

NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE LONDON OF HENRY II.—Fitz Stephen's description of London which Stow appended in Latin at the end of his Survey, to please his loving friends, the learned antiquaries, has now been retranslated by Professor H. E. Butler, after a re-examination of the *four extant manuscripts*. To accompany this, Professor F. M. Stenton has expanded and revised a paper on Norman London written nearly twenty years ago for the Historical Association. Miss E. Jeffries Davis has contributed a valuable series of notes to explain an authentic map of London in the reign of Henry II, prepared by Miss Marjorie B. Honeybourne.

There is nothing shown on the map for which there is not good evidence, and some of the chief features are *the exact position and size of the Tower of London*, the balancing of Eastcheap by Westcheap and the accurate location of Walbrook. It is interesting to note that the stone bridge over the Thames designed by Peter of Colechurch was still under construction. Messrs. G. Bell publish the complete pamphlet for the Historical Association for 2s. a copy.

LONDON MAPS.—With the publication of Miss Honeybourne's map we now have a modern series covering the ground from 1200–1700. A map which might be called "Chaucer's London" is printed in Robert M. Rayner's *England in Early and Medieval Times*, published in 1931 by Messrs. Longman. It shows London before the Dissolution, and was prepared by our Honorary Editor, who also drew the three maps of London in the days of Shakespeare, Pepys and Defoe, respectively, *which were issued to our members some years ago*.

REPAIRS IN THE TEMPLE.—During the Long Vacation of 1933 the yearly renovation of the Temple took place, and dealt especially with the decay produced by London atmosphere in Pump Court, Elm Court and Hare Court. There was also visible decay in Lamb Building and Wren's Cloisters. Where necessary Bath Stone has been replaced by Portland Stone. Further repairs were needed in Essex Court where a settlement was found, requiring the sinking of pressure piles to a depth of 25 feet down to the clay. The building of Essex Court, westside, was done by Dr. Nicholas Barbon in 1677, and quite early in their history the buildings showed signs of overhanging and cracks. Barbon had to remedy these defects, and it is well to note that this was not the only occasion in which his buildings proved unsatisfactory. There was something of the jerry-builder about him, and the defects shown in the summer may be further evidence of his slipshod methods.

THE GREAT CHRONICLE OF LONDON.—This Chronicle, whose discovery was announced on the eve of the Great War by the late Charles Lethbridge Kingsford, is incomparably the finest manuscript of any English city chronicle extant. It belonged to Alderman Robert Fabyan, and has the benefit of many corrections and insertions by John Stow. Professor A. F. Pollard contributed to *The Times* an illuminating account of this remarkable manuscript, which is in several hands and carries the history of the City down to 1512. It has survived at least two fires and up to date is almost unknown. The Chronicler reports the death of the little Princes in the Tower, and hints that Richard III was responsible for their death, and that Sir James Tyrell was the doer of the cruel deed.

Our distinguished and public-spirited Vice-President, Lord Wakefield of Hythe, has added to his many benefactions by purchasing this manuscript and thus saving it for the use of English scholars.

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE.—The centenary of the death of Wilberforce, the Liberator, was celebrated on 29th July, 1933, by the Mill Hill Historical Society.

Wilberforce lived for several years at Hendon Park on Highwood Hill, side by side with Sir Stamford Raffles, and was mainly responsible for building St. Paul's Church, now the Parish Church of Mill Hill. The Society paid visits to the Church and to Hendon Park, where the members walked in the well-known Wilberforce Avenue of Trees, and listened to a commemorative address on the life and work of Wilberforce, given by the Chairman of the Society.

On Sunday, 30th July, Bishop Perrin, Assistant Bishop of London, gave an address in the Parish Church.

SIR MONTAGU SHARPE'S BADGE.—Our President aroused curiosity by an interesting badge which he wore, while occupying the Chair at the Middlesex Sessions in the summer of 1933.

It is a badge presented by King George II to the Magistrates appointed to the Commission of the Peace for Westminster, and Sir Montagu is the remaining survivor of the Justices appointed on this commission.

Sir Montagu Sharpe said that, when he was appointed a Magistrate in 1883, Justices sitting at Westminster had to sign two Commission rolls, one for Middlesex and the other for Westminster. Westminster Justices have gone. Sir Montagu Sharpe observed that as he alone survived of those who signed both rolls and had the badge given to Westminster Justices as a mark of distinction by George III, he thought that before he vacated the chair of the Middlesex Quarter Sessions in June—Sir Montagu will continue in office if it be the wish of his colleagues that he should do so—he would wear the badge in court. The badge indicates that it was given by George III to the Magistrates of Westminster; it bears the Westminster Arms and the Scales of Justice, and is surmounted by a crown.

It is related that such a badge was stolen from the house of a Middlesex magistrate. After the theft all trace of it was lost until a raid was made by the police on the headquarters of a gang of foreign thieves which resulted in the capture of three prisoners, together with a large quantity of stolen property. Among the articles was the lost badge attached to a ribbon of the German national colours and a photograph of one of the gang in athletic costume wearing the badge. It appeared that the thief had represented to the photographer that it was a prize he had won in an athletic contest. Members of the gang were subsequently tried at the Central Criminal Court and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The man who had the badge was given plenty of time to regret that he did not take warning from the motto round the badge, "Discite justitiam moniti."

THE PAGEANT OF TOWER HILL.—The Revd. P. B. Clayton, F.S.A., Founder-Padre of Toc H, and Mr. B. R. Leftwich, Librarian of the Custom House, have written this interesting and well-produced book, which deals with the history of the site; and propounds a very ambitious scheme for the removal of the huge warehouse which dominates Tower Hill to-day. This would make a useful addition to the existing open space, and would open up a view of All Hallows, Barking, which has not been visible from this angle since mediaeval times. The old cottages in Chicken Lane and those called St. Katherine's Rents blocked any view of the east end of All Hallows for hundreds of years. The history of the site has been admirably dealt with by Mr. Leftwich, the prophetic scheme for the future is the work of Mr. Clayton, while Lord Wakefield has helped the publication with his usual generosity.

THE WESTMINSTER EFFIGIES.—Mr. Lawrence E. Tanner, Keeper of the Muniments, contributes an extremely interesting paper to *The Times* of 29th June, 1933, on the remarkable Wax Effigy of King Charles II, perhaps the best of all those preserved in the Islip Chantry Chapel. It has recently been superbly cleaned at the Victoria and Albert Museum, and shows the King with his Hapsburg underlip and his six feet two inches of stature. The cleaning shows what a magnificent piece of modelling was achieved. As Mr. Tanner remarks, the face could only have been modelled by an artist of exceptional powers.

DICK TURPIN'S HOUSE.—Some years ago our Society was asked to help in preserving the 600-year-old stables in the Courtyard of the Spaniard's Inn, Hampstead Heath, traditionally said to have been used by Dick Turpin to accommodate his mare "Black Bess." It is reported that the structure had become unsound and was no longer safe with the increase of passing traffic, and so on 8th January, 1934 its demolition began.

Mr. W. L. Woods, Editor of *The Architect and Building News*, has purchased the staircase and lattice work porch, to preserve them from destruction. Mr. John Summerson, A.R.I.B.A., has made measured drawings for publication in the "Obituaries of Passing Buildings," published monthly in *The Architect*; and the Editor suggests that the relics should be re-erected by a firm of brewers as near as possible to their former situation.

ST. OLAVE'S, HART STREET.—This church, in which Pepys and his wife worshipped, and in which they are buried, has recently revealed an unexpected well in the thirteenth-century crypt. It is evident that the crypt is part of the church built on the site in 1276, and it was probably used as a charnel house. But its original purpose seems to have been to contain and preserve the

well, which probably had more than ordinary significance. A well in a crypt is a very unusual find, and it seems possible that it was an ancient holy well. The crypt is being cleared out and will be accessible by a staircase in the base of the Tower.

PETTICOAT LANE.—While excavating on a site in old Petticoat Lane, now Middlesex Street, workmen uncovered a pit full of bullocks' bones, some 750 in number. There was also discovered an ancient well, which will need to be filled in with concrete before the foundations of the new buildings can be laid. Other finds include pots and saucers and a pair of shoes believed to be Roman and some coins and tokens. One of the latter has the inscription, "Daniel Devenk His Halfe Peny," and on the reverse "Petticoat Lane." There were three heavy wooden bowls, which look as if they had been inlaid with ivory. All the finds were discovered 20 feet below the present-day level.
