

The Scottish County Dance Society Bulletin.

No. 17.

October 1940.

Editorial.

IT is now more than a year since war was declared, and although the activities of the Society have been greatly handicapped by war-time conditions, the work of the Society goes on, and the dances which have been collected in past years continue to be as popular as ever.

Certainly the classes organized by the various branches of the Society have decreased in number, largely owing to the black-out and the difficulty of getting halls. On the other hand, under rather more informal conditions, Scottish Country Dances are being taught to sailors, soldiers, and airmen, not only of our own Forces, but also to the men from other countries. Polish and French soldiers have been amongst those who have shown great appreciation of our music and dances. It would be a good plan if, wherever possible, dances could be arranged by our Society for these men, who are visitors to our country. Many of them are very eager to learn our dances, and our members would be equally keen to learn the national dances of other lands, so perhaps on these occasions we could have an exchange of ideas. At a time when there is so much destruction and horror in the world, it is surely a duty of a Society such as ours to keep alive dances and music which bring gaiety and happiness to so many.

Even if we have to carry on now in more restricted and less pleasant conditions, we must try to go on knowing that what we are doing is worth while. Many of us who have a knowledge of the dances, may be able to do quite a pleasant bit of war work by passing on what we know to those who are engaged in various forms of national service.

Requests very often come in from A.R.P. First Aid Posts, from groups of W.R.N.S., A.T.S., and W.A.A.F. for a teacher of Scottish Country Dancing. Teachers are already doing a great deal of work of this kind, and it is being keenly appreciated. It is not possible to state where all the classes are being held, but if there is such an opportunity in your district, and you have the knowledge and a little spare time, please do what you can to help.

In out of the way places particularly, the men and women of our Forces may suffer from boredom—Scottish Country Dancing is an excellent cure.

From the various reports received it is known that Branch Secretaries are doing all they can to stimulate interest and to carry on the activities of the Society. In many places classes have been started again, and dances and parties are being arranged to help war-time charities. Already quite a large sum has been handed over to various local Red Cross funds as a result of dances and displays held during the year.

The ordinary work still goes on. Examination classes have been conducted and examinations for Teachers' Certificates were held at the following centres:—Aberdeen, Ayr, Birmingham, Glasgow and St. Andrews. There were 41 successful candidates in Certificate I., 48 for Certificate II., and 8 failures. The number of men that gained a Certificate this year was 19.

Scottish Country Dancing was again a feature on the programme at Musical Festivals, and from the reports received, the standard of the dancing was good.

It was with great regret that the Committee decided to cancel the Annual Summer School at St. Andrews. At that time the international situation was specially grave, and they felt that it was the wisest course to follow. When more settled and happier times come, the Summer School will certainly go on.

Statement of Receipts and Payments

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at 30th September 1939 - - - - -		£912 10 2
 SUBSCRIPTIONS—		
Received at Branches - - - - -	£271 11 0	
Received at Headquarters - - - - -	<u>35 1 0</u>	306 12 0
 ROYALTIES*—		
Gramophone Records and Broadcasting Fees - - - - -		59 0 4
Sale of Dance Books and Leaflets - - - - -		32 3 4
Sale of Gramophone Records - - - - -		8 6 7
Anonymous Donation - - - - -		1 0 0
 REPAYMENT OF GRANT—		
Glenkens Branch - - - - -		5 0 0
Discount received - - - - -		0 19 9
Income Tax Repayment (two years) - - - - -		4 4 7
 INTEREST—		
County Council of Lanark Loan - - - - -	3 15 1	
Savings Account and Deposit Receipt - - - - -	<u>7 4 9</u>	10 19 10
		<u>£1340 16 7</u>

* No Royalties on Dance Books have yet been received for above year.

The following articles are the property of the Society :—3 Typewriters, 2 Portable Gramophones, 2 Writing Desks, Music Cabinet, Filing Cabinet, 2 Chests of Drawers, and Sundry Books of Music.

for year ended 30th September 1940.

PAYMENTS.

Cost of Scottish Country Dance Books (1-5) - - - - -	£7 6 6
Cost of New Book of twenty-four Dances - - - - -	60 12 6
Cost of Dance Leaflets - - - - -	16 16 0
Printing October and March Bulletins - - - - -	25 19 3
Cost of Gramophone Records - - - - -	6 6 3
Bound Volume of Dances to H.M. the Queen - - - - -	16 4 10
Teachers' Examination Fees and Organising Expenses - - - - -	27 0 6
Travelling - - - - -	12 3 5
Secretary—Salary and Office Expenses - - - - -	183 16 0
Treasurer—Honorarium and Bonus - - - - -	87 0 0
Printing, Stationery and Advertising - - - - -	17 0 1
Insurance - - - - -	6 9 0
Postages, Telephones, etc. - - - - -	36 13 9

BALANCE—

County Council of Lanark Loan - - - - -	£250 0 0	
Loan to Government (free of interest) - - - - -	250 0 0	
British Linen Bank—Savings Account - - - - -	300 0 0	
Do. do. Current Account - - - - -	31 13 8	
Petty Cash (in hands of Secretary and Treasurer) - - - - -	5 14 10	
		837 8 6
		<u>£1340 16 7</u>

R. T. TERRAS, Treasurer.
The British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire.

23 BARNES STREET, AYR, 10th October 1940.—I have examined the foregoing Statement with the Books, Accounts, and Vouchers relating thereto, and certify it to be correct.

PETER LYLE, C.A., Auditor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Many letters have come in from members of our Forces, but as paper is still a very precious commodity, they unfortunately cannot all be printed. It was thought that members would be interested in the following letter sent to Miss Milligan by a former student at Jordanhill Training College, showing as it does such a very alive and keen interest in our Scottish Country Dances, even amidst the stress and turmoil of war.

" . . . In the intervals between spasmodic dashes into air raid shelters, you may turn your thoughts back to happy days at Jordanhill (when her cloisters resounded not to the tread of ammunition boots, but to the light tap of the Highland slipper), particularly to the year 1938-39 and the post-graduate class, sometime referred to as the 'Awkward Squad.' The members of the same squad are now somewhat scattered, and this one in particular has had to trip the light fantastic in most of the counties of S. England and East Anglia, not to mention a short session in France, when we 'advanced and retired,' went 'down the middle' of France and up again, practising the 'running step' *ad nauseam*. Aye, even then I thank you for my flexible ankles as I 'reeled in threes' with the platoon along the lanes of France and I was most thankful when we finally 'cast off' and turned corners for home.

" Well, after this long preamble, I become a voice crying in the wilderness—'Come over and help us,' or words to that effect. In the midst of the strife of war, I have been asked to start a country dancing class in the Battalion, and my books (yes, I had them) repose in some ditch in France. Could you out of the kindness of your heart send me what literature you consider necessary for beginners—steps, simple dances, etc., also the instructions for Sword Dance and 'Seann Truibhas,' 'Highland Fling'?"

" A tall order, and please also the account, for I propose to keep the books (with your permission). I shall be glad also of news of your classes and your *team*, and your many activities in connection with the Association. . . ."

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF OFFICE-BEARERS

Executive Council.

Chairman—Mrs HAMILTON MEIKLE, Brankstone, Bogside, Alloa.
Vice-Chairman—LORD JAMES STEWART MURRAY, Easter Moncrieffe, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire.
Mrs STEWART, of Fasnacloich, Camserney Cottage, Aberfeldy, Perthshire.
Miss A. ANDERSON, 16 Warriston Crescent, Edinburgh.
Mrs BRUCE, 5 Rubislaw Place, Aberdeen.
Miss M. M. DOW, Training College, Dundee.
Mr J. DRUMMOND, Lynwood, 83 Craigmock Avenue, Edinburgh.
Miss JEAN MILLIGAN, 22 Ro'burgh Street, Glasgow, W.2.
Hon. E. FORFES-SEMPILL, Fintry House, Aberdeenshire.
REPRESENTATIVES OF BRANCHES.
Secretary—Mrs M. K. BROWN, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12.
Treasurer—Mr R. T. TERRAS, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire.

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 for ten years may become Life Members on payment of £1, 10/-.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS.

It will be seen from the Balance Sheet that subscriptions from Members have greatly decreased. Last year £563, 2s. 5d. was received in subscriptions, while this year the sum is £306, 12s., making a difference of £256, 10s. 5d. It is realized that Members have many other claims, but it is hoped that they will see their way to give their Annual Subscription of 5s. to the Society.

SUBSCRIPTION COPY OF DANCE BOOK.

It has been decided that as there is no new publication ready this year, members are being asked to choose a copy of one of the existing books on payment of their Annual Subscription. The choice can be made from Books 1 to 12, 24 Favourite Scottish Country Dances and Pocket Editions—(Books 1-3; Books 4, 5 and 6; Books 7 and 8; and Books 9, 10 and 11).

Will Life Members please notify Mrs M. K. Brown, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12, regarding the book required? Will Branch members please notify their own Branch Secretary who can send the list to Headquarters? Members by helping in this way will help to keep down postal expenses.

GRAMOPHONE RECORDS.

Members are reminded that Gramophone Records (price 3/-) should be ordered either from Miss J. MILLIGAN, 22 Ro'burgh Street, Glasgow, W.2, or from the Treasurer, Mr Terras, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire.