

OLD BRIDEWELL.

BY

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Read at a General Meeting of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, held at Bridewell Hospital, on 20th May, 1905.

I.—THE EARLY HISTORY.

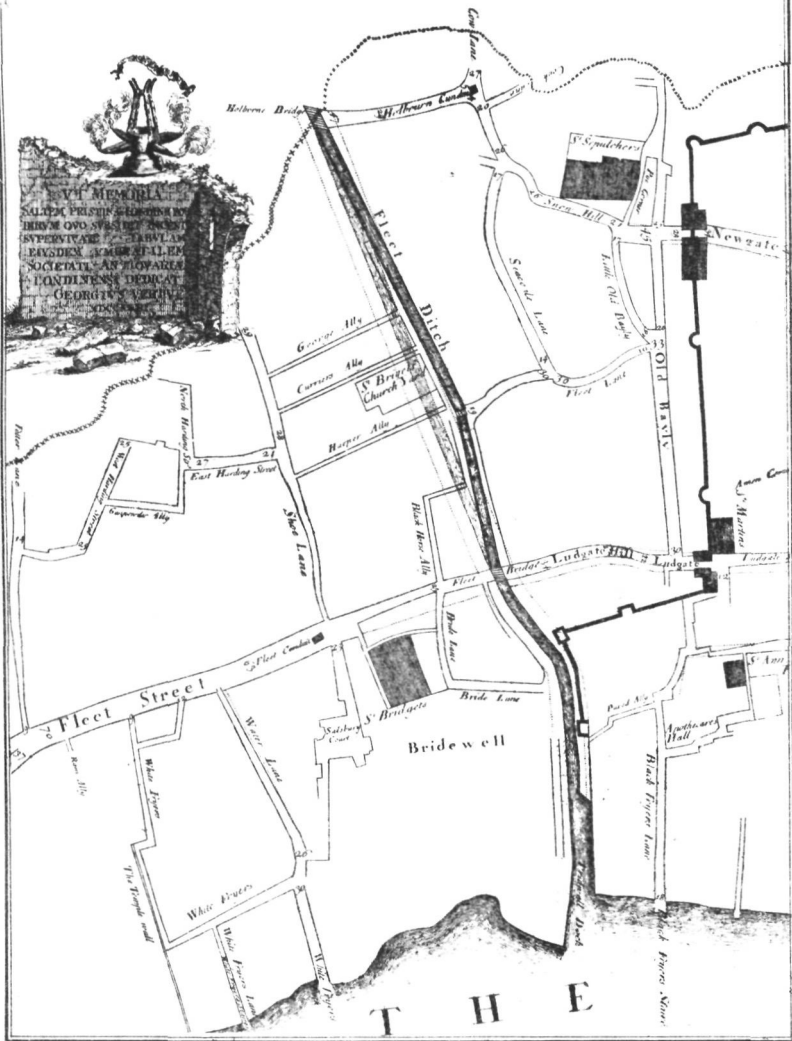
THE general history of Bridewell is so well known to the archæologists of London, that I propose on the present occasion to deal only with the antiquities of this famous Hospital, more especially in connection with certain recent discoveries which have been made in constructing the foundations of new premises in Water Street.

Now, the name of this street describes very well the ancient condition of this place, which consisted of land almost entirely surrounded by water. The gateway by which you entered faced the Fleet Ditch. The ground at the back was marshy or watery. On the south flowed the River Thames. Only northwards was there solid earth, stretching towards S. Bride's Church. Moreover, towards the river the land ran to a narrow point.

Look at the map of Roman London, and all will be clear. The Roman wall ran along the eastern side of New Bridge Street, which was then a waterway, and not a roadway, parallel to the line of the railway between Ludgate Hill and S. Paul's Stations. The water of the Fleet afforded additional protection to

V. MEMORIA
SALUTIS PRINCIPIS
IN OMNIBUS
SYMPPLICIA
EXSISTENTIA
CONSTITUTIONE
GEORGII SECVNDI

Fleet River
Fleet Ditch
Fleet Street
Whitechapel Road
St. Bride's Church
St. Andrew's Church
St. Martin's Church
St. James's Church
St. George's Church
St. Peter's Church
St. Paul's Church
St. John's Church
St. Mary's Church
St. Elizabeth's Church
St. Anne's Church
St. Agnes's Church
St. Margaret's Church
St. Dunstons Church
St. Andrew's Church
St. Martin's Church
St. James's Church
St. George's Church
St. Peter's Church
St. Paul's Church
St. John's Church
St. Mary's Church
St. Elizabeth's Church
St. Anne's Church
St. Agnes's Church
St. Margaret's Church
St. Dunstons Church



the strong Roman fortifications of Londinum. On the narrow tongue of land beyond, between the Fleet and the Thames, there is reason to believe a tower was erected for defensive purposes, just as the famous Tower of London guarded the eastern end of the City. A careful examination of the topography shows plainly that a fortified tower, or even a small castle, would in ancient days have been of great service for the protection of London at this particular point. Such a tower would command the water of the Thames as well as the Fleet. The ground immediately adjoining would be vacant.

On the north, where the land rose slightly, there was a holy spring, supposed to possess miraculous curative power.

In the days of the Danes, perhaps in the reign of King Canute, a Christian church was erected beside this old well, and dedicated to the Danish Saint Bridget. On the same spot Sir Christopher Wren erected the magnificent architectural monument which we now know as S. Bride's Church.

In the reign of King William the Conqueror we meet with historic records relating to this district.

It is recorded that in 1087, in consequence of a serious fire at S. Paul's, King William gave choice stones from his tower or castle, standing near the Thames at the west end of the City, to Maurice, Bishop of London, for the repair of his cathedral church.

Stow, in his "Survey," says this tower, or castle, stood on the present site of Bridewell.

In the seventh year of King John, judgment was given here in an important law suit, "Walter de Crisping being Justiciar, and other Barons of my Lord the King being present."

Philip Augustus, King of France, wrested Normandy from King John, A.D. 1206, and before we pass on, in our brief historical survey, from Norman and Angevin times, we must turn to our recent discoveries, because the pointed brick arches with chalk and mortar abutments resting on 6-inch planking, which formed the support of the old walls above, seems likely to have belonged to these old days, possibly to the reign of King John himself. For, with the accession of this monarch the pointed arch came into general use, as distinguished from the round arch of the Normans, and this prince's unhappy relations with his subjects would lead him to strengthen and enlarge a castle so close to the great City of London.

Moreover, it is recorded that in the year 1210 King John summoned a Parliament to meet him at S. Bride's, or at his Palace of Bridewell, on which occasion he obtained from the clergy and monks the large sum of £100,000. Yet the royal residence, such as it was, appears to have been seldom used, and, in fact, fell into decay, and I doubt if there was much beside a fortified tower surrounded by waste land throughout the greater part of the Middle Ages. But these foundations may be connected with the extensive works known to have been carried out in 1522. Therefore, the arches cannot be older than King John's reign, or later than the year 1522.

II.—RECENT DISCOVERIES.

In excavating in Water Street the following articles have been found, some of which go back to well-nigh prehistoric times, and others belong to the Middle Ages, and some pottery to the sixteenth century :—

1. Portions of the *bos longifrons*.*
 - a. Part of the head, 13 inches from extremity of horns.
 - b. One horn.
 - c. Bone of ox 14 inches in length.
2. Part of hard wooden pile, on which old foundations rested, 11 inches in height and 8 inches broad.
3. Two bricks of pointed arches under foundations, where Messrs. Spicer Brothers' new warehouse is being erected, 9 inches by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in thickness. These bricks formed part of an arch, itself part of a series of arches, resting on planking with chalk and mortar abutments.
4. Fragments of pottery found at a depth of 26 feet on May 16th, 1905. Probably this pottery belongs to the sixteenth century.
5. A skull, or rather a portion of a skull, in which there is the mark of a serious wound. A pathetic interest attaches to this discovery, for it is evident that the warrior to whom it belonged met with a violent end.
6. Frontal and cores of the *bos longifrons*, found 20 feet deep in the Thames mud.
7. One brick of a pointed arch.
8. Some fragments of pottery.

The last four articles above enumerated have been presented to the Corporation of the City of London for the Guildhall Museum.

When the Electric Light Station was erected for the Royal Hotel, built by the late Alderman de Keyser,

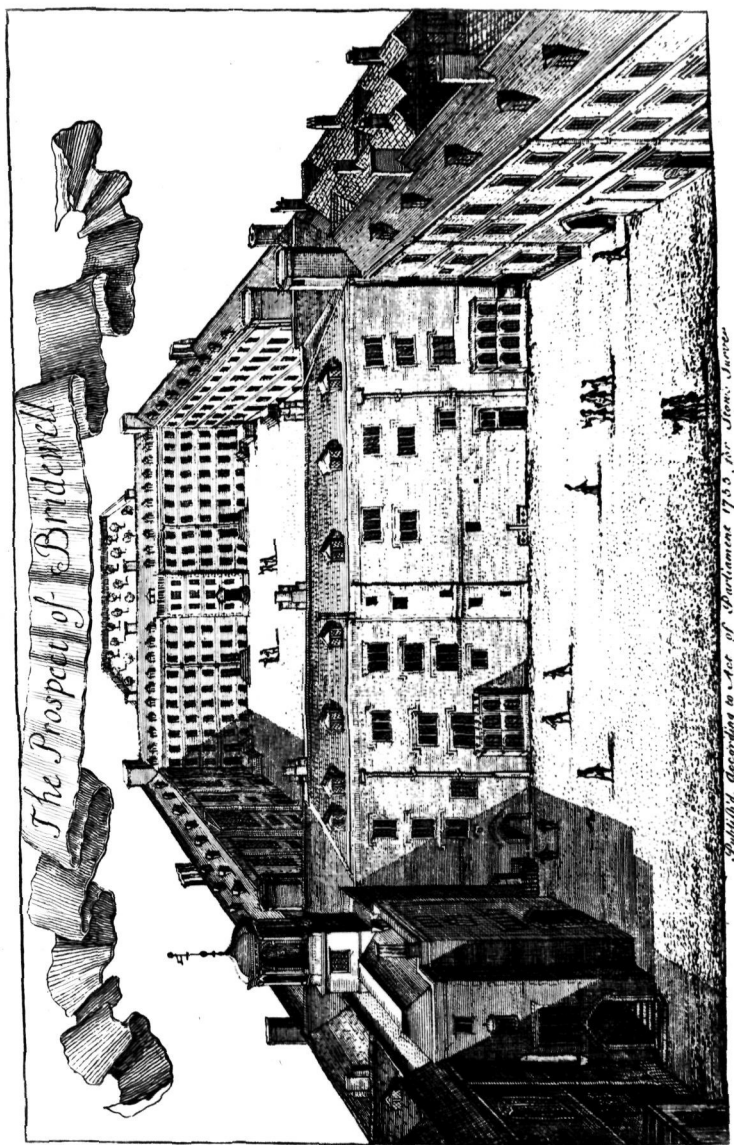
* This interesting animal flourished during the Roman occupation of Britain, and afterwards became extinct, so that these horns and bones belong to the third or fourth century.

similar arched foundations were discovered on a line with the back wall of the Electric Light Station next the City of London School playground.

The fragments of pottery may be practically dated from the following Inner Temple Records (Vol. I, pp. lxxxvi, lxxxvii), for the character of the clay used is similar, and apparently came from the Bishop of Winchester's estate.

"In February, 1559-60, it was ordered, 'that from henceforth there shall not any ashen cups be provided, but the House to be served in green cups, both of winter and summer.' The use of green pots (as they were called) in substitution for the wooden mugs, was common to all the Inns of Court, and was probably adopted about the same time. Some years ago when the new buildings were being erected in King's Bench Walk, a great number of broken green pots were found during the excavations. [*See N. & Q., Series I, Vol. viii, p. 171, etc.*] There are no green jugs or pots now either in the Inner or the Middle Temple, but some are still preserved in Lincoln's Inn, and Gray's Inn, and through the courtesy of those Societies I have been able to obtain a drawing of the small green jugs used for wine. They are of common brown earthenware covered with bright green glaze. Of the green pots, or mugs themselves, I have not yet been able to find a sample. There is among the MSS. at Loseley Hall a letter from Sir Julius Caesar, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, Master of the Requests, and a bencher of our Inn, dated 19th August, 1591, addressed to Sir William More, then Keeper of Farnham Court, in Surrey, which bears on this subject, and which, as it may appropriately form part of our records, I venture to transcribe :—

"After my hartie commendacions, etc., Whereas in tymes past the bearer hereof hath had out of the Parke of Farnham, belonging to the Bishopricke of Winchester, certaine white clay for the making of grene potts usually drunk in by the gentlemen of the Temple, and now understandinge of some restraint thereof, and that you (amongst others) are authorised



VIEW OF BRIDEWELL IN 1755, FROM STOW'S "SURVEY."

there in divers respects during the vacaneye of the said Bishopricke ; my request, therefore, unto you is, and the rather for that I am a member of the said house, that you would in favr of us all p'mytt the bearer hereof to digge and carrie away so much of the said claye as by him shalbe thought sufficient for the furnishinge of the said house wth grene potts aforesaid, paying as he hath heretofore for the same. In accomplishment whereof myself with the whole societie shall acknowledge o'selves much beholden unto you, and shalbe readie to requite you at all times hereafter wth the like pleasure. And so I bid you moste heartilie farewell.

“Inner Temple, this sixth of August 1591.

“To the right worshipful Sir W'm More Knight geve these.”

III.—HENRY VIII AND BRIDEWELL.

In the reign of Henry VIII we again hear of Bridewell in connection with the Sovereign, for Cavendish, in his *Life of Cardinal Wolsey*, says that this great prelate “grew in good estimation and favour with the king, to whom the king gave a house at Bridewell in Fleet Street, sometime Sir Richard Empson's, where he kept house for his family, and daily attended upon the king in the Court.”

In 1522 the whole building was repaired for the reception of the Emperor Charles V, but that distinguished monarch actually resided in the Black Friars on the other side of the Fleet within the old City wall.

In 1525 a Parliament was held at Blackfriars, and the king created nobles at Bridewell.

On the fall of Cardinal Wolsey in 1529, all his property reverted to the king, and Henry made use of Bridewell during the famous controversy concerning

his marriage with Queen Catharine of Aragon. In his old chronicle, Hall declares :—"In the autumn of 1528 Cardinal Campeius was brought to ye Kinge's presence, then living at Brydewell, by ye Cardinal of Yorke, and was caryed in a chayer of crimson velvet borne between iiij persones, and the Cardynall of Yorke and he sat both on the ryght hand of the Kinge's throne, and there was one Francisci, secretary to Cardinal Campeius, made an eloquent oracion in the Latin tongue."

As you all know well, the legal question in dispute was the validity of a marriage with a deceased brother's wife, not the popular subject of debate in the House of Commons—the validity of a marriage with a deceased wife's sister. In the end the Cardinal decided against the king, and in 1530 Henry became a zealous reformer, and bitter enemy of the Pope. When travelling in Italy, I have myself seen the fine tapestry in the Campeggio Palace at Bologna, which King Henry gave the Cardinal at the time of the trial of the Royal Divorce. It was not of course seriously contemplated by the Court of Rome to grant a formal divorce, but the question was raised whether the king's deceased brother's marriage to Catharine were valid or not. If it were, then Henry's marriage was invalid. If not, the reverse was the case. Despite the Cardinal, Henry would have nothing more to do with Queen Catharine, and, at the same time, took a dislike to Bridewell, which was associated with this famous Royal lawsuit. At his death the place was again in a state of decay, and was granted by his son King Edward VI for charitable uses along with other property.

There is a curious MS. in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries which gives a list of the harness for horse and footmen in Bridewell on the death of Henry VIII.

IV.—THE CHARTER.

A few days before his death, in January, 1547, Henry VIII, on the petition of Sir John Gresham, granted charters to S. Bartholomew's and Bethlem. King Edward carried out his father's intention by granting charters to Christ's, Bridewell, and S. Thomas in June, 1553, just before his own death. These charters were confirmed by Queen Mary.

Now the greater part of the lands enumerated in the last charter had belonged to monastic corporations or collegiate churches previous to the year 1530, or to the college of the Savoy, founded by King Henry VII, but these were entirely kept by S. Thomas,* and Bridewell and the liberties thereof were almost the only estates which passed to the Corporation of Bridewell Hospital under this famous charter. In the document itself Bridewell Place (not Palace) is the usual designation.

A few words as to the circumstances of this royal grant. It was the influence of the Corporation of London, and the personal favour of that worthy prelate, Ridley, Bishop of London, with the king, which brought this matter to a happy completion.

In May, 1552, my lord of London wrote to Sir William Cecyl, Knight, and secretary to the king:—"Good Master Cecyl,—I must be a suitor with you

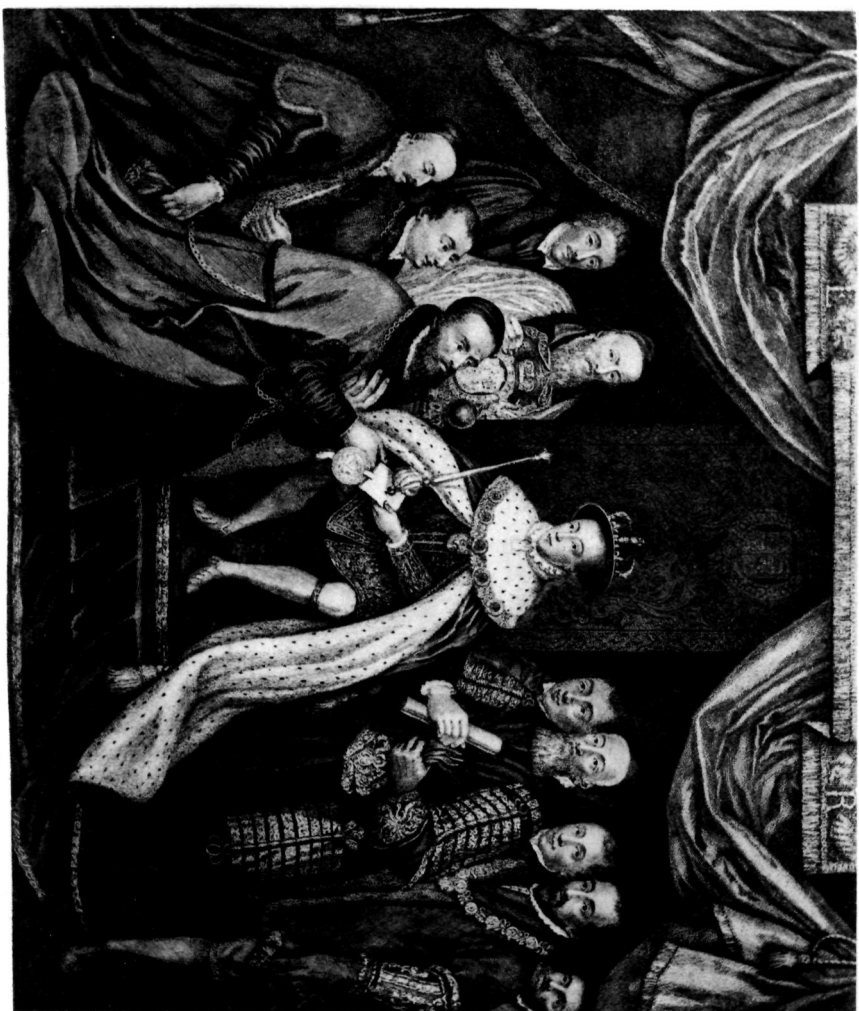
* This arrangement was sanctioned by a Court held on August 11th, 1562.

in our Master Christ's cause. I beseech you be good unto him. The matter is, Sir, that he hath been too, too long abroad, without lodging, in the streets of London, both hungry, naked and cold. There is a large wide empty house of the King's Majesty called Bridewell, which would wonderfully serve to lodge Christ in, if he might find friends at Court to procure in His cause."

The Bishop also preached before the king on charity, and Edward VI, after the sermon, sent for Bishop Ridley, and ordered him to confer with Sir R. Dobbs, Lord Mayor, upon the whole matter of the charitable hospitals within the City of London. The results of this conference are too well known to need repetition here.

In Queen Mary's reign, from the close confinement of his prison cell, shortly before he was burnt at the stake, the good Bishop wrote a most Christian letter, commencing thus:—"O Dobbs, Dobbs, Alderman and Knight, thou in thy year didst win my heart for evermore for that honourable act, that most blessed work of God, of the erection and setting up of Christ's holy hospitals, and truly religious houses, which by thee and through thee were begun." This noble work was completed under Sir George Barnes.

Perhaps the finest picture in Bridewell Hall at the present time represents the granting of the charter by Edward VI to the City of London. It hangs over the fireplace. The other pictures are for the most part portraits of presidents.



KING EDWARD VI GRANTING A CHARTER TO BRIDEWELL HOSPITAL.

The most important of these pictures are here enumerated.

The Lord Mayor, Sir George Barnes, and the two Sheriffs (the one to the left, William Garret, or Gerard, the other, John Mainard), are represented as receiving the Charter on their knees.

The upper figure, on the left, in a furred gown, is the Town Clerk, William Blackmore. The Prelate, on the King's right, bearing the Great Seal, is Thomas Goodrich, Bishop of Ely, who was also Lord Chancellor. The figure holding a Roll and Bag, on the King's left, is Sir Robert Bowes, Knight and Master of the Rolls. The nobleman on the King's left, wearing the Garter and Collar of the Order, is William, first Earl of Pembroke, Lord Chamberlain. The figure on the extreme right of the Picture is a Portrait of Hans Holbein, the reputed Painter. The two remaining figures in the rear of Sir Robert Bowes and Lord Pembroke are Yeomen of the Guard, the Charter having been presented at the Royal Palace of Whitehall.

Sir William Withers, dated 1719, representing Sir William attending the procession of Queen Anne to S. Paul's Cathedral in 1708, on occasion of the public thanksgiving for the victories of the Duke of Marlborough. He presented handsome gates of hammered iron, formerly at entrance to the chapel of Bridewell Hospital, put up in the corridor leading to Bridewell Hall when the chapel was taken down in 1867. This portrait was originally part of a larger picture.

Sir Thomas Rawlinson, President of Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals, appointed Sheriff 1686-7, by royal mandate of King James II, having been foreman of the jury during the trial of Alderman Cornish in 1696.

Sir Robert Geffery. By Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Sir William Turner. By M. T. Beale.

Sir William Garrard. Painter unknown.

William Benn. By Thomas Hudson. Presented by Francis Wilson.

Sir Richard Glyn, Bart. By Zoffani.

Sir James Sanderson. By Gainsborough Dupont.

Sir R. C. Glyn. By Hoppner.

Sir Peter Laurie. By Phillips, R.A.

King George III and Queen Charlotte. Copied from picture by Romney. Presented by Sir Walter Stirling.

Unknown, died aged 97. By G. Lanskroen, 1689.

Richard Clark, Chamberlain of London. By Lady Bell. (*See note, p. 110.*)

Ralph Price. By R. P. Knight, R.A.

J. E. Johnson. By W. M. Tweedie.

William Taylor Copeland. By W. M. Tweedie.

Sir James C. Lawrence. By H. P. Schäfer.

The union of Bridewell with Bethlem was made September 27th, 1557.

The old rhyme may appropriately be recalled :—

'Twas once the palace of a prince,
If we may books confide in,
But given o'er by him long since,
For vagrants to reside in.

In 1608 large granaries were built on the river front for the storage of corn. These were destroyed by the great fire in 1666.

V.—OLD DOCUMENTS IN THE HOSPITAL.

Various documents are now exhibited belonging to the hospital, and illustrating its history in the seventeenth century, and also some interesting examples of plate.

The oldest document is :—

Queen Elizabeth's Confirmation Charter of the Wapping and North-leigh Estates. 12th April, 1600.

The next exhibit is:—

An early Rent Roll of 1605, which includes Bethlem as well as Bridewell, viz. :—

The Rental of all and singular the yearly rents belonging and appertaining to the Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem from the feast of the birth of our Lord God, Anno Domoni 1605.

	RENTS.	ARREARS.
ffirst George Greame for . . . tenements payeth yearly	20 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
William Kinge Carpenter for a house and yard payeth yearlie	10 : 06 : 08.	0 : 0 : 0.
Thomas Ellis for a Boar house yearly ...	00 : 03 : 04.	0 : 0 : 0.

IN THE GREENE YARD.

All the Roomes there employed to the house	0 : 0 : 0.	0 : 0 : 0.
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IN THE SMYTHYS YARD.

Gabriell Coxe for a house yearlie... ..	01 : 00 : 00.	
Ambrose Smyth for a house & shopp yearly	02 : 00 : 00.	
Goodmiss Sooley for a house & shopp yearly	01 : 13 : 04.	
Henry Hayward in the house some time John Ryecrofte payeth yearly	01 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
John Rosse payeth yearlie	03 : 00 : 00.	
Thomas Cowlinge payeth yearly	02 : 06 : 08.	0 : 0 : 0.
Peter Dubond, for a Rye House yearlie...	00 : 13 : 4.	:
William Cotton payeth yearlie... ..	02 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Peeter Streete payeth yearlie	07 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
More of him for a shedd	00 : 05 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.

IN THE NETHER YARD.

Ephram Ambrowes for a house & wharf payeth yearlie	28 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Ffrancis Dodd for the Great Yard payeth yearlie	04 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Masters Bonner & Wheatley for a house & Wharfe paying yearlie	33 : 06 : 8.	0 : 0 : 0.
Thomas Ballard the Hempman payeth yearly for a room	00 : 06 : 8.	
George Maulton for a tenement some time Marten Kirbyes payeth yearlie...	02 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.

	RENTS.	ARREARS.
James Harrisonn payeth yearlie ...	03 : 00 : 00.	0.
Willm. Ffranck for a lease for gather- inge ragge payeth yearly ...	10 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
William Donne for a Water course payeth yearlie	04 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Robert Thomas the Hempman for a tenement payeth yearlie ...	00 : 05 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Thomas Hopkins for a house & Shop payeth yearlie	05 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
WITHOUT THE HOUSE.		
The Lord Treasurer for a Stable payeth yearlie*	02 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
John Weightsonn payeth yearly ...	02 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Nathaniell Mathewe payeth yearly ...	03 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Nicholas Chester payeth yearly ...	02 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Gabriell Coxe for a shedd yearly ...	00 : 13 : 4.	2 : 0 : 0.
John Jeweller for twoo shedds yearly...	00 : 10 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
IN BETHLEM.		
Thomas Marten for certaine tenements & gardens payeth yearly ...	20 : 6 : 8.	0 : 0 : 0.
Alice Hestowe Widdowe yearlie ...	08 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
George Gibson for certaine tenements payeth yearlie	11 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Richard Lansdale for a House sometime Mr. Oldfords payeth yearly ...	02 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
More of him for a garden sometime Widdowe Coutts. payeth yearly...	00 : 10 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Mathew Burkhed payeth yearly ...	04 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
William Campion payeth yearly ...	00 : 13 : 4.	0 : 0 : 0.
IN OXFORDSHIRE.		
Edmond Kinge for the Parsonage Northlee payeth yearlie ...	10 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
CHARINGE CROSSE.		
John Bink for certaine tenements & grounds there payeth yearlie ...	03 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
WAPPINGE.		
William Tottle for many tenements & land there payeth yearlie ...	80 : 00 : 00.	0 : 0 : 0.
Two items in this rent roll are of special interest.		

* Is this Lord Treasurer connected with the noble family of Cecil which has long held so much property in the Strand.

The payment of £10 0s. 0d. for the rectory of Northleigh, and £80 for Wapping.

The rectory had belonged to the Abbot or Prior of Hayles, in the county of Gloucester, and had been surrendered by him to Henry VIII. Wapping had belonged to the Prior of S. Thomas of Acon, and we have a copy of the deed whereby the last Prior, or Master, Lawrence Gopferler, surrendered his estate to the king, who appears soon afterwards to have raised £1,100 upon it and the Oxfordshire rectory, presumably from the first Governors of Bridewell, and in this way to have transferred the property to its present owners. S. Thomas's Hospital possess part of this Priory Estate.

The origin of the house of S. Thomas of Acon in the Cheap is full of interest. When it is known that Agnes, sister of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, and wife of Thomas Fitz Theobald de Helles, was the founder about the year 1190, Henry VIII's bitter animosity to the establishment is easily understood. The very existence of this house commemorated the greatest mediæval exponent of the principle that Henry above all things hated, the very principle on account of which Becket was murdered by the four knights in Canterbury Cathedral, and Henry II did penance, by order of the Roman Pontiff, a few years after the Archbishop's martyrdom.

But the house of S. Thomas was founded not only in memory of the great Archbishop, but also in connection with the Crusades. There was a body of military knights, who apparently were in some sort of way connected with the Knights Templars. There

was a church at Acre, in the Holy Land, belonging to the Order while the Latin kingdom at Jerusalem, established by the Crusaders, lasted ; and the Master of the Order was established at Nicosia, in Cyprus, in connection with the Church of S. Nicolai Anglicorum. As Bishop Stubbs, our great English historian, states in his lectures, the full title of the Master was Master of the Knighthood of S. Thomas the Martyr in the kingdoms of Cyprus, Apulia, Sicily, Calabria, Brundisium, England, Flanders, Brabant, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Cornwall. Even after the Turks had captured Cyprus, the bells of this church were allowed to remain and summon the few Christians in Nicosia to public worship.

After the period of the Crusades the houses of this Order in the Levant dwindled and almost ceased to exist in consequence of the advance of the Turks, but the house in the City of London flourished, and was enriched by grants of land in various City parishes. The house where Gilbert Becket, Lord Mayor, or Portreeve, lived, and Archbishop Thomas was born between 1116 and 1119, became the property of the Prior and the brethren, and the Court of Aldermen were accustomed to assemble there and attend divine service in the Priory church on divers solemn occasions. The memory of the canonized Archbishop was respected in the City, and each new Lord Mayor, with the Alderman and livery, heard prayers on his inauguration day beside Gilbert Becket's tomb.

Gilbert Becket's romance was popular with Londoners in mediæval times. When travelling in

the Holy Land he was taken prisoner by a Saracen emir. According to tradition he effected his escape by the connivance of the emir's daughter, whom he converted to Christianity, and married.

Baptised by the name of Maud, she had an adventurous journey across Europe, and finally settled down in London in Becket's house in the Cheap.

Now amongst the earlier grants of land to the Prior of S. Thomas of Acon I find the following gift:—

On the 5th Kal. December, 3 Henry III, 1218, the Dean and Chapter of S. Paul granted and confirmed to Theodoricus, or Terricus, son of Edricus de Alegate, their mills in Wapping in fee, subject to the annual rent of 5 marks sterling.

Terricus, in consideration of 50 marks sterling, granted to God and the hospital of the Blessed Thomas the Martyr of Acon, and the brethren of the said hospital, the same mills, with the ditches, walls, waters, and trees, and the meadows and pasture thereto belonging, rendering thereout yearly to the said Dean and Chapter 40 shillings and 40 pence sterling, and to the said Terricus and his heirs a pound of pepper annually at the feast of Michaelmas.

There is a warranty of title against all men and women, as well Jews as Christians.

The original grant may be found in the Cottonian MSS. in the British Museum.

In 1221 this grant to the hospital is confirmed in the king's Court in Westminster.

In 1274 Richard de Ewelle granted, by deed, his mill at Wapping, the Prior agreeing to maintain two

chantry priests to celebrate divine offices for the soul of the said Richard, Matilda his wife, and other members of his family.

These are interesting early title deeds of the Bridewell estate at Wapping.

The house of Acon was incorporated by Act of Parliament, 23 Henry VI, c. 20, 1444. Long before the incorporation of the Mercers in 1393, the members of the fraternity assembled in the hall and worshipped in the Church of S. Thomas of Acon. In fact, they had a chantry chapel there, with their own chaplains. In the fifteenth century the connection between the house of Acon and the Mercers' Company was very close. Early in the sixteenth century the Mercers tried to obtain the right to appoint the Master or Prior, and had built a new hall and chapel, and at the Reformation they obtained a free grant of the buildings and church of Acon from King Henry VIII, in consideration of £969 17s. 6d.

Everything that stood on the present site of Mercers' Hall was burnt in the great fire of 1666.

The following are also exhibited :—

1554 to 1732. The Muniment Book. Containing copies of ancient title deeds, etc.

1559 to 1562. The first Court Book.

1636. Grant and Letters Patent under the great seal of Charles I relating to lands at Wapping and dated 17th August in the 11th year of H.M.'s reign.

NOTE.—The interest of the Hospital does not seem to be made clear in the deed.

1640. April 20th. A Lease to Margery Barnes, Widdow, of the North end of the Cellar at Bridewell Hospital for 28 years and a half from Lady day, 1640. Signed by Geo. Whitmore, President. John Witgood, N. Ramsy? Thos. Morice, James Peacocke, Edm. Harrison, Gra. Mosse, Richard Brow.
1655. Decr. 5th. Lease to John Watson, ffeltmaker, of premises in Bridewell Precinct.
1664. Grant and Letters Patent dated 21st July, 15th Charles II. Permission to erect Timber buildings. Exemption from liability under Statutes of Queen Elizabeth, and confirmation of title.
1667. Feby. 19th. Contract with Dorothy Haddocks of Wapping to build houses on the Hospital Estate there.
1670. July 14th. Bond on admission of Nicholas Hayes to be an Artsmaster of Bridewell Hospital.
1674. An Apprentice's Indenture.
1677. Grant and Letters Patent dated 8th April, 28th Charles II, relating to the devastation caused by fire in 1673, and giving particulars of the Grant of land along the River front of the Hospital Estate facing the Thames.
1682. The Beadle's Mace. The Gift of John Kendall, a Governor. This remarkably fine silver mace possesses a circular top, containing the royal arms, the royal crown, and the lion and the unicorn in relief on both sides. Below three coats of arms are found on the upper part of the mace, the arms of the City, the King, and probably the donor. The silver head is mounted on a handsome wooden staff, and stands above six feet in height, and is extremely well preserved.
1690. August 26th. Bond of Jeremy Mount, Clerk to the Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem, on being appointed Rentgatherer of the Hospital of Bethlem. This is the earliest record of the appointment to the office of Clerk and Receiver, now held by Mr. John Brewer, a most valuable official, who has served the Hospital above 30 years.
1771. Two Silver Candlesticks (Candelabra). The gift of Francis Wilson, Esq.
1772. Two Silver Candlesticks. The gift of Mr. Deputy Wm. Fouch.

1791. A Plan of Bridewell Hospital.

A collection of old views was also shown.

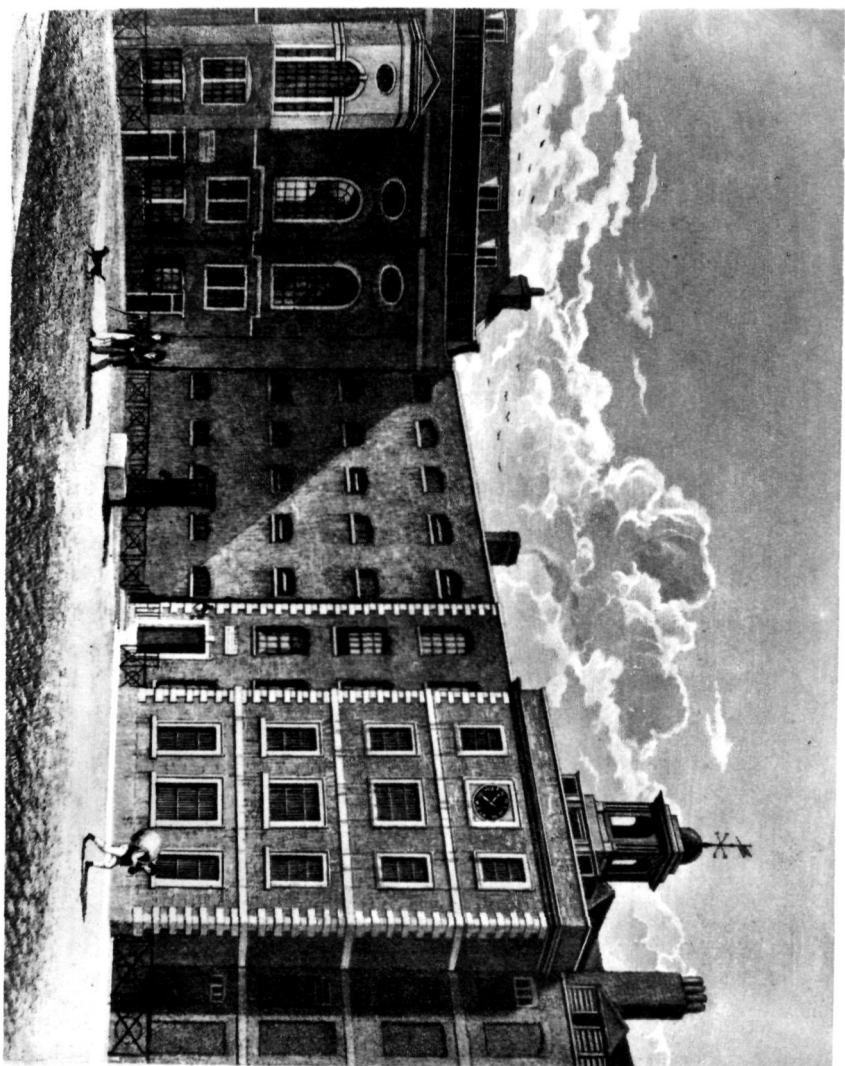
In 1642 some Turks were imprisoned in Bridewell.

The Bishop of S. David's had a lodging on the north side of Bridewell during the middle ages.

VI.—THE ABOLITION OF THE FLEET DITCH AND BRIDEWELL DOCK.

During the whole of the period hitherto considered, what is now New Bridge Street remained a sheet of water, which washed the walls of London on the east, and on the west provided good quays for unloading barges and other vessels. The head of water, however, gradually diminished, and in 1668 large sums of money were spent in endeavouring to make the Fleet navigable. In five years the works were completed as far as Fleet Bridge, the upper part towards Holborn was arched over, and covered with a new market. Strype says :—"It is wharfed on both sides with stone and brick laid with terras. It hath a strong campshot all along on both sides, over the brick wharfing, with land-ties in several places. It hath rails of oak, breast-high, above the campshot, to prevent danger at night."

The two bridges, one at Fleet Lane and the other at Bridewell, stood on stone arches over the river, having steps to ascend and descend on either side. Nevertheless, the Fleet soon became choked up again, and was regarded as a nuisance and a scandal to the City, so that in 1756 an Act of Parliament was obtained to fill up the Fleet, and from its mouth to construct a new bridge from Blackfriars to the opposite shore in the county of Surrey.



QUADRANGLE OF BRIDEWELL HOSPITAL, A.D. 1822.

Thus Pope in the Dunciad :—

This labour past, by Bridewell all descend,
As morning prayer, and flagellations end,
To where Fleet Ditch with disemboгуing stream
Rolls the large tribute of dead dogs to Thames :
The King of Dykes ! than whom no sluice of mud
With deeper sable blots the silver flood.

This great work, so advantageous to the citizens, was entrusted to Robert Mylne, F.R.S., my great grandfather, who had just won a silver medal for architectural drawing at the Academy of S. Luke, in the famous City of Rome. The foundation stone was laid by Sir Thomas Chitty, Lord Mayor, on October 30th, 1760. This bridge had nine arches, and was 995 feet long. The central arch was 100 feet in span, and the width 42 feet throughout. It was completed in 1768 at the cost of £152,840 3*s.* 10*d.* It was replaced by the present bridge about 30 years ago. Robert Mylne became a Governor of Bridewell November 26th, 1795.

Few of the thousands who now pass up and down New Bridge Street realise they are walking above the waterway which once formed the moat to the ancient walls of the City of London.

In modern times Bridewell has been best known to the world as a place where prisoners were lodged, though the main idea of this institution throughout the seventeenth century was really in connection with the system of apprenticeship which then prevailed amongst the various trades in the City of London. Not only were these lads taught their various trades, but, if refractory, were punished by whipping. A practice also prevailed amongst the City magistrates

of committing prisoners, both male and female, to Bridewell to be whipped by the beadle, and then dismissed. Thus, in December, 1556, a woman of Southwark was ordered by the Lord Mayor to be whipped at Bridewell, and placed in the pillory in Cheapside, with a paper on which was written "Whipped at Bridewell for leaving and forsaking her child in the Streets." On September 22nd, 1682, a special beadle was appointed for this purpose, instead of the beadle of the chapel. Hence the popular idea of Bridewell throughout the country. But this paper is already too long, and I will only add that the apprentice system became obsolete early in the last century, and the hospital, in the truest spirit of charity, at present maintains nearly 500 poor orphan boys and girls free of cost, gives them a good education, and puts them out in the world.

The Governors of Bridewell are always invited on the second Wednesday after Easter to accompany the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London to hear the Spital Sermon preached at Christ Church, Newgate, according to ancient custom. The name is derived from the Priory of S. Mary Spital, founded in 1197 on the east side of Bishopsgate, and dissolved by Henry VIII. There was a large churchyard adjoining, with a pulpit cross in it. In 1617 the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Keeper Bacon, and the Bishop of London attended, and afterwards dined with the Lord Mayor.

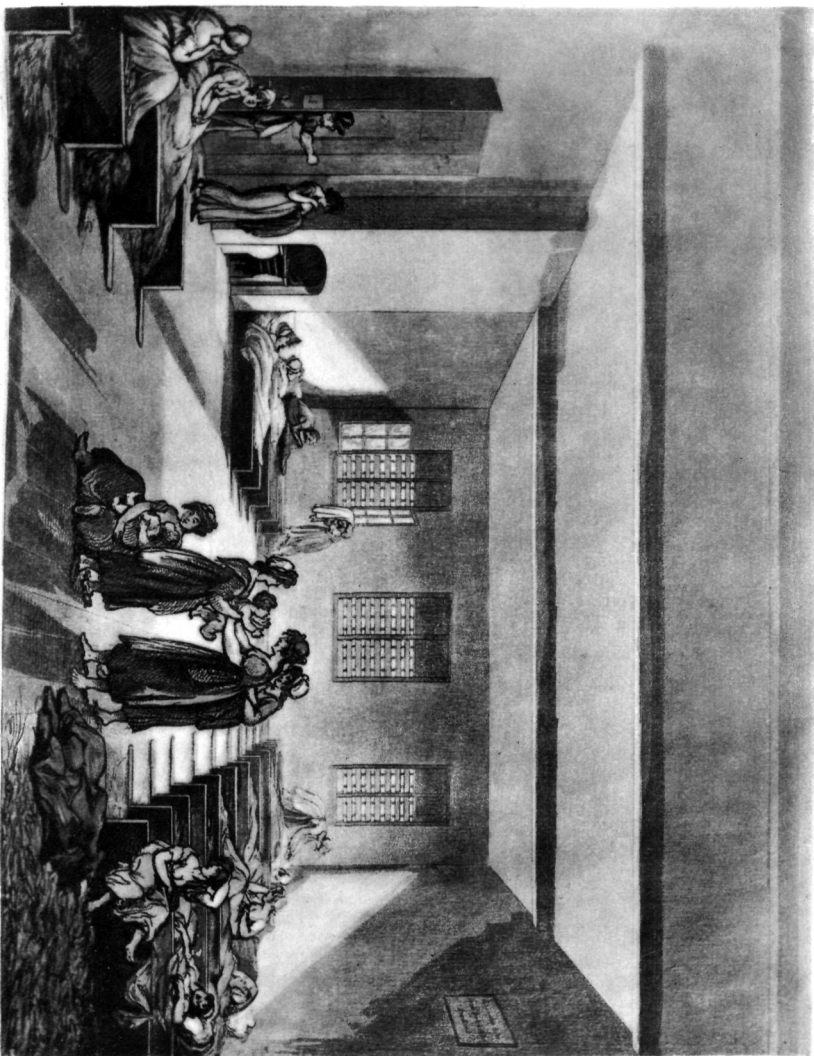
Under an Act 22 of George III, twelve members of the Common Council are always appointed Governors of Bridewell Hospital.

The following extracts from records of Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals, copied from notes made by Lt.-Col. Copeland, F.S.A., Treasurer of Bridewell, will be of great interest; for it would be a useless task, probably nauseous, certainly unedifying, to transcribe the whole of the records, which are written, as, in fact, all the books are, in old scriveners' hand; the spelling is peculiar, and the abbreviations also. A few will suffice by way of example. This is the first entry. "Morgan Evans the Servant of John Harrison Brewer, inhabiting in the parishe of Christs church within Newgate, brought into this house the 26th day of April, 1559, for that the same Morgan lewdly and disobediently behaved himself unto the wife of his said Master, and put in peril of life by striking with a knife one of his said Master's sons, and using other words of shameful and filthy report and therefore was there committed to the close keeping of this house and should have been punished for his offence but that his said Master hath intreated at this point that he will be favourable unto him, which upon the submission of the said Morgan with hope of amendment he was at this time released promising that hereafter he will so bear and behave himself during the days and hours that he shall remain in service of his said Master, that he will not only at his return home ask his said Master for forgiveness but will also while he liveth beware that he abuse not himself unto them or any other . . . this 22nd. April, 1559, in witness whereof he the said Morgan, hathe herewith subscribed his name."

“Richard Foster the apprentice, of the good Wife Dean, hath together with Wm. Young, the parent of John Young neighbour to the said good wife Dean, brought into this house the 17th. May, 1559, for that the same Richard & Wm. being both boys, had lewd & naughty talk of the Queen’s highness, & thereon saying she must live 30 years and the other said but 2 years and having been examined were found to be very asses, & fools and were therefor. here whipped the said day & year & so discharged.”

“Jane Foster brought into this house the xvj day of July, 1559, by Mr. Eyles, deputy of the Ward of Farringdon Without, for that the same Jane very naughtily & lewdly took upon her to enchant and as it were to bewitch Margaret Stone, the daughter of John Stone, saddler, without Newgate, & practised the bringing her unto the company of one Foster, a serving man only for lewd or evill purpose.” N.B.—Mr. Martin has noted this entry in his Parliamentary Report, 1837.

“John Waggstaffe, brought into this house the xij of June, 1559, for bribing certaine Pulleyn at Hackney the Saturday before new year’s day last past, which Wagstaffe being examined hath confessed that he and one Bedford, bricklayer, inhabiting in the parish of St. Clement’s without Temple Barr, & R. Young, who there wrought with the same Bedford went all 3 together by the persuasion of the said Bedford to the house of Mrs. Snape, of Hackney, and



PASS ROOM, BRIDEWELL, A.D. 1808.

there found under a hovel, a cock and a hen & iiij chickens, of India, and carried them all away. And from there they went to the house of Mr. Raddford in Hackney aforesaid, & then clymed on certyn poles and stole from there xv. hennes & a cocke."

"Hugh Barrett apprentice of Miles Ffawcett, cloth-worker, whipped xx April 1560 for that he in vile manner did hang a cord full of horns at the door of Henry Ewart, an officer of this City and the same on the Church door, the day the said officer was married."

"Patrick Russel sent by the Governours of Christ's Hospital xxiv of April for counterfeiting lameness when he was not lame or sore . . . well whipped and adjudged on the xxvi april."

Madam Cresswell, a woman of infamous character, in her will left the sum of £10 to the parson who should preach her funeral sermon, on condition that he said nothing but what was WELL of her. A parson was found willing to undertake this duty : after a sermon, therefore, on the general subject of death, he concluded—'By the will of the deceased, it is expected that I should mention her, and say nothing but what was WELL of her. All that I shall say of her is this—she was born well, she lived well, and she died well ; for she was born with the name of Cresswell, she lived in Clerkenwell, and she died in Bridewell.'

On October 4th, 1693, Francis Atterbury became Preacher of Bridewell. He was afterwards Bishop of Rochester, and taking a prominent part in politics

on the Jacobite side, was deprived of his See, and exiled the kingdom.

There is a remarkable bust of Richard Clark on the staircase to Bridewell Hall, removed from old Bridewell Chapel, which bears the following inscription :—

SACRED
TO THE MEMORY OF
RICHARD CLARK, Esq.,
WHO DIED, 16TH JANUARY, 1831,
IN HIS 92ND YEAR.

He filled the office of Treasurer
of Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals
for the space of half a century
with the highest honour and integrity,
and with great advantage to those Institutions.
He was the legal pupil of Sir John Hawkins,
the personal friend of Dr. Samuel Johnson,
and the respected associate
of many of the literary and most esteemed characters of the
last and present age.
He was endowed with a mind of the most amiable qualities,
his manners were eminently attractive and engaging
and he enjoyed to the latest period of a protracted life
the affection and attachment
of all with whom he was connected,
either in its private relations
or its public duties.
