

Sheffield and Ecclesall Co-operative Society  
Central Comrades Circle

The youth wing of the S&E Co-operative Society, known as the Circlites published a monthly journal, 'The Circle Review'. There were 22 editions in all, number one was Friday 6th June 1924 and the last came out on Friday 5th March 1926. All 22 editions have been bound in one volume which is kept at the National Co-operative Archive.

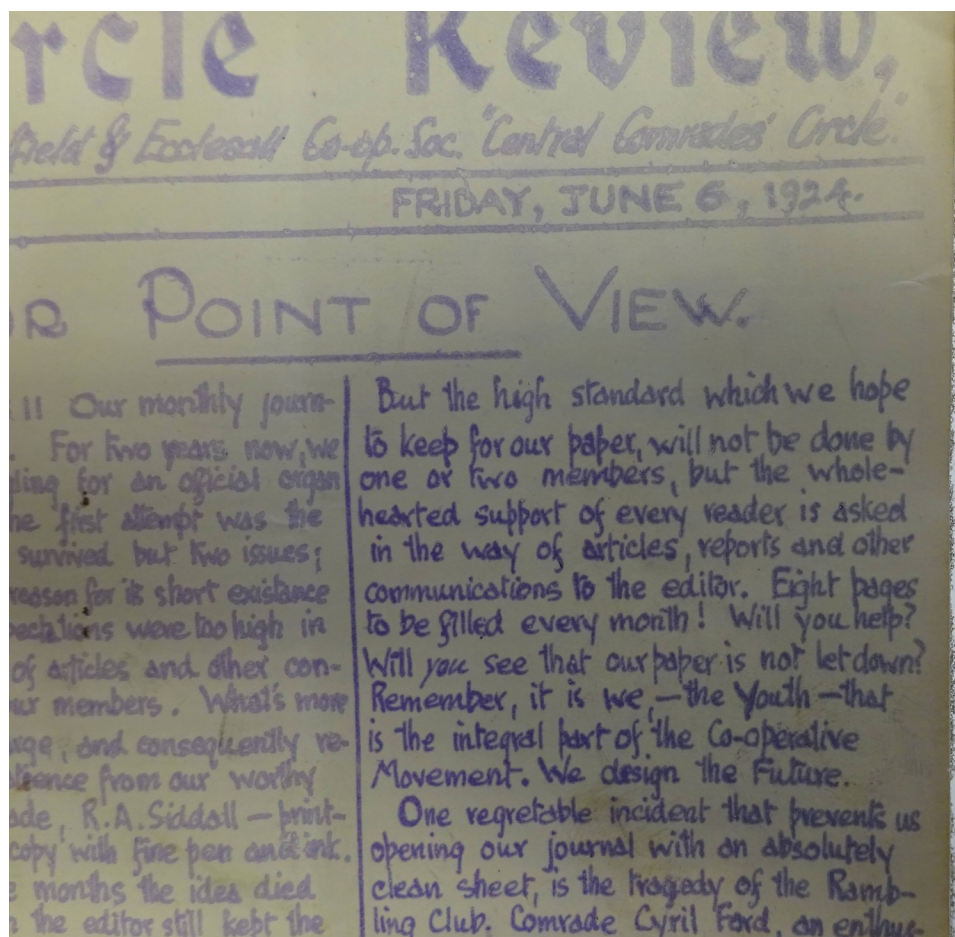
Like co-operators everywhere they were focussed on working towards the co-operative commonwealth and world socialism. They were very much in tune with the Sheffield Branch of the ILP Guild of Youth who were always given space in the The Circle Review. The Circlites were represented on the S&E Co-op Society Education Committee. Education was always considered central to the purposes of the co-operative movement.

Co-operation if it is to mean anything is a way of life with all the relationships, work, trade, culture, education, play, physical activity, sport, and all the social activities that go together to make community.

Of course, in all groups of people there will sometimes be disagreements and upset. Strong words were voiced in edition one by the editor, the rambles section refused to give proper recognition to the core 'circle' thus threatening a damaging split. We see in the second edition;

At last! The Fight. Cyril Ford  
is indignant over the references made  
to him and his club in our last  
issue.  
At last we have broken his con-  
temptibility! He has recognised us;  
he wants a fight—he wants space to  
explain his point of view. We fervent-  
ly hoped for his request; we gladly  
gave him his desires. He has not  
appeared; he has not responded.  
His wrath has abated; he is thinking?  
The Circle anxiously awaits his res-  
ignation. True comradeship cannot  
be contaminated with such selfish  
ends. We want to hear the last of  
it—come, Cyril, play the game.  
\* \* \*

An enduring problem, it seems, was that there was a reluctance amongst the members to contribute material for the journal, and so most of the work was left to a few stalwarts.



From edition one

That aside, The Circle Review was consistently positive, inspiring, informative and interesting. The following pages give some examples of its contents.



## A Visit to the CWS Shirt Factory

3

### A VISIT TO THE C.W.S. Shirt Factory. (Sheffield.)

By  
"Jumbo" the Baby Effluent.

Do you know how to make a shirt, or a pair of overalls? If not, why not? Just take a glimpse in that wonderful factory of ours in West Street and you can learn from A to Z.

The building, from the outside doesn't look very interesting, but as you step inside, up tiled passages of winding steps you scent romantic ideas of what might be behind those doors. Talk about perfume, why! it meets you as you enter — prints, shirtings, flannelette, etc. In the first room you visit, you see the material in bales for shirts, pyjamas, and overalls being pegged up, ready for marking and cutting. There are one dozen shirt-lengths in a pile, the first having the pattern marked out in chalk, these then being passed on to the cutters, who slice them out with a dangerous-looking knife; it only takes 3 mins to cut the dozen.

We pass on to the next, a machine which cuts out 6 dozen shirts at once. This machine, with overhead workings, reminds one of a circular saw with a knife edge inserted. (Men work this machinery, not the girls as in other departments). Then we pass through stockrooms, the fixtures being full of material.

As you open the door of the next

department you are met with a sea of faces. Girls! girls!! girls!!! everywhere. (Now boys here's your chance for there are 150 girls in this room working machines that sew buttons while you wait, different machines different buttons, (eg. 2 holes and 4 holes). Machines that cut slits and sew them round — button holes; machines that and felt seems like lining. Three more rooms like this with its sea of faces, to the finishing department (a 'briny' idea too showing how fold like an expert) packing, pressing, and studding shirt collars — all sorts of work here. Another department where overalls are sent to a shoot to be folded, packed and labelled. More stock rooms, and yet more till we go through the overhead passage that leads from the old building in Trippett Lane to the new one in West St., to the Dining hall which seats 250 people. This hall is clean, comfortable and well equipped — by the way it has a good polished dancing floor.

It is rather interesting to know that the machinists are on piece-work, and the average for the button-makers are — six a minute! — that the total numbers of buttons sewn on overalls alone is 13,000 a day! — that there is one room with 150 machines idle owing to lack of material so "come forth ye workers" — men and boys, and get your shirts and overalls from the Co-operative and make it possible for those machinists to be working again for you.



## Youth and the Movement

### Review. YOUTH and the MOVEMENT. <sup>by</sup> A. Binns.

The events of the last few weeks plainly show that if the Co-operative Movement is to exist, we of the youth organisations must get busy and lead our backsliding elders in the straight and narrow path.

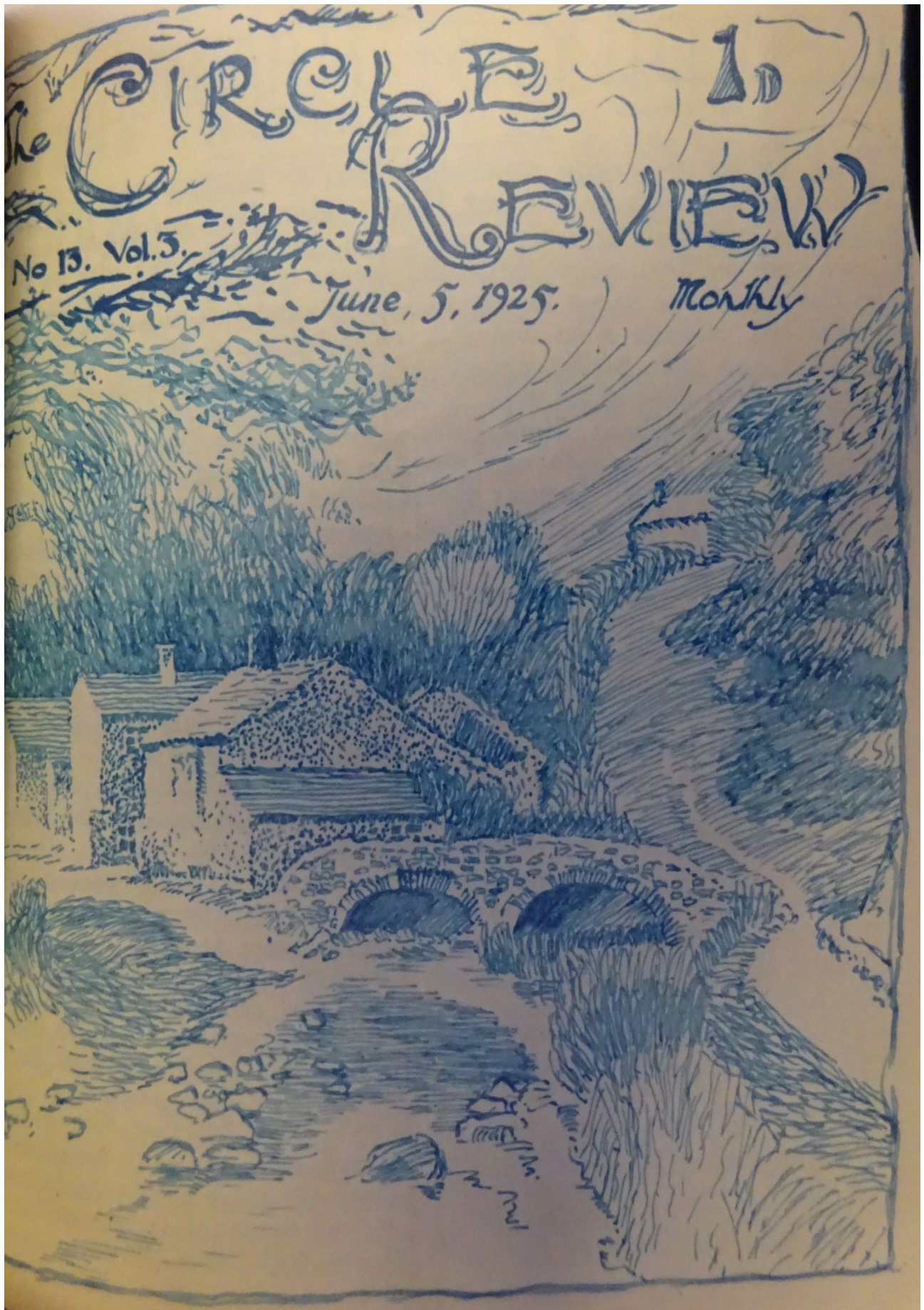
As one of our "non-political" friends remarked, the Co-operative Society has gone too far to be broken. No doubt there will always be that type of person who will cling to the society to obtain benefits in "div". But we require more. We want to see co-operation sweep the board — clean of all reactionaries, fighting its way to the Commonwealth in Commerce, Industry, home, and the House of Commons.

In co-operation, non-politics cannot exist yet we have these people whose politics are anti-co-operative. We cannot conceive any normally intellectual Co-operator moving such a motion as Mr. Fisher, of our Board, moved at the Annual Meeting. With the growth of such combine, trust, and price-fixing organisations as the Proprietary Articles Retailers' Association and the new Grocers' P.A.T.H. fighting us, our only hope is to get Government legislation.

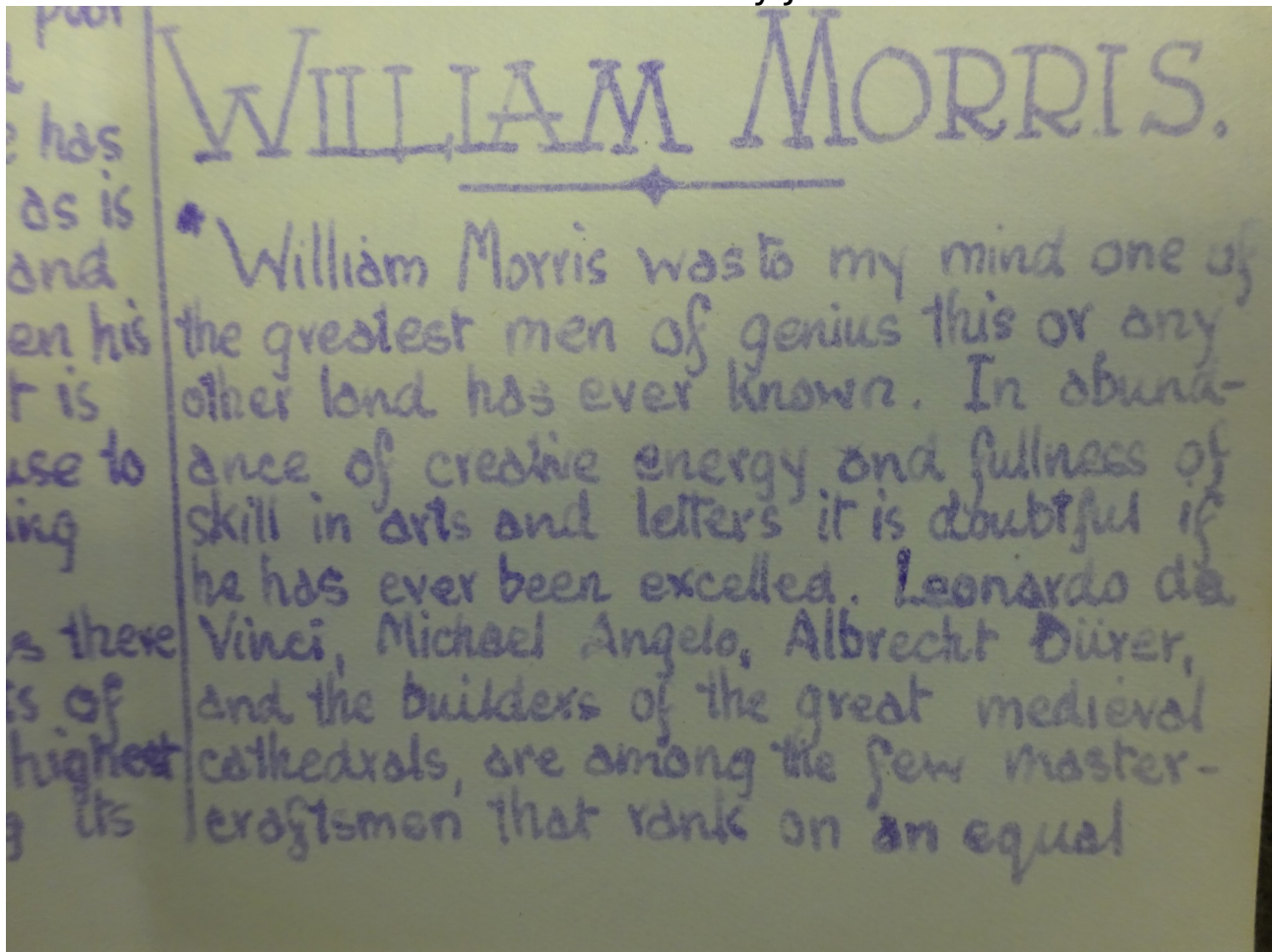
How does the Movement expect Party politicians to be earnest about removing its grievances, when they are more interested in those who are seeking legislation to hold back the power of the Proletariat through Co-operation. We of the Circle Movement are at that  
(on prev. col.)



Great artwork







continued on next page



plane with him in respect of the eminence and variety of his gifts. This appraisal may perhaps appear an exaggerated one to those who are accustomed to regard painting and sculpture as the highest, if not the only great, arts; for Morris did not devote himself to painting and sculpture, though as a matter of fact he could, and in his earlier days did, paint admirably.

It was, I think, the late Theodore Watts-Dunton who said of Morris that he had accomplished in his life the work of at least six men of front-rank literary and artistic capacity. . . .

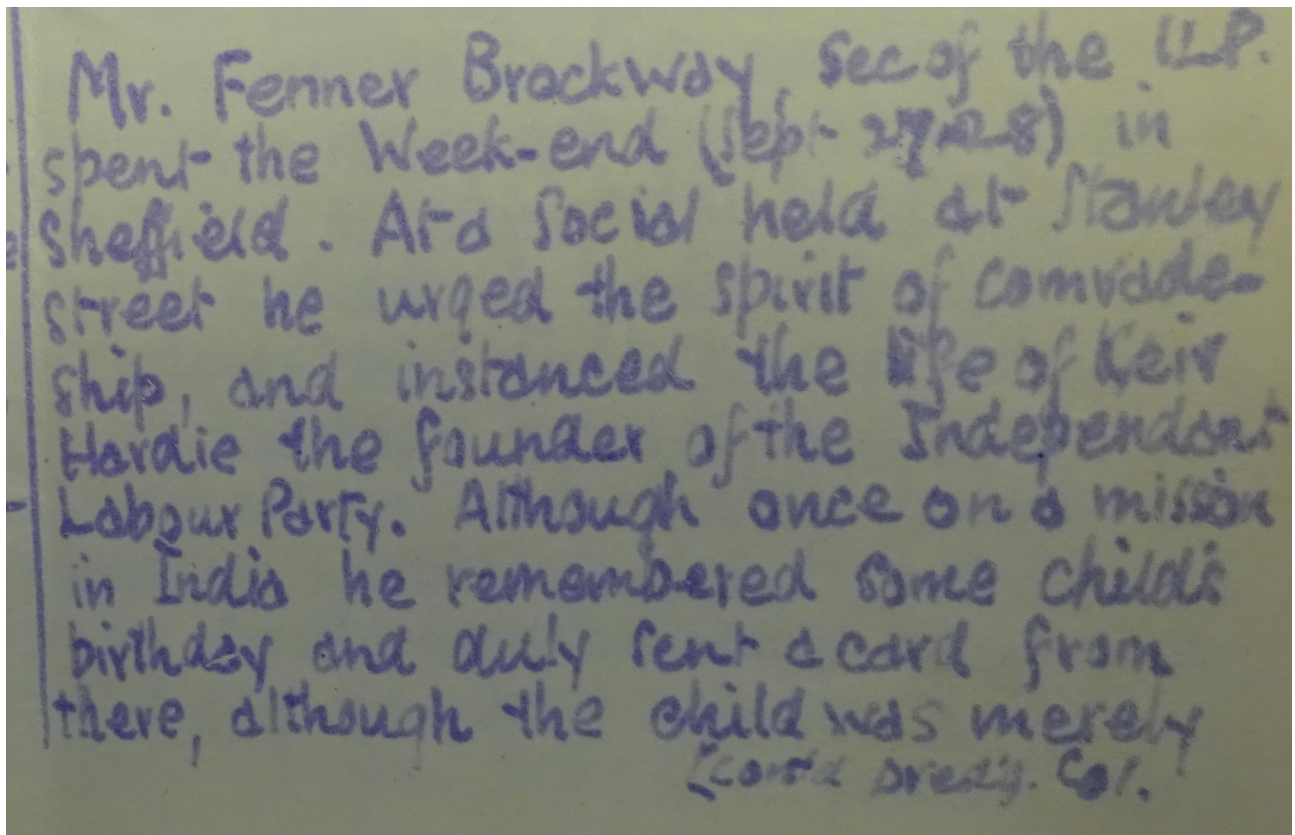
As a poet he ranks in the great modern constellation with Burns, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Keats, Browning and Tennyson. As a prose writer, especially of pure romance, he holds a place of his own. He was the supreme craftsman of his age. In the arts of the design and manufacture of furniture, wall decoration, stained glass, book illumination and book-printing he created a new tradition. He rescued these arts from the degradation of mere commercialism. . . . In various other crafts — arras tapestry, weaving and wood-engraving, for example — he attained notable proficiency. . . . He had a good understanding of country matters, and he was angler, oarsman, and swimmer. . . . He was a first-rate cook. . . . His knowledge of birds was extraordinary. . . .

Lastly, and inevitably, Morris was a Socialist. . . . Fellowship, he said, is life, and lack of fellowship is death. . . . Under no circumstances of life could he ever have been happy in making his fellow-man a slave. . . .

"William Morris," J. Bruce Glasier.

Here's a report on a visit to Stanley Street, Sheffield by Fenner Brockway.

Stanley Street is just off the Wicker, towards Aizlewood's Mill

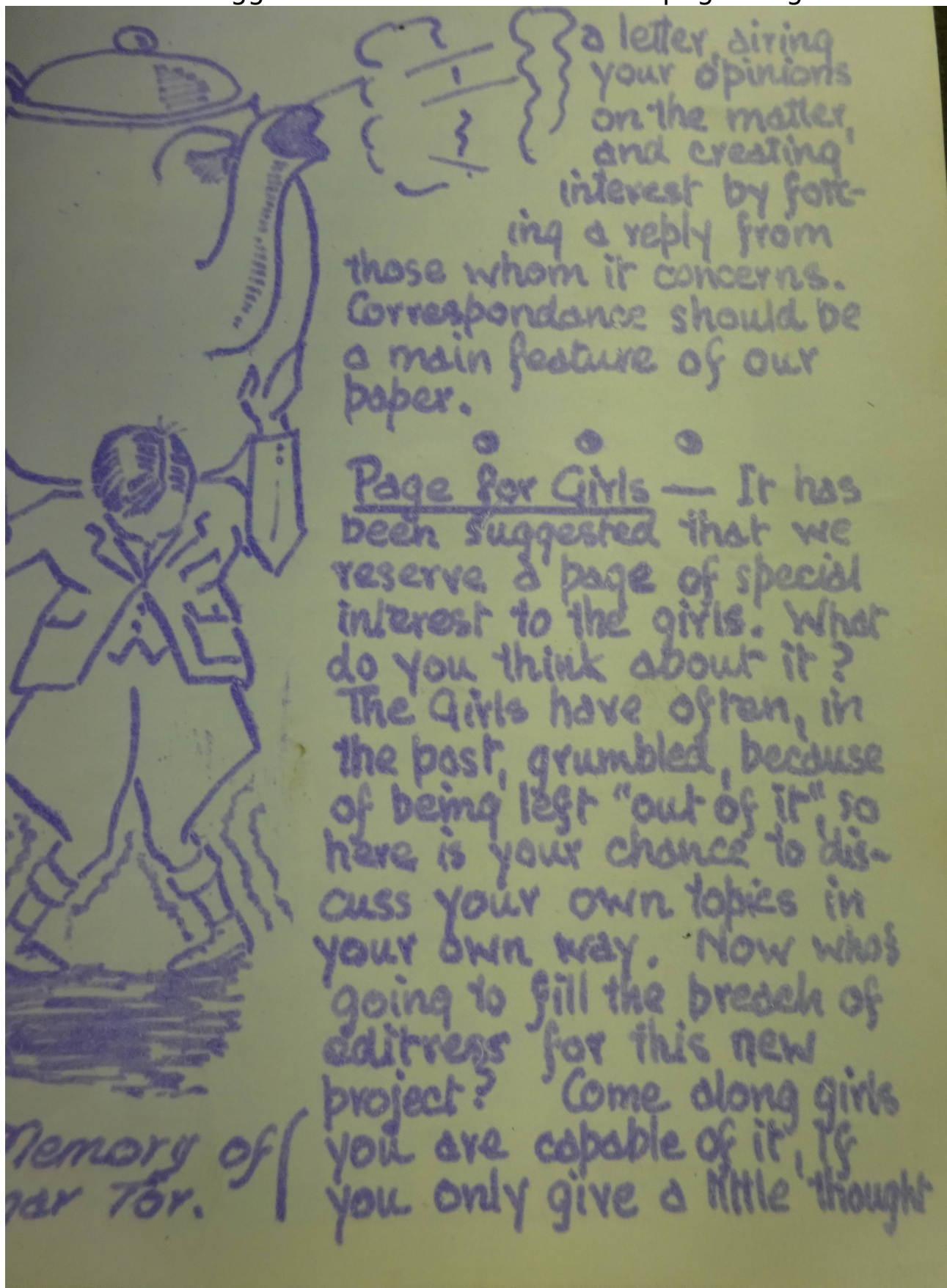
A photograph of a handwritten note on a piece of paper. The text is written in blue ink and describes a visit to Stanley Street, Sheffield, by Fenner Brockway, Secretary of the I.L.P. The note mentions a social held at Stanley Street, the spirit of comradeship, and instances the life of Keir Hardie, the founder of the Independent Labour Party. It also mentions that although once on a mission in India, he remembered some child's birthday and duly sent a card from there, although the child was merely a boy. The note is signed 'Fenner Brockway, Sec. of the I.L.P.'.

Mr. Fenner Brockway, Sec. of the I.L.P.  
spent the Week-end (Sept. 27-28) in  
Sheffield. A social held at Stanley  
Street he urged the spirit of comrades-  
hip, and instanced the life of Keir  
Hardie the founder of the Independent  
Labour Party. Although once on a mission  
in India he remembered some child's  
birthday and duly sent a card from  
there, although the child was merely  
a boy.

the article is continued



It was suggested that there should be a page for girls



And there was a regular Girls Corner



# THE Girls' Corner:

Well, girls, when shall we wake up?  
 Are we ever going to take a moving part in the Co-operative Movement? At every meeting, week after week, we sit and listen, and never offer to ask a question. We might as well not be there, for the good we do. The only things in which we take any interest whatever, are Sunday Rambling, Dramatic Society and Social nights. Haven't any of us any ideas to send to the "Girls' Corner"? Here is a question I should like everyone to answer:  
 "What is the meaning of Co-operation?"  
 Come along, and send in your views!

\* \* \*

Referring to last month's "Girls' Corner" my opinion of "Bobbing and Shingling" is this: It must have required a great amount of pluck to have cut off what has taken years to grow, just for the sake of fashion. Why should we always follow fashion? Why can't we sometimes be different? Why should we have our heads made into a prickly mess? Can you remember what you thought when you first saw shingled hair. In most cases you thought it common. You haven't forgotten there are still, what you would term, "old-fashioned" people, who still think it common. Well, I wonder how much pluck girls with Bobbed and Shingled hair, will show, when they let it grow. That is where we shall laugh,

*The Editor*

## Rambling WINTER

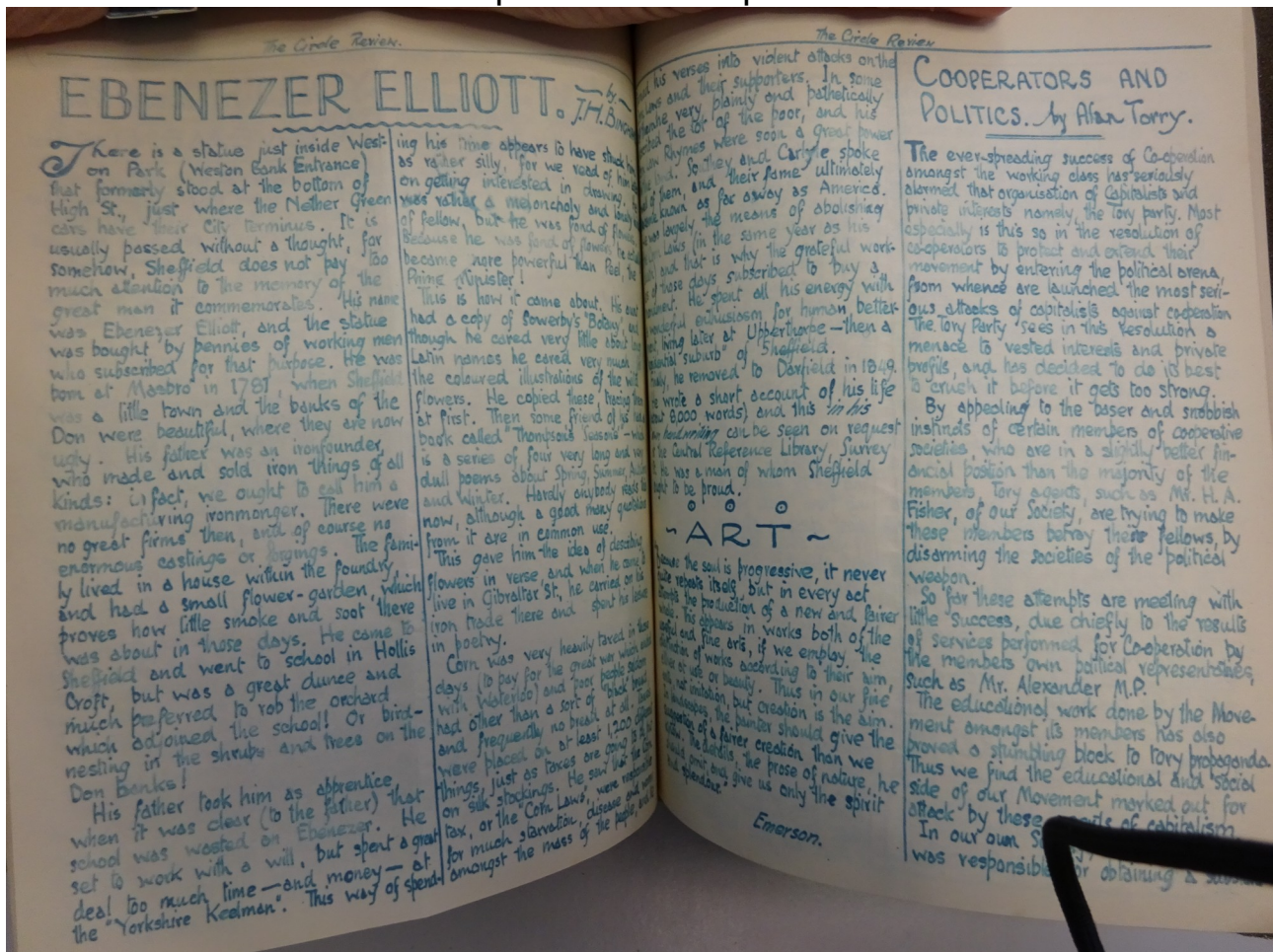
The Rambling thoroughly ingratiating enthusiasm having a full day throughout the once, since ramblers. Over ed rambles, winter syllabus. A brief regularly appears "Review", and The chief pl certainly are:-  
 low, Bolsters Howden Moor Peak Forest, a cord for winter party at Bolster unparalleled and friends an enjoyable.

Tribute has of welcome an many new ra with us. Then rambling is b us in what we. Lastly, the his warmest those who ha him and me 1924-5.

All comm to: J. 29, Hillsboro.



## Ebenezer Elliot Co-operators and politics





## Socialism in our time, Part one- the living wage

*The Circle Review.*

# "SOCIALISM IN OUR TIME"

## 1. The Living Wage by F.D. Dawtry.

THE object of the Independent Labour Party is the educating of the masses in the message of Socialism, as it is fully realised that if a Socialist majority was to be elected to the House of Commons now, any effort to introduce really Socialist measures, would fail to receive the approval of a large proportion of the general public—and even those who voted "Labour." This propaganda work has been going on for years and its success is discovered when election brings increasing Socialist votes. Yet by many people in the various branches of the Movement—and even actually in the I.L.P.—the party is feared to be slipping back. They feel it is becoming a mere reformist party, because it only comes into the public limelight of the press when it issues a manifesto on some topical subject. They fear it is devoting its attention to immediately practical policies, and forgetting the "Utopia" which is its real aim. They fear that it is beginning to feel satisfied if it can make some impression of the policies of the present Government, and that in so doing, it is prolonging the reign of Capitalism by helping to remove some of the worst burdens that system puts on our backs. Many people, I say, have fears such as these. Yet, if they would but see

all that happens, the groundlessness of their fears would become plain to them. For while the I.L.P. is holding as tight a grip as possible on immediate problems, that propaganda of the full message of Socialism is going on, in town and village all over the country. Membership of the party is steadily growing, new branches are still springing up,—and this is a time of political calm, when there is no spur of General elections in the country, and when, under the weight of a crushing Conservative majority, interest in parliamentary happenings is waning, and all other political parties are suffering from lack of enthusiasm.

And now, the I.L.P. is coming more fully into the limelight, as its pioneers would wish it to do and is going to place before the people (if the next Easter Conference approves) a full programme for the speedy attainment of Socialism. Not merely of nationalised key industries, but of complete Socialism. The first step is the obtaining of a living wage for all. Two thirds of British Trade depends on the home market and a tremendous factor in our present unemployment crisis, is the fact that our own people have not enough to spend. The home market is falling. [Contd. foot of next column.]



THE  
PERATOR'S  
RALLY.

Boy Scouts, Boys' Brigade, Girl Guides and other similar movements get our young people into their ranks and teach them to defend the Empire. Patriotism displayed in a worship of the Union Jack and the leading imperialists and militarists is taught throughout. These movements are supported by the wealthy members of our population, who see in young prospective defenders of their wealth.

To counteract such movements we Socialists have — what? A political party with very few young members, and a few Socialist Sunday Schools. While we are enrolling many adult members in the I.L.P., the younger people are slipping into these glamorous movements. At last the National Council of the Independent Labour Party has realised this fact — like the Co-op Union — and consequently called a small conference at York last Easter. The conference recommended that wherever possible, I.L.P. youth sections should be formed to enable us to get young people interested. Sheffield formed a committee which, on May 8th, decided to organise a Sheffield I.L.P. Guild of Youth, for those under 21.

These youths will decide on their own activities and will be practically self-governed; the present committee only intending to remain in an advisory capacity. [Cont'd over leaf.]

actors Rally held at the  
r. Hall on Sat. May 10, was  
several members of the  
and was a great success.  
presided. Mr. A.V. Alexand-  
roke first and was followed  
Mills, M.P. and Mr. W. R. Roe,  
the Co-op. Union.

Mills, M.P. and Mr. W. K. Koe,  
the Co-op. Union.  
said you could go in  
and see the Co-op. man-  
aging groceries at No. 10  
of the Prime Minister  
and Privy Seal (Mr. Clynes)  
gave a delightful address,  
that we could not expect the  
to accomplish everything in  
it had been in office—  
the majority and then see

WE Appreciate. He wholeheartedly  
 Mr. Trevelyan's (Minister of  
 Scheme for better education  
 Government that would aid him  
 President and myself, in an in-  
 ve should do more for ourselves  
 ing the Education Committee so  
 we us encouragement in our  
 pressing his hope for its success  
 Choir gave us some excellent  
 I.T.

Shakespeare says of the  
slit of a boy that reads in the  
"to be true of himself"



## ILP Guild of Youth Conference (one)

Little Hucklow, all drinking from pint mugs. After some wall-climbing we passed down Bin-Dale and over Win Hill.

### The I.L.P. Guild of Youth CONFERENCE.

It is often remarked that politics "is an old man game", and that young people are not capable of serious discussion of political questions. I wish it had been possible for all who hold such views to attend the conference of the I.L.P. Guild of Youth, held at Gloucester on Easter Saturday, for the standard of the speeches and debate there was very high. From 10.30 am. to 5 pm., everything (including lunch) was carried out with keenness and enthusiasm. There was no lack of interest, and the debates on many subjects had, unfortunately, to be cut short as the agenda was so long. Undoubtedly some M.P.s of the future were present, for unmistakable talent was shown. Amongst many fine speeches, two outstanding ones were in opposition to [Con. over page]



## ILP Guild of Youth Conference (two)



Sad Story of a Rambler who ate a grape-fruit, and



never recovered to tell its disastrous effects. (Easter Tuesday)

[The ILP Guild of Youth Conference, contd.]

Militarism, Imperialism and War. One of these was from the Edge Hill delegate, who also moved a resolution asking for various improvements in industrial conditions, including a fixed eight-hour day. The eight-hour day was defeated—we decided instead that six hours was quite sufficient!! Another resolution dealt with education, and it was decided to ask all M.P.s to press for the raising of the school leaving age to 16, with maintenance allowance. Other matters coming forth were the age limit for membership, and the League of Nations; but the most lively debate was on a resolution asking the Guild committee to arrange a Guild educational scheme "in conjunction with the National Council of Labour Colleges, and the Workers Educational Association". There was opposition to both the N.C.L.C. and the W.E.A., and supporters of each "went

at" each other merrily. Eventually it was decided to leave both out of the resolution. It was decided that study courses should be issued and study circles formed, to train young people for Parliamentary and local elections, that special pamphlets be issued for young socialists, and that a Guild magazine should be published.

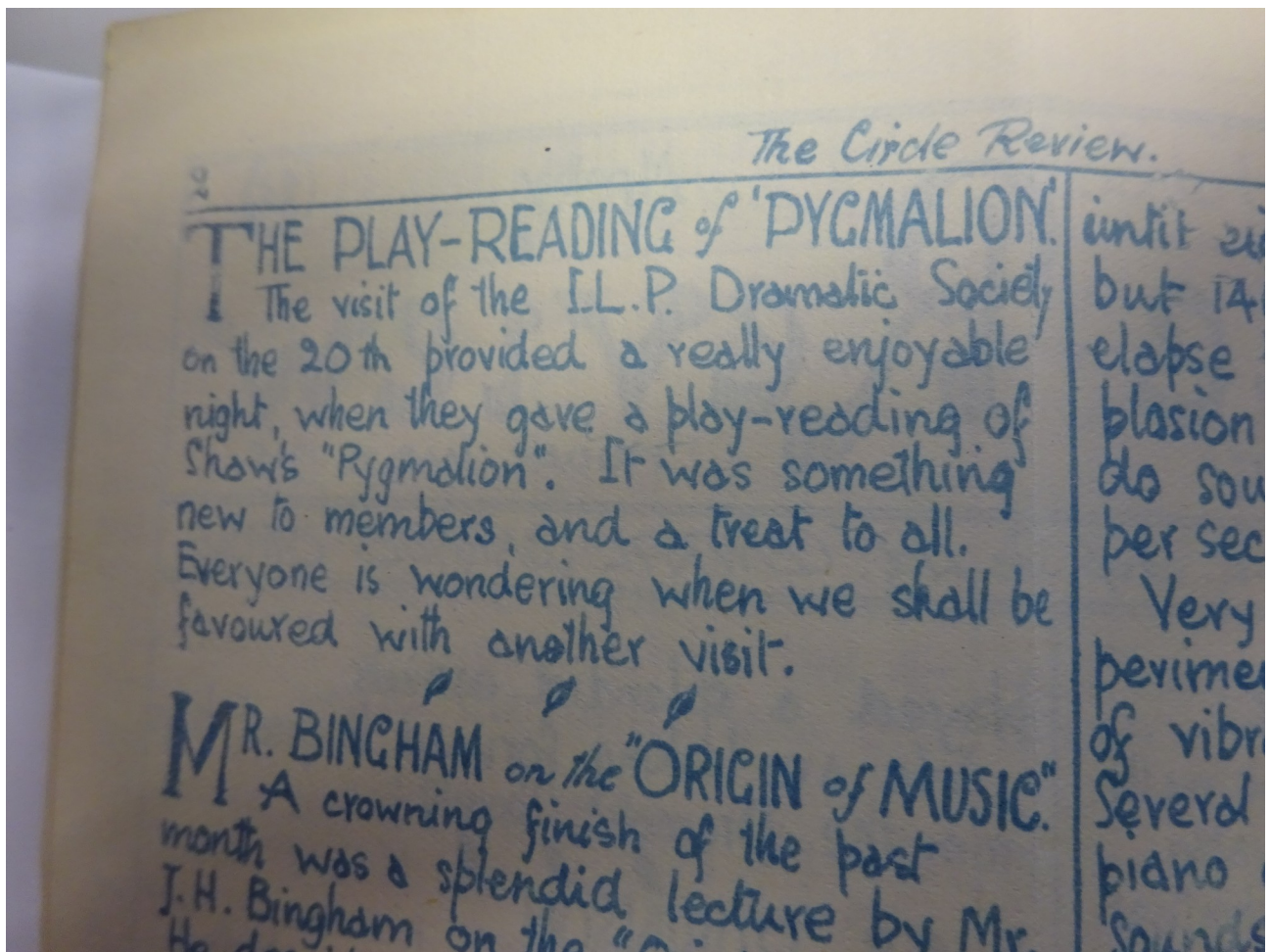
The great socialist veteran, Bob Smilie, was elected president of the National Guild of Youth, in recognition of his fine life and work.

It was a wonderful conference, and we were all loathe to give up, when our time had run out. The intellect, thought and enthusiasm displayed so well for the future, and with such enthusiasm following on, the socialist movement cannot fail.

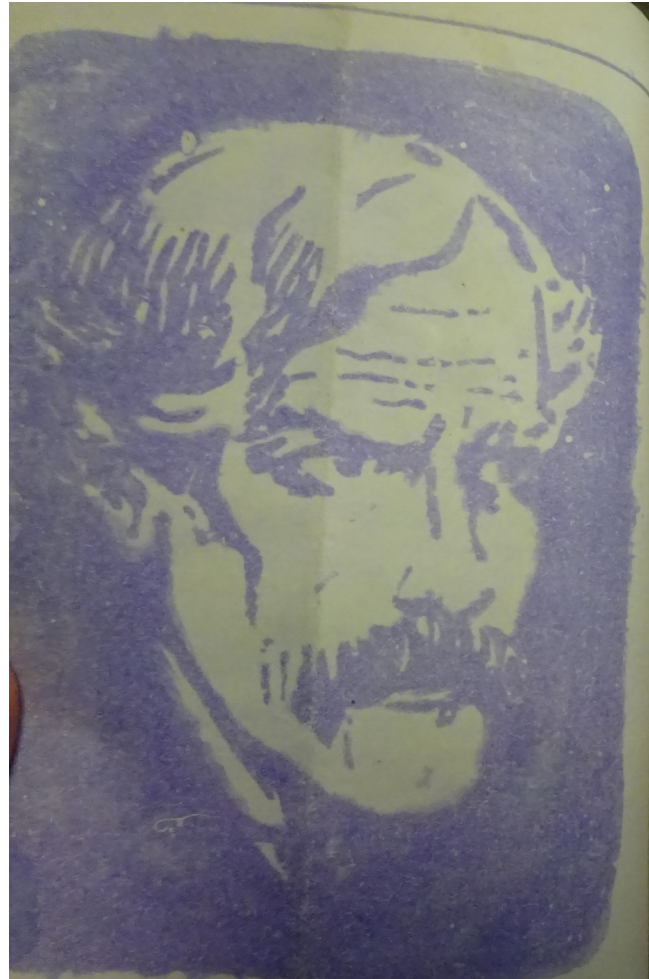
F.D. Dainty, Chairman  
All communications to be addressed to J. Johnson, 29, Trickett Rd., Hillislow, Shropshire.



## ILP Dramatic Society



## Towards the Co-operative Commonwealth



The New Leader of the "Opposition"  
(J. Ramsay MacDonald) [The New Leader]

## TOWARDS THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH!

**HURRAH! Hurrah!!** Alexander again for Hillsborough! Neither the "Red Plot" nor the "poet" has been able to hinder him, in fact his number has increased, and the people of Hillsboro are discovering that they cannot improve their representation in the House of Commons.

The Tories have come into power by several reasons: the Tory-Liberal agreement to combine forces against socialism (at the disastrous expense of the Liberals), the bogus "Red Plot" and other lies and falsehoods the millionaire Press have circulated and the reaction upon the Government defending its excellent record of Office.

The coming into power of the Conservative Party has not only stopped the good work of the Labour Government, but threatens to undo some of the work it has done. As C. P. Snow, the famous playwright says, "We are now virtually at war with Russia, because the Tories rejected Labour's Russian Treaty which promised friendly relations with that country. Now we do not even recognise Russia." Philip Snowden, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had great plans for the next Budget. Whistley's Housing scheme was just beginning to take effect (after much hindrance by the opposition), and great employment plans were being prepared.

However, all is gone for the time being, but Labour is going to sweep the country next time when it can prove once again that the Tories have "done nothing".

The Battle is not lost; it is only a temporary loss of ground, while fresh forces are being concentrated; only "baggies" to win the victory. The spirit of "Each for All and All for Each" can never be damped in the flood of responsibility and gain. Next time we win!

### CORRESPONDANCE

Dear Comrade—On behalf of the Committee and members of the Central Comrades Circle I wish to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to comrade Joe Johnson for his splendid work during the past months as editor of the "Crisis Review" — Nellie Milnes, Sec.

### Comrades! come to the DANCE held in GREYSTONES

PALACE BALL-ROOM  
NOV. 18th, (Tuesday).  
Streamers, Balloons, etc.  
AD 2/- from 7.30 to 10.30



May the first - International Labour Day

No. 12. Vol. 3. MAY, 1st., 1925.

# The CIRCLE REVIEW

MONTHLY.

ONE PENNY.

The Official Organ of the S.E. Co-op. Soc. Ltd. CENTRAL COMRADES' CIRCLE.

## MAY 1st. is INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY !

(SEE PAGE TWO)

**THE MONTH OF TRIALS.** There is an object on the moon astronomers have named "Mare Nubium" (Sea of Clouds). During the month of April the good ship "Comrades' Circle" has been steering a nebulous journey, the veil having arrived on the 3rd of the month, dimming all our summer arrangements. "We were to close down!" - so the following week was occupied in receiving a deputation from the Educational Committee to review the Circle's work, expressing their regret in closing down for the summer months. Our record needs no flourishes or ornaments and the E.C. must have been favourably impressed. However, one is discouraged by the fact that eleven guilds are continuing throughout summer, weekly, whilst the two Circles under the Society are closing down.

**THE NEW CONSTITUTION.** On the 17th the new Constitution was formed and passed, and three delegates were elected to the deputation before the Educational

Committee, to submit the new constitution. We must all make an effort to keep our subscriptions up to date now that we have to pay for the monthly meetings booked by the E.C. after our agreement to meet the expenses.

**THE 24th DAY** still sees business crowding out the real educational work, mainly on account of the upset over summer arrangements. Delegates were elected for the year representing the Circle on the Guilds' Federation. They were Mrs. Seaton, Comrades' Nellie Milnes and Harold Bridges. The latter has been good enough to take over the Circle's responsibility at the Holiday Camp again. The monthly reports of Rambling and Dramatic work were given, and it was agreed that the Circle Ramblers become affiliated to the Hallamshire Footpaths preservation Society in the interests of Rambling as a whole. The Dramatic Society will give play-readings during the summer, and prepare greater things for the winter session.



## The Editor

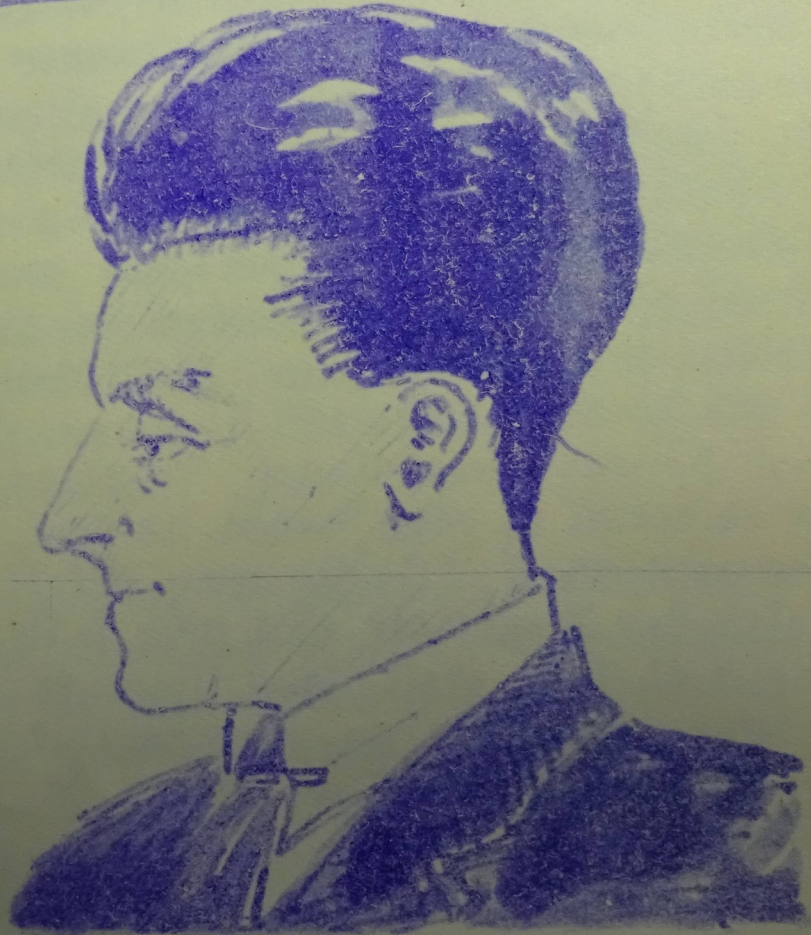
prove themselves  
Cooperation.

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Peter's Stone to  
and it is worthy  
ought fit to pres-  
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in-the water for  
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at Malin Bridge  
farm and Cut-  
of Win Hill—the  
we sealed the  
ding to Yorkshire  
where Mrs. Smith

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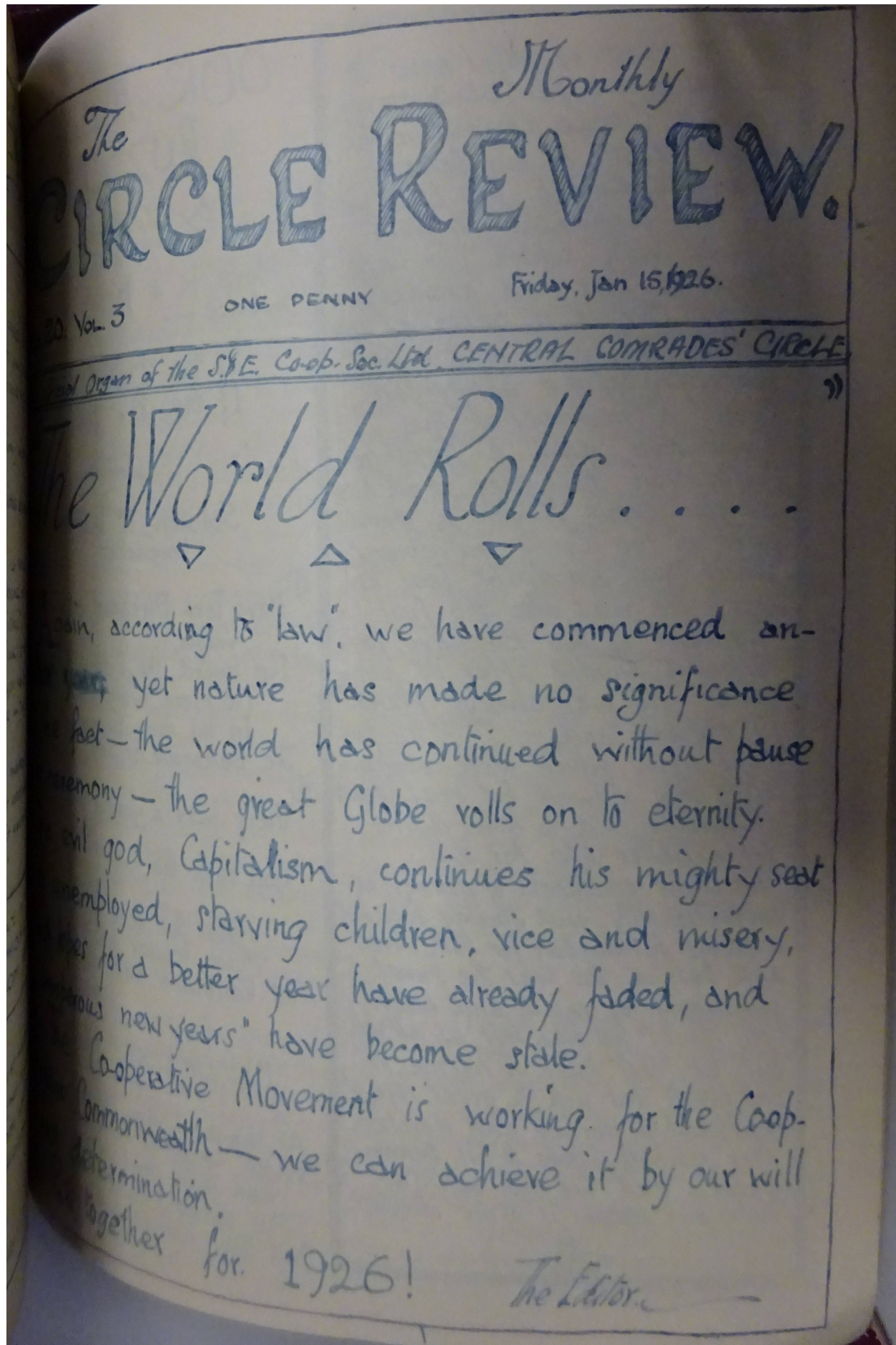
ed the left bank and descended to  
Cressbrook Dale. Tea at Monsal Dale, thence  
Hossop and Calver, back in the train, lived but  
happy. Alan Torry, Organiser ~



The Editor, by G.A.B.

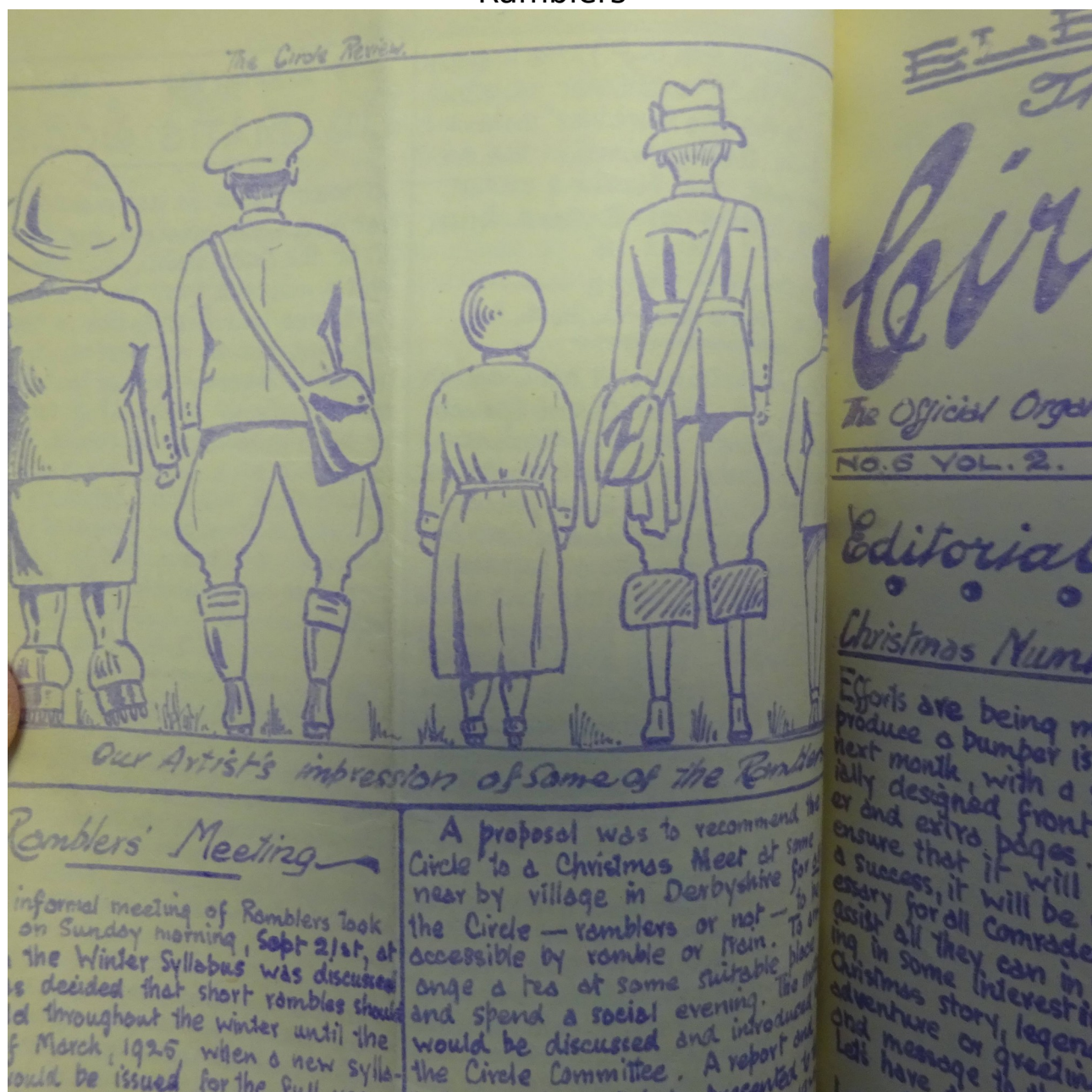


The world rolls.....





## Ramblers



the last edition



# Circle Review

No 22. Vol. 3.

Friday Mar. 5, 1922

THERE is probably a little sentiment exists in the hearts of many of our readers in the realisation that this issue is the last of the "Circle Review" as it has been known. Hence forth it will be known as the New Series. For the fact that it has appeared on twenty two consecutive occasions (monthly) accounts for this, but we can't harbour useless traditions where progress is being striven for.

Although considerable apathy existed during the first few issues, interest has gradually increased until our paper has been something to eagerly anticipate on evenings of monthly socials when the number has been issued. We are hoping that the change has been for the better; for we trust that all Sheffield Circleites will develop the same interest and thus more co-operatively work together.

Our final appeal for every particle of energy to be put into the Journal will be our first appeal in the new series. Let us all resolve to do our best.

Echo of the month.

"I am quite convinced that the modern girl is immensely superior in every way to her predecessor." Miss Lillian Buxton  
from the "Bulletin" Oct 12th, 1922.