

## F. G. SMITH RETIRES

The S.T.R.I. starts a new era in 1963 without Frank Smith, Superintendent of Grounds for twenty-six years and a much loved figure in greenkeeping circles for longer than that. He will not be living far away but we shall miss him on the job.

His quiet, unruffled efficiency in routine or unusual tasks—the skill, confidence and enjoyment which characterise the way he approaches them—have been a model to the many who trained under him and have contributed something real and enduring to the greenkeeping tradition.

At a centre where new ideas and methods are constantly under review, his verdicts have been of infinite value in separating the practical from the pretentious and in helping manufacturers to improve prototype machines which he has tested. At the same time, he is reputed to be able to broadcast evenly by hand at  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. per square yard and would be more accurate at that rate than any machine one could mention.

His work for the Northern Section and for the Association, of which he was Chairman in 1956, need no repetition. It is typical that he should give of his time in the general interest. His lectures to the Sections have always been welcomed and we all hope that he will still find time to forget the bowler hat which he will now exchange for his brown trilby, and keep an eye on us for many years to come.

## BIRMINGHAM BANQUET

### Midland Section Dine Out

Just under ninety greenkeepers and their guests sat down to turkey and plum pudding with all the trimmings on 14th December. The President, Mr. Carl Bretherton, was in the Chair. The Association Chairman proposed the toast to the Association, which George Hart seconded, and Mr. T. R. Groom, a Vice-President, welcomed the guests, with special emphasis on the ladies.

The second part of the evening was enlivened by song, music, a lively auction and some talented amateur carol singers. Midnight came all too soon.

The only regret was Mrs. Bretherton's absence through ill health. We all hope she has now fully recovered.

## CARTERS' BLUE BOOK

We have received Messrs. Carters' Blue Book of Gardening for 1963 which, with its improved colour sections, is still more attractive and a useful reference book as well as a catalogue. The Blue Book is well indexed and contains a wealth of information useful to the greenkeeper. Messrs. Carters will be pleased to send one to any of our readers on application to Raynes Park, London, S.W.20.

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