Declining interest in the prosperity of both the Pension and Asylum Societies had reached an acute stage, when at the Pension Meeting, 1863, Mr. Charles Tuckett, junr., the chairman, reminded the Society that though “the average income for the last eight years was £316, that of 1862 was £276, and of this year only £246”; that the number of subscribers had not increased since 1838; and that the proportion of subscribing employers had seriously decreased. Of the Day Workers’ Society, about four-sevenths subscribed; of the Consolidated Society but little over two-fifths subscribed; while of the Booksellers, only five out of a list of 240 in the Directory contributed to the support of the Society.

These saddening reminders showed the need for a much closer analysis of the Society’s connection with the trade, and on July 18th the Committee issued to 120 shops a short note with a blank table, requesting that the form might be filled in with the employer’s name, number employed, male and female, and paying to Pension Society, male and female. Only 49 of these circulars were returned, but they embraced the principal establishments in the trade, showing that in the shops to which they related there were 976 males employed, 34 of whom were subscribers to the Pension Society; there were also 1,118 females employed of whom 284 were subscribers. Total in 49 shops: 1,263 non-subscribers, 831 subscribers, or 60 per cent. non-subscribing, and this disheartening revelation concerned shops where there were regular shop collectors of weekly pence. The only inference that could be drawn from these statistics was that in the other 71 shops the percentage of non-subscribers must be much greater; and this, after all the stirring appeals that had been made, and with the knowledge that the list of candidates was gradually growing in spite of being already too large for the limited funds, a grievous matter truly! What could be done?

Following out Mr. C. Tuckett’s suggestion a dinner and ball was held at the Freemason’s Tavern on March 7th, 1864, when E. Richards, Esq., F.R.A.S., took the chair and the occasion to point out certain objectionable matters to which he called attention, viz.: that while women were expected to contribute equally to become eligible, the pensions for women were from 5/- to 6/- per week, while for men they were from 7/- to 9/-; that in 1837, 989 subscribers averaged 5/- per head, while in 1863, 1,111 only averaged 5/10. He then touched upon the inequality of voting power for money subscribed, which he considered unjust.

The dinner was a great success for it added £179 10s. to the funds, but the objections raised by an impartial friend had still further borne in upon the minds of many the need of some more radical change than the simple alteration of rules which was proposed at the Annual Meeting, for even old members, and workers on the Committees, seemed at a loss to understand why the differences had existed.

It was these two or three “eye-openers” gently administered by friends of the cause, and the presence of fresh counsel on the Committee that brought about a general appreciation of the need of improvement, and of the need of someone who, besides having the interests of the Society at heart, had the leisure, ability, and courage combined to sketch out a definite plan for the benefit of each Society. The time had fully come, and the man was found in the person of Mr. C. Tuckett, junr., who had but just been elected upon Committee.

Immediately after the April meeting, 1864, a circular was printed and extensively distributed throughout the trade which expressed great concern for the depressed state of the two Societies. Having in view the numbers in the Trade Societies, 1,100 males, and of the women 1,500, making a total of 2,600, or more than double the numbers of the year 1837, yet the
total income of the Pension Society had dwindled down from £370 in 1837 to £190 in 1863. What was
the cause of the decline? The cause suggested was
that the Asylum had cut itself adrift from the Pension
Society and had alienated the sympathies of many
influential subscribers by the unfortunate decision
concerning the Trustees of that Institution in 1838,
the result being that the Societies had to depend
almost exclusively upon the support of the workmen.
It therefore suggested the propriety and necessity
of uniting the two Societies into one general benefit
for the following reasons: (1) A saving of expense,
time, etc., in the management; (2) The abolishing
of all opposition or rivalry; (3) The great benefit to
the aged candidates by granting them with the one
election not only a pension, but a home; (4) The
increased support which is certain to be received by
such a Society, and of which the undesigned have
had many proofs.” After suggesting in detail how
these benefits might be obtained, the signers proposed
a joint meeting of the two Societies to take the pro-
posal into consideration, and invited correspondence
upon it. This circular was signed by C. Tuckett, junr.,
T. E. Aitken, W. Bockett, J. R. Burn, S. Curtis, T. J.

The most important reply which this circular evoked
was from Mr. James England, dated from the Book-
inder’s Asylum, Balls Pond-road, May 15th, 1865, which
opened up some of “the difficulties and obstacles that
will surround the project . . . at the present time, or
until the other wing is built, and the amount to qualify
a candidate for the Asylum be brought equal to the
pension . . . Until that qualification be equalized, I
am afraid that the opposition of those who have paid
liberally to both Societies will be very great indeed
to allow the numerous members of the Asylum who
have paid so little to become equal participators of the
great benefits of the Pension Society. There are
upwards of 1,600 life donors to the Asylum, fully two
thirds of which do not subscribe to the pension. There
are upwards of 1,200 annual subscribers to the pension,
fully half of whom have not paid anything to the Asylum.
How, then, are the interests of this heterogeneous
mixture to be disposed of and conciliated.” Mr. England
then points out several inaccuracies in Mr. Tuckett’s
circular, urging that the year 1863 was not a fair
time to take for comparison owing to severe trade
depression, that the sum stated for that year was
too low, and that the pension subscriptions were the
trust barometer of the trade’s prosperity, therefore,
any falling off was but the effect of other causes
than the one suggested. He was in favour of the
amalgamation, and pointed out means to secure that
end, but should it fail in its entirety, he suggested
the fusion into one Society, with two separate funds
as instanced by the Stone Masons’ and the Tailors’
Charitable Institutions.

In the Bookbinders’ Trade Circular, September, 1864,
Mr. T. J. Dunning reviewed the general objections to
the scheme, and dwelt particularly on Mr. England’s
letter as “information given by one well qualified
to know, and in all respects most trustworthy.” The
objections he summarized as being of two classes:
(1st) Those of the pension subscribers, which were
founded upon the inequality of qualification, both
as to votes and candidates in the Asylum Society as
compared with the Pension Society. (2nd) Those of the
Asylum Society that its institution would in the future
be the wealthier of the two; the rental of the houses
on the leased ground was already £465 per annum,
which would in the future become an endowment;
that already the property of the Asylum was worth
£3,000, while the Pension Society had but £1,000 in the
funds. These were the main objections to be grappled
with, and Mr. Dunning dealt with them ably, thoroughly
exposing the folly of an idea which had some rooting
ground in the trade that one Society should buy up the
other. However strange the notion may now seem,
certain it is that many of the Asylum Society regarded
the Asylum as a property in which they had invested
their money, and that the amalgamation of two
charitable institutions would mean the surrendering
of their interest, and the effacement of the Society.
This erroneous notion, Mr. Dunning did much to
dispel and generally to smooth the way for the calm
discussion of the scheme.

At the solicitation of Mr. Tuckett, a sub-committee
of three from each of the Societies was appointed to consider
the advisability of the amalgamation. They met for
the first time on Tuesday, November 29th, 1864, and
continued to meet nearly every Tuesday, under the
chairmanship of Mr. Joseph Zaechnsdorf, until they had
not only unanimously agreed that the two should be
“united into one Society, with one common fund and
one set of officers,” but they also framed a draft set of
rules, which were subsequently laid before the full
committees for consideration. The approval of the
joint committees being gained, it was resolved that a
general meeting of the donors and subscribers of each
Society be convened for the purpose of taking their
separate opinion on the question, so that no legal
impediment should be thrown in the way of their
desired union. These separate meetings fully endorsed
the action taken by the committees, and a joint meet-
ing of the Societies was held in September, 1865, to
decide upon the rules for the united body.

The amalgamation took place on October 23rd, 1865.
How much Mr. Tuckett did for the successful accom-
plishment of an end so much desired, may be best
learned from the report of the sub-committee of the
Pension Society in 1865. “The scheme originated
with Mr. Tuckett, and the working out was entirely
his own; your committee had only to examine
and deliberate, and in almost all cases to approve and
confirm. Mr. Tuckett’s ingenuity and ready resource
rose with every increasing occasion for their exercise,
and were equal to every emergency; and where your
committee expected to meet with the greatest difficul-
ties, their way was made the plainest, and the
work was finished to their hand . . . your committee,
therefore, quit their labours with a grateful remem-
brance of the kindness and liberality, the wisdom and
ingenuity to which we are all indebted, and they also
feel their thanks are greatly due to the great courtesy
of their proceedings.”

[To be continued.]
Just thirty-six years had elapsed since the Committee appointed by the Trade Society Lodges met to devise a scheme for assisting their aged and infirm members, and now the parent Society, which had been the outcome of those meetings, and its offshoot, were united into one organisation. To look back at such a time was the most natural impulse, and what was the result? During its existence, the Pension Society had collected from all sources a total of £11,300, or an average of £320 per annum; of which sum, £7860 had been paid to pensioners, sixty-five of whom had been thus assisted, and a balance remained in hand of £1150 stock. The cost of management, printing, etc., only having been £65 per annum. The Asylum Society, which had only been in existence twenty-seven years, had, during that time, collected £6000, averaging £220 per annum; of that sum, £7000 had been paid for ground and buildings thereon, £2750 for repairs, coals, management, printing, etc., leaving a balance of £250 stock. The property of the now United Society consisted of £1350 stock, and £180 cash in hand; besides the property, there was also an annual income of £40 from the leased ground. These results had been gained after many years of struggling through much adversity, with little assistance or even encouragement from any outside the immediate precincts of the trade, and with no large bequests to swell the funds. Unlike the contemporary Society, the printers', to which very liberal support had been given, but few, very few lovers of books or members of the benevolent public generally, had taken any notice of their exertions or held out to their Committees a helping hand. The author, his friends and patrons, the publisher, and the lover of literature, all had contributed to provide a home for the printer, but for the poor binder there was no such benevolent consideration. This review of the past, however, was the sweeter for the knowledge that the work was all their own doing. "Mine own right arm hath gotten me this," might have been said with pardonable pride, a justifiable boast with all the conceit smoothed out of it by the knowledge that what had been won was for the solace of others.

This was the condition of affairs closely following the amalgamation, and everything promised well for the future. A little over a year flew by, and the scheme was fairly satisfactory, though the report for 1867 contained a tinge of regret that the year's experience had not been of so encouraging a nature as had been hoped for, but a cheering note was the addition of a new source of revenue, by the concerts given by the "Quire Choir." It would appear that Mr. James Burn's musical experiences in Germany led him to provide for the intellectual cultivation of his workpeople by the establishment of a singing class, and, after some very successful tuition, Mr. Burn was enabled to bring a fair choir before the public. The first concert was such a marked success, that he was emboldened to suggest a concert on behalf of the Pension and Asylum Society, which was held at the Store-street Rooms, Bedford-square, on November 10th, 1866, Mr. Burn himself conducting. The success was most gratifying, and the proceeds, £30 14s. 10d., were presented to the Committee by a deputation from the Choir, accompanied by Mr. Burn, who expressed the wish that the money might be expended in the maintenance of an additional pensioner; but mindful of the fact that the pensioner once being elected would have to be continued as such, and not wishing to jeopardize the funds by any failure that might happen in future concerts, he offered to personally guarantee the payment of such a sum as would, with the amount already paid, make up an
annual pension of £18 for three years. This offer the Committee accepted, and Mr. S. Hogg being the second highest on the poll that year, became the Quire Choir pensioner. Fortunately, the success of the Quire Choir was so great that during the three years contemplated by Mr. Burn, he was able by their help to hand over to the Committee £152 3s. 6d.

In 1866, an important question was raised through the death of the Quire Choir pensioner, upon the interpretation of Rule 9. Mr. Hogg died in the September following his election, and the Committee decided that Mrs. Hogg should be allowed to remain in the Asylum till the end of the month of April, when she would have to leave failing to get elected herself to the benefits of the Society; but they complicated their decision by admitting her candidature for election, thus admitting her eligibility. But if she had been eligible for election, no decision of the Committee could have turned her out, for by rule she was entitled (if eligible for election) to remain in the Asylum on half her late husband's pension till herself elected, but Mrs. Hogg had not herself paid sufficient to qualify her in her own right, and thus to give her a right upon money subscribed by her husband was to give a benefit upon two lives for one subscription, which was manifestly unfair, especially to single women subscribers. These objections were warmly pressed against the Committee and a very sharp discussion ensued, but the fact that Mrs. Hogg had already just been elected the Quire Choir pensioner no doubt helped to solve the difficulty, for no one seems to have been averse to her election or questioned its legality, and after the Committee had promised to amend the rule by the next meeting, the subject dropped. The rule was afterwards amended so that no two interpretations could be made, and provided that widows of pensioners, to be eligible for election, must have made payments in their own name, according to Rule 5.

At the same meeting, 1868, the question of raising another wing to the Asylum was brought before the Society by the Committee, who stated that the estimated cost would be £1300, which they proposed to raise by appropriating the Building Fund, £132 17s. 8d., borrowing £700 from the General Fund at 4 per cent., and by applying to the Trade Societies and other sources for means to make up the remainder of the sum; but no pensioners were to be admitted to the Asylum new wing until the debt had been extinguished. On this plan it was moved: “That the wing of the Asylum be built under the direction of the Committee.” But the Committee had a formidable opponent in Mr. C. D. Walther—that Trustee who had so firmly resisted the grant of a loan by the Pension Society to the Asylum Society, for building—who opposed it, and stated that “as long as he remained Trustee he would not take any of the fund out of the bank for the purpose of building, which had been placed there for the purpose of charity.” This frank and outspoken determination was soon met by the hint that there was now a rule, by which, if he refused, after the Society had resolved what should be done, he would be required to vacate his office, and that as the Society was amalgamated but not enrolled, the fund was available. Mr. Walther, however, replied that the absence of enrolment, which allowed the fund to be available, was the very impediment to his removal from office, so that holding the key of the situation and the money, the proposition was deferred for another year, and by that time the unwise policy was abandoned.

The experience gained by many of the Society’s most active workers during the unfortunate struggle with debt after the building of the one wing already in existence, had led them to be cautious how they embarked in another building venture, but the ardent desire of many ordinarily cautious people to see the Asylum completed sometimes outran their discretion, and it was with great grief that they were compelled to abandon an immediate chance for the fulfillment of their wishes in favour of the slow growth of the Building Fund. Ever since 1862 an independent Committee had been formed for the purpose of raising funds for the completion of the Asylum, and an annual raffle had been adopted as the best means to the end desired, the Committee having charge of it being known as the Distribution Committee. Its first members were Messrs. I. Brown, W. C. Clark, J. Elam, W. H. Kirsch, Dan. Mitchell, James Sharp, and J. Jeffrey, who acted as hon. sec. The first distribution of prizes took place at the “Cross Keys,” Theobald’s-road, on Tuesday evening, January 12th, 1869, and the result of the first draw was an addition to the funds of £37 0s. 6½d. This raffle was continued, and for many years between £40 and £50 was added to the Building Fund by the Committee of Management.

In 1869, the Society was able to record the most important help it had ever received: a bequest of £500, duty free, from Mr. T. Brown, of the firm of Messrs. Longman & Co., which enabled the Committee to add three more pensioners to the list in 1870, making up a total of twenty, at a cost of about £400 per year.

1870-1 was a period of very severe depression of trade, owing to the withdrawal of the Table of Sessions Bill from the House of Commons after it had passed the House of Lords, and the Prayer and Church Service branch of the trade was at a complete standstill, causing great suffering and privation to many engaged in that branch of industry. Under these circumstances, a petition was drawn up and presented to Her Majesty, praying that early steps should be taken to settle the question, and signed by upwards of 2500 females engaged in the trade. Yet, in spite of these unfortunate circumstances, “the subscriptions were paid with a cheerful heart,” and neither the Pension Society nor the Supplement seem to have suffered as might have been expected.

Mr. William Charles Clark, whose portrait we give this month, was for many years—almost from the commencement—an active worker on behalf of both Societies, and, besides being a Committeeman, he took an especial interest in the Building Fund of the Asylum, being one of the founders of the annual raffle to benefit that fund.

[To be continued.]
The Trade Charities.

In 1869 a very important alteration of the rules was carried that materially changed the character of the annual elections and greatly benefited the candidates. It had been found by experience that under the old rules—by which each election was a separate and distinct affair—many most deserving candidates, often excellent members of long standing, were obliged to give place year after year to others who were successful simply because they were better known, or had more friends in the trade to advocate their cause and push their application amongst those having votes; and the injury was not confined to these unsuccessful ones, but militated against the best interests of the Society. It was complained by collectors that when applying for subscriptions they were often met with the reply that it would be no use to the person solicited, there being little or no chance of getting elected in less than nine or ten years after applying, unless the individual had the good fortune to be well known or to have very active supporters. In order to remove this anomaly, Mr. T. W. Smith proposed: "That the votes of unsuccessful candidates be carried forward from time to time until they are respectively elected to the benefits of this Society." This was carried, to come into operation at the next election, but that votes allowed to candidates for their own subscriptions should not be added after the first year.

The winter of 1871 was a remarkably busy one in all branches of the trade, and following it in 1872 a great social reform took place, the reduction of the standard of working hours from ten to nine, so that the increased prosperity of the trade was reflected on the Pension and Asylum Society, first by an increase of funds and in the next place by a decrease in the number of applicants for its benefits, there being only twelve this year, whereas in no year since the amalgamation had there been less than sixteen. The Building Fund was also mounting up so fast that the Committee felt it advisable to ask for power to take such steps as they might deem necessary towards further building as soon as the fund amounted to £1,000, which was granted. Altogether beyond the most sanguine expectations that sum was more than realised by the following year, when it was reported as £1,135.

With such a cheering banking account the Committee set about their task with a light heart; plans and specifications were drawn up, and in October, 1873, a sub-committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements. Tenders were then invited, and that of Mr. Boyce for £1,127 was accepted. A part of the ground had been let to a florist, who not only cultivated it for his own profit, but as part payment kept the whole of the grounds in order: this gentleman had notice to quit, the portion of the ground required for building being wanted by April 16th, 1874, but as that would cause some loss, Mr. Dennington was paid £24 for compensation; the rest of the ground to be given up in the following September and December. The ground cleared, the work soon commenced, and the peaceful retreat of our aged friends once more resounded with the clang of trowel and hammer, but in a few months the building was completed, and the one-sided appearance of the Asylum, which had more than once been the theme of comment amongst its most ardent friends, done away to their great satisfaction. The completion of the west wing, however, caused the other portions of the Asylum to look extremely dull beside it, and a closer inspection soon showed the Committee that a great many repairs were absolutely needed, and especially in the east wing, the portion last erected, where the stone-work had been falling away for some time past. On careful enquiry it was found that about
£500 more would be required to put the whole building in proper order. To meet this fresh want, a dinner was decided upon, to take place at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon-street, on October 20th. A special appeal was also circulated through the trade, which met with a hearty response from the workers.

The dinner was a great success, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Sir A. Lusk) presiding, supported by Mr. Serjeant Parry, Mr. Wildey Wright, and others, the subscriptions amounting to £294 11s., which, with the workshop collection brought up the amount to £458 11s., thus clearing off the whole cost of repairs.

The rejoicing was somewhat marred by the loss of Mr. T. W. Smith, a member of the Building and other committees, who had died in harness on the 14th of May, greatly respected by his colleagues as an active and zealous worker, giving his constant attention to schemes for the betterment of his fellows until within a few days of his death.

The “Lawn Meeting” of 1875 was a particularly happy and well attended one. Numbers of members of the trade who had not previously gone out to the estate at Ball’s Pond, this year made their way thither to see the new building and share in the conviviality which characterised that assembly of friends. Over 400 were present, and an eloquent and impressive address was delivered by Mr. R. W. Greenfield. Here we must digress for a moment to explain the origin of the “Lawn Meetings.”

Shortly after the leasing of the spare ground for building purposes in 1859, while in conversation with Mr. R. Stagg, Mr. C. Dent suggested that some annual ceremonial should be instituted to mark off the passing away of each year of the lease, and that it should take the form of ringing out upon a bell the number of years passed. This suggestion seems to have been talked over and though not adopted in its entirety, the Committee decided upon meeting together once per year and making a visit of inspection to the Asylum. This was done very quietly for several years, when friends of the Committee or Pensioners, began to accompany them, and as these official visits took place on Saturday afternoons, known as “Visitation Day at the Asylum,” others dropped in to swell the company. After the official inspection was over, the Committee, visitors and inmates seated themselves around a piece of grassy ground at the rear of the Asylum, usually called “the drying ground,” on seats loaned for the occasion by the inmates; some one was called to the chair who was further furnished with a table, and the Warden’s minutes for the past month were read, after which visitors were invited to leave their autographs in a book kept for the purpose. This done, a whip round, usually of sixpence each, was made for refreshments with which the inmates were regaled, stewards being told off to obtain them from a neighbouring tavern. The Chairman then made a speech reciting the objects of this annual gathering: first, to note the passing away of each year of the lease; secondly, to awaken a lively personal interest in members of the trade; thirdly, to show the good achieved and what yet remained to be done. The refreshments were then served round and “Prosperity to the Asylum” heartily drank. Singing, speeches, and sometimes instrumental music followed, till the shades of evening brought the meeting to a close. Amongst the many who attended these meetings we find one often mentioned in the occasional letters which Mr. Dent sent to the Trade Circular, “the friendly visitor from the adjoining Metropolitan Benefit Societies’ Asylum, who presented his customary token of regard in the shape of a two-quart jug of nut-brown ale, and remained a pleasant participant in the proceedings.” On one occasion this “friendly visitor” begged the company’s acceptance of a valuable shrub myrtle in a pot, possessing some interest as having been originally presented to the London Hospital by the Princess of Wales. As years rolled by, the “Lawn Meetings” or “Garden Parties” became quite attractive gatherings, old and young mixing together for once in the year, if fair weather prevailed, in very large numbers enjoying the al fresco entertainment, listening to reminiscences of “auld lang syne” or dancing sometimes. But about 1881 the gatherings were discontinued for various reasons: the numbers had grown too large for their proper accommodation and some unpleasant incidents occurred which led the Committee to forbid their continuance, especially as there had already grown up in the trade another recreative opportunity which afforded better facilities for out-door enjoyment as well as the pleasure of meeting with the aged inmates of the Asylum.

From 1875 till 1880 little occurred to break the even progress of the Amalgamated Society which ever tended to a more perfect organisation. The April meeting of 1880 was however rather remarkable as being held on the 20th of April, exactly fifty years from the date of the meeting presided over by Alderman Winchester in 1830 when the articles were adopted and the Society fairly started. Once more there was a fitting opportunity for a special effort to be made on its behalf, and a dinner was resolved upon, one of the grandest affairs which ever graced the annals of the trade.

The Jubilee Commemoration Dinner was held at Freemasons’ Tavern, Queen-street, Lincoln’s Inn on July 9th 1880, Lord Houghton in the chair; amongst those present were Sir F. Pollock, M. Gennadius (late Greek minister), General McMurdo, W. Spotiswoode, Esq. P.R.S. and G. A. Sala, Esq. Everything passed off most satisfactorily and the collection during the proceedings added about £475 to the funds.

Following the example of the Pension and Asylum Society, the Committee of the Pension Supplement determined to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the Jubilee celebration to endeavour to make up for the small fund which the past two years had placed at their disposal, by a Jubilee Concert and Ball at Foresters’ Hall. Held on Nov. 10th, 1880, this was a marked success as far as numbers and enjoyment were concerned, the whole place being crowded, but the expenses were very heavy and only £51 2s. was the nett result. While the dancing was in progress in the large hall, a select concert was going on in a smaller hall below under the chairmanship of Mr. C. P. Austing, so that the older and more staid members of the trade who did not care to mix in the giddy maze of the dance could enjoy themselves in the harmony below.

[To be continued.]
The Trade Charities.

LAST MONTH, mention was made of another opportunity of meeting the old folks of the Asylum, with better facilities for out-door enjoyment than the lawn meetings afforded. This was provided in the Pensioners' Excursion, first carried out in 1875. Early in that year, Mr. R. W. Greenfield—who, as a committeeman, had been active in promoting reforms in the Pension Society—was stirred by the sight of a number of paupers going out for a holiday, and a happy thought seized him: "Why cannot we have a summer outing for our pensioners"? He was on his way to see his father, a gentleman unconnected with the trade, but one who took a kindly interest in the Charities, and during his walk the idea had developed into a plan which he propounded to his father, who concurred, and said, "Well, Dick, carry out your idea, and if you are short of money, I will make up the deficiency." Mr. Greenfield then consulted with a few members of the Pension Committee, and five others agreed with him to put the plan into operation. The Committee thus became composed of R. W. Greenfield, who acted as chairman and treasurer, J. Elam, J. Haslip, W. H. Kirsch, J. Miller, and H. R. King, secretary. An appeal was circulated through the trade asking for a small subscription, "only a penny," for the purpose of taking the pensioners and their wives for a day into the country. The response was most liberal, £25 12s. 8d. being collected, and on August 14th the old folks were conveyed in a saloon van to the "Robin Hood" Hotel, Epping Forest, where they were entertained with a dinner, dessert, and tea, enjoying a very pleasant day. An interesting report of the excursion as being a "novel gathering," was published in *The Bee-hive*, August 21st, 1875.

Twenty-two pensioners were present, besides nearly one hundred friends who sat down to tea; five of them were, however, too unwell to attend, and to these 5s. each was given in lieu of the treat. A balance remained in hand and above the expenses of the excursion, and on December 18th, the Saturday preceding Christmas, the Committee went to the Asylum for the purpose of distributing the remainder. The new committee-room in which they assembled, with Mr. Greenfield in the chair, was so small that the pensioners could not all get in at once, so a few had to enter at a time, when, with a few kind words and seasonable greetings, each was given 10s. and assisted to a piece of cake and a glass of wine which was drunk to the health of the subscribers. The success attending the first venture induced the Committee to renew their appeal in the following year, and ever since there has been an annual "only a penny" subscription for the Pensioners' Excursion, providing them with opportunities for a reunion with old, or almost forgotten friends, opening the door for the new acquaintanceship of younger workers, and yielding a trifle beyond the cost of these pleasures for Christmastide.

The Jubilee Year with its rejoicings had not closed before rumours of impending trouble in the Society were whispered in bated breath amongst those who had care of its interests. Some defalcations in the accounts of the Amalgamated Bookbinders' Club had been discovered, and an uneasy feeling manifested itself through the trade lest the same evil might be found existing in other societies, a greater watchfulness being kept on the accounts. Mr. George Ford—who had been instrumental in the discovery of the one wrong—then began to wonder if the Pension Society's accounts were all right, and from wondering, passed on to a private investigation of the printed reports, when he was alarmed to find even more serious irregularities than he could ever have imagined possible. He immediately recast the accounts, and being assured...
of the accuracy of his observations, he communicated his suspicions to a member of the Committee, but that gentleman was so alarmed that he feared to take the matter up, as also were two more. Mr. Ford then directed a letter to the Committee, calling attention to his discovery, but the question was deferred until the following Committee meeting, as Mr. Jeffrey was not present. At the next meeting, the secretary made such an unsatisfactory explanation in answer to the charges, that the Committee—who had already been dissatisfied with the detention of monies arising from benefits, for an unduly prolonged period after the time appointed for closing accounts—forthwith appointed a sub-committee to examine the books, consisting of Messrs. C. J. Collins, J. Gibbs, R. W. Greenfield, S. Hogg, and C. Goddard. Mr. J. Gibbs tried hard to insist upon all books and monies then in possession of the secretary being immediately handed over, but the question was negatived, and when the sub-committee came to examine the accounts and vouchers, they could not get at the necessary documents and their work was incomplete, but such grave charges were laid against him that a special meeting was called at the Foresters’ Hall, for January 28th, 1881, when the sub-committee reported the result of their investigations. Upon the request being renewed for the rest of the books and documents to which the Committee had not had access, Mr. Jeffrey’s son informed the meeting that his father had given up all that were of any consequence, but the counterfoils of receipts and some odds and ends had been destroyed. At this meeting, Mr. J. Jeffrey was dismissed from his office, and another committee, including Mr. Ford, was appointed to make further investigation. The work subsequently fell upon Messrs. G. Ford and C. J. Collins, whose report confirmed the Committee as to the wrong inflicted upon the Society, and they appointed Mr. S. Hogg secretary pro tem.

The amount of the deficiency in Mr. Jeffrey’s accounts could never be determined exactly, for many of his friends who might have furnished evidence against him declined to come forward. On the other hand, cases were proved in which Mr. Jeffrey appeared more the victim of misfortune than guilty of serious crime. He seems to have been of such an easy and kindly accommodating disposition that he became the dupe of others who were really the guilty parties, for it is known that in more than one instance he allowed collectors ballots for subscriptions that they had collected, in order to save them from trouble with the subscribers, and merely upon their promise to pay up within a few days, a promise that they shamefully neglected to fulfill, leaving the stigma of disgrace upon him. Some believe that “he never wilfully defrauded the Society of a penny, being let into the hole by others who owed him money,” while others say that “it is quite impossible such large sums could have been missing except upon the assumption that he had systematically, and for a long time, robbed the Society.” Such conflicting opinions, together with the great respect and esteem in which he had been held, even by those who condemned him, helped to shield him from prosecution, which was rendered particularly difficult by the absence of certain documents.

In April, a contest for the vacant office took place between Messrs. S. Hogg and H. Pymn, when Mr. Hogg was elected. At the same time, the Society showed its appreciation of Mr. Ford’s services by placing him upon the Committee.

In the following year, it is satisfactory to find that the Society had not suffered in consequence of the alleged misconduct of a servant, nor had its mission of benevolence been injuriously affected, while attention was diverted from the distressing incident by active steps towards the extension of the Asylum. In 1881, Mrs. Georgina Ferguson died, leaving the Society the whole of her property. She was the widow of a retired tallow chandler of Stoke Newington, who, in the course of his walks, had often stopped to look at the incomplete Asylum, and sometimes to chat with the inmates. When he reached home, he often remarked to his wife how poor the bookbinders seemed, and what deserving people, and would supplement his observations with the wish that he could afford to do something for them. Respecting this wish of her husband’s, after his death she made a will leaving her property to the Institution. It consisted of £1100 in consols and a quantity of furniture and other personal effects which, when all was settled up, realised another £21 10s. 9d. With part of this money the Committee resolved to perpetuate the name of their benefactress by building two additional houses as a completion and frontage of the east wing, while the money accruing from the Jubilee celebration in 1880 furnished part of the cost of building two more cottages completing the west wing. These four cottages cost altogether £1385 7s. 6d., and were erected by Mr. Kelby, under the supervision of the architect, Mr. W. King. When completed, the houses on the west wing were named the “Jubilee Cottages,” whilst those on the east wing were named the “Ferguson Cottages,” and all four were let, the rents being devoted to the support of a “Jubilee” and a “Ferguson” pensioner.

The long continued letting of the Asylum houses was a sore grief to both members of the Committee and the Society at large, but at present there seemed no escape from the disagreeable necessity, as it was only by the increased income derived from rents that the number of pensions could be kept up, but in 1885 the Committee made a special effort to reduce the number let, by an appeal for help to the Companies of the City of London. The petition stated that since 1830, the Society “has given support to 128 pensioners for life . . . at a cost of nearly £16,000, and there are now on the funds of the Society 31 pensioners at a cost of £700 per year, which amount is chiefly provided for by the weekly pence of the working men and women in the trade. . . . They have—by funds principally collected by the same means—erected 17 almshouses, at a cost of about £7000, several of which are compelled to let to tenants from the want of funds to elect pensioners to fill them, the cost of pensioners at the present time far exceeding the amount of subscriptions from all sources.” A copy of this petition was forwarded to 78 City Companies, but the only immediate result was a donation of five guineas from the Worshipful Company of Skinners. After another year, however, five guineas were
Our Prize Competitions.

The Sixth Prize of 20/- for the best set of answers relating to the binding of a volume of Punch in half red morocco has been awarded to Mr. Edward Bamford, 19 Tipton-street, Openshaw, and a cheque for the amount has been forwarded.

1. What sized cord should it be sewn on? Three ply sinning twine set up double.
3. How should it be sewn? On five bands, two sheets on; first and last sections to be overcasted, and two first and two last sections sewn all along.
4. What kind of end papers would you use? Curled nonpareil, dark-red the predominant colour.
5. What boards would you use? Millboard, 8 x, lined with thin paper and dried in the press.
6. How would you treat the edges? Gilt.
7. What colours would you use for headbands? Dark-red and white silk.
8. How large should the squares be? ¾ of an inch.
9. What kind of back would you make? Hollow back, two on and two off. Five narrow raised bands placed at equal distances allowing for head and tail pieces and an extra ½-inch at the bottom.
10. How far should the leather of the back extend on to the sides? ⅜-inches from the joint.
11. How large should the corners be? 3½-inches from corner of the board across centre of the corner to where the sides meet the corners.
12. How would you treat the back? Gold broad and narrow line across the back and small gold centre tool. Lettered Punch in second panel and Vol. xcix. in two lines in fourth panel. Gold two-line fillet on sides and corners.
13. What would you use for sides? Cloth, morocco grained, to match the leather.

Taken altogether we consider these answers the most satisfactory.


The faults of the wire-sewing machines are becoming painfully manifested in Germany, especially in school books. After patient inspection, the fault has been found to be in the wire staples not closing over far enough. The breaking away of the sheets is not always caused by this, however, sometimes it is caused by the harshness of the papers made from wood pulp, these breaking away more easily than those of other makes.

The evil of licking up ink blots has just been exemplified in Königsberg by the serious illness of a boy who had made a blotting pad of his tongue, on which was a small and unknown sore into which the ink penetrated, causing blood-poisoning and nearly resulting in death.
DURING the past eleven months we have been steadily engaged in looking backward at the inception, development, and progress of the crowning glory of our trade,—its Charities. Many other trades have their benevolent institutions which, under fortuitous circumstances, may have grown more rapidly than our own, and of which they naturally feel proud, but—without making odious comparisons—some have been started by the employers and supported by them for the workmen's benefit, others have been founded by charitable bequests, while with our own, from its inception by a member of one of the Trade Society Lodges in 1829, down to the Shop Collector of 1891, those who have done the work and also found the great bulk of the money have been the workpeople of the trade. This has been forced upon the writer's attention repeatedly during this brief retrospect, notwithstanding the many assertions to the contrary with which he has been assailed. The annual reports and the speeches at banquets all tend to prove the truth of the assertion: it has been the mites of the workers upon which the Society has had to rely for the support of the aged and infirm of their own members. True, the employers have given, in some cases generously, and other friends have been found who on special occasions have given supplementary help which should be, and is, gratefully acknowledged, but the great bulk of the burden of maintenance has fallen, and probably will continue to fall, upon the workers; and to the workers in whose ranks they were, and to whose sympathies they never appeal in vain, our aged members have learned to look. The street singer is more often found in the slums than in Belgravia or any of its would-be imitations. Why? Because the sympathies of those who suffer are the easiest aroused, and they are quicker to respond to the call of affliction. By referring to Mr. Chas. Tuckett's figures at the Annual Meeting of the Pension Society in 1863 it may be easily seen how forcible is this contention, even from the mouth of an employer, whilst beside the great help which the Society received from legacies, amounting to £1,806 10s. 9d., there stands upwards of £3,000 collected by the auxiliaries.

If at times it was found that the working members of the trade were lax in its interest, and subscriptions flagged, it is not to be wondered at. In some years their resources were strained to the utmost, for besides the appeals on behalf of the Societies whose history we have been reviewing, it must be remembered that there were frequent periods of slackness when other appeals on behalf of the sick, or those out of work, were very numerous, while wages were short by reason of shortened time. Thus the contention of Mr. J. England, that the subscription to the Pension and Asylum Societies were the true barometer of the prosperity of the trade, is justified.

It is not our intention simply to contend that the workers have been the main subscribers for the behoof of their fellows, but that having been so, their efforts should be supplemented by the help of others who, of their wealth, have a larger margin to spare. When Lord Houghton took the chair at the Jubilee Banquet in 1880, he said that "this Charity was one well deserving of all consideration, because it followed the only real true principle of charity, that was by helping those who helped themselves. . .

To help those who helped themselves as this Society did seemed to him to be a mode in which they could gratify their own generous feelings without the slightest suspicion that they were doing any harm whatever. This Charity . . began among the working men of this particular trade or profession. It began as a society of mutual assistance, and as such it had continued with very little help from the outer world." The large-hearted generosity of our forefathers has been inherited to a very large degree by their
contributing for the worthless who do not, because none but subscribers can benefit. But, to those who do not subscribe we would ask, is this inheritance not worthy of our support? Is it not worth our while to assist in enlarging its beneficent purposes? Would any one feel the loss of a penny per week by contributing to its funds? There are, at least, 2,300 members of our Trade Societies in London, and if they contributed but the lowest annual subscription of five shillings, the total would be £575; whereas the present amount subscribed altogether is only about £600, which includes the subscriptions of employers and friends outside the trade, besides sums of over five shillings from many of the workmen.

What is our present position? What is the Society doing for the trade, and not for the trade only, but for the community, by relieving it of some of the burdens of local taxation, in thus providing for our own people in necessitous circumstances? At the commencement of the last financial year, there were upon the funds 38 of the pensioners, at the close 34; and the benefits received amounted to £866 15s., a larger sum than the Society had ever disbursed in that manner before. This year there are 38 to be provided for, 12 of whom have chosen not to occupy the almshouses, so that the Committee are able to let the houses which would otherwise stand empty, and the rent produces about £150. If all the pensioners elected decided to go
into the houses, there would not be places for them, as there are only 37 suites of apartments in the 19 houses, one suite being set apart for the Library and Committee Room. But such a contretemps is exceedingly unlikely; there are usually a number who, having been elected, prefer to live with friends. Should it occur, the loss of income from rent would, under present circumstances, compel the Committee to reduce the number of pensioners in the ensuing year. As a rule, about 48 pensioners might safely be elected without difficulty as to finding those who desired it, a home in the Asylum.

What would it cost to elect this extra ten pensioners and fill the Asylum? The average cost of a pensioner is about £22 per year, so that about £400 more per year would be required to raise the number to 48, as the loss of the rental would have to be made up and some extra coals provided.

We cannot close this story of by-gone struggles without some word that may perchance stimulate our younger workers to emulate the example of their fellow-craftsman of bygone days. If we could but be inspired with some of their zeal, it would not be long before an extra £400 per year would be raised in order to reduce the long list of candidates who are doomed annually to turn away from the election room with a sickness of heart almost amounting to despair. There are difficulties in the way now that may make it seem impossible of achievement, difficulties which our fathers had not to contend with. We are differently placed; we no longer live in such close community, and other entertainments are more plentiful and attractive, so that the auxiliaries would be but a doubtful success, even apart from the improved state of feeling on all that concerns the drink traffic, which renders it undesirable to make any endeavour to resuscitate such forms of help, however valuable they may have proved in the past. Many, too, are looking forward to some scheme of State support for our citizens who are past work, which should not be tainted with the degradation of the poorhouse. These, and other causes, make it difficult to reach the ears and hearts of our co-workers with sufficient force to draw much more from pockets upon which it is felt there are already many heavy drags. But, however we look towards a brighter future, when the aged and infirm will receive something more of humane consideration, we must not neglect our duty to the poor we have always with us. Their succour must still be the object of our solicitude, and as their numbers increase—as they are almost certain to do in somewhat similar proportion to the growth of the trade—our earnest efforts must be directed to securing every fresh in-comer as a subscriber. We are dependent upon each other; the good we enjoy, we enjoy only because of the efforts of those who have gone before, and the evils we suffer are still less than those they suffered, who cleared the ground for our happiness; therefore, some share of the good we have obtained, we owe to those who sowed for us to reap. Let us render to them the share which is their due, not grudgingly, but thankfully, in overflowing measure.

We are pleased to be able to give a portrait of Mr. W. Rawlinson, the new Secretary, upon whose exertions much of the society's welfare depends. With our heartiest wishes for its prosperity, we turn our faces to the future, hoping none will have seen cause for regret in looking backward.

It is with the most pleasant feelings of indebtedness that we desire to acknowledge the courteous and kindly help we have received on various occasions from Messrs. W. Bockett, G. Ford, W. Goddard, H. R. King, and D. Mitchell. Many difficulties which stood in the way of making this review complete were removed by the help of these gentlemen, and to Mr. W. E. Martin we owe especial thanks for repeated attentions and the loan of many valuable records, as also to Mr. C. Dent and the Committee of the Pension Supplement for the use of the valued collection of bookbinders' portraits. That such willing and ever-ready help should have been so freely given, will ever be one of the most pleasant memories of

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"Die Heutige Buchbinderin." In the preface to Modern Bookbinding, the author, Ed. Tomndorf, says that colour printing has reached such a prominent position in reference to cloth work, that the book was written to explain the best methods of production to those who wished to learn. The first part deals with presses and their points of excellence, and he recommends the knee-lever press (known in England as the "Rock") by Karl Krause, of Leipzig, which he considers puts all others in the shade. Then follows a critical examination of various inks in use; those of Ch. Lorilleux, of Paris, are esteemed the best for bookbinding purposes, although the Germans excel in colours for litho printing. When not in use, these inks should be covered with water or glycerine, which will keep out the dust, and can be poured off when they are wanted. The bronzes for imprints are also studied, and the best he finds by practice to be those of J. Kacht, of Leipzig. There is a large amount of information concerning the mixing of various varnishes for making gloss inks. On glaires, an exhaustive explanation concerning the cheaper varieties as substitutes, such as gum, blood, and other mixtures is given, that does not seem needed after the statement that in spite of many imitations, nothing is so good as ordinary glaire. If binders in Germany go to the trouble described in the book over an inferior preparation such as blood albumen, we need not fear German competition. This is the way it is prepared:—

"Put a quantity of ox blood into a basin and let it stand till it curdles and sinks, leaving a top surface of water, which is thrown away; the thick clotted blood must then be cut up in small pieces and thrown into a hair sieve, through which it is gradually strained two or three times, till all the thickness is cleared away and a clear liquid is produced; this forms a very good substitute for glaire and may be bottled for use, being kept in a cool place; but this is better if some white of egg be added to it." Well, after that, it would surely be as well to use the white of egg without all that trouble.

NOTICES of several new books on Binding are held over till next issue.