

THE FRIENDS OF BLACKFRIARS*

THE Friends of Blackfriars (Oxford) held their Annual General Meeting on Trinity Sunday at the Dominican Priory, Oxford, the Provincial, Father Bede Jarrett, O.P., presiding. Mr. Bullough, Chairman of the Committee, describing the work of 'the Friends' during the past year, pointed out that members representing local groups stood for the idea of 'cells' as a means of spreading, while their occasionally despised collecting cards recalled the idea of the means of securing further subscribers and more help for Blackfriars. The nucleus of the Association was the annual subscriber, who enabled 'the Friends' to guarantee a definite sum to the community. Many a 'Friend' unable to promise a definite subscription might yet by means of a collecting card secure that amount from others.

After referring to the coincidence of the name of 'the Friends' and that of the Quakers whose first settlement at Oxford was on that site, the Provincial recalled the object of the Order in re-establishing itself at Oxford as a means both of receiving from, and contributing to, that peculiar seal of the English character impressed on the ancient culture of which Oxford and Cambridge remain the sole depositories in England. Thanking 'the Friends' for their help, he reminded them that in thus participating in the work of the Order they participated also in the benefit of certain weekly Masses said for all benefactors.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. George Bellord, reported that the annual subscribers had increased during the year. With the help also of smaller subscriptions and occasional donations £263. 9s. 0d. had been collected,

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of which £140 had been already forwarded, and now a cheque for the balance was handed to the Prior. To W. A. Stuart, K.H.S., fell the task of proposing, and to Mr. H. A. Sire, C.B.E., of seconding, a vote of thanks to the Provincial for presiding and to the Prior, Father Bernard Delany, O.P., for the kindness of his welcome.

One notable feature of the Meeting was the ready applause that greeted the references to the efforts of the tireless Honorary Secretary, Miss Calthrop, to whom it may be said the inauguration and working out of the idea has been in large part due. She organised the gathering of 'the Friends' together, and her zeal and energy have not only kept them together, but also brought about a steady increase in their numbers. Her patience and hard work have greatly contributed to the easy running and general success of the scheme.

A special word of thanks was offered to Father Edward O'Dea, the Prior of Newcastle, a singular Friend of Blackfriars, and to the Priors of London, Manchester and Woodchester for their constant support of the Association since its beginning.

After tea in the Lecture Hall of Blackfriars, the visitors had a walk round Oxford under the conductorship of Mr. Raby, an Oxford 'Friend.' Compline and Benediction in the chapel, with a sermon by the Provincial, completed a full and enjoyable day.