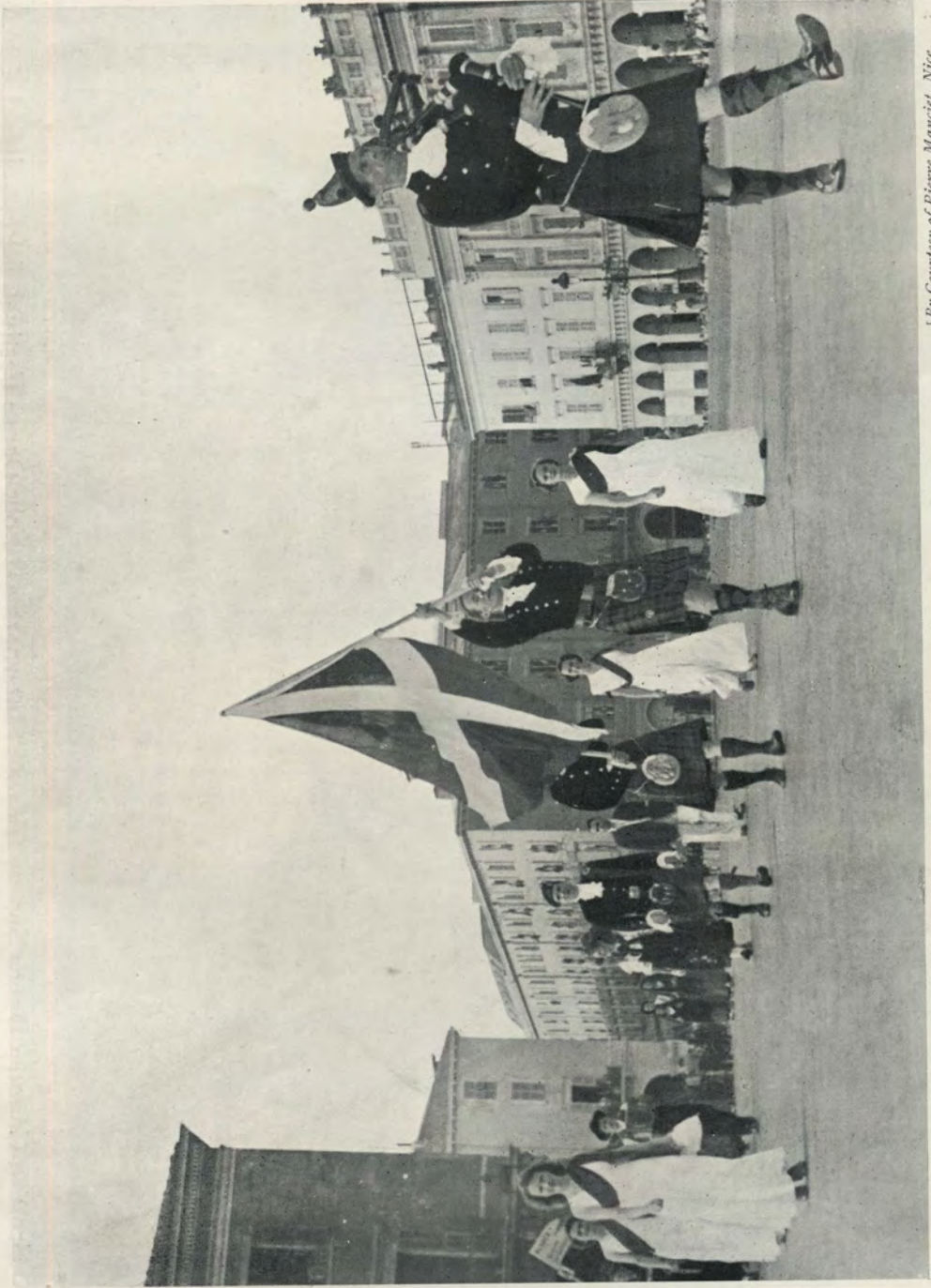


The
Scottish Country
Dance Society
Bulletin.

No. 28.

OCTOBER 1950.



[By Courtesy of Pierre Manciet, Nice

Scottish Country Dance Society Team at International Folk Dance Festival, Nice — July 1950



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Annual Report

SCOTTISH Country Dancing is sweeping through the country." " Its popularity is increasing by leaps and bounds!" These are statements that have been made frequently during the year by individuals and that have also appeared many times in the Press. There is ample proof that they are true and before they become stale with over-familiarity; it would be wise to consider the reasons for success in this Twenty-eighth Annual Report, as no Society and certainly not a dancing one, can continue to thrive if it settles down to a state of complacency with things as they are.

It is not always easy to define what gives rise to waves of enthusiasm, but there are certain obvious factors: a continual revival of interest in Scottish traditions and history, both at home and overseas, the keen interest taken by the members of our Royal Family, and the active participation of men in the Services. Another vital factor is the support that is given to the Society by those in authority and this applies particularly to educational powers.

It must be gratifying to the Education Department to have full co-operation from the Society without any expenditure of grant aid. It is a matter of great pride to the membership that they are able to retain complete financial independence. The increasing awareness of commercial enterprises is also a fact to be considered. Last, but most important, the snowball effect of all the good work that has been done over the years by those who have had faith in the aims of the Society. It would be invidious to pick out any particular person, and yet this is not so in the case of Miss Jean Milligan, who, during the last year, has travelled the length and breadth of Britain enthusing and inspiring new members, leading to the formation of new branches, and sustaining the interest of the oldest member through her own indefatigable energy and spirit. Scottish Country Dancing has in her a great advocate.

Scottish Country Dancing is now an important educative and recreative activity, and, therefore, a very great responsibility. Its main influence is social and so, while there must be no lowering of standards, there must be an always growing appreciation of what the people need. It seems unnecessary to stress that the release from the tension of a day's work will be found in a happy social atmosphere resulting from men and women dancing together to the gay lilt of the Scottish tunes, and not in a too early insistence on correct technique. There is, however, no greater addict to the technique class at St Andrews than the man who has enjoyed the fun of dancing on social occasions. The growing interest in the history of the dances must be catered for too, and the Committee responsible must do all it can to give information, though, as has already been explained, this is very difficult. It is obvious, too, that if Scottish Country Dancing is to be preserved in its present form, and to become an even more potent force, the Society, while protecting its own members and preserving its own integrity, must be a body sympathetic and understanding of all active Societies and groups that have Scottish Dancing as part of their interests.

It is always satisfactory to give factual proof of increasing development, and while space does not permit a full account of a year's work, the following are examples of routine events and highlights. The membership of the Society is now approximately 10,000, with 47 Branches and 92 Affiliated Groups—the new Branches being Boston (Mass.), Elgin, Carlisle, Newcastle and District, and Peebles.

Examinations have been held in the following places during the year :—Aberdeen Branch, Aberdeen (Woolmanhill Training College), Angus, Banffshire, Belfast, Dumfries, Dundee, Dunfermline College of Physical Education, Durham, Edinburgh, Glasgow Branch (Jordanhill Training College) (Notre Dame R.C. Training College), Hawick (Roxburgh Education Authority), Kirkcaldy, Kirkcudbright, Leven, Perthshire, Renfrewshire, St. Andrews (University students), Stirling. There were 341 passes in Certificate 1 (with 207 failures), while 294 candidates passed in Certificate 2 (with 34 failures).

The entries for Scottish Country Dancing in the various Festivals held throughout the country have been larger than usual, and adjudicators have noted that the standard has been high. From the Branch reports, it will be seen that demonstrations to large audiences have been given in many districts. This year Scottish Country Dancing was very much appreciated by the huge crowds in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, and also at the Royal Highland Show in Paisley, while a team from Edinburgh danced at an International Folk Dance Festival held in the Albert Hall, London, in January. Teams from the Summer School danced at the Highland Gathering, Crieff, and at Aberfeldy, and were greatly appreciated.

The Society was invited to send a team to attend an International Folk Dance Festival in Nice in July. A selection meeting was held in May, and of the twenty chosen, ten represented the Society, accompanied by a piper. An account of this visit will be included in the *Bulletin*.

The Publicity Fund is open to receive donations from Branches for the purpose of sending teams abroad or furth of Scotland and it was suggested at a recent meeting of the Management Committee that Branches with surplus funds might be glad to use them for this purpose.

The lessons on Scottish Country Dancing given by Mrs May Brown on Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m. from October to March were again very popular, judging by the many letters of appreciation received.

The Secretary has received letters and requests for advice, gramophone records, books, etc., from a variety of places abroad, including B.A.O.R. Germany, Bathurst N.S.W., Buenos Aires, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Bengal East, Brisbane, Calcutta, Capetown, Durban, Florida, Glen Innes N.S.W., Griffith N.S.W., Hong-Kong, Kai Kohe New Zealand, Karachi, Kgs Lyngby (Denmark), Malaya, Kut Abdullah South Iran, Nairobi, Ottawa, Paris, Philadelphia U.S.A., Prague, Sale Spring Island B.C., Sandakan North Borneo, Shanghai, Southern Rhodesia, Vancouver B.C., Wairarapa New Zealand, Wellington New Zealand, Whittier California.

The Autumn School was held by the kind invitation of Aberdeen Branch during the week-end of 18th November 1949. On Friday evening Miss Milligan taught a large class, going through all twelve dances in Book 15. Classes were held on Saturday morning by teachers of Aberdeen Branch, and after the Annual General Meeting in the afternoon a Thé Dansant was held in the Music Hall, while later, the visitors were entertained to a Ball, both functions being much enjoyed.

The Annual Summer School was held at University Hall, St Andrews, from 24th July to 21st August. It is regrettable that owing to limited accommodation many applications again had to be refused. The Executive Council take this opportunity once more of expressing their appreciation to Miss Milligan and the Staff of the Summer School for their work.

There being no new book this year, a pocket edition of the last three publications—Books Victory, 14 and 15—will be given to members on payment of the annual subscription.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 19th November 1949.

THE Twentieth Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Country Dance Society was held on Saturday, 19th November 1949, at 2.45 p.m., in the Music Hall, Aberdeen. PRESENT.—Lord James Stewart Murray presided and there was an attendance of 420 members.

APOLOGIES.—Apologies were intimated from Lord Inverclyde, Miss Adam, Mrs Brown, Mr Drummond, Mrs Liddell, Mrs Hamilton-Meikle, Miss Kirk, Mrs Stewart and Mr McClure.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.—Lord James, after expressing thanks to the Aberdeen Branch for their hospitality, said that according to the Annual Report it seemed as if the Society was one of the very few beneficial organisations which had improved their position financially and in every other way since the war. In an amusing speech, Lord James suggested that the influence of the Society might penetrate the Iron Curtain, and visualised the Dancers of Don, led by Dr Forbes-Sempill, dancing through Mongolia and Manchuria, while at the same time the team which went to Venice for the International Folk Music Festival, led by Miss Jean Milligan, progressed up the middle of Yugoslavia, sidestepped across the borders of Hungary and cast round the backs of Czechoslovakia and Poland and danced the "Duke of Perth" in Ukraine. Continuing, Lord James stressed the social aspect of Scottish Country Dancing, which helped to break down artificial barriers which had been built up in the cities since the industrial revolution.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR 1949-50.—The only nominations for the position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman were Mrs Hamilton-Meikle and Miss Milligan respectively. Mrs Hamilton-Meikle was therefore elected as Chairman and Miss Milligan as Vice-Chairman.

There were eleven nominations for the six places vacant on the Executive Council. After voting, the following members were elected :—Miss B. Anderson, Mr Drummond, Mrs Lesslie, Miss McLennan, Mr Murray and Dr Forbes-Sempill.

During the counting of the votes, Miss Milligan gave an interesting account of the visit of the Society's team to Venice to attend the International Folk Music Conference and Festival and told the meeting of the excellent reports that had been received of the team's dancing and efficiency. Lord James then read a letter from the team expressing their gratitude to the Society for having had such an opportunity.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT.—The adoption of the Annual Report which was published in the *Bulletin* was proposed by Miss Barrow (Glasgow), and seconded by Miss A. Anderson (Edinburgh). The Report was adopted.

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT.—The Financial Report which was published in the *Bulletin* was adopted, having been proposed by Miss Ross (Glasgow), and seconded by Mr MacRitchie (Fort William).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1950.—The Chairman announced that the Executive Council had accepted the invitation of the Edinburgh Branch to hold the meeting in Edinburgh in 1950.

Dr McLellan (Frickheim) proposed a vote of thanks to Lord James Stewart Murray for presiding at the meeting and to the Aberdeen Branch for their generous hospitality during the week-end.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Fêtes des Provinces Francaises et du Folklore International Nice, July 1950.

ON the morning of Tuesday, 11th July, the chosen team assembled from their various parts of Scotland left the grey skies of London to set out for the long 1000 mile trans-continental journey through the gradually rising temperatures and much changing topography of France. Having crossed the plains of Normandy, touched Paris, passed through the romance of the Rhone Valley and the terraced, chapel-crowned hills of red-earthed Provence, they reached the flower-decked Riviera, saturated in its brilliant light, where the glittering sea reflected the relentless sun.

The journey had passed quickly; the sea had had only a gentle swell; the Blue Train had been luxurious; the food on the train quite beyond anything remotely near what the British would even dream of; and the company—most congenial. It had been a fitting prelude to what was to be an experience never-to-be-forgotten.

On Wednesday morning at 10, the heavy train, whose final destination was Rome, steamed punctually into Nice. A deputation was waiting to welcome us. This was only the beginning of a period during which kindnesses and privileges were showered constantly upon us.

At the first Reception which a delegation of the Team attended, the Scots were mentioned and welcomed first; we were given a special commendation in appreciation of the consideration and generosity of our Society in sending us such a long distance and bearing the expenses. The welcome was most sincere, and the friendship well established when the toast was replied to unexpectedly in French by one of the Team. The hospitality given to us was overpowering, and there was no doubt before long as to which was the favourite team. There were represented eighteen teams from the French Provinces, and visiting teams from Italy, Switzerland and Spain, all resplendent in National Costume; some teams we had met last year in Venice.

The Fêtes des Provinces Francaises are conducted with almost a religious fervour and all was very well organised; everything was gay, the colours of the costumes vying with the flowers with which the city is festooned. Much emphasis was made from the beginning on the "Fraternization" and the "Friendly Relations" of the groups and nations; the Federation building was always open as a meeting-place and a club to encourage this. One of the most charming and incongruous results of this was the day when the visiting teams performed to the native teams in the Casino. The Casino is, externally, a pompous edifice and internally, a vast, soulless hall, rather tawdry, its glass-domed roof draped and tented to keep out the burning rays. On this occasion, the Choosing of the Queen of the French Provinces took place; each of the French teams selected its most beautiful girl, who appeared before the assembly and the judges in her most elaborate finery. Between the dancing of the visiting teams and the judging of the Royal Title social dancing took place. The sight was unusual—Italians and Alsations, Scots in festival garb and Normans with headdresses of lofty lace—performing Sambas!

The most difficult thing to put up with was—the intense heat. The worst example of this was on the 14th July, the National Festival of France, and our busiest day, when, after watching the Review of the Troops, each team laid a wreath on the magnificent and noble War Memorial crowning the cliff face commanding the situation of Nice and the sparkling panorama of the Mediterranean from Antibes to Villefranche. (We had had wreaths made in the form of a St Andrew's flag—of blue lilies and a cross of white dahlias tied with tartan ribbon). In that lofty situation there was no shelter from the

sun, and in the slow ceremonial many fainted (even those native to such a sun). The Scots just managed to survive—but were only too glad of the cool marble halls and of the generous refreshment of the Mayor's Reception which followed.

The afternoon saw a full procession of all the teams down the mile-long Avenue-de-la-Victoire (fortunately shaded with glorious ancient trees). Each team was given a standard bearing its country and province; to our *horror* we were presented with one bearing the words "ANGLETERRE: groupe Ecosais". On being informed of their dreadful mistake they were most "bouleversés" and, not having time to substitute GRANDE BRETAGNE, they just obliterated the "offending" country. (It is difficult to prevent the French calling Great Britain ENGLAND.)

For those Scottish members of the Team attending it, the climax of the day was the Reception given by the City of Nice to the Bonaparte Pretender—Prince Louis Napoleon. Deposed royalties are now allowed to live in France as private citizens by the recent revoking of the law. The Villa Masséna has been presented to the City of Nice as a Bonaparte Museum, and in its palm-shaded grounds, with its lawns doing their very best to copy their British prototypes (but even, in spite of incessant watering, not succeeding) the Reception was held. The columned terrace along the back of the house housed the State Orchestra, whose strains of Strauss filtered through banks of giant gladioli and dahlias set in vast urns between the pillars. Although Napoleon and Josephine must have been tiny (as can be seen from their coronation robes), Prince Louis Napoleon is six feet five in height and regal in aspect. The delegates of each team were presented to him. Flowers were given to everybody and the refreshments were gargantuan. Along the Riviera coast there is a strong Bonaparte feeling—Corsica is only a few hours out to sea.

The Exhibition Dancing took place in the evenings in a superbly situated open-air theatre set in magnificent gardens near the sea. The air was cool and balmy then, and the soft Mediterranean night fell early, without twilight. The stage, embowered in trees, was well microphoned and expertly lit. Our dancing caused much admiration and comment because of its combined grace and agility, and our costume because of its elegance and magnificence. Our bagpipes, expertly played, outshone their foreign cousins and all forms of attendant music there.

In the gardens round the theatre a Kermesse was held nightly after the performances; there each province had its own stall where its produce was displayed and sold, and before which their teams danced and sang. The popular Scots would not have been in any fit state to perform any form of dance if they had accepted all the invitations to "taste the wine of their province"!

An official film was also made in the gardens, in front of the fountain just above the stage. Waverley was danced, but it was a bit of a trial to perform in the excessive heat and light in full dress. We also sent representatives to Broadcasting House to participate in a Magazine programme. The programme was entirely in French; we were asked our impressions, etc., and to tell something of dancing in Scotland. It terminated with a Foursome Reel sung in Puertabeul and a bagpipe selection.

Though it meant crowded moments we managed to bathe (a sport too commercialised in the Riviera resorts to be really enjoyed), and to see quite a bit of the Riviera coast and its enchanting Provençal hinterland by special bus. Miss Milligan, whose presence was ever welcomed wherever she went, saw to the fact that a certain famous café in the Avenue was initiated into the making of tea in strict accordance with the British ritual, and made in the quantities sufficient for energetic perpetually drouthy Scots.

The French were impressed with our happiness and laughter and with the all too obvious fact that we were enjoying ourselves thoroughly. They were charmed by the fact that every one in the Team attempted to converse in their language—the worse the mistakes, the more it endeared us to them.

Too soon the last day came, and the Blue Train was boarded. We were exhilarated by the change, surfeited with the sun and the luxuries of the Mediterranean, and content to have heard the delightful tributes paid to us—privileged to be the ambassadors of Scotland.

And so—a quiet and restful journey home, to see the first rain for ten days. And the strange thing was—we were not sorry to feel it!

An Appreciation

The following unsolicited appreciation was sent to Miss Milligan in a letter of farewell by an English-speaking Frenchman, who came regularly to see the dancers and to help in every way he could:—

THE SHOW :

A superb blending : ancient and yet modern dances : nothing commonplace or conventional. Poise and nimbleness of all the dancers in both light and imposing dancing. Perfect timing (except for the curtseys and bows at the end of each number). Typical of the spirit of the Scottish race.

Heard in the audience :—

“ Comme ils sont bien ! ”

“ Comme elles sont belles ! ”

At the parade the crowds were five or six deep.

The group was practically the leading group in the procession.

Many people shouted “ Vive l'Ecosse ! ” cheered and clapped.

Your Group was one of the *best* among the twenty or thirty taking part.

First Impressions of the Summer School, 1950.

THE name of St Andrews can conjure up different memories for various people. For many it is the Mecca of golf, for others the University walls bring back nostalgic memories of student days; but for a smaller group of people it is the home of the Scottish Country Dance Society's Summer School. By what inspiration St Andrews was chosen as the home for the school I do not know, but it certainly was a stroke of genius to fix on such a place. The "Grey City" has that about it which gives an atmosphere which I doubt is obtainable elsewhere.

My own Caledonian Society is in a large prosperous English south coast holiday resort. It has a membership of about three hundred, not all, I am sorry to say, active members. From September to May classes, or more properly, social dances, are held every Monday night. Unfortunately there is no proper instructor, the result being little Scottish dancing, country or otherwise. I discovered that the S.C.D.S. held a Summer School at St Andrews, and taking my courage in both hands, wrote to the Secretary, whose very encouraging reply enabled me to apply and be accepted for the last two weeks of the school. So this summer I visited the school for the first time. I was not a member of the society and knew nothing of its organization or methods. It has to be admitted that my own society has a very low standard of dancing. At any of the functions there is a diversity of ideas of how each dance should be performed, which is not conducive to the finished performance.

Having such a slight and mixed knowledge of Scottish dancing, it was with some apprehension I set out for St Andrews. These fears were soon set at rest—never have I met anywhere such a group of kindly, helpful people, who gave me a most friendly welcome.

On arrival there was a brief interview with the secretary, tea in University Hall, and I found myself installed in a large, lofty room in Wardlaw Hall. This room for the next two weeks I was to share with a room mate, "Jock," who had not yet appeared. I unpacked, settled in, and returned later for dinner in University Hall. All the students from Wardlaw had their meals in the Hall. Everyone at my table seemed to know one another, and the talk was mainly of past years at the school. Though when it turned to "Advanced Technique," I sat quiet and listened.

After dinner I met my room mate, who by then had arrived, and proceeded to show him our quarters, trying to feel as if I was an old hand of three years instead of three hours. When both of us were ready we proceeded to the Social Dance, which takes place every evening in University Hall. To my dismay on reading the programme there was not one dance that I knew except the eightsome reel. However, with the aid of very helpful partners I managed to struggle through one or two dances. Came the final dance, the eightsome. Here, I told myself, is where I can do something. But alas! here my pride soon fell. The eightsome as performed at St Andrews is not the same dance as performed in my own society.

The main work of the teaching is done in the morning session—10 to 11 and 11.30 to 12.30. There are various classes for 1st and 2nd Certificate candidates, general classes, and a new class of Highland reel steps for men which was very popular, the majority of men attending. I took the general class and the Highland steps.

The teaching, as it should be, is excellent. The instructors of both classes I attended took utmost pains to explain the steps and the movements and combine them in the finished figure. I was not very successful in the Highland steps, the movements being so much faster and more complicated. I was unable to understand them as quickly as

the country dance steps. However, by the end, if I could not perform them at all well I could at least appreciate what was required.

The afternoons were free, with tea at four. From 5.15 to 6.15 there was a class in either Old Time, Danish, International, American Square, or any other dance of special interest. Dinner was at seven, and the evening Social Dance at eight. This was always a crowded, happy affair, and though because of the numbers there was little room for the dances to be performed to advantage, everyone enjoyed them. During the evening there was generally a demonstration of a dance, and possibly a song or two. Afterwards those with any energy left went for a walk down to the town for a coffee or visited one another's rooms for parties, which seem a feature of St Andrews life.

This may not sound a very arduous life, but in practice it is. Despite the free afternoon, this was nearly always taken up with a private practice with other members, and by the first Thursday I was beginning to realise what stiff ankles and legs meant. By the second week most of the new members had settled into the routine and begun to talk and act as if old hands.

The standard is set high, and at the final examinations for the certificates there were many disappointed faces when the result list was posted. It is a policy to be admired, an exact standard must be set or the certificates are valueless. However, as I was not taking the certificate examination I was free from the joys and sorrows of the participants and could enjoy myself thoroughly.

This brings me to my first and biggest impression of the school. The extreme friendliness of everyone. I, only a mere beginner, was received, made welcome and helped by everyone, from the Principal, Secretary, Instructors, and all the "old hands." No signs of "standoffishness" at all. I came and was accepted; the fact that I knew nothing was not in any way held against me. It is very warming to meet such nice people.

The atmosphere of the school enters into one's blood and it was not long before I caught the germ. On my journey north I promised myself that if I did not get on with the school I would make my excuses and leave as soon as possible. After a few days I found myself planning how I could arrange to come next year to take my first certificate. Never was there so quick and complete conversion!

The accommodation is excellent, University Hall being reserved for ladies and Wardlaw Hall for the men and a few ladies. Others were accommodated at a guest house.

Though I understand the number of men attending has increased, it could be increased still more with advantage. The Highland class was a welcome innovation, and I hope it continues. My second week ended all too soon. On the last Saturday I went with a party to the Crieff Highland Gathering to accompany a demonstration team, who gave an excellent display. An unusual event was the mounted band of the Life Guards.

The last Sunday seemed an anti-climax—no lessons and much talk. Monday came, and though there was a class I had to leave by the 9.52 train. A round of good-byes, a few last addresses in my book for sending on sundry snaps, into the taxi, down to the station, and in a short while St Andrews was lost to sight. My last view was Wardlaw Hall standing high above the bay.

Now I am back in my own town and have only memories of a very happy time left. But the germ has bitten me. St Andrews next year by whatever means possible! My head is full of ideas for the coming season with my own society. The battles ahead when I try to explain the dances should be done the St Andrews way. Yes, St Andrews is going to be responsible for a lot of things happening in the south this winter! The stone is dropped into the pond at St Andrews, but the ripples spread to all parts of the country.

F. N. M.

Branch Reports

ABERDEEN.—Numbers this season were 618 ordinary and 57 Life Members, making a total of 675, a large increase in membership.

One teachers' class and five general adult classes were held during the season, and all were well attended. At the request of members, one general class was continued during the Summer Term, and there members from all of the winter classes met together.

At the conclusion of the Teachers' class, eleven candidates gained First Certificates, and fourteen gained Final Certificates.

We would here thank all teachers for the very excellent work they have done during the past year, for the enthusiasm they have brought to the task, and for the encouragement they have given to so many.

The pianists, too, we wish to thank for their splendid co-operation, for their variety of tunes, and for their helpfulness.

The S.C.D.S. Annual General Meeting was held in Aberdeen in November, and it was a great pleasure for us to meet representatives from all over Scotland and England.

At the S.C.D. section of the North-Eastern Musical Festival, honours were gained by a mixed team, and by the Tuesday women's team from the Society. The latter team tied for place with a Youth Hostels team trained by one of our Life Members.

Requests for teachers throughout the district were numerous, and each certificated teacher was fully engaged during the winter either in taking public classes or in coaching Guides, Guildry, G.T.C., and other young people.

Four of our Branch members—Mrs MacFarlane and Messrs J. Dunbar, A. Patterson and J. Primrose, were chosen to dance in teams representative of Scotland. Of these, Mrs MacFarlane and Mr Dunbar travelled with the team to Nice in July.

Trophies presented by the Branch for competition among Senior Youth Clubs in Aberdeen were won by the High School mixed team and by Holburn Girls' Team.

ANGUS.—This Branch, formed in 1930, had last season 1122 members and 6 Life Members, an increase of 300 on last year's figure. Of these, 310 belonged to the Arbroath Centre, 223 to the Forfar Centre, 163 to Montrose, 132 to Friockheim, 101 to Brechin, 98 to Kirriemuir, and 95 to Carnoustie. All the Society classes were taught by fully certificated teachers and the standard of dancing has been kept very high.

At present there are twenty-three fully certificated teachers working in the Branch, and there is still a demand for more, especially in rural areas.

In October 1949 we had a visit from Miss Milligan, who took us through the dances of Book 15. Owing to lack of space this class had to be limited to teachers and very experienced dancers. A most enjoyable and instructive evening was spent, and we were all most grateful to Miss Milligan, who taught the whole of Book 15 in her usual inimitable style.

All the Centres contributed to local charities throughout the winter, and donations were sent from the Branch and from the various Centres to the Publicity Fund of the Society and to the Trefoil School for Handicapped Children.

Classes for Girl Guides and Boy Scouts and other youth organizations were taught by Society teachers, and at Arbroath Musical Festival and other competitions teams from these classes, as well as from the adult classes, gained very high places.

A Certificate class was run this winter for the first time since 1939, and four candidates passed Part I of the Teaching Certificate.

Once again the Branch supported Arbroath Pageant Society by running a most successful dance during Pageant Week, the profits of this dance going to the funds of the Pageant Society.

AYR.—This Branch has had another successful year—63 new members joined the Society.

Three classes were run by the Branch, two of them for couples only. The first was restricted to fifty and the second one to thirty-four members, these limitations being imposed by the accommodation available. Several classes were held by the Education Authority, the Gaelic Society and various other organizations.

A dance was held in the Town Hall in December in conjunction with the Y.W.C.A. to raise funds for the latter organisation.

A mixed team entered for the Musical Festival and gave a demonstration at the final night concert as the best team in the Festival.

The season ended with a Ball held at Heads of Ayr Ballroom, and was attended by parties from all over the county and from neighbouring counties. About 400 were present.

A demonstration team gave a display at both dances, and also to Scottish Canadian Curlers on the occasion of their visit to Ayr. The latter joined with great enthusiasm in a dance afterwards.

AYRSHIRE NORTH.—This Branch had a very successful season last year, and we begin again in October. Our members are increasing, and we are having two classes on Monday evenings and on Thursday evenings. We hope to have a big dance on 1st December, and hope all the Branches in the neighbourhood will give us their support as usual. Our Committee have suggested we now should be known as "Kilmarnock and District Branch" instead of "North Ayrshire," and we hope our members will agree to this at our Annual Meeting in October.

AYRSHIRE NORTH-WEST.—The past session, 1949-50, the second one of this new Branch, proved to be most successful. Since our inauguration two years ago, we have added 250 members to our lists, and this looks like just a beginning.

It is a fairly widely spread Branch, but there are Instructional Classes in Largs, West Kilbride, Ardrossan, Stevenston, Dalry and Kilbirnie, and with members from each of these sections and guests from Ayr and Kilmarnock, we have held two very successful Balls.

Each month, from October to April, there is an informal dance in Ardrossan.

At our second Annual General Meeting, there was a very gratifying attendance, and we were very sorry to say good-bye to our former Treasurer, Mr W. Niven, and Secretary, Miss Smith.

BANFFSHIRE.—The year 1949-50 was again a successful year for the Branch. Twelve different classes were held throughout the county, all of which were well attended and very popular, a pleasing feature being the large number of young men who attended all the classes. Since the Branch's revival two years ago steady progress has been maintained, both in numbers and standard of work.

An examination was held in May, when five members who had gained Part I of the Teacher's Certificate were successful in passing Part II. This will help the shortage of qualified teachers, which has prevailed throughout Banffshire since the inception of the Branch.

BATH AND WEST OF ENGLAND.—Classes were held weekly until 27th June, and will re-commence on 12th September.

Membership is still very small, but attendance at the classes has shown a considerable increase and it is expected that several more people will become members next season.

A very successful end of season dance was held in May, for which 105 tickets were sold. Also in May some members of the Branch took part in a demonstration of Scottish Country Dancing at the Bath Assembly Youth Festival.

BELFAST.—The Branch has had another successful year, having formed a second class in the autumn and a new Children's Class in the spring. As a result, any member of the Society visiting Belfast would find Scottish dancing every Saturday from the end of September till the end of April, and on the last Saturday of each of the summer months.

A very successful Certificate Class was held, which prepared two candidates for the First Certificate and seven for the Full Certificate. All these candidates passed the examination, which was held when Miss Milligan paid her third visit to the Branch in February. Two other members gained their Full Certificates at the 1949 Summer School at St. Andrews.

Miss Milligan's visit was a great success, for, in addition to holding the examination, she attended a party held by the Branch, and met the members of both classes. This did much to stimulate the enthusiasm of the members, especially those who had joined during the year.

A short but very successful week-end school was held in June at Ballycastle, where members of the two classes united to enjoy the programme of dancing and outdoor activities.

In addition to the regular weekly meetings, the members of the Branch sent several teams to various other organisations to give displays, and so to encourage them to take an interest in Scottish dancing.

BIRMINGHAM.—Although some of our former members have left the Midlands, there has been an increase in membership. The weekly class has been well attended throughout the year, and we have had several very popular parties. We hope the newcomers to these parties will become members now that they have tasted the joys of Scottish dances.

BLAIR ATHOLL.—Since the end of 1949-50 session, club activities have been more or less in abeyance, as the committee considered it would be wise to reserve the club's energies for what we hope will be an enthusiastically received 1950-51 session. At the request of the British Council, however, our instructor, Mr W. Sutherland, took a team of eight dancers to Bonskeid House to demonstrate to foreign students on two occasions during the summer. The simpler dances were demonstrated and the students eventually joined in, and the occasions proved very enjoyable for all concerned.

On the occasion of her marriage on 5th June 1950 the club presented a gift in the form of a Celtic Brooch to the Honourable Mrs Murray (now Mrs Campbell-Preston). Mrs Campbell-Preston is our Hon. President, and our small gift was gracefully acknowledged by her in a letter to the Secretary, and the club is much gratified.

Our Annual Dance for session 1950-51 will be held in Blair Castle Ball Room on Wednesday, 6th December 1950, commencing 8 p.m. Music will be provided by Jim Cameron's Dance Band.

BOSTON, MASS.—During the 1949-50 season this group consisted of approximately twenty active dancers. The first class session met from 31st October 1949 twice monthly, and had fifteen regular class meetings. Six public demonstrations were given, including the New England Folk Festival, an annual affair, and a special Social of the Gaelic Society.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE.—This Branch reports another very successful season, classes steadily increasing memberships at Alloa, Tillicoultry, Dollar, Coalsnaughton and Kincardine-on-Forth. Each class enjoyed its own social dance at end of each term.

The Annual Reunion Dance was held in Devondale Hall, Tillicoultry, when guests were present from Stirling, Bridge of Allan and Alva, etc. From the proceeds of this dance a donation of £10 was sent to Tor-na-dee Red Cross Hospital. Other smaller dances in the Branch were held, in aid of local charities.

We have now four life members and 78 ordinary members,

DUMFRIES.—This Branch has completed a most successful session and is proud of its 150 members.

Two classes were held during the session, a beginners' class and an advanced. These were joined for second hour, which was given over to social dancing.

A Certificate Class was held and examinations were taken by Mrs Lesslie and Miss Milligan. First Certificates and Full Certificates were obtained. It was found that there was a considerable demand for teachers holding certificates in country dancing, and we had been able to help the Education Committee in this matter.

Two very successful dances had been held during the year and a third had been held during Guid Nychburris Week, when the Society and representatives of neighbouring societies had the pleasure of dancing to music provided by Tim Wright's Band.

The Society is indebted to the teachers and pianists who have functioned throughout the year, and to the Committee for its administrative work.

DUNDEE.—Membership, 600—an increase of almost 100 on last year. Thirty of these are Life Members.

In reviewing the work of the past year the Dundee Branch is happy to report success and ever-increasing numbers in all classes. The standard of dancing is high, and reflects great credit on the teaching staff. Worthy of note is the large number of men who have been attending the beginners' class. Their keenness and enthusiasm have had the desired effect on others, and we anticipate a male invasion next season!

The Dundee Scottish Country Dance Club, formed under the auspices of the Branch, has been an outstanding success, and within a year of its formation has a long waiting list for membership. The social dances in connection with the classes and club were very happy functions. Music for these was provided by Mrs Bird Matthew's Broadcasting Band.

Certificate classes were held during the season, to which Mrs Hutchison gave instruction. At the examination held in April six candidates gained Certificate I and six Certificate II. It is pleasing to note that the demand for certificated teachers is great, and every request to the Branch has been met.

Many requests have been made for demonstrations, and a mixed team in full evening dress has given some delightful displays. From the many expressions of appreciation received it would appear that the beauty of our national dances came as a surprise to many of our own citizens. At the invitation of the area officer of the British Council, the Branch sent a demonstration team to entertain Scandinavian teachers of English attending a conference in Dundee. This demonstration was received with great enthusiasm by these visitors from overseas.

On 24th the World Pipe Band Championship was held in Dundee, at Dens Park. A mass display of six dances in two formations by 500 dancers was organised by the Branch. This display proved to be most spectacular and aroused great enthusiasm amongst the 30,000 spectators.

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

DUNFERMLINE.—The session 1949-50 has been the most successful in the history of the Dunfermline Branch of the Society. The membership of the Branch increased by 61 over last year's figure, and now stands at the round total of 222, including three life members. Three classes were run for beginners, intermediate and advanced dancers, and all were well attended throughout the session.

A very successful dance was held in the Gymnasium on 9th December last, when nearly 300 dancers were present. Representatives attended from Cupar, Dollar, Kirk-

caldy, Leslie, Rosyth and Saline. At the close of our winter's activities, a Country Dance Party was held, and was attended by over 150 of our members.

We are happy to report that one of the number sent to Edinburgh in April last to dance before the Selection Committee was chosen for the final team.

Since the College of Hygiene has removed to Aberdeen, the question of accommodation has been one of great difficulty for our Branch, but we are hoping that by the time the new session opens, the arrangement will have been made with the Town Council, which has taken over the buildings formerly owned by the College of Hygiene.

EDINBURGH.—The membership is now over 1400. Enrolment night itself presented scenes reminiscent of those at Food Offices in the early days of rationing. No fewer than eighteen classes were formed. These catered for all types and grades of dancers. Two large and successful Balls were held, the first "The Ladies' Ball" and the second, for which double tickets only were sold, two hundred and fifty men and partners took the floor.

As in previous years, a feature of the Branch's activities was the demonstrations. Special mention should be made of the visit of a Branch team to a Folk Dance Festival held in the Albert Hall, London, in January 1950. Reports left no doubt that the huge audience was completely captivated by the display of a type of dancing which came as a revelation to them. The International Festival, of course, offers a unique opportunity for allowing visitors from all parts of the globe to see our national dancing. During the 1949 Festival, teams danced on several nights each week in the Festival Club. A gala occasion was a display in the beautiful setting of Princes Street Gardens. As darkness fell the platform was floodlit, while above the arena towered the illuminated mass of the Castle. During the month of June 1950 another display by six mixed teams was given in the Gardens before a large and appreciative audience.

Arrangements have been made for displays during the 1950 Festival in Princes Street Gardens, at the Festival Club, and at several concerts. It has been the experience of the Branch that the displays which have been arranged by them have definitely been the means of arousing the interest of the general public in Scottish Country Dancing, as has been evidenced by the numerous requests received from time to time for demonstrations. The Town Council has on several occasions asked for demonstrations at Civic Receptions, and particular mention may be made of a demonstration given on 31st July 1950 at a Civic Reception to Wolf Cub Leaders from twenty-one countries.

As members will be aware, the Annual General Meeting of the Society is to be held in Edinburgh at the beginning of November. All members of the Branch are looking forward keenly to an opportunity of entertaining delegates and visitors from other areas.

FORT-WILLIAM.—We were unfortunate this year in losing two of our Instructresses—Mrs D. MacRitchie and Miss MacClure, and our Secretary, Mr David MacRitchie, all three having left the district.

An invitation was extended to us by the Inverness Branch to attend their Dance, early in January. Owing to transport difficulties only a few members were able to accept this invitation, but our team gave two demonstrations and we had a very enjoyable time.

During Community Week, 12th to 17th June, a grand rally of all interested in Scottish Country Dancing was held in Inverlochy School.

On 17th June a women's team and a mixed team from the Branch competed in Inverness's First Festival of Scottish Country Dancing. First place was awarded to the women's team in their particular class.

Certificate classes were held during the summer term and at the examination, conducted by Miss Jarvis, two Full Certificates and seven First Certificates were obtained.

We had hoped to have a visit from Miss Milligan in April, but unfortunately that had to be postponed. We look forward to having her with us this autumn.

GLASGOW.— Membership rose during the year to 827 annual members and 68 life members. This number, gratifying though it is, does not include members actively engaged in regular Scottish Country Dance circles and clubs throughout the city.

The Branch's classes were held during the winter on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week—in all fourteen classes weekly. These catered for large numbers, and in addition more than a thousand have attended classes for Scottish Country Dancing organised by the Further Education Department of Glasgow Corporation.

Several new circles and clubs, privately arranged, have been supplied with Certificated teachers, while old-established circles continued to meet regularly.

Accommodation is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, but the Branch hopes to start two new classes in the autumn.

Dances held in November in the Boys' High School, and in March in the McLellan Galleries, were very successful, while in April members again enjoyed the privilege of having a dance in Jordanhill College. To the Director, Mr Wood, and to the Lady Warden, Miss Robertson, we would like to record our appreciation of yet another delightful dance.

In December 1949, we held in the Ballroom Suite, St Andrew's Halls, the first Ball, for which we sold tickets in equal numbers to men and women. Tim Wright's Orchestra supplied delightful music. Many friends from neighbouring Branches supported us, and all voted the evening an outstanding success, while they expressed the hope that this would be an annual affair. The Committee decided to book the Suite for the second Annual Ball for Friday, 8th December 1950.

Members of Glasgow Branch—Miss Doris Robertson, Miss Sheena Robertson, Mr Murray, Mr McClure, and Mr MacLeod, who had the honour of being selected for the Venice Team last summer, expressed their appreciation of the wonderful opportunity given to them to show Scottish Country Dancing abroad, and of their own good fortune in being chosen for this Festival of Dancing.

Many Branch members, both men and women, including several students for Jordanhill Training Centre and from the "Keep Fit" Classes, gained Teachers' Certificates.

Demonstrations, too numerous to detail, have been given by the Branch's teams, and it must be recorded that Scottish Country Dance demonstrations have become a regular, recognised feature of Civic Receptions in the City Chambers.

Again special mention must be made of the demonstrations given in May in St Andrew's Halls at the Highland Feill in aid of the War Memorial and Thanksgiving Fund. A letter from Mr Murray, Vice-Convener, showed how well these had been received.

During the afternoons and evenings of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Show, demonstrations were given by the Branch's teams, and by students from Jordanhill Training Centre and Notre Dame College.

Miss Findlay, who is responsible for team demonstrations, has had a busy year and deserves our thanks.

By special invitation Glasgow Branch's team went to Cadbury's, Birmingham, in July to show Scottish Country Dancing at their celebrations.

Several names were submitted for the audition in April in Edinburgh, when two teams were chosen to represent the Society. Of the team selected to go to Nice in July, three are Glasgow members.

Donations have been given to the Thistle Fund and to the Scottish Country Dance Society's Propaganda Fund.

At the request of the Royal Highland Show, a Ball was held on 21st June, in the Ballroom Suite, St Andrew's Halls. Music was again supplied by Tim Wright's Orchestra. It had been hoped that a large number of overseas visitors would be present and that demonstrations of Scottish Country Dances would be a feature of the programme. Their Graces The Duke and Duchess of Montrose honoured us by their presence.

Our many friends from other Branches and our own Branch members had a delightful dance as guests of the Royal Highland Show.

The Branch has had a very flourishing year under the leadership of Miss Milligan, whose enthusiasm and energy remain unabated.

HAMILTON and CLYDESDALE.—Our membership of the Society is still on the up grade, and we hope eventually to be able to report that everyone attending the classes is also a member of the Society. At present there are 13 life and 369 ordinary members, being an increase on last year's numbers of 4 life and 62 ordinary members.

Enthusiasm in all the classes is as keen as ever, and the new dances from Book 15 were enjoyed by everyone and are great favourites. The standard of dancing is improving too—we hope—though we fear that in the joy of the dance the perfection of footwork is often forgotten.

A mixed team from the Glasgow Branch was invited to the Spring Ball to give a demonstration, and both spectators and dancers were loud in their praise of the display. We are much indebted to the team and sincerely hope we have profited in some measure from watching their beautiful dancing.

From the sale of spectators' tickets at the Balls this year donations were sent to the following:—The King George's Fund for Sailors; the Cancer Research Fund; the Trefoil School for Handicapped Children; the Local Limbless ex-Servicemen.

It is with regret we announce the death of our Founder President, Mr A. Patrick Smith. To his enthusiasm for Scottish music and Scottish country dancing we owe the commencement of our Branch. He sponsored and guided our early beginnings, and was ever ready with help and kindly advice.

INVERNESS and DISTRICT.—In common with other parts of the country, Scottish Country Dancing was very popular in and around Inverness during the past year. The Branch is now firmly established and new members coming in regularly.

The classes, both of the Branch and other bodies, were well attended. The highlight of the season was the Festival on 17th June. Teams entered from a wide area, and both competitors and audience were impressed and encouraged by Miss Milligan's inspiring remarks.

We look forward with confidence to our next session.

KIRKCALDY.—Enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing is more pronounced than ever in the area. Membership of the Branch has increased considerably during session 1949-50, during which time classes were very well attended. A class for candidates for Certificate II, taught by a member of the Branch, was held. The result of the ensuing examination—100 per cent. pass—was very gratifying. Several classes under the aegis of Youth Centres, Church organisations, etc., were taught by members of the Branch.

The Annual Dance, at which many spectators were present, was held in February, when members of neighbouring Branches and Clubs attended. All enjoyed dancing to the music of Jimmy Shand's Band. Great enthusiasm was shown by the spectators,

many of whom have made enquiries about the classes for session 1950-51. Later the Branch broke away from its usual arrangements for a dance to hold a second dance in the Palais de Danse, Burntisland, the music for which was supplied by the Palais Band. This dance also was attended by friends from neighbouring clubs and was voted a great success. During the winter and spring months members were happy to accept invitations to dances held by Branches and Clubs in the surrounding district.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—Membership rose to 74, and the weekly class under Mrs M. M. McKell was well attended throughout the year. The Christmas Party was held on 12th December, and the Annual Dance on Saturday, 25th March 1950. Certificate classes were again held, and eight passes in Certificate II and five passes in Certificate I were gained. At Newton-Stewart Festival the ladies' team gained second and third places. During the year demonstration teams visited surrounding W.R.I.s. The Branch was delighted at Miss Hornall being again chosen for the demonstration team for Nice.

LANARK.—This Branch has once again had a most successful session. The membership has reached 100, with 2 life members.

The Autumn and Spring Balls were also attended with enthusiasm by dancers and spectators alike, and they have now become the highlight in the social life of the community.

A monthly dance was held throughout the session, and proved most popular.

At the Upper Ward Festival in February the Lanark Branch won the Aitken Cup, and have reason to feel proud. Biggar and Lanark class members attended the New Cavendish, Edinburgh, during the summer, which proves the keenness of the dancers in facing such a journey.

The greatest success of the Branch is in having Miss Milligan now living in the district, and all members look forward to her visit in the near future.

LEVEN.—1949-1950 proved another successful session, during which membership rose to 239. Of these 4 are life members.

The winter classes were well attended. A Certificate class coached by Mrs Donaldson and examined by Miss Milligan gave very satisfactory results.

On several occasions during the year, Branch teams have given demonstrations at functions in the district.

Two social dances were held, one in December, the other in March. On both occasions Leven's largest hall was filled to its utmost comfortable capacity.

LOCKERBIE.—The membership for the session 1949-50 was 72. In addition to the weekly classes held in the Gymnasium of Lockerbie Academy, members held a monthly meeting in Kintail Hall.

In December the Branch promoted a Highland Ball in Lockerbie Town Hall. This very successful function was attended by 300 dancers, including members from Carlisle, Dumfries, Castle Douglas, Gretna, Annan, Longtown, Ecclefechan and Lochmaben. Music was supplied by Jimmy Shand and his band.

A closing dance was held in March, which was attended by members from newly formed classes at Dalton, Middlebie, Johnstonebridge, Templeland and Applegarth.

At the Dumfriesshire Musical Festival held in May two teams were entered from Lockerbie, a mixed team and a ladies' team, the latter team being placed first equal in their class, and the mixed team second in their class.

The Branch suffered a great bereavement in February by the death of Miss Jean McIntosh, founder of the Branch and teacher since its inception. Miss McIntosh's passing leaves a blank in Country Dancing circles which will be difficult to fill.

LONDON.—This Branch can again report a very successful year. Classes (held every night of the week except Friday) have been so well attended that an extra beginners class is being arranged for next season.

We took advantage of Miss Adam's stay in London to run a Certificate class under her tuition during the summer, and at the examination held in July, with Miss Milligan as examiner, nine First and four Full Certificates were gained.

A Ball held at the Hyde Park Hotel in May was such a success that it is hoped to make it an annual event.

Several requests for demonstrations were received during the year, the highlight of these being a mass demonstration at the Hurlingham Club, by request of the Social Committee of the International Conference of Radiologists, at which there were over 2000 spectators. The thirty-twosome in full Highland evening dress under floodlighting was greatly applauded by the onlookers.

The outstanding event of the year was the week of Miss Milligan's visit in March, when she attended every class, and was also present at the monthly dance. Members are eagerly awaiting her next visit.

Membership of the Branch continues to grow, and has now reached to 400.

Visitors to London are welcome to any of our meetings.

MANCHESTER.—The year 1949-50 has been one of steady development and increasing activities. There are now 102 members.

In October a publicity meeting was held in the Great Hall of Manchester College of Technology, by kind permission of the Principal. Over 300 guests were present, representing many of the surrounding Branches and about forty organisations. The proceedings were conducted by Mrs May Brown, who by good fortune was in England. Under her admirable coaching everyone joined in the dancing.

As a result of this meeting many new members have joined the Branch, and there has been a wide demand for classes. In addition, during the past winter season many requests have been received for demonstrations which have enabled us to illustrate to ever-growing numbers how enjoyable Scottish Country Dancing is.

There have also been monthly socials and several parties, when we have had the pleasure of visits by members from Southport, Stockport and Rochdale Branches.

It is with the greatest regret that we have to announce that Mrs Liddell, on removing from Manchester, has resigned as Hon. Secretary after holding that office for fifteen years. The Branch owes its existence to the devoted work of Mrs Liddell and her husband, the late T. K. Liddell. The gratitude and best wishes of all members of the Branch go with her.

NETHER LOCHABER.—This Branch ended a very successful session in April. There have been quite a number of new members, and it is hoped the enthusiasm will continue. A very enjoyable open night was spent at New Year, to which each member brought a friend. The thanks of the Branch are due to Mrs Clark, who instructed during the past session.

A Certificate class was conducted at Fort William, which was attended by three members of this Branch, two of whom were successful in obtaining their first certificate.

Two teams, one a ladies' team and one a mixed team, entered for the Festival at Inverness in June, and received an encouraging adjudication.

NEWTON-STEWART.—We have had a very successful session this year, and our classes were attended by about fifty people, who proved so enthusiastic that the session had to be extended for seven further lessons. We had a most enjoyable open night in February, when we had visitors from the surrounding Country Dance classes.

Two teams competed in the Country Dance Festival, and Mrs Christie ran a very successful juvenile class.

PERTH and PERTHSHIRE.—The Branch again shows an increase in members—782 ordinary and 41 life members, being 115 and 5 respectively over last year's figures.

Eleven classes were held in Perth. Three children's classes were required instead of two, and the Certificate class gained nine passes in Certificate I. We are much indebted to our teachers for their work.

The popularity of Scottish Country Dancing was demonstrated at the Musical Festival, where ninety-one teams took part, an increase of twenty over last year. The dancing obviously gave the large audiences a great deal of pleasure. The Society Trophy was won by a Stirling team.

Perth Scottish Country Dance Club continues successfully, with 442 members and a very long waiting list. The dancing in the Salutation is very much enjoyed. Dinner dances were held at Christmas and on the final evenings for the winter season.

In aid of the special fund to meet the expenses of the Annual General Meeting in Perth in 1951, three evening dances and one Thé Dansant were held, when we welcomed friends from the county and the surrounding Branches. Everyone agreed the gatherings were most enjoyable and quite like old times.

Classes are being run in all parts of the county, and it is gratifying to note that many more people are becoming interested in the doings of the Society.

PETERHEAD.—During the past session the Peterhead Branch had 133 ordinary members and 16 life members of the Society.

Unfortunately, owing to illness, Miss Collie was unable to conduct any classes this winter. Three adult classes were held weekly—an intermediate class on Monday evenings, a beginners class on Tuesday evenings, and a class for more experienced dancers on Thursday evenings.

Classes have been conducted by Branch members, under the Youth Service Scheme, at Collieston, Berefold, Cairnbanno, Fetterangus, St Fergus and Peterhead Youth Club, under Continuation Classes at Blackhills and Tortorston, and a class was also held at Crosse & Blackwell's Social Club.

In September the adult mixed team won the Challenge Trophy at the Palais de Danse, Aberdeen. Demonstrations have been given by mixed teams at various social functions. During the year two successful Branch parties were held. A number of members have enjoyed dances at Haddo House, Stonehaven, Inverurie, and Aberdeen.

RENFREWSHIRE WEST.—This Branch has had another successful year, with a large increase in membership. During the season four classes were held each week.

A new venture for this Branch was the Certificate class. Four candidates were successful in gaining their First Certificate when Miss Milligan took the examination at the end of April.

The class started a year ago for couples has been most popular.

The Scottish Country Dancing again occupied a prominent place in the Renfrewshire Musical Festival,

The Annual Dance held in the Lorne at the end of the season was a very happy and enjoyable event.

The Business Meeting was held in May, and was followed with a informal social evening for members.

ROCHDALE.— Our membership remains steady. We have big classes, averaging thirty to forty all the year, though all dancers are not full members. This past year has been quite a busy one, because, although we've not had an examination class, we have been in great demand as demonstrators, and teams have given displays at many places. One team went to Alsager Training College, Crewe, others to different church socials in and around Manchester. One team went to a Scouters and Guiders Party at Stalybridge; others performed at a Garden Party in Rochdale. During the winter we were asked to give a demonstration at the Inauguration Ball for a new Rochdale and District Scottish Society.

Next year we are hoping to hold examination classes again.

We must put on record the proud fact that we have had several men members this season, who promise to become enthusiasts.

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

ST ANDREWS.— This Branch has had another very successful and enjoyable season, with a membership of 107. This was an increase on the previous year, but such was the demand we were compelled to close our membership after the first month. An encouraging increase showed in the number of male members enrolled, and we hope to see this increase still further.

Only one dance was held at Christmas, but our last class for the session was extended and took the form of a small party.

We were very pleased when one of our members, Miss Irene Grant, was chosen, for the second year, as one of the team of dancers to visit Nice.

SOUTHPORT.— After certain difficulties at the beginning of the season had been overcome, this Branch settled down to a very active and successful year. Though the personnel differed a little, the total membership has remained stationary at 58. We quite expect that the commencement of our fifth season will see some increase.

Last winter we felt we had sufficient certificated members to approach the Southport Education Committee, to which we continue indebted, and ask to run a beginners' class on a separate evening from the more advanced section. This was granted and the class thoroughly justified itself, and will continue next season. Both sections met as one class from Easter until mid-July.

Mrs Gudger comes on a monthly visit to coach our seniors. Her classes are always stimulating and keep us "on our toes." Miss Elizabeth Peel, our pianist, has been with us from the start, and we all realise how fortunate we are to have her services.

Enthusiasm has brought us to three party nights this year instead of two. All have been very jolly and well attended. The final one in July was sold out to the highest number we could accommodate—130.

Five calls to send a team to various gatherings for displays have been met.

Two Branch members are to be in residence at the Summer School, and it is possible one or two others may visit it.

Miss Irene Forbes, a founder member, who danced with us for two years, and who took her Certificate I at St Andrews in 1948, informs us that this winter she is running a class at Glenelg, South Australia, where she is now living.

During this past year we have made social contact with the Manchester Branch of the Society, and with the dancing section of the Crosby Caledonian Society, which is affiliated.

Altogether an active and happy time has been spent, and we go forward with confidence into our fifth year.

STIRLINGSHIRE.—In reviewing the doings of the past year we find the Branch had a busy and happy season. Our certificated teachers took six classes in Stirling, and seven in surrounding country districts.

Two Balls were held, one in December and the other in March, in the Albert Hall, Stirling. At the Christmas dance, spectators were admitted by ticket, and the hall was very full. Miss Jarvis' team demonstrated several dances, and received a great ovation. The members presented Miss Jarvis with a bouquet, as a small token of their thanks for all the fun, patience, and splendid work she put in teaching the classes and the team.

The proceeds of the March dance—£40—were in aid of the Stirling War Memorial Fund. Miss Jarvis' team was greatly thrilled by winning the Bronze Trophy at Perth Festival. One member of the team, Miss Jenny Craig, has been chosen to go to Nice with the International team. She is so delighted, and the Branch is very proud.

A Certificate Class was held at the end of the season. At the examination three members received Full Certificate and ten members First Certificate. Our demonstration team, as usual, was greatly in demand during the winter.

Most of the country classes have a "finishing social" in March, so it is a gay month, as these dances are very popular with all members.

Our membership is now 292. We hope to be well over 300 next season!

STIRLINGSHIRE EAST.—The session started off with a very large enrolment, presenting difficulties in finding accommodation for everyone.

Three classes were held in Falkirk on Monday evenings, ranging from beginners to advanced members. An advanced class was also held in Falkirk on Tuesday evenings. On Thursday evenings a class was held in Grangemouth.

An interesting feature this year was a class started primarily to interest men in Scottish Country Dancing. It was taken by Mr McLaren, and proved highly successful.

Mr L. A. B. Rae, President of our Branch, since its inception, resigned from office this year. It was with great regret we accepted his resignation. As a founder member of the Branch he has rendered unstinting service in promoting interest in Scottish Country Dancing. He is now with us as Honorary President.

A cordial welcome is extended to Mr P. Grant, who is our new President.

STOCKPORT.—We have had a most successful season with ever-increasing attendances. We are exploring the possibilities of starting an additional class in another part of the town.

STONEHAVEN.—Two classes for adults were held each week during the winter, a general class and an advanced one. Both of these classes were well attended. Joint parties were enjoyed by all members at the end of both sessions.

This winter two children's classes were started. The children attended these classes very well, and made good progress.

The Annual Ball was again a success, and was attended by members from the surrounding Branches and classes.

WEST LOTHIAN.—Branch membership has increased considerably this past year. We now have eleven life members and 103 ordinary members.

Successful classes were held in Bathgate and Broxburn, each having a social evening at end of term. Broxburn class held a very enjoyable dance in January.

Several classes have been organised by the Education Committee in various parts of the county. A few members formed a small club in Bo'ness. We meet fortnightly in one of the local cafés, dance for an hour, have tea, then dance again. We hope to continue this session.

Two Bo'ness members were successful in gaining their Full Certificate at St Andrews.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Our small but enthusiastic Branch can report a very enjoyable season. Though rather handicapped by Mrs Locke's accident at the beginning of the session, we carried on and even learned some new dances in her absence, but were relieved to see her reappear after Christmas. We were pleased to have the chance of entertaining our nearest neighbouring branch, Birmingham, in November, and we have also had some very pleasant evenings dancing in Birmingham. In May, too, a party of our members attended the London Branch's Annual Ball as part of a week-end outing which included the London Caledonian Games and more Country Dancing on the Saturday evening.

Towards the end of the season a team from the Branch spent an evening demonstrating Scottish Country Dancing to interested Youth Club members. During the summer we invited the English Folk Dance Society to combine with us in putting on a programme at the Technical College under the aegis of Dr Percy Young. Our Reels and Strathspeys blended with the English Morris and Sword Dancing into such a pleasing display that plans are now afoot for a joint Scottish and English Country Dance Festival towards the end of the coming winter.

Affiliated Groups.

Alburne Knowe S.C.D. Club.—Miss I. M. E. BELL, c/o Sir David Russell, LL.B., Rothes, Markinch, Fife. First big dance held on 31st January. Proceeds enabled club to buy a portable gramophone, as they have no piano. Practices held in Miss Russell's Barn at Alburne Knowe. This lady is much interested in Scottish Country Dancing, although she is over eighty.

Airdrie Country Dance Club.—Miss M. W. BROWN, 14 Glebe Crescent, Airdrie. Increase in membership, especially since the war.

Angus Country Dance Club.—A. MACNAUGHTON, Esq., 106 Craigie Avenue, Dundee. Grateful acknowledgment to the Venice team, the Dancers of Don and Mr Iain Robertson of Edinburgh for valuable assistance in their work on behalf of Dundee Orphan Institution. The sum of £80 was handed over to the Orphanage Secretary. The members are looking forward to many happy returns.

Amersham and District Scottish Association.—G. A. TODD, Esq., C.A., "Cornercroft," Devonshire Avenue, Amersham. A Reel Club has been started which meets weekly and is proving a great success.

- Aberfeldy S.C.D. Club.**—Mrs DAVIDSON, Dunkeld Street, Aberfeldy.
- Ardrishaig Country Dance Club.**—Mrs RICHARDSON, Victoria Terrace, Ardrishaig, Argyll. A successful season. Weekly classes held and many new dances learned.
- Auchterarder Country Dance Club.**—J. MARTIN, Esq., Karridale, Auchterarder.
- Abernethy Country Dance Club.**—Miss J. M. GRIEVE, Elmbank, Abernethy.
- Bristol Caledonian Society.**—Miss W. MEADY, Albion Chambers, Bristol.
- Burnside Country Dance Circle.**—Miss I. TWADDLE, 164 Gartocher Road, Glasgow, E.2.
- Bridge of Allan S.C.D. Club.**—Miss J. NOBLE, Victoria Cottages, Bridge of Allan.
- Birmingham and Midland Scottish Society.**—G. L. ARNOTT, Esq., 74 Sandford Road, Mosely, Birmingham, 13. Two teams entered for a Festival with success. Individual Members rejoining the Society.
- Buchlyvie Country Dancing Club.**—Mrs C. Park, The Police Station, Buchlyvie.
- Burma Caledonian Society.**—W. P. G. MACLACHLAN, c/o B.O.C. (B.T.) Ltd., 604 Merchant Street, Rangoon, Burma. Increase in number of dances learned with enthusiasm. Weekly practices in Rangoon's only hotel. Guests from all nationalities are welcomed.
- Carlisle Highland Association.**—T. DEMPSTER, Esq., 99 Scotland Road, Carlisle.
- Cannich S.C.D. Club.**—G. MACKENZIE, No. 11 Bungalow, Cannich Camp, by Beauly, Inverness-shire.
- Comrie C.D. Club.**—Joint Secretaries—N. J. MACMILLAN, Commercial Bank House, Comrie; J. S. STALKER, The Schoolhouse, Comrie.
- Campbeltown S.W.R. Institute.**—Mrs D. GOMMELI, 49 Main Street, Campbeltown.
- Crieff S.C.D. Club.**—Miss M. D. CUTHBERT, 20 East High Street, Crieff.
- Caledonian Society of Abadan.**—R. C. PITKETHLY, Esq., c/o The Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. Ltd., Abadan, South Iran.
- Caledonian Society, Ceylon.**—D. S. HUTCHESON, Esq. C.A., Forbes & Walker Ltd., Prince Street, Fort, Colombo.
- Comunn Dannsaidh an Obain.**—Miss M. FRAME, "Dunarle," Victoria Crescent, Oban.
- Camelon S.C.D. Class.**—WILLIAM HENDRY, Esq., 32 Carmuir's Street, Camelon, Falkirk.
- Callander S.C.D. Club.**—Miss S. GALBRAITH, 2 Ancaster Square, Callander.
- Cowal S.C.D. Club.**—Miss M. M. CAMPBELL, 18 Victoria Road, Dunoon.
- Caledonian Society of North Devon.**—F. H. S. McDAVID, Esq., C.A., Devonshire House, Barnstaple, Devon.
- Durban Caledonian Society.**—W. SIM, Esq., P.O. Box 2061, Durban, South Africa.
- Dundee Highland Society.**—E. MAXWELL, Esq., 42 Oxford Street, Dundee.
- Dalmellington S.C.D. Club.**—J. ARMOUR, 3 Bellsbank Crescent, Dalmellington.
- Dunblane S.C.D. Club.**—Miss McNEE, Tor-na-Veen, Dunblane,

- Eassie and Nevay S.C.D. Class.**—Mrs DOUGLAS, Gateside of Nevay, Newtyle, Angus.
- Epsom and District Caledonian Association.**—R. A. COLLET, Esq., Quarry House, Lynwood Road, Epsom.
- Falkirk S.C.D. Class.**—WILLIAM HENDRY, 32 Carmuir Street, Camelon, Falkirk.
- Farelf S.C. Dancers.**—Major A. BOYLE, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, "A" Branch, G.H.Q., Farelf, Singapore.
- Forres S.C.D. Class.**—ALEC HAY, 3 Pilmuir Place, Forres. Successes at Festivals with mixed teams.
- Gaflac Social and Athletic Club.**—Miss E. H. MCEWAN, General Buildings, Perth.
- Highlands S.C.D. Club (Southern Rhodesia).**—Miss M. WHITSON, 168 Fife Avenue, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.
- Halifax St Andrew's Society.**—A. D. MCEWAN, Esq., C.A., Royal Insurance Buildings, Silver Street, Halifax, Yorks.
- "Inner Wheel" Country Dance Class of Perth.**—Mrs S. MCKINNIE, 4 Gannochy Green, Perth.
- Invergowrie S.C.D. Club.**—Miss J. MACNAUGHTON, Newhiggle, Invergowrie.
- Jeanfield F.C. Country Dance Club.**—Mr I. EDWARDS, 8 Hawarden Terrace, Jeanfield, Perth.
- Kirriemuir S.C.D. Club.**—Mrs A. G. HAMPTON, 33 Glengate, Kirriemuir. Membership still at capacity number and a waiting list still exists. Very successful season.
- Kelty Co-op. Education Committee.**—Adam Hunter, Mossgreen Cottage, Keltyhill Road, Kelty, Fife.
- Kilmartin Country Club.**—Sir GEORGE MALCOLM OF POLTALLOCH, Estate Office, Kilmartin, Argyll.
- Kippen S.C.D. Club.**—Mrs M. MURRAY MILLER, Westerton, Kippen, Stirlingshire.
- Kelty Miners Welfare Institute S.C.D. Group.**—C. MARTIN, Esq., Stewart's Building, Main Street, Kelty.
- Leuchars W.R. Institute.**—Mrs E. B. KEIR, 9 Norman View, Leuchars.
- Leslie S.C.D. Club.**—HUGH MACDONALD, 28 Maryfield Crescent, Leslie, Fife.
- Leamington and Warwick Caledonian Society.**—A. J. INGLIS, 2 Avondale Road, Leamington Spa. This Society issues an invitation to all Scottish Country Dance teams to send representatives to compete in Scottish Country Dancing Competition in June 1951. Information may be had from the Secretary.
- Leicester Caldeonian Society.**—W. A. CAMPBELL, 106 Colchester Road, Leicester.
- Larbert S.C.D. Class.**—W. HENDRY, 32 Carmuir Street, Camelon, Falkirk.
- Millport S.C.D. Club.**—H. R. COSSAR, The Garrison, Millport.
- Montrose Country Dance Club.**—Miss A. THOMSON, 21 St. John's Cottage, Montrose.

Nottingham S.C.D. Club.—Miss S. F. FLINT, 76 Repton Road, West Bridgeforth, Notts.

Nairn S.C.D. Class.—Miss E. M. Murray, 5 Barrowhill Terrace, Nairn.

Newport (Mon.) and District Caledonian Society.—G. STEWART, Esq., 45 Stelvio Park Drive, Newport, Mon. Successful winter season and junior classes now started.

Oxford University Scottish Society.—J. MINNIS, Esq., St John's College, Oxford.

Oakland, California, Reel and Strathspey Club.—Miss K. CARTER, 2115 California Street, San Francisco 15, California. Exhibitions of Scottish Country Dancing given for various organisations, one of the most satisfactory being the British Empire Day programme in San Francisco's famed Golden Gate Park. Many demonstrations in prospect include one at San Francisco Civic Auditorium at the Centennial celebrations.

Port William S.C.D. Club.—Mrs EWING, Mill Cottage, Port William.

Prestwick S.C.D. Club.—Miss S. POTTER, 2 Park Avenue, Prestwick.

Pitlochry Scottish Dance Club.—A. G. MARSHALL, Esq., Seepore House, Pitlochry.

R.A.F. Officers' Scottish Country Dance Society of Seletar, Singapore.—Ft./Lt. H. F. BISHOP, R.A.F. Base, Seletar, Singapore. The Society has flourished and increased during the past year.

Rugby Scottish Society.—H. SHARP, Esq., 79 Sidney Road, Rugby.

"Rob-Roysters," Culter, Scottish Country Dance Class.—Miss P. STUART, Fernbank, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire.

Roths Old Time Dance Club.—P. H. SINCLAIR, Esq., 18 Maryfield Crescent, Leslie, Fife.

Richmond Caledonian Society.—J. DRYSDALE, c/o Union Bank of Scotland Ltd., 30 Cornhill, London E.C.3. Weekly dance classes continue to attract large numbers, making hall accommodation a difficult problem. Dance booklets greatly in demand and freely consulted during the evening.

Royal Naval College, Dartmouth (Highland Dancing Society).—Lieut.-Commander E. HAMILTON-MEIKLE, R.N., Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

Southampton Scottish Association.—Mrs I. JAMIESON, 16 Bond Street, Bitterne Park, Southampton.

St Andrew's Society of Otago.—Miss E. WILSON, 828 Cumberland Street, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Strichen S.C.D. Society.—A. D. SCOTT, Esq., c/o Mrs Wood, 24 Bridge Street, Strichen. Successful season; two dances held during the year.

Scots Society of St Andrew, Slough.—Mrs E. M. HALL, 15 Sutton Avenue, Slough. Large numbers attending the classes which have had to be limited owing to lack of space.

Stewartry S.C.D. Committee.—A. J. W. BALFOUR, Esq., Union Bank House, Castle Douglas.

Shanghai Reel Club.—M. P. KEYES, Esq., c/o Jardine, Matheson & Co. Ltd., 27 The Bund, Shanghai.

Scots Society of St Andrew, Bedford.—W. G. MEENIE, Esq., 14 Fosterhill Road, Bedford.

St Andrew's Scottish Dancing Society, Reading.—G. BROWN, Esq., 163 King's Road, Reading.

Stratford-on-Avon Caledonian Society.—Mrs E. M. SOMERVILLE, 97 Albany Road, Stratford-on-Avon. A Midland Scottish Societies Highland Ball was held at Stratford-on-Avon, which was very successful. Most of the dances performed were Scottish Country. A mixed team was successful in gaining first place at the Leamington Music Festival.

Social Dance Club, St Rule's Church.—Miss L. PHILIP, 66 Hill Street, Mcaifieth.

Scottish Command (M) Signals Regiment, Country Dancing Club.—2/Lieut. A. O. KITTON, R. Signals, Officers' Mess, Scottish Command (M), Signals Regiment, Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

Scone S.C.D. Club.—Mrs M. MARFARLANE, 31 Mansfield Road, Scone, Perth.

Scottish Country Dance Association.—J. C. WILLIAMSON, Esq., Messrs William Jacks & Co. Ltd., Hamilton House, Ballard Estate, P.O. Box 335, Bombay, 1.

Scottish Country Dance Club of Sandakan.—Mrs M. ANDERSON, c/o Fisheries Department, Sandakan Colony, North Borneo.

Scottish Country Dance Group of Philadelphia.—Miss ADAMS, 6736 Jackson Street, Philadelphia 35, Penn., U.S.A. A newly formed group. The Secretary attended this year's Summer School.

South East Essex Scottish Society Reel Club.—F. J. MACLAINE, Esq., 44 Valkyrie Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. Forced to close down in 1939 owing to situation. Restarted in 1946, steady increase in members reported. Meetings held weekly.

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

Taynuilt S.C.D. Club.—Miss L. C. MACNICOL, Highfield, Taynuilt, Argyll.

Tulliallan S.C.D. Club.—N. FERGUSON, Esq., 9 Chapelhill Street, Kincardine, by Alloa. Reports a successful season, a feature of the Club being that there are as many men members as women.

Torquay and District Scottish Society.—H. HOLMES, Esq., Gairloch, Barton Road, Torquay. Scottish Country Dancing classes formed with over 100 members meeting weekly.

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

West Plean and Auchinbowie Women's Club.—Miss BOLTON, West Plean, Stirling.

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

Taken from the preface to "The Skye Collection of Reels and Strathspeys," published in 1887 by Keith Norman Macdonald:—

One word of caution may here be given against the tendency that exists at the present day to play this class of music a great deal too fast. Some are possessed of the idea that in order to dance a Highland Reel well one must jump and shout like a maniac. It is only on very festive occasions that this sort of capering should be tolerated; in the beginning it was not so. The present writer remembers the style of dancing of the older inhabitants of Skye thirty years ago (1857), and he is bound to say that it was then different from what one sees nowadays in a public ballroom. It was then always graceful and spirited, without one-tenth of the shouting that is now heard; and as to the time of the music, performers would have considered it an insult to be asked to play faster than the proper time.

The Strathspey, especially, should be played with grace and in measured time, giving the dancer an opportunity of moving his limbs gracefully. When this is not done the thing degenerates into the railway speed performance of a clog dance in a pantomime, and to a stranger seems most ludicrous, while the music itself sounds a regular jumble of the same note repeated in different strains.

In recording these truths, it must be remembered, however, no other music can touch the human heart with greater effect than a Scotch Reel.

Marathon House,
Cupar, Fife, 1887.

— ITEMS TO BE NOTED —

Reprint of Book 12.

In the revised edition of Book 12 which will shortly be reprinted, it will be noted that the dance "Border Reel" has been omitted and in its place "The Laird of Dumbiedykes' Favourite Reel" has been substituted, the reason for this being that it was brought to the notice of the Publications Committee that a mistake had been made in the translation of the instructions for the "Border Reel" from the original manuscript. Members will receive a copy of this dance in leaflet form.

Visual Film Unit.

Members will be interested to know that teaching films of Scottish Country Dancing have been made by a Joint Production Committee (Scottish Educational Film Association and Scottish Film Council) in co-operation with the Scottish Country Dance Society.

Loop films of steps and formations have been made, also two dances, but none of these are ready for publication yet. For further information at a later date members may apply to the Scottish Film Council, 16-17 Woodside Terrace, Glasgow, C.2.

Examination Results.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Council of the Society, it was stressed that decisions of the examiners appointed by the Society are final and may not be questioned by candidates.

Miss J. C. Milligan has removed from Glasgow and her new address is Glenbreck, Coulter, by Biggar, Lanarkshire.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP TO SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.

Annual Subscription - - - - - 5/-

Life Membership Subscription - - - - - £3, 3/- or

£2, 10/- to those who have paid their annual subscription for four years.

Those who have paid their annual subscription for ten years may become
Life Members on payment of £1, 10/-.

Secretary—Miss HADDEN, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12.

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

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

