

Kent and Sussex Courier

20th July, 1917 (Forthcoming Events)

For St. Dunstan's Home for
Blinded Soldiers
the
Francis Foote Choir - and Orchestra-
will give a grand open-air performance
of
Elijah
in the grounds of Bredbury
Mount Ephraim
(by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. T.
J.G.Duncanson)
Wednesday July 25th at 5.30
Full choir and orchestra.
Conductor
Francis J. Foote A.R.A.M.
Reserved seats 3/3 Middle section 2/2
Back section 1/2. Tickets at the Orchestrelle
Co., High Street; Baldwins, Grosvenor Road;
and of members of the choir. If the weather is
unfavourable the performance will take place
in the Great Hall.

27th July 1917 (Local News)

ORATORIO AT BREDBURY.—A large audience was attracted to the beautiful grounds of Bredbury on Wednesday for the unique event of an open-air-rendering of the beautiful oratorio of "Elijah," by Mr. Francis Foote's Choir and Orchestra, in aid of our blinded heroes, at St. Dunstan's. Fortunately the weather was fine, and there was not too much rustling breeze in the sylvan surroundings to mar the piano passages, with the result that those present enjoyed a remarkable experiment in oratorio performances. The famous work is too familiar to call for detailed reference to the artistes, who admirably sustained the solo parts, and it will suffice to say that Miss Dorothy Richardson (soprano), Miss Molly Curry (contralto), Mr. Gale Gardner (tenor) and Mr. Percival Driver (bass) successfully surmounted the difficulties of their auditorium, and were heard with most pleasing effect. The orchestra and chorus of nearly two hundred performers contributed largely to the success achieved. The experiment was a somewhat hazardous undertaking, and the uncertainty of the English climate, combined with the great difficulty of securing perfect musical cohesion and voice blending in the open-air will be factors which will assuredly prevent such performances becoming the fashion, as it were. But Wednesday's performance, nevertheless, is fully worthy of the most favourable commendation, and altogether it was a personal triumph for Mr. Foote, while the success generally reflects credit upon all concerned. Thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Duncanson for kindly throwing open the beautiful grounds.