

The

Collectors Digest

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JUNE 1951

Editor, Miscellaneous Section
Herbert Leckenby, Telephone Exchange,
C/o Central Registry, Northern Command, York.

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHAIR

A Dream Come True. Ever since the forming of the Northern Section, O.B.B.C., and more particularly from the time of my London visit last September, I have dreamed of a Northern party attending a meeting of the London Club. I longed for it partly because it would mean another landmark in our romantic story, and partly because I was convinced it would justify all I had said about the hospitality and friendliness of the fellows "down south".

Well, it's happened, and on the afternoon of Whit Sunday, May 13th, 1951, I had the thrill of entering a room at Lordship Lane, East Dulwich to find a number of my northern comrades already in animated converse with London friends just as little over a year ago northerner had met northerner at their first gathering as strangers to become intimates in five minutes. Such is the magic atmosphere of the swiftest friendship making brought about by the most fascinating of all collecting hobbies. When the meeting settled down to business it was sheer delight to sit upon the platform and survey the scene; on the right the familiar faces from my own Yorkshire, on the left the grand fellows from London and further south I number among my greatest friends. Yes, a day of days.

You will be reading the report of the meeting on another page; here let me just say that chairman Len, warmed the heart with those so well chosen words in extending a welcome to the travellers from the north.

Yorkshiremen are supposed to be blunt of speech; whether that be true or not there's no doubt that Northern chairman Reg Hudson replied in a little speech that was a perfect gem, and one which worthily upheld the honour of the north. Reg doesn't know of half the tributes that were paid him for that response of his.

Then to add to the happy note that versatile fellow Gerry Allison came along and read in Yorkshire dialect (Leeds version) some verses he had composed for the occasion. That they were appreciated was obvious from the reception they received and the requests - and demands - that they be published in the next C.D. They're in.

And, oh yes, the surprises I got. For instance, someone gripping my hand and a cheery voice saying "I'm Ed Blight, from Cornwall." Then a smiling youth informing me in rich Irish brogue, "I'm Dessey just dropped in from Dublin." Still another "We've not met before, have we? I'm Cox of Southampton." (Cornwall! Dublin! Southampton! Didn't I say ours was a romantic story? Gee! My head was in a whirl, but, of a truth wasn't I thrilled and happy.

It had all worked out so perfectly, and it must have been an act of Providence that Bob Blythe, of whose brain was born the idea of an Old Boys' Book Club, was able to be back with us after an absence of many days. That circumstance just put the perfect finishing touch to an event which will linger in the memories of all who were there for many a year to come.

+ + +

Have you a Television Set? According to statements in London newspapers Greyfriars is coming to the television screen in the near future - in Children's Hour. A columnist suggests that scores of thousands of adults will contend that Harry Wharton & Co. should appear at a more convenient hour - for them. Do I hear an echo?

+ + +

For the Veterans. To those who can recall the late Victorian and Edwardian days I can strongly recommend "Twenty Shillings to the Pound" by W. MacQueen Pope, published by Hutchinsons. It contains over 400 large pages of delightful nostalgia. One can see again gas-lit streets and hear the jingle of the hansom. And, of particular interest to all

collectors is a chapter "Chums, Chips and Comic Cuts". Therein the author has quite a lot to say about that grand "Chums" serial "Rogues of the Fiery Cross", apparently written from memory. Curiously, though his memory fails him in one important particular, for he says he believes it was written by a man called Anstey. Well, we could put him right there, couldn't we?

+ + +

Changed Date. Members of the Northern Section O.B.B.C., please note that the June meeting will be on the third Saturday, the 16th inst. and not the second Saturday, the 9th.

+ + +

1951 Annual. Goodness! Here's the year nearly half over! Next month we shall have to get the Questionnaire and Order Forms out. Owing to anticipated paper shortages and other difficulties we shall want articles in in specially good time, so get going, won't you, and so lighten the task of

Yours sincerely,

HERBERT LECKENBY.

THE ANNUAL

Present State of the Poll

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A neck and neck race for first position. The "Monograph" moves up a place again, whilst Rookwood Review gets just ahead of "What Might Have Been." All nearly as exciting as last General Election.

WANTED: the complete run of Charles Hamilton's serial "King Cricket". Started in Boys' Realm No. 254 (Vol.5) April 13th, 1907. Rev. A. G. Pound, St.Paul's Vicarage, 68 Finmore Road, Birmingham, 9.

SALE: Magnets and Gems, 1935 to 1940. S.A.B. for list. Stewart, 290 Archway Road, London, N.6.

POPULAR PAPERS OF THE PAST

No. 14 - THE FIRST UNION JACK

By Tom Hopperton

A constant source of perplexity to the browser through bygone boys' weeklies is the reason why some journals flourished while others, of at least equal merit, perished while still in their napkins. One of these mysterious casualties, although ambitiously planned, launched with care and manned by "big guns", was the original "Union Jack".

Sampson Low and Co., the publishers, set about their incursion into the field of juvenile literature with excellent ideas and a definite target. The prolific and popular . . . Kingston was the editor when No.1 appeared with the beginning of 1880, and when he died in the August, no less a personage than George Alfred Henty succeeded him. Henty's is still a name to conjure with. There is a brisk demand for first editions of his more than 150 books, particularly from America, and every public library has a massive shelf of his works. The avowed object of the paper was to eschew "goody-goody twaddle... and the penny dreadful trash": by the internal evidence, the real hope was to beat the "Boys' Own Paper" at its own game.

Kingston himself had been a leading contributor to the B.O.P. Menville Fenn, Jules Verne, R.M. Bellentyne, Louis Rousselet, Cuthbert Bede and others worked for both papers. The size and general layout of four serials, two or three articles, a short story and the "features" differed not at all. Indeed, on comparing the parallel volumes, the only advantage that the Religious Tract Society paper had was its monopoly of the work of Talbot Baines Reed, and that was offset by the lack of those stodgy space-fillers, neither article nor essay, that so many parsons succeeded in wedging into the B.O.P. Of course the name of R.T.S. was an assurance to parents anxious to keep "gallows literature" out of the house but, as Geoffrey Trease remarks, if Henty did not actually write a book entitled "With Bible and Bayonet", he ought to have done, and his name was also a guarantee against "blood and thunder".

But was it? As a parallel to Hamilton Edwards' employment of Hercourt Burrage, we find popping up in Volume 4, as the author of "Sweet Flower, or Redskins and Palefaces", Percy B. St. John, the perpetrator of the peculiar and notorious - -

"Blue Dwarf". Burrage himself appeared in the very last number, while one of Bellentyne's serials had the restrained title of "The Medmen and the Pirate".

Taken in the main, the stories read well even to this day, and with sixteen pages, closely printed from title to tail-piece, the paper seemed a good penn-orth. (Incidentally, the letters of the title were shaped from pieces of ship's cable, a device flattered by imitation in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Sexton Blake paper.) It is hard to see why the "Union Jack" lost the battle, unless the R.T.S. was prepared to subsidise its bantling to an extent impossible to a commercial publisher.

No editor of a foundering boys' journal was ever honest enough to say, in effect: "Sorry, kids, but we've gone bust!" The Amalgamated Press had a habit of "amalgamating" the dear departing with some "really live paper" and making the announcement sound as if a major triumph had been achieved. In the issue for 25th September 1883, Henty had a slightly mendacious note that "the 'Union Jack', at any rate for a time, will cease to appear." He was more truthful than he knew, but it was a vastly different "Union Jack" that began its 39 year run in 1894. Henty passed on to Beeton's "Boys' Own Magazine" and Sampson Low confined themselves to general publishing. They had bad luck: their venture deserved a better fate.

WANTED Boys' Friend Libraries and Champion 4d Libraries. Also Sexton Blake Libraries. First Series 13,23; Second series 405, 407, 513. H.C.N. Price, 22 Northdown Road, Margate, Kent.

FOR SALE: Black Bess, 254 parts, offers. Also many other Victorian and later boys' books for disposal. S...E. for list. Rouse, 3 St. Leonards Terrace, Gas Hill, Norwich.

HELP! HELP!! Wanted Magnets No8s. 1467 and 1175 to 1185, 1244 to 1246. "Robby", 13 Rapsheal Road, Hove 3, Sussex.

WANTED: Sexton Blake Libraries 1915-34. Top price paid for wanted numbers. Also Nelson Lees 1915-17 and Dixon Hawke Libraries. R. Rouse, 3 St. Leonards Terrace, Gas Hill, Norwich.

£1 EACH OFFERED for 1920, 1925, 1928, Holiday Annuels. Nelson Lees 1919 to 1932 offered in exchange for any Hamiltons. Charles van Renen, Box 50, Uitenhage, South Africa.

WANTED: "Human Bet" serial 1913-1914. E.V. Hughes, "Caswell", 25 Hillsboro' Road, Bognor Regis.

THE NELSON LEE COLUMN

(All communications to Robert Blythe,
46, Carleton Rd., Holloway, London, N.7.)

Hallo there! After the terrific build-up that Len gave me last month, I hope that my monthly screeds will not come as too much of an anti-climax. Anyway I'll chance it.

I must say that it feels a bit strange writing this column again after so long an absence. Doubtless that feeling will soon wear off, but at the moment I feel rather like a new boy on his first day, or perhaps it would be a better simile to say, an Old Boy returning to the old school. The surroundings are similar, but the many new faces around and about gives an element of strangeness.

Before I go on to say any more (and I'm not certain what I'm going to say yet!) I'm sure you will all want to join with me in expressing a vote of thanks to our old friend Len, who has been carrying on this column so ably for the past 14 months. Len is so active in the hobby and has so many things on hand these days, that it has always been a source of wonder to me that he managed to come up to scratch with his contribution each month. And so Len, on behalf of all of us, allow me to say - "Many thanks for all your good work, and may we hear from you again frequently in future pages of the C.D."

Prior to screwing up my energy to the point when I actually made a start on this epistle, I decided to give myself a refresher course, and study what has already been written in this column about the Nelson Lee, to put myself in the picture, as they were fond of saying in the army. Well, to quote Mr. Howard, I WAS AMAZED!! D'you know that this Nelson Lee Column has been appearing ever since No.13 of the C.D. and so much has been written, and in such detail, that at first I thought I'd had it! However, upon due consideration, I decided that all was not quite lost, for there were still various avenues to be explored, also some areas completely uncharted! To help things along, and working on the principle that two (or more) heads are better than one, I got in touch with several Lee-ites, and as a result, suggestions have been coming from all quarters, all of which I hope to deal with in the near future.

In the meantime, I'd like to deal with a point raised by Cedric Groombridge. He holds forth thus. - "----- with

reference to E. S. Brooks' remarks about having written all the St. Franks yarns, surely this is not correct. How could a writer of Brooks' calibre turn out junk like the short St. Franks yarns of the 1930 era? Remember when Greyfriars played St. Franks at football? (In 1931, I believe.) This story could not possibly be written by Brooks."

Well now, the St. Franks stories in the 2nd N.S. is one of those uncharted areas I was talking about, and I suppose that, like myself, you have probably read them once and have never bothered to re-read them, because, after all, they weren't all that hot. This was the period when, as Mr. Brooks has said, he felt that he was "flogging a dead horse". Remember that he was having a raw deal from the A.P. and had to stand aside whilst the new editor played ducks and drakes with the old paper. However, personally, I never really considered the possibility of "subs" writing anything under Brooks' name. Anyhow, I looked up the copy Cedric was talking about, and I must confess that it didn't read like Brooks, even in one of his off moments. Perhaps you'd like to check this yourself. You'll find it in No. 43, 2nd N.S. "Saints v. Friars". In this story too, there will be found mention of several of the Hamilton schools, but none of Brooks'. Bear in mind also that at this time (1931) the last of the stories written by "subs" were appearing in the "Magnet" and "Gem". Incidentally, this particular story did not carry the usual credit, "written by E. S. Brooks."

Can it be that, after all, the N.L. was not entirely free of "hack" writers, in spite of what has been said to the contrary? I'd be very interested to hear from anyone who cares to pass an opinion on any of the St. Franks tales appearing in the 2nd N.S. Most of you, I should imagine, possess some copies of this series, so how about us putting our heads together and trying to fathom out this murky mystery?

You will remember that when a new boys' paper appeared, or when some change was imminent, it was the custom to offer free gifts! Well, I thought it would be rather a bright idea if I did the same sort of thing. Not to offer free gifts, let me hasten to add, so stand back there! No! I can do better than that. I have in my possession two ORIGINAL MSS in Mr. Brooks' handwriting. (Obtained by Len, as a result of E. S.B. attending the club meeting.) These MSS are a story of St. Jim's called "the Terrible Three's Sub", and a "Boys' Friend" yarn "Stage by Stage", both written in 1910. Now, if you care!

to borrow them, I'd be only too pleased to post them on to you. First come, first served!

And now to gladden the heart of Jim Southway. Jim asked me some time ago (or so it seems) for a list of the serials in the N.L. I started to do this in No.38, but that's so far as I got! I think that this list will be of particular interest, inasmuch as it provides such an excellent opportunity for a spot of research work. Nearly all of these serials were either reprints, or were reprinted, at one time or another, of that I feel certain. Anyway, where I can, I'll add this information. If any of you know when any particular serial was reprinted, or from which paper it was reprinted, I'd be grateful if you'd drop me a line.

Here goes then.

- O.S.No's 1-18. The Boys of Ravenswood College, by S.Clark Hooke.
(Reprinted twice in Boys' Friend Library,
1st series, No's 321 & 463.)
- " " 19-37. In Polar Seas, by Fenton Ash.
- " " 38-52. Neil the Wrecker, by David Goodwin.
- " " 55-98. The Island of Gold, by Fenton Ash.
(Rep. in B.F.L. 1st Ser. 435.)
- " " 106-130. The Boxing Sailor, by Arthur S. Hardy.
(Rep. in B.F.L. 1st Ser. No.432.)
- " " 131-160. In the Grip of the Hun, by Clement Hale.
(Rep. in B.F.L. 1st Ser. 440.)
- " " 162-193. The Chums of Littleminster School, by A.S.Hardy.
- " " 194-219. The House in the Jungle, by Alfred Armitage.
(Rep. in B.F.L. 1st Ser. 499.)
- " " 220-241. In Trackless Space, by Robert W. Comrade (E.S.B.)
- " " (Rep. in B.F.L. 1st Ser. 504.)
- " " 242-273. Three Boys in Canada, by S. S. Gordon.
(Rep. in B.F.L. 1st Ser. 548.)

And now, finally, for the titles. I see that it is customary nowadays to give 40 each month. This being so, and there being only another 239 to go, it means that we shall finish in six months time.

1st New Series: No.141, St. Franks in South Africa.
142, Trapped by Bushrangers; 143, Lost in the Bush; 144, The Adelaide Test Match Sensation; 145, St.Franks at the Test Match; 146, In Unknown Australia; 147, The Valley of Surprises; 148, "Hard Lines Hardy."; 149, The Melbourne Test Match Triumph; 150, St.Franks in New Zealand; 151, The Peril of the Pacific; 152, The St.Franks April Fools; 153, The Sneak's

Paradise; 154, Boss of the Remove; 155, The Downfall of Nipper; 156, Scorned by the School; 157, Mutiny; 158, The St. Franks Menagerie; 159, Handforth's Holiday Flirtation; 160, The St. Franks School Train; 161, St. Franks in the Midlands; 162, The St. Franks Touring School; 163, The School Train in Scotland; 164, Archie's Lancashire Lass; 165, The Kidnapped Schoolboys; 166, Willy declares War; 167, The Mystery of the Cave; 168, The Rival Sportsman; 169, St. Franks in the "Talkies"; 170, Bank Holiday in Brighton; 171, The Arizona Golf Coast; 172, Into the Redskins' Trap; 173, At Grips with the Redmen; 174, The Schoolboy Goldseekers; (Note: No's 171-174 slightly rewritten, appeared as a novel entitled "Desert Gold" by Robert A. Comrade.) 175, Valdo the Wonder Boy; 176, Spoofing the River House; 177, Valdo's Foe; 178, The Arrested Schoolboy; 179, In Another's Name; 180, Hero and Cad.

That's the lot. Cheerio! till next month.

RESULT OF COLLECTORS' DIGEST VOTING CONTEST

Heat Two

There was a large entry for this contest, and the following is the final placing of the various Series, as determined by the popular vote:-

1. C. The China Series.
2. A. The Rewing-South Seas Series.
3. H. The Mauloverer-South Seas Series.
4. D. The Kenya Series.
5. B. The Hollywood Series.
6. E. The Egypt Series.
7. F. The Brazil Series.
8. G. The Texas Series.

The two leading Series, viz. The China Series and The Redwing-South Seas Series will, as a result of this heat, be included in the Finals.

The Editor has carefully considered every entry in the contest, and is making the following awards:-

A postal order for 15/- is being sent to W. L. Williamson,
410, Oakwood Lane, Leeds.

A postal order for 5/- is being sent to
R. V. Bennett, 64 Dudley Road, Tipton.

A Red-covered Magnet is being sent to
E. W. Cox, 29 Cerisbrooke Drive, Southampton.

A Blue-covered Gem is being sent to
V. Page, The Modern School, Surbiton.

NOTE:- The acute paper shortage has delayed the progress of this contest, but it is hoped that it will be possible to include the coupon for the 3rd heat with this issue.
PLEASE VOTE.

HAMILTONIA

Conducted by Herbert Leckenby

Going through some press-cuttings the other evening I came across one clipped from the "Manchester Evening News" of December 6th, 1945. That's rather a long time ago, but it struck me it's still of considerable interest, especially to Hamiltonians.

It was a review of "Saturday Book" of that year, written by the late George Orwell. As most of you know, some time earlier that provocative critic had in a book of his made some caustic comments on the Gem and Magnet, comments which had drawn an effective retort from Frank Richards himself.

Well, it is illuminating to note that in this review running to a good two columns Orwell devoted two-thirds of it to an autobiographical article Frank Richards had written for it. (Incidentally, nearly all the other reviewers did the same thing despite many other important contributions in that edition of Saturday Book). Here are some quotes:

"I have known a barrage balloon nicknamed Billy Bunter by its crew, and I have known the same name applied to a promising porker on a farm.

"In neither case, probably, did the people who used the name know its origin. That is fame, and in his interesting article Mr. Richards tells how he achieved it."

He then goes on to refer to the time when he and Frank Richards had crossed swords, and makes this frank amende honourable.

"In reprinting the essay I have corrected the original error (the statement that the Magnet and Gem stories were written by relays of hack writers) but in case this reaches Frank Richards' eyes I should like to explain how I came to make it. The fact is that it just did not strike me as possible that any human being could write a long complete

story every week for 30 years. In that time Mr. Richards produced something like 45,000,000 words. As a journalist who works fairly hard to produce about 150,000 words a year I find this just unimaginable. However, it is quite true as I now know from several sources.

Mr. Richards adds that one of his ambitions is to write a book on religion. I look forward to that work. Meanwhile, good luck to him and soon may the Gem and Magnet reappear."

Well, that was honest anyway, and I have a fellow feeling for George Orwell for, as I said in the last Annual, I had a suspicion in the early days that Frank Richards and Martin Clifford were one and the same, but I hesitated because two stories a week seemed almost impossible for one man.

There's a pathetic note about that review, for though Frank Richards' book on religion has been written, George Orwell's hope that he may someday read it will never be fulfilled, as he has not lived to see it published. Some of us may be more fortunate.

(Note.- as I anticipated, Mr. Jones' article on J.M.Pentelow last month created a lot of interest, although not all agreed with his criticism, for the old editor of the Gem and Magnet had quite a faithful band of followers.

Now here's a careful study of Clive R. Fenn. The clues Mr. Jones gives will prove most useful. H.L.)

Clive Fenn as an Imitator of Charles Hamilton

By S. F. Jones (Penrith, N.S.W.,
Australia)

Fenn is no mean imitator. Large portions of his work bear a fairly close resemblance to that of Hamilton. He loses his skill, however, at dramatic or exciting points of the narrative, in other words, he is inclined to be overstrained and unduly hectic. Most of the characteristics which distinguish him from the Master are confined to this inclination. Here are some of them:-

(a) The frequent use of "My hat!" A peculiarity of Fenn is to make this exclamation a stutter: "mum-my hat!" Another peculiarity is to repeat the first part of the exclamation: "you - you rotters!"

(b) The verb "howl" is a favourite. The adjective "howling" (e.g. "You howling cad") is another.

(c) A verb of saying is frequently replaced by:

(i) "snapped", (ii) "hissed", (iii) "gritted" (a horrible blemish, this one), (iv) "grinned". The participle "grinning" is a variation, e.g. "said Tom, grinning."

(d) "Great pip!" or "Oh, great pip!" are exclamations done to death by Fenn and become weary, stale, flat and unprofitable.

(e) Fenn is capable of such things as "What the jumping Jingo!" I'm inclined to think that Hamilton would never have allowed this intruder within the walls of his academies.

(f) When Fenn is in charge an excited person's eyes must always gleam - "I'll tell you," said Gay, his eyes gleaming. One of Fenn's Greyfriars series contained within two pages five examples of this expression. He probably would have had six if an illustration had not intervened.

(g) Look for the word "phew!" Fenn is fond of it as an expression of surprise.

(h) I'm not sure, but I think that the adverb "grimly" is more frequent in Fenn than in Hamilton. So, I believe is the verb "nodded". The expression: "Ha, ha, yes!" occurs more than once and sounds like one of the imitator's peculiarities, not Hamilton's.

Other peculiarities:-

(a) Fenn frequently ends a sentence with "though", e.g. "Go quietly, though." I regard this as a very important mark in the identification of Fenn stories.

(b) A speech is often interrupted by an exclamation which points to an unexpected development in the story, e.g. "They must have slipped round again. They could see our camp from the cliffs, of course. That's why - Look!" This is quite in keeping with Fenn's hectic emotionalism.

I haven't enough materials to enable me to say whether Fenn makes any mistakes about his Greyfriars and St. Jim's facts. I daresay he does occasionally, but in general he seems fairly accurate. One thing I did notice, however. In one story Tom Merry calls Manners "Harry," without need probably if you take your canons from Hamilton.

General:

Fenn writes a good interesting story. He fails to reach the master because he lacks Hamilton's polish and exquisite taste. His characterisation suffers because characterisation depends not only on action but on a subtle management of dialogue which seems beyond him. He is a less restrained, cruder Hamilton; a good writer for boys, just another imitator

for adults who want something more than a mere story.

NOTE: I have confined my quotations to the "Niopy" series of the Gem of 1925. Those who are interested may look for other stories showing the same characteristics. Gem No. 752 would be an example. It must be remembered that some of the characteristics I have mentioned might be used by Hamilton at various times - it is their jarring repetition that betrays the imitator. Some, I feel, could never be used by Hamilton.

THE PICK OF THE SERIES. No. 7.

BARRING-OUT SERIES.

That this type of story enjoyed great popularity is proved by the fact that they were placed first in a voting contest run by the Collectors' Digest recently, in which nearly one hundred readers voted. Barrings out were fairly frequent at all the Schools, but occurred most often at Greyfriars.

Probably the first of all was that very famous "BOB CHERRY'S BARRING-OUT" which appeared about 1912. Actually it was not a series, but a single story within the series in which the Bouncer disposed of all the Famous Five one after the other. For many years, it was the back number of the Magnet most sought.

One of the very best of this type of story was the JUDGE JEFFRIES series, published in 1917. It contained many original twists, and contained for the first time the idea of a Secret Society among the juniors.

In 1922, the Sixth Form went into rebellion and barred out a new Head, Dr. Cernforth. A bright little series, outstanding to some extent on account of the "bloods" being in revolt against authority.

In 1928, Mr. Quelch was dismissed in a 7-story series. The rebels moved into High Oaks, a large house bought by Meuleverer. The same plot had been used, lock, stock, and barrel, at Rookwood some years before when Mr. Greely was dismissed.

An excellent series of this type was the Barring-out against Mr. Brander, the new Dutch Headmaster. This series appeared in the Magnet in 1930. In 1934 the Remove "barred" out on Popper's Island, in support of Bunter who had been unjustly expelled. Nine fairly interesting yarns, which perhaps slightly overstayed their welcome.

In 1937, Mr. Hacker became Head, a position for which he was unsuited. The Remove barred-out in the Tuckshop. This series was overplayed and did not show Frank Richards at his best by any means.

Barring-outs were not so frequent at St. Jim's, but a fine series, before the plot became too hackneyed, appeared about 1924, when the juniors barred-out, - once again in a tuckshop - in support of Tom Merry. It was a unique series, in that the rebellion took place over the Christmas vacation.

At Rookwood, too, the juniors appeared to be more respectful of authority and kept their barring-outs to a minimum. On one occasion, they barred out in trenches, to show their annoyance with the Head for not expelling Lettrey, who had blinded mornington.

Even in Canada they had barring-outs. The Cedar Creek fellows once barred out the new Head when Miss Meadows was dismissed.

Frank Richards has told us that at the Amalgamated Press the motto was something like "When in doubt, stage a barring-out". Barring-out series were undoubtedly popular. Exactly why, it is difficult to say, for they seldom or never contained very strong plots, and the character pen-pictures were negligible. Probably it was the "old Adam" in most of us, which quietly enjoys a little bit of slepstick and revolt against constituted authority.

Magnet Titles (contd.)

(S) denotes Substitute.

673,(S) Ponsonby's Victim. 674, (S) The Runaway's Return.
675, (S) Driven from School. 676, (S) His Blundering Best.
677, (S) Billy Bunter's Smuggler. 678, (S) Scaring the School.
679, (S) Harry Wharton's Sacrifice. 680, (S) The Form-master's
Disgrace. 681, (S) By Wingate's Aid. 682, Thin Bunter. 683,
(S) The Schoolboy Protector. 684, (S) Bunter the Swot. 685,
(S) Rivals of the River. 686, (S) Marooned. 687, (S) Waking
up Alonzo. 688,(S) Skinner's Secret Society. 689,Deef Bunter.
690,(S) Bob Cherry's Luck. 691,(S) The Schoolboy Film Stars.
692,(S) Mauleverer's Peril. 693,Bunter's Picnic. 694,(S) The
Vengeance of Wu Feng. 695,(S) Wun Lung's Feud. 696,(S) Sports-
men from the North. 697,(S) Sleepers of the Remove. 698,(S)
The Houseboat Mystery. 699,(S) Bunter the Bandit. 700,(S)
Coker's Conquest.

FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

Northern Leeds and London Old Boys' Book Clubs.
Grand Double Number Combined Meeting.
Hume House, East Dulwich, London. Sunday May 13th.

Another memorable milestone of the hobby was passed on Whit-Sunday when the Leeds and London Clubs combined to meet at Hume House under the auspices of London chairman Len Peckman. Ten members contrived to make the journey from the north, these being Vice-president Herbert of York, Gerry Alison, Norman Smith, Reg Hudson, Miss Vera Coates, Mr. and Mrs. C. Banks with daughter Christine, all of Leeds, Ernest and Marjorie Hubbard of Sheffield. From Padstow in Cornwall came Edward Blight and James Deasy flew over from Dublin to complete the Long distanced travellers.

London Chairman Len opened the proceedings with a hearty welcome to the distinguished visitors. His opening address was greatly applauded and Northern Chairman Red Hudson suitably replied with some very appreciative remarks which must have warmed the hearts of all London club members present.

Gerry Alison then rendered a very fine poem he had written about the meeting and the Festival of Britain which was given a very fine ovation at its conclusion. Following this, Vice-President Herbert gave one of his delightful nostalgic speeches and then the usual meeting formalities were quickly disposed of. Many letters of apologies were read from the various members that were unable to attend.

Chairman Len had devised a very fine Quiz and here the London club excelled as Josie Peckman, upholding the family honour, tied with Charlie Wright for the first place. Third place was secured for the north by our Herbert. Fourth place was another tie as Bob Blythe and Bob Whiter both had the same points. Then followed very good efforts by Gerry Allison, Norman Smith, E. Hubbard and Miss Vera Coates.

A grand spread followed and then after Len Peckman had heartily welcomed Bob Blythe back to the fold after his recent long illness, the meeting was declared closed as regards formalities and then the social side came into being with a very grand get-together. Conversations and reminiscences were the order of the day and it was a very happy throng that wended their way home after one of the finest get-togethers

in the history of the hobby.

London club members present were Bob Mortimer, Bernard Prime, Ian Whitmore, Alan Stewart, A. Young, Hylton Flatman, Jim Parrett, Harry Homer Ted Cox who had come up from Southampton, Charlie, Olive and Alan Wright, John Young, Cliff Wallis, E. Reynolds, Len, Josie and Eleanor Packman, Bob and Ben Whiter, E. Blight.

BENJAMIN G. WHITER.

OLD BOYS' BOOK CLUB (Northern Section)

Leeds Meeting, Saturday May 12th.

The meeting at 239 Hyde Park Road was held on the eve of our long-awaited London trip, and an atmosphere of excitement was felt, particularly by those who were to leave for the South immediately after the meeting.

All the same, a very successful and happy time was had, and we were gratified by the attendance, taking into account the absence on holiday of many of our "regulars", and of the fact that the Chairman and our Northern Correspondent had had to leave earlier for London than the rest of the "deputation".

Our Vice-Chairmen, Bill Williamson, opened the proceedings and gave a very special welcome to two members who were making their first visit to the Club. These were Leonard Allen from Sheffield, and Herbert Sidebottom of Headingley, Leeds.

The Secretary, Norman Smith, then read the minutes of the previous meeting. He had also the pleasure of announcing that our President, Frank Richards, had presented the library with a number of his works in bound volume form, and drew the attention of the Club to these. Norman also mentioned that a trip to the seaside was being planned.

Gerald Allison, the Treasurer/Librarian, then gave his usual report. The Library had again had a record month - the 8th in succession, whilst the number of books borrowed and lent now had topped 1000. He read correspondence from various postal members. Our Fleetwood member, George Ramsbottom, had been in hospital and had had an operation. He was now getting well again, and was grateful for the pleasure the library had given him whilst he had been ill.

Frank Case of Liverpool also sent his best wishes for the London trip, and wished he could have come too.

Besides the projected trip to the seaside, Gerald suggested that perhaps we might arrange a ramble or coaching excursion to

the moors or dales, on one of our Club-meetings Saturdays, for the afternoon. We could then return to Hyde Park Road in time for the evening.

Instead of a talk or quiz, another "20 Questions" session was held. The team consisted of:- J. Breeze Bentley, Horace Twinham, Harry Barlow (who was warmly welcome after his unavoidable absence of some months) and Mrs. Barlow, who courageously responded to our appeal for a lady member of the side. Gerry Allison officiated as Question-Master, assisted by Mrs. Allison.

All the Objects except one were guessed, although "Potter and Greene" reached 19 questions. The Q.M.'s solidary success was "Miss Vera Coates". Some of the questions here caused roars of laughter, and were distinctly unkind to Vera - who was amongst those present.

Tes and biscuits followed. The Library was re-opened and did a roaring trade, and then the usual "flow of soul" held sway.

At 9-15 the meeting "broke up", and the six members who were going to London - attended as far as Sheffield by Len Allen, set off for the station. For them, the story is "continued" in the report of the London meeting on the following day. NOTE: Next Meeting 16th June - not 9th.

Attendance:- W. H. Williamson, S. F. Armitage, N. Smith, J. Breeze Bentley, T. Roach, H. Barlow and Mrs. Barlow, W. Harrison, H. Twinham, G. Allison and Mrs. Allison, Cyril Bank, Mrs. Banks and Christine, Vera Coates, H.G. Sidebottom, D. Pullan and D. Killingbeck.

OLD BOYS' BOOK CLUB (Midland Section)

A second successful meeting of the Midland Section took place on April 13th at the Queen's College Chambers, Paradise Street, Birmingham. Following publicity given in the Birmingham Mail of our last meeting we had several new faces at this second gathering. Twenty-nine people full of enthusiasm met in an atmosphere of happy reminiscence of the days of Billy Bunter, Nelson Lee, Sexton Blekd, and other favourites. Present to sound such a note of nostalgic loyalty were:- the Chairman Jack Corbett, the Secretary Peter Mellow, the Treasurer the Rev. A. Pound, and Mrs. Pound, and members Miss Berry, of Sparkhill, Mr. Bird, Saltley, Mr. Bourne, Molesey, Mrs. Brown, Perry Barr, Mr. Bleck, Selly Oak,

Mr. Carroll, Cannon Hill, Miss J. Carroll, Great Barr, Mr. and Mrs. Darcy, Olton, Mr. Dale, Small Heath, Mr. Franklin, Perry Barr, Mr. Fletcher, Fillongley, Mr. Gregory, Herborne, Mr. Hubball, Erdington, Mr. Hammersley, Kings Heath, Mrs. Moulton, Castle Bromwich, Mr. Parsons, Hockley, Mr. Pratt, Fairfield, Mrs. Price, Sparkhill, Mr. Peers, Sparkhill, The Misses D. and S. Scott, Northfield, and Cannon Hill, Mr. Shirley, Steckford, Mr. Smith, Ballsall Heath, Mr. Trevor, South-Yardley.

After the Chairman's opening address the Secretary read the Minutes and correspondence; then came the Treasurer's report. The lively discussion which followed centred principally on the possibility of forming a Club library, and the amount of members' subscription. It was agreed that the subscription be 2/- per month and any surplus after expenses are met be put in reserve for the purchase of a library.

The next item on the agenda was a quiz on characters and places in the "Magnet" stories.

This had been compiled by Mr. Corbett and was won by Mr. V. Smith of Ballsall Heath who sent up an all correct paper and received a prize of a set of Magnets. Our first "bring-and buy" table was a firm favourite, and copies of Magnets, Gems, and C.D. went at record speed at current market prices.

We had obtained the use of the kitchen this evening when Mrs. Pound and Mrs. Moulton prepared for all refreshing cups of tea and coffee. All good things come to an end, and much too soon it was time for us to vacate the room. The reluctance with which the Meeting closed was temporarily prevented from dispelling the happy atmosphere by the humorous discovery that the Secretary had been sitting the last hour on the Chairman's trilby hat.

On leaving, members were reminded of the Club's Inaugural Dinner to be held on Saturday May 19th at Birmingham International Centre, at 8 o'clock sharp.

P. L. MELLOR,

HULTON'S "BOYS' MAGAZINES" (pink covers) WANTED. Numbers 332 onwards. W. Darwin, 76 Western Road, East Dene, Rotherham.

WANTED: Magnets (600-900); Gems (pre-1000); Populcers; Holiday Annuals; Pre-war Triumphs; Hotspurs, Wizards, Skippers, Adventures, Rovers, Boys' Friends, Pilots, Boys' Magazines, and Modern Boys. Also Hotspur, Wizard and other Annuals. All with school stories. Good prices paid. P. Willett 67 Ford Bridge Road, Ashford, Middlesex.

OUR LONDON TRIP - by Gerald Allison.

Some talk of Britain's Festival, or the British Industries Fair
 As among the Seats O' London, which mak' fowk stand and stare.
 But when ten of us fra' Yorkshire, cum up by last neet's train,
 The first place that we asked for, were "Hume House, Lordship Lane."
 "Ney!" said a startled bobby, "there's nowt to see down there,
 It's miles away from 't-festival, or 'tBritish Industries Fair.
 There's no skylons there; nor nylons; I don't think there's a
 "Ay led," we calmly answered, "but there is 't Old Boys Book club."

"We've fowk there waiting for us, Len, Josie, Bob and Ben,
 And Roger, Ron and Charlie, and other unknown friends,
 Don't talk to us o't Festival, you'll nobbut waste your puff.
 Just point 't-road to East Dulwich, and then the's done enough."
 A passing stranger heard us ask for the O.B.B.C.
 And talk about the Magnet, Gem, Union-Jack and Nelson Lee.
 "Excuse me, leds," he said at last, "but I heard what you said.
 Is there a place in London where those books are still read?"
 "There is en' all" we answered, "and that's where we're off now."
 "You can keep you Lords, and Mdme. Tussauds, and all your other shows."

The South Bank Exhibition would have been built in vain
 If visitors to London, knew about Lordship Lane.
 By now a crowd had gathered. The news spread quickly round
 That all our favourite books of old wer' somewhere to be found.
 'Till up came Herbert Morrison, and wi' im Gerald Berry.
 And when they found out what was up, they really played old Harry!
 "Why didn't we know of this before?" they very crossly cried.
 "We could have saved a lot of cash, if only we had tried.
 To think what teeming multitudes there would have been to see
 If only we had publicised this here O.B.B.C."
 "Well, we'll know better next time; and in 20 - 51
 You can bet your boots upon it - there will be much more fun.
 For in that year the Festival, we tell you very plain,
 Will be held down in East Dulwich, at Hume House, Lordship Lane!"

WANTED: C.D. Annuals 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950.
 Bill Martin, 93 Hillside, Stonebridge Park, London, N.7.10.

LETTER BOX

C. D. Would Be Incomplete Without
Letters from Frank Richards.

April 24th, 1951.

Dear Herbert Leckenby,

Thank you for yours this morning. Yes, I have several "spares" of the chess photograph, and am very pleased to send one of them rolling down to Rio. I am despatching it by the same post, so that our friend Ronald may receive it before he leaves for his summer holidays.

I had a very pleasant letter from Ronald Hunter about the radio play, which I was glad to learn came through perfectly at Rio, though at this end the short wave was very refractory, and I listened-in in vain. However, the BBC kindly sent me a copy of the Portuguese translation, so I was able to read it while giving ear to the squeaks and squalls of the short wave.

The paper shortage has set in again as severely as ever, if not more so. I hoped that we had done with it! What a hope! However Billy Bunter's Postal Order certainly will appear this month, and according to my latest information The Scapgrace of St. Jim's and Talbot's Secret will also be out by the end of the month: but with regard to these two I won't feel quite certain till I see them. Poor "Jack" is relegated to the dubious future, and Rookwood and Carcroft remain on the knees of the gods. If this goes on I think I shall chuck writing, and carry out my original intention — formed in 1880 — of going to sea!

No doubt you noticed a reference in the Daily Mail yesterday — the Who Where column — to the new OBDC, Birmingham. From what I hear this youngster seems to be very thriving.

With kind regards,

Always yours sincerely,

FRANK RICHARDS.

I believe I omitted to acknowledge the latest C.D. Billy Bunter's fault! Good as ever, my dear boy, or better.

May 11th, 1951.

Dear Herbert Deckerby,

Many thanks for the C.D. The increase to 1/6 does not surprise me: excepting that you have been able to delay it so long: for it was obviously inevitable.

They say that everything that goes up must come down:

but if that rule applies to the price of paper, I fear that we have a long time to wait before we hear it bump! Anyhow, where in the three kingdoms is an equally good eighteen-pennyworth to be found?

I was very interested in Mr. Jones's article on J.N.P., and couldn't agree more with what he says: though it did reawaken some old memories that I would like to leave unremembered. Roger Jenkins' article on Rookwood is really good reading. He evidently knows his subject inside out, and I must say I appreciate his remark about the subtlety of delineation of character causing the same to be sometimes overlooked. He is right, too, that the whole of the Rookwood series in the Boys' Friend was the genuine goods. I always had a great affection for "Uncle James", and I had some happy weeks writing the book that Mandeville's are to publish about him, — if the paper shortage doesn't knock him on the head!

With kind regards,

Always yours sincerely,

FRANK RICHARDS.

Three of Them!

MANDEVILLE PUBLICATIONS,

45, Great Russell St.,

London, W.C.1.

17th May, 1951.

Dear Mr. Leckenby,

Hereunder list of forthcoming Tom Merry books, which I am happy to state will be published sooner than was anticipated.

Tom Merry Series

Scapegrace of St. Jim's June 7/6

Talbot's Secret August 7/6

Rookwood Series

Rivals of Rookwood School, September, 7/6.

Yours sincerely,

A. E. GERARD.

(Note change in Messrs. Mandeville Publications address. - H.L.)

WANTED: Girls' magazines, School Friend, Schoolgirls' Own (weekly and monthly), Schoolgirl, Schooldays. Also Schoolgirls' Own Annuals and Cliff House Annuals. Also Holiday Annuals for 1920, 1921, 1925, 1927, and 1928. Arthur J. Southway, P.O. Box 3, Beaconsfield, Cape Province, South Africa.

Blakiana

JUNE.

1951.

Editor:- H. M. Bond - 10, Erw Wen, Rhivbina, Cardiff. Wales.

THE ROUND TABLE.

Once more the summer season has come along and within a few weeks many members of the Sexton Blake circle will be on their way to the sea or the country. When I was a lad and the dear old UNION JACK was going strong, nothing pleased me better than to spend the summer holidays with Blake. I could be found sat on a stile or lying on a sandy beach with either the U.J. or an S.B.L. I still try and spend part of my holidays with the Man from Baker Street even though times have changed. Now and then I find my eight year old son enjoying the adventures of the same character in the pages of the KNOCKOUT COMIC and I marvel at the way in which Blake has kept his popularity despite what I consider to be many changes for the worse. I am not a lover of the comic strip and could never interest myself in the pictorial adventures of my favourite character but nevertheless he still remains alive and interests young and old alike. Unlike many other lads of his age my boy will be able to give his opinions of the old U.J. stories before he is much older and it will be very interesting to note his reactions. Times have changed greatly in every conceivable manner since the 1920's when I was enjoying the U.J. to the full. The many illustrations in those old copies amply confirm this, but somehow the stories do not seem to date much, except in one or two instances. References of jet engines and atom bombs are entirely missing, but there were many unheard of (in those days) inventions etc which I marvelled at then but which my lad finds commonplace. However, as I remarked, Blake is the main thing and despite that excellent article by Tom Hopperton last month he lives on in memory if not in person. A second series S.B.L. will always score over a 3rd series volume in my estimation while the latter will undoubtedly be the favourite of the modern lad until another series eventually takes its place. And so the times change and yet for some of us remain as they were. I go on holidays next week and will see that a number of S.B.Ls are packed in my case. This year, for the first time I shall enjoy Blake on Blackpool sands!

H.M. Bond.

REVIEWS.

Gerald Allison.

"On the 11.40 Down" by Hilary King.
S.B.L. No. 237 (Amalgamated Press - 7d).

Quite good. Hilary King is keeping up to the standard he set in his first Sexton Blake story.

Of course, if the taxi-driver at Redwood station had cleaned the chalk dust off the seat of his car, or if he had been on duty when Tinker was snooping round, the tale would have ended on page 14.

However, Blake deserved a bit of luck. From then on, the action was unflagging.

"The Mystery Of The Blitized Tower" by Anthony Parsons.
S.B.L. No. 238 (Amalgamated Press- 7d).

Fair to average. On page 11 Blake's client enters heavily veiled.

"Before I say anything", she whispers, "I must insist on ~~inviolable~~ inviolable secrecy. I cannot - I dare not risk being involved in scandal".

But, four pages later, she gasps furiously, "Nothing will stop me, neither scandal, nor anything else. I'll shriek the truth from the house-tops".

Very careless writing Mr. Parsons.

I agree with Superintendent (NOT Sooper, please!) Venner when he says on page 42:- "One days the phone will ring and an agitated voice will tell me that Mr. Edward Carter has been found murdered in revolting circumstances".

Roll on that day!

"SEXTON BLAKE IN THE EDWARDIAN ERA"

Look out for the new series by WALTER WEBB

Part 1 will appear in the July number of the C.D.

Also next month "SEXTON BLAKE AT HOME"

by Wilfred Darwin.

FOR THE SECOND TIME

in five years an impostor is at work. Yes, someone intent on stealing laurels from Sexton Blake again appears on the bookstalls. Is he the mysterious impostor spoken of by Tom Hopperton. Oh no! He is, once again the 'famous' London private investigator Ruston Carr of no definite address. And he is aided and abetted by a big and bulky ex policeman with large hands and feet and a round red face called George Mansoll. George, incidentally is apparently as keen on stealing laurels from Tinker as his employer is from Blake. We would not mind him hi-jacking these honours from Edward Carter but we do not like him stealing directly. And to add to all this bare faced pilfering of honours we are shocked to learn that Superintendent Richard Vizard is following in the footsteps of his unorthodox friends by attempting to take the place of our dear old "Sooper" - Claudius Venner. You are shocked? And rightly so! Now let me explain that all this jiggery pokery is contained in a new book just published by Wright and Brown at 6/-. It is called "No Alibi for Murder" and is an almost exact reprint of S.B.L. 3rd series No. III "The Riddle of the Indian Alibi". It is nice to know that a Blake author like Mr. Parsons should find one of his novels available for the libraries, but it is deplorable that one of his original Blake stories should be rehashed. Why shouldn't Blake appear in the book? It can't be a question of copyright can it? Or is it that the A.P. or W & B Ltd feel that the name of Blake might spoil a sale. I have always been against this reprinting business and this new book once again gives me the opportunity to express my views. Mr. Parsons is a prolific author as we all know. I suggest that he writes original novels for the libraries instead of allowing his Blake stories to be rehashed. Carr can never take the place of Blake in the eyes of the Blake fans and it is not right that the non-Blake reader should be forced to pay 6/- for a novel which was originally published for 7d. I do not doubt that the story is worth 6/- but that is not the point. To the genuine Sexton Blake enthusiast it is deplorable that a case which was originally successfully concluded by their favourite character should be brought to life for someone else to solve.

H.L. Bond.

COMMENT.

"I liked Tom Hopper's article a lot, although it was a bit destructive. If Blake is dead, as he says, there isn't much point in continuing reporting his adventures. However, even Sherlock Holmes was once killed off, and had to be brought back to life. I think our attitude should be: "Sexton Blake is Dead. Long live Sexton Blake!"

Gerald Allison.

INSPIRATION.

The following short reference to Blake and dear old Pedro was taken out from an old copy of the Radio-Times.

I have always liked detective stories. As a schoolboy, I could raise no interest in proving Pythagoras' Theory, but I was always enthusiastic when it came to solving the problems confronting Nelson Leo, Nick Carter, and all the other famous sleuth-hounds of the day. The example set by Sherlock Holmes was alone responsible for my excruciating scrapings on the violin, and Sexton Blake's own bloodhound inspired me to inflict on my first puppy the name "Pedro". My enthusiasm, however, did not extend to taking cocaine, and my Pedro developed a disposition to petty larceny which would have shocked his namesake.

I wonder if the author Reginald Jordan is still interested in Blake?

Wilfred Darwin.

ARTICLES AND FEATURES ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR BLAKIANA.

BLAKE THROUGH THE YEARS. (continued)

WALTER WEBB.

To conclude this series of articles of Blake in the Victorian Era I will take the spotlight away from the Conference Table, around which the authors, editors and higher-ups of the period are gathered in debate, and introduce a 36 year old Victorian novelist who was, many years later, to enter the field of Blake writers. His name -- Arthur Henry Paterson. Born in Bowden, Cheshire on the 15th July 1862, Arthur Paterson was a sheep farmer in New Mexico between the years 1877 to 1879, and farmed in Western Kansas between 1879 and 1889. Returning to England in 1881 he entered a merchants office in Birkenhead, and, beginning as a clerk rose to the post of sub-manager. The eleven years between 1885 to 1896 saw him as District Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society in London during which time he wrote his first book "The Better Man" which was published in 1890.

It would have been possible, at the time of which I write, to have obtained one of Arthur Paterson's most thrilling and successful books "A Son Of The Plains" from any large booksellers in the great metropolis. It was first published in 1895. It was when he had entered into the twilight of his writing career that the author first began to chronicle Blake's exploits and it is sad to reflect that in the rapidly advancing days prior to his demise, in which he completed eleven stories for the UNION JACK, he should live only sufficiently long to see three of them in print. A fine writer, Arthur Paterson passed away on the 16th January 1928 at the age of 65.

On this sombre note the curtain rings down on the Victorian era and the spotlight moves on to the Edwardian period, during which time ^Soxton Blake's stock rose higher still. This, however, must be the subject for another series of articles.

--ooOoo--

THE END.

--ooOoo--

YOUR OPINION OF THE WALTER WEBB SERIES WILL BE
VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. SEND IT TO THE
EDITOR OF BLAKIANA WITHOUT DELAY.

THE SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY (FIRST SERIES) 1915-1925. (2).

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|-----|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 17. | Their Great Adventure. | H. Graydon. |
| 18. | The Banker's Trust. | H. Osborne. |
| 19. | His Excellency's Secret. | A. Murray. |
| 20. | In Triple Disguise. | W.M. Graydon. |
| 21. | The Golden Belts. | A. Murray. |
| 22. | The Case Of The Cashiered Officer. | W.M. Graydon. |
| 23. | Traitor and Spy. | A. S. Hardy. |
| 24. | The Man With The Green Eyes. | H. Osborne. |
| 25. | The Secret Of Drakers Folly. | A. Murray. |
| 26. | The Embassy Detective. | H. Graydon. |
| 27. | A Case Of Blackmail. | E. Alais. |
| 28. | Sexton Blake-Special Constable. | H. Osborne. |
| 29. | The Catspaw. | Andrew Murray. |
| 30. | The Three Trails. | W.M. Graydon. |
| 31. | Craft and Cunning. | W.M. Graydon. |
| 32. | Ten Years After. | H. Osborne. |

THE SEXTON BLAKE LIBRARY (SECOND SERIES) 1925-1941 (1).

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| 1. | The Secret Of The Coconut Groves. | G.H. Teed. |
| 2. | The Adventure of the Annamese Prince. | H. Graydon. |
| 3. | The Case Of The Deported Aliens. | A. Blair. |
| 4. | The Yellow Cat. | G. Chester. |
| 5. | The Mystery Of The Platinum Nugget. | P. Quiroulc. |
| 6. | The Case Of The Nawab's Son. | H. Graydon. |
| 7. | The Adventure of the Egyptian Student. | C. Brisbane. |
| 8. | The Case Of The Ten Diamonds. | G.H. Teed. |
| 9. | The Case Of The Man Who Never Slept. | G. Evans. |
| 10. | The Affair Of The Phantom Car. | E.J. Murray. |
| 11. | The Hunchback Of Hatton Garden. | H. Gregory Hill. |
| 12. | The Case Of The Society Blackmailer. | H. Graydon. |
| 13. | The Mystery Of The Stanley Viaduct. | A. Skene. |
| 14. | The Case Of The Bogus Bride. | G. Chester. |
| 15. | The Crumblerock Crime. | A. Blair. |
| 16. | The Clue Of The Four Wigs. | G.H. Teed. |

Next Month:- Further UNION JACK titles.