

UNVEILING OF WAR MEMORIAL.—There was an extraordinarily large congregation at the Milton Regis Congregational Church on Sunday evening last, the occasion being the unveiling of a memorial to all those young men who fell in the late war, who had previously passed through the Sunday Schools attached to the church. The memorial took the form of a mural tablet of white marble on a background of black marble, and during the first part of the service it remained veiled with a Union Jack. The service was attended by many relatives and friends of those in whose honour the tablet had been erected, and by members of the Milton Urban District Council, those present being Councillors W. R. Elgar (chairman), G. Bowes (vice-chairman), A. E. Wood, S. Gransden, J. Filmer, T. Buggs, H. S. Knowles, Mrs. Maundrell, and P. Jeffrey. Among others present was Mr. W. McIsaac, the headmaster at Milton Regis Council Schools. The whole of the young men commemorated had been scholars under Mr. McIsaac. In the gallery was a number of Boy Scouts. The service was conducted by the Rev. C. Mason (the pastor). Preceding the sermon, the strong choir gave Stainer's anthem, "What are these arrayed in white." The preacher took for his text the words, "These all died in faith," Hebrews xi., 13, from which he preached a sermon full of words of comfort to the bereaved relatives present. He said that the words of his text undoubtedly referred to the passing of the great heroes of the church of that period, and some might consider that it was presumption on his part to compare the common soldiers or the common sailors with the great heroes of their Bible history, but the preacher went on to show that these men, obeying the call of their King and country, and of their God, embarked in this fight for righteousness, and those who had been left behind now realised with gratitude and pride that these men gave all they had, all their rights to live that others might be saved. He (the preacher) believed that it would be counted to them for righteousness. During the dark period of the War, duty made stern demands for sacrifice. Before that time few demands had been made upon those who called themselves Englishmen, but the War demanded that sacrifices should be made. Before the War Britain had been said to be losing ground and going down, but the battlefields found that the old stern endurance among Britons still existed. Meanwhile, Britain's sons from all parts of the far flung Empire rallied to her cause, to prove their citizenship. To many who joined the Colours they were entering a great adventure, and their hearts and feet responded before their minds had time to reason, but nevertheless they went into the fight with faith—the faith that they were supporting a righteous cause, and they put their belief into practice. They felt they had a good cause, and they fought a clean fight. It was their belief in the righteousness of their cause that led British soldiers to share food with their prisoners; that led British sailors to rescue members of submarine crews, who, had they had the chance, would have sent their rescuers to the bottom. He felt assured that their friends who fell would not be refused the light of the Heavenly countenance. These men should be remembered not with tears and lamentation, but with pride and gratitude. They helped to save the country and the world, and those who were left should render them reverent homage. To some it was their lot to return to home wearing ribbons, medals, Victoria Crosses, to these others a wooden cross. In conclusion the preacher quoted some inspiring verses, the keynote of which was, "We shall remember them." The tablet was unveiled by Miss Lottie Taylor, through whose Bible Class every man commemorated by the tablet had passed. Miss Taylor prefaced the unveiling with a few words of consolation and hope, and then unveiled the tablet. Many of those in the church were in tears as Miss Taylor read out the words of the inscription, which was as follows:—"This tablet is erected to the Glory of God, and in honoured memory of former Sunday scholars and adherents of this Church, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War, 1914-1918. Also to express gratitude that this Place of Worship, though seriously damaged in an air raid on June 5th, 1915, was preserved from destruction." The names of the fallen were:—Sergeant Clark, John Walker, William Hadlow, Thomas Hadlow, Frank Jarrett, Edward Court, Percy Berry, Reuben Shrubsole, Edward Shrubsole, George Goodall, Oliver Coleman, William Miles, Richard Brown, Harry Brown, Andrew Evers, George Grant, and Herbert Hodges. Miss Taylor concluded by reciting "Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends." Mrs. Mason sang, "O Rest in the Lord" (Mendelssohn), and after the hymn, "For ever with the Lord" had been sung, the Benediction was pronounced. The sounding of the "Last Post" by Mr. King, an ex-soldier, brought a most impressive service to a close. Both before and after the service, Miss Minnie Taylor, who was at the organ, played appropriate music.