

THE COLONIAL SOCIETY. 1921

The very impressive ceremony in connection with the Colonial Society was held in the Picture House before a crowded gathering. The platform party included the Chairman (Mr T. Ballantyne), Provost Crichton, Mr T. Craig Brown, Dr. Muir, Mr W. R. Downie (Colonial Standard-Bearer), Mr James Dalgleish (Edinburgh), the Burgh Standard-Bearer and attendants, and the Hawick Cornet and attendants. The plat-

form was beautifully decorated for the occasion. The Chairman, who is a Souter returned from South Africa, gave a characteristic address expressive of the strong and tender feelings cherished by the exile towards the "Auld Toon on the Hill." An address in rhyme, dealing with "The Stranger at the Common-Riding," by Mr W. R. Downie, caused immense enthusiasm and amusement. In the course of the proceedings two minutes' silence was observed in memory of the Selkirk men who had given their lives in the war, and after this Ex-Standard-Bearer J. B. Stewart led the chorus of "Hail, Smiling Morn." The first portion of the programme was then rendered as follows:—Song, "Up wi' the Souters," Mr W. Amos; recitation, "Oh, Flodden Field," Mrs T. N. Graham; song, "The Liltin'," Miss M. Hall; song, "Soft Lowland Tongue," Mr J. B. Stewart. During the interval between the first and second parts the "busen" of the colours was performed by Miss Douglas Ballantyne, a sister of the chairman, who also has returned from South Africa. The Provost, in a short but inspiring speech, touched upon the old traditions connected with the Common-Riding, and said he hoped all would do their utmost to uphold the high character of the Royal Burgh. The Chairman introduced the Burgh Standard-Bearer, who received a great ovation, and a similar welcome was given to the Hawick Cornet. The next ceremony was the presentation of a medalion to the Burgh Standard-Bearer on behalf of Edinburgh and Midlothian Souters. This was done by Mr James Dalgleish, whose niece, Miss Bunting, pinned the decoration on the breast of Mr Murray Dickson. The programme concluded with the following:—Song, "The Border Maid," Miss N. Johnston; song, "Flowers of the Forest" (modern style), Mr W. G. Grant; song, "Home, Sweet Home," Miss Chrissie Brown. The highest compliment must be accorded Miss Brown for her tasteful rendering of the last song, which, as a Colonial remarked, was "a beautiful finale to a glorious evening." A vote of thanks was moved by Dr. Muir, and the proceedings ended with the singing of the National Anthem. The accompanist was Mr W. Lindsay.