NOTES AND QUERIES

LONDON'S GREEN BELT.—The green belt has now become "news," and it figured in most of the papers in September, 1937, and was the subject of a short broadcast talk by the Honorary Editor on 15th September. There was a proposal made to form a green belt in 1660 by John Evelyn, and twenty years later the same idea was broached by Sir William Petty. The scheme could have been achieved a mile or two from the city wall when it was suggested under Charles II, but nothing was done. Dame Henrietta Octavia Barnett outlined a similar scheme five miles from the centre to form a memorial to King Edward, but once more the idea was dropped. In 1929, the councils concerned took up the scheme once more, but to some extent abandoned it in the economy campaign of 1931. At long last it is being achieved on both sides of London, and on 15th September there was an inspection of open spaces on the northern boundary of Middlesex. *The Times* for the next day gave the following digest of the situation:—

Members of the Estates and Town Planning Committee of the Middlesex County Council, with representatives of the London County Council, the Ministry of Health, and other guests, made a tour yesterday of some of the contributions which the authority is making to the establishment of a green belt round London. The Middlesex Council has not only taken a prominent part in supporting the scheme announced in the spring of 1935 for the creation of the belt, but was responsible through two of its aldermen for much pioneer work in the effort to acquire or sterilise land for inclusion in such a girdle. Eight thousand acres came within the survey yesterday, and these involve commitments, to which the Middlesex Council is the largest contributor, of more than £1,500,000.

Action in Middlesex was more urgently needed than elsewhere. The county has an area of 148,691 acres, and it is estimated that a population of 1,638,728 in 1931 has since increased to 1,940,400. During the five years from 1931 to March, 1936, the number of houses increased from 348,595 to 473,033, and in the same period the total rateable value of the county rose from £13,996,953 to £18,431,280.

From Epping Forest, right round to the Thames at Staines, there is gradually developing a complete green girdle, with public parks, golf courses, river valleys and private estates sterilised against building. In Enfield there is a good deal of open ground almost adjoining Gilwell, the G.H.Q. of the Boy Scouts at Sewardstonebury, and then comes White Webbs, Enfield, where there is an estate of 254 acres, with an old residence now used as a county hospital for elderly men. Part of the land is used as a golf course, which is open to the public. Next comes an area of nearly 600 acres, which is being purchased from Trinity College, Cambridge. Ninety-five acres, with the consent of the college trustees, will be available for building development, and the rest, including Crews Hill golf course, goes into the belt.

Adjoining this estate is Enfield Chase, the land of the Duchy of Cornwall, and negotiations have resulted in 2,000 acres being preserved to the public. There are a number of tenancies, consisting of farms or private dwelling houses, in existence, and it is not intended to alter the character of a property to which an interesting history is attached. The estate was the last portion remaining in the hands of the Crown of the ancient Enfield Chase, which was no doubt a tract of the ancient forest of Middlesex.

In the Potter's Bar urban district, provision is being made for the reservation of 1,450 acres. The principal owner is Lord Strafford, and arrangements are nearing completion for the purchase from him of nearly 700

acres of agricultural land and woodlands, the preservation from development of Wrotham Park, which will remain, however, private property, and the acquisition of the Old Fold Manor golf course. Negotiations have also been opened in respect of Dyrham Park.

Next come Hadley Wood and Common, Barnet Common and the splendid group of open spaces belonging to Hendon borough, including Scratch Wood and Moat Mount, which with their extensions reach to Brockley Hill, now being excavated for Roman and British remains. Considerable reservations are being made on the Warren House estate in the Harrow urban district, where 126 acres are to be acquired, but completion is being deferred during the occupation of the property by Sir John Fitzgerald.

Proceeding west, the belt passes through the Stanmore and Harrow Weald in a stretch which contains some of the most attractive country in Middlesex, with extensive and beautiful views from its higher levels. The most recent acquisition has been the Grims Dyke estate of 110 acres, which was the home of the late Sir William S. Gilbert, the librettist of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. The purchase has cost £45,000, and a decision has yet to be taken on what shall be done with the pleasant house and lovely gardens and grounds. It is possible that the house, which was planned by the late Frederick Goodall, R.A., may be let, but what is now assured is that there will be no disfigurement of an estate, much of which is natural. Other reservations include nearly 200 acres of the Bentley Priory estate, a tract of about 87 acres of land of great natural beauty at "Old Redding," the Grims Dyke and Pinner Hill golf course, and a considerable acreage in connecting strips of land and spurs to the main belt.

Further westwards, but still in Middlesex, there are the wooded surroundings of Ruislip Reservoir, including Park Wood (234 acres), Copse Wood (155 acres) and Mad Bess Wood (186 acres), and then the Breakspears

GRIM'S DYKE, HOME OF THE LATE SIR W. S. GILBERT.
By kind permission of *The Times*.

estate of 572 acres at Harefield. Where Middlesex touches Buckinghamshire there are 240 acres at Denham Court, also reserved as part of the green girdle.

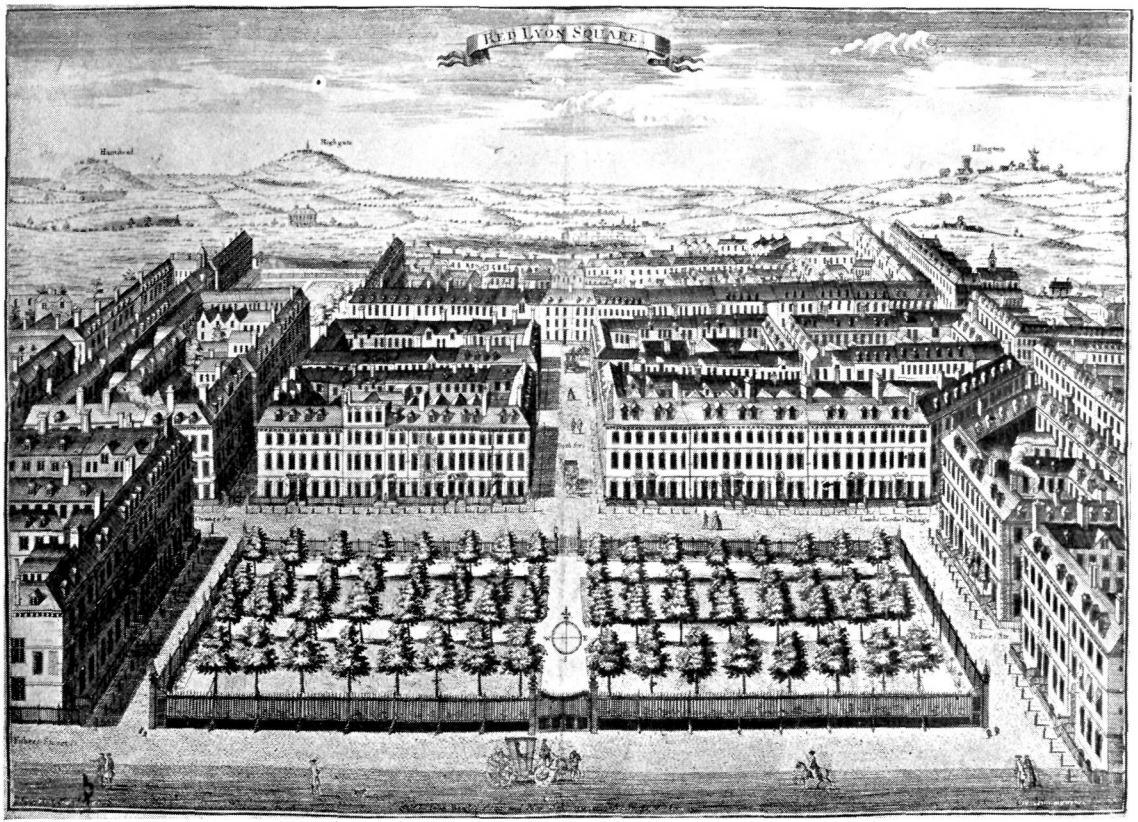
OLD MONUMENTS IN MIDDLESEX.—The Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments have published a volume on Middlesex, and in addition to this have published a report, giving a list of 550 ancient and historic monuments in the county, with its 60 parishes, and 34 of these sites and buildings are especially worthy of preservation.

Prehistoric earthworks and Roman remains and mediaeval mounds are listed at Grims Dyke, East Hillingdon, Harrow Weald, Brockley Hill, Pinner, Enfield, Ruislip and South Mimms. Three of these have recently figured in the pages of the *Transactions*. The parish churches especially commended are East Bedfont, Cranford, Enfield, Harefield, Harmondsworth, Harrow, Hayes, South Mimms, Ruislip, Great Stanmore and Hanwell. Other buildings mentioned are Hampton Court, Boston House at Brentford, Forty Hall at Enfield, Harefield Almshouses, Harmondsworth Barn, Osterley Park Stables at Heston (which are Elizabethan), Swakeleys at Ickenham, Cromwell House at Highgate, Syon House, Knightsland Farm at South Mimms (recently visited by our Society), Southall Manor at Norwood, Stanwell School House, Bruce Castle at Tottenham, York House at Twickenham, and Moor Hall Chapel at Harefield.

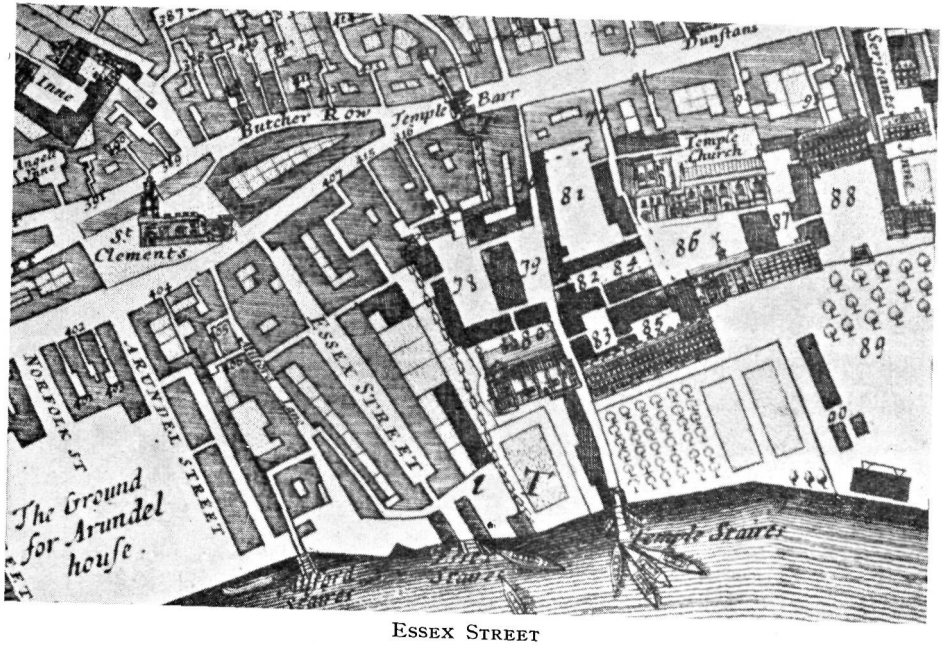
THE CHANDOS CHAPEL AT CANNONS.—In Pope's satire on the Duke of Chandos, he writes of the painted ceilings of the chapel, "where sprawl the saints of Verrio and Laguerre." Mrs. K. A. Esdaile points out that Verrio died in 1707, before the chapel was built. Laguerre did something for Chandos, seeing that Vertue records in 1741 his "sketch drawing for the

Earl of Carnarvon's works at Cannons—about 1715." It was Bellouchi, or more correctly Belluchi, who did most of the painting of the Chandos Chapel, notices of which Mrs. K. A. Esdaile quotes from Vertue. In 1730 he writes: "Several paintings in the Chappel (of 'Cannons the Duke of Shandos house') by Bellouchi," and in 1734: "Bellouchi Senr. first came to England, painted a staircase . . . in Pell mall . . . afterwards at the Duke of Buckinghams, a Ceiling, and more for the Duke of Chandos." Horace Walpole, in his *Anecdotes of Painting*, excuses Pope's satire, when he writes:—"Though Pope was too grateful to mean a satire on Canons, while he recorded all its ostentatious want of task, and too sincere to have denied it, if he had meant it, he might without blame have moralised on the event in an epistle purely ethic, had he lived to behold its fall and change of masters."

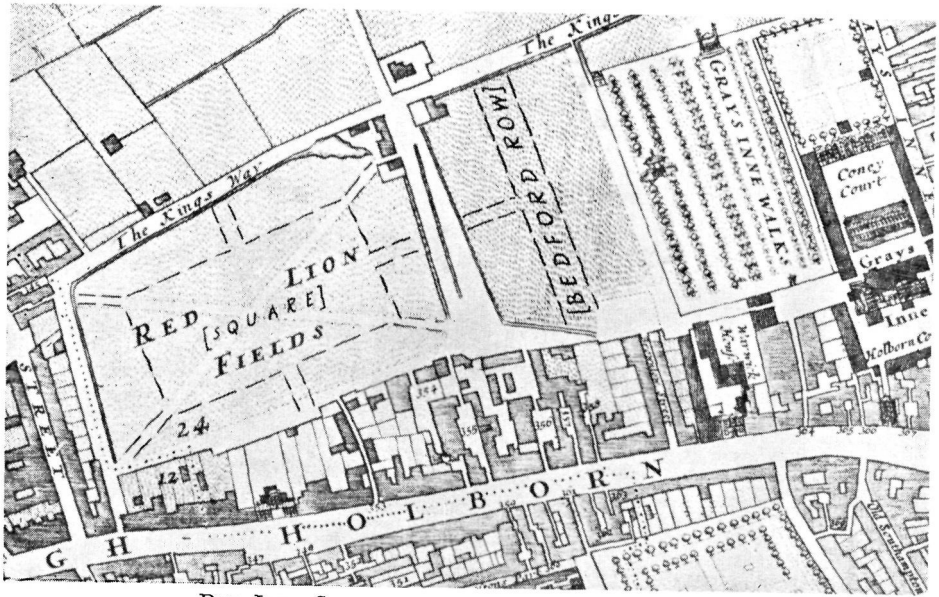
THE NAME OF HORNSEY.—Dr. S. J. Madge, F.S.A., a former editor of the *Transactions*, has published with the Hornsey Public Libraries Committee a pamphlet dealing with the story of Hornsey, and especially with the origin of its name. After giving a long list of the different ways in which Hornsey and Harringay are spelt in old documents, he comes to the conclusion that the two names are equal in origin and identical in meaning, being alternative in the records of the parish and manor. Harringay is perhaps the older, and both mean "the enclosure of Hering," Heringes-hege. Hering is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle in A.D. 603 as a son and successor of early kings, and as a general. This upsets the popular idea that the derivation is "the meadow of hares"; which has caused the mayoral chain of the borough, made in 1903, to consist of a series of hares in the decorative work of the links, and which prompted the architect of the new Town Hall to include hares as a prominent feature in



RED LION SQUARE, AS DEVELOPED BY BARBON, 1684–1715



Essex Street
(from Ogilby and Morgan's Map)



Red Lion Square, before Barbon developed it

the design over the doorway. Doubtless there were hares in Harringay and Hornsey, as there still are in the more rural parts of Middlesex, but they were not the cause of the two alternative names.

OLD LONDON BRIDGE.—In Major Gordon Home's *History of London Bridge*, reviewed in the *Transactions* a year or two ago, he pointed out that during the building of Adelaide House, near the north end of New London Bridge, there was discovered one of the original piers constructed by Peter of Colechurch and his successors in the reigns of John and Henry III. He very much deplored the fact that this historic relic, which had been spared in the new building of William IV's reign, should not have been preserved, when it emerged a century later. Just recently, timber foundations have been found behind Adelaide House, at Fresh Wharf, which Mr. Quintin Waddington, of the Guildhall Museum, judges to be part of the piles used in the London Bridge of 1176. The timbers are of elm and are in excellent condition, and other finds include a Roman bodkin, Roman vases, a mediaeval ox-shoe, coins from Roman times to George III, and a great many Tudor pins, thus supporting the theory that the London pin-making industry was centred at the north end of London Bridge.

LORD KNYVETT'S SCHOOL AT STANWELL.—This is one of the scheduled monuments of Middlesex, and is to be transferred to the Middlesex County Council. Thomas, Lord Knyvett of Escrick (d. 1622), who left money in his will for building and endowing the school, was grand-nephew of Sir Edmund Knyvett, who was sergeant-porter to Henry VIII, and keeper of Rockingham Forest. Thomas was probably of the same family as Sir John Knyvet, Chancellor of England from 1372 to 1377, and was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge,

and was created M.A. during Queen Elizabeth's visit to Oxford in 1592. He was a gentleman of the Privy Chamber and M.P. for Thetford in 1601. After James I's accession he was knighted, and, as Justice of the Peace for Westminster, he arrested Guy Fawkes. He was appointed a Privy Councillor, warden of the Mint and a member of the Council of Queen Anne, James's consort.

The school is one of the oldest non-provided schools in the county, but the managers cannot afford to provide the additional accommodation required by the growing population in Stanwell.

PIGEONS IN THE CITY.—Dr. White, Acting Medical Officer for the City of London, emphasises the nuisance and damage caused by pigeons, which, like rats, breed up to the limits of nesting accommodation. Catching pigeons is not enough, and all owners of large buildings, such as churches, livery halls, banks, the G.P.O., the Stock Exchange, railway stations and hotels, are asked to help the Corporation by eliminating possible nesting-places or by making them inaccessible for birds.

CHRONICLES OF LONDON.—The Great Chronicle of London, which the Guildhall Library owes to the generosity of Viscount Wakefield, is almost ready for publication. It deals with national and local history from 1189 to 1512, and its items have been carefully checked by comparison with other London chronicles and the official records of England, especially with the Chronicle of Fabian, thought by both John Stow and Hakluyt to be its compiler.

The general descriptive catalogue of the Guildhall Records is making good progress. There is a collection of 4,000 rolls of Orphans' Inventories from 1640–1745, containing valuable information dealing with social and economic conditions and with family history. A separate

index has been completed for 260 rolls not recorded in the Common Serjeants' books, and the whole series has been made available for students by placing the rolls in dust-proof cases with appropriate labels.

The Parish and Ward Assessments for 1695 are being indexed, and they will give names of all persons living in the houses of the various parishes, as recorded under the Act of 5 and 6 William and Mary, Ch. 6. One hundred Tithe Assessment Rolls of 1671 to 1681 have been listed according to parishes, and many Common Hall minute papers, resolutions and precepts for 1690 to 1896 have been sorted into their various years.

Dr. Helen Chew has calendared and transcribed the Rolls of the Itinerant Justices of A.D. 1244 and 1246, and added a nominal and subject index. Indexes have also been provided for the Rolls of Novel Disseisin and Freshforce.

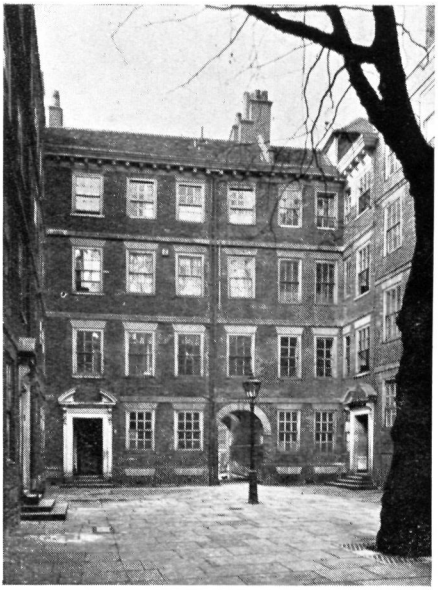
The Keeper of the Records notes that these records need an introductory description of these Rolls and an account of the legal procedure of these Courts; while further work remains to be done on the Rolls of Fines and Amercements, A.D. 1275, the Rolls of the Sheriffs' Court, A.D. 1318–21, and the later Escheat Rolls.

THE BREWERS COMPANY.—This Company, with its headquarters in Addle Street, has just celebrated its 500th anniversary, and the Master of the Company is Colonel G. B. Winch. The Company was admitted to guildry in 1437, but the body had been in existence long before that, Thomas à Becket being regarded as its patron saint and even founder. It took some part in providing beer for the journey through northern France to arrange for the marriage between Henry V and the French princess, Catherine, and the beer had been in iron-bound casks, not branded as they should have been according to a rule instituted by Whittington. The latter had a feud with the Brewers, and objected

to their proposed incorporation, so in 1422 the Master and twelve members were summoned before the Mayor to answer a charge of selling dear ale. "After much dispute about the quality and price of malt, wherein Whityngton, the late Mayor, declared that the brewers had ridden into the country and forestalled the malt, to raise its price, they were convicted in the penalty of £20; which objecting to, the masters were ordered to be kept in prison in the Chamberlain's company until they should pay it." Meantime the Mayor and Aldermen went home to dinner, and the prisoners asked the Chamberlain and clerk for advice. They advised them to go home and promised that no harm should come to them. "All the proceeding had been done but to please Richard Whityngton, for he was the cause of all the aforesaid judgment. The offence taken by Richard Whityngton against them was for their having fat swans at their feast on the morrow of St. Martin." Here is a good example of mediaeval etiquette and the disastrous results of a breach thereof.

The Company's uniform dates from 1434, three years before their admission to the guildry; and their banquets were sumptuous, females paying 8d. and members 12d. At one banquet the drinks were on a lavish scale, and included twenty-two gallons of red wine, three kilderkins of good ale, two kilderkins of three-half-penny ale, and one kilderkin of penny ale—an interesting proportion.

In order to secure their charter, two hundred and thirteen brewers "deden paye dyverse Parcelles of Monye to helpe wage Sowdyours for to kepe Caleys whanne the Duke of Burgoyne cam to besege the said Town of Caleys." £13 3s. 6d. was collected in all, the sums ranging from 2d., which would purchase two gallons of second-best ale, to 5s. They also contributed towards the destruction of some weirs on the Thames, so that "the commonalte of the Cite of London shulde have the more plentye of fish." But the trouble did not stop there.

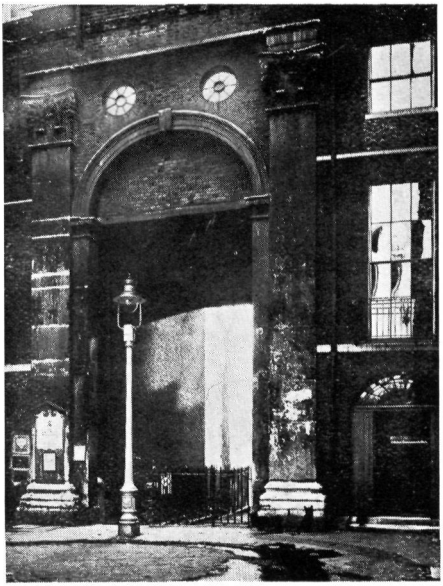


PUMP COURT

BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND

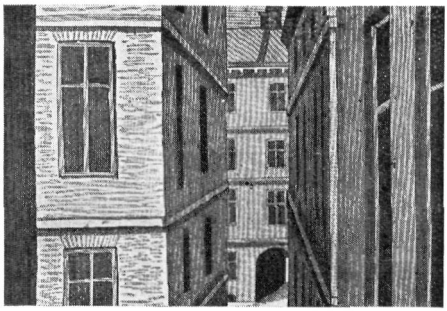
CRANE COURT, SHOWING BARBON'S OWN HOUSE, 1670

GATEWAY FROM NEW COURT, TEMPLE, TO DEVEREUX COURT, 1676



Archway at foot of Essex Street

House in Essex Street, *c.* 1675



Sketch, by Roger North,
of Pump Court

The "Coste for owre Chartre" amounted to £141 2s., and included "yn foreyn expenses, dyners and sopers to dyverse persones at dyverse tymes iiij li." The fine for the charter was one-third of £100, and the seal cost £8 10s. Fourpence was spent on a box for the charter, a fee was paid for the enrolling of the charter in the Guildhall, and a fine for its return. "On Hody, a parfyte man yn the law," in some respects a duplicate of Chaucer's "Man of Law," received 40s. John Brook, John Bedford and Thomas Clark "Srevener were given respectively for services rendered but not specified £6 13s. 4d., 11s., and 6s. 8d." A further fee of 26s. 8d. was paid to "Counsell to be hadde whanne the mayre desyred to have syte of the seid chartre as he hadde of other chartres wytynne the seid citete."

An indication of the need for what would nowadays be called bribery is given by a list of gifts made to officials of the Court before the charter could be granted. Such practices were still in force when the parish clerks had to bribe Archbishop Laud in similar circumstances.

Here are the items of expenditure under the heading "expenses made for the chartre of the capicite for the Craft":—

Fferst yoven to the Chaunselor of Ingland to have his good lordshepe	xl li	Item to Robert Chamberlayn wt the chaunseler of Jynglond ..	xxs
Item to John Rorys Sqwyer of the Kynges chambre	xiij li wje viiid	Item to Henry Boteler, wt the Chaunseler and to other dyverse persones	xs
Item to William Halle..	x li	Item to Thomas Hasley	xls
Item to the Secratorie of owre lord ye Kyng ..	xxs (xi li)	Item to Sturgeoun Clerk of the Crowne ..	xxvjs viiid (iii li vjs viiid)
Item to Geaffrey Goodlok	iii li vjs viiid	Item to the same Sturgeon a barell of good ale pris	vs
Item to on Beket of the Chambre of owre lord the Kyng	iiil vjs viiid		

An extension of the Brewers' powers gave them authority over those who made "beere, beyre or biere," as well as over ale-makers. The Company is still in

very close touch with the industry whose name it bears, and it controls many almshouses as well as Aldenham School and Owens School, Islington.

BEN JONSON.—The 300th anniversary of the death of Ben Jonson was commemorated during the summer of 1937. He was, to quote Dr. G. B. Harrison, the quintessential Londoner, being born in Westminster, educated there at the expense of William Camden, dying in Westminster at the age of 64, and being buried in the Abbey. Dr. Harrison writes that he was "by birth, breeding and instincts a Londoner. Jonson's London was a good breeding-place for 'characters.' With about a quarter of a million inhabitants packed close, it was large enough for a diversity of creatures, and still small enough for a community of gossip, a common interest in everyone else's affairs. In this buzz Jonson thrived, and to it he contributed largely. Almost from the first he was good gossip value, and his life was an uneasy comment on an age when, if thought was free, expression could sometimes be highly dangerous."

He got into trouble at the age of 25, in 1597, when he finished Nashe's *The Isle of Dogs*, and was imprisoned by the Privy Council in the Marshalsea for three months. Next came *Every Man in his Humour*, with Captain Bobadil, a typical veteran living on rich young men in London; Master Matthew, supported by an allowance from his father, is given to melancholy and sometimes will "overflow you half a score or a dozen of sonnets at a sitting." The play was a success "for it exactly expressed the mood of the moment, when young Londoners were tired of the interminable war with Spain and grown cynical of the heavy responsibility of eminent Elizabethans."

Further publicity came for Jonson when he fought a duel near the Curtain Theatre in Hoxton Fields with Gabriel Spencer, and unfortunately killed his man.

The indictment is as follows:—

22 September, 40 Elizabeth [A.D. 1598].

Middlesex. The jurors for the lady the Queen present that Benjamin Johnson late of London, yeoman, on the twenty-second day of September in the fortieth year of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England France & Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith, etc., Made an assault in and upon a certain Gabriel Spencer, being in the peace of God & the said Lady Queen, at Shorediche in the county of Middlesex aforesaid in the Fields there; And feloniously & wilfully struck & beat the same Gabriel with a certain sword of iron & steel called a Rapiour worth 3s., which he then & there had and held drawn in his right hand, giving the same Gabriel Spencer then & there with the sword aforesaid in & upon the right side of the same Gabriel a mortal wound six inches in depth and one inch in breadth, of which certain mortal wound the same Gabriel Spencer then & there instantly died at Shorediche aforesaid in the aforesaid county of Middlesex in the Fields aforesaid. And so the Jurors aforesaid say upon their oath that the beforementioned Benjamin Johnson feloniously & wilfully slew & killed the aforesaid Gabriel Spencer at Shorediche aforesaid in the aforesaid county of Middlesex & in the Fields aforesaid [in the day & year] aforesaid: contrary to the peace of the said lady the Queen, etc.

At the head of the document, over the name Benjamin Johnson, is written "Acknowledges the indictment, seeks the book, reads as a Clerk, to be branded with the letter T, And delivered according to the form of the Statute, &c."

Jonson's characters were in many cases portraits, and got him into trouble with his rival playwrights, and on one occasion he was again in prison, this time for collaborating in a lampoon in *Eastward Ho* on the Scots who swarmed into London with the new King, and on the King's Scottish accent.

Dr. Harrison mentions a character who lived in London but disliked the strident noises so much that to avoid them he chose "a street to live in so narrow at both ends that it will receive no coaches, no carts or any of these common noises." Jonson makes fun of the champions of the beauty parlour, of tricksters who set up shop and purveyed their dubious wares to those who would pay for them. It was a prosperous business attracting a number of diverse customers and many rogues among them. Jonson's sympathy is with the rogues and not with their dupes.

"As a picture of London life, perhaps the best of all is *Bartholomew Fair,* where he drew a Bank Holiday crowd in all its variety. . . . He mocked the Puritans, whom he disliked the more because he never understood them. Nevertheless, there is fundamental truth in the picture of Zeal-of-the-Land Busy, torn between piety and a lust for roast pork, and succeeding (as most of us do) in reconciling his desires."

Dr. Harrison concludes: "In an age so acutely sensitive as our own to the claims of the past, Jonson has been unjustly neglected, and especially by Londoners; for no one has drawn the life of the City so acutely. It is his great misfortune to be regarded as fit only for students. Yet there is teeming life in his plays yet; and if ever London has its National Theatre, then in justice, Jonson's plays should be among the first to be revived."

Black Rat Menace in the City.—It will be remembered that the Plague in London was spread and possibly started by the rat, though its victims did not know it. The rat, both black and brown, is still a menace, and statistics provided by Dr. White tells us that the professional rat-catchers employed by the Corporation caught in the year 1936–7 a total of 16,179, while a well-known firm of caterers, with multiple shops, caught 3,102. The brown rat or sewer rat is decreasing,

HARE COURT, TEMPLE. (Crace Collection, B.M.)

and its rival and enemy, the black rat, outnumbers it by twenty to one. The black rat is more of a house rat, and it makes its home in walls, under floors and above ceilings and in heaps of rubbish. They hoard food in a remarkable way, especially sugar, carried off by them one lump at a time. In order to get rid of rats, it is necessary to avoid the accumulation of rubbish, and the chief offenders are those who throw about scraps of apples or oranges into inaccessible corners. As the best way to discourage pigeons is not to provide nests for them, so the removal of attractions is the chief weapon for dealing with rats, both black and brown.

DEPUTY HIGH STEWARD OF WESTMINSTER.—When the Court of Burgesses was created by Elizabeth in 1585, as described by Mr. W. H. Manchée in his *Westminster Court of Burgesses*, the post of Deputy High Steward was the equivalent to that of Mayor of Westminster. When the Court was abolished in 1900, the High Steward was the Marquess of Salisbury, and the Deputy High Steward, John Charles Thynne, had just retired. Since then there has been no occupant of the office.

The Mayor of Westminster and thirteen past Mayors have asked, with the approval of the Dean of Westminster, that the office should be filled once more in this Coronation year, and Mr. A. Howard, the present Mayor, has been appointed by the Marquess of Salisbury.

There are no emoluments and apparently no duties attached to the post.

KEW GARDENS.—In two interesting letters to *The Times*, Dr. Arthur W. Hill, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, makes it clear that Kew Gardens originally consisted of two portions, one, the Pleasure Grounds, extending to the Pagoda, which, with many other buildings in this portion of the Gardens, was built for Princess Augusta by Sir William Chambers

in 1761, and the other, the Botanic Garden, a small area originally of about nine acres near Kew House and Museum III, formerly Princess Augusta's Orangery, which with the Great Stove (pulled down in 1861), also in the Botanic Garden, were built by Sir W. Chambers in 1761.

In Peter Collinson's Commonplace Books, preserved in the Linnaean Society's Library and quoted in *The Life of Peter Collinson*, by N. G. Brett-James, there are several references to the help given by Lord Bute in building up the gardens at Kew, both from his own gardens at Kenwood and from the boxes of seeds and plants sent every year by John Bartram, of Philadelphia. Dr. Mitchell, in writing to Bartram about Kew Gardens, speaks warmly of the devotion to botany of Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of George III. He says that "Fred" lost his life "contracting a cold by standing in the wet to see some trees planted, which brought on a pleurisy."

In 1762, many trees were removed from the Duke of Argyll's place at Whitton Park, Hounslow, and planted under Lord Bute's direction at Kew. There is an article dealing with this by A. B. Lambert in Vol. 10 of the *Linnaean Transactions*, based on Collinson MS. notes.

In writing to Bartram about his boxes of seeds and plants, Collinson says: "the plants will go to Kew Gardens, where all vegetables are treated with the utmost care, and all that art can do to bring them to perfection in our climate." Collinson was distressed to find that King George III did not inherit his parents' interest in botany. "I wish the King had any taste in flowers or plants, but . . . he has none . . . Lord Bute . . . is the only great man that encourages ingenious men in planting botanic rarities."

William Aiton, who had been a pupil of Collinson's friend, Philip Miller, author of the *Gardeners' Dictionary*, at the Physic Garden, Chelsea, was engaged by Princess

Augusta to organise her garden at Kew, and he superintended it for upwards of thirty years. It is interesting to note that, when Philip Miller was dismissed in his old age from the Physic Garden, Chelsea, for alleged impertinence to the Apothecaries' Company, Forsyth, the Duke of Northumberland's gardener at Sion House, was appointed to take his place, in the hope, as J. Ellis mentioned, that he would "revive the credit of the garden which was losing its reputation," as everything curious was sent to Mr. Aiton, the Princess of Wales' gardener at Kew.

THE LONDON MUSEUM.—Dr. Mortimer Wheeler justly calls the London Museum, which has recently celebrated its Silver Jubilee, a folk museum, a museum of the life of the folk, past and present, in the town of London. It is not, as *The Times* reminded us, limited by antiquarian or aesthetic standards. There is nothing "highbrow" about it, but there is something for all, from the austerest art-historian to the student of pint-mugs.

The Museum was planned to do for London what the Carnavalet does for Paris, and its foundation was due to Lord Esher and Viscount Harcourt, backed by constant support from Queen Alexandra and Queen Mary, and organised with characteristic skill by the late Sir Guy Laking and now by Dr. Wheeler.

Stafford (now Lancaster) House makes an excellent *venue* for the collections, which were at first informal, "dynamic, with a simulacrum of the breath of life. Thus the Great Fire was represented, not merely by charred fragments in a glass case, but by a working model in which, by ingenious electrical contrivances, flames leapt about old St. Paul's amid rolling clouds of smoke. A prehistoric dug-out canoe from the bed of the Thames was equipped with a waxwork ancient Briton, and additional vividness was given to a scarred eighteenth-century cell by a stuffed rat and a recumbent prisoner."

Some modifications have naturally been made, and judicious weeding-out has taken place.

Dr. Wheeler continues: "To commemorate the close association of the late Lord Esher with the museum his son, the present Lord Esher, has established a research studentship which is awarded annually by the museum trustees for post-graduate research into such aspects of history or archaeology as 'The Mediaeval Pottery of London,' 'The *Liber Pilosus* in the St. Paul's Cathedral Library,' and 'The Economics of the Rebuilding of London after the Great Fire of 1666.' Provision is made for the suitable publication of the results of these researches.

"In summary it may be said that the London Museum attempts to present the history of everyday things in the London area, from the flint axe to the (almost equally extinct) milk-can. In the broadest sense of a term which is nowadays widely current, it is a folk museum. True, it includes a silk shirt stained with the life-blood of a king, the armour of a king's champion, the wedding dresses of three queens, and is itself the palace of a duke. But these things take their place in the general pageant of London life, which extends also to the cap of a mediaeval apprentice, the loom of a Spitalfields weaver, a seventeenth-century fire-engine, an eighteenth-century printing press, the bench of a nineteenth-century wire-drawer. All are of the authentic stuff of London, and without a proper record of them our understanding of London would be the poorer."

PORT OF LONDON.—The average Londoner in mediaeval times had no difficulty in realising that London was a port. From London Bridge he could see the river above bridge and catch sight of the port below, and at various points in Thames Street he would see Queenhithe, Billingsgate, Puddle Dock and Dowgate. This continued for some centuries; but gradually the

docks pushed down-stream to Wapping and Shadwell, Limehouse and Blackwall, not so visible to the average Londoner; and nowadays the big London docks are mainly in the Isle of Dogs and further along towards Tilbury and Gravesend.

It may, therefore, be of interest to hear that the tonnage of vessels entering the Port of London increased by over a million tons during 1936 to the gigantic figure of 30,868,381 tons. A total of 14,454 vessels arrived from foreign ports, and the medical officers and the sanitary inspectors of the Port of London Authority examined respectively 2,389 and 15,531 vessels for infectious diseases and for rats. Only 317 cases of infectious diseases occurred during the voyages of only 204 vessels, and not one case of plague. Roughly 5,000 rats were trapped in ships and the same number on shore in the port, and half that number were examined for plague infection with completely satisfactory results.

HAREFIELD ALMSHOUSES.—These ancient almshouses were built by Alice, wife of the fifth Earl of Derby, and when she died in 1637 she left a charge on her estate of £35 a year; £30 of this sum was to be divided among six old women living in her almshouses, £1 a year for repairs, and £5 a year to the curate as master, to read the service or some prayers to them daily. The Countess lived at a house which has almost disappeared, and here Queen Elizabeth was entertained during a spell of particularly wet weather, and many years later Milton's masque *Arcades* was "presented to the Countess Dowager of Darby at Harefield by some Noble Persons of her Family who appear on the Scene in Pastoral Habit."

The graveyard occupies the spot once occupied by the house, and here are buried Australian soldiers who died in hospital here during the Great War.

The almshouses house at present five old women,

each of whom has a separate home, with £5 a year from the trust, and there is one vacancy. They were scheduled for destruction but have been reprieved, and funds are being raised to restore the houses as a memorial of the Coronation.

OLD CITY CUSTOMS.—THE SPITAL SERMON, dating from the fourteenth century, is preached at Christ Church, Greyfriars, before the Lord Mayor and Aldermen and the Governors of the ancient foundations of Christ's Hospital, St. Thomas's, St. Bartholomew's and Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals. This year (1937) Dr. A. A. Davis (Bishop of Liverpool) preached the sermon, in which he pointed out that the hospitals commemorated had been established in order to educate the young, to heal the sick and to care for the mentally afflicted; to bring together health of body, mind and spirit, and to show the way to the harmonious welfare of man was precisely the task which Christianity had entrusted to the Church.

MARKING OF CARTS, CARRS AND CAROOMS was carried out as usual at the Guildhall, and forty vehicles only were marked with the City Arms and a simple W. This is an old custom, dating from the time when there were troubles among drivers of carts plying for hire at the old City docks on the north side of the Thames.

Several acts of the Common Council, the last in 1838, were passed to regulate the traffic and licences, and only carts and motor lorries so marked can ply for hire or stand while waiting for their loads within the City and its liberties.

No one is quite clear as to what constitutes a "caroom," but it does not matter, as all vehicles are marked alike.

RUISLIP CHURCH.—Treatment of wall-paintings in St. Martin's Church by Mr. Clive Rouse, F.S.A., has revealed a very finely drawn figure of a man in the costume of *c.* 1470–80, suggested as being Henry VI, who was greatly venerated after his death in 1461, and had associations with Ruislip.

He wears a lined or furred gown, turned back, with brocade pattern in red on a yellow background; his yellow shoes have a strap across the instep; he has a shallow black cap and is apparently seated on a throne. The figure, which was painted over an earlier subject, was badly restored some years ago. The present restoration has shown up the rich colours well.

The removal of whitewash on the north side of the nave revealed a painting of the Tree of the Seven Deadly Sins or the Allegory of Pride and her Six Daughters. A dragon with bat's wings is issuing from the cauldron of Hell, with Pride in its mouth, three attendants on one side and a demon on the other. Six other dragons issue from the dragon's body, each with one of the other sins; Anger represented by two men fighting with swords; Envy, Sloth, Gluttony represented by a figure pouring wine; Lust and Avarice with a man counting out money. Opposite to this group and underneath the figure of Henry VI are some of the Seven Corporal Acts of Mercy: visiting prisoners, clothing the naked and burying the dead. The suggested date of these paintings is about 1400. There is further work to be done in searching for other hidden paintings, for which money is needed.

ROMAN WARE IN THE CITY.—A large site between Moorgate and Copthall Avenue has revealed large quantities of "wasters" from the kiln of a Roman potter, and this is an important discovery, indicating the existence of a kiln, though this was not found.

The ground sloped to the bed of the Walbrook,

roughly on the line of Copthall Avenue, and potters seem to have tipped their rubbish into the stream. Some spoiled pots were discovered in fragments, shouldered jars in grey ware, open pans with reeded horizontal rim, and platters with upright walls. Some vessels were discovered with surfaces sprinkled with powdered mica, which gave a golden metallic lustre when baked. This is the first indication that such vessels were made in this country. Other fragments are of a grey ware of thin fabric, with a jet-black exterior polish produced by bitumen, decorated with incised designs of concentric circles and parts of circles, connected by parallel lines. The suggested date is *c.* 80–90. Mr. J. L. Douthwaite, the Guildhall Librarian, suggests that, as no later pottery has been discovered at this site, perhaps the industry was removed outside the City through London's growing sense of importance.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL LIBRARY.—On 15th June, 1937, Dr. Keynes, on behalf of Dr. Rosenbach, and the Right Hon. John Burns personally, presented at the same moment to the Hospital two valuable books. The first was a beautiful copy of "The Ordre of the Hospital of S. Bartholomewes in Westsmythfielde in London," 1552. It gives details of the duties of the Governor, President, Treasurers, Surveyors, Almoners and Scrutineers and of the "Renter Clerck, the Hospiteler, the Butler, the Matrone, the twelve Sisters, the Porter, the eight Biddles, the Visitour of Newgate, and finally the three Chirugiens." It finishes with a "Daily Service for the Poor," directing that "At the Houre of eyght of the Clocke in the mornyng, and iiij of the clocke at the afternoone, throughout the whole yeare, there shalābel be rang the space of halfe a quatter of an houre, and immediatly upon the seassyng of the bell, the poore liyng in their beddes that cannot aryse, & kneling on their knees that can aryse in every warde, as their

beddes stande, they shal by course as many as can rede, begyn these praiers folowyng, And after that the partie whose course it shalbe, hath began all the rest in that warde shal folow and annswere upon paine to be dismissed out of the house."

The second was "The Order of the Hospitalls of K. Henry the VIIIth and K. Edward the VIth, viz. St. Bartholomew's, Christ's, Bridewell, St. Thomas's." This, like the other, is printed in black letter, and is dated 1557, but the researches of Sir D'Arcy Power have made it clear that the book was printed between 1690 and 1700; possibly at the expense of Samuel Pepys, who was interested in Christ's Hospital and tried, without success, to effect some reforms in 1682.

Mr. Burns's present is inscribed: "In memory of a famous in-patient of St. Bartholomew's Hospital on June 15, 1381," the patient being Wat Tyler, who was brought in for treatment after being fatally wounded by Walworth, Mayor.

Dr. Geoffrey Keynes, in describing the two books in the *Hospital Journal*, says that the "hospital had waited 385 years for a copy of the first book and 247 years for the second. It was therefore fitting that it should become possessed of both of them at the same moment."

WELLS AT HACKNEY.—In a turning on the east side of Mare Street is Wells Street, and on the north side of the street a new garage for the London Passenger Transport Board is being built. During the excavations two wells were found, and Mr. Edward Yates, F.S.A., a member of our Society, went down to inspect. The two wells, as he reports, had already been filled in with concrete, but it was possible to see their exact positions, and by grubbing about a brick not earlier than late seventeenth century was brought to light at the top of one of the wells. Both wells, of about three feet in diameter, had been domed over with brickwork, the

tops of the domes being a foot or more below the surface of the ground, and the cast of the dome of one of the wells was left in the ground, the bricks having been removed as being of use. The other well, from which the seventeenth-century brick was removed, had water in it, and also an iron pipe which had evidently at one time been connected with a pipe. The fact that the pipe was of iron suggests that the well was in use in comparatively recent times. The first well had no water, and neither well, as far as could be ascertained, was originally deep.

Mr. Chas. W. F. Goss, F.S.A., suggests that the two wells are Pigswell (or Pitwell) and Churchfield Well.

DEMOLITIONS IN WHITEHALL: HOUSE OF MANY MINISTRIES.—Pembroke House, the gateway of which is illustrated in the accompanying drawing by Dennis Flanders, is the most important of all the buildings in Whitehall Gardens to be demolished early next year.

They will make room for the enormous block of Government offices which is to house the staffs of the Air Ministry, the Board of Trade, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Transport.

Pembroke House stands on the site of part of the old Palace of Whitehall and has been the home of four Government departments. From 1855 to 1859 it was the War Office. Later it became the Foreign Office, then the Board of Trade, and was last used as part of the Ministry of Transport.

Its Conference Room, which was occupied by Mr. Churchill when he was President of the Board of Trade, has an exceptionally fine ceiling, which, we understand, is to be preserved.

We have to thank *The Daily Telegraph and Morning Post* for permission to reprint Mr. Dennis Flanders's drawing, which was obtained for us through Mr. James Smith, the art editor. (See page 624.)