

NOTES AND QUERIES.

DR. NICHOLAS BARBON.—There was a considerable correspondence in the *Times* during October, 1929, on the subject of Dr. Nicholas Barbon, a brief life of whom appeared in our last issue. The chief points which were discussed were the establishment of the Fire Office by Barbon, his building schemes and his views on trade. Mr. Frank W. Tyler, Honorary Secretary of the Records Branch of the Kent Archæological Society, sent a copy of one of the early fire policies, which ran as follows:—

Number
1405.

This present Instrument or Policy of Insurance, witnesseth, That Dr. Nicholas Barbon and Samuell Tookie gents. in consideration of the sume of Two Pounds and fifteen Shillings in hand paid by Sr William Twisden Barrtt., for the Insuing of an House seituat on the south side of Barbican now in the possession of Robert Cannon being the fifth house Westward from Redcrosse Streete and distant from thence to the middle of the said house about one hundred and sixteene feete for the Terme of Thirty one Yeares from the Date hereof, Do desire, direct and appoint, That the Trustees, for the time being for Houses and Lands, settled for the Insuring of Houses against Fire shall pay or satisfy unto the said Sir William Twisden his Executors or Administrators, [or his or their Assigns by Endorsement on this present Policy] the Sume of one hundred and twenty Pounds at the end of Two Months, after the said House shall be Burnt-down, Demolished, or Damnified, by, or by Reason or Means of Fire, within the same Term of Thirty One Years the like Sume of One hundred and Twenty Pounds. If the said Dr. Nicholas Barbon and Samuel Tookie and their Participants, or some, or one of them, his or their Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Agents, or Assigns, shall not within the said Two Months, pay unto the said Sr William Twisden, his Executors or Administrators [or such his or their Assigns] the said Sume of One hundred and twenty Pounds. Or in case the said House, or such New House, be only Damnified: Then, if such House be not Repaired, and put in so good Condition, as the same was before, at the Charge of the said Dr. Nicholas Barbon

and Samuel Tookie and their Participants, or some or one of them, his or their Heirs, Executors, Administrators, Agents or Assigns, within Two Months next, after such Damnification shall happen. Witness our Hands and Seals, the Seventh day of August Anno Dom 1682 Annoque Regni Regis Caroli 2di Augs: et Tricesimo quarto.

NICHOLAS BARBON.
SAML. TOOKIE.

Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of

Hene. Bland.
Sal. Edmond.
Will. Dalton.

The rate of premium was £2 5s. 10d. per cent. for a period of 31 years.

A further note with reference to the Insurance Office in 1685 gives a leaflet to the following effect:—

“A TABLE

of the INSURANCE OFFICE at the Backside of the Royal Exchange,
Showing

The premium or rate of insuring an Hundred Pounds on a Brick-House is eight shillings (and double for Timber) and so in proportion for a lesser sum; and because the office (to avoid trouble) doth not insure for a lesser term than four years. The discount for paying down the money is after this rate; Three years and a Quarter is paid for four years insurance; five for seven; seven for eleven; The money insured on the House is to be paid as often as the House is burnt, or demolished, within the term insured. But if damaged, then to be repaired at the charge of the office:—

“There are Ground-Rents settled on Trustees, to make good the losses; to the value of Two thousand six hundred pounds per annum, and the Title and Conveyances were settled and approved by:—

“Sir Francis Pemberton, Sir Robert Sawyer—Attorney General, Sir Edmund Saunders, late Lord Chief Justice, and Sir William Jones (since deceased); Sir Francis Winnington, Mr. William Williams, Mr. John Mosyer, and Mr. Polyxfen.

“The names of the Trustees which accepted the Trust are:—Sir Michael Heneage, Sir William Warren, Sir Richard Haddock, Sir Peter Rich, Sir Samuel Dashwood, Knight; William Thompson, George Bradbury, Anthony Sturt, Edward Maynard, Esquire, Mr. Ralph Hartley, Mr. Nathaniel Hawes, and Mr. Rowland Argent.

“Printed by Tho. Milbourn, in Jewen Street, for the gentlemen of the INSURANCE OFFICE on the Back-side of the Royal-Exchange, were these Papers are to be had gratis, 1685.”

Mr. E. L. Nanson of Whitehaven, who contributed the leaflet given above, also quotes a letter from Sir John Lowther to Mr. William Gilpin, his agent in Whitehaven, with reference to Barbon. He writes as follows:—

“Dr. Bairbones has, in this town (London) not laid out less than £200,000, in ye same manner, for which, in my opinion, he deserves more of ye public than any subject in England.”

Reference was made, in the correspondence, to Barbon's supposed contribution to the theory of Free Trade, which has been considered as a basis or syllabus for Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*.

Mr. Lionel Robbins writes from the London School of Economics protesting against this view, and pointing out that although Barbon realised that the curtailment of imports involved the curtailment of exports, yet he was prepared to lay so great duties upon imports that they may always be dearer than those your country made. He also points out that there is no reference to Barbon, either in the *Wealth of Nations* or in the students' notes of the “Lectures on Justice, Police, Revenue and Arms,” and that there is no book by Barbon in Dr. Bonar's Catalogue of Adam Smith's Library.

Mr. W. H. Manchée of the Huguenot Society of London, mentions the fact that Samuel Smiles, in his *History of Huguenots* (1876), speaks of Barbon as a Huguenot family and states that Sarai, daughter of Praise God Barebones, is buried in Mount Nod Cemetery, Wandsworth. But Mr. J. T. Squire, in a paper on that burial ground, in the 1st volume of the Huguenot Society's *Proceedings* (1885), does not mention this child in his list of those buried in the cemetery. A report has been received of a denization of Nicholas Barbon, but it has not been confirmed.

N. G. B-J.

PALÆOGRAPHY, GENEALOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.—A Catalogue of really extraordinary interest has been published by Mr. Herbert R. Moulton, of 5, Park Hill, Richmond, Surrey. There can be few collections more comprehensive, for it contains 10,000 ancient deeds, mainly from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries, dealing with properties and persons in nearly all the English counties, in Scotland and in the West Indies. There are references to many royal and historical persons, Charters of great importance, pedigrees and maps, and some valuable Court Rolls, which latter can only be purchased to be presented to the correct County Authority for the reception of such things. The catalogue and the reproductions of ancient deeds are most useful for students of palæography, genealogists and record searchers. Great care has been bestowed upon the calendaring of the deeds, which in this way provide a treasure-house of information on social customs, legal forms, the spelling of place-names, surnames and boundaries and other topographical features.

All the deeds relating to the Manor and Parish of Hendon have been purchased in one set, 45 in number, and these include grants and transfers of land, quit-claims and marriage settlements and the admission of a vicar to take the place of David Garrick's nephew. One slender will had on the back a list of all the possessions of the testatrix, giving a homely touch to a dry legal document, and revealing the extent of the paraphernalia owned by a middle-class lady of the period.

The London and Middlesex Deeds, which naturally are of more direct interest to our readers than any others, begin in 1405 with a deed of Bedfont, famous for its church and trimmed yews. St. Andrew Undershaft, Chick Lane, Candlewick Street, Cowface-wall in West Cheap, Wood Street, Newington Green, Gutter Lane, New Fish Street and Smithfield are among the place-names in London that leap to the eye in these pages, and many of the villages in Middlesex have deeds

relating to their lands and old families. One of special interest is a grant by the King in 1691 to Godfrey Woodward of London, at the nomination of Thomas Neale, of a close of land called Marshland in the parish of St. Giles's-in-the-Fields. This relates to the first laying out of Seven Dials.

There are about 1,500 deeds for Middlesex and London carefully calendared, and nearly 2,000 which have not been dealt with in this way.

N. G. B.-J.

ICE WELLS IN ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—During the recent demolition of "The Eyre Arms"—Wellington Hall—and adjoining houses, which stood on an island site in St. John's Wood, two large pits were found under the gardens of the houses.

They were circular, brick-lined, and had brick-domed tops.

On the side of each dome was—or had been—a wooden door, 4 by 4½ ft., the only opening into the chamber.

The most singular feature of the pits was their great size; the depth being 35 ft., and the diameter 34 ft.

They were entirely under ground, for though the tops of the domes were a few feet above the level of the surrounding ground, they had been covered with soil of a sufficient depth for shrubs and flowers to be grown, and thus every trace of the pits was hidden, and their very existence forgotten.

The bricks are said to be those of about 1800.

It seemed difficult to imagine the purpose for which such caverns could have been built. Various suggestions were made, but evidence seems to prove that they were built by an ice merchant for the storage of ice.

Similar pits, but much older, have been found at Camden Town, and small ones have occasionally been found adjoining private houses.

E. ARMISTEAD.



THE "PIE-POUDRE" HOUSE, HARROW.

HARROW PIE HOUSE.—In the *Middlesex Advertiser and County Gazette* for 25 October, 1929, there appeared an article on the Harrow Pie House. It is hidden behind the Mission House, in West Street, Harrow, and is the property of the Harrow Electric Light Company. It was formerly used as the office of the Company, and Board Meetings were held in the downstairs room. Among the features of interest are some magnificent oak beams and some exquisite oak panelling. The exterior is not very prepossessing, but there are some good tiles.

The Middlesex County Council was notified in 1912 of the existence of this old house and it appears in the records as:—"Specimen of old domestic building of uncertain date." The author of the article claims that it is of fifteenth century origin and is the building used for the old Court of Pie Poudre. There was a fair in Harrow each year from 1262 to 1871, and as a court of this nature was almost always attached to a fair as a court of summary jurisdiction, it does not seem impossible that this old Harrow house, with its name "Pie House," is a reminder of the old Harrow fair. The Harrow Fair was described in 1861 as being singularly "free from those scenes of vice and dissipation usually prevailing at fairs near London, the sports being exclusively of a rural character.

But perhaps in earlier days a court of this kind was needed to deal with cheats of various kinds, pick-pockets and other disturbers of the peace.

If the suggestion is correct, it is certainly desirable that so interesting a building should be preserved.

The writer of the article appeals to all loyal Harrovians to turn the "Pie House" into a small museum of local antiquities.

We are indebted to the proprietors of the *Middlesex Advertiser* for permission to print the accompanying picture of the exterior of the "Pie House."

JOHN EVELYN AND LONDON'S SMOKE.—The problem of the proposed Battersea Power Station has revived interest in John Evelyn's *Fumifugium: Or the Smoake of London Dissipated*, which was published as a pamphlet in 1661, and was discussed with the King in his yacht on the Thames. Charles "was pleased to discourse to me about my book," writes Evelyn in his Diary, "inveighing against the nuisance of the smoke of London, and proposing expedience how, by removing those particulars I mentioned, it might be reformed; commanding me to prepare a bill against ye next session of Parliament, being as he said resolv'd to have something don in it."

Nothing came of the proposal, as the King's interest waned, and Evelyn's Bill was never presented to Parliament.

Evelyn had two schemes, one to prevent smoke and one to make London a garden city. This latter scheme was to be brought about partly by town-planning and the prohibition of any "further exorbitant increase of tenements, poor and nasty cottages neer the City . . . which dispenses and takes off from the sweetness and amoenity of the charm of London, and are already become a great eyesore," and partly by the planting of "all low grounds circumjacent to the City, especially east and south-west" with sweet-smelling shrubs, such as woodbine, jessamine, syringa, guelder rose, musk, broom and rosemary—to name only a few. Peas and beans, but not cabbages, might also be planted there, and pasture could be provided for sheep and cattle. The whole circum-ambient space would be a delightful place of recreation for the inhabitants, and would be a source of profit as well.

His main contentions with regard to the Smoke question are summed up in his prefatory remarks, though he discusses them at some length further on in his pamphlet. He speaks first of the site of London and says:—

"The City of London is built upon a sweet and most agreeable eminency of ground, at the north side of a goodly and well-conditioned river, towards which it hath an aspect by a gentle and easie declivity, apt to be improved to all that may render her palaces, buildings, and avenues usefull, gracefull and most magnificent; the fumes which exhale from the waters and lower grounds lying southward, by which means they are perpetually attracted, carried off or dissipated by the sun as soon as they are born and ascend.

Adde to this, that the soil is universally gravell, not only where the City itself is placed, but for several miles about the Countreys which environ it, that it is plentifully and richly irrigated, and visited with waters which christalize her fountains in every street, and may be conducted to them in such farther plenty, as Rome herself might not more abound in this liquid ornament, for the pleasure and divertisement as well as for the use and refreshment of her inhabitants.

I forbear to enlarge upon the rest of the conveniences which this august and opulant City enjoys both by sea and land, to accumulate her encomiums, and render her the most considerable that the earth hath standing upon her ample bosom; because it belongs to the orator and the poet, and is none of my institution, but I will infer, that if this goodly City justly challenges what is her due, and merits all that can be said to reinforce her praises, and give her title, she is to be relieved from that which renders her less healthy, really offends her, and which darkens and eclipses all her other attributes. And what is all this but that hellish and dismal cloud of sea-coal? Which is not only perpetually imminent over her head, but so universally mixed with the otherwise wholesome and excellent aer, that her inhabitants breathe nothing but an impure and thick mist."

After expressing some surprise that the smuts should dare to settle in the Royal Gardens, he continues:—

"That this glorious and ancient city, which from wood might be rendered brick, and (like another Rome) from brick made stone and marble; which commands the proud ocean from the Indies, and reaches the farthest Antipodes, should wrap her stately head in clouds of smoke and sulphur, so full of stink and darkness, I deplore with just indignation. That the buildings should be composed of such a congestion of misshapen and extravagant houses; that the streets should be so narrow and incommodious in the very centre and busiest places of intercourse; that there should be so ill and uneasy a form of paving underfoot, so troublesome and malicious a disposure of the spouts and gutters overhead, are particulars worthy of reproof and reformation; because it is hereby rendered a labyrinth in its principal passages, and a continual wet day after the storm is over. Add to this the deformity of so frequent wharves and magazines of

wood, coal, boards and other coarse materials, most of them employing the places of the noblest aspect for the situation of palaces towards the goodly river, when they might with far less disgrace be removed to the Bankside, and afterwards disposed with as much facility where the consumption of these commodities lies; a *Key* in the meantime so contrived on London-side as might render it less sensible of the reciprocation of the waters, for use and health infinitely superior to what it now enjoys. These are the *desiderata* which this great city now labours under."

The *Times* has opened its columns to a correspondence on the smoke problem, and Evelyn's name and his efforts to abate the nuisance 250 years ago have been frequently mentioned. It may be of interest to have this summary of the proposals which he then made, but which the King and Court were too preoccupied to adopt.

N. G. B-J.

THE "CHANDOS ARMS," EDGWARE.—According to Sir Henry Curtis Bennett, this inn, which has recently given up its licence, is, in part at least, over 900 years old. It is an old rambling place, with plenty of black oak, latticed windows, and associations with old coaching and highwaymen days, especially with Dick Turpin. There seems to be some ground for thinking that an old subterranean passage ran at one time from the Inn to the big palace of Chandos, the home of the Duke of Chandos, and for a time of Handel. Our pictures come from *The Times*, and from a drawing by Mr. Horace Wright, a local Edgware artist, who has kindly lent the block for reproduction.

THE ARCHÆOLOGY OF MIDDLESEX AND LONDON. By C. E. Vulliamy. (Methuen & Co. 308 pp., 59 illustrations. 10s. 6d. net.)

This is the first of a new series of County Archæologies, edited by T. D. Kendrick, M.A., Assistant Keeper of



THE CHANDOS GATEWAY.

THE CHANDOS ARMS, EDGWARE.

*From a drawing by Horace Wright, reproduced by kind
permission of the artist.*

the matter of scientific accuracy" and in which "judgment is too often seduced by fancy, and learning too often the accomplice of fiction."

On the vexed problem of a Celtic foundation for London, and the theory of unbroken continuity from Roman to Saxon times, Mr. Vulliamy's view is definitely negative. Archæology, he feels, gives no support for either theory, and Professor Haverfield was doubtless right when he wrote that after the final leaving of London by the Romans, it "lay waste for a hundred years." Mr. Vulliamy is still more sceptical when he refers to "the probable desertion of the site during the first two centuries of the Anglo-Saxon period." As he points out, "of all the London relics dating from the time between the Roman occupation and the Norman Conquest (a period of about six and a half centuries), by far the greater number must be ascribed to the time of the Vikings—that is, to the two centuries immediately preceding the Conquest."

As far as the modern county of Middlesex is concerned, the chief points of interest discussed in this book are perhaps Grim's Dyke and the Roman work on Brockley Hill, Elstree. It is of great importance to people interested in the history of Hendon and Brentford to be assured that the place-name Brent is of early Brythonic origin.

There are many other problems discussed in this very interesting and scholarly book, and it is well provided with maps and illustrations.