

The Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin

No. 24.

October 1946

Annual Report

THE Executive Council has much pleasure in presenting its Twenty-third Annual Report for 1945-46. During the past year Branches have been started in Birmingham and Lockerbie. Several Societies interested in dancing have become affiliated members, and inquiries are constantly being received from all parts of the country asking for information as to membership, literature, etc.

It will be seen from the Branch Reports that membership has increased and that classes are maintaining their numbers and in many cases increasing them.

As in former years, members of the Society took part in demonstrations in the Lyric Theatre, Glasgow—in co-operation with the Central Council of Physical Recreation—during a Health Week held in Edinburgh in May, when a team danced in Princes Street Gardens; at Hampden Football Ground; and at an International Festival of Youth held at Wembley in July. Here there was an audience of 40,000, including H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent, who took the salute. The Edinburgh Branch team had the honour of demonstrating several dances before Their Majesties at Holyroodhouse during the Royal visit in June.

Examinations for Teachers' Certificates were held during the past year at the following centres :—

Anstey Physical Training College.
Dunfermline Physical Training College.
Jordanhill Training College.
Glasgow.
Oldham.
Rochdale.
St. Andrews.
Stirling.

117 candidates passed in Certificate 1; 54 gained the Full Certificate; and there were 34 failures.

Scottish Country Dancing was again very popular at Musical Festivals, judging by the number of teams who entered.

The Summer School was held in University Hall, Kennedy Hall, and Deanscourt, St Andrews, but once again many members were not able to be there owing to the limited accommodation.

The Society is greatly indebted to Miss Milligan and her Staff for their work at the Summer School.

Subscriptions for the current year are now due, and should be paid to the Treasurer. Will members who pay their subscriptions direct please state which book they wish to receive?

The leaflet of "51st Division Reel" is being sent out with this *Bulletin*.

Summer School, 29th July-17th August, 1946

Perhaps thoughts of the Summer School really began long before July, when those application slips arrived and were so promptly returned, and we waited to make sure of a receipt, and therefore of a place at St Andrews! After that, those of us who had previously attended the Summer School awaited with real expectancy for 29th July, when we would once more meet old friends and make new ones.

For the first time, the School had the use of University Hall, Kennedy Hall and Deanscourt for three weeks instead of the usual fortnight. Applications were so numerous that two Courses were held—one from 29th July to 8th August; the other from 8th to 17th August. The few people, staff and officials, who could be accommodated for three weeks were lucky indeed.

During that first Monday, people came pouring into the Hall from all directions—some in cars, some in taxis, some in St Andrews' kenspeckle horse-drawn cab. Some were old friends who looked appreciatively at the Hall as if marvelling at its unchanging appearance, for many had not seen it since before the war. Some were newcomers, rather shyly asking their way around. Where was the office? Where were their rooms? But by dinner-time all had gathered together in the high-raftered dining-room, most already under the spell of St Andrews, and feeling as if they "Belonged."

From then on, no one looked back. There were anxious moments when names were affixed to class lists. "Should we do a General Class or might we cope with the Certificate Class?" There was the usual long list of names for Miss Milligan's class, at which dances from the Victory Book were taught, but other classes were more equally divided. Everyone this year had to attend two morning classes. A half-hour's break was allowed between classes, when Hall people quenched their thirst at Miss Scott Dickson's Canteen, and the Gymnasium classes foraged in town among the many new cafes which have sprung up since last year.

The afternoon classes were varied. European National Dances, Irish Dances and Highland Dances all had their followers, while Social Dancing in the evenings was so popular that only a minimum of space was available for each set.

The floor was perhaps our greatest enemy, for at times it resembled a miniature skating rink. However, several willing teams got to work, and after Social Dancing, a procession of weird-looking figures armed with mops, cloths, boiling water and soda, would file into the Common Room and start mopping operations.

Then the evenings. On going along the corridor one would meet neighbours and friends armed with kettles and teapots, bent on preparing for the parties that must surely now be an institution of the Course! Those there were who went sightseeing and visiting, but all felt they could not stay *long* away from Hall in case they missed something—surely a good advertisement for the success of the School!

Enjoyable demonstrations of Victory Book dances were given most evenings by teams from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Central Scotland and "Outwith Scotland." A team from Perth one evening showed us the "St Johnstone Reel," which was planned by Perth men in a German P.O.W. Camp.

Perhaps the high-light at Kennedy Hall was the "Capping" Ceremony at which Miss Milligan became a Life Member of the "Kludhoppers' Kollege," her Certificate of Merit being signed by such distinguished members as the President, Vice-President and Master of Theory. Miss Milligan's triumphal journey back to University Hall bearing aloft her Diploma will be long remembered by all witnesses.

Our School could not have been the success it undoubtedly was without the Warden and the Housekeeper of University Hall and their staff, who anticipated all our needs and made us so comfortable. To them all we tender our deepest thanks. Our every meal was a thing of joy and not to be bettered even in pre-war days.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY will be held on *Saturday, 9th November 1946*, in the TRAINING COLLEGE, PARK PLACE, DUNDEE, at 3 p.m.

BUSINESS

1. Annual Report.
2. Branch Reports.
3. Election of Office-Bearers and Executive Council for the year 1946-47.

The Retiring *Office-Bearers* are—

Chairman—Miss Jean Milligan.

Vice-Chairman—Mrs Hamilton-Meikle.

The Retiring *Members of Council* are—

Miss Barrow.

Miss Kirk.

Dr E. Forbes-Sempill.

Miss Dow.

Mrs Lesslie.

Mr J. Drummond.

The above are eligible for re-election.

The following have already been elected to the *Executive Council* as representatives of their Branches:—Miss Browne (Aberdeen), Mrs G. S. Robertson (Angus), Miss Macmillan (Ayr), Miss A. Allan (North Ayrshire), Miss Campbell (Birmingham), Miss Crichton (Dundee), Miss Anderson (Edinburgh), Miss McPherson (Fort William), Miss Kenyon (Glasgow), Mrs Rankin (Hamilton), Miss Gray (Kirkcaldy), Mr Bazalgette (London), Miss Currie (Lockerbie), Miss Miller (West Lothian), Mrs Liddell (Manchester), Mr Maxwell (Motherwell), Mrs Harris Hunter (Perthshire), Miss Kidd (Renfrewshire), Miss Ramsbottom (Rochdale), Mrs Hutchison (East Stirlingshire), Mrs Jones (Stirlingshire).

Nominations for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Six Members for Council should reach the Secretary, Miss M. F. HADDEN, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12, not later than *1st November 1946*. Election will be made at the Annual Meeting from the list of those nominated.

4. Addition to Constitution and Rules—
that the following be added to Paragraph 4:—"Affiliated Societies shall pay an annual subscription of £1, 1/."
5. Financial Report.
6. Place of Annual General Meeting, 1947.
7. Any other competent business.

M. F. HADDEN, *Secretary, S.C.D.S.*,
Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.

AUTUMN SCHOOL.

AN AUTUMN SCHOOL will be held in DUNDEE on Friday, 8th, and Saturday, 9th November 1946.

Classes will be held in the TRAINING COLLEGE, Park Place, as follows:—

FRIDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER 6 to 7.30 p.m. Certificate Class (Certificates 1 and 2).
Mrs Hutchison (Gymnasium).

8 to 10 p.m. General Class. Miss Milligan (Hall).

SATURDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER 10 to 11.30 a.m. Certificate Class (Certificates 1 and 2). Mrs Hutchison (Gymnasium).

11.30 to 12.30 a.m. General Class. Miss B. H. Robertson (Hall).

The Examination for Teacher's Certificate will take place in the Training College on Saturday, at 11.45 a.m.

Members wishing to enter for the Teacher's Certificate are asked to send their names to the Secretary, Miss HADDEN, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12, by 1st November.

FEES—10/- for the Course or 2/- per Class. Friday—8 to 10 p.m., 3/-. Examination Fee, 5/-

HOTELS—Royal Hotel, Union Street.
Mather's Hotel, Whitehall Crescent.
Queen's Hotel, Nethergate.
Pinegrove Hotel, Perth Road.

After the Annual General Meeting there will be tea and a Social Dance in Training College Hall from 4 till 8 p.m. Ticket, 2/6. Please apply for your ticket to Miss HADDEN, Thornhill, Cairnmuir Road, Edinburgh, 12, or Miss H. F. CRIGHTON, 4 Lammerton Terrace, Dundee, before 1st November.

Fill in slip and hand to Secretary on arrival with correct fee.

Name.....

Home Address.....

Branch.....

Attending whole time.....

or Classes on.....

We must also thank the teaching staff, who so willingly and with such good nature co-operated to improve our steps and technique; and the pianists, without whose "infinite variety" of tunes things would have indeed been dull. We felt the unobtrusive presence of Miss Hadden, our Secretary, all through the Course, when everything ran on oiled wheels, thanks in no small measure to her organisation and to the immense amount of work she had done before the School began.

Lastly, our thanks are due to Miss Milligan, whose personality and keen enthusiasm coloured all her work. It is a very difficult thing to run two Courses, one after the other, without showing signs of fatigue and boredom, and having a feeling of anti-climax. Miss Milligan succeeded in making the second course every bit as much of a thrill to her students, and all must have gone away feeling that they had parted from a gracious and vital personality.

We are indeed grateful for the pleasant memories of this year, and already look forward to Summer School, 1947.

"Reel Time in the Tropics"

It all started by accident in the month of October 1943. A few Scots folk were talking of the great annual event which was due on 3rd December of that year—the Annual Ball of the St Andrew's Association of British Guiana. Someone said it was a great pity that there were so many different ideas about how the eightsome reel should be danced, when the minister chipped in to remark that there was, after all, one accepted way of doing it, the way of the Scottish Country Dance Society. "That may be so," replied someone, "but nobody here knows how they do it." "Oh yes," said the minister, "I was taught how to do it."

Before that group dispersed, arrangements had been made for eight people to be taught by the minister how to dance the eightsome reel. The President of the Association was able to secure the use of the Masonic Hall, while the Secretary lent his piano, and, for the few weeks that remained before the big function, an ever-increasing number of people turned up every Thursday afternoon, eager to learn just how it ought to be danced. Needless to say, the company did not confine itself to the eightsome alone. They had to go through the Strip-the-Willow, the Grand March, and the Circassian Circle—the only four "Scottish" dances on the programme of the Ball. The minister had quite a time of it, for he not only had to teach the class, he even had to play the piano as well. But somehow it was done, and on the night of the Ball there were three sets on the floor, showing the rest of the large company the real beauty of the eightsome. It may be that the footwork left quite a lot to be desired, but at least there was cohesion, and everybody danced the same way. The Grand March, too, went through without a hitch, since so many of those present knew what was required of them, and then these who had practised it were able to pull the remainder through the Circassian Circle. At the end of the evening everyone seemed to agree that never before had the "square" dances been so happy and successful.

At first it was thought that that would be the end of the matter until the latter part of the following year, but it was not to be like that. Quite a few people had become really interested, for the first time, in Scottish Country Dancing, and there was a loud clamour for the class to go on. Fortunately for the minister, his wife arrived in the Colony soon after, and she was able to relieve him of the responsibility of running the class, which, ever since then, has met weekly. A local pianist was taught something of the intricacies of Scottish Dance music, and now does splendidly week by week, and at all the social functions sponsored by the St. Andrew's Association. The repertoire of the class has grown quite a lot since those early days, to such an extent that on "Burns Night" or "Grouse Night" at the "Ball," the programme now is mostly composed of Scottish Dances. The accom-

modation at the little private dancing school where the class now meets is very limited, but it is taxed to its uttermost on Thursday afternoons by one of the happiest groups of people it is possible to meet anywhere outside Scotland herself. A year ago it was decided that the group should become affiliated to the S.C.D.S., and known as the "Demerara Branch." Many individuals have become members of the Society, and, with a selection of dances to choose from in the books they have received, the class looks forward to many more happy days, dancing to the old familiar tunes of their native land in the warmth of the tropical evenings in South America. We no longer "sit like birds in the wilderness, down in Demerara"—we dance the hours away to the sound of the reels and strathspeys from over the sea.

FELICITE R. BIRNIE.

NEW BOOK

It was suggested at a meeting of the Executive Council that there might be members who knew of old manuscripts of dances, Scottish singing games or music. It would be a great help if these could be sent in for the consideration of the Committee who will be preparing the next book.

Branch Reports

ABERDEEN.—Last year the Aberdeen Branch of the S.C.D.S had 30 Life Members and 147 Ordinary Members.

Two classes were held throughout the season—an Advanced Class which met fortnightly, and a General Weekly Class. This class had a roll of 157, though it was perhaps fortunate for Miss Anderson, the teacher, that all the members did not attend at once!

A former member of our classes, Mrs Birnie, now runs a most successful Affiliated Branch in British Guiana, of which you will read more in another part of the *Bulletin*.

Other Branch Members taught classes during the season in Kirkwall, Foveran, Inverberrie, Drumlithie, in Forresterhill and Woodend Hospitals, and in Hilton School.

A Silver Rosebowl was presented by the Aberdeen Branch for competition among Youth Service Senior Clubs. Ten teams competed, and the adjudicators had a very difficult task in placing the teams in order of merit, as some excellent dancing was witnessed.

PETERHEAD.—This past year, the roll of the adult class rose from 24 to 49, and as each member was full of enthusiasm and attended classes regularly, the standard of dancing was high.

On the enrolment day for the children's classes, Miss Collie had regretfully to turn away 20 children. As it was, she ran two classes—one of 54 Seniors, and the other of 53 Juniors.

The highlight of the season was the visit of Miss Milligan to the Senior finishing display. In her inimitable way she charmed both audience and children. From the two finishing displays over £52 was handed to local charities.

A team of children demonstrated at church functions, on V-Day and at Newburgh Games.

ANGUS.—This Branch has had a most successful year. The membership stands at 181, Arbroath Centre having 85 members, Forfar Centre 33, and Montrose Centre, which has just been resuscitated, has 63 members.

All Centres were hampered by lack of suitable halls, but in spite of that, weekly classes were held throughout the winter, which were very well attended.

A Dance was held by Arbroath Centre in March, at which over 200 dancers were present, and a very large number of spectators.

Demonstrations of Scottish Country Dancing were, as usual, given to various social clubs.

AYR.—It is hoped to resume classes shortly. Several classes were run in Ayr during the winter by members, and several dances took place in Ayr and district including an open-air one in a garden in June. We regret to report the death of our President, The Dowager Lady Ailsa.

NORTH AYRSHIRE.—The North Ayrshire Branch begin classes again on 14th October, and are looking forward to a very good winter. Our numbers are increasing, and we have had difficulty in getting a hall suitable for our classes, but this difficulty has now been overcome.

BIRMINGHAM.—Formed 1946. 24 Members. Although most of our members attend an Evening Institute Class every week, we have only been able to hold one Society meeting since forming the Branch, owing to difficulty in finding a suitable hall in a central position. We hope to meet regularly during the coming year.

DUNDEE.—Membership, 228, 16 of these being Life Members. The Branch has completed another very enthusiastic year of work and progress. One very gratifying feature is the large increase in membership. This has been made possible by the excellent response made to the appeal for members to all Scottish Country Dance Classes in the town who are outside the Society. It is interesting to note that almost all of those classes have now several Society members. The Branch activities consisted of weekly meetings throughout the winter, with the usual social dance at the end of each term. The Branch is greatly indebted to Miss A. Anderson, of Edinburgh, who came to Dundee on two Saturday afternoons to teach the Victory Book Dances.

EDINBURGH.—The Edinburgh Branch has had a most interesting and profitable year. There are now 280 members, including 25 Life Members. Classes have been very well attended, and several dances were held during the season, one being shared most successfully with the English Folk Dance Society.

The Branch team of men and women gave a number of demonstrations in Princes Street Gardens and elsewhere, and also competed in the Edinburgh Musical Festival for propaganda purposes. The year's work culminated in a demonstration in the forecourt of Holyrood Palace, during the visit of the Royal Family in June. The team was given ten minutes in a programme which included massed military bands, massed pipe bands, Highland dancing and community singing. The two dances chosen were "Mrs Stewart's Strathspey" and "The Duchess of Buccleuch's Favourite," from the Border book. Excellent music was provided by Tim Wright and his orchestra, of nine players, of broadcasting fame. Quite exceptional interest in the dancing was shown by the Royal Family, and this demonstration was followed by a command for four members of the team—Mrs Lesslie, Mr Drummond, Miss Clowe and Mr Sutherland—to go to the Palace on the evening of 2nd July. They danced in the Throne Room, again to the music of Tim Wright's orchestra. The occasion was quite informal, the company numbering only twenty-two, including equerries and ladies-in-waiting. The Royal Family joined in an Eightsome Reel, followed by a Foursome, both of which Mrs Lesslie had the honour of dancing with the King. This was followed by "Mrs Stewart's Strathspey," which Mrs Lesslie was asked to teach, and which the two Princesses danced with Mr Drummond and Mr Sutherland. Then came a very strenuous "Duke of Perth"—twenty-five repetitions!—and finally a Sixteensome Reel, in which the Queen honoured Mr Drummond by dancing with him. Refreshments in the drawing-room concluded a wonderful evening, always to be remembered in every exciting detail. It was indeed a red-letter occasion in the lives of all four of us, and a great honour for the Scottish Country Dance Society.

The Branch has been asked to provide sixteen dancers to take part in a broadcast by Tim Wright's orchestra of Scottish Country Dance music to the Forces abroad, and we hope that this may be but the first of many similar invitations.

FORT-WILLIAM.—During the session the classes have been well maintained, and the increase in membership to 66 shows a keen interest in Scottish Country Dancing. Two

Statement of Receipts and Payments

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand at 30th September 1945	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£1113	7	1		
SUBSCRIPTIONS—												
Received from Branches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£444	11	2		
Paid direct to Headquarters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	104	18	0		
									549	9	2	
Sale of Dance Books and Leaflets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		526	19	1	
Royalties and Broadcasting Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		83	9	10	
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		41	10	0	
Rebate on Insurances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2	6	0	
Examination Fees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		46	15	0	
SURPLUS—												
Week-end Course	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£19	5	9		
Summer School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	4	7		
									35	10	4	
INTEREST—												
County Council of Lanark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	£3	5	8		
Savings Account	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10	9		
									8	16	5	
									<u>£2408</u>		<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>

The following articles are the property of the Society:—3 Typewriters, 2 Portable Gramophones, 1 Writing Desk, Music Cabinet, Filing Cabinet, 2 Chests of Drawers, and Sundry Books of Music.

for year ended 30th September 1946

PAYMENTS.

Printing of Bulletin	£17 11 6
Cost of S.C.D. Books, 1 - 5	71 18 0
Printing and Stationery	299 18 6
Travelling	45 17 0
Postages and Telephones	40 6 2
Insurances	8 0 6
Auditor's Fee	4 4 0
Examination Fees and Organising Expenses	23 7 6
Secretary's Salary, and Office Expenses	238 8 0
Treasurer's Salary	78 0 0

BALANCE—

County Council of Lanark Bond	£250 0 0	
British Linen Bank—Savings Account	750 0 0	
Do. do. Current Account	568 16 1	
Cash in hands of Secretary and Treasurer	11 15 8	
		1580 11 9

£2408 2 11

23 BARNES STREET, AYR, 4th October 1946—I have examined the foregoing Statement with the Books, Accounts and Vouchers relating thereto, and certify them to be correct.

NORMAN MACKINNON, C.A., Auditor.

new classes have been formed in the district, and in addition to the usual class nights two most enjoyable inter-club classes were held. Dancing was of a high standard and it is very pleasing to note that Country Dancing is becoming so popular in Lochaber. This is largely due to the untiring efforts of our instructress, Miss McPherson.

The new session is to start soon, when former members who have been on war service will be welcomed back.

GLASGOW.—During 1945-46 membership again rose, though it is not yet up to the pre-war level. 270 members paid the annual subscription, while the Branch has now 38 Life Members.

Classes were resumed during the first week of October, five, including a Certificate Class, being held weekly. All were attended by very large numbers of non-members, as well as members of the Society. Miss Milligan's class, held in the Astoria Ballroom on Tuesdays, established a new high record.

Several members gained the Teacher's Certificate.

Youth organizations and youth clubs in the city now make a special feature of Scottish Country Dancing, and the demand for teachers is very great. Many of our Certificated Teachers are engaged in evening work in connection with the Glasgow Corporations' Youth Centres.

Requests from secretaries of Women's Institutes and Clubs for teachers are becoming increasingly difficult to meet.

Accommodation in the city has not been easy to procure during the last few years, and the immediate future seems to hold little promise of any easing of the position.

Glasgow Branch was delighted to have the privilege of welcoming members—old friends and new—to the first post-war Autumn School, though we hope that next time our turn comes round, we shall be able to offer something more nearly approaching pre-war conditions.

Circles and Clubs have continued their activities, and have supported the Branch in all its efforts.

Very successful dances were held during the winter. Two were specially arranged for the purpose of raising money towards the expenses of the team for the Wembley Demonstration on 6th July. In March 500 attended the dance held on a Saturday, and a large number were present at the more informal one held on 11th June after our Annual General Meeting. We were fortunate that Miss Milligan was able to get the use of Jordanhill College Hall on both occasions. As a result it was possible to hand over £70, which paid all the expenses of the men who took part in the Scottish Country Dancing, when "Glasgow" was happy to collaborate with the Central Council of Physical Recreation.

A Glasgow team is performing in September to help to raise funds for the Youth Hostel Association.

On 17th October a large display of Scottish Country Dancing will be given in St Andrew's Halls in connection with the Scottish League of Physical Education on the occasion of the visit of a Swedish team to the city.

Numerous demonstrations have been given, in and around the city.

The number of weekly classes planned for the coming session has been increased to seven, and the Committee confidently looks forward to a busy season.

HAMILTON.—This Branch had a very successful session for 1945-46. Old members, just released from war service, were welcomed back, and were happy to renew their association with Scottish Country Dancing once more. Twenty new members who had done no Country Dancing before joined the class, and are now keen enthusiasts. The average nightly attendance at the class for the first session was 36, and for the second session 52.

The membership of the Society this year is 67, 5 of whom are Life Members, and it is

made up from the various classes in Auldhuse, Carluke, Crossford, Hamilton, Law, Larkhall, Lesmahagow, and the Strathaven Ladies' Circle. While these classes have all started from this Branch, it in no way manages their affairs, apart from recruiting members to the Society and joining them through the Hamilton Branch, but contact and interest is maintained with them through its social evenings, to which the various classes are invited, and some members of the Hamilton class always attend their class parties at the end of each session.

There are members attending the Hamilton class from Bothwell, Blantyre, Glassford, Newarthill, Strathaven and Uddingston, which shows how keen the enthusiasm for Scottish Country Dancing is in this district. This is the first year a class was held at Crossford, and, starting from the beginning of the year, the members felt their first session was all to short, and are looking forward to the class resuming again in October.

The Carluke class continues as keenly enthusiastic as ever, with an average nightly attendance of 36 members, and is a social class in the fullest sense of the word. The class starts at 7 p.m., when Miss Marshall teaches newcomers and beginners till 7.30 p.m., and Mrs Rankin takes over. At 8.30 p.m. the dancing stops, and Mrs Allan, the wife of the President of this class, serves tea, and after fifteen or twenty minutes the class continues till 9.30 p.m. Several most enjoyable parties are held during the session, and invitations extended to the various classes of the Hamilton Branch.

KIRKCALDY.—This Branch held a successful class which was regularly attended by members, who show the same ardent enthusiasm for Country Dancing.

To finish off the season an enjoyable party was held. Quite a number of visitors from the surrounding district joined with members in making it a success. The proceeds were given to the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society.

Membership of the Branch is now 34 Ordinary Members, 7 Life Members.

LOCKERBIE.—The local Branch was formed on 3rd December 1945, the aims of the Society being explained by Miss Mackintosh and Miss Andrew, representatives of the Society. These two ladies agreed to act as instructors and classes were arranged immediately. The Branch was soon in full swing, with a membership of 55.

We held a social gathering to finish the season, where we could display the dances we had learned. We participated in the Festival held at Dumfries and received a fair criticism. Two teams were entered.

LONDON.—The Branch again held fortnightly Saturday afternoon dances throughout the winter. Although at the start these were not so well attended as in past years, there was a satisfactory improvement later. Two evening dances were held, one in January and one in May, and these were so well attended that the Committee decided to arrange for a full programme for the coming winter. Two classes are to be held weekly, and an evening dance each month.

Mrs Sandison's class at a London County Council Evening Institute was even more successful than in previous years.

Miss MacLennan took an evening of Scottish Country Dances at various Dance Centres in Essex—Romford, Chelmsford, Grays, Colchester, and Southend. As a result of these a member attended the two evening dances held by the Branch, and several have given their names to attend the weekly classes.

Lately there has been an increase in membership and the Branch is looking forward to a successful season.

MANCHESTER.—With the end of black-out, evening classes were once more held. An elementary group met at Atherton Street School, near Deansgate, but the attendances were rather disappointing. Another class was held at Christ Church Schoolroom from October to December. This latter class was intended for more experienced dancers, but others joined who were unable to be at the elementary class. In the spring term this class was transferred to Atherton Street School, which is more central.

There was considerable enthusiasm for a proposal to hold a class between Easter and Whitsun. A general class was arranged and ran for six weeks. It was felt that the old happy spirit was again present during this last course. May it be taken as a good omen for next season.

The membership reached the figure of 58, including one Life Member. This figure is slightly higher than any during the war, but is far short of the pre-war number of 105, in spite of all the hard work and the cost of running the Branch.

The Heaton Moor Group (affiliated) has continued its activities with enthusiasm.

The Gymnastic Teachers' Association (Manchester Branch) invited Mrs Liddell to attend their meeting to help with Scottish Dancing on 15th March, in Central High School. Dr James, High Master of the Manchester Grammar School, addressed the members, and afterwards there was general dancing—English Country, Scottish Country and American Square.

PERTH.—During the past year the membership of the Perth Branch of the Society has been doubled, and now exceeds 100. In Perth City a Weekly Country Dance attracted an average attendance of about 80.

The steady growth of interest in Scottish Country Dancing during the year encouraged the setting up of a Scottish Country Dance Club, under the auspices of the Society, and at a largely attended meeting of Society members this proposal was warmly welcomed. Over 100 members were enrolled immediately, and office-bearers were appointed.

The Club will meet weekly during the winter. Arrangements have now been completed to hold a series of beginners' classes.

RENFREWSHIRE.—The Branch has had a very successful season, the classes being well attended all through the year. It is gratifying to report an increase in membership.

At a social evening held in the Lorne, Mr St Clair MacKay, who was leaving for South Africa, was presented with a bound volume of all the Country Dance Books in appreciation of his long and many services to the Branch.

Demonstrations of some of the dances were given at a Church Women's Guild. By the end of the evening everyone had joined in the dancing.

By request of the class a summer session was held. It is hoped that a class for children will be started.

ROCHDALE.—There has been much enthusiasm shown in the Rochdale Branch during the last two years. There are 44 full members and several non-members—many of them being keen juniors.

We have had two Schools, one in 1945 for a week, and one in 1946 for a week-end. Each was taken by Miss Milligan, and Certificate tests were held at the end of each course. This year, 1946, we had 100 per cent. passes in both tests, so that the Branch now has 12 members with the full Certificate and 11 with the first Certificate only.

Although we have no Juvenile section, Scottish Country Dancing is taught in many of the schools, and parties have been held at Christmas which are very popular with the girls.

Classes have continued all the year round, being roughly divided into three terms, each term finishing with a Social Evening, at which there has always been a record attendance. The Branch owes much to the local Education Committee for its continued interest and help. We also owe much to our enthusiastic teacher, Mrs Gudger, and our equally keen pianist, Miss Brown, who has never missed an evening since the Branch opened in 1942.

Ten of our members have been privileged to attend the Summer Schools at St Andrews, and the whole Branch has benefited from their experiences.

One of the members is to take a beginners' class this winter and another member is taking a class in Todmorden for their second season. During last season a special One-Day School was held, at which a team of Rochdale Girls demonstrated "The Reel of the 51st," "Mrs Stewart's Strathspey," and "The Duran Rangers."

STIRLINGSHIRE.—The winter season 1945-46 was a successful one. We are delighted to welcome Miss Jarvis back to the Branch, and on the Committee. She had a large weekly class, from which five members took their first teaching certificate; Miss Milligan very kindly came and took the examinations.

In December a successful Social Dance was held in the Golden Lion Hotel. There was a big demand for tickets, but as the hotel only caters for a certain number, these had to be limited. Members of the Stirlingshire Strathspey and Reel Society Orchestra supplied the music, which was excellent. A weekly class was held in St Ninian's and Gargunnoch, and an afternoon and an evening one in Stirling, taken by Miss Jarvis, Miss Kemp Smith, and Miss Wills.

Miss Kemp Smith took a class for Dutch teachers at Aberfoyle, who were anxious to learn our national dances to teach the children.

The Branch suffered a great loss by the death of our well-known and loved Treasurer, Mrs Stark. An excellent business woman, and a keen and accomplished dancer, she did much to further the interests of this Branch by her attractive personality, and will be very greatly missed.

We have now 82 members—a pleasing increase on 21 during the lean war years!—and hope to have many more this season.

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE.—During the past year the East Stirlingshire Branch has doubled its membership. Two classes continued to be held weekly throughout the winter.

At the close of each session very successful social evenings were held for members and friends.

A team was again entered for the Central Counties Musical Festival held in Falkirk, and was successful in gaining a First Class Honours Certificate.

WEST LOTHIAN continues to make steady progress, 18 new members having been enrolled during the year. The season's activities commenced in October with a dance in Bo'ness Town Hall in aid of Welcome Home Fund. This dance was a great success, over £30 being given to the fund. The gallery was open to spectators, with the result that Bo'ness adult class nearly doubled its membership, and two children's classes were started. These were well attended throughout the session. Mrs Cadell, Grange, Linlithgow, gave a dance at her home in June in aid of Nurses' Pension Fund. This proved one of the jolliest dances we have ever had.

Three Branch members were successful in gaining their Full Certificate at St Andrews in August.

Classes are to start in Bathgate and Broxburn, and arrangements are well in hand for a dance in Linlithgow Town Hall on 25th October.

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.