

M.U. Oddfellows' Concert.

ENJOYABLE AND SUCCESSFUL.

Miss D. Abbott must be congratulated on the success that attended the concert organised by her under the patronage of the Wingham branch of the Manchester Unity Oddfellows. The function eventuated on Monday night, and notwithstanding the weather was all against the prospect of a big attendance, the Oddfellows' Hall was filled to its fullest capacity. During the day a cold westerly wind prevailed, which churned up clouds of dust and chilled everyone, also filling them with a natural desire to remain indoors. However, a large section subordinated comfort to duty—duty to the young lady who had spent much time in organising the concert, duty to the vocalists who had travelled long distances to assist in the programme, and last, but by no means least, duty to a grand institution that exists for the alleviation of the sick and suffering—the M.R.D. Hospital.

The Mayor (Ald. H. Machin) had been invited to preside, but a business engagement called him away to Sydney, and therefore the promoters approached the Deputy Mayor (Ald. J. T. Bird), but that gentleman had to attend to "affairs of State"—it being Council night—and could not respond to the invitation.

Bro. F. A. Fitzpatrick, P.G., was therefore called on to take the chair, and with him on the stage was Director G. C. O'Brien, who is now doing an organising tour of the North Coast and Hunter Districts.

In opening the proceedings, Bro. Fitzpatrick took occasion to express, on behalf of the Wingham Lodge, the members' keen appreciation of Miss Abbott for organising the concert, the artists who had come along to assist with the programme, the Wingham Brass Band for rendering a much appreciated programme outside the hall prior to the opening, and also the general public for their very liberal patronage.

THE CONCERT PROGRAMME.

The programme opened with a nicely played overture on the piano ("Polonaise") by Miss D. Abbott, after which Mr. McRae gave a splendid rendition of "The Dawn of a Perfect Day," and was liberally applauded. Mrs. Arnould (who, by the way, has not appeared at local concerts for over 12 months) met with a cordial reception

not appeared at local concerts for over 12 months) met with a cordial reception and sang in her usual pleasing manner "Love, here is my heart," and in response to an encore, "Absent." Mrs. T. A. Trotter, of Kolodong, riveted the attention of the audience in the recitation "Wheels of Time." This lady displayed marked elocutionary ability in this item, and many in the audience were moved to tears. In response to an encore Mrs. Trotter gave an amusing telephone sketch entitled "Was you dare," the item causing great laughter during its recital. Mrs. Trotter will always be welcomed by Wingham audiences. Mr. Jarman sang in good voice "Come, sing to me," and as an encore item "Somewhere a Voice is Calling." Mr. Jarman has a pleasing presence, as well as a good voice, and his items were greatly appreciated. Miss Wills' reputation as a violinist was fully established on Monday night, that young lady's interpretation of "The Legend," and, as an encore item, "Souvenir," being excellent. The reception accorded her was only what the artist deserved, and this critic hopes to see her name on many future Wingham programmes. Mrs. Arnould was again well received for her item, "The Reason," to which she did full justice. Messrs. Belford and Jarman received a flattering reception for their rendition of the vocal duet "Watchman what of the Night," their voices blending perfectly, and their item may be truthfully classed as one of the gems of the evening. In response to an encore they gave the last verse. Misses Taylor and Minns greatly pleased the audience with their pianoforte duet, "Scherzo Caprice," the performers being well trained and apt pupils. Mr. McRae is perhaps at his best in rollicking songs, his rendition of "The Good Ship Hacki Hacki Doo La" and the encore item "Micky," were received with great approbation, and he will always receive a cordial welcome from Wingham audiences.

ADDRESS AND UNVEILING OF HONOR ROLL.

During the interval Bro. G. C. O'Brien gave an interesting address on Oddfellowship, and showed clearly the advantages that resulted from membership. He also gave some interesting particulars of what the Manchester Unity Order had done for soldiers and their dependents during the war period and since. Bro. O'Brien is a fluent speaker, and traversed the domain of Oddfellowship with easy grace and

Oddfellowship with easy grace and fine diction. In the course of his address he said that 5260 members of the Order had enlisted; of which number 869 had been killed or died of wounds, 3791 had been returned and been discharged, and 600 were still claiming contributions. He went on to show that the Manchester Unity was doing good work for war widows of members even at present, and instanced a case where a woman had fallen behind in payments for a house. She requested a loan of £50 to pay up arrears, but instead of giving her this the Order took over the mortgage, and the result of that action would be that in-

stead of paying interest on the principle any payments now made by the widow would go towards reducing the debt on her home, whereas had not the Order stepped in she would have been paying an interest what was now going to pay off the original cost.

UNVEILING OF HONOR ROLL.

Bro. O'Brien then expressed his pleasure at being invited to unveil the Honor Roll of those who had enlisted from Wingham Lodge, and paid a well-merited tribute to the patriotic spirit of those whose names are emblazoned thereon. Unfortunately two of the number (Bros. James Thiele and Claude Turner) would not return, and their sympathy would go out to the relatives of these two members, whose action would live in the memory of their brother Oddfellows far down the dim and distant future. The Roll was then formally unveiled, with the "Honors of the Order."

The Honor Roll is a massive cedar one beautifully carved. On the top are the words "M.U.I.O.O.F., 375, Loyal Wingham," underneath is depicted the rising sun, on each side of which are the years 1914—1919. On the left of the Honor Board is a figure of a female representing "Australia," pointing to a scroll-shaped device above which are the words "Their Duty well done," flanked by the Union Jack and Australian Flags in proper colors; on the right of the scroll is depicted the Australian Waratah. The scroll bears the following names of members, who either saw service in the war or were in camp when the Armistice was signed.—

T. H. Martin
F. Moore
R. R. Roberts
T. Ryan

T. Ryan
 H. C. Stone
 R. J. Stone
 S. S. Taylor
 J. Thiele
 C. Turner
 A. J. Willis
 W. E. Waters & Co.

This handsome memorial to those of the members who saw their duty and went and did it, is the work of Mrs. W. G. Hawkins of Wingham, and it reflects very highly on that lady's ability as a carver and designer of these pleasing monuments.

The Chairman (Bro. F. A. Fitzpatrick) moved a hearty vote of thanks to Bro. O'Brien for his interesting address, and remarked that the Lodge had sent invitations to all the local clergy to be present, and claimed that Friendly Society work was an avenue that the clergy of all denominations should interest themselves in, as no better organisations could be found that tended to uplift humanity and help the needy. He was pleased to see the Rev. R. G. Crawford (Presbyterian) present, and would ask that gentleman to second the vote of thanks.

The Rev. Mr. Crawford said he was pleased to comply with the Chairman's request. He had listened with much attention to the interesting address of Director O'Brien.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

Director O'Brien briefly replied.

CONCERT PROGRAMME RESUMED

The second part of the programme was opened by a nicely played pianoforte solo, "Serenade," Miss Una Muldoon being the artist. This was followed by Mr. Belford, who sang with pleasing effect "Friend o' Mine," his encore item being "Long ago in Alcalá." Both items were thoroughly appreciated. Master Norman Abbott gave an amusing recitation, "When your pants begin to go"—one of Henry Lawson's humorous verses. In response to a recall he gave another amusing item "Kitty O'Tool." Mr. McRae was the next vocalist, his item being "When you come home." Messrs Belford and Jarman (from the rear of the stage) assisting in the refrain. This was a very nicely rendered item, the vocalist being very much "at home" in his rendition of it. Mr. Belford gave the rollicking nautical song "Three for Jack," his deep bass voice adding the composition to a T. The concluding item was that by Mr.

The concluding item was that by Mr. Jarman, "Coming Home," and the audience showed its appreciation of the artist's efforts by clamoring for a recall, when he gave "Because," which was received with much acceptance.

LOOKKEEPERS, ETC.

Bros. T. Polley and D. Robinson had charge of the ticket selling and ushering part of the concert, and carried out their duties well. Bro. R. R. Roberts, Miss Abbott's co-secretary, found plenty to do "behind the scenes," and while the concert was in the organising stage, but he got through his task efficiently under somewhat adverse circumstances—as he was evidently suffering from a severe cold.

The Band was under the conductorship of Mr. J. P. Diamond, and the programme rendered was much appreciated.

The singing of the National Anthem concluded the concert proceedings, after which Director O'Brien moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman. This being carried in the orthodox manner the gathering separated.

At the conclusion of the entertainment, Miss Abbott, and those who assisted her with the concert programme, were entertained by members of the Wingham Lodge at Mr. Roy Hill's Cafe, where light refreshments were

served and evidently appreciated.

All concerned must be congratulated on the social and financial success of the concert. The takings so far as can be ascertained at present amounted to £21, but the final returns are not yet complete.