

The
Scottish Country
Dance Society
Bulletin.

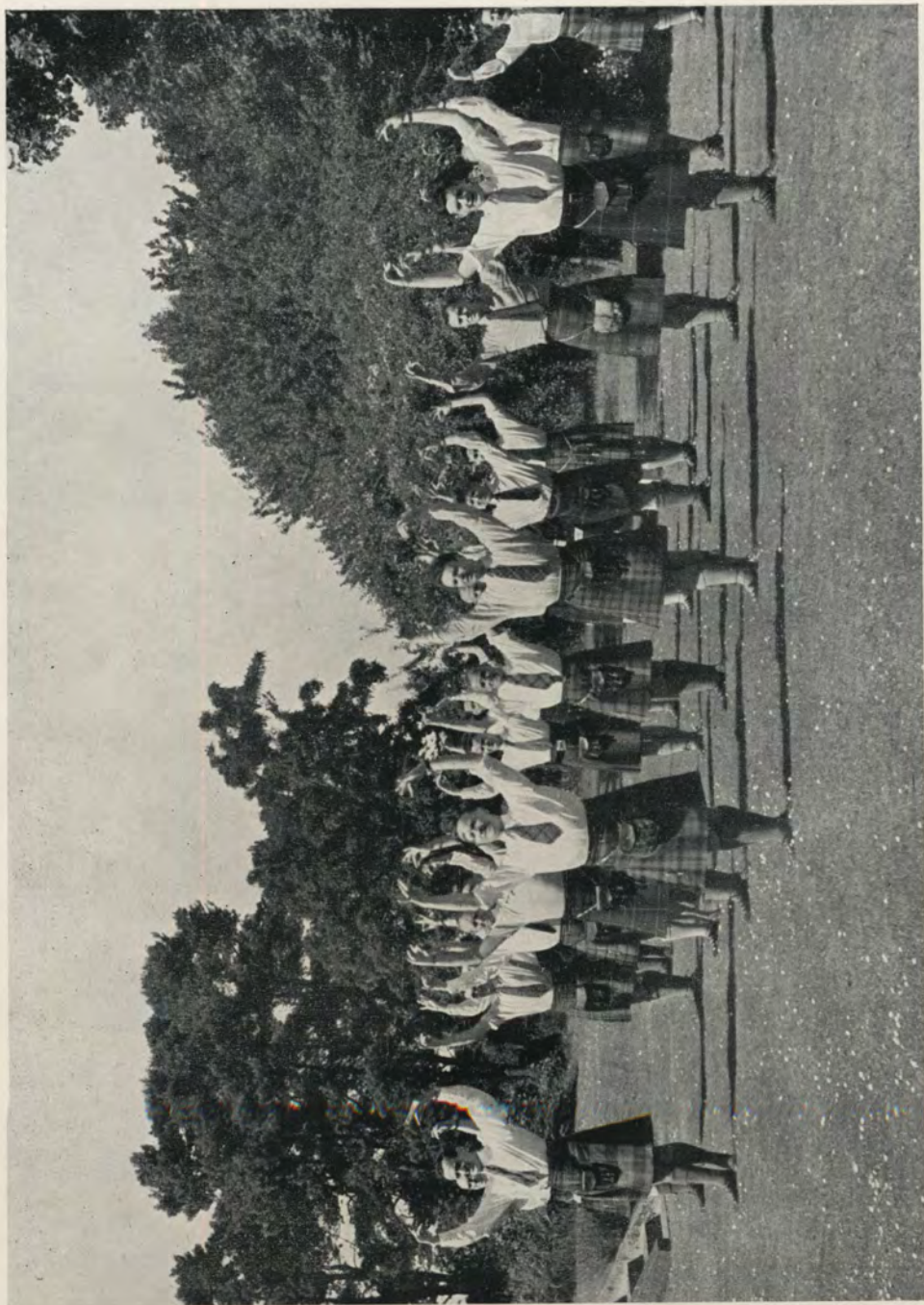
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OCTOBER 1951.



[By Courtesy of G. M. Cowie, St. Andrews]

At the Summer School, St. Andrews, 1951.



[By Courtesy of G. M. Conie, St. Andrews

Men's Highland Class at the Summer School, St. Andrews, 1951.

The Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin

No. 29.

October 1951

Annual Report

THE year has been an extremely active one for the Scottish Country Dance Society. An increase of membership to Branches well established throughout Britain and the formation of new Branches have combined to give the Society an unprecedented vitality. Attendance at meetings, classes, dances, festivals, autumn and summer schools have shown a vigorous, keen and enthusiastic membership intent on spreading appreciation of Scottish Dances and their gay lilting tunes as widely as possible. A membership, too, that is keen to preserve the dances in their best form without sacrificing a spirit of gaiety and enjoyment. All these circumstances make the Twenty-ninth Annual Report an optimistic one.

A year of good progress does not mean that the Society can be complacent about the future, and the committees responsible for its guidance have continued to give consideration throughout the year to methods of stimulating and sustaining interest, the provision of classes and the training, examination and employment of its teachers.

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." This is the definition for health of the World Health Organisation of the United Nations. While fully recognising that Scottish Country Dancing does not appeal to all and is not the whole answer, it can be claimed that its contribution to health is great in that it has added to the social happiness of many and given satisfactory exercise that has been mentally stimulating to boys and girls, men and women in Britain and overseas.

Scottish Country Dancing has played an increasingly large part as a social activity over the years. If this position is to continue there must always be wise discrimination as to when and where to emphasise the necessity for improved technique and when to ignore the immediate need of this and concentrate on sheer enjoyment.

The following notes give a summary of items of interest to members :—

AUTUMN SCHOOL.—By kind invitation of the Edinburgh Branch, the Society held its Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh on 10th and 11th November 1950. The representatives to the Executive Council were given a Civic Reception on Friday evening and were entertained to lunch by the Branch. After the Annual General Meeting a *Thé Dansant* was held, followed later by a Ball in the Assembly Rooms. All these functions were well attended and greatly enjoyed by very representative gatherings.

SUMMER SCHOOL.—The Annual Summer School took place at University Hall, St Andrews, from 30th July to 27th August 1951. One evening each week large numbers of members of the School and the general public enjoyed dances run by the local Committee of the St Andrews Festival of Britain in the Younger Hall. Each evening, demonstrations were given by teams from the School and by the teachers of Highland Dancing. These, as well as Highland and Scottish songs rendered by members of the Society, were much appreciated by large audiences.

The number of applications for the School were as large as ever this year, and many members were forced to attend as day students owing to lack of accommodation. The Executive Council again take this opportunity of thanking Miss Milligan and the Staff for their work during the Summer School.

ROYAL CHARTER.—The Sub-Committee appointed at the Annual General Meeting to prepare a draft Constitution for consideration by the Home Office has completed the first part of its work. A printed copy of the draft Constitution was sent to the Home Office to support the Petition for a Royal Charter. When approval to proceed has been given

by the Home Office, the draft Constitution will be submitted to the members for their consideration.

EXAMINATIONS.—During the year examinations for Teachers' Certificates have been held in the following places:—Aberdeen, Angus, Anstey College of Physical Education, Birmingham, Ayr, Ayrshire N.W., Castle Douglas, Dundee, St Andrews University, Dunfermline College of Physical Education, Durham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Glasgow—Jordanhill Training College and Notre Dame Training College, Hamilton, Kilmarnock, Lockerbie, Manchester, Newcastle and District, Perth, West Renfrewshire, Rochdale, St Andrews.

In Certificate I. there were 344 passes and 167 failures. In Certificate II. there were 194 passes and 45 failures.

REVISION OF EXAMINATION TESTS.—The Committee appointed by the Executive Council to consider examination conditions, has now prepared a syllabus for the examination—Preliminary and Full Certificate, and it will be published when the Executive Council has given approval.

FORMATION OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Acting on a recommendation from the Annual General Meeting, the Executive Council formed an interim Sub-Committee to deal with the Society's finances. The Committee is composed of the Office-bearers, two members of the Executive Council and a Chartered Accountant.

FILMS.—Under the auspices of the Joint Production Committee, loop films for teaching purposes have been made by members of the Society; also three dances—"The River Cree," "The Rakes of Glasgow" and "Mrs McLeod of Raasay." It is hoped that members will find the films helpful and that they will do their best to encourage as many as possible to use them as visual aids. Further particulars regarding the films may be obtained from The Joint Production Committee (Scottish Film Council), 16/17 Woodside Terrace, Glasgow, C.3.

NEW BRANCHES AND AFFILIATED GROUPS.—Branches have been formed in Airdrie, Cape Town, Castle Douglas, Ecclefechan, Forres, Liverpool, Moffat and Nairn, making a total of 55. Affiliated groups now number 118. Membership of the Society has reached approximately 11,500.

DEMONSTRATION TEAMS.—The S.C.D. teams specially selected for demonstration purposes have given performances at the Royal Albert Hall, London, during the International Folk Dance Festival, the International Folk Dance Festival in Holland, and the Clan Gathering Festival in Edinburgh.

S.C.D. BROADCASTS, SCOTTISH HOME SERVICE.—The weekly broadcast of S.C.D. music and dance instructions have again proved amazingly popular, particularly, perhaps, in country districts where attendance at classes is not so easy as in towns.

BOOK 16.—Largely due to the work of Miss Milligan in collecting the dances and tunes, a new book, approved by the Publications Committee, will be published by the Society in the autumn, and will be given free to members on payment of their annual subscription. Thanks are due to Miss A. Anderson for her careful preparation of the diagrams, and to Dr Herbert Wiseman for the arrangement of the music.

INCREASE IN COST OF PUBLICATIONS.—Owing to the very high cost of paper and printing it has been found necessary to increase the price of the books with music to 3s. 6d., and Pocket Editions to 2s. 6d.

CORRESPONDENCE.—The Secretary has sent information to a very large number of places abroad, including Abadan, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Ascot Vale, Victoria, Australia, Bulawayo, Calcutta, Dja Karta, Indonesia, Detroit, U.S.A., Dunedin, N.Z., Georgetown, British Guiana, Half Way Tree, Jamaica, Hong-Kong, Hviding, Denmark, Mauritius.

BRANCH REPORTS.—The information in the Branch Reports gives a more complete picture of the work of the Society.

Branch Reports

ABERDEEN—During the year we had 685 ordinary members, who, with 60 Life Members, make a record for the Branch.

At the Certificate Examination, 16 candidates gained Full Certificates and 19 gained First Certificates. We congratulate Miss Anderson for this excellent result.

During the season we held an Advanced Class, two General Classes, an Elementary Class and a Beginners' Class, all of which were very well attended. The results showed great co-operation between classes and teachers, whom with all our pianists we thank for their inspiring work for us.

In Edinburgh, three Branch members were chosen to dance in Scottish teams—Mr A. Patterson, who travelled to Rotterdam and London; and Messrs Dunbar and Primrose, who were in the team dancing in London.

Many classes were taught by our members both in town and country, and many demonstrations were given.

Six adult teams from the Society classes competed in the N.E. of Scotland Musical Festival, and four Honours Certificates were gained.

Both Balls—one in the Beach Ballroom and the other in the Music Hall—were well attended.

The trophies given to the Education Committee by the Branch to further interest in Scottish Country Dancing among the Youth Service Senior Clubs were both won by the High School Club.

AIRDRIE, Coatbridge District.—This Branch was formed in September 1950, after an opening meeting at which Miss Milligan presided. Enthusiasm was very intense, and as a result, 200 members were enrolled. A very successful Branch Dance was held in January 1951. A First Certificate Class was held, and four candidates received this certificate. A general class was formed. Plans are going ahead for classes, and dances to be held during the new session.

ANGUS—This Branch has had once again a most successful year. The membership stands at 1121, and there are 8 Life Members. Of these 284 belong to Arbroath Centre, 276 to Forfar, 183 to Montrose, 118 to Kirriemuir, 97 to Brechin, 92 to Carnoustie, and 71 to Friockheim.

The demand for teachers was great, and all requests for teachers of Scottish Country Dancing were met.

Each Centre ran most successful classes during the winter, most of them having two classes weekly, all taught by fully certificated teachers.

The scarcity of halls in the country is a great handicap at present, and this in many cases limited the number of classes.

Once again all Centres contributed to local and other charities, and the demand for Demonstration Teams was very great.

A Certificate Class was run by Carnoustie Centre in the Summer Term, and three candidates passed the Preliminary Test for the S.C.D.S. Teaching Certificate.

Classes for Youth Organisations—Scouts, Guides and Youth Clubs—were taught voluntarily by teachers of the Society, and there were also several children's classes taught by members and teachers.

At Arbroath Musical Festival, where Miss Milligan was the Adjudicator, the standard of dancing was high, and many local teams gained high places in the competitions.

Most Centres were asked by their local Authority to give displays of Scottish Country Dancing or to run dances in connection with local celebrations of the Festival of Britain. These displays were well received, the audiences, and perhaps especially the visitors from overseas, being greatly impressed with the beauty and dignity of our correctly performed national dances.

ANNAN—During the season just completed, the membership of the Annan Branch has increased from 60 to 170.

Each month a social has been held in the Academy Hall, and members have been most enthusiastic in their attendances at these social evenings.

In December a most enjoyable Dinner Dance was attended by more than 100 members.

At the end of the season a successful Highland Ball was held in the Victoria Hall, to which members of the Society from Carlisle, Gretna and Dumfries were invited. The number present was over 200, and many applications for tickets had to be refused owing to lack of accommodation. Music for this dance was provided by Jimmy Shand and his band.

A high standard of dancing is being maintained by Miss Stafford, to whom the Branch is indebted for her skilful tuition.

AYR—This Branch has had a very successful year. We have now 170 members and 14 Life Members.

The Branch ran two ordinary classes, three couples' classes, and one children's class. The latter was a new venture, and proved a great success. It is hoped to run other two children's classes next winter.

Several classes were also run by the Education Authority and various organisations in the town and several in the vicinity—Alloway, Prestwick, Maybole and Troon.

A Dance was held in December for couples only. Mixed teams entered for the Musical Festival.

The season ended with a Ball at Butlin's, and was attended by over 300 dancers from many districts in Ayrshire.

Some classes have continued during the summer.

The Town Council ran an open-air Dance in the public park. There was a large crowd of interested spectators. Many joined in the general dancing, and a team demonstrated four dances. The evening was very successful, and the weather perfect. Another similar evening will be held in August.

AYRSHIRE, North-West.—Enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing has spread so rapidly in this area that during the past session we have added 176 to our membership bringing the total up to 426.

Additional instructional classes have had to be formed, and for the first time a Certificate Class was held. Seven candidates were successful in obtaining their First Certificates, and congratulations are due them and their teacher.

The monthly dances are proving so popular that it has been necessary to book a larger hall to cater for the demand. In addition to the monthly dances, three Balls were held, in December, January and March, music at the January one being supplied by Jimmy Shand and his Band.

We look forward to another successful session in 1951-52.

BATH—The weekly class was held until 26th June, and as numbers have increased and the standard improved considerably when classes recommence in September it has been arranged to have two classes, one for beginners and one more advanced.

The Annual Dance was held in May at the Guildhall, Bath. There were 140 people present, including sixty members of Bristol Caledonian Society.

Members of the Branch have given demonstrations at the Annual Dance, for three Charity Garden Fetes, and at the Youth Display which terminated the Bath Assembly.

BELFAST—The Branch has enjoyed a pleasant and successful year. The original class is in a very good state of health, and the new class, started last year, has taken root and is in a very flourishing state. The children's class is doing good work and should help to provide a number of new members to the Branch in the not too distant future. All three classes have been well attended and we have been glad to welcome a number

of visitors from Scotland. Several members are so full of enthusiasm that they travel into Belfast, up to thirty and forty miles, to attend the classes.

The Winter Session started with a party held to say good-bye to our former Secretary, Mr W. J. E. Wendon, who was leaving Ireland to live in Montreal. Mr Wendon hopes that there will soon be another Branch of the Society in Montreal, where there are plenty of Scots but where there is no Scottish dancing.

A week-end School was held at Portrush in October, at which thirty members of the Branch and two visitors from Ayr were present.

A second week-end School was held in Ballycastle in May with a group of fifty-one members, who enjoyed the teaching and the social dancing in the evenings.

Parties of members visited several societies to give displays and succeeded in interesting a number of people in Scottish dancing. A team also gave a short display at the International Archery Shoot in Belfast, where Scottish archers were competing against an Ulster team.

BLAIR ATHOLL—The 1950-51 session has been one of the most successful since the Club's inception. Membership remained at the previous year's high level.

A very successful Ball was held in the Blair Castle Ballroom on 6th December 1950, to music supplied by Jim Cameron's Dance Band. Neighbouring clubs from a wide area were represented. A delightful demonstration was given by the Perth Gowrie Group.

Classes are again due to commence in October, and we are looking forward to an increased membership and renewed vigour in the coming session.

Our Ball is again being held in the Blair Castle Ballroom on Friday, 16th November, to music supplied by the Tayside Country Dance Band.

BIRMINGHAM—There has been an increase in membership and we now have nine Life Members. The class, which comes under the Central Evening Institute, has been the largest class there, so we are to have an extra session next year, which will be less exacting for students and teacher.

In addition to demonstrations by the team of women, we have launched our mixed team and received enthusiastic applause. How superior we felt at one outdoor display when, the amplifier having broken down, we found we were the only performers whose music could be heard, and this was due to the two pipers of Birmingham Pipe Band, who gave their services so willingly. We hope that these demonstrations and our parties will encourage more newcomers to join the Society.

CAPETOWN—In March 1950 a band of ten people decided to rent a hall in which to practise Scottish Country Dancing once a week, for it was found that those with Scottish associations in the Cape had little idea of the pleasure and instruction that can be obtained from evenings devoted entirely to these dances. Their decision was justified, in that the number of men and women enthusiasts gradually increased week by week, and a Branch of the Society was duly formed in October, with Mrs Edgar Gibson as its leader. We are pleased to report that Mrs G. Brand van Zyl and Mrs Prunella Albers have become patronesses. A Scottish Country Dance Ball, the first ever to be held in Capetown, marked the occasion.

The numbers continue to grow, although the work is greatly hampered by the difficulty in obtaining suitable accommodation and a good pianist. Classes have been held once a week, and in several different halls, with an average attendance of thirty or forty dancers. In the hottest month, the class meets in the floodlit garden.

Dances have been shown at several functions, including the Scottish Country Dance Ball; the English Folk Dance and Song Society; Bergvliet Primary School Fete; Festival of Old Time Dancing; Paarl Wine Festival; and most recently, the Press Ball, at which the Governor-General was present.

The Caledonian Society, whose chief, Peter Bennet, is an Edinburgh man, have now also become interested, and hold fortnightly classes which are taught by Mrs Gibson.

It is to be hoped that this enthusiasm will continue to grow, and that more classes will be started, so that the correct version of the dances may be known throughout the district.

CARLISLE and BORDER—The membership of the Branch is at present 94 which is a good start but it is hoped that this figure will be doubled in the second year.

We have held 17 committee meetings which have been very well attended. Unfortunately we had two resignations from our committee—Mr A. Stephenson (Treasurer) owing to pressure of business and Miss M. Potter through disagreement with committee decisions. Mr Stephenson's duties as Treasurer were taken over by Mrs Weir.

Two appointments were made during the first part of the season—Mrs E. Double as Class Teacher and Mr E. Bosworth as Class Pianist for the 1950-51 Season only.

Dancing classes commenced in September 1950 in St. Margaret Mary's Hall, Upperby, and were well attended during the first half. Up to a hundred names appeared on the register.

Although displays did not feature in our programme for this past year it is hoped this will be developed as advertisement is a necessity with a young Branch such as we are.

It is very pleasing to report that we were very successful at Carlisle Musical Festival in winning the Silver Cup presented by the Carlisle Highland Association for the best all-round team. Our Branch won the following awards—1st Ladies Team, Strathspey, The Bonniest Lass in all the World. 1st Mixed Team (A), Strathspey, The Duke of Hamilton's Reel. 1st Mixed Foursome (b). 2nd Mixed Team (b), Camp of Pleasure. 2nd Mixed Foursome Reel (a).

It was hoped to start a certificate class early on in our first season but only nine members seemed willing to participate. In view of the high individual cost to each pupil it was decided to abandon the class until the Branch were in a position to give financial help.

Our first week-end School was held on Saturday 14th April and was a great success. We were fortunate to have as Instructress Miss Jean Milligan, President of the Glasgow Branch and Founder Member of the Society. It is hoped this will be a yearly attraction to many of our members.

We have run four dances which have been very successful both socially and financially even although one of them was very poorly supported.

The most successful and enjoyable evening of all was our first Grand Ball held in the County Ballroom on Friday 13th April 1951. 160 members were present not only from the Carlisle Branch but from Lockerbie, Annan, Dumfries, Ecclefechan and Moffat. Angus Fitchet and his Scottish Broadcasting Band from Dundee supplied the music for a varied programme. The highlight of the evening was the much appreciated presence of Miss Jean Milligan as our Guest of Honour.

CASTLE-DOUGLAS—The Branch has completed a most successful first year, and is very proud of the keenness and enthusiasm of its 132 members. During the session dances were held at Ernespie House Hotel, and the members are greatly indebted to Mrs Craigie, Miss McWilliam and Mrs Rae, all of whom gave excellent service at the piano. Miss Milligan visited Castle-Douglas early in July and took Certificate I. examinations—six passes were gained. The Branch is also indebted to Miss Dougan and Mrs Rae, teacher and pianist respectively, for the Certificate I. Class.

We look forward to next session, and already preparations are well in hand for our first Highland Ball early in November.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE—Society membership increased from 78 to 129 Ordinary Members; Life Members number 4.

We were very pleased to welcome to the Branch the Alva Country Dance enthusiasts, so that Society classes now exist in Alloa, Alva, Dollar and Tillicoultry.

The Annual Dance was held in the Alloa Town Hall, which was filled to comfortable capacity. In April, Country Dancers and friends met once more in Devonvale Hall, Tillicoultry. In June, the Dollar class organised a very successful Barn Dance in the barn

of Dollarfield Farm. Smaller functions organised by individual classes also proved very popular and enjoyable. Advantage was taken of the many invitations from outside of the county.

Scottish Country Dancing in Clackmannan County, as elsewhere, is undoubtedly making a very strong appeal to both old and young.

DUNDEE—Membership—683, which is an increase of almost 100 on last year. 37 of these are Life Members.

The Branch is happy to report another successful year. All classes have been well attended, and we are indebted to our loyal teaching staff for maintaining such a high standard of dancing. More men are coming in to the classes and their enthusiasm and keenness are most marked. A technical class was formed for the first time, and although the work was strenuous, all taking part found it most helpful. Certificate classes were held during the season, to which Mrs Hutchison gave instruction. At the examination held in June, 17 candidates passed in Certificate I, and 10 gained the full Certificate.

The Dundee Scottish Country Dance Club formed under the auspices of the Branch continues to flourish, and the waiting list now exceeds the 100 mark.

The social dances in connection with the classes and club were enjoyable functions, and at these we were happy to welcome our Lord and Lady Provost and the Branch President and his wife as guests. Music for these functions was provided by Mrs Bird Matthew's Broadcasting Band.

Demonstrations too numerous to detail have been greatly in demand. Special mention should be made of two outstanding performances—The North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board's Exhibition in Dundee, where the Highland background of the platform showed off the dances to great advantage (it was so realistic the men were troubled with the heather and moss becoming entangled in their kilts!) and a very delightful display by two teams at the Scottish Country Dance Rally in Dundee Ice Rink run by the Central Council of Physical Recreation in connection with the Festival of Sport week. A mass display by 60 couples was given on the opening night of this Festival, and was enthusiastically received by the large audience.

With another busy year behind us we look forward with eagerness to the new season.

DUNFERMLINE—The session 1950-51 started under great difficulties in finding accommodation for the classes. By October, however, three classes, an advanced, intermediate and beginners, were organised. The membership showed a slight increase on the previous year's figures—224 members and 5 Life Members.

During the session two very successful dances were held, at which 300 dancers were present each time.

We are very pleased to report that one of our members is included in the team to dance in the Royal Albert Hall, London, during the Festival.

At the invitation of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust a display was given by members of the Branch in Pittencrieff Park during Dunfermline Festival Week. The display was very well received by a capacity audience.

The Edinburgh Branch has asked us to supply two teams to take part in the Clan Gathering at Murrayfield, on 18th August, and this we are looking forward to very much.

It is generally agreed that the past season has been the busiest and most successful in the history of the Branch.

DUMFRIES—During the session 1950-51 the Society has maintained and even increased its strength.

There were in all 168 members attached to the Dumfries Branch. The Advanced Class studied the more difficult dances under the leadership of Mrs McLaren, and the beginners' class had received instruction under Mr Watson. The hour's Social Dancing, which this year was under a teacher, had proved an excellent method of letting people know each other, and had, I am sure, proved beneficial both to the novices and the more

experienced. Our pianists, of course, were a most important factor in our work, and we are extremely fortunate in having two such able ones.

Over and above the two end of term parties, a most successful Highland Ball had been held in the Drill Hall, when we were able to have the members of neighbouring Societies join with us. Tim Wright's Band supplied the music.

We have again been invited to contribute to the spectacle and gaiety of Guid Nychbarris Week. A dance has been arranged for 26th June.

The Society feels very honoured in having one of its members chosen to take part in the Festival of Britain in London, and warmly congratulate Mr Jack Johnstone in having achieved this distinction.

Two teams entered for the Local Festival and gave a good account of themselves, one gaining the highest mark awarded in the Festival.

ECCLEFECHAN—The Ecclefechan Branch was formed in February 1951. The Branch consists of 50 members. A successful dance was held in March, attended by representatives from other classes in the district. We look forward to a visit from Miss Milligan in October. The Society is indebted to the teacher and pianists who have functioned throughout the year.

EDINBURGH—Despite the vicissitudes which afflict Branches from time to time, Edinburgh Branch continues to function, and to carry out its usual heavy programme of Classes and Demonstrations. One most heartening feature is the continued success of the Junior Branch. Teams danced at the Birmingham Festival in July, the British Association Congress in August, and the Edinburgh Musical Festival. Other Branches combined with us to provide a mass display at the Clan Gathering in Edinburgh during August.

ELGIN—This Branch re-formed during the summer months of 1950, got well under way in September with the commencement of a weekly class. A steadily increasing membership resulted in the introduction of twice weekly classes after the Christmas holiday. It is anticipated that the existing membership will be maintained and improved upon during the 1951-52 season.

In addition to monthly Social Evenings which proved popular with members, a mid-season dance was held during the Christmas holiday which was well attended. An end-of-the-season dance was held in the Drill Hall and was attended by over 300 dancers including members from Inverness, Nairn, Forres, Speyside, Peterhead and Aberdeen Branches; they were welcomed by the Branch's Honorary President, Her Grace Hilda, Duchess of Richmond and Gordon, who was present along with Miss I. G. Wharton Duff, Honorary Vice-President. Music was provided by Annie Shand Scott and her orchestra from Aberdeen.

Branch teams were entered for the Nairn Scottish Country Dance Festival held in May, a mixed and a ladies team, the mixed team gained the premier award in their class also a certificate for the best performance of the festival, whilst the ladies team shared the first place in their class, all this reflecting much credit on Team Members and Teachers alike. Teams also took part in the Festival of Scottish Country Dancing arranged by the Inverness and District Branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society as part of the Festival Year Gala Programme.

Throughout the entire season the Branch was well represented at neighbouring Branch and county functions of a social nature.

It is hoped to promote a Certificate Class in the near future.

Visitors are welcome to any of our meetings.

FORRES—This Branch, formed in September 1950, has proved very successful. Membership at the close of the session in March had risen to 61.

Classes were held each Friday evening under the able tuition of Miss J. Banks, to whom the members are very much indebted.

One of the highlights of the year was a visit from Mr Murray of Inverness, formerly Glasgow, who instructed the class that evening. His enthusiasm was an inspiration, and it is hoped that he will be able to pay a visit next year.

During the session, several members accepted invitations to dances held by Branches and Clubs in the district. These were thoroughly enjoyed.

A Ball was held on 2nd March 1951, and was well attended by representatives from the various Branches and Clubs in the vicinity.

The session closed in March with a most enjoyable social.

FORT WILLIAM—Looking back on another happy season, which started with a flourish but which was slightly damped (though only numerically) by the prolonged snow and influenza epidemic which the New Year brought, we see among the highlights a visit from Miss Milligan, who took classes on two successive nights. These were enjoyed not only by ourselves, but by representatives from Branches as far apart as Inverness and Nether Lochaber.

Dances held in the Town Hall and Masonic Hall were memorable for their "S.C.D. spirit," and on these occasions also our numbers were swelled by friends from classes in the surrounding districts of Lochaber.

During the Fort William "Festival of Britain Week" in June, a display was organised by the Branch which met with an overwhelming reception. Teams from the Branch and from other classes in the district took part. The following day the same teams travelled north to join in the much larger festival organised by the Inverness Branch, where we met many friends and enjoyed both dancing and watching other teams.

While we look forward with enthusiasm to our next session, Mr M. Graham, our President, and Mrs Graham have unfortunately left the district, and the loss of their whole-hearted enthusiasm will be keenly felt.

GLASGOW—Glasgow Branch is happy to present a report of steady progress and good fellowship.

During the year membership passed the thousand mark—960 paid the Annual Subscription, five became Life Members (making a total of 75 Life Members), and three groups of Scottish Country Dancers paid Affiliation Fees.

Demand for Classes was very great and seventeen weekly classes were well attended.

Miss Milligan's classes for experienced dancers only, were as usual, filled to capacity. Certificate Classes were so large that they had to be divided.

To meet a request from members two General Classes were held for a course of six weeks after Easter. Miss Kenyon took the one held in Shawlands Senior Secondary School on the South Side of the city on Monday evenings, and Mr Morrison the other, in the centre of the city in Dundas Vale School on Wednesday evenings. The venture proved well worth while, both classes being well attended.

More and more people of both sexes wished to try for the Teachers' Certificate. Large numbers were successful but a few failed to reach the required standard.

Glasgow "Keep-Fit" Association again held Certificate Classes trained by Miss Adams. Many of the candidates gained the Certificate.

As in previous years Jordanhill Training Centre presented men and women students trained by Miss McLaren. The standard was high and many Certificates were awarded.

From Notre Dame College also came a quota of successful candidates.

In December we held our second Annual Ball (for men and women in equal numbers) in the Ballroom Suite, St. Andrew's Halls. On that occasion Mrs Hamilton-Meikle was welcomed as our guest by Miss Milligan. Many friends from neighbouring Branches joined us. Tim Wright's Orchestra made everyone want to dance all the time and so it was difficult to find an empty space on the floor.

As many members had felt disappointment at not being able to obtain tickets for dances held during the year 1949-50, the Committee decided to try zoning the dances and to hold more of them. Dances were accordingly held in the north, south, west and

centre of the city as well as in Jordanhill Training Centre which Mr Wood, the Director of Studies, once more put at our disposal. Again Miss Robertson catered marvellously for us, while Mr Whyte, the Janitor, saw to it that everything was just right on Saturday, 21st April.

Numerous demonstrations were given by the Branch's mixed teams in and around the City, and even as far afield as Inverness.

A mass demonstration, given at Hampden Park on Saturday, 12th May by ninety-six men and women, on the occasion of the visit of the Danish Team, when members of the Danish Royal Family were present, was one of the highlights. Through Miss Doris Robertson of the Central Council of Physical Recreation, Mr Graham, Secretary of the Scottish Football Association, conveyed his thanks to our members for their excellent display.

In connection with the Festival of Britain Celebrations, sponsored by the Further Education Department of Glasgow Corporation, two programmes of Scottish Country Dances were given on each of the evenings of 8th and 11th June in the Palace of Art, Bellahouston Park. About forty men and women took part on each occasion. Music was supplied by Mrs MacKendrick and Mr MacDougall.

Mr Banks, the Director of Further Education, and Mr Thomson, the Organiser of the Exhibition in the Palace of Art, expressed their appreciation of the dancing which greatly appealed to the onlookers.

At the invitation of the Central Council of Physical Recreation the Branch also supplied teams of men and women to take part in the Displays given in several of the Public Parks during the month of June, in connection with the Festival of Britain Celebrations. In connection with these displays a special training class was conducted by Miss Findlay.

Donations have been given to the Thistle Foundation, to Jordanhill Students' Fund and to the Scottish Country Dance Society's Publicity Fund.

Mrs MacLeod (Miss Sheena Robertson), Mr Murray and Mr McClure had the honour of being in the team which went to Nice last July.

In July, the team which is travelling to Holland, includes Mrs MacLeod, Miss Doris Robertson, Mr McClure and Mr Murray who is now resident in Inverness, and who will be greatly missed in Glasgow.

Another Glasgow member, Miss Nancy Eadie, has been chosen to take part in the demonstration in the Albert Hall, London, in June.

Many new classes and clubs have been formed privately by people holding the Scottish Country Dance Society's Teachers Certificate. Reports from all show that they are flourishing.

The Corporation's Further Education Classes in this Section are in great demand.

The Secretary and Treasurer record their appreciation of the help given during the year by the Assistant Honorary Secretary, Miss Barrow, and by the Assistant Honorary Treasurer, Mrs R. Percy Thomson.

HAMILTON and CLYDESDALE—Our membership to the Society has increased this year by five Life Members and ninety-five ordinary members, bringing the total to 17 Life and 461 ordinary members.

Enthusiasm for country dancing is still very keen judging from the record numbers who attend the monthly parties throughout the season.

The mixed couples classes held at Hamilton, Carluke and Larkhall were most successful and there is promise of the numbers being increased next year.

Miss Sorbie of Larkhall was asked to take a team to Glasgow to demonstrate at a Conference of the Scottish Health Visitors Association who were entertaining Health Visitors here on a tour from all parts of the world. The obvious enjoyment of the guests was sufficient indication of their appreciation of the music and dances, and many were the questions the team had to answer about the kilt and the tartans they were wearing.

At a Soroptimist Conference at Ayr, Mrs Rankin was asked to arrange a Scottish Country Dance on the Saturday as part of the evening's entertainment and this too was most successful with everyone, including visitors from England, Ireland and Wales, joining in.

Owing to the restricted accommodation of the room the company had to be divided into three groups and great was the lamentation as each group had to make way for the next.

It has also been arranged for some members of the Branch to give a demonstration to the American Curlers when they are visiting this country in the winter, and we shall hope to inspire them too with enough enthusiasm for our music and dances so that they shall want to get classes started when they return home.

INVERNESS and DISTRICT—The Branch continues to grow and has had a very successful session. All Country Dance Classes in and around the Highland Capital report great enthusiasm.

Tickets for Dances held within any reasonable travelling distance are eagerly sought for and the Branch functions are always well supported by friends from Lochaber, Ross-shire, Moray and Nairn.

As part of the Highlands and Islands Festival 1951, we organised a Festival of Country Dancing which was an unqualified success, and gave pleasure both to Highlanders, Lowlanders, English and Foreign visitors.

We look forward with confidence to next session.

KILMARNOCK and DISTRICT—This Branch has had a most successful year and had a Summer Dance in May which was most enjoyable. We are having a dance in the Grand Hall on Friday, 30th November with Jimmy Shand's Band, and we hope to have the support of all our friends.

KIRKCALDY—Another successful season has been held in this, the 22nd year of the Branch.

Membership has increased and there are 12 Life Members.

Classes were well attended throughout. The "Combined Night," held once per month, was again greatly enjoyed, and the inexperienced members benefited. Several classes were taught by certificated members. These were Church Clubs, Womens' Rural Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds, etc.

There have been changes in the Office-Bearers during the year. Mr Macnaughton and Miss Gray resigned from the posts of Presidents and Secretary respectively. Two Extraordinary Meetings had to be called, and Miss H. K. Kay and Miss N. J. Arnott were elected to fill the vacancies.

At our Annual Dance in February, 256 dancers were on the floor, and over 400 spectators in the gallery. Kirkcaldy members had the pleasure of welcoming dancers from neighbouring Branches and Clubs.

In May, the Branch invited members to a 21st Anniversary Celebration, which was voted a great success.

Kirkcaldy Branch is pleased to send one team to help the massed demonstration to be held during the Clan Gathering at Murrayfield on 18th August, and to the Highland Games on 8th September.

The "Festival of Britain" Dance is to be held on 19th October, for which a popular programme has been arranged.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Branch, members agreed to make a contribution of £15 as last year, to the Publicity Fund of the Society.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT—Membership this year rose to 83. Two classes were held weekly, one under Mrs M'Kell and a beginners' class under Miss McMurdo. At the examination, conducted by Miss Milligan in June, five Full Certificates were gained. Our ladies' team

was delighted to accept Miss Milligan's invitation to demonstrate when she addressed Colvend W.R.I.

Demonstrations were also given by ladies and mixed teams during the Riding of the Marches ceremony in Kirkcudbright.

Four teams were entered for the Newton-Stewart Festival and each was placed first in its class.

The session ended with a successful dance.

LANARK—Session 1950-51 proved to be highly successful. The number of members now stands at 106 with 2 Life members, an increase on the previous year.

Weekly classes were held in Lanark, Biggar, Carmichael, Carwood and Libberton, all being well attended.

Parties were very popular, and were run in aid of our local Churches and British Legion Branches and generous sums were handed over.

Two big dances were held in the Bonnington Hotel, one in November and one in April, but as tickets had to be limited many were disappointed.

A private bus party has been attending the New Cavendish throughout the summer, and had a special invitation from Tim Wright on the night of the Broadcasting.

Miss Purdie, a pupil of the Lanark class was successful in gaining her 1st Certificate, and is now in Australia making good use of our Scottish Country Dancing.

LEVEN—Once more this Branch has had a very successful session. With a membership of 226 it was necessary to run two classes and Mrs Donaldson was again Branch Instructress.

Four social dances were held during the session. At the last of these, dancing took place on the lawn in Carberry House grounds. Unfortunately rain sent the company indoors after the interval but it failed to damp the enthusiasm of either dancers or spectators.

LIVERPOOL—Due to a meeting between Miss S. Stevenson and Mr Stenhouse in the autumn of 1950, the decision was made to try and form a Branch in Liverpool.

Owing to the difficulty of getting a hall from the Education Department in a central position, nothing was done for some time until Miss Stevenson managed to obtain the let of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland Hall in Rodney Street.

When she had obtained this hall an advertisement was inserted in the *Liverpool Echo* and as many people as possible contacted personally.

The inaugural meeting was held in the above hall on 9th February 1951 when nearly 200 people turned up.

Mrs Gudger was present and gave a short talk on the Scottish Country Dance Society, and the purpose of forming a Branch, then with some 120 taking part, she gave instructions in some of the simpler dances—Isle of Skye, Black Dance, Cumberland Reel and Circassian Circle.

35 members were enrolled that night, the number is now 90 !

Classes were held each Friday evening, with a break at Easter until 27th April when the first General Meeting was held.

The classes were first hour beginners, second hour for the more advanced pupils, and next session it was agreed we carry on the same arrangements.

Negotiations are in hand for the let of a larger hall at one of the schools in Central Liverpool.

LOCKERBIE—The membership for the year 1950-51 was fifty-two. The Branch held a dance in October to which they invited Miss Jean Milligan as guest of honour. This dance was well attended by a representative company drawn from the surrounding district as well as parties from Carlisle, Castle-Douglas, Kirkpatrick-Durham and Dumfries. The music on this occasion was provided by Sandy Anderson and his Band from Hawick,

On the following day Miss Milligan conducted a Day School in the Academy Hall. This proved a great success, all those attending profiting greatly from the expert tuition given by Miss Milligan.

The Highland Ball, now a well established annual event, took place in December and was attended by 260 dancers, including members from Carlisle, Dumfries, Annan, Castle-Douglas, Kirkpatrick-Durham, Gretna, Eastriggs, Eaglesfield, Ecclefechan, Lochmaben and Moffat. Owing to the incidence of severe frost Jimmy Shand and his Band, who were engaged to supply the music at this function, were icebound in Perthshire. The Branch were fortunate in securing the services of the Rhymers Band from Moffat, who stepped into the breach at very short notice, and provided excellent music. It was decided to present a trophy in memory of the late Miss Jean McIntosh for annual competition at the Dumfriesshire Musical Festival. This trophy was duly competed for at this year's Festival and won by Eaglesfield Country Dancing Class. The Lockerbie Branch entered two teams for the Festival. The Ladies' team were placed first in the Open Class and the Mixed Team third equal in the Class competing for the Trophy. To end the season a dance was held in April with Jimmy Shand's Band.

LONDON—Again the Branch had a very successful season. The closing for repairs of the Scottish Corporation Hall, Fetter Lane, interfered somewhat with the programme of dances, but in spite of this eight dances were held during the season, the largest, at the Royal Horticultural Hall, being attended by 300 dancers. The second Annual Ball, at the Hyde Park Hotel on the 4th May 1951, brought together 240 dancers. An unexpected visitor was the President of the St. Andrew's Society of Denmark, who happened to be staying in the hotel. He heard the sound of piping and came to investigate.

The eight weekly classes organised by the Branch were well attended and many members of the Branch took other classes in and around London.

The Festival of Britain brought an unprecedented demand for demonstrations and the Branch has given nearly thirty, including three at the Festival of Sport in the Empire Pool, Wembley, where the programme included a cheer-raising thirty-two-some, and five in the open air on the South Bank Exhibition site. The Branch has also been invited to take part in an international Folk Dance Festival at the Royal Festival Hall from the 3rd to the 15th September. Teams from Northern Ireland, Spain and Yugoslavia are also taking part. The Branch teams have been trained by Miss I. C. MacLennan in a special class formed for the purpose.

The Branch's Honorary Secretary, Miss Ockenden, has retired after serving for four years, during which the Branch membership grew from 80 to 450. She continues to serve as Branch Representative and as a member of the Committee.

MANCHESTER—The year has been one of great activity and the membership has doubled, being now 200. All classes were well attended.

Two examinations have been held for the First Teachers Certificate, the training classes for which have been run by the Branch. At these examinations, nine candidates were successful in obtaining their First Certificate.

Many demonstrations were undertaken by the Branch during the winter, two which might be mentioned being the Y.M.C.A. International Festival of Folk Song and Dance and the Mayoress of Stretford's Charity Ball on Christmas Eve. In addition the Branch took the lead in organising an entertainment for the Australian Women's Cricket Team on their visit to Manchester when a "British Isles" party was held at which Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales were represented.

The year culminated in the Branch being honoured by the receipt of an invitation to send a team to take part in the International Folk Dance Festival of Mallorca. The team sent consisted of twelve dancers, two pipers and a player of the piano-accordion. They were guests of the Palma Civic Authorities and Education y Descanso of Spain during their week's stay in Mallorca and were received with wonderful hospitality. The official

dancing took place in the Bull Ring each evening from 10.30 p.m. until 2 a.m. and the team gave two performances each of fifteen minutes. They also danced at a Special Gala organised by the Friends of Mallorca and in Barcelona to a Spanish audience invited by the British Council and at the British Club when they were honoured by the presence of the Consul General for Spain.

MOFFAT—This Branch was inaugurated in September 1950, and was honoured at one of its early meetings by a visit from Miss Milligan.

Invitations were accepted to send a demonstration team to two functions during the winter.

Members of the Branch attended dances held by Dumfries, Lockerbie and Carlisle Branches and terminated a successful season by holding a Highland Ball in March.

NAIRN—This Branch had a very successful season last year and we begin again in September. Our members are increasing and we have classes every Tuesday. The highlight of the season was the Festival on the 24th and 25th May. Teams entered from a wide area and both competitors and audience were impressed and encouraged by Miss Milligan's inspiring remarks. Teams from the Branch were placed first, second and third in their respective classes.

During the Summer months many requests have been received for demonstrations which have enabled us to illustrate how enjoyable Scottish Country Dancing is.

Visitors to Nairn are welcome to any of our meetings.

NETHER LOCHABER—This Branch has once again had a most successful session. The classes were well attended and very popular.

In June a Ladies team and a Mixed Team from the Branch attended the Festival at Inverness. These Teams also gave a demonstration at a local Function which was greatly enjoyed especially by English visitors.

The outstanding event of the session was Miss Milligan's visit to Fort William when several members attended her classes, enjoying most pleasant and instructive evenings. The Branch are again deeply indebted to Mr and Mrs Clark for instructing.

NEWCASTLE and DISTRICT—Classes began in September 1950, but even before that, a request was received for a Demonstration team which made a highly successful appearance at a local Country Dance Festival.

Newcastle and District Branch being but a year old, is proud to have enrolled 132 members, three being Life members.

Three classes were held under the auspices of the Newcastle Education Authority, but in all, we had at least seven certificated teachers teaching about 15 classes.

A Highland Dancing class was much enjoyed by several of our male members.

Two informal Scottish dances were held during the winter and were very well supported.

We greatly enjoyed Miss Milligan's visit at Whitsuntide and after a successful weekend, we were able to add five Cert. II and one Cert. I to our list of teachers.

Our demonstration team gave five displays which were enthusiastically received.

NEWTON-STEWART—We again had a very successful Country Dance Session, our Branch membership increasing from 18 to 34, with, I am glad to say a few more male members.

Three teams from the class, two women's teams and one mixed team were entered for the Festival in Newton-Stewart, they all received good marks and the women's "A" team, and the mixed team were placed second in their respective sections. Those teams also had the pleasure of dancing to Tim Wright and his Band, when they played for a Melody Hour in our local Hall.

The session ended with a very enjoyable Dance which was well attended by members from the surrounding districts Scottish Country Dance Classes.

We have held a monthly class since the session ended to keep the interest going and to entertain any visitors and friends who may be here on holiday.

PEEBLES—This Branch was formed in October 1950 with a membership of 57. A class was run during the winter and a successful dance was held at the end of the session.

PERTH—The Branch had another successful season. Membership stands at 731 ordinary, and 43 Life members.

Classes were not so well attended but the club had a bigger membership than ever and people are still keen to attend the social dancing in the Salutation Hotel.

Two Dinner Dances at Christmas and two at the end of the season were very well attended and much enjoyed.

The trophy at the Musical Festival was won by the Perth St. Johnstone Group and Mrs Lesslie's adjudications were very well received by large audiences. The club has decided to donate a Quaich for competition so that in future two trophies will be available for the premier classes. The number of entries again rose by 24 making a total of 114. It is hoped that by next winter the Society will have its own demonstration teams.

PETERHEAD—The Branch now has a membership of 166 ordinary members and 19 Life members.

Three Adult classes were held weekly—a beginners class, an intermediate class, and a class for more experienced dancers. Branch members have conducted several classes in the surrounding district.

The Branch owes a deep debt of gratitude to its teachers and pianists, all of whom have done so much to enthuse and stimulate their classes.

At the S.C.D. section of the Aberdeen and North Eastern Musical Festival we were represented by a Ladies' Team and a Mixed Team, both of whom gave very creditable performances in their sections. Last September the mixed team retained the Palais de Danse Trophy, and this team has demonstrated at several social functions.

At an examination held in Aberdeen in March three members gained their full certificates.

During the year two enjoyable Branch parties were held, while the highlight of the season's activities was a most successful Ball held in the New Drill Hall in April. Among the 230 dancers we were pleased to welcome friends from Aberdeen, Inverurie, Boyndlie, Macduff, Fraserburgh and the surrounding district. We were very much indebted to Miss Annie Shand Scott and her Orchestra for their excellent music. A number of our members have enjoyed dances at Aberdeen and Haddo House.

In August a great honour came to the Branch when Miss Collie was asked to train a team of A.T.C. boys to perform at a Rally at Maidenhead, Surrey. All the boys are members of our Branch or of the Children's Classes. Miss Kinghorn, one of our pianists, also accompanied the boys on their journey.

RENFREWSHIRE WEST—Branch membership has increased considerably this year. We now have 10 Life members and 170 ordinary members.

A certificate class was again held. At the examination five members received Full certificate and one member First certificate.

As this was our Silver Jubilee year a Ball was held in Greenock Town Hall on 1st March. A most successful and happy evening was spent, two hundred and fifty dancers taking part. Many of the spectators have expressed their desire to join classes.

Demonstrations were given during the interval, the spectators were loud in their praise.

The Grand March was led by our Honorary President and Vice-President, Sir Guy and Lady Shaw Stewart.

ROCHDALE—Our membership has again remained steady and at our weekly classes we have maintained an average attendance of between 30 and 40 throughout the year. The attendance at the beginners' class rose to 60.

The highlight of the year was a visit from Miss Milligan from the 2nd to 5th May. An Examination for Certificate II was held on Saturday morning 5th May, when we were

proud to have one hundred per cent passes. A most enjoyable party followed on the Saturday evening. A very warm welcome was given to the enthusiasts who came from as far distant as Hereford, Liverpool, Southport, Manchester, Sale, Altringham, Bolton and Blackburn. 250 in all gathered for this very jolly event.

Demonstration teams have been kept busy throughout the year, at "Scottish" evenings and on these occasions the easier reels and strathspeys have been enjoyed by many.

A team entered for the Leamington Festival and were awarded 2nd Prize.

Our thanks are due to the Education Committee, who continue to be very generous to us, and to Mrs Gudger and Miss Brown, who give so much of their time to help us.

SOUTHPORT—The Branch has now completed its fifth season and has 64 members, an increase of six on its previous highest. This year we have had sixteen further members of our elementary class, who have not been in full Branch membership, but we feel that this is good for recruitment in the long run.

Classes have been well attended and Mrs Gudger's monthly visits to our more advanced section have been greatly appreciated. We have had three most successful party evenings, and the music provided by Miss Peel (Branch pianist) has been much enjoyed.

Mr Queen went to Majorca as piper to a team from Manchester which danced at a festival there. Seven requests for displays have been met during the season.

Teachers who are members of the Branch are conducting evening classes in Scottish Country Dancing for the Lancashire Education Committee at Crosby and Ormskirk. The latter is a new venture this season and both have run successfully.

We remain indebted to the Southport Education Committee for its assistance. We meet under the auspices of the Technical College. The new Principal, who starts in the autumn, has visited us in advance and tells us that he himself is a Country Dance enthusiast.

We have made social contact during the year with both the daughter classes mentioned above; with the dancing section of the Crosby Caledonian Society; and with the Rochdale Branch, where our party met Miss Milligan, who had been conducting examinations. One of our members gained her full certificate.

Southport will be represented at St. Andrew's throughout the Summer School, and then, holidays over, we settle down to the 1951-52 season. A number of advance enquiries make us confident that we shall go forward still further.

ST. ANDREWS—This Branch has had another very successful session with a membership of 150. This year owing to the large number, it was decided to hold two classes, a beginners' and an advanced class. These were both successful. A Christmas Dance and an End of Session Dance were held in the Boys' Brigade Hall, both of which were enjoyed by a large number of members and guests.

We again offer our very warmest congratulations to Miss Irene Grant, who has this year been our instructor, on being chosen for the Scottish Team to dance at the Festival in London, and in Rotterdam. This is the third consecutive year in which Miss Grant has gained this honour.

STIRLINGSHIRE—This Branch has had another successful year with a steady increase of members. Our certificated teachers took 14 classes in Stirling and country districts, also many helped with Girl Guide Companies and Social Clubs.

An enjoyable Members' Ball was held at Christmas time, and all classes held Social Dances to finish the season. The demonstrations team had a busy winter. One of our members again danced in the Albert Hall, London, in the Festival Team.

A team went to France in August to the International Dance Festival at Charolles.

A certificate class was held in May.

Miss Milligan kindly took the examination. Nine members gained Full Certificate.

As the treasurer reported a satisfactory balance in hand, the Branch was able to divide the sum of £45 amongst some charities. Our membership is now 358, an increase of 66 since last year.

STIRLINGSHIRE EAST—Interest and enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing continues to grow in our Branch.

Eight classes were held last session including two beginners' classes—one in Falkirk and one in Grangemouth.

It is interesting to record that men are joining in greater numbers and we trust this increase continues.

Three dances were held at the end of each term and all proved enjoyable functions.

A mixed team and a ladies' team took part in demonstrations of Scottish Country Dancing during the Festival of Britain week held in Falkirk in June. A ladies' team danced at a Fete held in the grounds of Callander House—the home of our Patroness, Mrs Forbes.

STONEHAVEN—Two classes for adults were held each week during the winter, one for beginners and a general one. The classes consisted of one hundred per cent Society Members.

The two classes for children were again run by members of the local Branch, and teams were entered for the Aberdeen Festival. One of the teams was equal first with Peterhead Juniors.

Our Annual Ball held in May was well attended by dancers from Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Kincardineshire.

WEST LOTHIAN—The Branch reports another very successful year. Membership is now 118, including 13 Life members.

Classes were held in Bathgate, Bo'ness, Broxburn, Linlithgow (2 classes) and Winchburgh. All classes were very well attended during the first term, but there was a considerable falling off in the second term, due probably to weather conditions.

Very successful dances were held in Bo'ness, Broxburn and Linlithgow, and each class had an end of term party.

A class has been organised by the staff at Bangour Hospital. Although this is not a Branch class, it is taught by one of our Branch teachers, and several class members have expressed a desire to join the Society next session.

Bo'ness members are very pleased that one of their members, Miss Margaret Moir, has again been chosen to dance in the Overseas Team.

WOLVERHAMPTON—We can report a very enjoyable 1950-51 session. Our Monday night meetings were attended by about thirty members for most of the winter, though we had a very thin attendance when the 'flu epidemic was at its height. In February we held a joint Country Dance Festival with the English Folk Dance Society, the afternoon being devoted to demonstrations of dances from both sides of the border, while in the evening a party was held at which 400 enthusiasts took the floor.

We have also demonstrated Scottish Country Dancing recently to members of the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship, whose pleasure in our dancing made us feel that it was a very much worth while activity.

Affiliated Groups.

Alburne Knowe S.C.D. Club.—Miss I. M. E. BELL, c/o Sir David Russell, LL.B., Markinch, Fife.

Airdrie Country Dance Club.—Miss M. W. BROWN, 14 Glebe Crescent, Airdrie.

Angus Country Dance Club.—A. MACNAUGHTON, Esq., 106 Craigie Avenue, Dundee.

Amersham and District Scottish Association.—G. A. TODD, Esq., C.A., "Cornercroft," Devonshire Avenue, Amersham.

Ardrihaig Country Dance Club.—Mrs RICHARDSON, Victoria Terrace, Ardrishaig, Argyll.

Auchterarder Country Dance Club.—J. MARTIN, Esq., Karridale, Auchterarder,

- Abernethy Country Dance Club.**—Miss J. M. Grieve, Elmbank, Abernethy.
- Altringham Scottish Country Dancing Group.**—Miss J. D. CRAIG, Acting Secretary, Sunny Bank, Sandiway Road, Altringham, Cheshire.
- Allan Dancers, Southend-on-Sea.**—Miss L. A. NEWTON, 2 Elm Close, Shoeburyness, Essex.
- Bristol Caledonian Society.**—Miss W. Measdy, Albion Chambers, Bristol.
- Burnside Country Dance Circle.**—Miss M. KERR, 44 Crofthill Road, Glasgow, S.4.
- Bridge of Allan S.C.D. Club.**—Miss J. NOBLE, Victoria Cottages, Bridge of Allan.
- Birmingham and Midland Scottish Society.**—G. L. ARNOTT, Esq., 74 Sandford Road, Moseley, Birmingham, 13.
- Buchlyvie Country Dancing Club.**—Mrs C. PARK, The Police Station, Buchlyvie.
- Burma Caledonian Society.**—W. P. G. MACLACHLAN, Esq., c/o B.O.C. (B.T.) Ltd., 604 Merchant Street, Rangoon, Burma.
- Bournemouth and District Caledonian Society.**—ROBERT POULTNEY, Esq., J.P., "Dalziel," 51 Stokewood Road, Bournemouth.
- Blairgowrie S.C.D. Club.**—Miss M. H. SIM, Savings Bank, Blairgowrie.
- Bolton Caledonian Society.**—R. McCANDLISH, Esq., 3 Spring Bank, Broadell Lane, Bolton, Lancs.
- Carrick Knowe S. C. D. Club.**—W. INGLIS, Esq., 53 Carrick Knowe Gdns., Edinburgh.
- Carlisle Highland Association.**—J. DALGLEISH, Esq., 7 Etterby Lea Grove, Carlisle.
- Cannich S.C.D. Club.**—D. R. YUILL, Esq., Cannich Camp by Beauly, Inverness-shire.
- Comrie S.C.D. Club.**—Miss C. S. PRATT, c/o Church Cottage, Comrie.
- Campbeltown S.W.R. Institute.**—Mrs D. GOMMELI, 49 Main Street, Campbeltown.
- Crieff S.C.D. Club.**—Miss P. HENDERSON, c/o Paton, Montreal Villa, Burrell Street, Crieff.
- Comunn Dannsaigh an Obain.**—Mrs M. FRASER, "Dunarle," Victoria Crescent, Oban.
- Camelon S.C.D. C.ass.**—W. HENDRY, Esq., 32 Carmuir's Street, Camelon, Falkirk.
- Callander S.C.D. Club.**—Miss MARGARET KENNETT, Hartfield House, Callander.
- Cowal S.C.D. Club.**—Miss M. M. CAMPBELL, 18 Victoria Road, Dunoon.
- Caledonian Society of North Devon.**—J. A. SIMPSON, Esq., 20 Cross Street, Barnstaple, Devon.
- Crosby Caledonian Society.**—T. B. HALLEY, Esq., 30 South Parade, Great Crosby, Liverpool, 23.
- Cheadle Scottish Dance Group.**—Miss J. McLACHLAN, 3 Brookfield Crescent, Cheadle, Cheshire.
- Caledonian Society of Lincoln.**—T. G. WISHART, Esq., 8 Outer Circle Drive, St. Giles, Lincoln.
- Caledonian Society of Hamburg, (S.C.D. Section).**—Miss MACBETH, The Church of Scotland Centre, Hamburg, B.A.O.R., 3.
- Crook of Devon S.C.D. Circle.**—Mrs JEFFREY, Powhill Farm, Rumbling Bridge.
- Caledonians, The.**—Mr JAMES MCBAIN, 26 Bellevue Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada.
- Dundee Highland Society.**—W. T. GRANT, Esq., 152a Lochee Road, Dundee.
- Dalmellington S.C.D. Club.**—J. ARMOUR, Esq., 3 Bellsbank Crescent, Dalmellington.
- Dunblane S.C.D. Club.**—Mrs M. BURGESS, "Upleatham," Atholl Place, Dunblane.
- Denny Country Dance Class.**—Miss J. LINKLATER, 9 Anderson Drive, Denny.
- Dunfermline Country Dance Club.**—Miss I. M. RITCHIE, 3 Dick Street, Dunfermline.
- Eassie and Nevay S.C.D. Class.**—Mrs MUDIE, The Toll, Eassie, Forfar, Angus.
- Epsom and District Caledonian Association.**—R. A. COLLET, Esq., Quarry House, Lynwood Road, Epsom.
- Eastbourne S.C.D. Club.**—Miss M. D. ROBERTSON, 234 Victoria Drive, Eastbourne, Sussex.
- Earlston S.W.R. Institute.**—Miss M. BLACKIE, 3 Westfield Place, Earlston, Berwickshire.

- Falkirk S.C.D. Class.**—W. HENDRY, Esq., 32 Carmuir Street, Camelon, Falkirk.
- Farelf S.C. Dancers.**—Major A. BOYLE, A. & S. Highlanders, A Branch, G.H.Q., Farelf, Singapore.
- Forres S.C.D. Class.**—Alex. HAY, Esq., 3 Pilmuir Place, Forres.
- Ford-Argyll Country Dancing Club.**—Miss J. M. CROZIER, Crown House, Ford, by Lochgilphead, Argyll.
- Gafnac Social and Athletic Club.**—Miss E. H. MCEWAN, General Buildings, Perth.
- Grantown Townswomen's Guild.**—Mrs J. A. DONALDSON, 32 The Square, Grantown-on-Spey, Morayshire.
- Glen Urquhart S.C.D. Club.**—Miss G. MACDONALD, Balmacaan, Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire.
- Highlands S.C.D. Club (Southern Rhodesia).**—Miss M. WHITSON, 168 Fife Avenue, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
- Hereford S.C.D. Club.**—Miss D. H. HELMS, Physiotherapy Dept., County Hospital, Hereford.
- Haddington S.C.D. Club.**—Miss J. J. STORIE, 14 Hawthornbank Road, Haddington.
- Hutt Valley Scottish Society.**—V. M. TROTT, Esq., 266 Waterloo Road, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.
- "Inner Wheel" Country Dance Class of Perth.**—Mrs M. B. SCOTT, Rysland, Mount Tabor, Perth.
- Invergowrie S.C.D. Club.**—Miss J. MACNAUGHTON, Newhiggle, Invergowrie.
- Jeanfield F.C. Country Dance Club.**—I. EDWARDS, Esq., 8 Hawarden Terrace, Jeanfield, Perth.
- Kirriemuir S.C.D. Club.**—Mrs A. W. DOUGLAS, Ingleneuk, Kirriemuir, Angus.
- Kippen S.C.D. Club.**—Mrs M. MURRAY MILLAR, Westerton, Kippen, Stirlingshire.
- Leuchars S.C.D. Institute.**—Miss E. LAW, Fern Place, Leuchars, Fife.
- Leslie S.C.D. Club.**—H. MACDONALD, Esq., 28 Maryfield Crescent, Leslie.
- Leamington and Warwick Caledonian Society.**—W. J. Inglis, Esq., 2 Avondale Road, Leamington Spa.
- Leicester Caledonian Society.**—A. FORREST, Esq., 3 Kilworth Drive, Leicester.
- Larbert S.C.D. Class.**—W. HENDRY, Esq., 32 Carmuir Street, Camelon, Falkirk.
- Lochearnhead S.C.D. Club.**—Miss E. MACDOUGALL, Gleneagle, Lochearnhead, Perthshire.
- Leeds University Union Scottish Dance Society.**—L. BOUMPHREY, Esq., The Students' Union, University Road, Leeds, 2.
- Larbert Ladies S.C.D. Club.**—Miss A. M. STEWART, Muirside, Larbert.
- Larkhill Garrison Officers' Club.**—Lt. Col. D. A. KAYLL, R.A., H.Q., School of Artillery, Larkhill, Salisbury Plain.
- Montrose Country Dance Club.**—Miss A. THOMSON, 21 St. John's Cottages, Montrose.
- Melbourne Reel Club.**—O. C. S. SMITH, Esq., 48 Moonee Street, Ascot Vale, Victoria, Australia.
- Malvern Scots Club.**—ALEX. S. YOUNG, Esq., 7 Malvern House, Abbey Road, Malvern, Worcs.
- Nottingham S.C.D. Club.**—Miss J. F. KNOWLES, 23 Derby Road, Stapleford, Notts.
- Newport (Mon.) and District Caledonian Society.**—Mrs C. E. MORRISON, 12 Alway Crescent, Newport, Mon.
- Oakland, California, Reel and Strathspey Club.**—Miss K. CARTER, 2115 California Street, San Francisco, 15, California, U.S.A.

- Port William S.C.D. Club.**—Mrs EWING, Mill Cottage, Port William.
- Prestwick S.C.D. Club.**—Miss S. POTTER, 2 Park Avenue, Prestwick.
- Pitlochry Scottish Dance Club.**—A. G. MARSHALL, Esq., Seebpore House, Pitlochry.
- P. and B. Reel Club.**—Miss M. GOLDSBROUGH, Paton & Baldwins, Ltd., Personnel Dept., Darlington, Co. Durham.
- R.A.F. Officers' S.C.D. Society of Changi, Singapore.**—D. BEAUMONT, Esq., Secretarial III, R.A.F. Station, Changi, Singapore.
- Rugby Scottish Society.**—Mrs R. W.T. COLEMAN, 18 Vicarage Road, Rugby.
- "Rob-Roysters," Culter S.C.D. Class.**—Miss M. STUART, Fernbank, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire.
- Roths Old Time Dance Club.**—P. H. SINCLAIR, Esq., 18 Maryfield Crescent, Leslie, Fife.
- Richmond Caledonian Society.**—J. T. SMALL, Esq., 232 Beechcroft Road, London, S.W. 17.
- Royal Naval College, Dartmouth (Highland Dancing Society).**—The Secretary, Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.
- R.A.F. Association, Blairgowrie and District Branch, Scottish Country Dance Club.**—W. BLACKLAWS, Esq., R.A.F.A. Scottish Country Dance Club, 42 Reform Street, Blairgowrie.
- R.A.F. Officers' S.C.D. Society of Seletar, Singapore.**—Fl./Lt. A. V. J. HICKS, Officers' Mess, R.A.F. Base, Seletar, Singapore, 28.
- Southampton Scottish Association.**—Mrs A. YEOMAN, 237A Vale Drive, Midanbury, Southampton.
- St. Andrew's Society of Otago.**—Miss E. WILSON, 828 Cumberland Street, Dunedin, New Zealand.
- Strichen S.C.D. Society.**—M.A.D. SCOTT, Esq., c/o Mrs WOOD, 24 Bridge Street, Strichen.
- Scots Society of St. Andrew, Slough.**—Miss G. M. MACLEAN, 105 Wellington Street, Slough.
- Stewartry S.C.D. Committee.**—A. J. W. BALFOUR, Esq., Union Bank House, Castle-Douglas.
- Shanghai Reel Club.**—M. P. KEYES, Esq., c/o Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., 27 The Bund, Shanghai.
- Scots Society of St. Andrew, Bedford.**—W. G. MENNIE, Esq., 14 Fosterhill Road, Bedford.
- St. Andrews Scottish Dancing Society, Reading.**—G. BROWN, Esq., 163 King's Road, Reading.
- Stratford-on-Avon Caledonian Society.**—Mrs E. M. SOMERVILLE, 97 Albany Road, Stratford-on-Avon.
- Social Dance Club, St. Rule's Church.**—Miss L. PHILIP, 66 Hill Street, Monifieth.
- Scone S.C.D. Club.**—Mrs M. MACFARLANE, 31 Mansfield Road, Scone, Perth.
- Scottish Country Dance Association, Bombay.**—J. C. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Messrs W. Jacks & Co., Ltd., Hamilton House, Ballard Estate, P.O. Box 335, Bombay, 1.
- Scottish Country Dance Club of Sandakan.**—Mrs M. ANDERSON, c/o Fisheries Dept., Sandakan Colony, North Borneo.
- Scottish Country Dance Group, Philadelphia.**—Miss ADAMS, 6736 Jackson Street, Philadelphia, 35, Penn., U.S.A.
- South-East Essex Scottish Society Reel Club.**—F. J. MACLAINE, Esq., 44 Valkyrie Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.
- Scottish Country Dance Association of East Africs.**—N. NELSON, Esq., P.O. Box 6083, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Strathallan S.C.D. Club.**—Miss M. R. H. WALKER, Strathallan Castle, Auchterarder.
- Strathearn S.C.D. Club, Crieff.**—Miss E. M. STORMONTH, 7 Sauchie Place, Crieff.
- Strome District S.C.D. Club.**—Mr J. MACKAY, Police Station, Strone, by Dunoon.
- Sydney S.C.D. Circle.**—Mrs STANSFORD LONDON, 2 Black Street, Vanclous, Sydney, N.S.W.

St. Andrew's Society of Masterton.—The Secretary, St. Andrew's Society of Masterton, New Zealand.

Scottish Reel and Country Dancing (Selangor) Society.—Mrs ANNE ALLIN, P.O. Box 702, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya.

Scottish Agricultural Industries Ltd., Social Club.—Miss F. LOW, S.A.I., Blaikie's Quay, Aberdeen.

South of Manchester Musical, Literary and Folk Dance Centre.—H. R. BALDREY, Esq., 505 Wilbraham Road, Manchester, 21.

St. Andrew's S.C.D. Society, Calcutta.—D. Fordwood, Esq., C.A., 4 Clive Row, Calcutta.

Tayside S.C.D. Club.—Miss N. FRENCH, Taybank, East Newport.

Tulliallan S.C.D. Club.—N. FERGUSON, Esq., 9 Chapelhill Street, Kincardine, by Alloa.

Torquay and District Scottish Society.—H. HOLMES, Esq., Gairloch, Barton Road, Torquay.

Wellington Association of Scots Societies.—H. SMITH, Esq., Box 273, Wellington, New Zealand.

West Plean and Auchinbowie Women's Club.—Mrs Speir, West Plean, Stirling.

Wallington S.C.D. Class.—Mrs N. W. SUMMERS, 11 Hamilton Way, Wallington, Surrey.

Y.W.C.A. (Cupar Rural Area).—Miss E. H. NIVEN, Lady Wynd, Cupar, Fife.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 11th November 1950

THE Twenty-first Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Country Dance Society was held on Saturday, 11th November 1950, at 2.30 p.m. in the Central Halls, Tollcross Edinburgh.

PRESENT.—Lord James Stewart Murray presided and there was approximately an attendance of 540 members.

The Secretary read a telegram from H.R.H. the Princess Elizabeth, Patron of the Society, in reply to one sent to her from the meeting:—

"I send you the President, the Executive Council and members of the Scottish Country Dance Society, thanks for the kind message of greetings from the twenty-first Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh. Signed—Elizabeth."

APOLOGIES.—Apologies were intimated from Mrs Bruce, Miss Campbell, Mr Duthie, Lord Inverclyde, Mrs Bird Matthew, Mrs Hamilton-Meikle, Mr McAdie and Mrs Stewart.

The Chairman, in regretting the absence of Mrs Stewart, Vice-President of the Society, through illness, agreed to send her a message from the meeting wishing her a speedy recovery.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS.—Lord James in his address said that every year the Society had shown a steady progress but in studying the *Bulletin* of 1950 it had struck him that this year the development in all directions had been phenomenal. The Society had now a membership of approximately 10,000, 50 Branches and 100 Affiliated Groups. In an interesting speech, Lord James went on to say that this development, which started 27 years ago with hardly any propaganda and with no grant aids from the Government, had proved that, although it was partly a romantic revival with a special appeal to Scots at home and overseas, it was also a movement which had satisfied a need of modern times. He thought perhaps a remark made by an appreciative Frenchman about the dancing of the Scottish team at the Nice Festival supplied a clue to the Society's success. The expression was "A superb blending, ancient and yet modern." Lord James said a debt of gratitude was owed to the founders, Mrs Stewart and Miss Jean Milligan for giving

the large store of Scottish Country dances to the public. From the very beginning they had always stressed the great social benefits to be derived from Scottish Country Dancing.

MINUTES.—Those of the last meeting held on 19th November 1949 (circulated in the *Bulletin*) were confirmed and signed.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS.—With the approval of the meeting the reports were considered next on the Agenda.

The adoption of the Annual Report which was published in the *Bulletin*, was proposed by Miss A. Anderson (Edinburgh) and seconded by Miss B. Anderson (Aberdeen). The report was adopted.

Mr Drummond (Edinburgh) proposed the adoption of the Financial Report and this was seconded by Miss Kenyon (Glasgow).

The Treasurer, in dealing with the Financial Report, drew attention to the fact that the Report under consideration was for a period of nine months only and therefore the Balance could not be compared with last year's. Mr Scott (Edinburgh) commented on certain items in the Balance Sheet stressing points referring to sale of books and investment of capital at present in savings account. The Chairman asked Mr Scott to send in his suggestions in writing to the Secretary, and undertook to see that these were brought before the appropriate Committee. The Report was adopted.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 1950-51.—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 seven nominations for the six places vacant on the Executive Council. After voting, the following members were elected—Mrs Hutchison (Dundee), Mrs Lesslie (Edinburgh), Miss MacLennan (Aberdeen), Miss McLagan (Perth), Dr McLellan (Angus) and Mr Murray (Glasgow).

ROYAL CHARTER.—The Chairman stated that at a meeting of the Management Committee held on 19th September 1950, the suggestion had been put forward that the Society should apply for a Royal Charter and called upon Mr Frizell to explain to the meeting the reasons for making the application.

Mr Frizell stated that the Society had been in existence since 1923 and now had a membership of between 10,000 and 11,000. In the course of its work it had discovered and preserved more than 200 old dances; it had ensured that these should be danced properly, bringing beauty and grace into our social gatherings of to-day. The interest in Scottish Country dancing was almost world wide. There were now a great many dancing Societies with names like that of the S.C.D.S. and it was possible that the public might become confused, and methods of dancing taught of which the Society did not approve. The Society, therefore, needed a Royal Charter to protect its interests and to ensure its continued existence. He went on to say that in petitioning for a Royal Charter, there was a good omen in the interest taken by the Royal Family in the Society. Since 1946 the Society had enjoyed the Patronage of H.R.H. The Princess Elizabeth, who had described Scottish Country dancing, as "one of Scotland's most characteristic pastimes." In conclusion, Mr Frizell moved the following resolution:—That the President, Vice-President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer in the name of, and by authority of the Executive Council and members of the Society, be and are hereby authorised to present a Petition to the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council praying that a Royal Charter of Incorporation may be granted to the Society by the name of The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Mr Lindsay Stewart seconded Mr Frizell's proposal and the meeting unanimously approved the motion.

The Chairman said that the Constitution as it stood at present, fell short in several respects from what would be desirable for a body seeking a Royal Charter. It would,

therefore, require to be amended. There were several motions on the Agenda, proposing or involving amendments to the Constitution, viz.—

- (a) 1. Proposed alteration to Para 7 of the Constitution and Rules from Executive Council Meeting held on 10th August 1950.

“The Executive Council shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, six Members elected by the Society and one nominated from each Branch. The nomination of the six members elected by the Society shall go, through the Branch Secretary and only two nominations shall be sent in from each Branch. The President and Vice-President of the Society shall be, ex-officio, Members of the Executive Council.”

2. From Dundee Branch.

“The Executive Council shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Members nominated by Branches—each Branch shall be entitled to nominate one Member to represent it on the Executive Council—and six other Members elected by the Society. Only in the event of insufficient nominations shall more than one Member of the same Branch be eligible for election to one of these six places. The President and Vice-President shall be, ex-officio, Members of the Executive Council.”

3. From Perth Branch.

“The Executive Council shall consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Members nominated by Branches. Each Branch shall be entitled to nominate one Member to represent it on the Executive Council. The President and Vice-President of the Society shall be, ex-officio, Members of the Executive Council.”

- (b) Proposed alteration to Paragraph 9 of Constitution and Rules.
From Perth Branch.

“The Executive Council shall have power to appoint Committees from its own Members and to delegate any of its power or duties to such Committees.”

In view of what he had said, the Chairman suggested that all these resolutions should be deferred until the general question of the revision of the Constitution has been considered.

In this connection, he said that an ad hoc committee should be appointed with a remit to revise the Constitution, and submit their proposals to an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee should consist of the following:—

Mrs Hamilton-Meikle (Chairman), Miss Milligan (Vice-Chairman), Miss Hadden (Secretary), Mr J. B. Frizell (an Accountant), Mr A. Lindsay Stewart (a Lawyer), and Mr Charles Black of Warden Bruce & Co., W.S., who had been appointed to act for the Society.

There was some discussion regarding the proposed composition of the special committee, several members voicing the opinion that the Branches should be more directly represented on it.

It was explained, however, that the suggestions as to the membership of the committee have been made with regard to.—

- (a) Qualifications of the members proposed.

(b) The desirability of remitting a revision of the Constitution to a small committee, which would be able to meet frequently and in close co-operation with the solicitors, whose duty it would be to prepare the petition for the Royal Charter.

The proposal for the appointment of the special committee was adopted.

The Chairman assured the meeting that this committee would give full consideration to each paragraph of the present Constitution, and to each resolution on the Agenda

involving alteration to the Constitution, and that after a request from the meeting he accepted a suggestion that Branches should submit to the special committee, through their secretaries, any further suggestions for amendments to the Constitution.

ALTERATION TO PARAGRAPH 16 OF CONSTITUTION AND RULES.—*Examination Entrance Fee.* The Chairman stated that it would be helpful to the new committee to obtain a definite ruling on the proposal from the Executive Council meeting of 19th November 1949 "That the examination entrance fee should be increased from 5/- to 10/-." Mr Mehan (Dundee) proposed an amendment that the examination fee of 5/- be retained. Mr Cosh (Glasgow) seconded the amendment.

On a vote, the proposal was carried, that the examination entrance fee should be increased from 5/- to 10/-.

RESOLUTION FROM EDINBURGH BRANCH.—There was some question as to whether the three following resolutions on the Agenda, should be discussed at this point.

1. "In view of the very large annual additions to the funds of the Parent Society and in the absence of any declaration of future financial policy, the Edinburgh Branch is of opinion that the time has come when a larger proportion than 10 per cent of the members' annual subscriptions should be retained by the Branches for their own activities.

2. "That copies of each Branch's Annual Accounts, certified by a qualified auditor, shall be sent to Headquarters within one month of the Annual General Meeting of each Branch and made available on request to all Branch Secretaries."

3. "That subscriptions for juveniles between the ages of 15 and 17 inclusive should be 2/6, of which subscription a Branch should retain 1/6.

Mr Purdon (Edinburgh) proposed that these resolutions should be remitted to the sub-Committee elected to re-draft the Constitution.

Mr Lindsay Stewart seconded the proposal and the meeting agreed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1951.—The Chairman announced that the Executive Council had accepted the invitation of the Perth Branch to hold the meeting in Perth in 1951.

VOTE OF THANKS.—Mr G. S. Robertson (Angus) proposed a vote of thanks to Lord James Stewart Murray for presiding at the meeting and to the Edinburgh Branch for all the arrangements in connection with the week-end.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Holland, 7th - 17th July 1951

DURING the last two years the International Team has experienced and become accustomed to the warm glow of the south, the dark beauty of the Latin races, the tarnished grandeur and floreate baroque of Venice and the lofty sundrenched romance of the Riviera. This year, a plane the complement of which was almost entirely Scottish roared into Schipol ahead of schedule and released its passengers into a chain of quite different experiences: a climate almost as uncertain as our own; beauty of the blond Teutonic type, flat water-sected country, desolate wastes being rapidly rescued from a bombed confusion, and a level-headed people who knew what austerity could be.

Organised Folk dancing in Holland is a comparatively recent innovation when compared to the life of our own Society.

Our dances are the only ones with perpetual "energetic" steps throughout the performances. Most of the folk dances abroad have a basis of a running or a walking step. Our Pas de Basque and Scottische step comes as a bit of a shock to those who have not met them before; the dancers abroad are most keen to master them however, and do so with some measure of success.

It was a brave and noble venture for this Society to have an International Festival

and invite teams from Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Belgium and France. The idea was that the various teams should be the guests of one town, then should move on to the next and meet all together at certain times for Gala performances.

To foster a better knowledge of one another's ways, the hospitality of their houses was open to us. This however, had its attendant difficulties from a team point of view, as, because of housing shortage (the result of intensive bombing) and because of new ideas in Dutch town planning (where all dwelling areas are on the fringes of the town) contact with one another was very difficult and assemblies for rehearsal almost impossible.

Excursions were arranged for us by bus, boat, tram and foot—the Dutch are indefatigable walkers: never before has such a mighty mileage been covered by so few Scots in such a short period of time.

One day we walked along one of the main dykes, finally arriving at Schoonhoven. This main dyke is also a main road upon which two buses can pass. Houses and villages are built along it and beside it, the doors of the houses guarded by discarded sabots. Delft was visited—a delightful town, the centre of the famous pottery and blue ceramic painting.

Later we saw this town by night, floodlit, the belfries aglow, the candles festooned with floodlit flowerboxes suspended halfway to the waters' edge and reflected in their mirror stillness; the outlines of the bridges built at every hundred yards were picked out in fairy lights. The effect was something other than worldly.

Towards the end of our visit we were taken on a tour of the canals of Amsterdam—that gaunt, austere, Northern Venice stolidly standing in grey waters.

One of the major difficulties of being in Holland is the fact that Dutch is not a universal European language; admittedly most of the educated Dutch speak English, and speak it well but this is not a general rule. Dutch is akin to German but the Dutch people prefer not to speak German to-day. English is now taught as the second language in the schools. Many of the Norwegians and Swedes could not speak English either, but this did not hinder us overmuch and everyone seemed to be able to converse by some means or other.

Miss Milligan was of course quite undeterred by any such difficulties; during a Scottish-Dutch session she quite astounded the team by announcing the fact that she was going to teach the Dutch "Hamilton House." Many of the Dutch had not even done a pas de basque before—but, by absolute discipline and a drill in a special tongue that she coined for herself, a sort of Milligan-Esperanto" composed of English, German and Dutch—she achieved with glory what a lesser spirit would have fainted even to consider. The Dutch were delighted. Another tribute to her popularity, her courage and her dominating personality took place during an afternoon performance in a vast school quadrangle in Amsterdam where every nation represented was given a half an hour to dance and teach some of its dances to the others. Miss Milligan mounted the rostrum and subjugated the huge assembly. She taught in her characteristic way; only, this time in her own characteristic "language" which delighted all present. The final spectacle was one of the things remembered: the entire quadrangle taken up by two huge concentric circles of groups dancing the Dashing White Sergeant, the various national costumes kaleidoscopic in the brilliant sunshine. What added further enjoyment to this performance was the fact that, unknown to herself, Miss Milligan's conversation with those beside her was being completely amplified to the waiting world: they had forgotten to switch off the microphone.

Dancing for us began in Rotterdam, the least beautiful and the most badly scarred of all the cities. Here the performances were out-of-doors, one being in the open-air theatre. Next, Dordrecht was visited—about ten miles from Rotterdam, it is a sleepy, quiet town of many flowers; the canals were almost choked with water-lilies of all hues. There is a magnificent modern "Arts Centre" in Dordrecht; its lofty spacious hall made a splendid setting for our performance. It was indeed a pleasure to the team to dance on a sprung floor after so much "cobble-dancing."

The Hague was our next destination; it is a beautiful city containing the main Royal

Palace. There again we met with warm-hearted kindness, and again we danced in open-air performances and only once were we caught in rain. Our first performance was in a cobbled square and the second in the quadrangle of a school. It was to this performance that the Representatives from the Embassy came.

From the Hague we had a great send-off as we left for Leyden by train and thence to Amsterdam by the canals, a journey of three hours. The boat was chartered by us so the Scottish Saltire fluttered proudly above us in the brilliant sun; the people on the banks cheered and waved as we passed, and stopped to listen as the sweet notes of Willie Clement's pipes spread over the endless plains.

In Amsterdam, the capital, we were received by the Burgomaster, then we performed in a Gala performance in the Square in front of the Royal Palace. This Palace as it stands in its present form was built on the site of an ancient town hall by the brother of Napoleon. Queen Juliana lives in it for a fortnight each year. The cobbles were difficult to dance on, especially as there had been recent rain, and the amplification was atrocious, but in spite of all we managed to make an impression although we were very exhausted.

From Amsterdam we passed on to Haarlem: Haarlem was our happiest experience. For the first time we were all together and we had more time to arrange things and to rehearse. It was the Flower Festival and everything was bedecked with all kinds of flowers, especially carnations. On the first evening we danced on the great verdant expanse of common on the South of the town.

In the last day we were received along with the Swedes by the Burgomaster of Haarlem in the presence of the Flower Queen at the ancient Town Hall in the heart of the town. After the evening performance we were asked to return to give a short indoor performance to some notabilities. The ancient Hall, dating from the seventeenth century had, suspended from its mellow noble-timbered roof five magnificent brass chandeliers varying in size from the enormous twelve-foot one in the centre of the Hall to the small one in the arch above the Burgomaster's Dais. These treasured chandeliers—huge but yet elegant carry high a thousand candles in their tapering arms. Only on Festival Days and on very special occasions are they lit; during the war they were buried and only a few knew where they lay hidden.

In the evening, up the crimson-carpeted out-door staircases we went into this Hall—the whole room was a-shimmer with the serene glitter of the myriad candles: we felt that we belonged—lace and jewels, tartans, elegant white gowns, flowing sashes, the grace of the dance and flowers were the logical complement to such a setting. It was an experience not readily forgotten either by performers or spectators. It was our golden moment.

Thus we left Holland—haunted by the smell of the countless blossoms scattered everywhere and by the memories of canals, fountains, waterfalls and candles.

London, 1951

IN connection with Festival of Britain celebrations in London, a Folk Dance Festival was held in the Albert Hall on 21st, 22nd and 23rd June and a Scottish Country Dance team was invited to take part. The programme was most interesting, and included dancers from Isle of Man, Ireland and Yugoslavia and from many parts of England. From Wales came a choir of men and women and a harpist. There were three evening performances and one out-of-doors on the Saturday afternoon. The arena of the Albert Hall makes a perfect setting for this type of spectacle, and the Scottish team showed to great advantage and was very popular with the audiences. They danced several favourites including Lord Rosslyn's Fancy, Montgomerie's Rant, My Mother's Coming in, Jimmy's Fancy, Monymusk, and the ever popular Glasgow Highlanders. Mr Jack Johnstone danced a different solo each evening—Seann Triubhas, Earl of Errol and Sword Dance—and we were glad to be able to demonstrate such a high standard of Highland dancing, and to show the contrast between the vigour and precision of the solo work and the ease and grace of the Country dances.

The whole visit was most successful, and I think the team upheld the Society's reputation for "a good show."

Summer School, 1951

THE Summer School offers so much to those fortunate enough to attend it that the ever-increasing number of applications from all over the world is not astonishing. At St. Andrews they find splendid teaching, lovely music, congenial society and beautiful surroundings.

Instruction is provided by the cream of the Society's teachers, no matter whether they are taking a Very Advanced class, or a class of nervous candidates for their First Certificate. They all excel, but each, by a different approach to the subject, throws new light on the art he or she practises and teaches. And the music! To anyone who has to depend on a gramophone at Branch classes it is tremendously exhilarating to dance to a really good pianist's playing which can give a lift to the clumsiest feet. Apart from the actual music played at classes, as a Danish lady said, "always, always, there is music at St. Andrews." It drifts through the long passage and up the wide stair of University Hall, not only the lovely old airs, gay or stately, of the country dances, but Chopin and Brahms and Bach, and the sound of singing voices.

Old friends meet and new friends are made at the Summer School. Teachers throw off responsibility and become lighthearted pupils. Housewives exercise new muscles and rejoice in the temporary escape from kitchen stove and sink, and forget about jam-making while they work out the formations of a new dance. How delightful it is to live in a huge airy building, swept and garnished by someone else's efforts, to enjoy constant hot water without a thought of fuel shortage, to eat food which one has neither bought nor prepared! Appetites are very healthy in the strong sea air, and in spite of large well-cooked meals four times a day, almost everyone has enough energy at the end of a strenuous day of classes and social dancing after dinner, to wander down into the town and visit one of the little cafés which obligingly remain open until eleven o'clock at night. There are parties given in rooms, too, reminiscent of those lawless midnight feasts partaken of in stealth at boarding-school—parties which, as the hour grows late, break up in whispers and on tip-toe, the guests creeping along the darkened landings with perhaps a glimpse of a revered Presence making a stately dressing-gowned way to the bath. And then, after the bustle and movement of the long day, there is the peace of the small austere bedroom, fresh with salty air, still holding within its clean white walls something of its term-time occupant's personality.

It is not only the cheerful communal life of University Hall and the joys of continual dancing that make the week or fortnight spent at St. Andrews so memorable. The little town has a unique flavour, a blend of antiquity, learning and golf which impresses itself, perhaps unrealised, on everyone who visits it, and the graceful art of dancing is best practised in these beautiful surroundings. The grim ruins of the old castle on the point, the broken arches of the Gothic cathedral, the square strength of St. Rules' Tower, are no more a part of the national heritage of history and tradition than the dances saved from oblivion or mutilation by the work of the Scottish Country Dance Society.

Long, long after, some particular dance tune will recall St. Andrews, the green lawns and lavender bushes about the pile of University Hall, the old red-roofed houses of the town, the golden crescent of the west beach with the sea in all its changing colours of blue-green and green-blue stretching away to meet the milder blue of the wide sky, and the rhythm of the dance brings back the endless rhythmic falling of waves on the shore. Back, too, comes a flock of memories long since supposed forgotten: the ordered symmetry of the dance seen from the gallery of St. Katherine's Gymnasium—a single figure in white dress and tartan sash dancing Flora MacDonald's Fancy with lovely elegance on the shining floor of the big hall—a woman's beautiful voice singing "Willie's rare and Willie's fair" to a crowd bewitched into total silence in the same hall—a mixed team of girls and kilted men performing a demonstration dance—and to crown it all, the quiet night, with the afterglow still brightening the west, the Bell Rock Light flashing

across the unseen water, a gentle wind just stirring the dark trees where owls are calling, and a voice crying "Goodnight!"

One carries away from the Summer School many treasures besides an added proficiency in dancing, something of beauty, something of grace to enrich this dull and troubled world of to-day.

Reel of Tulloch, Two.

"THE Reel of Tulloch, Two, was done years ago among the suitors for the hand of the Laird's daughter. Isabel was in love with one of the lawless Clan MacGregor, but her friends gave the preference to a gentleman of the Robertson Clan, who decided on the destruction of his rival. Accordingly, accompanied by a small party, he came suddenly upon him, but MacGregor was more than a match for his assailants. Having escaped to a barn he made gallant use of his claymore. Striking down successfully those who dared to enter and aided by Isabel, who loaded for him a musket, he succeeded in destroying the whole band, amongst whom was her brother who had acted a treacherous part on this occasion.

It was in the moment of exultation concurrent on such a victory that he composed and danced the famous Reel of Tulloch. Soon afterwards, Isabel was apprehended and imprisoned for her part in the bloody fray. When the heart of MacGregor, who had been shot during her imprisonment, was presented to her, she was so overcome with anguish, that her own death soon followed—about 1640."

This story was found in the diary of Mr James Neill, a famous dancing master in Forfar from 1860-1920. Mr Neill had among his pupils many of the well known families of the day including the Strathmores and that of our own President, the Duke of Atholl.

BOOK 16.—CORRECTIONS

In the "Caledonian Rant" there are two printers' errors—

- (1) In figures 2, 3, and 4 the second couple should be in their original place.
- (2) Bars 21-24—The words "move down" should read "move up."

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

Will members please note that the end of the Financial year has been changed and is now 30th June.

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