily. The general class, and the new class for couples were both very well attended throughout the session.

The Renfrewshire Musical Festival was revived this year—Scottish Country Dancing being a popular item on the programme.

We now have 96 members and 10 life members.

ROCHDALE.—During 1949 Rochdale members have had a very full year. Once again we had certificate classes, and this always means much hard work for the candidates and other members who willingly give of their time to make up extra sets for teaching practice.

We were very glad to welcome Miss Milligan again and can quite honestly say that this year's course was one of the best we've ever had. Members from the Manchester, Southport and Birmingham Branches joined us for part of the week and the final Party was a tremendous success.

Another very welcome visitor was Miss Collie from Peterhead.

As we meet all the year round (except in school holidays) we should always be glad to welcome visitors from other Branches.

We are looking forward to another good season and take this opportunity of wishing all Scottish Country Dancers much enjoyment during the coming season.

ST. ANDREWS.—This Branch reports another successful season with the membership well maintained. Two Dances were held. At the second of these at which 234 were present, a demonstration was given of a new dance entitled "The St. Andrew's Reel," composed by a local gentleman (Mr J. Y. MacArthur).

SOUTHPORT.—This Branch has concluded a third successful year. The membership roll has risen to 59, and there are signs that it will probably rise further in the next season.

We continue indebted to the Southport Education Committee, under whose auspices we hold our main class; to Mrs Gudger, for her ever welcome monthly coaching visits; and to Miss Elizabeth Peel, our valued pianist, who has given us generously of her time and skill outside paid class hours.

We have now two members with the full teacher's certificate and four with the first certificate. A further member, who took the first certificate at St. Andrews last year, has gone to Australia and we await news that she is using it out there.

Six members are to be in residence at the Summer School, some of them for certificate work.

During this past season there have been increased requests for the Branch to send a team to various gatherings. These have been met on nine occasions, including a talk and demonstration to the Southport Arts Club.

During the year we have had social contact with the Manchester and Rochdale Branches of the Society. At Rochdale we had the pleasure of meeting Miss Milligan again.

STIRLINGSHIRE.—This Branch had an interesting and busy year.

A number of members attended the enjoyable functions given by the Glasgow Branch to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Society. It was delightful to see the Co-Founders looking so well, and as full of fun as they were twenty-five years ago.

In December, this Branch held a Ball in the Albert Hall, Stirling, to celebrate its 21st Birthday. It was a very popular and successful evening. The proceeds were in aid of the Y.M.C.A. Huts Fund, to which we sent £40. The Stirlingshire Strathspey and Reel Society Orchestra supplied the music at the Ball and at two enjoyable social dances, held at the finish of our season.

During the winter six weekly classes were held in Stirling (one was so large it had to be run in two parts!) and five in country districts, all taken by our own certificated teachers. Our Demonstration Teams had a busy time, being greatly in demand. A Certificate Class was held in April. All members passed their examination with full marks.

We now have a membership of 218.

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE.—Session 1948-49 proved to be highly successful. The number of full members now stands at 106, double that of the previous year. Three classes were held on Monday evenings with an average attendance of 75 at each class. A class was also held on Tuesday evenings. As the membership is now so large, two classes were held at the end of each term to accommodate all the dancers.

A party of young people visiting Quimper, under the auspices of the Falkirk Quimper Fellowship Association, were trained in Scottish Country Dancing by Mrs Peatfield, Branch Instructress, and Mrs Hutcheson. Led by Piper McLachlan, these young folks performed several dances at a Festival during their visit to Quimper. On the return visit of a party of French young people, a Country Dance was arranged by the Branch for their entertainment. The evening was not far gone before our French friends were joining in the reels and strathspeys with evident delight.

STOCKPORT.—The 1948-49 series of classes was the first to be held since the formation of the Branch in the summer of 1948, and from every point of view can be regarded as very successful.

Classes were held throughout the winter months and the average attendance was over 30, whilst more than 60 attended the final Social and Dance.

STONEHAVEN.—The first year of this Branch, which was formed in September last year, has been a most successful one. There are now 91 members, two being life members.

Two classes were held weekly, one advanced class and one general class. The classes were very well attended and both sessions ended with a Joint Party. A team was entered for the Aberdeen Festival and gained 87 per cent.

A certificate class was held and Miss Milligan came to Stonehaven for the examination. Five members received their first certificate.

Our first Annual Ball was held in April, parties coming from the surrounding branches and classes. Two hundred and ten dancers attended this Ball.

Members from Stonehaven were present at functions in Aberdeen, Peterhead, and Laurencekirk, all of which they enjoyed very much.

WEST LOTHIAN.—Branch membership still continues to increase. We now have 7 Life Members and 76 Ordinary Members.

Very successful classes were held throughout the year in Bo'ness, Bathgate and Broxburn. Bo'ness adult class enjoyed two visits from Miss Richardson, Edinburgh, who specialised in technique. A very successful and enjoyable dance was held in Bo'ness Town Hall in October. Members of neighbouring Branches attended. Proceeds amounting to £30, were handed over to Trefoil School for physically handicapped children. Dances were also held in Broxburn and Lindsay High School, Bathgate, and class parties were held at the end of each term.

The Branch has had the honour of having one of their members, Miss Margaret A. C. Moir, Bo'ness, chosen as a member of the team to dance at the International Folk Music and Dance Conference in Venice.

Several members attended Summer School and two were successful in gaining their first certificate.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Our winter session terminated in a Visitors' Night on 2nd April, at which we introduced Scottish Country Dancing to our English guests with varying success. We held a short summer course lasting till the end of May, during which we put on a programme of dances at the South Staffordshire Technical Institute for the benefit of the music students there, which was greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward this coming winter to making contact with other groups of dancers in the district.

Affiliated Groups.

AIRDRIE.—The session 1948-49 proved to be as popular as former years. The Club is still holding its own despite the fact that more classes have started up in Airdrie under the Education Authority, to meet the present demand for Scottish Country Dancing. The Club held two very successful functions during the session—a Christmas Party for members only and a Closing Dance open to members and friends.

ALBURNE KNOWE.—During the session 1948-49, the Alburne Knowe Scottish Country Dancing Club began its career as a Club with 25 members (approximately) meeting regularly once a fortnight.

Members attended Scottish Country Dances during the winter at Cupar, Kirkcaldy, Leslie, Leven and Milton of Balgonie, all of which they greatly enjoyed.

On 6th April the Club arranged a very successful informal dance in a small hall at Rothes, Markinch, to raise funds for the purchase of gramophone records.

On the evening of 7th June, over 30 members and friends drove to Glenfarg, where they had supper at the Lomond Hotel, followed by a short dance, which both performers and onlookers enjoyed very much.

On 13th August, members have been invited to give a display of Country Dancing at the opening of Miss Russell's gardens to the public, at Alburne Knowe.

ABERNETHY.—The Club had a very successful first season. Classes were held weekly in conjunction with the Continuation Classes and these were well attended. Two dances and two social evenings were held. The dances were well supported by neighbouring clubs, but the social evenings were confined to members and friends. The Club is holding monthly meetings during the summer.

AMERSHAM AND DISTRICT SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—During the year ended 28th February 1949, the Amersham and District Scottish Association, held several functions including a Hallowe'en Party and Dance and their Annual Dinner and Dance. At both these functions numerous Scottish Dances were enjoyed by those present. At the Annual Dinner and Dance, Pipe Major Findlater played for the Reels, etc.

A Summer Dance was held in June, when the members and their friends enjoyed dancing on the lawn. It was a glorious summer evening, quite dry underfoot and the lawn was excellent for the Eightsome Reel, Gay Gordons, Strip the Willow, etc., all danced to music by the Pipe Major.

The members have become so enthusiastic that it has been decided to start a Reel Club in the autumn.

ANGUS.—Born in its Mother's twenty-fifth year, this Country Dance Baby is doing well. Not yet a year old, its sole aim in life is to set and maintain a high standard of dancing. Towards that aim it is assisted by Mrs Winifred Bird Matthew (who is official accompanist) and members of her broadcasting band. At the Club's first Annual Ball in February, representatives of the S.C.D.S. Branches and Clubs in the area were present. In March the Club entertained parties from branches and clubs throughout the counties of Fife, Perth and Angus at its first County Ball. A new square dance—to the tune "Miss Jean Milligan," to whom dance and music is dedicated—was demonstrated and was very well received. Music for this dance, "The Angus Reel," devised by the Club Secretary, Mr Angus Macnaughton, was written by Mrs Matthew. The Club meets in the private ballroom of a former city mansion and is limited by space to seventy members. There is a big waiting list and the standard demanded is becoming increasingly higher.

BRIDGE OF ALLAN.—The Club started the session in September, with a membership of over 40. The Club had many enjoyable evenings. The closing night was held in Museum Hall, when there was a large attendance from neighbouring clubs.

BURNSIDE.—This Circle has had a very successful third season. We held a Dance in March and could have sold double the number of tickets if we had had the accommodation.

CALEDONIAN SOCIETY, COLOMBO.—Scottish Country Dancing Classes, run under the auspices of the Caledonian Society, re-commenced at the beginning of June, after a recess for the hot weather. At the re-commencement renewed interest was shown in Country Dancing and an attendance of 50 to 60 was maintained. Two Ceilidhs were held, one in June and one in July; the June attendance was 103 and the July attendance 93, which is very gratifying.

We are looking forward to a successful Ball on St. Andrew's Night, when we hope to have many of the 400 who will be present on the floor doing these Scottish Country Dances. During the month beforehand we expect, as in past years, to have more than 100 persons attending the weekly practice. Practices have been started Up-country, where they are getting an attendance of 40 each week, which is highly satisfactory.

COMUNN DANNSAIDH AN OBAIN.—This Society had a most successful and enjoyable session. The membership rose to 47, and the attendance was well maintained throughout the season.

The enthusiasm was very keen, and on one occasion we travelled as far as Killin to attend a Rally held there.

COMRIE.—The Club opened the session with a Dinner Dance and thereafter attended the Country Dancing class arranged by the Education Committee. During the season two Rallies were held at which various clubs from the surrounding district were present. Music on these occasions was supplied by Perth Reel and Strathspey Orchestra and Jim Cameron's Bands respectively.

The Comrie Club paid visits to St. Fillan's, Crieff, Aberfeldy and Perth, and a special feature of the year was an exhibition of a 32-some reel by our members at a dance held by the Comrie Improvement Association, the music being supplied by Tim Wright and his B.B.C. Band.

A new venture was a Summer Outing held at the end of June. It took the form of an evening run with dinner at Pitlochry and as the night was ideal, the run and scenery was very much enjoyed and very successful.

CRIEFF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.—The Club re-opened in October with a membership of 54. The attendance during the session was very satisfactory.

Joint meetings were held with many other Clubs in Central Perthshire, including Perth, Bridge of Allan, Auchterarder, Aberfeldy, Comrie, and Muthill.

At present the meetings are held in the Unionist Club Hall, but the premises have only a limited capacity, nevertheless the Club entertained many other Perthshire Dance Clubs in the Masonic Hall, Crieff, during the session.

CUMBRAE.—The Cumbrae Country Dance Club has now been in existence for two seasons, which have both been very successful. Dances covered included Scottish Country Dances, such as Strip the Willow, Call o' the Pipes, etc., also Sequence Dances such as Empress Tango, Windsor Waltz, etc. We have a membership of well over 100 and look forward to another good season from October till March, when we hope to introduce Lancers, the reel of the 51st Division, etc., to a larger number of members.

DUNBLANE.—Our Country Dance Class had a very successful session, with a membership of over 40. The class organised two dances for charities and visited neighbouring clubs at their social evenings.

EASSIE AND NEVAY S.C.D. CLASS.—Classes were held from January to April and were well attended. A team entered for a W.R.I. Competition at Forfar and were pleased with the marks received as only two of the members had danced in a competition before. The class is well represented by men.

FARELF SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS (SINGAPORE).—This group of Scottish Country Dancers, in an interesting letter from the Secretary, tells of the keen interest displayed by the local Chinese, the dancing being surprisingly efficient. A girls' school has regular practices and, at a recent Sports Day, gave a very good performance of the "Eightsome Reel," followed by the "Earl of Home's Strathspey," the music being supplied by a piper of the Seaforths. A very good mixed class has been held with about ten Scots and twenty Chinese.

INVERGOWRIE.—This Club which was started in 1946, has again completed another very successful and enjoyable session.

There is a membership of about 60—limited only by the size of the hall—of which, half of that number are men. Much credit is due to the teacher, Miss Jean Davidson who has given so unstintingly of her time, and who has done so much to create that happy atmosphere so essential to the running of a successful club.

The Annual Dance was held in Gray's Rooms, Dundee, in March, at which representatives from Dundee, Monifieth, Longforgan, Coupar Angus and Perth were present. Music was supplied by Reid's Band.

KILMARTIN.—This Club, for various reasons, was unable to begin the winter session until the third week of January 1949. Once started, Country Dancing proved a popular innovation, and the average attendance of forty each night was quite remarkable in a scattered country district.

The thanks of the Club are due to Mrs Matheson, who instructed, and Mrs McInnes, who accompanied on the piano. Both these ladies came voluntarily from Lochgilphead at their own expense, and their kindness was very much appreciated.

It is hoped to renew these activities in October.

KIPPEN.—A very happy session was spent by the Group. Three successful dances were held in the village for charity, and throughout the session the Group attended many dances in the surrounding countryside. The teacher, Mr Charles Smith, leaves in August for Australia. Best wishes for his success and prosperity go with him.

KIRRIEMUIR SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.—This Club was formed at the end of September 1947 and on 7th October 1949 began its third season. The Club meets every Friday evening until April, dancing from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

During the past season one function was held. This took the form of a Scottish Country Dance in Kirriemuir Town Hall; parties came from all over Angus and Perthshire and from Dundee. Members of the Club attended dances in all parts of Angus, Perthshire and Dundee. At the moment there are 70 Club members; this is as many as the hall at our disposal will take for dancing, therefore we have a lengthy waiting list.

LEAMINGTON AND WARWICK CALEDONIAN SOCIETY S.C.D. CLASS.—During the year the Executive Council of the above Society approached the Warwickshire Educational Authorities with the object in view of having a class for Scottish Country Dancing included in their Syllabus for this season. The result of these consultations proved successful, and we now have a class meeting regularly once a week during the winter months. These classes have been most instructive and have been very well attended during the year. It has also been noted that some of our local schools have introduced Scottish Country Dancing to some of the older pupils. We feel that this is a big step forward in encouraging our national dances in the heart of Merrie England.

I would like to draw the attention to all Scottish Societies and Scottish Country Dancing Classes, in the Midlands of England to our Scottish Country Dancing Competition, which was held under the Royal Leamington Spa Musical Festival in June last. This year, which was our first, attracted no fewer than ten competitors from the various Societies, and these included Birmingham, Oxford, Rugby, Stratford on Avon, and Bournville and various others. We would therefore extend to all lovers of Scottish Country Dancing to make this an annual event, and come and compete for a shield which we hope to put up next year.

This year the competition proved one of the outstanding events in the Dancing Festival, with the result that those concerned are contemplating hiring one of the largest dancing halls in the district for next year. I would, therefore, ask all who are interested to book Saturday, 24th June 1950 and come to Leamington, or better still, bring over a team to compete in the competition. I will be glad to give any information to any club or society regarding this event, and all enquiries etc. should be sent to me—A. J. INGLIS, 2 Avondale Road, Leamington Spa.

LESLIE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.—This Club had a very successful season. Many Dances in the district were attended and, for most members, the season proved to be the most enjoyable, if the most strenuous since the Club's inception.

Several late nights were held in our own hall and on each occasion a new dance was demonstrated by a team of Club members. These dances included "The Weaving Lilt" and "The Shepherd's Crook."

The Annual Summer Outing this year went by Lochearnhead and Dalmally to Inverary, returning by Gareloch, Helensburgh and Alexandria. The weather was on its best behaviour and a most enjoyable day was spent.

LEUCHARS W.R. INSTITUTE.—This Group reports a successful session. Demonstrations were held, also Social Evenings, in surrounding districts as well as a Social Evening to end the classes.

PITLOCHRY SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.—This Club was resuscitated in August 1948. During the session three Practice Dances were held in the Pitlochry Hydro Hotel and a Ball in Fisher's Hotel in March 1949. Forty new members were enrolled during the session. Membership, 92.

PORT WILLIAM COUNTRY DANCING CLASS.—The class was formed in the autumn of 1948 and during the session was well attended by an enthusiastic group. We had 46 members and hope during the next winter to have many more. The class ran from the beginning of October till the end of February, with an intensive month during March, when teams were coached for the Festival in Newton-Stewart. At Christmas we had a very jolly party, and in January we spent a very happy evening as the guests of the Newton-Stewart Club. In February we went to Wigtown to join the Wigtown Class in its Open Night, and then as a finish to our own class, we had the Newton-Stewart and Wigtown Clubs as our guests in Port William.

This evening was a great success and we hope, when the Club re-opens, to have many of our spectators as members. During our Open Night, the electricity failed, but candles were soon produced and the programme carried on to a successful close. Our session was a particularly successful one in that we met and danced with clubs from other parts of the country and in this way helped to do what the Society aims at, namely, to foster the spirit of friendship and social dancing.

PRESTWICK SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.—The Club had a most successful season, with an increase in membership, both for adults and juniors.

The Annual Dance, held in the Town Hall, was as popular as ever, and the Monthly Socials keep the members together during the summer.

RICHMOND (SURREY) CALEDONIAN SOCIETY.—The Society completed a most successful season in July last with an informal Social for its dancing members. When one thinks of the heat-wave which prevailed at that time, it will be appreciated that an attendance of about 70 persons to participate in Scottish Country Dancing is evidence enough of the interest which is maintained in this feature of the Society's activities.

The Society is fortunate in having a team of voluntary instructors, who give of their time and experience to guide wavering feet in the intricacies of the many dances and all of us are looking forward to the new session which commences early in October. Throughout the coming months it is intended to have a number of Dances with demonstrations of particular interest to Scots, also a Caledonian Ball and a Union of the Crowns Dinner and Dance, functions now regarded locally as of outstanding merit.

Mr R. P. Wilson, Honorary Secretary, 23 Clifden Road, Twickenham, will be pleased to answer enquiries from any persons interested, who may live in the neighbourhood of Richmond and Twickenham and who may be missing the pleasure of membership of a Scottish Society.

ROTHES OLD TIME DANCE CLUB.—The season closed as it began, in a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere, despite a slight drop in membership, which now stands at fifty-one. The fact that twenty-five per cent. of our membership are men is a very gratifying feature of our Club.

Under the patient and tactful guidance of our very popular teacher, Miss Arnott, Kirkcaldy, our standard continues to improve (we hope) and our field to widen.

At Christmas and at the conclusion of the season, special Late Dances were held, these taking the form of dance-cum-party. These were very much enjoyed as was the Annual Dance of the combined Leslie Clubs, when the excellence of Jimmy Shand's band made dancing "nae bother at a'."

R.A.F. OFFICERS S.C.D. SOCIETY OF SELETAR, SINGAPORE.—Reports from this new affiliation, tell of keen enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing. The tuition is under the expert leadership of one of our members, S/Ldr. D. J. T. Henderson, who took an active part in this country, and since going overseas has taught in Iraq, India, West Africa and Malaya. He hopes to be at the Summer School in 1950.

SHANGHAI REEL CLUB.—The Club has had a most successful season during which two-hour practices have been held twice a week, except for a short spell over the Christmas season. Attendance averaged about fifty members each practice, but our total membership for the season would be over a hundred. In a Port like this, people come and go, especially during these troublesome times.

Earlier in the season, we had the benefit of an enthusiastic Piper, but unfortunately he was transferred some time before Christmas. However, we managed well with the gramophone and also waltz music on the piano played by Mr L. Denham, our Vice-President. Our President, Mr W. Logan, was to have brought us a fine selection of new records when he returned in December. Unfortunately that part of his luggage containing the records was diverted to Canada with his wife and family when they were unable to come here owing to the serious situation. We continue to make good use of a small selection of used records.

On two occasions we held informal evenings, with a light supper, in the gymnasium of The Shanghai British School, where we hold our practices, when nominally only Club members were present and only Reels and Country Dances were danced. On the 30th March, however, we held our End-of-Season Dance in the Ballroom of the Country Club when about 150 persons were present. It was a most successful evening.

THE SCOTS' SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW, SLOUGH AND DISTRICT S.C.D. CLASSES.—These classes have again been most successfully organised. A large part of the Society's programme for the year, which ended on 31st March 1949, was devoted to the promotion of Scottish Country Dancing, and as in former years there were two sessions, each consisting of five classes of two and a half hours' duration.

It is pleasing to record that the classes are gaining in popularity, as can be seen from the numbers taking part. Since their revival three years ago the membership roll has increased from 30 to almost 90, and this latter figure could have been exceeded had it not been for the announced decision to limit the classes to this number.

Many new dances were taught during the year, and it is hoped to popularise these by including them in the programmes of the major functions.

In thanking all those who helped to make the classes a success, special thanks were given to Miss J. Ferguson, M.R.A.D. (Adv.), I.S.T.D. (S.B.), whose handling of the classes was greatly admired and appreciated by all.

SOUTHAMPTON SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION.—The Annual General Meeting on 10th May concluded another successful season of the Scottish Association.

The membership has increased to over 300 and the fortnightly meetings have an average attendance of 180. The practising of Scottish Country Dancing is still one of the highlights, and this season the members have mastered "The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh," "The Glasgow Highlanders" and "The Dundee Reel."

The Tartan Ball in Eastleigh Town Hall was considered one of the finest ever held there. The ladies resplendent in their Clan Tartan Sashes, with Clan Crests, made a very pretty picture as they proceeded in formation down the ballroom, headed by the pipers, afterwards forming up for the "Eightsome Reel."

For the new season which commences on 13th September, arrangements have been made for additional practice nights for more Country Dancing; this being the request of the members.

STEWARTRY (OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT) S.C.D. ASSOCIATION.—This Group was formed in November 1948, in order to bring together the many scattered classes in the county, with a view to keeping them in touch with each other and with the Scottish Country Dance Society.

From the outset, under the Honorary Presidency of the Countess of Galloway, with Lady McCulloch and General Aymer Maxwell as Honorary Vice-Presidents, it was a great success. Thirty-five classes or groups became members and all showed a great interest in all the activities of the Association. At the very first dance held after the inaugural meeting in Castle Douglas, there were 100 present.

In February, in honour of Miss Milligan's visit to Kirkcudbright to open the new Branch of the Society there, another dance was held in the Cochrane Memorial Gymnasium, at which Miss Milligan kindly acted as M.C. and her introductions to each of the dances were very much appreciated. Although it was decided to allow 300 dancers the demand for tickets was so great that about 200 were disappointed and could not obtain them. In the afternoon all the teachers in the county were asked to a special session at which Miss Milligan kindly taught some new dances to the many who attended.

Another dance was held in March in Dalbeattie and although this dance was restricted to groups around Dalbeattie, the demand for tickets was again so great that only a proportion could be allotted.

For each of these dances the music was supplied by a new band, under the leadership of Mr George Haugh and got together for the Association, and the music got "better and better" at each dance and was greatly enjoyed.

At a dance, held later in Castle Douglas by the Mixed Class there, demonstrations were given by a Mixed Team from the Association.

Quite a number of teams from the county competed in the Festivals at Newton Stewart and Dumfries and they did well.

Under the auspices of the Association a Teacher's Certificate Class was taken in Castle Douglas by Miss Dougan of Shawhead, and 13 passed the first half of the Certificate, while one (the only entrant) gained the full Certificate.

Altogether it was a very successful and encouraging start to the venture and everyone looks forward to the new session, when it is hoped there will be an even larger membership and still more teachers become qualified to instruct the large number of enthusiasts (already somewhere in the region of 1,000) in the county.

TAYNUILT SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CLUB.—This Club had quite a successful winter session. Our membership is about 80 and the number of young men and boys who attend is gratifying. Everyone enjoys themselves and we have learned a number of Country Dances.

Everyone was so keen that we met from time to time during the summer to keep up the good work.

TAYSIDE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB.—During the past year this Dance Club has had 79 members, and the attendances at the weekly classes have been exceptionally good.

In December, a most happy and successful dance was held in the Blyth Hall, to which members of various clubs in the surrounding district and Dundee were welcomed.

At Christmas we lost the services of Miss F. Rose, our pianist, who had been with

the Club since it restarted. She has left the district and we wish her every happiness in her new home. Her place has been filled by one of our own members, Mr J. Moncur.

After the Annual General Meeting in March, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Hutchison from the Dundee Branch, who gave a most fascinating talk on the origin of the Scottish Country Dance Society and its progress and activities since its inception, in which our members were most interested.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP TO SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.

Annual Subscription - - - - - 5/-

Life Membership Subscription - - - - - £3. 3/- or

£2, 10/- to those who have paid their annual subscription for four years.

Those who have paid their annual subscription for ten years may become Life Members on payment of £1, 10/-.

Secretary—Miss HADDEN, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12.

Treasurer—Miss J. W. McLELLAN, Parkend, Galston, Ayrshire.

