

# Mr. A. W. Hornby

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MEET the man in Christchurch who has no spare time. His name is Mr. Arthur Hornby. President of two organisations and connected with half-a-dozen others, its little wonder his family complain: "You never seem to have a minute for us."

Yet despite all this Mr. Hornby is a family man and he is more proud of the achievements of his three children than the results he gets by working hard for the British Legion and Christchurch Youth Committee.

Straight from school into the Army he served for four years. During that time he was gassed and an operation was necessary. His doctor told him to come south for his health. He did—to Southampton.

He had always been desperately keen on hockey. At one time he was chosen to play for Kent. But the effect of the operation prevented him from doing his best and so he lost his chance of regularly turning out for his county.

"I was still keen," he confesses, "but I never got back into first-class hockey again." For many years he was secretary of the Burnt Ash Hockey Club.

He had to find something to take the place of hockey and he chose badminton. He took it up seriously before the war and became really proficient.

But he was never content to be just a player. He felt that there was work for him to do. So he became secretary of the County Club.

The war interrupted his badminton. Now he thinks he is too old to go back to it. What sport is he interested in now? "Bowls" he says thoughtfully, "a wonderful game—I'm not sure I like it the best of the lot."

During the war he and Maj. Woombell started the Christchurch Home Guard. He later rose to be second-in-command.

"I've always been interested in youth work," he says—and that explains his passion for putting hours of work for the young people of Christchurch.

When you say anything to him about it, he just laughs. "Why that's just a sideline," he says, "the Legion is my real work."

He has been president of the Christchurch British Legion for two years and is proud of the branch. "It's the liveliest in Hampshire," he says.

There is plenty of Legion work to do. Every Wednesday night, for instance, there is the three-hour meeting of the Service Committee. All the week people are popping into his shop for some advice.

Then there is the Chamber of Trade. He was president of that two years ago and is still a keen and enthusiastic member.

He is on the Legion's County Committee. "That really is hard work," he says, "and it takes up a lot of time."

So does the Disabled Persons Advisory Committee in Bournemouth, "but that is doing something really worth-while," says Mr. Hornby.

"If I do have any spare time I like to have it at home," he says. His son Ivor has come out of the Navy and is taking up an interest in youth work himself.

And what is Mr. Hornby's greatest ambition? "To go up on behalf of the Christchurch British Legion and receive the Earl Haig Cup for the best branch in Britain," he says.

Knowing Christchurch British Legion I should say he stands a good chance of achieving that.