

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

MILESTONES.—A quotation from the *Observer* of November, 1835, noted in the corresponding issue for 1935, relates that "Government is about to regulate the milestones on all the great turnpike roads, and to number them all from the General Post Office. Only two of the existing stones have been found to be accurate in marking the districts." This raises once again the question as to when the milestones were erected round London, which was discussed in these pages in Part I of Volume VI. There were several points from which distances were measured at various times and in different directions; Hickee's Hall, St. Giles's Pound, Cornhill, Aldgate Pump, London Bridge, Westminster Bridge, Hyde Park Corner. It would be very useful if these two points could be made clear—the date of the first milestones and the terminus of the roads to London. It looks as if the second of these queries is answered by the quotation from the *Observer*. In Peter Collinson's *Hortus Collinsonianus* he claims that the milestones to Mill Hill set up in 1751 was the earliest.

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HORSESHOES AS RENT.—A very important paper by Mr. A. E. Stamp, Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, published in September, 1935, in *The Times*, gives the story of the payment of six horseshoes with their appropriate nails by the City of London to the Exchequer as rent for a site of a thirteenth-century smithy on the spot where now stands Australia House. In the Pipe Roll for 1235 there is recorded the payment of the six horseshoes by Walter le Brun, le Mareshal or farrier,

and he was followed by his son John and his grandson Walter. In 1261 King Henry III gave some additional land to the younger Walter in the Gore of St. Clements, between the Church of the Danes and the Stone Cross, on the north side of the road to Westminster.

The church stood then where it stands now, and the Stone Cross was put by William Rufus out of devotion to the Holy Cross and for the health of the souls of himself and his mother, Queen Maud, whose soul rested there on the way to the Abbey.

An enquiry was held in 1311 to enquire as to the responsibility for its repair, and it seems to have devolved upon the King, who frequently neglected to repair it and thus gave it the name of the "Broken Cross." Mr. Stamp concludes that it was replaced by the Maypole in the Strand, which in turn made room for St. Mary's Church, when Protector Somerset pulled down the original St. Mary's to find a site for Somerset House.

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CAPTAIN CORAM.—Lord Crewe is able to announce that the bulk of "Coram's Fields," the new name for the Foundling Hospital site, is now saved for ever. The total sum which had to be raised was half a million guineas, to which Lord Rothermere contributed £170,000. Many others have helped with small and large sums and the Pilgrim Trust and the City Companies have given generously. It is a matter for congratulation that this central site, which was likely to be covered with houses and flats, is now secure, and that the farmlands which the old sea-captain dedicated to the use of children will continue their beneficent work. That portion of Bloomsbury and beyond, which was so rural a spot when Hollar sketched it in the seventeenth century, and when Canaletto painted it in the eighteenth, is now destined to keep its rusticity for ever.

LONDON'S SKYLINE.—The Dean of St. Paul's has called attention to the danger which large buildings are threatening to the skyline of London.

In all the views of London at various periods of its history the churches and the Cathedral have been prominent features in the skyline, more so formerly than to-day.

Recent developments have made business buildings and hotels claim attention that was once given to ecclesiastical buildings and unless care is taken Bush House and the County Hall and the Imperial Chemical Offices may detract from the Houses of Parliament, the Abbey and St. Paul's.

The Dean points out that those who walk down Little Britain must have been impressed by a wonderful vista of St. Paul's which seemed there to tower above the houses of the City. There was a proposal to erect a building for the General Post Office in the neighbourhood of Newgate Street which would blot out one of the finest views in London.

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MAYFAIR.—Lansdowne Passage is one more of the relics of eighteenth-century London to be threatened. It used to run between Lansdowne House and Devonshire House but more recently between the Mayfair Hotel and the new Lansdowne Row.

Its cobbles once clanged under the galloping hoofs of a fugitive highwayman, and before that time its site was covered by the grounds of Berkeley House, and earlier still by Stonebridge Close, a field of eleven acres, bounded on the west by the open Tyburn, and bridged at the crossing of Piccadilly by the bridge which gave its name to the Close. The field had belonged to Abingdon Abbey up to the Dissolution, and in 1664 it was granted with two other fields to the Earl of Clarendon, who kept one for himself and divided Stonebridge Close between Lord Berkeley of Stratton

and Sir William Pulteney. Mayfair was an old established festival which was held in Brookfield, near the site of Shepherd's Market, for almost four hundred years. It was suppressed because of the development of aristocratic town-planning all around it and because it had become famous for "Musick, Showes, Drinking, Gaming, Raffling, Lotteries, Stage Plays and Drolls" instead of for "Trade and Merchandize," having become one of the "most pestilent Nurseries of Impiety and Vice, and one of the most Notorious Occasions of Riot and Disorder."

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PLACE-NAMES.—The London County Council have recently issued a pamphlet entitled the "Supplement to the Names of Streets and Places in the Administrative County of London," in which are recorded the names of many new streets commemorating historic characters of local or national fame.

For instance, Goffers Road, Blackheath, reminds us of the founding of the golf club there in James I's reign, while Cade Road, Wat Tyler Road and Duke Humphrey Road commemorate two massings of rebels on Blackheath and a royal lord of Greenwich Manor.

General Wolfe-road in Blackheath and General Gordon Road in Woolwich are self-explanatory, and other schemes of commemoration are the Cricketers' Roads in Kennington and the Artists' in Marylebone and St. John's Wood. It is important to give as much scope to historical nomenclature as possible, and this is done in still more distant suburbs.

The Mill Hill Historical Society has been asked to help in naming new streets in the rapidly growing borough of Hendon.

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SUDBURY STONE.—From the cross-roads at the centre of Kenton village an ancient boundary hedge runs southwards in a direct line to the River Brent, which it meets at a point about midway between the churches

of Twyford and Perivale. Where the line crosses the once waste land of Sudbury Common it is met by the undefined boundary between Harrow and Greenford which enters from the west. At this point there used to lie an immense block of ice-borne sandstone marked on old maps "Sudbury Stone." After the enclosure of Sudbury Common early in the last century, a green lane followed the old boundary northwards from the river past Perivale Manor Farm to the Stone, which thus, until a few years ago, lay half-buried in the mire of this lane. The Stone always formed the centre of a settlement of gipsies, the number of which would occasionally be considerably swelled by incursions of other Romanies who would gather at the Stone at certain seasons until quite a large conclave had assembled. The purpose of their meeting had not been ascertained, despite continued investigations by the more intrepid of the younger inhabitants of Wembley and Alperton, who call the Stone "The Grave of the Gipsy King."

When the arterial road known as Bridgwater Avenue was constructed along the line of the green lane, the Stone was rescued by the Harrow and District Field Club from being broken up for concrete and was removed to the adjoining golf course, where it may now be seen.

There are several of these "sarsen" stones known to the older residents in this district. One, recently destroyed, used to lie on the Harrow-Greenford boundary a half-mile to the west of Sudbury Stone. There is the locally famous "Wealdstone" outside the Red Lion Inn at Harrow Weald and another lies at the foot of the signboard at the Hare Inn a mile to the north. They are frequently to be met with outside inns, where they probably served as mounting-blocks. There is one outside the George Inn at Ruislip which is locally reputed to be a Roman altar (*sic.*). A very large one may be seen at the summit of Ducks Hill on the road from Ruislip to Northwood. An unusually long and slender example formed until recently a bridge over a ditch a few yards

to the south-west of Clack Lane near Ruislip, on a footpath from the lane to Beetonswood Farm. This disappeared recently during the construction of a county sewer. One is reported to exist at Pinner Green. Doubtless the building operations which have removed three of the above examples in recent years have accounted in the past for others also.

HUGH BRAUN.

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CRANFORD.—In April, 1934, it was reported to the Society that there existed at Cranford a moated site named Cranford-le-Mote which was averred to be Saxon. Several members of the Society, including Sir Montagu Sharpe, visited the site, and after careful study it was decided that no foundation could be made out for the attribution of the moat to Saxon times; and while no doubt some mediaeval objects of interest might be recovered in digging in and about the moat, under the circumstances the labour would probably not be sufficiently worth while. Members of the Society living nearest Cranford have agreed to watch the site to observe what is found if and when building starts in that district.

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S.-E. UNION.—The South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies held its 40th Annual Congress on 26th to 29th June, 1935; Mr. G. J. B. Fox (Deputy Chairman of Council) and Mr. A. W. Oke (Member of Council) were appointed Representatives of the L. & M. Archaeological Society, and both duly attended.

The Congress was held at Bournemouth by invitation of the Mayor and Corporation and the Bournemouth Natural Science Society; the Town Hall was allotted as headquarters.

The programme included an address by the President of the Union, Professor A. C. Seward, M.A., Sc.D., F.R.S., entitled "The Herbarium of the Rocks"; also

papers and meetings arranged by the following Sections, viz., Archaeological, Botanical, Geological, Zoological, Regional Survey. The Archaeological Section was responsible for papers by Mr. T. D. Kendrick, M.A., F.S.A. (President of the Section) on "Early Christian Art in the British Isles"; by Mr. J. B. Calkin, M.A., on "Prehistoric Bournemouth"; also for excursions to Christchurch Priory, Corfe Church and Castle, Beaulieu Abbey, Dorchester Museum and Maiden Castle.

There were also a reception by the Mayor and Corporation and two public lectures.

Some of the papers will be printed in the *South Eastern Naturalist and Antiquary*.

The 1936 Congress will be held at Oxford on four days, viz., 1st to 4th July.

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BRITISH RECORDS.—The third Annual Conference of the *British Records Association* was held on Monday, 18th November, 1935, when the Society was represented by Mr. A. E. Henderson, F.S.A., R.B.A., F.R.I.B.A., a Member of Council. Stress was laid on likely places where documents might be found: Solicitors' store-rooms and manor-house lofts. The Business Records Section emphasised the need for examination of documents before firms moved, enlarged or rebuilt their premises and thereby endangered their preservation. Our representative suggested that in making catalogues mention might be made of any specimens of fine calligraphy, illumination, old prints, drawings or maps.

The evening reception at Grocers' Hall was a great success and the Association is fulfilling a very useful function as the central authority for historical documents of all kinds.

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GREEN BELT.—Gerard, Evelyn, Petty and Fairchild, who did so much to encourage London gardens in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, would approve of the London Gardens Society, which was

inaugurated in the autumn of 1934 and held a very successful flower show at the Royal Horticultural Hall in the late summer of 1935. It is a remarkable fact that most of the superb exhibits came from districts which have an unhappy reputation for sordid and dingy surroundings, and it says much for the patience and perseverance which must have been necessary to produce so much beauty in such unkind surroundings. Camberwell Borough Council won the first prize in the municipal class, closely followed by Woolwich, Deptford, Bermondsey and Lambeth.

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STAPLE INN.—There are few relics of Tudor architecture in London, and the finest of them, Staple Inn, in Holborn, is endangered by the ravages of the wood beetle. The Prudential Assurance Company purchased the whole property some fifty years ago in order to preserve it, and in their periodic inspections they discovered the signs of this deterioration.

The beetle is not the same as the death-watch beetle, which has done so much damage to Westminster Hall. Sir Edgar Horne, the chairman of the company, has reassured all lovers of London by the remark that the needful repairs are being put in hand at once, thus making Staple Inn safe for posterity.

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A LONDON MAP.—A valuable engraved map of London in 1746, measuring about 100 square feet, has been discovered in a Tonbridge convent. It is in thirty-two sections, and covers the area between "Hide Park" and "Mile End Old Town," which was then the whole of built-up London. There is reason for thinking that it is the largest map of London in existence and is the only copy in existence.

Mr. C. T. Jackson, of St. Martin's Lane, has bought it and has offered it to the British Museum.



GREEN BELT.—At the British Association meetings Professor E. G. R. Taylor recalled the fact that the creation of a green belt round London was proposed by John Evelyn in his famous essay *Fumifugium*. This was to encircle Westminster, Southwark and the City, starting from Tothill Fields and running round through St. George's Fields, Mile End Green, Stepney, Finsbury Fields, the farms belonging late to the Foundling Hospital, to Rugby, Sutton Valence, Tonbridge and Bedford Schools. The line is roughly that of the Fortifications of London, 1642-3, and both subjects are discussed in Chapters XI, XIII and XVIII of *The Growth of Stuart London*, which took the place of the annual part of the Society's TRANSACTIONS in 1935.

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HONDIUS.—*The Times* published on 17th April, 1935, a print of a seventeenth-century picture of the froze Thames by Abraham Hondius, showing the Great Frost of 1677. In the background is the Bridge with the temporary structure erected after the Fire, while in the foreground is the ice with piles of half-frozen snow on which men, boys and dogs are skating, sliding and running about. Hondius was born in Holland in 1638 and lived much of his life in London, dying in 1695. In his Diary for 22nd December, 1676, Evelyn has this entry: "To London, in so great a snow as I remember not to have seen the like." In 1683-84 there was a still greater frost which lasted from December to February.

This picture has now been purchased from Syston Court, Gloucestershire, by the National Art Collection Fund, helped by Mr. Owen Hugh Smith, for the London Museum.

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A ROMAN TOWER.—Mr. F. Cottrill, who investigates all traces of Roman and Mediaeval London for the Society of Antiquaries, has discovered under the cellar floor of No. 19, Tower Hill, the foundations and parts of the

wall of a Roman tower built against the Roman wall of London and hitherto unknown. The tower probably dates from the second century and may be either an ordinary guard-tower or one of two to guard an exit. If the latter theory is correct, the tower may be associated with the Roman predecessor of that mediaeval postern gate, whose foundations were weakened by the digging of the Tower ditch in 1190, which partly collapsed in 1440, but of which a portion survived to be seen by Stow.

In view of the proposed scheme for unveiling a large piece of the Roman wall on Tower Hill this new discovery is of vital interest and importance.

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LONDONDERRY.—The Belfast Stationery Office have recently published the annual report for 1934 of the work of the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, in which it is shown that from eleven of the twelve City Companies that were concerned in the plantation of Derry information is available. The Drapers' Company has made a series of photographic copies of some of the earliest and most important documents relating to its Irish estates, covering the period from 1613 to 1738. These are now available in Belfast and cover a time of great interest, including the quarrels of the City with King Charles I and the massacre of 1640. Dr. T. W. Moody, of Queen's University, Belfast, had made available his researches into the Irish records of eight of the great City Companies, and a number of solicitors have deposited interesting documents at the Belfast Records Office.

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MR. HENRY BATESON, G.P.O. Box 1880W, Brisbane, a member of the Society, writes that he is anxious to obtain photographs and prints of historic buildings in England, ancient inns, city halls, cathedrals and churches, statues, monuments, etc., and would like to

exchange pictures of native customs and local scenery in Australia and New Zealand. He would particularly welcome photographs taken on some of the Society's excursions. This information was received some time ago, but as there was no part of the *Transactions* published last year there has been no previous chance of making this information known to our members. It is hoped that there may be a good response to this request from the other side of the world.

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IN THE ISSUE of the *Morning Post* for Monday, 9th December, 1935, there was a valuable supplement, dealing with the work of the Metropolitan Water Board, which supplies water to seven million and a half persons, and exercises control over 537 square miles. Nothing could be more important than the water supply of this great city, which needs between 205 and 375 millions of gallons each day, winter and summer. In mediaeval times there were few difficulties about the supply, as the Thames ran small and white and clean and there were "in every street and lane of the city divers fair wells and springs." Next came supplies from the neighbouring hills, from Tyburn and the Conduit Fields. From 1582 till 1701 the Morrays family raised water from the Thames by a patent pump, and in 1613 came the great and "immortal work" of Sir Hugh Myddelton. After the New River Company other companies were formed to supply other parts of the metropolis—the Shadwell and East London in 1669, Kent and Ravensbourne in 1701, Chelsea in 1723, Southwark and Vauxhall in 1771, Lambeth in 1785, Grand Junction in 1789, West Middlesex in 1806. Many complaints and enquiries were made during the early part of the nineteenth century, and eventually in 1902 the Metropolitan Water Board was formed to take over the whole control of the supplies. The area of the district served by the Board is 42½ miles

from north to south and 34 from east to west, as Mr. G. F. Stringer reminds us in *The Romance of London Water Supply*, one of the chapters in this supplement. We also read of the vast reservoirs in use to-day, the waterfalls at Chingford, the 80 per cent. of London's water which comes from the Thames, waste and purification and the remarkable coat-of-arms of the M.W.B. and its interesting motto. It is taken from Amos iv. 7, and comes from the Latin Vulgate—*Et plui super unam civitatem*, A.V., "and I caused it to rain upon one city." The total length of mains is 7,800 miles and its reservoirs can contain 20 thousand million gallons, shortly to be increased by 59 per cent.