

NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE LONDON DIRECTORIES.—Our honorary librarian, Mr. Charles W. F. Goss, F.S.A., has published with Denis Archer the results of his researches on the various *London Directories from 1677-1855*, which will form a very complete bibliography on a most interesting topic. We extract the following information from the *Observer* of October, 1932, in which Mr. Goss gives an account of some of the material available in the directories for students engaged in research on the problems of old London:—

“There is,” he said, “a rich romance in the pages of the London directories for the light they throw on the general growth of the Metropolis and the numerous changes, both topographical and social, which have taken place. In them one is able to trace the demolition of famous houses, the numerous changes in the nomenclature of streets, and the disappearance of many courts, alleys, and cul-de-sacs.

“From the early days the naming of streets seems to have been left to accident, whim, or to the choice of the landowners. Some of the old names have disappeared, though the places they designated remained unchanged. To name but a few: Halfpenny Alley, Turnagain Lane, Noah’s Ark Alley, Bear and Ragged Staff Alley, Cain and Abel Alley, Dolittle Lane, Cat’s Hole, Pig Street, Shoulder of Mutton Yard, Eagle and Child Alley, but oddest of all the changes of this kind is presented by King Edward Street (off Newgate Street), originally called Stinking Lane or Stinkend Lane, which became Chick Lane, then Blowbladder Street, and afterwards Butcher’s Hall Lane.

“The contrast presented by the life of the centuries as well as the social manners, customs, morals, and habits which the march of progress had effected may also be gathered from a perusal of the directories. They show the number of coaches going out and leaving London each day as well as carriers’ wagons and post-chaises.

“The early volumes afford no examples of eating-houses and restaurants as distinct from the tavern and coffee-houses which are so prominent a feature in present-day London; but in those times there was little or no need for such establishments, as the suburbs were then not so far-reaching, and a City worker could easily walk home for his mid-day meal.

“Interesting light is also thrown on the fact that until comparatively recent times the external appearance of the houses was little in harmony with the wealth of the occupants and the interiors. Internal comfort was the great aim of the merchants, and the gradual improvements were on a scale which commensurated with the amount of business transacted.

“The group of directories in their wide diversities affords curious evidence on the progressive enlargement of the great Metropolis by the absorption of former detached villages. Inhabitants, during their own generations, fail to notice the expansion going on around them; but a comparison of a directory with a similar one published a century earlier shows the marked growth. Bricks and mortar replace green fields, palatial hotels displace taverns, and railways stand on the sites of windmills.

“Evidence is also thrown on the very controversial question of the increase of population. It increased from 390,000 in 1660 to 600,000 in 1780; 990,000 in 1810, and considerably over 1,500,000 in 1840.

“The directories are a veritable epitome of antiquarian knowledge and invaluable to students of sociology, biography, history, genealogy, topography, and the like. In them one can trace the lives and migrations of families for two centuries backwards or more.

“The first name appearing in the 1677 directory of merchants and goldsmiths was Abbot, and the second Ackworth. Two and a half centuries later there are no fewer than 23 names preceding Abbot and 80 between that and Ackworth. In 1677 there were nine Joneses, and in the commercial section of the current issue of the Post Office London Directory there are 700 persons or firms carrying on business under that name.

“Owing to the ephemeral character of directories, the volumes found no place on the shelves of the family bookcase as works of reference, but were shortly relegated to the waste-paper basket on the acquisition of a new issue. The early volumes, consequently, are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, and as time goes on they become more rare and valuable.

“For instance, the extremely interesting parts of ‘Tallis’s Street Views’ with Directory published between 1838 and 1840 is an illustration of public indifference to preservation of valuable information. A complete set of this work is extremely rare and commands a very high price in the sale room.

“Only one set has come into the market in the past twenty years or more, and only two such sets are known, and these are not in any public institution. £60 would be a reasonable figure to ask, although the total price of all the parts to the original subscribers would have been only 11s.

“The principal reason for its scarcity is the fact that persons only subscribed for the part illustrating their own locality, with such results that possibly 200 persons might have subscribed for the Cheapside section, while only 50 subscribed for the St. Paul’s section.”

JOHN STRYPE.—Historians of London do not always do full justice to the labours of Strype, the indefatigable editor of the 1720 edition of John Stow’s *Survey of London*. It is somewhat clumsily arranged and it is not easy, at first sight, to be sure how much is by Stow himself, how much by his early editors, Munday and Dyson, and what we owe to Strype. But it is a mine of information on the London of Anne’s reign, at a period when the effects of the Plague and Fire had fully worn off. It is therefore a great satisfaction to hear that during the partial re-roofing and the extension of the east end of Leyton Parish Church the vicar and local antiquaries have discovered the long-lost tomb of John Strype, the historian, who was for 68 years vicar of the parish. The tomb was found intact under the chancel, one foot below the present tiles. The slab lay north and south under the present chancel-arch. This chancel was built by Strype according to the church records, in 1693, at a total cost of £90. The fact that the slab was found lying north and south, a most unusual position, suggests that at some date it was moved.

The slab, which is of polished Purbeck marble, measures 5 ft. 6½ in. long and 2 ft. 8¼ in. wide, and it is of very unusual thickness, 8¼ in. It is in perfect preservation, and the lettering and coat-of-arms might have been cut only a few years ago. The inscription records the deaths of Strype’s daughter Hester, his wife Susanna, and “also the Revd. John Strype, vicar of this Parish, died 11th dec’er 1737, aged 94 years, one month and ten days.” At the top is a coat-of-arms, in a lozenge; a lion rampant, crowned, impaling a fesse

ermine between two wolves passant; Strype impaling Lowe.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY MUNIMENTS.—The muniment room in the Abbey is a kind of upper storey on the west of Poets Corner, and the limited accommodation is to be increased through the generosity of the Pilgrim Trust. A very interesting account of the room and the proposed improvements has been given by the Dean of Westminster in *The Times*. When the Abbey Church was rebuilt in the thirteenth century, it was not possible to form a west aisle in the south transept owing to the intrusion of the eastern portion of the cloister. So the roof of the cloister was brought into the church, and a galley was built above it, and this has served as the muniment room since the fourteenth century.

Mr. Walter Tapper, A.R.A., Surveyor to the Abbey, in order to enlarge the space available, is using a door at the south end of the muniment room, which gives access to the roof of the cloister, which has above it a long loft. This loft is being transformed into a charming gallery running the whole length of the cloister, and it will be lighted from above and by two dormer windows. Another door from this gallery will lead to the Abbey Library, to which access will be given by a circular oak staircase in keeping with the seventeenth-century fittings. The Library was originally part of the Monks' dormitory.

Those who have worked in the muniment room under the helpful supervision of the late Keeper of the Muniments, Herbert F. Westlake, or of his successors, Canon C. S. Woodward and Mr. Lawrence E. Tanner, know something of the value of the documents preserved for the use of students of mediaeval manorial history. As *The Times* points out, these records give "very practical details of persons, of administration, of finance, of ordinance and custom, which make history."

ST. ETHELBURGA'S.—In spite of the many letters in *The Times*, the City Corporation has removed the little shops that stood in front of the porch of St. Ethelburga's, Bishopsgate. Nearly £5,000 was paid for the shops and the right to get rid of them, and by their removal a very interesting historical association has gone. The shops could be traced back to two stalls built, perhaps temporarily at first, against the wall of the church in mediaeval times. It was stated that they were in a bad state of repair and that little was left of the original shops as built probably in the reign of Elizabeth. The removal of the shops reveals the two projections from the church, possibly the remains of a porch, dating from the 15th century.

ALL HALLOW'S, BARKING, BY THE TOWER.—In a recent issue of the *Daily Telegraph*, Mr. Walter G. Bell gave a very interesting account of recent excavations, which reveal the existence of a Norman Church, built of chalk and rough stone probably floated up-river from Kent. There were fragments of broken tiles from the Roman City Wall, both yellow and red, and a little beyond the Norman apse is a burnt clay floor, evidence of a Roman dwelling, and many fragments of Roman second century pottery. It was hoped when the excavations were begun that traces of Saxon work might be discovered, but both Dr. R. Mortimer Wheeler and Mr. Roll can find nothing characteristically Saxon. The church was possibly built at the close of the twelfth century after the disastrous fire that destroyed so much of Norman London.

EXHIBITION OF OLD MAPS.—The Chartered Surveyors' Institution arranged from 17th October to 5th November, 1932, in their headquarters in Great George Street, an exhibition, which Colonel Sir Charles Close, in his

foreword, described as a varied cartographic feast. The series of nearly two hundred maps and plans covered three centuries and the whole of England, and were concerned with towns, roads, railways and estates. By way of contrast there were aerial surveys of Rio de Janeiro, Baghdad and Rhodesia. The most interesting maps and plans of London and Middlesex were a series of Paddington Estate Plans from 1742 to 1840, an old copy of the 1614 map of the Manor of Ebury, a map of Stepney in 1615 belonging to the Mercers' Company, Surveys of Marylebone in 1708 and 1789, lent by Lord Howard de Walden, Portman Surveys of 1741 and 1780, a survey in 1775 of Great Cranford, Middlesex, and a survey of Mill Hill in 1820 made by three boys then at Mill Hill School. One of them, James Challis, became Senior Wrangler and Plumian Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge.

HENDON HISTORICAL EXHIBITION.—Hendon is one of the most recent urban districts of Middlesex to become a borough, and it was very appropriate that the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor should have presented the Charter to the Charter Mayor of Hendon, Councillor B. J. Munro, J.P., on Monday, 26th September, 1932. To celebrate the occasion, Mr. J. E. Walker, the chief Librarian of Hendon, with the help of the Mill Hill Historical Society, arranged a most interesting exhibition at the Public Library, consisting of Surveys, Deeds, Prints, Drawings, Paintings, etc., relating to Hendon, from Domesday up to the present time. There were over 800 exhibits and nearly 3,500 persons visited the exhibition during the four weeks of its opening.

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.—The Wren Tercentenary was appropriately celebrated by a service in St. Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, October 20th, when Canon



AVENUE OR COWHOUSE FARM, CHILD'S HILL.

(From a drawing by Hubert Williams, 1931.)

Alexander gave an address on the life and work of Wren. On the following day Professor Beresford Pite addressed the London Society on Wren's work from the architect's point of view. Among the many centenary memorials of 1932, this was for Londoners the most interesting.

AVENUE FARM, CHILD'S HILL.—During the summer of 1932 there disappeared the last of the old farm-houses within five miles of Charing Cross. Cowhouse or Codenlaw figures in the so-called Charter of Dunstan and was then the property of Westminster Abbey. Later on it belonged to St. Albans Abbey, but was, along with Hodford, given to Westminster Abbey by Edward I for masses for his queen Eleanor. In 1312 it belonged to Richard le Rous and was exchanged for Hendon. Then the Scrope family held it and in 1399 Richard II gave it to Westminster to provide masses for his queen Anne of Bohemia. In 1370 John de Buckyneham rented Cowhouse and from him evidently came the name Buckham's Grove. In 1794 the farm comprised 120 acres, but it has gradually diminished with building, until the last few acres went only recently. Some splendid trees have been left, but the house itself, an old dairy, traditionally associated with Queen Elizabeth, and outbuildings, with beams dated 1699, have now gone. Dickers' Farm, as it was known for so many years, has vanished with its history of over 400 years of farming, but its story will some day be told in detail.

EDGWARE AND STANMORE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.—A new society, already numbering over a hundred members, has recently been formed by Mr. F. G. Davenport and Mr. Trelawny Roberts, amongst others, under the presidency of Mr. Allan S. Walker. Its objects are to collect and preserve documents and information relating to the history of Great and Little Stanmore and

Edgware, three parishes full of story and romance. The Society has already held a number of indoor and outdoor meetings and has a number of very keen and competent researchers among its members.

HOUSE OF COMMONS PERSONNEL.—The committee appointed in March 1929 has now issued its first report in which it summarises the amount of work already done and the material available for compiling a complete list of members of Parliament from 1264-1832, with some account of their lives. A great deal of very valuable information is contained in this report which is published by the Stationery Office at 2s. 6d. We still need an honorary secretary to look after the question of our Middlesex M.P.'s, and some member is urgently asked to communicate with the honorary editor on this point.

BRITISH RECORDS ASSOCIATION.—After much preliminary work by the British Record Society and other bodies, a meeting of all interested in this proposed association was held on 14th November, 1932, at Lincoln's Inn, under the presidency of Lord Hanworth, Master of the Rolls. It was decided to form an Association whose objects shall be to promote the preservation and accessibility under the best possible conditions of Public, Semi-Public and Private Archives; to take measures for the rescue and distribution to recognised custodians of documents which would otherwise be dispersed or destroyed; to arouse public interest in, and to create a sound public opinion on, matters affecting Records.

WHITCHURCH.—A proposal had been made for throwing into the nave of the church of Little Stanmore or Whitchurch the mortuary chapel of the Dukes of Chandos.

The chapel is almost unique as a specimen of the private chapel of the early eighteenth century, and it is satisfactory to learn that, encouraged by the Edgware and Stanmore Historical Society, the present Rector proposes to abandon the scheme mentioned above, and instead, to restore the paintings in the Chapel where they have been damaged by damp or decay. Funds are needed for this work, and subscriptions will gladly be received by the Secretaries of the above-mentioned Society, at the Bernays Institute, Stanmore.

TEMPLE BAR.—Mr. H. E. Chiosso has started a correspondence in the *Sunday Times*, suggesting that, as a suitable tribute to Sir Christopher Wren, during the tercentenary of his birth, we should endeavour to restore to the City of London Temple Bar, at present in Theobalds Park, near Waltham Cross. The house, formerly in the possession of Sir Hedworth Meux, is now an hotel, and access to the Gateway is not easy. It has been suggested that the Gateway should be erected either in Hyde Park, at the Strand edge of the Law Courts Gardens, or at the Embankment entrance to the Temple. The Council of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society is definitely in sympathy with the proposal to restore Temple Bar to London, without definitely specifying which of the three sites it would prefer.

REVIEWS.

CALENDAR OF SELECT PLEA AND MEMORANDA ROLLS, A.D. 1381-1412.

Edited by A. H. Thomas, F.S.A. Pp. xli + 369. (Cambridge University Press.) 15s.

This third volume completes almost a century of London's history, as the first volume began from 1323. Mr. Thomas continues his invaluable work, and his editing is worthy of the most interesting material with which he deals. His scholarly introduction deals in the main with the law merchant, a difficult subject which he has illuminated by his wide reading and reasoning. There are many points of resemblance between it and modern commercial law, and it was based, as so many of our institutions are, on common sense.

Of especial interest is the rivalry between the clothing and victualing trades in the City, culminating in the quarrels of John of Northampton and Nicholas Brembre. There were factions for and against the Duke of Lancaster during the minority of Richard II, and the influence of Wycliffe and the rebellion of Wat Tyler made chaos in the City for the time inevitable. It was curious that so ardent a reformer as Northampton and so keen a constitutionalist as Brembre should both have come to an untimely end.

The book is admirably indexed and has a glossary of many interesting mediaeval words. It is another step in the elucidation of the very complicated history of mediaeval London.

A HUNDRED YEARS OF QUARTER SESSIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF MIDDLESEX FROM 1660 TO 1760. By E. G. Dowdell, with a preface on the Justice of the Peace by H. D. Hazeltine, and an introduction by Sir William Holdsworth. Pp. lxxv + 215. (Cambridge University Press.) 15s.

This latest addition to the Cambridge Studies in English Legal History is indispensable to all those who would understand the government or lack of government in the suburban area north of the Thames between the Restoration and the Industrial Revolution. Here are to be found the solution of many difficult problems which face the student of local history. Maitland gave a text for this book nearly half a century ago, when he remarked that the justice of the peace must be placed in the foreground of any picture of the eighteenth century if we wished to know "what the laws made in Parliament, what the liberties asserted in Parliament really meant to the mass of the people." In this book, then, we find a study of county government by the justices, at a time when the Tudor

System was falling into decay, and when there had been a collapse of central control following the Civil War and the Revolution.

The area chosen was one where the advance of urban conditions made the difficulties especially great, particularly when, as in some parts of urban and suburban districts of Middlesex, it was impossible to get men of education and property to act as justices, and we get the notorious "trading justices" who figure in many of the plays and novels of the period.

The duties of the justices in such a county as Middlesex were multifarious, as is shown by Mr. Dowdell's chapters on Law and Order, the Poor Law, Highways and Bridges, the Labour Code and the Regulation of Production and Distribution. Largely for this reason we find that the Middlesex Justices failed to keep the peace in and around London, failed to deal adequately with the problem of the pauper and the vagrant, and neglected their duties in respect of the maintenance of the highways.

The writer discusses the relation of High Constables to the Justices, whose instructions they had to carry out mainly through petty constables and headboroughs, who had been originally manorial and not parochial officials. The inefficiency of the police work is shown by the outrages of Mohocks in town and of highwaymen in the country. Justices were asked to do too much, when they were made responsible for supervising morals, manners and religion, and it is not surprising that they failed. If an administrative system is to be judged by success in the objects it sets out to achieve, then the Justices were inefficient.

One of the most interesting chapters is that dealing with Highways and Bridges. So many main roads run from London through Middlesex, that efforts to keep them in a fit state of repair were bound to be ineffectual. Various acts were passed during this period giving additional powers to Justices to present and fine inhabitants of defaulting parishes, and directing them to hold special Sessions every four months to deal with the highway problem. Little real progress, however, was made until the days of Turnpikes. It was not the fault of the Justices that they achieved so little in improving the roads. The new users of the roads were producing a problem which the amateur surveyors with their armies of amateur assistants had never been intended to solve. The writer reminds us that the Justices of the Peace were working all through the century with decidedly clumsy and blunted tools. They came to the conclusion that many things which they had been instructed to tackle were best left alone. The task of recasting the organisation of local government was left until the reform of the central Government in 1832.

No more important survey of some problems of local government