

WHITGIFT'S HOSPITAL, CROYDON.

BY S. W. KERSHAW, F.S.A.

IT is of moment that the County of Surrey possesses two most interesting buildings; the one founded by Archbishop Whitgift in this town, the other by Archbishop Abbot at Guildford.

Both established for the benefit of the poor belonging to or once in the service of the Archbishop, these charities still retain their useful objects. The origin of such hospitals is to be traced in those earlier buildings which once abounded in our land, and were the asylums and refuges for the travellers, the pilgrims, and infirm in the 14th and 15th centuries.

In the reign of Henry VIII, a commission was granted by which these hospitals and lands were to be seized for that King's use. Some of them escaped, and it is pleasing to record that England retains several examples of the architecture and history of the past.

The sister county of Kent is rich in remains of these buildings, and I need hardly remind the antiquary of the hospital at Sandwich (St. Bartholomew), of Eastbridge at Canterbury, founded by Lanfranc, also St. John's and Harbledown in and near that city, as some of the more prominent illustrations.

In other counties may be noticed Ford's Hospital at Coventry, St. Cross, near Winchester, St. John's, Northampton, Cheetham Hospital at Manchester, &c., &c.

Abroad, the example of most interest to us, as built by Henry II of England, is the Hospital of Saint John at Angers, which continues nearly intact, and is one of the many remains of 12th and 13th century domestic architecture in that mediaeval city.

From the preservation of MSS. and the documents and charters recently arranged by the care of the governors of this Hospital, some better idea of its historical wealth can be gleaned than heretofore.

Commenced in 1596, Whitgift's Hospital took three years in building, and during that time the accounts for the works in progress were most carefully kept and supervised by Samuel Finch, Vicar of Croydon, with the approval of Archbishop Whitgift. These accounts are preserved in MS. 275, in the Archiepiscopal Library, Lambeth Palace.

Croydon and its neighbourhood offers many a theme for the study of ancient lore; the great forest (once existing), Norwood or the Northwood, protected it London-wards, while its southern slope offered an easy access to the principal towns in Kent and Sussex.

Names which identify former routes and by-ways still exist; from the old town of Croydon, much lower in level than the present, the approach was by the Handcroft Road, probably a corruption of Hands Cross. This route afterwards merged into the old London Road, which, in a serpentine-like manner, wound along the hedgerows and lanes still traceable between Thornton Heath and Streatham.

The early tracks and ways generally followed in a narrow and devious course; the present main road between Croydon and London is of comparatively recent date.

A new phase opens before us when we consider that "the Park," so often alluded to in the annals of Croydon, belonged to the Manor and See of Canterbury, and was of vast extent—that park (now identified with the site of Park Hill) which once formed an important appendage to Croydon Palace.

The old palace, or "Croydon House," as it was then called, has strong claims on the lover of antiquity, claims which should preserve it for ever as an heirloom of Surrey, and as a part of its ecclesiastical history.

The interest which centres round the building of this Hospital becomes greater, when we learn that so many of the materials were obtained from the neighbourhood; as, for instance, the bricks were made in Haling Park, also at Epsom, Addington, Streatham; sand was brought from Dubbers, now Duppas Hill; while timber was

constantly supplied from Lingfield, on the border of the great southern Weald.

In the Lambeth MS. 275, above referred to, so numerous are the building accounts of this Hospital, that I am compelled to quote them but briefly, and to extract only those of most immediate importance.

The accounts were kept with much precision, and examined weekly, as before alluded to, by the Vicar of Croydon.¹

On 17th January, 1596, the work of building this Hospital was began, and finished on 29th of February 1599; a little more than three years. The total cost was £2,716 : 11s. 11d., a large sum in those days.

On Monday, 9th July, 1599, Whitgift's Hospital was dedicated to the use of the poor by Richard Bancroft, Bishop of London, and Antony Watson, Bishop of Chichester; there were many present at this service, including one George Whitgift, brother of the Archbishop. The Hospital, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, has

¹ In Garrow's *History of Croydon* (1818), some of the correspondence between the Vicar and Mr. Wormald at Lambeth are printed from the MS. 275, relative to the Hospital. The following extracts, however, appear for the first time:—

1596. Feb. 17. The foundations were laid, and MS. 275 records, that “*findinge firme ground they have filled up the trench with great flints and small stones, not confusedly, but layed in course upon course, strong and sure.*”

1596. Feb. 19. A kind of contract “*to bring so much good and seasoned freestone as shall be sufficient for the doors and windows of the said Hospital, of a lawful, substantial and sufficient size, form and sorte, as noe workmen shall justly reprehend or find fault with.*”

The freemason to be bound with others in 100 marks to perform the said covenant.

1596. March 26. His Grace laid the two corner stones, north and south.

—. June 1. The first of all the Hospital was reared.

1597. Oct. 24. The sum of £1,238 : 12s. 7d. had been expended on the works.

1597. All the outwork, as tyling was finished.

1598. The seats in the Chapel finished, the Chapel paved, and the door hinged.

1599. September 17. The schoolmaster's house covered in, and in 1600 finished. The court paved, and the gate hinged.

the seal of Dives and Lazarus ; the statutes, framed by the Archbishop, as founder, were ordered to be openly read in the chapel of the said Hospital, within ten days after the Feast of St. Michael.

It would be impossible to omit other particulars interspersed in these building accounts, as they throw light, both on the topography of this town, and also illustrate the manners and customs of the time.

Thus, we find the following entries:—

Item, there is hewed at Lingfield 27 loades of tymbre and a halfe, at xvijs. the load.	
A load of wood from Norwood to the Kylne (probably for brick burning)	
To the sawyard for splittinge of the tymber at Lingfield	xxx8.
Item, for carriage of 4 loads from Lingfield to the Hospital, at xjs. per load 	xliijs.
For a bundle of rushes against the day of consecra- tion 	iiijd.
For shooinge the oxen	ijs. vjd.
Painting the vane for the schoolmaster's house ...	vjs.
Paid for making of 4 loads of bavens along the moat- side for the pore of the Hospital, at xv d. the load 	vs.
Paid for an hour-glass	ijs. viijd.
Paid for a lyned coal basket for the Hospital ...	
Paid for making the hedge in the Hospital gardens, orchards, &c. 7 days' work 	xjs. viijd.
For a pair of hedginge gloves 	ijd.
Paid for 2 daies work and a halfe, in making the lath at the Hospital and felling the elm in the osiar alley 	ijs. xjd.

Besides these items, are many which relate to the tenure of land, value of rents, and other particulars of a local and historical nature.

Among moneys received, I presume, for the benefit of the Hospital, are mentioned rents of farms and land at Shirley, Edgecumbe (Addiscombe), Woodside; also from houses at North End, South End, and Butcher Row. Frequent reference is made to “ Frith's Fields,” Croham Hurst, &c.

The former place may be identified as the site where the judicial examination of John Frith took place, before

Sir Thomas Cromwell and Archbishop Cranmer, for denying the doctrine of transubstantiation.

Frith was afterwards burnt in Smithfield in 1534. The site of these fields is supposed to be in the neighbourhood of the Tamworth Road.

We also find accounts of weekly payments of the poor of this Hospital. The box (which still retains a place under the entrance gateway) was opened at certain times, and from the 26th of June to 29th September 1602, there was found in it iiiijl. viijs. iiid.

Among the Archbishops' Visitations of this Hospital, that of the Primate Laud, in August 1634, contains some points to be noted ; among many questions asked, the two following appear to be of individual interest.

"How many loads of woods are yearly, one with another, felled on grounds and lands belonging to the Hospital, and to what use is the same yearly converted ?"

"Whether there be a common chest to keep all the dotations, charters, &c.?"

This last question seems naturally to cause me to refer to the valuable documents of the Hospital, recently arranged and preserved by the governors, and the patient skill and labour of Mr. Frewer, Chairman of the Estates Committee, in rendering them available for use and reference, and whose aid and courtesy claims my best acknowledgments.

To Dr. Carpenter, also, the Surrey Archaeological Society is mainly indebted for the inception and success of the Croydon meeting in March 1886, and for his opening address on the life and times of Archbishop Whitgift.

The collection consists of Court Rolls, deeds, indentures, over 200 in number, dating from the early 15th to the end of the 16th century, and later.

As throwing light on Croydon history, and especially on the tenures held by this Hospital, these archives supply a most valuable link to previous records.

The documents are arranged in boxes, with an excellent index of their contents.

Among local allusions, mention is often made of the "Checkers" and the "Swan," old hostelries of Croydon; the former has entirely disappeared, but the name of the latter is preserved in the house next the Hospital.

Again, reference occurs to Northampton, a fact which is explained by some of the revenues of the Hospital having been obtained from property in that town.

The following is a selection of those deeds and other manuscripts which relate to the land or revenues of this Foundation:—

4 Edward IV, 1465.

Demise (in Latin) from Thomas Haymond and John Henere, John Blundell, and Henry Morton of a messuage, garden with the boundaries set out.
(Seals attached.)

6 Edward IV, 1467. "The Chequers."

Power of attorney given by John Horne and Thomas Fermery to Henry Perneys, citizen and draper of London, to take "liverie and seisin" of and in one tenement in Croydon called "The Chequer."

21 Edward IV.

Robert Malory and others to Richard Greene of Northampton. Conveyance of messuage. Ten seals attached of the vendors of the property, and one of importance, viz., the seal of Mayor of Northampton.

7 Henry VIII.

An account book, kept with much precision, relating chiefly to rents of farm and lands, at or near Croham Hurst, payments of wages, &c.

11 Henry VIII. ("The Swan.")

William Turtell, of Southwark, a quit claim to John Turtell, of Southwark, miller, of the right and claim in the tenement called "The Swan." Space for a large initial letter is left, and the document is clearly written.

18 Henry VIII.

Between Wm. Curlewe and John Lacy, of one messuage, one garden and four acres of land.

37 Elizabeth (22nd April, 1595).

Power of attorney, given by John Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury, appointing Richard Whitgift and Michael Murgatroyd, his true and lawful attorneys, to take delivery and seisin of "The Swan."

This document has the autograph Jo. Whitgift, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Indenture. 20th February, 1548.

John Dixon (notary public), living near Fleet Bridge, the south side of Fleet Street, then stated as being in the "suburbs" of London.

"Chequers."

Probate of will of Nicholas Ives in relation to the "Chequers." 1558.

Case stated in dealing with the "Chequers" by sons of Nicholas Ives. (Undated.)

(1589.)

Deed of recovery, touching the "Chequers." Attached thereto is the Royal seal of Elizabeth.

Rent Charge. 43 Elizabeth, 1600.

As to what was then called Lancaster College (now occupied by Messrs. Cook's warehouse, St. Paul's Churchyard). This property still pays an annual rent-charge to Whitgift's Hospital.

41 Elizabeth, 1598.

Deed of fine and recovery. Lands in Croydon, Woodside, Shirley, and Combe.

The Royal seal attached, and space left for initial letter. On the seal, the Queen is represented under a canopy, and the Royal supporters are the dragon and greyhound.

Charge for the conveyance of Sir Wm. Walter's land to the Hospital. A lawyer's bill in mediæval times; the amount is £11: 6s. Od.

31st August, 1599.

Power of attorney. Whitgift's appointment of Edward Aylworth, of Middle Temple, to be his attorney.

Autograph of Archbishop and seal.

The "Checkers" is frequently named in the powers of attorney.

1596.

Note for sale of "Checkers."

The descent of this house is traced from early times, and the Rector of Croydon, Samuel Finch, appears as witness of its transfer.

Lastly, an interesting Court Roll of the Manor of Croham, from the 18th of Henry VIII to the 6th of William and Mary, 1694; this manor, in extent about 400 acres, reached to the next parish, Sanderstead, and was much connected with the history of the Hospital.

Croham passed through several hands, till it belonged to Sir Oliph. Leigh, of Addington, by whom it was sold to Archbishop Whitgift, who gave it to his Hospital as part of its endowment.

The fine monument to Sir Oliph. Leigh, in Addington church, was described by one of our Vice-Presidents, Granville Leveson-Gower, F.S.A., in Volume VII of this Society's transactions.

Any account of this Hospital could not close without some short reference to Archbishop Whitgift, its founder and benefactor.

His life, known to many through Dean Hook's *Lives of the Archbishops*, has also been written by Strype, the historian; by Sir George Paule in 1612 and 1699; a sketch also appearing in Garrow's *History of Croydon*, page 209. The Primate's works, issued and "edited" by the Parker Society, 3 vols. 1851, are known to most readers. The family of Whitgift can be traced to Yorkshire, where a branch of them settled at Great Grimsby. John, the Archbishop, was born in 1530; after education in London, then at Queen's and Pembroke, Cambridge, he became a fellow of Peterhouse, the celebrated Dr. Perne being Master of that College. Dr. Whitgift was Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity in 1563, Master of Pembroke Hall in 1567, and of Trinity College in 1570.

He was one of the chaplains of Queen Elizabeth,—in 1573 was made Dean of Lincoln, and in 1576 Bishop of Worcester, and on the death of Archbishop Grindal, in 1583, became Primate of all England. His ecclesiastical and political career was attended with much success, though he had great difficulties to encounter in enforcing a regular administration of affairs, and balancing opposite theological parties. It was, however, for his manor and house at Croydon that he entertained so strong an affection; here he received his Queen several times in courtly state, and built the Hospital so much associated with him. In all the details he took the greatest interest, even to choosing the motto for the entrance gateway, "*Qui dat pauperi non indigebit*," which, as it

arrests the stranger's eye, also bespeaks, though in silent language, the constant object of his benevolence.

Though nearly 300 years have passed since the erection of this Hospital, its historical and antiquarian features are undiminished. The chapel, with its panelled walls, paintings, and old glass, seems devotional and quaint as of yore; the hall, with its timber ceiling and low-pitched windows, the same almost as when the Primate used to dine with his "poor brethren" the inmates, as he called them; and the warden's room, with finely carved mantel and wainscot, cannot escape notice.

Even the accessories of the Hospital, as the oaken chests, mazer bowls with inscriptions, and other curiosities, are so many heir-looms of the past. The mazer bowls were exhibited at the Society of Antiquaries, in 1886. Everything which adds to the annals of this Hospital awakens some new interest, not the least, however, may be enumerated the carefully arranged deeds and charters throwing fresh light on local and County history.

To Mr. George Lipscomb, the Warden of the College, the Society is indebted for some notes from the Hospital accounts, as follows:—

He referred to the site of the Hospital as having been occupied partly by the old Chequers Inn, and that the schoolmaster's house stood near the position of the Staye-Cross House, often mentioned in early documents. The Warden also alluded to Mr. Finch, the Vicar of Croydon, whose correspondence is full of the progress of the Hospital building; some of these letters have been printed in Garrow's *History of Croydon*, from the originals in MS. 275, Lambeth Palace Library.

From the Ledger books preserved in the Hospital, much interest could be gained as to the persons employed on the structure, and in the work done at the expense of Archbishop Whitgift.

Among several benefactors, the Warden cited the name of Mr. William Mill, who was at the charge of the lead and brass work, which cost £48 : 16s. 11d., no little sum in those days.

Mr. W. Thornhill, the Archbishop's Chaplain, was at the charge of the great window in the Chapel and the glass-work, which cost £12 : 16s. 8d.

It is reasonable to suppose that the arms of the See of Canterbury now in the window were a part of the original glass.

In the Chapel are to be noticed the quaint fittings, the seats made of the knotted and rough part of the timber which could not be used for other purposes. The fine oak wainscot was erected in 1640. It appears that Jasper Yardeley, the then Warden, left £10 for this to be done, and the bill of this work is among the old Ledger books of 1599.

The Chapel was used for admonitions, and in it the Statutes of the Hospital were periodically read, and a Visitation was held by the Commissioners of Archbishop Abbot in 1616, in the same building. Of the admonitions above referred to, we read of one in the year 1602 against one of the inmates, for spreading discord, expressly forbidden by the Founder's Statutes.

Many interesting particulars were then given as to the old Hall of the Hospital. We read of Mr. Edward Aylworth at the expense of the casements and the glazing of the Hall at the cost of £3 : 4s. 2d.

There are historical pieces of glass in the Hall, and some with the arms of Queen Elizabeth. There are oak tables of the date 1614, and the whole structure is much in the same condition as when Archbishop Whitgift used to dine with what he called his "poor brothers and sisters."

On the mantel-shelf is a block of black stone with a Latin inscription. The stone was part of Archbishop Whitgift's tomb in the parish church, and as that monument suffered in the fire of 1867, when the above church was almost all burnt, it is the more to be recorded.

In the room over the Hall, called the great wainscotted chamber, is a fine carved mantel with the arms of Archbishop Whitgift and the See of Canterbury.

The furniture of this room is described in the Ledger Book. Among other things, a table as a "ffaire drawinge

table," here were also stools, chairs, and forms all duly enumerated.

Connected with the Hall may be quoted the inventory of kitchen utensils, some of which may be noted as indicative of what was in use at that period.

"An earthen bowle gylte wth a cover, and an erthen platter of the same, 2 erthen cups with covers, and one dozen and a-half of lyttle stone crewres, a great nest of wooden bowls, and the weight of pewter at that time was 13½ ewt. 13lbs."

Then follows a list of a quantity of brass vessels and a dozen painted bowls.

Here it may be remarked that Whitgift's Hospital possesses some fine mazer bowls, which, with others from different places, formed the subject of an illustrated essay in the recent *Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries*, by Mr. H. St. John Hope, F.S.A.

Among the various benefactors to this part of the Hospital, may be named Mrs. Eleanor Pullford, who at the suggestion of Mr. Edward Burton, Warden in 1605, gave diaper table cloths and napkins to the institution. Mr. Burton was of Caius College, Cambridge, Commissary of London, and an official to the Archdeacon of Middlesex.

Other gifts are mentioned: one by Mr. John Shaw, Clerk of the Chamber of London, who gave a clock and a sun-dial, and also "paid for enlarging and making stronger the Clock House." We next find the name of Michael Murgatroyd, Seeretary and Steward to Archbishop Whitgift, leaving money to be distributed at his death.

One Richard Stockdall gave the house in Butcher's Road, Croydon, to the Hospital; others, who were tenants of the Northampton property held by the Hospital, left donations in money.

The Warden then gave an account of his predecessors in office from 1600 to 1775, and mentioned they were all honest and earnest men with one exception; he also referred at full length to the former schoolmasters of the Whitgift Foundation. He then gave particulars of the moneys paid to the poor, and the box at the entrance

gateway put up by the Founder in 1602, and opened every quarter, and the contents given to those in want.

Several Primates, as Archbishops Secker and Manners Sutton, have given to the inmates; the former left the sum of £500, and the latter gave £7 : 10s. for a dinner at the jubilee of George III, in 1809.

The Ledger and other old books are carefully preserved, and it will have been seen from this short account how much light they throw on this ancient and historical Foundation.