

## Musings by the Way.

(By "Sator")

Last month the smiling landscape led me into a dissertation upon Nature, and various strange cults which have arisen of late years. Now, you must understand, dear reader, that these musings of mine are in very deed nothing more than musings, and that I have not the space to enter into any one thing thoroughly. You must do the thinking yourselves, and if you are of a sensible turn of mind (as I am sure you are), you will see that in these musings I wander not at all from the truth. I may not say all I think, perhaps,—not for lack of inclination, but for lack of space,—and in no case can I undertake to answer any criticisms.

I don't want to preach sermons— not even after the "Dean Stanley" style, of about 3 or 4 minutes' duration. "Tell it not in Gath," but now don't you sometimes—*sometimes*—wish for a Dean Stanley? Admirable man! I wonder how on earth he contrived to teach anything at all in those few minutes. But if people worshipped more, and criticised less, and read their Bibles at home, perhaps a two minutes' sermon would be enough for us.

So I am not going to give you more than about two minutes whilst I ask you to think about the Body. And here again—in a sort of continuation of last month's "Musings"—lest any should think that the Church does not set enough store by this Body of ours, let me remind you that in our highest and most solemn act of worship we hear these words: "The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul." Body, you will observe, is mentioned first—even before the soul.

It is wonderful how blind we all are, and how we all, more or less, disregard the teachings of the Bible, and the rules of common sense. Our bodies! Why don't we take more care of them? Why don't we use every effort to make our bodies as noble and as beautiful as possible? Why don't we get back to a more rational costume for both men and women? We have done so to some extent with our boys, for what can be better than the college cap, shirt, and "shorts." But our men! Stovepipe or bowler hats, cylinder legs, and

coats just so nicely short that they sweep the things off the table. And colour—why there isn't any! But, you will say, this is only on the surface, so to speak. So it is—or so they are—very much on the surface. Well, then, let us go below the surface.

Why those thin mis-shapen legs—that puny chest—those bent and stooping shoulders—that hideous slouching walk, or that unnatural quickstep sort of trot? Why those decayed teeth, those premature grey hairs? Why those weedy youths we so often see in our town? Well, because Nature has been abused, and she retaliates. Some begin to smoke when boys—some to drink—some to abuse Mother Nature in various ways. But look! here is a fine sturdy stalwart youth, whose buoyant step and beaming eye proclaim him in the very bloom of health. This one does not smoke or drink, or swear, or loaf or idle his time away.

And so one may gladly welcome the Scout Movement. If our lads are trained on the eminently practical and common-sense lines laid down in Baden-Powell's "Scouting for Boys," we shall soon see the last of these namby-pamby boys who think they are men if they can smoke, and drink, and swear, and play billiards.

Moreover we should in time—if the training be committed to the right sort of Scoutmasters—have a Christian, God-fearing, right-loving, honourable and knightly set of youths and men, and so, some of our present national vices, of which every true Briton ought to be most thoroughly ashamed, would cease to be. Boys! my boys! you can make these "Musings" come true if you will! You can make or mar the future Empire! You can build up again the walls of Zion! Will you do it?

Maori boys are taking a keen interest in this matter—all honour to them! It will do them good in every way, and it will help them such a lot if our good, decent, manly, non-swearing, non-smoking Pakeha Scouts give their Maori Brother Scouts the right hand of Fellowship.

"Tranquil times have little history, but yet they are the times of growth and maturing life."

## Church of England Men's Society.

Watchword: "Prayer and Service."

PROVISIONAL DIOCESAN COUNCIL:

Ven. Archdeacon Ruddock, Canons Mayne and Tuke, Rev. J. Hobbs, Messrs McCarthy, Williamson, R. Williams, Capt. Luke. SECRETARY: Rev. G. Coates.

### Branches.

Cathedral Parish; St. Augustine's, Napier; Gisborne; Danevirke; Havelock; Waipawa; Rotorua; Taradale.

### Annual Meeting of the Council in England.

The annual meeting of the Council was held in the Convocation Hall, Church House, when the Archbishop of York presided. Amongst those who were present were representatives from Southwell, Oxford, Lancashire, Southampton, Gloucester, and the Channel Islands. The annual report was presented and adopted, and is now in circulation. It shows a wonderful increase in the growth of the work. The total number of branches stands at 3,321, with a membership of 103,000. The 55 Army branches reported last year have grown to 73, and the total of Seamen's Guild branches stands at 65. Overseas, the 127 branches of twelve months ago have become 194. The Scottish Episcopal Church Men's Society has also increased from 34 branches to 46; whilst it is notable that after considerable negotiations, extending over a long period, the Church of Ireland Men's Society has been established, and is now affiliated with the C.E.M.S. The latest report shows that 28 branches already exist in Ireland. Encouraging though it is, the Council wish to emphasize the point that numerical progress is not everything, and it is convinced that the great obligations of prayer, communion, work, and fellowship, are being loyally and increasingly observed. The reality of this is borne out by the fact that associations has come to be generally recognised as a stepping-stone to full membership, and many who joined as associates have become regular communicants.

Members are encouraged to take up work amongst boys, and branches are interesting themselves in the work of Brigades, Scouts, and Guilds, and the Council hopes that the time will come when almost every branch will be able to show that at least one or more of its members is actively engaged in