

42 YEARS' SERVICE IN THE ADMIRALTY

GUARDIAN OF "OLD BUILDING" RETIRES

• FROM OUR NAVAL CORRESPONDENT

Visitors to the Admiralty to-day will miss a familiar and highly respected guardian of the door, Mr. E. T. Jewell, the chief porter at the Whitehall entrance, who has retired after 42 years' service in the Admiralty building.

Many Sea Lords have come and gone, to be greeted or speeded on their way by the venerable, white-haired, one-armed janitor who outlasted most of them. It was his duty to see that no unauthorized person penetrated beyond the vestibule of the "Old Building"—the official designation of the Whitehall block of the Admiralty—and in the performance of it, few could be sterner, or of presence more awe-inspiring: but he was really of a genial nature, and the *habitués* of the Admiralty all looked on him as a friend.

Mr. Jewell served in the Navy as a young man, until, when a leading seaman in H.M.S. *Defiant* in 1902, he lost his right arm and was invalided out. He became an Admiralty messenger the same year and has served there ever since. His retirement will be much regretted by the many officers and Civil servants who have known him.

WIDOWS' FUND ROBBED.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE-KEEPER SENT TO PRISON.

At Bow-street Police Court on Saturday, before Sir John Dickinson, ROBERT CATTELL, 52, office-keeper at the Admiralty, was charged with theft.

Mr. William Lewis, prosecuting, said that in July, 1914, the defendant was elected chairman and treasurer of a fund for providing immediate aid for widows of messengers and labourers employed at the Admiralty. It was recently discovered that £207 had not been accounted for by the defendant, and he confessed that he had misappropriated that amount.

Mr. Vincent Wilberforce Baddeley, C.B., Assistant Secretary for Finance Duties at the Admiralty, said that the defendant had been employed there for more than six years, having previously been a warrant officer in the Royal Marine Artillery. He was selected from a large number of candidates owing to his high character. There were about 1,000 messengers and others under him. As a result of the charge he had lost his position, which was worth nearly £800 a year, and there was also a prospect of his forfeiting the pension from the Marines. The Admiralty would ensure that the beneficiaries of this fund would not lose the money, although if the committee and the auditors had carried out their duties as required by the rules the defalcations could not have occurred.

The defendant said that just before the war he borrowed money from a moneylender. After paying double and treble interest he had to borrow more, and matters got worse. He had hoped to be able to repay the society's money.

The MAGISTRATE passed a sentence of three months' imprisonment in the second division, remarking that it was an extremely painful matter to deal with a man like the defendant, who had served his country honourably for 35 years.