



## *Durrington*

### **ANZAC DAY PILGRIMAGE**

The Anzac Day pilgrimage has always been made since its inception at Durrington, Wiltshire (wrote a correspondent of "The Argus" from Durrington on April 30). This year the pilgrimage was made on Sunday afternoon, April 26. Although the weather was cold and showery, about 500 people assembled at 3 o'clock in front of the old Norman church with its flint-built tower, and gathered round the way memorial, which is a large cross set up on steps of the remains of an old preaching cross which dates back at least 1,000 years. Here a short service was held, and the hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" was sung, accompanied by the Durrington band. The rector, the Rev. A. G. Ruddle, R.D., who conducted the service, gave a short address, in the course of which he asked all to remember that they were not only doing honour to the memories of the men from overseas who had died on active service, but they were doing this for others who would love to do it, the mothers, wives and children still living. They were laying these flowers on the soldiers' graves on behalf of those relatives as well as on their own behalf. The pilgrimage was then made, the band heading the procession, followed by the children two by two, with the rector following, accompanied by a number of adults. The route, nearly half a mile in length, leads down the hill past the river and old thatched cottages, then up a short incline to the cemetery, where are, among many others, the graves of 141 men of Australia. From this spot one looks to the east across the valley of the River Avon, with its rich grass, water-meadows, at this time bright with the golden yellow of the marsh marigold, and away to the west there is a glimpse of Larkhill Camp, where so many thousands of the Australian Imperial Forces were once in camp. When the procession reached this spot another hymn, "On the Resurrection Morning," was sung, after which the rector offered further prayers for the departed and the bereaved, and then gave the blessing. While the band played "To the Brave" beautiful flowers were laid on the graves. There were many narcissi, wallflowers, argunisi, and forget-me-nots. The rector of Durrington will be very glad to reply to any relatives who care to write to him concerning Australian soldiers buried here.

*(The Argus (Melbourne, Victoria), Tuesday 14th July, 1925)*