

OBITUARY

The end of the summer season was marred by the death of Mrs Vera Minhinnick who, visiting Lundy for the first time with her daughter, fell into the Devil's Limekiln while out at night. The mystery surrounding this tragedy may never be solved, but it adds keen point to the warning that extreme care must be exercised in walking Lundy's cliffs by night, and we hope that future visitors will treat them with the respect they merit. To Miss Minhinnick we can only offer our very warm sympathy in her loss.

THE OLD LIGHT

MAINTENANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

The past year has been one of considerable activity. The Society was able to authorize commencement on converting the Store into a Laboratory—a memorial to the memory of the late Martin Coles Harman, our Founder President.

When building work is undertaken on Lundy, problems never encountered on the mainland have to be overcome. One assembles material at Bideford, and then weather conditions are such that a crossing proves impossible. Similarly, labour may be marooned on Lundy for the same reason. Consequently, any carefully prepared budget can easily be upset. Furthermore, when once on the Island, the men are unable to return for the odd tool previously forgotten!

Mr W. E. J. Wood, a Bideford builder, undertook to carry out the work proposed, and early in the spring of last year building materials were purchased, and Mr Wood's men were ready to cross to Lundy, when the inevitable happened—the weather was too bad to permit the *Lundy Gannet* to leave.

Several weeks elapsed before the men finally arrived at the Old Light, but when they did they wasted no time in carrying out their programme.

The roof of the Store was replaced, the interior walls plastered, new doors and windows fixed, and the woodwork painted.

In addition, very necessary repairs were carried out to the living quarters. For some time it had been known that the roof was in need of considerable attention, and temporary repairs had been carried out. Permanent repairs have now been effected, and the building will be proof against the elements for many years to come.

The latter repairs were carried out in co-operation with Mr Albion Harman.

In the meantime, Miss Barbara Whitaker, with the help of volunteers, redecorated the living quarters, and all the windows had new sash cords fitted, enabling them to be opened, or in some cases closed, for the first time for many a long year.

All this, of course, has cost a considerable amount of money, in all about £290 was spent.

Much remains to be done, and I would welcome the opportunity of spending another £100 on the Laboratory. When equipped, we should then have a building of which the Society could well be proud.

It is hoped, within the coming weeks, to instal a water tank in the living quarters, with a pump connected to the underground storage tank. This will enable a tap to be fixed over the scullery sink.

Furthermore, it is the Committee's aim to provide indoor sanitation, but this much needed improvement will have to wait until funds are available.

Our thanks are due to Mr Albion Harman for transporting the men and equipment to Lundy and back free of charge. Without this generous assistance our programme of work would have been impossible with the very limited financial resources available.

