

AMATEUR ATHLETICS.

THE HONOUR BOARD UNVEILED.

SPEECH BY SIR HERBERT NICHOLLS

There was a large muster of members of the Tasmanian Amateur Athletic Association at the Masonic-hall last night, when a reunion smoke social was held, at which the president (Sir Herbert Nicholls) unveiled the honour board, on which appeared the names of 220 members who had enlisted, including 45 who had made the supreme sacrifice. Sir Herbert Nicholls was supported by Lieut.-Colonel Elliott (an original member of the association in 1902), Messrs. C. J. Eady, J. B. Howells, E. A. Brooke, J. A. Edwards, and many well-known athletes. During the evening the Darcy championship cup, which was won in 1910 by W. R. Scott, who was killed during the war, and the Butterfield perpetual cup, first presented in 1908, were handed to the winners.

Sir Herbert Nicholls, before unveiling the honour board, said that what he was going to say had probably been thought by all of them over and over again. He could not help but be struck by the young faces before him, and many of them must have been small boys when war broke out, so they probably knew little of that dreadful period when the civilised world was hanging in the balance. As to how delicate that balance was facts were beginning to creep out, and they now knew that during the European spring of 1917 the British Government calculated that the German submarines would cause the defeat of the Allies by November, and Germany believed that victory would be theirs three months earlier than that. The advent of America into the war, and particularly of the American fleet, turned the tide, however, and gave the Allies the time which Germany could not afford. On that honour roll they were perpetuating the names of the men who took part in what was the most momentous conflict which had ever taken place on the earth, and which settled once and for all whether nations should be governed with some regard to popular will or whether the Divine right of kings was to be established and people were to be mere slaves. What the war meant to Australia was not sufficiently known. The Germans were of opinion, perhaps not altogether wrongly, that the Australians were an unruly people, and they proposed when they arrived here to introduce methods of frightfulness which would either have led to the Germans killing all the Australians, or the Australians killing all the Germans, or each killing all the other and leaving no one. When the great call came 220 members of the association enlisted, which was a magnificent record. Australian amateur sport needed no justifying, but the alacrity, which athletes showed in enlisting, their valour and skill in fighting, and their behaviour on the field and in camp stamped Australian athletics as the best training ground for producing real men. Of the 220 members of the T.A.A.A. who went on active service 45 laid down their lives, including several who had been champions. They could not think of the men whose names were on the honour board without giving honour to them, as they had done deeds which would last for ever, and the spirit which they had engendered and the example which they had set would be re-

which they had engendered and the example which they had set would be remembered a thousand years hence. The honour board was veiled by the harrier flag, the Tasmanian flag, the Commonwealth flag, and lastly by the Union Jack, which symbolised the fact that the people of the British race had formed the strongest union which had ever existed on earth. It also symbolised that they could not get away from common descent, and, in spite of what they read in the newspapers, he believed that a vast majority of the people of America recognised that only by Britishers holding together could stability be maintained in the world.

Sir Herbert then unveiled the honour board, all present standing in silence.

During the evening songs were contributed by Messrs. Frank Purchas, Arthur Lowe, Fred. Millar, C. Leah, Nicholas, and others.

During an interval the president presented the Darcy championship cup, the Butterfield team cup, medal, and photo of the honour board to J. D. Lucas, medal to M. Lucas, who was second in the 10-mile championship, and special medal for most points scored during the season; medal to K. Tennant, who was third in the 10-mile championship; badges to G. Millar and T. Harvey, members of the winning team; and medals for the six-mile championship to F. Parsons, J. Fitzgerald, C. Harvey, D. Crooks, and G. Humble, who finished in that order.

After the toast of "The King" had been duly honoured,

Lieut.-Colonel Elliott proposed "Absent Comrades," and said that there were many who had taken part in past competitions who were unable to attend that evening, but were with them in spirit.

Mr. J. A. Edwards gave an outline of the Victorian trip which appeared in "The Mercury" on Saturday. He said that Dr. Kent Hughes, father of the great sprinter, who had recently performed with great credit in England, and who was a strong supporter of amateurism in Victoria, made a strong attack on the hold which professionalism was gaining in Victoria. Their hopes of Dick Lucas bringing honour to the team were unaccountably shattered, and, though he had intended resigning, he now stated that he would keep going for another two years so that he could do better at Sydney. It was a curious fact that the first four men to finish in the Australian championship were connected with the milk trade, and the winner told him that he slept six hours a day and worked the remaining hours. The Tasmanian team was splendidly treated, and he could not help wishing that they in Tasmania had the support of such men who were at the back of the amateurs in Victoria.