

HOLME PRIZE BAND.

Holme is a picturesque little village, situated at the foot of Holme Moss, and is 3 miles from the nearest railway station, which is Holmfirth. It has a population of about 500, a great portion of whom are engaged in the woollen manufacture, but have to walk a considerable distance to the nearest mill. The band has always been the leading feature of the village, and when it turns out is generally accompanied by a good many followers.

The band was formed as a reed band about the year 1820, and converted into a brass band in 1837. When they secured the first engagement the band only consisted of nine players. The following members of this band are still living: Messrs. Jonas Hinchliffe, John Clough, Joseph Clough, William Swallow, and Joseph Hinchliffe, the last-named being a player in the present band, and last Christmas, completed his 38th season with them.

When brass instruments were first required, the members bought their own and paid 6d. per month for music, and whatever money was raised by engagements, etc., was put to the funds.

The first contest the band attended was at Shelley, where they secured the 1st prize, under the conductorship of Mr. John Broadbent. They also attended other contests, viz., Honley (3rd prize), Meltham (4th prize), Golcar (3rd prize), beating Kingston Mills), New Mills (2nd prize), and Kirkburton (3rd prize).

About this time the trade in the district was very bad, which caused a great number of the players to leave, one of these members, Mr. Joseph Clough, taking five of his sons, who were all players in the band, and who at the present day are playing leading instruments in other bands. His younger brother, Mr. John Clough, however, came to the rescue, and at present has six sons in the band.

In 1888 the band attended a contest at Holmfirth, and won the 1st prize, under the leadership of Mr. William Schofield (at present organist in Glasgow).

From this time nothing of importance occurred,

and one by one the best players were tempted through insufficient work, into other bands, and in 1897 the band was almost broken up, but, thanks to the efforts of a few gentlemen, who were determined this should not come to pass, a new Committee was formed, and the band re-united. Mr. J. A. Greenwood, of the firm of Messrs. Joseph Greenwood and Sons, was elected president, and chiefly through his efforts a few of the members have been got back, and now the band is in a very prosperous state. Mr. Fenton Renshaw was engaged as conductor in March, 1898, and under his careful and painstaking tuition they have won the following prizes during the past season:—

LIST OF PRIZES FOR 1898.

Place.	Date.	Prize.	Value.		
			£	s.	d.
Honley	April 30th	2nd march	10	0	0
		(Also Trombone Medal.)			
Huddersfield	May 31st	1st	10	0	0
Glossop	June 4th	2nd	6	0	0
Cawthorne	July 7th	1st	7	0	0
		(Also Trombone Medal.)			
Wharnccliffe	July 30th	1st	8	0	0
Wharnccliffe	July 30th	1st march	1	0	0
Barnsley	Aug. 20th	1st	8	0	0
Barnsley	Aug. 20th	1st march	1	5	0
		(Also Cornet and Trombone Medal.)			
Meltham	Aug. 27th	1st	8	0	0
Meltham	Aug. 27th	2nd march	10	0	0
		(Also Trombone Medal.)			
Dodworth	Sept. 10th	1st march	1	5	0
Thornsett	Sept. 24th	3rd	3	0	0
Thornsett	Sept. 24th	1st march	1	0	0
			£55	10	0

A sketch of the band would not be complete without reference to the Trombone player, Mr. Ben Broadhead. The above list speaks for itself, for out of six medals offered, Mr. Broadhead has been successful in winning four of them. He is only young, and with perseverance and practice will no doubt make a name for himself.