

Miss Roberta Robinson, Rock Cottage, Finsthwaite, N. Lanes, aged 72.

In my letter to Mr R. Strike, Editor of the Barrow News (p. 216), I asked Mr Strike if he would tell me the name of the person from whom he obtained the ball programme reproduced in his article on Finsthwaite (p. 212). Although he printed the accompanying letter, he did not give me a personal answer, and I therefore visited him at his office on Thursday 23rd. It turned out that he had forgotten the name of the lady, and since it was 'Press' day for his paper, he hadn't time to think about it. He asked me to call again on the Monday, and on this second visit he was able to point out her house on the 1" Ordnance Survey map. Joan and I visited Miss Robinson that same evening, and we conversed with great skill for an hour and a quarter without disclosing that we did not know her name. Eventually Joan had to rise to allow Miss Robinson access to a cupboard, and this enabled her to read Miss Robinson's name in her glass case on the table, and to swivel the case round so that I could read it too - thereby simplifying the subsequent conversation.

We asked Miss Robinson first about the ball programme for Mr R.C. Robinson's ball, and she immediately told us that she had given the programme to Miss Addie Robinson, Crake Terrace, Penny Bridge, who was the granddaughter of R.C. Robinson. Miss Roberta Robinson's aunt attended Mr R.C. Robinson's ~~ball~~ classes - her name was E. Robinson - and she was one of the Queens. She knows nothing about these classes.

Miss Roberta Robinson herself attended Stanton Robinson's classes at Lakeside ^{c. 1897}. These were held in a little wooden hut near Stanton R's house (The Lamels?); he had not then taken over the Lakeside Hotel. The ball was held in the Jubilee Rooms. Later, she attended ^{old Jos.} ~~his~~ classes at Satterthwaite - her cousin, Miss Coward, The Crag, Satterthwaite, was living in Finsthwaite with her at the time, and when ^{old Jos} ~~Stanton Robinson~~ went to canvas on her cousin's parents and learned that she was at Finsthwaite temporarily, he

offered to pick the two girls up in Finsthwaite on his way over, and bring them back each evening.

Miss Robinson gave us the usual description of the balls - the children kept their partners throughout the ball - she particularly remembers this, for her partner at the Lakeside ball was a bad dancer. When the children entered, the boys carried their partners' shawl over their arms; her partner forgot to hand her her shawl when she took her seat, and she had to run across the hall for it.

Miss Robinson has two photographs of herself and her cousin in their ball costume; surprisingly modern knee-length $\frac{3}{4}$ white frocks, with ~~puffed~~ ^{puffed} $\frac{1}{2}$ length sleeves, white socks up to the knees, and white satin slippers. Her cousin took part in the Hoop Dance, and the photograph shows the hoop, an ordinary child's hoop, with paper wrapped round it in



alternate stripes of white and red, with two bows tied to it.

Miss Robinson phoned her cousin while we were ~~there~~ ^{on} and they talked about the ball - it was just like dialling 1897. Her cousin has a 1904 programme, and we arranged to borrow it from her - in fact I was given it when I called.