

ASHWICK FLAT. PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE.

(From our own Correspondent).

The annual meeting of the Ashwick Flat Patriotic Entertainment Committee was held in the school on Thursday evening last when the following report was read: - Ten local boys have been publicly entertained, and have each received a wristlet watch, either prior to going into camp or when on final leave. They were: Lance-Corporal K. Anderson, Privates L. White, W. Dore, R. Cartwright, V. Symes, A. Ross, L. Saddler, K. Campbell H. Baker, and B. Jones. In addition to those mentioned G. Morris and G. Moran, who were unable to attend a social, were handed watches by the committee. So far only three returned men have received presentations — Sergeant-Major J Dore, Privates J. Butters and R. O'Brien. Lance-Corporal A. Symes, Privates V. Symes, W. Coll, G. Moran, J. O'Dowd, Chris. Jones, have also been accorded a welcome home. R. Bain was also invited to attend, but his health at the present time would not permit him to do so. As in the past the public have again accorded the committee a hearty and liberal support thereby enabling very successful socials to be held and a fair financial balance to be carried forward. The committee are greatly indebted to Mrs Symes for the use of her piano, copper etc., to Messrs Stevenson, Cameron, R. Cartwright, and others for music supplied, to Messrs W. Cartwright, L. Siegert and others who have acted as M.C. at the various functions, and to the commissioner for the Ashwick Flat school district for the use of the school. In conclusion the outgoing committee wish all returned or returning men who may be suffering from wounds or sickness a speedy and permanent recovery. This committee also express their profound regret at the loss this district has sustained in the deaths in action and from sickness of Captain Leslie O'Callaghan, Privates D. Coll, N. Maze, A. Farquhar, Lance-Corporal C. Campbell, A. Hornblow, and Samuel Jones. For the guidance of the incoming committee the following local men are mentioned as due to receive the customary welcome home social (and presentation to those who received no presentation on departing). Second-Lieutenant A. Farquhar M.C., Privates T. Harvey, R. Rapley, J. Coll, C. Howes, H. Brav, B. Wood, W. McKenzie, J. O'Neil, W. Elliss, C Holland, R. Harvey, J. Brosnahan, A. Caple, R. Saddler, J. Trumper, J. Wright, **W. Allan**, W. McKay, J. Cotterill, and A. Cotterill. Since the committee's inception in March, 1916, thirty-six presentations have been made. The committee feel that too much cannot be done for the brave lads who have assisted to bring about the victory of the Allies.

The meeting, after considering the report, were unanimous as to the useful work accomplished. The matter of some suitable memorial of a lasting nature for those who had taken part in the war from this district was introduced. Among other schemes brought forward, was one that a suitable cairn of concrete and stone be erected at the cross roads, the cairn to bear the names of those who had fallen.

The general opinion seemed to be in favour of some such memorial, the details of which will be discussed at a more representative meeting of those interested.

As the meeting was not a large one it was decided that the present members of committee continue to hold office. The names of some residents were handed in as willing to act on the committee should any member of committee by leaving the district or otherwise wish to drop out.

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The Fairlie Patriotic Social Committee gave their forty-second social on Thursday night in honour of the return of the following soldiers: — Surgeon-Captain S. G. Trail, **Lieut. W. Allen**, Corporal J. Sizemore, Troopers C. Howes, V. Buckley, A. Capill, J. Edge, A. and J. Cotterill, Privates V. Hathaway, J. Brosnahan, W. O'Brien, C. Shailes, D. Duggan and Miller (a visitor). There was an overflowing attendance, and excellent music was provided by the Albury Orchestra under Mr Hogg. An address of welcome was given by the chairman of the committee (Rev. H. O. Hanby), and replied to by Soldier Miller. The evening was thoroughly successful, and credit for that is due to the efforts of the secretary (Mr Ormandy) and the members of both the ladies' and gentlemen's committees. The next social will probably be the last the committee will be called upon to conduct, and they intend to make it memorable.