

From the Editor's Chair . . .



*"Then a smile, and a glass, and a toast, and a cheer,
For all the good wine, and we've some of it here."*

—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

GOOD YEAR

At the annual meeting of the National Guild of Judges in London the chairman, Mr. S. W. Andrews, was able to report a most satisfactory year, in which the main advance had been the holding of entrance examinations. The first was held at Clacton in conjunction with the National Show and Conference, and others at Enfield, at Bristol and at the Alexandra Palace. In all 38 candidates had been examined and of this number 16 were successful in obtaining a pass. Since then another examination has been held at York, at which three out of seven candidates were successful. The Handbook had been very well received by the amateur winemaking public, and 1,137 copies had been sold. The fact that no serious criticism had been received was indicative of the thorough manner with which it had been prepared.

Mr. A. Moore, treasurer, reported that the Guild's finances were healthy and that they now had £72/6/7 at the bank. In all, the Guild seems to be working very well indeed, and there have been many favourable comments about the examinations. Those at the meeting agreed that, whilst the pass rate was not high, it was comparable with that of other worthwhile examinations, and that it was better to have an examination which it was something of an achievement to pass rather than one which anyone could pass. Even some who have failed have apparently admitted that the examination was fair and well-conducted. This establishing of confidence in its examination system was of importance to the Guild's future, which now seems set fair, with the probability of a steady recruitment of new members. The latest to qualify, by the way (at York in November) are: Mr. D. G. McWilliam, who obtained a pass with credit, Mr. D. A. Conyers, of Brough, and Mr. T. B. Hutchinson, of York.

FOR BEER

One matter discussed at the meeting was the necessity of drawing up more detailed instructions for the exhibiting and judging of beers, and it was agreed that a new section on the subject should be added eventually to the existing judging handbook. Another subject was that of judges' travelling expenses, it being suggested that the National and similar shows should recompense judges in this respect, and finally it was agreed that a resolution be sent to the National Association suggesting that they consider it.

STEWARDS WANTED

As will be seen from an advertisement in this issue, plans for the 1966 National at Harrogate are now well under way and schedules and full details should be in the hands of the secretaries of member Circles (please note that this year it will be ONLY member Circles) within the next fortnight or so. As always, many helpers will be needed. Two kinds of stewards are required, judges' stewards and general stewards. Anyone who is interested in judging or who hopes to take the Guild's examination, will find the experience of assisting a judge at the National invaluable, and if they would like to undertake this task should write to Mr. S. W. Andrews, 6 Tamworth Road, Hertford, Herts, the Convenor of Judges. There will also be many jobs for general stewards, to assist with the staging of the wine show, and the receipt and return of the entries, and anyone who feels that they can assist in any capacity should contact the chief steward, Mr. Stagg, of 86 Arden Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, 27.

WINE FESTIVALS

More and more people are discovering what a fascinating autumn holiday they can have at a Rhineland wine festival, and we have been sent most interesting accounts of such holidays by Mr. E. Paine, of 52 Vauxhall Avenue, Stud Hill, Herne Bay, Kent, who had seven days at Bad Honnef, and Mrs. Gladys Blacklock, of "Plemont," 5 Drybourne Park, Shildon, Co. Durham, who went to Boppard with the Heighington Circle. These wine tours are obviously to become a permanent feature of the holiday scene, and we look forward to the idea being extended from Germany and France to the other wine-producing areas of the world. When all is said and done, have you ever thought how wine-growing areas are among some of the loveliest in the world for holidays—why not club trips, too, to Italy, Spain, Greece, Algeria and Yugoslavia? The day will come!

THE EDITOR.

Will readers please note that
we are now completely

SOLD OUT

of 1966 Winemakers' Diaries

**No more orders,
PLEASE!**