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A DARK MONTH.

The terrible epidemic, which has afflicted nearly the whole world and has proved a formidable rival to the war, has unhappily left its mark on Badsey. From October 23 to November 18 inclusive there were 13 funerals at Badsey, 10 of which were those of influenza victims. To these must be added one more, Mrs. Russell, of Pear Tree Corner, having been buried at Middle Littleton. The number of deaths from this veritable plague was thus 11, and they all took place within less than 4 weeks. There was only one death at Wickhamford from the epidemic, which happily now seems to be dying out everywhere, and none at Aldington.

THE WAR.

The news that the fighting had ceased was received with grateful satisfaction by all, but the joy of many was sadly marred by the arrival of sad news from the front.

On November 9 Pte. T. Knight's mother received two letters from France, one stating that he had been admitted to the 26th General Hospital on November 3 suffering from severe gas-poisoning, and the other informing her that he passed away on November 6 and would be buried in the British Cemetery at Etaples. Pte. Knight, who had seen two years' service, was home a year ago, was wounded last May, and was expecting to get leave just about the time his death occurred. A memorial service was held at Badsey on November 19.

By the same post that brought Mrs. Knight's two letters Mrs. E. Yeates received the sad news that her husband, who had been missing since September 29, was reported "killed in action or died of wounds" on or near that date. Pte. Yeates joined the colours in January, 1917, and went to France the following April. He was severely wounded in November, 1917, and, after being in hospital at Oxford and Banbury, rejoined his regiment in April last, returning to France in August. A memorial service was held at Badsey on November 20.

On November 11, just as the bells were celebrating the armistice with a merry peal, Mr. Cull received a telegram to the effect that his son, Pte. J. S. Cull, had died of influenza at Busra, on the Tigris, on October 25. Pte. Cull offered his services for his country in August, 1914, but was rejected on medical grounds. Two months later he was passed as "fit" and enlisted in the Worcestershire Yeomanry. After a machine-gun course he went out to Mesopotamia as a mounted machine-gunner, in which

capacity he saw a considerable amount of fighting. He was formerly a chorister at Badsey Church. Mrs. Cull recently received a letter written by Pte. Cull on October 9 in which he stated that, although there had been fatal cases of influenza, he was in the best of health. A memorial service arranged for November 22 was postponed owing to the Vicar's illness.—R.I.P.

Miss K. Walker has been officially informed that her brother Corpl. Geoffrey Walker, has been missing since October 14. We sincerely hope she may soon have reassuring news.

Lieut. H. Allsebrook has been seriously ill in France with influenza followed by pneumonia but is now well again.

Corpl. A. Hatcher has been awarded the Military Medal "for his bravery and skill when one of a daylight-patrol near Gomiecourt, August 23, 1918." He rescued his sergeant under heavy machine-gun fire and was decorated on the field. He is in hospital at Chelsea where he is recovering from the effects of a bullet-wound in the left shoulder.

Pte. E. Crane has been in hospital in Birmingham seriously ill with pneumonia following influenza, but is, we are glad to say, now well again.

Sapper W. H. Taylor has again been invalided to England and is in hospital at Leicester.

THE ARMISTICE.

As soon as possible after the signing of the armistice became known the bells of Badsey rang out a merry peal. Six of those bells must have celebrated many a victory before, but they have surely never been listened to with greater thankfulness. On Tuesday evening, November 12, a full congregation assembled in Badsey Church to return praise to Almighty God, "the only giver of all victory," for victory and "deliverance from those great and apparent dangers wherewith we were compassed." The Vicar officiated, Mr. Sladden read the lesson, Mr. T. H. Knight was at the organ, and there was a full choir. The psalms were 46 and 76, the hymns were "Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven," "All people that on earth do dwell," "O God, our help" and "For all the Saints," and the lesson was Isaiah lxi. The Te Deum

was sung before the blessing, and after the blessing the first and last verses of the National Anthem were sung. The bells were again rung both before and after the service and the ringers are to be congratulated on their excellent performance after an enforced abstention from practice for over four years.

A similar service was held at Wickhamford the following evening.

THE VACANT SEE.

Since October 23, when Dr. Yeatman-Biggs was "invested" by the Archbishop of Canterbury with the see of Coventry, we have been without a bishop, and the Dean of Worcester has been appointed by the Primate "guardian of the spiritualities" of the see of Worcester during the vacancy. This appointment the Dean claims as a right by virtue of "a Composition agreed upon between Boniface of blessed memory and the Prior and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Worcester." The Dean's "episcopal" powers extend to institution to benefices and the granting of marriage licenses—it was the Dean who granted the license for the marriage solemnized at Wickhamford on November 9—but he cannot present to benefices in the patronage of the Bishop, the presentation in which case lapses to the Crown, or confirm a lease. The "Composition" referred to was made in 1268, and "Boniface of blessed memory" (Boniface of Savoy) was Archbishop of Canterbury 1245-1270.

NOTES AND NEWS.

One of the many sufferers from influenza at Badsey was Mr. G. Moisey, clerk and sexton. The parish is much indebted to those who kindly undertook his duties, and especially to Mr. J. Dones who, with occasional help from Mr. John Hartwell, dug the many necessary graves.

The Vicar was present at the funeral of Pte. Roskopf, the German soldier who was buried at Badsey on November 16, but, the deceased being a Roman Catholic, Monsignor Patten officiated.

The grave is near to those of our own three soldiers who have died within the last twelve months. The German soldiers from the Manor House Camp attended and, at the close of the ceremony, filed past the grave, each casting a handful of earth upon the coffin according to custom. There were some beautiful wreaths. Pte. Roskopf came from Bavaria and leaves a widow and two children.—R.I.P.

THE REGISTERS.

BADSEY—BAPTISM.

Nov. 17.—Lilian May Welch.

BADSEY—MARRIAGE.

Nov. 30.—Thomas Francis Jelfs and Winifred May Wilkins.

BADSEY—BURIALS.

- Nov. 1.—Charles Knight Keen, aged 33 years.
- „ 4.—Charles Smith, aged 65 years.
- „ 5.—Annie Maria Jinks, aged 45 years.
- „ 11.—Annie Walker, aged 62 years.
- „ 13.—Thomas Henry Hall, aged 38 years.
- „ 14.—Jane Hall, aged 72 years.
- „ 16.—Johann Roskopf, aged 33 years.
- „ 18.—Samuel Ingles Knight, aged 78 years.

WICKHAMFORD—MARRIAGE.

Nov. 9.—Gilbert Charles Franklin and Rose Halford.

OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

		Badsey. Wickhamford					
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Nov. 3.	Sick and Needy		2	0		2	3
	Church Expenses	1	8	2½		7	7
„ 10.	Church Expenses	1	9	1		8	9
„ 17.	Sick and Needy		10	0			
	Missions to Seamen	10	0		15	0	
	King George's						
	Fund for Sailors	3	13	0½		8	9
„ 24.	Church Expenses		19	10		8	3
		£8	12	1¼	£2	10	7

