

alley.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE REV. W. E. ALLSEBROOK.

—Yesterday (Thursday) evening week a supper was given at the Union Club to the Rev. W. E. Allsebrook to express the regret and goodwill of his many friends on the occasion of his leaving the town, and to present to him a handsome silver cigarette case. The chair was occupied by Mr. Frank Gibbs, and the vice-chair by Mr. Everard. The table, prettily adorned with flowers by Mrs. King (who placed before every seat a brilliant little button-hole) looked bright and attractive, and the feeding and attendance left nothing to be desired. About fifty persons were present. Mr. Hudson presided at the piano, and Mr. Callaway performed on the violin, their combined efforts deserving fully the hearty applause they received. After Mr. Andrews had sung "The Soldiers of the Queen" with spirit and vigour, which said much for his patriotism, Mr. Allsebrook sang in honour of "the Queen's Navee" another patriotic song, "Royal Blue," and Mr. Everard roused hearty laughter by reciting a humorous story of "Evolution in the Kitchen." The Chairman then rose to propose the toast of the evening, the health of their guest. He spoke of the regret they all felt at the prospect of Mr. Allsebrook's departure, and said he had in the course of his three years' residence in Stratford-upon-Avon found his way into the hearts of all who had the pleasant privilege of knowing him. It would be selfish to wish he could remain amongst them, because the change would be a beneficial and desirable one from Mr. Allsebrook's own view-point, but they could not help deeply regretting his loss. As a clergyman, as a man, true to his friends, gentle to all, frank and honest, a cheerful companion, and a wide-minded, tolerant Christian gentleman, Mr. Allsebrook would be hard to beat. Mr. Palmer then spoke, saying pleasure and regret mingled in his feelings, but he found some consolation in hearing that Mr. Allsebrook was not going to forget them altogether. Whenever his duties permitted he intended to spend a few pleasant hours amongst his Stratford friends. In presenting the little gift he was sure it would not be estimated at its intrinsic value, but for all the grateful kindness it was intended to express. He was pleased also to inform the club that Mr. Allsebrook had promised to give them in the near future a lecture. The toast was drunk amidst loud cheering and with musical honours. Mr. Allsebrook, in reply, said that he returned them hearty thanks for so pleasant an expression of good-will, which came to him as a surprise—the second surprise of the week. The club had been a source of enjoyment to him on many occasions, and he should always carry with him the remembrance of their pleasant companionship and cheerful friendliness, as well as that of Mrs. King's well-cooked dish of tripe, of which he had that evening enjoyed sundry helpings, and might have enjoyed more if each successive plate-full had not been larger than its predecessor. Oxford was his first love, and the curacy he was going to in connection with Christ Church Cathedral would restore to him the college which he knew so well. There was one source of satisfaction in leaving Stratford. The parish church organ — (laughter) — as a sufferer from bronchitis would not be always on his mind. He wished to thank their chairman (the hardest worked man in Stratford) for all the kind things he had so kindly said of him, Mr. and Mrs. King for all the kind things they had prepared for them, and the lady specially for the graceful and pretty little button-hole adornments, and he would conclude by hoping that none of the members would come to Oxford without calling upon him, for, to use an old north-country way, "When you and your folk come to us and our folk, us and our folk will make you and your folk as welcome as you and your folk made us and our folk." The remainder of the evening was occupied with a variety of very good songs, all very well sung, by Messrs Westlake, Palmer, Allsebrook, Dixon, and others, and recitations by Mr. Fox and Mr. A. H. Wall.—After evensong on Wednesday the organist and senior members of the Parish Church choir assembled at the residence of the former, and presented a handsome polished oak smoker's cabinet to the Rev. W. C. Allsebrook, who, on this occasion, took his farewell of the choir, before leaving Stratford for his appointment at Oxford. Very general regret was expressed at losing Mr. Allsebrook's services, and he was asked to accept their heartiest wishes for his future welfare.