



The Bristol Harmonic Male Choir, photographed after their success at the International Eisteddfod in 1927. The choir will sing at the Rock of Ages Rally.

A Collection for Bristol Hospitals

AT last year's Rock of Ages pilgrimage, it was decided, almost at the last moment, to take a collection in aid of the Lord Mayor of Bristol's Hospital Fund. Collectors returned time and again to empty their boxes—and their hats—and the final result of the collection—£50—was clearly only a contribution from part of the crowd.

Two Funds

The two funds in aid of which the collection at this year's service will be taken are:

The Lord Mayor of Bristol's Hospital Fund, and

The Bristol Hospitals—Extension Fund. The first fund is intended to help the hospitals in maintaining their splendid service to the sick in Bristol.

The annual bill of a modern hospital is tremendous, and even after all possible economies have been made it still comes to a total which demands urgently the interest and support of the general public.

The total amount realised by the collections and other efforts made on behalf of the Hospital Fund during the year ending October 31, 1931, was £6,745, 0s. 10d.

Although times are not over-prosperous, it is essential that contributions should not drop. The work of fighting disease and relieving pain must not be hindered for want of money. The other fund is the Hospitals—Extension Fund, the title of which explains its purpose.

Special Appeal

The fund is designed to help hospitals to meet the increasing demands upon their space and accommodation by extending their buildings.

This year a special "drive" is being made by the many prominent Bristol men and women who are workers for the Extension Fund.

Councillor Walter Bryant, who is chairman of the Appeals Committee of the Hospitals—Extension Fund, is to deliver an address just before the collection is given.

Do not forget that whatever you give to the collectors will be divided between these two funds, and will help to maintain the existing hospitals, and extend them to meet the needs of the sick and suffering.

ORDER OF SERVICE

continued

HYMN.—Lead, Kindly Light.

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,

Lead Thou me on,
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene—one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus; nor pray'd that Thou
Should'st lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
Lead Thou me on.

I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will: Remember not past years.

So long Thy power hath blest me; sure it still
Will lead me on,
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone,

And with the morn, those Angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

HYMN.—Abide With Me.

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide!
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;

When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close, ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;

Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou, Who changest not, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee as hand to hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy Cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

BENEDICTION.

THE VICAR OF BURRINGTON.

THANKS TO HIKERS

THE thanks of the "Evening World," as organisers of the Rock of Ages Rally, and of everyone attending the Festival, are due to 100 members of the Hikers Legion who have offered their services as collectors and to Legion members as a whole who have given the Rally their whole-hearted support.

Famous Hymn Inspired By a Storm

By F. A. WILSHIRE

AUGUSTUS TOPLADY, who wrote "Rock of Ages," was born at Farnham in Surrey almost 200 years ago.

Toplady took orders in 1762, and was curate at Blagdon from that year until 1764. In a glass case under the tower of Blagdon Church there is a portion of the letter written by him soon after he left Blagdon.

Caught in a Storm

One day he was walking through Burrington Combe when he was overtaken by a violent storm.

The only available shelter was a cleft running down a mass of rock by the road. He wedged himself in there until the storm passed.

The solitary and sombre situation caused him to reflect, and he was suddenly inspired with the thought upon which he based the hymn.

Picking up a playing card which was lying on the ground he wrote "Rock of Ages" on the back of it. The card is still preserved in America.

That day Toplady did a thing that made him immortal, for there is no doubt that "Rock of Ages" will last for ever, and it is no wild imagination to suppose it will be sung on the last day this old earth will exist.

It has been said that no other hymn can be named which has laid so broad and firm grasp upon the English-speaking world.

Universal Prayer

Toplady wrote a good many hymns but no other compares with this universal prayer. He wrote it while he was stricken with consumption.

The hymn has comforted millions of people. It was constantly repeated by Prince Consort on his death-bed.

The dying prince said: "For if in this hour I had only any worldly honours and dignities to depend upon I should be poor indeed!"

The hymn thrilled Gladstone, who translated it into Latin, Greek and Italian. It is sung in many languages all over the Christian world.

Toplady died in London on August 11, 1778, in his 29th year.



Mr. H. Gould, conductor of the Mid-somer Norton Choir

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Mr. F. A. WILSHIRE, who led last year's service at the Combe will make the announcements this year.



Mr. MATT HALL, soloist in the choral works.



Mr. W. S. Porter, conductor of the Professional Bands' Association Band.