



Our New President

Mr. J. T. Wright was appointed Chairman at the Annual Council Meeting to take the place of Mr. George Smith, who has retired from office. For a number of years he has been closely connected with the life of the estate as proprietor of the Beacon Dairy Farm, and well-known to a large number of residents. Of cheery disposition, broad outlook, and a sound business capacity, Mr. Wright has all the qualities of character suitable for this important office. He has a heart-interest in the welfare of the people, and there can be no doubt that under his leadership the Association work will continue to be as progressive as ever.

BIRTHS.

SMITH.—To Mr. and Mrs. Smith, 218, Tyndale Crescent, on April 11th, a son, Peter Robert. Sincere thanks to the two Mrs. Taylors.
EDMUNDS.—To Mr. and Mrs. Edmunds (Akela), Rochester, Kent, on May 24th, a son, Peter Dennis.

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No. 1—LORD SHAFTESBURY.

I WONDER how many boys and girls have heard the name, Lord Shaftesbury? It is a name that should always be remembered, as we have such a lot to thank this very famous man for. He was born in the year 1801 and died in the year 1885. His education was completed at Christ Church, Oxford, and he entered the House of Commons in 1826. During 1828-30 he was a Commissioner of the Board of Control and he was Lord of the Admiralty in 1834-5. All through his life he worked very hard for the children and poor people. Even his enemies admired him for his unflinching goodness. You would always hear him say, "Do right, whatever may come of it." Remember those words, they may be a help at times of stress and worry.

When Lord Shaftesbury was a young man, many children were cruelly treated and he was horrified to find quite young children working down the coal-pits. Very often he would go down these pits to talk to the terrified children and try to comfort them. He also saw naked boys being forced to climb and sweep the big chimneys in the houses of the rich people and sometimes these poor boys stuck in the chimneys and were suffocated to death. (What a contrast to the way children live and play these days.) So this great man, Lord Shaftesbury, made up his mind to put a stop to this cruelty if possible. How hard he worked, never tiring, always fighting for what he knew was right. Naturally, everything did not always run smoothly for him and he had many setbacks, but still he went on with the good work, with those who thought as he did, always ready to back him up and give him a helping hand.

When John Pounds, a Portsmouth shoemaker, began to collect around him the urchins of the neighbourhood and to teach them free of charge, he started an idea which developed "ragged" schools all over the country. Later, Lord Shaftesbury became President of the "Ragged School Union."

Apart from all this work to help the children this great man did all that was possible to help the poorer people. About 100 years ago, a nobleman was riding in his carriage to a military review, when he saw a poor woman trudging along the road. At once he stopped his carriage and gave the woman his seat, whilst he himself sat beside the coachman. Now this was most unusual. In those days, a peasant and a nobleman never rode together, but this nobleman was—**Lord Shaftesbury**. Nothing was too much for him in his work to relieve suffering, hardships and cruelty. He also worked hard to make things easier for the inmates of the Lunatic Asylums. These poor creatures used to be chained to their beds and left for days without anyone to look after them.

Well, boys and girls, lack of space forbids me to tell you more about this great-hearted man, Lord Shaftesbury, but I feel sure you will realize, from what I have written, that we owe a great deal to him. Indirectly, he has made us what we are, and given us the chance to live healthy and happy lives, full of intelligence and character. And so, as I said at the beginning, we should always remember him, because he was most surely a great man, who has helped to make us great people.

P. I. ALLEN.



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