

EFFINGHAM.

A PLEASANT PROGRAMME.

Effingham celebrated the Peace by a very pleasant programme, in which practically all the parishioners participated. A cricket match for boys was the first item, and at a quarter-past one there was a general assembly near the Sir Douglas Haig Hotel for the procession to The Lodge, the grounds of which had been kindly lent for the occasion by Mrs. Pauling.

Mr. A. Stovell had got together a drum and fife band, which headed the procession, and played selections very creditably during the day. Ex-Regtl. Sergt. Major Dearling acted as marshal of the procession, which included members of the Parish Council, about 60 ex-Service men, war workers (under Mrs. Street), Girl Guides (under Miss Ross), Boy Scouts, school children (in charge of Mrs. Stewart Adams) carrying posies of red, white and blue flowers, decorated perambulators (under the village nurse), members of the Village Institute (under Mrs. C. W. Dodson), and parishioners generally. Two Boy Scouts carried in front of the ex-Service men a Union Jack and a laurel wreath inscribed to the memory of those "whose great sacrifice led to our peace."

In charge of Mr. J. Stewart Adams, the procession proceeded to the Manor House, whence, after a brief halt for a photograph, it continued to the church, where, in silence, all the men stood bare headed while Scouts Lamb and Longhurst placed the laurel wreath upon the war shrine as a tribute to the fallen. Then, as the bells rang forth, the procession moved on to The Lodge, where a round of festivities was carried through.

A cricket match between ex-Service men and the village was won by the former by 113 runs to 43; a stoolball match between ladies (Miss Madge, captain) and gentlemen (Mr. C. W. Dodman, captain) provided plenty of amusement, the men batting left-handed, but time would not permit of a finish; adults and children were provided with a bountiful tea; a good tug-of-war resulted in victory for the village; sports for children and adults were keenly contested; and a fish-pond and a bran-tub were in charge of Miss Teesdale and Mrs. Adams. The adjudication of best decorated "prams" gave Mrs. A. Jackson first prize and Mrs. Craddock second, Miss Jane Pauling receiving a consolation prize for her youthful turn-out.

Mrs. Pauling presented the sports prizes, and also gave each child a souvenir beaker. Capt. F. C. Booth, V.C., voiced the thanks of the villages to the secretary (Mr. J. Stewart Adams) for his successful efforts; and the hon. secretary, in reply, said thanks were due to many other workers behind the scenes.

A feature of the afternoon's proceedings was the presentation of souvenirs to Service and ex-Service men, who were drawn up on three sides of a square. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Adelbert Talbot, K.C.I.E., in a few words pointed out that the immediate danger was over, but one thing was necessary to avert other imminent danger, and that was whole-hearted effort for the best on the part of every member of the community. He mentioned that it was the intention of the Parish Council to present to the relatives of the fallen a small inscribed medal. The souvenir to the men was an elegant malacca cane "from the village of Effingham," and as it was not possible to procure sufficient of these for all, other sticks were to be given to the officers. The souvenirs were distributed by Miss E. J. Ross, who throughout the war closely identified herself in many ways with the men serving; and Colonel G. C. Thomson expressed the thanks of the recipients for the gifts.

Owing to the weather, dancing in the open was not possible, and Mrs. Pauling placed the swimming bath at the disposal of the committee. The day's proceedings closed with a display of fireworks, a huge bonfire, and the burning of an effigy of the ex-Kaiser. The officials, committee, stewards, and all helpers are to be congratulated upon a thoroughly successful celebration.