

Bros. T. Goldsworthy, S.P.C.R., E. O. Baddeley, Williams, Mr. Spencer Jones, etc. An excellent cold collation was served by Bro. H. Davies.

Subsequently the Chief Ranger, who presided, thanked the Court for the honour they had done him in electing him to the high position. He referred to the formation of the first Court in Newport, the difficulties encountered, and the resuscitation of the organization. Bro. Fry said he was determined to put the Order to the test, and see whether it was really what it was represented to be. He communicated with Bro. Marshall, the manager of Great Britain, telling him that he intended to stand firm to the principles of the Order, and would do something to resuscitate it in the town. Eventually a meeting was called at the Shaftesbury Hotel, where the Organizing Secretary gave them an exposition of the principles. The Court was resuscitated, and since that time it had been the strongest Court in Wales. (Applause). He trusted that they might ever remain so. In conclusion, he appealed to the officers and brethren of Court Uskside to assist him in making the Order more successful during the coming year than any previous year. (Applause.)

An interesting little ceremony then took place, Bro. Sykes being presented by the High Chief Ranger with a handsome jewel in recognition of his valuable services to the Order. Everyone admired the P.C.R. for his sterling worth. It was a good thing for the Order that they had such men as Bro. Sykes, who had always taken an active interest in the cause they had at heart. (Applause.) The H.C.R. then pinned the jewel to Bro. Sykes' coat. The recipient briefly but suitably acknowledged the gift. Although he had vacated the office of C.R., his interest in the Court would not flag. (Applause.)

The High Secretary, in addressing the meeting, congratulated the chairman upon the position he occupied, and Bro. Sykes, upon being presented with the magnificent jewel. The High Standing Committee could appreciate the way in which Bro. Sykes had represented his constituency. With regard to the Order, the last returns gave the membership at over 140,000, which he thought was very satisfactory. Though as a principle they did not admit any reserve fund, they had an accumulated fund amounting to £643,038. The medical examination was stiff, so that they were able to insure at a somewhat cheaper rate than the ordinary old line insurance companies. He might tell them that Aberystwyth were trying to hold the premier position, but he hoped that when they met next October the Uskside Court would still hold that position. (Hear, hear.)

The High Chief Ranger gave a lengthy address, in which he pointed out the advantages of the Order, which was not only a social but an insurance society. The Order advocated total abstinence, and the fact that total abstainers made better lives than moderate drinkers must make the Order strong. It provided that every member must believe in a Supreme Being. He pointed out that the Order had no surrender value and paid nothing for lapses. No insurance society gave so much information to its members, which he hoped would number a million by the end of the year. (Applause.)

Bro. Thomas thanked the visiting brethren for their addresses and the "Press," the *Argus* representative responding.

During the evening selections were given on the

gramophone. Mr. Spencer Jones sang "The Longshoreman," and Bro. C. F. Williams rendered "The Old Salt's Yarn." Bro. J. Martin Wood accompanied. A pleasant evening was spent.

#### Bangor.

A meeting was held on the 30th ult., at which an exposition of the principles of the I.O.F. was given by Bro. Marshall, S.D.S.C.R. The object of the meeting was to solidify and intensify a movement to open a Court in this town, and the results were satisfactory, several names being added to the charter application form, and a date fixed for institution.

#### Aberdare.

On 5th January the Court here was visited by Bro. Marshall, from London, and by the H.C.R. and H.S. of Wales. An interesting talk on things Forestric occupied the time of the meeting, which was presided over by the C.R.

#### NORWAY.

Independent Forestry is adding to its laurels here as elsewhere. Two new Courts have been instituted. In each case a new town has been taken possession of. Bro. Reynolds has been indefatigable in his efforts which have necessitated vigilance in no ordinary degree. The opposition of the insurance companies has however been overcome.

### Before the Gavel Sounds.

#### A Scotch Apology.

A Kirkcaldy, Scotland, paper recently printed an account of an accident which befell two well-known temperance men on their way home from a prohibition meeting, and facetiously stated that "fortunately both gentleman were sober at the time." This remark made the victims of accident indignant, and they demanded a public apology from the editor. In the next issue of the paper appeared this notice:

"Messrs. ——— and ——— demand an apology for our having stated that at the time of their accident they were both sober. We have pleasure in withdrawing our observation."

#### French Readiness.

Waiters in Parisian restaurants always have an answer ready. Zola, the novelist, had noticed this fact, and, according to the "Figaro," utilized it in perpetrating a joke. "Bring me a sphinx 'a la Marengo,'" he said to a waiter. "I am sorry to say they are out," was the answer. "What, no more sphinx?" said Zola, in a tone of indignant surprise. The waiter stepped close to the chair and whispered, "The truth is we have some, monsieur, but I don't care to serve them to you, as they are not quite fresh."

#### Don't Break a Regular Habit.

Bro. William Smith is noted for his jollity and also for keeping late hours. As a rule he gets home about 2 o'clock in the morning. One evening,