

NOTES AND QUERIES

THE TOWER OF LONDON.—Almost the only important “missing link” in the plan of London’s mediaeval fortress is now being exposed to view. The investigation of a subsidence in the roadway just inside the “palisade gate” led to the discovery of the remains of the “Lion Gate,” the outermost of the four gate-houses which led to the main ward of the Tower. The Lion Gate, built in the thirteenth century, was destroyed centuries ago, and nothing was known concerning its plan or appearance until the recent discovery. Everything has vanished above the level of the entrance passage, but below this, the arrangements for the “turning bridge” are all in perfect condition.

The bridge-pit, about ten feet square, is lined with beautiful ashlar and has a floor of the same material. At the back of it are the three curved chases for the counterpoise-arms or “gaffs,” which balanced the bridge itself, and enabled it to be quickly raised in an emergency. The pivot-bearings for the axle are still in perfect condition, and, indeed, the timber bridge could be replaced without any difficulty.

The excavations have been extended to expose the causeway in front of the gate, and also that joining it to the “Middle Tower,” the reason for the name of which is now made clear. It is to be hoped that the work may be continued, and the original arrangements at the entrance completely recovered, so that visitors may be able to traverse the ancient route into the Tower, instead of the ugly makeshift approach which now exists.

H.B.

PINNER.—There was possibly a village of the early Britons at Pinner, with its fertile soil, good water and oak forests, which would make a strong appeal to the

Druids. A flint spear-head of this period was found in the grounds of East House. Headstone takes its name from a Roman boundary stone and there is another lying at the junction of West End Lane and Elm Park Road. A mound stood at Barrow Point, and some years ago Roman stone-work was found during alterations to the house. Pinner Church stands on some kind of earthwork, the Conservative Club is built into the same bank and opposite Pinner House there was a very steep bank, partially levelled some years ago. It is possible that Grim's Dyke belongs to the same period.

The northern boundary of Pinner in Anglo-Saxon times seems to have been, as to-day, from the top of Potter Street, where a crucifix stood, to the boundary oak in Oxhey Lane, which stood till the end of last century.

A manuscript in the British Museum (Cotton, Aug. 11, 26, 27) dated A.D. 767, shows that "Offa, King of the Mercians, gave to Stidberht, holy man and abbot, xxx pises of land in Middlesex between gumeninga hergae and the liddinge brook, and there are vi hides of land and a dwelling house on the eastern bank." It is signed by the King, Archbishop Gengberht and two bishops. A further deed of Pilheard, Earl, states that "he became possessed of these deeds of gift or exchange, and obtained their freedom from the King of the Mercians for a payment of 200s. and a further yearly payment of 30s., that they should be released for ever from liability to taxes, dues, services and tribute, but should be rated for the building of bridges fortresses and the supply of men required for military service to the extent of only five men." This is signed by King Cenulph, Ethelhard, Archbishop, ten bishops and eleven others.

The measurements conform so closely to those of Pinner to-day (3,782 acres) that this appears to be the district referred to. The Saxon temple may have been

the one at Oxhey. Offa granted Oxhey to the Monastery of St. Albans about the same time, and it seems probable that the land given to Stidberht should be adjoining. The land on each side of the Yeading brook is quite in keeping with the measurements given. The dwelling house was apparently approached through Cannon Lane, where the Yeading brook runs near the road. Last century two ruins many centuries old were in this lane, and one of them was traditionally ecclesiastical. There was a bridge of an earlier date which was rebuilt in 1728 by Lady Hunsdon.

Another manuscript (B. M. Cotton, Aug. 11. 78) A.D. 825, records a quarrel between King Coenwulf (Cenulph) and Archbishop Wulfred, a suit between Wulfred and Cwoenthryth, Abbess of South Minster, which resulted in a decree that the Abbess should render all that her father had taken by violence from the Archbishop. "King Beomwulf, on her behalf, begged the Archbishop to accept 100 hides of land in Hearge, Here frething land, Wembley and Yedding." All parts of land not made free by Earl Pilheard were now made free. This seems to be the formation of the Manor of Harrow, which appears in Domesday as the property of Archbishop Lanfranc. It was assessed for 100 hides and the demesne occupied 30, which coincides with the previous figure.

As a demesne of the Archbishop, Pinner "hath from time immemorial exercised the right of levying its own rates, electing chapel-wardens, having overseers and surveyors of the highway, and transacting all parish business within its own boundaries as fully as if it had been a separate parish; and in 1706 there was a lawsuit between Harrow and Pinner, when the former tried to make a rate upon Pinner. The latter recorded that they never paid any rate nor could Harrow recover any by law towards the repair of their church and steeple. As Archbishop Sudbury was murdered on Town Hill, in 1381, it is quite possible that the Pinner

villeins destroyed important court rolls during the Peasants Revolt in order to be quit of villeinage. Richard II ordered an enquiry to be made, and three men from Pinner were appointed, but the result is not known.

E. M. WARE, *Parish Clerk of Pinner.*

WHERE'S MORTIMER?—There was an interesting discussion in *The Times* in February, 1936, started by a query of Major Ian Hay Beith (Ian Hay), who asked at a meeting held at Middlesex Hospital, "Who's Mortimer?"—reminiscent of the historic query of Crewe, L. C. J., in James I's reign, "Where's Mortimer?"

The Mortimers are still in existence, but as the senior branch of the family was merged in the royal house during the Wars of the Roses all the titles disappeared. The Mortimers were Lords of Wigmore in Herefordshire, and in the sixteenth century some of their estates passed to the Harleys of Brampton Bryan. Robert Harley, first Earl of Oxford of the new creation, was Queen Anne's famous minister, and in 1711 he was created Earl of Oxford and Mortimer and he is thus described on his monument in Brampton Bryan Church.

His son Edward married Henrietta Cavendish Holles, heiress of the Duke of Newcastle. The Duke purchased the Marylebone estate in 1708 or 1710 for £17,500 from Sir John Austen, and in 1715 planned its development on sound lines. The South Sea Bubble of 1720 naturally curtailed building; so Oxford market was projected, a chapel was built, and about 1730 development really began. There is a plan of the Marylebone Estate, from a MS. map in a private collection, opposite page 223 in volume II of Loftie's *History of London* (1883).

Simon, Lord Harcourt, and the Great Duke of Chandos were early inhabitants, and it soon became a fashionable quarter. Obviously the names Henrietta, Cavendish and Holles are derived from the second

Countess of Oxford; and her daughter Margaret married William Bentinck, second Duke of Portland, a marriage which gave rise to further street names. Harley, Mortimer and Wigmore have already been explained. This leaves only Oxford Street to be explained, and it seems quite clear that the name is derived from the Earl of Oxford, whose family gave their names to all the other streets and squares on the property. The usually accepted notion that the street was so called because it led to Oxford will not hold water, because in 1745, when the portion from Tottenham Court Road to the Lord Mayor's Banqueting House had for some time been called Oxford Street, the remaining portion, fronting on the Portman Estate, and extending to the site of the Marble Arch, was still called Tyburn Road. When the Portman Estate was more fully developed the whole street was called Oxford Street, and it is significant that, whereas in Rocque's map of 1745 the street is half Oxford Street and half Tyburn Road, by the time of the publication of Rocque's second edition of 1763 the street has the same name from Tottenham Court Road to Hyde Park. Is it possible that the change of name for the eastern half of the street is due to the fact that a previous Mortimer, Roger, who figured in the reigns of Edward II and III, was executed at Tyburn?

LEICESTER SQUARE.—The open space of Leicester Square is what remains of the Lammas lands of the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, partly developed by the Earl of Salisbury in 1608 and further built over by the Earl of Leicester in 1632. Commissioners were anxious to safeguard some of the parishioners' rights, and they decided that the central portion was to be planted with trees, with walks along between them, and with space for clothes-drying as indicated in Ralph Agar's picturesque map (*c.* 1561). For more than a century and a half after 1632, Leicester Square was a

fashionable district with Leicester House as the home of the Princes of Wales, a "pouting place for princes." When the Square ceased to be fashionable, the garden became an unkept wilderness and a playground for the boys of the neighbourhood. In 1851 to 1862 there was a building called Wyld's Great Globe in which dioramas, exhibitions of military items were housed. Its horrible condition afterwards induced Baron Albert Grant to purchase the site, secure Sir James Knowles to lay it out at a total cost for land and development, of £28,000, and present it to the Metropolitan Board of Works on 2nd July, 1874, as an open space for ever.

From the Board of Works it passed to the London County Council, which, in 1933, handed it over to the Westminster City Council, for care and management, while retaining certain rights. Westminster now propose to improve and brighten the gardens by clearing the corner shrubberies, levelling and turfing the ground, removing the four central trees and one here and there where they hang over the surrounding footways, levelling existing grass plots and planting additional flower beds.

It is pointed out that the plane trees are some of the finest in London and have taken over 100 years to grow; and there is considerable opposition to this scheme, as there was to the idea of constructing a garage under the square, for much the same reason, namely the desire to preserve valuable trees from destruction.

GREEN BELT.—The first report of the Greater London Regional Planning Committee was published in 1929, and its last page was a plan of London showing existing and suggested open spaces.

Unfortunately the success of this scheme was not at once secured, and the continuous green belt about 13 miles from Charing Cross promised to be very costly. It was to link up such open spaces as Epping and

Hainault Forests, Ranmore Common, Merrow and Albury Downs, Netley Heath and Boxhill. To complete the chain meant securing 92 square miles, and a belt half a mile in width would have included many private parks and smaller country houses, whose development would be sterilised. The L.C.C. scheme, which dates from 1st April, 1935, and lasts for three years and offers two million pounds help for land purchase, differs in some respect from the earlier scheme, but has much in common. Middlesex has done much in the past to secure open spaces, and Hendon and Hampstead have magnificent belts of parkland and woodland open for all time.

A square mile of glorious hilly country abutting on one portion of Grim's Dyke, as described in this issue of our *Transactions* by Mr. Hugh Braun, is a particularly good feature of Hendon's green spaces.

Another very bold Middlesex undertaking is the purchase of 2,000 acres in the urban district of Enfield from the Duchy of Lancaster. This is the last remaining portion of Enfield Chase still in the hands of the Crown, and it must have formed part of Middlesex Forest. In addition the Middlesex County Council have already bought 234 acres at Park Wood, on the banks of Ruislip Reservoir, 155 acres of Copse Wood, Ruislip, and 186 acres of Mad Bess Wood. At Enfield already 254 acres of the White Webbs estate have been acquired, and the Enfield open spaces link up with Trent Park and Potter's Bar. Hadley Wood and Common came within a short distance of the Hendon open spaces, and further west Grim's Dyke and Pinner Hill golf courses have been sterilised. There is also a proposal to co-operate with Hertfordshire and acquire jointly 350 acres of Moor Park. In agreeing to spend a million and a half pounds, the Middlesex County Council is showing commendable zeal for the proposed green belt along the northern edge of the county from the borders of Essex to the borders of Buckinghamshire.

Surrey, Kent, Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire are also doing their share towards realising this very desirable goal; but we cannot but view with apprehension the evident desire of the speculative builder to mass small houses along by-pass roads, to sell frontages for factory development, and to regard every cross-roads and every roundabout as an opportunity for shopping centres and super-cinema sites.

HAMPSTEAD AND HIGHGATE PONDS.—These ponds were famous in London's history long before the Pickwick Club on 12th May, 1827, passed a vote of thanks to Samuel Pickwick, Esq., G.C.M.P.C., for his paper entitled "Speculations on the Source of the Hampstead Ponds, with some Observations on the Theory of Tittlebats," and encouraged him to pursue his unwearied researches in Hornsey, Highgate, Brixton and Camberwell.

In the sixteenth century the City Corporation secured an Act authorising it to make use of "dyvers great and plentyfull springes at Hampstede Hethe" and elsewhere on the northern heights not more than five miles from London. In 1589 this scheme was commenced, and four reservoirs were formed in the depression between the Heath and Pond Street, and in 1692 the ponds were leased to the Hampstead Water Company. In 1777 a fifth pond was made in the Vale of Health, and the five, which inter-communicated, occupied about 12 acres. A mile away 20 acres were occupied by eight more ponds. The whole scheme was handed over in 1859 to the New River Company at a perpetual rent-charge of £3,500 a year, now paid by the Metropolitan Water Board as successor to the New River Company.

In 1929 the lease was renewed for a further seven years to end at mid-summer 1936. Since 1848 water from these historic ponds has gravitated to an open reservoir at Camden Park Road, from which mains

have sent supplies of unfiltered water for non-domestic purposes, chiefly in certain railway depots, which no longer use it.

The Board has decided not to renew the lease which they hold from the City Corporation, and in doing so have asked the Corporation to erect a tablet recording the antiquity of the ponds as a source of water supply.

ABBEEY FOLK PARK.—This is one of the most remarkable of folk museums of the day and is probably unique in this country. *The Times* quite justly devoted a leading article and half a column of space to Father Ward's latest acquisition, which consists of five cottages formerly part of a group of twenty-one on Hadley Green which had to be demolished because of their insanitary condition.

When Father Ward removed the weather boarding it was found that the cottages were half timbered buildings with brick noggin, which on closer investigation was found to consist of mixed sixteenth and seventeenth century bricks. The sixteenth century bricks were of the thin type without a "frog," but a further discovery was yet to be made. When the noggin and studding were removed and the bottom plates were revealed, it was found that there were holes to hold upright ash stakes for wattle and daub work of the fifteenth century. The original cottages must therefore have been in existence before the battle of Barnet, and an ingenious theory suggests that "the drastic repairs of the sixteenth century, when wattle and daub was replaced by Tudor brickwork, were undertaken by a lord of the manor wishing to treat generously tenants whose loyalty caused their homes to be attacked during the Battle of Barnet." This is a most attractive suggestion; and it is satisfactory that the cottages have been given a new lease of life at New Barnet, after their five hundred years on Hadley Green, in full

view for part of the time of the Hadley High Stone, which marks the last stand of Warwick the King-maker.

ROMAN RELICS IN THE CITY.—We extract from *The Times* of 2nd June, 1936, an important account of excavations, based on the report of Mr. J. L. Douthwaite, Librarian and Curator at the Guildhall.

In Houndsditch and Bevis Marks, where alterations and improvements are still taking place, several excavations exposed the remains of the Roman city wall. To the west corner of Duke Street and Bevis Marks nothing but footings was found; but a few yards farther west, at 19, Bevis Marks, the wall was found running across the site for some 25 ft. It was in excellent condition from the foundations up to the first bonding course, about 3 ft. in height from the original ground level. Unfortunately the work in progress necessitated the destruction of the wall, but before it was demolished photographs of its northern face were taken for preservation at Guildhall. To the north of this remnant of wall the mediaeval town ditch had obliterated all traces of the earlier Roman ditch.

Later, in December, the Tower Hill Improvement Committee decided to investigate Roman remains in the cellar of 19, Tower Hill, with the object of exposing the inner face of the wall. To the surprise of all concerned, the operation revealed the presence of a rectangular chamber, with inner dimensions of 11 ft. by 6 ft. This had apparently been constructed at the same time as the wall.

An Early Inscription.—The most interesting archaeological discovery of the year was made by the London Passenger Transport Board at Trinity Place, Minories. Here, during the work for the construction of an electric sub-station, workmen encountered not only the original Roman town wall, but also a small remnant of one of the bastions (No. 2) still in its original position. These bastions were semi-circular or horseshoe-shaped towers,

built up at intervals against the outside of the wall, at a period long—perhaps 200 years—after the building of the wall itself. In their construction was used material from former buildings, which had either fallen into decay or been demolished for the purpose. One of the stones forming the base of this bastion was seen to be a large squared block, bearing on its exposed face (which measured 5 ft. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft.) the inscription, carved in letters 3 in. high:—

PROC. PROVINC. BRIT.
JVLIA. INDI. FILIA. PACATA. I
VXOR.

[“ His wife Julia Pacata, daughter of Indus (erected this monument to the memory of . . .), Procurator of the Province of Britain.”]

A heap of stones, evidently part of this same bastion, was found a few feet from this spot in 1852, and among them was one bearing the beginning of a funerary inscription from the tomb of a man named *Classicianus*. It was suggested at the time that this might possibly be the *Classicianus* who, according to Tacitus, was appointed Procurator of Britain after the rebellion of *Boadicea* in A.D. 61; but this was then considered by scholars to be unlikely. A comparison of the lettering, the size and the nature of the stone of the two fragments soon showed that they were parts of the same monument.

The newly discovered stone was accordingly presented by the London Passenger Transport Board to the British Museum, where, with the fragment found in 1852, it makes the finest and earliest example of an important Roman inscription hitherto found in this country. It is probable that originally there were two more lines of lettering, occupying a space about a foot deep, between the old and the new finds.

A stretch of the Roman city wall encountered during the same operations in the Crescent, Minories, has been preserved by the London Passenger Transport Board.

In Gracechurch Street.—Earlier in the year the remains of a large Roman building was found at 17, Gracechurch

Street. In the south-west corner of one large chamber (which had a diagonal measurement of 40 ft.) the walls were still standing to a height of 2 ft. A peculiar feature of the walling was that it was constructed, not of the ordinary bricks, but of roofing tiles. They were laid flat, the flanged edges giving just the appearance of a wall of bricks of the normal Roman type, about 2 in. thick. There were other rooms of smaller size both to the north and south of it. The position of the building, in front of the western end of the great basilica, taken in conjunction with the position of the remains found last year on the other side of Gracechurch Street, proves that there was not here, as in most Roman towns, a large open forum in front of the administrative headquarters.

A small area of Roman road metalling was discovered in Birchin Lane. It seems probable that this was part of a north-to-south street to the west of the great basilica. Here also was found a deposit of second-century pottery, further evidence of a great fire which seems to have destroyed a large area of the City in A.D. 130.

Discoveries continued to be made at the Bank of England, some of which are now in the Guildhall Museum. Iron work and leather work in good condition were a feature of the 1935 finds.

BRENT RESERVOIR.—The Grand Union Canal Company is carrying out a scheme at Brent Reservoir, Hendon, better known as the "Welsh Harp," to maintain the reservoir's storage capacity, and in order to prevent flooding is adopting a method hitherto practically unused in this country.

Under the Reservoirs (Safety Provisions) Act, 1930, it was considered necessary to make greater provision for dealing with flood water. In order to do this the normal water level has for some time been kept at a low and, from the company's point of view, uneconomic

level. To restore this level, and to obtain advantage of the full capacity of the reservoir, it would be necessary in following usual practice when dealing with flood water to construct a new overflow weir about 100 yards long. This would be costly, and, as an alternative, the scheme adopted makes use of the siphonic action of five large reinforced concrete tubes built over the existing weir, the lower ends being about 30 ft. below the normal water level.

These come into action one by one at definite points as the flood waters cause the reservoir to rise, and draw the water out at the rate of 70,000,000 gallons an hour when working at maximum intensity. The installation of these siphons will enable the reservoir water area to be increased from about 150 acres to about 170 acres, and the capacity to be increased by 115,000,000 gallons. To construct the upstream works, consisting of reinforced concrete hoods and aprons, it will be necessary to lower the water level 18 ft., and it is intended to complete this portion at the earliest possible moment to enable the refilling of the reservoir to be begun in time to catch the winter rains.

ARCHITECTURAL GRAPHIC RECORDS COMMITTEE.—
Mr. Walter H. Godfrey, F.R.I.B.A., is Chairman of this Committee, which has now completed a card index of 11,000 records of drawings in twenty-four London libraries. Additions will shortly be made giving particulars of drawings and prints in the public libraries of Hendon, Hampstead and Stoke Newington. Any local catalogues of topographical drawings would be welcomed by the promoters of this valuable index, which is housed in the Library of the Royal Institute of British Architects at 66, Portland Place, W.1.

It is available for inspection at all hours when the library is open, and the Hon. Secretary is Mr. F. Herbert Mansford, F.R.I.B.A., of 15, Kingsend, Ruislip, Middx.

THE ADELPHI.—The changes in the Adelphi site fully justified a visit of the Society on 7th March, 1936, when Mr. A. B. Hayward, surveyor to the estate, showed specimen rooms, wine-vaults, painted ceilings, and explained the plans which the four brothers Adam had adopted in levelling-up the steep slope from the riverside to the Strand in an area which had once belonged to the Bishops of Durham. The embanking of the river in 1870 has altered the lie of the land, and the buildings no longer abut on the river. An instance of the good workmanship employed is the fact that 15-ton lorries, undreamed of by the Adam brothers, pass over the brick arches without causing a tremor. The Society saw the so-called "Lady Jane's Steps," the Arches, so long the refuge of the destitute and the criminal, and lamented the fact that so many of the ceilings, painted by Cipriani, Angelica Kauffmann and probably Zucchi, have been destroyed, because there have not been funds available for removing them intact.

The Society was fortunate in thus visiting the site of the doomed Adelphi—a piece of eighteenth-century town-planning, magnificent in conception, and most admirable in execution; an example of grandeur with comfort, of rich decoration with graceful lightness of tone; an example of fine use of an unpromising ground plan; an ornament to London and an example of housing to future generations.

It is sad that buildings in which men like David Garrick, J. M. Barrie and G. Bernard Shaw have lived and worked should now have come to an end.

THE ABBOTS OF WESTMINSTER.—For several centuries the Abbots of Westminster held Hendon Place as one of their country houses; and, after a short period in the hands of Bishop Thirleby, it passed to the Huberts, who were lords of the Manor from 1550 to 1754. The house was altered, enlarged and possibly rebuilt by William Herbert, first Earl of Pembroke of the present creation, and in the eighteenth century it was replaced

by a new building, Tenterden Hall, which in turn has disappeared in 1936.

On the site, some excellent Tudor-style houses are being constructed to form part of Cedars Close. In the necessary excavations evidences of two previous buildings have been discovered, including hundreds of bricks used for footings, some soft and some hard. Some of the bricks were 3 inches by 8 by 4, others were of the more normal size, and an expert suggested that some were probably monastic, and some of the Herbert period. Neither kind came from the site of Tenterden Hall. At one spot where excavations to the depth of 12 ft. had been made, a brick-built pier was discovered with some heavy oak beams resting upon it, one of them having the appearance of a raking member. An old wooden water pipe was also discovered, and this has been placed in the Hendon Public Library.

MIDDLESEX PARISHES AND THEIR ANTIQUITY.—In the lists of "Manors and Wills mentioned in Saxon Charters" on p. 96, the Hampton, Littleton and Hampton Wick named in Birch's Charters, Nos. 125 and 134, are not in Middlesex, but in Worcestershire. These two documents relate to Evesham Abbey properties at Great (and Little) Hampton, North (and Middle and South) Littleton, one of the three Actons in that district, and Hampton near Droitwich ("Wiccium Emptorium").

The list might be strengthened by Teddington which appears with Feltham and Staines in the Edgar Charter in Birch, No. 1264 (*not* 1263); Edgeware in Birch, No. 1290 (A.D. 977); Northolt in B. 1063 (A.D. 960-62); and also from List No. 2 by Cowley, which appears in B. 1050 (A.D. 959, "Cofenlea") and Isleworth, which is now identified as the "Gislheresuuyrthe" in B. 87 (A.D. 695).